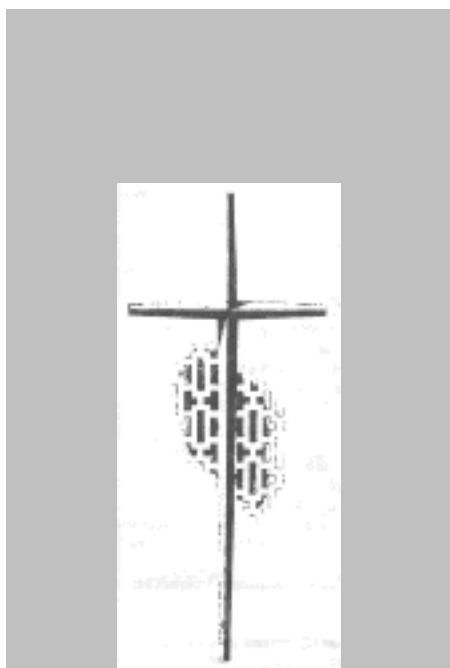


Immanuel United Church Annual Report 2015-2016



Mission Statement of Immanuel United Church (revised May 15, 2013):

Nurtured and sustained by God's grace,
we at Immanuel United Church
seek continually to be formed as servants of God:
centring our life in worship and study,
enjoying and sharing with one another in our
diversity,
offering hospitality to all who come through
our doors,
extending an open invitation to God's table,
reaching out beyond our walls,
affirming the worth of every person,
working for justice and peace,
and witnessing to our hope for God's world.

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Minister's Annual Report 2015-2016

Over the broad scope of my 33 years in ministry so far, 2015-16 was a watershed year, as it's the year in which the content and focus of my ministry changed in a perceptible way. I report on this because I suspect that the changes in my ministry patterns not only reflect changes in Immanuel's overall ministry, but indeed reflect a trend in the ministry which mainline churches in Canada are offering as we move further into the so-called "Post-Modern Era." The suspicion that I personally, and we at Immanuel, are not the only ones going through these changes is based on reading that I've done, experiences in Presbytery and Conference, and anecdotal evidence gleaned from conversations with colleagues and friends across the country.

The change to which I refer is reflected in the statistics I've kept over the last few years, logging the hours that I spend in the various areas of ministry that require my involvement and attention. Between the last Annual Meeting and this one, there was an 11% increase in the time I spent on governance and administration, including the Back Forty (and the time spent in administration also had increased in 2014-2015). In fact, I spent a little less than one fifth of my time in this area in 2014-2015, compared to almost one third of my time in this past year. My total hours worked also increased this year, so the net time spent in this area of ministry also increased. It's important to note that with our new governance structure, I spend considerably less time in congregational meetings than I did in the past, and I do not currently serve on a Presbytery committee. Yet almost a third of my time is spent in administration.

Ah, you might say, but that's a Back Forty-related blip. And, indeed, in the first four months of 2016, I spent a disproportionate amount of ministry time on administrative work related to Immanuel's land development project. However, general governance and administrative work increased significantly without taking the Back Forty into account. And my colleagues in ministry in other congregations report similarly increased time spent in administration. At least for now, this seems to be a trend in the church's life and ministry. What's more, many congregations of the United Church in Winnipeg alone are spending time and energy looking at the possibility of selling, developing or redeveloping property. By no means are we the only congregation experiencing a Back Forty-related blip.

In part, I attribute this increase to the prevalence of electronic technology in the church and in the wider culture, and, more specifically, to the use of email to carry out many of the tasks of ministry. As folks employed in various sectors outside of the church also would attest, technology that originally purported to *save* time has in fact *added* time to each working day.

If I'm accurate in naming this rise in administrative demands as a trend in ministry, there are various implications, not the least of which is that the added time spent in administration either means reduced time spent in other aspects of ministry, or increased time all-round (i.e., over-work). It's important, of course, to acknowledge that administration *is* ministry, and, hopefully, when a minister is engaged in it, he or she brings theological and pastoral insight and experience

to bear upon it. Still, even if it's done well, administration is not the primary ministry to which either the community of faith or this particular minister originally felt called.

Yet here we are, and I believe the trend is everywhere around us, and has no intention of calling a halt to itself anytime soon. How, then, do I as a minister and you as a congregation keep from becoming mired in administration? How do we go about the administration that is necessary in a lighter and less burdened way? And how do we remain focused on our mission—on the ministry to which we are most deeply called. The new governance structure is helping us to maintain this focus, but we need to look for additional ways of grounding ourselves in the call.

As I get to know two of my colleagues who recently have moved into Winnipeg Presbytery from rural and small town ministries, I'm struck by their much more relational and collegial approach to Presbytery, such as was the norm in my first years in ministry in a rural Presbytery. Their approach reminds me that it is possible to resist forces that, ironically, would reduce the human elements of the holy work to which we're all called. One of these colleagues, Min-Goo Kang, started a group called "Growing Together," in which several of us gather every six weeks or so for prayer, reflection, and support, and to share a simple meal together. I've found this group to be a new grounding place in my own life and ministry.

There are, of course, other grounding places, and many of those are at Immanuel. My staff colleagues in the congregation ground me. The support and accountability of the Ministry and Personnel Committee, and my regular check-in meetings with my M&P representative, Verna McKay, ground me. The integrity with which congregational members live their lives and express their various ministries, often under challenging circumstances, grounds me. And, of course, worship and the privilege of immersing myself in scripture ground me.

As in all my years at Immanuel, in the past year I've found the regular rhythm of ministry through the seasons to be life-giving in so many of its manifestations. And I do not speak of "my" ministry here, but of the ministry we all share. I daresay that the various events, projects and programmes offered, and reported upon by their facilitators and participants in this 2015-16 Annual Report, brought life to us all. In particular, because it was a new endeavour, I would like to acknowledge the risks taken by those who participated in The Mark Project, and by the congregation that so wholeheartedly received and engaged the storytellers, the storytelling and the stories themselves. It moved my heart greatly.

From time to time, some of you have heard me joke, "Well, I'd planned to get a lot done today, but people kept getting in the way of my ministry!" May people continue to get in the way of my ministry—and yours—as we move into the next year together.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Sanders

Office Administrator's Report

I have now been the Office Administrator for fifteen years here at Immanuel and have enjoyed it very much. I look forward to continuing my work here.

The office continues to be busy. I have put together newsletters throughout the year as well as this annual report, observer renewals, helping with tickets for the play and the fowl supper, organized bookings, etc. I have enjoyed the fowl supper and the dessert theatre and enjoy seeing how everyone comes together and puts on such wonderful events. Also a big bouquet to all my volunteers, your help is very much appreciated!

Thank you to the Ministry and Personnel Committee for all the hard work you do on behalf of the staff.

I always look forward to coming to work!

Sharon Vandenberg

Passages 2015-2016

In Memoriam

*Margaret & Ken Groff Wayne Gibson Frieda McColm
Gerald Macdonald Maureen Dow*

Membership Transfers into Immanuel

Marguerite Auld Nicholls

Baptisms

Azalia Cruz Deeton Jenna Deeton Cruz

Confirmations

Alan Matheson Jenna Deeton Cruz

Immanuel United Church Annual Meeting

May 14, 2015

Welcome & Call to Order: 7:15 PM Verna McKay

Opening Prayer: Honorary Guiding Elder Doug McMurtry

Appointment of Facilitators and Minute Taker: Joy Weizel recommended Verna McKay and Marg Smith act as facilitators and Judy Gierys as minute taker. Agreement from the Congregation.

Time of Remembrance: Nancy Sanders, Leslie Donnelly and Lynne Strome

Process Introduction: Marg Smith

Getting Current: notes from last meeting approved - Agreement from Congregation.

Review of Mission Statement: Scott Douglas

Cluster Slide Show: Scott Douglas

Approval of Current Guiding and Council Elders: Marg Smith
Agreement from Congregation.

Reflection Time: Nancy Sanders, The Church as Laboratory by Stephanie Paulsell, in an article in Christian Century magazine's column "Faith Matters," December 13, 2012

Back Forty Team: represented by Bob Kenyon, presentation and discussion,
Team consists of: Ruth Campbell, Jim Ross, Glenn Nicholls, Scott Douglas, Marg Smith, Bob Kenyon. Phase II explained. Terms of the \$10,000 loan from CMHC were unclear as to interest free or forgivable.

Recommendations

Whereas the work of our Phase I Planner has brought us to the end of Phase I in the Edge real estate planning process;

And whereas the Property Development Team and the Council of Immanuel United Church believe that Option 2a of the Phase I report on the land adjacent to the Immanuel United Church building holds the most potential for the development of the land in a way that is consistent with our mission.

And whereas Phase II of the Edge real estate planning process is dependent upon receipt of a loan from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the terms which are not yet available;

It is moved by Bob Kenyon and seconded by Ruth Campbell, on behalf of the Immanuel Property Development

Team, that the congregation of Immanuel United Church

A. Endorse for further exploration the concept described in Option 2a of the Phase I Report of the Edge Real Estate Planner;

B. Request the Immanuel Property Development Team, The Guiding Elders for Stewardship of Financial Resources, and the Finance Team to review the terms when they become available, and prepare a report with recommendations relating to Phase II of the Real Estate Planning Process;

C. Empower a group consisting of

- The Council of Immanuel United Church
- The Honoured Elders of Immanuel United Church
- The Guiding Elders of all Mission Clusters
- The Immanuel Property Development Team
- The Finance Team

to consider the report and recommendations and, on behalf of the congregation of Immanuel United Church, make a decision as to whether or not to proceed with Phase II, and in the event of a decision to proceed, authorize the Immanuel Property Development Team to make application to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for Phase II funding.

Motion was carried.

Financial Review and Budget: Pat Schulz, Connie Kryschuk, Debbie Bilous

Motioned by Pat Schulz and seconded by Debbie Bilous to reduce the Congregational Events Fund by \$8,216.39 and to reduce the Shortfall Fund by \$3859.00 to offset the negative Operational Deficit of \$12,075.39

Motion carried

Motioned by Connie Kryschuk and seconded by Pat Schulz that the operations budget for the year 2015 - 2016 projecting an operational shortfall of \$18,694.00 be approved.

Motion carried

Thank You and Closing Comments: Verna McKay

Meeting Adjourned: 9:20 PM

**Meeting of the Expanded Back Forty Team as authorized by The Immanuel Annual Meeting
May 14, 2015**

Call to order: 7:10 Bob Kenyon

Regrets: Joy Weizel

Response via email: Ann Naylor

Prayer: Nancy Sanders

Review of attached memo regarding Phase I now complete. Phase II details and financial risk.

Motion: Lynne Strome moved that we proceed with Phase II as outlined. Ruth Campbell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Step: start to collect information on various types of housing. Bob Kenyon will speak to Treaty Commission's J Wilson and Don Winstone regarding co housing.

Ask Barbara Myers about contacting MB Housing. Lynne Strome will talk to Tim Sale. Nancy will provide the contact information. Nancy Sanders will contact Barbara Myers, Edge and Presbytery.

Nancy Sanders to prepare email to be sent. Bob Kenyon will make the announcement to the Congregation.

Adjourn: 8:00 PM

Phase I is complete at Immanuel. The main question of Phase 1 was, "Can it be done?" (i.e., "Can some sort of housing development be built on the Immanuel land?"). After investigation of the zoning and having an official survey done, consulting with the congregation, meeting with community leaders, etc., it is very clear that development of the land is possible. We received a \$10,000 grant from CMHC for this investigative phase, and the work that was done was done did not incur costs beyond that amount.

Phase II includes the following:

- Immanuel applies for and receives a CMHC interest-free loan in the amount of \$4,500 to cover the costs of Phase II. This \$4,500 must eventually be paid back (with the terms of the loan being reasonable and flexible and with CMHC expressing its willingness to be very patient while decisions are made). The money for paying back the loan would either come as proceeds from the building projects itself, or from Immanuel's funds should a decision be made not to go ahead with a build. However, it seems likely in the latter case that the land would be sold outright for development by another party, in which case the \$4,500 loan would be paid out of proceeds from the sale of the land. In other words, in all likelihood the money to pay back the Phase II loan would not come out of the currently existing funds of Immanuel United Church.

Method of Payment: Regional Architects would invoice Immanuel for the work that the company did on our behalf, and Immanuel would then invoice CMHC.

Please note that we would be applying for a much smaller loan than is normal—the typical application would be for \$10,000. However, some of this money would be used to reimburse EDGE for missional consultation. EDGE is considering the work that we did on our mission, in the Visioning process, the restructuring and Phase I as sufficient for its purposes. This

being said, should Immanuel find that it needs funding in addition to \$4,500 to complete Phase II, CMHC is open to requests to increase the loan amount, up to a total of \$10,000.

- Regional Architects confirms regulatory framework, code and title review with the City of Winnipeg
- a commercial real estate definition of sale and development terms would be provided at no cost by Colliers International
- drafting of a Request for Proposals (RFP) by Taylor McCaffrey (with a legal review and a real estate second opinion) and the sending out of the RFP into the building community

- 3 developers would be checked with for their interest (Barbara knows various builders from her experience in the field, and has at least 1 small local developer in mind)
- there is some risk of a lack of interest (by builders) in the building project, although the work that has been done, and the ability of the church to offer the land as collateral, as well as the availability of a significant Phase III CMHC loan, would suggest that this risk is low
- in response to the RFP, builders will submit proposals, costing out the project and figuring out how many buildings, unit size, etc.
- Regional Architects will do the drawings once a proposal is accepted
- Immanuel can stipulate that some or all units would be generally accessible, and that main floor units would be particularly accessible (i.e., wheelchair access)
- Immanuel can investigate possibilities for making some or all units affordable
- Immanuel can consult (at no cost) with Manitoba Housing staff to learn about what is involved in building a housing cooperative
- any conversations about the kind of community (e.g., cooperative housing or co-housing) may take place
- conversations with First Nations groups and our location on Treaty 1 land may take place
- further honing of our mission in relation to the land will take place

For future reference, Phase III is the actual construction phase. CMHC makes available a \$100,000 interest-free loan to cover the “soft costs” (i.e., not the actual materials or hard building costs, but the securing of permits, etc.). If certain CMHC criteria for affordable housing are met, 30% of this loan is forgivable. If these criteria are not met, the builder would put up the money for all of the soft costs—they would not be incurred by Immanuel.

We have been advised by Barbara Myers that, given our location deep in the heart of East Kildonan, in all likelihood we would be looking at residents in these buildings coming from within the EK area.

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH
January 10, 2016 Congregational meeting

Call to Order: 12:40 Scott Douglas

Opening Prayer: Nancy Sanders

Mission Statement: the congregation recited Immanuel's Mission Statement

Back 40: Scott Douglas described the land known as the Back 40 and explained the on going process which led to today's discussion of the proposal received from Discovery Homes.

Introductions: Bob Kenyon introduced Gordon Gray from Discovery Homes a Division of Gateway Construction and Engineering, Barbara Meyers our urban planner/consultant, Keith MacFarlane from Meadowood United Church representing Presbytery.

The Proposal: as written. The proposal was presented by Bob Kenyon

Questions asked and answered:

- Are they looking at accommodating people with mental health issues and or physical disabilities?

Gordon Gray responded to indicate that the main floor units would be what they refer to as "visitable" and that a buyer could also request accessibility features be included.

Nancy Sanders explained that if the housing being built did not necessarily fit our mission the shift would be to use the profits from the build to serve our mission.

- Where does the church's property end and the "back 40" begin? Would Immanuel lose the space where the staff parking and storage shed currently exist?

Barbara Meyers indicated that space for the staff parking and storage shed would still exist.

- If there is going to be upgrades to the church building could we not build a new storage area on the south side of the church?

- How much control does Immanuel have regarding any new amenities being placed in our church?

Barbara Meyers indicated those decisions are ours.

Gordon Gray indicated if it makes sense to create an amenity it would be for the purpose of rental/cost/profit sharing.

- How does Presbytery come into play with profit sharing?

Keith MacFarlane indicated "we wish" as in they don't.

- Who possesses the land during the build? Who pays the taxes until sold?

Gordon Gray indicated that the developer assumes responsibility. The land is legally transferred into a "condo corporation"

- if all the units are sold within two years are we out?

Yes

- will they be looking to pre sell units prior to the build?

Gordon Gray indicated "yes" they would like to pre sell 5 of the 8 units before starting on the first building.

- Any discussion about keeping the cost to maintain a unit low?

Gordon Gray indicated once the city approved the build there are requirements to build energy efficient units. He indicated that geothermal costs are high (\$25,000) and Barbara Meyers reminded us that we are building affordable housing. Modest, tasteful approximately 1000 sq ft units.

- would there be subsidy for people suffering from mental health issues as they tend to have lower incomes?

Comments indicated that subsidy usually occurs in rental situations and these units are for purchase. Another comment indicated the subsidy could possibly be available in the form of a lower down payment.

- does Discovery Homes have any other projects like this village concept?

Gordon Gray indicated this is new to Discovery Homes.

- has the decision to use Strata or Free Hold been made?

Barbara Meyers indicated that Strata would be better for Immanuel and that the recommendation will be Strata. Strata would be locked in by the land title.

- What happens if the first unit is built and the economy takes a turn downward?
Gordon Gray indicated the risk was theirs. Our profit is guaranteed although it could be delayed.

- What would happen if Gateway went into receivership?
Gordon Gray indicated that is why a "condo corporation" is set up! Immanuel would be protected.

- How large would the second bedroom be in a two bedroom unit?
Not designed yet!

Gordon Gray described their journey, how they initially turned this project down, received a second call, reconsidered and decided to prepare a proposal based on United Church roots and a desire to fulfill their own mission with a meaningful project. They are looking forward to it!

Barbara Meyers pursued Gateway based on their reputation and knowledge of previous builds. She indicated that Gateway had the strongest most professional of the responses received.

Keith MacFarlane stepped out of his role as a Presbytery representative to indicate as a retired architect he too endorsed Gateway and indicated they were also used in the building of the Meadowood church.

A question was raised about the next meeting being on a Saturday and not a Sunday. It was explained by Bob Kenyon that the date was chosen based on the availability of the Back 40 team members as well as the time required between the information and the vote according to the church manual. It was also advised that no proxy voting would be permitted.

Closing 1:50 PM and Blessing: Nancy Sanders

**Immanuel United Church
Congregational Meeting**

January 23, 2016

Call to Order 1:13

Welcome/Introduction of Dwight Rutherford: Bob Kenyon introduced the Chair of Presbytery Property Committee, Dwight Rutherford

Appointment of Meeting Secretary: Joy Weizel motioned to appoint Judy Gierys; motion was seconded by Marg Smith and carried.

Motion to allow adherents corresponding members privileges: Richard Sawchuk motioned to allow, motion seconded by Marvee Stevens and carried.

Opening Prayer: Dwight Rutherford

Review of Mission Statement: Nancy Sanders led the congregation in the reciting of Immanuel's Mission Statement.

Review of Proposal from Discovery Homes: Bob Kenyon (including review of the PowerPoint summary of the proposal).

Presentation of Motions: attached. Pat Schulz moved to vote by secret ballot, motion seconded by George Stevens and carried.

Motion 1 was moved by Glenn Nicholls and seconded by Bob Kenyon

Question asked and answered regarding the difference between hard and soft costs.

Ballots were distributed, collected and counted by Council members. The results were 48 yes, 1 no and 1 blank ballot.

Motion carried.

Motion 2 was moved by Glenn Nicholls, seconded by Bob Kenyon

Question asked and answered confirming payments received in 1/24ths as each condominium sells as written in the original proposal.

Ballots distributed, collected and counted by Council members. The results were 48 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

Motion 3 was moved by Glenn Nicholls, seconded by Adam Johnston

Ballots distributed, collected and counted by Council members. The results were 48 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

Motion 4 was moved by Sharon Barbour, seconded by Linda Gibson

Motion was carried by a show of hands with 1 no. Motion carried.

Motion to destroy all ballots was moved by Adam Johnston, seconded by Marvee Stevens and carried.

Motion to adjourn: Glenn Nicholls

Benediction: Dwight Rutherford

Immanuel United Church Congregational Meeting

March 13, 2016

Call to Order: 12:15 Scott Douglas

Mission Statement: the Mission Statement was recited backwards!

Motion #1 *Appointment of New Trustees*

Moved by Margaret Smith, seconded by Verna McKay, that the Immanuel congregation name Judy Gierys and Joy Weizel to the Immanuel United Church Board of Trustees, effective immediately. Motion Carried.

Following the motion Bob Kenyon recognized Bill Hickerson's service as a Trustee. A Standing Ovation followed.

Please note that the following motions, related to the use of potential revenue from the development of the Immanuel "Back Forty," are consistent with, and supplementary to, those passed at the congregational meeting on January 23, 2016. The purpose of these motions is to ensure that the congregation is fully involved and informed regarding all financial matters related to the land, and to provide Winnipeg Presbytery with this information prior to its approval of Immanuel's proposal.

Motion #2

Moved by Bob Kenyon, seconded by Margaret Smith, that as revenue from the development of the land adjacent to the church building is realized, Immanuel United Church submit to the EDGE Network a fee amounting to 1% of the congregation's total revenue from the project, as a contribution to the ongoing administrative costs of the EDGE Real Estate program; said fee to be submitted in 24 payments each in the amount of 1/24 of the total owing, timed according to the sale of each of the condominium units;

and that, as revenue from the land development becomes available, and upon receiving notice of the establishment of a national funding pool for the purposes of supporting the participation of other United Church of Canada ministries in the EDGE Real Estate program in the future, and upon receiving a copy of the Terms of Reference for the fund, Immanuel United Church submit to the EDGE Network an additional fee amounting to .5% of the congregation's total revenue from the project;

and that the congregation of Immanuel United Church ask its Trustees to seek Winnipeg Presbytery's approval of this decision.

Motion 2 carried

Motion #3

Moved by Bob Kenyon, seconded by Ruth Campbell, that, as a form of acknowledgment of the fact that the land to be developed adjacent to the church building is Treaty One land and within the traditional territory of the Metis people, and that its development will result in revenue which the Immanuel congregation will use to continue to serve its ongoing mission in this area, Immanuel United Church commit 1% of its total revenue from the land development project to the work of Truth and Reconciliation; said 1% amount being a minimum contribution to Truth and Reconciliation work out of the Immanuel congregation's revenues from the land development, rather than a limit upon that contribution;

and that the congregation of Immanuel United Church ask its Trustees to seek Winnipeg Presbytery's approval of this decision

Motion 3 carried

Meeting adjourned: 12:40 Scott Douglas

Immanuel United Church Congregational Meeting

April 24, 2016

Call to Order: 12:35 Nancy Sanders

Appointment of Chair and Secretary: Marg Smith and Judy Gierys were appointed Chair and Secretary, respectively.

Motion:

Moved by Scott Douglas, seconded by Verna McKay, that the congregation of Immanuel United Church confirm the following as duly elected Trustees of Immanuel United Church:

Robert Kenyon	Harold Whittaker
Neil Barbour	Judy Gierys
	Joy Weizel

And direct them to place their names on the Land Title of the congregation.

Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn: Pat Schulz 12:40

Council Elders Annual Report

Report of the Immanuel Council

The Council Elders have continued to meet monthly over the last year. Each Council meeting is facilitated by one elder and another elder scribes what is discussed. This is done on a rotational basis. We begin each meeting reading aloud and reflecting on the Immanuel United Church Mission Statement, often choosing one statement that has particularly spoken or affected each of us over the past month. This focuses and grounds us for our reflection and discussion of meeting items.

The facilitator of each meeting provides a thoughtful theological reflection, discussion and prayer. We continue to focus our attention on the most important issues facing our congregation. Additionally, we have invited Guiding Elders for one of the Mission Clusters to some of our meetings to report on the ministries included in their cluster and share with us successes and concerns they may have as they go about the work in which they are engaged. The clusters we have met with over the last year have been very committed in their work and we are grateful and appreciative of all special tasks handled. At each meeting we also review and discuss the previous months Financial Statement. We are grateful to the Finance Team for their dedication in reporting and keeping all Immanuel's financial details accurate and up to date.

Our work over the last year has proved to be very challenging for the Council. One of the main items discussed at most meetings was the Back 40 work which has continually progressed during this church year. Two Council elders Margaret Smith and Scott Douglas have been key to our discussion during the Council Meetings. As well, Nancy has spent significant time working with the Back 40 folks. There have been two special Congregational meetings over the last year to determine what the next steps would be. Another item the Council has spent time discussing is the Discernment of Gifts. We currently have no Guiding Elders for the Discernment of Gifts Cluster and we are working on some creative ideas to fill this void. There were also additional individuals required for the Ministry and Personnel committee and new Trustees were required. Both these needs have been met. Council has been discussing different ways to help individuals discern their gift. There are many ways to offer particular gifts to help Immanuel continue our ministry within and outside our walls. Other items addressed in our meetings were Shoal Lake 40, General Council remits which are planned over the next few years and what we can do as a congregation in regards to Truth and Reconciliation. Council also prepared and led Sunday worship February 28th.

We are grateful to be able serve Immanuel in the capacity of Council Elders and look forward to the challenges of the coming year as we faithfully attempt to live out God's will for us.

Respectfully submitted by:

Council Elders: Scott Douglas, Verna McKay, Margaret Smith, Joy Weizel and Nancy Sanders, Minister

Back Forty Report

Over the past year, the congregation has heard many reports about the Back Forty, and has participated in several meetings related to it. Since the last Annual meeting, with significant help from our planning consultant Barbara Myers:

- the “village” concept was agreed upon
- a request for proposals was sent out to many potential developers (including not-for-profit developers), resulting in several replies
- Gordon Gray of the Discovery Homes Division of Gateway Construction and Engineering presented a proposal to build a condominium complex, according to the village concept on the Back Forty, with the possibility their sharing with us in the costs of some relatively minor renovations to the Immanuel building, for the enhancement of our own life together here, and for the condominium corporation to rent in the future as it was mutually agreed-upon; condominium units would be small flats of approximately 800 square feet, with some of the main floor suites being “visitable” by persons with mobility challenges, and some of them being completely accessible
- a duly-called meeting of the Immanuel congregation approved the proposal of Discovery homes, according to which Immanuel will receive \$450,000 (subject to further assessments) for the sale of the land, plus a set fee of \$10,000 per condominium unit built on the land, to a maximum of \$240,000, with shared costs for renovations as above; the congregation authorized a 1% fee to be paid to the EDGE Network for Innovative Ministries, as assented to in the original Letter of Agreement, and, at the Back Forty Team's initiative, a minimum 1% commitment to the work of Truth and Reconciliation
- work was done, and continues to be done, to ensure that all of the United Church's requirements, and all of the legal requirements, are fulfilled; at the point of the writing of this report, Immanuel's lawyer David Marshall is working to add the names of the current Trustees of the congregation to the land title in order that it may be subdivided and a portion of it sold to Discovery Homes/Gateway Construction
- within the next few months, Discovery Homes will work at having the zoning on the property changed to the necessary category, and will attend to various legal and

administrative details necessary to begin the actual construction; marketing and construction will begin immediately after all of the legal requirements have been satisfied

- Immanuel will receive the proceeds of the land and sale of the condo units in 1/24 amounts, to an estimated total of \$690,000
- Winnipeg Presbytery Executive met and approved Immanuel's proposal for the development of the land; proceeds are to be used for the purposes of supporting the ongoing life and ministry of the Immanuel congregation; a task group will be struck to design a process for consultation within the congregation *re*: the use of the revenue; Winnipeg Presbytery Executive must approve the plan for the use of the funds

Thank you for your ongoing interest, commitment and patience as we break new ground together. Full copies of the proposal of Discovery Homes are available in the office.

The Back Forty Team would like to acknowledge the faithfulness and diligence of the Council Elders and the Board of Trustees in this ongoing process, as well as the invaluable assistance of Barbara Myers and the graciousness of Gordon Gray and Discovery Homes.

Respectfully submitted by The Immanuel Back Forty Team: Bob Kenyon (Chair), Glenn Nicholls, Ruth Campbell, Jim Ross, Margaret Smith, Scott Douglas and Nancy Sanders (Staff Resource)

Stewardship of Financial Resources Cluster

We are writing this report for the Annual Meeting to review the mandate of the Stewardship of Financial Resources Cluster and to say Thank You to the groups within the cluster.

The responsibilities of any Mission Cluster is summarized as being to organize and coordinate the work of the congregation with the groups within the cluster with a view to ensuring that the work and mission of the church faithfully serve its mission.

The Guiding Elders of such a cluster have the responsibility of supporting and encouraging the participants in their Mission Cluster and to bring together all or some of the groups within the Cluster as necessary but at least once a year. In addition, the Mission Cluster through the Guiding Elders report once a year to The Council.

So how do we operate?

Judy and I meet after church on Sunday to review our file, discuss any requests, problems etc. we also keep in touch by phone or email to follow up any action required. We keep a file on Financial Statements, minutes of meetings, Stewardship information plus any other information pertaining to our Cluster.

The two of us, Bob Kenyon and Judy Gierys, work together as Elders coordinating the following groups:

Finance Team: Debbie Bilous, Connie Kryschuk, Pat Schulz, Joy Weizel

We check with the Finance Team regularly or they contact us with any questions or concerns.

One member of the Finance Team is available for counting each Sunday in addition to their other duties of keeping all the financial records, paying bills, issuing annual giving's receipts and many more. We are in very capable hands with all members of the Finance Team!

Stewardship Team: Teri Gartner, Anne Duncan, Ian Donnelly

This is a relatively new group to our Cluster. They have worked very hard to develop an ongoing Stewardship theme with the Congregation and also took the initiative to provide leadership for one worship service in January. Well Done!

Memorial Fund Team: Elsie Hughes, Jean Smith, Eileen Metcalfe

We check in with the Memorial Fund Team whenever we need financial help that is appropriate for their consideration.

Mission and Service: Lynne Strome

Lynne keeps us well informed on any information pertaining to M&S. Our congregation is very generous in their support to M&S.

Trustees: Hal Whittaker, Neil Barbour, Bob Kenyon....

Bill Hickerson has ended his term as Trustee and we have two new Trustees on The Board, Joy Weizel and Judy Gierys. The Elders will endeavour to bring them up to date on their new duties. We thank Bill Hickerson for his many years of valued service as a Trustee.

We are very thankful for all the excellent work of each of these groups! They certainly make our job much easier!

Sincerely, Guiding Elders Judy Gierys and Bob Kenyon

Financial Report for the Year Ending April 30, 2016

TOTAL INCOME	\$187,120.37	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$195,919.91</u>
DIFFERENCE		<u>-\$8,799.54</u>

Operations		All Funds & Interest	
Income	\$106,880.81	Income	\$80,239.56
Expenses	<u>\$125,989.71</u>	Expenses	<u>\$69,930.20</u>
Deficit	- \$19,108.90	Surplus	\$10,309.36

OPERATIONS

Co-Op Rebate

This year's rebate was \$186.31, a decrease of \$37.66 from last year.

2015 - 2016 Operational Income

The overall operational income for 2015 - 2016 was \$9,403.37 lower than last year's. Our envelope givings to local expenses dropped by \$10,476.28 from last year.

2015 - 2016 Operational Expenses

The overall operational expenses for 2015 - 2016 were \$2,369.86 lower than last year's.

Last year we predicted a, shortfall of -\$18,694.00 for the operational expenses. The deficit for the operations was -\$19,108.90.

We now need to transfer some of the funds to cover our Operational Deficit.

Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Debbie Bilous

1. Reduce the Congregational Events by \$10,980.15
2. Reduce the Shortfall Fund by \$266.00
3. Reduce the Memorial Life & Work Fund by \$6,100.00
4. Reduce the Earned Interest on Accounts by \$1,762.75

to offset the Operational Deficit of \$19,108.90

Operations Income and Expenses – Five Year History

	2011- 2012	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2015- 2016
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD
REVENUE							
Envelopes	\$109269.60	\$104693.94	\$107343.00	\$110525.00	\$107947.99	107,832.00	\$97,471.71
Miscellaneous	\$323.80	\$376.65	\$318.26	\$300.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$291.05
Open Plate	\$1,349.96	\$1224.48	\$1196.44	\$1200.00	\$1,217.10	\$1,200.00	\$1,441.16
Rebates	\$1,140.36	\$1161.07	\$1083.37	\$1050.00	\$796.34	\$1,025.00	\$1,949.32
Rent	\$8,710.00	\$9670.00	\$6933.00	\$5000.00	\$6,252.75	\$6,200.00	\$5,727.57
Sunday School	\$38.16	\$11.00					
Total Operations	\$120831.88	\$117137.14	\$116874.07	\$118075.00	\$116284.18	\$116327.00	\$106880.81
EXPENSES							
Bank Charges	\$83.35	\$45.70	\$63.54	\$70.00	\$44.00	\$50.00	57.14
Conference Fees	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$450.00		\$450.00	
Office	\$4,444.59	\$5373.43	\$3480.80	\$4000.00	\$2,350.57	\$3,000.00	\$1,713.70
PAR Charges	\$161.00	\$202.00	\$150.00	\$160.00	\$155.50	\$160.00	\$157.50
Postage	\$316.61	\$510.31	\$159.43	\$250.00	\$348.18	\$350.00	\$313.03
Telephone	\$2,079.26	\$2133.97	\$2286.33	\$2450.00	\$2,192.48	\$2,250.00	\$2,237.37
Total Administration	\$7,384.81	\$8415.41	\$6290.10	\$7380.00	\$5,090.73	\$6,260.00	\$4,478.74
Building & Property							
Centra Gas	\$5,899.32	\$5729.35	\$6157.95	\$6500.00	\$5,666.12	\$6,500.00	\$6,299.10
Insurance	\$4,410.00	\$5065.83	\$5273.04	\$5500.00	\$5,738.64	\$5,900.00	\$5,467.56
Manitoba Hydro	\$2,430.34	\$2700.50	\$2931.41	\$3000.00	\$2,731.37	\$3,100.00	\$3,443.97
Repair & Maintenance	\$6,791.55	\$9162.69	\$11214.07	\$7500.00	\$4,326.24	\$1,900.00	\$1,621.03
Taxes	\$1,151.27	\$1151.27	\$1151.27	\$1152.00	\$1,151.27	\$1,152.00	\$1,335.47
Water	\$538.53	\$833.05	\$1037.04	\$900.00	\$478.99	\$600.00	\$617.81
Total Bldg & Prop	\$21221.01	\$24642.69	\$27764.78	\$24,552.00	\$20,092.63	\$19,152.00	\$18,784.94
Clusters							
CFOFC		\$652.18	\$113.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
DOG				\$50.00		\$50.00	
FF & LL	\$461.20	\$278.26	\$290.93	\$350.00	\$199.39	\$350.00	\$26.90
LOFITW	\$614.51	\$380.00	\$135.00	\$50.00		\$150.00	\$204.74
SOFR							\$81.13
WORSHIP	\$725.71	\$1011.83	\$783.37	\$800.00	\$1,284.44	\$800.00	\$855.38
Total Clusters	\$1,801.42	\$2,322.27	\$1322.30	\$1450.00	\$1,583.83	\$1,550.00	\$1,268.15
Pastoral Ministry							
ADP Charges	\$256.51	\$259.66	\$278.79	\$290.00	\$292.18	\$310.00	\$268.25
CPP	\$1,866.36	\$1908.21	\$1954.88	\$2004.00	\$1,988.36	\$2,010.00	\$2,297.12
EI	\$942.00	\$1004.70	\$1049.35	\$1100.00	\$1,090.57	\$1,140.00	\$1,148.37
Salary & Housing	\$56,998.36	\$58019.64	\$59427.96	\$60835.00	\$60,252.04	\$61,420.00	\$60,913.04
Pension & Insurance	\$7,613.00	\$8192.14	\$9168.26	\$8064.00	\$9,008.12	\$9,550.00	\$8,562.64
Travel/Phone							
Total Pastoral Ministry	\$67,676.23	\$69,384.35	\$71,879.24	\$72,293.00	\$72,631.27	\$74,430.00	\$73,189.42
Presbytery Assessment	\$7,616.00	\$7634.64	\$7690.68	\$7,740.00	\$7,842.64	\$7,995.00	\$7,932.36
Support Staff							
Associate Staff	\$7,250.93	\$7178.82	\$7509.34	\$7470.00	\$7,387.57	\$7,464.00	\$7,463.55
Caretaker	\$4,048.27	\$4911.30	\$5314.13	\$4570.00	\$4,536.05	\$4,592.00	\$4,590.30
CPP	\$394.26	\$521.96	\$505.01	\$539.00	\$437.16	\$450.00	\$435.29
EI	\$575.42	\$537.38	\$605.94	\$461.00	\$530.23	\$550.00	\$507.75
Music Director	\$4,903.98	\$4986.70	\$3943.25	\$5325.00	\$962.00	\$5,238.00	
Organist	\$6,656.00	\$6857.36	\$7041.38	\$7245.00	\$7,165.46	\$7,240.00	\$7,239.21
Staff Support							
WCB	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$55.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total Staff Support	\$23,978.86	\$25143.52	\$24974.05	\$25760.00	\$21,118.47	\$25,634.00	\$20,336.10
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$129678.33	\$137542.88	\$139921.15	\$139175.00	\$128359.57	\$135,021.00	\$125,989.71
Revenue less Expenses	-\$8,846.45	-\$20405.74	-\$23047.08	-\$21100.00	-\$12,075.39	-\$18,694.00	-\$19,108.90

FUNDS

We have a total of 35 Funds. Most of the funds (see All Accounts Summary for a full list) are self-explanatory. We currently have 7 Memorial Funds and 10 Special Purpose Funds. For ease of reporting throughout the year and to save paper, the income and expenses for these two funds are grouped together. Below is a breakdown of the individual funds in each of these categories.

	Balance as of May 1, 2015	Income	Expenses	Balance as of Apr. 30, 2016
Memorial	\$615.00	\$1,192.00	\$648.04	\$1,158.96
Memorial Flowers	\$414.26	\$347.19	\$269.97	\$491.48
Memorial Funeral	\$817.38	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$817.38
Memorial Kitchen	\$500.00	\$20.00		\$520.00
Memorial M & S	\$0.00			\$0.00
Memorial Outreach	\$1,510.00			\$1,510.00
Mem Pastoral Care	\$450.00	\$75.00		\$525.00
Totals	\$4,306.64	\$1984.19	\$1,268.97	\$5,022.82

	Balance as of May 1, 2015	Income	Expenses	Balance as of Apr. 30, 2016
Special Purposes				
Agape	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
IBM	\$306.00		\$173.59	\$132.41
*I I		\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Jazz	\$314.40		\$314.40	\$0.00
Pastoral Care	\$450.00			\$450.00
*RESBP	\$1,201.86	\$910.00	\$819.96	\$1,291.90
*St. M & M		\$70.00	\$70.00	\$0.00
SNOW Nite	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$0.00
Stella Feast	\$40.00			\$40.00
Wpg Harvest	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$2,312.26	\$1,280.00	\$1,677.95	\$1,914.31

***I I** – Interfaith Immigration

***RESBP** – River Elm School Breakfast Program

***St. M & M** – St Matthews and Maryland

All of the funds show either a 0 or positive balance and we have sufficient funds in our combined bank accounts and GIC's to cover these balances.

Details for the White Gift fund are as follows:

Agape	\$300.00
All Native Circle	\$100.00
Christmas LITE	\$250.00
Interfaith Immigration Council	\$200.00
Mission & Service	\$190.00
North End Community Ministry	\$500.00
Winnipeg Harvest	<u>\$500.00</u>

Total **2,040.00**

The charitable gifts made by the Immanuel congregation totaled **\$30,028.67**

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Mission & Service	\$23,643.20	
Special Relief		\$1,228.00
Interfaith Immigration Council		\$2,217.51
Christian Family Centre (River Elm Breakfast Program)		\$819.96
North End Stella Community Ministry		\$600.00
Winnipeg Harvest		\$570.00
Agape Table		\$350.00
Christmas LITE		\$250.00
Affirm United		\$100.00
All Native Circle		\$100.00
Salvation Army (SNOW Nite)		\$80.00
St Matthews Maryland		\$70.00

All Funds and Accounts Summary from May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016

	Balance at May 1, 2015	Revenues	Disbursements	Current Balance at April 30, 2016
1. Bldg & Improvement	\$20,690.49	\$1,397.95	\$933.80	\$21,154.64
2. Choir	\$1,504.43	\$100.00		\$1,604.43
3. Congregational Events	\$1,377.82	\$12,552.72	\$2,950.39	\$10,980.15
4. Donnelly Lecture	\$816.97			\$816.97
5. Leadership Developm't	\$227.85		\$60.00	\$167.85
6. Memorial Funds	\$4,306.64	\$1,984.19	\$1,268.01	\$5,022.82
7. Memorial: Life & Work	\$3,210.00	\$2,890.00		\$6,100.00
8. Minister's Benevolent	\$534.41	\$25.00	\$300.00	\$259.41
9. Mission & Service	\$0.00	\$23,643.20	\$23,643.20	\$0.00
10. NECM	\$0.00			\$0.00
11. Observer	\$0.00	\$445.00	\$445.00	\$0.00
12. Office Equipment	\$0.00			\$0.00
13. Projector	\$2,132.78			\$2,132.78
14. Refugee Family	\$392.51	\$2,275.00	\$2,667.51	\$0.00
15. Repairs	\$17,469.19	\$14,577.30	\$17,631.97	\$14,414.52
16. Shortfall	\$0.00	\$266.00		\$266.00
17. Special Purposes	\$2,312.26	\$16,364.37	\$16,762.32	\$1,914.31
18. Special Relief	\$0.00	\$1,228.00	\$1,228.00	\$0.00
19. Staffing Fund	\$7,750.00			\$7,750.00
20. White Gift	\$0.00	\$2,040.00	\$2,040.00	\$0.00
21. Youth Groups	\$440.15			\$440.15
22. Sub-Total ALL Funds	\$63,165.50	\$79,788.73	\$69,930.20	\$73,024.03
23. Interest/Adjustments	\$0.00	\$450.83		\$450.83
24. Operations	\$0.00	\$106,880.81	\$125,989.71	-\$19,108.90
25. Sub Total	\$63,165.50	\$187,120.37	\$195,919.91	\$54,365.96
26. Interest Earned Acct's	\$2,657.92			\$2,657.92
27. Interest Earned GIC's	\$2,627.68			\$2,627.68
28. TOTAL	\$68,451.10			\$59,651.56
Chequing Account	\$41,664.52			\$32,472.79
Savings Account	\$12,158.90			\$12,201.60
#2 GIC Account	\$7,277.31	Matures on	Jan. 24, 2019	\$7,447.86
#3 GIC Account	\$3,668.62	Matures on	Mar. 5, 2017	\$3,764.27
#4 GIC Account	\$3,681.75	Matures on	Mar. 5, 2018	\$3,765.04
TOTAL	\$68,451.10			\$59,651.56

Jubilee Funds \$1,209.10

All Funds and Accounts Summary

Post Annual Meeting Motions

	Post AGM Motions	
1. Building & Improvement	\$21,154.64	
2. Choir	\$1,604.43	
3. Congregational Events	\$0.00	
4. Donnelly Lecture Series	\$816.97	
5. Leadership Development	\$167.85	
6. Memorial Funds	\$5,022.82	
7. Memorial: Life & Work	\$0.00	
8. Minister's Benevolent	\$259.41	
9. Mission & Service	\$0.00	
10. NECM	\$0.00	
11. Observer	\$0.00	
12. Projector	\$2,132.78	
13. Refugee Family	\$0.00	
14. Repairs	\$14,414.52	
15. Shortfall	\$0.00	
16. Special Purposes	\$1,914.31	
17. Special Relief	\$0.00	
18. Staffing Fund	\$7,750.00	
19. White Gift	\$0.00	
20. Youth Groups	\$440.15	
21. Sub-Total ALL Funds	\$55,677.88	
22. Interest/Adjustments	\$0.00	
23. Operations	\$0.00	
24. Earned Interest Acct's	\$996.51	
25. Earned Interest GIC's	\$2,977.17	
26. TOTAL	\$59,651.56	
Chequing Account	\$32,472.79	
Savings Account	\$12,201.60	
#2 GIC Account	\$7,447.86	Maturs Jan. 24, 2019
#3 GIC Account	\$3,764.27	Maturs Mar. 5, 2017
#4 GIC Account	\$3,765.04	Maturs Mar. 3, 2018
TOTAL	\$59,651.56	
Jubilee Certificates	\$1,209.10	

Immanuel United Church Operations Budget 2015– 2016

	2015-2016 Budget	2015-2016 Actual	2016-2017 Budget
OPERATIONAL REVENUES			
Envelopes	\$107,832.00	\$97,471.71	\$102,450.00
Miscellaneous	\$70.00	\$291.05	\$180.00
Open Plate	\$1,200.00	\$1,441.16	\$1,200.00
Rebates	\$1,025.00	\$1,949.32	\$900.00
Rent	\$6,200.00	\$5,727.57	\$5,200.00
Sunday School			
TOTAL Revenues	\$ 116,327.00	\$106,880.81	\$109,930.00
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES			
Administration	\$6,260.00	\$4,478.74	\$5,339.00
Building & Property	\$19,152.00	\$18,784.94	\$20,010.00
Clusters	\$1,550.00	\$1,268.15	\$1,725.00
Pastoral Ministry	\$74,430.00	\$73,189.42	\$74,670.00
Presbytery Assessment	\$7,995.00	\$7,932.36	\$8,095.00
Support Staff	<u>\$25,634.00</u>	<u>\$20,336.10</u>	<u>\$25,836.00</u>
TOTAL Expenses	\$135,021.00	\$125,989.71	\$135,675.00
Deficit	-\$18,694.00	-\$19,108.90	-\$25,745.00
FUND REVENUES			
1. Congregational Events	\$11,200.00	\$10,980.15	\$10,000.00
2. Shortfall Fund	\$2,000.00	\$266.00	\$2,000.00
3. Interest Earned Acct's	\$2,284.00	\$1,762.75	\$1,000.00
4. Staffing Fund			\$7,500.00
5. Building Fund			
or			
Repair Fund			
Additional Fundraising			<u>\$5,245.00</u>
6. Memorial Life & Work	<u>\$3,210.00</u>	<u>\$6,100.00</u>	
Sub-total	\$18,694.00	\$19,108.90	\$25,745.00
BALANCE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

2016- 2017 OPERATIONS DEFICIT

The finance team has looked at the Operational Expenses for the next year and compared the numbers to the Operational Income and the result is a projected deficit of **\$25,745.00**. We feel this deficit could be covered from the Congregational Events Fund, the Shortfall Fund, Interest earned on the accounts, Staffing fund and either from the Building Fund or Repair Fund or additional fundraising.

Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Debbie Bilous that the operations budget for the year 2016 - 2017 projecting an operational shortfall of \$25,745.00 be approved.

Respectfully submitted – Pat Schulz, Connie Kryschuk & Debbie Bilous

Financial Audit of Immanuel United Church 2016

We have reviewed the accounts of Immanuel United Church, made available to us for the period May 1st, 2014 to April 30th, 2015, including statements of revenue, expenditures, requisitions, cheques, deposit slips, payroll records and remittances to Canada Revenue Agency. We made a detailed examination of the randomly selected months of October 2014 and March 2015. These represent the 2014/2015 fiscal year of Immanuel United Church. In this detailed examination, we confirmed all revenues and deposits, confirmed withdrawals or payments for budgeted items and for employees' salaries and benefits. These were checked against the statements of the financial institution, The Assiniboine Credit Union. We also confirmed the statements of the Savings accounts and Term deposits. We found the records to be complete and in good order.

In our opinion, the financial records have been well kept. In our examination, we found no evidence of error or incompetence. We commend the Finance Team for their most efficient work and on behalf of the congregation express our appreciation for their work.

We provide the following information to inform the congregation;

- The procedure for recording individual gifts is: (1) envelope givings, open offerings and Sunday School givings are recorded and balanced each week. (2) Contributions by Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) and service charges for same are recorded once each month. (3) Envelope numbers and PAR accounts are entered into computer files which designate breakdown to Local, Mission and Service and Other. (4) This breakdown of categories is printed and forwarded to the Treasurer. (5) Givings records are accumulated in the computer file for Income Tax statements. (6) The Finance Team checks with the Credit Union to verify their total deposit figures with the deposit sheet. (7) Envelopes are retained for two years. We find no fault with this procedure.
- Post-dated cheques: cheque dates are noted as the envelopes are opened. Post-dated cheques are filed by the Finance Team and submitted on the effective date.

We make the following recommendations/reminders;

1. Occasionally, offering envelopes do not show the amount of the gift or the intended distribution of the gift. Although the cash counters are instructed to enter a figure for the amount enclosed, they cannot mark the distribution of the gift. The Finance Team, acting on the pledge of the donor, makes the distribution. This involves an unnecessary action on their part. If there is no recorded pledge there is no guide for the Finance Team. The total contribution is then marked "local". We urge all contributors to be sure to mark the amount of their gift and the desired distribution of it. We suggest that a note to this effect be inserted in the envelope boxes prior to their distribution.
2. We recommend that all Clusters keep an account of their budgeted allocations and the expenditures from their accounts.
3. We strongly recommend continued use of the "Requisition for Payment" form when committees and/or individuals are submitting claims for payment.
4. Special Events: we recommend that when committees are given an advance or "float" it would be wise to keep a separate record of all expenditures. At the conclusion of the special event the planning or organizing committee should submit a report of all transactions to the Finance Team.
5. We recommend that this report be received by the Council and that the Audit report be included with the Annual Report for 2015/2016.

Immanuel Trustees

Neil Barbour, Bob Kenyon, Hal Whittaker, Joy Weizel, Judy Gierys

April 08, 2016

Trustees Report

The Trustees met and reviewed our insurance policy for the coming year, March 1, 2016 – March 1, 2017.

The coverage is the same as last year and the premium is the same.

Our coverage breakdown is as follows:

	2015-2016	2016-2017
Building	2,105,907	2,105,907
Contents	309,684	309,684
Organ	38,278	38,278
	2,453,869	2,453,869

	2015-2016	2016-2017
Renewal Costs		
Renewal	4,066.00	4,066.00
UCC Group Fund	735.00	735.00
MB Sales Tax	325.28	325.28
	5,126.28	5,126.28

Our Insurance Broker-Hub International pursued proposals from alternative competitive insurers so as a result our Insurance has changed from Aviva to Royal & Sun Alliance.

We applied for third party coverage for Path to Recovery and Bettors Anonymous groups who use our building weekly and bi-weekly.

Full Circle Recovery has ceased to meet in our building.

The Trustees audited the financial records for the years 2014-2015. The results are reported in the Annual Report.

Bill Hickerson has decided to end his term as a Trustee. Bill was a faithful, responsible, dedicated steward for many years. We relied on his wisdom and knowledge of the church and on behalf of the congregation we offer a very sincere thank you. It was a pleasure to work with him.

As a result of Bill's ending his term, two new trustees were nominated at the Congregational meeting on March 13, 2016.

We welcome Judy Gierys and Joy Weizel to the Board of Trustees.

Trustees:

Neil Barbour, Judy Gierys, Bob Kenyon, Joy Wiezel, Hal Whittaker

Mission and Service 2015 – 2016

Lynne Strome. M & S enthusiast

This year we have done considerable work about loving our neighbours. Immanuel continues to “live our faith in the world” and fulfill our mission by contributing to the United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund. Through the money we give, our church is able to augment local, national and global ministries in Jesus name. The need in our world is ever increasing and we are asked to faithfully consider increasing our donations to help our neighbours.

I have very encouraging news re **M & S!** Last year's was \$22,607.79 and this year's is \$23,643.20 - that's an **increase of \$1,035.41.**

White Gift 2015 Report

Thank you letters will be posted on the AMEN bulletin boards for all to read.
Your generous gifts were distributed as follows:

Agape Table		\$300
Winnipeg Harvest	6 boxes of food	\$500
LITE		\$250
Raymond Flett Christmas Feast	food	\$100
North End Stella Ministry	4 boxes food	\$500
Interfaith Immigration	hygiene products and woollies	\$200
St Matthews Maryland Ministry	6 boxes: food, personals and gifts	
United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund		\$190
TOTAL gratitude, happiness, loving, health, ripples of kindness		<u>\$2040</u>

Immanuel Memorial Fund Annual Report 2015-2016

The Immanuel Memorial Fund is supported by contributions in memory of loved ones. This year, the memorial fund committee members (Jean Smith, Elsie Hughes, and Eileen Metcalfe) had requests for and approved More Voices Hymn Books and Banner Fabric.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Metcalfe

Guiding Elders for Discernment of Gifts

2016 Annual Report- Ministry & Personnel Committee

The members of the M & P Committee who have served this past year consist of : *Robert Smith, Verna McKay, Neil Barbour, Marian Mathews, Joan Borton, and Sharon Doerksen.*

Our annual report summarizes the role of our committee, details any staff changes, and highlights any special issues or activities of our committee, or of the paid staff of Immanuel.

Our committee continues to meet monthly. Every second month the staff, consisting of Nancy & Sharon, also attend our meetings, and twice a year (Christmas & June) we meet socially with all staff. We strive to be a confidential, supportive and consultative body for all of our staff as they work to fulfill their roles in the life and work of the church. The M&P committee acts as a liaison between staff and the congregation to discuss such things as goals, working conditions, salaries and benefits etc. Furthermore, we carry out an annual review of the work of our staff to aid with their professional growth.

We have had no staff changes during this past year. Sharon Vandenberg continues to work as our Office Administrator, Eileen Metcalfe as our Music Director (choir leader), Peter Fyne as our organist and accompanist, Jim Goldrup as our caretaker, and Nancy Sanders as our Minister. The continued dedication, capability, and hard work of all of the staff is very much appreciated by us and by the congregation.

Again this year there have been times when Nancy's workload has been extremely heavy. The M&P committee and the Worship Council have tried to recognize this by providing one Sunday a month of time off for her to recoup, while lay congregational members and others have filled in for Sunday services.

On behalf of Immanuel congregation and the M&P committee we would like to thank all of our staff members for the work that they do in the service of Immanuel congregation.

Respectfully submitted by: *Robert Smith & Neil Barbour*

Report of the Living our Faith in the World Cluster

A few weeks ago the Living Our Faith in the World Cluster led the morning Worship Service. As we had prepared for the Service we each thought of 'how we felt we had been called (or nudged) to participate in our particular ministry of work' in the Cluster. Since the beginning of the Cluster system, I have felt that each person in the Cluster was particularly suited to the ministry they were involved in. The leadership given by those who organize each of the programs is working very well, with many deeply committed people from the congregation working along with the Cluster members.

The congregation has been so open to being part of the needs of some of the Programs. Gifts of food, toys, toiletries, money for White Gift and S.N.O.W night; Craft supplies, and food for St Matthews Maryland and North End Stella appear regularly from the folk in the congregation and willing drivers arrive to deliver the White gift food and gifts that are designated for the community Ministry programs; the money and snacks received for our yearly commitment to the Habitat for Humanity build; those who have participated each year in the Amnesty letter writing campaign; and the evening with Rewind which the Tuesday morning Study Group organized as a fund raiser for the Refugee folk; the Wednesday Evening Study Group has been studying a series of writings, story, and poems written by First Nations people and out of that study the Blanket Exercise for the congregation's participation was led by Connie Budd and Norah McMurtry.

Some of us have been attending the evening sessions on Action in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The call to the Churches has been very clear, and seeing the numbers of people who have attended these sessions held at Sturgeon Creek United is very encouraging for the Church and we are anxious to be involved, and willing to learn about the actions we need to take in our response.

We are a Community of very willing and caring people and it has been a good year. I thank the wonderful members of the Cluster and to all the congregation for your continuing support in all that we attempt to do.

Ruth Campbell Guiding Elder for the Living our Faith in the World.

River Elm Breakfast Program

Another school year is almost over and with the support of Immanuel United Church's congregation we have been supporting River Elm School's Breakfast program for close to six years.. We wish to thank the many volunteers who have given their time and energy to this important and needed program. To those who have given financial support we thank you as without your generosity we could not continue.

We hope your financial commitment will continue as the breakfast program is ongoing

Co-Chairs
Linda Gibson
Joan Borton

Winnipeg Harvest

Immanuel's Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank continues to operate very efficiently thanks to the dedicated volunteers who help twice a month. The present figures stated 63,791 Manitobans use food banks. There are over 26,000 children included in this total. Here at Immanuel we have seen an increase in the number of single adults ranging in age from 18 to persons in their 70's. We still require plastic grocery bags, large plastic shopping bags, egg cartons, feminine hygiene products. We appreciate everything you save for us. At the present moment we have enough volunteers but that can change month to month. Several persons have given their names as substitutes will be called upon during July and August. Thank you for volunteering. The term from 2015 to June 2016 has been very successful.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Smyth

Habitat for Humanity

During the 2015 build at the McCalman site last September we provided a morning coffee break for 75 volunteers. Fresh fruit, yogurt and granola bars were provided. This year we will be involved with the women's build at 126 Granville Street during the first week in June. We will be providing both morning and afternoon coffee breaks for 25 volunteers. Later on I will be asking for donations of muffins, cookies or if you prefer mark on your church envelope other which we will be able to purchase fresh fruit, granola bars and chips. The build date is June 7th. Thank you for your participation.

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Smyth

Just Christmas

Just Christmas was just wonderful!

Just Christmas is an alternative pre-Christmas shopping event. The vendors either sell fairly traded items, sell items in support of specific projects, or donate a portion of their proceeds to a local or global justice cause. "Just" implies both the justice of purchasing items that benefit people in economically or socially challenging circumstances, and the concept of Christmas being less about consumerism and more about just relationships.

Just Christmas is a joint project of United Churches in the North East region of Winnipeg.

In 2015, Just Christmas was held at Gordon King Memorial United Church. Vendors included Reaching Across Borders, Focus Africa, New Hope Centre, Marg's Honey, L'Arche Winnipeg, Eighty Strings CD project, Ten Thousand Villages, Gran 'N More, Friendship Sewing Circle, Support for 15 Eritrean Volunteers in Egypt, 1 Just City, Days for Girls, Mayan Women's Co-op in Guatemala, Dignity House, We Wabigooni School and the Canadian Foods Grain Bank.

In 2016, Just Christmas will be at TMUC on Sunday November 6.

Respectfully submitted by Muriel Kenyon

Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning Cluster

Immanuel United Church continues to be a community of learners and seekers, with people of all ages asking questions, deepening their faith, taking risks for their own learning and to contribute to the learning of others, opening themselves to discomfort, discovery, and reassurance. The reports from the study groups are witness *to a community seeking continually to be formed as servants of God, enjoying and sharing with one another in our diversity, witnessing to our hope for God's world.* Once again this year, the study groups functioned without direct support from Guiding Elders, further testimony to their commitment to study and to one another.

The Mark Project drew on the time, energy, knowledge, curiosity, and creativity of all who shared in its planning and leadership. This collaborative effort with Sturgeon Creek United Church introduced us to new ways of hearing the story and reflecting on its meaning for our lives. Thanks to all who were involved in this exciting project and to the Worship Cluster for their leadership.

The Sunday School has been busy all year. In the fall, we focused on the nature of God and the meaning of covenant. We traveled with the congregation during Advent, building the Advent road - both in worship and in the children's learning space. A shelter built to offer a resting spot for travelers on the Advent road, became a stable to welcome a weary couple and provide a space for a child to be born. The stable, built lovingly by small hands using cardboard, wood, and a lot of duct tape - adorned by a star, a couple of owls, some barn swallows, a spider web, and a wasp nest - was carried into worship the Sunday before Christmas and became a focal point of the Christmas Eve service.

The building theme continued in the new year with the children constructing their own version of a first century Galilean village, again featuring quantities of cardboard, wood, and duct tape. The purpose was to learn about what life was like when Jesus was a boy and about the context of his work and message. Their study of first century Galilee included a mini archaeological dig, studying about food, clothing, games, music, and daily life. They also learned about the political, social and economic conditions in which people lived, with many people being poor and sick while a few people lived in luxury, the poor people being forced into the service of the rich. They reflected on the difference between the values of the kingdom of Caesar and the values of the Kingdom of God. They made a movie to share their learning with the congregation. The movie will be shown in worship during the annual meeting.



Learning with these children, exploring their questions, listening to their insights, and witnessing their relationships and their growth in faith has been a remarkable gift. I am grateful to all volunteered and often support to the children throughout this year.

After many years of leadership in faith formation, Jane Nicholls discerned a call to focus her energy in other places. I am grateful for her time in shared leadership with this cluster, for her gift as an educator, her rapport with children, her support as a colleague, and her commitment to the life and work of this community.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Naylor, Guiding Elder



Fitting into the work of both the Faith Formation and Life Long Learning Cluster and the Worship Cluster, The Mark Project began in late 2015, with a joint workshop with the good folks of Sturgeon Creek United Church. After acquainting themselves with some of the theology and storyline of the Gospel of Mark, several creative and intrepid storytellers from each of the two congregations set

out to *tell* the stories of Mark's Gospel, rather than to *read* them, in our respective worship services on the Sundays between January 3rd and Easter Sunday. With varied approaches to the task, our storytellers "learned by heart" passages of various lengths from Mark's Gospel, and told them matter-of-factly as we would a good story to our neighbour, or dramatically, as they might have been performed in the marketplaces of Ephesus or Corinth in the earliest days of the church, before even Mark had a chance to write them down. Some in biblical costume, some in their regular Sunday-go-to-meetin' clothes, these storytellers helped us to engage the stories of the oldest biblical Gospel in new and profound ways, and our friends at Sturgeon Creek tell us of a similar experience there.

In a lecture entitled *Biblical Narrative in the Age of Twitter*, delivered at Vancouver School of Theology some years ago, Barbara Brown Taylor spoke of the need, in this culture of sound bytes and Tweets and text messages, to grant real authority only to narratives "strong enough to save a life." Our conviction in taking on The Mark Project was that the narratives of Mark's Gospel indeed are strong enough to save a life, and that there just might be something lifesaving in our immersing ourselves in them in an intentional way. New scholarship on Mark's Gospel has begun to interpret it as a response to enormous trauma and loss in the first century Mediterranean world, shaken as it was by the siege of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple. As scholars Maia Kotrosits and Hal Taussig have said, "There are broken bodies everywhere in Mark's story, and Jesus heals in response to this embodied brokenness."¹

To take on a narrative of embodied brokenness, trusting that within it will be found healing and lifesaving power, was a bold undertaking indeed. Congratulations to the storytellers of The Mark Project for risking participation in this strong story, and to the rest of the congregation for receiving their efforts in a spirit of openness, wonder and grace.

¹ This interpretation of Mark's Gospel comes from "Jesus Seminar on the Road" lectures by Hal Taussig and Maia Kotrosits at the Lutheran Campus Ministry in Grand Forks, N.D., in the spring of 2015.

Tuesday Morning Study Group

The Tuesday morning study group continues to meet at 9:30 every Tuesday in the lounge. We have from 7 to 10 members at each meeting. We give a small donation each week and also held a concert/dance in March with the band Rewind. All monies raised thus far have gone through Immanuel's Refugee Fund to the Interfaith Immigration Council. As of this writing we are planning a Mother's Day Tea on Saturday, May 7th, with profits to the Life and Work of Immanuel.

Over the past year we finished Thomas King's "The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in America". Currently we are reading Rupert Ross, "Indigenous Healing". The book is described as a "hopeful book, not only for indigenous people, but for all others open to accepting some of their ancient lessons about who we might choose to be".

This year we had a Christmas lunch at 925 Bistro, and will plan a wind up in June as well at this time we are not planning to continue meeting over the summer. We are always open to new members joining us!

Respectfully submitted by Jane Nicholls for the Tuesday Morning Study Group

Women's Wednesday Evening Study Group

Our group meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month (usually) from September to June. We have been meeting in one form or another for many years. We usually use a book or AV as a basis for discussion. We normally meet at the church but have occasionally met at someone's home.

We had our last year's wind-up dinner at the restaurant at Kildonan Park. In September we finished our study of the book "Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry" which deals with treaties and the way settlers haven't honoured them.

Then we began studying the "geez" magazine, a Winnipeg publication which dealt with aboriginal issues in its Fall 2015 issues. It is a series of essays, poetry and art. The theme is "Decolonization-Relate-Relearn-Rework". It has led to lively discussions which encouraged us to add to our programming by attending several related events. Not all of us were able to attend all of these events but those who could reported back to the rest of us. These included a dinner at Neechi Common to hear a talk by Pam Palmetter, a Mi'kmaq lawyer, professor, author and activist who was one of the organizers of Idle No More. There was a forum at U of W where a panel responded to the article in Maclean's magazine calling Winnipeg the most racist city in Canada. The author was there along with Wab Kinew among others. Some of us were able to attend the Bandwidth Theatre on Ellice Ave. for a showing of the film "Highway of Tears". Ashley Callingbull, the first Canadian and Aboriginal to win the Mrs. Universe title spoke there. She is using her celebrity status to address aboriginal issues. We watched a DVD, a film titled "We Were Children" showing the story of two aboriginal children in Residential Schools. One was a little girl in Manitoba, the other a young boy in Saskatchewan. It is available from NFB. It was both heartbreaking and powerful.

There is a series ongoing at Sturgeon Creek United Church which began in February. One Monday night each month for four months we looked at different aspects of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations. On the first night we heard from some survivors of the Residential School system. The next month's program looked at the history and on-going effects of that system. Nigaan Sinclair, Acting Department head of U of M's Native Studies program was the next speaker. We also watched a display of hoop dancing drumming and singing. In the next session Stan McKay will lead us in considering our response to what we have learned.

We feel fortunate to be able to add so many dimensions to our study.

-Respectfully submitted by Marian Mathews

Men's Study Group

MEN'S STUDY GROUP (1976-2016)

When I volunteered to write the annual report, the men in the group instructed me to "make it interesting, direct, short, naked, honest, lean, startling and graceful".

Here goes:

We now gather at the church (usually) every second Monday (but we often skip 2 or 3 weeks) before we meet. No more dinners and wine (some whining), not even desserts. We now celebrate with cookies, tea and/or coffee.

We re-acquaint and get into some interesting discussions, until Doug calls us to "get down to reading – so we can get some work done".

This year we enjoyed reading and discussing *The Comeback*, a thought provoking narrative by John Ralston Saul. He claims, "*For the last hundred years, Aboriginal Peoples have been making a comeback – a remarkable comeback from a terrifyingly low point of population, of legal respect, of civilizational stability. A comeback to a position of power, influence and civilizational creativity...*"

And, we looked at and discussed the NDP's *Leap Manifesto*. Easy to read; difficult to buy into.

We are in the process of looking for another study topic for the rest of the term.

Cheerfully and respectfully submitted,
(For the 4 Bobs, 2 Als, Glenn, Jim, Doug, Lorne, and Bill)
Richard Sawchuk

CARING FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY CLUSTER

Our purpose in writing this report is to keep in touch, remind you of the mandate of this cluster and to say, THANK YOU!

The responsibilities of this Mission Cluster is to group and coordinate the functions, persons, teams and groups with responsibility for care and upkeep of the church property and building, as well as for hospitality and welcome, and pastoral care and support of all within the congregation.

We three elders work together in carrying out this coordination but have accepted the lead roles in the following areas:

Jim: Property/Building team, Caretaking, Fowl Supper.

Eileen: Immanuel Players, Hospitality Events, Communication of Events.

Muriel: Pastoral Care, Affirming Ministry.

Since spring last year, the kitchen floor was replaced. The behind the scene coordination was applying for a Provincial Government grant, hiring and supporting the Flooring Company. The boiler was repaired, the south side shingles were replaced, each requiring coordination in conjunction with the people who so willingly and effectively maintain the building and property. Many, many thanks to all who cut grass, shovel snow, fix and repair, build, do major cleaning jobs (like the kitchen, lounge etc.) and all who participate in caring for our building and grounds. Have you heard of phantom workers? Many of these people are the phantom workers

and the jobs get done! The regular weekly cleaning, the set up and set down of the Worship Centre are carried out by the caretaker.

Thanks also to the Fowl Supper Coordinator and her team of willing workers. We served approximately 425 dinners with 65 take outs. A big bouquet and a word of appreciation to the Girl Guides, for their enthusiastic help with the serving. Union Gospel Mission and Rossbrook House enjoy the leftover food. The tentative date for the 2016 Fowl Supper is OCTOBER 22nd from 4-7, 2016. Mark your calendar for this opportunity to invite our neighbors, family and friends for dinner.

Last summer, we negotiated with the Royal Sports Soccer Camps, who use the Melrose Community Grounds to offer soccer camps in July and August, to rent our building in the event of inclement weather. Although the weather held and they didn't require the building, we were pleased to supply this backup service to the participants. We have agreed to again negotiate with them.

A Mother's Day Tea and the Rewind Concert also provide opportunities to invite the neighbors in for good music and fun. As this report is being written, the Immanuel Players are hard at work preparing for the upcoming play, "\$38,000 For A Friendly Face" on April 21, 22, and 23rd. Again, thanks to all involved to make these events, truly community efforts.

The Pastoral Care Coordinators, also part of this cluster, work with Nancy and many of you, visiting, contacting folks, offering rides to worship and many other acts of caring. Funerals/Memorial Services, planning C.P.R. training, Retirees Luncheons and planning for Flowers at Worship is coordinated by this group. They depend on you to contact them with information of any one in need of a visit.

The Affirming Ministry is also part of this cluster. Our goal is to be welcoming to all who enter our community. Last year a group joined in the Pride Parade in June and plan to again this year. Join the parade carrying the Immanuel Banner at this year's parade on JUNE 5th at 12 noon. Watch for announcements with more details

In November, as the Elders of this cluster, we planned and led Worship. This was an opportunity not only for us to think about how and what we all do but also the "why" of this Ministry.

We have come to appreciate how we overlap and participate with the other Mission Clusters, the Council Elders and the whole community. For this we are truly THANKFUL.

In shared ministry, Eileen Metcalfe, Jim Ross and Muriel Kenyon

Property Committee:

We continue to work on maintenance and repairs as needed. We have some upcoming projects that include fixing the air conditioner problem in the upstairs meeting room and replacing the choir microphones which went missing. Improvements have been made to ensure valuable items which are not used on a regular basis, are secured and locked away. Other improvements include some repairs in the men's washroom.

Thanks to all who help in cutting the grass and clearing the snow.

If you notice anything that needs attention, let Sharon in the office know. ~Glen Smyth

PASTORAL CARE Annual Report, 2016

We, the Pastoral Care coordinators, take this opportunity to THANK the entire team who participates in Pastoral Care in this community. You may not recognize yourself as a member of this team. But if you visit, telephone, have conversation at worship, offer a ride, show concern for another or one of many acts of kindness, you are part of the team and we thank you.

We especially thank Nancy for her respectful and compassionate care and concern.

We, along with many helpers hosted a Retirees Luncheon in November. Louise Faurshau entertained us with her delightful music talents. It's great to hear those familiar tunes! Many events planned by other groups, such as the Mother's Day Tea, the Rewind concert, the Fowl Supper and the Play are also wonderful opportunities to build community and interact with our friends and neighbors. Thanks to the organizers and participants for these opportunities of hospitality.

We have experienced change and loss over this past year. Aging and the changes that brings, is real for many of us. May we continue to offer grace and understanding to one another.

We ask that you continue to contact Nancy, one of the coordinators or the church office if you know of someone who would benefit from contact.

Respectively submitted, Joan Macdonald, Sharon Barbour, Muriel Kenyon

AFFIRMING MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT, 2016

Immanuel is an "Affirming Congregation" committed to welcoming and supporting all people, regardless of race, class, gender, or sexual orientation.

In June, 2015, approximately 12 people carried the Immanuel banner in the PRIDE PARADE along with other United Churches.

We encourage people to join in the parade this JUNE 5th at 12 noon as a way of declaring our support and to learn from the L.G.B.T.T.Q community. *Muriel Kenyon*

Funeral / Memorial Report

The Funeral/ Memorial Committee falls under the umbrella of Pastoral Care. Once again it is my privilege to thank all those who respond so graciously when the call goes out for assistance on the occasion of a death in our church community.

We are grateful the families entrust us with this important ministry, a time when we are able to show our love and support to each other. The warm hospitality of Immanuel is never more evident than at this difficult time.

I would encourage everyone to pick up a brochure on Funeral Memorial planning.

Once again we thank Nancy for her leadership, care and pastoral care.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Macdonald

Flowers Annual Report

We are most appreciative of having Memorial Flowers to enhance our Worship. Anyone wishing to place flowers in memory or for a special occasion is invited to sign the flower chart in the entry. You may then bring your flowers on the specified Sunday. If you wish to have them taken to a member of the congregation following the service, we would be pleased to assist. Should you wish to borrow a vase from the Church, I would be pleased to assist. Due to allergies, we respectfully request no lilies in the arrangements.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Macdonald



Fowl Supper Annual Report-2015

Betty Patton reported that the first FOWL SUPPER at Wesley United was in 1970 So, since the tradition carried on with Immanuel, this year was our 45th dinner.

Many people over those years have enjoyed the fellowship of preparing and serving our guests as well as many people have enjoyed the hospitality offered. Although those are our top two goals, our statistics are worth noting as well.

Number of people served : 425

Number of Takeouts: 65

Number of turkeys cooked: 22 Profit: \$4534

Highlights: Many!

The help we, again received from the Girl Guides

Many compliments on the tasty dinner and the hospitable service

All the willing workers performing the small and large jobs.

Sharing the extra food with Union Gospel Mission and Rossbrook House.

Fowl Supper 2016 is scheduled for October 22nd. Mark your calendar!

Respectfully submitted, Alison Fryza

The Golspie Social Club, 2015-2016

The Club is a vibrant Group as we continue to meet on the second and fourth Thursday at 1pm every month at Immanuel Church, where we carpet bowl, drink tea and have conversation. We are grateful for all the help we get in setting up and putting away our equipment. We would welcome all new members to join us in the future.

Immanuel Players Annual Report 2016

This year's play was "\$38,000 for a Friendly Face". The performances were on April 21, 22 and 23. Glen Smyth was the Director and Tom Smithson was the Assistant Director. The cast consisted of 3 veterans (Pat Schultz, Eileen Metcalfe and Ron Metcalfe) and 4 rookies (Donna Rae Gabbs, Leslie Ross, Connie Kryschuk and Leslie Smyth). Special thanks to Clark Kenyon who was a creative consultant and coach. Practices started in mid January and a lot of time and energy was enthusiastically provided by all. We had Diane Tucker as our prompter, hidden on stage. The production would not be possible without the annual help from Ian Donnelly (lights), Leslie Donnelly (props), George Stevens (construction), Joy Weizel (makeup), Jennifer Antymis and Luba Olesky (art design), Jim and Trish Goldrup (posters) as well as the Dessert crew (kitchen) and ticket takers. The play was a success and Nancy's sermon was insightful and provided more meaning to the play. Our thanks to all who came out to watch and support our Immanuel Players.

Submitted by Glen Smyth and Tom Smithson.

Worship Cluster Annual Report 2015-2016

Guiding Elders: Leslie Donnelly and Lynne Strome, staff: Nancy Sanders

This was a full and rich year in Immanuel's worship cluster. We offer grateful recognition to Nancy, especially, for her creative and enthusiastic leadership. Cheerful and tireless Sharon Vandenberg is a great support with the details of our work. Teri Gartner is invaluable as our behind-the-scenes- go-to person, as are Jennifer Antymis, artist in residence, and Ron Metcalfe, chief banner hanger/yard sign manager.

Eileen Metcalfe, Peter Fyne and the choir are exceptionally supportive while gracing our worship with their inspirational music. Sharon Barbour found props and does phoning, which is essential to worship function; thanks also to Diane Letwin for faithfully arranging communion servers. The highly skilled and artful sewers, Cindy Smyth and Ruth Campbell, are currently heading up a team of artists on a new banner project, while Eileen handily concealed the old velvet stage drapes. Many thanks to each of you.

Several high points during worship were made possible by the leadership of Ann Naylor and the joyful participation of our Sunday School children. Our hearts are lifted by your sharing. And more thanks to the countless volunteers who faithfully sign up and fill the worship needs for greeters, sound system, coffee, prayer writers, communion servers, special events and scriptures readers.

Moreover, worship leadership was meaningfully shared to allow Nancy a little down time from her increasingly demanding work load. Adam Johnston, with his knowledge, eagerly brought to our conscience the pressing importance of paying attention to and supporting our environment. Minister Cole Grambo, of Spirit Path Ministry, offered a fresh perspective as a guest leader. Further, our assorted cluster groups *shone*

the light on the inner workings of Immanuel and how we are guided by our mission. Well done. Your vital input was greatly appreciated.

In August, Nancy led us through as assortment of “Spiritual Practises” to get us thinking about new perspectives for worship. By November we were “Building the Advent Road”, an exercise in both faith challenge and depth. Arlene Gendre and Pat Schulz dug in deep to add to our worship experience. Bob Haverluck and friends embraced a lighter yet effective story and hymns approach to bridge Christmas to New Year. From there we experienced the “Mark Project”.

Preparing for January started with a group of Immanuel members coming together with Rev. Deborah Murray, from Sturgeon Creek United, to consider “learning by heart” and presenting Mark’s gospel. The idea was to dramatize the stories about Jesus orally, like they were in early Christian times. This wonderful journey involved many members who faithfully took the challenge and, by doing so, made the scriptures come alive for the whole congregation. It was glorious as we moved straight to Easter. Much appreciation to Bob Kenyon and team for arranging the “sunrise service” breakfast.

The spiritual health of Immanuel is based on strong, creative leadership and faithful participation by our members and, by the grace of God. Amen.

Immanuel Choir 2016 Annual Report

Oh! What a joy divine to be a part of a dedicated exuberant group of individuals, who share a love for music and a passion for singing God’s praises. The choir members include, Eileen Metcalfe choir director, sopranos: Cathy Garvie, Judy Gierys, Jean Smith, Margaret Smith, Elaine Tolpa, Debbie Crump, Contessa Hay, altos: Eileen Metcalfe, Luba Olesky, Jennifer Antymis and Joy Weizel, tenors: Ron Metcalfe, Robert Smith, basses: Jim Jost, Al Mackling, Bill McEwen and George Stevens. This faithful group of singers lead hymns and service music as well as the choral anthem. The choir sings regularly each Sunday from October to end of May and special music for Christmas, Good Friday and Easter. Occasionally we sing for funerals as well. The favorite anthems seem to be those written by Pepper Choplin. Choir members often hear feedback from the congregation if they have enjoyed a particular piece, especially noted were ‘Balm in Gilead’ and ‘Here I Am Lord ‘.

Thanks to Eileen Metcalfe for her patient musical leadership, choir members who performed solos Debbie Crump, Jim Jost and Rob Smith, Debbie Bilous for extraordinary flute accompaniment, and Peter Fyne in for piano and organ. Thanks also to the congregation for their support and recognition.

Because health, family obligations and travel keep choir members away at times new singers are always welcome to join us, Thursday evening from 7-9 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Luba Olesky

