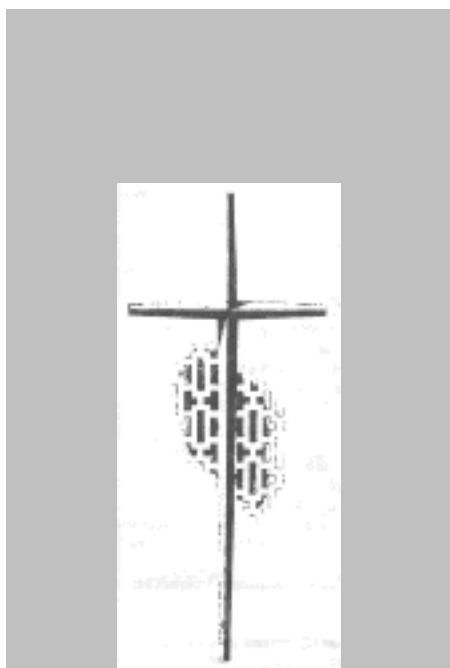


Immanuel United Church Annual Report 2018-2019



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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Ha Na's Annual Minister's Report

Easter Greetings

Happy greetings to all the Easter people of Immanuel,

I can't believe it has been two years since I started sharing the life and ministry of my vocation with my newly embraced Immanuel people. As I write this Annual Minister's Report, it is April 24th, three days after Easter Sunday.

As I recollect what I shared in my Easter sermon, I realize that the message is close to my heart and applicable to a reflection on *ministry* at Immanuel in the present.

"To the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20)

The name given to Jesus at birth is Emmanuel, from which our own church's name comes; it means "God is with us." Interestingly, the final words of the risen Jesus also echo his name: "I am with you always, to the end of the age." We, as the church, especially as one whose name was chosen to be Immanuel, are called to live the life that matches our name: to truly trust that God is with us to the end of the age. Jesus lives, and God's divine work continues to the end of our time, and beyond. What it means to me is that we have no reason to panic. Easter's promise is that in faith, we are encouraged to live and capable of living the reality of new life, always, in all circumstances. An empty tomb means what we are looking for is not in the tomb. What we are looking for - - the living person, Jesus, and the mission of the Easter community - - is both in the village and in the wilderness where terror and amazement, fear and great joy, these contrasting realities, would free us, and transform us, rather than freeze us. Let us ask, then, how can this reflection on an empty tomb be applied to the life and work of Immanuel? What is our terror now, and what is our amazement yet to see? First, the terror: The promised (?) financial uplift from the construction of Kimberly Terrace is delayed. We might not be able to cover the deficit in 2019-20, not like the previous years in which we could cover the deficits by using money out of pocket. This situation distresses us, temporarily or for a significant while.

Good news

The good news, to my understanding, is that my recent Easter experience enabled me to examine and discard my misunderstanding about where we must find Easter hope. I scrutinize my inner thinking: Have I ever believed the cash flow from Kimberly Terrace to be a true source of hope? It is true that I had been thinking that the financial uplift from the property development could help us live comfortably, and make us ok. This, then, made me think that I could delay or should delay my aspiration to start a new ministry, for example, an intercultural Messy Church, until we secure financial sustainability, because financial security makes starting and continuing new ministry easier; it may even guarantee its success.

Easter faith

However, my Easter experience remind me that the mystery of Easter is not the tomb, but the empty tomb. Easter faith cannot be delayed, must not be delayed. If you have intention, if you have passion, if you have a desire for a new, bold ministry, it shouldn't wait until you hear that the construction of Kimberly Terrace has started. Nothing other than faith can save us and make us live.

Ministry of thanksgiving

Through the past year, 2018-19, I continued to nurture a ministry of thanksgiving and gratitude because everything I call my ministry at Immanuel was only possible with the hard work and wonderful support of many people, especially the Guiding and Council Elders and all who gave themselves quietly behind the scenes or actively, in great visible ways. To name a few highlights, I developed an Intercultural Messy Church plan with Jen Saner-Harvey (the grant money of \$1,500 is still in our hands, unused); a new website is in progress (We have most of the content - new or

updated - we need to put on. Scott Douglas is developing the website design and framework); Council and I studied *Fishing Tips: How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith*, by John Pentland, and *Open Questions* (from *Governance and Ministry*, by Don Hochkins). The best lesson that Council gleaned from *Fishing Tips* has been, "Pay for What You Want, not What You Have." This means that we need to develop an excellent understanding of our priorities and what we value most, and shift our perspective to investing in the future, following our values and priorities, not just using what is left over. According to Pentland, at the start, paying for what you want often equates with paying for who you want (staffing). It requires us to trust that what we want matters. We have given the priority to growth in children's ministry, and as a result, we've seen the growth of Sunday School and children's participation in the worship and life of Immanuel - supported by the successful ministry of two Sunday School Directors, Jen and Aisha, and our volunteer teachers. By the way, the children have chosen a new name to call themselves: Immanuel Church Changers!

I also must acknowledge the exceptional, dedicated and inspiring ministry and work of all of our Guiding Elders, and especially, for me, Pastoral Care Elders and Worship Elders. Muriel Kenyon and Joan Macdonald, Lynne Strome and Leslie Donnelly are my go-to-people 7 days a week, whenever I have questions or need to plan together. They are a great team! The highlights of my year are deeply heart-felt pastoral care visits, Concordia Village Communion (seasonally), creative and well-coordinated and organized special services and Sunday services. (Any technical hiccups like those of the Christmas Eve service at 7 pm are all mine.) All of our Guiding and Council Elders, leaders and worshippers make Immanuel's ministry authentic and strong every day, and all of our church members' warm support, generous kind words and constructive feedback on my ministry and Sunday sermons make me proud to be at Immanuel. I especially enjoyed sharing the Interfaith series through the season of Epiphany, 2019.

Council's Planning Retreat in March, 2019

Here, I would like to report what I shared with our Council Elders at our Planning Retreat (Mar 15th) and link it to the reflection on Easter faith. Some background details:

With Council Elders' support, I cautiously yet sincerely aspire for Immanuel to continue our ministry with Easter faith, embracing both terror and amazement, fear and great joy, in the upcoming year of 2019-2020. Anxiety may be a reasonable human response to uncertainty, yet it's not the best response. Remembering and practicing Easter faith with an excellent ministry focus would be a wise response to our (predicted) "limbo" time of uncertainty and waiting. Like the women on Easter morning, we understand that there's nothing to see in the tomb, "Cause it is empty."

We hope that **Open Questions** can equip us, Easter sojourners, with focus and curiosity when we come out of the empty tomb.

Last March, Council Elders and I planned a retreat to identify three Open Questions.

In a nutshell, Open Questions are future and mission oriented, open-ended questions, used as a way for Council to open themselves up to congregational influence and to facilitate congregational participation. Council is responsible for identifying Open Questions, seeking input and feedback from the congregation about them by hosting wider conversations with the congregation. The paid accountable ministers like myself and the staff are responsible for developing strategic planning and implementing new goals.

During the half-day retreat, including lunch, the Elders *patiently* trusted my facilitation and answered:

- What things have we done well in the past, and how do we carry them on to the future?
- What is our context in the present?

What is changing? (in the world, in your neighbourhood, in your family)

What is not changing?

What is happening? (at Immanuel)

What is not happening?

What do you want to see happening? What matters most to you?

- Based on the shared learnings from the discussions today and in your faith, what is the future of Immanuel you want to share with our next generation? Dream and describe.
- Translate them into Open Questions.

Open Questions

As the result of the deep conversations that followed, Council Elders could identify three Open Questions, and all of us ended the retreat happily, with consensus and relief (!). The Open Questions that Council Elders and I will share with the congregation to seek input and feedback and eventually to develop strategic planning are:

How might Immanuel encourage diversity?

How can the arts provide spiritual nurture and invite participation by the community?

As a church that contributed to colonization, how shall we express our commitment to TRC?

Note: Our first Wider Conversation will be held on May 5th, with Guiding Elders/Council/M & P. I express my deepest thanks to the Discerning of Gifts Cluster Guiding Elders to agree to host this Conversation with me.

Queer and Faithful

Last but not least, I have devoted a lot of hours and work to co-organizing and planning the Queer and Faithful conference/event (May 25-26, 2019). It originated from my own experience and learning, and since I proposed the idea at the Affirming Ministry Network (Winnipeg Presbytery) meeting in January, 2018, the group of co-organizers grew and grew and became a very diverse interfaith team. Queer and Faithful will be a two-day event featuring Two Spirit indigenous and LGBTQ+ speakers from diverse religious/spiritual and cultural/ethnic backgrounds. ALL are welcome to come share, discuss, and learn about the intersections of Faith, Race, and Queerness. The theme speaker and workshop presenter will be Jenna Tenn-Yuk from Toronto. I found Jenna by reading her article in the United Church magazine, the Observer, (now Broadview): "For Queer Christians of Colour, Finding Church Isn't Easy."

Is it Immanuel's Ministry?

Organizing this conference might look unrelated and distant from the ministry of Immanuel. However, my hope is that I can convince the people of Immanuel that it is related and relevant to this church's passion and goals. Queer and Faithful centres the experience and voices of queer (LGBTQ) people of colour who have to navigate multiple hurdles towards full acceptance in their lifetime: in their home, in society, even in the LGBTQ community and, particularly, in their faith community, including churches. To illustrate, Queer people of colour/faith often experience multiple levels of "homelessness." First, in the LGBTQ community, **faith** is a tricky subject and the conversation on it is largely avoided due to the abusive history of the churches towards LGBTQ people. It is similar to the abusive history of the churches towards the Indigenous people. Therefore, it creates "spiritual homelessness." Second, if they are queer people of **colour**, finding a church isn't easy because, even if they have found an affirming church, most affirming churches are predominately White

congregations. Third, to the present day, the reality is that “most” churches are, sadly, not affirming, and therefore most queer Christians, regardless of their skin-colour, if they still choose to go to church, have to **hide** their sexuality. Needless to say, they have to do the very difficult journey of reconciling their faith and sexuality on their own.

I am grateful that one of our Open Questions is, “How might Immanuel encourage diversity?” My hope for Immanuel is (even though I am clearly aware that there can be many interpretations and visions in regards to what it means to encourage diversity) that Immanuel continues an Easter faith ministry towards becoming a truly affirming, decolonizing and intercultural congregation **where queerness, race and faith can all belong**. In other words, queer Christians of colour can find a home, build friendships and thrive at Immanuel, be comfortable in their skin here, able to nurture their spirituality. If we can do this, we can do any intercultural ministry and can be successful.

Not by ‘assimilation’ but by ‘transformation’

New, bold ministry cannot come by ‘assimilation.’ We cannot expect new people, “curious people”, to come and fit in with us, assume our norms and our expectations and the existent ministry. To be a successful ministry, we need to create a new core inside the core or running in parallel. All cultures, all churches, all leaderships go through the process of “normalization”. It is just natural, and essential. However, for a successful intercultural ministry, de-normalizing is a necessary process. Immanuel, too, shares certain expectations and norms, and unconsciously might impress these commonalities to newcomers as the conditions of acceptance. I believe encouraging diversity through inviting those who are unlike us and letting them make this place their home is how we will thrive together. How to let our comfortable ways die is as relevant and important as how to live with magnificent uncertainty.

Easter faith cannot be delayed and must not be delayed. If we have intention, if we have passion, if we have this desire for a new, bold ministry, we must do it in urgency and with the courage to embrace both the terror and amazement, fear and great joy that the women experienced in the early Easter sunrise. Only such an Easter faith will save us and make us fully alive.

Office Administrator's Report

I have now been the Office Administrator for 18 years here at Immanuel and enjoy my work.

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 my volunteers, your help is very much appreciated!

Ha Na and her enthusiasm and positive energy makes for a wonderful colleague and I appreciate working with her.

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, Baptisms and Weddings 2018-2019

In Memoriam

Harold Kaisaris Beatrice Fines Jean Turner Leslie Keenan Alexander Keenan
Bernice Penner Chris Smith Bud Newton Erna Wiebe Ron Olesky
Joan Borton Betty Martin June Cameron Jean Smith

Baptisms

Aiden Nixon

Marriage

Jim Jost and Joy Weizel

Immanuel United Church Annual Meeting

May 13, 2018

Call to Order: 11:45

Appointment of Chair and Secretary; Ha Na requested permission to accept Robert Smith as chair and Judy Gierys as secretary for the purpose of this Annual Meeting. Congregation agreement received.

Acknowledgment of Treaty #1 Land and Homeland of the Métis Nation.

Motion to enable Constitution of the Court;

Jane Nicholls; Be it resolved all participating in this meeting who are not members of Immanuel United Church have the rights to full participation including speaking and voting the same as congregation members. Motion seconded by Marg Smith and carried.

Time of Remembrance; Names projected and read by Kerry LaRocque

Approval of the previous meeting minutes.

Marvee Stevens motioned to approve the May 14, 2017 Annual Meeting minutes and the July 8, 2018, Congregational Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Lynne Strome and carried.

Financial Report; brief overview by Pat Schulz and Connie Kryschuk

Operational Deficit; Pat Schulz moved that the Congregational Events fund be reduced by \$5,229.89 to offset the Operational Deficit. Motion seconded by Connie Kryschuk and carried. Pat Schulz moved that the balance of \$2,723.91 be moved from Congregational Events fund to the Staffing fund. Motion seconded by Connie Kryschuk and carried.

Back 40; a brief update by Bob Kenyon. Property name changed to Kimberly Terrace. Financial Manager named as Eugene Antymis. Signing authority given to Bob Kenyon, Eugene Antymis and Judy Gierys.

Annual Reports; Joy Weizel motioned to approve the reports as written. Motion seconded by Leslie Ross and carried.

New Business

Sunday School Coordinator; Jane Nicholls motioned with the consent and recommendation of Council that the funding for the Sunday School Coordinator position be continued. Motion seconded by Marvee Stevens and carried.

Discernment of Gifts; Cindy Smyth motioned to confirm Miriam Unruh for Living out our Faith in the World, Leslie Ross for Faith Formation and Life-Long Learning and Judy Gierys for Worship. Motion seconded by Marg Smith and carried.

Presentation and Approval of Operations Budget; Pat Schulz moved that the Operations Budget for the year 2018-2019 projecting an Operational shortfall of \$26,073.00 be approved. Motion seconded by Connie Kryschuk and recommended by Council. Motion carried.

Financial Appeal; Ian Donnelly, with the recommendation of Council moved that a committee of 3 to 5 people be created to implement a special fund raising appeal to take place in the fall 2018 to address a portion of the projected shortfall. Motion was seconded by Joy Weizel and carried. Volunteers were requested. Ian Donnelly and Connie Kryschuk indicated interest.

Motion to Adjourn; Norah McMurtry 12:30

Immanuel United Church Congregational Meeting

Sunday November 11, 2018

Call to Order; 12:20 Bob Kenyon

Motion to appoint Chair and Secretary: Bob Kenyon asked for a motion to allow Robert Smith as Chair and Judy Gierys as secretary. Lynne Strome motioned to allow. Motion seconded by Cathy Haining and carried.

Motion to Extend Privileges; Joy Weizel motioned that privileges be extended to all participating in this meeting who are not members of Immanuel United Church. Motion seconded by Debbie Bilous and carried.

Meeting Details; Robert Smith provided a brief synopsis of what the meeting is about. Gordon Gray of Discovery Homes explained what had been happening over the past few months and where he is now proposing things go. He assured the congregation of their continued commitment to provide payment for the land and \$10,000 per unit as if they were selling. They will be utilizing a CMHC program that assures the rent will be 10% below the average market rents for 10 years.

Background; On October 23rd 2016, Immanuel United Church approved an agreement with Discovery Homes to sell the "Back 40" for the purpose of constructing approximately 22 condominium units in 3 buildings. Discovery Homes agreed to pay the appraised value of the land plus \$10,000 for each condo as they are sold. Since that time Discovery Homes held public consultations and followed all the required steps to obtain City of Winnipeg approval to proceed with the development. In spite of considerable expense preparing architectural drawings and marketing the condos, it has not been successful. Discovery Homes is now seeking to modify the agreement with Immanuel United Church to instead construct approximately 24-34 units of rental housing to be rented at 10% below average rental costs for the first 10 years.

Motion; Bob Kenyon motioned that Immanuel United Church modify its agreement with Discovery Homes to include the following:

- the construction of approximately 24 to 34 rental apartments with rents 10% less the market value for 10 years (affordable housing).
 - two appraisals of the property be undertaken by Discovery Homes, and that the average to determine the price of the land.
 - A meeting to take place between respective lawyers to adjust the previous agreement.

- That the same financial terms as the previous agreement remain in place and further that the Immanuel congregation direct its trustees to sign the agreement on its behalf after the lawyers have reviewed it in order that the project may proceed.

Motion seconded by Norah McMurtry and carried

Motion to adjourn 12:57 Pat Schulz

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. The scribe then gives an oral report to the congregation shortly after the meeting. This is done on a rotational basis. We begin each meeting reading aloud and reflecting on the Immanuel United Church Mission Statement. We have occasionally invited Guiding Elders from one of the Mission Clusters to come to a Council meeting 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. In addition, each Council member is now responsible for connecting with and supporting one Mission Cluster and providing reports to the full Council as needed. The clusters 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 month's Financial Statement and Financial Summary provided by the church Treasurer. We are grateful to the Treasurer and Finance Team for their dedication in reporting and keeping all Immanuel's financial details accurate and up to date.

Ha Na continues to uplift and challenge us to think in new ways. In particular, we have been learning about and formulating "Open Questions" which may help us to determine future directions for Immanuel. We held a Council retreat in March and came up with three open questions. We are planning a congregational event in the fall. At our meetings we continue to discuss the progress of the Back Forty project, now to be known as Kimberly Terrace.

Joy Weizel will be leaving the Council as of June. We thank her for her wisdom and service to the church. We are praying that 3 people will discern an ability and willingness to serve on Council in the coming year.

We are grateful to be able to 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: Jane Nicholls, Norah McMurtry, Kerry LaRocque, Robert Smith, Joy Weizel and Ha Na Park, Minister.

Kimberly Terrace Update

To begin with I would refer you to the Annual Meeting report on November 11, 2018. This brought us up to date in regards to cancelling the original plan and describing the new plan.

Since that time, the new preliminary drawings needed to be approved by the City (still there as of today) and two appraisals are underway. The average of the two appraisals will be the cost of the property that Immanuel will be paid.

In addition we will be paid \$10,000 for each of 24 units. We still need to meet with the lawyers to change the agreement on paper.

Hopefully by the time you read this, all those previous items have happened and we have some idea when construction may begin.

Bob Kenyon for the Back Forty Committee...Ruth Campbell, Glenn Nicholls, Jim Ross

Stewardship of Financial Resources Cluster

The mandate of our cluster is to organize and coordinate the work of the Congregation with a view to ensuring that the mission of the church is faithfully served. The Guiding Elders have the responsibility of supporting and encouraging the participants of the cluster.

As Elders we review our file weekly, keep in touch with the groups in the cluster in person, by phone or e-mail for any action required. We keep a file on financial statements, minutes of meetings and stewardship information.

Our cluster meets at least once a year as a group and reports to the Council through our liason person – Rob Smith.

Cluster Participants:

Finance Team – Debbie Bilous, Connie Kryschuk, Pat Schulz

- Available for weekly counting
- Bill payments
- Data entry – envelopes, month end reports
- Payroll
- Annual reports
- T-4's
- Year end report
- PAR
- Monthly financial statements for Elders & Council

Stewardship Team – Ian Donnelly, Teri Gartner

- Regular stewardship presentations to the Congregation
- Stewardship moments in the bulletin each week
- Responsible for the annual stewardship givings program using the narrative budget
- Has had responsibility for a stewardship worship service once/year

Mission & Service – Judy Gierys

Our representative keeps us informed about the M & S fund and relevant special relief efforts. Since 2015, a certain percentage of the annual M & S budget has been devoted to EDGE's Embracing the Spirit Program which distributes grants for innovative and educational projects.

Memorial Fund – Elsie Hughes, Eileen Metcalfe

- Receive requests for support of projects that enhance worship

Trustees – see Trustees report

Financial Manager – Eugene Antymis

- Manage the funds from Kimberly Terrace

All the participants of the cluster endeavour to perform their functions faithfully and with grace.

Thank you all!

One of the concerns of our cluster as we move into the future, we see an ageing congregation and declining membership. Our financial statements reveal this situation.

Our Finance Team and the Elders will be meeting with the Council to review this development.

We will be able to use some of the Kimberly Terrace Fund as it becomes available to help sustain ourselves but at the same time would hope that we are able to maintain our stewardship givings as in the past.

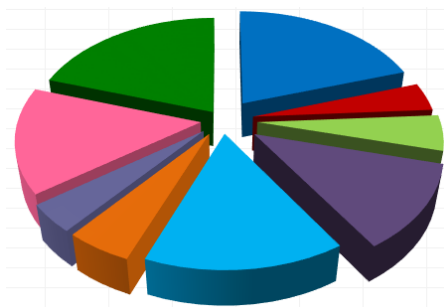
Elders,

Lorraine Kakegamic, Bob Kenyon

Immanuel United Church Narrative Budget

prepared January, 2019

Expenses by Category



- Worship
- Pastoral Care
- Life Long Learning
- Congregation Life Together
- Mission & Service
- Wider Church
- Outreach to the community
- Administration
- Building & Property

WORSHIP 20%

Central to the life of the Immanuel United Church congregation is Sunday morning worship. It is the time when the church community gathers to be nourished through biblical stories of our faith and the reflection thereon by our minister. The service is enhanced with musical offerings by the choir and the organist. The Sacrament of Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month. Children are welcome in the service but may also participate in Sunday School. In addition to our ministry personnel, members of the congregation are involved in Sunday morning worship by leading, greeting, collecting offering, counting offering, serving communion, singing in the choir, musical accompaniment, making announcements, reading scripture, writing and offering prayer, operating the sound system, making and serving coffee, clearing snow and/or cutting grass.

Includes: Portion of Ministry Personnel salary, organist and choir director's salaries. Worship Cluster budget

PASTORAL CARE 4%

Supporting and caring for our members takes place in many ways, and in many locations. Funeral and wedding services as well as visits in homes, hospitals and care homes are the most obvious places. However, a significant amount of pastoral care happens when we gather for worship or for congregational events such as the fowl supper, the dessert theatre and/or the retirees' lunches. Pastoral care also is extended by our congregational members at the food bank, the breakfast program at a local school, SNOW Night and Just Christmas. A Memorial Fund is available for contributions of condolence.

Includes: Portion of Ministry Personnel salary, Ministers benevolent fund and donations to Memorial Fund

LIFE LONG LEARNING 5%

As well as Sunday School for children, adult study groups have been a tradition at Immanuel. Study groups are largely self-funded and, as such, are not reflected as a significant percentage of the budget. There are several long time, on-going groups. Short-term gatherings also take place on occasion (e.g. Advent reflection group or a special study on a book).

Includes: Sunday School curriculum, resource materials, portion of Ministry Personnel salary, Sunday School Director salary, Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning cluster budget

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TOGETHER 12%

In addition to being an opportunity to learn, study gatherings have proven to be a great place to get to know one another. The pre-Advent dinner, Fowl Supper, Easter morning breakfast and after-service coffee times are also occasions when there is opportunity to share and hear what is going on in the lives of one another.

Includes: Portion of Ministry
Personnel salary, Caring for Our
Faith Community Cluster budget

OUTREACH to the COMMUNITY 4%

Many years ago the congregation of Wesley United Church made a decision to not build a sanctuary but rather to continue worshipping in a smaller portion of the planned building. This decision meant that time and money could be used to reach out to the community as needs arose. In 1974 Wesley United and Morse Place United Churches amalgamated to become Immanuel United Church which continues to focus much attention on needs beyond our neighbourhood. Ongoing financial and volunteer support for a school breakfast program, hosting a food bank and involvement in an alternative Christmas bazaar, *Just Christmas*, are a few of such endeavours. Additionally, Immanuel supports community ministry programs through the umbrella group, One Just City.

Includes: Living Our Faith in the World Cluster budget as well as funds beyond the budget which are received and passed on to the appropriate group

WIDER CHURCH 5%

Immanuel has always contributed to the work of the wider church in Winnipeg by on-going donations and volunteering in support of outreach ministries. With the Presbytery structure dissolving, support is given through the umbrella group, One Just City. Many members keep abreast of happenings in the wider church through subscription to the Observer.

Includes: Delegates to Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, Observer subscriptions.

MISSION & SERVICE 15%

In support of needs beyond our city, Immanuel contributes to the mission and service of the United Church. In doing so, our offerings are supportive of Global and Canadian justice initiatives, Aboriginal ministries and right relations, Community ministries, Theological education, Faith formation – youth, camping, intercultural engagement, remote ministries and Innovation in communities of Faith. The Mission and Service Fund also provides a vehicle to respond to worldwide emergencies such as hurricanes and earthquakes as well as to support the growing number of refugees around the world.

Includes: Contributions to the Mission and Service Fund, Special Relief donations

ADMINISTRATION 15%

The congregation values the welcoming presence as well as the caring and competent administration of the church office and of our financial resources which are maintained through staff resources and through volunteer work. Volunteers for this and all other categories of this narrative budget are determined based on a discernment process. The goal is to match the skills and desires of the volunteer to the specific work needed by the congregation or community.

Includes: Office Administrator's salary, office supplies and equipment, telephone, portion of Ministry Personnel salary, Stewardship of Financial Resources Cluster budget

BUILDING & PROPERTY 20%

In addition to a part-time caretaker, upkeep and maintenance of our building and property is accomplished by volunteers. The "Back Forty" development plan has a name change to "Kimberly Terrace". Also, the plan has changed from building condo units to rental suites.

Includes: Caretaker salary, heat, light, property improvements, supplies, snow removal, fire inspection, portion of Ministry Personnel salary related to Kimberly Terrace project

2018-2019 Church Year

TOTAL INCOME	\$161,640.48
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$169,615.01
DIFFERENCE	- \$7,974.53

Operations		All Funds & Interest	
Income	\$99,965.99	Income	\$61,674.49
Expenses	\$130,003.77	Expenses	\$39,611.24
Deficit	-\$30,037.78	Surplus	\$22,063.25

OPERATIONS

CO-OP REBATE

This year's rebate was \$126.45, an increase of \$32.47 from last year.

2018 - 2019 Operational Income

The overall operational income for 2018 - 2019 was **\$5,531.35 less** than last year's.

2018 - 2019 Operational Expenses

The overall operational expenses for 2018 - 2019 were **\$19,276.54 higher** than last year's.

Last year we predicted a, shortfall of -\$26,073.00 for the operational expenses. Due to less than expected local income, the deficit for the operations was almost \$4,000.00 more than anticipated. The deficit for operations is -\$30,037.78

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

Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Connie Kryschuk that we

1. Transfer \$8,944.93 from Congregational Events
2. Transfer \$3,366.16 from the Shortfall Fund
3. Transfer \$3,988.16 from the Memorial Life & Work Fund
4. Transfer \$5,362.12 from the Staffing Fund
5. Transfer \$8,376.41 from the Above and Beyond fund

to offset the negative Operational Deficit of \$30,037.78

Operations Income and Expenses – Five Year History

	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2018- 2019	2019- 2020
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	YTD	Budget
REVENUE								
Envelopes	\$107947.99	\$97,471.71	101,788.70	107,400.00	\$97,525.47	102,825.00	\$92,799.61	\$97,400.00
Miscellaneous	\$70.00	\$291.06	\$1,427.18	\$300.00	\$248.90	\$250.00	\$643.91	\$250.00
Open Plate & SS	\$1,217.10	\$1,441.16	\$1,088.05	\$1,100.00	\$1,803.20	\$1,400.00	\$904.40	\$900.00
Rebates	\$796.34	\$1,949.32	\$640.69	\$700.00	\$834.77	\$700.00	\$653.07	\$650.00
Rent	\$6,252.75	\$5,727.57	\$4,050.00	\$4,500.00	\$5,085.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,965.00	\$5,000.00
Total Operations	\$116284.18	106,880.82	108,994.62	114,000.00	105,497.34	110,175.00	\$99,965.99	\$104,200.00
EXPENSES								
Administration								
Bank Charges	\$44.00	\$52.00	\$77.00	\$80.00	\$42.00	\$50.00	\$42.00	\$50.00
Conference Fees	0				\$175.00		\$43.68	\$1,000.00
Office	\$2,350.57	\$1,713.70	\$1,358.30	\$1,500.00	\$2,020.73	\$1,700.00	\$2,120.68	\$1,750.00
PAR Charges	\$155.50	\$157.50	\$168.50	\$180.00	\$168.00	\$168.00	\$162.50	\$168.00
Postage	\$348.18	\$313.03	\$291.31	\$300.00	\$195.52	\$200.00	\$208.02	\$250.00
Telephone	\$2,192.48	\$2,237.37	\$2,267.04	\$2,300.00	\$2,301.68	\$2,300.00	\$2,369.71	\$2,400.00
Total Administration	\$5,090.73	\$4,473.60	\$4,162.15	\$4,360.00	\$4,902.93	\$4,418.00	\$4,946.59	\$5,618.00
Building & Property								
Centra Gas	\$5,666.12	\$6,299.10	\$4,949.12	\$7,000.00	\$5,428.92	\$7,000.00	\$6,235.63	\$7,500.00
Insurance	\$5,738.64	\$5,467.56	\$5,467.56	\$5,600.00	\$5,467.51	\$5,600.00	\$5,201.32	\$5,600.00
Manitoba Hydro	\$2,731.37	\$3,443.97	\$3,133.72	\$3,400.00	\$2,770.70	\$2,900.00	\$2,986.27	\$3,200.00
Repair & Maintenance	\$4,326.24	\$1,567.35	\$1,669.59	\$1,750.00	\$1,545.96	\$1,600.00	\$1,887.11	\$1,800.00
Taxes	\$1,151.27	\$1,335.47	\$1,673.18	\$1,700.00	\$1,673.18	\$1,700.00	\$1,673.18	\$1,700.00
Water	\$478.99	\$617.81	\$743.71	\$775.00	\$831.70	\$850.00	\$907.87	\$950.00
Total Bldg & Prop	\$20,092.63	\$18,731.26	\$17,636.88	\$20,225.00	\$17,717.97	\$19,650.00	\$18,891.38	\$20,750.00
Clusters								
CFOFC	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$180.15	\$200.00	\$43.17	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
DOG			\$50.29	\$50.00		\$50.00		\$50.00
FF & LL	\$199.39	\$26.90	\$606.31	\$350.00	\$55.55	\$350.00	\$175.75	\$350.00
LOFITW	0	\$204.74	\$165.63	\$225.00	\$83.74	\$225.00	\$239.71	\$225.00
SOFR		\$81.13		\$100.00	\$23.96	\$100.00		\$100.00
WORSHIP	\$1,284.44	\$1,503.42	\$135.22	\$800.00	\$1,182.31	\$800.00	\$1,161.85	\$800.00
Total Clusters	\$1,583.83	\$1,916.19	\$1,137.60	\$1,725.00	\$1,388.73	\$1,725.00	\$1,777.31	\$1,725.00
Pastoral Ministry								
ADP Charges	\$292.18	\$268.25	\$271.66	\$275.00	\$241.28	\$280.00	\$281.14	\$290.00
Minister's salary	\$72,339.09	\$72,921.17	\$74,278.26	\$72,145.00	\$56,461.41	\$67,945.00	\$67,840.32	\$69,310.00
Travel					\$168.29	\$500.00	\$182.00	\$200.00
Continuing Education					\$444.29	\$1,400.00	\$2,029.20	\$1260.00
Total Pastoral Min.	\$72,631.27	\$73,189.42	\$74,549.92	\$72,420.00	\$57,315.27	\$70,125.00	\$70,332.66	\$71,060.00
Presbytery Fee	\$7,842.64	\$7,932.36	\$8,021.67	\$8,210.00	\$7,983.65	\$8,000.00	\$6,845.43	\$6,200.00
Support Staff								
Associate Staff	\$7,387.57	\$7,463.55	\$7,596.58	\$7,740.00	\$7,701.54	\$7,820.00	\$8,396.22	\$9,360.00
Caretaker	\$4,536.05	\$4,590.30	\$4,702.15	\$4,830.00	\$4,819.85	\$4,880.00	\$4,880.10	\$4,955.00
CPP	\$437.16	\$435.29	\$459.46	\$470.00	\$617.40	\$650.00	\$637.07	\$660.00
EI	\$530.23	\$507.75	\$492.64	\$480.00	\$573.97	\$600.00	\$597.15	\$610.00
Music Director	\$962.00			\$5,300.00	\$0.00	\$5,300.00		\$5,300.00
Organist	\$7,165.46	\$7,239.21	\$7,482.12	\$7,650.00	\$7,605.92	\$7,700.00	\$7,707.86	\$7,830.00
Sunday Scholl Director						\$5,280.00	\$4,992.00	\$6,075.00
WCB	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00
Total Staff Support	\$21,118.47	\$20,336.10	\$20,832.95	\$26,570.00	\$21,418.68	\$32,330.00	\$27,210.40	\$34,890.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$128359.57	126,578.93	\$126,341.17	133,510.00	110,727.23	136,248.00	\$130,003.77	\$140,243.00
Revenue less Expenses	-\$12,075.39	-\$19,698.11	-\$17,346.55	-\$19,510.00	-\$5,229.89	-\$26,073.00	-\$30,037.78	-\$36,043.00

All Funds and Accounts Summary From May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019

	Balance on May 1, 2018	Revenues	Disbursements	Current Balance on April 30, 2019
1. Above & Beyond		\$8,536.00	\$159.59	\$8,376.41
2. Bldg & Improvement	\$20,685.03	\$702.99	\$677.99	\$20,710.03
3. Choir	\$1,841.83		\$302.90	\$1,538.93
4. Congregational Events	\$0.00	\$11,072.75	\$2,127.82	\$8,944.93
5. Donnelly Lecture	\$816.97			\$816.97
6. Leadership Developm't	\$167.85			\$167.85
7. Memorial Funds	\$6,170.43	\$1,825.01	\$1,337.97	\$6,657.47
8. Memorial: Life & Work	\$2,470.00	\$3,525.00		\$5,995.00
9. Minister's Benevolent	\$409.41	\$200.00		\$609.41
10. Mission & Service	\$0.00	\$20,245.10	\$20,245.10	\$0.00
11. Observer	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
12. Projector	\$2,093.24	\$45.19	\$1,650.96	\$487.47
13. Refugee Family	\$620.00	\$300.00		\$920.00
14. Repairs	\$5,520.13		\$5,516.11	\$4.02
15. River Elm	\$826.90	\$855.00	\$1,000.00	681.90
16. Sharing Christmas		\$1,705.00	\$1,705.00	\$0.00
17. Shortfall	\$3,346.16	\$20.00		\$3,366.16
18. Special Purposes	\$72.00	\$8,892.32	\$4,237.80	\$4,726.52
19. Special Relief	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
20. Staffing Fund	\$4,362.12	\$1,000.00		\$5,362.12
20. Stair Lift	(\$4,720.50)	\$2,115.00	\$200.00	(\$2,805.50)
21. Youth Groups	\$440.15			\$440.15
23. Sub-Total ALL Funds	\$45,121.72	\$61,489.36	\$39,611.24	\$66,999.84
24. Interest/Adjustments		\$185.13		\$185.13
25. Operations		\$99,965.99	\$130,003.77	(\$30,037.78)
24. Sub Total		\$161,640.48	\$169,615.01	\$37,147.19
26. Interest Earned Acct's	\$661.30			\$661.30
27. Interest Earned GIC's	\$3,630.48	\$339.67		\$3,970.15
28. TOTAL	\$49,413.50			\$41,778.64
Chequing Account	\$21,448.96			\$13,310.22
Savings Account	\$12,334.06			\$7,915.80
#2 GIC Account	\$7,757.21	Matures on	Jan. 24, 2022	\$4,014.16
#3 GIC Account	\$3,937.38	Matures on	Mar. 5, 2020	\$4,040.19
#4 GIC Account	\$3,935.89	Matures on	Mar. 5, 2021	\$12,498.27
TOTAL	\$49,413.50			\$41,778.64

CMHC Loan \$10,000.63

Jubilee Funds \$544.32 and \$699.59

FUNDS

We have a total of 40 Funds. Most of the funds (see All Accounts Summary for a full list) are self-explanatory. We currently have 7 Memorial Funds and 13 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, 2018	Income	Expenses	Balance as of Apr. 30, 2019
Memorial	\$1,793.86	\$743.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,536.86
Memorial Flowers	\$557.87	\$242.01	\$196.47	\$603.41
Memorial Funeral	\$603.70	\$250.00	\$118.65	\$735.05
Memorial Kitchen	\$520.00	\$550.00	\$7.85	\$1,062.15
Memorial M & S	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$0.00
Memorial Outreach	\$1,510.00	\$0.00		\$1,510.00
Mem Pastoral Care	\$1,185.00	\$25.00		\$1,210.00
Totals	\$6,170.43	\$1,825.01	\$1,337.97	\$6,657.47

	Balance as of May 1, 2018	Income	Expenses	Balance as of Apr. 30, 2019
Special Purposes				
Amnesty	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$0.00
Conference Bus	\$0.00	\$187.32	\$187.32	\$0.00
EDGE	-\$709.89			-\$709.89
Finca		\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
Habitat	\$19.48			\$19.48
IBM	\$132.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$132.41
Messy Church		\$1,250.00	\$20.00	\$1,230.00
Pastoral Care	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
Queer & Faithful		\$5,500.00	\$2,727.50	\$2,772.50
Sharing Basket	\$30.00	\$300.00	\$123.45	\$206.55
Sound System		\$1,375.00	\$769.53	\$605.47
Stella Feast	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$20.00
Wpg Harvest	\$30.00	\$220.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$72.00	\$8,892.32	\$4,237.80	\$4,726.52

Details for the **Sharing Christmas** are as follows:

Interfaith Immigration	\$450.00
Winnipeg Harvest	\$400.00
1 Just City	\$335.00
All Native Circle	\$200.00
LITE	\$170.00
Agape	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total	\$1705.00

The **charitable gifts** made by the Immanuel congregation totaled **\$23,620.10**

United Church of Canada		
M & S	\$20,245.10	
Special Relief	\$150.00	\$20,395.10
River Elm Breakfast Program		\$1,000.00
Winnipeg Harvest		\$620.00
Interfaith Immigration		\$450.00
1 Just City		\$335.00
All Native Circle		\$200.00
LITE		\$170.00
Agape Table		\$150.00
Affirm United		\$100.00
Healing Forest c/o St John's Anglican		
Cathedral		\$100.00
Amnesty International		\$100.00

Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Connie Kryschuk to transfer the remaining \$4.02 from the Repairs/BUPD Fund to the Building Fund.

All Funds and Accounts Summary

Post Annual Meeting Motions

	Post AGM Motions	
Above & Beyond	\$0.00	
1. Building & Improvement	\$20,714.03	
2. Choir	\$1,538.93	
3. Congregational Events	\$0.00	
4. Donnelly Lecture Series	\$816.97	
5. Leadership Development	\$167.85	
6. Memorial Funds	\$6,657.47	
7. Memorial: Life & Work	\$2,006.84	
8. Minister's Benevolent	609.41	
9. Mission & Service	\$0.00	
10. Observer	\$0.00	
11. Projector	\$487.47	
12. Refugee Family	\$920.00	
13. River Elm	\$681.90	
14. Sharing Christmas	\$0.00	
15. Shortfall	\$0.00	
16. Special Purposes	\$4,726.52	
17. Special Relief	\$0.00	
18. Staffing Fund	\$0.00	
19. Stair Lift	(2,805.50)	
20. Youth Groups	\$440.15	
21. Sub-Total ALL Funds	\$36,962.06	
22. Interest/Adjustments	\$0.00	
23. Operations	\$0.00	
24. Earned Interest Acct's	\$846.43	
25. Earned Interest GIC's	3,970.15	
26. TOTAL	\$41,778.64	
Chequing Account	\$13,310.22	
Savings Account	\$12,498.27	
#2 GIC Account	\$7,915.80	Matures Jan. 24, 2022
#3 GIC Account	\$4,014.16	Matures Mar. 5, 2020
#4 GIC Account	\$4,040.19	Matures Mar. 3, 2021
TOTAL	\$41,778.64	
Jubilee Certificates	\$1,243.91	

Most 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.

Immanuel United Church Operations Budget 2019– 2020

	2018-2019 Budget	2018-2019 Actual	2019-2020 Budget
OPERATIONAL REVENUES			
Envelopes	\$102,825.00	\$92,799.61	\$97,400.00
Miscellaneous	\$250.00	\$643.91	\$250.00
Open Plate	\$1,400.00	\$904.40	\$900.00
Rebates	\$700.00	\$653.07	\$650.00
Rent	\$5,000.00	\$4,965.00	\$5,000.00
Sunday School			
TOTAL Revenues	\$ 110,175.00	\$99,965.99	\$104,200.00
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES			
Administration	\$4,418.00	\$4,946.59	\$5,618.00
Building & Property	\$19,650.00	\$18,891.38	\$20,750.00
Clusters	\$1,725.00	\$1,777.31	\$1,725.00
Pastoral Ministry	\$70,125.00	\$70,332.66	\$71,060.00
Presbytery Assessment	\$8,000.00	\$6,845.43	\$6,200.00
Support Staff	<u>\$32,330.00</u>	<u>\$27,210.40</u>	<u>\$34,890.00</u>
TOTAL Expenses	\$136,248.00	\$130,003.77	\$140,243.00
Deficit	-\$26,073.00	-\$30,037.78	-\$36,043.00
FUND REVENUES			
Congregational Events	\$8,000.00	\$8,944.93	\$9,000.00
Shortfall Fund	\$3,350.00	\$,3,366.16	\$0.00
Staffing Fund	\$4,362.12	\$5,362.12	\$0.00
Interest Earned Acct's	\$775.00		\$846.43
Memorial Life & Work	\$2,470.00	\$3,988.16	\$2,006.84
Subtotal	<u>\$18,957.12</u>	<u>\$21,661.37</u>	<u>\$11,853.27</u>
Additional Fundraising	\$7,115.88	\$8,376.41	
Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$24,189.73

2019- 2020 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 \$36,043.00. We feel a portion of this deficit could be covered from the Congregational Events Fund, the Memorial Life and Work Fund and earned interest on the bank accounts.

This leaves a deficit balance of \$24,189.73. Unless we receive a significant infusion of money, we will need to cover this deficit by taking this money from our designated funds. This would leave Immanuel in a very precarious financial situation. Of the money we will receive from the sale of our property, only a portion is designated to sustain ourselves. Therefore, we need to be planning long term for Immanuel's future viability.

Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Connie Kryschuk that the operations budget for the year 2019 - 2020 projecting an operational shortfall of \$36,043.00 be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Schulz
Connie Kryschuk
Debbie Bilous

Financial Audit of Immanuel United Church 2019

We have reviewed the accounts of Immanuel United Church, made available to us for the period May 1st, 2017 to April 30th, 2018, 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 June 2017 and January 2018. These represent the 2017/2018 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. On occasion there are still offering envelopes that 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.
2. We strongly recommend continued use of the "Requisition for Payment" form when committees and/or individuals are submitting claims for payment.
3. 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.
4. We recommend that this report be received by the Council and that the Audit report be included with the Annual Report for 2017/2018.

Immanuel Trustees

Bob Kenyon, Neil Barbour, Joy Weizel, Judy Gierys

April 04, 2019

Trustees Report

The trustees met and reviewed our Insurance Policy for the coming year- March 1, 2019 to March 1, 2020.

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

	2018-2019	2019-2020
Church	2,105,907.00	2,105,907.00
Contents	329,684.00	329,684.00
Organ	38,278.00	38,278.00
TOTAL	2,473,869.00	2,473,869.00
Renewal Costs	4,066.00	4,054.00
UCC Group Fund	735.00	823.00
Manitoba Sales Tax	325.28	324.32
TOTAL	5,126.28	5,201.32

We applied for Third Party Coverage for Path to Recovery and Bettors Anonymous groups who use our building once, twice or three times per week.

We will be involved in some legal work for Kimberly Terrace.

The Trustees audited the financial records for the year 2017-2018. The results are reported in the Annual Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Barbour

Judy Gierys

Bob Kenyon

Joy Weizel

Mission & Service

Nationally both congressional and Mission & Service Revenues are declining by about 2 to 3%. It's believed that we are engaging fewer Canadians in our work. However, the overall revenues are declining slowly enough that there is still time for change. There has been some restructuring, some clarifying of what is funding what but there has been a positive vote to keep Mission & Service gifts only funding the mission and ministry of the church.

There are not a lot if any organizations that can make that promise. Dollar for dollar a Mission & Service Gift goes toward healing Gods world and making a difference in people's lives.

The Mission & Service work being done identifies us as a Christian community and illustrates our beliefs. It is how we live out our United Church Creed, how we put our faith into action.

The United Church of Canada supports Mission & Service programs that will support ministries and programs in Canada and around the world, urgent issues that impact people's daily lives, including food and water security, health, education, human rights, peace and justice initiatives and programs that respond to humanitarian crises. Mission & Service has on going special appeals to support disaster in our world. Currently they are accepting donations to provide relief to those affected by Cyclone Idai that swept through Southern Africa as well as for the Rohingya people fleeing Myanmar.

I would like to thank those of you already making M&S giving a regular part of your life. If you have not yet given please join me in the national goal to increase participation in Mission & Service giving. Because Mission & Service is a national fund even a small donation can have a huge impact and bring hope for the future.

Stewardship is a theological belief that we are responsible for the world and should care for it. Making a commitment to both our local church and Mission & Service is part of our Stewardship journey.

Respectfully,

Judy Gierys

Mission & Service representative for Immanuel United Church

(Immanuel's year end amounts will appear in the Annual Report)

Sharing Christmas Sunday Report 2018

Thank you letters will be posted on the AMEN bulletin boards.

Your generous gifts were distributed as follows:

Agape Table	inner city kids breakfast, hot lunch	\$150
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Winnipeg Harvest	4 boxes of food	\$400
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Immanuel Depot	5 boxes	
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LITE (inner city employment)		\$170
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Raymond Flett Memorial United Feast		\$200
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and use of Immanuel facilities

North End Stella Ministry via One Just City		\$335
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Manitoba Interfaith Immigration	refugee support	\$450
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Inner City Christmas Store at St Matthews Maryland Ministry

provided gifts & wrapping for 75 families with 250 children.

Immanuel Memorial Fund Annual Report

The Immanuel Memorial fund is supported by contributions in memory of loved ones. This past year, the Memorial Fund committee (members~Jean Smith, Elsie Hughes, and Eileen Metcalfe) approved a request from the Thursday Morning Study Group for a contribution to the Stair Lift Fund.
Respectfully submitted by Eileen Metcalfe

Guiding Elders for Discernment of Gifts

As Guiding Elders we, Margaret Smith and Cindy Smyth, have met numerous times over the last year as a team and with Ha Na. In between these meetings we try to keep in touch with the Guiding Elders and Council, in order to know the needs for guidance within the congregation.

We try, with God's help, to help the members of our congregation to figure out how best to use their God-given gifts, strengths and talents in order to carry out the mission and work of our church. This year has proven to be a challenge once again. Life has a habit of moving on and getting in the way of best intentions.

Last year, we came up with some questions, which we tried to address. In response to the question, "Do people know what each of the Clusters is all about?", we placed announcements about the Clusters in the bulletin and spoke about most of them, trying to help people understand the need. Out of this came some interest but no one able to take up the challenge. Some have had health challenges, some family challenges, where their ministry is needed in another direction.

What happens when there is no one to take up a challenge? Events, such as the Retirees' Luncheon cease to take place.

As we have connected with the various Council and Cluster Guiding Elders to determine people's intentions, we have sensed a willingness to keep going. Appreciation runs deep in our hearts for the vital and faith-filled work that goes on in each Cluster. As one GE put it, "...there is a strength and uniqueness within our congregation that is wonderful!". The vital work of the life of this church does go on and we are grateful for that.

We bring the following needs forward for your consideration:

Council: 2 to 3 people

Caring for Our Faith Community: 2 persons in 2019

Faith Formation and Life Long Learning: 1-2 persons in 2019

Living Our Faith in the World: 1 person in 2019

Communications Team: 2 people in 2020

Stewardship Team: 1 person in 2019 and 1 person for 2020

Affirming Ministry: 1 to 2 people in 2019

If you have any questions about any of these areas of service, please ask, or if you have someone in mind that you think is able to serve well in any way, bring their name forward to Margaret Smith or Cindy Smyth.

Peace be with you all.

Ministry & Personnel Committee

2018/19 Annual Report

The members of the M & P Committee who have served this past year are Jennifer Antymis, Sharon Doerksen, Anne Duncan, Jim Jost, Marian Mathews and Dianne Tucker.

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 Ha Na & 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.

Ha Na Park is in the second year of her ministry with Immanuel. Sharon Vandenberg continues to work as our Office Administrator, Eileen Metcalfe as our Music Director (choir leader), Peter Fyne as our organist and accompanist, and Jim Goldrup as our caretaker. This year we have welcomed Aisha Tahir as our Sunday School director. The continued dedication, capability, and hard work of all of our staff are very much appreciated by us, and by the congregation. On behalf of Immanuel United Church the M&P committee would like to thank all of our staff members for the work that they do to strengthen and enhance our worship and our lives as a congregation and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Antymis on behalf of the M & P Committee

Living Our Faith in the World Cluster

Once again our Cluster has had an active, busy year. Without the valuable, committed volunteers these Programs would not exist. So thank you to the Volunteers for your willingness to serve in the many ways that you do.

HARVEST

The Harvest Program is serving our community by assisting families who are not able to afford the food needed for their families. Harvest itself has had a difficult year due to the lack of gifts which have come in for distribution. We have been subsidizing the Program with our gifts box of food, to fill in this need.

The coffee portion of Harvest for the guests, is well attended and well looked after by our volunteers.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

This program is well staffed by our faithful volunteers. The need for this meal has increased greatly over this past year. We are now serving breakfast for up to 60 children. There is a new First Nations Principal who is actively involved in the running of the School which has been a wonderful experience. This Program could use one or two people to fill in once in a while when our present folk have to be away.

There are many other ways that our group members are involved such as:

Just Christmas, S.N.O.W. night, Amnesty International, Gifting Sundays, One Just City.

I will mention the last program, One Just City. The former Dream Weavers group is now part of One Just City. This "umbrella group" focusses on the Community Ministries and fund raising. We participate in the Community Ministry portion of their mandate through our gifts of food, clothing, and monies which come in through our White Gift program now called Sharing Christmas.

One area of this Clusters' concern is finding a way to connect with our First Nations people. We have been involved in communicating our willingness to engage in a meaningful dialogue as part of the Call to the Churches mandate which was given to us following the Truth and Reconciliation report. This is an 'in progress' program.

Again, thank you to all the members of this Cluster and all the volunteers who work with them. You are much appreciated.

Sincerely, Ruth Campbell , Guiding Elder for this Cluster

River Elm Breakfast Program

Thank you to the volunteers:

Connie Kryschuk, Marlene McNabb, Teri Gartner who show up every Wednesday morning to serve a healthy breakfast to 50 plus children.

For those who support financially, thank you! We would not be able to continue with this worthwhile program without you and our volunteers.

Financial Report

Balance as of May 1 st , 2018	\$826.90
Contribution after May 1 st	<u>775.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1601.90
Amount Paid Out	<u>1000.00</u>
Balance as of March 31, 2019	\$ 601.90

\$601.90 balance will cover our commitment until and including Dec 1st, 2019.

The monthly financial commitment of \$100.00 has not changed since the start of this program. From September to June \$1,000.00 is needed for each school year.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Gibson and Connie Kryschuk

Immanuel's Winning Harvest Food Bank

Immanuel's Winnipeg Harvest food bank continues to operate very efficiently thanks to the dedicated volunteers who help twice a month all year. Our single clients range in age 18 to 75 and our families have 1 to 4 children. 2017-2018 was a special year as we celebrated 15 years of operation. The Sunday celebration service was well received ending with birthday cake. Some of our clients attended the pre-advent dinner. On food bank mornings, our clients arrive early for coffee, cookies and friendly conversation. The sharing basket is appreciated because it allows us to supplement what Winnipeg harvest delivers.

Many thanks to the congregation for making this happen.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Smyth

Just Christmas

Just Christmas was held at Gordon King Memorial United Church on Sunday, November 4th from 1:30-4:00 p.m. This annual event is a cooperative venture of the United Churches of northeast Winnipeg. Just Christmas offers people an opportunity to shop from vendors who represent and support local and global justice projects.

There were 12 vendors participating, selling a variety of items. Some vendors offered the opportunity for people to buy/sponsor a gift that would be distributed to people in need in other places in the world.

Just Christmas is hosted by a different congregation each year. Each congregation donates cookies for everyone to enjoy during the event. Ten Thousand Villages donated the coffee and tea that were served. Thank you to all who participated and supported the 2018 event.

Vendors expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to tell people about justice concerns in Winnipeg and throughout the world, as well as for the opportunity to network with other people and organizations engaged in social justice and environmental work.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Smyth and Muriel Kenyon

Amnesty International
2018-2019

On December 9, 2018 we held our Write for Rights Letter Writing Campaign. Thank you to everyone that participated and helped make this year's event a success. We were able to write and send 182 letters, in support of Woman Freedom fighters from around the World. Our letters joined the over 5 million letters from around the world calling for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Although there are many deserving cases, this year we highlighted the following cases:

South Africa

Brazil

Kyrgyzstan

Morocco

Kenya

Your words really do change lives. Our messages help convince government officials to release people imprisoned for expressing their opinion, stop the use of torture, and end other human rights abuses. Our letters do count!

Respectfully submitted by Karen Turk

Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning Cluster

Sunday School Annual Report~Aisha Tahir, Sunday School Director



It has been a great joy to have the opportunity to deepen my exploration of faith and spirituality with Immanuel United Church.



I came here to learn and also teach the future Immanuel Church Changers from an informed interfaith perspective. Feeling insecure about my lack of United Church experience teaching lessons, I approached my position as the [Sunday](#) school director with the self study method I use in my Anglican Christian studies with my children. I expanded my own approach and stayed flexible to make room for other learners and their beliefs. Ha Na guided me and provided resources during our

check-in's and Leslie also played a very supportive role with informing me of United Church organization cluster groups functions. Additional volunteers and teaching mentors like Marianne have helped me by providing positive and negative feedback in kind and generous ways.

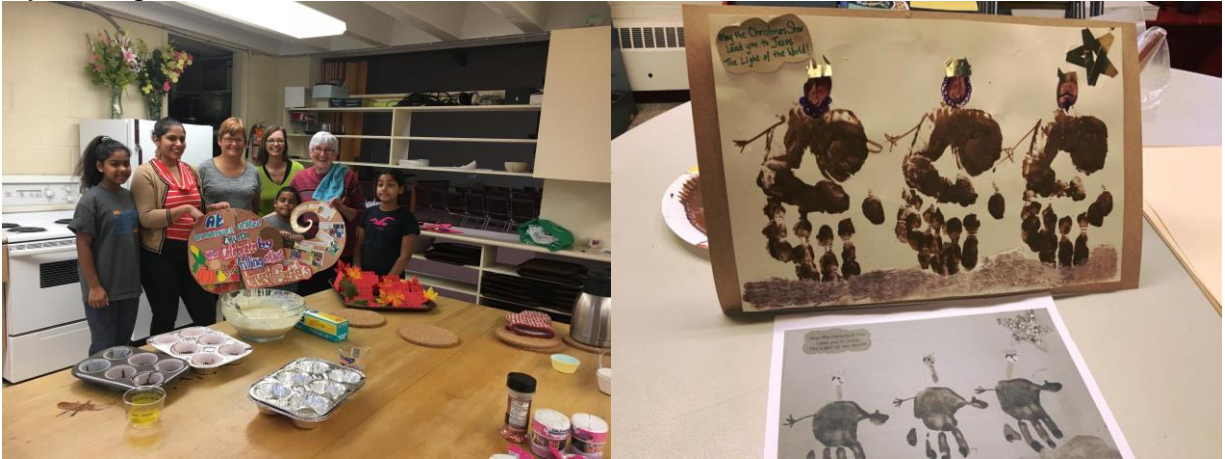
Immanuel United Church has a diverse group of inter-generational learners and we can see approximately 10 to 15 folks participate in the [Sunday](#) school Children's program. Sometime in November snacks were being provided regularly which also increased the number of participants attending programming on a regular basis. Providing snacks also made new members and visiting guests feel welcome to [Sunday](#) school. Food also became a teaching tool for themes such as Harvest and living a fruitful life. The physical classroom space has been a playground for innovative ideas when it comes to exploring all the liturgical seasons with Jesus.



Every week each lesson is carefully researched for its concepts and ideas to be explored from several different approaches, to facilitate all the known learning abilities of [Sunday](#) school program participants. I use the weekly scripture readings that Ha Na uses for the sermon portion of the larger worship. As Ha Na and I teach each other about our deeper understanding of the subjected scriptures with a healthy exchange of cultural and inter faith knowledge. This dialogue is bridged into an experiential methodology and becomes the foundation of the discussions we have during 'circle time' with the [Sunday](#) school group. Working with Ha Na makes me expand my vocabulary and her kind reminders to use words with more mindfulness and inclusion, also broadened my skills when communicating with English as a Second language folks.

The Immanuel Church Changers is a name we spent some time as a group forming for ourselves as we pledged to have fun and love God as we know God to love us. The group grows larger and diverse in their Christian understandings in developing multilayered spiritual concepts of Jesus. They continue to create distinction in government 'holiday' Themes vs the liturgical themes of Church communities. I believe it is important to nurture each persons ideas, beliefs and values. I facilitate in their exploration of those concepts on their own terms, I teach them to gather their manna at Immanuel U.C and to go on that journey with confidence. My position is to remind them of the

promise of Gods Love for us and to affirm the supportive community of Immanuel United Church which they belong to.



Participants are encouraged to ask questions and openly acknowledge their quest for answers. A participant felt safe to share during circle time once "Why do we have to come to church anyways" so we openly discussed that idea and came to the conclusion that we got together every **Sunday** just to practice Jesus love with her friends in the Immanuel United Church space but home days on Sundays are important too. It was imperative for me to teach from a land-based perspective, for that I emphasized on our responsibilities as stewards of this land. We became change makers by writing letters to our Federal government leaders. When activities were planned for weekly learnings there was a great emphasis made on connecting with the space be it in a circle on the floor or huddled up in front of a tv on the couch.

There were challenges keeping the diverse age group occupied at times. The older participants can sometimes whip through a lesson or activity in 5 minutes while the younger ones have no interest or vice versa. By setting up several stations and activity centres we were able to efficiently use our time together for richer learning experiences. Volunteer support has also been extremely helpful at assisting me with the younger participants. I learned new ways to challenge my participants by asking for feedback which they valued and appreciated the feeling of being heard in the space.

With Immanuel United Church's willingness to be open to diversity, ecumenism and interfaith dialogues the joy has been mine to be welcomed here. We have explored themes of traveling and water with diverse faith concepts the learnings here are truly rich. The gift of Coexistence and Peace is what we give to each other regardless of age, race, creed, gender, origin or orientation. All are welcome here indeed and our **Sunday** School program has been a testament of this practice.



Annual Report of the [Wednesday Afternoon Womens' Study Group](#)

This group has been meeting for about 35 years. It met for many years in the evening but moved to an afternoon time in recent years as most of the group retired. Some members have been with the group since the beginning but others have come and gone over the years.

The focus of study has been theology - feminist, liberation, etc - as well as current social issues and sometimes poetry. For the past few years we have been learning and studying about a new (to us) understanding of Canadian history—the impact of settlers and colonial practices on First Nations who have inhabited the land for centuries. Discussions are lively and enlightening. We have shared in Sunday worship services some of what we are discovering. We occasionally look at other study topics and have also organized a retreat on "hope" using reflections by writer/artist Jan Richardson. We meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month with a break over summer. We gather at 1 for a social time then begin our study time at 1:30 to 3:30. There is no homework because we read together as a group and then talk about what we've read. The group itself has lots of resources amongst its members. We meet both at the church and in members homes. There are 12 in the group right now and we would welcome newcomers. Call the church office if you are interested in connecting with us.

Thursday Morning Study Group

The Thursday Morning Study Group continues to meet weekly at 9:30 am in the upstairs lounge, with between 6 and 8 members attending. We collect a small donation each week. This year the proceeds will again be used to pay down the outstanding amount in the chairlift fund.

Last May we hosted the Mother's Day Tea featuring the "The Perfect Fifth". All proceeds from this event will be used to reduce the deficit in the chairlift fund. The annual "Rewind Concert" was not held this year.

We completed the book: Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories that Heal by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. This *New York Times*-bestseller, addresses the same spiritual issues that made the original a bestseller: suffering, meaning, love, faith, and miracles. As of January, we began reading Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World--and Why Things Are Better Than You Think by Hans Rosling. In this book, Hans Rosling, Professor of International Health, together with his two long-time collaborators, Anna and Ola, offers a radical new explanation of why this happens. They reveal the ten instincts that distort our perspective—from our tendency to divide the world into two camps (usually some version of *us* and *them*) to the way we consume media (where fear rules) to how we perceive progress (believing that most things are getting worse). It turns out that the world, for all its imperfections, is in a much better state than we might think. To bring one of the points in this book to life, our group met at Eileen Metcalfe's to view a movie titled: *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*: a remarkable true story about human inventiveness and its power to overcome crippling adversity. It will inspire anyone who doubts the power of one individual's ability to change his community and better the lives of those around him. We were also provided by a with a lovely lunch after the movie. At Christmas the study group met at the "Jonesy's Restaurant" in Birds Hill for our annual year end lunch, and will plan to wind up in June with another lunch. There are currently no plans to continue meeting over the summer.

Respectfully submitted by Joy Weizel on behalf of the Thursday Morning Study Group.

Men's Study Group

We met at the start of the year every second Tuesday (pm) at the Church to enjoy coffee and cookies and discuss current events, then study for 1 ½ hours or so.

This year in the last few weeks we have met at Concordia Village I. Also on the first Tuesday of the month we travel to Tuxedo Villa to meet and study with Bill Hickerson, mostly Observer (Broadview, new name) articles.

This year we have selected several different issues to read, review and discuss.

The following issues were discussed:

1. Immigration-Policy, Attitudes
2. Unravelling the Doctrine of Discovery
3. Church Re-structuring
4. Climate Changes and Plans
5. Health as Vulnerability, Interdependence, and Relationality
6. Carbon fee and pricing
7. DPA_Deferred Prosecution Agreement
8. Gretta Vosper – United Church decision to leave an atheist in her congregation
9. United Church EDGE Activities
10. Populism in Canada

While we are facing the challenge of fewer members, we still enjoy meeting for serious discussion to comradery.

Submitted by Bob Kenyon

CARING FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

This cluster includes three Elders, and all groups and individuals who provide care for one another and our property. I guess that's all of us!

This includes Pastoral Care and Funeral/ Memorial Services; Building and Property; Hospitality; Affirm Ministry; Fowl Supper and Immanuel Players. Reports from many of these groups will appear later. We thank each and every group or individual for their contribution to provide care and support to these aspects of community life.

Our role is to provide support and encouragement to these groups and individuals involved. We meet as necessary as a group and do many check in's with each other in an informal way. Our role can change depending on the community needs, but basically keeps the same goal.

In June, 2018, we as Elders met with about twelve participants whose committees were directly related to the care taking needs of the building and a M&P representative. The purpose of the meeting was to make the best use of the eight hours paid care taking in our budget. A plan was devised, shared with the caretaker and has been followed in the last few months. Regular check-in's along with the Care Taker's Ministry and Personnel representative are made.

We reported to Council that Alison Fryza has resigned as Fowl Supper Coordinator as of last fall. After 25 years, the resignation was met with appreciation and regret.

Again, thanks to all. And a special Thank You to Sharon Vandenberg, our friendly face who greets all who drop in at the church office and for her cooperation with building rentals, communication and all her cooperation with our cluster and community.

Eileen Metcalfe, Jim Ross, Muriel Kenyon

Property Committee

The property committee is responsible for repairs, replacements, snow clearing and grass cutting. Next on the list is to seal the leaky sky lights. If there is anything that needs attention, send an email or phone Sharon at the office.

PASTORAL COORDINATORS ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

The year end annual reporting is an opportunity to say Thank You to all who are involved in caring for our community folk by their hospitality when we meet, visiting by telephone, home and hospital visits, offering a ride, participating at Memorial Services, sharing meals, and a variety of ways of support. Each of our community members involved in these acts of friendship, are an important part of this ministry.

Thanks also to Ha Na, who meets with us monthly to plan and share, supports us with passion and caring. Her cooperation is much appreciated.

This past year we developed a revised Immanuel Telephone Directory. We apologize for any omissions or errors. We realized, with sadness the many changes since the last revision. Many thanks to Sharon Barbour and Sharon Vandenberg for all their assistance.

Please continue to notify the church office, Ha Na or one of us if you know of someone who would benefit from contact. Thank you for your past communication.

Joan Macdonald and Muriel Kenyon

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AFFIRMING MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT, 2019

Immanuel made a commitment to becoming an Affirming Congregation about 14 years ago. At that time, we committed to be welcoming and supportive of all people, regardless of race, class, gender, or sexual orientation and it continues to be one of our mission goals.

We do not have an official person coordinating this part of our cluster but hopefully, we are all committed participants. We continue to burn a rainbow candle on the communion table at worship, hang a rainbow stained glass hanging in our front window and attend the Pride Parade each year. (Just a heads up, the parade is on June 2nd this year. Mark your calendar and join in behind the Immanuel banner with the other United Churches Affirming ministries.)

Ha Na has been involved in the planning of an event, Queer and Faithful with others from a variety of other faiths, on May 25th and 26th at the Robert A. Steen Community Centre. It is an interfaith project, Reimagining Affirming spaces. You will hear more information as plans unfold. (See attached Poster.) The planning committee, as well as us here at Immanuel express our sincere Thank You to our treasurers, Pat Schulz and Connie Kryschuk for their willingness to administer the two grants the committee received to organize the event.

Eileen, Jim, Muriel, the Elders

An Interfaith Project Reimagining Affirming Spaces

QUEER and FAITHFUL



Come share, discuss, and learn about the intersections of
FAITH, RACE, AND QUEERNESS

Two-day event featuring
2SLGBTQ+ speakers
from diverse
religious/spiritual and
cultural/ethnic
backgrounds

May 25th, 2019
9:30am to 3:30pm
May 26th, 2019
12pm to 4pm
**Robert A. Steen
Community Centre,
980 Palmerston Ave**

For more information and to register:

QueerAndFaithful2019@gmail.com

Facebook: bit.ly/QFFacebook

EventBrite: bit.ly/QueerAndFaithful

ALL ARE WELCOME

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. We are thankful to Ha Na for her leadership and support.

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.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Macdonald

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FOWL SUPPER REPORT



Our 47th or 48th Fowl Supper was held at Immanuel on [October 27th](#), 2018 from 4-7. We served over 400 dinners with over 60 being take-outs.

Thanks to all for their cooperation, and hospitality to our guests. This has been such a wonderful community affair.

We had many compliments and some even said it was the best dinner ever. We also give a huge thank you to the Girl Guides for their willingness to help with the serving, to Mike Cooper for cooking and delivering the hot turkeys for carving, and our Chicken Chef friend, Ryan Thorgelsson for making and donating the delicious gravy. Actually, he stayed and helped all evening. Without these amazing helpers, we would have had difficulty serving the dinner up to our high standards.

This will be my last report. I decided to resign from the job as coordinator. Each year there seems to be fewer Immanuel helpers and some people doing triple duty. I have enjoyed being part of this truly community affair. Over the years there have been far too many people to signal out as such supportive and fun people that have been willing to take risks and work hard. It's been a blast, thank you! *Alison Fryza*

Immanuel Players Annual Report

This year the play produced by Immanuel Players (April 25, 26, 27) was "The Ladies Foursome" by Norm Foster (director Glen Smyth and assistant director Ron Metcalfe).

It's the day after the funeral of a friend, and three women, Margo (Leslie Ross), Tate (Jane Nicholls), and Connie (Susan Desjardine) gather for a round of golf in honour of their recently deceased playing partner. They are joined by a fourth woman, Dory (Diane McKenty), another long-time friend of the deceased that the other three didn't know about. During the round, the women discuss life, love, men, sex, children, careers...everything but golf. Surprises, secrets, and confessions surface in "The Ladies Foursome". The talent on stage is matched by the talent and efforts of those behind the scenes. Stage set up – George Stevens, Jim Jost, Jack Turk, Bruce Smyth, Ron Metcalfe, Glen Smyth, Lorne Smyth, Brent Metcalfe. Set design back drop, posters, programs, signs – Luba Olesky, Eileen Metcalfe, Jennifer Antymis, George Stevens, Glen Smyth. Registration rights and scripts – Connie Kryschuk. Props – Pat Schulz, Eileen Metcalfe. Prompter – Dianne Tucker. Make-up – Joy Jost. Lights and Sound – Ian Donnelly. Clerical Help – Sharon Vandenberg. Willing volunteers donated wonderful desserts, served and cleaned up. Thank you so much for all your hard work. And thank you to our theatre patrons for making it all worthwhile.

Lastly, a special thank you to Diane, Susan, Jane and Leslie for sharing your time, talent and effort in creating an entertaining and memorable "Ladies Foursome".

Respectfully submitted by Ron Metcalfe

Immanuel Carpet Bowlers

Last spring 2018 the Golspie Club disbanded for lack of members. Richard Sawchuk suggested we advertise at Good Neighbours we had 7 people interested so we started up again in September. We had a successful year with 14 members. We wind up in May, but will start up again in September. If anyone is interested please contact Marlene at 204-669-2292 or Judy at 204-339-5356.

Respectfully submitted by Marlene McNabb

Worship Cluster Annual Report

Elders: Leslie Donnelly, Lynne Strome Staff Ha Na Park

Highlights and main events of the year were many and varied. May 15, 2018 we celebrated the baptism of Aidan, son of Contessa Hay and Phil Nixon. Then on May 27 we, on a BJIGGN bus, went to the University of Manitoba for the final gathering of Manitoba Conference. In June we enjoyed guest speaker Kerry Saner-Harvey, who taught us about the developing Healing Forest in St John's Park as part of the Truth and Reconciliation process. And, Gordon (the back forty builder) Gray shared his inspiring faith story. The BJIGGN BBQ at John Black on July 4 was another successful community family time, which extended to well attended Sunday worship at Immanuel July 8 and 15. During the hottest day of August's heatwave, Ian Donnelly, Jim Jost, Glen Smyth and George Stevens went to the highest heights to install the new electric screen and projector. BRAVO!

September feels like a new year, too, as we start up after summer. This year the Worship Cluster Elders were grateful to have right-hand-helper Judy Gierys join in for special duties as assigned. So many volunteers give freely of their time, talent and love: greeters, readers, refreshment makers and servers, sound system/projector assistants, prayer writers, special events participants and leaders. We thank each and everyone of you. Teri Gartner made the rosters, which helps keep everyone on task. We acknowledge with thanks, also, Sharon Barbour who finds scripture readers and Diane Letwin our communion server caller. And thanks to everyone for your positive feed back and support throughout the year. Moreover, Immanuel is so blessed to enjoy the musical gifts freely given by Eileen Metcalfe, Peter Fyne and each choir member. Thanks also, to Debbie Crump who serves us as back up choir master in Eileen's absence and Debbie Bilous, Cindy Smyth and Jennifer Antymis who occasionally provide extra musical support. Behind the scenes, Ron Metcalfe faithfully takes care of our outdoor sign and Ian Donnelly is our unseen banner hanger. All your efforts enhance and support worship at Immanuel. Thank you.

October 14th worship was presented by Joyce Smyth and the Immanuel Winnipeg Harvest Depot volunteers in celebration of fifteen years serving our community. Advent planning began when Glen Smyth and Ron Metcalfe approached worship with their ideas for 4 broadcasts of BNN (Bethlehem Nightly News) during Advent. Together they also wrote and directed a Christmas Eve radio play. Inspired by the humour and fun of this original approach, Cathy Haining, and Jennifer and Gene Antymis joined Ron for the BNN Sundays. Then Christmas Eve, Ron narrated the story which Bob Kenyon, Bob Tate, George Stevens and Lorne Cavers portrayed. This was a spectacular display of fellowship and good will for which we are all grateful.

November 18 we were delighted to welcome Paul Campbell as our guest speaker. November 24 Pre Advent Pot Luck supper became a very well attended (94) BJIGGN event, which introduced the Advent theme "Telling the Story". Special thanks to Lorraine Kakegamic who brought the teaching of using the talking stick. Many enjoyed the craft lead by Leslie to create your own talking stick. The next day was Sharing Christmas Sunday (formerly White Gift, see separate report). In keeping with an old fashioned Christmas feeling and telling the story, the Advent candle lighting with our children participating, used Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. It must be noted that even with all this good work the numbers were down in attendance at both Christmas Eve services.

December 30 cider, cookies and carols led by Leslie and Lynne brought 2018 to an end..

January 13 was led by our devoted Stewardship team. Many thanks again to Teri Gartner and Ian Donnelly. During the weeks of Epiphany Ha Na brought many teachings of various global spiritual practices to which members responded appreciatively. The weeks of Lent focused on Christian spiritual practices and symbols to deepen our understanding of the Lenten journey. March 24 Rev Dr. James Christie led worship and delighted children and adults, both. Palm Sunday would be jubilant with joyous Ha Na leading the way! This year Ha Na co led the BJIGGN Maundy Thursday pot

luck/Seder meal and worship at John Black as well as Good Friday service at Immanuel. We so appreciate the Men's Group for hosting the Easter morning breakfast worship, thanks guys. Thank you Ha Na for sharing Easter blessings with us twice in one day.

April 28 Michelle Owens, diaconal minister from the Centre for Christian Studies, was welcomed as our worship guest leader. Then May 5 we celebrated baptism with Lorraine Kakegamic's family. As this year ends we give special acknowledgement and gratitude to Sharon Barbour who is stepping down as scripture reader contact person.

The East Winnipeg United Church community worship team has expanded and is now called T'BJIGGN Transcona, Birds Hill, John Black, Immanuel, Grey Street, Gordon King and North Kildonan. Together we meet, plan, share, pray and support each other's events and by extending fellowship we spread the joy of Creator's love. Amen.

Immanuel Choir Annual Report

Stop by the church any Thursday evening and you will hear music: an enthusiastic group of singers practicing Sunday morning's hymns and anthem. Dedication and a willingness to learn are prerequisites, and a dose of good cheer helps too. It's a volunteer choir, so Eileen Metcalfe, the director, and Peter Fyne, the accompanist, work with the choir members to learn their parts. Eileen's encouragement and optimism motivate us all. She's been overheard saying things like,

"Awe, that's awful . . . but it will work."

"Oh bother!"

"It's called staggered breathing. Breathe before you stagger!"

"Live in hope."

By the time we tune up before Worship on Sunday, confidence prevails.

This past year, we've learned new anthems and revived some old favourites. In addition to singing on Sunday mornings, we've been honoured to sing at funerals and we were so happy to sing at the marriage ceremony of two of our choir members, Jim and Joy. The choir also enjoyed contributing to the BJIGGN-T Musical Celebration evening. The music of the choir is enhanced by Debbie Crump's lovely solos, Debbie Bilous's beautiful flute music and Peter's vast talent at accompanying on the piano and organ – occasionally even at the same time! Debbie Crump also kindly substitutes for Eileen if she is away. Many thanks to all the members and musicians for their dedication and contributions. A special thank you to Eileen and Peter for their work in preparation and planning, and to Ha Na and the Immanuel community for their support.

Submitted by Sharon Doerksen

