



ST. JOHN'S
united church

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Email:

[stjohnsunity@eastlink.ca]

Website:

[<http://stjohnsunity.com/>]

Tel: [902 423-8498]

Maritime Conservatory of Performing

Arts, 6199 Chebucto Road, Halifax, NS,

B3K1L7



TABLE OF CONTENTS

We are St John's United Church.	3
Principal Minister Hubert Den Draak	3
In Memoriam	4
Faith Formation, Lesley Parsons	4
Minister of Music, Ray Grant	5
Official Board	6
Board of Trustees	7
Insurance Coverage	8
Treasurer's Report	9
Presbytery	11
Stewardship Committee (Funding for Ministry)	11
Ministry and Personnel	12
Worship and Music	12
Christian Development Committee	14
Spiritual Care and Visitation Team	14
UCW Mary Todd Group	15
Adult Choir and Handbell Ringers	16
	16
Hospitality committee	19
Outreach Lead Team	20
Manna for Health Ministry	21
Refugee Sponsorship Working Group <i>Overview</i>	22
Bible Study Group	27
St. John's Book Club	28
	29
Appendices	29
Financial statements and 2019 Budget*	29
Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting	34
Attendance at the 2018 Annual General Meeting	37
Minutes of the May 5 Congregational Meeting	37
Attendance at the May 6 Congregational Meeting	39
STATISTICS FOR 2017/2018	40

We are St John's United Church.

We strive to be a welcoming community, open and inclusive for all. We seek ways to experience and recognize the Divine in the fullness of our lives and to share this in our personal and community relationships through liturgy, music, action and reflection. We try to live Christ's message of love, compassion, justice and peace, in harmony with the natural world.

And this was our year!

Principal Minister Hubert Den Draak



Even though I only started half a year ago at St. John's (Sept. 1st), it didn't take long for me to realize that that this was a good fit. Jacomyn and I experienced a truly warm welcome, I'm delighted to see the congregation taking its mission statement seriously, and feel deeply blessed by the different ways you have reached out to me/us.

I've come to know this community of faith as authentic, compassionate, open-minded, articulate, but most of all: not afraid of the future. You've worked your way through some tough times, and emerged from it maybe a little scarred, but no longer scared.

That is crucial, because change is about to come. One of my main mandates is to help facilitate that change, and so we have started a process to articulate - before this summer - concrete proposals of what "being church without a building" could actually look like. Fundamental change can be tense at the best of times. Jacomyn and I experienced that as we travelled halfway across this continent to come here, leaving behind everyone and everything we knew and loved. Yet we were confident it would work out somehow because we knew that this was where God was calling us, and because we knew that we'd not be alone.

St. John's will also be going through some serious changes and will also have to leave behind some of the things we have gotten used to and cherish. Not because we're told to, not because there's no other choice - but because we trust it's where God is calling us.

It is my hope and my prayer that we will travel together fearlessly, aware of Christ's powerful presence, open to the Spirit's energizing embrace, and excited about what will come next!

Together in Ministry,

Hubert Den Draak, DM

In Memoriam

In 2018 our St John's faith community said goodbye, with sadness and gratitude, to the following members of our family.

Rev. Margaret R. Cameron-Whynot
 Violet Marguerite Conrad
 Sara Gertrude Fogo
 Thadeus "Ted" Dubowski
 Claude LeRoux
 Elizabeth Richardson
 Christina "Marie" White



*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
 that whoever believes in him should not perish but
 have eternal life.*

John 3:16

Faith Formation, Lesley Parsons

I had the great fortune of meeting the congregation of St. John's United in January 2018 and in the past 12 months since I was first introduced as a student I have been inspired, encouraged and ever so richly blessed. We have laughed together, prayed together, eaten delicious soup (and amazing bean-y brownies!) together; we have studied scripture, explored questions of faith, discussed great books, celebrated special occasions and mourned the loss of friends and family members. We said Farewell!! and Good luck! to Rev. Martha in June and Hello! and Welcome! to Rev. Hubert in September. I have seen your dedication and hard work as every week you respond to the call—showing up for each other and the wider community, and doing in the moment whatever is required to manifest the love of God in the north end of Halifax.

In the exciting year to come I pray that you continue to *follow Jesus, embrace difference and make a difference* as you both witness and live into the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.

Blessings,

Lesley



Minister of Music, Ray Grant

- **Taizé Prayer**



As in the past seventeen years, St. John's continued to offer a Taizé Prayer on the first Sunday evening of each month, in the Judith Grant Room, here at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts. We welcome an average of 15-20 people on most occasions. Our attendees include a group of regular participants and others who come on occasion. At each Prayer, we invite participants to read the Scriptures, the Psalm and portions of the Prayers of the People. For many of us, it is a very spiritually meaningful personal time, at the beginning of a busy month.

An important aspect of this endeavour is our very faithful Taizé Instrumental Ensemble. We are very glad to have the talents of Margo Kirk and Bob Gaudreau (acoustic guitars), Lesley Griffiths (flute), Susan Sharpe (violin), Jim Sharpe (cello) and, new to us this fall, Ann Fay (recorders). They support the singing in a very meaningful way and are committed to this worship time.

If you have not attended this worship opportunity, may I extend to you an invitation to come along.

- **The Kidz' Choir**

This choir is offered to children, ages 5+ to pre-teen and meets weekly, following the morning Worship Service. Participant numbers ranged from 6-8 during the year. Rehearsals began in February and culminated with a presentation of the musical "Heroes of the Faith" in June.



In the fall, the choir re-formed in September, with six dedicated singers. We presented a drama with Song, entitled "Oh, Joshua" in October. On December 9, we presented another drama with song entitled "Mordecai Asks for Esther's Help". Four of our choristers sang two pieces at the 3p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service. On all occasions, the choir sang and acted with real enthusiasm and were well received by an appreciative congregation.

I want to thank Nancy Nelson for her support as pianist/general assistant and to the parents who made every effort to keep attendance constant. Both are essential to success.

- **The Sanctuary Band and Sunday Strings + Flute**

Again in 2018, we offered opportunities to instrumentalists to participate in the music leadership

on various Sundays during the year. In our Sanctuary Band, we had Lesley Griffiths (flute), Margo Kirk (acoustic guitar), Jon Church (electric bass) and Bob Gaudreau (drums). This group performed on several occasions during the year. The following musicians participated in the Sunday Strings + Flute Ensemble during the year: Lesley Griffiths (flute), Susan Sharpe, Gwyneth Christoffel, Pan Andreau (violins), Rory Scott-Black (viola) with Ivan Andreau and Jim Sharpe (cellos). This ensemble performed on several occasions during the year. We want to thank them for their music ministry.

This aspect of our music program is open to all musicians in our congregation who have the skills to just come and play. Extra rehearsals are not required, other than at a set period prior to the Service of Worship. Music is given out in advance of the day, so that some private practice can occur. Anyone interested should contact the Director of Music.

Official Board



At the last annual general meeting the church adopted a new governance structure with a unified board replacing the board and session system.

The “new” board would like to acknowledge all those who served on the Board up to last year’s AGM under the leadership of Jim Sharpe (Deidre Dacanay, Dianne Dubowski, Kathy Ells, Alyda Faber, Roberta Sharp, Cheryl Kendall, Hilda Power, Elizabeth Conrad, Myrla Drysdale, and Sharon Nicolle)

Sometimes it is only when we look back that we see clearly the magnitude of change that has occurred. The year began with the former board pulling together the new governance model,

wrapping up the interim ministry with Martha Martin and preparing for the arrival of our new minister.

In June the new board held a retreat and then a first board meeting, where we were able to thank Martha for her service. And, in September, we welcomed Hubert Den Draak to St John's. We are intentionally working as a strategic operating body, trying to support those who are doing much of the work on the ground without encumbering them with administrivia. We set aside a substantial part of our monthly agenda to discuss larger issues for the church. To that end, we have had discussions about communication and partnership in the fall, which have led to some interesting initiatives.

Five members of SJUC attended "*Social Enterprise: Seeking the Good Society*" a conference at AST in October. This led to follow up discussions about how to continue the work of the Transition Team in seeking partnerships and we have now initiated a consultation project with Common Good Solutions that will re-engage the congregation with future-looking and networking with others in Halifax. We are very excited about this development.

The other main action that emerged from our Board discussions is an examination of our communications at SJUC. Happily, Hubert has a strong communication background and he has already exercised his skills to strengthen SJUC's external presence. This will continue in the new year, and it will include improved communication of the work of the Board.

We want to remind you that Board meetings are open, and you are welcome to come and see how the Board is working for you.

In Christ,

Katherine Harman and Lesley Griffiths (Co-chairs),

Hubert Den Draak, Kevin Lamarque, Carol Nasr, Glenda Rosborough, Sean Foreman, Judy Schmidbauer, Connie Robinson, Tanya Nicholson, Rod McInnis

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees meets as necessary, and at least once a year. The Board's responsibilities are to:

- Hold, develop, or deploy congregational assets for the total mission of the United Church.
- Provide reports and advice to the Official Board and administer trust investments.

- Secure legal and financial advice for the congregation in matters related to the sale, lease, or acquisition of property.
- Ensure that the congregation carries adequate property and liability insurance at all times.

These were the highlights from 2018:

- We were only required to hold one in-person meeting in November 2018, along with the usual exchanges of emails providing various reports and updates on items of business through the year.
- As a “Church Without Walls” the primary on-going tasks for Trustees are to ensure appropriate liability insurance coverage and hold/manage the longer-term (non-current) investments for the Congregation to support the evolving mission of this vibrant Congregation.
- The Trustees now work closely with the Treasurer for required transfers of the budgeted allocated income from the trust investments through the year (the same investment fund used by the United Church of Canada and the United Church Foundation).

With 2018 being a year of significant transition and change for St. John's (including the end of our Interim Ministry with Martha, the joint search and eventual call of Rev. Hubert as new Principal Minister and Lesley as Faith Formation Minister, and the first full year of our streamlined and nimble governance structure), the Trustees are happy with the performance of our investments and that our annual insurance premiums are now stable and affordable.

It is my pleasure on behalf of the entire Congregation, to sincerely thank all of our Trustees for their continuing skill, dedication and commitment. Finally, I am delighted that Rod MacInnes has agreed to Chair the Trustees starting Jan 1, 2019 and join the Official Board. We are in good hands!

Sean Foreman (Chair), Margo Kirk (Secretary), Scott McCrossin, Rod MacInnes, Ian Watt, Bob Gaudreau, Hubert Den Draak (Minister)

Insurance Coverage

Our broker is Hub International Limited for “The UCC Protect General Insurance Plan” for the United Church of Canada. The underlying insurer for the UCC Protect plan has changed as of 2016 from AVIVA Insurance Company to Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company.

The total premium for the year December 01, 2017 to December 01, 2018 remained at \$1,140.00. Our renewal for the period Dec 1, 2018 to Dec 1, 2019 remains stable at \$1,140.00.

With the sale of our real property assets completed on May 2, 2016, our insurance coverage is now “All Risks” Commercial General Liability coverage of every description, including liability coverage for use of leased premises, personal injury, employer liability, tenant liability, and use of non-owned automobile coverage. With the removal of real property coverage, our annual premium is significantly less than previous years.

Coverages we have under the Plan (as of Dec 1, 2018) remain the same and are summarized as (per occurrence):

Commercial General Liability	\$2,000,000
Umbrella (Excess) Liability	\$3,000,000
Directors & Officers Liability	\$2,000,000

A \$1,000.00 deductible applies to most liability claims unless otherwise specified.

Cost of Insurance:	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
	\$5,516	\$7,136	\$2859	\$1,140	\$1,140

Treasurer's Report

It is no understatement to say that 2018 was a busy and important year for St. John's! We successfully concluded our Interim Ministry and paid tribute to and gave a loving farewell to Martha with thanks for her strong leadership and spiritual guidance. We completed a new JNAC and Joint Search process that resulted in the call of Rev. Hubert from Ontario as our new full-time Principal Minister and Lesley as our part-time Faith Formation Minister. We embraced a new leaner, more nimble governance structure in the form of a unified Official Board to meet our current needs and empower our evolution as a community of faith. Together we continue to worship and learn and reach out to the communities around us to continue our journey as a “Church Without Walls”. We are a resilient and vibrant Congregation, now used to and not afraid of the opportunities, and challenges, that change brings to our lives.

As I stated in my first report last year, while challenges will always remain (and certainly are not ignored), the focus of my report to you as Treasurer is again one of “glad tidings” and a continuing positive outlook for the future. As always, I am happy to answer questions at the

upcoming Annual Meeting, but I have a few specific points to highlight for this brief narrative report.

First, we have completed our transition from Interim Ministry, and again we have much to be thankful for. We passed a balanced budget for 2018, and as you can see from reviewing the financial statements contained in the Appendices, we met that goal for 2018, with a small surplus for the first time in many years of \$89!

If you recall my presentation at the 2017 Annual Meeting, one approach to creating and managing a budget is that it is an exercise in both planning and aspiration. Although (as anticipated) we did not meet every income goal (or aspiration) in the budget for 2018, we also were able to manage expenses through the year, with the end result being that we did not need to allocate the full \$85,000 in trust income to our operating budget as planned (we only needed \$81,100 to achieve a balanced statement).

We must remain vigilant and committed to our envelope/PAR contributions and other fundraising goals if we want to maintain a balanced outlook without taking excessive operating funds from our investments. Although giving income was softer in the first half of 2018, the excitement and energy generated by our successful completion of Interim Ministry and Hubert and Lesley's call and appointment, are demonstrated in the increase in giving income in the last quarter of 2018. We had a strong closing with increased revenue at year-end. Our commitment to support Mission & Service, the Manna for Health ministry, and our other outreach initiatives, is shown by the fact we slightly exceeded our total goal in collecting "for others" in 2018. All of which continues to show a positive commitment to the life and mission of this vibrant Congregation.

We have developed another Balanced Budget for 2019, approved by the Official Board, that I look forward to reviewing with you and approving at the Annual Meeting in March. We continue to make increases in programming, staff support and resources, and planning for the future, so that our collective commitment to moving forward with St. John's important mission will be achieved. I want to thank all members, adherents, and supporters of St. John's that provide both financial support and the "time and talent" necessary to make this happen.

Our finances remain on a strong footing with a positive outlook, and as we move forward with fresh energy and spiritual leadership, I continue to have faith that St. John's will thrive,

engage with the wider community, and lead the way for others as a vibrant "Church Without Walls". Blessings.

Sean Foreman (Treasurer).

Presbytery

Over the past several years the United Church of Canada has been collectively wrestling with some big changes in the way we govern and fund our work. The rubber hit the road in 2018 as we changed to a three-council model. In Nova Scotia this means that the system of presbyteries, all belonging to Maritime Conference, has been replaced by Regional Council #14 (a more interesting name has still to be decided). Your presbytery reps in 2018 were Dianne Dubowski, Kevin Lamarque and Lesley Griffiths. In the new model St. John's will be eligible to send 2-3 lay representatives to the new regional council. Ministerial personnel are also members of the council. The first meeting will take place in Sackville, NB at the end of May. In addition, there are provisions for local communities of faith to form "clusters" to provide a focus for shared interests in areas such as mission, learning, or justice work. So Halifax Presbytery held its last meeting in November and we are grateful to everyone who has supported the work of Presbytery over many decades. Exciting times ahead as we move into uncharted waters. If playing a role in this new regional structure interests you, please speak to someone on Official Board. It could be a very interesting experience.

Lesley Griffiths, Dianne Dubowski and Kevin Lamarque

Stewardship Committee (Funding for Ministry)

Committee members are *Jim Sharpe, Donna Krailo, and Amy Thurlow.*

The committee arranged four activities in 2018:

- Spring home dinners were organized for April to June.
- First Plant Sale was held in early June.
- Vesey's Fall Bulb Fundraising event was held in September.
- Annual bake and preserve sale and new cake auction were held in early December

Thank you to all who participated. Please contact any member of the committee if you are interested in helping with future events.

Ministry and Personnel

The work of M&P can be summed up in two words.....Support and Relationships. We attempt to support staff in the work they do each day by being available for individual meetings, reviewing working conditions and providing feedback on overall performance. Our goal is to ensure staff obtain job satisfaction while maintaining a positive work/life balance. We also attempt to facilitate positive relationships among members of St. John's staff and between staff and members of the congregation. Communication is an important aspect of good relationships. We are always open to comments from members of the congregation or staff that will enhance relationships within our church community.

It has been a busy year for M&P as we bid a very fond farewell to Martha Martin, our interim minister for the past three years. We thank her for all the dedication and wisdom she brought to that position. In July, we joyously welcomed Hubert Den Draak as our new minister and his wife Jacomyn. We also welcomed Lesley Parsons as our new Faith Formation minister. Together with Ray Grant, our Minister of Music and Marilyn Peacock, Secretary we have a dynamic team that leads us joyfully (and musically) through our faith journey during Sunday services and throughout the week. We thank them for all their creativity, hard work and leadership. In a show of appreciation, M&P held its first annual Staff Barbeque this fall.

Many thanks to Myrla Drysdale as she completed her term on M&P in December, 2018. We will miss her sound judgement and unfailing wisdom during our meetings. Welcome to Roberta Sharpe who became the newest member of the M&P team.

We also thank Gail Golding for providing members of our congregation comfort and counselling as Minister of Visitation during the period prior to Hubert's arrival. We would also like to express our appreciation to Elaine Frampton, our webmaster for keeping our communications up to date through St. John's social media platforms.

Judy Schmidbauer, Chair, David Black, Myrla Drysdale, Roberta Sharpe

Worship and Music

Members of this committee in 2018 were:

- Martha Martin (Interim Minister until June 30, 2018),
- Rev. Hubert den Draak (Minister since September 1, 2018)
- Ray Grant (Minister of Music)
- Lesley Parsons (student minister 2017/18, then Faith Formation Minister since

July 1, 2018)

- Shirley Gaudreau, Bonnie Murray, Carol Nasr, Heather Bagnell

The committee met monthly throughout 2018 to discuss and plan worship services that will enrich, inspire, and challenge members of St. John's as they come to experience the sacred within themselves and others.

We acknowledge that 2018 has been a year of transition and change within our congregation and within our committee.

We said goodbye to Rev. Martha our interim minister in June and hello to Rev. Hubert, our new minister, in September. Lesley Parsons was with us throughout the year as a continuous presence, first as a student minister and in June 2018 she began her year as Faith Formation minister.

Within our committee we instituted a new structure of rotating the chair and the minute-taker for each meeting. This seems to be working well, and allows us to share the responsibilities more evenly. We find that it keeps each of us in closer touch with the workings of the committee.

Our worship life is supported by many volunteers and coordinators who have given generously of their time to create the Sunday services.

- Scripture readers
- Prayers of the people
- Communion servers
- Sound system techs (new 2018 crew trained by outgoing "sound master" Doug McDonald)
- Ushers and greeters
- Power point people
- Setting up and taking down of the worship space
- Coffee and tea

A special highlight of 2018 was the Covenanting Service for Rev. Hubert on November 18. It was an inspiring, joyful service, and Rev. Hubert was given a warm welcome.

Intergenerational services included Blessing of the Animals, Blessing of the Backpacks, Nativity Sunday, two Christmas Eve services, with the afternoon service being a child-centred birthday party for Jesus.

Other than our routine tasks as a committee, we continued with the longstanding impulse of the St. John's congregation to take an active role in our larger community. We hosted a speaker from COSA (Circles of Support and Accountability) in March.

We made plans for a January 2019 visit from Linda Carvery and Henry Bishop for a presentation on Black History in Halifax. We made arrangements for Lee Cohen, refugee lawyer and advocate, to speak with the congregation in January 2019 about his work..

Our vision continues to be one of providing an atmosphere of love and acceptance within our congregation and reaching out beyond ourselves to connect with and serve the larger community. A pulpit exchange with First Baptist is planned for 2019.

Christian Development Committee

The work of the Christian Development Committee continued to focus on the needs of youth and children, supporting Footsteps (Sunday School), as well as the faith formation of families and adults.



Initiatives in 2018:

- Footsteps - Little Footsteps (ages 5-9) and Big Footsteps (ages 10-13)
- Christmas Pageant
- International Women's Day Breakfast
- I Am Glad You Were Born Celebration
- Advent Potluck
- Movie Event
- Go Project Initiatives



Thank you to the many volunteers who help make the work of Christian Development Committee a success.

Committee Members: *Connie Robinson, Mary Ellen Rainey, James Sharpe, Lesley Parsons, Cheryl Kendall, Hubert Den Draak, Tanya Nicholson*

Spiritual Care and Visitation Team

The Pastoral Care Team consists of five volunteers/members who provide pastoral care to those in need who are aged, lonely or isolated. To the best of our knowledge, everyone that needs someone is being visited. This is done either by home visitation or by phone. On occasion our members are able to provide communion from a recent congregational communion to those who are unable to attend church services.

The team meets monthly to provide a place where all members are able to "check-in" so to provide support, continuity of supervision, de-briefing of difficult visits and celebration of rewarding ones. Each meeting has a component in which the "spirit" is intended i.e. through meditation, prayer, stories etc. In the past we have also provided time together for continuing

education for the members as well as for all the congregation. We are open to suggestions. We also celebrate our ministry annually with a pot-luck meal.

The Spiritual Care and Visiting Team is open to new volunteers. Whether you can commit an hour a month or an hour a week or more, your contribution will be important and provide benefits to the person you visit as well as yourself. At the present time, we are mostly undertaking visits and phone calls, recognizing there is another component that benefits the whole congregation and may be made up of separate teams.

We look forward to new opportunities, guest speakers and resources.

Bonnie Murray, Dianne Dubowski, Donna Spicer, Sharon Hawkins, Myrla Drysdale

UCW Mary Todd Group

Even as an inactive UCW group it is surprising how active we are. We continue to meet in our homes once a month and though we do not have any programs the meetings are lively with many subjects being discussed, and of course the world in general being put to rights.

In May we closed with a very nice meal at McKelvies and in December our Christmas Potluck was finger food at Vida Doucet's.

Our only fund raiser was selling United Church calendars which once again sold out. Thank you to the congregation.

Our outreach this year was \$200.00 to each of the following groups --Marguerite House, Manna for Health, Ark Sunday night Suppers and Brunswick Street Mission, and our Christmas offering went to Parker Street Food Bank.

Respectfully submitted
Gerry MacCreadie President.

St. John's United Church Women

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Receipts	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
The Unit	\$ 642	\$ 521

Net proceeds from U.C.W. projects	\$ 145	\$ 98
Wider Work	\$ 190	\$ 495
	\$ 977	\$1,114
<hr/>		
Disbursements		
Miscellaneous	\$47	
Mission and Wider Work	990	795
	\$1,037	\$795
<hr/>		
Disbursements under (over) Receipts	-\$60	\$319
Bank balance-beginning of year	\$431	\$112
Bank balance-end of year	\$371	\$431
<hr/>		

Respectfully submitted

G.D. MacCreadie, President and Margaret Smith, Treasurer

February 13, 2018

Adult Choir and Handbell Ringers



Once again, the Handbell and Adult Choirs dedicated Thursday nights for practice in preparation for regular Sunday services, as well as additional services, including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve. Additional practices were held at various times to prepare special music.

This year the Handbell Ringers were delighted to welcome Jacomyn Gerbrandy to our playing roster, and at year end were pleased to learn that Jim Sharpe would join us in the New Year to take on the large bells. The Ringers performed at Sunday services on January 7, October

14, and December 3 for regular services, and joined the Adult Choir in the special Service of Lessons and Carols on December 31st. Additionally, the Ringers performed in the Sunday service on April 29 at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Timberlea, where one of our group, Donna Ruggles, is a member.

The Adult Choir welcomed Jim Sharpe to the bass section. David Black and Rory Scott-Black also sing on Sundays to fill in the tenor line or supplement the bass. We were so pleased that Rory performed a solo during a Sunday service in December, donning the robes of Joseph. Susan Sharpe returned to the alto fold just before the end of the year, and we are glad to have her back!

We were sorry to see John Cameron retire from the bass section after many years of service, sometimes when he had no colleagues to join him.

During Holy Week, the Choir participated in the Good Friday Service at St. Andrew's United Church along with other church choirs. We also participated in the RCCO Advent Service on December 3 at All Saints Cathedral.

Other highlights of the choir year included:

- sponsoring the Sunday lunches on February 18, and November 18;
- May 6 celebration of Anita Cousins' 50 years with the choir, when she was presented with an album of photographs from over those years;
- summer party graciously hosted by Heather Bagnell at her home overlooking the Bedford Basin on June 14;
- offering good wishes and thanks to Martha Martin in the farewell liturgy on June 24.

Our sincere thanks to Ray for his patience and leadership throughout the year. We couldn't do it without him. Also, a debt of gratitude is owed to Nancy Nelson, our accompanist for her work on sectional rehearsals, and during anthems. This was particularly appreciated when during much of Lent, Ray was under the weather, and Nancy filled in for Sunday services, too. We brought her composition 'Candle Flame' back for the Advent Services and introduced a new work of hers during Lent, called 'Light of Lights'.



St. John's is fortunate to have such faithful folks in leadership roles for our music, as well as the choir and ringers who attend

rehearsals and services regularly. That said, there is always room for more singers and ringers to join us in the fun and fellowship!

Roberta Clarke (President), Gloria Whalen (Vice President), Margo Kirk (Secretary), Gerry MacCreadie (Treasurer)

Adult Choir

Statement of Receipts & Disbursements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

Receipts

Donation	\$ 40.00	
<u>Total Receipts</u>		<u>\$ 40.00</u>

Expenses

Gifts & Donations	\$81.07	
Membership fees	\$75.00	
Bank Charges	<u>\$36.00</u>	
<u>Total Expenses</u>		<u>\$192.07</u>

Excess of Expenses over Receipts		(\$152.07)
Bank Balance 1 st January 2018		\$286.09
Bank Balance 31 st December 2018		\$134.02

Respectfully submitted by

Gerry MacCreadie & Roberta Clarke

Handbell Choir

Statement of Receipts & Disbursements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2018

Receipts

Bell Donations	\$142.00	
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>		<u>\$142.00</u>

Expenses

Gifts & Donations	\$155.60
Miscellaneous	\$199.00
Bank Charges	\$ 54.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	\$408.60
Excess of Expenses over Receipts	\$(266.60)
Bank Balance 1 st January 2018	\$1590.90
Bank Balance 31 st December 2018	\$1324.30

Respectfully submitted by

Gerry MacCreadie & Roberta Clarke

Hospitality committee

The St. John's Hospitality Committee was formed in 2017 by Martha Martin, Dianne Dubowski and Janet Bardon. The intention was to provide a light and informal lunch each Sunday after church to strengthen our community, and generally help us get to know one another. Twenty-three lunches took place over 2017-18. Hosts were Jim Sharpe, Transition Team, Janet Bardon & Paul Healy, Book Club, Refugee Family, Outreach, Martha Martin & Kathy Ells, Youth Group, Common Life Group, Choir, Bible Study, CD Committee, Official Board, and the GO Project.

The 2018-19 committee - Judy Schmidbauer, Connie Robinson, and Janet Bardon - have organized bi-monthly luncheons hosted by Hospitality Committee, Stewardship Development, CD Committee, Outreach Lead, Bible Study, Book Club, Choir, Official Board, Worship & Music, Refugee Working Group, and Board of Trustees.

Our Sunday lunches have proved very popular!

Outreach Lead Team

The Outreach Lead Team (OLT) represents St. John's by supporting the needs of people in both our St. John's community and the community beyond our doors. OLT works to promote inclusivity within the church and to support inclusivity in the community. The Outreach Lead Team on its own cannot begin to do all the outreach of the church, it depends very much on the congregation to contribute time, talent and treasure to fill the many needs.

- Each week groceries are donated to our Caring Cart and distributed to Manna for Health and Parker Street Food Bank by OLT members.
- Each week clothing is collected for the Brunswick St. Mission. Thanks to Sharon Hawkins, Carolyn Drysdale Buhr and Sharon Nicolle for many deliveries over the year.
- The Lenten Initiative encouraged members of the congregation to give something to/or along with giving up something for Lent was continued with donations of personal care products and cleaning supplies to Manna For Health.
- In September Donna Krailo spearheaded collecting school supplies for Parker Street.
- The wonderful team of volunteers who help at Manna every week do many jobs such as purchase food, pack and unpack, clean, staff the office and make deliveries. We would like to thank Kirby Geddes, coordinator, and all the volunteers for another successful year.
- Once again, a Charlie Brown Christmas tree was hung with suggestions of gifts for the guests of Metro Turning Point and Citadel High students who live independently. The overwhelming response from the congregation provided many gifts of clothing, gift cards, bus tickets, personal items, etc. to both places before Christmas.
- The annual Mitten Line brought many warm items for those in need.
- In 2018 a new initiative called "That Time of the Month" resulted in feminine products being donated by the congregation for needy students at Dalhousie and Citadel High School. Distribution is through teacher Trish MacEachern and the Dal Food Bank. Thanks to Lance Lockwood for organizing this.
- Finally, the monies from the Christmas Eve loose offering, White Gift donations, and unused funds from the OLT budget were divided among our missions: Parker St. Food Bank, Brunswick St. Mission and Manna for Health.



Co-Chairs: *Trish MacEachern and Elizabeth Conrad*

Committee members: *Susan Brousseau, Carolyn Drysdale-Buhr, Alyda Faber, Kirby Geddes, Donna Krailo, Lance Lockwood, Sharon Nicolle, Cecil Publicover, Mollie MacGregor*

Manna for Health Ministry



Manna for Health has a long history of providing nutritious food and supplies to those members of our community living with HIV/AIDS. It is operated entirely by volunteers and since the closure of the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Halifax, with the support of St. John's United Church, which now houses Manna for Health as part of its Outreach Ministry. Countless people, from St. John's and within the broader community, contribute their time, energies and

resources to sustain the successful operation of Manna as a food bank ministry supporting those living with HIV/AIDS in our community.

Manna for Health is a member agency of Feed Nova Scotia from whom the bulk of its food is received (there is no charge for these supplies, and therefore these amounts are not included in the attached Financial Statements).

Manna had another successful year of operations and providing life-saving food and support to its clients. As you can see from the statements, Manna filled 571 hampers in 2018 (an increase from 506 in 2017), with 267 home deliveries (an increase from 240 in 2017). The portions of meat and fish totalled 2,353 plus 37 Christmas Hampers distributed including Christmas turkeys.



Feed Nova Scotia's move to much larger premises in Burnside has resulted in greater quantities of fresh and frozen food. Client participation in the volunteering has improved the day to day operations of the food bank.

Manna operates out of low-cost rental premises and now has five major appliances including freezers, greatly increasing capacity and reducing food waste. Manna's operations are covered by St. John's United Church liability insurance policy at no charge to its operations.

Total income for 2018 is slightly higher than 2017, with higher grants and donations received in 2018 partly as a result of donations made in memory of Sam Wilson, following his sad passing in the Fall of 2018. Sam was a long-time supporter and dedicated volunteer with Manna for Health, along with his husband Bob Fougere, as former members of the MCC Halifax.

The Windsor Foundation, MAC Aids Fund, FEED Nova Scotia, ISCANS (the Imperial Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Scotia), and many generous individual donors from across Atlantic Canada and beyond, provide the financial support necessary to keep Manna operating and providing this life-saving Ministry.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to participate in the joy of volunteering for an organization that makes such a huge and direct impact in people's lives, please contact the Outreach Lead Team committee or speak with Rev. Hubert. It is essential that we maintain the financial and volunteer support required to keep Manna operating through 2019 and beyond

Respectfully Submitted by Kirby Geddes (Coordinator) with the Assistance of Sean Foreman (Treasurer) and the Outreach Lead Team.

Refugee Sponsorship Working Group

Overview



In November 2015, as St. John's United Church members became increasingly aware of the plight of the Syrian people who were fleeing war in their country St. John's congregation decided to privately sponsor a Syrian family and bring them to Halifax. As the role of a sponsor involved a legal commitment of support for a minimum of one year, congregational members needed to be clear about their commitment. To meet the requirements for sponsorship a group of volunteers came forward to establish the Refugee Sponsorship Working Group comprised of ten people.

The group was established using the ISANS Refugee Sponsorship guidelines that outlined specific roles and responsibilities for each member. Then with assistance from the United Church regional representative for Nova Scotia, Bev MacDonald, (our link to the United Church head office in Toronto) we completed the forms required to start the process of sponsorship. These forms constituted a legal agreement between St. John's and the United Church of Canada (UCC) which was the Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Working group members were expected to attend ISANS workshops to learn of the sponsorship process and this was done by some who were then key informants to the main group. The International Settlement Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) had identified 75 families with connections in Halifax and recommended we choose one of these. The importance of having family in the province was stressed in terms of ongoing support for the newcomers and having such support meant the family would more quickly integrate into the community and probably stay. One of the requirements of us as sponsor was that all the sponsorship monies had to be in place prior to commencing the sponsorship application. In early December 2015 the working group put a call out to the congregation for funds with a target of \$24,000 (the SAH recommended amount) for a family of four. A total sum of \$27,000 was raised within three weeks. Included in the call was a request for household items -- furniture, kitchen and bathroom items. Many people came forward to offer most of the items required.

Then began the process of completing the initial documentation to send to the UCC who would review it for completion and then forward it onto the UNHCR. The required documentation included all the UNHRC forms about the family, a formal letter from our church board and a copy of the motion of sponsorship, signature of the person signing on behalf of St. John's who would coordinate the work around sponsorship, and a draft budget. Our budget would provide more than the provincial social service amount. ISANS noted that the family would need to learn to live on a budget once the church's commitment was finished. The documentation package was delivered to the UCC in Toronto the first week of March 2016.

In the interim between January and March 2016, we learned from our UCC regional representative for Nova Scotia that two other United Churches (in Bedford and Mahone Bay) were also sponsoring cousins of our selected family. Our regional representative also informed us that the family had an uncle who lived in Halifax. Members of our group made contact with the family's uncle, Omar Alissou, who has lived here in Halifax with his family for more than 20 years. Omar was most helpful in communicating the situation that his nephew was experiencing in Turkey and helping us understand the situation in Syria.

We continued to maintain contact with Omar and his wife, Zakie, getting together for coffee and lunches. They had more up-to-date information on our sponsor family as they were in touch by WhatsApp on a regular basis. The UNHCR website showed that their application

was *in process*. This continued well into 2017. Part of the delay was because the mom was pregnant and could not travel. The baby was born in January 2017 but there was a further delay. The working group continued to move forward preparing for the family's arrival.

In April 2017 we received word that our sponsor family would arrive in Toronto on April 25, 2017. They would be met by members of the UCC and Canadian Immigration officials who would provide their temporary resident cards, temporary social insurance numbers plus documentation for coverage under the Interim Federal Health Program. They'd spend the night at a hotel in Toronto and arrive in Halifax the following day. Members of St. John's congregation were on hand to meet them alongside the family's uncle and aunt.

Within the first week of arrival one of the working group completed all the required additional documentation and forwarded it to the recommended agencies. These included forms for Medical Service Insurance (MSI), Nova Scotia Pharmacare, permanent Social Insurance numbers, permanent resident cards, Child Tax Benefit and GST. Also the dad was introduced to the language assessment service with the intent to get him into English lessons at ISANS as soon as possible.

Privately Sponsored Refugees are permanent residents of Canada with free access to ISANS services, such as:

- Resettlement orientation
- English classes with childcare provided
- Employment counselling

Our federal government provided:

- Interim Federal Healthcare program coverage which enabled refugees to access health care including basic coverage - hospital and doctors' services. Supplemental coverage included vision and urgent dental care. Prescription coverage is the same as that provided by NS social services under Pharmacare.
- travel loans to the refugees (they must pay back though they are allowed a 3 year period of no interest but thereafter interest accrues). Our family's cost of travel was approximately \$3,500. They are aware of the time line for repayment and the need to save money before the deadline date.



In the first month after arrival our sponsor family lived with their aunt and uncle while we completed our search for a two-bedroom apartment. (We had been advised by ISANS not to commit to renting a place until the family arrived as there had been many situations where sponsored families had not arrived in the times predicted. Also the sponsor family needed to sign the lease on the unit themselves. They were assisted in the lease signing by the uncle).

The working group located a clean, safe apartment in Clayton Park just a few minutes walk from the uncle, on a bus route, and within walking distance to the shops for groceries, banking, and restaurants. The family signed the lease and took possession of the apartment in June. Members of the congregation helped them move and we were able to provide all their furnishings with the exception of mattresses and pillows which we purchased new.

In addition, we were able to provide a GP (someone from our congregation) to care for the family and the GP in turn provided a contact with a dentist. The services of a dentist were extremely important as the mom, dad and son all had serious dental issues. Children are covered by the province of Nova Scotia but adults have to pay themselves. After the family was settled our group chose to use some of the funds from the family budget to cover these needs for the adults.

Budget

The family were given a budget. This allowed coverage of \$850/month for rent (we took advantage of a 10% discount for the year that was offered by one landlord) plus additional costs for a damage deposit and utilities deposit.

ISANS had recommended that we keep close to the Nova Scotia Community Services budget for persons on social assistance. However this was impossible as the amount of money allocated to housing by the provincial government was only \$620/month and no decent housing was available in Halifax at that price. Therefore we increased the amount allocated to allow for a clean, safe apartment to be located. The provincial social assistance rate for rent

for a family of 3 is given at \$620/month with \$255 per adult and \$133 per child. This sum of \$1,396 is expected to cover all costs - rent, heat, water, light, phone, food, cleaning supplies, toiletries, etc. We adjusted our draft budget based on rental costs and the family's needs upon arrival. In addition to the monthly rent payment we provided \$1,000/month to cover their other expenses. (Again ISANS had recommended to allocate funds monthly so that they would learn to live within the amount given.)

Our legal commitment for financial support as a congregation was officially completed one year from the date of arrival, which would be May 1, 2018. However, the general consensus in the working group and within the congregation was that we would continue to provide support until the family were independent. However, this was not needed.

Highlights

The dad began working as a barber with a cousin and opened a shop with support from their uncle in January 2018. It took several months to build up a clientele but within six months they were managing. The family no longer required funds from the church and we provided the last payment in the month of April 2018.

The family purchased a second-hand car in June of 2018 and they have been able to do their shopping and travel themselves. Prior to this the working group took them shopping and to visit relatives and friends.

The dad, Masoud, works 6 days a week usually from 11am to 8pm or 9 pm. He takes Sundays off and that is usually a family day when other family or friends may visit. His English lessons were stopped when he began barbering but he says he learns from his customers. The mom, Hamide, is in English classes at ISANS 9-11am Monday to Friday and childcare for Leyan who is two years of age is provided. Levand, the son, who is 6 years old began primary in September. He is almost fluent in English and loves school.

The family have frequently expressed their gratitude for all they have received and are very happy to be in Canada. They wish the same for other members of their family. Masoud and Hamide have asked if we as a congregation would consider sponsoring Hamide's sister's family (mom, dad, two young children under five years who are now living in Turkey). This matter will need to be taken to St. John's Board and the congregation for consideration.

The working group's role now is more social as various members connect with the family during social occasions over meals. The family has invited our members to attend the children's birthday celebrations as well as the Kurdish new year celebrations in March for the past two years. All the members of the working group have stated that this was a very worthwhile endeavour and that we have benefited as much as the family. We are lucky to have such wonderful people as the Alissou family in our community whom we call friends.

The working group endorses the idea of our church sponsoring Hamide's sister's family to come to Halifax. However due to the groups' family commitments some members no longer wish to continue as part of the working group. We would provide support should a new working group be established.

The working group wishes to say thank you to all congregational members who gave of their time, talent and money. We could not have done this work without all of us pulling together. The church was truly united in this endeavour and it has made a very big difference in the lives of the Alissou family and helped us grow as a community.

Hilda Power (chair), Heather Bagnell, Carol Nasr, Jim & Lata Hall, Margo Kirk, Doug MacDonald, John Naas, Sharon Nicolle, Janet McGinty, Lance Lockwood and Jim Sharpe

Note: All monies used by the working group to support the Alissou family were accounted for and receipts submitted to church office for filing.

Bible Study Group



Bible Study is a close-knit group of members who meet on Mondays at 5:30 pm to explore the concepts in the Bible within the context of the time and comparative ideas through history. In 2018, the group studied a number of DVD series including Living the Questions:

The Jesus Fatwah, a comparison of Islam and Christianity; Rob Bell's Christianity series, Nooma; and a 12-week series entitled First Light - Jesus and the Kingdom of God. In addition to all the studying, discussion and reflection, this group also has fun! There is an annual Christmas pizza party and an end-of-the-church year meal at Le Bistro restaurant.



St. John's Book Club .



We've been gathering as the St. John's Book Club for twenty years and, at nine monthly meetings per year, we have read 180 books! The club of a dozen or so readers holds a meeting the fourth Wednesday evening of the month. The meeting is

casual and folks sometimes bring snacks. We discuss the book in full (spoiler alert). We look for God in the text. Everyone gets a vote when we choose the list each spring. For 2018-19 our reading list included Kate Atkinson, Paula McClain, Mark Sakomoto, Anne Enright, Yvette Edwards, Richard Wagamese, Tara Westover and Graham Moore.



In June we get together for a festive closing dinner, including the reading of poetry.

Book Club members: Janet Bardon, Myrla Drysdale, Judy Dudar, Judy Grant, Heather Hemming, Susan Holmes, Marg Kelley, Margot Metcalfe, Nancy Nelson, Connie Robinson, Judy Schmidbauer, Jim Sharpe, Carol Sinclair, Ellen Taylor

Appendices

Financial statements and 2019 Budget*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH - 2018

Balance Sheet - As of 12/31/2018	
Account	Balance (Cdn \$)
ASSETS	
<i>Cash and Bank Accounts</i>	
Chequing Account	\$11,523
GST- HST Refund	\$2,310
Savings	\$8
Petty Cash	\$100
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$13,941
<i>Other Assets</i>	
Balanced Income Fund Investment	\$1,043,395
TOTAL Other Assets	\$1,043,395
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,057,336
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
<i>Liabilities</i>	
Credit Cards	
VISA	\$1,025
TOTAL Credit Cards	\$1,025
<i>Other Liabilities (Restricted Funds)</i>	
MackInnon Kidston Fund	\$374
Manna Donations	\$2,227
Student Fund	\$561
Syrian Refugees	\$2,373
Memorial & Leadership Fund	\$16,262
Scholarship	\$2,804
TOTAL Other Liabilities	\$24,601

TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$25,626
EQUITY	\$1,031,710
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$1,057,336

INCOME STATEMENT of RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES
(With Comparison to Actual and Budget 2017, 2018)

Category Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019
INCOME/EXPENSE					
INCOME					
ENVELOPE:					
Anniversary	\$800	\$345	\$500	\$470	\$500
Current	\$170,000	\$157,188	\$170,000	\$131,189	\$160,000
Initial	\$150	\$115	\$150	\$140	\$150
Mid-Year	\$1,500	\$475	\$1,000	\$475	\$500
Observer	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$425	\$500
Thanksgiving	\$800	\$515	\$600	\$685	\$700
Year End	\$5,000	\$3,490	\$5,000	\$7,317	\$5,000
TOTAL ENVELOPE	\$178,650	\$162,578	\$177,750	\$140,701	\$167,350
MISCELLANEOUS:					
Fund Raising	\$5,000	\$2,502	\$5,000	\$3,157	\$5,000
Investment Income Allocation	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$85,000	\$81,100	\$65,000
Loose	\$2,500	\$1,152	\$1,500	\$854	\$1,000
Sunday School	\$100	\$11	\$100	\$102	\$100
U C W	\$400	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$0
Choir	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13	\$0
United Way	\$1,800	\$2,125	\$2,000	\$957	\$1,500
MISCELLANEOUS - Other	\$15,906	\$8,805	\$6,000	\$5,955	\$6,000
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	\$75,706	\$64,595	\$99,700	\$92,138	\$78,600
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$254,356	\$227,173	\$277,450	\$232,839	\$245,950
Collected for Others					
Other Appeals	\$500	\$100	\$500	\$1,415	\$500
White Gift	\$1,000	\$240	\$650	\$735	\$650
Christmas Eve.	\$1,000	\$10	\$700	\$778	\$700
Manna for Health	\$7,100	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,227	\$6,000
Mission and Service	\$29,100	\$28,799	\$29,000	\$27,758	\$28,000
TOTAL FOR OTHERS	\$38,700	\$35,149	\$36,850	\$36,913	\$35,850
TOTAL CHURCH & OTHERS	\$293,056	\$262,322	\$314,300	\$269,752	\$281,800
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$307,072	\$278,933	\$314,300	\$269,663	\$281,800
TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSE	-\$14,016	-\$16,611	\$0	\$89	\$0

Category Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019
EXPENSES					
LEASED PREMISES:					

Rental of Worship Space	\$36,500	\$36,108	\$36,827	\$36,833	\$37,615
Insurance	\$1,140	\$2,280	\$1,140	\$1,140	\$1,140
Maintenance	\$0	\$2,713	\$0	\$198	\$250
TOTAL BUILDING	\$37,640	\$41,101	\$37,967	\$38,171	\$39,005

UCC ASSESSMENT	\$8,577	\$8,577	\$8,700	\$8,543	\$9,435
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS	\$500	\$559	\$560	\$191	\$500

OFFICE:

Office Supplies	\$2,400	\$2,514	\$2,500	\$1,722	\$2,000
Postage	\$800	\$457	\$450	\$387	\$400
Printing	\$3,500	\$3,652	\$3,500	\$3,661	\$3,500
Telephone	\$2,000	\$1,941	\$2,000	\$1,716	\$2,000
Replacement Equipment	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$884	\$1,000
Webmaster	\$2,500	\$2,400	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$2,400
TOTAL OFFICE	\$11,450	\$10,964	\$10,450	\$10,770	\$11,300

PERSONNEL:

Benefits	\$20,000	\$14,497	\$22,000	\$15,629	\$17,023
Minister - Salary	\$66,466	\$69,133	\$70,101	\$56,215	\$59,912
Minister - Auto	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0
Minister - Phone	\$450	\$568	\$550	\$348	\$550
Minister - Books, Software & Resource Material	\$625	\$0	\$625	\$0	\$625
Minister - Moving	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$15,427	\$0
Minister - Study/Education	\$1,803	\$1,558	\$1,447	\$1,466	\$1,447
Interim Ministry Sabbatical Fund	\$2,688	\$2,814	\$1,400	\$2,688	\$0
Minister of Visitation	\$7,200	\$2,688	\$2,170	\$2,187	\$0
Youth Worker/Faith Formation Minister	\$7,329	\$7,325	\$19,000	\$11,039	\$20,641
Minister of Music	\$20,850	\$21,597	\$21,899	\$21,052	\$21,390
Secretary/Administrator	\$27,828	\$28,598	\$22,931	\$23,535	\$18,422
Treasurer	\$2,850	\$2,731	\$2,850	\$238	\$0
Supply Coverage - Minister of Music	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Continuing Ed - Minister of Music	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$500
Continuing Ed - Secretary	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$100
Continuing Ed - Youth Worker/Faith Formation	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$500
ADP Payroll Processing	\$600	\$641	\$650	\$576	\$600
TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$163,189	\$149,634	\$177,723	\$150,400	\$141,710

Category Description	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019

PROGRAMS:**Christian Development**

Sun School	\$600	\$1,003	\$1,000	\$446	\$1,000
Ch Dev-Other	\$1,000	\$1,884	\$2,500	\$1,186	\$2,500
TOTAL Ch Dev	\$1,600	\$2,887	\$3,500	\$1,632	\$3,500

Choir:

Soloists	\$7,200	\$775	\$5,000	\$600	\$5,000
Pianists	\$2,000	\$2,750	\$2,500	\$2,560	\$2,500
Piano Tuning & Maintenance	\$500	\$183	\$250	\$632	\$250
Choir - Other	\$1,500	\$3,270	\$2,000	\$1,176	\$2,000
TOTAL Choir	\$11,200	\$6,978	\$9,750	\$4,968	\$9,750

New Initiative Fund	\$15,000	\$7,878	\$15,000	\$4,688	\$15,000
----------------------------	-----------------	----------------	-----------------	----------------	-----------------

Outreach Lead Team	\$1,500	\$1,572	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,000
---------------------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

Worship & Music:

Pulpit Supply	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$660	\$1,000
---------------	---------	---------	---------	-------	---------

Worship & Music - Other	\$3,100	\$3,607	\$3,100	\$3,014	\$3,100
TOTAL Worship & Music	\$4,100	\$5,107	\$4,100	\$3,674	\$4,100
TOTAL PROGRAMS	\$33,400	\$24,422	\$33,850	\$16,462	\$34,350
SUNDRY:					
Advertising and Promotion	\$550	\$0	\$500	\$175	\$6,000
Accounting fee	\$5,906	\$5,521	\$5,000	\$5,521	\$0
Pastoral Care Team	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$250	\$250
Bank Charges	\$600	\$502	\$500	\$334	\$400
Observer	\$360	\$444	\$0	\$421	\$400
Stewardship Development Committee	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Seniors Taxi Travel	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$100
Transition Team/Joint Search Committee	\$3,500	\$1,317	\$500	\$752	\$0
SUNDRY-Other	\$1,500	\$743	\$500	\$760	\$1,500
TOTAL SUNDRY	\$13,616	\$8,527	\$8,200	\$8,213	\$9,650
TOTAL CURRENT DISBURSEMENTS	\$268,372	\$243,784	\$277,450	\$232,750	\$245,950
Collected/Disbursed For Others	\$38,700	\$35,149	\$36,850	\$36,913	\$35,850
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$307,072	\$278,933	\$314,300	\$269,663	\$281,800

Notes to Financial Statements (2018)

1. St. John's United Church of the United Church of Canada ("the Church") is a registered charity and is exempt from paying income taxes on its own income pursuant to the *Income Tax Act* of Canada. All employee payroll and remittance of payroll taxes and other required deductions are processed and completed by ADP Canada, as the required vendor of such services by the United Church of Canada. All required payroll remittances for 2018 have been properly deducted and paid to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) on behalf of the Church by ADP.
2. After careful review and consultation, we decided not to proceed to invest in the significant change required to transition our bookkeeping and accounting from Quicken to Simply Accounting (as referenced in my Treasurer report for 2017). Both the cost and the impact on human resources were prohibitive and could not be supported. We have invested in a much-needed upgrade to the latest version of Quicken (2018) that is now based on an annual subscription model with cloud-based access and data backups, which allows both the Office Manager and Treasurer to access files and information both at the office and remotely as required, and assists greatly in the work required to actively manage the financial operations of the Church and prepare financial reporting.

Balance Sheet (as of Dec 31, 2018)

3. The FIERA Balanced and Income Fund generated \$77,373 in credited capital gains, income distributions, and management fee rebates for 2018. As of December 31, 2018, our account had 59,589.869 units, with a current market value of \$17.5096 per unit, giving the total market value of \$1,043,395 shown on the Balance Sheet. The market downturn experienced in December 2018 resulted in a drop in the unit value from \$19.0146 as of Sep 30, 2018 to \$17.5096 as of year-end. As a result, on paper we have

an unrealized loss of \$143,344.62 based on 59,589.869 units with an "average cost" value per unit of \$19.9150 per unit.

4. As a result of the market downturn, and positive cash-flow management for operations, only \$60,000 of the final allocated income of \$81,100 was transferred from FIERA to our RBC operating account as of Dec 31, 2018 (to avoid crystalizing any unrealized loss). The remaining allocated income for 2018 will be transferred as required in the 1st quarter of 2019. As of Feb 28, 2019, the unit price continued to rise and was \$18.3499 per unit.
5. As of 2018, we now track use of the VISA as a separate account listed in Quicken. Use of the VISA account is limited to necessary online purchases through the year (e.g. subscriptions and other resources) and are reconciled and categorized on a monthly basis, as are the RBC main operating account and savings account.
6. The Restricted Fund balances from 2017 to 2018 are:

Name:	2017	2018
McKinnon Kidston Fund	\$809	\$374
Student Fund	\$561	\$561
Syrian Refugee Fund	\$9,706	\$2,373
Memorial & Leadership	\$16,615	\$16,262
Scholarship Fund	\$3,254	\$2,804

The "Manna Donations" liability listed of \$2,227 on the Balance Sheet represents the Dec 31, 2018 remaining balance (account payable) to be transferred to the Manna RBC operating account from the total \$6,227 in donations raised by SJUC to support Manna (as shown under "Collected for Others" on the Income and Expense Statement).

Income & Expense Statement (2018) and Budget 2019

7. The 2018 fundraising goal for Mission & Service (M&S) was \$29,000. We raised \$27,758 as of Dec 31, 2018, almost reaching our goal. The 2019 Budget proposes a fundraising goal of \$28,000 for M&S.
8. The 2018 Budget had total personnel costs at \$177,723, and actual costs were \$150,400 for 2018. The Budget included amounts based on higher levels of year of call and other criteria used by the United Church to determine salary levels for personnel, before we entered the Joint Search process in early 2018. Both calls/appointments of Ministry personnel in 2018 included "plus 10%" above minimum standard salary requirements, a long-standing practice of this Congregation.
9. The 2019 Budget for Personnel includes the required 1.6% COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for salary amounts for all staff.

10. We invested in a new Church laptop, a new flat-screen portable TV, and other needed equipment during 2018 (reflected under "Office-Replacement Equipment", which had no budgeted amount for 2018). The cost of the new TV (for Sunday School) was deducted from the Memorial & Leadership Fund. We expect to need some additional technology upgrades in 2019 and have added \$1,000 for such investments in the 2019 Budget.
11. A necessary revamp of the Church website and communications platforms will be undertaken through 2019, and we have included \$6,000 in Budget 2019 for this work.
12. New Initiative Fund 2019: we have maintained a budget amount of \$15,000 for the Fund.
The Official Board has already approved an expense up to \$7,500 for the Common Good Solutions Project that will be allocated to this fund (rather than create a new budget/expense category).

*

Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

St. John's United Church **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** Sunday, March 25, 2018- 11:30 a.m.
Chair: Roberta Clarke_Recording Secretary: Connie Robinson

<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Opening Prayer</p> <p>In Memoriam</p>	<p>Roberta Clarke introduced herself, called the meeting to order, extended a word of welcome, thanked all those in attendance and introduced the presiding officers. Martha Martin started by reading the In Memoriam 2017 names aloud, followed by a moment of silence and time of prayer.</p>
<p><u>Business</u></p>	<p>Attendance sheets were circulated for signing. (APPENDIX A - attached to original of Minutes.) The Chair noted the use of a single microphone at the front of the room which is to be used by anyone who wishes to speak.</p>
<p>Voting Privileges</p>	<p>There was consensus that on temporal matters members and adherents be entitled to vote.</p>
<p>Approval of Agenda</p>	<p>A printed agenda was circulated to attendees. There were no additions/deletions.</p> <p>MOTION to approve the agenda.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED. (Moved by Jim Sharpe/Seconded by Hilda Power)</p>
<p>Approval of Minutes</p> <p>- Last Annual Mtg. March 26, 2017</p> <p>- Congregational Mtg.</p>	<p>MOTION to approve the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 26, 2017 as circulated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED. {Moved by Cheryl Kendall/Seconded by Sharon Hawkins}</p>

October 1, 2017	<p>MOTION to approve the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting of October 1, 2017 as circulated.</p>
Business Arising from Minutes	<p style="text-align: center;">CARRIED. {Moved by Cheryl Kendall/Seconded by Bonnie Murray}</p> <p>There was no Business Arising.</p>
Correspondence	<p>No correspondence.</p>
Presentation of Annual Reports	<p>MUSICAL BREAK - LET US BUILD A HOUSE (Accompanied by Nancy Nelson)</p> <p>The 2017 Annual Reports (excluding 2018 Budget figures and Nominating Committee Reports) were considered as distributed. The following oral report was also provided:</p> <p><u>Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements (excluding 2018 budget)</u></p> <p>The current Treasurer, Sean Foreman, opened his remarks by thanking past Treasurer, Pantelis Andreou, and Interim Treasurer, Roberta Sharp. He then referred the congregation to the written Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements and discussed highlights from these. He noted that the 2017 deficit was slightly higher than budgeted. Revenue was on track, but expenses were slightly higher in 2017. The investments are in a balanced portfolio and earned ~\$136,000.00 for the year. We transferred \$50,000 to our operating budget. There is a principal of \$1.126 million currently vested. This will be our last year with Grant Thornton as we are moving to a new version of QuickBooks online for our reporting.</p>
Approval of 2017 Annual Reports (excluding Budget 2018)	<p>MOTION to accept all 2017 Annual Reports, as written and orally presented.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CARRIED. {Moved by Hilda Power/Seconded by Rod MacInnis}</p>
New Business Mission and Service Fund	<p>The Treasurer proposed that our M&S objective in 2018 be set at \$29,000.</p> <p>MOTION to set the M&S target for 2018 to the amount of \$29,00.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CARRIED. {Moved by Jim Sharpe/Seconded by Sean Foreman}</p>

Budget 2018	<p>Budget 2018 was presented as a balanced budget by Treasurer Sean Foreman and circulated within the Annual Report 2017 document. The Treasurer presented highlights from the budget and received questions and feedback from attendees.</p>
	<p>MOTION to approve the balanced budget for St. John's United Church for 2018.</p>
	<p>CARRIED. {Moved by Sean Foreman, Seconded by Lance Lockwood}</p>
Search Committee Update	<p>The Chair of the Search Committee, John Kirk, introduced the committee members and provided an update on activities. There have been several applicants for the Principal Minister position. Interviews have been conducted and references are being checked. There has only been one expression of interest for the part-time Faith Formation position.</p>
New Governance System	<p>A draft handbook of the New Governance Structure for St. John's was handed out. A 10 minute round table discussion based on the question "How can we help everyone at St. John's to share their gifts?" was conducted. Each small group presented their ideas on the topic and the hard copies were collected by the co-chairs of the new Official Board.</p>
Appointment of Members of Official Board	<p>The Members of the Official Board as listed on Page 16 of the 2017 Annual Report and Tanya Nicholson as a Member-at-Large were appointed.</p>
	<p>MOTION to approve the new members of the Board.</p>
	<p>CARRIED. {Moved by Jim Sharpe, Seconded by Jim Hall}</p>
Liturgy for Outgoing Board and Session Members	<p>Martha Martin led a liturgy of gratitude for the outgoing board and session members. Thank you to the committee of stewards, retiring elders and honorary elders. Katherine Harman, the new co-chair of the Board, spoke on behalf of the incoming board and recognized the contributions of the outgoing chair, Jim Sharpe.</p>
Arrangements for Next Year's Annual Meeting	<p>The Chair sought direction for the date of the next Annual Meeting. March 24, 2019 was suggested and agreed upon by the congregation. Current chair and recording secretary agreed to fulfill these roles in the 2019 meeting. (No motion sought).</p>
Adjournment	<p>MUSICAL BREAK - MANY HANDS (Composed by Nancy Nelson)</p>

By Agreement the Annual General Meeting of St. John's United Church
adjourned at 1:05 pm. (No motion sought)

Roberta Clarke, Chair
Secretary

Connie Robinson, Recording

Attendance at the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Appendix A - Meeting Attendance St. John's United Sunday, March 25, 2018- 11:30 a.m.

Chair: Roberta Clarke_Recording Secretary: Connie Robinson

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Bagnell, Heather | 19. Kirk, John | 37. Parsons, Lesley |
| 2. Black, David | 20. Krailo, Donna | 38. Parnell, Doreen |
| 3. Brown, Jean | 21. Lamarque, Kevin | 39. Perrott, Debbie |
| 4. Burrill, Gary | 22. Leja, Ilga | 40. Power, Hilda |
| 5. Carnell, Brenda | 23. Lockwood, Lance | 41. Publicover, Cecil |
| 6. Clarke, Roberta | 24. Lohnes, Jackie | 42. Rainey, Mary Ellen |
| 7. Dacanay, Deidre | 25. MacCreadie, Geraldine | 43. Richardson, David |
| 8. Drysdale, Myrle | 26. MacDonald, Doug | 44. Richardson, Kay |
| 9. Dubowski, Dianne | 27. MacDonald, Noni | 45. Robinson, Connie |
| 10. Foreman, Sean | 28. MacDonald, Pat | 46. Rosborough, Glenda |
| 11. Geddes, Kirby | 29. MacGregor, Mollie | 47. Schmidbauer, Judy |
| 12. Griffiths, Lesley | 30. MacInnis, Rod | 48. Scott, Jeff |
| 13. Hall, Jim | 31. MacKinnon, Barbara | 49. Sharp, Roberta |
| 14. Harman, Katherine | 32. Martin, Martha | 50. Sharpe, Jim |
| 15. Hawkins, Sharon | 33. Mounce, Garry | 51. Smith, Margaret |
| 16. Ipe, Paul | 34. Murray, Bonnie | 52. Spicer, Donna |
| 17. Jordan, Barbara | 35. Nelson, Nancy | 53. Stackhouse, Ruth |
| 18. Kendall, Cheryl | 36. Nicholson, Tanya | 54. Watts, Jennifer |

Minutes of the May 5 Congregational Meeting

St. John's United Church
Minutes of Congregational Meeting
May 6th, 2018 11:30 am
Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts, 6199 Chebucto Road, Halifax, NS

Attendance: see addendum

Bev Dauphinee, Halifax Presbytery, called the meeting to order, introduced herself as Chair and offered welcome.

Lesley Parsons, student minister for St. John's United, opened with prayer.

Bev Dauphinee provided an overview of how the meeting would proceed. Quorum of 20 members was deemed to be present. There were no requests for vote by secret ballot; therefore, decision would be by show of hands. The motion to approve a call is a members-only vote, however, the Joint Search Committee [JSC] also proposed an initial "straw vote" to include all present (members and adherents) to allow all to express an opinion and to assess the strength of support for the motion; after which the official members-only vote would proceed.

Bev Dauphinee turned the meeting over to John Kirk, chair of the Joint Search Committee, for presentation of the candidate. John Kirk introduced the members of the Joint Search Committee and then, with assistance from Sean Foreman, walked through a PowerPoint presentation to outline the process and activities of the JSC. (Printout of PowerPoint slides attached.)

A video of introduction from Hubert Den Draak was played.

Sean Foreman, Treasurer, outlined the terms and conditions of the position as per the PR450 form. The Motion to call was read by John Kirk

Motion to Call: THAT St. John's United Church, having received the report and recommendation of the Joint Search Committee, requests that Halifax Presbytery approve the call of Hubert Den Draak to a Full Time position as Principal Minister, Diaconal, effective September 1, 2018, with terms and conditions as noted on the PR450.

Seconded by Katherine Harman

Questions:

Shirley Gaudreau asked if someone who is a Diaconal Minister is able to perform sacraments. Nancy Nelson, JSC, responded that yes, diaconal ministers are qualified to perform all sacraments just as the current interim diaconal minister Martha Martin has been doing.

Jean Brown asked if the salary and terms noted included housing. Sean Foreman responded with a brief outline of the United Church of Canada's New Compensation Model which combines the former base salary and housing expense into one payment.

Katherine Harman asked about the Faith Formation half-time position. Lesley Griffiths responded that there were no current applicants so the JSC would not continue to pursue this call at this time. However, the Official Board was exploring options, including a potential candidate for an appointed position of one year at perhaps 12 or 15 hours per week. Both the JSC and Official Board have been strongly committed to finding solutions to meet this congregational need which was clearly identified in the Joint Needs Assessment. If necessary, the JSC could be reconvened for a new call.

Lynn Adams asked about the candidate's experience in Faith Formation and working with children and youth. Jim Sharpe spoke about Hubert Den Draak's qualifications around Faith Formation, particularly his revitalization of his current congregation, "storytelling" style of education/instruction, outreach to the local community through a meal and arts program (Café del Soul), a UCC EDGE grant for spiritual outreach through community discussion groups, and a children's time puppet.

Dianne Dubowski asked if all required checks and paperwork through Presbytery and Conference had been completed. Sean Foreman responded in the affirmative.

Katie Aven asked if the committee could speak to the candidate's ability as a "liturgist" since diaconal training does not address liturgy and theology in the same depth as ordained ministry training. Nancy Nelson responded with a description of the committee's questions around personal theology and diversity in congregational theology, as well as due diligence in reading and listening to the candidate's sermons. In addition, Hubert Den Draak's references were all United Church ministers who provided strong support for his worship and leadership skills specifically related to the St. John's job description and Joint Needs Assessment.

Roberta Clarke asked about plans for coverage of summer services in lieu of the September 1st start date. Lesley Griffiths responded that the Official Board was addressing this issue and was confident that services would be covered, especially with the benefit of combined ecumenical worship with First Baptist and St. David's Presbyterian.

Pan Andreou called for a vote.

A straw vote was held by show of hands with unanimous support for the motion. The official vote was held by show of hands. Motion carried unanimously.

Bev Dauphinee called for a motion for the disbandment of the Joint Search Committee once the approval of the call by Halifax Presbytery is received.

Moved by Katherine Harman. Seconded by Bonnie Murray. Motion carried.

Bev Dauphinee expressed thanks to all present for their patience and participation; also thanks to the Joint Search Committee for the opportunity to work with them. Meeting adjourned.

*Bev Dauphinee, Halifax Presbytery
Chair*

*Nancy Nelson, St. John's United
Recording Secretary*

Attendance at the May 6 Congregational Meeting

1	Lynn	Adams	27	Shirley	Gaudreau	54	Carol	Nasr
2	Ivan	Andreou	28	Kirby	Geddes	55	Nancy	Nelson
3	Pantelis	Andreou	29	Judy	Grant	56	Tanya	Nicholson
4	Katie	Aven	30	Ray	Grant	57	Sharon	Nicolle
5	Heather	Bagnell	31	Lesley	Griffiths	58	Doreen	Parnell
6	André	Bernard	32	Lata	Hall	59	Debbie	Perrott
7	Patricia	Brennan-Alpert	33	Jim	Hall	60	Cecil	Publicover
8	Susan	Brousseau	34	Katherine	Harman		Mary	
9	Jean	Brown	35	Sara	Harrigan	61	Ellen	Rainey
10	Gary	Burrill	36	Louisa	Horne	62	David	Richard
	Mary-		37	Paul	Ipe	63	Anna	Richard
11	Janet	Campbell	38	Barbara	Jordan	64	Kay	Richardson
12	Brenda	Carnell	39	Cheryl	Kendall	65	David	Richardson
13	Roberta	Clarke	40	Lillian	Kennedy	66	Cheryl	Ritchie
14	Elizabeth	Conrad	41	Janis	Kinnie	67	Connie	Robinson
15	Kevin	Conran	42	Margot	Kirk	68	Heather	Scott
16	Anita	Cousins	43	Kevin	Lamarque	69	Rory	Scott-Black
17	Gwyneth	Cristoffel	44	Lance L.	Lockwood	70	Jim	Sharpe
18	Deidré	Dacanay	45	Jackie	Lohnes	71	Susan	Sharpe
19	Bev	Dauphinee	46	Gerry	MacCreadie	72	Margaret	Smith
20	Myrla	Drysdale	47	Doug	MacDonald	73	Donna	Spicer
21	Dianne	Dubowski	48	Patricia	MacDonald	74	Ruth	Stackhouse
22	John	Eldridge	49	Mollie	MacGregor	75	Dana	Thurlow
23	Sean	Foreman	50	Rod	MacInnis	76	Amy	Thurlow
24	Lloyd	Fraser	51	Margot	Metcalfe	77	Ian	Watt
25	Elaine	Fraser	52	Garry B.	Mounce	78	Brenda	Watt
26	Bob	Gaudreau	53	Bonnie	Murray	79	Gloria	Whalen

STATISTICS FOR 2017/2018

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Number of Candidates in Training for the Order of Ministry	003	001
Number of Households Under Pastoral Care	150	136
Number of Adult Baptisms (12 years and older)	006	000
Number of Child Baptisms (under 12 years old)	000	000
Number of Marriages	002	001
Number of Funerals & Memorial Services	005	004
Members Received by Profession of Faith		
Under Age 18	000	000
Age 18 or Over	000	000
Members Received By Certificate of Transfer	000	000

or Otherwise	000	000
Members Removed by Death	003	003
Members Removed by Certificate of Transfer	003	003
Otherwise	000	000
Total Confirmed Membership		
Resident & Non-Resident, Dec. 31	230	232
Total Non-Resident Membership	028	028
Number of Identifiable Givers to Local Expense	125	111
Number of Financially Supporting Households	149	115
Number of Identifiable Givers to M&S	060	057
Average Weekly Attendance for October & November	080	080
Adherents	100	100