



# Yellowknife United Church

## Annual Report 2014 Yellowknife, Northwest Territories Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

### **Yellowknife United Church ~ Mission Statement**

Yellowknife United Church is a community of Christians who enjoy fellowship grounded in a common, growing faith. The opportunity for worship and reflection offers the strength and spiritual development we need to live and minister in our society.

We value the Christian Education of our children and adults. By exploring our Christian heritage we understand our faith more deeply. We seek to be enriched by the spiritual traditions of the northern peoples.

As a congregation of the United Church of Canada we accept a calling to share our gifts, to work for a just and peaceful community and to exercise faithful stewardship of the life and health of God's creation

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**Annual General Meeting Agenda**  
**May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer.
2. Voting Rights \*(Annual Meeting)
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Time for Adjournment
5. Approval of Minutes from Annual Financial Meeting – February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
6. Business Arising from the June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Annual Congregational Meeting
7. Annual Reports
8. Financial Report
9. Report of the Nominating Committee
10. Signing Authorities
11. Congregational Concerns and Committee Comments
12. Vote on a new Vision Statement.
  - a. Voting Rights
  - b. Introduction
  - c. Motion
  - d. Vote
13. Next Congregational Meeting
14. Adjournment

## **Congregational Financial Meeting February 9, 2014**

Congregational Chairperson: John Stewart

Congregational Secretary: Kathy Burns

Present: Randy Wedel, Kathy Burns, John Stewart, Sharon Chynoweth, Fiona Rheaime, Elaine Stewart, Margaret Melhorn, Karen Wilford, Lloyd Henderson, Lindsay Chiasson, Maxine Wiseman,, John Soderberg, John Himmelman, Barb Paquin, Sean Daly, Elizabeth Brace,  
Marg Henderson, Janice Daly

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer - John Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:15 and Peter Chynoweth opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Voting Rights - Motion: Margaret Melhorn/Janis Daly "Move to approve all present including adherents to vote on matters of a temporal nature." Carried.
3. Approval of the Agenda - Motion: Lloyd Henderson/Sharon Chynoweth "Move to accept the agenda as presented". Carried.
4. Time for Adjournment - 1:00pm
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting June 16, 2013. Motion: Sharon Chynoweth/Barb Paquin "Move to accept the minutes of The Congregational Meeting June 16, 2013 with the correction of the spelling of Van Dine-Arden, Chiasson, and Daly." Carried.
6. Business Arising from the June 16, 2013 meeting - No business arising.
7. (a) The treasurer Lindsay Chiasson presented the Budget for 2014 and a review of the 2013 Financial Statements. Peter Chynoweth spoke about the Internship Details. Before the vote to pass the budget took place, the question of whether or not there was a quorum present at the meeting. It was ascertained that there was not a quorum, the meeting would continue the next Sunday February 16, 2013.

## **Continuation of Financial Meeting February 16, 2014**

Present: Sandy Little, Terrilyn Hayden, Margaret Melhorn, John Laratta, John Stewart, Kathy Burns, Lindsay Chiasson, Lloyd Henderson, Marg Henderson, Karen Wilford, Jeannette Hall, Ken Hall, Randy Wedel, Barb Paquin, John Soderberg, Sean Daly, John Himmelman, Paula MacFayden, Elaine Stewart, Gillian Moir, Gordon Hamre, Marie Wilson, Rachel Munday, Peter Chynoweth, Sharon Chynoweth, Janice Daly, Greg Short, Kathryn Walker, Elizabeth Brace

7. (b) Motion: Lloyd Henderson/Sean Daly "Move to ratify previous motions from February 9, 2014." Carried.

Some changes had been made to the 2014 Budget, but they were sent out the congregation before this meeting. Peter explained the internship that Yellowknife United Church will be involved with from Sept 1, 2014 to the end of December 2014. He also thanked Barb Paquin and Margaret Melhorn for their hard work in making this happen.

Motion: Lindsay Chiasson/John Himmelman "Move to accept the 2013 unaudited Financial Statements and move to accept the revised 2014 Budget." Carried. 24 in favour, 1 opposed.

8. Congregational Concerns - Sharon Chynoweth expressed gratitude for the new kitchen at the manse.  
- John Stewart asked the congregation to think about the timing for this meeting and about the quorum and the Official Roll.
9. Adjournment: Motion: Rachel Munday/John Himmelman "Move to adjourn meeting @12:40pm." Carried.

## Minister's Report

One of the topics that recently came up at our Thursday morning coffee break was the speed at which the years go by. One of the coffee break participants said that her mother used to say that as you get older, the hours go slowly but the months go quickly. I think that adage resonated with a few of us in the room. There's a sense of that as I prepare to write this report for our annual meeting, except that everything: hours and months alike - seem to have gone by very quickly in the past year.

It has been a very good year at Yellowknife United Church. I think I can say that with only a smidgen of hesitation. Yes, there have been some concerns, but I think there are more positives. I want to outline some of the things that I believe have made the past year a good one, and then look ahead to the year before us so that we can discern some of what God may have in store for us as we continue to be and become the community of faith that calls itself Yellowknife United Church.

So first a look back:

There is one theme in this retrospective that lasts far too long, but it does turn out in the end to be good news. That theme is a change in the lighting in the auditorium where we worship. Quite some time ago, based on some concerns expressed by people attending worship and in particular, members of the choir who were having trouble reading music in the subdued lighting that we preferred in the auditorium, the worship committee engaged a lighting consultant to make some pro bono recommendations for improvement in the lighting in the space. When it came time to implement the recommendations it was discovered that the lighting was not available. I took advantage of the fact that I have a cousin who is a lighting designer to see if he could recommend some replacement bulbs. What I thought was going to be a simple consultation turned into quite a lengthy exercise in lighting needs assessment and then in obtaining the recommended bulbs. So, a project that I thought would be complete by the summer of 2013 was in fact completed in the week just prior to Palm and Passion Sunday in 2014 (April 20). We have had many positive comments not only about the quality of the lighting but also in the warm feel that the new lighting offers our space.

Now that some light has been shed on some of the happenings, I can make reference to another project that took some time to come to fruition. About four years ago, based on some work we did in a board or congregational retreat, an interest was expressed in taking the step to become an officially acknowledged Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada. For many people this was seen as a logical step in a progression that started many years ago and in fact was seen as an affirmation of something that we considered part of who we are and were for a long time. The designation of Affirming Ministry includes explicit mention in a vision or mission statement with respect to full inclusion of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

Our being recognized as an Affirming Ministry was celebrated in a wonderful worship service on November 17, 2013 with guest speaker Nancy Steeves of Southminster-Steinhauer United Church in Edmonton— the first Affirming Ministry within our Alberta and Northwest Conference. Of course becoming an Affirming Ministry is a step in a journey which involves many steps before and after the declaration. On the path before, a number of people from Yellowknife United Church took part in a fairly visible way in the second annual NWT Pride Festival in August.

We, of course, exist within a larger community known as The United Church of Canada, and the fact that our denomination is in the midst of a Comprehensive – everything on the table – review of structures, organization, governance, ministry and everything else, was not lost on us. In September, a group of us gathered around the phone and the office laptop computer as part of the conversation and information gathering phase that took place in late spring and the fall of 2013. It came at a time when I was a bit discouraged, but this conversation served to remind me of the talent and faithfulness that is contained within our congregation.

I was also personally involved in the Comprehensive Review process when I was asked to be a facilitator with some other congregations who participated in the same way that we did.

September also presented a further learning opportunity for me when I was asked to be the Educational Supervisor for a Student enrolled in the Summer Distance Program for Ordained Ministry that operates out of the Atlantic School of Theology. It took some time to make the decision, but ultimately the attraction of once again being involved in Ministry formation was an offer that I couldn't resist.

There also continued to be some positive developments from me personally with respect to the topic I pursued on the sabbatical in 2012. I was invited to do presentations on the topic at a Conference wide event in November and again in February in a web mediated presentation offered by the EDGE network to the whole of The United Church of Canada and beyond.

Throughout the year, a group of people who were excited by the possibility of hosting an internship that was first proposed to us last year, went to work to see if we could find some ways to arrange the funding. Ultimately this resulted in a creative mix of donated housing from Northern Properties REIT and a generous contribution from a sister congregation (the home church of our potential intern), and the project was approved first by the board and then at the financial meeting of the congregation in February.

This is but a short list of some of the things that we've accomplished and been involved with. In some ways these are the extra things that have been taking place over the past year without mention of all the other things that are a regular part of our life and work as a congregation. These include the ongoing refugee project which is waiting for word regarding permission for Abdi to come to Canada. They also include a number of other outreach projects – Coldest Night of the Year and the Christmas Sock program.

While much has been accomplished it is also important to recognize that there is much more that could be done. Despite the outreach work, the outreach committee has found it difficult to meet on a regular basis over the past year. Our church school carries on thanks to dedicated teachers and leaders who are willing to make a contribution based on a few short meetings and lots of discussion back and forth by email. The Stewardship Committee has also taken some time off this year without regular meetings, but thanks in part to good organization and the experience of many previous years, our fundraisers and stewardship efforts have continued very well. However it would be remiss to paint a completely positive portrait of the financial situation. There is concern about reduction in the amount of money contributed through room rentals and some concern about the continued need to raise more money through offering contributions even as we see a slight decrease in the congregation as a result of moves and all the other factors that have prompted our church to engage in the Comprehensive Review.

So it is been a year of fewer committee meetings, proving that the church can function without so many meetings, but this is probably not sustainable over the long term. We can only hope that a year of hiatus for some of our committees will result in more energy and time availability as we move into a new year of activity, mission and ministry.

Which brings us to the future.

It is hard to look too far into the future that is the coming year because the beginning of it is very full. On September 1 we can look forward to the beginning of the internship of Alison Mock for four months. We will look forward to her presence as worship leader and as a member of the pastoral staff and the dynamics that will come with her involvement with our congregation.

Another focus in September will be the hosting of Northern Lights Presbytery on September 17, 18 and 19. It certainly involves some work to host a presbytery meeting, but the opportunity to put our place on display whether that is Northern United Place or Yellowknife, is exciting and affirming.

Finally, only a couple of weeks later, we have been informed that Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Gary Paterson, is hoping to visit with us on October 1 and 2.

I'm actually not allowing myself to look much further ahead than those three events. I know in part that the remaining time of the internship will in large part be shaped by the goal setting and the teamwork that will take place when Alison and her family arrive.

There is much potential for us to have a different perspective on the mission and ministry that God is calling us to in the short and longer term.

I think it will be an exciting time for us as we head into next September and a few weeks of fresh and different experiences.

Maybe that's a metaphor for the work that God is calling us to – maybe there are other fresh and different things waiting for us beyond that.

I don't know about you, but I am ready to find out!

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Chynoweth

### **PASSAGES**

#### **In Memoriam**

Ashley Forster	November 15, 2013
Peter Steven Buchanan	March 10, 2014

#### **Weddings**

Jennifer Hunt and Brian Cave	June 21, 2013
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#### **Baptisms**

Kieran Miguel Cliffe-Phillips	September 22, 2013
Reid Theodore Patterson Henry	April 27, 2013



## **Board Chair Report 2013-14**

Your Board and Committees have been active this year as you can clearly see from the Committee Reports which follow. I want to profusely thank the Committee Chairs and members for their dedication and energy in undertaking the work of the church, in our place of worship, in our community, in the broader world, and in the wider work of The United Church of Canada.

A highlight of the year was the fact that in November Yellowknife United Church became an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada. The Vision Statement we adopted in part reads: “We are dedicated to being a community which welcomes and includes everybody, celebrating the diversity of our age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, ethnicity, and socio-economic circumstance.” Many thanks must go to the members of the Affirm Working Group for their work in bringing us to this important milestone.

An exciting initiative proposed by the Board, and ratified by the congregation at the Annual Financial Meeting in February, was our application to become a supervised ministry education site. The application has been approved and Alison Mock will be joining us for a four-month internship from September to December 2014. We look forward to welcoming Alison and her family this fall.

In July, the Board supported the application by one of our members, Karen Wilford, to the Lay Worship Leader Certificate Program at St. Stephen’s College at the University of Alberta. Karen was accepted into the program, and our congregation continues to enjoy the benefits of Karen’s studies through her thoughtful contributions to our worship services.

Last fall, the Board extended an invitation to Northern Lights Presbytery to hold their September 2014 meeting in Yellowknife. Our invitation has been enthusiastically accepted, and we are very much looking forward to hosting the members of Presbytery this fall.

Yellowknife United Church would ordinarily have been scheduled for a pastoral oversight visit in 2013. These visits normally take place every three years. However, in discussions with Presbytery, it was agreed that this visit would be postponed a year, to coincide with their meeting this September in Yellowknife. More information about how the congregation can participate in this oversight visit will be made available in the coming months.

Finally, recognizing that the Rental of Yellowknife United Church space (the Multipurpose Area or MPA) generates approximately half of our church’s annual revenues, the Board established an ad hoc committee to review the management of the MPA and return with recommendations to the Board.

The coming church year looks to be a busy and exciting one and we look forward to the sharing of talents and gifts from everyone.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Melhorn

## Outreach Committee annual report - May 2014

"We join hands to care for God's whole earth and each other"

We are called to become involved in outreach with a local, national and international focus.

Committee members were: Joanna Wilson, Karen Hamre, Nancy Trotter and Peter Chynoweth (ex-officio)

### Refugee Sponsorship

This year we continued a major project for our congregation, the co-sponsorship of Abdi Aden Adow to immigrate to Canada under the Refugee Sponsorship Program. Our congregation is co-sponsoring Abdi. The other co-sponsor is his sister, Sadia Adow Adan. Yellowknife United Church and Sadia, as co-sponsors, have committed to provide for Abdi during his first year in Canada. We will be responsible for providing financial, emotional and resettlement support to Abdi during this time. Abdi's application was submitted to the Government of Canada in December 2012. We expect a government decision on Abdi's application in late 2014 or early 2015. Because of backlogs in the application process we do not get updates during the waiting period. Like Abdi, we just have to wait. In the meantime, we have encouraged Abdi to work on his English and try and get a driver's license. We need to prepare for his arrival and ensure we have adequate funds. A special bank account has been set up and donations can be accepted through the church.

### Local and National Outreach

This year we continued discussions to try and get composting of food waste happening in Aurora College, Northern United Place and the church. Progress has been slow because the issues are complex.

As in the past, we sent Christmas cards to the residents of Northern United Place. Each card was signed by several members of the congregation.

The Christmas sock project continues to be meaningful for members of the Yellowknife United Church and the homeless individuals who receive the socks filled with useful items. Our annual target is to fill 50 socks so that all the people staying at the Salvation Army Shelter on Christmas Eve can receive one. This year we were again able to meet that target. The socks and the items inside were very much appreciated by the recipients. As in the past, we also provided funding so that the Salvation Army Shelter could celebrate Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve with some special treats.

The foot washing program continues at the Salvation Army Shelter year-round. Volunteers and donations of socks are always needed.

We met with the M & P committee to discuss issues including support for the office manager, rental procedures, and upgrades to our rental facilities.

Outreach members attended a presentation of the Canadian Health Coalition and an article was done for the newsletter.

## International Outreach

We have sponsored Timmy Mbambiko in Zambia to attend school for a number of years. This year we contributed to a fund to assist Timmy to attend college. Timmy is in year 2 of a three year program at George Benson Teacher Training College.

## Committee Membership

There is a need for more members to on the Outreach committee. We will also be asking for others to help provide refugee settlement support to Abdi when he eventually arrives in Canada.

Thank you to all the congregation members who contributed to Outreach programs this year.

Respectfully submitted by  
Joanna Wilson

## **Meals on Wheels - Part of our Outreach**

The Meals-on-Wheels (MOW) program has been in operation in Yellowknife for over 35 years and is one of the community outreach projects that our congregation is involved in. We are one of six groups who have committed to providing volunteer drivers once every six weeks.

Special thanks to the following who helped out during the past year: Rai Brown, Sharon Cormier, Cappy Elkin, Lynn Elkin, Brad Hall, Heather Hall, Lisa Hall, Michael Hall, Tom Hall, Terrilyn Hayden, Lloyd Henderson, Sonia Hewlko, Stuart Oldham, Greg Short, and John Soderberg. Without each of you this could not be part of our outreach.

Here's a quick re-cap of what is involved as a volunteer driver. An individual can do it alone or you can take along some helper(s). You pick up the evening meal(s) from the Stanton Hospital kitchen between 4:45 and 5:30 p.m. and deliver to those individuals on the list for the day. There can be up to half a dozen meals although for the past several months there are commonly only two to four. The meals are individually packaged, marked with the recipient's name and put into an insulated carrying bag.

It's quick and easy when you drop the meal at each address. This is often a highlight in the person's day and makes you feel a bit like Santa Claus! After delivering the meals, you return the insulated bag to the appreciative staff at the hospital kitchen. Again, the commitment is for less than an hour one evening every six weeks. With lots of volunteers you may only be called every second time.

This is a quick, easy, and rewarding community service and if you are interested in joining our team of drivers or have some questions about it, please call Jeannette Hall at 873-3942 or Cappy Elkin at 873-5747. Our upcoming scheduled drives are Jun 14-20, Jul 26-Aug 1, Sept 6-12, Oct 18-24, and Nov 29-Dec 5. Thanks!

Jeannette Hall  
MOW Coordinator

# Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee

## **Committee Members**

Greg Short: Chair  
Cappy Elkin  
Laurie Gault

The M&P Committee is a mandated committee established in the by-laws of the United Church of Canada. The M&P Committee is a confidential, consultative body that supports the pastoral relationship. Some of its responsibilities are:

- To provide support for the Minister and office staff
- To review and make recommendations regarding employment practice (wages, benefits and working conditions)
- To act as liaison between the church staff and the congregation.

(From the Handbook for M&P Committees).

We are happy to hear compliments for our staff. Any concerns can be discussed confidentially with members of the M&P Committee. If there is a conflict between staff and the congregation, the M&P Committee is the first group responsible to help work things out for the long term health of the church.

We have been pleased to support our Minister, Reverend Peter Chynoweth and our Office Administrators, Deanna Roos and Gwyneth Davis and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their service to our congregation.

In March, Deanna gave her notice, and departed YKUC to pursue other opportunities. The M&P Committee conducted an open competition for her replacement and had a number of well qualified people apply. Unexpectedly, Gwyneth was one of those and was the successful applicant. Gwyneth brings with her lots of experience with managing the Multi-Purpose Area and administration for our church and will continue to implement changes made during the last year. We hope you have had a chance to give Gwyneth a warm YKUC welcome back. The M&P Committee would like to acknowledge June Van Dine and thank her for the help she has given us this past year. June has come in to keep the office open when the Office Administrator was away, often with little notice. We appreciate her continued willingness to work in the office when needed. We'd also like to thank Margaret Melhorn for her help with the Office Administrator competition process.

Respectfully submitted by

Greg Short

for the M&P Committee

## **United Church Women – 2013/14 Annual Report Yellowknife United Church**

The Yellowknife United Church Women (UCW) continues to be involved in the life of the church. Meetings are held on a not-so-regular basis however we do enjoy a good turn-out for special activities.

This year we continued with the regular fall activities of making pepper jelly and antipasto to sell at our Christmas tea and bake sale which was again very successful. We cleaned the kitchen and provided sandwiches for “Lenten Lunches”. We also organized and sold bannock, muffins, cookies and coffee at the Garage Sale at the end of April.

Our year will wind up in June with a pot luck and penny auction - a great opportunity for food, fellowship and fun.

The UCW makes annual donations to various mission funds and this year’s funds will be allocated at the June meeting. Previous year’s monies have been allocated to the following: International – foster child in Senegal, refugee sponsorship and M&S Fund; National – Bissel Centre in inner city Edmonton, Christenson/Dryburg Fund and the Mustard Seed inner city project in Calgary; Local – Alison McAteer House, YWCA, Salvation Army, YK Food Bank, YKUC Youth Group (for Betty House), YKUC Capital Fund, money set aside for bulletin folders and support is generally provided for two women to attend the Western Women’s Conference in 2014.

Officers for the year were:

Chair: Gwyneth Davis  
Secretary: Jeannette Hall  
Treasurer: Margaret Henderson

The UCW would like to offer a special thank you to everyone who has supported us by donating their time, energy, and talents. Without the generous support of the congregation, UCW would not be able to function.

Respectfully submitted by

Jeannette Hall

**Stewardship Committee – 2013/2014 Annual Report  
Yellowknife United Church**

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for the church's financial affairs and in so doing supports and nurtures the mission of the church. It does this through information sharing, fund raising and good financial management.

The committee members are: Marg Henderson, Chair  
Terrilyn Hayden

Lindsay Chiasson  
Rev. Peter Chynoweth

This year Stewardship planned things via email with very few face-to-face meetings.

Fund-raising events this year included the annual Dessert Auction during the fall supper, the Pancake Supper, the Garage Sale, the City Clean-up plus a number of smaller ventures such as the bulletin sponsorship, church calendars, beverage recycling, and the celebration jar. We had one new venture hosting a community craft show in the auditorium. This was very successful financially for us and for those selling their wares.

Upcoming events for the coming year will include the Presbytery visit in September where we will be catering their meals and snacks, the fall supper and potentially two community craft sales on November 14 and December 6.

If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like to be called on to help for specific projects, please speak with any member of the committee.

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for all the help and support we have received over the year.

Respectfully submitted by  
Margaret Henderson

## **Community Life and Membership Committee Report**

A major responsibility of the Community Life and Membership (CLAM) Committee is ensuring congregation members fulfill the roles of opening host, closing host, greeter, reader and candle lighter each Sunday. Thank you to all who participated in these roles during the past year. An addition this year to the United Church-led summer services with the Lutheran congregation was the provision of cold beverages after the services. This was well-received by both congregations and allowed extra visiting time after church. The church brochure was also updated and made available during summer services.

Both Lutheran and United Church members participated in the nursery clean-up held at the end of August. For most of the year, we were able to provide nursery supervisors to look after the little ones; many thanks go to Elizabeth Brace, Lindsay Chiasson, Tara Short and Quin Chiasson for volunteering one Sunday each month. Blank greeting cards, featuring the Noah's Ark nursery wall mural painted by Janice Daly, were printed this year and made available for purchase after church and during the UCW Tea and Bake Sale.

The annual fall supper and dessert auction was held on September 21 with about 45 people attending. CLAM organized the supper while the Stewardship Committee organized the auction. As well, packages were sent to 21 of our post-secondary students in November and March containing items such as letters, cards featuring a collage of pictures of congregational activities, Tim Horton's gift cards and the church newsletter. Three newsletters were produced and distributed through the google group distribution list and hard copy. We appreciate the work of Melanie Dumont in designing and laying out the newsletter. The committee also developed a feedback survey to solicit the congregation's thoughts and ideas on the newsletter. Only four people responded but they indicated general approval of the current newsletter style.

On February 1, 22 people attended the third annual bowling night followed by sundaes and prizes back at the church. Then, on March 15 a games night was held with 18 people attending. Both events attracted participants ranging in age from young children to grandparents. We again organized the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper while the men of the congregation did the set-up, cooking and clean-up. Held on March 4, the supper attracted 151 people, most from the wider community, and raised over \$1000.00. We are grateful to Food Rescue for providing many of the ingredients for the pancake supper as well as snacks for the games night.

CLAM is responsible for maintaining the official church membership roll. This year we received two members by transfer and took a motion to the Board to remove the names of a large number of members who have moved away from Yellowknife. The motion passed and, while the names are removed from the active roll, they remain on the historical roll of all who have ever been members of Yellowknife United Church.

Kathy Burns coordinates subscriptions to our church magazine, The Observer, on our behalf and has 24 people on the subscription list.

The CLAM committee members this year were Sharon Chynoweth, Gillian Moir, Sean Daly, Barb Paquin and Rev. Peter Chynoweth in an ex-officio capacity.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Barb Paquin



## *Yellowknife United Church*

### *Christian Development Committee*

#### *Report for Annual General Meeting ~ May 25, 2014*

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The Christian Development (CD) Committee takes responsibility for planning and delivering the weekly Sunday School program (September – June).

Successes:

- Our volunteer base for Sunday School this year included Kathryn Walker, Janice Daly, and Sandy Little.
- The Sunday School schedule was set up mostly via e-mail and attempts were made to recruit new volunteers. Recruiting attempts were done through in-church announcements, bulletin announcements, and email messages to the google group. The teaching schedule is flexible enough to accommodate a wide range of schedules for those teachers who can take 3-4 weeks in a row and others who can take a class at a time when their schedule allowed.
- At the beginning of the Sunday School season the teaching team discussed different curriculum methods but decided to continue to use the ***One Room Sunday School*** curriculum. We have used this curriculum for a number of years and it fits our participant profile. Attendance ranges from 2 to 10 children each week, with an average of 3 or 4 per week. We rarely have enough children to group into age or grade groups, and sometimes children are more comfortable attending with an older sibling.
- Parents are welcome to join for part or all of the Sunday School class. Sometimes this helps a new or shy child to feel safe and begin to connect with the group.

Future Direction:

- The CD committee has not initiated activities beyond developing and maintaining the Sunday School program. With additional committee members, there could be opportunities for other education activities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsay, Kathryn, Janice, Sandy, & Peter

## **Worship Committee report**

“Let there be light!”

*How many United Church people does it take to change a light bulb?* The answer is ‘only a few’, but it takes many discussions before they can be changed. I won’t go into depth, but the subject of lighting did rather fill a lot of committee air time this year. Thanks to all in the congregation who took the time to respond to a survey on the topic and the final result is something that has elicited many favourable comments. Thanks particularly to Peter Chynoweth and Lorne Gushue for keeping this ball rolling. We are grateful for a solution that provides just the right level of lighting both for reading and the creation of a ‘warm’ atmosphere.

We also used our committee time this year for some other pursuits, among them:

- organizing pulpit supply on those occasions when Peter was attending to church business elsewhere or on well-deserved vacation;
- hosting special services, such as the Service of Comfort and special hymn sing in memory of Hugh Latimer;
- planning a Lenten study series;
- discussing the transitions within our worship, and the way that we include children.

We have also had more than one discussion regarding the ways that we help people feel welcome. Our further investigation into this has revealed that it is actually tricky to provide a level of interaction to suit everyone. Some people would like to ‘pass the peace’ regularly; others are happier if we do this only on communion Sundays. So, we hope that we can strike a balance, and that you will feel free to approach the members of the worship committee if you have feedback on this or other aspects of our worship time.

Our committee would like to thank all the people who have supported services in the past year. In particular we extend thanks to Susan Hoefer, Katey Simmons, Sharon Chynoweth, Jo Pamplin, Rachel Munday, Karen Wilford, Andrea Booth, Kay Lewis, Karen LeGresley-Hamre, Lorne Gushue, Kathy Burns, Peter Short, Donna Allen, Nancy Steeves, Krystal Thompson, Deanna Roos, Andrea Booth, Brenda Tittlemier, Melissa May from “On Eagles Wings” and Kirk Tastad. (My apologies if I have left anyone out of the list!) Thanks also to the Affirm Study Group for planning the wonderful service last fall as we marked the official beginning of our ministry as an Affirming church.

We would also like to hugely thank the small but mighty choir that provides such musical gift to our services week after week. Most significantly, we thank the choir director, Elizabeth Brace and our faithful musician, Sharon Chynoweth. Thanks also to the regular members who come to rehearsals and to sing each Sunday: Randy Wedel, Sean Daly, Peter Chynoweth, Marg Henderson, Gillian Moir, Fiona Rheame, Gwyneth Davis, Elaine Stewart, Rachel Munday, Paula MacFadyen, and Laurie Gault.

Thanks also to Janice Daly who looks after all things related to decorating and visual enhancements to worship, and of course, to Peter, our minister, for all the many gifts that he brings to our worship and our shared community life.

Elaine Stewart, chair, on behalf of the committee: Donna Allen, Karen Wilford, Lorne Gushue, Brenda Tittlemier, Janice Daly and Kathy Burns.

## **Affirm Committee Report**

The Affirm Committee (previously the Affirm Study Group) began in 2009 to help Yellowknife United Church discern whether or not to becoming a congregation that declares itself to be fully inclusive of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and which backs up its words with actions.

Members of the study group are:

Donna Allen	Kathy Burns	Sharon Chynoweth
Janice Daly	Lorne Gushue	Marg Henderson
Nancy Trotter	Kathryn Walker	

Last June at our congregational meeting a vision statement was approved, which along with the creation of a work plan enabled the national umbrella organization Affirm United to welcome Yellowknife United Church into the ranks of affirming ministries.

We celebrated this step in our journey with a special worship service on November 17, 2013. We had as our guest, Nancy Steeves, a minister at Southminster-Steinhauer United Church in Edmonton, which was the first Affirming Ministry in Alberta and Northwest Conference.

The relationship between the Christian church and homosexuality has often been seen as a conflicted one. We think it is important for people to know that there are places within the Christian community where LGBTQ folks can feel safe, accepted, and welcomed; therefore, members of the committee and Reverend Peter Chynoweth participated in interviews with CBC North and the Yellowknife newspaper. The Affirm Committee continues to work on ways to reach out to our broader community to share and celebrate our status as an affirming ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

The Affirm Committee

### ***YELLOWKNIFE UNITED CHURCH VISION STATEMENT***

*We believe that all people are created in the image of God and are unconditionally loved by God.*

*We are dedicated to being a community which welcomes and includes everybody, celebrating the diversity of our age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, ethnicity, and socio-economic circumstance.*

*We pray for God's spirit to guide us as we celebrate the richness that diversity brings to our church, even as it challenges us.*

*We are committed to seeking justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with our God on our common faith journey. ALL are welcome!*



## **PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE REPORT 2014**

The major focus this year was the completion of the Manse kitchen renovation. The project started in July 2013. It was basically finished in late September but there were some outstanding areas that were not completed until January 2014.

New light bulbs were installed in the Multi Purpose area in March. The goal was to increase the lighting. Thank you to Peter for researching the best type of lights. Comments on the new lighting are positive.

Thank you to Ken Hall for agreeing to fill in for me while I was away. Thank you also to Greg Short for assisting property and maintenance.

Stuart Oldham

## **Yellowknife Scouting Report.**

This September we had registered:

Beavers	18 youth	5 leaders
Cub Scouts	14 youth	3 leaders
Scouts	12 youth	4 leaders

Recently to date, the Group is helping the Scouts sell Boat Raffle tickets in order to attend the 2015 World Jamboree in Japan, as well, any Cub Scouts wanting to attend the 2015 Canadian Jamboree in British Columbia. one of the prizes is Graham Shaw painting.

Scouts had a winter snowmobile camp during the beginning of March; held a fundraising garage sale and bake sale at the City's Community Yard Sale May 17th. Cub Scouts have been busy with many activities, such as making Mother's Day gifts at the Yellowknife Glassworks. You may have seen the Scout table at the Trades Show as well as the Scouts cleaning up the garage bins all around the Trade Show. Beavers have been busy learning some STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to keep their minds busy with knowledge. Coming up May 26th will be a safety lesson for riding scooters, bikes or skateboards with the City of Yellowknife's By-law Department. On May 12th the Beavers hit the trail for the Jamboree on the Trail national event and learned about the different plants in their brown stage after a long winter's sleep; next in the fall we will check out the plants and notice the change.

Yellowknife Scouting, a part of Northern Lights Council in Edmonton, is always looking for new recruits -- be it with the kids or on the Group Committee.

Beavers meet Monday evenings 6:00 - 7:00; Cub Scouts meet Monday evenings 7:00 - 8:30; Scouts meet Wednesday evenings 7:00 - 9:00 at the Weledeh gym. Next year will bring back a Venturers group.

**TREASURERS REPORT : Yellowknife United Church**

**Income Statement**

**As of April 30, 2014**

<b>OPERATING FUND Statement of Revenue &amp; Expenditures</b>		<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>2013 Actu- als</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>	<b>2014 Actu- als</b>	<b>2014 Actuals</b>
		<i>To April 30</i>		<i>To April 30</i>		
<b>Revenue</b>						
	Offering- Local, Loose, SS, Youth, & Other	<b>70,000</b>	19,361	<b>69,500</b>	22,725	32.7%
	Building & Equipment Use	<b>70,000</b>	17,190	<b>70,000</b>	16,584	23.7%
	Fund Rais- ing	<b>7,000</b>	5,197	<b>7,500</b>	2,403	32.0%
	Internship	<b>0</b>	0	<b>20,360</b>	0	0.0%
	Other- photocopies, sales interest, marriage donations	<b>2,000</b>	136	<b>3,500</b>	10	0.3%
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>149,000</b>	41,883	<b>170,860</b>	41,722	24.4%

<b>Expenditures</b>						
	Personnel	<b>113,000</b>	33,318	<b>113,700</b>	36,493	32.1%
	General Admin & Main- tenance	<b>13,000</b>	3,069	<b>13,000</b>	5,071	39.0%
	Manse Operating	<b>12,375</b>	4,840	<b>12,375</b>	4,698	38.0%
	Official Board	<b>4,535</b>	1,619	<b>4,535</b>	1,337	29.5%
	Worship Committee	<b>2,000</b>	558	<b>1,990</b>	779	39.1%
	Youth group	<b>500</b>	0	<b>2,000</b>	0	0.0%
	Outreach Committee	<b>2,000</b>	1,000	<b>2,000</b>	0	0.0%
	Comm Life & Membership Comm.	<b>700</b>	464	<b>800</b>	124	15.5%
	Christian Development Com- mittee	<b>1,000</b>	369	<b>600</b>	166	27.7%

Stewardship Committee	800	851	500	0	0.0%
Internship	0	0	20,360	0	0.0%
Affirm Study Group	1,000	0	1,000	213	21.3%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>150,910</b>	46,088	<b>172,860</b>	48,882	28.3%
<b>Excess revenue (expenditures)</b>	<b>-\$1,910</b>	-\$4,205	<b>-\$2,000</b>	-\$7,160	

**Total Offerings/Givings to April 30, 2014**

Local Offering	22,725.43	<b>Up 17.4%</b> from 2013
Mission and Service	6,567.54	<b>Up 14.3%</b> from 2013
Capital Fund	1,817.24	<b>Up 38.3%</b> from 2013
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$31,110.21</u></b>	

Building Rentals are down by **3.5%** from 2013 and **under budget by 28.9% (\$6,749)**

At the end of April offerings should be at \$31,000 for all categories

**Total offerings to April were over budget by \$110 (0.4%)**

## NWT COMMUNITY SERVICES CORPORATION Report - 2013—2014

As the Annual General meeting of the NWT Community Services Corporation occurred last month, the annual report presented at that meeting covers the major activities for last year. A copy is attached.

In addition, the following brief outline provides information on activities since the April 6, 2014 Annual General meeting of the Corporation.

Both Gordon Hamre and Larry Elkin were elected by the members of the Corporation at the April 6 meeting to serve another 3 year term.

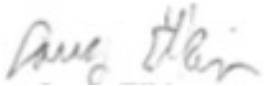
Also, Community Director, Marg Green, with the completion of her 3 year term in 2014 indicated her interest in serving another term. Her appointment was approved by the NWT CSC Board on May 7th.

Removal of the old house at the front of the new parking lot next to NUP is planned to occur in May. Work will then begin to develop the whole parking lot, including an asphalt finish, electrical plug ins, line markings and landscaping.

The new fully developed lot will be an important component in meeting part of our long term parking needs.

A revised parking policy has been developed and approved by the Board. The policy includes principles to guide usage and rental rates for the three components of our parking facilities — YWCA lot next to the Betty House, underground parking at NUP and the new lot adjacent to NUP.

Progress is being made on a communications document which will highlight what services Northern United Place provides and the benefits to residents of Yellowknife



Larry Elkin,  
President  
NWT Community Services Corporation.



**President's Report on behalf of the Board of Directors  
NWT Community Services Corporation  
Northern United Place.  
April 2014**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MANAGEMENT STAFF**

The Board of Directors consists of 6 Yellowknife United Church Directors and 3 Community Directors. The Directors are elected for three-year terms with the terms being staggered to ensure continuity on the Board. The Directors for the past year include:

Larry Elkin	Marg Henderson
Gary McDougall	Julie Green
Marg Green	Stuart Oldham
Randy Wedel	Gordon Hamre
Felicitio Domingo	

Peter Chynoweth attends the Board meetings, when his schedule allows, to keep up to date with what is happening at NUP and to provide input.

Gail and Louis Leonardis continue to provide the day to day management of Northern United Place. Kayla Gagnon is the new Administrative Assistant manning the office during regular working hours. Gail and Louis, in addition, have assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the building, particularly maintenance of the heating and ventilation systems previously provided by JSL Mechanical installations Ltd.

For 2013 there were several major issues, particularly related to parking. With the construction of the Betty House Project and the resulting loss of significant parking space for NUP, the Board is proceeding with the planned development of the lot next to NUP as an energized lot to meet the parking needs of our commercial and housing tenants. A very significant part of the year was spent by Gail on these matters and this priority will continue in 2014. This is in addition to many planning and property management tasks associated with the diverse needs at NUP.

The many users of the multi-purpose area is an important aspect of the mandate of the NWTCSC and the purpose for which Northern United Place was created. In the past year Deanna Roos assumed the role of Office Administrator for the multi-purpose area from Gwyn Davis and continued meeting this important role through meeting the space needs of many users and renters of rooms in the multi-purpose area.

Manuel Mariano and the staff of MLM Cleaning Service provide the janitorial services for Northern United Place. This also includes snow removal from the sidewalks, steps and parking areas around NUP and setting up and taking down of tables and chairs in the multi-purpose area for the many users and renters.

All Directors on the Board played an important leadership role as the Corporation continued to address many important issues related to serving all the tenants and users of NUP in the best manner possible.

**MAJOR INITIATIVES & CHALLENGES IN 2013**

**Betty House and Northern United Place**

Over the past two years we have been aware through the news media that a significant project, Betty House, was in the planning stage and would be located across from Northern United Place in the lots we rented for Aurora College parking.

In the summer of last year, with very little notice, we were advised that a scaled down version of the project was proceeding and that the lots we now use for parking would have to be vacated early in the Fall.

Eight years ago the Board of the Corporation purchased the property adjacent to Northern United Place to meet

part of our long term parking needs once the lots across from NUP were no longer available to us. Since the purchase we have used about half the lot for parking and have rented out the house until we needed to dispose of the house and utilize the full lot for parking.

Although we have utilized half the lot for our parking in order to use the entire lot for this purpose, the lot needed to be rezoned by the City. The City also had to approve our design of the parking lot as it is adjacent to Franklin Ave and has to meet certain City criteria including landscaping. A permit for demolition of the house was also required.

This whole process, begun in July, took many meetings, presentations and explanations of the affordable housing and other services provided for the community at NUP. Final City approval was not achieved until the end of January of this year.

### Capital Projects

During the year one of the boilers for the building's heating system needed to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$45,000.

A kitchen cupboard replacement program for the 84 affordable housing units was initiated with 7 apartments being completed. The total expenditure in 2013 for this purpose was \$29,949.

Originally new kitchen cupboards were planned for 12 units last year but with the decision for the Betty House to proceed, some funding planned for the kitchen cupboard replacement was diverted to the initial expenses associated with the design of the parking lot and the City approval requirements. \$10,600 was spent in 2013 for this purpose.

A water sprinkler leak in one of the Aurora College student residence apartments in February required repairs to the unit, two adjacent apartments and apartments immediately below at a cost of approximately \$21,000.

The carpet in the auditorium of the multi-purpose area was also replaced at a cost of \$22,465.

### Multi-Purpose Area

The two floors of the Multi Purpose area continued to be used extensively by many non profit and community organizations, government departments and private companies for meetings and other functions.

As the day to day management is carried out by the Church through the Office Manager, the attached report from the Yellowknife United Church highlights the use over the past year.

The use of the Multi-Purpose area by these types of organizations was one of the major objectives when NUP was being conceived and is outlined in the Letters Patent for the Corporation.

### Church Outreach

Again in 2012 the Yellowknife United Church Youth Group under the direction and coordination of Karen Hamre and Janice Daly, planted, watered and weeded the planters at- the front of NUP and along the full patio. The plants and flowers were appreciated by our tenants, especially our housing tenants.

The Thursday morning gathering in the seniors lounge for tea, coffee and goodies is appreciated by a regular group of housing tenants who look forward to this weekly event.

### Future Priorities

The approved budget for 2014 is just under 3 million at \$2,954,000 and is a balanced budget. The budget covers all operational and maintenance costs plus a replacement reserve for kitchen equipment and cupboards and replacement of equipment and systems throughout the building. All the revenue required to operate NUP comes from the commercial and housing tenants of NUP.

Now that we have all the required approvals from the City for our new parking lot, a major priority will be the removal of the house ,disconnection of water and sewer, filling, leveling , paving and the provision of electrical

outlets for approximately 24 parking stalls.

A significant financial commitment will be needed in 2014 and the continuation of the kitchen cupboard replacement programs for this year will depend on the final cost that will be necessary to prepare the parking lot to both meet our parking needs and the City's design requirements.

This parking, along with our existing underground parking, is essential to meet both the current and future parking needs at Northern United Place.

Finally, for the sixth or seventh year, the YKUC Youth Group and some adult helpers, planned, planted, and nurtured colourful flowers and "harvestables" for the benefit of NUP residents and all who pass by Northern United Place

Yellowknife United Church would very much like to thank the NWT Community Services Corporation for providing the funding for this garden year after year.

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NWT COMMUNITY SERVICES CORPORATION  
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2013  
ON THE USE OF THE MULTI PURPOSE AREA OF NORTHERN UNITED PLACE**

During 2013 Yellowknife United Church (the Church) held regular Sunday services in the Auditorium and, by agreement, the Chapel was designated to and used by the Holy Family Lutheran congregation for Sunday services:

The Multipurpose Area (MPA) provides private office space for the Ministers of both congregations and a separate office for the Administrator of the MPA. The Administrator, a paid employee of Yellowknife United Church, looks after the operation of the MPA on behalf of the Church.

in 2013 we provided permanent weekly meeting space to 10 Outreach groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, TOPS, Overeaters Anonymous and Scouts. Periodic on-going donated space was also given to two community arts groups — YK Watercolour Society and the YK Choral Society. There were 49 events under the heading of "Special Events" which include YK United Church events to which the broader Yellowknife community was invited, such as:

- Somali Night on February 2 (with over 140 attendees) in aid of a Somali refugee,
- Remember Me from 73?, dinner theatre played to a packed crowd on March 2
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, February 12
- Annual garage sale, April 27
- Annual UCW Christmas Tea and Sale, November 30

In addition to other YKUC and to Holy Family Lutheran Church events, the MPA was used for a number of private party rentals, memorials, weddings, etc. Additionally, there were 30 miscellaneous rentals that were donated to community groups.

Community non-profit groups made up the largest portion of rental contracts at 82 and included groups such as the YWCA, YK Community Gardens Collective, Condo Corps, the Alzheimer's Society, etc. These rentals were made at the reduced "community" rate.

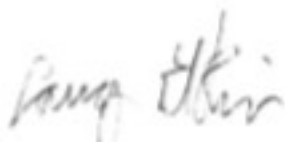
There were 67 rentals considered to be commercial and included Aurora College, GNWT departments (in particular Education, Culture and Employment and Human Resources), NWT Courts, Northways Consulting, etc. There were 14 small business rental contracts which included Make Peace Mondays, a toddler music class, craft sale, and 62 Degrees North.

in November 2013 Yellowknife United Church became an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada. The Vision Statement adopted by Yellowknife United Church in part reads: "We are dedicated to being a community which welcomes and includes everybody, celebrating the diversity of our age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, ethnicity, and socio-economic circumstance." This welcome includes how we use the MPA.

The housing tenants of Northern United appreciate the central location of NUP in Yellowknife with reasonable access to shopping, medical and dental care and other services located in the downtown core. They also appreciate the commitment to regular maintenance, capital improvements and the provision of security services in the building. The Board is committed to continuing to provide good quality facilities for both our housing tenants, commercial tenants and the many volunteer and community organizations served by NUP in the multi-purpose area.

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Larry Elkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry Elkin,  
President.  
NWTCS

## REPORT FROM PRESBYTERY 2014

As your Presbytery representative....

I go to meetings as a liaison between Yellowknife United Church and Northern Lights Presbytery, which are encompassed on the next level by Alberta Northwest Conference.

Geographically this includes communities north of Edmonton presbytery, as well as some in northern B.C., Yukon and Northwest Territories. Twice a year we travel to whichever community is hosting us for a weekend, to attend to business that is important to these governing bodies and sometimes some issues that come to us from National Council.

This year in September I went to Valleyview, Ab, and in Feb. to Grande Prairie, Ab. In November I travelled to Red Deer, Ab. to attend a Triennium event. This was an event which was mandated by General Council to happen in each conference at approximately the half year mark between General Councils (which meet every three years). This was due to the fact that the annual provincial conferences were getting too expensive to fund, and therefore this was seen as a viable alternative for now.

The Triennium event (Glad and Generous Hearts) was not meant to be for business. It was mindfully set up to be for the rejuvenation and sustenance of clergy and lay people alike as we strive to find the energy and resources to continue to do the work we do in Christ's name in this world, with an ever-shrinking resource base. Small rural community churches and big city churches are both facing similar problems, so we came together to share our stories about what has worked and what hasn't worked for each of us. A sense of great fellowship and support was experienced among the membership as we went from large groups to smaller groups, from listening, to contemplating, to praying, to participating, from tears to laughter, and much, much singing (with gusto). Former Yellowknifers were met (with big shouts of surprise and bigger hugs), and new friends made. A success by all accounts...except for the snowstorm that threatened to trap us all there another day.

This year in September, Yellowknife United Church will be hosting the Northern Lights Presbytery meeting. The membership are looking forward to this with much anticipation, and even though most of our time is taken up with business, we are going to try to set a little time aside to give them a wonderful northern experience. I feel privileged to be able to be your representative in this endeavour and thank you for this opportunity.

Your servant in faith,  
Cynthia Creed

Cynthia,