



Yellowknife United Church Annual Report 2015

for the Annual Meeting:
Sunday, May 24th, 2015
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

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.

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!

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Yellowknife United Church
Congregation Meeting May 24, 2015

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Voting Rights Motion: Mover/Seconders "Move to approve all present including adherents to vote on matters of a temporal nature."
3. Approval of the Agenda Motion: Mover/Seconders "Move to accept the agenda as presented or amended".
4. Time for Adjournment
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Financial Meeting February 8, 2015. Motion: Mover/Seconders "Move to accept the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of February 8, 2015 [with the correction of ...].
6. Business Arising from Annual Congregational Financial Meeting February 8, 2015.
7. Annual Reports Motion: Mover/Seconders "Move to accept Committee Reports as presented in the 2015 Annual Report of Yellowknife United Church"
8. Financial Report Motion Mover/Seconders "Move the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented."
9. Report of the Nominating Committee and Call for nominations from the floor
Motion: Mover/Seconders "Move to adopt the slate as presented and accept the Nominations Committee Report".
10. Signing Authorities Motion: Mover/Seconders "move that the signing authorities for the Yellowknife United Church Accounts #xxxx and #yyyy be any two of the following: [Name] (Chair); [Name] (Vice-Chair); [Name] (Secretary); [Name] (Treasurer); [Name] (Office Administrator)."
11. Congregational Concerns and Committee Comments
12. Date of next Congregational Meeting
13. Adjournment Mover/Seconders "Move to adjourn meeting @x:xx pm."

**Yellowknife United Church Congregational
Financial Meeting February 8, 2015**

Congregational Chairperson: John Stewart
Congregational Secretary: Kathy Burns

Present: Kathy Burns, John Stewart, Randy Wedel, Sean Daly, John Soderberg, Janice Daly, Lloyd Henderson, Barb Paquin, Lindsay Chiasson, Margaret Melhorn, Karen Wilford, Nancy Trotter, Audrey MacDougall, Gary MacDougall, Gwyneth Davis, Terrilyn Hayden, Paula MacFadyen, Kathryn Walker, Margaret Henderson, Peter Chynoweth, Elaine Stewart, Sharon Chynoweth, Paul Falvo

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer – John Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:25pm and Peter Chynoweth opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Voting Rights- Motion: Janice Daly/Nancy Trotter “Move to approve all present including adherents to vote on matters of a temporal nature.” Carried.
3. Approval of the Agenda - Motion: Lloyd Henderson/Randy Wedel “Move to approve the agenda as presented.” Carried.
4. Time for Adjournment – 1:15pm
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting May 25, 2014 – Motion: Margaret Melhorn/Barb Paquin “Move to accept the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting May 25, 2014 as presented with the correction of the names of Lindsay Chiasson and Sophia Wadowska.” Carried.
6. Business Arising from the May 25, 2014 Meeting – None
7. Financial Information –
 - a) Review of 2014 Statements – Lindsay Chiasson presented this information. Peter Chynoweth brought forward the idea that the manse should be added to the assets. Note made that the statements need to be reviewed each year and an audit done every three years. Motion: Lindsay Chiasson/Margaret Melhorn “Move accept the Review of the 2014 Financial Statements as presented.” Carried.
 - b) Budget 2015 – The 2015 Budget was presented by Lindsay Chiasson, the board treasurer. There was some discussion around the building usage being down and what could be done to increase the desirability of our meeting spaces. Motion: Lindsay Chiasson/Randy Wedel “Move to approve the proposed 2015 Budget as presented.” Carried.
8. Congregational Concerns – Elaine Stewart thanked Lindsay Chiasson for all her hard work. Paul Falvo thanked the congregation for welcoming him into our midst.
9. Adjournment - Motion: John Soderberg/Elaine Stewart “Move to adjourn the meeting at 1:08pm.” Carried.

United in God's Work

I have unashamedly borrowed the title of the final report from the national Comprehensive Review Task Group for this report to this congregation, Yellowknife United Church, of The United Church of Canada.

I will say more about the consequences of that report a bit later in this one, but first let me spend some time looking back. I will begin by considering the 'looking forward' that I did when I wrote my report for the 2014 Annual Meeting.

In May 2014 we were busy with a number of short term projects which meant that we could not look too far into the future. Some people might express concern about setting our sights too closely, taking into account Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* As you probably know, I am not one who deals with life by quoting bible verses, and especially from the King James Version, but that particular verse in that particular version is a good one.

The first short term project was the arrival of Alison Mock and her family. Alison and the people of Yellowknife United Church had negotiated a four month internship, an event which first of all presented some very practical concerns such as taking possession of a donated apartment and making it liveable. The internship was the first to occur, but it was also the longest lasting. As I am sure you will know, the internship experience was all that we hoped it could be and more. The presence of Alison, along with her partner Derek and their children and Sarah and Jamie, was a wonderful addition to our congregation. The internship added much to our ministry as a congregation and it was also a wonderful and busy addition to my work in ministry with not only the opportunity to provide supervision but also to work with a colleague. It was a good thing for everyone concerned.

Only three weeks into the fall season, we had taken up the challenge to host a presbytery meeting. Northern Lights Presbytery tries to hold a meeting in one of the more geographically remote locations every five years. So, it was our turn. For some of our southern friends and colleagues in other pastoral charges in the presbytery, the hosting of a meeting of presbytery is a challenging, but also a bit more frequent occurrence. Having delegates arrive for the most part all together on a bus and then be responsible for showing them around and feeding them, was an extra responsibility. As expected, the people of Yellowknife United Church stood up to the challenge and the responsibility and we can feel very good about having hosted a well remembered and appreciated meeting. I, for one, was extremely proud of the work we did in hosting the meeting, and we received many fine comments from those who were in attendance.

Not that long after the presbytery meeting we had the wonderful privilege of welcoming Moderator, Gary Paterson to Yellowknife as the first stop on a visit to Alberta and Northwest Conference. It was a short but very packed itinerary and it was heartening to see so many people who were able to set aside time on two successive weekday evenings to come and listen and interact with Gary, as he described to us what he had been encountering in his time as Moderator and especially in his time working with the Comprehensive Review Task Group.

It is fitting that the visit of Gary Paterson and his involvement in the work of the Comprehensive Review should form a bookend to the busy time we experienced in the fall of 2014, because it will provide a helpful segue into the "looking forward" part of this report.

I believe it is natural and normal that we have taken some time in the beginning part of 2015 to step back from the extra busyness we experienced in the fall. I also cannot look back without acknowledging the way in which you rallied to support me and our family in the time surrounding the illness and death of my mother, Esther Chynoweth. We will be eternally grateful that it was made easy for us to drop everything and go to Ontario to be with her during her final days with hardly a worry about what would be happening "back home" while we were gone for a week of vacation that turned into three weeks of being away.

But what about the future now that we don't have some upcoming events to plan for? Are we in danger of perishing because of the lack of vision?

Of course, that is a question I cannot answer because it is not up to me. It's a question we all have to set our minds and hearts upon, and it is the individual, but more importantly, the collective answers that we come upon that will help us to know.

However, I can offer a few insights and reflections.

First, it is not a bad thing at all, nor is it a sign of a lack of mission to be focussed on the near future. We discovered in the fall of 2014 that we are a skilled and capable and trustworthy group of people. We had some things to do and not only did we do them, but we did them well. We did them in inspiring and affirming ways.

We do not always need to focus on five year or ten year plans in order to have a vision. However, if we are to avoid having to look that far into the future, it is important to set some short term goals and projects. We were fortunate to have some portion of all our fall projects land in our laps. The presbytery meeting happened upon our invitation, but it was also in the schedule, and the visit of Gary Paterson was initiated by the General Council office. Even the internship came about because we were contacted first.

Perhaps it is our mission to respond to the call of others, but we cannot always expect it to be that way. And so, the challenge is to find ways to be God's church in this place in the months and years that lie before us.

One of the clear messages that has come about through the Comprehensive Review is that The United Church of Canada occupies a unique place in the Christian church. It's a place that is hard to define until we look like we might lose it. It's a place where liberal and progressive ideas are welcomed, a place where the social gospel is important, a place where questions are valued as much as answers, a place where people are welcomed for who and what they are.

I have become increasingly aware over the past year that Yellowknife United Church is clearly within that tradition. It has helped to have the perspective of outsiders (even if they are church insiders) to help us understand our persona as a community of faith. This has happened partially through the insights of Alison Mock, Gary Paterson and the Northern Lights Presbytery delegates who spent time with us, but also through other contacts and encounters.

And so as we look forward I would encourage us to consider that ministry that God has in store for us – to be people of integrity, to be people who value the story and integrity of others, to be people who dig deeply into issues of faith and justice, to be unafraid to ask hard questions, and to challenge easy answers. It will probably be difficult. Our very future might rest in the consequences – whether we work too hard at it, or not hard enough.

I also encourage you to consider the other reports in this document for the story they tell. What do they say about who we are and why we do what we do? What do they say about the way we should travel into the future.

Don't be afraid. God's love is stronger, God's love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid, God's love is stronger and God has promised, promised to be always near.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Chynoweth

In Memoriam

Robert Tait
John Leonardis

October 1, 2014
December 30, 2014

Baptisms

Nicholas Nathaniel George Negiyoloak Anavilok
Eva Louis Flahr Prescott
Jessa Betty Brown
Jaron Jimmy Brown

December 21, 2014
December 21, 2014
February 8, 2015
February 8, 2015

Board Chair Report 2014-2015

This year was busy as usual and full of many great highpoints. Together, as a congregation, the Yellowknife United Church was successful in undertaking a number of major events, along with continuing to handle all of the regular initiatives and some new ones too.

Yellowknife United Church hosted the Northern Lights Presbytery September 2014 meeting. Presbytery members enthusiastically made the journey up the MacKenzie Highway to be greeted with much warmth from the Yellowknife United Church congregation. By all accounts they had a successful meeting and enjoyed their experience in Yellowknife.

The Moderator of the United Church of Canada, Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson, visited in October 2014. During that time the Yellowknife United Church congregation had an excellent opportunity to meet with him and have a thought-provoking discussion that included a variety of topics, including affirming ministry and the United Church of Canada Comprehensive Review.

The Pastoral Oversight Visit took place in November 2014. Rev. Bev Brazier and Rev. Jim Patterson conducted the pastoral visit, which takes place every three years. This last visit was timed to coincide near to when the Yellowknife United Church was hosting the Presbytery meeting. It too was a success.

Alison Mock joined Yellowknife United Church's pastoral team in the fall of 2014 for a four month internship period (September – December 2014). Alison, her husband Derek, and children Sarah and Jamie, were quickly embraced by everyone and under the excellent mentorship of Rev. Peter Chynoweth, Alison and he made a terrific team. The Chair of the Conference Committee on Internship and Education Supervision, Alberta and Northwest Conference, was kind enough to write to the Yellowknife United Church and express its appreciation to the Church for hosting Alison's internship. She has successfully gone on to pass her examination and will be ordained as a minister of the United Church of Canada on June 7th.

Also of note is that, in April 2015, the Yellowknife United Church had an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the United Church of Canada Comprehensive Review Report. The report contains the recommendations of the Comprehensive Review Task Group with respect to major changes to the United Church of Canada that they envision will "revitalize and nurture a range of ministries, simplify governance and administration, and enable the church to live within its resources". The Yellowknife United Church congregation had an opportunity to meet together in April to discuss the report and recommendations from that discussion were passed on to Presbytery.

A great deal of coordination and planning goes into the undertakings and initiatives of the Yellowknife United Church throughout the year. I extend a huge thank you to the Committee Chairs and members for the dedication of your time and talents to support the work of the church. It is greatly appreciated.

We look forward again this year to continued fellowship and working together.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula MacFadyen

Outreach Committee Annual Report - May 2015

"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, Kathryn Walker and Peter Chynoweth (ex-officio). Barb Paquin is also a member of the Refugee committee.

Refugee Sponsorship Update

Yellowknife United Church has been sponsoring Abdi Adan Adow, a Somali refugee currently in Malta, in his application to move to Canada. In late 2012, we agreed to sponsor Abdi along with his sister Sadia as co-sponsor. In fall of 2014 we were notified that Abdi's application to come to Canada had been rejected by the Canadian Embassy. It was a 'paper rejection' – they did not interview Abdi, but rejected his application because he is living in Malta and they consider his situation there to be a durable solution. We disagree and we have been working with the United Church of Canada and a human rights lawyer to appeal this decision. The appeal was done jointly with other refugees living in Malta who also received paper rejections. Very recently we heard that the appeal was successful and the Government of Canada has agreed to re-consider Abdi's case. In the meantime, our co-sponsor, Abdi's sister Sadia, moved to Toronto. We think it is now more likely that Abdi would come to Toronto instead of Yellowknife, if his application is successful. We are now in the process of trying to determine what role Yellowknife United Church might play in continuing sponsorship of Abdi

Local and National Outreach

On April 22nd, Outreach partnered with the Yellowknife Amnesty group to present the documentary film *La Defensora*. An award-winning documentary film, *La Defensora* tells the story of Mayan Q'eqchi communities in eastern Guatemala who are struggling to protect their land and communities, and who are now seeking justice in the Canadian court system against the nickel-mining company Hudbay Minerals.

Again this year 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.

On behalf of Outreach, Kathryn Walker organized a team in the second annual Coldest Night of the Year fundraising walk. February 21st a four member team, Janice Daly, Anya Smillie, Kathryn and Sarah Walker, also known as the Awesome United Church Walkers, completed the whole 5 km route. A small but mighty team, they raised the amazing sum of \$1,285.00, the fifth highest total out of the eleven Yellowknife teams. Thank you to the team and also to everyone who donated to the cause. Most of the money raised goes to the Salvation Army's services for homeless people. A special thank you to Janice, who pulled Bella, Sarah's younger sister, a reluctant participant, in a sled for most of the 5 kilometres!

Outreach is part of an ad hoc group tasked to making improvements to the rental facilities of NUP. Last year phone lines were added so conference calls are now possible. New chairs were bought for Room 205. A conference phone is still needed, and some form of projection/monitor system (like a large TV screen) is also needed for the upstairs. Discussions are continuing with the ad hoc group and the Board.

Rental procedures were reviewed in September 2014.

During the summer when Yellowknife's homeless Day Shelter was closed the Outreach Committee was able to provide sandwiches four times over the summer. We got together to make the sandwiches, which was easy and fun. It gave us a chance to socialize, and after the first time we got pretty efficient at making and bagging

30 sandwiches at a time, assembly-line style. The kids really enjoyed it and decided we weren't allowed to make the sandwiches without them!

Intergenerational Garden

Our newest project is an exciting partnership. We are helping to facilitate an intergenerational garden located at the Mildred Hall school.

The idea of the Intergenerational Garden grew from interactions between the youth, who were watering the garden boxes on the NUP deck and residents of NUP. Last year for the first time, residents helped choose plants for the gardens, and participated in the watering schedule. More vegetables were planted, which proved very popular. Several residents expressed the desire to grow more vegetables, and to have their own garden boxes. Options were investigated for a space to garden. After research and neighbourhood conversations, an opportunity with the Yellowknife School Board district 1 (YK 1) Headquarters took root. Planning meetings have been held between the project partners.

Unfortunately discussions to try and get composting of food waste happening in Aurora College, Northern United Place and the church did not progress this year.

International Outreach

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

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

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 seven groups who have committed to providing volunteer drivers once every seven weeks.

Special thanks to the following who helped out during the past year: Sharon Cormier, Cappy Elkin, Lynn Elkin, Brad Hall, Heather Hall, Tom Hall, Karen Hamre, Terrilyn Hayden, Lloyd Henderson, Sonia Hewlko, Stuart Oldham, Jessica Schmidt, Greg Short, John Soderberg and Elaine Stewart. 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 seven 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.27-July 3, Aug.15-21, Oct.3-9, and Nov.21-27.

Thanks!

Jeannette Hall
MOW Coordinator

Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee

Committee Members

Margaret Melhorn: Chair
Greg Short
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 Administrator, Gwyneth Davis and would like to take this opportunity to once again thank them for their service to our congregation.

In November 2014 the Committee met with the Pastoral Oversight team and were reassured to hear that things are functioning as desired.

One of our regular “standby” office support individuals, June Van Dine, relocated to Alberta in 2014. We were very sorry to see her go. June was always willing to come in to keep the office open when the Office Administrator was away, often with little notice. We thank her for her willingness to work in the office when needed and wish her well in her new home. The M&P Committee, by the way, is looking for individuals who are willing to work in the office on a standby basis. Anyone interested can contact any one of us.

Respectfully submitted by

Margaret Melhorn

for the M&P Committee

United Church Women – 2014/15 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 organized and sold bannock, muffins, cookies and coffee at the Garage Sale at the beginning of May.

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 – Center for Northern Families, Alison McAteer House, YWCA, Salvation Army, YK Food Bank, our Ministry Intern, Betty House, money set aside for bulletin folders and instead of the Western Women's Conference, support was provided to two of our musicians to attend musicians conference in Red Deer (Elizabeth Brace and Sharon Chynoweth).

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 – 2014/15 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:

Margaret 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 catering for the Presbytery weekend, two Christmas Bazaars, 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.

Upcoming events for the coming year will include the fall supper, a Celebration Hymn sing, and two Christmas Bazaars 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

The Community Life and Membership (CLAM) Committee is responsible for the care of our church family. This is lived out in several different ways.

CLAM ensures that the tasks required for worship (Reader, Greeter, Candlelighter, Opening/Closing Hosts and Nursery Caregiver) are filled each week by congregation members. We tried several approaches to encourage congregation members to share of their time this year including a sign-up flip chart along with the clipboard sign-up sheets. A group email list of people willing to help with worship on short notice was also implemented. Task sheets were updated to reflect some changes in duties each week. Thank you to everyone who assists with worship in this way.

YKUC welcomed many new faces this year. In order for everybody to get to know each other, the name tag system was updated – brand new name tags were printed and there is an opportunity for new people to make a temporary tag when they first come to church. It's good to remember that while the long-time members all know each other, new people feel more at ease to see a name tag.

Our friends at the Lutheran Church joined YKUC folk in cleaning and tidying up the nursery at the end of August. A small table and four chairs were purchased and are placed in the auditorium during worship so little ones can play quietly but still be close to the grownups they came with. We have several wee church goers who have highlighted the need for a Nursery Caregiver during worship. Many thanks to all who have given of their time to care for our little ones each Sunday morning.

The Annual Fall Supper, held on October 1, 2014, was very well attended. We were delighted to welcome The Right Rev. Gary Paterson, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, to the evening. Thank you to members of Scouts Canada who came to do the kitchen clean-up so that congregation members could relax and enjoy the talk given by the Moderator.

The Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper held on February 17, 2015 fed over 100 people and raised \$800.00. Once again, the men in the congregation did a great job of set-up, clean-up and pancake flipping. Thank you also to Food Rescue for providing many of the ingredients for the meal.

In November and March, care packages were sent to our post-secondary students. The packages included photos of YKUC at work and play, the newsletter and the ever popular Tim's card. Twenty-one students were remembered by YKUC in this way.

Once again, congregation members enjoyed two family-centred events – Bowling Night and Games Night. Each year the number of participants increases and everybody has a great time. An Advent Craft Dinner featuring mac and cheese for lunch and a child-oriented Advent craft was held on the first Sunday of Advent after worship.

The YKUC Newsletter is published three times a year and continues to be an important way to strengthen our connection with each other. We are grateful to everyone who takes the time to write an article, to Sean Daly for being our resident photographer, to Gillian Moir who is our editor and to Mel Dumont for layout and design.

There are 26 subscribers to the Observer magazine. Thank you to Kathy Burns for coordinating the subscriptions each year.

CLAM committee members were: Elizabeth Brace, Sharon Chynoweth, Arlene Cliffe-Phillips, Sean Daly, and Rev. Peter Chynoweth (Ex-officio)

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Chynoweth

Christian Development Committee Report 2014/15

The mandate of the Christian Development (CD) Committee, according to our church by-laws, is to support the Sunday School, develop adult study programs, oversee preparation for Confirmation, oversee the Scouting movement, arrange oversight of baptism and marriage preparation, maintain and promote the use of the reading room and nurture projects or events that promote Christian development.

After several dormant years, the CD Committee was revived this year. We are grateful to the dedicated Sunday School teachers for carrying on over the past few years with no committee to support them. This year the five teachers, Janice Daly, Sandy Little, Kathryn Walker, Lindsay Chiasson and Joanna Wilson, taught on a schedule of roughly four weeks at a time each with all Sunday School age children together in the same class. They used the Whole People of God curriculum and taught five students per week on average. Sunday School teacher appreciation took place during worship on May 24.

In the fall, the CD Committee organized a much needed clean-up of the Sunday School supply room. The Lutheran Church tidied their side of the supply room at the same time. Then we tackled the reading room by culling books and cleaning the room. The books that were on bookcases in the auditorium were sorted and moved to the reading room.

The Youth Group came together several times during the year to complete projects. They donated the \$2000.00 they had raised over the previous year to Betty House (now called Lynn's Place), set up for the fall supper, planted and tended the summer garden at Northern United Place (with funding from the Community Services Corporation), and sold Christmas bags and ornaments to raise funds for donations of \$250.00 each to Alison McAteer House, Warm Feet for the Street and Lynn's Place.

The church sponsors the Scouting movement by providing free space for the Monday night meetings of 18 Beavers and 14 Cubs. Yellowknife Scouts volunteered at the church's fall supper by clearing tables and doing dishes while the congregation listened to guest speaker, Moderator Gary Paterson.

The CD Committee, with help from Sarah Bath, began a book club in January. The club met monthly to discuss books on a variety of religious themes; attendance was from four to six people each month.

Finally, in May, the CD Committee, in conjunction with returning university student Johanna Stewart, organized the church's participation in the City clean-up. About 30 participants successfully cleaned two areas for a donation of \$1000.00 that is intended for children's and youth activities.

The CD Committee is composed of Scouting representative Denise Drouin, Barb Paquin and Rev. Peter Chynoweth in an ex-officio capacity. We were grateful for the assistance of intern Alison Mock in the fall and occasional participation of Sunday School teachers and the Youth Group leader at committee meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Paquin

Affirm Committee

The goal of the Affirm Committee is to continue our vision of making Yellowknife United Church a safe, welcoming and inclusive place with special emphasis on being welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Part of this goal is to continue working to educate the congregation and the public about LGBTTTQQ issues.

This year we accomplished this in a number of ways:

A number of new people have started attending church, quite a few who have expressed to various members that the fact that YKUC is now an Affirming Ministry had been what drew them to our church.

We met with the United Church Moderator, The Right Rev. Gary Paterson, in October to discuss our goals and what it means to be an Affirming Ministry.

Some members of the Affirm Committee and our minister, Peter Chynoweth met with Iris Hamlyn, the Executive Director of the Side Door Ministry and Youth Centre, to explore the Side Door's commitment to inclusiveness of LGBTTTQQ youth. This issue came up because of a concern shared by Peter and members of the Affirm Committee that a large amount of public funds (approximately \$600,000) had been given to what we knew in the past was an evangelical and homophobic Christian organization, to open what will be the only hostel for youth in the NWT. We came away from the meeting pleasantly surprised at how much the Side Door has changed in the last few years, and how progressive their policies and practices are in regards to LGBTTTQQ youth.

We let NWT Pride know that they could have free use of our meeting space because we support the work they do. They held their AGM at NUP in March, 2015.

A film night was hosted on May 9, 2015 by the Affirm Committee in partnership with NWT Pride to celebrate International Anti-Homophobia Day. The feature film was "Love Free or Die", a documentary about Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church in the United States. We also showed the new short "You Are Not Alone" on mental illness, by the Department of Health and Social Services, and 2 shorts from the Inside Out Film Festival's Queer Youth Video Mentorship program. There were representatives there from FOXY, Yellowknife Public Health, "It Gets Better" and NWT Pride to share information about their programs and services that support LGBTTTQQ people. Entrance was by donation and there were free refreshments, including popcorn! About 35 people attended. The Friday before the event the Yellowknifer published an excellent article by reporter Megan Leonard. This event was our first successful collaboration with NWT Pride, and other LGBTTTQQ positive organizations in Yellowknife and we look forward to further collaboration in the future.

Members of the Affirm Committee are: Donna Allen, Kathy Burns, Sharon Chynoweth, Janice Daly, Lorne Gushue, Marg Henderson, Nancy Trotter, Kathryn Walker

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Walker

Property & Maintenance Annual Report

For the Property and Maintenance Committee, 2014-2015 has been a quiet year. There were very few problems at the manse once the renovations were completed and a couple of small items that have arisen, will be taken care of very soon.

New phone lines were installed in the multi purpose area to allow phones to be used in the upstairs rooms as well as a more convenient and neater installation in the Auditorium. We are currently working on investing in a “spider phone” and this will enhance our capabilities of offering tele-conferencing to our renters.

We have reorganized the rooms of the Multi purpose area by moving some older cabinets out and purchasing some newer looking cupboards and also along with the ad-hoc committee for modernizing our space, we have purchased new chairs for two of the upstairs rooms and repaired several of the older chairs.

It is hoped that later this year we will be able to purchase some new tables for the rental area and we are currently also looking at more updates for our multi-media equipment.

Thank you to Greg Short for assisting Property and Maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Oldham

Worship Committee Report 2014-2015

Close your eyes and imagine for a moment a beautiful stained glass window. Think of the beautiful shapes of coloured glass, and how the combined shapes create meaning as the light of the sun streams through. As I write this, that's how I'm thinking of our combined work that creates worship. God's light streaming through all the shapes and colours of what we bring. And what colours and shapes, in this past year, have come together?

Among them.....

We are so grateful for the gift of working with Alison Mock over the four months of September – December. Our worship was so enhanced by her creativity, love for liturgy, and enthusiastic energy. We'll particularly remember her imprint in two drama themed services: *Moses: This is Your Life!* (thanks to talk show host Lorne, and to Miriam and Aaron for showing up that Sunday), and *The One-of-a-Kind-Aurora-Traditional-Northern-Handmade-Caribou-Old-Town-Photography-GlassWorks-Recycled-Beaded-Ptarmigan-Community CRAFT SHOW*. Thanks to all who contributed photos (especially Larry Elkin) that created our projected slide show showing all the volunteer work that our congregation does for our church and wider community. Thanks too, to the lay supervision committee for Alison (Barb Paquin, Lorne Gushue and Elaine Stewart) for their support in her time here and to Peter Chynoweth for his supervision, support and guidance in her learning.

The Service of Comfort in December was gratefully received by the many who came from our community. Special thanks to Karen Wilford for creating and leading a beautiful and meaningful service on the theme of 'water'. Karen is still involved in the lay leadership training within our church conference, but we also recognize her already seasoned and wise leadership in the many ways that she contributes to our worship life.

Our ministry of music continues to be nurtured through the leadership of Elizabeth Brace and key musician, Sharon Chynoweth. In a 'long past due' gesture, the worship committee provided encouragement and financial support to Elizabeth and Sharon to attend the *Music Matters!* weekend workshop in Red Deer last September. Thanks so much to these two for their unflagging leadership and generosity as music is featured in our worship each week. Thanks, too, to the faithful choir members: Randy Wedel, Sean Daly, Peter Chynoweth, Gillian Moir, Gwyneth Davis, Margaret Henderson, Elaine Stewart, Laurie Gault, Fiona Donnelly-Rheaume, Rachel Munday, and Paula MacFadyen – the small but mighty choir that earned 88% (!) on their two selections in an adjudicated music festival in April.

I'd like to take a few lines to highlight the creative and thoughtful work of Janice Daly who we lightly refer to as 'bringing all things decorating' to our committee. But her contribution is so much more than this. The most recent evidence was the way that the Lenten visual displays supported the themes of 'covenants with God', with the layers of colour, texture and meaning unfolding each week. Janice creates all the visual interpretation in our Thanksgiving, Advent/Christmas, Service of Comfort, Lent/Easter services, along with many other special things along the way... all to our blessing.

On the March 22 weekend we enjoyed a prayer-writing workshop led by Ray McGinnis, former staff member at national church office. Those who attended the learning event played with a number of forms for writing various types of prayers that aligned with the lectionary themes. Thanks to those who have been willing to share their prayer writing since that experience and also to Peter and Sharon who hosted Ray in their home over that weekend.

We had two joint worship services with the Lutherans this past year: November 23 and April 26. It's great to have generous and like-minded neighbours just across the hall, and the question has been raised that we might consider combining our resources for the mutual benefit and growth of our congregations more often.

Thanks to our minister, Peter who guides our worship and learning all through the year. Peter is so gifted at seeing possibilities and in making connections, and he's never reluctant about exploring and trying things that are new. And although this report features many 'special events', it is Peter's work to provide the worship experiences that nurture and support our individual growth and corporate faith work Sunday by Sunday, all year long.

There are so many others who have brought their particular colour to our worship 'window'. In addition to those mentioned above we'd also like to thank Sean Daly, Kathy Burns, Derek and Sarah Mock, Sarah Walker, Sophia Wadowska, Brenda Tittlemier, Krystal Thompson, Katey Simmons, Margaret Melhorn, Donna Allen, Lloyd Henderson, Rachel Munday, Jeannette Hall, Peter Workman, Kirk Tastad and Cherie Jarock, and Paul Andrew.

With gratitude,

The Worship Committee:

Elaine Stewart, Lorne Gushue, Karen Wilford, Sophia Wadowska, Brenda Tittlemier, Rachel Munday, Janice Daly

NWT Community Services Corporation Report - 2014-2015

As the Annual General Meeting of the NWT Community Services Corporation occurred in mid April, the Annual Report presented at the meeting covers the major activities for the last year. A copy is attached.

The following brief outline provides information on any new activities since the AGM on April 12th.

At the AGM Randy Wedel was elected to serve another 3 year term as a Church Director and Susan Ashton was elected to a 3 year term as a Church Director. The commitment to serve on the Board for Northern United Place is much appreciated and is important to significant services provided to Yellowknife both for affordable housing in the community and meeting space for many volunteer, non profit and community groups.

Aurora College has confirmed again its intention to exercise the 2 year extension of the existing lease which expires at the end of August 2015. This is extremely important both because the campus and student housing is consistent with the mandate for Northern United place and because the economic viability of NUP is strongly dependant on this commitment from the Government of the NWT.

Larry Elkin
President
NWT Community Services Corporation.

**Annual General Meeting of Members of the Corporation
April 12, 2015**

**Presidents Report on behalf of the Board of Directors,
NWT Community Services Corporation -
Northern United Place.**

Vision, Mandate and Obligations

Northern United Place is now 39 years old and in 2016 we will be celebrating 40 years of service to the residents of Yellowknife. It is timely, therefore, to ensure all members of the Corporation fully understand the original vision, mandate and obligations associated with Northern United Place. The members of the NWT Community Services Corporation are the members of Yellowknife United Church, the Minister of the Yellowknife Church and the Community Directors of the Corporation.

Northern United Place originated with Rev. Jim Ormiston, the Yellowknife United Church Minister back in the 1970's. The congregation of the church supported the concept to dispose of the church located on 2 lots of the existing NUP site and replace it with a community complex that would both help meet affordable housing needs in Yellowknife and provide meeting space for many non-profit, volunteer and community organizations. The Government of the NWT supported this vision and concept and donated 3 GNWT owned lots to the project. There has not been any government funding provided toward the annual cost of operating and maintaining Northern United Place. The GNWT, however, has provided an anchor tenant for NUP ever since the building opened in 1976. The Government has met some of the office and other space needs of the GNWT and its agencies, through the rental of space in NUP over the past 39 years.

The GNWT is well aware that the financial ability to provide subsidized housing and meeting space for many volunteer, community and non profit organizations is highly dependant on the GNWT practice of providing an anchor tenant. In return for this support, the Corporation and its members are committed to meeting the original common vision of the Yellowknife United Church and the Government of the NWT.

A non profit corporation was established to oversee construction and to operate and manage Northern United Place. The NWT Community Services Corporation was incorporated federally under the Canada Corporations Act.

The letters patent for the Corporation set out the purpose;

- 1 to provide accommodation for, among others, the poor, needy, elderly, handicapped, recent arrivals, visitors and transients in Yellowknife.
- 2 To provide food, beverages and meeting places and other facilities for among others, religious, educational, charitable and voluntary organizations.

The Capital costs were provided by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation responsible for a National Housing Program in Canada. Funding was provided through a 50-year loan to "construct a housing project for persons of low income." The agreement between CMHC and the NWT Community Services Corporation outlines in considerable detail the number and type of housing to be provided through the project. As long as the obligations outlined in the agreement are maintained throughout the 50 year term of the agreement and the loan is fully paid off then a 10% grant by CMHC, provided as

deferred government assistance, will not have to be repaid by the NWT Community Services Corporation.

Several years ago the NWT Housing Corporation was given responsibility for administering CMHC's portfolio of properties in the NWT. The Housing Corporation has the authority to approve the annual O&M and Capital budget for the NWTCSC. The Housing Corporation regularly approves our rental structure. The Housing Corporation has the authority to inspect NUP to ensure ongoing consistency with the loan agreement. The Housing Corporation is provided with the annual audited statements for the NWTCSC ,as required.

Through the 84 apartments a broad range of tenants are provided with affordable housing. At the present, 34 units are occupied by a combination of seniors and persons with physical disabilities and the remaining 50 units provide affordable housing for a mix of limited income tenants from communities across the NWT and new arrivals to Canada.

An additional 42 units are occupied by students from NWT communities who are attending the Yellowknife Campus of Aurora College. In total affordable housing is provided through a total of 126 apartments at Northern United Place

In addition, the multi-purpose area of NUP continues to provide quality meeting space and facilities for a broad range of community, volunteer and non-profit organizations. Several of the users are regular weekly users of various rooms and have utilized this accommodation for many years. The attached report outlines in considerable detail the use of the Multi-purpose area in 2014.

The combined housing and student residence tenants and the frequent use of the multi-purpose rooms and facilities by many groups continues to both meet the original intent of the Yellowknife United Church congregation and the purposes outlined in both the letters patent for the Corporation and the funding agreement between CMHC and the NWTCSC.

Within the broad framework above the following is an outline of the work of the NWT Community Services Corporation over the past year, 2014, and some of the major plans for 2015.

Board of Directors and Management Staff

The Directors for the Corporation and the staff responsible for operating and managing NUP were as follows for 2014.

Gary McDougal, Randy Wedel, Marg Henderson, Stuart Oldham, Gordan Hamre and Larry Elkin served as the United Church Directors. Felicito Domingo , Marg Green and Julie Green served as the three Community Directors.

Rev. Peter Chynoweth continued to attend Board meetings - schedule permitting – both to keep up to date and provide input.

Gail and Louis Leonardis provide for the overall day to day management and maintenance of Northern United Place.

Alec Wilkes is the on site maintenance employee. Kayla Gagnon is the Office Administrator manning the Corporation's office during regular working hours. Gwyn Davis, in her role as the Church Office Administrator, manages the use of the multipurpose area. Manuel Mariano and the staff of MLM Cleaning Service provide the janitorial service for NUP, snow removal and set up for chairs and tables in the multi-purpose area. Security services are provided by Aurora Security.

The overall team of Directors, staff and contractors ensure NUP is well managed and maintained. An inviting and safe environment is provided for all tenants and users of NUP.

Marg Henderson has completed her latest 3 year term as has Cito Domingo. Marg served on the Board for 9 years and Cito for 6 years. Both Marg and Cito are to be congratulated for their contributions and commitment to the work of the Corporation for many years.

Major Initiatives and Challenges in 2014.

A major and time consuming process to acquire City approval for the development of the parking lot for NUP was completed in 2014. The old house on the lot was demolished and the lot was prepared, asphalted, and electrical outlets installed. The total cost was approximately \$275,000. The new lot is fully rented by the College and housing tenants in NUP.

With the addition of this lot, along with our existing underground parking our long term parking needs at NUP will be effectively met.

A revised new parking policy was developed and approved by the Board.

The Federal Government introduced new legislation regarding non-profit organizations and under the new act, Canada Not for Profit Corporations Act, all non profit organizations incorporated Federally were required to complete both Articles for Continuance and new bylaws. This work was completed and passed by a special meeting of the Corporation's members on Sept. 14, 2015.

The Articles for Continuance and new bylaws replace the original letters of patent and our 2000 bylaws. The fundamental intent and purposes have remained the same.

Two new policies were developed for NUP.

A non-smoking policy is now in place with a small number of existing housing tenants being grandfathered. Smoking is no longer permitted in NUP.

An animal policy has also been developed consistent with the animal policy recently developed by the NWT Housing Corporation.

The joint project by the Corporation and the Church to create a common set of important historical files regarding Northern United Place, was completed in 2014. The Church's copy along with the records management index are located in a filing cabinet in the Church office.

As outlined in the Church's multi-purpose area report, both the Thursday Coffee Break for NUP residents and the flowers and herbs planted and nurtured through the summer on the deck, were much appreciated by tenant and visitors. The Yellowknife United Church Youth Group and their leaders are to be commended for their fine efforts throughout the summer

Future Priorities

The lease with Aurora College is to the end of August 2015. There is a two year extension clause and exercising this extension is very important. We are pleased that we have already been contacted by the College requesting the extension proceed. Needless to say, this is a high priority for the Corporation.

The three boilers that provide for the heating system at Northern United Place need to be replaced. Two of the boilers will be replaced in 2015 as soon as the new boilers arrive from the supplier. The cost per boiler is approximately \$50,000

The budget for the NWT Community Services Corporation is a balanced budget with revenue matching expenses. The total budget for 2015 is \$3,035,167

Any additional maintenance and capital improvements for NUP for this year will depend on the final financial figures for 2014 and any unexpected maintenance or capital requirements that occur.

The Board of Directors continues to be committed to providing good quality facilities for our housing tenants, commercial tenants and the many users of the multi-purpose area.

Larry Elkin
President
NWT CSC

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NWT COMMUNITY SERVICES CORPORATION
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014
ON THE USE OF THE MULTI PURPOSE AREA OF NORTHERN UNITED PLACE**

During 2014 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 of 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 2014, from September – December, the United Church Minister's office was taken over by the intern and the Minister would use other rooms (usually 206 or 210). We also provided permanent weekly meeting space to 9 Outreach groups, such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous, TOPS, Beavers and Cubs. We also provided temporary meeting space for several other AA groups during the summer when their regular meeting space was unavailable to them. Periodic on-going donated space was also given to five community groups, Yellowknife Watercolour Society, The Fireweed Children's Choir and three others, YWCA, (for their "Yes We Care" days, Food First Foundation and the Yellowknife Food Rescue Organization. In addition the Bechoko Minor Hockey were allowed two sleepovers during the spring to allow their young players to come in for coaching at the Multiplex. There was also two other groups that met and were given a special rate because of their community work, The Yellowknife Choral Society and the Multiple Sclerosis Yoga Group.

During the months of July and August, the MPA was used by the Yellowknife Day Care Group for two months while renovations were made to their usual meeting space. They were given a special reduced rate for this rental.

There were 60 events under the heading of "Special Events" which included YK United Church events to which the broader Yellowknife community was invited, such as: The Pancake Supper, Fundraiser for Doctors without Borders, Craft Fairs (2), Annual Tea and Bake Sale and the Garage Sale. In addition to other YKUC and HFLC events, the MPA was used for a number of private functions, e.g. birthday parties, showers and memorials. Additionally there were several miscellaneous rentals that were donated to community groups

Community non-profit groups made up the largest portion of rental contracts at 121 rentals, these included different Condo Corporations, Literacy Council, Ecology North, Community Garden Collective and others. Some of the non profit groups rented several times during the year at the reduced "community rate and we have several small groups meeting regularly either weekly or bi-weekly at this reduced rate. The Christmas season saw several craft fairs (other than those organized by YKUC) and Christmas parties and dinners.

There were 58 rental contracts considered to be commercial and these included several GNWT departments,

(notably Education, Culture & Employment, Environment & Natural Resources who used the facility several times) also Health & Social Services, Aurora College and smaller private companies, e.g. Northways Consulting. There were 13 small business contracts, including Make Peace Mondays and the new T.L. Vocal Arts Studio, which has become a regular renter since late September and the YK Math programme which uses the facility on a regular basis.

As well as the rooms in the MPA, the chapel is also being utilized on a regular basis by the Children's Choir (donated), the Choral Society who are paying a special rate and the T.L. Vocal Arts Studio who are paying the small business rate.

In September, Yellowknife United Church hosted a meeting of the Northern Lights Presbytery and all rooms in the Multi Purpose Area were in use for this weekend which proved very successful. This was followed a week later by a visit from the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, The very Reverend Gary Paterson. This was a memorable visit and several meetings were held with the Moderator as well as a supper for him and the congregation.

During the course of the year, members of the United Church congregation host a "coffee Break" with the residents of NUP. Although this is not held in the MPA, members of the congregation supply coffee and "goodies" for this hour long weekly event. It is something that has become very popular with all who attend and a great time for fellowship and discussion.

Finally, again this year, the YKUC Youth Group and leaders, planned, planted and nurtured flowers and "harvestables" for the benefit of NUP residents. The flowers and herbs are enjoyed by all who live in or pass by Northern United Place and Yellowknife United Church would like to thank the NWT Community Services Corporation for providing the funding for this garden project again.

Northern Lights Presbytery

Northern Lights Presbytery met as a whole three times between September and April. The September meeting was hosted by Yellowknife United Church. The majority of the presbytery delegates boarded a bus that began its journey north in Grande Prairie with stops along the way. It left early on Wednesday morning and made a complete day of it, arriving in Yellowknife around 10 pm.

Thursday was a day for sight seeing until the late afternoon when the meeting began with greetings from Chief Edward Sangris of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Mayor Mark Heyck, from the City of Yellowknife and Paula MacFadyen, the Chair of the Yellowknife United Church Board.

Some of the highlights of this meeting were theological reflections offered by three people doing internships in Northern Lights Presbytery. These included Joan Kennedy, serving the internship year in her program through the Summer Distance Program at the Atlantic School of Theology, Louise Hart, serving an internship with the people of Fort St John and Alison Mock, serving a four month internship with the people of Yellowknife United Church. Laurence DeWolfe, faculty member at the Atlantic School of Theology attended this meeting and led worship for the presbytery on Saturday morning.

There were many fine compliments for the program, hosting and closing worship for the September meeting.

The presbytery met again in Dawson Creek in February. The meeting was preceded by a retreat for people serving in pastoral ministry along with members of the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Presbytery. The theme of this meeting of presbytery was a focus on the large number of pastoral charges that are currently without a settled, called or appointed ministry person. Connected with this theme was a visit to the presbytery by Allan Buckingham who has created virtually delivered worship on a one-time or subscription basis. A decision was made by the presbytery to invest in the resource, called TogetherWeWorship for a year.

A special meeting of the presbytery was called for April 26 in order to give the presbytery delegates a chance to consider, discuss and make some decisions about the report of the Comprehensive Review Task Group. An interesting feature of this meeting was that it was "attended" electronically by groups of people in Whitehorse, Fort Nelson and Yellowknife.

There are currently four people from Yellowknife that are serving the presbytery. Lloyd Henderson is a member-at-large in his role as co-chair of Pastoral Relations. Nancy Trotter is a member-at-large in her role as chair of the Living the Faith ministry. Cynthia Creed serves as the delegate to Presbytery from Yellowknife United Church. Peter Chynoweth is a member of Northern Lights Presbytery by virtue of his membership in the Order of Ministry and because he serves within the presbytery.

Thanks must go to everyone involved in the planning, hosting and successful execution of all aspects of the September presbytery meeting. Special thanks to those who began meeting early to plan such things as accommodation, meals and the various activities that were offered to give people a better perspective on our community and community of faith.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Chynoweth

**Presbytery of Northern Lights,
Visitation to Yellowknife United Church, 2014**

On the second and third days of November in the year 2014, the triennial Presbytery Visitation of Yellowknife United Church was conducted by the Rev. Beverly Brazier and the Rev. Jim Patterson on behalf of the Pastoral Oversight Committee of Northern Lights Presbytery. The format for the visitation was that recommended in the document: "Suggested Guidelines for Presbytery Oversight Visits to Pastoral Charges", and this report will follow that same format.

Meeting with M & P Committee: 6pm November 2nd.

Cappy Elkin, Laurie Gault, Margaret Melhorn (Chair)

The M&P committee meets regularly. They have the handbook for M&P committees and they follow it. They have a good relationship with the Board. The Chair attends most Board meetings and makes reports to them. They know that they have Presbytery's support and that they are able to seek advice from same. They have formulated a plan which would be used in the case of serious dissatisfaction or conflict within the congregation.

Job descriptions for Staff: Administrator's position was reviewed in 2012 and again in 2014. The minister's has been the same since he was called to the church 9 years ago.

The Pension plan and medical benefits for the Church Administrator are assumed to be in order. In speaking with the Administrator however, there appears to be a glitch at the National Office and her pension from previous to her rehiring has not been processed.

Overall, the Committee's sense is that the staff is content and functioning as desired.

As is true with workers everywhere, there are some areas that are not strengths. For example, Gwyneth is admittedly not strong on accounting, so the church has given more work to the treasurer. While Peter does most things very well, the question of regular pastoral care is raised by some, including Peter himself. The church shows its own strength by making sure these things are handled by others; for example the treasurer taking on more of the accounting and the CLAM committee being aware of pastoral needs.

Peter works hard to include members in the ministry of the church through email, person to person conversations, attendance at Committee and Board meetings.

Peter and Gwyneth each receive 2 days per week as rest days. The visitation team satisfied themselves that their rest is respected (except for emergency), and that they indeed take it.

Peter takes his continuing ed, but not always. He finds support in his Lutheran colleague whose congregation is also housed in the building.

Overall, Peter is and is seen to be involved in the wider Church, the local congregation, and the community around YKUC. He is spoken of highly as a person and as a pastor.

Board and Congregation met at 7:40pm with 14 persons present including Alison Mock (student-intern).

In conversation with the Board members and others from the congregation, we heard many causes for rejoicing. The congregation is compassionate, embracing, inclusive. Many felt strongly that YKUC is the only left leaning church in town. They were justifiably proud of recently taking the decision to become an affirming congregation. This has brought in some new people, and there is new energy because of the decision.

Congregants feel welcome to use their gifts. There is strong and varied worship from Peter, Alison and the Worship committee, as well as the choir. They are proud of their outreach programs such as the Christmas Sock program and refugee sponsorship. Children feel welcomed and valued. The internship program has been a massive success. Some would like that to continue.

Some concerns were raised about declining numbers on the roll, low numbers of children and youth in the congregation's programs. There is concern over the proportion of men to women (men are

declining), and generally about the tightness of finances. Some also expressed a concern that YKUC is very "white" in a very multicultural city.

They are aware of the original vision of their ancestors who took the leap of faith and built the building in which the church is housed, and that, building on that original vision, the current members ought to be developing an exciting new vision for the present and the future themselves in order to honour that amazing heritage.

YKUC feels connected to and committed to the National, regional and local manifestations of church. It was heartening to hear from the gathering about Peter's ministry, the congregation's common life, and the thoughtful ponderings of wise and intelligent Christians over the future ministry in their beloved city.

Meet with Peter and Sharon: 9:45pm

Sharon is the church musician and is glad to be doing this as a volunteer.

Peter is very excited about his work. He is appreciative of the worship committee together with whom he plans and supervises a very nourishing worship diet.

Peter and Sharon are appreciative of work that has been done on the manse. The new kitchen is very nice.

Peter's sense is that YKUC will respond and give strongly when the pressure is on. They hosted (in a relatively short time frame) Presbytery, The Moderator of The United Church of Canada, and then a Presbytery visitation. These are dependable and extremely capable people.

Peter has a thirst for justice, and feels that he is able to help people move toward doing something new. (e.g. coffee time for the tenants of the apartments and from the street). His longing to be better able to "walk the walk" is perhaps complicated by the variety of regular demands of being the spiritual leader of an active congregation. Still and all, Peter and Sharon feel supported and loved.

Peter took his sabbatical recently on the theme of the theological implications of open source. He is glad he did that.

What area of the congregation needs work that you may not be able to give them.

The area of pastoral care was mentioned and with it the changing demographic and sociology of the community that make household visits nearly impossible. Hospital visiting is challenging due to the difficulty in finding out who is in the hospital. Sharon reminded us that the CLAM committee has Pastoral Care on its agenda.

Peter does some of his pastoral care by email contact, some when he meets people on the street, or at their business, or at church

Gwyneth, office administrator

Gwyneth feels happy to have returned to the position. Her job description is better than before. Things are good! She has a clear and efficient line of authority. She notes that the distinction between church administrator and member can be a difficult one to maintain, but that she does her best, and does not experience this as a burden. She seems happy with her ministry.

Gwyneth perceives that the Church runs smoothly and says that it is a very welcoming church. She herself was attracted by the openness in theology as well as the kindness of the people.

FINAL STATEMENTS

The Books are reviewed or audited annually, and the records of the congregation are current and up to standard.

Overall, the visitation team feels very positive about the life and ministry of Yellowknife United Church.

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1. That the Minister & M&P review the Minister's job description. After nine years many things have changed and it would be a good chance to revisit the needs of the congregation.

RECOMMENDATION 2. That the Pastoral Charge as a whole engage in an intentional conversation about expectations for, definition of, and method(s) by which an agreed level of pastoral care can be accomplished.

RECOMMENDATION 3. That both Peter and Gwyneth update their vulnerable sector police checks if they have not done so.

RECOMMENDATION 4. That the Pastoral Charge set in motion a visioning process in order to account for changing demographics in the city and the changing place of "religion" in society.

RECOMMENDATION 5. That the Board of YKUC engage in stewardship education with the congregation, with a view to diminishing financial concern.

RECOMMENDATION 6. That the Property Committee consider setting up an investment fund to cover future needs of Church furnishings and the Manse Property.

Beverly Brazier
Jim Patterson

TREASURERS REPORT : Yellowknife United Church
Income Statement
As of April 30, 2015

OPERATING FUND		2014	2014	2015	2015	2015
Statement of Revenue & Expenditures		Budget	Actuals	Budget	Actuals	Actuals
		<i>To April 30</i>		<i>To April 30</i>		
Revenue						
	Offering- Local, Loose, SS, Youth, & Other	69,500	22,725	70,000	23,970	34.2%
	Building & Equipment Use	70,000	16,584	70,000	24,199	34.6%
	Fund Raising	7,500	2,403	7,500	1,068	14.2%
	Youth Group		0	0	0	n/a
	Internship	20,360	0	0	0	n/a
	Other- photocopies, sales interest, marriage donations	3,500	10	2,940	10	0.3%
Total Revenue		170,860	41,723	150,440	49,247	32.7%

Expenditures						
	Personnel	113,700	36,493	115,200	34,729	30.1%
	General Admin & Maintenance	13,000	5,203	13,000	3,373	25.9%
	Manse Operating	12,375	4,698	12,375	5,160	41.7%
	Official Board	4,535	1,337	4,200	1,696	40.4%
	Worship Committee	1,990	779	2,000	634	31.7%
	Youth group	2,000	0	0	0	n/a
	Outreach Committee	2,000	0	2,000	9	0.4%
	Comm Life & Membership Comm.	800	124	800	19	2.4%
	Christian Development Committee	600	166	800	299	37.4%
	Stewardship Committee	500	0	500	182	36.3%
	Internship	20,360	0	0	0	n/a
	Affirm Study Group	1,000	213	1,000	100	10.0%
Total Expenditures		172,860	49,014	151,875	46,202	30.4%
Excess revenue (expenditures)		-\$2,000	-\$7,291	-\$1,435	\$3,045	

Total Offerings/Givings to April 30, 2015

Local Offering	23,970.24	Up 5.5% from 2014
Mission and Service	7,478.28	Up 2.8% from 2014
Capital Fund	1,808.49	Up 10.2% from 2014
TOTAL	<u><u>\$33,257.01</u></u>	

Building Rentals are **up by 45.9%** from 2014 and **over budget by 3.7% (\$866)**

At the end of April offerings should be at \$31,167 (\$93,500/year) for all categories

Total offerings to April were **over budget by 6.7% (\$2,090)**

Summary of GICs		
Operating Fund		\$10,772.08
Memorial Fund		\$5,000.00
Total GIC		<u><u>\$15,772.08</u></u>

TREASURERS REPORT : Yellowknife United Church
Income Statement
As of April 30, 2015

Funds Summary

	2014 Budget	2014 Actuals	2015 Budget	2015 Actuals	2015 Actuals
Mission and Service Fund					
Revenues	18,000	7,273	18,000	7,478	41.5%
Celebration Jar	1,000	incl above	1,000	incl above	n/a
Paid to Date		4,457		2,919	
Owing		2,815		4,559	
Capital Fund					
Offering Revenues	4,500	1,641	4,500	1,808	40.2%
Other Revenues (Grants, rebates,...)		0		0	
Expenditures to date		3,943		0	
Tranfers owing		0		0	
Balance		-2,302		1,808	
Memorial Fund					
Offering Revenues		0		0	n/a
Tranfers to date		0		0	
Balance		0		0	
Refugee Fund					
Offering Revenues	0	0	0	0	n/a
Other Revenues (Grants, rebates,...)		0		9	
Expenditures to date		0		2,019	
Tranfers to date		0		0	
Balance		0		-2,009	