



Yellowknife United Church Annual Report 2016

for the Annual Meeting:
Sunday, May 29th, 2016
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
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
May 29, 2016
Agenda**

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Voting Rights
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Time for Adjournment
5. Approval of Minutes from Annual Financial Meeting – Feb. 8, 2016
6. Business Arising from the May 24, 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting
7. Annual Reports
8. Financial Report
9. Report of the Nominating Committee
10. Signing Authorities
11. Update on Congregational Visioning Process
12. Congregational Concerns and Committee Comments
13. Next Congregational Meeting
14. Adjournment

**Yellowknife United Church Congregational
Financial Meeting February 14 2016**

Congregational Chairperson: John Stewart

Congregational Secretary: Kathy Burns

Present: John Stewart, Kathy Burns, Janice Daly, Arlene Cliffe-Phillips, Paula MacFayden, Margaret Melhorn, Sean Daly, Terrilyn Hayden, Lloyd Henderson, John Soderberg, Elaine Stewart, Barb Paquin, Karen Wilford, Lindsay Chiasson, Peter Workman, Cappy Elkin, Gordon Hamre, Laurie Gault, Larry Elkin, Randy Wedel, Nancy Trotter, Sandy Little, Sharon Chynoweth, Peter Chynoweth, Lorna Jenkins, Marg Henderson.

1. Call to order and Opening Prayer- John Stewart opened the meeting at 12:20pm and Peter Chynoweth said the opening prayer.
2. Voting rights: Motion- Gordon Hamre/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/Terrilyn Hayden “Move to approve the agenda as presented.” Carried.
4. Did not set a time for adjournment.
5. Approval of the Minutes for the Annual Meeting, May 24 2015 – Motion: Janis Daly/Sandy Little “Move to accept the minutes of the May 24 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting with the correction of the spelling of Lindsay Chiasson and Arlene Cliffe-Phillips.”
6. Business Arising from the May 24 2015 Annual Meeting – No business arising.
7. Financial Information –
 - (a) Review of 2015 Statements – Lindsay Chiasson presented this information. Motion: Lindsay Chiasson/Barb Paquin “Move to accept the unaudited 2015 Financial Statements as presented.” Carried.
 - (b) Budget for 2016 – Motion: Margaret Melhorn/Lloyd Henderson “Move to amend the Capital 2016 Budget with the expenditures changed from \$706 to \$1700.” Carried. Motion: Lindsay Chiasson/Margaret Melhorn “Move to accept the 2016 Budget as amended.” Carried.
8. Update on the Visioning Process – The survey was to be completed by February 29, 2016 and a report will be presented at the June 2016 Annual Meeting.
9. Congregational Concerns – Lloyd Henderson congratulated the congregation for exceeding the budget for the contributions to the M&S fund.
10. A big thank you from the congregation to Lindsay Chiasson for all her hard work. Lindsay will check with the accountant about listing the manse as an asset.
John Stewart thanked everyone for coming.
11. The board will decide the date of the next Congregational Meeting. Motion: Gordon Hamre/Laurie Gault “Move to adjourn the meeting.” Carried.

And You Welcomed Me

My report for the 2015 Annual Report reflected on the busy time we had in the fall of 2014 and the fact that much of the work we had done had come about because projects and events had been dropped in our laps. These included an internship, a Presbytery meeting, and a Moderator visit. I said then, that we had responded in inspiring and affirming ways. I also reflected on whether we could always count on our mission being defined by others, and by responding to the opportunities that seem to come our way with regularity.

I also wrote about the fact that we had not developed five or ten year plans, and that we should not be discouraged by this. I speculated that it might be our mission to respond to the call of others, but I also stated that we should not expect it to always be this way.

Another event that took place in the fall of 2014 was the regular “once every three years” pastoral oversight visit.

Some of the work we’ve done this year has been in response to the recommendations that were listed in that report.

The CLAM committee organized a pastoral care workshop. A follow-up event will take place on the same weekend as the annual meeting.

The board also initiated a visioning process and while the timeline for the completion of the visioning work has been much longer than was first imagined, the work and research that has been done so far has been helpful and insightful.

I don’t want to presume too much from the report of the Identity, Mission and Needs Analysis Survey that formed a good portion of the research data that was fed into the visioning process, but I do want to note that my reading of the outcomes from the survey along with the information that came out of Part One of the Pastoral Care Workshop have indicated something of what we learned last year – namely that we are a congregation that has hospitality as a clear focus of our mission.

At first for me, this was somewhat counter-intuitive. At a basic level, hospitality could be seen to be a basic part of the work of any church, but my own further analysis, and viewing this insight through hospitality-coloured glasses has revealed a great deal.

A significant portion of what we encountered in the fall of 2014 can be filed in the hospitality file, and that has continued into the work we’ve done this year.

Before we start to think that this seems a simple given of Christian community, it bears reminding that hospitality formed a backdrop to the words and work of Jesus in the gospel record. How many times do we read of visits by Jesus, and how many times do we hear of meals to which Jesus was invited. Significantly, one of our most important sacraments is a sacrament that involves hospitality – being invited unconditionally to eat at table with our sisters and brothers.

And so, while there is much more to learn from the work that the visioning committee is engaged in, and from the insights and reflections you will offer as members of this community of faith, I do not want us to underestimate the idea that God has indeed chosen us to be good hosts – with all the deep and surface elements that this mission, this ministry implies.

Welcoming a stranger – in the form of a refugee, Welcoming everyone – regardless of every ism, sexual orientation and gender identity and leaving ourselves vulnerable in the process, welcoming people from a broad range of theological and atheological perspectives. Inviting questions as much as answers, and living in the questions, rather than expecting facile answers. These are all acts of hospitality. I could name many more, including the place we know as Northern United Place – originally conceived as a place of hospitality for a wide range of groups and individuals, both as a place of meeting and a place to live.

Having named it and recognized this as one facet of our mission and ministry, we can now focus on ways to do it better, to be more open, to be more welcoming, and to be good hosts in all that we do.

I'm excited by the opportunities that this new perspective offers and I look forward to how I might write about it in May of 2017.

May you find other connections with hospitality as you read the reports in this document, along with all the other stories and connections that these reports tell us about. Maybe you will discern some other facet of our mission from what you read about here. If you do, please talk to your sisters and brothers about it. You never know when God might be speaking, and yours are the ears that have been chosen to do the really deep listening.

With respect and thanksgiving,

Peter Chynoweth

In Memoriam

Harry Condon
Nhan Thi Ngo

May 5, 2015
September 27, 2015

Baptisms

Parker Reginald John Elliott
Khrystal Fontanilla

November 22, 2015
May 22, 2016

Board Chairperson Report 2015-2016

The Yellowknife United Church (YKUC) continued to be very active this year with many projects and activities on the go and the fortunate opportunity for much fellowship.

A big focus of the YKUC this past year has been on visualising the future direction of our church. One of the recommendations from the 2015 Pastoral Oversight Report was 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. In following this recommendation, YKUC has organized a Visioning Committee that will lead the visioning process. The visioning process will also be done in conjunction with the Needs Assessment.

Thank you to the Visioning Committee for the work that they have undertaken. Thank you also to everyone that participated in the Identity, Mission and Needs Analysis survey in February 2016. The results of this survey, which the YKUC is now in the process of reflecting and commenting on, will help inform the visioning process, as the visioning work continues this year and decisions flow from that process.

The YKUC Board is also in the process of reviewing, with the NWT Community Services Corporation (CSC) Board, the agreement between the church and the NWT CSC. The Boards continues to liaise back and forth on various matters as usual, including working together this past year to improve security in the building. The YKUC Board looks forward to continued work with the NWT CSC to optimize the relationship of our organizations in our shared space.

Thank you to the Board members, committee chairs, committee members, and the many congregation members that devote so much of their time, talents, and offerings to the YKUC and support the activities that enrich the church and our community. Special thanks also to Gwyneth Davis for her support in keeping the YKUC office running.

Serving on the Board has been a pleasure and I thank you for the opportunity.

We look forward to continued fellowship and collaboration throughout the next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula MacFadyen

Outreach Committee Annual report - May 2016

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

The mandate of the committee is outreach locally, nationally and internationally. Our focus has been local projects and refugee sponsorship.

Committee members are: Joanna Wilson, Karen Hamre, Nancy Trotter, Kathryn Walker, Grace Whitelock, Barb Paquin (Refugee committee) and Peter Chynoweth (ex-officio). We are happy to have Suzanne Ngo Likaa rejoin our committee.

Community member on the refugee committee: Metslal Mesgune

Local Outreach

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

This project helps men who are living on the street celebrate Christmas. We continue to find this project meaningful for members of the Yellowknife United Church and the homeless individuals, who receive the socks filled with useful items. We received many donations from the congregation this year - 35 filled socks, plus \$440 in donations (including \$200 from the youth group). We did not have any difficulty meeting our annual target of 50 socks so that all the people staying at the Salvation Army Shelter on Christmas Eve can receive one. According to reports, 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. Thank you to congregation members who participate in this program. Additional volunteers and donations of socks are always welcome.

Coldest Night of the Year Walk

The United Church team, the Arctic Snow Bunnies, led by our fearless leader, Janice Daly, once again had fun and raised needed funds in the 3rd annual Coldest Night of the Year Walk on February 20th. Our small but mighty team of 7 raised \$1,715 with the help of 35 generous donors. All the money this year went to renovating the kitchen at the Salvation Army. Thank you to participants Janice Daly, Elizabeth and Emily Brace, Sarah and Kathryn Walker, Lindsay and Mackenzie Chiasson and Arlene and Kieran Cliffe-Phillips. We also appreciate all the generous donors, many of them United Church members, who contributed to this successful event.

Intergenerational Garden

We are continuing to facilitate the intergenerational garden located at the Mildred Hall School. This is an exciting project with many partners involved in making the garden come to life. The key players include Ecology North, Mildred Hall School, YK1 School Board and NUP residents.

Building on the foundation that we laid last year, our focus is increasing neighbourhood participation. Mildred Hall students, NUP residents, Lynn's Place residents and neighbourhood residents are signed up for garden plots this year.

International Outreach

Somalian Refugee Sponsorship Update

We have been working toward co-sponsorship of Abdi Aden Adow for over three years. Abdi is a Somali refugee presently at a refugee camp in Malta. We are all relieved that finally Abdi's travel documents are being processed and he will be arriving in Yellowknife. This is an exciting time, the refugee committee has been meeting regularly to update plans for Abdi's arrival and to plan for his ongoing support over the next year.

We have increased our fundraising efforts with two projects; funds will be used to pay for Abdi's settlement needs during his first year in Yellowknife (e.g. housing, clothes, food, etc.). First, the Yellowknife United Church Sunday School class is selling virtual 'bricks' in Abdi's home. One brick is a \$25 donation (tax receipts available). Second, a potluck is planned where we will bring food and donate the cost of a restaurant meal towards this fund/initiative.

Supporting Other Refugees

We have also been involved in discussions with a Yellowknife resident about a future co-sponsorship of Eritrean refugees.

We participate on the city committee to support Syrian refugees. We had a major role in the fundraiser in December, where funds were raised for the Red Cross. Syrian refugees will be coming to Yellowknife sponsored by a number of local groups. We continue to provide assistance with fundraising efforts, and mentorship based on our experience with Abdi.

Thank you to all the congregation members who contributed to Outreach programs this year!
We have held many hands caring for each other and our earth.

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 to deliver the evening meal for a week every seven weeks.

Special thanks to the following who helped out during the past year: Sharon Cormier, Cappy Elkin, Brad Hall, Tom Hall, Karen Hamre, Terrilyn Hayden, Lloyd Henderson, Sonia Hewlko, Stuart Oldham, Jessica Schmidt, 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 three or 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 4-10, Jul 23-29, Sep 10-16, Oct 29-Nov 4 and Dec 17-23. Thanks!

Jeannette Hall
MOW Coordinator

Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee

Committee Members

Margaret Melhorn: Chair

Cappy Elkin

Laurie Gault

Greg Short

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 dedicated service to our congregation. We particularly want to wish Gwyneth all the best as she plans to retire in July. The Committee has begun the process of staffing the position.

The Committee met a number of times during the year, and addressed, among other issues, workplace safety and security. It is hoped that the new system of fobs will meet the need for improved security while balancing our desire to be a welcoming church.

The 2014 Pastoral Oversight team recommended that the M&P and our Minister review the Minister's job description. This review has been deferred until YKUC's visioning process is complete.

The Committee would also like to thank Grace Whitelock, who has taken on the role of "standby" office support and Katherine Elkin, who filled in in the office over the summer.

Respectfully submitted by

Margaret Melhorn

for the M&P Committee

United Church Women – 2015/16 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, 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, Lynn's Place, YWCA, Salvation Army, Betty House, kitchen supplies, money set aside for bulletin folders and for two women to attend Western Women's Conference, as well as supplies for Aklavik Elders in name of Rachel Munday.

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 – 2015/16 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 few face-to-face meetings.

Fund-raising events this year included the Fall Supper Dessert Auction, 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.

We are very excited about a new partnership with the Canadian Diabetes Association Clothesline. The drop boxes were placed around town for collection of clothing items, bedding, etc. Nineteen volunteers from the church are looking after the collection of items and transporting them to a storage trailer. The trailers are located at the Fieldhouse, the Pool, Trevor's Independent, and the Co-op.

Upcoming events for the coming year will include the fall supper, and two Christmas Bazaars on November 19 and December 10.

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 (CLAM)

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

CLAM ensures that those tasks needed to help with the flow of worship are filled each week by congregation members. The tasks include: Greeter, Opening and Closing Hosts, Reader, and Candlelighter. There is a sign-up sheet available each week for the weeks to come and a group email for last-minute sign-up opportunities. Thank you to all who give their time each week for these important tasks.

Yellowknife United Church loves to get together for meals! We host two suppers each year – the Fall Supper and Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Each event was well attended and folks were well fed. The Pancake Supper raised over \$700.00. Thanks to all who help make the suppers happen. On the first Sunday of Advent, the second annual Craft Dinner featuring mac and cheese for lunch was followed by a child-oriented Advent craft and fellowship time.

In January 2016, CLAM hosted a Pastoral Care Workshop. Rev. Kirk Tastad from Holy Family Lutheran Church guided 12 congregation members into discussion about what pastoral care means. We celebrated what we are already doing well and agreed to meet again to work some more on ways we can continue to grow together. The next workshop will happen on May 28th, 2016.

In November and March care packages were sent out to all our post-secondary students who are away at school. Packages including the much-appreciated Tim's card went out to 19 students.

The Yellowknife United Church Newsletter is published three times a year. Each edition features articles about the life and work of our church and helps to strengthen our connection to each other. Thank you to all who take the time to write articles, to Sean Daly for taking the photos, and to Gillian Moir and Melanie Dumont for putting everything together and getting the newsletter to print.

There are 20 subscribers to the Observer magazine. Thank you to Kathy Burns for coordinating the subscriptions.

The annual Family Bowling and Games Night events continue to be favourites and are well-attended. Both events feature friendly competition, lots of laughs, fellowship and of course, food!

CLAM committee members are: Elizabeth Brace, Sharon Chynoweth, Arlene Cliffe-Phillips, Sean Daly, Audrey MacDougall and Peter Chynoweth (Ex-officio)

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Chynoweth

Christian Development Committee Report

The Christian Development Committee is responsible for child and adult education programs, overseeing the church's sponsorship of Scout programs, oversight of marriage and baptism preparation and maintenance of the reading room.

Sunday School classes were held from the beginning of September to mid-June with average weekly attendance of five students. We are grateful to teachers Janice Daly, Sandy Little, Kathryn Walker and Joanna Wilson for teaching, to Denise Drouin for sparing and to Elizabeth Brace for beginning a music program once per month with the students. Teacher appreciation day took place on May 29th. To help ensure the safety of our children, we instituted a criminal records check requirement for all Sunday School teachers. Last fall three of our students were featured in *in CONTACT*, the Alberta and Northwest Conference (ANWC) insert into our church magazine the *Observer*, for their participation in creating a Heart Garden that recognized the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and former residential school students and their families. The Youth Group had a quiet year but some members did participate in several church activities such as planting the flowerbeds around Northern United Place and helping out at the Christmas Tea and Bake Sale.

During Advent, the Sunday School students presented a nativity pageant as part of a special nativity scene church service. All costumes were sorted, repaired, washed and ironed prior to this event. As well, a bulletin board was established in the church to showcase Sunday school, Scouts and adult study programs. Thanks to Elizabeth Brace for sprucing up the board and putting on new borders

Spring clean-up took place on a cold and windy May 9th with about 20 brave participants. We successfully cleaned our two areas to earn a \$1000.00 payment from the City of Yellowknife. Many thanks go to Johanna Stewart who returned from university in time to organize the clean-up again this year. Funds raised from the clean-up go to children's and youth activities. In addition to regular purchases such as curriculum and supplies, the committee purchased books for the Sunday School, a new multi-media cart and United Church of Canada crests for the Scouting groups that use our facility. The church continues to support the Yellowknife Scout Group by providing rent-free meeting space; there are currently 15 Beavers, 14 Cubs, seven Scouts and four Venturers in Yellowknife.

The Book Club met monthly from September to June with about five people attending each month. We read a variety of religious and inspirational books including fiction and non-fiction works. On April 21st the CD committee screened a "Walrus Talk" on spirituality in Canada. This event, co-organized by the *Walrus* and *Observer* magazines, featured seven diverse Canadian thinkers. Six people attended and had a lively discussion following the video.

The committee is in the planning stages of an event to take place in October 2016 that will examine the Calls to Action of the TRC and look at ways our church can work towards reconciliation. Preliminary plans include a half-day workshop with guest speakers and plenty of time for participation and discussion. Kathryn Walker and Karen Wilford have volunteered to be co-facilitators to keep the work of the TRC going in our community of faith under the auspices of the Living into Right Relations Committee of ANWC. We look forward to their participation in this event as well.

There were two baptisms in the church this year. CD committee members provided snacks after the service on both of these occasions to help the family and congregation celebrate the baptism of the children into our church community.

We held the Sunday School supply room clean-up at the end of August and donated a few surplus items to the annual garage sale. Then in January, we culled and cleaned the reading room. For several weeks afterwards, we advertised that the reading room and its books are available for congregation members to use.

Committee members this year were Denise Drouin, Sandy Little and Barb Paquin with help and guidance from Rev. Peter Chynoweth.

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. We work to educate the congregation and the community about LGBTQQ issues.

To this end, the committee worked on two main projects this year:

Increased signage to raise public awareness about our space

We worked with Janet Pacey to design permanent signs for the bulletin boards in the Northern United Place (NUP) foyer and auditorium as well as a big banner to hang outside NUP on the Franklin Avenue side. The inside signs are finished and ready to be installed; we are planning to have the outside banner up by summer 2016.

Affirming Ministry Celebration – Special guest

We began working with Pam Rocker of Hillhurst United Church in Calgary in late August to have her come to Yellowknife in November to lead a workshop and be the guest speaker at worship to celebrate the second anniversary of becoming an Affirming Ministry. Finding a weekend when Pam could come proved to be quite the challenge but we were delighted to welcome her to Yellowknife on May 14-15, 2016! Thank you to everyone who made this weekend possible – by donating airfare for Pam, by hosting and providing food.

Pam facilitated a workshop on “Queering the Church – A Look at Faith and the LGBTQQ Community”. The workshop was attended by congregation members as well as several members of the Yellowknife community-at-large. The time we spent together offered thoughtful discussion and much to think about as a church community. Pam gave the reflection during worship and she was both enriching and encouraging.

The Affirm Committee is giving some thought to changing its name to “Inclusivity Committee”. We feel this change will help us to better define the work of the committee and our role in Yellowknife United Church.

Committee members are: Kathy Burns, Sharon Chynoweth, Janice Daly, Lorne Gushue, Nancy Trotter, Kathryn Walker and Peter Chynoweth (Ex-officio).

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Chynoweth

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE

Worship Committee Report

“Walk with me, I will walk with you, and build the land that God has planned where love shines through.”

“We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.”

As a congregation family we participate in worship in order to be strengthened by our sacred stories and liturgy, to be nourished by our relationships with one another, and inspired by our common vision.

With a small committee membership this year we did not venture widely beyond the regular scope of our business but a few items are notable. On May 31, 2015 after a worship service featuring the theme of Reconciliation with special guest, Paul Andrew, our church joined with churches and organizations across the country in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) invitation to hosting community “Walks for Reconciliation”. Across Canada thousands took part. Partnering with the NWT Native Women's Association, we hosted a community walk that started at the Somba K'e Civic Plaza and proceeded 2km route along Yellowknife streets with speaker stops along the way, and concluded in our sanctuary with a gathering time, refreshments, speeches, and survivors' stories. It was a powerful event representing a shared commitment to creating a new way forward in our relationship with each other.

Continuing in the theme of “walking”, we also planned and hosted two labyrinth walks to coincide with the winter solstice and spring equinox. These events have drawn an encouraging number of participants both within our church and the wider community. We were able to feature our exploration of this ancient form of prayer in a community event using a slide/speaking format called Pecha Kucha, hosted by the NWT Parks and Recreation Association in January at the museum. Eight different slide shows on the theme ‘Why we Walk’ were shown and the presentation made by members of our worship committee was very well received, and also led to new community members participating in our most recent labyrinth event.

In the coming year we look forward, as a committee, to further our work in both of the areas mentioned above. Within the larger work of responding to the Calls to Action of the TRC, we are planning a fall event to mark the important work of Marie Wilson as a TRC Commissioner. We also look forward to ‘digging into’ the IMNA results that reference worship to see if there are things we can learn from that feedback.

As always we are mindful of and grateful for the many who contribute to planning and leading worship over the year. This year we would like to particularly thank Liam Wilford, Lex Lovatt, Lorne Gushue, and Karen Wilford for their spoken contributions to the Service of Remembrance; thanks also to the many who brought special photographs, and other items of remembrance related to loved ones who served in war and conflict; to Claire Singer, Maureen Tonge, Marie Wilson, Steve Kakfwi, Joanna Wilson, Maureen Crotty, and Sharon Chynoweth for their spoken or musical contributions to the Service of Comfort, special thanks to Karen Wilford in leading the planning of that service and Janice Daly for the beauty that her deft work with cloth, candles and lights adds, not only to the Service of Comfort but to many other services as well; Karen Hamre for her leadership in the service on May 8th. Thanks also to Donna Allen who always seems to say ‘yes’ to any need that we bring to her doorstep, and to those who bake the bread for our communion services. Doubtless there are some who I have forgotten to add - as the scripture says, your heavenly reward will be all the greater for having been offered in anonymity (!).

A very special thanks to Sharon Chynoweth and Elizabeth Brace for the generous sharing of their musical gifts and leadership week after week in choir rehearsals and Sunday mornings, and to Peter Workman,

Eunmi Jang and Katey Simmons for filling in at the piano when needed. Thanks also to the members of the choir: Gillian Moir, Gwyneth Davis, Marg Henderson, Laurie Gault, Paula MacFadyen, Fiona Rheaume, Scott Purchase, Sean Daly, Randy Wedel, Peter Chynoweth. We do not take for granted that you may have other enticing options for Wednesday evenings throughout the year – we're delighted that you make singing in our 'small but mighty' choir a priority.

And finally, thanks to Peter Chynoweth for the thoughtful gifts – especially the gift he has for 'connections' - that he brings to worship leadership all through the year, and to the dedicated, creative and 'just plain fun' committee members: Karen Wilford, Lorne Gushue and Janice Daly.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Stewart, Worship Committee Chair

The following report is the report of the President of the Northwest Territories Community Services Corporation (NWT CSC) to the Annual Meeting of the NWT CSC held on April 10, 2016.

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

Vision Mandate and Obligations

In 2016 Northern United Place will mark 40 years of important services to the residents and community of Yellowknife.

For members of the NWT Community Services Corporation it is timely and useful to understand and appreciate key elements in the vision and the resulting aspirations, commitments and obligations of the Corporation and its achievements to date.

Jim Ormiston, the Yellowknife United Church Minister back in the 1970's, spearheaded the decision of the congregation to dispose of the Church located on two of the 5 lots now occupied by Northern United Place and replace it with a complex (the other 3 lots were provided by the Government of the NWT). The complex would provide affordable housing for seniors, persons with physical disabilities and other people with limited financial means, and provide meeting space for many non-profit, community and volunteer organizations in Yellowknife.

For the Yellowknife United Church congregation this was a monumental decision. Disposing of their stand alone Church was a very difficult decision for the members of the congregation as they appreciated the long term implications and the commitment they would be making for both themselves and the future members of the congregation for many years.

Northern United Place was to become the major outreach initiative of the Church. One of the stipulations that accompanied congregation approval was that the building would be planned and designed to incorporate a Yellowknife United Church Chapel which would utilize the pews from the existing Church, and that the Yellowknife United Church would have first right to use the Chapel for appropriate Church services and Church supported uses.

To finance the construction of this major new complex, the decision was made to secure 100% of the required funding to buy the land and to plan, design, and construct the building. Funding was secured from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) under Section 15 of the National Housing Act. A fifty (50) year mortgage to 2026 was negotiated at the going rate at that time of 8% interest.

CMHC provided an up front grant of 10% of the cost as long as the social housing commitments detailed in the CMHC Loan Agreement were achieved throughout the full 50 years of the Agreement.

A non profit corporation, the NWT Community Services Corporation, was required to be established under the *Canada Not for Profit Act* to construct, operate and manage Northern United Place. The objectives for the Corporation were clearly outlined in the Letters Patent. In 2014 the new *Not for Profit Act* came into existence and the NWT Community Services Corporation was continued under this Act with the same purpose. The By-laws of the Corporation were slightly revised to fit into this new Act and were approved by the Members of the Corporation at a special meeting on October 14, 2014.

A few years ago, responsibility for administering CMHC's Housing Portfolio in the Northwest Territories were transferred to the NWT Housing Corporation. The day to day oversight responsibility that accompanied the original CHMC Agreement is now the NWT Housing Corporation's responsibility.

The NWT Community Services Corporation is responsible for providing to the NWT Housing Corporation:

- The annual Operations & Maintenance Budget
- The annual Capital Budget and receiving permission for use of the Capital Reserve Fund
- The annual Audited Financial Statements
- Submitting any changes proposed to the housing rents and receiving approval for those changes

Originally CMHC and now the NWT Housing Corporation have the authority to inspect Northern United Place at any time to ensure the obligations, income and rental guidelines in the original Agreement are being met.

The NWT Community Services Corporation does not receive any operations funding or grants from any level of Government. The Corporation is totally dependent on the rental income from the building, primarily from Aurora College for the campus and student residence and from its housing tenants.

Aurora College has been fulfilling a practice followed by the Government of the NWT since the inception of Northern United Place to provide an anchor tenant to meet some of the GNWT's office space needs for their departments and agencies. An anchor tenant has been essential to ensure the financial viability of Northern United Place and allow the Corporation to meet the required affordable housing requirements,

To graphically illustrate the importance of the GNWT funding provided through Aurora College, in the 2016 Budget the College will provide approximately 70% of the total revenue required to run Northern United Place. The Aurora College lease covers base rent and their share of operational costs for NUP. For 2016 the estimated lease costs are \$2.2 million.

The lease with Aurora College expires at the end of August 2017. We will be endeavouring to negotiate a renewal of the lease. The Corporation is strongly committed to ensuring the campus and student residence continue to be well maintained and provide a safe and secure environment for both staff and students.

The purposes and objects for Northern United Place are clearly outlined in the CMHC Agreement, the original Letters Patent of the Corporation and in the Articles of Continuance. They are:

1. To provide accommodation for, among others, the poor, needy, elderly and disabled in Yellowknife;
2. To provide meeting space and other facilities for, among others, religious, educational, charitable and volunteer organizations in Yellowknife.

With this background, it is now timely to appreciate what has been achieved at Northern United Place over the past 40 years. Through various policies and in initiatives by the Board over the years, the intent of the original vision of the Congregation of the 1970's is being effectively met.

Housing Tenants

Through our 84 apartments (70 bachelor and 14 one bedroom units) affordable housing is provided to Yellowknife residents with annual household incomes of \$33,000 or less. 33 of the units are occupied by seniors and 2 units by persons with physical mobility issues. The majority of our senior tenants earn significantly less than \$33,000 per year and all but 3 pay less than 30% of their income on rent (those that pay more are subsidized through Income Assistance),

Our Housing Policy also provides for a \$300 per month rebate for seniors and persons with physical mobility issues.

Aurora College Student Residence

There are 42 apartments (bachelor, one, two, three, four and five bedroom units) that form the residence for students attending the College. The College provides highly subsidized housing for their students who come to the College from communities across the NWT and from outside the NWT. The student residence is the home away from home for students and their families.

Multi-Purpose Area

The two floors of the multi-purpose area (floors 1 and 2 of Tower A) including the auditorium, various meeting rooms, the Chapel and kitchen provide very important meeting places for many community, non-profit and volunteer organizations in Yellowknife. The meeting space is also rented by Governments and private companies. The multi-purpose space is heavily used throughout the year, usually between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. six days a week. Sunday is normally reserved for Church services. The uses of the multi-purpose area meet the second purpose of the NWT Community Services Corporation's mandate as outlined in the original Letters Patent and the recent Articles of Continuance.

Over the past year, weekly users of the various rooms include groups such as Beavers and Cubs, Tops, Alcoholics Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous, Al-Anon etc.

Previous users include such groups as the Yellowknife Watercolour Society, Fireweed Children's Choir, YWCA, Ecology North, NWT Literacy Council and Food Rescue.

Over the 2015 summer, the auditorium was used extensively for a child day care.

In addition, several Governments and Government Departments rented space along with various private companies. The attached Annual Report from the Church details the uses in 2015.

The day to day rental of the rooms and facilities in the multi-purpose area is managed by the Church through an Agreement between the Church and the Corporation. The Corporation is extensively involved in the operation of the area through regular maintenance, take down and put up of tables and chairs to meet specific needs of the renters each week, janitorial services, security services and snow removal.

The multi-purpose area occupies about 5% of the total building. The current annual cost to the Corporation for multi-purpose area administration, security, electricity, heating, property tax, water, garbage disposal, general repair and maintenance and janitorial services is approximately \$192,000. These costs are fully paid by the Corporation.

The above summary illustrates that Northern United Place has met and continues to meet very important affordable housing needs and meeting space needs in Yellowknife for many non-profit, volunteer and community organizations over the past 40 years.

Major Priorities 2015

Over the past year, there has been a significant increase in security issues and problems throughout the building. The problems are not unique to Northern United Place but unfortunately consistent with major security problems through the City. At one time people in Yellowknife did not lock their doors to their homes and apartments. Government offices were open to the public at all times. Unfortunately, this environment has rapidly changed and security systems are extensively used for private residences, government offices and private businesses. Security staff are in high demand and are visible everywhere.

Aurora College throughout the NWT has very strict security requirements for all of their campuses and student residences. They have clear security policies and standards, and qualification and training standards for security staff are enforced. The reason the Corporation can afford security staff for Northern United Place is because of the College and their requirements. The total Security contract budget for Northern United Place for 2016 is \$274,000. Aurora College pays 75% of this cost or approximately \$205,000.

Since last June the Corporation has been addressing the need for improved security through several initiatives. We have been reviewing the growing number of serious incidents and are taking action to improve security.

In July Aurora College requested that locks be installed on the main floor bathrooms to allow campus staff, students and visitors to enjoy safe, secure and clean bathrooms.

To increase security for our housing tenants and the student residence, access doors off of 54th Street are controlled by FOBS provided to housing tenants and students in the residence. New signs at the entrance encourage tenants not to let unauthorized persons to tailgate into the apartment areas. Visitors to apartments use the intercom system to gain access. When Security is on duty they ensure that people are only getting access to the building either by using a key FOB or by being granted access by a tenant.

At the request of the Church, a new lock system for both the front doors off Franklin Avenue and the bathroom doors have been installed and a new system is being implemented. All renters and users of the multi-purpose space will have FOBS to effectively manage the space they are renting and their bathroom facilities to ensure the safety of their group.

The Security staff are on duty and regularly patrol the entire building from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday and for 24 hours on weekends and holidays.

We also have a Committee of our Board reviewing security for future improvements.

The Directors of the Corporation and our staff are committed to the fundamental philosophy that all residents and renters of Northern United Place have the right to enjoy quality space that is safe and secure.

The Board is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment at Northern United Place for:

- The housing tenants
- The staff and student of Aurora College
- The students and their families who live in student residence at NUP
- The renters of the multi-purpose space

Minor Priorities - 2016

Renewal of the Aurora College lease will be a major priority this year along with addressing the potential options for ensuring the long term financial viability of NUP while fully achieving our objectives associated with our CMHC Mortgage.

As 2016 will mark our 40th Anniversary we intend to have some celebrations to mark this important milestone.

Larry Elkin,

President

Northern Lights Presbytery

Northern Lights Presbytery met two times this past year. One meeting was in Fort Nelson in September (with a stop in Fort St. John for a covenanting service) and the other meeting was in Spirit River in February.

Given that Northern Lights Presbytery meets only two or three times per year and given that the geography covered by the presbytery is vast, it may be surprising to hear that the presbytery is one the “best” presbyteries in all of The United Church of Canada. This can in part be credited to the fact that even though we don’t meet many times, when we do meet it is for a longer period of time. The meetings always include meal times, social time, reflection time and worship time and it is these along with the business we are called to do that help us to form a community. The presbytery is also formed from people who all live in the north (even though for some of us it feels like some places are in the south!) and a typical northern spirit is present in the way we do the work and build community in the presbytery.

As the presbytery is a court of the church that covers a large part of Alberta and Northwest Conference it necessarily concerns itself with issues and situations that are more than local, even though those same issues and situations may have local connections as well.

For example, at the September meeting in Fort Nelson, such things as the Syrian Refugee Crisis, reports from our lay and ordered commissioners to General Council, Mission and Service Stewardship and providing for ongoing worship in places that are without full time or any time from ministry personnel were all part of the discussion. The shortage of ministry personnel and the dollars to provide for ongoing paid, accountable pastoral relationships is a continuing theme in this presbytery.

We also celebrated that one of our own, Joan Kennedy was interviewed by the Presbytery Education and Students Committee and was recommended for ordination. Joan is a candidate for ministry from St. Paul’s United Church in Grande Prairie, and has been serving the Edson Trail (Valleyview) Pastoral Charge for the past five years and was being supervised for the past three years by Peter Chynoweth. Joan was subsequently recommended for ordination by the Conference Education and Students Committee and will be ordained on June 5, in Edmonton.

At the February meeting in Spirit River, we were visited by Earl Reaburn, the conference personnel minister, and a former member of Northern Lights presbytery as well. Some of the same concerns and issues were the focus of discussion at this presbytery meeting.

In the face of the changes that the whole church is facing, a number of projects, new relationships and ways of doing things have been considered. These include a project to investigate the feasibility of providing “distance” worship opportunities for places that have part time ministry, or who are without ministry personnel for a period of time, Memorandums of Understanding between two pastoral charges to share a minister, consideration of Cluster Ministry frameworks to deliver ministry in different ways over large geographical areas. Some of these situations are still in process, others have resulted in the joining of two pastoral charges into a new amalgamated pastoral charge and another is in a holding pattern until new sources of funding, new and less expensive technology or new paradigms can be developed.

We also spent some time in Spirit River thinking about the future of Northern Lights presbytery in the face of the wider changes that are coming for The United Church of Canada. With the decisions made by the General Council in August 2015, and the likelihood of a three court model being approved, we know that the presbytery as we know it, will cease to exist and for a group of people that considers itself and is considered by others as the “best” or one of the “best” presbyteries, there will be some grief and some anxiety about the changes to be faced.

Yellowknife United Church is well represented in Northern Lights Presbytery. Along with our regular delegate, Stuart Oldham, we have two members at large from Yellowknife. Lloyd Henderson is co-chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee and Nancy Trotter is the chair of the Living the Faith Ministry. In addition, I am a member of the presbytery as a result of my call to serve in ministry with Yellowknife United Church as a member of the order of ministry. I serve as the Convenor of Pastoral Oversight for the presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Chynoweth

TREASURERS REPORT : Yellowknife United Church
Income Statement
As of April 30, 2016

OPERATING FUND Statement of Revenue & Expenditures		2015 Budget To April 30	2015 Actuals To April 30	2016 Budget To April 30	2016 Actuals To April 30	2016 Actuals
Revenue						
	Offering- Local, Loose, SS, Youth, & Other	70,000	22,606	70,000	21,243	30.3%
	Building & Equipment Use	70,000	24,769	70,000	19,734	28.2%
	Fund Raising	7,500	1,068	7,500	971	12.9%
	Youth Group	0	0	0	0	n/a
	Garden Project	0	0	0	2,198	n/a
	Other- photocopies, sales interest, marriage donations	2,940	10	2,644	500	18.9%
Total Revenue		150,440	48,453	150,144	44,646	29.7%
Expenditures						
	Personnel	115,200	34,729	110,000	35,752	32.5%
	General Admin & Maintenance	13,000	3,942	17,500	3,003	17.2%
	Manse Operating	12,375	5,160	12,375	5,103	41.2%
	Official Board	4,200	1,696	4,800	1,554	32.4%
	Worship Committee	2,000	634	2,000	483	24.1%
	Youth group	0	0	0	0	n/a
	Outreach Committee	2,000	9	2,200	1,000	45.5%
	Comm Life & Membership Comm.	800	19	800	258	32.2%
	Christian Development Committee	800	299	800	297	37.1%
	Stewardship Committee	500	182	500	217	43.5%
	Garden Project	0	0	993	0	n/a
	Affirm Study Group	1,000	100	1,000	100	10.0%
Total Expenditures		151,875	46,772	152,968	47,766	31.2%
Excess revenue (expenditures)		-\$1,435	\$1,681	-\$2,824	-\$3,119	

Total Offerings/Givings to April 30, 2016

Local Offering	21,243.38	Down 6% from 2015 (Includes \$1350 from a once a year deposit not rec'd yet in 2016)
Mission and Service	6,115.00	Down 3.1% from 2015
Memorial Fund	300.00	No revenue to April 2015 for comparison
Refugee Fund	50.00	No offering to April 2015 for comparison - have not included outreach donation here
Capital Fund	2,157.00	Up 76% from 2015
TOTAL	\$29,865.38	

Building Rentals are down by 20% from 2015 and under budget by 15% (\$3599)

At the end of April offerings should be at \$31,500 for all categories (\$94,500 for year)

Total offerings to April were under budget by 5.2% (\$1635)

Summary of GICs	
Operating Fund	\$10,997.14
Memorial Fund	\$5,057.50
Total GIC	\$16,054.64