

2016 Annual Report



Our Mission

*We are called to be a vibrant and affirming Christian community,
sharing God's love and engaging ALL through dynamic worship,
strong family ministry and loving hospitality,
in service and outreach to the community.*

Our Vision

Your church, at the centre of the community. Welcome home!



Symons Valley United Church

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2016 Official Board

Chairperson: Scot Middleton

Secretary: Nancy McKellar

Treasurer: Michelle Middleton

Stewardship & Finance: Rep, Wayne Carmichael

Ministry & Personnel: Rep, Colleen Marchant

Worship: Allison Andruchuk

Presbytery Rep: Gloria Davis

Pastoral Care: Donna Williams

Outreach: Colleen Nabata

Faith Formation: Shari Derksen

Property Management: Dennis McLaren

Member-at-large: Daniel Sore

Member-at-large: Alice Cockroft

A Message from Vicki McPhee

2016 was a momentous year. I can still clearly remember Scot Middleton, as the Chair of the Search Committee which had recently offered me a position at Symons Valley United Church, stating, “Your countdown to sabbatical begins now.” Back in 2011, five years in the future seemed to be far away. But, suddenly, 2016 arrived and plans for sabbatical had been made. There have been many twists and curves along the way of our journey together. At the start of 2016, I was working in the third incarnation of my job description and your staff team had evolved considerably in the past five years.

As many of you are well aware, the scripture Micah 6:8 (What does God require of you? To seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.) is very meaningful to me. It has been my reminder that God has high expectations from each of us and it is our role, as God’s beloved children, to work towards these things every day. Being followers of Jesus, we look to his ministry to guide us in how we can best to accomplish these tasks.

As I sit here and reflect on the journey I have experienced with Symons Valley United in 2016, Micah kept calling to me. And so, let me touch on a few places that we, together, have sought justice, loved kindness and where we have tried to walk humbly with God.

Seek Justice: the most obvious work that we have done in seeking justice is the intentional and love-filled building of relationship with the Al-Makkah Muslim Group that prays in our building on Fridays and other Muslim holy days. We have not stood idly by in times of growing Islamophobia and racism. We have given voice that we Christians truly believe that we are to love our neighbour—ALL our neighbours. During my sabbatical, I attended a protest against rising hate at City Hall. Our people have walked together proudly in Calgary’s Pride Parade. We have continued to be very committed to helping the clients of the Drop-In Centre by preparing sandwiches and serving breakfasts.

Love Kindness: this is easy. The people of this congregation are so ready to love and help one another—whether you are a newcomer or an old-timer. Hands to assist and ears to listen are quickly offered amongst this church family of ours. Kindness has been expressed again and again when people have the courage to stand up and offer a sermon, to say words of confession and assurance, or when they arrive at church, being their vulnerable and tender selves. There have been big changes in the lives of some our members and they have been received with such loving kindness, it warms my heart so dearly.

Walk Humbly: This is an odd one to lift up about oneself (me or SVUC) but I will say; this congregation walks humbly by simply acknowledging that not one of us has all the answers nor do we, as a

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From the Board

Dear Friends of Symons Valley United Church,

2016 was a year of significant change and evolution within our ministry, and in our world. We tested a new staffing model, collected feedback and approved recommendations from the Joint Needs Assessment Committee report, completed a Discernment Committee for Daniel Sore, restructured our financing, sent Vicki McPhee off to learn on a 3 month sabbatical, drafted a Governance Handbook for the congregations approval, and deepened our relationship with the Muslim community in North Calgary. It is incredible to reflect on what on has been accomplished in the past year! Here are the highlights from the Board's perspective:

Recognitions and changes on the Board

Allison Andruchuk, who has been our Chair of the Worship committee for the past year, will be stepping down from that position, with **Pat Riddell** stepping into the Chair role on the 2017 slate. **Sandy Crawford** and **Wayne Carmichael** have been alternating as representatives of the Stewardship Committee to the Board over the past year. With Wayne's recent retirement from his day job, he has decided to take on the position of Chair of that committee beginning in 2017. This means that Sandy will be stepping down from the Board, and Wayne will represent Stewardship full time at the Board. **Shari Derksen** has been Chair of the Faith Formation Committee. This committee has elected **Letitia Berger** as Co-Chair of that committee, and they would plan to share representation to the Board. **Zoe Gulley** stepped down in the fourth quarter of 2016 as Chair of Pastoral Care, and **Donna Williams** volunteered to step into this role as an interim appointment. Donna has agreed to let her name stand on the 2017 slate. Additionally the Pastoral Care committee elected **Elsa McLaren** as their representative to the Board. **Colleen Nabata** stepped down in June as Chair of the Outreach Committee, with **Bessie Leal** stepping in as Chair in the fall. Bessie was not able to continue in that role, so we are currently seeking a new Chair for the Outreach Committee. **Alice Cockcroft** has been holding a Member-at-Large position, but it was agreed that she would continue in a capacity of representing Women's Ministries at the Board, freeing up a vacant Member-at-Large position in 2017. **Daniel Sore** has agreed to continue as our other Member-at-Large.

We thank all of the outgoing members for their faithful service, and welcome the newbies to the 2017 slate!

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Sunday February 26 following the worship service. Lunch will be provided. Please plan to attend! New Business will include: electing the Board for 2017, electing a Trustee, approving the 2017 budget and approving the newly drafted Governance Handbook of SVUC.

The following slate of nominees will be brought before the congregation for approval at the AGM. With the exception of the Treasurer's office, all Board positions are 3 year terms, renewable for one additional term.

2017 Nominations to the Board of Symons Valley United Church

Name	Board Position	Status	Year Appointed
Alice Cockcroft	Woman's Ministries	Continuing	2017
Daniel Sore	Member at Large	Continuing	2016
Dennis McLaren	Chair, Property Management	Continuing	2014
Donna Williams	Chair, Pastoral Care	Incoming	2017
Gloria Davis	Presbytery Rep 1	Continuing	2012
Michelle Middleton	Treasurer	Continuing	2010
Nancy McKellar	Recording Secretary	Continuing	2014
Pat Riddell	Chair, Worship Committee	Incoming	2017
Scot Middleton	Chair of the Board	Continuing	2013
Scott Riddell/Colleen Marchant	Co-Chairs, Ministry and Personnel	Continuing	2013
Shari Derksen/Letitia Berger	Co-Chairs, Faith Formation	Incoming	2016
Vacant	Member at Large	Vacant	2017
Vacant	Chair, Outreach Committee	Outgoing	2011
Wayne Carmichael	Chair, Stewardship Committee	Continuing	2017

***Bold** text indicates a change from the previous year.*

Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report Approved

While I expect there will be a separate report highlighting the findings of this committee, the Board would like to recognize the dedication and time spent collecting feedback from all staff, committees and members of the congregation as they assessed what the staffing model needs are for our church going forward. The Board met with this group two times providing input into their report, which was approved by the congregation in November. **On January 17, 2017, Calgary Presbytery approved this report. Many thanks go to this group, with special gratitude extended to Sandy and Letitia who co-chaired this fantastic group of people.**

Gerry Van Keeken (Outreach Ministry)
Wayne Carmichael (Stewardship)
Sandy Crawford (Stewardship)
April Boutin (Children's Ministry)
Bill Dickson (Calgary Presbytery)

Kathy Spence Cameron (Pastoral Care)
Vicki MacDonald (Faith Formation)
Letitia Berger (Affirming Mission)
Carolynn Buoey-Shank (Calgary Presbytery)

Discernment Committee Report Approved

Daniel Sore, one of our Board members, requested to enter the discernment process, in order to discern his calling to become a minister in the United Church of Canada. This was initiated when the Board appointed Scot Middleton,

Shari Derksen, and Allison Andruchuk, to join with Calgary Presbytery representative Debbie Stockdale to form a discernment committee together with Daniel. Over the past 12 months, this committee met approximately once a month, journeying together to explore faith based questions together with Daniel. In January of 2017, **the Board unanimously recommended Daniel as a candidate for Ordained Ministry in the United Church of Canada.** Daniel will now begin the next step of that discernment process engaging in interviews both at the Presbytery and Conference levels. Daniel hopes to begin his studies at the University of Calgary, and then plans to enroll in the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia in their distance learning program. We will continue to walk with and support Daniel as he enters this exciting phase of his life.

Governance Handbook for SVUC

During Vicki's sabbatical time, our congregation benefited from the **Rev. Murray Speer** joining us for three months as our minister in the spring and early summer. During that time, **one of the projects that Murray completed was to draft a Governance Handbook for Symons Valley United Church.** This handbook documents governance practices and structures, as well as providing one centrally documented Terms of Reference for everything that goes on in our ministry. The Board has been working at adding to the initial draft that Murray presented to the Board last June, and the handbook will be circulated prior to the AGM for the congregation's review and approval. This will be a living document that can be passed on as our organizational memory of how we get things done in our church, and will continue to evolve in the years to come.

Mortgage Financing for the Building

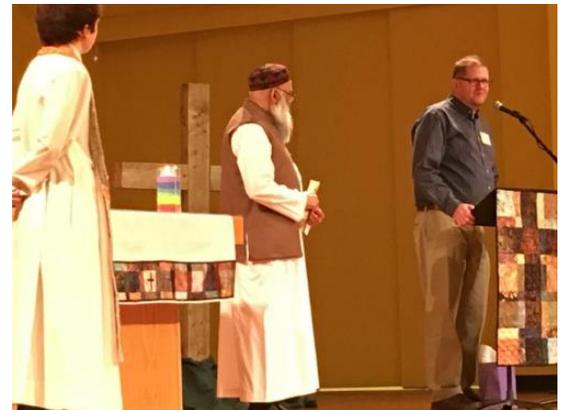
Through the leadership and advocating of one of our Trustees, Sue Brodrick, and Calgary Presbytery Executive member Hugh Johnson, Presbytery approved a proposal to request The United Church of Canada Finance Committee to consider paying out Symon's Valley United Church's mortgage that was held with RBC. **In the fall of 2016, the national church executive approved this proposal, and paid in full our mortgage of \$1.83 million to RBC. This debt is now held by the United Church of Canada,** our co-signer on the original mortgage. The Board committed to supporting monthly payments of \$5,000 per month to the national church through 2017.

In January it was confirmed that interest on this loan will be calculated at 2.5%, a significant reduction compared to the 3.2% we had been paying to RBC. This will allow us to make more progress in paying down principal on this debt, while keeping our monthly payments predictable, and at a manageable level to allow us to focus on our ministry, not on our finances. We are blessed by the support that both Calgary Presbytery and the National Church have provided, and continue to extend to our congregation and ministry. The Stewardship committee has kicked off an all members visitation at the end of January. I encourage each of you to engage in these visits, and prayerfully consider what your commitment of time and finance will be, knowing that *we don't give to the church, but give through it.*

Interfaith Ministry

Our relationship with the Al-Madinah Calgary Islamic Assembly continued to grow deeper over 2016. We held multiple events that both of our faith communities engaged in, as we learned about one another's faith, broke bread together and affirmed that we have shared stories in scripture and shared values. Imam Shahid Bashir delivered the message on January 15, 2017 to our congregation. He was delighted to share about our common links through the story of Abraham, found both in the Christian Old Testament, and in the Quran. In this Trumped up world we live in, I am proud that our congregation stands up and says NO to hate and discrimination. God loves all people, and we believe in pluralism that there is not just one way to God.

I started to pre-read the book that Vicki is hosting as a book study on in February called "Daring Greatly" by Brenè Brown. In this book she writes about how **the courage to be vulnerable transforms the way we live, love, parent and lead.** Standing up and saying that we identify with, and love Muslims, and that the God we believe in loves ALL people, can sometimes make us feel vulnerable. On January 27th of this year, the US President signed an executive order banning people from travel to the United States based on their country of origin, and religion they practice. Two days later, on January 29th, 6 Muslims were massacred in Quebec City as they were praying in their mosque. **To all Muslims, and before all secular society as our witness, Symons Valley United Church says, "We stand with you. We understand that Islam is a faith based on peace and love. And we are not content to see others spread hate and fear while we remain silent." This is the kind of church I want to belong to, and offer my time and money to support.** I hope you feel the same. If not, let's talk about it, because that is what we do.



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In 2017, I am excited to see how Symons Valley United Church chooses to dare greatly. But it is not about what I think. What are you going to do this year to be vulnerable? To make a difference in the life of another? Are you going to volunteer for different role that makes you feel stretched and a little uncomfortable? Are you going to devote a little more of your earnings to a cause {place or Ministry instead of cause??} you believe in? Invite one of your friends to church? Whatever it may be, lean in and ENGAGE with it. I expect the rewards you receive will more than you expected ;)

As-Salaam-Alaikum, (*Arabic for Peace be unto you*)

Yours in Christ,



Scot Middleton
Chair of the Board
Symons Valley United Church
samiddleton@dow.com



Dessert Theatre Report 2016



The production “Your Guests Are Ghosts” was a huge success with 18 dedicated cast members putting many hours of rehearsal time into the show. The chicken and beef meals and the desserts were terrific with a huge number of volunteers pulling together to make this a successful fund-raising / fun-raising adventure! Thanks to everyone who helped out with the Dinner Dessert Theatre in any way. This event raised about \$14,000 for the work of the church. The play received two adjudications from ACTS (Calgary’s Alliance of Community Theatres) which were very complimentary to the cast and crew. Well done everyone!

Submitted by,

Ann Crawford

From the Planned Gift Committee

The Planned Giving Committee is made up of Heather McDonald, Richard Freed and Donna Williams.

We encourage congregation members to consider planned gifts through the many financial vehicles available in the United Church or through gifts given in memory of loved ones, to the **Symons Valley Memorial Fund**.

Planned (or legacy) giving, very simply, is planning to make a gift. Legacy gifts are generally funded from accumulated resources or assets rather than from income. The most common legacy gift received by the church is a bequest. The tax benefit from a bequest accrues to the donor's estate. The Philanthropy Unit can also arrange several gifts that allow you to make a gift in the future but receive the tax benefits now.

You can designate your legacy gift to any aspect of The United Church of Canada—the Mission and Service Fund, your local congregation, a local mission unit, a United Church camp, a theological college, The United Church of Canada Archives, The United Church of Canada Foundation - the possibilities are abundant and rich with the excitement of giving! For more information, check out the following website: www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/donate/howto/planned. If you would like to discuss this area further, please talk to one of the committee members or contact Kathryn Hofley at khofley@united-church.ca.

Our local Memorial Fund falls under the umbrella of Planned Giving. Money from the Memorial Fund will not be used to cover regular or ongoing operational expenses of the church. Monies in the fund will be used for development and enhancement of the ministry of Symons Valley United Church in areas such as the following: outreach activities, youth ministry and programming, lay education, music and worship enhancements, capital improvements.

In 2016, the Memorial Fund was used to purchase additional music stands and a rolling cart to store and move them.

Account Summary:

January 2016 opening balance: \$4,059.34

Memorial Fund Spending: \$1,594.63

Memorial Fund Contributions: \$ 500.00

Account balance - Dec. 2016: \$ 2,964.71

We encourage all congregation members to consider Planned Giving and the Symons Valley Memorial Fund in their contributions to the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Williams, Chair



From Faith Formation & Programming

Greetings from the Faith Formation & Programming Committee at Symons Valley United Church. The purpose of the Faith Formation & Programming Committee is:

- To provide opportunities for the congregation to be in relationship with one another outside of Sunday mornings
- To offer times of learning, faith formation, spiritual formation and social engagement for all ages within the congregation
- To allow for members of the congregation to connect with the Divine outside of traditional Sunday worship
- To engage and to serve the surrounding communities by offering relevant and needed programs as well as opportunities to explore faith formation in a safe, welcoming environment

Highlights from 2016:

Children's Ministry

- A Sunday School curriculum search committee was established to research new and engaging curriculum for Red and Green rooms. Options were presented and Faith Formation & Programming decided on the Sparks curriculum which was purchased and implemented into Red and Green Sunday School classes in September 2016, with a positive response from both teachers and kids.
- Sunday School Summer Children's Program
- Sunday School numbers continue to grow
- PowerChurch program is fully implemented for tracking Sunday School and congregation family data

Youth Ministry

- Brendon Cockroft was hired as interim part-time Youth Assistant for fall 2016 to help support Ashley Dion and our growing youth until the start of a contract part-time Youth Assistant position in January 2017
- Successful launch of new Junior Youth (grades 4-6) events supported by volunteer Dana Dutton

General Ministry

- Successful launch of new Wing and a Prayer Adults Ministry (ages 21-40ish) led by volunteer Brendon Cockroft
- "Leaving Childish Things Behind" book study led by Scott Riddell
- Together in Community: Muslim and Christian Gathering
- Adult Lent Spiritual Reflection Classes
- SVUC/Kincora Association Easter Egg Hunt



- Beer & Folk Songs Night at Scotsman's Well
- Another successful Dessert/Dinner Theatre
- Spring Fling Talent Show and Silent Auction
- Halloween Fest/Open House
- Book of Genesis Bible Study
- "Animate" video series study
- 2 Grownups Only Fun Nights
- Advent Festival Event
- Beer and Carols Night at Scotsman's Well

We look forward to continuing to serve Symons Valley United Church congregation and the community at large in 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shari Derksen, Chair

From the Outreach Committee



Mission and Outreach is an active and involved committee within Symons Valley United. Our vision is to Reach Out, in Christian love, to support groups and organizations that help others.

At present our committee consists of nine members who attend our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and actively participate in the programs we support.

In early 2016, Colleen Nabata, stepped down as Chair of Mission and Outreach, but continued in the role as acting Chair until a replacement could be found. Advertising for an interested person to fill the Chair role began in February and in June Bessie Leal, became the Chair of Mission and Outreach.

Unfortunately Bessie's university, work and family commitments required that she step down in December. Thank you Bessie for your leadership with Mission and Outreach. Colleen Nabata will be acting Chair until a replacement can be found.

Here is a summary of the various programs our committee supports:



The Good Food Box Program

The Good Food Box Program is an important part of our community, providing top quality, fresh fruit and vegetables, at a very reasonable price. The food is bought in bulk and dropped off at the Good Food Box warehouse, where volunteers divide the produce into portions to create the food boxes. The program is available to everyone within our community. Their mandate is to offer Calgarians access to nutritious and affordable food. There are three sizes of boxes available at a cost of \$25 - \$35. Please note cash payment is due at the time of ordering.

Once a month, with the exception of July and August, our program coordinators, Shelley Loke and Nicole Williams, accept orders and payment after service on Sundays. Orders are also accepted during the week in the office. The boxes are dropped off on Thursday for pick up.

This program was initiated at Symons Valley in late 2015 and has been supplying good food boxes to an increasing number of people throughout 2016. The Good Food Box program is advertised in the Kincora Community Newsletter, and community members are beginning to take advantage of the program.

Thank you Nicole and Shelley for coordinating this important food program.



White Gift Project – in support of the SHARP Foundation.

Under the coordination of Liz McGregor, our 2016 White Gift Project ran very smoothly and efficiently. Thank you Liz and family, for all you do in support of the SHARP White Gift project!

A huge thank you to the congregation for their support of our White Gift project which raised just over \$2,900 this year. This project makes Christmas merrier for the residents of Scott and Beswick House, Project 2011 & Carlyle Commons which are hospices and homes for vulnerable adults living with HIV/AIDS, almost all of whom would be homeless without the support and care provided by SHARP (www.thesharpfoundation.com).

Your wonderful generosity meant that we were able to give gifts and stockings to 17 residents and one dog! We were also able to provide 15 movie passes for the residents, a coffee maker and tea towels for Beswick House. We also provided good winter jackets to 4 residents of Carlyle Commons and a 'Welcome Home' package for a new resident moving in on 29 December 2016. The Welcome Home package included a laundry basket filled with dishes, cutlery, glasses, dish rack, tea towels, can openers, placemats, oven gloves and other items to help them get set up in their supported apartment.

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Thanks to all who helped to decorate & fill the stockings, make and track the donations, sew gifts, sign cards, shop & find gifts, wrap and deliver the gifts. This is truly a project that requires help from the entire congregation.



Calgary Drop-In Centre – Breakfast Serving

One Sunday morning each month, with the exception of July and August, 15 to 20 volunteers from the congregation serve breakfast to approximately 500 clients at the Calgary Drop-In Centre. The standard breakfast is cold cereal and juice and breakfast service is usually completed in under one hour. While the hands that provide the labour are appreciated, the warm, friendly smiles of the volunteers are of immense benefit to the clients as well. On May 8, 2016, Symons Valley United Church sponsored a hot breakfast at a cost of \$1000. Proceeds to cover this hot breakfast came from a Spring Fling concert that was held in the Spring. Clients were delighted to receive a hearty breakfast of pancakes, sausages and hash browns. Our hope is to sponsor one to two hot breakfasts every year at the Drop-In Centre. Janet Rowland coordinates and recruits volunteers for this program. Thank you Janet for your leadership.

Calgary Drop-In Centre – Sandwich Making

Once a month, except for July and August, we make approximately 400 sandwiches for the Calgary Drop-In Centre. These sandwiches are used to pack lunches for the DI patrons who have jobs. The sandwich making is funded by the congregation in a separate collection that is made during the service on sandwich making day. All members of the congregation are invited to help make sandwiches in the Valleyview Room, after service. Young and old really enjoy working together to do their part in helping others. The time commitment is about 20 minutes. Congregation members The sandwich coordinator is David Ward. David is responsible for buying all the supplies, setting up the room, supervising the sandwich making and clean-up, and delivery of the sandwiches to the Drop-In Centre. Thank you David for your coordination of this program.

Inn from the Cold



We continued our long term support of Inn from the Cold in 2016 by providing 5 volunteers to serve dinner, make lunches and do kitchen cleanup once per month. The Inn provides shelter sanctuary and healing for homeless children and their families, with the goal of helping them to achieve their greatest level of independence. Thank you to Gerry and Cheryl VanKeeken for their continued leadership in coordinating this program.

Respectfully submitted by,

Colleen Nabata, Chair

From the Joint Needs Assessment

The formation of a Joint Needs Assessment Committee for SVUC was initiated in November, 2015 after the departure of Sarah Fanning as one of our ministers. This process is automatically triggered by any change in Order of Ministry personnel in a congregation.

The first meeting of the committee was in February, 2016. Our group was comprised of 2 members from Calgary Presbytery, Carolynne Bouey Shank and Bill Dickson as well as 7 members from Symons Valley United Church – Letitia Berger (co-chair), April Boutin, Wayne Carmichael, Sandy Crawford (co-chair), Vicki MacDonald (secretary), Kathy Spence-Cameron and Gerry Vankeekan. People from this group met with the Board, all committees and all staff. As well, an open house was held twice after church and access to an online survey was provided. We also made use of the feedback from the “Natural Church Development” (NCD) surveys and analysis which were conducted over the past few years. Information from all these sources was used to formulate the recommendations from the committee. The following recommendations were approved by the congregation at a special meeting held on November 27:

- Calgary Presbytery confirms the interim job description that was created in November, 2015 at Symons Valley United Church (SVUC), and that this full-time Order of Ministry position be offered to Vicki McPhee, with the changes in the Terms of Call as are outlined in the Job Description (pages 23- 26);
- A Joint Search Committee should not be created. It is apparent that there is not a need for a second minister at SVUC at this time, as long as some key tasks are covered by non-ministerial staff;
- SVUC consider that the next Joint Needs Assessment could be triggered when one or more of the following criteria are satisfied:
 - Contributing Households increase by 50%
 - Average Sunday attendance reaches 180- 200 people, including youth and children
 - The Board determines that there has been a change in direction of the congregation
 - Five (5) years has passed from the time of this JNAC
- Calgary Presbytery disbands the JNAC with thanks

In addition, recognizing that one minister cannot perform all the duties of the previous 2 ministers, the JNAC suggested that a number of other positions should be continued or expanded.

These recommendations received final approval from the Personnel Support Commission of Calgary Presbytery on January 17, 2017.

From The Music Ministry



It has been another great year in Music at Symons Valley. We continue to have 4 groups of singers in our church. We are fortunate to have such talented singers and musicians in our choirs.

We took a new approach with the Church Mice beginning in the fall. Heather Klekta led this group of our youngest singers and met with them prior to our service at 10:15. This provided an opportunity for these singers to get a bit more familiar with some of our hymns. On the Sundays when they share a verse of

these hymns at the start of our service, we also incorporate the same hymn later in the service when the Sunday School is back in the sanctuary. This is working well! Thank you to Heather for her leadership with this group.

The annual Twelfth Night celebration was held at St. Thomas this past January. Our worship choir sang two anthems and participated in the massed choir. Vocal Praise sang a joint anthem with the St. Thomas Youth Choir as well as performing one of their own pieces. It was a great evening and start to 2016.

Once again, in March, we sang at the LDS Easter Celebration. The choir was also very involved in the Spring Fling Fundraiser in June with many of our members performing solos, or ensembles that evening. What a talented group! We wrapped up our singing year in June with a potluck supper at the church.

Our year began in September with a short rehearsal followed by cake and refreshments. This always gives the choir an opportunity to catch up after summer and a good excuse to enjoy tasty treats. In December, we also find time for celebrating with appetizers and sweets after our final December rehearsal. In early December we joined with Cochrane, Balzac and Crossfield United Churches for a night of Christmas music at Crossfield United. It was a great night, organized by Brenda Watt, the minister at Crossfield.

As part of our leadership during the Advent season, the Worship Choir presented a musical sermon during the December 18th service. The sermon text was written by Karen and focused on "The Soundtrack of our Lives".

Christmas Eve was another opportunity for our choir program to shine. Vocal Praise and the Worship Choir sang at the early service and the Worship Choir provided a 15 minute choral prelude prior to the candlelight communion service.

We would like to say a big thank you to our choir members who give so much to our music ministry at Symons Valley. We welcomed three new members to our Worship Choir in the fall: Holly-Jean Kadonga, Bruce McKinnon and Rob Christie. Thank you as well to the all of the musicians who help throughout the year and contribute to our services. We are fortunate to have Brent VanDusen playing along with us at worship services and special singing engagements when he is available. We enjoyed a few opportunities to sing with Erin Beach, cellist and Jacqueline Williams, violinist, this past year and look forward to more collaborations in the future. Special thanks to Alice Cockroft, Ann Crawford and Anne Heinemeyer for their contributions to music ministry.

A further thank you to all of the choir members who assist readily whenever additional help is needed. Special mention needs to be made of our amazing librarian, Barb Goodwin. She keeps us organized and we are very thankful for all of her help. Each week, Dennis McClaren faithfully sets up our choir seating and gets us ready to go. Thank you also to Essie Gaqui-Elefante for her office support and also to the dedicated crew in the sound booth, led by Wayne Carmichael.

Music, fellowship, food and laughter all go hand in hand. Our worship choir shares in each other's concerns and celebrations and provide much support to each other as part of this small group ministry. Thank you to the congregation for their continual support of our special music events and weekly music contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Nell-Bennett
Donna Williams

From The Ministry and Personnel

Much like the season of Advent, 2016 was a year of excitement, anticipation and trust. Excitement about the momentum and energy our congregation was experiencing. Anticipation as the Joints Needs Assessment Committee assessed and deliberated on the continued staffing needs of Symons Valley United Church. And trust that our church family would continue to work together in our call to be a vibrant and affirming Christian community.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee supported existing staff, committees and the congregation in continuing the growth and momentum that we have been experiencing.

Under the direction of Donna Williams (Instrumental Director) and Karen Nell Bennett (Choir Director) our church experienced and participated in worship through beautiful music. Symons Valley United Church is very fortunate to have these two artists share their talents with us.

In her contract role of Director of Communications, Marketing and Community Engagement, Karen has also been instrumental in keeping our congregation and community informed and up to date as well as promoting SVUC to the wider community.

Kathy Dion also has multiple roles: as the Facility Administrator, our building is indeed the centre of the community and she balances the need for income from variety of fulltime, seasonal and occasional rentals with the needs of congregation and community for outreach, recreation and small group ministry. Kathy also serves our congregation as the Children's Ministry Coordinator and the contract role of Welcoming and Integration Coordinator and her talents and abilities are much appreciated.

Essie Gaqui-Elefante continues to be the foundation of our church office and her organization and friendly nature are an asset to our staff team and our congregation as a whole.

Vicki's scheduled sabbatical took place from April through June. The term "sabbatical" comes from the Biblical "Sabbath" and refers to a time of dedicated rest and rejuvenation. Within the United Church of Canada, our Ministry staff receives a three month sabbatical leave approximately every five years. Vicki used her sabbatical time to read, celebrate family mile stones, travel, research, rest and recharge. She came back to us with even more of her characteristic enthusiasm and energy. We extend our thanks yet again to Vicki for her vision, compassion, balance and leadership. She both models and challenges us all to give what we can, do what we should and love without limits. Thank you Vicki.

During Vicki's absence we were fortunate to welcome Murray Speer to our staff team providing us with insightful Worship leadership, pastoral care and congregational support. We very much appreciated the time he spent with our church family.

Much of the energy and momentum our congregation has seen is evidenced by our thriving Youth Group. Our Youth Leader, Ashley Dion, challenged the youth to create and participate in a summer

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program and by all accounts it was well attended and very successful. Kudos to Ashley! In the fall a new Youth Leader Support position was created to support Ashley in mentoring and guiding this very dynamic Ministry. A debt of gratitude goes to Brendon Cockroft for sharing his leadership in the interim as we awaited the permanent candidate.

It is essential that those many people who provided Worship support, lay leadership and “behind the scenes” efforts be recognized and commended as unofficial members of our team. Thank you to all of you for your many contributions.

2016 was an exciting and fulfilling year! We are confident that although we will continue to experience change and challenge, 2017 will once again be a year of growth and vibrancy for our ever expanding faith family. God is good. All the time.

Submitted on behalf of the Ministry and Personnel Committee,

Scott Riddell

Anne Chapman-Heinemeyer

Carmen Cousins

Bob Dunn

Shauna Getz

Colleen Marchant

From Women's Spirit

You are the love
of each living creature O God
You are the warmth
of the rising sun
You are the whiteness
of the moon at night
You are the life
of the growing earth
You are the strength
of the waves of the sea.
Speak to me this night O God
Speak to me your truth.
Dwell with me this night O God
Dwell with me in love.

-Taken from Celtic Prayers, by J.Philip Newell

The mission/aim of Women's Spirit continues to be : *to find God in our every-day life.* As the poem above indicates, God may be found in nature. So to God resides within each of us, nurturing our heart, mind, and spirit. The activities in Women's Spirit reflect this deep-held belief that coming closer to God happens in many different ways for each of us.

Continued Pg. 18

Through a safe, secure sacred space during our meeting time (first and third Wednesday of each month: 1:30 – 3:30) friendships grow with old and new friends amidst support and compatibility. Singing, prayer and reflection time deepen our time together.

In the past few months we have been enriched by people with special interests and skills:

1. Anne Harris-Freed introduced us to the concept of “Balance in our Lives” involving us in some gentle Yoga, and introducing a pie chart to keep track of where we spend our time and energy. (As an off-shoot of this, we have begun a collection of recipes, which we hope to share with the congregation in the near future.)

2. Marsha Read’s topic was: “Listening to Ourselves, Setting Goals for the Journey”. She deepened our divine connection through the use of drumming, meditation and meaningful dialogue. Her second visit used the healing power of tone bowl vibrations to soothe and mend our spirits and souls.

3. Glynis Grigg and Julien DeSchutter, representing the Order of St Lazarus, introduced us to their work supporting Hospice work in Calgary. Their book: [A Caregiver’s Guide: A Handbook about End of Life Care](#) is a rich resource and a copy has been added to the church library.

4. Vicki McPhee presented a session highlighting Julian of Norwich, a well-known mystic from the 14th century whose writings continue to influence lives today.

5. Fran and Andy Porter shared their walk with Borderline Personality Disorder. Their book, [When the Ship Has No Stabilizers](#), recounts their journey with their daughter. Again, a copy of their book has been added to the Church Library.

6. Under the leadership of Anne and Elsa, a Valentine Tea was supplied and served at the Dulcina Hospice in Evanston. An ongoing close connection has since been formed between Symons Valley and Dulcina.

7. Through the efforts of one of our members, Elsa, a regular baking time (first Monday of each month) has been established to provide goodies for our fellowship time after church, and members of Women’s Spirit are actively supporting this ministry.

8. In February Women’s Spirit composed and delivered the worship service on Sunday morning: “Sacred Journeys”.

Our year has been rounded out with pot-luck meals, bouquets of flowers, intercessory prayers, delivering meals to those in need, supporting funeral/memorial receptions, contributing to board meetings, hospital visiting, watching and discussing videos, and connecting with members for mutual support and happiness. Women’s Spirit now has an assigned bulletin board in the church foyer to announce upcoming events.

Women’s Spirit also connects with ladies who are not able to attend our afternoon meetings. “E-Members” stay in touch through emails: spiritual messages are included in our mail-outs each month, and members respond with their current activities and/or faith journeys. You don’t have to be at the gathering to be an active member of Women’s Spirit.

We currently are planning a full-day Saturday retreat in April. There is also the possibility of Women's Spirit expanding to include a second gathering in the evening for women who are unable to attend our current afternoon meetings.

We would like to thank the men of "Women's Auxiliary" who are always present and ready to assist us in our many tasks!

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice Cockroft, Facilitator,
Women's Spirit

From Stewardship



The Stewardship Committee and the Treasurer worked diligently in 2016 to ensure that funding was available for the work of our congregation and that members had the opportunity to help in areas that were meaningful to them.

As the Calgary economy continued to suffer, our Income dropped by about 8 %. This would have been worse but for members who added very significant "Faith Component" contributions, which are amounts above what they had pledged. Thanks to all of them – these donations constituted over 10% of our General Contributions. We were pleased to see that our Mission & Service contributions increased by 7% to support the work of the wider church. We were fortunate to receive in return another Mission Support Grant from the M&S Fund which, although reduced by \$5000 still was a noteworthy addition to our funds – and which showed the support of the National United Church for our ministry. These decreases were somewhat offset by increases in revenues from building rentals and from fundraising efforts, which includes Dinner Theatre income, the Spring Fling talent show and grocery card sales.

Operating expenses were also down by around 5%. This was primarily driven by lower staff costs under the interim staffing model that was implemented in November, 2015.

One other important factor in reducing our expenses was lower interest costs on our mortgage. This is probably the key financial news of 2016 for our congregation. Thanks to the efforts of several Board members and the ongoing support of Sue Brodrick and Hugh Johnson from Calgary Presbytery, the

United Church of Canada (UCC) took over our mortgage from the commercial lender. We have been working towards this step for several years. It gives SVUC a stable and favourable interest rate from a sympathetic lender. It also means that all of our payments will go to the UCC instead of to a bank, allowing these funds to further the work of the greater Church. Thanks to all who helped with this work. We should emphasize that the Board wishes to treat this generous help from the UCC with respect and make every effort to both cover our interest payments and make payments against the principal of the loan.

The net result for 2016 was that our income covered our operating expenses, however when our amortization is taken into account we still have a large deficit.

In other items, members of the Committee attended workshops sponsored by the UCC to keep abreast of current trends and methods for stewardship education. We also were visited by Susan Graham-Walker from the national church who helped us prepare for a stewardship campaign using the excellent materials provided under the “Salt and Light” initiative. This program is being used as part of an every-member visitation, planned for early 2017. This visitation will help us acknowledge the accomplishments of 2016 while preparing for the future.

Your Stewardship Committee looks forward to working with you and on your behalf in 2017.

Wayne Carmichael

Bret Cousins

Sandy Crawford

Debra Downey

Heather McDonald

Michelle Middleton

Susan Sarrasin

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

SYMONS VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2016

MOTION 1 & 2: That Scot Middleton act as chair for the SVUC AGM. That Nancy McKellar be the recording secretary for the SVUC AGM. Moved by Anne Chapman-Heinemeyer. Seconded by Pat Ridell. Carried.

Constitution of the AGM

MOTION 2: That voting privileges for the AGM be extended to all present at the AGM. Moved by Ann Crawford. Seconded by Gloria Davis. Carried.

MOTION 3: That the Agenda for the AGM be accepted as amended. Moved by Scott Ridell. Seconded by Shauna Getz. Carried.

- *Remembering*
- *Adoption of Minutes of February 23, 2014*
- *Acceptance of Annual Reports & Financial Statements*
- *Nominations*
- *Presentation/Discussion/Adoption of Budget*
- *JNAC Update*
- *Adjournment*
- *Vicki Sabbatical Update*

Remembering and Recognitions:

Remembering: Anne Kowalchuk, Greta Watson

MOTION 4: That the Minutes from the 2014 AGM (February 22, 2015) be adopted. Moved by Dennis McLaren. Seconded by Debra Downey. Carried.

MOTION 5: That the Annual Reports be accepted as written. Moved by Wayne Carmichael. Seconded by Dianne Moore. Carried.

MOTION 6: That internal, unaudited Financial Statements presented by Michelle Middleton be accepted as written. Moved by Michelle Middleton. Seconded by Gloria Davis. Carried.

Nominations for SVUC Board:



2016 Official Board Nominations

Chair	Scot Middleton
Recording Secretary	Nancy McKellar
Treasurer	Michelle Middleton
Stewardship & Finance	vacant
Worship	Allison Andruchuk
Presbytery Reps	1. Gloria Davis 2. vacant
Pastoral Care	Zoe Gulley
Faith Formation	Shari Dersken
Outreach	Colleen Nabata
Ministry & Personnel	Scott Riddell
Property Management	Dennis McLaren
Member-at-large	Daniel Sore
Member-at-large	Alice Cockcroft
Ministry staff	Vicki McPhee

BOLD ~ incoming

MOTION 7: That the new slate of board members be approved as presented. Moved by Heather McDonald. Seconded by Gloria Davis. Carried.

Nominations for Trustee:

Sandy Crawford	Gerry Van Keeken
Janet Stein	Susan Broderick
Dave Williams	Vacant
Vicki McPhee (ex-officio)	

MOTION 8: That the above listed people be elected as trustees for SVUC. Moved by Wayne Carmichael. Seconded by Zoe Gulley. Carried.

Presentation/Discussion/Adoption of Budget by Sandy Crawford.

MOTION 9: That the budget be adopted as presented. Moved by Michelle Middleton. Seconded by Sandy Crawford. Carried.

JNAC Update by Letitia Berger

Vicki McPhee Sabbatical Update by Scott Riddell: Dates of sabbatical are April 1-August 1. Murray Speer will cover from April 1-July 1.

MOTION 10: Motion to adjourn. Moved by Marlin Derksen.

Nancy McKellar

Scot Middleton

Recording Secretary

Chairperson

Pastoral Care



The Pastoral Care group was chaired by Zoe Gulley until October of this year. Thank you very much to Zoe for her dedication to Pastoral Care leadership over the past couple of years.

Pastoral care supports the congregation of Symons Valley United in their pain, loss and anxiety, triumphs, joys and victories and also aims to make sure all people feel welcome when they walk through our doors. This past year, the Pastoral Care at Symons Valley was organized into 5 focus areas with individuals leading each of the areas. This allows each group to operate as a small committee with each of the leaders able to recruit, co-ordinate and carry out the tasks which fall under their particular piece of the pastoral care ministry.

1. Hospitality (Elsa McLaren)
2. Welcoming (Dianne Moore)
3. Luncheons (Kay Dunn)
4. Prayer Chain (Mark Stein)
5. Caring (Alice Cockroft)

The Pastoral Care group meets on a monthly basis. 'Hospitality' is a very visible area of our ministry with weekly coffee time offered after each service. A monthly baking session is now in place to bring enthusiastic bakers together monthly in our kitchen to prepare ahead for upcoming coffee and hospitality needs. Elsa welcomes interested bakers to the morning sessions as well as ongoing contributions to the baking supplies.

'Welcoming' is also a weekly part of pastoral care at our front doors on Sunday morning, extra services and special events.

Symons Valley luncheons are well received and a great opportunity to come together in community. We schedule luncheons throughout the year beginning in September and periodically through the months until our end of year picnic in June. In December we changed our Newcomer's Lunch to a coffee session on a bit of a trial basis. This worked very well and it is likely that we will continue to offer newcomer's get-togethers on an as-needed basis instead of the luncheons that we have done in the past. Thank you to the members of the board who volunteered their time to attend and provide leadership at these events.

Our Prayer Chain offers ongoing support as do many areas of our ministry that fall into our 'Caring' group. The retirement home services are one of the areas that fall under 'Caring'. These services are led by Daniel Sore.

Worship services at Covenant Care are on the 3rd Sunday of the month starting at 1:30. The first service is at the Holy Cross Manor building at 1:30. Typically, 8-15 people attend this service. The second service is held at St.Margeurite's across the road at 2pm. Attendance at this service is approximately 5-10 people. Worship services at Evanston Grand are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am. We get anywhere from 1-5 people at this service. Daniel often stays for coffee following the service for an opportunity to visit with some of the residents in their social room. Alice Cockroft provides music leadership at these services and Anne Chapman-Heinemeyer has filled in when Alice has been away.

We celebrate that residents such as Bruce and Eileen Robertson from Evanston Grand attend services at SVUC when they are able to.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Sore

Quilting Ministry



The Quilting Ministry makes and gives away quilts that mostly fall into 3 categories. Most familiar to the congregation are the 'compassionate quilts' which are given to those with critical or chronic illness. This need is identified by the minister. These quilts have prayers stitched right into them, and then, to make doubly sure, the congregation signs messages of love, hugs and prayers on the back as well. We shared three compassionate quilts in 2016 with individuals that we were able to "wrap" in love as they travelled a difficult road. The second 'type' of quilt is a recognition and thank-you for staff and lay leaders who have invested their time and energies into Symons Valley United Church for extended periods of time and who are moving, or moving on, to other challenges. This year we shared two such gifts. The first was a jewel toned Magic Tiles (much like stained glass) quilt of recognition given to Sarah Fanning as she ended her call with Symons Valley United Church. The second was a Celtic Cross wall hanging presented to Murray Speer as a token of gratitude for sharing his gifts and talents with us during Vicki's sabbatical. The third are the 'presentation and recognition' quilts. We wanted the senior (and this doesn't necessarily refer to age) members of the congregation to receive quilts with plenty of time to appreciate

them and use them. Accordingly, we have 'presented' 10 quilts over the past several years; with the request to have those quilts brought back in for signing when required. This year one of those quilts came back to be signed and it now serves double duty as a compassionate quilt.

The quilting ministry also makes liturgical and decorative wall-hangings for Symons Valley, such as: the cloth on the communion table and the wall hangings and banners in the sanctuary. This year some of our group have been working on two new liturgical wall hangings that will be dedicated in the spring of 2017.

Also this year, in addition to our regular meetings, we hosted two, very well attended all day workshops that nurtured mind, body and soul....and converted a few sceptics to the Joy of quilting!

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Middleton and Colleen Marchant msmiddleton@shaw.ca ccinc@telusplanet.net

It was an exciting year with the acquisition of a labyrinth at Symons Valley in the early part of 2016. The labyrinth has been used in various capacities and has been very well received. The labyrinth was used in a labyrinth workshop, drum circles, and a dedication in late August. We also were able to incorporate the use of the labyrinth into our Longest Night Service in December. We look forward to more opportunities in 2017 to incorporate it into our spiritual journey.

Thank you to the many individuals who volunteer under one or more of our Pastoral Care groups. We cannot effectively offer Pastoral Care without the many hands that join to reach out to our community at Symons Valley.

We look ahead to another year of Pastoral Care and exploring ways in which we can further expand and develop our Pastoral Care at Symons Valley. These groups that are in place welcome volunteers to carry out the ministry that they are in place to offer.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Williams, Chair

(written with submissions by Daniel Sore, Alice Cockroft, Michelle Middleton and Colleen Marchant)

Property and Management Committee

The Property and Management Committee consists of Dennis McLaren, Gord Rowland, Ann Crawford, Teresa Dutton, Wally Sarrasin and Kathy Dion as staff support.

BUILDING USAGE: Our building is a busy place all year long, welcoming many different groups each month and almost every day of the year!

Our regular tenants:

Early Discoveries Nursery School, Alberta Gold Chorus, ITS Fitness, Weight Watchers, All Canadian Karate, Foxy Kickboxing, Fitsproutz, Panorama Youth, Punjabi Children Classes, Play Ball, Pedal Heads Bricks for Kids and Calgary Chorus Foundation.

Our community groups:

Al-Makah Calgary Islamic Prayer group, AA, Kincora Community Association, Girl Guides of Canada (Pathfinders and Guides), and MCNA (Muslim Children of North America) and Islamic classes. In support of the wider United Church community we have hosted Presbytery meetings ,the Education & Students committee, Dream Team (Presbytery Youth), Zambia Dream Team.

Occasional Renters:

Piano recitals, dance recitals, meetings and workshops, School groups, a variety of AGM's and condo meetings, birthday parties, and more. We somehow found room for even more occasional rentals than last year which resulted in a rental revenue increase again this year!

Many thanks to our building monitors that host our Occasional Rentals by welcoming them, settling them in to their space and providing on-site support for large events. As we continue to see an increase in the Occasional Renter we are looking for a few new folks to help us host our many rentals. In an effort to not hire paid monitors when we are short volunteers, you might want to consider give a gift of your time. All you need is a warm and welcoming attitude, be familiar with our building use guide lines and comfortable with the responsibility of opening and locking the church. If you would like more information talk to Kathy Dion.

BUILDNG MAINTENANCE: Gary MacDonald and Dennis McLaren oversee all the maintenance and repairs to ensure the building is in good shape for the tenants and our own congregation. They do much of the work themselves and get support from a variety of congregational members saving us thousands of dollars in our annual expenses.

General activity

- Chair and table movement for events and cleaning.
- Replacing light bulbs and ballasts in lighting systems.
- Garden and lawn and tree care.
- Equipment maintenance
- Parking lot and sidewalk snow removal
- Carpet cleaning

Major projects completed in 2016

- Installed LED lights in the Valley View room

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Dion

Dennis McLaren

Treasurer's Report

The following accounting procedures from the UCC Financial Handbook section 3.5 are followed at SVUC:

SVUC has clearly defined procedures for counting and recording the offering, and those procedures are followed by a rotating schedule of Collection-counters who are at arms-length. (Thank you **Scott Riddell, Helen Brown, Heather McDonald, Al Dick, Aron Funk, Sandy Crawford, Wayne Carmichael, Dave Williams, Julie Thompson, April Boutin, Susan Sarrasin, Gary McDonald and Deb Downey**). Thanks to the **counters**, and to **Essie Gaqui-Elefante and Kathy Dion**, we have good separation of duties for all individuals who deal with money—they make the initial accounting entries, which are verified by **Heather McDonald** before she makes the deposits. (**Heather gets a big shout out here, and a huge thank you, as she makes those deposits 50 weeks a year!!**) Then, the treasurer reviews those entries again when reconciling the bank statement. All cheques are signed by 2 people, and they inspect and initial the supporting documents (bills, invoices or written requests for reimbursement) before signing the cheques. Thank you to **Sandy Crawford, Colleen Marchant, Gloria Davis and Nancy McKellar** for signing more than 300 cheques throughout the year.

Bret Cousins has taken the responsibility to run the grocery card program, with help from **Carmen Cousins**. Thank you. This passive fundraiser raised over \$6300 in 2016..

The treasurer completes the bank reconciliations monthly, and provides monthly reports to the Official board. Reports are published to the congregation as well via announcements, posting on the bulletin board, or in newsletters.

A designated member of the Official board, who is not involved in the finances in any other way, reviews the bank statements and reconciliations. Thank you to **Daniel Sore** for taking this on.

The **Trustees** maintain an up-to-date inventory of equipment and furnishings owned by the church, and ensure we have adequate insurance coverage. Thank you to **Janet Stein** for looking after these important tasks.

The accounting records are password protected, and access to information is limited to only those portions of the program that are applicable to the user, for example, a counter can only access the contributions they are entering that day; someone who maintains the addresses etc. on the database has no access to the financial portion of the program. Paper records are kept in a locked filing cabinet, and a computer backup of the database is stored off site. The accounting records are reviewed annually by Dart Bryant accounting firm, and they provide a Notice to Reader statement. We have been able to reduce the level of statement due to the change in lender, and the confidence Erik Matheisen, CFO at the UCC General Council Office has in the safeguards and procedures we have in place at SVUC.

Annual filings with the government are up to date. Thank you **Al Dick** for preparing those returns.

As you can tell by my name dropping, good stewardship of SVUC's finances is a task that has many hands and I truly thank you all.

Continued Pg. 28

It is also important to know that the staff are paid on time each month and remittances are sent to the government, all bills are paid as they become due, GST returns are filed and income tax receipts are sent to each identifiable donor in a timely fashion, annual statistics are provided to The United Church of Canada, budgets are developed and provided to the Official Board and the congregation for approval.

A monthly checklist has been created to ensure all staff, contractors, utilities, Mission and Service, Presbytery and other bills are paid, money transferred to the cover the loan payment, service charges entered, monthly rents are checked to make sure they are all received, bank accounts are balanced and reconciled and monthly reports made to the Official Board and regularly to the congregation via announcements or newsletter submissions.

Heather McDonald puts in lots of time managing and assigning envelope numbers to all identifiable donors and ensuring that all who want physical envelopes receive them throughout the year. (It is never too late to ask for envelopes). Heather and the counters do an amazing job of identifying our donors.

Confidentiality is very important. All counters have signed confidentiality agreements, and cumulative donation histories (totals) are only seen by **Sandy Crawford, Heather McDonald and Michelle Middleton**. And, at least by me, are promptly forgotten again.

As for how funds donated that are labeled for a particular purpose were spent, all M&S receipts were remitted, we spent more for White Gifts than received, and due to the generosity and COMPASSION shown by our donors, we have \$980 in Benevolent funds and \$3250 in compassion funds to carry into 2017. Outreach has big plans for those compassion funds.

If you read the statements, and noticed the interest expense for the line of credit, you can see that cash flow management was again crucial in 2016, and we needed to access the line of credit a few times. Hopefully, we can maintain a more comfortable cash cushion in 2017.

There are a few items of note on the balance sheet—first that we have changed lenders, and our loans are carried 100% now by the United Church of Canada. This is fantastic, as 100% of our debt servicing funds now stay within the church, and contribute back to the ministry of The United Church. We also wrote off some receivables/payables dating back to 2009 regarding the building process, and this has resulted in a net increase in our payables of \$22,857 and to our building asset in the same amount.

Also new in 2016 is the Zambia 2017 trip accounting. SVUC is holding the funds for the Zambia account, and thus recording all the income and expenses as well. It should all net out to zero by the end of 2017, but in the meantime, we are holding an asset (and net income) of almost \$26M at Dec 31, 2016.

Yours in Christ,

Michelle Middleton
Treasurer

Symons Valley United Church
Financial Statements (UNAUDITED)
For The Year Ended December 2016

GENERAL OPERATIONS
Balance Sheet
Statement of Operations
Statement of Cash Flow

ZAMBIA
Balance Sheet
Statement of Operations

CONSOLIDATED
Balance Sheet
Statement of Operations

Notes

Attached Statements have been prepared
by the Church Treasurer with no independent
review having been performed.
February 5, 2017

Symons Valley United Church		
Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)		
GENERAL FUND 01, as at December 31, 2016		
	2016	2015
ASSETS		
CASH ASSETS		
CHEQUING ACCOUNTS	19,985	8,784
Subtotal Cash Assets	19,985	8,784
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS		
Memorial fund-RBC	2,965	4,059
Trustee Account RBC	8,236	8,312
TRUSTEE DIRECT INVESTING	(14)	11
Trustee--Apex Deposit	-	11,000
Subtotal Savings Accounts	11,187	23,382
Grocery Gift Cards	14,100	12,850
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	1,407	1,439
Subtotal Current Assets	46,679	46,455
INVESTMENTS		
Life Insurance Policy	1	1
FIXED ASSETS		
LAND	1,445,472	1,445,472
BUILDINGS	3,300,745	3,384,213
EQUIPMENT	25,730	26,035
Subtotal Fixed Assets	4,771,947	4,855,720
TOTAL ASSETS	4,818,627	4,902,176
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
M&S Payable	-	123
SVUCOutreach Found'n Payb	210	210
Damage Deposits Rentals	7,400	8,090
Prepaid Rents	6,731	7,324
Trade Accounts Payable	3,508	9,153
Genesis Constr Holdback	-	7,143
Grocery Card Loan Crawford	5,000	5,000
RBC Kincora Mortgage	-	1,939,000
Subtotal Current Liabilities	22,848	1,976,043
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
UCC/Presbytery-Mtg Advance	500,000	500,000
UCC Property and Church D	19,000	-
UCC - CDF - non productive	717,547	612,547
UCC Mortgage - active	1,833,122	-
Subtotal Long-term Liabilities	3,069,669	1,112,547
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,092,517	3,088,590
NET ASSETS	1,726,110	1,813,586
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	4,818,627	4,902,176

Symons Valley United Church		
Statement of Operations (UNAUDITED)		page 1
GENERAL FUND 01		
Year ended December 31, 2016		
	2016	2015
RECEIPTS		
General Contributions	245,659	292,663
Outreach Contributions	6,119	9,552
Mission and Service Fund contributions	16,949	15,823
Memorial Fund	500	1,310
Subtotal Contribution Receipts	269,228	319,349
OTHER RECEIPTS		
Community Building/Fundraising	31,086	26,471
Church Activities	1,787	2,002
Mission and Service Grant	25,000	30,000
Interest Income	0	0
Building Use	167,205	158,114
Subtotal Other Receipts	225,078	216,587
TOTAL RECEIPTS	494,306	535,936
DISBURSEMENTS		
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
STAFF	228,081	243,279
PRESBYTERY ASSESSMENT	11,802	10,839
MISSION AND SERVICE	16,949	15,823
OUTREACH	6,520	11,439
FAITH FORMATION	4,681	2,389
WOMENS MINISTRY	415	-
COMMUNICATIONS	7,482	6,611
PASTORAL CARE	1,819	559
WELCOMING	2,168	2,013
MINISTRY EXPENSES	1,901	1,047
WORSHIP EXPENSES	1,344	1,579
MUSIC	3,402	2,445
MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	999	1,856
COMMUNITY BLDG/FUNDRAISING	8,932	7,787
Subtotal Program Expenses	296,494	307,667
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
ADMIN/OFFICE COSTS	22,444	28,571
COMPUTER EXPENSES	1,383	3,603
LEASED EQUIPMENT	4,834	4,539
STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE	352	280
OTHER DISBURSEMENTS	1,023	1,023
Subtotal Administrative Expense	30,036	38,016

Symons Valley United Church		
Statement of Operations (UNAUDITED)		page 2
GENERAL FUND 01		
Year ended December 31, 2016		
	2016	2015
FACILITIES EXPENSES		
RBC Mortgage Interest	48,830	65,912
UCC Mortgage Interest	9,122	-
Utilities	28,707	29,040
Security	2,414	902
Janitorial Services	31,052	30,936
Janitorial Supplies	2,543	4,056
Garbage and Recycling	2,814	2,318
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	18,346	11,109
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	1,791	2,488
Subtotal Facilities Expense	145,618	146,760
Total Disbursements	472,148	493,450
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY)	22,157	42,486
Amortization of Tangible Assets	109,634	108,462
DEFICIENCY	(87,476)	(64,968)

Statement of Cash Flows (UNAUDITED)				
For The Year Ended December 31, 2016				
			2016	2015
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Deficiency			(87,476)	(64,968)
Items not affecting cash:				
Amortization of Tangible Assets			109,634	108,462
			22,157	43,493
Changes in non-cash working capital				
Accounts Receivable			32	104
Trustee Funds			11,101	130
Memorial Fund			1,095	(1,310)
Grocery Gift Cards			(1,250)	(12,850)
Prepaid Rents			(594)	352
M&S Payable			(123)	123
Trade Payables			(5,645)	(1,793)
Damage deposits			(690)	(150)
Interest payable				(17,894)
Grocery Cards Loan			-	5,000
UCC Benefits payable				(4,243)
Genesis Constr Holdback			(7,143)	
			(3,217)	(32,531)
			18,940	10,962
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase equipment, furnishings and fixtures			(25,861)	-
			(25,861)	-
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Advances from Calgary Presbytery			19,000	-
Advances from The United Church of Canada			1,939,000	54,000
Repayment of RBC mortgage			(1,939,000)	(91,000)
Repayment of UCC Loan			(878)	-
			18,122	(37,000)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW			11,201	(26,038)
Cash (deficiency) beginning of year			8,784	34,822
CASH - END OF YEAR			19,985	8,784
CASH CONSISTS OF:				
Cash			19,985	8,784

Symons Valley United Church - ZAMBIA	
Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)	
ZAMBIA 2017 02, as at December 31, 2016	
2016	
ASSETS	
Bank Accounts	28,822
Grocery Cards - Zambia	66,050
TOTAL ASSETS	94,872
LIABILITIES	
Groc Card Zambia RTK Loan	50,490
TOTAL LIABILITIES	50,490
NET ASSETS ZAMBIA	44,382
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	94,872
Symons Valley United Church - ZAMBIA	
Statement of Operations (UNAUDITED)	
ZAMBIA 2017 02, for year ended December 31, 2016	
2016	
RECEIPTS	
Donations Zambia	6,081
Participant Fees - Zambia	11,000
Leader Fees Zambia	3,000
Grocery Cards Income Zam	6,450
Misc. Fundraising/Grants	16,000
Group Fundraising	1,862
TOTAL INCOME	44,393
DISBURSEMENTS	
banking fees	11
TOTAL EXPENSES	11
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES ZAMBIA	44,382

Symons Valley United Church			
Balance Sheet (UNAUDTED)			
Consolidated - as at December 31, 2016			
		2016	2015
ASSETS			
CHEQUING ACCOUNTS		48,807	8,784
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS		11,187	23,382
GIFT CARDS		80,150	12,850
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		1,407	1,439
Subtotal Current Assets		141,551	46,455
INVESTMENTS		1	1
LAND		1,445,472	1,445,472
BUILDINGS		3,300,745	3,384,213
EQUIPMENT		25,730	26,035
Subtotal Fixed Assets		4,771,947	4,855,720
TOTAL ASSETS		4,913,499	4,902,176
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES		73,338	37,043
RBC KINCORA MORTGAGE		-	1,939,000
Subtotal Current Liabilities		73,338	1,976,043
MORTGAGES & LOANS		3,069,669	1,112,547
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,143,007	3,088,590
NET ASSETS		1,770,492	1,813,586
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		4,913,499	4,902,176

SVUC Annual Report 2016

Symons Valley United Church			
Statement of Operations (UNAUDITED)			
Consolidated - for year ended December 31, 2016			
		2016	2015
RECEIPTS			
ZAMBIA DONATIONS		6,081	-
GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS		245,659	292,663
OUTREACH CONTRIBUTIONS		6,119	9,552
MISSION AND SERVICE CONT.		16,949	15,823
MEMORIAL FUND		500	1,310
Subtotal Contribution Receipts		275,309	319,349
OTHER RECEIPTS			
COMMUNITY BUILDING/FUNDRAISING		31,086	26,471
CHURCH ACTIVITIES		1,787	2,002
MISSION AND SERVICE GRANT		25,000	30,000
ZAMBIA RECEIPTS		38,312	-
INTEREST INCOME		0	0
BUILDING USE RECEIPTS		167,205	158,114
Subtotal Non Receiptable		263,390	216,587
TOTAL RECEIPTS		538,699	535,936
DISBURSEMENTS			
PROGRAM EXPENSES		296,494	307,667
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		30,036	38,016
BUILDING & GROUNDS		145,618	146,760
ZAMBIA EXPENSES		11	-
AMORTIZATION		109,634	108,462
TOTAL EXPENSES		581,793	600,904
DEFICIENCY		(43,095)	(64,968)

Symons Valley United Church					
Notes to the Financial Statements					
for the Year Ended December 31, 2016					
Note 1					
DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS					
<p>Symons Valley United Church ("SVUC") is a member congregation of The United Church of Canada ("UCC"), located in Calgary, Alberta whose mission is to be a vibrant and affirming Christian community, sharing God's love and engaging all through dynamic worship, strong family ministry and loving hospitality in service and outreach to the community. In fulfilling its objectives, the church provides ongoing programs on spiritual guidance, religious training, education and general assistance to the local community and immediate congregational attendees.</p>					
<p>SVUC was established as an unincorporated congregation of The UCC under the Federal statute, The United Church of Canada Act, 1925. Consistent with the terms of the Basis of Union which establishes the structure for governance of the individual congregations of the UCC, the operations of SVUC are managed by both the Committee of Stewards and the Board of Trustees. The Committee of Stewards is responsible for the management of daily operations and the financial affairs, while the Board of Trustees is responsible for the management of property and equipment owned by the congregation, including holding ownership of the congregation's land and buildings in their personal names and negotiating and signing for mortgages on the land and buildings.</p>					
<p>The church is a registered charity, as defined in paragraph 149.1(1)(b) of the Canadian Income Tax Act and is consequently approved to issue donation receipts for income tax purposes.</p>					
<p>The ongoing operations of SVUC are dependent on the continued donation support of its constituents and the various levels of governance within the UCC.</p>					
Note 2					
These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNFP")					
Note 3					
CAPITAL ASSETS		Accumulated		2016	
	Cost	Depreciation	Net Book Value	2015	
			Net Book Value		
LAND	1,445,472	-	1,445,472	1,445,472	
BUILDING	4,253,007	952,261	3,300,745	3,384,213	
EQUIPMENT	213,336	187,606	25,730	25,977	
	5,911,814	1,139,867	4,771,947	4,855,662	
Note 4					
UCC Mortgage Repayment					
Loan Amount: \$1,834,000					
Term: 3 year terms					
Amortized: n/a					
Interest rate: 3 % simple interest from October 14 through December 31, 2016					
2.5% simple interest from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017					
Monthly Payment: \$5,000 from Nov 1, 2016-Dec 31, 2017					
Note 5					
DUE TO RELATED PARTIES		2016		2015	
	UCC/Presbytery-Mtg Advance		500,000	500,000	
	UCC Property and Church D		19,000	-	
	UCC - CDF - non productive		717,547	612,547	
	UCC Mortgage - active		1,833,122	-	
The first 3 loans are interest free and are due after the UCC Mortgage is paid in full					
Note 6					
COMPARATIVE FIGURES					
Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.					

Symons Valley United Church
Income and Expense Statement
 02/09/2017 03:24 GENERAL FUND 01, January 2017

Page: 1

	January	YTD 2017	YTD 2016
RECEIPTS			
CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS			
GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS			
Local Givings	\$17,234.28	\$17,234.28	\$17,361.79
Building Fund	702.00	702.00	758.00
OTHER OFFERINGS			
Sunday School	32.00	32.00	6.45
Youth Group	12.00	12.00	0.00
Subtotal Other Offerings	44.00	44.00	6.45
Zambia 2017 SVUC	155.00	155.00	0.00
Subtotal General Contributions	18,135.28	18,135.28	18,126.24
OUTREACH CONTRIBUTIONS			
Outreach--Compassion proj	184.10	184.10	153.00
MISSION AND SERVICE CONT.			
M.&S. contributions	1,411.00	1,411.00	1,380.00
Subtotal Contribution Receipts	19,730.38	19,730.38	19,659.24
NON RECEIPTABLE			
COMMUNITY BUILDING/FUNDRA			
Grocery Cards Income	0.00	0.00	1,050.00
Zambia Fundraising by SVU	1,575.00	1,575.00	0.00
Subtotal Community Building/fundra	1,575.00	1,575.00	1,050.00
CHURCH ACTIVITIES			
Programs Receipts	75.00	75.00	285.00
Youth Program Receipts	50.00	50.00	0.00
Subtotal Church Activities	125.00	125.00	285.00
MISSION AND SERVICE GRANT			
Mission and Service Grant	6,750.00	6,750.00	6,250.00
BUILDING USE RECEIPTS			
Church Rental:Regular	11,201.90	11,201.90	9,389.82
CHURCH RENTALS OCC.			
Church Rental: Occasional	2,472.50	2,472.50	7,159.00
Wedding/funeral Rentals	600.00	600.00	0.00
AV Technician	382.50	382.50	247.50
Subtotal Church Rentals Occ.	3,455.00	3,455.00	7,406.50
Subtotal Building Use Receipts	14,656.90	14,656.90	16,796.32
Subtotal Non Receiptable	23,106.90	23,106.90	24,381.32
TOTAL INCOME	42,837.28	42,837.28	44,040.56

DISBURSEMENTS			
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
STAFF			
Subtotal Staff	18,837.95	18,837.95	17,314.96
PRESBYTERY ASSESSMENT			
Presbytery/conf assessmen	1,081.85	1,081.85	983.50
MISSION AND SERVICE			
M&S disbursement	0.00	0.00	1,380.00
OUTREACH			
Outreach Compassion	218.83	218.83	0.00
FAITH FORMATION			
Christian Education	178.86	178.86	380.00
Children Sunday School	0.00	0.00	10.43
YouthProgram	69.51	69.51	330.28
Zambia disbursement to Z	1,655.00	1,655.00	0.00
Subtotal Faith Formation	1,903.37	1,903.37	720.71
COMMUNICATIONS			
Events	(103.95)	(103.95)	0.00
PASTORAL CARE			
Labyrinth	0.00	0.00	500.00
Quilting Ministry	99.00	99.00	0.00
Subtotal Pastoral Care	99.00	99.00	500.00
WELCOMING			
Kitchen Supplies	37.00	37.00	0.00
WORSHIP EXPENSES			
Worship Expense misc	15.00	15.00	0.00
MUSIC			
Choir	491.63	491.63	19.90
MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL			
M&P expenses	21.50	21.50	0.00
Duty of Care Expenses	0.00	0.00	60.48
Subtotal Ministry And Personnel	21.50	21.50	60.48
Subtotal Program Expenses	22,602.18	22,602.18	20,979.55
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE			
ADMIN/OFFICE COSTS			
Bank Charges	139.15	139.15	480.82
Payroll Charges	26.04	26.04	25.73
fee visa m/c	123.19	123.19	0.00
Office Supplies	356.33	356.33	102.46
Small Furnishings	121.98	121.98	0.00
Postage	0.00	0.00	174.25
Phone and Internet	489.13	489.13	450.46
Subtotal Admin/office Costs	1,255.82	1,255.82	1,233.72
COMPUTER EXPENSES			
Computer Hardware	0.00	0.00	608.20
Computer Software	225.50	225.50	0.00
Subtotal Computer Expenses	225.50	225.50	608.20

LEASED EQUIPMENT			
Copier Lease	672.48	672.48	688.88
STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE			
Stewardship Campaign	479.48	479.48	0.00
OTHER DISBURSEMENTS			
Misc Expense	0.00	0.00	0.01
Subtotal Administrative Expense	2,633.28	2,633.28	2,530.81
FACILITIES EXPENSE			
BUILDING & GROUNDS			
Mortgage Interest	0.00	0.00	5,269.83
UCC mortgage interest	3,818.98	3,818.98	0.00
Utilities	1,878.67	1,878.67	2,549.66
Janitorial Services	2,193.50	2,193.50	2,193.50
Garbage and Recycling	311.23	311.23	204.71
BUILDING MAINTENANCE			
Repairs/Maint/Sm ToolsBld	299.97	299.97	348.33
Signage	0.00	0.00	142.96
Subtotal Building Maintenance	299.97	299.97	491.29
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE			
grnds. supplies and Snow	23.70	23.70	384.37
Subtotal Facilities Expense	8,526.05	8,526.05	11,093.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	33,761.51	33,761.51	34,603.72
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	\$9,075.77	\$9,075.77	\$9,436.84

Symons Valley United Church
2017 Budget for Congregational Approval
Approved by Board, February 14, 2017

02/15/2017 08:55 AM	GENERAL FUND 01,		
	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
RECEIPTS			
GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS			
Faith Component	28,300	90,000	92,000
Local Givings	208,924	270,000	260,000
Building Fund	10,290	10,000	10,000
OTHER OFFERINGS			
SEND US A SIGN	145	-	-
	-	-	12,000
OUTREACH CONTRIBUTIONS			
MISSION AND SERVICE CONT.	6,119	5,300	4,750
MEMORIAL FUND	16,949	15,000	17,000
	500	-	-
Subtotal Contribution Receipts	289,228	390,300	395,750
COMMUNITY BUILDING/FUNDRA			
CHURCH ACTIVITIES	31,088	33,500	32,000
MISSION AND SERVICE GRANT	1,787	500	1,000
INTEREST INCOME	25,000	25,000	27,000
BUILDING USE RECEIPTS	0	-	-
	167,205	157,000	158,500
TOTAL INCOME	494,306	606,300	614,250
DISBURSEMENTS			
STAFF			
PRESBYTERY ASSESSMENT	228,081	232,750	252,777
MISSION AND SERVICE	11,802	11,802	12,982
OUTREACH	16,949	15,000	17,000
FAITH FORMATION	6,520	7,500	8,500
WOMENS MINISTRY	4,881	3,800	8,550
COMMUNICATIONS	415	450	1,300
PASTORAL CARE	7,482	6,000	9,000
WELCOMING	1,819	1,750	750
MINISTRY EXPENSE	2,168	2,500	2,500
WORSHIP EXPENSES	1,901	1,000	1,800
MUSIC	1,344	2,580	1,750
MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	3,402	3,000	3,475
COMMUNITY BLDG/FUNDRAISIN	999	2,750	3,150
Subtotal Program Expenses	8,932	7,650	9,050
ADMIN/OFFICE COSTS			
COMPUTER EXPENSES	22,444	29,300	22,900
LEASED EQUIPMENT	1,383	3,000	3,100
STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE	4,834	4,750	5,250
OTHER DISBURSEMENTS	352	450	700
Subtotal Administrative Expense	1,023	1,025	1,025
Mortgage Interest	48,830	65,000	-
UCC mortgage interest	9,122	45,816	45,816
Utilities	28,707	30,000	30,000
Security	2,414	1,000	5,110
Janitorial Services	31,052	32,000	34,000
Janitorial Supplies	2,543	4,000	3,000
Garbage and Recycling	2,814	2,500	2,800
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	18,346	25,250	51,250
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	1,791	5,000	3,900
Subtotal Facilities Expense	145,618	210,566	175,876
Amortization Expense	109,634	108,500	79,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	581,782	656,123	620,435
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	(87,476)	(49,823)	3,815