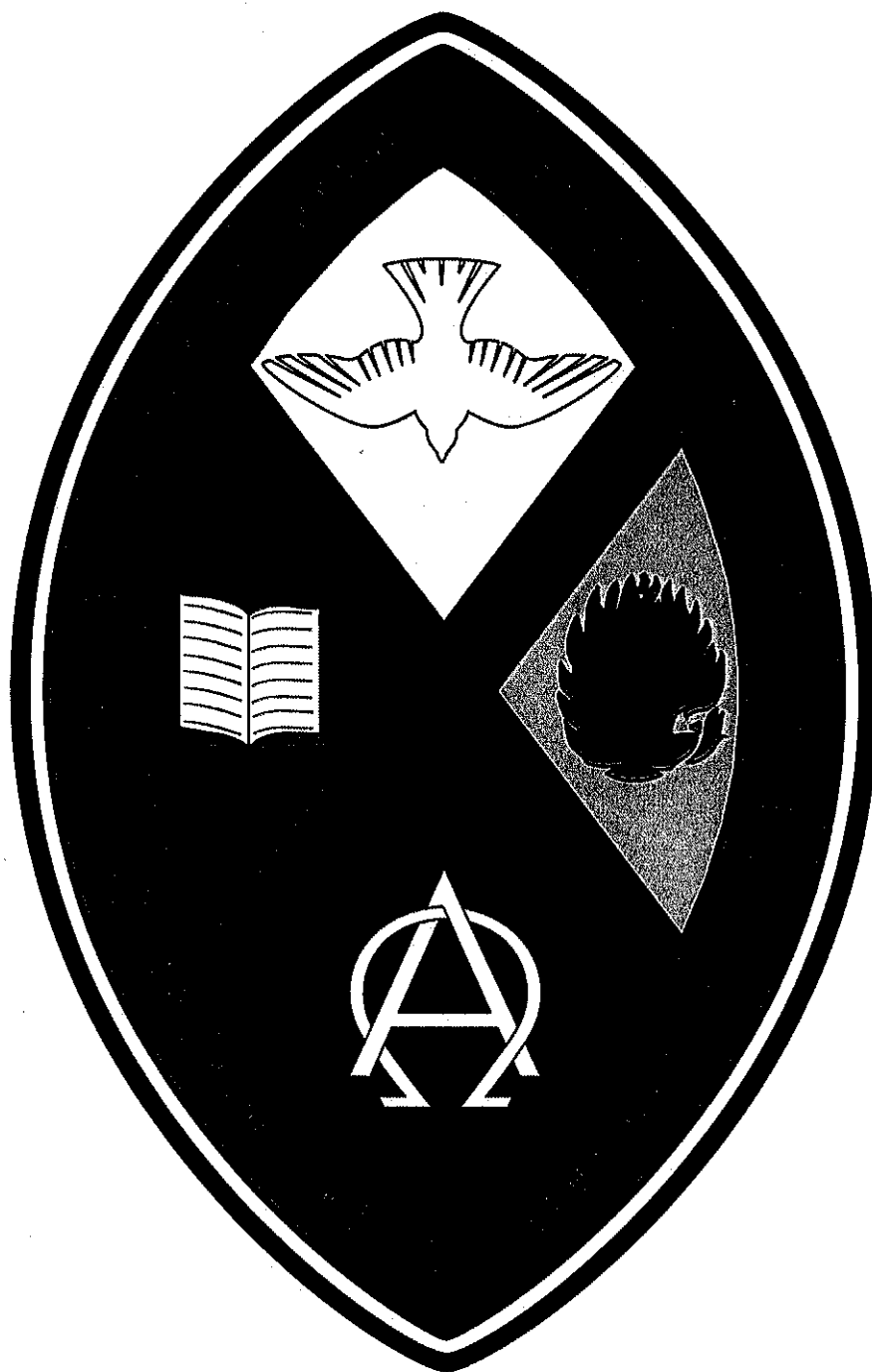


First United Church Mount Pearl



Annual Report 2019

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
First United Church
March 10,2019

The meeting opened with a short worship led by Rev Ian March-MacCuish

Rev Ian called for nominations for a Chairperson and a Secretary. Wayne Rideout was elected chairperson and Joan Winsor was elected secretary.

There were 104 people in attendance.

Wayne opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Wayne also thanked all the board members for their time and work over the past year. It was moved by Tony Tulk and seconded by Cynthia Burt that all members gathered here today will be eligible to vote here today. **Motion Carried**

Proposed Agenda- It was moved by Tony Tulk and seconded by Jean Fry that the proposed agenda be adopted. **Motion Carried**

The minutes of the Congregational Meeting of March 11,2018 - It was moved by Harold Sinyard and seconded by Susan Vardy that the minutes of the congregational meeting be adopted. **Motion Carried**

Committee Reports: The following reports were received for information purposes:

Ministers Report - Rev Ian

Board of Management - Joan Winsor

Property Committee - Nelson Bailey

Worship Committee - Madeline Rideout

Christian Development - Kelly Tulk - Add the name of Caitlyn Party as a Youth Group Leader

Sunday School - Kelly Tulk

Book Club - Pam Morgan

Quilting Group - Pam Morgan

Outreach and Social Action - Susan Vardy

Bridges to Hope - Wayne mentioned that Bridges is operated by 10 churches and the community. They receive money from the M & S fund. First United

probably donated the most food and funds in all the church's. A big thank you from Bridges.

Ministry & Personnel - Brenda Andrews

Board of Trustees - Nelson Harris

Men's Club - Harold Sinyard

UCW - Jean Fry

General Protestant Cemetery - Calvin Gibbons

Motion: It was moved by Nelson Bailey and seconded by Dorothy Latrielle that the committee reports be accepted. **Motion Carried**

Stewardship Report: Glenys Harris presented the report. Paul Hillyer mentioned that we need to keep contributing to the building fund. The Stewardship committee report was moved by Len Sturge and seconded by Kyle March-MacCuish. **Motion Carried**

Proposed Budget for 2019: The proposed budget for 2019 was presented and moved by Kyle March-MacCuish and seconded by Cynthia Burt. **Motion Carried** Paul Hillyer mentioned that our givings were down last year, fund raising was down last year as we never had take-out turkey teas and gospel concert. We need to look at something as we are hitting the same members. Wayne mentioned that we never had the turkey teas as there was too much going on last fall and the cost of turkeys was too high.

Constitution Changes: There were several changes presented on the constitution and it was moved by George Hicks and seconded by Harold Sinyard that the changes be accepted, **Motion Carried**

New Board Members Standing for Election: The name of Brenda Andrews was presented. Carolyn Rice put her name forward and Mike Bouzane was nominated by Dorothy Latrielle. It was moved by Len Sturge and seconded by Ron Penny that these members would be elected to the board for a three year term. **Motion Carried**

Election of Delegated to First Dawn Eastern Edge: Janice Andrews-Ralph and Cynthia Burt have agreed to continue on as our reps. We will have to look for another one.

Statistics for 2018: A change to the name of Devon James Darren English should be Devon James Darren Fitzpatrick in the Marriages for 2018. Rev Ian read the names of the 14 members for whom funerals were conducted. A moment of silence was held for the deceased members.

New Business: Sharon Thistle said she would love to see more plants in the sanctuary that are environment friendly and for your health. She said Peace Lily absorbs all the bad things in the air. If possible could we purchase some air purifying plants for the church. probably some church members might donate some. Madeline Rideout said that we have three plants here, two are

from Rev Swain's funeral and the other one was donated.

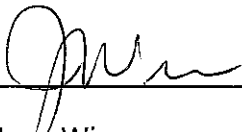
Rev Ian thanked Christina Manning, Peter MacDonald and Melissa Butt for all their work this past year.

Wayne thanked Rev Ian for all his hard work this past year.

Closing Remarks: Wayne thanked all the board members, that have served this past year, some longer than they should have. We need more members!

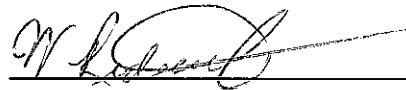
Wayne also thanked everyone for coming out this morning and tea and coffee will be served downstairs after.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35pm with grace and a benediction by Rev Ian.



Joan Winsor

Secretary



Wayne Rideout

Chairperson

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Official Board
2019

Minister	Rev Ian March-MacCuish
Chairperson	Joan Winsor
Vice Chair	Gary Gosse
Secretary	Jean Fry
Treasurer	Glenys Harris
Stewardship Chair	Len Sturge
Worship Chair	Madeline Rideout
Property Co-Chair	Nelson Bailey
Property Co-Chair	Kirk Howell
CD Co-Chair	Kelly Tuck
CD Co-Chair	Tony Tuck
M&P Chair	Brenda Andrews
Membership Co-Chair	Susan Vardy
Membership Co-Chair	Dorothy Latreille
Board of Trustees Chair	Nelson Harris
UCW Rep	Gloria Gosse
Men's Club Rep	Harold Sinyard
Board Members	Melvina Moores Kyle March-MacCuish Mark Rice Cynthia Burt Carolyn Rice Mike Bouzane Raylene Newman Susan Melendy-Stark Oliver Stark

April 8, 2019

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

TC39

Inaugural Meeting
May 3-5, 2019 at Steele Community Centre and Fraser Road United Church
Gander, NL

A Living Sanctuary

Friday, May 3, 2019

REGISTRATION

Members and guests registered at the Steele Community Centre, beginning at 10:00 am.

Registration

ORIENTATION OF MEMBERS

Alice Moores and Cecil Noseworthy met with members to Regional Council and provided them with information needed to carry out their responsibilities as members.

Orientation of
Members

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with music was led by Mary Bartlett-Smith, Oliver Dingwell, William Matchem and Alice Moores.

Gathering with
Music

CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wendy Lowden, Regional Council President, called the meeting to order and constituted the regional council.

Constitution of the
Regional Council

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority granted to me by Regional Council, I now declare this meeting of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of The United Church of Canada opened for the business that shall properly come before it.

WELCOME

Wendy Lowden, President of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, welcomed everyone to the meetings.

Welcome

ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

The President began the meeting by acknowledging the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homeland of the Beothuk and the island of Newfoundland as the ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We would like to recognize the Inuit and the Innu and their ancestors, as the original people of Labrador. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation and honour this beautiful land together.

Acknowledging
Traditional
Territory

INTRODUCTIONS

The President extended greetings to the Moderator, Richard Bott; Former Moderator Marion Pardy; Michael Blair, General Council Office Representative; Rob Dagleish Executive Director of EDGE; Debra Kigar, Pastoral Relations Policies and Processes, Office of Vocation; President Elect, Peggy Johnson; new Regional Staff Lauren King (Youth and Young Adult Minister) and Laura Hunter (Justice, Mission and Outreach Minister); Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister for the eastern regions; Heather Sandford, Regional Minister; Alison Piercey, Office Administrator; Leona Laundry, Bookstore, Archives and Office Support; and Jennifer Taylor, Assistant to the Executive Minister. A very special welcome was also extended to all new members and to the Children and Youth at Regional Council.

Introductions

Heather Sandford introduced the following students to regional council: Emma O'Rourke, James Martin-Carter, Heather Cronhelm, Rebecca Pike and Oliver Dingwell. Welcome was also extended to Admission and Edison Wiltshire and to Georgina Parsons, who will be recognized as a new designated lay minister on Sunday.

Special
Presentation**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Kathy Brett and the Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, performed a skit to introduce members to the new name *First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council* and some of the new terminology of the new structure of The United Church.

Enabling Motions**ENABLING MOTIONS**

Kathy Brett and Cecil Noseworthy presented the enabling motions.

1. That the agenda that has been circulated be the agenda for this meeting of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, subject to change as the Court deems necessary.
2. That the roll of Regional Council be the list of Registered Members approved by the Communities of Faith.
3. That the bounds of the Regional Council meeting be Steele Community Centre and Fraser Road United Church, Gander, NL.
4. That corresponding member status be given to representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; those who will need to speak to reports; ministry students; and visitors.
5. That the quorum be as outlined in the Manual 2019 C.4.3 Minimum Numbers of Members at Meetings.
6. That the rules of debate for this meeting be the rules outlined in The United Church Manual and, if necessary, Bourinot's Rules of Order.
7. Proposals:
 - (a) That the Proposals Committee for Regional Council be: Paula Gale, Steve Lowden and Faith March-MacCuish (staff), as appointed by the Nominations Committee.
 - (b) That all proposals, including those that arise from discussion groups, be submitted to the Proposals Committee.
 - (c) That the deadline for Proposals Committee to receive proposals be 5:00 pm on Friday, May 3, 2019.
 - (d) Proposals that are received after the deadline will be dealt with by the Regional Council Executive.
8. That the Business Table of Regional Council be Grant Stuckless, Kathy Brett, Fannie Hudson and Cecil Noseworthy.
9. That any business unfinished at the rise of Regional Council be referred to the Regional Council Executive with power to act.
10. That any elections held during this meeting be by majority ballot.
11. That the table group facilitators for this meeting of Regional Council be as selected by the table groups.
12. That the following shall be the duty people for this session of Regional Council: Bonnie Angel, William Butt, Elizabeth Dawson, James Evans, Shane Foote, Georgina Mitchell and Max Hussey.
13. That duty persons be responsible for distribution of reports or other handouts; collection of table group responses; distribution, collection, tabulation and reporting the results of all ballots.
14. That the chaplains for this weekend be Kim Waite, Amanda Barnes, Larry Noseworthy and Paul Vardy.
15. That the nurses/first aiders for this meeting be Cynthia Burt and Fannie Hudson.
16. That the Friend in Court be Gneid Lackey.

MOTION: (Kathy Brett/Cecil Noseworthy)

That the Enabling Motions be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

MEMBERS TO REGIONAL COUNCIL

New members to Regional Council were welcomed to the meetings. This is the inaugural meeting of the new structure and all members are new members!

Members to
Regional Council

REGRETS (Appendix A)

The Executive Minister acknowledged the regrets received and asked members who knew of other regrets not previously sent to Regional Council office to forward them to be added to the minutes. Regrets are attached in the Appendix. (Appendix A)

Regrets

QUORUM

The President noted that a quorum was present.

Quorum

CONSENT MOTIONS

MOTION: (Bob Bennett/Paula Gale)

That the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council approve the following accountability reports as printed in the docket: President (R3); Regional Executive Minister (R4); Division of Finance and Administrative Resources (R8-R29); Incorporated Ministries Team (as circulated); Division of Regional Council Services and Support (R30); Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning (R31-R32); Division of Human Resources (R33-R34).

Consent Motions

CARRIED

MOTION: (Brenda Andrews/Wayne Blackwood)

That the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council receive for information the following accountability reports as printed in the docket: Pine Hill Divinity Hall (R41-R42).

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

LUNCH AND GRACE

Lunch and Grace

Grace was offered by Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister.

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with
Music

FRIEND IN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Friend in Regional
Council

Gneid Lackey congratulated Lisa Potter on her new book.

OPENING WORSHIP

Opening Worship

The Regional Council was led in the opening worship by Marilyn Rees, Dean Sellars, Sherpherd Munikwa and Alice Moores. The message was delivered by Wendy Lowden, President. The In Memoriam prayer was led by Heather Sandford (Appendix B). Music leadership was provided by Jocelyn Cook.

Anointing
Ceremony**ANOINTING CEREMONY**

Similar to an anointing ceremony which took place at General Council 43 to mark the conclusion of Conferences, members of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council took part in an anointing ceremony to recognize new membership in this new structure of The United Church of Canada.

General Council
Executive
Member
And General
Council Office
Representative**GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE**

Kathy Brett, General Council Executive Member, spoke on the work of The United Church and the continuing work of the General Council Executive as we live into the new structure. Michael Blair, Executive Minister for Church in Mission, elaborated on the work of the General Council Executive, highlighting the mission and service of The United Church and the reconciliation work towards living in right relationships. He also spoke of the emphasis on faith formation and developing our spiritual lives and our work towards developing our cultural lives. A video message was played from the Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott bringing greetings from the General Council Office. The Moderator asks that we join in celebrating the changes happening in the United Church and reach out in our Communities of Faith to support and encourage each other.

MOTION: (Kathy Brett/Steve Lowden)

That the report of the General Council Executive Representatives be received for information.

CARRIED

Nutrition Break**NUTRITION BREAK**Gathering with
Music**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**Theme I**THEME I**

The President introduced the Moderator of The United Church of Canada, the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott. The Moderator talked about the church; where we are and where we are going. During his time as Moderator, he has heard of the love for the United Church, but also of the nervousness of the new. The structure is new. Things may be missed. Be patient. In the midst of the change, there is excitement, there is opportunity to lift each other up; to pray; to love; to listen; to be with one another in this in between time. The church still needs all of us to be on this journey together. The Moderator then asked the members of the council to form pairs to share time in prayer for each other and for ourselves. He asks us to consider, how is your soul?

Nominations I**NOMINATIONS I**

Joan Brinston, convenor of the Nominations Team presented the Nominations report, asking the members to prayerfully considering serving the church in the new structure.

Holy Lands Visit**HOLY LANDS VISIT**

Two applicants have requested support from the MacPherson Bequest for a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands. Rev. Paula Gale and Ms. Wendy Lowden each addressed the council with their desire to travel to the Holy Lands. The members will vote in the next Nominations session on Saturday.

The nominations report continued with a request for the council members to prayerfully consider nominating someone for the role of President Elect. Nominations and elections will take place in the next Nominations session. In addition, the Executive has agreed to expand to include two (2) Members At Large; one representative from Labrador and one from the western area of the province to serve on the Executive. The convenor highlighted several other vacancies and highlighted the nominations report contained in the docket. Expression of interest forms were distributed.

REGIONAL COUNCIL TRANSITION COMMISSION

Regional Council
Transition
Commission

The Executive Minister invited the members of the Transition Commission to join her for the presentation of the commission. The report appears in the docket (R5-R7). The Commission were tasked with the mandate to function as Executive from January 1, 2019 until the Regional Council forms a new executive at the inaugural meeting; and to make the decisions necessary to allow immediate functioning of the new Regional Council; such as budgets, staffing, shared staffing, property matters, the planning of the inaugural meeting of the regional council and any unfinished business from districts and Conference. The Executive Minister shared a recommendation from the Executive that , in order for the Regional Council to build its identity and strengthen relationships between the communities of faith and the region, that the full Regional Council meet annually for the next three years.

MOTION: (Stephanie McLellan/Marilyn Rees)

That the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council have full annual meetings for the next three years (2020, 2021, 2022) and that the executive be asked to assess the way in which we will meet in the future; with any changes to be approved by the Regional Council.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Shane Foote/Kathy Brett)

That the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council designate to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2019.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Wayne Blackwood/Gneid Lackey)

That the Regional Council Transition Commission be disbanded with thanks and appreciation for their work and that any outstanding items be addressed by the Regional Executive.

CARRIED

(Bill Bartlett, Past President assumed the chair).

PRESIDENT

President

Wendy Lowden, President of Regional Council, addressed the regional council members with thanks and appreciation for her year of President, but also with some sadness for the end of her term. The President also thanked the Executive Minister for her invaluable support, and Peggy Johnson for taking the next term of service to the wider church. In the face of some difficult decisions, the President is proud and grateful for the leadership and team that have worked tirelessly to make these decisions and move forward.

MOTION: (Wendy Lowden/Grant Stuckless)

That the report of the President be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

The council showed their appreciation to the President with applause.
(Wendy Lowden reassumed the chair).

DIVISION OF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Division of
Regional Services
and Support

Simon Muwowo, Chair, presented the Division report, which also appears in the docket (R30). Many of the teams in this Division are in need of members to help carry out the work. The Program Team was congratulated for making this inaugural meeting happen.

Edison Wiltshire was asked to address the council regarding a mental health workshop, taking place in Mount Pearl on June 11-12, 2019. There is some financial support for those who wish to attend the workshop available through the Coughlan College Trust.

The Division chair also announced the Clergy Retreat, scheduled for October 23-25, 2019 at the Max Simms Memorial Camp in Bishop's Falls and the fall learning event scheduled to take place in Gander, October 25-27, 2019.

MOTION: (Simon Muwowo/Gneid Lackey)

That the report of the Division of Regional Council be accepted.

CARRIED

Loon Bay Camp

LOON BAY CAMP

Stephanie McLellan, John Maich and Bill Matchem spoke to the council of the transformative work of the camp, and invited the council members to join them in the joy of faith experienced at Loon Bay Camp.

MOTION: (Stephanie McLellan/Paula Gale)

That the report of Loon Bay Camp be accepted.

CARRIED

Burry Heights
Camp and
Retreat Centre

BURRY HEIGHTS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTRE

Joan Conrad presented the report of Burry Heights Camp and Retreat Centre (R24-R25). She thanked the regional council for donations received that enable campers of all needs to attend camp, especially the grant from Easter Seals to make the camp more accessible. She shared the summer camp schedule for the upcoming season, and presented each member with a bookmark. Thanks were expressed to Ettie Gordon-Murray for her work with the camp; especially for Burry Heights Days. The members were encourage to attend and support the camp.

MOTION: (Joan Conrad/Cecil Noseworthy)

That the report of Burry Heights Camp and Retreat Centre be accepted.

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the business table for handouts for the pastoral charges.

Grace and
Supper

GRACE AND SUPPER

Wendy Lowden offered grace.

Gathering with
Music
Youth at Regional
Council

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

YOUTH AT REGIONAL COUNCIL

Katie vanKoughnet introduced the council to the Youth at Regional Council and their interpretation of the theme *A Living Sanctuary*. The Youth will be conducting a survey tomorrow and will have a presentation.

Stella's Circle

STELLA'S CIRCLE

Miriam Bowlby, Stella's Circle board member, presented the report on behalf of Stella's Circle. She thanked the council for the invaluable support of the United Church, and highlighted the work of the incorporated ministry, as outlined in the docket report (R28).

She shared that in the past year Stella's Circle was named a mental health champion by the Canadian Mental Health Association; has developed a new program in coordination with the Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union; and developed a grief and loss program at the women's correctional facility in Clarenville. She thanked the downtown St. John's churches who provide space for some of the activities of Stella's Circle and invited the council members to visit the website for more information on the work of this ministry.

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTER

Justice, Mission
and Outreach
Minister

Laura Hunter, Justice, Mission and Outreach Minister for the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council, Regional Council 15 and First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Councils introduced herself to the council. She outlined her definition for *Justice*: doing what is needed to lift people up; *Mission*: doing what is needed to change the systems that keep people down; and *Outreach*: making relationships to help do the work of justice and mission. She shared that her current work includes climate action through the Ecology Action Centre, indigenous relationships; and justice and peace in Israel and Palestine. Laura Hunter invited the communities of faith to contact her to find ways of working together on these and other issues.

REGIONAL BOOKSTORE

Regional
Bookstore

Leona Laundry spoke about some changes for the bookstore in the new structure. She shared the exciting news that the bookstore will also be operating at the regional meetings in Sackville for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters and Regional Council 15. Leona Laundry also highlighted items available through the bookstore including the new Manual 2019, *Gathering* magazine, pre-orders for the new book by Lisa Potter and t-shirt orders with the new regional logo.

LIVING SANCTUARY STORIES

Living Sanctuary
Stories

Members of the council were invited to share one minute stories of examples they have encountered of *A Living Sanctuary*.

VESPERS

Vespers

Wendy Lowden and Emma O'Rourke led the council members in closing vespers.

Saturday, May 4, 2019

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with
Music

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister was welcomed to the meeting.

NEW LOGO

New Logo

The new logo, designed by Regional Council President, Wendy Lowden was unveiled. The Executive Minister projected the logo and provided an explanation of the elements and their meanings. T-shirts with the logo will be printed and available for pre-order from the bookstore.

FRIEND IN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Friend in Regional
Council

Gneid Lackey named those to be remembered in prayer.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTER

Youth and Young
Adult Minister

The President introduced the Youth and Young Adult Minister, Lauren King, who shared her background with the council. Through Lauren's experiences, she feels that young people are seeking a sense of community. Young people today are facing many challenges and the church is able to offer structure and support.

The Youth and Young Adult Minister offered that we can learn about relationships from nature. Everything is connected. Fractals can be seen as a model of church. Patterns of the universe repeat in small and large scale; i.e. if we transform ourselves we can transform the world as we build community. Think about the youth in your life; what relationships are you building? She left the members with the message to practice love in all we do.

Announcements**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Debra Kigar is available to answer any questions regarding ChurchHub. Please see her to make an appointment.

Opening Worship**OPENING WORSHIP**

The regional council was led in worship by the Youth at Regional Council.

Theme II**THEME II**

The Moderator continued with this theme presentation to the members. He asked that we reflect on the ways that we are loved, as the first part in his definition of ministry, illustrated in the word UNITED:

- U – Uplifted by God's Love
- N – Nourished through Worship
- I – Inspired by Scripture
- T – Transformed through Prayer
- E – Empowered by Spiritual Friendships
- D – Developed through Service

Nominations II**NOMINATIONS II**

Joan Brinston presented the names received for President Elect. Nominations were also received from the floor. After nominations ceased, the following names were nominated for President Elect: Adekunle Adeniyi, Lynda Goy-Flint, Gneid Lackey, Nancy Mojica-Fisher, Susan Sheppard, Grant Stuckless and Kim Waite.

(Bill Bartlett assumed the Chair).

Holy Lands**HOLY LANDS VISIT**

Ballots were distributed for the Holy Lands visit and voting took place. Paula Gale will be the 2019 recipient of the Holy Lands bequest.

MOTION: (Kathy Brett/Cecil Noseworthy)

That the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

President Elect**PRESIDENT ELECT**

Those nominated for President Elect were each given the opportunity to address the council. Voting took place by ballot.

Office of Vocation**OFFICE OF VOCATION (OV)**

Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister addressed the council. The Office of Vocation is part of the national church, with staff deployed to the regions. The Office of Vocation is responsible for the standard of training and accreditation of ministry personnel. The OV also works to determine fitness and readiness of students for ordination and recognition; and works to determine standards within the nationally set policies. The Office of Vocation works closely with the Regional Minister in each region.

CHILDREN AT REGIONAL COUNCIL

Children at
Regional Council

The Children at Regional Council introduced themselves and were welcomed to the members.

DIVISION OF COMMUNITIES OF FAITH SUPPORT AND PLANNING

Division of
Communities of
Faith Support and
Planning

Bob Bennett, Chair, introduced the convenors of the teams under the Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning; Grant Stuckless, Tony Dingwell and Calvin Ginn, and the staff support person, Heather Sandford. The convenors spoke to their work with the Missional Assessment Planning; Pastoral Consultation and Accountability; and Boundaries Teams

MOTION: (Bob Bennett/Nancy Mojica-Fisher)

That the report of the Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning be accepted.

CARRIED

LUNCH AND GRACE

Lunch and Grace

Grace was offered by John Maich.

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with
Music
Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a kitchen party at the church following the banquet.

COCHRANE CENTRE

Cochrane Centre

David Tucker, Chair, provided the council with an update of the activities of this incorporated ministry. The full report is in the docket (R26).

YOUTH AT REGIONAL COUNCIL

Youth at Regional
Council

The Youth at Regional Council spoke about their experiences of living sanctuaries, the places where they feel close to God. They also shared with the regional council a survey they completed with members at the meetings that show how well we do (or fail) in terms of caring for the environment.

PRESIDENT ELECT

President Elect

The final vote took place. The President Elect for the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council for 2019-2020 is Grant Stuckless.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

The President announced the locations for the workshops. The bookstore will be closing during the workshops, so all orders should be picked up as soon as possible. All table items and nametags are to be returned to the Business Table.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops

A total of five (5) workshops were offered to members in two sessions on Saturday afternoon; at 2:00pm and at 4:00pm. The workshops offered were: Making Sense of the New Financial Structure (Roy West), Justice and Mission Reboot (Laura Hunter), So you are Thinking about Starting an Incorporated Ministry (Stephen Jewczyk), Building Strong Youth Programs (Lauren King) and Becoming the Beloved Community (Michael Blair).

Milestones in MinistryMILESTONES IN MINISTRY BANQUET

The Milestones in Ministry Banquet was held at Steele Community Centre at 6:30pm on Saturday, May 4, 2019, celebrating significant milestones in the lives of some of our ministry personnel.

RetirementsRetirements

The Rev. Bruce S. Kearley
The Rev. Harry R. Templeman.

AnniversariesAnniversaries

The Rev. Joseph G. Burton	60 Years
The Rev. M. Boyce Elliott	60 Years
The Rev. William G. Bartlett	45 Years
The Rev. Lewis E. Crewe	45 Years
The Rev. Royden R. Reynolds	45 Years
The Rev. Russell L. Small	45 Years
The Rev. Lawrence C. Watkins	45 Years
The Rev. Calvin E. Ginn	40 Years
The Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish	30 Years
The Rev. Ian M. March-MacCuish	30 Years
The Rev. Myles W. Vardy	30 Years
The Rev. D. Scott Worsfold	30 Years
The Rev. Marion J. Davis	25 Years
Mr. Gerald C. Drover	25 Years
Mr. Glenn G. Jarvis	25 Years
Ms. M. Jean Lane	25 Years
Mr. Derrick E. Penney	25 Years
The Rev. Patricia A. Ritchie	25 Years
The Rev. Florence A. Sanna	25 Years

Thank you and AppreciationThank you and Appreciation

There was special acknowledgement of Faith March-MacCuish's 15th (fifteenth) anniversary with The United Church of Canada as staff, also the Moderator and special guests were thanked for their attendance. Kathy Brett and Oliver Dingwell presented a singing tribute to welcome the new name and new staff in the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

CourtesiesCOURTESIES

Kathy Brett, Program Team Convenor, thanked the Gander Pastoral Charge, Regional Council staff, new shared staff to the Region, the Moderator, special guests, and the Program Team for all their work and dedication to making the inaugural meeting of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council such a success.

VespersVESPERS

Closing vespers were led by Georgina Parsons and Emma O'Rourke.

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Celebration of Ministries ServiceCELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE

The worship service was held at Fraser Road United Church, Gander, at 10:00am. The Moderator, The Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, was the guest preacher. Georgina Parsons was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister in The United Church of Canada, and Peggy Johnson was installed as President of Regional Council. The new President, Peggy Johnson, thanked Wendy Lowden for her year as President of the former Newfoundland and Labrador Conference and her service to the region.

CLOSING AND BENEDICTION

Closing and
Benediction

The new President presented the theme for the 2020 meetings of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council *Behold: I Make All Things New*; and declared the 2019 spring meeting of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council adjourned. The Region will meet May 29-31, 2020 in St. John's, NL, hosted by Cochrane Street United Church.

Wendy Lowden
President

Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

From The Desk of Reverend Ian March-MacCuish

We are still in the season of Epiphany as I write this report, and I find it appropriate to ask the question, "where is God calling us?" The Epiphany story speaks of a faithful people following a star, a story and ultimately, a calling to arrive at the place where they would find the Christ child. We came through the excitement of Advent and Christmas and now we spend some time during this season to consider our own callings. The word, "call," has typically been reserved for those in the church in various forms of ministry, but God can call us into any vocation through our unique skills, passions, talents and ability to meet the needs of the world around us. Fredrick Buechner offers this definition of call, "the work a person is called to by God." It is when we understand vocation as a calling from God we begin to see the importance of our church engaging the conversation of vocation and calling within our membership. We have been asking for people to volunteer to serve on our Official Board or a committee that sounds most interesting to you. But what would happen if we took that a step further and really delve deeper into the work that God is calling us to do both in the church and in the world. Buechner writes, "the place where God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the worlds deep hunger meets." The church, the world is hungry for your gifts, talents, abilities and passions we bring through God's creation of us as unique individuals. There is no one else who can bring to this church that which you can bring because God has created you to be you. To those of you who have been called to serve, thank you, your work, your time, your passions, and your gifts have been greatly appreciated. I encourage everyone to a time of discernment, to a time of joining the conversation so that we can continue to grow spiritually, and to serve in and alongside others, to answer God's call.

The last two years we have mourned the deaths of several long time members of our church, individuals who served faithfully in many capacities who have shared their talents and their financial resources. We honour their memory by continuing the work of the church to which they were so faithful. That work involves a financial commitment. We finished 2019 in a deficit position of about \$8000.00. With each passing year our bills continue to increase and we are asking members, where possible, to increase their financial contribution so we can erase that deficit. For those who wish to consider a different way to contribute either through postdated cheques or pre-authorized remittance or through our website using a credit card, please contact the church office.

My thanks to the Official Board for their support and leadership during the past year. A big thank you to Peter MacDonald, Melissa Butt and Christina Manning for their work and shared collegiality.

Blessings to all:


Reverend Ian March-MacCuish

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Board of Management

Annual Report – 2019

This will be my last report as Chairperson of the Official Board of First United Church. I have served as chairperson for the last three years and a board member for the four years before that. I have really enjoyed my term on the board and have learned a lot and worked with some great people.

Here at First we have a lot to be proud of. We have one of the best music programs here, under the direction of Peter MacDonald and Melissa Butt. We also have a great working board, with a lot of members spending countless hours at First getting the day to day work done.

Rev Ian continues to provide us with spiritual guidance and leadership here at First. This past year Rev Ian has been at First for fifteen years and we hope he will be here for another fifteen. We thank him for his commitment to First and the community.

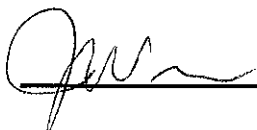
A big thank you to the ten board members that will be leaving the board at the end of the year. We have seven members that have served seven years and three that have served five years. Thank you for your time and dedication to First United.

A big thank you to all the groups that participated in the fund raising activities this past year. With out you hard work and dedication we would not have been able to put off different functions.

Here at First we have a lot of great groups, UCW, Men's Club, Sunday School, Youth Group, choirs, and many more that we are very proud of. Thank you to the leaders and the executive of all the groups for the many hours that you contribute.

To all the board members, Christina Manning, Rev Ian, Peter and Melissa thank you for a fantastic year!!

Respectfully Submitted



Joan Winsor, Chairperson

**Property Committee
2019 Annual Report
First United Church**

Firstly, we wish to thank all of those who helped our committee during the past year. Special thanks to Gary, Harold, Mike and Wayne, who really stepped up during our absences. Because many hands make light work, much has been accomplished over the past year.

Among these accomplishments were:

- ✓ Electrical upgrades to the storage area for freezers and coolers
- ✓ New doors installed in the basement entrance
- ✓ Carpets professionally cleaned
- ✓ Safety switch for the furnace outside furnace room door
- ✓ Installation of new lock on sound booth
- ✓ Control valves replaced and some new valves installed on heating system
- ✓ Another ceiling light replaced with LED in kitchen area
- ✓ Furnace oil and propane now with one dealer, North Atlantic
- ✓ Bulletin boards for Sunday School
- ✓ Missing or damaged book holders replaced on pews
- ✓ Repairs to organ bench
- ✓ The model boat, built by Winston Crocker, has been displayed in the stairway
- ✓ Professional lawn care secured
- ✓ Snow clearing of lot, walkways and doors arranged for this winter

Most of this has been accomplished through the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. That which we could not handle ourselves we had completed professionally. In addition, we are awaiting word on the cost related to replacing the lighting in the sanctuary. We are hoping to upgrade to LED, which will be a tremendous saving in time and money.

Yours in Christ,


Nelson Bailey


Kirk Howell

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

2019

Worship Committee members:

Melvina Moores, Rev. Ian. Peter MacDonald, Kyle March MacCuish, Madeline Rideout, Gordon Morgan, and Brenda Thistle.

The committee met twice in 2019 to plan worship services, communion, baptism and special services. The committee is also responsible for providing leadership for worship during the minister's vacation and District meetings.

Thanks to the Men's Club, Youth Group. UCW, Tony Tulk, Cynthia Burt and Rev. Karen Bursey for their leadership.

Thank you to the ushering teams for their help and dedication.

In 2019 we had several of our ushering team members retire, We thank them for their years of dedication and service. We are grateful to the new members who stepped up and volunteered.

Communion was served 8 times during 2019, alternating between being served at the stations and in the pews. Easter Sunday communion is served at the rail. Thank you to all who volunteered as servers. If any member of the congregation wishes to assist with communion, please contact the worship committee or the church office.

Baptism services are scheduled for the last Sunday of the month. Thank you to the UCW and the Canadian Bible Society for providing each child with a Baptismal Candle and a Bible.

Music is an important of worship at First United. We are blessed by the many who give freely of their musical talents. We have a great musical team in Peter MacDonald and Melissa Butt, who lead the Senior and Youth choirs. Doreen Squires and Sid Butt lead the Blended Voices choir. Doreen retired in June. We thank her for her dedication and service We are grateful that Sid agreed to continue leading the choir.

Thank you to those who play the drums and guitars. It adds to our worship.

Thank you all for your dedication and uplifting gospel music. It is much appreciated.

Thank you to Rev. Ian for his spiritual guidance .

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline Rideout

Christian Development Committee

Annual Report 2019

Committee Members: Kelly & Tony Tuck (Co-Chairs) Faith March-MacCuish,
Pam Morgan, Janice Saunders, Cynthia Burt,
Oliver Stark, Susan Melendy-Stark

It seems that 2019 got away from us very quickly, and here we are in 2020. Again 2019 was a successful year with Christian Development within our Church. With Churches struggling worldwide we are very fortunate to have such a busy and thriving church community. We are, as well, very fortunate to have the programs that we have in our Church as well as the Volunteers we have to run them. These groups play an important role in developing fellowship and a sense of community within our congregation.

The Christian Development Committee of our Church oversees such groups as, Sunday School, Youth Group, Book Club, Quilting Group. Each of these groups continue to have a strong membership, meeting either weekly or bi-weekly. They bring people together for the common purpose of celebrating fellowship and community within our church, creating an atmosphere where friendships are made. These groups are very successful and are very vibrant, and they always welcome new members if you ever want to come out and join, or just see what it's all about.

The success of these groups could not happen without the dedication of the Volunteers we have who put in endless hours of their valuable time to make them a success. We can not say Thank you enough to all our volunteers. It is because of these people that we can provide the environment that we have, welcoming others to come together in fellowship and spirituality. These volunteers bring people together for a common purpose and interest. The faithfulness and dedication of the people who lead these different groups is the reason Christian Development is possible in our Church. To the members of the Christian Development Committee, the leaders of the Youth Group, Sunday School, Quilting and Book Club, you play a valuable role here at First United Church in Christian Development, and we are truly blessed to have you.

The CD committee in 2019 hosted two big events in our Church. We hosted a Year End BBQ in June of 2019 to celebrate another successful season in our Church as the groups took a break for the summer months. As well, we hosted a Welcome Back BBQ in September 2019 to welcome everyone back to Church after the summer months, and the start up of the groups.

Both events took place in Trinity Hall. They were well attended by members of our congregation. There was lots of delicious food, some wonderful desserts, and wonderful fellowship. Thank you to all those who gave of their time to make these events possible, as well as Thank you to all those who came out and supported these events. It is only because of you that all that these events were a success. When we work together, we can do so much.

To all those who give of their time and talents to contribute to the life and work of our Church, we thank you. We are so Blessed here at First United to have so many dedicated people who give so much toward Christianity in our church family. It is because of you we can do so much. You are a vital part of the success of our church.

Youth Group Leaders- Faith March -MacCuish, Pam Morgan, Kelly Tuck, Tony Tuck, Zachary Froude, Caitlyn Pardy, Emily March-MacCuish, Jennifer Hillier, Sarah Walsh

Sunday School- Co-Superintendents Faith March-MacCuish, Susan Vardy and Kelly Tuck. Music led By Ronald MacDonal, all our kitchen helpers, nursery helpers, and our many parents that help us throughout the year.

Book Club- Pam Morgan

Quilting- Pam Morgan

We are so proud of all our groups and honoured to have such wonderful people who contribute their talents and time to make them a success. In a time when many groups are struggling, we are very Blessed.

Thank you for all that you do for Christian Development.

"Service to Others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth"- Muhammad Ali

Yours in Christian Development

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Tuck".

Kelly and Tony Tuck

Sunday School

Annual Report 2019

Superintendents: Faith March-MacCuish, Susan Vardy, Kelly Tuck

Music: Ronalda MacDonald

It is so much fun to be downstairs in Trinity Hall on Sunday mornings with the Children for Sunday School. There is laughter, fun, singing, games, craft time, story time, prayer time, and yes best of all snack time.

We start our morning routine gathered around and sitting on the floor together. The children take turns lighting our Christ candle. This reminds us that God is just as present with us downstairs while we worship in our way, just as God is present upstairs with the big people while they worship. We have a Birthday candle and sing Happy Birthday to anyone who has had a Birthday in that week. They get a Birthday sticker and a birthday pencil. We welcome anyone who is new, and they receive a pencil that says "We Welcome You". The children take turns taking up the collection, while we sing our song. We then say Our Lords Prayer together, before we go to our table together.

Again for 2019 we used the online curriculum from The Whole People of God. This provides a fun curriculum to us at a lower cost to our Sunday School then ordering workbooks. As well, it gives teachers easy access to the programs. Again, it has worked to be positive for our group.

The number of children in attendance we have on Sunday's seems to be on par from the previous year.

The Children took part in several services throughout the year of 2019. These include, White Gift, Palm Sunday and Christian Family Sunday. Each service had several Children take part and was very successful. We received positive feedback from many members of our congregation for each service. It makes the children feel so proud when they take part, whenever we need volunteers, they are quick to put their hand up, it is so beautiful to see. We are so wonderfully fortunate to have such a vibrant Sunday School, where children are so excited to take part.

Our Sunday School in 2019 continued with two of our Outreach Programs. Those being, collecting nickels for our Foster Child and collecting Pop can tabs. The Pop Can Tabs Program is very exciting for the children. We collect the tabs off of pop cans and the aluminum from the tabs gets donated and recycled into Wheelchairs, which are then donated back to someone who needs it. The kids love this program and get so excited to fill our bucket. We also collect the lowest coin, the nickel, this goes to our Foster Children's Fund. The Children collect the nickels and we fill our container for our foster child. Our foster Child is a boy from Haiti, the children talk about him and learn about him and where he is from.

We are so blessed to have such a vibrant Sunday School. We have beautiful children which makes it a joy to volunteer your time to be with. They play such a vital role in the life and work of our church. We can learn so much through the eyes of a child. We can't say Thank you enough to all those who volunteer their time and talents to make our Sunday School a success. Your acts of kindness no matter how big or small play a vital role in the faith journey of a child.

"A Person is a Person - No matter how small"- Dr. Seuss

First United Book Club
Annual Report 2019

We continued reading our way around the world, with stops in war-torn Europe, Cuba, Korea both North and South, London, California, New York, Ontario, and of course St. John's. We travelled by plane, train, automobile, and transatlantic liner. We traveled with defectors, spent time with a knitting club, worked in an office, investigated a mystery, cleaned out a family house, and took a cross-country train trip. We confirmed for ourselves that we really don't like award-winning books... Governor General's Award, Giller Prize and Oprah's Picks ... three hits and you're out. We do, however, enjoy Heather's Picks.

This year, we tried something new, picking up a Book Club Kit from the public library. They do kits up in sets of 10 books, that one person can sign out on behalf of the club, and they give you a month to return them. It worked out well and we will try it again.

We had our usual restaurant outings for closing and Christmas, had great times and great discussions.

Below are our one-line book reviews for the past year:

- 2019-01-30 **Catching the Wind** by Melanie Dobson
"A good read for a tough topic"
- 2019-02-27 **On Hummingbird Wings** by Lauraine Snelling
"In the words of Lady Gaga: Shallow"
- 2019-03-27 **The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story** by Hyeonseo Lee
"Opened our minds to a closed society"
- 2019-04-24 **They left us everything: A Memoir** by Plum Johnson.
"Relatable, Conversation Initiating, and Thought Provoking"
- 2019-05-29 **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman
"A different, quirky, offbeat but completely fine read"
- 2019-06-26 **The Friday Night Knitting Club** by Kate Jacobs
"Enjoyable book about a group of people who become well-knit together"
- 2019-09-25 **The German Girl** by Armando Lucas Correa
"A not so great book showing history repeating itself yet again."
- 2019-10-30 **The Greatest Hits of Wanda Jaynes** by Bridget Canning
"Was not a hit with our group, despite its focus on real and current issues"
- 2019-11-27 **A Complicated Kindness** by Miriam Toews
"Our simple kindness to you: Don't bother"
- 2019-12-18 **The Christmas Train** by David Baldacci
"You can make a Christmas community wherever you are"

First United Quilting Group
Annual Report 2019

January had us ooh'ing and aah'ing over a large stash of fabric that was donated to us from the estate of a quilter, whose daughter was trying to find a good home for the fabric. By the end of January several pieces had been claimed as perfect for some project ideas that were being contemplated. We spent some time sorting it all and washing it in preparation for new projects.

The early start on the Fall Fair quilt continued, with the work being done together at the church rather than people working on individual blocks at home and bringing them in for finishing. Working together on a project seemed to be enjoyed by most, and there were times when many people did not bring their own project to work on but simply worked on the group quilt. The top was finished being pieced before summer and was taken by one member to quilt over the summer, and another member then took it to put on the binding.

In addition to the quilt for the Fall Fair, several members contributed smaller pieces to the craft table at the UCW Afternoon Teas.

We continued with our usual meetings throughout the year, with show and tells of projects finished at home, working on our own projects, helping one another on projects, consulting on projects, and our tradition of a Christmas social, with a show and tell.

Submitted by Pam Morgan on behalf of the Quilting Group

Youth Group Annual Report
SNAC -2019

The Youth Group at First United Church known as SNAC-Sunday Night at Church (because that is where you will find us and you will also see us snacking among other things) has had another successful year. We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated leaders. Thank you to: Pamela Morgan, Kelly Tuck, Tony Tuck, Sarah Walsh, Jennifer Hillier, Emily March-MacCuish, Zachary Froude, Faith March-MacCuish, and Rev. Ian March-MacCuish.

We began the year with an opening party, BBQ and Games night to help people get to know each other. The year got off to a great start, our youth group ranges in ages 12 years to 18 years, or grade 7 to grade 12.

Outreach Programs

Can Project:

Our youth group is proud of its many outreach projects, again this year they included the "Together we Can" project initiated by the youth group in consultation with the Official Board. This project has been running for some years, it includes all the members of the church, and is a wonderful way to generate extra funds for both the Pastoral Charge and the Youth Group.

Prison Loot Bags:

This year we provided 180 Christmas bags for the inmates who are at Her Majesty's Penitentiary. It is important for our youth group because it always reminds us that we are all children of God and that all of us are capable of making mistakes and we all have the potential for forgiveness and restoration.

Seniors Outreach:

This year again we baked cookies and made valentine cards for the seniors who live at Hillcrest Seniors Residence and Pearl house. Each person received a visit, two cookies and a homemade valentine card. The best part of the whole outreach program was having the young and the young at heart spend a small amount of time visiting together.

Congregational Outreach:

This year we provided our annual pumpkin carving night for the children and adults of the congregation, as well as our creative Trick or Trunk. This is always a fun time and the youth have lots of fun especially we are so happy to have so many congregational members getting involved and decorating their trunks and giving our treats to our children. Well Done And Thanks You!!!!!!

We once again hosted our annual Easter Breakfast. It provides an opportunity for our congregation to come for the early morning communion service and have breakfast together and then go to church again. The youth get up very early and even put off their Easter Egg hunt to later in the day, so they can provide this wonderful outreach to the congregation.

We as a group also took part in the Prayer Vigil. It is really amazing to see a bunch of young people sitting quietly in church in prayer and contemplation. We are very proud of our young people for being part of this ministry.

The youth group assisted the Men's Club Christmas Dinner, cleaned up and washed the dishes for them so they were able to take a break and enjoy their evening.

The youth group cleaned up the church parking lot in the Spring after all of the winter snow. They picked up the garbage and swept the sand off the parking spaces.

Decorating:

This year we again decorated Trinity Hall for Easter, Christmas and various celebrations.

Worship Services:

The youth group this year lead the Christmas Candlelight Vesper service;

Faith Talks:

We have two nights each year when we invite in a guest speaker or we go to a program that helps to develop our faith.

Fun and Fellowship:

Our youth group provides a place for youth to come and feel comfortable, supported and safe. We play games, go bowling, watch movies, go sliding, go curling, have sleepovers and gym nights and just plan old nights enjoy being together.

Thanks You:

Thank you to First United Church for all your support, to the UCW and Men's Clubs and Official Board who support us. Thank you to Rev. Ian, our Minister. Thank you to the youth for being such a great group of young people, Thanks you to the Parents who help and support the youth and get them to the church and events we are hosting and for being a support to all we do!!

Kelly Duck - CO-Chair

Outreach and Social Action Report February 2019

The Outreach and Social Action Committee was very active again this year keeping the congregation up to date with all the activities of First United Church through our church communications. We keep you up to date with all the happenings of our church through our quarterly newsletters, our website <http://www.firstunitedchurchmp.ca/> (special thanks to Beulah Bouzane - BCI-Esolutions/Bouzane Consulting Inc.), Constant Contact email communications and our Facebook page. If you are on Facebook -you are encouraged to follow our page, sign up for constant contact and check out our website—you'll be well informed.

Mission and Service Fund ~Minutes for Mission

During our worship services, each Sunday many members of our congregation share a "*Minutes for Mission*" story. These are snippets from a ministry supported by our gifts for Mission and Service Fund. This year, the theme reflected on the words "love our neighbours as ourselves." It took us on a journey around the world-learning about how our Mission and Service funds are used both nationally and globally.

Ruth Noble, the Mission & Service Engagement Coordinator stated:

"Neighbours are people we check up on and care about. I grew up on a street where the neighbours became more like family than simply people who lived on the same street. We would have community gatherings with lots of laughter. Each neighbour's pets became the neighbourhood pets, and I still count many of these neighbours as part of my family. Family are those who you can be yourself with in good times and in bad. Sometimes they are related to you; sometimes they are chosen to be part of your family.

I remember hearing American television journalist Anderson Cooper share the word "framily"—that is, friends who have become family. Many of the stories from our Mission & Service partners and ministries share that same sentiment. The people, they share a meal, a coffee, or work on a project with will have become a part of their family."

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please consider making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Bridges To Hope

Newfoundland has the highest rate per capita of food bank usage in Canada. In 2016, the Bridges To Hope Food Pantry provided food aid to 9,200 people. The clients are from every sector of society and no one is turned away. It's not a hand out – it's a hand up, helping Newfoundland families and individuals move forward in life. Bridges To Hope serves the Northeast Avalon region. The clients are your neighbours, co-workers, and friends. At Bridges to Hope the focus is "neighbours feeding neighbours."

At First United the first Sunday of each month is designated as Bridges To Hope Sunday and members of the congregation are invited to bring along non-perishable items. Non-perishable food items are always needed, and there is a collection bin in the church foyer. At Easter and at Thanksgiving, we have special "reverse offering" special food drives for Bridges To Hope and we

support their Annual Bag to School Program. Your continuous support is greatly appreciated...thank you so much.

White Gift – Sunday, December 18, 2019

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations. The story is told that a minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday school Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others.

First United Church observes White Gift Sunday with a child-centred service presented by our Sunday School. In keeping with the spirit of the first White Gift service, those attending bring an item for Bridges to Hope or a small gift or toy for those in need this Christmas--wrapped in white paper! During the White Gift Service our Sunday School children help to collect the white gifts. After the service the items donated were sorted and distributed to those in need at Bridges to Hope, Iris Kirby House and Emmanuel House. A special thank you to those who helped and contributed to this project.

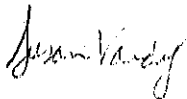
During Advent we also had our Mitten and Hat Tree in the church foyer--members of the congregation donated hats and mittens to help keep people in our area warm this winter.

Senior's Christmas Dinner ~ Sunday, December 15, 2019

This year 114 seniors attended our Annual Senior's Christmas Dinner in Trinity Hall and five dinners were delivered. From the vegetable peelers, cleaners, servers, table setters, punch makers, shoppers and musicians and more! Everyone comes together to make this a very successful event and a highlight of the Christmas season.

Thanks so much to everyone who have helped throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Vardy, Chair, Outreach and Social Action Committee

Are you on the First United Church Constant E-mail List?

If Not, Take a Moment and Email or Call The Church Office With Your Information.



Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Email this information to First United Church: firstunited@nf.qlbn.com

Bridges to Hope

Report to our Partner Churches for 2019

Bridges to Hope is the largest Food Bank in St. John's, serving over 10,000 clients a year and growing each year. It is sponsored by a partnership of 9 United Churches and 2 Presbyterian churches in the city, and is open without restriction to all those who need its services. Each church names a person to be its representative to Bridges to Hope, and these representatives, along with representatives from the community at large comprise the Governing Board of Bridges to Hope. Staff are Jody Williams the Manager, Kelly Yetman the Administrator/Accountant, and Raylene Roche the Intake Person.

Our main focus is the food bank. We depend heavily on donations both of food and money to help keep our shelves stocked. Because we are trying to encourage healthy eating among our clients, we purchase fresh fruit and vegetables and eggs, as well as make our own bread, homemade soup and chilli and cook chicken pieces to be included in hampers. We also have a 'Smart Snack' program to provide nutritious snacks for school children. Churches have helped us with this by having 'muffin mornings' when people gather to make muffins for 'Smart Snack' program.

We also participate in the Bag to School program with support and involvement from Exxon Mobil, VOCM Cares, Pipers, and other sponsors, including the churches. Congregations donate items for inclusion in the bags, and St. David's offer their hall for assembling. This year we did over 650 school bags.

At Christmas we partner with Rotary, who are our prime sponsor and organizer, to provide generous Christmas hampers with all the trimmings for over 350 clients. St. Andrews Church again provided the assembly and distribution facilities.

As a non-profit organization we are dependent on the generosity of others for our continued existence. Each year we apply for grants that are available to us. First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of the United Church has again provided us a generous grant through Mission Support Grants that will help us with our programs and operations. The City of St. John's provides a grant toward operations, as does United Way with a grant for our Healthy Hampers program. We acknowledge many other companies and individual donors who have also generously supported our organization. Our Ambassador Program of monthly donations through Canada Helps has seen an increase in donors. We also wish to mention a donation from Rotary this past year that paid for a new roof for our building. Our roof had been a concern for some time with leaks and temporary patching. This winter could have seen us in dire straits without their help.

We also concern ourselves with Fundraising. Jody is our main person in these projects. He organizes food drives, speaks to organizations, finds new sources of funding, and is in contact with corporations.

He utilizes social media, and constantly updates our site on Facebook. This year we held a sold out fundraiser with Spirit to Newfoundland that was very successful and enjoyable. We hope to have another one this Fall.

But support is not just money. Where would we be without our Volunteers!! They pack hampers, stock shelves, sort food, bake bread, make soup, collect donations of food, and are reliable and turn up when needed. Support is also the donation of food that congregations bring to church each Sunday and are passed on to us, as well as the donations of supplies for Bags to School. Support is the use of a church Hall when our facilities are not suitable. We are grateful for all who have helped us in any way to provide services for those who need them. It is impossible to name every person, company or organization who has supported us in the past year. We thank all of you, and want you to know your support is valued by us and our clients.

Each Board Meeting we begin with a prayer:

“As we meet to make decisions about Bridges to Hope in the present and for the future, we ask God’s guidance in helping us to use our abilities to make wise and appropriate choices, remembering the services we provide for those who are not only hungry, but often vulnerable and disadvantaged, and the importance of Bridges to Hope in their lives. We ask God’s blessing on them and us as we carry out the tasks before us this evening”.

And we hope that with the help of our supporters we can continue to be the organization that provides our clients with the services and help they need.

Eleanor Bonnell

Chairperson,

Board of Bridges to Hope

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M&P) ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

Presently serving on the M&P Committee are: Brenda Andrews (Chair), Eric Eveleigh, Ada Eveleigh, Janice Andrews-Ralph and Carl Burt. We respectfully submit our Annual Report.

The M&P Committee acts under the guidance of *The Manual* of the United Church of Canada. The committee functions around three roles, which are: the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for our staff and our community of faith with respect to any issue involving staff of our Church. We work to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of our community of faith.

Much of the M&P Committee's most effective work is done quietly and confidentially. The Committee has a responsibility to make recommendations to the Board and receives direction from the Board. We welcome advice and input from staff and the congregation at all times.

Examples of our 2019 efforts include:

- Reviewed and kept current the employee job descriptions
- Advised the Board on salary levels appropriate for each position
- Recommended to the Official Board annual compensation guidelines
- Advised employees in general on HR issues
- Attended Board meetings and submitted monthly reports
- Met with and supported staff on an ongoing basis
- Communicated salary and wage changes for employees

First United Church is blessed with staff who are committed to their work, and we are thankful for this work in our community of faith. Our Minister, Rev. Ian March-MacCuish provides excellent spiritual leadership. He is supported by our outstanding Musical Direction Team, Peter MacDonald and Melissa Butt. Christina Manning provides us with superb office support. We are sincerely grateful to all of these individuals for the valuable contributions they make to our community of faith on an ongoing basis. We also want to express thanks and gratitude to our volunteers who provide office coverage, etc., as necessary during the year.

During 2019, Avalon Cleaners provided cleaning services on a contractual basis. Mr. Jim Eales provided snow-clearing services for the parking lot, and Mr. Alan Broderick provided snow-clearing services for the thoroughfares and exits on a contractual basis. Members of the congregation looked after the grounds keeping during the summer. We are very grateful to all who have assisted in any way in keeping our church property safe and beautiful.

May I take this opportunity to thank the M&P Committee members for their work and support over the past year.



Brenda Andrews - Chair

First United Church – Mount Pearl

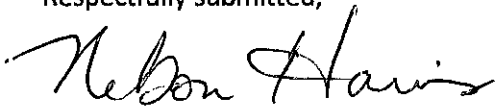
Board of Trustees – Annual Report 2019

The function of the Board of Trustee is to hold, in trust, all of the property of our congregation for the use and benefit of our congregation as part of the United Church and to liaise with the Official Board respecting any relevant matters which arise.

During 2019 there were no matters which required our attention in an official manner. However we corresponded by e-mail and I, as chair, attended board meetings in order to remain current on activities related to the life and work of our church.

We are indeed grateful for all people who work together in fulfilling the mission and ministry of our church.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nelson Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nelson Harris, Chair

Members: Carolyn Rice and Ray Hayward

First United Church Men's Fellowship Club Annual Report 2019

First United Church Men's Fellowship Club is a group of Men of the Congregation who meet on the first Tuesday of each month for worship, fellowship and a good meal. We would welcome any men of the Congregation to join us. We look back with satisfaction at the year with the various projects, outreach and activities of the Club.

The Club has arranged for members to play darts two afternoons per week at Trinity Hall. Several members of the club take part in the Blended Voices Choir so the choir events are listed here as well. The following are some of the activities, projects and outreach the Club planned or participated in.

January:

The first meeting of 2019 was held on Jan. 8. A delicious pot luck meal was enjoyed by all. Plans for the new year were discussed.

Members attended a sing-along at Pearl House.

February:

We welcomed 22 members of the St. James United Church Men' Club. Our guest speaker for the evening was Staff Sargent Steve Conohan who is a drug expert with the RCMP.

On February 21st some members served a dinner for the families who were residing at Ronald Macdonald House.

The club cooked and served a jigs dinner at Trinity Hall on February 22.

March:

At our March 5th meeting, the ladies singing group Avalonia entertained us with a variety of songs from earlier times. Members attended a sing-along at Karwood Seniors Home.

April:

At our April 2nd meeting, Reg White, a member of our Club who has a long association with Habitat for Humanity, gave us an interesting talk on the history of that organization in the St. John's/ Mount Pearl area.

The Club held its annual flea market on April 27th.

Members assisted with the Fish and Brews breakfast April 19th.

Members attended a sing-along at Meadow Creek Seniors Home.

May:

Mount Pearl Mayor, Dave Aker, was the guest speaker at our May meeting. Mayor Aker outlined the strategic planning for the City of Mount Pearl. The Mayor spoke of the plans for the capital works to be undertaken during the 2019 construction season.

May 3rd members assisted with the takeout turkey teas. On May 5th the Blended Voices Choir participated in conducting the morning service.

Members attended a sing-along at Ruby Manor Seniors Home.

June:

Members attended the sing a long at the Pearl View Seniors Home. On June 3rd. the club cooked and catered the UCW closing dinner.

Members attended a sing-along at Hillcrest Seniors Home.

On June 19th the Club held it's annual bbq. .

September:

The first meeting after the summer break started with a delicious pot luck meal.

The Club donated \$200.00 worth of food to Brides to Hope.

We served a jigs dinner at Trinity Hall September 27th

October:

October 1st some members of the club attended a sing-along at the Agnes Pratt Seniors' home.

Members of the Club served tea and coffee to the Senior's Independence Group at the Reid Community Center, October 2nd. Members assisted with the serving of communion at the October 6th. Service.

November:

The \$200.00 donation that the Club received for serving at the Senior's Independence Group was donated to the Church building Fund.

Doug Ivany laid the Club wreath at the Remembrance Church Service November 10th and at the Mount Pearl War Memorial ceremony November 11th.

November 30th members helped with the decorating of the Church sanctuary for Christmas.

December:

December 2nd Club Members cooked and catered the UCW Christmas dinner.

December 10th the Club held its Christmas party at Trinity Hall.

Visitation:

Our visitation team provides visits, flowers, cards and fruit baskets to members in hospital or recuperating at home and sympathy cards to bereaved families.

Other ways in which the Club supports our church:

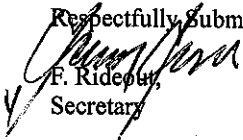
During 2019 the Club members delivered church envelopes, newsletters, quarterly statements, Lenten and Advent folders to church households, thus saving the church the cost of postage.

Our members are actively involved with various minor repair projects around the church as well as in setting up tables and chairs for numerous functions.

The Club wishes to thank the Youth Group for the spring clean-up around the Church property and helping and cleaning up at our Christmas party.

Club members were saddened by the passing of long- time member Hunter Wight.

Respectfully Submitted,


F. Rideout,
Secretary

Life's most soothing things are a
child's good night and sweet music.

Thomas Elva Edison

First United Church Women Annual Report 2019

The First United Church Women's Group (UCW) continues to be a vibrant and active group of women who meet the second Monday of each month. In 2019 the UCW had a membership of 53. Regular meetings usually open with the UCW Purpose and worship followed by a business portion and end with the UCW Prayer, circle song and grace. Fellowship and lunch follow. Meetings are varied and they can encompass a wide range of activities, special guests and events. In 2019 members of the UCW were saddened by the passing of members Jane Adams and Susie Nicholl.

2019 was a very successful year. The following is an outline of the various activities we participated in this year:

January

- Visited Pearl House Retirement Home with members of the Men's Club for an evening of fellowship with the residents.

February

- UCW regular meeting, pot luck and collection of our Valendimes Fundraiser.
- Our annual visit to Hillcrest Retirement Home was rescheduled because of a snow storm.

March

- UCW regular meeting with guest speaker Rev. Ian March-MacCuish
- Attended the World Day of Prayer Service at St. Peter's Parish
- Hosted a Stew Supper Fundraiser
- Visited Karwood Retirement Home with the Men's Club for an evening of fellowship with the residents.

April

- At our regular meeting we hosted George Street UCW, Solid Rock Wesleyan Church Ladies and singing group Right Fit
- Led the Good Friday Service at 10:30am
- Attended the Annual General Meeting of the UCW at Burry Heights
- Visited Meadow Creek Retirement Home along with members of the Men's Club for an evening of fellowship with the residents

May

- Attended a UCW Rally at Cowan Heights United Church
- Held our Spring Afternoon Tea and Bake Sale
- Visited Ruby Manor along with the Men's Club for an evening of fellowship with the residents

June

- Held our closing dinner which was catered by the Men's Club
- Visited Hillcrest Retirement Home with the Men's Club for an evening of fellowship with the residents.

July

- Ushering duties at the 11:00am services
- Ushered and attended the funeral of member Susie Nicholl
- Hosted a reception after the funeral

September

- Regular meeting

October

- Regular meeting
- Hosted the birthday party at the Agnes Pratt home for residents celebrating birthdays in September and October

November

- Held the UCW Afternoon Tea and Bake Sale
- During the regular meeting held the annual shower of personal care items for Emmanuel House and Carew Lodge
- Held our election of officers

December

- Conducted an evening memorial/celebratory service entitled "Symbols of Christmas"
- Held the UCW Christmas Dinner and revealing of our Secret Sisters. We received a visit from Santa. The dinner was catered by the Men's Club. The evening was enjoyed by all.
- Attended the Youth Group annual Christmas Vesper Service
- Delivered Christmas Bags to the 12 men and 12 women at Carew Lodge

The UCW continues to provide many programs with financial support. In 2019 the group supported the Mission and Service Fund, the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Burry Heights, Chaplaincy Fund, the Labrador Fund as well as supported the church's local and building fund.

The UCW provides outreach in other ways. We provide copies of "Our Daily Bread" booklets to members of the congregation; support Bridges to Hope with personal care items throughout the year; supported Bridges to Hope Smart Snack Program; provide personal care items and other items to Carew Lodge and Emmanuel House; provide mittens, hats and scarfs to the Mitten Tree Project. We have a Prayer Chain that circulates prayer requests for individuals and families who are going through difficult times. We provide the Baptismal Candles for the newly baptized children and Birthday Cards for their 1st and 2nd birthdays.

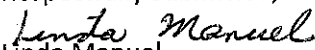
Over the last few years we have been asked by families if we could host a reception for family and friends after a funeral. We have hosted several this year and as a token of their appreciation we have received monetary donations. We are pleased to do this as part of our outreach program.

UCW members and friends knit strips for the Quilts for Comfort Project. Since the project started in 2006, a total of 554 quilts/blankets have been distributed far and wide to those who need a little warmth in their lives. This year we gave 21 quilts to Stella's Circle and Carew Lodge. We give thanks to those who have provided the wool, knit the strips and to those who put the quilts together.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all members and friends of the congregation who continue to support our many projects. Without you we could not do what we do.

We would like to extend an invitation to all women of the congregation to join us in our faith journey as we share our time, talents and treasures. We pray that God will continue to bless us and our work.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Manuel

Secretary 2019

**The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.
Annual Report for 2019**

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at all three Cemeteries, we filled, leveled and re-sodded a large number of graves and leveled a number of headstones. We used several thousand square feet of sods per year.

During the year we had 190 burials, a decrease of 28 over the previous year; Of these 127 (66.84%) were cremations, which is a decrease of 9 from last year.

The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	15	9	4
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	173	179	142
The Field of Honor	25	18	21
Memorials Gardens Cemetery	13	12	23
Total Burials	226	218	190
Cremations Included	149 (66%)	136 (62.40%)	127 (66.84%)

Your Board met nine times during the past year.

There have been 52 burials in Memorial Gardens. 23 of these were in 2019. We have sold 81 plots in Memorial Gardens.

All maintenance at Memorial Gardens such as grass cutting, snow clearing etc. is done by our own staff.

We finally received the permit from the City to do paving on part of the parking lot at Memorial Gardens. The environment people at the City forced us to construct a storm water retention pond to hold any storm water runoff. This resulted in an unplanned extra cost for site improvements so we reduced the size of the paved area to stay within the original paving price of \$147,000.00 plus HST.

We have sold 115 of the 120 niches in the 2nd Columbarium section installed at Mount Pleasant in 2015. We had a 3rd Columbarium section with 120 niches installed in 2019. We have sold 27 niches in this new Columbarium.

Last year we received a donation of \$30,000.00 to do landscaping in Memorial Gardens. A portion of this was used last summer. We beautified the entrance with flowers and shrubs etc. This year we will plant some trees around the storm water retention pond and throughout the Cemetery.

The Memorial Service at Mount Pleasant went well on Monday, July 8, we moved the date ahead by one week, the attendance was good, the weather was good and the offering was up from last year. Likewise, the service at the General Protestant Cemetery went well but had smaller attendance, and the offering was down from the previous year.

This year we held our second Memorial Service at Memorial Gardens. Weather was good and the attendance was good.

Memorial Services;

The Memorial services for 2020 will be as follows:

- 1) Mt Pleasant Cemetery, Monday, July 6, 2020, 7pm.
- 2) General Protestant Cemetery, Monday, July 20, 2020, 7 pm.
- 3) Memorial Gardens, Monday, August 3, 2020, 7pm.

A personal thank you to the congregation of First United for their continual support.

I am pleased to place on record thanks to our cemetery staff. We have a dedicated staff, and the feedback from the public is excellent. We appreciate the work done by Bill, Vince and Graham. We operate six days a week, sometimes through difficult and challenging situations, especially during the winter season.

Respectfully submitted,

Calvin Gibbons

Calvin Gibbons
First United Church Representative
Vice Chairman, General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.
tel: 709 364 9733
email: cgibbons@nf.sympatico.ca

STEWARDSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Our Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that on December 31, 2019 all bills were paid and all financial obligations were met, eg. – Mission and Service Fund, Food Bank, District Assessment, Cemetery Fund and VOWR.

I would like to bring to your attention that for 2019, our operating Account had a deficit of \$8,881.53 and our Building Fund Account had a surplus of \$6,104.49. We were able to meet our financial obligations because of the surplus from previous years.

Our Loan balance as of December 31, 2019 is \$274,600. For us to continue meeting this financial obligation we are asking each family of our congregation to contribute an extra \$10 per month to our Building Fund account; however, this is **not** to be at the expense of contributions to our general revenues.

Our Ways and Means Committee, in cooperation with the Official Board, is making plans for 2020 so that this deficit hopefully doesn't happen again this year.

We had previously mentioned to the congregation about setting up pre-authorized (PAR) for your monthly contributions. We are strongly recommending that you (the congregation) take a serious look at this option. It is very important to our cash flow position, especially during the summer months. If you wish to make your contributions by post-dated cheques, that would also be greatly appreciated. The pre-authorized forms are available in the foyer.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I want to thank all members of the congregation for your support during 2019. While we may have challenges ahead of us, I am quite confident that with your continued support, we will overcome to grow as a community of faith.

In His Presence,



Len Sturge
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Statistics 2019

Baptisms:	16
Marriages:	9
Funerals:	22

Confirmation of Membership

December 31, 2018	1088
Added by profession of Faith	10
Added by Transfer	1
Removed by Transfer	0
Removed by Death	8
Removed by Request	0
Membership as of December 31, 2019	1091

Confirmation classes 2019

Logan Robert Beliwicz	Kate Lauren Agnes Healey
Molly Norah Case Strickland	Daniel Nathan Parsons
Sara Elizabeth Case Strickland	Lillyan Jane Pope
Noah Christopher Dwyer	Ocean Claudia Saunders
Jeremy Thomas Dwyer	Allison Deanne Sparkes

Marriages in 2019

Terrence "Scott" Corbin and Michaela Tracy Grace Lush
Reginald Joseph Careen and Cathy Ann Martin
Joseph William Ford and Jill Andrews Ralph
Charles Dean Hickman and Jacqueline Elizabeth Templeman
Nicole Geraldine Hibbs and Keisha Margaret Power
James Andrew Burke and Tanya Deanne Morrissey
Raymond Lawrence Maurice Kelloway and Cassandra Marie Osmond
Michael Daniel Dyer and Tanya Jessica Osmond
Jordan Lee Jacobs Brown and Meghan Ashley Husk

Baptisms in 2019

Isla Rose Knight	Angela Rose Goodland
Aidan Oakley Warren	Emilia Grace Haye
Lucas James Scott Fry	Millie Maria Burton
Thomas Michael Dyer	Keegan William Paul Bourgeois
Lucas Roy Thomas Crane	Katherine Ray Hanlon
Benjamin Christopher Robbins	Samuel McKenzie Harris
Ewan James Patrick	Emeric Charles Scott
Olivia Isabella Wells	Adam Derek Archibald Evans

Deaths in 2019

Virginia Constance Hillier	Olga Ash
Sylvia Bulger	Dulcie Burry
Ralph Nelson Emberley	Alton George Milley
Ivy "Genevieve" Reeves	Frederick James Starkes
Rosalie Adams-Legge	Richard Charles Noseworthy
Claudine Vivian Roberts	Shirley Alma Pinksen
Agnes Hoyles	Cora Penney
Cluney Gordon Carew	Robert Hunter Wight
Paula Elaine Baggs	Frederick Wilfred Anderson
Susie Nicholl	Calvin Carl Tucker
Garry Wayne Boland	Maurice Norman Kelloway