



St. Davids-Queenston United Church

Annual Report

2016

St. Davids-Queenston United Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 14, 2016
Immediately following the worship service at 11:31a.m.

Forty-four people in attendance.

Rev. James opened the meeting with a prayer.

Steve Hardaker resumed his position as Chair of the Congregation and Christine Earley resumed her position as Secretary of the Congregation.

MOTION: **To extend voting privileges to all in attendance, except on motions of church and spiritual policy. Moved by Anne Dorland and seconded by Pat MacDougall. All in favour.**

MOTION: **To receive all reports as presented plus the Minutes from the previous Annual Congregational Meeting, except the Budget and Nominating Committee Reports. Moved by Nancy Lang and seconded by Verda Smith. All in favour.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We have some new nominees: Nancy Utting is joining Session and Lisa Brillon is joining Session as an ex-officio member. Larry McRae, Marianne McRae and Sandy Sinclair are joining the Finance Committee while Mike Macdonald will be an ad hoc member. Marianne has assumed the role of Chair. Larry McRae is being appointed the Treasurer of St. Davids-Queenston United Church. Ron Chapman is joining the Property Committee. Anne Dorland and Sue Cote have joined Ministry and Personnel. Sue has assumed the role of Chair. Nikole Amato and Carol James are joining Christian Education Committee. Brook Bruce is joining Mission and Outreach. Bonnie and Clair Boyda are joining the Activities Committee. While not published in the report, Fred Van Nest is also a member of this committee. Susan Dobson has joined the Friendly Visitors and assumed the role of Chair. Joan Dunn is appointed to the Cave Springs Corporation.

MOTION: **To accept all positions as nominated. Moved by Pat MacDougall and seconded by Al DesRoches. All in favour.**

We would like to recognize and thank the following individuals for their past service: Marianne McRae has left Session for Finance; Dave Hutt, Sandra Edgeworth-Andrews and Shiela DeMarsh have left Finance and Sheila DeMarsh has resigned as the Treasurer; Tim Andrews is no longer on the Property Committee; Esther Binning has stepped down from the Ministry and Personnel Committee; Rena Edgley, Penny Fleming, Violet McArthur and Lisa Tiller are no longer with Christian Education; and, Jennifer Dill has left Mission and Outreach. In addition, Sandi Salewytch has stepped down from the Activities Committee as has Don and Ginny Slingerland and Marge Faragher from Friendly Visitors. Helen Glendenning and John Walker

are no longer Trustees. A special thank you to Bob Johnston who remains on the Ministry and Personnel Committee but has stepped down as Chair and to Al DesRoches who remains on Finance but has stepped down as the Chair.

FINANCE

OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT FOR 2015

Presented by Al DesRoches

- Finished 2015 with a budget deficit of \$9,342.40. -\$7,994.94 operating / -1,347.46 capital)
- There was a 4% increase in envelope offerings over 2014, however, we missed our 2015 envelope giving income goal by 6.2%
- Many thanks to Darlene Romanowsky for preparing the Financial Statements

PROPOSED OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSE BUDGET FOR 2016

Presented by Marianne McRae

Marianne thanked Al DesRoches for all the years of service as Chair of Finance.

- The Budget increase for 2016 is 7%
- Major factors contributing to the budget increase includes:
 - Ministry and Personnel expense increases as a result of addressing CRA guidelines and United Church of Canada imposed salary package restructuring.
 - Initially Presbytery dues were increased by 67%, however we, as well as 55 other churches protested and this increase was revised to 10%
 - 16% increase in utility costs
 - We have included a buffer for Unforeseen expenses
- Of note is the Proposed Operating Income Budget, which outlines where program funding will come from. The income budget is \$162,246.88 and includes identifiable givings of \$138,836.88. This is an increase of 10.8% over the actual givings income for 2015. Also, proposed is a 43% increase in fundraising income over what was actually raised in support of operating expenses during 2015.
- The Minister's salary is all on one line in the Budget instead of split into several lines.
- We've had two years of deficits (2014 & 2015) and we've been working off our surplus. If everyone increased their givings by \$2 per week, we can meet our envelope givings goals for 2016. Please consider increasing your givings and going on PAR.

MOTION: That the Proposed Operating Expense Budget for 2016 of \$162,246.88 and the Proposed Operating Income Budget for 2016 of \$162,246.88 be approved.

Moved by Marianne McRae and seconded by Martha Fleming. All in favour.

Throughout the year, likely on a monthly basis, the Finance Committee will update the congregation on our Income Budget progress. Thank-you to the UCW for continuing to fund the church's insurance payment.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Presented by Jill Dill

Thank you to everyone who brought in supplies for John Bedell's Habitat for Humanity trip to India. He will be taking 4 boxes of supplies with him when he goes to India. For 2015, the commitment to the United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund was \$15,000.00 and we missed our commitment by \$62.00. The Mission and Outreach Committee has recommended, and the Official Board agrees that the amount of \$15,000.00 be recommended to the Congregation as the 2016 commitment to the United Church Mission and Service Fund.

MOTION: To commit to a goal of \$15,000.00 for our 2016 contribution to the United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund. Moved by Jill Dill and seconded by Al DesRoches. All in favour.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Final comments by the Chair - Steve Hardaker

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. James for his spiritual leadership and ministry, to Lisa Brillon for her work with the Choir and her musical leadership, and to Darlene Romanowsky who put together the Annual Report and the Financial Statements and who basically runs the church.

Thank you to the Congregation for your continued generous support of the work of our church through your weekly givings, attendance at fundraising events and tireless volunteering at many church functions. This year will be a challenge as we strive to meet our income goals as set out in the budget approved today. With God's love, encouragement and help, we will meet these goals.

We would encourage the congregation to consider switching your weekly envelope givings to Pre-Authorized Remittance also known as PAR. PAR is a direct debit program that allows you to support your church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account, similar to how you pay many of your monthly bills. It means regular contributions throughout the year that make it easier for you to give to St. Davids-Queenston United Church and easy for our Finance Committee to track our income against our expenses. Since I switched to PAR, my annual givings increased and I didn't even notice it.

Jill Dill extended thanks from everyone to Steve Hardaker for his leadership as the Chair of the Congregational and Official Board.

Thank you to the UCW for providing for today's luncheon.

MOTION: To close the congregational meeting at 11:58 a.m. Moved by Pat MacDougall and seconded by Doug McArthur.

Rev. James gave the blessing for lunch.

Steve Hardaker, Chair

Christine Earley, Secretary

St. Davids-Queenston United Church Annual Report 2016

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MINISTER'S THOUGHTS

January 2017

Dear Friends:

Minnie Louise Harkins (1875-1957) wrote a poem entitled:

‘At the Gate of the Year’

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

*And he replied,
'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'*

*So I went forth and finding the Hand of God
Trode gladly into the night.
He led me towards the hills
And the breaking of day in the lone east.*

*So heart be still!
What need our human life to know
If God hath comprehension?*

*In all the dizzy strife of things
Both high and low,
God hideth His intention."*

We enter 2017 with the knowledge that life is to be lived one day at a time; in the present, not the past; in the present, not the future. For God holds the future, not us.

We enter 2017 with the knowledge that God led us through 2016 for His word ‘is a lamp to my feet and a ‘light’ to my path.’

We are to go forward, there is no other direction, being guided by the same light that has shone down through the centuries since creation and with the knowledge that the Apostle Paul gave us in Philippians 3:13-14, ‘*Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*’

I thank you for being my travelling companions throughout 2016.

As we enter into a new year, I wish you joy, happiness, love, grace, health, blessings and an inner peace (shalom), that passes all understanding.

MINISTER'S THOUGHTS *cont'd...*

I have no idea what the future holds for any of us, but I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Holy One holds our future. He has placed us together as friends and confidants in this journey of life, a journey leading eventually 'home'.

I look forward to 2017 with anticipation and joy as we continue the journey through this life on earth with the knowledge that we are never alone for God is in control, Jesus reigns and the Holy Spirit is our guide and companion.

Happy New Year!

Blessings,

Paul

CONGREGATIONAL AND OFFICIAL BOARD CHAIR'S REMARKS

Hello friends. Once again this year we present the Annual Report for St. Davids-Queenston United Church. In this year's version you will read the reports of committee chairs and others who have contributed to sustaining our church family. I think you will find these reports full of interesting information. I look forward to officially presenting this report for your approval at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 19th after our worship service.

I'd like to use this space to recognize the work of the Official Board. The Official Board manages the operations of the church and met 7 times during the year. Through their faithful, dedicated efforts our church remains very healthy as we move into 2017. Here are a few highlights. More details are contained in the Annual Report. Ministry personnel, Finance, Session and the Christian Education have been deliberating over a number of remits that were approved at the 42nd General Council that could transform the structure of the United Church of Canada and the Basis of Union. Our Property Committee worked hard to complete and coordinate a number of church facility improvements, as well as submitted a loan and grant request to Extension Council that, if approved, will result in the paving of the majority of our parking lot this spring. Christian Education has concluded a very successful year of activities for the children and events to support our Sunday school. Our Mission and Outreach Committee worked to redistribute moneys raised during Tooney Sundays to a number of local, national and international bodies. Once again this year we exceeded our commitment to the United Church's Mission and Service Fund. Ministry and Personnel have now completed the task of bringing pay and compensation in line with both United Church and Canada Revenue Agency guidelines. Finally, our Finance Committee worked diligently to ensure our incoming revenues met our expenses. In fact, you will see that we have finished 2016 with a very healthy surplus of \$15,414.26. The Flower Committee continues to beautify our Sanctuary; the Activities Committee worked to bring a number of social and fund raising events to our church; and, our Friendly Visitors bring much needed love and fellowship to those who can't make it to normal worship services.

Once again this year, I am appealing to congregation members to consider switching your weekly envelope givings to Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). Presently there are 14 congregants using PAR. PAR allows members to support their church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank account, similar to how you already pay many of your monthly bills. It makes it convenient for you to give to St. Davids-Queenston United Church. The more that use PAR, the easier it becomes to manage our budget. Let's double the number of members using PAR in 2017.

Please enjoy reading the 2016 Annual Report. Remain faithful! Share your fellowship! I look forward to seeing you in church! God bless you all!

Steve Hardaker

BAPTISMS

Eloise Joan Dalseg	March 13 th
Borden James Mills	May 1st
Eric Robert Dimitrieff	May 8th
Asher James Pratt	May 8th
Carl Moroziuk	May 10th
Georgina Yolanda Grace McCarthy	October 30 th

MEMORIALS

Nancy Jean Wiebe	February 29th
Catherine Ruth Stevens	July 25th
Violet Lucy Haylor	August 26th
Christine Lynn Rougoor	October 17th
Margaret Smith-Slingerland	November 30 th

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

Pennie McVicar	Transferred to Stamford Presbyterian Church	June 2016
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SESSION

Elders: Anne Dorland (Clerk), Nancy Utting (Secretary), Pat MacDougall (Treasurer of the Memorial and Benevolent Funds), Marilyn Beatty, Martha Fleming, Norma Jane Harber, Karen Horbach, Doug McArthur, Sandra Macdonald, Wayne Philbrick, Florence Turner, Val Zuk.

Last year Communion was served 6 times, 6 baptisms were held and 3 times generous donations were made to Project Share.

Giving those interested in gaining further insight into their Christian faith Rev. James led Bible studies and Bob Johnston held adult education sessions.

The 8:00 A.M. Easter Sunrise service was led by Dianne Bergsma followed by breakfast organized by the Boyda family.

Remembrance Day wreathes were laid in the sanctuary by Al DesRoches and at the Queenston Cenotaph by Bob Johnston.

No Sunday service is complete without praising God through music. Many thanks again to Lisa Brillion not only for playing hymns, preludes, postludes, etc. but also for her competence and patience in choosing and rehearsing with the choir anthems, cantatas and other selections to complement the worship service. We appreciate Rena Edgley and Nancy Lang's leadership with the Sunday school as they sang on Dec. 11.

Thanks once more to Stephanie Morley for her faithful leadership in the Sunday school.

To those who took time and talents to beautify the sanctuary during the holiday seasons we are truly grateful for the wonderful ambiance you created.

Five memorial services were held and our condolences to families whose loved ones passed away during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Dorland,
Clerk of Session.

BENEVOLENT FUND

Balance Forward January 1, 2016\$1,266.37

RECEIPTS

Candlelight Service Givings\$511.51

TOTAL\$1,777.88

DISBURSEMENTS

Candlelight Givings to Niagara Falls Outreach-Out of the Cold798.55

Cost of ordering Deposit Books35.97

Total Disbursements834.52

Balance December 31, 2016**\$943.36**

Submitted by Pat MacDougall – Treasurer



MEMORIAL FUND

Balance Forward January 1, 2016\$5,543.40

RECEIPTS

Memorial Donations\$2,221.00

TOTAL\$7,764.40

DISBURSEMENTS

Purchase of Bible for Congregation Member31.49

Surveying costs for Cemetery6,215.00

Cost of ordering Deposit Books35.97

Total Disbursements\$6,282.46

Balance December 31, 2016**\$1,481.94**

Submitted by Pat MacDougall – Treasurer

SENIOR CHOIR

It's been another great year of singing for the Senior Choir. As the seasons change, so do the numbers in the choir, but we continue to sing an anthem almost weekly.

We recently presented our Christmas Candlelight concert "A Noel Celebration" to wonderful reviews and sang a cantata last Easter as well.

The Senior choir welcomed new member Jake de Vlaming to the tenor section of the choir and enjoyed having Bob Prentice and Alexandre Brillon join the choir for the Candlelight service.

In November the choir honoured Don Slingerland during a church service for his many years of participation and dedication to the choir.

We miss having Dianne and Jerry Bergsma in the choir with us and pray for Jerry's health to improve.

I would like to thank all the choir members for their dedication to the choir by coming out to weekly practices and singing in church every Sunday. Their talents are appreciated by the congregation and myself.

Lisa Brillon
Choir conductor and organist

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

The UCW meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September to June at 1:30 p.m. for tea and fellowship followed by a meeting at 2 p.m.

The last Friday of each month from September to April excluding December a dedicated group of 7-12 ladies get together to make hundreds of meatpies.

In July for 4 days these same ladies made regular pies for the churches "Pie Booth" at the annual Lions Club carnival. THANK YOU ALL

In November our other Fundraiser "The bazaar" was once again a great success. Thanks to all who made this come together.

These two fundraisers made it possible for the UCW to contribute \$5000.00 for the church insurance, purchase kitchen supplies, new kitchen cupboards and pay for the second phase of the church landscaping. We also helped John Bedell with his fundraising "soup lunch" for his trip to Nepal with Habitat for Humanity.

Many thanks to Nancy Utting who revived the 80 and over luncheon. A wonderful meal and great conversations were enjoyed by all.

World Day of Prayer was held on March 4th at St. Marks Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The UCW Presbyterian meeting was held at First Grantham United Church in St. Catharines

Throughout the year we served lunch following a number of funerals. Our Sympathy to all the families who lost loved ones this year.

We were pleased to have 4 new ladies join the UCW in 2016. A special welcome to Marie Tredwell, Jasmine Samuel, Donna Cardinal and Judy Kerr.

We were extremely saddened this year on the loss of Cathie Stevens. Cathie was one of our founding members, president for many years and an extremely dedicated member. We are thankful for her years of service and we miss her greatly.

We would like to say thank you to Bill Utting and Ron Chapman for all their work in installing the kitchen cupboards and to all the members of the congregation who are always there to help whenever they are needed

Without your help and support we would not be able to do what we do.

Respectfully submitted by
Florence Turner,
Secretary

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

(Financial)

BALANCE FORWARD..... \$11,764.08

RECEIPTS

Meat Pies \$3,242.00

Bazaar 3,647.00

Funerals 200.00

Donations..... 300.00

TOTAL \$7,389.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Meat Pies \$875.60

Insurance..... 5,000.00

Presbytery dues..... 50.00

Kitchen Cupboards 2,120.76

Second phase landscaping 1,856.64

80 and over luncheon..... 392.50

Special occasion cakes, luncheons, funerals and miscellaneous expenses..... 440.00

Bank Charges..... 94.52

TOTAL \$10,830.02

BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2016..... \$8,323.06

Submitted by Verda Smith (Treasurer)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the church met twice over the course of the year 2016. Creative Landscapes Inc. (Geoffrey Mayers, owner) has taken over the maintenance of the cemetery. (grass cutting etc)

There are five dead trees on the property line of the cemetery and St. Davids Golf Club. Pine Ridge Tree removal was contracted to take out the 5 trees. Jack Lowrey, owner of the Golf Club has agreed to help pay for the cost of the removal. As of the writing of this report, the trees have not yet been removed.

The trustees continue to struggle with rising costs to maintain the cemetery. Talks with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake have been productive and the Town is increasing the monies they send to us to help pay for the cost of maintenance but we are still in a deficit position.

The congregation may need to consider placing some of the cost of cemetery maintenance as a budget item in the next few years.

Roberta Chevers is stepping down from the Trustees this year and we say a big "THANK YOU" for her many years of dedicated work and support.

Respectfully submitted by

Rev. Paul James

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2016 Financial Statement

CREDITS

Balance Brought Forward Jan. 1, 2016	\$2,513.51
Public Trustee Interest	1,396.49
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Subsidy	2,200.00
Sale of Plots (1)	1,000.00
Marker Fees	313.00
Bequest: Estate of Marion Niven.....	<u>10,000.00</u>

TOTAL **\$17,423.00**

DEBITS

Maintenance and Upkeep	\$9,096.50
Public Guardian and Trustee	713.00
Licence Renewal.....	147.00
Cemetery Plot Buy Back	<u>260.00</u>

TOTAL **\$10,216.50**

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016..... **\$7,206.50**

Submitted by Howie Lowrey

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members of the committee in 2016 were: Nikole Amato, Christine Earley, Dianne Bergsma, Bonnie Boyda, Nancy Lang, Stephanie Morley, and Carol James

The committee was busy over the year assisting Stephanie Morley and the Sunday school. Stephanie's summary of the year is printed below.

In March we hosted a trivia night! Thank you to all who ran this event and attended! Many thanks to Christine Earley for organizing this huge event.

The annual Easter Breakfast was hosted again, with proceeds going towards Sunday School. A huge thank you to Bonnie and Clair Boyda who organize this event year after year.

The Sunday School enjoyed an Easter party. This event was attended by about 22 children.

In June, we finished off the year by having our annual "Sundae Sunday" A mess was made by all!

We also had an end of the year outing to Zap Zone in Niagara Falls. A huge thank you to Peter Sheppard (owner of Zap Zone) for spoiling us with his attention.

After a break for July and August Sunday school continued in September.

In October, we held a spooky Halloween party. The transformation of the C E Hall is amazing and takes a lot of time and effort! The party was attended by 22 children. A monster sized thank you to Jennifer and Johnathan McTaggart for the construction and materials for the Haunted House!

In December we participated in the White Gift Service. Ms. Rena is a blessing to us all. We thank her for the leadership she has provided! Also, in December, we went Christmas caroling in the Village! It was a beautiful evening and the weather was perfect! The children enjoyed popcorn and hot chocolate upon their return to the church afterwards. I would like to thank the members of the C E committee for all of their support, leadership, encouragement and help!

The Christian Education Committee wants to extend a HUGE and sincere THANK YOU to Stephanie for once again leading a wonderful Sunday school program. The "proof is in the pudding" and our Sunday School continues to grow. With so many children and such a wide range of ages (4 - 13) we are hoping to start a 2nd class for the older children in 2017.

The Committee also organized and ran a Spaghetti supper in October to help raise funds for the Sunday Schools activities.

Adult Education came in the form of 2 study groups - the first in the spring months when the group finished a 12 week study course on Great World Religions: Islam.

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE *cont'd...*

In September a study group was started on Events and People who changed History. The study included looking at the impact of such people as Hammurabi, Moses, Buddha, Confucius, and Jesus on world history. This study was run on both Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. The study will continue on both days in February.

The committee extends a warm thank you to Christine Earley for her wonderful leadership over the past four years, and to Nikole Amato for her contributions over the last year.

We look forward to a successful 2017 with Nancy Lang as (Interim) Chairperson.

Respectfully Submitted by

Rev. Paul James



MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

We have met several times during the year and again this year have been in a position to submit our recommendations to the Board by the October meeting (much to the appreciation of the Chairman of the Board and our Treasurer). Ginny Slingerland has decided to retire after 18 years or so and we thank her for her service.

Currently, this is the list of personnel and their representatives:

Rev. Paul James – representative Bob Johnston
Darlene Romanowsky– representative Bonnie Boyda
Lisa Brillan– representative Anne Dorland
Stephanie Morley – representative Bob Sorley
Margaret Elia – representative Sue Cote

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our personnel, please contact their representative to discuss same.

We will continue to meet in the New Year.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Cote.

PROPERTY

General maintenance & expenses	\$3,300.00
Preventative Maintenance/Inspection/License for both lifts	1,200.00
Grass cutting/snow removal	<u>3,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$7,500.00
 Janitor	 4,020.00
TOTAL PROPERTY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>\$11,520.00</u>

The committee handled a number of projects in 2016. These consist of new flooring in the entrance to the CE and kitchen, completing the Front Landscaping, new Cabinets in the Kitchen, purchase the Snowblower, and completion of the Storage Shed.

PROPERTY (CAPITAL PROJECTS) FOR CONSIDERATION

These are projects for consideration that would need funding and Board approval to proceed.

Paving Parking Lot to back of CE Building including line painting	\$55,000 plus tax
Replacement of Sound System	11,700 plus tax

Submitted by
 Bill Utting
 Property Chair

MISSION & OUTREACH

Committee Members: Jill Dill, Brook Bruce, Joan Dunn, Rena Edgley, Lillian Pyke

This committee greatly appreciates the congregation's continued and generous support of the various projects throughout the year.

A special event was held on Sunday, January 17, 2016 for Habitat for Humanity. John Bedell provided a soup for a congregational luncheon to support his mission to India. Along with a generous donation for school supplies, the freewill offering helped defray John's transportation cost.

In September a donation of \$500 was made to the appeal for forest fire victims in Fort McMurry, Alberta.

Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes were again distributed, to be returned by November 20/16. A total of thirty two boxes were filled and delivered for shipping overseas.

"Toonie Sunday" contributions continue to fund outreach donations to various projects. Locally this year we have supported, the Salvation Army, the community Kitchen and Abby's Place, a shelter for mothers and children of indigenous people.

An indigenous Youth Empowerment Workshop to address reconciliation in Aboriginal communities (Gifts with Vision) was also supported.

Finally, a donation was sent to World vision to help stock a Medical Clinic in Uganda.

Respectfully Submitted

Joan Dunn

MISSION & SERVICE

Envelope Offerings

Pastoral Charge contributions to the Mission & Service fund of the United Church of Canada for 2016 was \$15,766.00 from which \$100.00 was designated for the "World Development Relief" fund

Contributions were up by **\$828.00** from 2015

We surpassed our 2016 budgeted commitment of \$15,000.00 by **\$766.00**

Submitted by Darlene Romanowsky, Bookkeeper

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Balance as of January 1, 2016:		\$500.00
Expenses:		
Palm Sunday / Easter Sunday	88.10	
Thanksgiving Sunday	80.00	
Advent & Christmas Services	113.40*	
Sunday Services	<u>185.40</u>	
Total Expenses:		466.90
Current Balance:		\$33.10
Memorial Poinsettia Fundraiser (to Dec 18):		<u>\$460.00</u>
Total Funds (as at Dec 31, 2016):		<u>\$493.10</u>

* Includes onetime cost of artificial scent free garland for the choir loft window

Thank you to Ginny Slingerland & Florence Turner for looking after the flowers and the Easter services during my absence.

Thank you to Jill Dill for a great Thanksgiving presentation.

Thank you to Karen & Peter Horbach for the beautiful poinsettia plants and cyclamen plants at Christmas.

Thank you to Sandra & Tim Andrews for the beautiful greenery.

Thank you to Ginny Slingerland for her assistance with the advent wreath.

Thank you to Darlene Romanowsky for putting all the announcements throughout the year into the bulletins and especially for the "Christmas Memorial" insert.

Thank you to everyone who placed flowers in the Church throughout the Church year.

Thank you to Judy Kerr for volunteering to assist with the flowers in 2017.

Respectfully Submitted by Sandra Macdonald

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Nancy Lang, Bonnie & Clair Boyda, Bob & Judy Kerr, Martha Fleming and Doug McArthur.

We continued with our fundraising activities with the Beef-on-a-bun throughout the year, complimented with a poetry reading at the Ravine in February and a Yard Sale in the Spring. The proceeds were mostly designated to the operating fund until the last Beef-on-a-bun of the year with proceeds going to the new “capital project” to install a new sound system.

The Activities Committee is looking forward to 2017.

We will be following the same format as 2016.

Our latest project will be for a new sound system for the church.

I would like to thank everyone who offered their time and talent assisting our committee in the past year. Without this many things would not have been possible.

We have planned many events for the New Year.

Our committee is focused on Social Activities for your enjoyment, enabling you to get to know one another better.

We are always open to new ideas and suggestions and of course ready to welcome new members.

Activities for 2017

Friday, January 20: Beef-on-a-Bun

Friday, February 17: Beef-on-a-Bun

March: (Reading of Irish Poems, by Bob Johnston) Time & Date TBA

Friday, March 17: Beef-on-a-Bun

Friday, April 21: Beef-on-a-Bun

Friday, May 19: Beef-on-a-Bun

May: Niagara Star singers-Spring concert Time & Date TBA

Yours Truly,

Doug McArthur

SOCIAL/CRAFT GROUP

Our group is small and much more social than craft, but we have a good time visiting.

We met a couple of times throughout the year for lunch before we met at the church.

We meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p. m. in the parlour.

Please come and join us, you will be most welcome.

Submitted by Violet McArthur

FRIENDLY VISITORS

The Friendly Visitors have continued to make visits to members of our Congregation. Our list of visitors and congregation members being visited has recently been updated. There are presently 7 volunteers visiting or phoning shut-ins or making hospital visits as necessary. There are 8 people who require such services at present.

Rev. James continues to be supportive of the work involved and for bringing new needs to our attention and for this we are very grateful.

We would also like to thank Bob Johnston and Esther Binning for all of their time and effort with the Friendly Visitors. They have both stepped down this year and their time and companionship with others has been much appreciated.

We would welcome any member of the congregation who may be interested in joining this very rewarding and necessary volunteer endeavor. We would also like to remind people to continue to let Rev James or us know of anyone in the congregation who might be in need of a friendly visit.

Respectfully submitted: Susan Dobson

HAM DINNER 2016

Well, we were again in charge this year – obviously others thought we should try harder!

For a second time, all tickets were sold out and everyone enjoyed a great dinner on Saturday, November 12, 2016 with hopes of a third annual ham dinner to come. When all was said and done, we raised over \$2,500.00 for the general fund. Again, many thanks to all volunteers who helped sell tickets, set up, cook, serve and clean up!

Marianne McRae/Susan Cote

PIE BOOTH 2016

The St. Davids-Queenston United Church Pie Booth at the Annual St. Davids Lions Carnival was another great success. We have had a Pie booth at the carnival every year since the Carnival began in 1963. Over the years it has been a great fundraiser, raising thousands of dollars to benefit our church.

Once again we had a dedicated group, over a 4 day period ,make, bake and sell 194 pies raising approximately \$3,700.

I want to thank each and every one of you who made this possible, from the kitchen workers, the people manning the pie booth, the runners, the set up and clean up people and all those who donated supplies, money to purchase supplies, made pies at home and those who offered some great ideas to consider.

This is an all-encompassing Church project and it always makes us all proud.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Respectfully submitted by Florence Turner

(All Finance Reports submitted by Darlene Romanowsky, Bookkeeper)

FINANCE

The Finance committee report includes tables showing our income and expenses for 2106, our proposed expense & income budget for 2016 and our cash position and guaranteed investment certificates at December 31, 2016.

There are three separate spreadsheets showing our income and expenses for 2016. These spreadsheets found on Pages 20-23 show the Operating and Capital income and expenses for 2016. The Christian Education/Sunday School Project Income and Activity Expenses are also shown on these pages.

The finance committee is once again this year, honored to send out a sincere thank you to all the loving, compassionate and generous members of our church family who without a second thought are always ready to reach out to help where ever the need may be. Our plea at the end of 2015 was that we all work together to eliminate the deficit of \$7,994.94 we had incurred in 2015. With gratitude we are pleased to be able to present, thanks to the loyalty and generosity of all of you, not only the elimination of the deficit of 2015 but a very positive turn around with 2016 ending with an operating **surplus** of **\$15,414.26**.

Thank you to our steadfast **Activities Committee** who continued to work diligently on fundraising activities throughout the year raising money for both the operating and capital income. A total of **\$11,550.85** was raised for the **operating** income and **\$254.50** for the **Capital Income**.

The **UCW** with their amazing members worked very hard throughout the year and with their unwavering support, generously passed over **\$5000.00** to the operating account to pay the cost of the **Church insurance** and **\$2,120.76** to pay for the **new cupboards** in the Kitchen. They also transferred **\$1,856.64** to the **“Capital Project”** fund to pay for the second phase of the **“Front Landscaping”**.

We also received **\$6,215. 00** from the **“Memorial Fund”** to cover the cost for a **“Cemetery Reference Plan”** prepared for the new section of the Cemetery. Both the Finance Committee and the Trustees are greatly appreciative for this generous assistance.

The Finance committee also recognizes and greatly appreciates the many individual members of our congregation who selflessly donate back to the church any cost incurred to them whether it be for purchasing routine kitchen supplies, food supplies for special dinners or for many other unforeseen costs with fundraising activities. These individuals pay for the necessary supplies, get a cheque in that amount from the church and then they exchange that cheque with a cheque written back to the church, by them, in that same amount. These individuals are credited for a donation of the amount given back to the church.

We are pleased that the Sunday school outings and activities have been self-supported by their own fundraising efforts.

On another positive note we are pleased to report that our Envelope offerings **increased by 18%** over 2015 and as well **exceeded** our proposed operating “income” budget for 2016 by **\$9,294.05**.

FINANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Operating Income

The Operating Income totaled \$180,202.09 for 2016. . Our major source of income comes from envelope offerings which totaled \$149,430.93. Fundraising supplemented our income by \$11,550.85. Internal donations (UCW/Memorial Fund) a business donation and Weddings & Rentals contributed \$14,145.76 to our income. The remaining source of income comes from HST Recovery, GIC interest and other miscellaneous items.

Operating Expenses

The operating expenses of **\$164,787.83** for 2016 when compared to the operating income of **\$180,202.09** resulted in a year end **surplus of \$15,414.26**.

Capital Income

The Capital Income totaled \$6,128.29. The source of income comes from internal donations (UCW), capital fundraising, personal donations, HST Recovery and GIC interest.

Capital Expense

The Capital Expenses of **\$6,238.30** for 2016 when compared to the Capital Income of **\$6,128.29** resulted in a year end **deficit of -\$110.01**.

Christian Education/Sunday School Project Income/Expense

A number of projects raised \$1,812.10 while \$1, 314.02 was disbursed for special activities and Vacation Bible school.. The year ended with a **surplus of \$498.08**

Proposed (Expense) Operating Budget for 2017

The proposed (Expense) Operating Budget was developed based on our expenditures in 2016 adjusting the budget to meet expected increases and some small decreases in 2017

The proposed budget for 2017 is **\$167,190.64** which is an **increase of \$5,210.76** or approximately 3% from 2016. The increases in the budgeted items are mostly based on routine increased expenses each year, including salary increases.

Keep in mind that any increase in “PAR” expenses represents an increase in congregation members who have chosen to have their donations to the church made as a “monthly preauthorized remittance” which is a “**financial planning asset** for the church”.

Please note that the proposed budget for the “unforeseen expenses” was set at a number that would allow us to enter into a monthly payment for the anticipated loan from the “extension council” to be used to pave the church parking lot.

Proposed (Income) Operating budget for 2017

The proposed (Income) Operating Budget for 2017 is **\$167,190.64** which is an increase of \$4,943.76 or approximately 3% from 2016. This increase has been made in an attempt to have a balanced Income/Expense Budget. We have made the largest increase with the envelope offerings and a small increase in expected HST rebates. The other line items have either not been increased or have been decreased.

Financial Outlook

If we stay the course and repeat our success in 2016, we will surely be able to once again present a year end surplus in 2017. We ended 2015 with an operating deficit of -\$7994.94 but had a very positive turn around in 2016 with an operating surplus of \$15,414.26. This is assuredly a representation of a very devoted and generous congregation that we are all blessed to be a part of.



**Christian Education/Sunday School
Project Income and Activity Expenses
January 1-December 31, 2016**

INCOME:

Projects		
Easter Sunrise Breakfast	195.00	
Spaghetti, talent night (CE)	499.75	
Trivia Night (Christian Education)	1,117.35	
	1,117.35	
Total Income		\$1,812.10

EXPENSES:

Easter Party	23.05	
Halloween Party	55.51	
Laser Tag Outing	550.00	
Spaghetti inner/talent show	17.72	
Trivia Night	267.74	
Vacation Bible School	400.00	
	400.00	
Total Expenses		\$1,314.02

Year End Surplus	\$498.08
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(Operating) Income and Expense Report
January 1- December 31, 2016

INCOME:

Business Donation	\$1,000.00	
Envelope Givings	149,430.93	
From Memorial Fund (for cemetary)	6,215.00	
HST Recovery	2,504.90	
Income Tax Refund	194.03	
Interest		
Operating GIC's	154.57	
On Line Donation (Canada Helps)		
For Local Expenses	96.50	
On-line donation (mytribute gift)		
to memorial fund	46.00	
Our Daily Bread Book Donation	118.55	
Pension designation Bell Canada	360.00	
Personal Donation Landscaping	100.00	
Projects		
Beef-on-a Bun games night	2,384.10	
Ham Dinner	2,587.50	
Niagara Star Singers	375.00	
Pancake Breakfast	269.00	
Pie Booth	3,712.00	
Valentine/ poetry Ravine	505.00	
Yard Sale/BBQ	1,718.25	
Syrian Refugee donations	500.00	
UCW		
For assistance with insurance	5,000.00	
Reimbursement Kit. Cupboards	2,120.76	
Weddings & Rentals	810.00	
Total Income		\$180,202.09

EXPENSES:

Advertising	\$2,044.45
Cemetary Reference Plan 2016	\$5,716.70
Children & Youth Ministry:	
Sunday school instruction	3,440.00
Church Salaries ADP	
Admin Assist Salary Regular	10,046.40
Admin Assist Employer Pd. EI	280.20
Admin Assist Vac Pay	602.76
Minister's Employee Benefits	13,571.28
Minister's Salary Regular	65,662.92
pre-compensation model phone	62.50
pre-compensation model study	150.00
Church Salaries ADP <i>cont'd...</i>	
Recoverable HST Federal	6.29
Recoverable HST Provincial	16.53
Service Charge	261.67
Fall BBQ	135.00
Ham Dinner Expenses	630.35
Insurance	4,028.40
Internet Service	762.18

(Operating) Income and Expense Report
January 1-December 31, 2016 cont'd...

Minister's reimbursed expenses	
Phone & Internet	1,049.81
Study Allowance	26.78
Minister's Travel Expenses	2,766.60
Niagara Online Worship	200.00
Office:	
Administrative Assistant	257.50
Block Billing Meter Read Copies	596.97
CCLI (Music copyright license)	192.00
Cheque order 1998935	147.03
Donation tech support (annual)	46.77
Equipment	758.60
Lexmark Lease Photocopier	1,104.20
Niagara Computers IT Support	172.79
Supplies	1,427.07
Video,DVD license	53.16
Website Cost	273.36
Year Book	32.38
Organist Salary	11,520.00
PAR Expense	356.00
Pie Booth	250.00
Presbytery Dues	5,177.72
Property :	
General expense, maint. & repair	1,470.11
Grass Cutting/Snow removal	2,357.74
Janitor	4,020.00
Kitchen cupboards (UCW to pay)	1,950.72
License Stairlift	100.00
New Floor Vestibule/Washrooms	4,135.80
Periodic inspection-elevators	371.58
Prev. Maintenance elevators	575.00
Wireless microphone	166.29
Property Tax Bill (Harrison Creek)	20.10
Recoverable HST OPERATING	
Federal portion	605.20
Provincial portion	1,586.32
Session:	
Choir	1,397.65
Donation Caribbean workers	150.00
Our Daily Bread Ministries	118.55
Remembrance Day Wreath	100.00
Supplies	916.32
Supply Minister	1,500.00
Supply Organist	1,350.00
Syrian Refugee Donation	500.00
Telephone	817.98
To memorial fund-mytribute gift	46.00
Transfer to UCW (personal donation)	100.00
Utilities	
Electricity	3,069.86

**(Operating) Income and Expense Report
January 1-December 31, 2016 *cont'd...***

Gas	2,844.91	
Water	<u>691.33</u>	
Total Expenses		\$164,787.83

Year End Surplus	\$15,414.26
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**(Capital) Income and Expense Report
January 1-December 31, 2016**

CAPITAL INCOME:

HST Recovery	3,068.38	
Interest		
GIC's	448.77	
Projects Capital		
Beef-on-a-bun games night-		
For Sound System	254.50	
Personal Donation		
For Parking Lot	500.00	
UCW;		
For Front Landscaping	<u>1,856.64</u>	
Total Capital Income		\$6,128.29

CAPITAL EXPENSES:

Front Landscaping		\$1,707.77
SnowBlower		934.42
Storage Shed		3,095.92
Recoverable HST		
Federal Portion		138.03
Provincial Portion		<u>362.16</u>
Total Capital Expenses		6,238.30

Year End Deficit	-\$110.01
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Proposed Operating (Expense) Budget for 2017

	2016		Variance	2017	
	Budget	Actual Expenses		Proposed Budget	Change from 2016 to 2017
Advertising/Promotion (External)	\$2,800.00	\$2,044.45	\$755.55	\$2,500.00	-300.00
Adult Education	250.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
Insurance	3,800.00	4,028.40	-228.40	4,300.00	500.00
Internet Service	800.00	762.18	37.82	900.00	100.00
BBQ Fall Luncheon	200.00	135.00	65.00	200.00	0.00
Annual supper expenses	1,000.00	630.35	369.65	1,000.00	0.00
Christian Education					
Expenses	600.00	914.02	-\$314.02	900.00	300.00
Donations	300.00	0.00	300.00	200.00	-100.00
Sunday School Supplies	200.00	0.00	200.00	100.00	-100.00
Sunday School Instruction	3,440.00	3,440.00	0.00	3,440.00	0.00
Vacation Bible School	400.00	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00
Office:					
Administrative Assistant	10,649.18	10,303.90	345.28	10,744.80	95.62
Admin. Assist EI	0.00	280.20	-280.20	303.24	303.24
Admin. Assist Vac. Pay	0.00	602.76	-602.76	644.69	644.69
CCLI (music copyright license)	195.00	192.00	3.00	200.00	5.00
Church website cost	500.00	273.36	226.64	350.00	-150.00
Tech. Support for "donation program"	47.00	46.77	0.23	50.00	3.00
Supplies	1,650.00	1,779.27	-129.27	1,800.00	150.00
Equipment	400.00	758.60	-358.60	400.00	0.00
Photocopier block billing meter read	0.00	596.97	-596.97	600.00	600.00
Photocopier lease	930.00	1,104.20	-174.20	1,200.00	270.00
Video, DVD license	104.77	53.16	51.61	200.00	95.23
Mission & Service	300.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00
Niagara-on-Line worship	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
PAR Expense	360.00	356.00	4.00	400.00	40.00
Presbytery Dues	5,177.70	5,177.72	-0.02	5,177.70	0.00
Session					
Anniversary Speaker	150.00	0.00	150.00	175.00	25.00
Choir	1,400.00	1,397.65	2.35	1,700.00	300.00
Supplies	1,500.00	1,016.32	483.68	1,500.00	0.00
Supply Minister	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Supply Organist	1,500.00	1,350.00	150.00	1,500.00	0.00
Property					
Janitor	4,020.00	4,020.00	0.00	4,020.00	0.00
General maintenance & expenses	4,500.00	5,772.20	-1,272.20	3,300.00	-1,200.00
Grass Cutting and Snow Removal	2,600.00	2,357.74	242.26	3,000.00	400.00
(Lifts) maintenance/inspection/license	1,400.00	1,046.58	353.42	1,200.00	-200.00
Minister's Employee Benefits	14,000.00	13,571.28	428.72	14,000.00	0.00
Minister's Salary (Includes Housing)	65,662.92	65,662.92	0.00	66,385.21	722.29
Minister Phone /Internet (Reimbursed)	700.00	1,112.31	-412.31	1,220.00	520.00
Minister Study (Reimbursed)	1,800.00	176.78	1,623.22	1,000.00	-800.00
Minister's Travel	3,500.00	2,766.60	733.40	3,500.00	0.00
Service Charge ADP	250.00	261.67	-11.67	270.00	20.00
Organist Salary	11,520.00	11,520.00	0.00	11,760.00	240.00
Telephone	800.00	817.98	-17.98	900.00	100.00
Utilities	7,200.00	6,606.10	593.90	8,000.00	800.00
Unforeseen expenses	3,673.31	2,234.44	1,438.87	5,500.00	1,826.69
TOTAL	\$161,979.88	\$157,069.88	4,910.00	\$167,190.64	\$5,210.76

Proposed Operating (Income) Budget for 2017

	2016			2017	Change from 2016-2017
	Budget	Actual Income	Variance	Proposed Budget	
Identifiable Givers	\$138,836.88	\$147,914.43	9,077.55	\$144,640.00	\$5,803.12
Loose Offerings	1,300.00	1,516.50	216.50	1,300.00	0.00
Christian Education/Sunday School	1,800.00	1,812.10	12.10	1,800.00	0.00
Fundraisers (for operating costs)	11,000.00	11,550.85	550.85	11,000.64	0.64
Rebates (HST)	2,000.00	2,504.90	504.90	2,500.00	500.00
Interest (GIC)	310.00	154.57	-155.43	150.00	-160.00
UCW	5000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5000.00	0.00
Weddings & Rentals	2000.00	810.00	-1,190.00	800.00	-1200.00
TOTAL	\$162,246.88	\$171,263.35	9,016.47	\$167,190.64	\$4,943.76

TOTAL PROPOSED OPERATING (INCOME) BUDGET FOR 2017	\$167,190.64
TOTAL PROPOSED OPERATING (EXPENSE) BUDGET FOR 2017	\$167,190.64
Difference	\$0.00

Cash Position and GIC Investments
December 31, 2016

Ledger Balance (*Operating/Capital/CE, Sunday school*) **\$60,152.47**

Operating GIC's

<u>Number</u>	<u>Interest Type</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Value December 31, 2016</u>
8016691-26	Compound	7,750.00	7,803.03
8016691-27	Compound	7,750.00	7,794.39
8016705-37	Compound	5,804.91	5,888.67
8016705-33	Simple	10,748.51	10,763.09
8016705-39	Compound	8,868.04	8,872.41
8016705-38	Compound	18,570.69	<u>18,717.48</u>

TOTAL OPERATING GIC's **\$59,839.07**

Capital GIC's

<u>Number</u>	<u>Interest Type</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Value December 31, 2016</u>
8016705-01	Compound	15,000.00	15,102.64
8016705-02	Compound	15,000.00	15,085.91
8016705-03	Compound	15,000.00	<u>15,115.56</u>

TOTAL CAPITAL GIC's **\$45,304.11**

TOTAL ASSESTS (December 31, 2016) **\$165,295.65**

DONATION STATISTICS**SUMMARY OF DONATIONS BY CATEGORY (Envelope Offerings)**
Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016

Category	Amount (\$)	# Donations	# Donors
Anniversary	3,639.68	36	36
Christmas	1,715.00	29	28
Christmas Eve	582.00	14	14
Christmas Eve (loose)	79.00	1	1
Easter	2,050.00	46	46
Envelopes	268.00	25	25
Envelopes (loose)	5.00	1	1
Missions	15,766.00	611	44
Loose (Regular)	1,432.50	46	46
Regular	138,834.75	2,084	81
Thanksgiving	825.00	22	22
TOTALS	\$165,196.93	2915	
Total Distinct Donors Across All Categories: 125			

GIVING ANALYSIS (envelope offerings)
2016

Over \$2,000.00	23
\$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00	32
\$500.00 to \$999.00	23
\$100.00 to \$499.00	28
\$20.00-\$99.00	18
Less than \$20.00	1
TOTAL GIVERS	125

SUMMARY OF DONATIONS BY CATEGORY (non-envelope)
Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016

Category	Amount (\$)	# Donations	# Donors
Donation for CE hall	300.00	1	1
Project Parking Lot	500.00	1	1
Syrian Relief fund	500.00	1	1
TOTALS	\$1,300.00	3	3

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee was made up of the Chairs of the Committees: Susan Cote, Jill Dill, Anne Dorland, Steve Hardaker, Rev. Paul James, Marianne McRae and Bill Utting. We present the following names for your acceptance.

MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD

SESSION:

Marilyn Beatty
Lisa Brillon (ex officio)
Anne Dorland (Clerk)
Martha Fleming
Lyndsay Gazzard
Norma Jane Harber
Karen Horbach
Rev. Paul James
Sandra Macdonald
Pat MacDougall
Doug McArthur
Wayne Philbrick
Florence Turner
Nancy Utting
Valerie Zuk

FINANCE:

Al DesRoches
Howard Lowrey
Mike Macdonald (Ad Hoc)
Larry McRae (Treasurer)
Marianne McRae (Chair)
Sandy Sinclair
Darlene Romanowsky (Bookkeeper)

PROPERTY:

Ron Chapman
Steven Hardaker
Bob Kerr
Don Slingerland
Monty Slingerland
Greg Smith
Bill Utting (Chair)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE *cont'd...*

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL:

Bonnie Boyda
Susan Cote (Chair)
Anne Dorland
Bob Johnston
Robert Sorley

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Gaye Benner
Dianne Bergsma
Bonnie Boyda
Carol James
Nancy Lang (Interim Chair)
Stephanie Morley (Sunday School Teacher)

MISSION & OUTREACH:

Brook Bruce
Jill Dill (Chair)
Joan Dunn
Lillian Pyke

NOMINATING COMMITTEE *cont'd...*

COMMITTEES OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD

FLOWER COMMITTEE:

Jill Dill

Judy Kerr

Sandra MacDonald (Chair)

Ginny Slingerland

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

Bonnie Boyda

Clair Boyda

Martha Fleming

Bob Kerr

Judy Kerr

Nancy Lang

Doug McArthur (Chair)

FRIENDLY VISITORS:

Susan Cote

Susan Dobson (Chair)

Rena Edgley

Christine Lancaster

Marianne McRae

Alice Page

Sandi Salewytch

Verda Smith

Florence Turner

NOMINATING COMMITTEE *cont'd...*

CONGREGATIONAL AND OFFICIAL BOARD CHAIRPERSON:

Steven Hardaker

CONGREGATIONAL SECRETARY:

Marianne McRae

OFFICIAL BOARD SECRETARY:

Darlene Romanowsky

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES:

Dianne Bergsma

Larry McRae

CAVE SPRINGS CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE

Vacant

EXTENSION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Vacant

TRUSTEES:

Jerry Bergsma

Clair Boyda

Al DesRoches

Rev. Paul James

Bob Johnston

Howard Lowrey

Wayne Mayers

Verda Smith

Florence Turner

Fred Van Nest

Submitted by Steve Hardaker

CARIBBEAN WORKERS OUTREACH PROJECT

A Ministry of the United Church of Canada and the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Rev. David Pritchard, Convenor
 686 Warner Rd., 289-296-8648
 Niagara on the Lake, ON L0S 1J0 905-984-7201 (cell)

CWOP ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you for your continuing support for the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project. For the past 24 years a small group of Christian volunteers in Lincoln and Niagara on the Lake have cared for a ministry to support Agricultural workers (mainly Jamaican), who come each year to assist in farm work to benefit Niagara farmers. Each spring thousands of men (and a small group of women) leave family and home to travel to Niagara to work from 5 to 9 months, living on farms and saving or sending home their pay to support them and their families throughout the year. They cope with long working hours, extreme weather, isolation and loneliness. CWOP offers support to workers through five programmes.

1. Regular worship services are held in Lincoln and Niagara on Sunday evenings from late April to the end of June and both sides host a closing service at the end of August or early September. Each week volunteer drivers bring workers to services and return them to their farms. Local churches provide fruit, juice and cookies for the workers after each service. Visitors are welcome.
2. Each year two ministers from the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands come to Niagara for five weeks each, to lead worship and also to visit workers on farms in the evenings for friendly visits, sharing news from home and prayer. We need volunteer drivers to help ministers to travel from farm to farm and also to help workers get to Sunday evening services.
3. Each year we host workers from both sides for two events with friendly competition. A dominoes match in Lincoln on a Saturday evening and a Cricket Match in NOTL on a Sunday afternoon are highlights of the summer. Participants in the cricket Match get teams shirts and everyone shares in a special meal. There is no charge to workers for these events and transportation is provided.
4. We have a fund to provide benevolent support to workers who experience the death of a parent, spouse or child in Jamaica. This helps with the cost of airfare or funeral expenses. Support may be available at other times of crisis.
5. We host a breakfast early in June for ministers from Niagara and Lincoln churches to tell them about the programme, to offer an opportunity to meet with Jamaican ministers and to enlist their support in encouraging volunteers from their churches to sign up for our ministry.

This year we have several new volunteers on the Project Executive. Rev. Dave Pritchard (convenor) and Pastor Jim Wright have joined the Project executive. On the Lincoln side, Mary Ann Sclabach is stepping back and Allison Kruitbosch will take on responsibility as the coordinator. Rev. Anita Spiller, from Jordan Station United Church has joined the team and Jordan Station United Church has committed a significant donation to the project. Neil Ryckman and Annelies deGroot (treasurer) continue to be involved. On the NOTL side, Rev. Ted Power has taken on the coordinator role from Nancy King. Donna Brown (secretary) and Carol Miller continue. The Jamaican ministers who joined us this year were Rev. Lennox Scarlett (May) and Rev. Norlene Jackson (June). Next year (2017) we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. We are planning a special celebration evening in May and other special events. We will continue to share our plans with our partners and look forward to your support.

CAVE SPRINGS CAMP ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Cave Springs Camp has been blessed with another great year of serving the kingdom in several ways across Hamilton Conference. While our staff was smaller than we would have liked, Hannah and the directing team came together and helped us impact the lives of over 3000 campers, over the six months that we operate. This season saw another increase to our Day Camp program numbers, and a few new initiatives that are currently under way. Because of the gracious support of congregations along with the hard work of the board, I am happy to say that Cave Springs is in one of the best financial positions that I have seen throughout my time here. With that we have been working hard to maintain and upgrade the camp infrastructure. Also, we will be seeking your support as we re-visit and hopefully ramp up our Legacy Hall push again this year.

The summer was not without its difficulties. We faced a continual problem of staff shortage, and we had trouble finding enough well-equipped staff. The staff did well to make up for the extra work, but looking forward we need to find ways to improve our recruiting. We are also instating more thorough training for all staff, and this coming year will hopefully be one of growth in that department. Regardless of the challenges, our Day Camp numbers reached their highest ever, and we continue to see growth in that program. The fall program is still growing as well; what started out as just a few school groups has quickly grown into some great partnerships during that time of the year.

Niagara Presbytery has done a lot to support the camp with generous donations from congregations, individuals as well as the extension council. Many of the donations have gone towards the upkeep and maintenance of the site, and have allowed us to tackle long term projects, such as putting a new roof on Hoxie Hall. A lot of these contributions also helped to send kids to camp via our bursary fund, which regularly sponsors 10-15 campers to come to camp for a week—an experience they may not have been able to afford otherwise. We are also looking to the future with the blessings that we have received, consciously putting away funds to ensure the future of camp, and for expanding to new horizons.

We continue to move forward with the plans of building a new year-round lodge to replace the old (very old) Craft Hall. The new year-round facility will be named 'LEGACY' Hall. The board has chosen to review the plans, as they are almost 10 years old now! With this process we hope to re-ignite the flame to make this new facility a reality.

The Cave Springs Board has been a dedicated group of individuals who are working to further the kingdom of God through his vessel of Cave Springs. In the coming year we will be continuing a major capital appeal to fund the new building and will seek assistance from all our partners in funding our project. Please expect to hear more from us and be ready to respond, as you have in the past—generously and prayerfully.

With our thanks and our prayers for blessing;

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