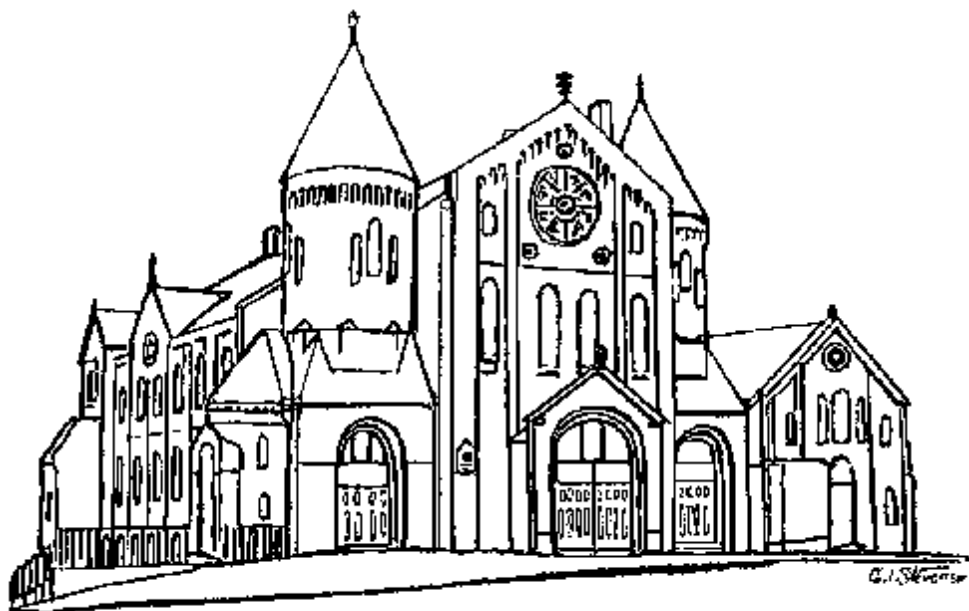


**GOWER
200
1815-2015**

Faith, Spirit, and Vision

Celebrating our Bicentennial at Gower Street United Church

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Minister: Rev. Guy Matthews
Congregational Designated Minister: Keith Wiseman
Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parry

Choir Director: Dr. Douglas Dunsmore **Organist:** R. Carl Goulding
Band Director: Dr. Edsel Bonnell

Office Manager: Linda Hogan **Caretaker:** David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Lorne LeDrew

99 Queen's Road, St. John's, NL A1C 6M6 Telephone: 753-7286 - Fax: 383-0145
E-Mail: gsuc@nl.rogers.com Website: www.gowerunited.ca

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a faith community within The United Church of Canada, committed to the Christian Development of all people in our midst, and the living out of that faith in our relationship with each other and in the wider community through worship, education, pastoral care and outreach.

We are committed to following Christ's example of reaching out to each other and to all peoples in the spirit of peace, compassion and justice.

We seek to interpret God's mission for us through an informed and prayerful understanding of the Bible, a belief in God's love for all people and in the Spirit of God in our lives and in our world.

We attempt to meet the spiritual, emotional, physical, social and psychological needs of all members of the congregation within the heritage of our Christian faith.

We are committed to the maintenance and development of our church building and property as a visible sign of God's presence and love, and to serve as a means by which we carry out our mission in a Christian congregation.

OUR CREED

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

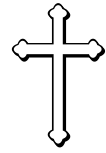
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.



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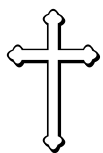
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CHURCH BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Lorne LeDrew, Chair, Official Board



The past year has certainly been one to remember for all of us here at Gower. The Gower 200 Anniversary celebrations were obviously a highlight throughout the entire year and created an energy in the Church that bodes well for the future. A special thanks to Dr. Edsel Bonnell for his leadership throughout the last 18 months. It was truly a wonderful year!!

The one event during this year that put a damper on things of course was when Rev. Guy had to go on sick leave. Our prayers and thoughts are with Rev. Guy and Deanna as he takes this time to restore his health. They say the measure of success of a great leader is in how well they develop and grow the people around them to carry on in their absence. This is certainly the case as subsequent to Rev. Guy's departure the church continued and continues to thrive and prosper in all aspects. Thanks to people like Mr. Keith Wiseman, Rev. Marion Pardy, Rev. Dave Guzzwell, Dr. Doug Dunsmore, Mr. Bert Riggs and many others who stepped in to keep things going. A huge thank you to them all.

You can rest assured the Board is working to ensure that the clerical leadership to the Church will continue until Rev. Guy returns.

Once again at the beginning of the year the Board established four priorities to focus on in addition to the Gower 200 Anniversary celebrations:

1. "Develop strategic plan", including "Keep momentum going from 2014-15" and "Keep looking for new ways to serve the community"

The Strategic planning process or Vision 2025 is nearing completion under the leadership of Dr. David Wardlaw and his team of Rev. Florence Sanna, Dr. Gail Wideman, Mark Peters and Lloyd Gill. A huge thank you to David and the Committee for all the long hours dedicated to this work. I am sure you will find the recommendations thought provoking and after allowing for your final input there will be a Special Congregational meeting to approve the plan. On behalf of the Board I want to assure you that the Board will oversee its implementation over the years to come.

2. "Balance budget"

As you will see from the Financial report we came very close to achieving a balanced budget this year. This was despite the fact that the Board did not hold a 'fundraiser' as originally planned, which we decided to forego given all the activities associated with the Gower 200 Anniversary Celebrations. However, although the Operating budget did not balance, thanks to the hard work of the Gower 200 Fund Committee lead by Rev. Marion and the generosity of you and all our friends of Gower we have over \$36,000 in the bank to go towards restoration costs associated with the roof.

3. "Continue commitment to Downtown Churches initiative, both the Committee and related activities"

Gower continues to be actively involved with the Downtown Churches Committee, which we see as a critical link to moving forward as a congregation. In addition to having a number of

joint services we continued to share experiences and ideas throughout the year. In 2016 we will be commencing a “Re-imagining Church” series for the congregations of all the Downtown Churches. Rev. Miriam Bowlby of Cochrane Street United will be facilitating these sessions, which will provide the opportunity for us to discuss our past and our future as a faith community. I encourage you to participate in these sessions.

4. "Educate congregation (and ourselves) regarding the structural changes proposed by the United Church of Canada"

Prior to the General Council information was provided to Board members and Rev. Guy provided an overview to the congregation.

During the past year we have engaged an architectural and engineering firm to assess the roof situation between the Church and the Memorial building and to recommend a permanent solution to the leaks we have been experiencing. We have recently received their report and will consider the recommendations, which will most certainly require a significant capital investment. Stay tuned!

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Church Board who have all contributed immensely to our success this past year. It has truly been one of the most engaged and active Boards that I have ever been involved in. I also wish to say thanks to Chris Wright, Brad Smith, Derrick Sheppard, and Linda White who have stepped down from the Board.

In closing I wish to once again say thank you to all the staff and the many volunteers who worked so hard throughout the year. A special thanks to Linda, Dave, Carl, Doug, Dana and Edsel for their dedication and commitment to the ongoing operations of the Church. And finally a special thank you to Rev. Guy for his leadership throughout the year and of course to Keith who has stepped in so well to lead us with Faith, Spirit and Vision.

With Blessings;
Lorne LeDrew
Board Chair

A Prayer for the Annual Congregational Meeting

Ever-present God,
as we gather for the Annual Meeting of our Congregation
we give thanks for the many gifts we have received.

We pray for your guidance in this meeting
and ask that you give us wisdom in our speaking,
attentiveness in our listening
and sound judgment in our decision-making.

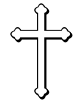
Help us to carry out the work before us
and keep us faithful, each in our own unique ways.

These things we ask for the sake of your glory
and in the name of Jesus.

Amen



**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
AS NOTED IN THE OFFICIAL REGISTERS**



BAPTISMS:

Alexander Terry Kenneth Butt
 Miya Jane Alexander
 Maple Margaret O'Driscoll
 Stephen Gerald Alexander
 Hannah Marie Marigold Burt
 Samuel Christopher Addison
 Benjamin Paul Adams
 Alexandra Rose Hawco
 Gabrielle Mary Donna Milley
 Amelia Joan Pretty
 Emily Susan Tansley

Alexa Louise Williams
 James Jonathan Williams
 Mason Gerald Young
 Jack Myles Nathan Smyth
 Aiden Stephen Dwyer
 Jack Douglas Angel
 Frankie Herbert Forbes Janes
 Jacob Glenn Evoy
 Parker John Chaffey
 Jules Sébastien Kevin Halliday

DEATHS:

Henry Ross Bennett
 Tina C. Hynes
 Ruby Doreen Clarke
 Hannah Rose Nicholle
 Wah Soon (Danny) Au
 Dr. Helen Doreen Coultas
 Bruce James Thistle
 Blair Richard Bertram Tulk
 Edith Gosse
 Irene Butler
 Jean Stentafor
 Cyril Stokes
 Clara Pike
 Kjellrun Hestekin

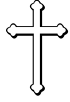
Shirley Joyce Butt
 John Evans
 Ena Phyllis Butt
 Sarah Marie Newhook
 Douglas M. Moore
 Mary O'Neill
 Patricia Marguerite McGrath
 Margarethe Anne Goebel
 Violetta Hudson
 Elsie Best
 Douglas Trenchard
 Doris Blackwood
 Frank Cramm

WEDDINGS:

Aimee Thorne & Mitchell Reid
 Kate Walsh & Andrew Goodwin
 Kayla Riche & Stephen Daley
 Janet Lucas & Leon Cantwell
 Sarah Winsor & Jonathan Kennedy
 Erin Noel & Timothy Rossy
 Heather Burton & Norman Bungay
 Danica Hiscock & Matthew Kalashnikov
 Amanda Coish & Gerard Warfield
 Jacqueline Kennedy & Wayne Dunphy

Debra Newport & Rodney Noftall
 Veronica Fraser & Dev Padhi
 Amanda Hewlett & Geoffrey Soper
 Tiffany Pinhorn & Evan Smith
 Brienne Avery & Michael Myles
 Jacqueline Piccott & Kellie Green
 Gillian Mews & (Ronald) Curtis St. Croix
 Kimberley Roberts & Ali Ajbaili
 Megan Garland & Jonathan Andrews

COMMITTEE REPORTS



WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS Respectfully submitted by Angeline Anstey, Chair



Mandate

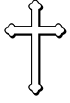
The mandate of the Worship & Sacraments Committee includes providing for regular and special worship services, the administration of the sacraments, and developing policy with respect to the admission, transfer and removal of membership. The committee has the responsibility to recruit, train and organize people to assist the clergy at the service of Holy Communion, support the clergy in the organization and conduct of Baptism, and recruit and organize greeters and ushers for all services. The committee also has the responsibility to advise the clergy and board on the use of the church sanctuary.

This year was not only a year of joyful celebration but also one of transition for the Gower congregation. Under the capable and enthusiastic leadership of Edsel Bonnell and his Gower 200 Anniversary Committee we participated in a variety of celebratory activities to mark our 200 Anniversary years as a congregation.

The Gower Community Band, our resurrected Handbell Choir, our Senior and Junior choirs and our choir directors and organist led us wonderfully in our celebrations throughout the year. We welcomed a number of special guests to our pulpit, including the Right Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson, Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

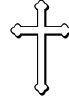
However, toward the end of our Bicentennial, we were deeply saddened to learn that Rev. Guy Matthews had been advised to take immediate and indefinite leave from his duties for health reasons. East District appointed Rev. Ian March-MacCuish as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor and Keith Wiseman, our Congregation Designate Minister of Pastoral Care, was then granted additional hours of work to act temporarily as Gower's Coordinator of Congregational Life. In the midst of this transition we moved into the Advent and Christmas seasons with support from other clergy in our congregation and willing participation by other members of our congregation. We appreciate all who led worship and administered the Sacraments. Gower has a strong congregation with active volunteers. Our committee is appreciative of all who helped us fulfill our mandate and have supported our work in many ways.

We are very pleased that Keith Wiseman has completed the Discernment Process and has been recommended to pursue ordained ministry in the United Church. This recommendation has been accepted by the Gower Board and our prayers and support go with Keith into the future. And, of course, we continue to hold Rev. Guy in our thoughts and prayers. His hard work and leadership inspire us to strive to fulfill the church's mandate in our present time. God bless you all.



HERITAGE AND ARCHIVES

Respectfully submitted by Jim Hiller, Chair



Although other matters were brought to the attention of the Board, the committee was preoccupied during 2015 with the 200 Anniversary events. The main committee projects were as follows:

- 1 The publication of an illustrated history of Gower Street Church. There were problems with finding an author for this work, but the committee was able, early in 2015, to make a satisfactory agreement with Bert Riggs and Linda Russell. This was approved by the Board, and the work is going forward. The publication should be available during the fall of 2016. While we have donations or commitments that will cover most of the budgeted cost, further support would certainly enhance the volume's appearance and allow some flexibility.
- 2 Louise Dawe was the organizer of a lecture series that took place at various United churches in the district. The talks related to aspects of the history of the Methodist/United Church, and the committee intends to make them available in printed form.
- 3 Thanks to the assistance of Douglas Peters, the committee was able to arrange for the production and installation in the sanctuary of a bronze plaque to mark the anniversary. It was dedicated at the service on November 15.
- 4 In cooperation with the Pastoral Care Committee, the Heritage and Archives Committee helped to develop a timeline to accompany the Family Tree that is on display in the sanctuary.

The committee was responsible for organizing the Doors Open event at Gower on October 12-13, 2015. This was once again a success, with about 400 people visiting the building. Thanks to all those who helped with this event.

The church has acquired four 1876 portraits of the Rev. John Potts and his family, a donation from Fred and Linda Smith. Dr. Potts officiated at the consecration of the current building in 1896. We are grateful to the donors and to Carl Stevenson who devoted a considerable amount of time to this matter.

The committee members during 2015 were James Hiller (Chair), Louise Dawe, Garfield Fizzard (archivist), Linda White, Bert Riggs and Edward Roberts.



MINISTRY & PERSONNEL
Respectfully submitted by Bradley Smith, Chair M&P



In 2015, Gower's staff once again remained dedicated to their roles, continuing to work very hard to provide the level of service to which Gower United has become accustomed.

The past year was relatively quiet for the M&P Committee. During the summer we were again very fortunate to obtain student assistance through student employment programs and all did a great job. They assisted in many ways such as, scanning documents, doing research, scheduling appointments, greeting visitors, performing clerical duties, recording and managing bookings, and performing financial tasks.

David Noseworthy and Linda Hogan have both been very busy this year and we thank them for their continued dedication and hard work.

We must extend many thanks to the following volunteers: Diane Hogan, David Guzzwell, Bonnie Trudel, Bert Riggs, Lorne King, Paula Vaughn, Dolores Vaughn, Peter Myles, and Doreen Riche. Our volunteers always "come through" when they are needed most! They have assisted with greeting people and directing them appropriately, providing general information, performing clerical duties, maintaining records and coordinating the distribution of newsletters and other mail outs.

We are especially grateful and fortunate to have Keith Wiseman within the Gower family. He continues to provide leadership and coordination in Pastoral Care that is appreciated by many. Keith has provided yeomen's service at a time when Gower's needs have drastically increased and he is doing an excellent job in taking care of our congregation's needs. Thank-you Keith!

Throughout the year our music staff continued to go beyond the norm and provide us with the wonderful gift of music that the Gower congregation and the community cherishes. We wish to thank Doug Dunsmore, Carl Goulding, Dana Collins and Edsel Bonnell for continuing to provide a ministry of music that we are so fortunate to enjoy.

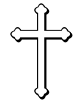
Personally, I would like express my sincere thanks to the members of the M&P Committee: Roy West, Pam Snow, Marie Beth Wright and Roberta Gill who continue to provide faithful service to Gower and for all of their help with the M&P committee.

Last, but not least, the Committee expresses sincere gratitude to Rev. Guy whose leadership, guidance and dedicated spirit continued to inspire us all to do more. His presence is dearly missed and we wish him all the best in his recovery.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by David Guzzwell, Outreach Chair



It's been quite a year with several large projects keeping us busy:

- Our Wednesday lunch program, under the superb leadership of Barb Myles, continues to flourish. Not only do our guests receive a healthy meal, but community is built, friendships are nourished, and fellowship shared, all of which are mutually enhancing. Thanks to all of our volunteers from Gower, the Kirk and our corporate world. We have noticed an unexpected benefit, especially on the part of our corporate volunteers, in that as they serve others, the bonds with their co-workers are strengthened. Perhaps that's akin to something the church has known from the days of sitting on a grassy hillside serving and eating bread and fish. Our staff, David Noseworthy, Linda Hogan, Keith Wiseman, and Rev. Guy have added to the camaraderie of our meals.
- This year we hosted the Community Christmas Dinner, an event that has been hosted for many years by George St. United and St. Thomas's Anglican Church. It was a great adventure having the newly formed Downtown Church Coalition working together as one. Under the competent leadership of Barb Myles, our Gower St. representative, it was a great success. It was Gower St., George St., with a special thank you to Cathy LeGrow, Cochrane St., and St. Thomas's churches, along with The Gathering Place and members of the community who gave of their time, talents and skills which made it so.

Our Corporate sponsor, *Coffee Matters*, was superb. Its staff members were at Gower working diligently for three whole days in preparation for the event and, when extra help was needed with cooking, staff from Bacalao restaurant, and others, came through in spades. Volunteers from area churches and the community at large joined together to make it happen. Along with a delicious meal, we had musicians entertaining us and even two Santas (at different times) giving out gift bags to everyone who attended. Thanks to the training provided by our caretaker, a successful rescue was made from the elevator, after which we were all given a crash course (pardon the pun) on the operation of the elevator. I would like to share with you an interesting scene I had the pleasure of viewing. Our own minister emeritus was engaged in conversation with a young man who occasionally attends our Wednesday lunches. As the two conversed it appeared that the rest of the world had disappeared. It made me think of what Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them". I can tell you the star of Christmas shone brightly at that table and two were blessed by an unseen third.

Dinners were served to 170 guests and to our many volunteers; 40 dinners were delivered to Emmanuel House; 40 dinners were delivered to the Wiseman Centre; and an additional 40 to individuals in the community.

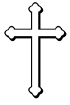
To paraphrase the words of Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, "If we wait for our minds to agree on everything, we may never do anything, sometimes we just have to go ahead".

- Our very competent contact person for Bridges to Hope is Pat West. She has reported that there are some very exciting plans underway to enable that organization to better serve its clients and volunteers. As the plans move from fluid to concrete she will be bringing these to you. Thanks Pat!
- Our Syrian family, or as we like to call them, “Our Gower family from away”, coming to St. John’s is under the energetic and competent leadership of Pat Mercer. Her committee is made up of members of Gower and the wider community. The idea for Gower to sponsor a family had its genesis many months ago before Rev. Guy had to go on medical leave. While having lunch together, John Steele, of VOCM, mentioned to Guy that the VOCM Cares Foundation wanted to fund sponsorship for a Syrian family coming to Canada but did not have the time or the people to do the leg work. He then asked Guy if he knew of a United Church that would be willing to do that part. Guy responded that he just might know one. Unfortunately before final plans were developed, Guy was placed on medical leave by his doctors. This meant that we lost him not only from the church but also the project. We are both grateful and pleased that Pat Mercer stepped forward and formed a committee comprised of some of the most energetic, passionate, caring people one could imagine. Behind the scenes many from our congregation and from the wider community, especially students from MUN, are lending time and talent to this project. Pat will be giving regular updates as things happen and they are occurring far faster than I can type. To all those who are and will be involved in the lives of our Gower family, thank you.

As Chair of the Outreach Committee my role has been to run and try to catch up, and to be in charge of clapping and cheering, as the professionalism and caring of our members tackle projects that were unimaginable to me just short months ago. Thanks for the training. Dave.

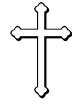
**Financial Summary for Outreach Committee, Gower Street United Church
January 1 to December 31, 2015**

Opening Balance at January 1, 2015	\$31,408.00
Revenue	
Lunch Program (\$125.00 + \$500.00 Fidelity)	\$ 625.00
Christmas Dinner (Including \$2000.00 to Downtown Outreach Coalition)	3,800.00
Outreach (\$140.00 + \$500.00 oil + \$1015.87 Lent Bank)	<u>1,655.87</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 6,080.87
Expenses	
Lunch Program	\$ 1101.66
Christmas Dinner (\$699.50 salt meat + \$1,801.16 turkey, \$1,378.03 gift cards and other expenses)	3,878.69
Outreach (\$17.56 oil + \$1015.87 Lent Bank)	<u>1,345.43</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 6,325.78
Closing Balance at December 31, 2015	\$31,163.09



PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by Keith Wiseman, Congregational Life Coordinator



The Pastoral Care Committee would like to express deep appreciation for the excellent leadership of Chris Wright who served as Pastoral Care Chair to the end of June of last year. The Congregation will be very happy to welcome Karen Tuck as our new Chair. We are grateful for the gifts and resources she will bring to lead those who are passionate about this ministry. Much appreciation is expressed to the Nominations Committee under the leadership of The Very Reverend Dr. Marion Parfy for assisting in this way.

Visitation Program: During 2015, the Pastoral Care Committee and a number of other members of the Congregation have provided pastoral care to 57 persons who no longer can attend Gower functions due to age and health reasons. Visits have been made to local hospitals and care homes. Each visitation is a chance to meet and talk, to ask how they are doing, and see if they have a request to forward to their church. Usually a short reading and a prayer is shared if the person visited so wishes. The Committee members and others also make telephone calls as a part of their visitation program. Visiting is the main purpose of our Committee's work and it is an absolute joy to meet those who are proud to remind us that Gower Street United Church is their church home. Since the date of our last Annual Meeting, 307 visits/calls/emails/cards have been recorded.

Home Care Services: The UCW has conducted regular monthly services at Tiffany Village and the Men's Club has conducted regular monthly services at Cambridge Estates. The Committee is very thankful for their dedication in providing an important link from Gower to these residents. The Pastoral Care Committee is responsible for monthly services at Hillcrest Estates and the Long-Term Care Facility when ministry personnel are available. Many who attend the services there are not necessarily from our own church and are often from other denomination, but they invariably express their appreciation, attend faithfully and enjoy worship with us.

Gower Family Tree: This Project has been and continues to be a source of joy and celebration for all who took the opportunity to place a specifically colored leaf on the "The Gower Family Tree" signifying their present age category and the year category when they first became associated with Gower. The Committee is most appreciative of the beautiful rendered painting of "The Gower Family Tree" by Carl Stevenson. The painting is located on the back wall of the main floor our Sanctuary. The Family Tree Leaf Team, consisting of Paula Vaughan, Delores Vaughan, Marie Anthony and Larry Kelly, deserve special thanks for their hard work on this project.

Anniversary and Birthday Cards: On behalf of the Minister and church we send a flower basket to Gower people who have reached the wonderful age of 90 years and beyond, and we send a greeting card to those who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary and beyond. Special appreciation is extended to Dorothy Moore for her ongoing work in this regard.

Benevolent Fund: Gower has been able to assist with 17 requests for emergency assistance.

Committee Members: Chris Wright, Rev. Veronica Brett-Williams, Karen Butt, Phyllis Cole, Maude Peach, Shirley Chafe, Judi Kelland, Max Beckett, Keith Wiseman.

**GOWER FAMILY TREE
LEAVES PLACED
2015**

AGE / CATEGORY	LEAF COLOUR	TOTAL
0-12	LIGHT GREEN	24
13-19	GREEN	7
20-49	DARK GREEN	64
50-69	YELLOW	69
70-89	SILVER	58
90+	GOLD	13
MINISTER	RED	13
IN MEMORY	WHITE	121
VETERANS	OLIVE GREEN	124
TOTAL LEAVES PLACED		493



PROPERTY COMMITTEE
Respectfully submitted by **Bruce Nickerson, Chair**



The Property Committee is pleased to report the completion of major plumbing repairs in the Sanctuary.

The Committee hired an architectural firm to investigate a permanent solution to leak problem, resulting in an estimate of \$85,000.00 for repairs. The Gower 200 Fund will go a long way to financing this project, as well as other repairs. Additional means for financing this project is currently under investigation.

Rentals continue to make a strong contribution to the Operating budget of the Church.



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by JoAnna Bennett, Chair



The Stewardship Committee experienced a year of continued growth and development throughout 2015. Our membership increased to become an active, productive group that participated in ongoing activities that supports our Stewardship mandate and the overall mandate of Gower. It was a pleasure to be able to share with all of you in the events that celebrated Gower's 200 Anniversary over the past year.

Committee Membership

Efforts continue to increase Stewardship Committee membership since we recognize that there are competing demands from family life and other church activities that make it difficult at times to fully participate in the work of the committee. As we approach 2016 we look forward with a renewed energy and commitment to be fully involved in the work of the Stewardship Committee.

Fundraising Activities

Dinner Theatre

The Spirit of Newfoundland Dinner Theatre, the major fundraiser for the Stewardship Committee, provided an evening of entertainment for a sold-out audience. Under the expert direction of Carl Stevenson and Geoff Peters, the event raised \$3,500.00 and will continue as an annual fundraiser for the Stewardship Committee. Thanks to Carl and Geoff for their efforts to make this event such a success.

PAR (*Pre-Authorized Remittance*)

The Committee continues its collaboration with the Board to support efforts to increase congregational awareness and involvement in PAR. Information was made available through ongoing updates of PAR givings and through Sunday Bulletin and Newsletter highlights outlining the benefits of PAR to the members of the congregation who participate in it and to smooth operation of our church. These efforts saw a small increase in the number of people participating in PAR. Stewardship will continue to support PAR activities.

Strategic Planning

We participated in discussions with the Strategic Planning Committee as the new plan was being developed and look forward to ongoing participation as the initiative moves forward to its final report and implementation.

Bicentenary Celebrations

What an exciting year it has been! Opportunity was provided across so many venues for all of us to celebrate the history and life of Gower! Our Committee, along with so many others, took part in many of the events that demonstrated the "Faith, Spirit, and Vision" of our beloved Gower Street Church.

Plans for 2016

Our Committee had identified the following goals for the coming year:

- Support and promote PAR contributions;
- Collaborate with the East District and the Gower Board to develop a more formal process for Legacy Givings;

- Continue the annual Dinner Theatre fundraising event;
- Further develop our committee mandate in collaboration with Gower Board and the United Church of Canada.

Conclusion

I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Carl Stevenson, Geoff Peters, Cheryl Hanlon and Lorraine Moores for their efforts and support over the past year. Special thanks go to Rev. Guy who provided direction and guidance so willingly while he was able. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

In conclusion I leave you with this comment from the January 12, 2016 *Stewardship In Newfoundland and Labrador Newsletter* that provides food for thought:

Christian Stewardship is ... everything we think, say and do after we say “We believe”.

GROUPS AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS



GENERAL PROTESTANT CEMETERY COMMITTEE
Respectfully submitted by Bill Bussey on behalf of Vernon Simmons



The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.
Report of the Chairman of the Board
to the Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2016

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at Mount Pleasant, we filled, leveled and re-sodded a large number of graves and leveled up a number of headstones. We used over 20,000 sq. ft. of sods this year. We repaired approximately 5,000 sq. ft. of pavement at Mount Pleasant.

During the year we had 257 burials, an increase of 27 over the previous year; and of these 58.75% were cremations, a small decrease over the previous year. The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2012-13</u>	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	2.75%	4.78%	3.11%
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	84.86%	82.61%	85.21%
The Field of Honor	<u>12.39%</u>	<u>12.61%</u>	<u>11.28%</u>
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>
Total Burials	218	230	257
Cremations Included	52.75%	59.12%	58.75%

Your Board met nine times during the past year.

Our Trust Fund for Perpetual Care last year was \$247,000.00. This year we added \$40,000.00. The fund now totals \$288,248.00 with interest. This is invested in GICs to earn an average of approximately 1.35%. We have taken \$290,000.00 from our trust fund for Memorials Gardens since 2012.

There was a change made in the calculation of HST this year. Our accountants refiled the returns for the past several years and claimed refunds of approximately \$30,000.00. We also sold a number of new plots in Mount Pleasant to people who had their names on the waiting list for years. This accounts for the \$40,000.00 put back into our trust fund.

The new building in Memorial Gardens is finished and landscaping is completed. It has wheelchair accessibility including the washroom. A security system and security camera has been installed. We purchased a new backhoe and ATV at a cost of \$101,000.00 to use in Memorial Gardens, both of which are paid off.

We had our first burial (cremated remains) at Memorial Gardens. Sherman Otto Rice was buried on September 1, 2015. Major Barry Gray of the Salvation Army officiated. Vince Howlett represented the Cemetery, while Funeral Director Susan Barrett represented Barrett's Funeral Home.

Two sections of the new columbarium with 120 niches were installed in the spring of 2015. Concrete paving stones and iron railings have also been installed. The first of four annual payments to Heritage Memorials has been paid. Twenty-seven niches in this columbarium have been sold.

The Memorial Service at Mount Pleasant had to be cancelled the first night. The second night went well, the weather was good, attendance was very good, but our offering was down from the previous year. When we have to cancel the service, it usually affects the offering. A service was also held at the General Protestant Cemetery with a small number of attendees; everything went well, but the offering was also down from the previous year.

We have had discussions with the local representative of The Last Post Fund about a section in Memorial Gardens for a Field of Honour. They have agreed and have given us the funds to install the concrete pylons, chain and a flagpole.

We appreciate those member churches that support the cemeteries financially and otherwise and thank them most sincerely.

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.

A special thanks to the members of the board who have given me their full support during the past year. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Harold Chubbs
Chairman of the Board



GOWER COMMUNITY BAND 2015: A Year to Remember
Respectfully submitted by Edsel Bonnell, Director, Gower Community Band



With Gower's exciting and meaningful Bicentennial Celebrations dominating church activity during 2015, the GCB made a commitment to support the congregation through participation in a number of special services and events. Special half-hour pre-service Band Musicales were prepared for Palm Sunday ("200 Anniversary Years in Music"), June 14 ("A Celebration of Joy"), August 2 ("Hymns to Bless This House"), and November 15 ("A Bicentennial Tribute"). In addition, the GCB Show Band performed Cabaret music for the "Meet and Greet" reception prior to the Gower 200 Anniversary Congregational Banquet on Saturday evening, November 14.

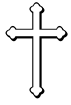
ACTIVITIES: The five performances cited above were well-received by the Gower congregation and visitors. No music was repeated, and each Musicale had a meaningful theme, from a retrospective of Methodist music in the unfolding panorama of history from 1815 to the present day, through celebratory music for historic events and favourite hymns of worship, to the "pop" music of a cabaret setting, and the first Newfoundland performance of the David Gillingham masterwork "No Shadow of Turning" with the Gower Handbells Choir led by Dr. Douglas Dunsmore and the grand piano with Carl Goulding. The Band was especially active during the weekend of August 1 and 2 when it served as the linchpin for the "Come Home to Gower" events, a midsummer Bicentennial reunion for Gower families and friends, present and former members of the Gower Bands, Choirs, and other church groups. With Saturday BBQs and other social events, and a wonderful summer service led by Rev. Guy Matthews on Sunday morning, the large reunion congregation shared the fellowship of a closing luncheon hosted by the Gower Men's Club. Truly, a "midsummer night's dream"!

In addition to the Bicentennial events, the Band performed at the 2015 Kiwanis Music Festival on March 1, where it received first place awards in two classes with adjudications of high praise and marks of 89 both times; presented its 2015 Terra Nova Gala Concert on September 27 honouring the winners of its GCB Competition for young composers; and on December 6 the Band anchored the first annual Mazol Shriners' "A Musical Christmas" show in support of Shriners' children's hospitals. Other Christmas performances included concerts for seniors at Masonic Park, Tiffany Village, the Shrine Club, Meadow Creek, and the St John's Long Term Care Centre's East and West towers. It has indeed been another busy year of music making, with a total of 15 church and community performances.

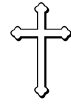
FINANCES: Total income for the Band during 2015 amounted to \$9,330, comprised of \$4,565 from Band members, \$2,135 from supporters, and \$2,630 in performance revenue and honoraria. Total expenditure amounted to \$15,092.58, comprised of \$2,485 in performance expenses, \$3,365.17 in Instrument & Equipment Purchases and Maintenance, \$217.31 in Music Purchases, \$1,500 in Scholarships (in addition to the \$1,000 endowed GYB Legacy Scholarship at Memorial University), \$2,278.88 in special events and members' programs, and \$5,246.22 in Operating Expenses. This latter amount includes \$4,800 to Gower Street United Church as a contribution to the operating expenses of the Band Room complex in the Memorial Building. After the addition of \$48.84 Bank Charges and deductions of \$3,178.37 assigned to the Reserve Fund for instruments (capital assets), the actual current account deficit for 2015 is (\$2,633.05), to

be recovered from members' gifts and fund-raising activity. Details of finances are available upon request from the Band or the Church office.

APPRECIATION: As always, I must express my profound appreciation to all volunteer members of the Gower Community Band for their talents, hard work, financial and moral support, camaraderie, and commitment to music and community service. My personal debt is all the more overwhelming for 2015, when it became very challenging to maintain my GCB obligations in the reality of additional duties as Chair of the Gower 200 Anniversary Committee and the devastating six months of illness and hospitalization of our beloved "Band Mom", Anthea. Not only was my burden eased, but my spirit strengthened and my soul restored by the never-failing support of my treasured colleague, Associate Director Ron Collins, Associate Conductor Chris Miller, the GCB Executive Team headed by General Manager David Robbins, and every member of the truly outstanding GCB organization. Needless to say, I also thank the Board, Ministers, Staff, colleagues in music, and congregation of Gower for their outpouring of love, compassion and understanding. Bless you all.



GOWER STREET MEN'S CLUB
Respectfully submitted by Roy West, President



The Gower Men's Club has experienced another great year – thanks to the tremendous support it receives from the Gower congregation and the community at large. Thanks to this ongoing support we have been able to continue our goal of having fun and fellowship while giving back to our congregation and community.

Gower 200 Anniversary year has been a special year for us all. The Men's Club was privileged to commence the year of special activities with our Celebration Dinner in February. It allowed us to celebrate with the congregation the contributions of the Men's Club to the life of Gower through projects and donations. There are so many people to thank for all the successful Gower 200 Anniversary activities during 2015. The Men's Club would like to record a special word of thanks to Edsel Bonnell for his efforts in planning and coordinating the delivery of the Gower 200 Anniversary programs throughout the year.

During 2015 the Club was able to carry out all its usual fundraising activities, namely Take-Out-Teas in March, the Flipper Dinner in May and the Men's Club Auction in November. All were highly successful. We would like to thank all those in the congregation who help us with these activities, such as baking cookies for and delivering Take-Out-Teas, and donating items for the auction.

In addition we have a wide range of speakers give talks at our meetings. On the occasions when we have a speaker of interest to the wider congregation we have taken to inviting women to join us. Obviously men are always welcome.

Keeping busy is one of the keys to the success of the Men's Club. We conduct a much-appreciated monthly service at Cambridge Estates Home, take a turn at preparing lunch for the Wednesday lunch program (three times a year) and helping the Gower Seniors Club by both driving people to meetings and preparing some of the meals. We wish to thank the Gower Seniors Club for its donation of \$500 to the Men's Club activities.

Each year United Church Men's Clubs in the city invite each other to their dinner meetings. This year we invited men from the other downtown churches (Cochrane Street, George Street and Wesley) to join us for our meeting in October. The meeting enabled us to share in fellowship, exchange our stories and collectively discuss the outcomes of General Council 42 in Corner Brook, especially the future of our church which was recommended by the Comprehensive Review Committee. This shared meeting was in support of the activities being sponsored by the Downtown United Church Committee which is working to create greater understanding among the downtown congregations.

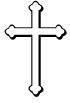
In November we were able to commit to another project for our church. We purchased thirty tables (along with their storage trolleys) and 250 chairs for the Lecture Hall, at a cost of \$19,000. Our old tables and chairs have given us good service but the new tables are so much lighter! The Aliant Pioneers, who help with the Wednesday lunch program, gave a generous donation of

\$1000 towards the tables and chairs. In addition we put the donation from the Gower Seniors Club towards this project.

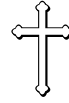
Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to all the club members who make all these activities possible. It is not possible to thank them each by name, as so many make so large a contribution. We look forward to another year of faith, fun, fellowship and service in 2016.

Gower Street United Church Men's Club
Financial Report
December 31, 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Revenue		
Dinner meetings	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 1,347.00
Donations	1,550.00	1,600.00
Auction	5,446.00	5,187.00
Ladies Night	3,005.00	2,980.00
Take-out-Teas	19,320.00	19,683.00
Flipper Dinner	5,915.00	5,413.00
Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$38,931.00	\$36,210.00
 Expenses		
Dinner meetings	\$ 4,285.00	\$ 2,384.00
Donations	4,200.00	4,200.00
Auction	711.00	660.00
Ladies Night	1,801.00	1,570.00
Take-out-Teas	8,514.00	8,610.00
Flipper Dinner	2,688.00	2,316.00
Tower Project	6,579.00	33,340.00
Tables & Chairs	4,178.00	0.00
Bank Charges	108.00	101.00
Kitchen	1,239.00	1,330.00
Luncheons	878.00	929.00
Misc.	<u>305.00</u>	<u>943.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$35,486.00	\$56,383.00
NET: Surplus(Deficit)	\$ 3,445.00	(\$20,173.00)
 Cash Balance January 1		
	\$18,405.00	\$38,578.00
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>3,445.00</u>	<u>(20,173.00)</u>
Cash Balance December 31	\$21,850.00	\$18,405.00



SENIOR CHOIR
Respectfully submitted by Carl Stevenson, President



We have had another very busy year under the direction of Dr. Douglas Dunsmore. Our membership now stands at 36. Over the past year we welcomed several new members: Jacquie Birmingham (alto), Linda Nickerson (alto), and Derrick Sheppard (bass).

We also lost members: Ruth Francis decided to discontinue due to personal reasons, Adam Johnson had completed his music studies at MUN and returned to NS in May, Betty Parrell moved to the North West Territories in early summer to take up a teaching position there and Barbara Moulton decided to retire after 21 years service in the choir. Several regular members have had some medical issues and are only able to attend when they are up to it.

Our additional activities during the past year were:

February was our month to look after the post-service coffee/reception in the Tait/Osmond room.

April 3---Good Friday three-hour service at Gower

April 5---8:00 a.m. Easter Sunday service

Choir fellowship breakfast organized by the choir executive and several other choir members.

11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday service with guest brass instrumentalists.

April 26--Joint Congregational service at Gower celebrating 200 Anniversary years of Methodism on the North East Avalon.

July 3----Summer BBQ at Peter and Audrey Nell's home.

Aug 19--We combined with the Philharmonic Choir of the NSO at the funeral of Kjellerun Hestekin, who had been a member of our choir some years back and was a strong supporter of the music community here.

Aug 24--The choir sang at the funeral service of John Evans.

Aug 27--The choir sang at the funeral of Bonnie Vincent (Roberta Gill's mother).

Nov 15--Bicentennial Service of Praise and Thanksgiving for Gower Street United Anthems; "Building on a Rock"

"Be Thou My Vision" performed with the junior choir.

Dec 18--Our Christmas party at the home of Lloyd and Roberta Gill. At this event we made Barbara Moulton "Choir Member Emeritus".

Dec 20--Anthems and carols at the 11:00 a.m. service.

During the Advent season we again provided appropriate anthems at each service and for the Candlelight Communion Service on Christmas Eve. Additional instrumental music for this service was provided by Grace Dunsmore on flute accompanied by Carl Goulding. It is quite obvious that our choir numbers have increased for this service (by some eight or so) since we usually have former members and family members who are home for the Christmas season join us.

The choir has two bank accounts in its name:

1. Special Projects Account – funded by monies from the sale of our “Christmas at Gower” CDs, a bequest from the estate of the late Seaward Green and other bequests during the year.
2. Social Account – funded entirely by the choir itself from our weekly rehearsal contributions.

Special Projects Account

Opening balance, January 1, 2015	\$3796.13
Closing balance, December 31, 2015	3766.13

Social Account

Opening balance, January 1, 2015	\$ 466.95
Closing balance, December 31, 2015	536.17

Our Executive Committee: **Carl Stevenson - President**
Roberta Gill - Vice-President
Marilyn Peters - Secretary/Treasurer
Ruth Churchill and Sandra Davis - Gown Conveners

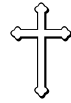
Choir Members Emeritus: Jean and Cam Adey, Dorothy Dick, Tom Sparkes and Barbara Moulton.

The choir would like to thank Dr. Douglas Dunsmore, Carl Goulding and Grace Dunsmore for their help and leadership during the past year. We hope that our musical endeavours have been favourably received and have added positively to worship at Gower.



SENIORS CLUB

Respectfully submitted by Gola Roberts, Coordinator, Gower Seniors Club



The Gower Seniors Club continues to be active within the Church family and also within the wider community. The Club attendance is growing, especially from the larger community, and the emphasis is on socialization from a nondenominational perspective. The cost to members who attend the regular monthly gatherings is \$7.00.

During the fall, the Seniors Club Executive prepared a cold plate luncheon for the congregation in recognition of the Gower 200 Anniversary Celebration Year. This luncheon was well attended, with approximately 120 people, including several families with younger children. It gave the congregation an opportunity to learn more about the mandate and goals of the Gower Seniors Club, especially within the Church and the wider community.

During the luncheon, a plaque was presented by the Hon. Edward Roberts, on behalf of the Seniors Club, as a token of appreciation to the Men's Club for their extraordinary support since 1981.

The Seniors Club Christmas Gala took place on November 24 at the Church. Tickets for this event were sold at a cost of \$15.00. The Men's Club prepared a delicious turkey dinner. Many congregational members were also invited to come and help serve the meal. It was delightful to observe the fellowship among everyone, enjoying their meal and the wonderful entertainment by the faithful musical volunteers, the Walsh Brothers: Ron, Gerard and Ray. Throughout the evening, many prizes, door prizes, grab bags and a goodies basket brought much fun and excitement.

Traditionally, at Christmas the Seniors Club contributes to Bridges to Hope with money and food. The Very Reverend Marion Parady, our long-time supporter, accepted a cheque for \$125.00 along with food items on behalf of that organization. A special thank you is extended to Keith Wiseman, our Congregational Designated Minister, for his presence and closing prayer.

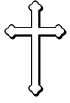
In closing, sincere appreciation is extended to the Men's Club for their ongoing support. It was pleasing to present \$500.00 this year to the Men's Club for their immeasurable efforts. Special thanks to the many musical volunteers, Linda Hogan, Office Manager, and David Noseworthy, Custodian.

A special thank you to the Seniors Executive, Sharon Monahan-Nash, Joyce Power, and Carrie Lethbridge, for their unfailing commitment to the Senior's Club activities.

SENIORS CLUB
FINANCIAL REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2015 - DECEMBER 31, 2015

Bank Balance brought forward January 1, 2015		\$ 690.97
Income:		
Dinners	\$2898.00	
Other Collection/Donations	<u>\$ 105.00</u>	
Total Income	\$3003.00	
Less Expenses:		
Dinners	\$1801.85	
Clean-up Crew	\$ 450.00	
Gifts (entertainment, birthdays)	\$ 345.90	
Bank Fees	<u>\$ 59.40</u>	
Total Expenses	\$2657.15	
Less Donations:		
Gower Operating Fund	\$ 30.00	
Bridges to Hope	\$ 125.00	
Gower Men's Club	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	
Total Donations	\$ 655.00	
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2015		\$ 381.82

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Monahan, Treasurer



GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
Respectfully submitted by Linda Nickerson, President



The past year saw a small decline in attendance at our monthly meetings; although our active membership remained the same.

Two major fundraising events were held: our Paddy's Day afternoon tea and our fall/Christmas tea and sale. We also held our annual bring & buy. These events allowed us to maintain contributions to the Operating Fund, M & S and various outreach and community organizations; as well as provide us with operational expenses.

The UCW continue to provide a monthly church service at Tiffany Village. The residents regularly express their appreciation and support for this endeavour, making it a very worthwhile program to maintain.

In early May, Gower hosted a UCW Rally for all the St. John's area churches. The focus of the rally was the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Methodism in eastern NL. Approximately 60 women from 7 area churches attended and participated in worship, fellowship, fun and food.

In November, we were invited by the Men's Club to a joint supper meeting, which the Men's Club provided and cooked; and the women greatly appreciated and enjoyed. Following the dinner, the UCW enjoyed a presentation by Elizabeth Tuck who gave us an overview of her trip to India with the World Organization of Girl Guides. Several times a year we endeavour to have guest speakers for our meeting. In December four UCW members were awarded life-time memberships: Gola Roberts, Anne Lambert, Karen Tuck and Helene Drodge.

We continue to support the Wednesday lunch program and provide a Christmas dinner for the Pottle Centre. The visitation committee visits sick or shut in members and keeps them informed of our activities. Throughout the year the UCW contributes or assists with various events and programs.

Again, we extend a sincere thank-you to all those people who assist us throughout the year with our various events. Your contributions and assistance are always greatly appreciated.

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
FINANCIAL REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2015 – DECEMBER 31, 2015

Balance brought forward January 1, 2014		\$ 688.04
INCOME:		
Membership monthly offering	\$ 1196.15	
Donations	\$ 601.00	
Bring & Buy Fundraiser	\$ 116.00	
St. Patrick's Tea & Sale	\$ 1357.01	
Fall Sale	\$ 3387.53	
Tiffany Village	\$ 112.35	
Rally	\$ 1125.25	
Catering	\$ 50.00	
 Total Income:		 \$ 7945.29
EXPENSES:		
Gower Street United Church		
Operating Fund	\$ 3800.00	
Mission & Service	\$ 500.00	
In Memoriam	\$ 100.00	
Operational:		
Donations, gifts .	\$ 225.00	
St Patrick's Tea	\$ 182.36	
Fall Sale	\$ 201.10	
Bank charges	\$ 60.00	
Wednesday lunch program	\$ 76.49	
Catering	\$ 25.00	
Pottle Centre Dinner	\$ 222.41	
East District Dues	\$ 667.39	
Rally	\$ 1074.41	
General Council	\$ 182.72	
Life Membership	\$ 180.00	
Outreach: United Church	\$ 200.00	
Community	\$ 300.00	
 Total Expenses:	 \$ 7996.88	
Net balance		\$ 636.45

Anne Lambert
Treasurer



BRIDGES TO HOPE
Respectfully submitted by Pat West, Gower Representative



Bridges to Hope (BTH) had another busy year preparing approximately 425 hampers each month, 300 special hampers at Christmas and approximately 600 school satchels and school supplies for the September return to school. Each month, hampers provide food and some toiletries for approximately 680 people, of whom approximately 25% are children. Clients are allowed one hamper and if needed one smaller emergency hamper per month. In addition BTH has a kitchen and chef who teaches cooking classes and provides a meeting place for groups to socialize.

A typical hamper usually contains a mixture of donated and purchased items: four ounces of margarine, evaporated or fresh milk, sugar, tea or coffee, bread which is made in the BTH kitchen where possible, cereal, rice or pasta, canned meat or fish, cookies or crackers, canned fruit, canned vegetables and juice. Fresh vegetables or fruit are included where possible. The people picking up the hampers are interviewed to ensure that they are not touring all the city's food banks and are asked if they have any particular requests, for example: tea or coffee, rice or pasta, meat or fish and are given the opportunity to ask for something special such as baby food or toiletry items.

All the hamper activities take place in a separate building on the Cookstown Road that was once a garage type of shed. A lot of work has been done to improve the building but it is still poorly insulated and is expensive to heat in the winter, and it has inadequate storage space. For these reasons BTH is exploring the possibility of rebuilding and enlarging this pantry building. Building plans prepared by Glen Barnes (*pro bono*) have been submitted to St John's City Council for Approval-in-Principle.

Although it is now a United Church Incorporated Ministry, the BTH is still strongly supported by members of its founding downtown churches: St Andrew's and St David's Presbyterian Churches, and the four downtown United Churches, Cochrane Street, George Street, Gower Street and Wesley. As its reputation has grown other organizations have become involved and their food drives help greatly. Thank you all for Gower's generous support to BTH.

Most of the money given to Bridges to Hope is for food and is only used for hamper supplies. Money to pay salaries and overhead costs must be obtained from other sources, the main one being the annual fundraising Gala. At present BTH has two full-time staff, two part-time staff and 40 or so volunteers and is overseen by the BTH Board.

Please support the Gala which is being held at the Clovelly Golf Club on March 5, 2016. If you find you cannot go please send in a donation to BTH marked for the Gala so we can pay our overhead, or donate on line at the BTH website: www.bridgestohope.ca.

MINUTES OF 2015 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Gower Street United Church Annual Congregational Meeting February 15, 2015

Call to Order and Prayer

The meeting was called to order by Lorne LeDrew, the Chair of the Official Board who expressed satisfaction with the number of members in attendance, considering the adverse winter weather and difficulty finding parking. Rev. Guy Matthews led the meeting in prayer.

Appointment of Chair and Secretary, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

On a motion by Roy West, seconded by Fred Earle, Lorne LeDrew was appointed to chair the meeting and Dan Simmons to act as secretary. The agenda was approved on a motion by Ed Moores, seconded by Wilson Russell. The minutes of the 2014 annual congregational meeting were approved on a motion by David Wardlaw, seconded by Roy West.

Message from the Chair of the Official Board

Lorne LeDrew referred to his written report submitted to the meeting. He said the Church had had a good year with a great board and committees that had achieved their goals. At its first meeting the board had identified its goals for the year, which were to prepare for the 200th anniversary of the congregation, to cooperate with the Downtown Churches group, to develop a long term plan for Gower, and to strengthen the congregation's financial position. The Chair thanked Edsel Bonnell for his exceptional work planning the 200th anniversary events. The Downtown Churches group had been restarted on the initiative of Cochrane Street United. It has provided a useful forum for information exchange and cooperation with Cochrane Street, George Street and Wesley United Churches.

The project to develop a long term strategy includes defining our place in the community and ensuring that we continue to thrive as a congregation.

Addressing the projected budget deficit of \$55,000 was a very high priority. The Chair thanked the congregation for stepping up and substantially reducing it. He said that we have to maintain our efforts to achieve adequate funding.

The increase in the number of children attending Sunday services was noted and thanks expressed to Carolyn Anstey-Moore for the Sunday School and Dana Parsons for the Children's Choir.

Under the leadership of the Men's Club and Bruce Nickerson of the Property Committee, the east turret has been made watertight and the elevator can now be put in working order. Chris Wright was acknowledged for organizing the Gower's Got Talent event.

Message from Rev. Guy Matthews

Rev. Matthews submitted a written report to the meeting. He acknowledged the support of the Board and congregation and agreed with the Chair of the Official Board that it had been a good year for the congregation. It had been a year concerned more with the direction in which the church is going than the position the church occupies. Some people have had fears and concerns,

but there is much life and encouragement to be found. Change will come. We can either wait for it to come upon us or we can choose to guide it.

In Memoriam

The names of members of the congregation listed on page 6 of the Annual Report who had died during the year were read and were acknowledged with a moment of silence.

Reports of Committees and Groups for Approval

Ken Peters, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave a summary of the financial results and Treasurer Fred Earle explained the financial statements included in the Annual Report. In response to questions Mr. Earle stated that the Manse Fund is held as part of the Endowment Fund, with the income used for church operations but the principal is not. All income, not just that going into the Operating Fund, has been reported in the statements. The financial statement were approved on a motion by Barb Myles, seconded by Edward Roberts.

Ken Peters presented the budget proposed for the 2015 year. In response to questions he said that it was hoped that the leaks in the Council Rooms roof could be addressed this year, committee budgets are based on committee estimates, and 200th anniversary expenses have been taken into account. Lorne LeDrew added that a small group would coordinate investigation of the root causes of the leaks and would seek outside funding for any work. The budget was approved on a motion by Pat West, seconded by William Hiscock.

Fred Colbourne spoke for the Financial Review Committee. The role of the Committee is to review the financial reporting to provide the Board with an assurance that the statements are plausible, in lieu of hiring external auditors. The Committee will look at routine documents such as bank statements and issued cheques and report by letter to the Official Board.

The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the committee and group written reports in the Annual Report.

For the Outreach Committee, Barb Myles moved and Pat Mercer seconded a motion setting \$37,500 as the fundraising goal for the Mission and Service Fund for 2015.

For the Men's Club Roy West noted that the contribution of the Club to the turret repair was \$33,000 rather than \$7,000 as stated in the written report.

On a motion by Albert Spurrell, seconded by Jim Churchill, the committee and group reports were accepted.

Rev. Marion Parady presented a written report from the Nominations Committee with nominations for Official Board and Committee positions. On motions by Rev. Parady, seconded by Rev. Florence Sanna, the report was approved, Dan Simmons was appointed secretary of the Official Board, Linda Giannou, Ed Williams and Larry Kelly were appointed Members-at-Large of the Official Board, and Derek Sheppard was appointed Chair of the Communication Committee. In addition to the positions addressed in the written report, an appointment to East District was to be filled. On a motion by Barb Myles, seconded by Chris Wright, Roy West was appointed.

New Business

Angeline Anstey, Chair of the Worship and Sacraments Committee sought approval to improve the impression made by vestibule by painting, changes to improve accessibility, and other possible changes. Approval was given on a motion by Angeline Anstey, seconded by Gwen Alcock.

David Wardlaw described the appointment by the Official Board, which is responsible for long term planning, of a group to develop a strategic plan for Gower for the next ten years. He anticipates several phases of activity. First is formation of a working group to carry out initial work and to facilitate consultation. Next is consultation with the congregation and community. The working group will prepare an initial draft of a report to be circulated for comment and to be finalized when the consultation has been completed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

**Gower Street United Church
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2015**

ASSETS

	Operating Fund	Restoration Fund	Endowment Fund	Organ Fund	Other Funds	2015 Total	2014 Total
Current assets							
Cash	31,272		6,500	33,166		70,938	80,075
Short term investments			284,925			284,925	284,925
Accounts receivable	9,950					9,950	500
HST rebate receivable	12,938					12,938	4,381
Prepaid expenses						0	0
Due from (to) other funds	52,589	4,371	(172,914)	(18,772)	134,726	0	0
Total current assets	<u>106,749</u>	<u>4,371</u>	<u>118,511</u>	<u>14,394</u>	<u>134,726</u>	<u>378,751</u>	<u>369,881</u>
Capital assets							
	1,913,163			462,372		2,375,535	2,375,535
Long term investments							
			388,854			388,854	467,412
Total assets	<u>2,019,912</u>	<u>4,371</u>	<u>507,365</u>	<u>476,766</u>	<u>134,726</u>	<u>3,143,140</u>	<u>3,212,828</u>

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities							
Payables and accruals						0	305
Current portion of long-term-debt	10,000			33,000		43,000	43,000
Total current liabilities	<u>10,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>33,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>43,000</u>	<u>43,305</u>
Long term debt	<u>25,834</u>			<u>27,631</u>		<u>53,465</u>	<u>96,801</u>
Total liabilities	<u>35,834</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>60,631</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>96,465</u>	<u>140,106</u>

FUND BALANCES

Fund Balance	<u>1,984,078</u>	<u>4,371</u>	<u>507,365</u>	<u>416,135</u>	<u>134,726</u>	<u>3,046,675</u>	<u>3,072,722</u>
Total Liabilities and fund balance	<u>2,019,912</u>	<u>4,371</u>	<u>507,365</u>	<u>476,766</u>	<u>134,726</u>	<u>3,143,140</u>	<u>3,212,828</u>

Gower Street United Church
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance
December 31, 2015

	Operating Fund	Restoration Fund	Endowment Fund	Organ Fund	Other Funds	2015 Total	2014 Total
Revenue							
Offerings	236,494	11,078		33,129	94,913	375,614	390,517
Investment income	68,810					68,810	56,531
Rental income	24,885					24,885	30,115
Fundraising	3,945					3,945	10,339
United Church Women donation	3,825					3,825	4,500
Other income	8,956					8,956	
Unrealized gain(loss) on investments			(78,557)			(78,557)	11,038
Men's club donation		6,579			6,178	12,757	34,000
Total revenue	346,915	17,657	(78,557)	33,129	101,091	420,235	537,040
Expenditures							
Salaries and wages	227,651					227,651	230,400
Repairs and maintenance	18,988	38,636				57,624	81,538
Utilities	50,493					50,493	62,941
Office and sundry	17,042					17,042	14,510
Committee expenses	15,547					15,547	5,554
Insurance	13,100					13,100	13,608
United Church assessments	14,678					14,678	11,051
Interest on long term debt	-	1,855		2,222		4,077	5,408
Other fund expenses					42,714	42,714	45,336
Interest and bank charges	3,234	122				3,356	3,661
Total expenditures	360,733	40,613	-	2,222	42,714	446,282	474,007
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(13,818)	(22,956)	(78,557)	30,907	58,377	(26,047)	63,033
Fund balances, beginning of year	1,997,896	27,327	585,922	385,228	76,349	3,072,722	3,022,589
Fund balances, end of year	1,984,078	4,371	507,365	416,135	134,726	3,046,675	3,085,622

**Gower Street United Church
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Operating Fund
December 31, 2015**

	<u>2015 Total</u>	<u>2014 Total</u>	<u>2016 Budget</u>
Revenue			
Offerings	236,494	249,673	243,950
Investment income	68,810	56,531	55,000
Rental income	24,885	30,115	35,000
Fundraising (net of expenses)	3,945	10,339	14,000
United Church Women donation	3,825	4,000	
Other Income	8,956	9,091	
Total revenue	<u>346,915</u>	<u>359,749</u>	<u>347,950</u>
Expenditures			
Salaries and wages	227,651	230,400	222,311
Repairs and maintenance	18,988	23,161	29,500
Utilities	50,493	62,941	54,000
Office and sundry	17,042	14,510	19,250
Committee expenses	15,547	5,554	12,970
Insurance	13,100	13,608	13,300
United Church assessments	14,678	11,051	14,061
Interest on long term debt		2,049	-
Interest and bank charges	3,234	3,272	2,700
Total expenditures	<u>360,733</u>	<u>366,546</u>	<u>368,092</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(13,818)	(6,797)	(20,142)
Fund balances, beginning of year	<u>1,997,896</u>	<u>2,004,693</u>	
Fund balances, end of year	<u><u>1,984,078</u></u>	<u><u>1,997,896</u></u>	
Committee Budgets			
Worship & Sacraments			3020
Christian Education			500
Outreach			200
Heritage & Archives			3000
Pastoral Care			250
Official Board			1000
Stewardship Expenses			<u>5000</u>
			12970

**Gower Street United Church
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Restoration Fund
December 31. 2015**

	<u>2015 Total</u>	<u>2014 Total</u>
Revenue		
Offerings	11,078	20,603
Men's club donation	<u>6,579</u>	<u>32,000</u>
Total revenue	17,657	52,603
Expenditures		
Repairs and maintenance	38,636	58,377
Interest on debt	1,855	
Interest and bank charges	<u>122</u>	<u>389</u>
Total expenditures	<u>40,613</u>	<u>58,766</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(22,956)	(6,163)
Fund balances, beginning of year	<u>27,327</u>	<u>33,490</u>
Fund balances, end of year	<u><u>4,371</u></u>	<u><u>27,327</u></u>

**Gower Street United Church
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Organ Fund
December 31, 2015**

	<u>2015</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>2014</u> <u>Total</u>
Revenue		
Offerings	33,129	35,379
United Church Women donation	-	500
Men's club donation	-	2,000
	<u>33,129</u>	<u>37,879</u>
Total revenue	33,129	37,879
Expenditures		
Repairs and maintenance	-	-
Interest on long term debt	2,222	3,359
	<u>2,222</u>	<u>3,359</u>
Total expenditures	2,222	3,359
Excess of revenue over expenditures	30,907	34,520
Fund balances, beginning of year	<u>385,228</u>	<u>350,708</u>
Fund balances, end of year	<u><u>416,135</u></u>	<u><u>385,228</u></u>

Gower Street United Church
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Endowment Fund
December 31, 2015

	<u>2015</u> Total	<u>2014</u> Total
Revenue		
Unrealized gain(loss) on investments	(78,557)	11,038
Total revenue	<u>(78,557)</u>	<u>11,038</u>
Expenditures		
Interest and bank charges	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total expenditures	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(78,557)	11,038
Fund balances, beginning of year	<u>585,922</u>	<u>574,884</u>
Fund balances, end of year	<u><u>507,365</u></u>	<u><u>585,922</u></u>

Gover Street United Church
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Other Funds
December 31, 2015

Revenue	Archives Fund	Handbell Choir Fund	Benevolent Fund	Bequest Fund	Cemetery Fund	Choir Fund	Bridges to Hope Fund	Garden Fund	Gover Youth Band Fund	Sound System Memorial Fund	Christian Education Trust	D Oswald Organ Memorial Fund	Memorial Fund	Benevolent CAS Head Fund	Chaplaincy Fund	Outreach Fund	History of Gover Fund	Mens Club Fund	Mission & Services Fund	Gover 200 Fund	Other Funds	2015 Total	2014 Total	
Revenue	-	-	745	5,000	1,748	130	985	15	480	-	-	-	-	-	1,195	6,061	545	6,178	37,476	38,526	2,087	94,913	75,771	
Total revenue	-	-	745	5,000	1,748	130	985	15	480	-	-	-	-	-	1,195	6,061	545	6,178	37,476	38,526	2,087	101,091	75,771	
Expenditures	-	-	1,042	-	110	2,450	240	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,117	6,671	-	5,838	24,389	200	-	42,714	46,336	
Other fund expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjustments to prior years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	-	-	1,042	-	110	2,450	240	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,117	6,671	-	5,838	24,389	200	-	42,714	46,336	
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	-	-	297	5,000	1,638	(2,320)	725	(42)	480	-	-	-	-	(25)	18	610	545	240	13,087	38,326	2,087	58,377	17,535	
Fund balances, beginning of year	572	456	1,785	22,645	-	1,020	-	(287)	-	800	220	7,721	5,891	(48)	-	31,408	8,750	50	470	-	(6,103)	76,349	59,814	
Fund balances, end of year	572	456	1,488	27,645	1,538	(1,300)	725	(309)	480	800	220	7,721	5,416	(74)	18	30,798	10,295	250	13,557	38,326	(4,016)	134,725	76,349	