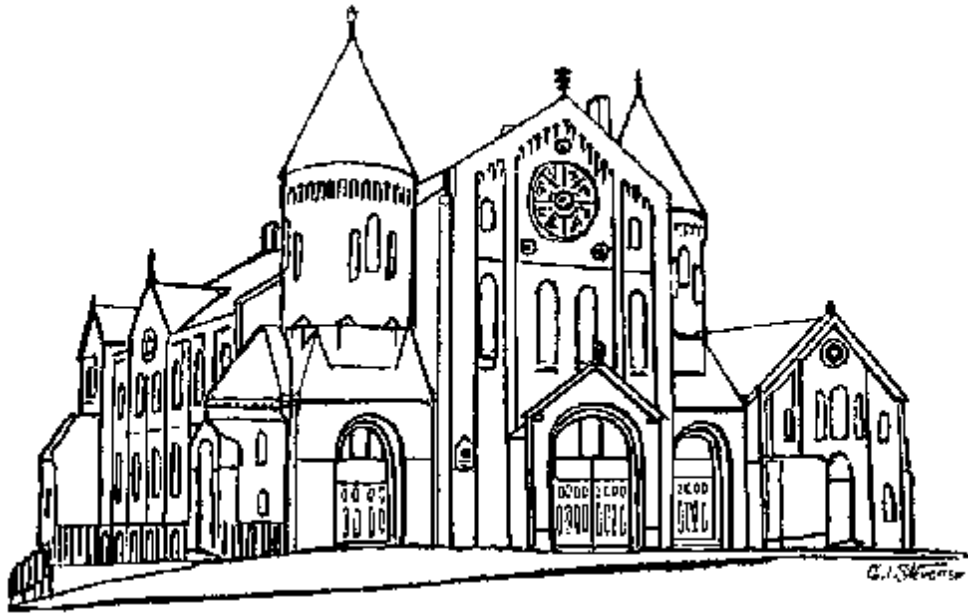


# GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH

St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016



### **Ministers:**

Rev. Guy Matthews (January – August)

The Rev. Dr. D. Paul Crittenden (September – December)

**Congregational Designated Minister:** Keith Wiseman

**Minister Emerita:** The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

**Choir Director:** Dr. D. 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: 753-7320

E-Mail: [gsuc@nl.rogers.com](mailto:gsuc@nl.rogers.com) Website: [www.gowerunited.ca](http://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.**

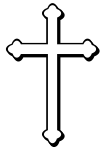
**We trust in God.**

**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.**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## CONTENTS:

CHURCH BOARD ANNUAL REPORT .....4

FROM THE MINISTERS DESK ..... 8

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS .....7

HERITAGE AND ARCHIVES.....10

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL.....11

OUTREACH COMMITTEE.....12

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE.....14

PROPERTY COMMITTEE .....15

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE.....15

VISION 2025 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE.....18

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE .....19

GROUPS AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS.....20

GOWER COMMUNITY BAND .....20

GENERAL PROTESTANT CEMETERY COMMITTEE .....22

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN .....24

GOWER STREET MEN’S CLUB .....23

SENIOR CHOIR .....28

SENIORS CLUB .....30

ORGAN RESTORATION COMMITTEE .....31

BRIDGES TO HOPE.....33

TRUSTEES ..... 34

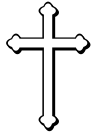
MINUTES OF 2016 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.....36

## INSERTS:

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

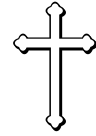
- **FINANCE COMMITTEE**
- **FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**
- **FINANCIAL COMMITTEE Proposed Budget for 2017**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 2017



# CHURCH BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Lorne LeDrew, Chair, Official Board



It seems like just yesterday that I was composing my report for the 2015 Annual Report. At that time, we were coming out of a very exciting and activity filled Gower 200 year. This year was therefore going to be somewhat a bit of a return to “normal”. Alas it was not to be as Rev. Guy was unable to return to Gower and consequently we spent the first nine months of the year without a permanent Minister. Nevertheless, as you will discover when reading through the various Committee reports contained herein that we accomplished many of the things that we had set out at the beginning of the year. We did this through the hard work and dedication of many people throughout the congregation who stepped up to the plate and contributed their time and talents. I wish to say a special thank you to Keith Wiseman and Rev Marion who provided the leadership through most of this time. I also want to express our appreciation to Doug Dunsmore, Rev. Florence Sanna, Rev. Dave Guzzwell and many others who helped out in so many ways when called upon. I would also like to recognize Linda Hogan and all those who volunteered in the office for their steadfast work.

Once again at the beginning of the year the Board established a number of Priorities. I will take a few moments to report on how we did on each:

- 1. Ministerial Leadership** - As you are aware the Search Committee was successful in calling Rev. Dr. Paul Crittenden as a Supply Minister for the period September 2016 to August 2017. We will be making an announcement at today’s meeting of the Minister whom we will be calling for the period September 2017 to July 2018 should Rev. Guy not return.
- 2. Develop and commence Implementation Plan for Vision 2025** – The Vision 2025 document was approved at a Special Congregational Meeting in June. Lorraine Busby then took on the leadership of this important initiative and you will see in her report the achievements including the symbolic re-starting of the Tower Clock!
- 3. Prepare the Congregation to make informed input to the 5 Remits from General Council** The Downtown Churches Committee has taken the leadership in this area and has recently held a workshop to study 2 of the 4 remits. Gower both hosted and participated in this session led by Roy West of Gower and Tim Reynolds from Cochrane. Please take the time to read and listen to the material that we will be making available. The Board needs to receive your input and feedback so that we can vote on **your** behalf in May.
- 4. Complete Roof Restoration Project** – This project is moving along and Phase 1 is nearing completion. Through a Government JCP Grant we have four workers completing the interior refurbishing work in the stairwell area, Council Room and Nursery. Once we complete that we have a number of other areas in the church to tackle as well as finishing the painting in the Sanctuary. Phase 2 which includes the rest of the connecting roof and the memorial Building will commence during 2017 as well as a fundraising initiative – stay tuned. Many thanks go out to Bruce Nickerson for his tireless efforts on this project.
- 5. Contribute to the Downtown Church’s Committee with action** – On behalf of Gower I have continued to Chair the Downtown Churches Committee and we have active involvement of many others from Gower. In addition to learning from each other we have continued to coordinate combined services, held a Lenten Bible series entitled Re-imagining Church, have provided administrative assistance to Cochrane, planned and conducted joint

Remit workshops and are currently engaging with Heritage NL to study the challenges and opportunities for dealing with our Heritage properties.

6. **Manage our Finances** – As you will see when you go through the Financial Report we have come close to a balanced operating budget. Something we have not accomplished for a very long time. We have also had two large donations to the Endowment fund totalling \$75,000 as well as a \$10,000 contribution to the Organ fund. The Organ fund is getting very close to being paid off which is something we need to celebrate! All of this is both heartening and positive for Gower as we start to plan for the future. Thank you for making this possible!
7. **Communications Strategy** – Lynette Hillier has been leading an active Communications Committee who have been laying the groundwork in this area. Please see Lynette's Report.

As you may be aware just over a year ago, in partnership with the VOCM Cares Foundation, we made arrangements to sponsor a Syrian refugee family. Months went by with seemingly little movement until November when we were advised that a family would be forthcoming. In December, we were pleased and excited to have the Alasama family arrive. Kyle Massey and his committee have been doing a great job in making them feel welcome and getting settled in.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Board and the various Committees who continue to work tirelessly on your behalf. A special thank you to David Wardlaw, Angeline Anstey, Linda Nickerson, and Bruce Nickerson who have either finished their terms on the Board or have had to step down. I also thank all the volunteers who have worked in the office, around the building, and on the various committees – without you Gower would just not be the same!!

I know you join me in wishing Rev. Guy the very best as we keep him in our prayers and thoughts and also Keith as he pursues his studies at the Atlantic School of Theology.

Lastly, I want to thank Doug, Dana, Carl, Edsel, David and Linda for their continued dedication to Gower and to Rev. Paul a special thank you for his effective leadership both spiritually and administratively and for his friendship.

With Blessings!  
Lorne



## FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Respectfully submitted by

**The Rev. Dr. D. Paul Crittenden. B.A., M.Div., S.T.M., D. Min.**

What a joy it has been to be minister at Gower Street United Church, if only for a few months in 2016, from September to December.

Together we have celebrated the Lord's Day with regular services, interspersed with baptisms and communion. There have been marriages and there have been funerals. The regular rhythm of life has been celebrated and reflected upon. Thank you for allowing me to journey with you through those milestones of our community life.

Thank you to Lorne LeDrew, the Chair of the Board, the officers and members of the Board for their hard work in sustaining the ongoing ministry of this most influential church. Your dedication to the job at hand has been exemplary.

There are many challenges facing us at this time. The questions are many. They revolve around staffing needs, cooperation with other churches, filling the cracks in the welfare safety net, maintaining an older church building and other concerns.

I have every confidence in the ingenuity and gospel resolve of Gower. These concerns will be met and overcome with the style and grace of a Church well practiced in Kingdom ways.

To the staff – a big thank you for your hard work and dedication. You present a warm, friendly presence to the community – people know us as the friendly Church. The ministry of music – thanks to Carl and Doug - has been outstanding, well supporting and encouraging us from Sunday to Sunday.

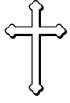
My contract is only for one year. The time is moving along quickly.

I commend to your reading the contents of this Annual Report. Herein is the work of your Church – the financial stewardship, the wise use of time, talent and treasure to which we have agreed.

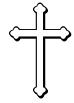
Thank you one and all for your part in the total ministry of Gower.

To God be the glory.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS



### **WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS** Respectfully submitted by Angeline Anstey, Chair



The mandate of the Worship & Sacraments Committee includes providing for regular and special worship services, the administration of the sacraments, 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 a year of visioning and more changes as Keith Wiseman continued on as Gower's Coordinator of Congregational Life under the guidance of Rev. Marion Pardy. We were delighted that Keith was accepted as a student at AST to begin studies in preparation for ordination and are thankful that The Rev. Dr. D. Paul Crittenden agreed to become the minister at Gower until August 31, 2017.

The choirs and band enriched our services of worship throughout the year. In May we held a Memorial Hymn Sing with support from the senior and junior choirs. We raised \$2300.00 in support of the Operating Fund and the Mission & Service Fund and are grateful for the support from our congregation.

In April and May with the support of The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy and Rev. Florence Sanna we held Confirmation classes and in May we had 8 youth Confirmed, 3 Re-affirmations of Faith and 4 Transfers of Membership.

In May we also commemorated the Battle of The Atlantic Sunday with Rev. Ian March-MacCuish presiding.

In August we held a service of farewell for Keith Wiseman who had served as our Congregation Designate Minister of Pastoral Care and then our Coordinator of Congregational Life. Keith has served our congregation well in a time of transition and we are grateful to him and to Rev. Marion Pardy for maintaining the stability and growth of our congregation. In September we warmly welcomed The Rev. Dr. D. Crittenden for a year. Rev. Paul brings with him years of ministerial experience from which we have benefitted and continue to grow.

In October we held a Service of Gratitude with Rev. Guy Matthews. Our prayers and appreciation continue for him in his sick leave.

In 2016 we had 14 Baptisms, 14 Deaths and 10 Weddings. Holy Communion was served 5 times throughout the year. We are grateful for the support of clergy from our congregation and from other congregations.

We have continued in our worship with the other downtown congregations.

In my final report as Chair of The Worship & Sacraments Committee I want to express my deep-felt gratitude to those who have been so supportive over the last 6 years: to the wonderful committee members- Keith Wiseman, Gwen Alcock, Cal Best and Florence Sanna. To Rev's Guy Matthews, Marion Parry and Paul Crittenden, to Carl Wright, Gail Wideman, Judi Somers, Bert Riggs, Carl Stevenson, the music staff, Linda Hogan for all her work and help, David Noseworthy and to the members of Gower Board and congregation - it has been rewarding to serve in this respect. God Bless you all.

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

### **Baptism**

**Emily Eileen Violet Glover**  
John Glover & Heather Ellsworth

**Isla Mae Irene Flaherty**  
Cletus Flaherty & Koren Thomson

**Morgan Eva Lesley Bartlett**  
Juanita Morgan & Gail Bartlett

**Megan Jane Hawco**  
W. David Hawco & Kathryn Williams

**Sophie Noelle Larose**  
Mathieu Saint Pierre Larose & Nicole Jones

**Audreauna Cynthia Eileen Crane**  
Cole Sheppard & Makayla Crane

**Blake Michael Murphy**  
Christopher Murphy & Shannon Martin

**Julia Marina Butt**  
Jonathan Butt & Rachelle Ryan

**Jasmine Renee Gill**  
Stuart Gill & Kathrin Ballerstaedt

**Kylen Christopher Smyth**  
Joseph Smyth & Lisa Stanley

**Jada Victoria Gill**  
Stuart Gill & Kathrin Ballerstaedt

**Charlotte Tiffany Tassie Burt**  
Jonathan Burt & Jessica Curtis

**Georgia Marie Marilyn Folkes**  
Kenneth Folkes & Stephanie Roberts

**Bonnabelle Mae Tolentino**  
Alvin Tolentino & Angela Gill

### **Deaths**

Anthea Bonnell  
James L. Thistle  
Corey Skanes  
Wendy Stevenson  
Ruby Louise Gough

Roy S. Dwyer  
Evelyn Dwyer  
Lester Goulding  
Edward Hunter  
Ruby Rowena Taylor

Geoffrey Peters  
Marguerite Dawe  
Alfred Kevin Laite  
Edna Florence Hunter



**Confirmation**

Crystal Marie Soper  
Malcolm David Snow  
Abigail Hannah Evans

Lewis Geoffrey Peters  
Braden Matthew Francis  
Lawrence

Miriam Cecilia Simmons  
Elizabeth Noella Clarke  
Clara Mildred Peters

**Re-Affirmation**

Katherin Ballerstaedt Gill

Lawrence Edward Kelly

Terry Thomas Sullivan

**Transfer-in of Membership**

Gwen Alcock  
Dave Alcock

Hazel Milley  
Helen Milley

Doreen Riche

**Transfer-out of Membership**

Rev. Dr. George LeDrew

Linda LeDrew

**Marriage**

Richard Kwako Afenyo  
& Jacqueline Gail Davis

Robert Taite Viscount  
& Rebecca Lynn Lethbridge

Matthew John Newell  
& Robyn Elizabeth Tucker

Joshua John Faulkner  
& Kelli Lynn Fitzpatrick

Ross Owen Bowers  
& Hilary Jayne Hiscock

Justin Keith Dawe  
& Nicole Ashley Glynn

Raelene Agnes Danielle Burke  
& Laura Donna Rose Earle

Michael Patrick Ignatius Brennan  
& Alyssa Pearl Feener

Simon William Penney  
& Amanda Kari Whiteway

Cory Lee Harnett  
& Janine Rebecca Alcock



**HERITAGE AND ARCHIVES**  
Respectfully submitted by Jim Hiller, Chair



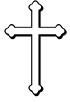
The committee was mainly concerned during 2016 with the new illustrated history of Gower Street church. The authors, Janet Miller Pitt and Robert Pitt, have made considerable progress. Much of the research has been completed, and new stories and illustrations have been uncovered – including the original architectural drawings. It is hoped that the book will appear later in 2017. It will be published by Flanker Press. It is clear, however, that if this is to be a first-rate product, with at least some colour illustrations, additional funding will be needed. The board decided that this project should be independently financed, and the basic amount was indeed raised. However, the original estimates allow very little flexibility and contributions would be very welcome. There will of course be income from sales, but this is long-term and possibly uncertain.

Two summer students did valuable work in the church archive, assisted the history project, and helped in other ways.

The committee managed the Days Open period in September, 2016, and we are grateful to those church members who assisted. Whether Gower will participate in 2017 is under discussion.

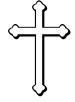
In October 2016, I attended a National Trust workshop in Ontario on the future of “places of faith”, and submitted a report to the board. In summary, the message was that we should work with other denominations and other faiths, be imaginative and creative, and adapt to changing circumstances.

One result was an address to the downtown churches group by Jerry Dick of the Newfoundland Historic Trust, who also attended the workshop. An interdenominational committee is to be formed in the near future to think about these issues.



## **MINISTRY & PERSONNEL**

**Respectfully submitted by Daryl Pullman, Chair M&P**



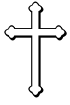
2016 has been a busy year for the M&P committee due in large part to the unfortunate chronic illness and long-term disability of our beloved Reverend Guy Matthews. Fortunately we were served faithfully and competently by Mr. Keith Wiseman under the faithful tutelage of the Very Reverend Dr. Marion Pardy throughout the interim until the arrival of Reverend Dr. Paul Crittenden in the fall. Reverend Paul has settled in nicely, has developed a strong and close working relationship with the staff, and is providing excellent spiritual leadership to Gower. The M&P Committee is pleased to draw on the wisdom and experience of Reverend Paul as we faithfully consider how Gower can more effectively serve the congregation and the community as we move forward. We expect to explore a number of interesting possibilities as we move into the coming year.

The M&P Committee wants to acknowledge the on-going excellent service of our paid staff. During 2016 the Committee worked with Linda Hogan to update and expand her job description. Her position is now described as “Office Manager” and her hours have been increased to full time. Linda continues to provide oversight for many of the day to day activities of this busy church, including coordinating the activities of numerous volunteers who assist on a variety of fronts. The Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to Linda Hogan and to the many faithful volunteers who often work tirelessly behind the scenes. David Noseworthy continues to devote his energies to ensuring that our facility remains open and accessible for the many activities that occur here from week to week. We thank David for his excellent service as well. A key adjustment to the Office Manager’s job description entailed reducing her direct responsibility for the day to day oversight of the various rental contracts for groups and organizations that use the church facilities from time to time. The Committee would like to express its thanks to Mr. Ken Peters in particular for assuming a larger role in this regard.

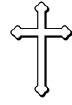
Other on-going activities of the M&P Committee include formalizing the process by which the Committee is informed of and provides oversight for the appointment of replacement workers and ‘paid volunteers’. The Committee is in the process of formalizing a process to ensure that all who require police checks (as per United Church guidelines) receive them in a timely manner and that appropriate records are kept.

The M&P Committee wants to acknowledge once again its sincere appreciation to the music staff that continues to provide excellent leadership to the Gower community. Gower is known for its wonderful music and we are grateful to those who devote so much of their time, energy and talent to contribute so significantly to our worship experience. 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.

Gower continues to be served faithfully by the members of the M&P Committee including Dr. Roy West, Mrs. Marie-Beth Wright, Mrs. Roberta Gill, and Dr. Pam Snow. All have been serving Gower faithfully for many years. As Chair of the Committee I’d like to close this annual report by recognizing them for their faithful service.



**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**  
**Respectfully submitted by David Guzzwell, Outreach Chair**



I would like to start my report by quoting from Barb Myles's to our Board on the history and the nimble way we are bringing the lunch program into the future.

The weekly Wednesday Lunch Program at Gower began in October 2011 in order to fill a need of downtown residents, when Street Reach could no longer operate their lunch. Over the past year the number of our guests has diminished significantly, at least partly in response to increased programming on Wednesdays at the Gathering Place.

As of December 28, 2016 the regular Wednesday lunch was replaced by a number of other initiatives, after consultation with other members of the Downtown Outreach Coalition, the Gower Outreach Committee and all other groups who have volunteered with the program. These activities are focused on filling gaps in food service in the Downtown core. It is worth noting that guests to the Gower meal program are largely the same people who utilize the following services. All volunteers were provided an opportunity to become involved in the new initiatives.

Our new services include:

- monthly baking of muffins which are provided for food hampers at Bridges To Hope
- preparation and serving of a Sunday Soup Supper on the second Sunday of each month. This meal is served at the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Aldershot Street, which already provides meals on most other Sundays.
- provision of a lunch time meal at Gower periodically during the year, on days when there is no other meal available downtown. These dates will be identified through communication with other meal providers and volunteer help will be sought for these events.

In the next few months, the Outreach Committee will meet to discuss and draft guidelines for this new phase of our program. After a trial period of six months, we will review our progress and plan for the future.

Sincerely,  
Barb Myles  
Outreach Committee Representative  
Gower Street United Church

As of December 28, our last meal, the attendance had dropped to an average of under 50 clients.

**New Initiatives**

Our first meal of our new program was served on New Year's Eve, hosted by the RCMP Veterans with an attendance of 24 people. In addition to this event the "A Team" of volunteers in one week have produced 70 dozen muffins for inclusion in Bridges To Hope food hampers. Our next meal was a Sunday soup supper at the Seventh Day Adventist Church with 35 people in attendance. This filled a need to provide the only meal that was served by our coalition on that day.

Over the year our committee, made up of very talented people, brought their leadership skills, honed in the wider community, to our committee.

Pat West and Len Busby bring their passion for Bridges to Hope. Both volunteer there and Pat also serves on the Board.

Len is our go to person for all things regarding the White Gift Christmas tree and box wrapping for that service. In the preparations for this he takes on the job of herding all of us cats into purrrrrfect harmony. A thankless job if ever there was one. Len also hosted many of the Wednesday lunches.

Jill Handrigan brings her analytical mind and split second use of technology to retrieve essential information germane to the issue at hand. She also has hosted numerous Wednesday noon lunches with her volunteers most of which are fellow teachers.

Judy Somers helps with many of the lunch programs. She organizes the monthly Birthday Sundays with the money going to World Development & Relief. Knowing the history of the congregation, Judy helps us develop a context for our evolving mission work.

Bert Riggs brings all the organizational and linguistic skills that would make any organization shine. Now I wish that I had asked him to either write or at least proof read this report, but I know Linda will. Thus you are able to make sense of what is written. The turning of a sow's ear into a silk purse is well within their abilities, as you can now see.

Pat Mercer shines the light on global issues. Her courage in responding to the request of the national church to live in Palestinian settlements places her in potential conflict situations amongst Palestinians and Israelis. Her desire for a peace based on justice and mercy shows a fellowship with the one of the cross. Pat's outreach was essential in forming the initial steering group for our refuge family. Many others assisted, including all of the committee. This work is now being led by the very capable leadership of Kyle Massey and his refuge committee. Kyle and Pat worked together from the outset to accomplish all that has happened. Pat with the help of her friends including the Crow's Nest mates have served many lunches. While serving as United Church chaplain in that hospital setting her outreach has extended to responding to crisis calls at Her Majesty's Penitentiary. In one particular case it took all her teacher resources, faith, and courage to light the candle of Hope for one young man in his dark night of the soul, in a volatile environment. Courage and Cross walk hand in hand with Pat in outreach.

Barb Myles is the heart and soul of this committee. It was her vision that gave birth to the lunch program that she shepherded into fruition in October 2011. Organizing and keeping track of which volunteer group was hosting, and having to respond quickly when a group couldn't make it, has been Barb's calling. She has also made it a point to get to know our clients and often shared a space at their tables. In that encounter one sees that the eyes of the stranger are strangely familiar. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Barb's outreach in this regard is not only at Gower, it reaches throughout the whole city with our partner organizations in the coalition.

Our meetings are often held after church at Coffee Matters. This community sponsor came on board with us two years ago to enable us to host the community Christmas dinner. Lately we have met at Barb's over a bowl of soup or at Rev Paul's. At the latter's we have learned some of the outreach work done in various churches that he has served. It has also been great to have his input in our discussions. He has planted many seeds that we may choose to cultivate.

As Chair it has been a time of learning and often of catch up. During this year we shall be looking for a new Chair from either inside or outside the committee to travel the next miles of the journey.

**Financial Summary for Outreach Committee, Gower Street United Church  
January 1 to December 31, 2016  
Respectfully submitted by Barbara Myles, Outreach member**

Opening Balance at January 1, 2016	31,163.09
 <i>Contributions</i>	
\$1260.00    Zatoun Olive Oil	
\$ 48.00    Misc.	
\$1308.00    total	+1308.00
	32471.09
 <i>Disbursements</i>	
\$3553.66    Lunch Program	
\$3553.66    total disbursements	-3553.66
Closing Balance at December 31, 2016	28917.43



**PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE  
Respectfully submitted by Karen Tuck, Chair**



I assumed the Chair of this committee as of March 2016 on the understanding that I would do so until February of 2017. While the committee as a whole met sporadically, individual members carried out the work of the committee faithfully and responsibly.

**Visitation:** During 2016 members of the Committee along with people of the congregation have provided pastoral care to more than 50 people who are no longer able to attend Gower functions for various reasons. Visits have been made to local hospitals and long term care facilities. Connecting with people by phone is an adjunct to the physical visit.

**Home Care Services:** The UCW has conducted regular monthly services at Tiffany Village. The Men’s Club has conducted regular monthly services at Cambridge Estates. The services are well received and very much appreciated. I thank the groups for this outreach.

Under the facilitation of Maude Peach Gower members have conducted services at Hillcrest Estates. Depending upon mistrial availability The Pastoral Care Committee is responsible for a monthly service at Pleasantview Towers which is open to all residents who wish to attend.

**Anniversary and Birthday Cards:** On behalf of the Minister and Church a flower basket is sent to Gower people who have reached 90 years and more. A greeting card is sent to those who celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary and beyond. Appreciation is extended to Dorothy Moore for her ongoing work in this regard.

**Christmas Packages:** Many thanks to Paula Vaughan, Delores Vaughan and Marie Anthony for organizing and preparing 60 packages for Gower members who have had some difficulty in getting out to Church this past year. Several people volunteered to deliver the packages which were all received with gratitude.

Committee Members: Phyllis Cole, Maude Peach, Shirley Chafe, Judi Kelland, Karen Tuck



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



The flat roof section between the Memorial Building and the main Church facing on Queens Road was completely rebuilt, this work also included the rebuilding of the NE corner of the Memorial Building which intersects this roof. This project was funded by the Gower 200 Fund. The Church also applied to the Provincial Government for funding under the Job Creation Partnership Program and received a grant valued at \$61000.00 for the labour and materials for a 24 week project, employing 4 people, for internal and external repairs. This project commenced Jan. 3, 2017, and is currently in progress. Some of the work to-date includes the refurbishing of the rooms in the building section between the Memorial Building and the Church.



**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Respectfully submitted by JoAnna Bennett, Chair**



The Stewardship Committee experienced a year of continued growth and development throughout 2016. Our membership fluctuated and eventually settled as we became a smaller group of five active and engaged members. The Committee participated in ongoing activities that support our Stewardship mandate and overall that of Gower. The following highlights these activities during 2016:

**Committee Membership**

Efforts were successful to increase Stewardship Committee membership to its current group of five that includes new members Ruth Francis and Margot Evans. We were saddened by the passing of Geoff Peters who was a long standing member of the Stewardship Committee and who will be truly missed. The competing demands of family life and other church activities make it challenging to take on new committee responsibilities; the contributions of all committee members are very much appreciated.

## **Fund Raising Activities**

### ***Dinner Theatre***

In May, The Spirit of Newfoundland Dinner Theatre, the major fundraiser for the Stewardship Committee, provided another evening of entertainment for a sold out audience. Under the expert coordination of Carl Stevenson and support from the Committee, the event raised \$3,500.00 and will continue as an annual fund raiser for the Stewardship Committee. Thanks to Carl and all who participated to helped make this event such a success.

### ***The ONCE Christmas Concerts***

Stewardship collaborated with The Men's Club, UCW and others who helped to serve hot cider and cookies during the intermission of the four concerts held in December. This was a successful venture that provided positive feedback from concert goers and contributed approximately \$1000.00 to the revenue generated from this annual event.

### ***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 Sunday Bulletin and Newsletter highlights of the benefits of PAR to both the giving congregation and Gower Church. These efforts saw a small increase in the number of PAR giving's. Stewardship will continue to support PAR activities.

## **Vision 2025**

Following the Congregational approval of the Vision 2025 Plan in 2016, the Stewardship Committee participated in implementation discussions with Lorraine Busby, Chair - Vision 2025 Implementation Committee. We look forward to being active participants as action plans related to Stewardships move towards implementation of this Plan.

## **Plans for 2017**

The following goals have been identified for the Stewardship Committee for the coming year:

- Further develop our committee mandate in collaboration with the Gower Board and the United Church of Canada;
- Collaborate with the Vision 2025 Implementation Committee to implement recommendations that involve Stewardship and it's role and responsibilities;
- Support and promote PAR contributions;
- Continue the annual Dinner Theatre fund raising event;

## **Conclusion**

I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Carl Stevenson, Cheryl Hanlon, Margot Evans and Ruth Francis for their efforts and support over the past year. I look forward to working with you as we take on the challenges of 2017.

In conclusion I leave you with this comment from the Jan 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"***





**VISION 2025 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**  
**Respectfully submitted by**  
**Lorraine Busby, Chair, Vision 2025 Implementation Committee**



On May 12, 2016, the final version of Vision 2025 (version 4.0) was reviewed by the Gower Board and agreement was reached to present to the congregation for final approval. At the Special Congregational Meeting held on June 12, 2016, Vision 2025 was approved and became the official 10 year plan for Gower Street United Church.

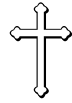
It took several months to put together the Implementation Committee and by early October there was a chair in place (Lorraine Busby) and two committee members (Patrick Griffin and Larry Kelly). Although the original intention was to appoint 4 individuals to head up the 4 Priority Focus Areas (Gower as People, Gower as Downtown Church, Gower and Sustainability, and Gower and Society) it was decided to move ahead with a committee of three given that most Vision 2025 action items would be undertaken by various Gower committees and groups.

In October it was suggested that restarting the Gower Tower Clock would be symbolic of the anticipated outcomes of Vision 2025. Several meetings were held with representation from the Property Committee, the Heritage and Archives Committee, and interested individuals from the congregation and the broader community. By the end of 2016 the clock was running, albeit with further maintenance and cleaning outstanding. The official announcement of restarting the clock was delayed until the New Year.

A Steering Committee comprised of Reverend Paul Crittenden, Lorne LeDrew, Fred Earle, Dan Simmons, and Joanna Bennett was formed to provide guidance and expedite decisions and approvals for the Implementation Committee. Several meetings were held and approval was given on a framework and structure to record action items for the 10 years of the plan. There was agreement that the Board should head up the recommendation to update the Mission, Vision, and Values; follow up was delayed until 2017 due to time constraints during Advent season. The Implementation Committee began meeting with committees and individuals to identify actions items for the long term plan. Numerous ideas and suggestions were recorded for formalizing and integrating into a consolidated approach for follow up in 2017.



## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT



Respectfully submitted by  
Lynette Hillier, Communications Committee Chair

The Communications Committee was formed in late spring of 2016 and is comprised of the following members:

Lynette Hillier, Chair  
Jill Handrigan  
Ken Butt  
David Robbins  
Suzanne Orsborn  
Ex-officio: Lorne Ledrew, Rev. Dr. D. Paul Crittenden  
and The Very Rev. Marion Pardy until September 2016

A strong theme within Vision 2025 is around improving communication activities within the congregation - and to the broader public - on the work and life of Gower Street United Church. There was a renewed focus to recruit a new Committee and to make the Chair of the Committee a member of Gower Street United Church's Board of Directors. One of the objectives of the Committee in the first year was to create a Communications Strategy for the church aimed at enhancing how we communicate both internally and externally.

The first step identified by the committee was to conduct a **Communication Audit** which is a comprehensive evaluation of an organization's ability to send, receive and share information with various audiences both within and externally to the organization. The Audit will help the committee formulate the communications strategy and gain a better understanding of opportunities and challenges as identified by key stakeholders.

The Communication Audit ongoing by the Committee is organized into three phases:

1. A Review of Communication Activities of Gower's Committees and Groups
2. A Review of Communication Activities of the Gower Office
3. Input from the Congregation on Communication/Outreach Vehicles

The Communications committee conducted a survey with all Gower Committees and Groups in 2016 - gathering feedback on tools used to communicate their work with the congregation, storage of email addresses, use of the Gower Website and Social Media.

Additionally, the Communications committee has completed a review of communication activities of the Gower Office. Key findings from a staff interview will be instrumental in building the Communications strategy in 2017.

Finally, our process to start gathering input from the Congregation will begin at the Annual Congregational Meeting. We look forward to your thoughts on how we can better communicate the life and work of the church to you!

### ***Social Media***

Since last spring, there's been a renewed focus on better utilizing Gower Street United Church's Facebook Page as a communication tool. With a focus on created content that features the activities of the church - the page has grown significantly over the past 9 months. At the height

of the Christmas Season, the Gower Street United Church Facebook Page was reaching over 25,000 Facebook users who engaged on the activity occurring on the page. Many rental users of the sanctuary space for concerts in the fall would engage and tag the Facebook page while in attendance - all enhancing the visibility of the church.

Who Follows Gower Street United Church on Facebook?

**The breakdown of our over 300 followers:**

70% Women

30% Men

Age 18 – 45: 39%

Age 45 – 64: 41%

Age 65+ – 16%

Unknown Age – 4%

The vast majority of those who connect with Gower Street United Church are **45 years of age or older** (57%)

If you have any announcements, photos of activities etc. from your group or committee with Gower Street United Church please don't hesitate to send them along to [lynette\\_hillier@hotmail.com](mailto:lynette_hillier@hotmail.com) and we'd be happy to schedule it to the page.

***Social Media Policy***

To help better guide our social media strategy, the Communications Committee drafted a Social Media Policy for review by the Church Board. The policy incorporates best practices from the United Church of Canada, and other United Churches who have developed comprehensive policies around social media and website use. The policy was tabled to the Board in late 2016 and passed in early 2017. It will help guide the committee as we continue to structure the page with a goal of informing and engaging the congregation.

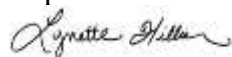
***Tower Clock Announcement***

Members of the Communications Committee were pleased to work with the Vision 2025 committee on this event. We circulated a prepared Press Release to local media on the restoration of the clock. We were pleased that The Telegram ran an article, VOXM featured it as a news piece and VOWR picked up the details for their audience as well.

In addition, the webmaster for [www.gowerunited.ca](http://www.gowerunited.ca) created a new section on the Tower Clock and updated the Vision 2025 section in advance of the press release.

Finally, we have had a lot of support and encouragement this past year to get the Committee up and running - our thanks to all those who have taken the time to engage in our work. We look forward to a productive 2017!

Report Submitted by:



## GROUPS AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS



### **GOWER COMMUNITY BAND 2016: A Year of Love** **Respectfully submitted by Edsel Bonnell, Director, Gower Community Band**



There has never been a year in the 44-year history of the Gower Band Program quite like 2016. The year began in sadness, with the passing on January 25 of the beloved Band “Mom”, Anthea Bonnell, who had touched the lives of some 550 band members and countless others in the church and community. This reality unleashed a veritable tsunami of love, reminiscence, and support. The Anthea Bonnell Memorial Fund (ABMF) for scholarships and awards has received generous gifts from many parts of the world to create a founding fund of \$20,000 to support post-secondary education in any discipline for students who have a strong commitment to community service reflecting the life and inclusivity of Anthea herself.

**ACTIVITIES:** The first performance of the year for the Band was Anthea’s funeral at Gower on January 28, and the ranks of the GCB were increased by former members of GCB and GYB who returned to play in tribute to “Mom Fly”. It was a beautiful service, with Anthea’s favourite music played by the Band and sung by the Gower Senior Choir, and meaningful tributes from the pulpit by Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parady, Rev. Sandy MacLean, and Anthea’s daughter-in-law, Susan Bonnell. Two weeks later, on Valentine’s Day, the Band fulfilled a commitment to play a “love-theme” concert with Jazz East as a benefit show which raised \$3,000 for the Kjellrun Hestekin Memorial Scholarship at MUN Music. On Sunday, March 20, the Band presented its annual Palm Sunday Musicale at Gower, and on April 30, GCB members joined with the popular band “Fahrenheit” to raise \$2,225 for the ABMF Scholarships. On June 12, the Band ministry continued with a “Musical Sermon” at Gower entitled: “Love, Hate, and the Misty Flats”. This service was followed by the Dedication of the Anthea Bonnell Memorial Plaque and Portrait by The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parady, and the Band was pleased and honoured to host a congregational luncheon for that event. On Sunday, July 3, the Director joined Keith Wiseman in preparing a special tribute to the members of Gower who had fallen in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The heroic tragedy of Beaumont Hamel was also honoured musically with the presentation of “The Handful That Survived”, Ben Taylor’s first-place award winning entry in this year’s GCB Terra Nova Program Composition Competition, in a gala concert on September 25. GCB General manager Dave Robbins played “The “Last Post” at the Service of Remembrance at Gower on November 6, and the Christmas season saw the Band presenting its annual Christmas Musicale with another “Musical Sermon” entitled “God Rest You Merry” at Gower on December 11, and reaching out to the community with performances at the Shrine Club, Tiffany Village, the St. John’s Rotary Club, and the annual Christmas-Eve double-performances at the St. John’s Long Term Care Centre East and West Towers. A busy but blessed year of activity, indeed!

**FINANCES:** Total income for the Band during 2016 amounted to \$34,482.48, comprised of \$24,887.48 in gifts from supporters, \$6,070.00 from concerts and performance honoraria, and \$3,525 from Band members. Total expenditure amounted to \$21,980.45, comprised of \$7,500.54 in operating expenses and rentals, \$4,500.00 in scholarships (not including our additional GYB Legacy Scholarship of \$1,100.00 annually which is fully endowed at Memorial University), \$3,750.70 in performance expenses (including the gift of \$3,000.00 to the Hestekin Scholarship

fund noted in activities above), \$2,228.79 in special events and projects by GCB members, \$367.20 in Music, and \$3,632.82 in Instrument & Equipment Purchases and Maintenance. In this latter respect, we were forced to bid fond farewell to our over-worked photocopier and purchase a new and improved machine at a cost of \$3,390.00, which becomes part of our capital assets and as such is removed from our Current Account data. After this deduction of \$3,390.00 (capital assets), the actual current account surplus for 2016 is \$15,892.03, to be retained in our Reserve Fund for Scholarships. Details of finances are available upon request from the Band or the Church office.

**APPRECIATION:** In 43 Annual Reports, I have always expressed profound gratitude to the Gower church family, our supporters, and the Band executive team and members. This year, on behalf of the Band, our tribute is to one whose spirit and example made the Band program what it is today, and continues to inspire us as we look to the future. In the words of her Memorial Tablet in the Band Room: "In loving memory of Honorary Life Member Anthea Bonnell, 1939-2016, whose untiring work, constant support, compassion, love, and community service became the heart and soul of Gower Bands." Truly, she loved life and lived love. Thank you, beloved Anthea, now and always.



**GENERAL PROTESTANT CEMETERY COMMITTEE**  
 Respectfully submitted by Vernon Simmons, GSUC Representative



**The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.**  
**Report of the Chairman of the Board**  
**To the Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

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 several thousand square feet of sods this year.

During the year we had 244 burials, a decrease of 23 over the previous year; and of these 67.63% were cremations, an increase over the previous year. The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	4.78%	3.11%	6.97%
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	82.61%	85.21%	79.50%
The Field of Honor	12.61%	11.28%	11.48%
Memorials Gardens Cemetery			2.05%
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>
Total Burials	230	257	244
Cremations Included	59.12%	58.75%	67.63%

Your Board met nine times during the past year.

Our Trust Fund for Perpetual Care last year was \$288,248.00. This year we added \$24,000.00. The fund now totals \$312,248.00. This is invested in GICs to earn an average of approximately 1.39%.

Since 2012, we have taken \$290,000.00 from our trust fund to complete Memorial Gardens. We have paid \$64,000.00 back into the trust fund. We will eventually pay back the full amount.

There have been seven burials in Memorial Gardens.

We experienced some problems with access to Memorial Gardens last fall during construction of the round a bout at the entrance from Ruth Avenue. The City of St. John's closed the road to the Cemetery because of safety regulations. An alternative route was provided through the Galway development out by Paddy's Pond overpass. The road has now been reopened.

We have completed work on the Field of Honour in Memorial Gardens. We installed concrete pylons and chain to enclose an area 120 ft. square, (14,400 sq. ft.). We also installed a concrete pad for a future monument, a concrete walkway from the parking lot and a 25ft. flagpole on a concrete base. Funding was provided by the Last Post Fund.

We have sold 52 of the 120 niches in the Columbarium installed at Mount Pleasant in 2015.

The Memorial Service at Mount Pleasant went well. The weather was good, attendance was very good, and our offering was up from the previous year. Another service was held at the General Protestant Cemetery with a small number of attendees; everything went well, and the offering was down from the previous year.

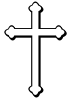
We appreciate those member churches that support the cemeteries financially and otherwise and thank them most sincerely. However we are still not receiving financial support from some of our 18 member churches. Each representative should make sure that their church's assessment is paid each year.

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



Over the past year, our UCW unit has sustained an active membership of 10-15 members per meeting.

In January, 2016, the executive decided to maintain the present slate of officers until the 2017 AGM, which is the designated election year. Our AGM was held on March 1, with no elections. In discussion with members, it was decided to cancel the February meeting due to low attendance during the winter months. This was done on a trial basis for one month.

Two major fundraisers were held during the year - our Annual Spring Tea & Sale; and our Christmas Tea & Sale. We were very pleased with the exceptional success of our Christmas Afternoon Tea. The UCW is ever grateful for all the support we receive from the congregation, family and friends. Without it, we would not be able to follow through with such endeavours. The income allows us to contribute to the support of the church, Mission & Service, and external community agencies.

In June the executive compiled and circulated a membership survey, in an effort to encourage membership input and participation. The feedback was used to give the executive direction in planning meetings and engaging members.

We had two guest speakers during the year. In April, Rachael Lutz gave an overview of the L'Arche community project during coffee time after church. In October, Rev. Marion Pardy lead us in a very interesting discussion on recent events and decisions of the National Conference.

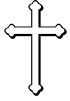
We continue to provide a monthly worship service at Tiffany Village, as well as our Annual Christmas Party for the Pottle Centre. We continue our involvement/ liaison with other UCW groups in and around the St. John's area which involves meetings, a spring Rally, East District AGM, World Day of Prayer, and a fall retreat.

Although our active membership continues to dwindle, we are committed to maintaining the function of the Gower UCW. We realize that many long standing traditions may have to change and the outlook for the future may see a different operational format.

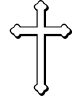


**GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
JANUARY 1, 2016 – DECEMBER 31, 2016  
Respectfully submitted by Anne Lambert, Treasurer**

Balance brought forward January 1, 2015	<b>\$ 636.45</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>	
Membership monthly offering	\$ 1064.00
Donations	\$ 437.00
Bring & Buy Fundraiser	\$ 211.00
Spring Sale	\$ 2162.35
Fall Sale	\$ 4398.30
Tiffany Village	\$ 255.50
 Total Income:	 <b>\$ 8528.15</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Gower Street United Church	
Operating Fund	\$ 4300.00
Mission & Service	\$ 2000.00
In Memoriam	\$ 100.00
Operational:	
Donations, gifts.	\$ 200.00
Spring Sale	\$ 90.96
Fall Sale	\$ 213.18
Bank charges	\$ 60.00
Wednesday lunch program	\$ 78.54
Pottle Centre Luncheon	\$ 165.24
East District Dues	\$ 300.00
Outreach:     United Church	\$ 400.00
Community	\$ 600.00
 Total Expenses:	 <b>\$ 8507.92</b>
Net balance	<b>\$ 656.68</b>



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



The Men's Club continues to receive wonderful support from the Gower Street congregation. This support allowed us to have another successful year in 2016. Thank you!

Our monthly meetings provide a time of fun, fellowship and good food for those attending the Men's Club while enabling us to plan our projects and fund-raising activities. These activities allow us to contribute to our church and outreach help to organizations and individuals in the wider community. As usual we held our Take out Teas fundraiser and our Flipper Dinner in the spring and our Auction and Men's Club Christmas Dinner later in the year. All four events were strongly supported. We are especially grateful to Santa Claus (a.k.a. Bruce Templeton) for his presentation at our Christmas Dinner

Commitment and involvement of the membership are keys to the Men's Club success. During the year we have enjoyed some interesting talks and activities at our meetings, including: in January, Bert Riggs giving a talk on Newfoundland History; in February, Michael Wert presented an overview of his CBC TV documentary on stories of veterans of the Newfoundland Regiment who fought in WW1; in April the NL Auditor General, Terry Paddon spoke on the role of the Auditor General's Office; while in May, Larry Dohey, the Curator at The Rooms gave a talk on the history of Long's Hill Cemetery; in September, Dan Maher conducted a training session on the use of the Automatic External Defibrillators; and in November, Rachel Lutz told us of the efforts to create a L'Arche community in St. John's:

Sadly in most years we record and honor the passing of club members. This year saw the passing of Tom Sparkes (a member of Team 3) who was a long time and loyal member of the Club.

We continue to support the Senior's Club program by both driving participants and cooking some of the dinners. We thank Gola Roberts and her team for their work with the Senior's Club and the opportunity it gives us to serve.

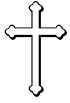
All the members of the Men's Club contribute in many ways. We are especially thankful to Max Beckett who is responsible for visitation and spends many hours visiting with our members who can no longer attend our dinner meetings.

We welcomed a few new members in 2016. We hope more members of the congregation will join us in 2017.

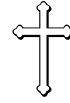
Finally I would like to offer my thanks to all the club members who make all these activities possible. We look forward to another year of service, fellowship and good dining in 2017.

**Gower Street United Church Men's Club  
Financial Report  
December 31, 2016  
Respectfully submitted by Lester Barbour, Treasurer**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Dinner meetings	\$ 2,288.00	\$ 3,675.00
Donations	2,500.00	1,550.00
Auction	6,615.00	5,446.00
Ladies Night	3,095.00	3,005.00
Take-out-Teas	21,659.00	19,320.00
Flipper Dinner	6,545.00	5,915.00
Other	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$42,702.00</b>	<b>\$38,931.00</b>
 <b>Expenses</b>		
Dinner meetings	\$ 3,433.00	\$ 4,285.00
Donations	3,500.00	4,200.00
Auction	784.00	711.00
Ladies Night	1,649.00	1,801.00
Take-out-Teas	8,757.00	8,610.00
Flipper Dinner	2,629.00	2,688.00
Tower Project	5,000.00	6,579.00
Tables & Chairs	14,111.00	4,178.00
Bank Charges	127.00	108.00
Kitchen	520.00	1,239.00
Luncheons	316.00	878.00
Misc.	<u>276.00</u>	<u>305.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$41,102.00</b>	<b>\$35,486.00</b>
<b>NET: Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 1,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,445.00</b>
<b>Cash Balance January 1</b>	<b>\$21,850.00</b>	<b>\$18,405.00</b>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>1,600.00</u>	<u>3,445.00</u>
<b>Cash Balance December 31</b>	<b>\$23,450.00</b>	<b>\$21,850.00</b>



**SENIOR CHOIR**  
**Respectfully submitted by Roberta Gill, Vice President**



The year 2016 opened with a change of pace for the GSUC Senior Choir. Along with several other choirs in the area we participated in a choral workshop where we worked with Charles Bruffy, a Grammy award-winning American conductor. The workshop culminated on January 24, with a rousing community concert held at the Kirk.

In January we also welcomed a quartet of MUN students who enhanced our musical sound for the semester: Emily Brown, Alison Petten, Andrew Dunsmore and Gavin Fraser. These singers were, for one year, supported by a bursary from the Bruneau Foundation. Their first “solo” contribution to our service was a rendition of “Reap What You Sow” by Pepper Choplin.

February is the month assigned to the Senior Choir to provide after-church coffee and goodies in the Tait-Osmond Room. We are grateful to choir members who contributed on each Sunday as required.

On March 23, our choir participated in a combined choir which sang at a Holy Week service held at George St. United Church. Easter, which fell in the month of March, is usually a busy time for our choir, as we prepare special Lenten and Easter anthems. In 2016 the choir sang at both the early Easter Sunday morning communion service and at the traditional 11 o’clock service. Between services a fellowship breakfast prepared by the choir executive was enjoyed by choir and clergy in the Lecture Hall.

In May two choral events required our participation. First, the Annual Memorial Hymn-sing took place during the morning service of May 8; and on May 15 our choir sang with other UC choirs at a concert to raise funds for the unfortunate citizens who were affected by the Fort McMurray fire disaster.

On June 11, 2016, the members of the Senior Choir were saddened to learn that our dear friend and devoted member of the soprano section, Wendy Stevenson, had suddenly passed away. With heavy hearts on June 15, we gathered with her family in the church sanctuary to honour and remember Wendy’s life. A large choir consisting of the members of the Gower Choir, PCNSO choir, and other community choirs sang two anthems: “Pie Jesu” by Jay Althouse and Mozart’s “Ave Verum Corpus”. Our director, Dr. Douglas Dunsmore, also sang a verse of the beautiful hymn, “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”. Following the service, Gower Choir hosted a reception in the Lecture Hall.

With Wendy’s presence lingering among us, later in the month we gathered at the North Bank Lodge in Pippy Park, along with Carl and his bass fiddle, for our yearly BBQ and sing-along. Wendy, we will always remember you.

On July 25, we said a sad good-bye to another of our devoted choir members, Emeritus member, Tom Sparkes. Tom, who had retired some years previously, sang in Gower Senior Choir for some forty plus years as a member of the bass section.

A good-bye of another sort was expressed to Keith Wiseman at a farewell service on August 28. Keith, one of our tenors, was accepted into the AST where he now pursues religious studies.

In September regular choir rehearsals resumed. On September 11, the choir was present at the first service conducted by the Rev. Dr. D. Paul Crittenden, a supply minister working as a one-year replacement while the Rev. Guy Matthews is on sick leave. In connection with this, our choir sang at two significant services in October: on October 9, a service of thanksgiving for the ministry of Rev. Matthews, and on October 12, a covenanting service between the congregation and Rev. Crittenden.

In October Carl Stevenson announced that he would be stepping down permanently as Choir President, after more than forty years in that capacity.

The Advent season is a very busy time for our choir. Special Christmas anthems were prepared for the “Carols and Anthems Sunday” (December 18), and for the Candlelight Christmas Eve midnight service. Every year at the Christmas Eve service, church goers enjoy both a special organ/flute prelude performed by Carl Goulding and Grace Dunsmore and our choir’s enhanced vocal sound as choir alumni and friends join us in the loft.

This year’s Christmas Party was graciously hosted by Linda and Sean Hogan. At this event, in order to recognize Carl Stevenson’s contribution to our choir, he was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his many years of leadership, and a framed photo of the church sanctuary by Ken Butt.

Also, in memory of his parents, Ena (Rideout) Butt and Alex Butt, both former members of Gower Senior Choir, Ken has presented to the church a copy of this photo which can be viewed in the choir room.

The choir membership at the time of writing totals 35.

The current Executive: Vice-president Roberta Gill; Secretary/Treasurer Marilyn Peters; Gown Conveners Ruth Churchill and Sandra Davis.

Members Emeritus: Jean Adey, Dorothy Dick and Barbara Moulton.

The choir maintains two bank accounts:

1. Special Projects Account (funded by various fund-raising events)  
Opening balance, Jan. 1, 2016: \$3766.13  
Closing balance, Dec. 31, 2016: \$3661.13
  
2. Social Account (funded by weekly contributions)  
Opening balance, Jan. 1, 2016: \$536.17  
Closing balance, Dec. 31, 2016: \$ 95.19

The choir says thank-you to director Dr. Douglas Dunsmore, organist Carl Goulding and Grace Dunsmore for their leadership; and to all choir members and the Gower congregation who faithfully support the music program of the church.



**SENIORS CLUB**  
**Respectfully submitted by**  
**Gola Roberts, Coordinator, Gower Seniors Club**



The Gower Senior's Club enjoyed another great year. The monthly attendance averaged 75 to 80, mostly from the community at large. The two special events, the Christmas Gala and the May Social brought much excitement and fun. The number of tickets sold for these events were approximately 140. The Christmas meal was prepared and served by the Men's Club with some assistance serving the meal from members of the congregation. It was a great time of fellowship. We are thankful to the Men's Club for their continued efforts with driving and preparing other monthly meals.

It was delightful for the Senior's Club to donate \$500.00 to the Men's Club in appreciation of their help and caring. If there is anyone who would like to help the Men's Club with driving on the last Tuesday of September, October, November, April and May please call the office at 753-7286. I am told that there is much personal satisfaction in this endeavor and also you are invited to stay for the meal and entertainment.

Special thanks to the musicians who volunteer their talent and time. They have become our special friends.

In closing, much appreciation is extended to Rev. Dr. D. Paul Crittenden for his support, Linda Hogan, Office Manager and David Noseworthy, Custodian for their help throughout the year. To members of the executive, Joyce Power, Sharon Monahan-Nash (Secretary/Treasurer) for their unmeasurable support throughout the year. The Senior's Club would also like to extend good wishes to Carrie Lethbridge (Liaison Officer) for better health.



**SENIORS CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**JANUARY 1, 2016 - DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
 Respectfully submitted by Sharon Monahan, Treasurer



Bank Balance brought forward January 1, 2016	\$ 381.82
 Income:	
Dinners	\$6034.00
Other Collection/Donations	<u>\$ 31.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$6065.00</b>
 Less Expenses:	
Dinners	\$4511.80
Hired Help (clean-up)	\$ 500.00
Gifts (entertainment, birthdays)	\$ 105.00
Bank Fees	<u>\$ 59.40</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5176.20</b>
 Less Donations:	
Bridges to Hope	\$ 200.00
Gower Men's Club	\$ 500.00
Other	<u>\$ 95.00</u>
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$ 795.00</b>
 <b>Balance</b>	 <b>\$ 475.62</b>
 Bank Balance as of December 31, 2016	 \$ 1012.95
Less outstanding cheques	<u>\$ 537.33</u>
<b>Reconciled Balance</b>	<b>\$ 475.62</b>



**ORGAN RESTORATION FUND COMMITTEE**  
 Respectfully submitted by David Norris, Chair



During 2016 we received cash contributions (donations/offerings) totaling \$38,234 which enabled us to continue the progress of paying down the organ restoration loan. As of December 31, 2016, after meeting our interest obligations, the balance on the organ loan had been reduced to \$27,295, down from \$60,631 at the end of 2015. It must also be noted that, the organ fund had a net cash balance of \$6,902 at yearend, as well as \$7,550 in accounts receivable from other funds. Reflecting these current assets of therefore, by December 31, 2016 we effectively had the ability to reduce the organ loan to just under \$13,000. In other words, by the end of 2016, we had achieved over 97% of our initial objective of funding the \$500,000 capital cost of the organ restoration.

Our ongoing success in the Organ Restoration Financial Campaign continues to be attributable, to the wonderful commitment and generous support of the Gower Congregation. This has come to us throughout the campaign in the form of regular direct donations, special donations in memory of family and friends, as well as support for, and attendance at, various functions and activities sponsored by; the Men's Club, the UCW, the Choir, and the Gower Band. In addition, it must again be emphasized that our success is also very much attributable to support from the broader community – the various “friends of Gower”; the foundations, the charitable funds, and various members of the music community.

We cannot over emphasize our gratitude to those who have contributed to the campaign over the years, and especially to those who have made donations in memory of loved ones and friends. This year we particularly acknowledge the generous contribution to the fund by Mrs Madeline White in memory of her husband Keith. Also, we wish to acknowledge the several years of commitment and dedication of Carl Stevenson and his family throughout the campaign. While Carl had to defer his annual art exhibition and sale of works last year, the contributions in memory of Wendy provided a wonderful lift to the campaign in 2016. It is our fondest hope that the enduring power of the magnificent music of Gower's Casavant Organ will continue to reinforce and revitalize the treasured memories of family members who have gone before us.

The Organ Restoration Committee extends its sincerest appreciation, on behalf of the entire Congregation, to every individual, group and organization that has supported the Organ Restoration Campaign over the years. As we enter 2017, we are clearly in the “home stretch” to close the books on the campaign. We welcome your continuing support to finish the job. In fact, a continuation of your support at the levels we experienced though last year will ensure the loan obligation is **fully repaid, and mission accomplished, well before the end of 2017!**

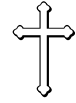
Thank you so much!





## **BRIDGES TO HOPE**

**Respectfully submitted by Pat West, Gower Representative**



2016 has been both exciting and challenging for Bridges to Hope (BTH). We are now serving greater numbers of people from larger geographic areas throughout the Northeast Avalon. The Bridges Food Pantry provided food aid assistance to 9000 people, food aid included fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh baked bread and other important food staples.

Our community kitchen is now serving a robust dual purpose, volunteer bakers bake bread daily in the morning for the Food Pantry, and cooking classes are held in the afternoon. Bridges is still working in the community on collaborative cooking programs such as Gateway, which is a partnership with Memorial University Medical School and the Association for New Canadians. And, with organizations such as the Elaine Dobbin Autism Centre, where the Centre clients come to Bridges to volunteer in both the pantry and the community kitchen. Bridges has also been working with the University, specifically the Departments of Sociology, Social Work and School of Business Social Enterprise Centre. Students from each of these disciplines, have been doing credit course work at Bridges throughout 2016.

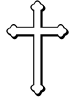
Plans for the new Food Pantry are progressing on schedule. This is thanks in large part to the project Chair Pat West and Glenn Barnes, Glenn Barnes Architecture Inc. All building approvals are in place, and BTH is working on a Capital Campaign to be launched in the spring. Stay tuned for details!

This past year, the Board at BTH focused considerable effort on organizational development. We now have a solid staff team including, in addition to our Executive Director, a full-time Food Pantry and Community Kitchen Coordinator (Jody Williams), a part-time Administration and Accounting Coordinator (Kelly Yetman), and a part-time Food Pantry Intake Coordinator (Raylene Roche). We are continuing to develop our policies and procedures, human resources practices and governance methods. The staff and Board are assisted with a dedicated group of volunteers to help with food distribution, bread baking as well as special events.

Bridges To Hope continues to offer its community outreach programs such as Bag To School. This program once again provided 750 students in Grade K to 12 and Adult Basic Education with curriculum based school supplies for 2016. And Bridges also held its annual Christmas Hamper campaigning in partnership with the St. John's Rotary Club, providing 380 full Christmas hampers to Bridges To Hope clients.

The programs at Bridges To Hope are successful because of the dedicated staff and volunteers who give of their time and talents. Thank you to all those who work so hard to make our programs and services so impactful. Your assistance is invaluable.

The work of Bridges to Hope is a true community endeavor. The partner churches, corporate sponsors, and individuals provide support to those in our community who need help. Bridges To Hope is an Incorporated Ministry of The United Church of Canada in partnership with the Newfoundland Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.



## **GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Respectfully submitted by Edward Roberts, Chair**



Gower's Board of Trustees, in accordance with the United Church Manual and Acts of both Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada, holds the legal title to of all of the Congregation's property, both real and personal. Accordingly, they are the "owners" of the Congregation's two buildings and all of its furnishings and equipment. They are also entrusted with management of the Congregation's Endowment Fund ("the Fund").

Gower's Trustees Board, as constituted by a Resolution adopted at the Congregational AGM held on 26 February 2012, consists of 15 members, one of them is our Minister. (The Congregation's Resolution was approved subsequently by the East District Sub-Executive, on 21 March 2012.) The current members, appointed by the Congregational Board on 12 January 2017, are: Eric Hodder, Diane Hogan, Linda Nickerson, David Norris, Suzanne Orsborn, Sheridan Parsons, Mark Peters, Richard Pike, David Roberts, Edward Roberts, Dan Simmons, Carl Stevenson, Roy West and Betty Ann Williams. Our Minister – currently the Reverend Dr. Crittenden – is the 15<sup>th</sup> Trustee. Edward Roberts has been appointed as Chair, and Diane Hogan as Secretary

Sheridan Parsons, who chaired the Trustees Board for many years, retired from that office at the end of 2016. He has monitored our investments scrupulously and ensured that that Fund's holdings were those best suited to achieve our goals. Every member of Gower Street Church is indebted to him; his efforts have been in measure responsible for Gower Street's strong financial position. I am delighted that he has agreed to continue to serve as a Trustee, which will enable us to continue to draw upon his knowledge and experience. I want to acknowledge, too, the many years that Guy Taylor served as a valued member of the Trustees. Ill health has forced him to leave the Board. We shall miss him.

The Trustees Board met most recently on 4 January 2017. Rev. Dr. Crittenden was with us, and the Congregational Board Chair, Lorne LeDrew, attended as a guest. The Trustees agreed that their mandate was to ensure that the Fund which they manage generates as much income as our investments can prudently be expected to earn while at the same time safe-guarding the Endowment Fund's capital. To that end, they decided to undertake a review of its present investment holdings and its strategy.

In all, the Endowment Fund earned \$28,566 during 2016, all of which was paid over to the Congregation's Treasurer, to be used by the Congregational Board. The Trustees are also responsible for the Congregation's dealings with the bequests to Gower Street from the Estates of the late Gordon Butler and the late Audrey March. The annual income from each bequest is paid to the Board by those appointed by Mr. Butler and Ms. March to administer their Estates. During 2016 we received \$19,687 from the Butler Estate and \$13,589 from the March Estate. In all, the Trustees paid \$61,842 to the Treasurer.

The Trustees received two significant additions to Gower's Endowment Fund during 2016. John Evans left the Church a bequest of \$50,000, and there was an anonymous donation of \$25,000. These two amounts have been added to the Fund. The Congregational Board has requested that the Evans bequest be invested in a manner which will enable it to be made available at relatively short notice should the Board require the money, and the Trustees will do so. Adding these two

amounts to the others held in the Fund (\$710,842), brought the value of the Endowment Fund to \$785,842.

**GOWER STREET TRUSTEES**  
**ASSETS UNDER ADMINISTRATION**

:	<u>31 Dec. 2015</u>	<u>31 Dec. 2016</u>
Assets	\$680,279 (1)	\$710,842 (2) \$ 75,000 (3)
Expenses:	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<u>\$680,279</u>	<u>\$785,842</u>

Notes:

- (1) Net of (\$78,557) unrealized decline in market, being the difference between the book value and the market value at 31 December 2015.
- (2) Net of (\$36,653) unrealized decrease in market, being the difference between the book value and the market value at 31 December 2016.
- (3) A bequest of \$50,000 and a \$25,000 donation.

# MINUTES OF 2016 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## Gower Street United Church Annual Congregational Meeting February 21, 2016

### **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

The meeting was called to order by Lorne LeDrew, the Chair of the Official Board who expressed thanks to the Men's Club for providing lunch and who welcomed Reverend Ian March-McCuish, the pastoral charge supervisor. Reverend March-McCuish opened the meeting in prayer, with special mention of Reverend Guy Matthews.

### **Appointment of Chair and Secretary, Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

On a motion by Roy West, seconded by David Wardlaw, Lorne LeDrew was appointed to chair the meeting and Dan Simmons to act as secretary. The agenda was approved on a motion by Carl Stevenson, seconded by Ken Butt. The minutes of the 2014 annual congregational meeting were approved on a motion by Ken Peters, seconded by Claude Robbins.

### **Message from the Chair of the Official Board**

Lorne LeDrew referred to his written report submitted to the meeting, and commented that he should have titled it "How Great Thou Art", referring to the success of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, due in large measure to the hard work of Edsel Bonnell and his organizing committee. It had been a great loss to the congregation when Reverend Matthews had to set aside for health reasons, but the congregation had rallied and pulled together.

The Chair spoke to the four priorities adopted by the Board at the outset of the year, as described in his report. He said it had been great to work with the Board members, who had taken on responsibilities and ran with them.

### **Message from the Minister**

Keith Wiseman, the Congregational Life Coordinator presented a written report. He spoke to the warm welcome that he had received into his temporary position. He observed that there was a palpable sense of togetherness in the congregation, a fresh direction, and despite the absence of Reverend Matthews, a tremendous of hope and excitement. Gower is in good hands and proceeding with purpose and vision.

### **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. He reported that there had been a \$14,000 deficit in the Operating Fund. The Gower 200 Fund had raised \$40,000 in addition to the congregation's regular givings.

Treasurer Fred Earle explained the financial statements included in the Annual Report. Contributions by the United Church Women, the Men's Club and the Community Band were highlighted. Total givings to all funds in 2015 were \$485,830. Operating expenses were \$368,094. The difference was applied to other funded activities.

In response to questions Mr. Earle stated that interest earned on the Endowment Fund is taken into income, but the principal is kept intact. Changes in the value of the Endowment Fund from year to year are due to changes in value of the investments, not due to withdrawals.

Ken Peters added that changes in rental income from the prior years were due to the timing of concerts and to a cancelled booking. The organ loan will be paid off in a couple years and will free up about \$33,000 in annual giving.

A motion to accept the financial report was moved, seconded by Reverend Veronica Brett Williams, and carried.

Fred Earle reviewed the budget proposed for 2016. A motion to accept the budget was moved by Ed Moores, seconded by Karen Butt and carried.

Pat West noted that there was no report from the Trustees. Ms. West made a motion, seconded by Ken Butt, that a report from the Trustees be circulated within one month. Sheridan Parsons, for the Trustees, spoke to the motion and said that there had been no change in the investments, which were still held as described in prior reports and that a report would be prepared. The Chair suggested that the report could be tabled at the special congregational meeting to be held within the next three months. The motion was amended to have the Trustees report presented at the special congregational meeting in the Spring, and was carried.

Written reports were presented from the Worship and Sacraments Committee, the Heritage and Archives Committee, the Ministry and Personnel Committee, the Outreach Committee, the Pastoral Care Committee, the Property Committee, the Stewardship Committee, the General Protestant Cemetery Committee, the Gower Community Band, the Gower Street Men's Club, the Senior Choir, the Senior's Club, the United Church Women and Bridges to Hope.

For the Outreach Committee Pat West moved that the mission and Service Fund goal for 2016 be set at \$38,000. The motion was seconded by Len Busby and carried.

Keith Wiseman gave an oral report for Pastoral Care, thanking congregation members for contributions to the Gower Family Tree, to the Archives Committee for developing the time line, to Reverend Florence Sanna and volunteers for putting together Christmas baskets and for those who contributed to the prayer shawl ministry.

There was discussion of the Council Rooms roof repair project as reported in the Property Committee report.

Reverend Marion Pardy for the Nominations Committee presented a written report. Expressions of appreciation to Bradley Smith, retiring from Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee, to Chris Wright, retiring from Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee and to Linda White, retiring as East District delegate, were approved on a motion by Reverend Pardy, seconded by Reverend Florence Sanna. Extensions of the terms of members of the Official Board who had served one term of office, Loren LeDrew, Fred Earle, Ken Peters, Jim Hillier, Reverend Marion Pardy and Karen Tuck, were approved on a motion by Reverend Sanna, seconded by Gar Fizzard. New Board members Daryl Pullman, Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee and Lorraine Busby, member-at-large, were elected on a motion by Reverend Pardy, seconded by Reverend Sanna.

Karen Butt moved that all reports be accepted. The motion was seconded by Sheridan Parsons and carried.33

### **Other Business**

#### *Ministerial Update*

The Chair reported that Keith Wiseman's position had been extended to the end of May. Reverend Matthews' participation in the Restorative Care Program will end May 9. In the absence of Reverend Matthews supply ministers will be required for the next two years. A search was underway and a candidate for the supply minister position should be presented to the congregation for approval in late April or early May.

#### *Constitutional Changes*

Fred Earle moved that the name of the Official Board be changed to the Board to match the terminology for the United Church governance model used by Gower. The motion was seconded by Ken Peters and carried.

Reverend Sanna moved that the Chair of the Communications Committee be added to the Board. The motion was seconded by Carl Wright and carried.

#### *Vision 2025*

David Wardlaw gave a presentation on the Vision 2025 report, which was available at the office and online. It is a planning guide, not an operational plan, for the next ten years. Mr. Wardlaw reviewed the background documents considered, the input phase, the four cornerstones of the report and the four priority focus areas. He discussed implementation and next steps. He acknowledged the work of committee members Gail Wideman, Lloyd Gill, Reverence Sanna and Mark Peters, as well as contributions from Loren LeDrew, Linda Hogan, Ken Butt, Reverend Matthews, Jean Brown and others.

Reverend Pardy made a motion of appreciation of the work of the Vision Committee. It was seconded by Lorne LeDrew and carried.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS



### **FINANCE COMMITTEE** **Respectfully submitted by Ken Peters, Chair**



We are pleased to report another strong year for 2016. We have a small deficit, but for argument's sake, a break-even year. At a time when most churches are struggling to make ends meet, we are pleased to report that Gower Street United Church is doing very well.

A brief look at our Operating Statement shows that givings have dipped slightly, the Endowment Fund contributed nicely and continues to be a tremendous boost to our total income contributing over 17%. Rentals also saw a boost in 2016 in helping our cause. On the expense side, we continue to have only a couple of variables that can make a big difference to our bottom line. Most expenses are relatively consistent from year to year. The two areas that are somewhat out of our control are fuel costs and repairs and maintenance. In both cases, we saw some relief. Fuel costs are lower and we had no surprises with property repairs and maintenance.

Looking forward, we will soon see the end of the organ loan; something we should all celebrate. Retiring a half a million dollar loan in such a short timeline is a wonderful achievement. We are also moving forward with the much needed repairs to our leaky roof. Overall things are looking very positive, we will have our challenges but our congregation always rises to the challenge making Gower what it is today.

A special thanks to the rest of your Finance Committee, Jordan Wright, Pat West and your treasurer Fred Earle.

## **Report on the Review of Financial Information**

**For the year ended December 31, 2015**

Performed by the - Financial Review Committee

January 24, 2017

### **Introduction**

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of Gower Street Church as at December 31, 2015 and the related statements of revenue and expenses, and statement of changes in fund balances and cash flows for the twelve month period then ended.

The Treasurer and Finance Committee are responsible for the preparation and presentation of this interim financial information. Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on this financial information based on our review.

### **Scope of Review**

Our review of financial information consists of making inquiries, primarily of the Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee who are responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures (see Appendix).

The review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with acceptable auditing standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit.

Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

### **Conclusion**

Our review did not identify any errors or irregularities with the financial information.

### **Findings**

#### *Disclosure of Endowment Funds*

During the review it was observed that the Endowment Fund comprises a significant portion of the assets (as at December 31, 2014 \$507,365).

As noted in the 2014 Financial Review Committee Report Endowment funds are invested with a number of financial institutions with varying interest rates and investment terms. While the principal amount and the market value of the funds is disclosed in the financial statements, the types of funds (i.e. mutual funds, guaranteed investment certificates, etc.) utilized along with the terms is not disclosed.

As well a Summary of Endowments and Manse Funds report was included as page 32 of the 2014 Annual Report. There is no similar report included with the 2015 Annual Report.



### *Collection Procedures*

It was observed (August 2016) that there was some confusion about the process for placing the Sunday morning collection in the church safe. The safe was locked and the counting team decided to place the deposit in a locked filing cabinet in the office upstairs.

### **Recommendations**

1. In order to provide greater transparency on the endowment fund, in future the "Summary of Endowment and Manse Funds" should be included with the Annual Report and it should be expanded to include the terms of the investment (i.e. investment type, interest rate and maturity date and the annual return or (loss) incurred. Since a portion of the Fund (from the Gordon Butler and Audrey March estates) is held by an outside organization and not available to be invested by the church by, the summary should also disclose the existence and terms of the Gordon Butler and Audrey March estate.

The finance report should also make reference to the performance of the fund throughout the year.

2. Collection procedures should be communicated and available to all counting teams so the proper procedure is consistently followed.



Fred Colbourne

Financial Review Committee Membership

Fred Colbourne - Chair

Jillian Rice

Roy West

## Appendix

### Procedures performed by financial Review Committee

- Compared revenues and expenses for 2015 with 2014 and received explanations for year over year changes.
- Compared revenues and expenses for 2015 with the budget for 2015 and received explanations for the variances.
- Reviewed the journal entry file and closing entries.
- Reviewed bank reconciliations for a sample period.
- Observed the procedure for depositing the weekly collection.
- Observed the procedure for the approval and payment of invoices.
- Reviewed the bank statements and statements of investments.

**FINANCIAL COMMITTEE**  
**Proposed Budget for 2016**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**  
**2015**

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

	<u>2015</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>2014</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>2016</u> <u>Budget</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
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	<u>8,956</u>	<u>9,091</u>	
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>346,915</b>	<b>359,749</b>	<b>347,950</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
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	<u>3,234</u>	<u>3,272</u>	<u>2,700</u>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>360,733</b>	<b>366,546</b>	<b>368,092</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures</b>	<b>(13,818)</b>	<b>(6,797)</b>	<b>(20,142)</b>
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	<b><u>1,997,896</u></b>	<b><u>2,004,693</u></b>	
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<b><u>1,984,078</u></b>	<b><u>1,997,896</u></b>	
<b>Committee Budgets</b>			
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 Financial Position  
December 31, 2015

ASSETS

	Operating Fund	Restoration Fund	Endowment Fund	Organ Fund	Other Funds	2015 Total	2014 Total
<b>Current assets</b>							
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
<b>Total current assets</b>	106,749	4,371	118,511	14,394	134,726	378,751	369,881
<b>Capital assets</b>							
Long term investments	1,913,163			462,372		2,375,535	2,375,535
						388,854	467,412
<b>Total assets</b>	<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

<b>Current liabilities</b>							
Payables and accruals						0	305
Current Portion of long-term-debt	10,000			33,000		43,000	43,000
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<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>
<b>Long term debt</b>	<u>25,834</u>			<u>27,631</u>		<u>53,465</u>	<u>96,801</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<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>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<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>
<b>Total Liabilities and fund balance</b>	<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
<b>Revenue</b>							
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
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>346,915</b>	<b>17,657</b>	<b>(78,557)</b>	<b>33,129</b>	<b>101,091</b>	<b>420,235</b>	<b>537,040</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>							
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		122			42,714	42,714	45,336
Interest and bank charges	3,234					3,356	3,661
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>360,733</b>	<b>40,613</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>42,714</b>	<b>446,282</b>	<b>474,007</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures</b>	<b>(13,818)</b>	<b>(22,956)</b>	<b>(78,557)</b>	<b>30,907</b>	<b>58,377</b>	<b>(26,047)</b>	<b>63,033</b>
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	<b>1,997,896</b>	<b>27,327</b>	<b>585,922</b>	<b>385,228</b>	<b>76,349</b>	<b>3,072,722</b>	<b>3,022,589</b>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<b>1,984,078</b>	<b>4,371</b>	<b>507,365</b>	<b>416,135</b>	<b>134,726</b>	<b>3,046,675</b>	<b>3,085,622</b>

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

	<u>2015</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>2014</u> <u>Total</u>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Offerings	11,078	20,603
Men's club donation	<u>6,579</u>	<u>32,000</u>
<b>Total revenue</b>	17,657	52,603
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Repairs and maintenance	38,636	58,377
Interest on debt	1,855	
Interest and bank charges	<u>122</u>	<u>389</u>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<u>40,613</u>	<u>58,766</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue     over expenditures</b>	(22,956)	(6,163)
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	<u>27,327</u>	<u>33,490</u>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<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>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Offerings	33,129	35,379
United Church Women donation	-	500
Men's club donation	-	2,000
	<u>33,129</u>	<u>37,879</u>
<b>Total revenue</b>	33,129	37,879
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Repairs and maintenance	-	-
Interest on long term debt	2,222	3,359
	<u>2,222</u>	<u>3,359</u>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	2,222	3,359
<b>Excess of revenue     over expenditures</b>	30,907	34,520
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	<u>385,228</u>	<u>350,708</u>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<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 Total</u>	<u>2014 Total</u>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Unrealized gain(loss) on investments	(78,557)	11,038
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total revenue</b>	(78,557)	11,038
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Interest and bank charges	0	0
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	0	0
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures</b>	(78,557)	11,038
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	<u>585,922</u>	<u>574,884</u>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<u><u>507,365</u></u>	<u><u>585,922</u></u>

Greater St. Vincent's Church  
 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Other Funds  
 December 31, 2011

	Autism		Habitat		Recreation		Cemetery		Choir		Diapason		Canton		Greater		D. Omond		Reverent		History of		Masonic		Other		2014 Total		
	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010			
Revenue																													
Offering	245	5,000	1,818	130	968	18	490																						
Misc. Gifts	245	5,000	1,718	130	960	15	490																						
Total revenue	1,942																												
Expenditures																													
Other fund expenses	1,042																												
Adjustments prior year																													
Total expenditures	1,042																												
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	872																												
Fund balances, beginning of year	572	456	1,456	27,645	1,638	(1,300)	725	(42)	490																				
Fund balances, end of year	1,444	456	1,456	27,645	1,638	(1,300)	725	(42)	490																				

**Gower Street United Church Nominations Committee  
Report to the  
Annual Congregational Meeting, February 26, 2017**

**The Nominations Committee:** Marion Pardy, Chair; Judi Somers; Linda White; David Roberts; Lorne LeDrew (ex-officio); Paul Crittenden (as requested).

**Background Information:**

Gower Street United Church Constitution of the Official Board.

**2.3 The term of membership of the elected members of the Board will be three years, but, subject to Section 6.3, the members shall be eligible for reelection.**

**6.3 No elected member may serve on the Board for more than 6 consecutive years in one position. No elected member may serve on the Board for more than 9 consecutive years in any combination of positions.**

**Expression of Appreciation:**

**Motion:** Pardy/

That the Annual Congregational Meeting extends deep appreciation to the following, who have resigned their position, acknowledging their contribution to Gower Street United Church:

**Karen Tuck**, Chair of Pastoral Care Committee (resigned in 2017 as agreed upon to become President of UCW);

**Bruce Nickerson**, Chair of Property Committee (resigned in 2017 after serving his first term of three years);

**Sheridan Parsons**, Chair of Board of Trustees (resigned in 2016 after numerous years of service);

**Extension of Board Member on the Official Board who has completed one term of office.**

**Motion:** Pardy/

That **JoAnna Bennett**, who was elected to the Board as Chair of Stewardship in 2014 be extended for another term of three years (2020);

That **Gwen Alcock**, who was elected to the Board as a member-at-large in 2014 be extended for another term of three years (2020);

That **David Robbins**, who was elected to the Board as a member-at-large in 2014 be extended for another term of three years (2020);

**Election of Members to the Official Board**

**Motion:** Pardy/

That **Gola Roberts** be elected as Vice Chair of the Board.

**Motion:** Pardy/

That **Edward Roberts**, Acting Chair of Board of Trustees, be elected as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

**Exception to 6.3 of Gower Constitution**

**Motion:** Pardy/

That **Angeline Anstey** be re-elected as Chair of Worship and Sacraments Committee until August 31, 2017, making an exception to Gower Constitution, 6.3.

### **Election of Members to the Board of Trustees**

**Motion:** Pardy/

That **David Norris, Suzanne Orsborn, David Roberts, Dan Simmons, Carl Stevenson, Roy West** be elected to the Gower Street United Church Board of Trustees.

### **Expression of Appreciation**

**Motion:** Pardy/

That the Annual Congregational Meeting extends its deep appreciation to Lorne LeDrew, Chair of the Board, the Officers, and all other continuing and new Board members, for their leadership and contribution to Gower Street United Church in this way.

### **Filling the Vacancies:**

**Motion:** Pardy/

That the Annual Congregational Meeting not fill the vacancy of Chair of Pastoral Care Committee and authorizes the Board to fill the vacancy, upon recommendation from the Nominations Committee.

**Motion:** Pardy/

That the Annual Congregational Meeting not fill the vacancy of Chair of Property Committee at this time and authorizes the Official Board to fill the vacancy, upon recommendation from the Nominations Committee.

### **Review of Gower Constitution**

**Motion:** Pardy/

That the Annual Congregational Meeting authorizes the Board to establish a task group to examine our present Constitution and to propose revisions to present to the Board and to the next Annual Congregational Meeting.

**Note 1:** The Nominations Committee has been successful in recruiting committee members for a couple of committees, as per the request of the Committee Chair. We are pleased to assist the work of the Board and of the Committees in this way when we receive requests to do so.

**Note 2:** The Nominations Committee requests the Chair of each Committee to provide a list of committee members to the Nominations Committee for filing and recruiting purposes.

As Chair, I express my sincere appreciation to the Nominations Committee members, Judi Somers, David Roberts, Linda White, and Lorne LeDrew (ex-officio) for their collegial commitment of time and thought to this important task for Gower Street United Church.

**We are called to be the Church....Thanks be to God** for those who have responded to our calling in the above ways, by attending the Annual Congregational Meeting and in countless other activities and events of Gower Street United Church, within the church and the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Pardy

Chairperson, Gower Street United Church Nominations Committee

Composition of the Gower Street United Church Board - 2017  
(Pending Approval by Annual Congregational Meeting, February 26, 2017)

**Officers**

Chair	Lorne LeDrew (2019) (elected to Board 2010)
Vice Chair	Gola Roberts (2020*) (elected 2017)
Secretary	Dan Simmons (2018) (elected to Board 2012)
Treasurer	Fred Earle (2019) (elected 2013)

**Committee Chairs**

<b>Finance</b>	Ken Peters (2019) (elected 2013)
<b>Ministry &amp; Personnel</b>	Daryl Pullman (2019*) (elected 2016)
<b>Worship &amp; Sacraments</b>	Angeline Anstey (August 2017) (elected 2011)
<b>Property</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Christian Education</b>	Patrick Griffin (2018*) (elected 2015)
<b>Outreach</b>	David Guzzwell (2018*) (elected 2015)
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	JoAnna Bennett (2017*) (elected 2014)
<b>Heritage &amp; Archives</b>	Jim Hiller (2019) (elected 2013)
<b>Nominations</b>	Marion Pardy (2019) (elected 2013)
<b>Communications</b>	Lynette Hillier (2019*) (elected 2016)

**East District Delegates**

Karen Tuck (2019) (elected 2013)
Roy West (2018*) (elected 2015)

**Members at Large**

Linda Giannou (2018*) (elected 2015)
Ed Williams (2018*) (elected 2015)
Larry Kelly (2018*) (elected 2015)
Gwen Alcock (2017*) (elected 2014)
David Robbins (2017*) (elected 2014)
Diane Hogan (2018) (elected 2012)
Lorraine Busby (2019) (elected 2016)

**Non-Standing Committees** (Committees that have a specific task)

<b>Vision 2025 Implementation</b>	Lorraine Busby
<b>Refugee</b>	Kyle Massey

**Group Representatives**

Men's Club	Roy West
United Church Women	Karen Tuck
Seniors Club	Gola Roberts

<b>Board of Trustees</b>	Edward Roberts
--------------------------	----------------

<b>Supply Minister:</b>	The Rev. Dr. D. Paul Crittenden (until August 31, 2017)
<b>Minister:</b>	The Rev. Guy Matthews (on medical leave)

Notes:

() Year in brackets represents the end of term

\* Indicates that the person is eligible for an additional term

**Gower Street United Church Board of Trustees**

**(Pending Approval of new members by Annual Congregational Meeting, February 26, 2017)**

- 3.1** The congregation is responsible for having a board of trustees for the congregation.
- 3.3.1** The congregation is responsible for appointing the trustees at a congregational meeting.
- 3.3.4** The congregation is responsible for deciding on the number of its trustees. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of 15, including the one person who is automatically a trustee.

**(The United Church Manual, 2016)**

**Board of Trustees**

Edward Roberts (Chair)	(elected as Chair 2017)
David Norris	(elected 2017)
Suzanne Osborn	(elected 2017)
David Roberts	(elected 2017)
Dan Simmons	(elected 2017)
Carl Stevenson	(elected 2017)
Eric Hodder	(elected prior to 2011)
Diane Hogan	(elected prior to 2011)
Linda Nickerson	(elected prior to 2011)
Sheridan Parsons	(elected prior to 2011)
Mark Peters	(elected prior to 2011)
Richard Pike	(elected prior to 2011)
Betty Ann Williams	(elected prior to 2011)
Guy Taylor	(elected prior to 2011 – inactive)
The Rev. Dr. Paul Crittenden – Automatic Trustee Membership, until August 31, 2017.	