



St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador

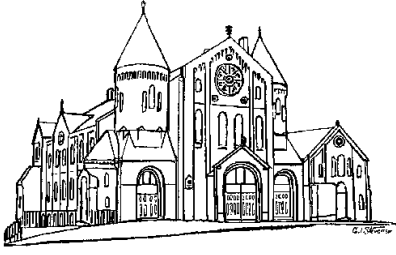
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Gower Street United Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, or sexual orientation.

Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Pastoral Care Minister: The Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray
Youth & Family Ministry: Rebecca Pike
Minister Emerita: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parry

Music Ministry: Dr. D. Dunsmore **Organist:** R. Carl Goulding
Band Director: Ron Collins
Band Director Emeritus: Dr. Edsel Bonnell
Office Manager: Linda Hogan **Custodian:** David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Lorne LeDrew

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Check out our Facebook "fan" page at www.facebook.com/pages/gower-street-united-church/158638549178



Our Vision:

The people of Gower Street United Church are committed to doing right by Jesus' teachings: loving, serving, giving generously in our local, regional, and global communities. We envision a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged. We are dedicated to being welcoming and affirming, engaging participation of all, including people of any age, colour, race, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, family composition, and social or economic circumstances.

Our Core Values:

- Meaningful worship of God and Christian development in a sacred gathering place.
- Compassionate responsive Outreach
- Living in a Christian community that is respectful, diverse and inclusive
- Music as a cherished part of our worship, outreach and church culture.

Our Mission:

- To be a visible sign of God's love and caring in our community
- To nurture Christian Faith through Worship and in ways that are relevant to our world
- To work collaboratively with other Faith Communities.

OUR CREED

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

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

We trust in God.

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

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

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.



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CHURCH BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
Respectfully submitted by Lorne LeDrew, Chair, Church Board

During this past year we have continued the momentum at Gower and I hope you can feel it. From all the excitement and media attention surrounding our Affirm Celebration, the work of Rebecca and Dana resulting in the increasing presence of youth and children in and around our church, with the Downtown “Pops” Concerts, our increasing presence on Facebook, our attractive and useful Web site and the weekly *What’s Up at Gower*. All contribute to a sense of vitality and movement at Gower.

No doubt we have some significant challenges, especially financial, that we need to address. However, having this energy in the Church will make it less daunting and more achievable. Once again the Board established five priorities for the year and although progress was slow on a couple I think we overachieved on the others;

1. **Ministry of Children, Youth, and Young Families** – The hiring of Rebecca Pike and the ensuing partnership with Dana Collins has re-energized the Youth program and they are just getting started. The Inter-generational church services held to date are a testimony to that.
2. **Increasing Revenues through examination of revenue potential of our properties** - Over the last four years our Revenues have decreased by almost 25% while our Expenses tend to trend upwards (but only moderately). Many of these expenses I consider as investments in our future. (Youth Minister etc.). However, our Rentals and Offerings are down significantly and if we are to regain a balanced budget we need to look at all options to increase Revenues. Patrick Griffin and his committee of Ken Peters and David Robbins will be making recommendations as to how we may do that.
3. **Develop a strategic plan for Outreach** – Due to a host of reasons this has not been accomplished but it will be made a priority for 2020.
4. **Strengthen connection with other denominations and churches** – We continue our involvement with the United Community of Faith and are finding new ways to ensure we work together.
5. **Increase engagement of Gower Community** – We have made significant progress in this area primarily with the launching of the new Website, increased Facebook presence and the *What’s Up at Gower*. We are still having challenges in getting volunteers but once again as we expand our programming we are hoping that the momentum generated will encourage volunteers to step up.

Although not set as a priority per se we invested a lot of time and effort into the Affirm celebration which resulted in a lot of positivity around the city and in Gower. I would like to thank Gail Wideman and her team for some great work. Their committee is now moving into an advisory role for all groups and committees of the Church. They will work with them to ensure Affirm ideals become a part of all their activities and initiatives.

Having had the honour and privilege of serving you as Chair of the Board the past six years, I leave with a sense that together we have accomplished a great deal over that time. Some of the things that come to mind include; The Gower 200 Celebrations, Rev. Guy leaving, 3 years of



temporary Ministers, a new Constitution and restructuring of the Board, the new sound system in the Sanctuary and A/V in Lecture Hall (thank you Men's Club), calling of Rev. Pamela, becoming an Affirming Congregation, replacing the Memorial Building roof and the furnace, paying off the organ, adopting a new Vision and Values, hiring of Rev. Ettie for Pastoral Care, hiring of Rebecca Pike for Youth and Family Ministry, celebrating the Gower Community Band and introduction of the Downtown "Pops" Concerts.... and I am sure there are many other things that I have omitted. All to say that together we have accomplished a lot and are continuing to gain momentum and in another six years I am certain the list will be even longer.

In closing, I wish to thank everyone who worked tirelessly for Gower this past year. Rev. Pamela continues to be an inspiration and all the staff who continue to provide yeoman service. I want to say a special thank you to Carolyn Anstey-Moore who filled in for me this past Fall. The Board and the Leadership Team have been instrumental in bringing us to where we are and with some pragmatic decision making from the financial perspective, and your continued support, I feel the future is looking up for Gower.

God Bless and Thank you All!!

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK
Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

*"Faith is a place of mystery,
where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see
and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty."*

Author unknown

On March 8, members of Gower Street United Church will meet for our annual congregational meeting to reflect on our past and to consider our future. This year we will discuss some challenging and complex topics impacting our immediate and extended future.

As I reflect on our ministry together over this past year, I am humbled and awed by the story told in all of the various ministry pieces here at Gower.....

Yours is the story of the many and diverse commitments that are part of this congregation's life.

Yours is the story of ministries of education and outreach.

Yours is the story of ministries of compassion and hospitality.

Yours is the story of ministries rooted in spiritual nurture and in the search for justice.

Yours is the story of adults, youth and children seeking to live each day in the way of Jesus.

Yours is the story of ministry beyond the walls of Gower Street United Church.



As I reflect on our year together I invite you to consider where you fit into this rich and diverse ministry that is Gower Street United Church?

-Are there parts of our ministry together that surprise or intrigue you?

-What might you like to be part of, sharing your gifts and energy?

-Are there any pieces to your vision of ministry that you would like to see added?

Please let us know. The story of Gower Street United Church is an ever-changing story, for ours is an ever-changing and evolving community of faith.

Within this last year we have also grieved the deaths of beloved and long-time members. We have celebrated and honored the ministry gifts they have shared within the life of this congregation.

Within this last year, we have welcomed new faces, bringing with them their stories and their gifts. We have celebrated the blessing of their presence, bringing new life among us.

Within this last year, we have sought to be open for the Guidance of the Spirit calling us to enter into new ventures of faith, and with the support of one and all, we have continued our journey.

The elders of Gower Street United Church are an amazing group of people whose leadership and commitment are a living vibrant presence, always asking the questions that help us to discern our way forward with faithfulness and courage. I give thanks always that I am able to share ministry with such a dedicated, spirit-filled group of people.

I also celebrate the opportunity to be in ministry alongside the rest of the staff. Rebecca Pike, Children, Youth and Young Adults Ministry, Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray, Minister of Pastoral Care, Dr. Doug Dunsmore, our Music Director; Carl Goulding, our Organist, Ron Collins, Gower Community Band Director, Linda Hogan, our Office Administrator and David Noseworthy, our Custodian.

Our relationship with the Gower Community Band continues to grow in diverse and positive ways. Our partnership in planning the next Pops Concert, *Finding Hope in Winter*, in support of Mental Wellness, is just one example. This joint venture is a testament to the commitment both our faith community and the band have in reaching the marginalized in our city.

There are so many volunteers, choirs, musicians, cooks, organizers, decorators, dishwashers, technical assistants and others who work tirelessly “behind the scenes.” Special thanks to Dana Collins who spends countless hours leading in voice and fun with our children and youth. Thank you to all of you. Your work makes a real difference in the life and work that is ours together.

I want to say a grateful and very special thank you to Lorne LeDrew whose time as Board Chair is coming to an end. Lorne will be missed, dearly. I have valued his confidence, vision, direction, expertise and friendship over the past year and a half. There are numerous other board members who will be “retiring.” We thank you for your countless hours of dedication and service.



It is in the inter-connectedness of all these pieces together that our faith community is complete and the whole story of Gower Street United Church is made known.

As we hold the future together we pray for the courage to believe in what we cannot yet see and the strength to let go of the fear of uncertainty. With “**open hearts, open minds and open arms,**” we are making a profound and visible difference in people’s lives.

Peace and Blessings,
Rev. Pamela

PASTORAL VISITATION

**Respectfully submitted by
The Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray, Minister of Pastoral Care**

Pastoral Care at Gower Street United Church continues to be a group endeavour, carried out by members of the Pastoral Care Committee of which I am a part. The Committee continues to work through its cycle of visits to persons on our pastoral care list – a list continually updated as persons are added or removed according to life circumstances. As I continue to grow into my position congregants are becoming more involved in the pastoral care process as they notify us of events in person’s lives where a pastoral visit may be helpful. Many thanks to all of you for your phone calls, emails and those “words in my ear...”

As Minister of Pastoral Care I am glad to have had the privilege to journey with you throughout 2019 in times of joy, sorrow, and change – those times of intimacy shared over a cup of tea, in a hospital room, through a telephone conversation, an email or the waiting area of the emergency department. I believe sharing intimate moments with you such as those is sharing such intimacy with God.

As we continue our journey through Lent with the anticipation of Easter Day may God bless all of us with deeper insight into God’s Realm.

Peace, joy, and love
Ettie

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Pike, Minister of Children, Youth and Young Families

As I look back over the time I have shared with the community here at Gower since August, my heart and mind are filled with so much joy. Since starting in August, I have felt welcomed, supported and just the right amount of challenge by this community. While my time so far is short, there has been so much going on to share with you!

We have the junior congregation, which has been up and running since September, excited with the introduction of new curriculum and lesson ideas to add a fresh perspective. We have a core group of volunteer teachers that are working with me to help with the instruction of the lessons. I



am so grateful for the support of these teachers who join with me in offering fun crafts and activities that open both the children's minds and our own. So, thank you so much to Lincoln, Christina, Shelley, Pat and Pam, your gift of time and talent does not go unnoticed by me! Our attendance ranges from about four to twelve attendees a week. The hope is to keep a deep connection between the lessons and the themes offered in worship while providing space for the attendees to have fun and explore their faith.

Gower Youth Group has started and weeks on a bi-weekly schedule on Tuesday or Thursday evenings. At each meeting, we share in a meal, community, and of course, some fun! Our group ranges from 5-10 members at meetings. We always welcome others to join us! We had our first service in November. We received so much support and love, which we cannot say thank you enough for! Our group is looking forward to many more services and events in 2020! We meet in the office area that this fall received some new comfortable chairs and couch!

I worked with the United Communities of Faith group on the development and offering of a community church picnic in September, which was open to all the congregations in the greater St. John's area. Also have been staying connected with leaders in other churches about programs, events for Youth and Children that can be offered in a mutual relationship.

My time has also been spent in program development with Rev. Pam. As we look forward to 2020, we have the hopes for some family events and other community events. I also have been spending time working with Communications and Affirm Committees. I also look forward in 2020 to working with Children, Families and Education committee, if you would like to work with us on this committee, please let me know!

I want to take a chance to offer some thanks and gratitude:

- To the board members, thank you for the support and belief in me since August. I always feel supported and able to touch base with any of you on anything.
- Pat and Pam Griffin, thank you for meeting with me in August to share with your wisdom and ideas!
- To Dana, your work with the youth choir is amazing. I am so honoured to get to work with you. You have so many brilliant ideas, and please continue to share them with me!
- All the families, at Gower, thank you for being so welcoming and encouraging! I am the lucky one to get to know you!
- To Linda and David, thank you for helping get settled in the office, for the endless support, a soundboard for ideas and being a delight to work with!
- Pam and Ettie, I have known you both for as long as I can remember, but it is truly an honour to get to work with you both! Thank you for welcoming me to this team!

Dr. Seuss said, "Children want the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained, and delighted", I look forward to 2020 and know that we all continue to be challenged, joyful and faithful together!



COMMITTEE REPORTS

WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by the Committee

Throughout 2019 and to the present date, we have continued to rotate the Chair amongst ourselves, and this appears to have worked very well.

The Worship and Sacraments Committee is responsible for regular and special worship services, the administration of the Sacraments, developing policy with respect to the admission, transfer and removal of membership. Aspects of worship include the order of worship, the music, Confirmation, Sacraments of Baptism and Communion, weddings and funerals. It is the Worship and Sacraments Committee which approves Baptism and Confirmation.

The choirs and band enriched and continue to enrich our worship services throughout the year. Sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to Dr. Doug Dunsmore, Carl Goulding and the Senior choir, Dana Collins and the Children's choir, and Ron Collins and the Gower Community Band. In 2018 the Band initiated their free Downtown "Pops" Concerts programme; two very successful concerts were performed in 2019, with special guests the Stella's Circle Inclusion Choir. Worship has also been enhanced by performances of visiting soloists and musicians. Operatic soprano Tanya Cianciulli gave a musical sermon at the September 8th service.

Rev. Pamela is now into her second year with us, and we are rewarded with her Faith, energy and worshipful direction.

Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray continues to provide invaluable service as part-time Pastoral Care Minister, and this important area of congregational care is being well looked after.

A meaningful and moving Covenanting service, presided over by Rev. Grant Stuckless, was held for both Rev. Pamela and Rev. Ettie on March 28th.

In August we welcomed Rebecca Pike as part-time leader of our Youth and Family Ministry, and have been enriched by her leadership and enthusiasm

Special thanks are also due to those who have shared in worship leadership over the past year - the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parady, Rev. David Guzzwell, Rev. Florence Sanna, Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray, Bert Riggs, Rev. Katie Vardy, Rev. Bruce Kearley, Dr. Andrew Richardson, Rev. Roger Janes.

In 2019, we had 11 Baptisms, 17 deaths and 3 weddings. Holy Communion was served 3 times. Christmas Eve services had to be cancelled because of stormy weather conditions - surely a first!

We continue to support Keith Wiseman in his pathway to ministry. Keith is presently providing leadership at St. Peter's United Church in St. Peter's, Cape Breton, while continuing his studies towards his Designated Lay Ministry.



On February 10th, we hosted the Warmth for a Winter Night service (a service for those who grieve), and on March 24th, hosted the Stella's Circle service. In addition, Rev. Pamela led a weekly meditative and Communion gathering each Wednesday during Lent.

The presence in the Sanctuary of butterflies (Spring/Summer) and stars (Christmas/Winter) has elicited favourable comments and enhanced worship.

The United Community of Faith have continued to meet and take action in areas of common interest. We participated in two shared services in 2019; the Maundy Thursday service at Gower, and, on April 28th, a service at the Anglican Cathedral.

On May 26th, eight youth were confirmed: Rebecca and Noah Boone, Lillian and Murray Byrne, Heather Moore, Laureen Purchase, Heidi Snow and Clay Tuck. Hayley and Noah Collins were confirmed on October 6th.

On June 5th, we officially became an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada. Rev. Katie Vardy presided over this impressive service. Her Honour Judy Foote, Lieutenant Governor, participated in the service.

We participated in the third annual Block Party in the Fall with congregational members from the Anglican Cathedral, the Kirk and the Basilica, and were joined by friends from the neighbourhood. Attendance was increased from 2018, and the project deemed successful by all.

Current members of the Worship and Sacraments Committee are Angeline Anstey, Gwen Alcock, Rev. Florence Sanna, Doug Dunsmore, Lima Spurrell and Rev. Pamela.

We are indebted to Gail Wideman who arranges Sunday greeters, to Carl Wright and his ushering teams, to Doug Peters and the funeral ushering team, to Linda Hogan and David Noseworthy for their support and assistance, to members of the congregation who so willingly help us when asked, and we thank all for their continued support and dedication. If we have inadvertently omitted anyone, please accept our sincere apologies.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AS NOTED IN THE OFFICIAL REGISTERS:

BAPTISMS:

Chloe Marie Brennan, child of Alyssa Feener and Michael Brennan

Brooklyn Esther Noftall, child of Melissa Green and Jason Noftall

Abigail Grace Tolentina, child of Angela Gill and Alvin Tolentina

Emilia Liv Gill, child of Kathrin Ballerstaedt and Stuart Gill

Charlotte LeDrew Croke, child of Robyn Louise LeDrew and Nicholas A.W. Croke

Andrew Guy Barnes, child of Tiffany Reid and Adam Barnes

Rhodie Samuel McLean-Head, child of Joanne McLean and Rebecca Head

Maddie Elizabeth Rose Smith, child of Stephanie Brushett and Dylan Smith

Ollie Sadie Violet Clyde Earle-Burke, child of Laura and Rachel Earle-Burke

Felix Douglas Anthony Mercer, child of Sara Moody and Thomas Mercer

Jamieson Davis Craig, child of Stephanie Davis and Mark Craig



MARRIAGES:

Carl M. Stevenson and Deanne Peters
Dwayne Bradley Tucker and Kaleigh Ann Dixon
Kevin Thomas Broderick and Brittany Christine Barrett

DEATHS:

Florence Pearce	Dr. Garfield Fizzard
Gola Roberts,	Gloria (Alcock) Fulford
Carl Mallam Stevenson	Mah Mei Kuen
Marjorie Rosina Pottle	Cyrus Ben Lansall Clarke
Cyril Foley	Winnifred Pearl Gaulton
James John Lucas	Vernon Roy Simmons
Gladys (Fanny) Smith	Lillian Emma (Reid) Andrews
Kevin Smith Warr	James Guy Taylor
Stewart Pike	

PASTORAL CARE

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Karen Thorne, Chair

One of the ways that the people of Gower Street United Church live out the calling to be a caring community is through pastoral care. Our community is a bit like a big web of many intertwined relationships and it is good to recognize the deep level of caring and openness for one another in this congregation.

The mandate of the Pastoral Care Committee, in brief, is to oversee and support lay visitation within the congregation, maintaining contact with people confined to homes, institutions, etc. as well as advising the ministers on special needs of individuals as they are identified.

In order to be a caring community we need to be aware of one another, connected, and ready to respond. There are many opportunities and moments when we all can - and do - offer words and gestures of care, comfort and encouragement, and in that sense we can all participate in the ministry of pastoral care. Various groups within the congregation (UCW, Men's Group, Etc.) do this very thing, regularly visiting a member who perhaps has been ill or had a loss in their family. Through its connecting to members of the congregation the Pastoral Care Committee complements and supports the connections with the ministers of the church, Rev. Ettie and also Rev. Pamela, and with the congregation as a whole.

I would like to offer sincere thanks to our Minister of Visitation, Rev. Ettie Gordon – Murray, who has been so supportive and helpful this past year in working with myself and the committee and offering ideas and various suggestions along the way. She is a great “team player,” working together for the sake of our people knowing that someone is thinking of them. While we do not keep annual numbers of visits or phone calls by committee members, Rev. Ettie has indicated that, on average there are approximately 70 persons on the visitation list, and that some of those names may change over time with people's changing circumstances. Between Rev. Ettie's many visits to the people of Gower, at home, in hospital, and in long term care facilities, and contacts by various committee members during this past year, this ministry of pastoral care has included delivering 17 rose bowls for special birthdays and anniversaries, delivering 60 Christmas baskets, sending “Thinking of You” greeting cards for various occasions.



I would also like to thank the dedicated committee members and others who also, in one way or another, jumped in to assist with the work and activities of the Pastoral Care Committee in 2019. Some members were able to make regular in-person visits to private homes or to someone living a long-term care facility, while others made monthly phone contacts to identified members of the congregation. As mentioned above, everyone was obliging, ready to help with “a heart-and-a-half”. Each person brought their own caring skills, commitment and life experience to their role, and doing what was feasible and doable for their own personal circumstances. We are blessed and thankful for everyone’s contributions of their time and talents.

A special project again this year was the preparation and delivery of Christmas baskets, with special thanks to Dolores Vaughn and Paula Vaughn for again purchasing the gifts and baskets, also to a member of the congregation, Emma Wells for knitting all those tiny teddy bears which were tucked into each basket. Thank you also to everyone who assisted with delivering the baskets.

While in some past years the committee might have met 3-4 times per year, in 2019 our formal meetings were limited, with communication being more by phone or email. Included in our discussions during the year was an idea to prepare a series of opportunities for members of the congregation to share and learn about some spiritual practices, however time constraints and scheduling challenges caused this idea to not yet come to fruition.

For myself, having taken on the role of Committee Chair just in 2019, unfortunately my circumstances unexpectedly changed during these past months; I have not been as available to participate as I would like in the life of Gower and to give my full attention to the work of the committee. Regrettably, I will be stepping down as Chair of this committee, with the hope that someone else may be able to take up this responsibility, working with Rev. Ettie and the wonderful committee members that remain.

New committee members are always welcome. If you would be interested in getting involved in pastoral visitation, please be in touch with the Chair of Nominations.

Currently our committee members include Max Beckett, the Rev. Veronica Brett-Williams, Patricia Mercer, Lorraine Moores, the Rev. Ralph Moores, Maude Peach, Dolores Vaughan, Paula Vaughan. During 2019 it is also worthy to note that a former long-time committee member and Candidate for ministry, Keith Wiseman, moved away as he works towards completing his studies. We were sorry to lose his involvement with the committee but we pray God’s continued blessings as his journey continues on in Nova Scotia.

HERITAGE AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by J. K. Hiller, Chair

The Heritage and Archives Committee currently consists of James Hiller (Chair), Edward Roberts, Linda White, and Robert Pitt. We regret the resignations of Linda Hogan and Bert Riggs. Linda White has taken over a church archivist.

During the summer of 2019, Zach Mosher worked in the archive, and started a long-overdue reordering. We are very grateful to him for his persistent hard work. An application has been



submitted for another summer student this year. We also hope to resuscitate tours of the 1896 building, which unfortunately did not take place in 2019. Whether there will be cooperation with other churches nearby remains uncertain.

The archive is situated in what is now known officially as the “Garfield Fizzard Room” after a dedication ceremony in November, 2019. This is entirely fitting. However, the Committee has a number of problems with the room, and would very much like to see the archive, and the name, move to another location. The archive constitutes the record of Gower’s history, and has to be preserved and cherished.

We have received a number of donations of papers, as well as three oil paintings that were about to be destroyed by the English Language School Board. Two can be identified, likenesses of the Hon. James Pitts (1847 – 1914) – a very prominent and wealthy Methodist in St. John’s – and the Rev. John Peach (1810-1891).

The new illustrated history of the church is soon to be finished, and we look forward to its publication, we hope by next Christmas. However, the manuscript may well need editing, and this will take time. The authors are Janet and Robert Pitt - the latter donated a computer to the archive, for which we are grateful.

The Committee is also concerned about any alterations to the Sanctuary, and we hope that any attempt to rent out that space more frequently will be conservative in nature.

We have been concerned, as has the Board, by the proposed development opposite to us on Queen’s Road. This is a large-scale plan, and the Committee is concerned about what it may mean for Gower.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by Daryl Pullman, Chair M&P

The M&P Committee serves in a consultative and supportive capacity for the staff of the Pastoral Charge. As such M&P addresses human resource issues related to working conditions, remuneration, continuing education and position descriptions for our various staff. Current members of the M&P Committee include Marie-Beth Wright, Roberta Gill, Pamela Snow, Roy West, and Daryl Pullman who serves as Chair. The Chair thanks the members of the committee for their outstanding dedication and support over this past year.

The M&P Committee expresses its continuing appreciation to Rev. Pamela for her excellent leadership including the added administrative burden she has taken on as we’ve sorted through staff shortages at various times throughout the year. M&P continues to work with the Board and Rev. Pamela to reduce this burden where possible. Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray has been a particular help in this regard as she visits those in the Gower family who are often unable to get out and/or to attend services regularly. We thank Rev. Ettie for her service.

The major staff development at Gower over this past year was the hiring of Ms. Rebecca Pike as Minister of Children, Youth and Families. Although Rebecca’s contract is for only 12 hours per week, her efforts with the Sunday School, the youth program and in working with young families



are already paying significant dividends for Gower. We thank Rebecca for her dedication and enthusiasm, and look forward to her continued excellent service in the coming year.

Our office manager, Linda Hogan, had some unanticipated medical leave over the summer. We were able to secure the services of Melissa Elliott on a part-time basis to manage the essential duties during Linda's absence. We were pleased to have Linda back in August and are appreciative and thankful for all the dedicated effort that she provides to the administration of the church office in her multiple capacities. The church office space has had some structural adjustments and we trust these changes will provide for an enhanced working environment.

Our caretaker/custodian, David Noseworthy consistently works hard to ensure that our beloved church building is well-maintained, accessible and safe for all. We are appreciative and thankful for his efforts. M&P is working with the Property Committee to develop contingency plans in the event that David is not available due to annual leave or illness, and to ensure we use his services most effectively. The Committee expresses a special thanks to Brady Lawrence in this regard as he has filled in on numerous occasions throughout the year as needed. We acknowledge as well Brady's continuing work as our Sound System Operator. We'd like to express our sincere appreciation as well to Emma Noseworthy who has stepped in from time to time to provide custodial support when needed.

In keeping with our mandate, M and P conducted annual reviews with all Gower staff in 2019. Not only is this a formalized opportunity to meet with staff, it also allows opportunity to receive feedback from our staff striving to provide an optimal place to work, making adjustments as needed.

We faced some challenges this past summer in organizing and supervising the summer students we were able to hire through various provincial and federal grants we had been successful in securing. M&P is working with various other Committees who are looking for summer help, to ensure these grant applications are completed for this coming summer and to make provisions for appropriate supervision of the students we anticipate hiring.

In 2019, after a review of the literature and enquiry of local comparative congregations, the M and P presented the Board with recommendations surrounding the process of Certificate of Conduct procedure for church volunteers.

As always, the congregation wishes to express its continuing appreciation to our excellent music staff who do so much to enhance our worship experience:

Dr. Douglas Dunsmore, Minister of Music

Mr. Carl Goulding, Organist

Mrs. Dana Collins, Youth Choir Director

Mr. Ron Collins, Director, Gower Community Band

We'd like to extend a special note of appreciation to Mrs. Grace Dunsmore. Although Grace is not officially 'on staff', she is so much a part of the ministry of music at Gower and fills in regularly when needed.

We also acknowledge and thank the many volunteers who are leaders and members of governance and service groups, committees, ushers, counters, and greeters.



Finally we thank the members of Gower Street Congregation who encourage and support the work of our church in the downtown and wider community.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by Judi Somers, contact for Outreach

In 2019 Outreach continued to participate in several areas:

1. Promoting Mission & Service (M&S) by regular “Minute for Mission”, to inform the congregation how M&S supports the United Church of Canada; and monthly celebration of the congregations birthdays and anniversaries by giving to the World Development and Relief Fund: -

The M&S goal for 2019 was \$35,000.

Actual givings to M&S in 2019 - \$30,337.30

From Gower Congregation - \$29,272.80

From World Development and Relief - \$864.50

From United Church Women (UCW) - \$200.00

2. Preparing the White Gift Service in December, where Gower’s congregation was very generous with gifts for Stella’s Circle, Thrive and Iris Kirby House. Thank you to Gower members and the Youth Group for their help during the White Gift Service.
3. Support for Palestine by the sale of Zatoun olive oil, soap, Za’atar and dates.
4. Supporting Bridges To Hope with weekly food donations from the congregation and preparing muffins for the client food baskets. Doug Moody is Gower’s representative on the Bridges To Hope Board.
5. Gower’s official commitment to support our Syrian family concluded in 2017 but committee members have kept in touch with the family. They are doing well and are expecting a new baby very soon. Outreach will be providing a gift to welcome the new baby.

Thank you to committee members Pat West, Pat Mercer and Jill Handrigan, and all the congregation members who continue to support Outreach’s efforts.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by Ed Moores, Chair

While it is usual for this report to cover just the previous calendar year, on this occasion it will carry on to the end of February 2020 due to developments beyond the normal cut-off date.

The major issue confronting the Congregation is without question...PARKING. The City's re-configuration of the Church Hill/Queens Road intersection and re-development of the surrounding space left our parking availability in turmoil. While we were accorded additional designated handi-cap spaces in front of the Church office, the removal of spaces on the east side of Church Hill and the creation of green space between The Sergeants' Memorial and The Peacekeepers' Memorial created a net loss to our church of approximately 20 parking places. Suggested methods of alleviating the loss (use of the near-by parking garages, shuttle system etc.) proved to be impractical. Our entreaties to City Hall were without satisfactory results.

There is, however, light at the end of the tunnel. In the past week or so, City Council has apparently considered re-visiting the whole matter with the view of changing the "green space" plan to incorporate new parking. It is thought this would accommodate approximately 20 vehicles. While full details are not yet available, this is certainly a favourable development and could result in the resolution to the parking problem.

Other on-going items include:

Windows

The long-anticipated window replacement in the Garfield Fizzard Archives Room and the Common Room has still not taken place. While there have been scheduled attempts to have the installation completed, outside factors have intervened. The previously mentioned street re-alignment went on longer than anticipated and prevented the contractor from having access to the east side of the Church. When access was finally available, the contractor had other committed work to be completed. Weather was the main culprit in not having the work done prior to Christmas and then really intervened with the Christmas Eve storm and the "snowmagedon" in January. The alley at the east side of the building is still inaccessible. On the positive side, we do not have to pay for the windows until installation. We are in contact with the contractor on a weekly basis and will follow for completion of the work at the earliest possible date.

Sanctuary

The handrails leading to the pulpit have been installed but, although usable, still require wood rail caps. This will be done in the next week or so. The final cost will be approximately one-third of the original quote.

Most of the up-graded lighting has been installed. The project should be completed in 4-6 weeks.

Interior Work

Painting/plastering and other routine maintenance items continue to be addressed as needed. There are a couple of larger issues looming...the poor condition of the walls of the back stairwell in the Memorial Building and the drafty windows in the Band Room...which need attention. These will be addressed as resources are available.



Exterior Work

The wheelchair ramp at the west entrance to the Lecture Hall has been out-of-service for the past few months. The substantial cracks in the concrete and the tight turning radius of the railings make it unusable. While further discussions will be made regarding the ramp's fate, for now it will not be used. The more accessible and practical ramp at the Lecture Hall's east entrance has been brought into play and serves wheelchair traffic well.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by JoAnna Bennett, Chair

Stewardship, like many Gower Committees, has struggled with membership over the past year. This was even more difficult with the passing of Carl Stevenson, a long serving member of this committee and a driving force for its annual fund-raiser Dinner Theatre.

Committee Membership:

Current membership consists of:

JoAnna Bennett – Chair, Cheryl Hanlon & Ruth Francis

The Committee participated in the following activities through the past year:

Dinner Theatre

The lead organizing responsibility for this event was taken on by Fred Earle, Finance Committee with the Stewardship Chair acting as a resource as needed.

Stewardship Campaign

The Committee collaborated with Rev Pamela in the fall in a Stewardship Campaign of Loving our Neighbors: Season of Gratitude. Over the course of five Sundays, members of the committee and congregation gave brief presentations to the congregation as described below:

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is an integral aspect of the United Church of Canada and of our Gower Street United Church. Historically, Stewardship had been viewed through many different lenses and meant different things in the life of our church. Most recently, Gower's Constitution has been reviewed and revised to ensure it is in keeping with ongoing changes in the United Church of Canada.

The Stewardship Committee has been part of this process. These revisions speak to the overall mandate of the Committee to keep you, the Congregation, informed of all aspects of Stewardship and to explore methods to raise awareness and help realize the full potential of Stewardship here at Gower. Special gifts and the process to make bequests or gifts are part of this mandate. While some of these revisions have been successful, others remain more challenging and there's lots of work to do.

More formally, the six Best Practices for Congregational Stewardship outlined by the United Church of Canada have been adopted as working guidelines by the Stewardship Committee. These include Operational Management (includes financial); Stewardship Integration in Worship; Stewardship Formation (education and discussion opportunities); Stewardship



Leadership (clergy and lay) Spiritual-Nurture Opportunities and Engagement in Social Justice Concerns.

A 5 week Stewardship Campaign began the first Sunday in October during which the congregation was given a brief overview of these Best Practices and how Gower has implemented them. Overriding each and every one of them are the three pillars of individual gifts of time, talent and treasure.

The intent is that you will better understand how we are meeting our Stewardship mandate and how each of you, as a member of this congregation, are impacted by Stewardship.

An evaluation of the impact of this initiative on congregational givings is planned for this year. Thanks to all who participated in the Campaign.

Conclusion

I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to, Cheryl Hanlon and Ruth Francis for your ongoing efforts and support over the past year and look forward to working with you in the future.

Called to Be the Church, a guide to increasing generosity and giving to support God's mission, highlights Stewardship as "an Integral Part of Faith" reflecting our New Creed that says "we are not alone, we live in God's world". This provides food for thought as we move forward with Stewardship activities in partnership with our Gower faith community and beyond.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Lorne LeDrew

The Communications Committee has been very active this year and has accomplished a great deal as hopefully you may already have recognized.

Our work this year revolved a lot around getting Gower "digital". To this end one of the first things we began working on, but did take a lot of time, was a Communications Policy and Guidelines. We need to ensure that while we move in this direction that we exercise the appropriate care and diligence in all aspects including privacy and confidentiality. The Policy has been released to all Committee and Groups of the Church.

During the year we continued and expanded our presence on Facebook. Lynette Hillier was the main driver of this and in fact during 2019, we had 211 posts to our Facebook page. A recent example of the number of people we are reaching through Facebook can be seen when we examine a recent post; On February 23 we had a post promoting the Gower Community Band's Pop Concert scheduled for March 1. This one post had 1100 people "read" it and 98 people either "liked" or "shared" it in ONE day! This is almost entirely due to the dedication and creativity of Lynette Hillier – a Huge Thank You to her!

During the year we dedicated the majority of our efforts in continuing the work we started in 2018 in completely re-building the Web Page. This initiative was led by Ken Butt and not only involved members of the Committee but a large number of contributors who reviewed their information and made sure it was accurate and current – the two most important aspects of any



web page! The Page was activated in July with our new look and the formal launch occurred in October. We are very proud of the Webpage as I hope you are too.

Given the desire to keep the members of the congregation, as well as friends of Gower, informed we initiated the “What’s Up at Gower” as a weekly update of, well, what’s up! Rev. Pamela and Linda Hogan continue to do a great job of keeping this going. The weekly What’s Up at Gower is currently being sent to over 280 people. If you are not receiving the email please give us your email address and sign up! Along with the Bulletin and the Announcements it is also posted on the website every week.

Again under Ken Butt’s leadership we have investigated options and adapted available cost effective technology to ” live stream” our Church Services on YouTube. The first service to be aired is to be today! We are very excited about this as it will enable anyone, anywhere, who cannot be at our service to attend “virtually”. So if you are on vacation, or unable to get to Church on a given Sunday you can now “attend” Gower!! Even people who have moved away can now return to Gower! We welcome your feedback as we move into this new world of Gower!

Given the adoption of these various “digital” vehicles we do not want to leave out those who are not yet connected. So the Communications Committee will be continuing with the paper Newsletter but with a very different look and feel. The first of which will be released as the Easter Edition. Hope you like it!

I want to thank the active engagement and hard work of the Committee and the cooperation and support of so many others throughout the congregation who have made all this possible. There’s more to come!

Communications Committee: Jill Handrigan, David Robbins, Patrick Griffin, Rebecca Pike, Ken Butt, Rev. Pamela and Lorne LeDrew (Chair)

GROUPS AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

GOWER COMMUNITY BAND 2019: Picking Up the Torch Respectfully submitted by Ron Collins, Director, Gower Community Band

There must be very few conductors who can look back on a 45-year tenure as Music Director of an ensemble program, but our very own Edsel Bonnell is a member of that exclusive club. Despite his lengthy tenure, his passion for directing the Gower Youth Band and subsequent Gower Community Band never wavered or diminished with the passing of time. His vision continued unabated as well, as seen with the creation of the Downtown “Pops” Concert series. The first concert in the series took place in Edsel’s final year as Director on November 25, 2018. We produced two more concerts in this series in 2019, and will present the fourth a few days from now. I am honoured to take on the role of Director of the Gower Community Band and lead the band as we continue our commitment to providing community service through outstanding musical performance.



ACTIVITIES: The GCB presented our second Downtown “Pops” Concert on March 10 under the heading “Into the Joy of Spring”. Karl Wells was again on hand as Master of Ceremonies, and our featured guests were members of the Anchormen Barbershop Chorus. Donations were accepted on behalf of The Gathering Place. On a personal note, it was my first concert as Director of the GCB and it could not have gone better, largely due to the executive committee headed by Dave Robbins (more on the executive committee later). On April 14th the GCB played our Palm Sunday Musicales at Gower, and on April 24th we were part of a special banquet honouring Dr. Bonnell, during which he was given the title “Director Emeritus”. Our final performance before our summer break was in conjunction with Reverend Pamela for the Affirm Celebration at Gower on June 5th. We kicked off our fall season with a social that allowed band members the opportunity to get to know each other outside of their musical roles. Our first Fall performance was our annual Terra Nova Program concert featuring new works by this year’s prize winning student composers at MUN School of Music on October 27th. Our third Downtown “Pops” Concert on November 24th benefitted Stella’s Circle and once again featured their Inclusion Choir. Our MC for this show was Gower Band Alumna Heather Barrett, host of CBC Radio’s Weekend AM program. Our Christmas performances included our annual Shriner’s service on December 15th, our Christmas Musicales at Gower on December 22nd, and our Christmas Eve visit to Pleasantview Towers where the band (once again joined by GYB and GCB alumni) played two simultaneous shows with myself and Associate Director Dana Collins leading the groups.

FINANCES: Total operating income (current account) for the Band in 2019 was \$29,805.81 comprised of \$18,591.67 in gifts from GCB supporters, \$1,900 in concert proceeds, \$943.88 in earned interest from reserves for Scholarships & Awards and Instrument & Equipment funds, \$5,230 from Band members through personal donations and fund-raising events, and a transfer of \$3,140.26 from the Downtown Concerts Program Reserve Fund for expenses in that community initiative during the 2019 financial year. Total operating (current account) expenditure for 2019 was \$22,081.89, comprised of \$5,000 Scholarships & Awards (*), \$4,154.56 in performance expenses, \$672.74 for instruments and equipment, \$105.87 in new music, \$6,116.94 in members’ events and projects, and \$6,031.78 in general operating expenses and rentals, including an annual grant of \$4,800 to Gower to help compensate for any potential loss of outside rental income which may result from the GCB’s sole use of the Band Room facilities in the Memorial Building. The surplus of Operating Income over Operating Expenditure is \$7,723.92, to be retained in our Reserve Funds for Scholarships and Awards. (*)*It should be noted that the amount of \$5,000 shown above for Scholarships & Awards in 2019 does NOT include the award of \$1,200 paid by MUN Music from our fully endowed Gower Youth Band Legacy Entrance Scholarship.* It should also be noted that our Reserve Funds for Scholarships and Awards, Instruments and Equipment, Downtown Concerts Program and GCB Strategic Plan all result from treasured gifts from benefactors to be held in trust for their specific purposes, and are not included in annual operating (current account) income and expenditure. As always, however, additional details of finances are available upon request from the Band.

APPRECIATION: It was during the planning of our March 10th Downtown “Pops” Concert that we truly came to appreciate all the things that Edsel Bonnell had been doing all these years. It truly takes a committee of eight of us to maintain the standards he set. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to General Manager Dave Robbins and committee members (alphabetically) Edward Chaytor, Associate Director Dana Collins, Joanne Connors, Erin Dawe, Janet Howells, and Suzanne Orsborn. We all share a deeper appreciation of the amount of time put into the Gower



Band Program by Dr. Bonnell over the years. I also wish to acknowledge the acceptance and support of the Ministers, Boards, Committees, musical colleagues and staff at Gower Street United Church who have made me feel most welcome in my new role. Thank you very much!

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Respectfully submitted by Karen Tuck, President

Over the past year our UCW unit has sustained an active membership of ten to fifteen members per meeting.

Two major fundraisers were held, those being our *Spring Tea and Sale* and our *Christmas Tea and Sale*. Both were supported well by the congregation and the local community. Many friends of the UCW assisted with serving, contributed baked goods or hand-made products for which we are always thankful. The income from our efforts allows us to contribute to the support of the church, the Mission and Service Fund as well as to community agencies.

For the Winter months we met after church in the Tait Osmond room which allowed for more members to attend. We held our Annual General Meeting in February where the existing slate of Officers were affirmed.

We held a successful *Bring and Buy* evening in May.

We continue to look for ways to include women of the congregation and to be as attentive as possible to those in our group who have difficulties getting to our meetings.

In November we were invited to join the Men's Club for a supper which, as always, was an enjoyable event.

We continue to provide a monthly worship service at Tiffany Village which amounts to nine per year.

This year we were able to participate in the East District AGM, World Day of Prayer and the Gathering at Burry Heights.

Early in 2019 Gola Roberts passed away. We remember her and her contributions to the work of the UCW and to the life and work of the church. Both she and her active participation with groups at Gower are missed. We give thanks for her life of service.



**GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
FINANCIAL REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2019 – DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Balance brought forward January 1, 2019	\$ 348.31
INCOME:	
Membership monthly offering	\$ 1000.00
Donations	\$ 447.00
Bring & Buy Fundraiser	\$ 182.00
Spring Sale	\$ 1680.70
Fall Sale	\$ 3037.70
Tiffany Village	\$ 238.25
 Total Income:	 \$ 6585.65
EXPENSES:	
Gower Street United Church	
Operating Fund	\$ 3500.00
Mission & Service	\$ 700.00
In Memoriam	\$ 100.00
Operational:	
Spring Sale	\$ 70.51
Fall Sale	\$ 269.80
Pottle Centre Luncheon	\$ 142.00
East District Dues/ Registration	\$ 232.00
Bank Charges	\$ 154.44
Outreach: United Church	\$ 500.00
Community	\$ 500.00
 Total Expenses:	 \$ 6014.31
Net balance	\$ 765.21

Anne Lambert
Treasurer

**GOWER STREET MEN'S CLUB
Respectfully submitted by Peter Nell, President**

The Men's Club continued receiving support from the Gower Street congregation, which enabled another successful year for the Club. Thank you!

Planning for Men's Club projects and fund-raising activities is done at our monthly dinner meetings, which provide a time of fun, fellowship and good food for our members. These activities allow us to contribute to our church and outreach help to the wider community. As usual we held our Take-out Teas in March, Flipper Dinner in May, Auction in November and Christmas Dinner in December. All four events were strongly supported.



Speakers and topics at our meetings included: Frank Galgay and Donna Adams talking about their book titled “The Hunt for Rommel”, about Donna’s father, Joseph Kearney (February); Dr. Jim Hiller and Mr. Rob Pitt, speaking about Elijah Houle, the architect of Gower St. United Church (April Appreciation Dinner); and Jeff Blackwood spoke on the research for his book, “Finding Jane” (October).

Our activities included: on April 24, catering the Gower Community Band dinner honoring the recent retirement of the bands founding director, Dr. Edsel Bonnell, after 45 years of service, which had been preceded on April 9 by the Club’s Appreciation Dinner held to thank volunteers for their assistance with the making and delivery of our March take out teas fund raiser. Also, we provided cider and cookies at intermission of the December 13 concert by “The Once”; and sanctuary decoration for the Christmas season.

It has been the custom of the Men’s Club to invite one of our fellow men’s clubs to participate in fellowship at our meeting in February. This year we were pleased to welcome Cowan Heights Men’s Club.

We made donations in memoriam, for deceased members [Dr. Garfield Fizzard and Vernon Simmons (both Past-Presidents), as well as Fred McBay] as well as for Gola Roberts (with whom the Men’s Club had collaborated in her running of the Seniors Club).

In recognition of the late Dr. Garfield Fizzard, with approval from the Board, the Heritage and Archives room was renamed in his memory, and we provided a plaque, placed at the room’s entrance and dedicated on November 17.

Because of the Men’s Club’s close affiliation with all matters that are kitchen related, we had requested involvement in the application which the Church had made for permission to establish a Food Establishment. Club member Albert Spurrell has attended a meeting with the Food Services personnel, who were pleased with the appearance of our kitchen. An outcome of the meeting was that freezer and refrigerator temperatures are to be monitored to ensure safe food storage.

The Men’s Club paid off their contribution to the Lecture Hall audio/visual system.

The Club supports the Senior’s Club program by driving participants and cooking some of the dinners.

We welcomed six new members (David Robbins, Bradley Smith, Ken Peters, Bruce Kearley, Jeff Cook and Jack Jones) in 2019. We hope more congregation members will join us in 2020.

I would like to offer my thanks to the executive and to club members for all of their contributions of time and talents which make these activities possible.

Also, once again, our thanks for the ongoing support of the congregation, and to others outside the congregation, who support and assist us in our endeavors. We look forward to another year of service, fellowship and good dining in 2020.



GOWER ST. UNITED CHURCH MEN'S CLUB
FINANCIAL REPORT
December 31, 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<u>REVENUE:</u>		
Dinner Meeting	2,215	2,294
Donations	5,050	1,050
Auction	6,823	7,491
Ladies Night	2,605	3,150
Take Out Teas	20,787	19,856
Flipper Dinner	7,104	6,296
Other	<u>1,919</u>	<u>1,120</u>
	<u>46,503</u>	<u>41,257</u>
<u>EXPENSES:</u>		
Dinner Meeting	3,453	3,007
Donations	3,650	3,550
Auction	591	593
Ladies Night	1,631	1,509
Take Out Teas	9,199	8,367
Flipper Dinner	2,788	2,549
Projects	21,386	0
Bank Charges	134	124
Kitchen	420	401
Luncheons	309	206
Misc.	<u>2,124</u>	<u>1,513</u>
	<u>45,685</u>	<u>21,819</u>
 NET: Surplus/(Deficit)	 <u>818</u>	 <u>19,438</u>
 Cash Balance Jan. 1/19	 34,902	 15,464
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>818</u>	<u>19,438</u>
Cash Balance Dec 31/19	<u>35,720</u>	<u>34,902</u>



SENIOR CHOIR

Respectfully submitted by Roberta Gill, President

Under the leadership of Dr. Douglas Dunsmore, and accompanied by organist, Mr. Carl Goulding, Gower Street Senior Choir continues to provide meaningful musical experiences to enhance Sunday worship services. The choir presently has 35 members on the roster with approximately 26 singers participating regularly.

In January, funded by the Wendy Stevenson Choral Bursary Program, four choral scholars whose voices help enrich our sound, were welcomed to the choir loft. In addition to regular Sunday morning rehearsals, members gather on specified Wednesday afternoons for an hour of anthem practice.

Also in January, the choir provided musical leadership at the funerals of two valued members of our congregation, Garfield Fizzard and Gola Roberts.

February is the month assigned to the Senior Choir to host Sunday morning coffee hour. Many thanks to those who hosted and supplied goodies for these Sundays.

On March 24, our choir participated in a special morning service with Stella's Circle and the Inclusion Choir. Again, at 7pm, of that same Sunday, we provided an anthem, "Come, come unto me", at the covenanting service of Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald and Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray.

In April, Gower Senior Choir, in addition to our regular Sunday contributions, performed many Lenten and Easter anthems at several special services: Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday 11am communion, and an ecumenical service at the Anglican Cathedral. Special thanks to the instrumental ensemble which joyfully accompanied our Easter Sunday music.

On June 5th, the choir participated in an Affirm Celebration which took place in the sanctuary with several guest choirs and speakers, including The Honorable Judy Foote and Demzi Cei.

On June 14, the funeral service was held for Carl Stevenson who passed away on June 11. The senior choir hosted a reception for our much-loved, devoted choir member and long-serving president.

This year, in June, our year-end BBQ was graciously hosted by Linda and Bruce Nickerson. Over the summer months of July and August, our choir master, Doug Dunsmore assisted by Grace Dunsmore and various choir members, hosted an after-service coffee hour. Most certainly this effort was greatly appreciated by our congregation, as without it there would not have been any fellowship hour to welcome summer visitors who come to worship with us in our historic church.

Following a two month break the Senior Choir resumed in September when we again welcomed five choral scholars to the loft. Also, in September, we accepted an invitation to sing at a Gospel Service at Elim Pentecostal Tabernacle.

Another faithful member of our choir, Vernon Simmons, was hospitalized in September and passed away on October 26. Vern is fondly remembered by the senior choir who provided an anthem, "Abide with Me, 'Tis Eventide", at his funeral.



On November 24th, our Wendy Stevenson Choral Scholars treated our musical ears with a fine rendition of the anthem, “Reap What You Sow”.

The Senior Choir again began the Advent Season on November 30th, with our annual Christmas Party, hosted by Rosanne Lake at her condo Clubhouse.

Unfortunately, this year, due to severe winter storms, the annual Christmas Eve services were cancelled. However, the choir presented a fair portion of the choral music on December 29. We were joined in this service by alumni and family members of the choir, including three of the Stevenson siblings, Chris, Jon and Rachael, who fittingly lit the Christ candle.

The Choir maintains two bank accounts:

1. Special Projects Account
Closing balance, Dec. 2019 \$3371.13

2. Social Account (funded by weekly contributions)
Closing balance, Dec. 2019 \$560.38

Executive members are Sandra Davis and Ruth Churchill (gown conveners), Marilyn Peters (secretary-treasurer), Karen Butt (vice-president), and Roberta Gill (president).

Thank you to Dr. Douglas Dunsmore, Mr. Carl Goulding, and Mrs. Grace Dunsmore for their leadership, and to choir members and the congregation who faithfully support the music program.

SENIORS GROUP

Respectfully submitted by Anthony Chadwick and Linda Nickerson

Following Reverend Pamela’s “crisis” call, four members of the Senior Choir met to begin organizing the Christmas Gala Dinner for the last Tuesday in November, 2019. Two members of the group were unable to take an active role because of prior commitments, but Linda Nickerson and Tony Chadwick shouldered the responsibility to create a memorable event. The Men’s Club stepped up to provide the catering and transportation, while other volunteers helped with the finishing details: the UCW prepared and installed Christmas decorations in the Lecture Hall; others contributed items for door prizes and the Christmas Basket raffle; and, others helped dealing with tickets on the night. The Walsh Family provided the entertainment to round out a successful event for some 70 seniors. We are now preparing for two further dinners in April and May.



GOWER AFFIRM

Respectfully submitted by Larry Kelly on behalf of the Committee

On June 5, 2019 the congregation of Gower Street United Church proudly became the 214th Affirming Ministry in the United Church of Canada. Preparing for membership in Affirm United and planning for our public celebration was all consuming for approximately 18 months. Our public engagement included interviews with radio, television and print media.

Since June 2019, the work of the committee has centered on establishing a permanent Affirming Advisory Committee to develop an ongoing action plan, and to guide, assist and support all groups and committees within the church to integrate Affirming principles into their work. The committee welcomes Rebecca Pike, Minister of Children, Youth and Young Families and has solicited membership interest from the congregation for an additional 2-3 members.

The committee seeks opportunities to strengthen relationships with existing community groups by supporting their Affirming initiatives. To that end, three individuals from Gower sit on the Out in Faith NL Planning Committee, which organizes two community events each year, a mid-winter panel discussion at MUN and a Pride Week Out in Faith service at The Lantern.

Six enthusiastic members from Gower joined other churches and proudly marched in the pride parade in July carrying our Gower Affirm banner.

Gower supported The Newfoundland Gray Gays group in their request for meeting space.

Gower participated in Coldest Night and raised \$1100.00 for Choices for Youth.

The Stella Circle Inclusion Choir is regularly invited to participate in events at Gower and at Christmas was provided with 40 complimentary tickets to the Cantus Vocum Christmas concert at Wesley United Church.

The Affirm Advisory committee is planning a PIE Day celebration on March 14, the second annual Affirming Day within the United Church of Canada. In preparation, an educational video was viewed during service in February. The principles of PIE- Public, Intentional, Explicit and how we at Gower live those principles will be discussed during Minute for Affirm in early March.

Rev. Pamela, Dr. Dunsmore and others are thoughtful and intentional about inclusive scripture messages, music selections and, for example including children at the baptism of a child of same sex parents, which embrace the public, intentional and explicit principles of an Affirming church. The committee looks forward to working with you on our journey as an Affirming Community of Faith during the next year and welcomes input from everyone in the congregation. To join the committee please contact Gail Wideman, Chair.

WARM AND DRY FUND

Respectfully submitted by the committee

Your Warm and Dry Fund, also known as the Furnace and Roof Replacement Fund, is moving along with reducing its debt. We have a \$200,000 loan, however we are entitled to a grant of up to \$50,000 from Heritage NL which will go towards the loan payment. We are still in the process



of finalizing the paperwork to have as much of the \$50,000 as possible released so that we can apply it against the loan. This leaves us with approximately \$150,000 to pay back through the “Warm and Dry” fundraising initiative.

At present, the Warm and Dry Fund has received \$89,842 which will be applied to the loan. We have been very fortunate to have a generous anonymous donor who contributed approximately \$29,000 of the \$89,000 raised thus far. We are on the right path and hope to have this loan paid off in the coming years.

Warm and Dry Committee
Lorne LeDrew, Rev. Marion Pardy, Angeline Anstey, Ken Peters

GENERAL PROTESTANT CEMETERY COMMITTEE
The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.
Report of the Chairman of the Board
To the Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, February 4, 2020

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

During the year we had 190 burials, a decrease of 28 over the previous year; of these 66.84% were cremations, an increase over the previous year. The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	6.97%	4.13%	2.11%
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	79.50%	82.11%	74.74%
The Field of Honor	11.48%	8.26%	11.05%
Memorials Gardens Cemetery	5.75%	5.50%	12.11%
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>
Total Burials	226	218	190
Cremations Included	65.92%	62.40%	66.84%

Your Board met nine times during the past year.

Our Trust Fund for Perpetual Care last year was \$361,000.00. This year we added \$22,000.00. The fund now totals \$383,000.00. This is invested in GICs to earn an average rate of approximately 1.84%.



Since 2012, we have taken \$290,000.00 from our trust fund to complete Memorial Gardens. We have paid \$134,752.00 back into the trust fund. We will eventually pay back the full amount.

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

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

We finally received the permit from the City to do the paving of the parking lot at Memorial Gardens. The environment people at the City forced us to put in a retention pond to catch the water runoff. This resulted in extra cost so we reduced the size of the paved area to stay within the original paving price of \$147,000.00 plus HST.

We have sold 115 of the 120 niches in the Columbarium installed at Mount Pleasant in 2015. We had a new Columbarium installed in 2019 with additional 120 niches. We have sold 27 niches in our new Columbarium.

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

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

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

We appreciate those member churches that support the cemeteries financially and otherwise and thank them most sincerely. All of our 18 member Churches made contributions to the Cemetery this year. 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



BRIDGES TO HOPE

Report to our Partner Churches for 2019

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

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

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

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

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

We also concern ourselves with Fundraising. Jody is our main person in these projects. He organizes food drives, speaks to organizations, finds new sources of funding, and is in contact with corporations. He utilizes social media, and constantly updates our site on Facebook. This year we held a sold out fundraiser with Spirit to Newfoundland that was very successful and enjoyable. We hope to have another one this Fall.

But support is not just money. Where would we be without our Volunteers!! They pack hampers, stock shelves, sort food, bake bread, make soup, collect donations of food, and are reliable and turn up when needed. Support is also the donation of food that congregations bring to church each Sunday and are passed on to us, as well as the donations of supplies for Bags to School.



Support is the use of a church Hall when our facilities are not suitable. We are grateful for all who have helped us in any way to provide services for those who need them. It is impossible to name every person, company or organization who has supported us in the past year. We thank all of you, and want you to know your support is valued by us and our clients.

Each Board Meeting we begin with a prayer:

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

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

Eleanor Bonnell
Chairperson,
Board of Bridges to Hope

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Respectfully submitted by Edward Roberts, Chair

WHO ARE WE, AND WHAT DO WE DO?

1. Gower Street Church’s Trustees are responsible for the safe keeping and management of the Congregation’s real property and its endowment and other funds. This Report describes our activities during 2019.
2. The Board of Trustees, to use the official title, was created by statute law, and specifically – in the context of Newfoundland and Labrador – the United Church of Canada (Newfoundland) Act. [Statutes of Newfoundland, 1926, c. 5; as amended by Statutes of Newfoundland, 1961, c. 8 and 1982, c. 36.] The Trustees are also governed by the detailed provisions of the United Church Manual, which require that they be elected by the Congregation and that they report to the Official Board as is necessary and appropriate. Gower Street’s Trustees are elected for a term of three years and may be elected for successive terms.
3. Our Minister, the Reverend Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald, is a Trustee by virtue of her office. Fred Earle, Eric Hodder, Diane Hogan, Doug Moody, David Norris, Suzanne Orsborn, Ken Peters, David Roberts, Dan Simmons, Carl Stevenson, Roy West, Linda White and I served as Trustees during 2019. Carl, a valued member of the Trustees for many years, died during the year. We miss him greatly. David Roberts, a former Chair of the Official Board, and Gail moved to Toronto last year and so can no longer serve as a Trustee. We miss him, too. And Guy Taylor, who served as a Trustee for many, many years, died early in January 2020. I know I speak for all of my fellow Trustees when I acknowledge with gratitude their service to Gower Street and our Congregation over the years. The other ten Trustees and I have all agreed to continue as Trustees, and we shall ask the Congregation to elect two new Trustees at the ACM.



GOWER'S ENDOWMENT FUND:

4. The Trustees hold legal title to all of the property – whether real or personal – owned by Gower Street's Congregation. This includes the buildings on Queen's Road and all their furnishings and equipment, as well as all funds held by Gower Street in its different accounts, including the Endowment Fund. That said, I must go on to say that while the Trustees are the legal owners of Gower's property, our primary responsibility is the management of the Endowment Fund, which holds the money accumulated by our Congregation over many years. The Official Board deals with matters affecting the day-to-day finances of the Congregation and the maintenance and operation of our buildings. The Official Board is also responsible for personnel issues.
5. Gower's Endowment Fund has been built up over many years, mainly from bequests and gifts. As of 31 December 2019, the Fund was valued at \$773,890, as against \$752,539 at the end of 2018. Accordingly, the capital appreciation of the fund amounted to 2.8%, which combined with the dividend and investment income of 4.1% (discussed below) amounted to an overall return of 6.9% for the portfolio in 2019. Over and above that, the Trustees are responsible for our Congregation's dealings with two Estates – those of the late Gordon L. Butler and the late Audrey March. Mr. Butler and Ms. March, by means of their Wills, each left funds in trust, with instructions to make annual payments to Gower Street. We receive these funds in behalf of the Congregation.

2019 PERFORMANCE:

6. The assets held by the Trustees in Gower's Endowment Fund earned \$31,067 (4.1%) during 2019. Those held by Scotia Wealth Management, valued at \$347,283 as of 31 December, earned \$15,788 (4.7%). Those held by CIBC/Wood Gundy were valued at \$426,031 at the end of the year; they earned \$13,059 (3.15%) during 2019. It should be noted that a very substantial component of the funds held by CIBC/Wood Gundy are invested in Fixed Income securities, as opposed to equities. This reflects the Trustees investment policy. The equity and balanced fund investments held by CIBC/Wood Gundy earned \$9,621 (4.79%), while our Fixed Income investments there, currently totaling \$215,000, are invested at a blended average rate of 2.4%. (CIBC/Wood Gundy held a portion of this amount, \$164,925, for only part of 2019. This reflects changes made as a result of the maturity of \$164,925 GIC investments, at the Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union (NLCU), as explained in paragraph 7). Nonetheless, during the period the above noted funds resided at the NLCU in 2019, they earned \$2,220 based on the established interest rate of 2.87%. At yearend we had \$576 on deposit at the Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union, which includes the value of one voting share.
7. We made one major change in our investments during 2019. For some years, the Trustees have invested some of Gower Street's funds with the Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union, in Term deposits. These matured in July of 2019. We asked for bids from the NLCU, and from Scotia Wealth Management and CIBC/Wood Gundy, the other institutions through which we hold investments. CIBC/Wood Gundy offered the highest rate, and accordingly we invested the proceeds of the matured investment (\$164,925) through it. The new investment is guaranteed by the Canadian Investment Deposit Corporation, a Federal Government agency, as are all of our fixed income securities.



8. All monies earned by the Endowment Fund are transferred regularly to the Board. Gower's treasurer (Fred Earle) and Finance Chair (Ken Peters) are members of the Board of Trustees.

BEQUESTS:

9. The Trustees are also responsible for the administration of the payments made annually to Gower Street by the Estates of the late Gordon Butler and Audrey March. We received \$26,756 from the Butler Estate and \$14,616 from the March Estate, for a total of \$41,372. These funds do not become part of the Endowment Fund, but are immediately transferred to the Official Board.
10. The other bequest managed by the Trustees is the fund in memory of Gladys L. Roberts, a life-long member of our Congregation. The fund was worth \$19,342 on 31 December 2018 and \$21,269 on 31 December 2019, an increase of \$1,927 or 9.96%. The income it generates each year is divided annually between the Gower Community Band (a successor to the Gower Youth Band) and the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This amounted to \$842, a yield of 4.35% during 2019.

THE ENDOWMENT IS A LEGACY:

11. Gower's Endowment Fund holds assets accumulated over many years. It earns a substantial income for Gower Street each year, all of which is paid over to the Official Board to help to defray its expenses. The Fund is a legacy to those who have gone before, and should be treasured and respected because of that. Today's Trustees are as equally dedicated to preserving the funds as were all those who have served as Trustees over many years.

**Gower Endowment Fund
Assets as of Dec 31, 2019 vs. December 31, 2018**

Investment Portfolio	31/12/2019	31/12/2018
Scotia Wealth Management	347,283	335,886
CIBC Wood Gundy		
...Diversified Portfolio	260,466	249,309
... Value of Investments /GIC under management from July 25	165,565	0
Total CIBC Wood Gundy	426,031	249,309
NLCU		
...Investments/GICs (Matured June 30,2019)	0	167,344
... Residual Cash + Voting share	576	0
Total NLCU	576	167,344
Total Endowment Fund *	773,890	752,539

**Assumes the Gladys Roberts bequest (Dec 31, 2019 =\$21,269 vs. Dec 31, 2018 =19,342) is included in the main SWM portfolio*



MINUTES OF 2019 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Gower Street United Church ACM February 24, 2019

1. WELCOME: Chair Lorne LeDrew welcomed everyone. He thanked the Men's Club, the Board members and the UCW for the meal preparation and serving. He noted there were fewer paper copies of the reports in an effort to save paper and printer ink.

2. OPENING PRAYER: Rev. Pamela

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND SECRETARY: Motion by Ken Peters / Daryl Pullman, Lorne LeDrew and Ruth Francis appointed chair and secretary respectively. Accepted

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion by Jim Churchill/Karl Wright Accepted

5. MINUTES OF 2018 ACM: Motion by Daryl Pullman / David Roberts. Accepted

MINUTES OF SEPT.16, 2018 SPECIAL CM: Motion by Ed Moores / Jim Hiller. Accepted

6. MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF THE BOARD: Highlights:

- Affirm Church: This was a major step in the life of Gower. Received a letter from Rev. Kate Crawford congratulating Gower and. Reminding us how she and Rev. Marion Davis set about getting this going back in 2008..
- New Board structure: It seems to be working well. There will be a new approach for getting volunteers.
- Vision 2025: A review of our progress needs to be done in 2019. There have been many changes in the last 3 years- outreach, youth, ministers etc.
- Men's club proposal: To rename the archives room as The Garfield Fizzard Room. This was passed by the Board.
- New Website: To be launched in 2019 telling everyone who we are as a Church.
- The first GCB Pops Concert was very moving and entertaining. The second is scheduled for March 10th 2019.
- There are many people working behind the scenes to keep the church running smoothly. It has been wonderful working with Rev. Pamela. I have agreed to stay on as Board Chair for one more year.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER: Remembering her Grandparents who were longtime members of Gower. Coming to Gower provided something she really needed and she is grateful to be here. She enjoyed working at Stella's Circle and misses them. .She feels at home here. Before this she only had 3 years in a pastoral charge and is looking forward to the challenge. At some pint in the future she would like to take a group from Gower somewhere on a humanitarian trip.

8. IN MEMORIAM: The names of those members of the congregation who died during the past year were read out by Rev. Pamela. These are listed in the Newsletter on page 34. It was followed by a prayer



9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE REPORT: The Report is broken down by the different funds such as Operating Fund, Restoration Fund, Endowment Fund, Organ Fund, and M&S. which is included under Other Funds. Under liabilities, under the Restoration Fund the cost of 187,083 is for the roof repair and the new furnace. Reclassification of 150,822 is the correction of an error. The main fund is the operating fund. There has been a decline in the offerings over the past few years. We need to come up with new sources of income. We also need to increase rental income. In 2018 there was a deficit of 8,675. The motion to accept the Financial Report made by Fred Earle / Ed Roberts was passed.

The projected budget for 2019 projected a deficit of 23,872. It was suggested that we need to trim costs and generate revenue through fundraising and rentals to try to bring it to zero. Motion to accept the 2019 budget made by Ken Peters / Daryl Pullman.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Before we got to the report, Lorne acknowledged an error that was made in drawing up the New Constitution.

The whole section pertaining to elections was omitted. It was moved by Jim Hiller / Ed Roberts that the whole section from the old Constitution be added to the new Constitution verbatim. Carried.

Question: Ed Moore: Did the nominations go to the Board first? Answer: No, it goes directly to the ACM.

Nominations Committee: The following people are nominated for election for 2020:

All motions made by Pardy/Roberts

Pat Griffin, acting chair, called 3 times after each nomination, for any nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming so all were accepted as listed.

BOARD MEMBERS

Lorne LeDrew, Chair of the Board, extended for one year.

Carolyn Anstey-Moore, Vice Chair.

Ken Peters, Leader of Finance and Property, extended for one year.

Fred Earle, Treasurer, extended for one year.

Daryl Pullman, re-elected as Chair of Ministry and Personal

NON-BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Hiller, Chair of Heritage and Archives, extended for one year.

Gail Wideman, Chair of Nominations.

Karen Thorne, Chair of Pastoral Care Committee.

Roy West, Re-elected as Regional Rep. of Gower.

Pat West, Regional Rep. of Gower.

Doug Moody, Bridges to Hope Board, Rep. of Gower.

JoAnna Bennett, Chair of Stewardship, Commencing Sept. 1st 2019.

TRUSTEES:

Doug Moody, Board of Trustees

Linda White, Board of Trustees



Words of appreciation were expressed to those stepping down from their positions:

- JoAnna Bennett, Stewardship
- Lynette Hillier, Communications
- Marion Pardy, Nominations
- Karen Tuck, East District Delegate.

Lorne thanked Rev. Marion Pardy for 6 years of hard work on this committee. She has made a significant contribution to the work of the Church. And thanks to all the other members who worked on this slate.

Questions from the floor:

David Guzzwell, "In these transitional times, I have concern about the constitution. When a person has already served their 6 years do we ask people to stay on for another year? Are we setting up a precedent? Are we ignoring the constitution?" Rev. Pardy " We've had discussions but it has been done before. We looked at the present context and decided that it would be helpful to the Board to extend their positions.

Doug Moody: "Does the proposal contravene the constitution?"

Ed Roberts: "We are not changing the constitution. It's only for 3 board members and 1 non-board member. It is a precedent but not a binding one. This is an unusual situation with a new constitution and a new minister coming all at once."

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS COMMITTEE: Spokesperson Gail Wideman P.8-10 of the annual report.

HERITAGE AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE: P. 10 of the annual report.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Had a busy year. With Daryl Pullman away, Roberta Gill took over. P. 11 of the annual report.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Moved by Judi Somers seconded by Florence Sanna to contribute \$35,000 to Outreach. Carried.

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE: It is noted that the appointment of Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray as Minister of Pastoral Care, has given a fresh breath life in Gower. We give thanks. P. 13 of the annual report.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT: P. 14 of the annual report.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Ed Moores thanks everyone involved for all the work done this past year. There is going to be work done by the city outside the church. Upcoming road work will eliminate the turning lane at the front of the Church. Also work will be done on the retaining wall on Church Hill. P. 14-15 of the annual report.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: JoAnna Bennett has stepped down as chair but will take up the position again in the fall. As there is no chair, the Annual Dinner Theatre is in question. It will be put on the Board's agenda. P. 15-16 of the annual report..



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: This committee has been in disarray since Lynette Hillier stepped down due to illness. The Committee is focusing on the website with the aim to make it an open invitation to the world to come into Gower. P. 16-17 of the annual report.

GROUPS AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Gower Community Band: New Director is Ron Collins and Assistant Director is Dana Collins with the retirement of long-time director Edsel Bonnell. The “Pops Concert” was a great success and plans are to continue this initiative. P. 17-19 of the annual report.

UCW: P. 19-20 of the annual report.

Men’s Club: P. 21-22 of the annual report.

Senior Choir: P. 23-24 of the annual report.

Warm and Dry Fund: We applied to Heritage NL for a grant of \$50,000. We were approved but are awaiting actual receipt of the money. Even with this grant there is still \$78,000 to go. P. 24 of the annual report.

Senior’s Club: Heartfelt sadness on the death of Gola Roberts. This report is submitted by Sharon Monahan. This a very important outreach vessel and needs to continue. In the interim, there are 2 more dinners left for the year and hopefully some group will help out. P. 24-25 of the annual report.

Gower Affirm: P. 26-27 in the annual report.

General Protestant Cemetery Committee: P. 27-29 of the annual report.

Bridges to Hope: Gower’s Rep. is Doug Moody. P. 29-31 of the annual report.

Gower Street United Church Board of Trustees: There are 2 new names added to the endowment fund and 2 have left. P.31-33 of the annual report.

10. OTHER BUSINESS:

1. The document that will list the activities that need volunteers was discussed. Rev. Marion advised that it is being formatted by Mark and Heather Peters. This will come from the Board. People don’t need to sign up for any long term commitment. It could be a one time thing.
2. There needs to be a small committee set up to look at our revenue streams. What is the best way to use our rental spaces to create revenues for the church?
3. Outreach: Suggest that we have a one day workshop to see how we can focus our Outreach to help our needy in the community. We need someone to lead this.
4. Vision 2025: This being the 3rd year into Vision 2025 we will be looking to conduct a review of the recommendations to see where we are and what adjustments may be needed.



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Lorne ended the meeting with the words that personifies Gower Street United Church: ...
: Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Arms.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Francis
Board Secretary



FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Respectfully submitted by Kenneth Peters, Chair

Another year has come and gone. Although it was a good year in many ways, we continue to struggle with the financial challenges of the church. Our single largest expense, as it is with most institutions and organizations, is wages and benefits. This single item used 71% of our total income. Heat and light was our second largest expense using an additional 17%. The total for these two items alone amounts to 88% of our total income.

Add to that the next three largest expenses which are insurance, assessments from East District and repairs and maintenance. The insurance and assessments from East District are dictated by the United Church of Canada. They use 11% of our income. So together, wages, heat and light, insurance and assessments from East District have used 99% of our total income.

In addition, there are other expenses to consider. Repairs and maintenance is another significant cost. Most, if not all repairs and maintenance, are essential for the safety of the congregation and the preservation of the building. Ed Moores is our Property Committee Chair and he does a tremendous job overseeing these issues.

In looking at the numbers, we feel that the bulk of our issues and our efforts need to focus on generating more income. We have a revenue problem. The envelope givings, which are the givings of the congregation members, have always been the single largest source of income for the church. Unfortunately, there has been a continual decline in these givings over the last 5 years. In 2014 these contributions were \$222,000 and this past year they dropped to \$163,000. This is a difference of \$59,000 down a significant \$27,000 from last year alone. Our investment income, under the watchful eye of Ed Roberts and the Board of Trustees, contributed \$82,000 this past year. Rental income was down from last year, but still contributed a significant \$40,000. This is an area that needs more attention as it has tremendous potential.

The church is facing a number of challenges, the greatest of which is an aging and declining church family. We have lost a number of very active members of our congregation over the last five years alone. Unfortunately, this trend is probably going to continue.

We realize that we have some significant issues to tackle, so we have assembled a committee to look at ideas for how we can improve our revenue stream. This committee has already met and has developed an action plan that we hope will help us to turn the tide of our finances. This committee will have more to say in the coming weeks as we roll out some new initiatives.

I would like to thank the members of your finance committee; Fred Earle, (Treasurer) and Jordan Wright for their continued contributions. We look forward to welcoming our newest member, Mark Peters at our next meeting.

