

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH

St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Minister: Rev. Guy Matthews

Congregational Designated Minister: Keith Wiseman

Minister Emeritus: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Parry

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

Band Director: Dr. Edsel Bonnell

Office Manager: Linda Hogan **Caretaker:** David Noseworthy

Board Chair: David Roberts

99 Queen's Road, St. John's, NL A1C 6M6 Telephone: 753-7286 - Fax: 383-0145

E-Mail: gsuc@nl.rogers.com Website: www.gowerunited.ca

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

OUR CREED

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

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

We trust in God.

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

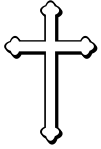
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

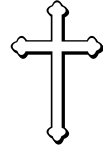
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OFFICIAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Respectfully submitted by David Roberts, Chair, Official Board



For some of the more superstitious among us, there may be considerable relief now that the year 2013 has passed. As we know, the number “13” is considered by many as unlucky and should/must be avoided at all costs. And for sure, there were unfortunate events and happenings last year both here and around the world that some may attribute to the dreaded number 13. In my view, however, such was not the case at Gower. In fact, I believe our church had a very good year. We continued to receive strong, stable, spiritual leadership from our Ministers; our church had a busy calendar of major events and activities; and from a financial perspective, our actual operating deficit came in under budget...but still, unfortunately, a deficit. To all who contributed, whether great or small, to our success in 2013, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation. As I have said on previous occasions, you are indeed Gower’s greatest assets.

In June of last year, Gower was the recipient of a most wonderful gift, a baby grand Steinway piano. Dr. Sarah Rose, who taught at MUN’s Linguistic Department for some twenty years, donated her mother’s piano to our church. As many of you may know, Dr. Rose’s mother was Catherine Hageman (1908-1988) who was considered a “piano prodigy” and lived most of her life in New York. She acquired the Steinway in 1972 and Dr. Rose subsequently inherited it and relocated it to St. John’s. Last year, Dr. Rose and her husband moved to British Columbia to be closer to their children and grandchildren and wished to find an appropriate home for the piano in our city. Thanks perhaps largely to her acquaintance with one Douglas Dunsmore, Dr. Rose ultimately decided to donate this great musical instrument to Gower in memory of her mother. Since May, it proudly occupies

a prominent location in the front of our sanctuary and is played on a frequent basis at many services and events. The piano was officially dedicated during our Anniversary Service on Sunday, June 16th.

Continuing in a musical vein, we were all very pleased to share in and experience the 40th anniversary celebrations of the Gower Community Band. Appropriately acronymed GCBXL, the celebrations spanned a large part of 2013 including Gower’s Anniversary Sunday on June 16, a Band reunion weekend in August, a Service of Thanksgiving at Gower on Sunday, October 27 to commemorate the mission and mandate of the Band program and the hosting of a very pleasant reception in the Band Room of the Memorial Building after the church service. The celebrations concluded with a Gala Concert on the evening of Saturday, November 2 at Holy Heart of Mary Auditorium and a Celebration Banquet at the Holiday Inn the following evening. We thank Dr. Edsel Bonnell and all Band members, past and present, for their remarkable contribution and service to our church, community, and province over the past 40 years, and we extend our best wishes for their continued success in the future.

The 200th Anniversary of the Gower Congregation in 2015 is rapidly approaching. Our Heritage and Archives Committee is coordinating plans and preparations for this great milestone in our church’s history. I encourage all committees, groups and members of our congregation to make suggestions and recommendations as to how we should appropriately recognize and celebrate this outstanding point in time in the history of our congregation.

The ministers of the four downtown UC churches in our city continue to meet on a regular basis. There are many common issues that, if addressed collectively, could reap benefits for all concerned. We should continue to pursue such matters and, for example, share resources wherever feasible. Joint summer worship services are but one example.

While our congregation is nearly 200 years old, our current church is significantly less, having been built around 1894-95 after the previous building was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1892. As buildings go, our church is aging and requires constant repair and maintenance to deal with the many leaks and natural deterioration of the physical structure. An example is the current, somewhat extensive repairs to the Southeast Turret of the building. In fact, I believe a major restoration program will have to be launched sooner than later to effectively address significant property issues.

On behalf of the Board, I thank you all for your financial support in the past year. Your attendance at special fundraisers such as the joint Band/Organ Concert in support of the Organ Restoration Fund on February 10th, the Spirit of Newfoundland Dinner Theatre on April 11th, the renowned Carl Stevenson Art Exhibition in November as well as the numerous activities of the UCW, the Men's

Club, the Senior's Club and much more is greatly appreciated. Above all, your regular contributions to our Operating, Organ, and Restoration Funds, and Mission and Service are crucial and are what make our church the wonderful place that it is. As mentioned earlier, we incurred an Operating deficit last year and are projecting a larger one for 2014. This unfortunate financial situation must be addressed and corrected in order to maintain the financial viability and stability of our day-to-day operations.

I thank all chairs, leaders, and members of committees and groups for all your work and dedication to our church during the past year. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and are so much appreciated. On behalf of the Board, I once again extend a sincere thank you to our ministers for their spiritual leadership, guidance, and commitment, and to all staff and volunteers for your work and service.

For six of the past eight years, I have had the great privilege of serving our church as Chair of the Official Board. There have been many challenges and many rewards. It is now time for change and I will be stepping down at our Annual Congregational Meeting. I extend best wishes to the new Chair and Board for every success in the future as we all work together to make Gower the best it can be.

A Prayer for Reading the Annual Report

God of all our days, be with me as I read the pages of this report.
Let my interest be a blessing to all whose labour is represented here.
Let my concern be a sign of my own commitment.

Help me to be open to the presence of your Holy Spirit in our community,
and to your voice calling us forward in faith.

In your name I ask it,
In your presence I ask it,
In your compassion I ask it. Amen.



IS THE CHURCH HAVING A KODAK MOMENT?

Rev. Guy Matthews

We all have many memories preserved in photographs or ‘snaps’. Whether organized and protected in albums, displayed in frames or tucked away in a wallet as a reminder or awaiting a chance to brag, they are real treasures of precious places, times and people that are very meaningful to us. In recent years, with the advent of digital photography and a camera in every phone taking pictures has become so easy and inexpensive we don’t even give it much thought.

Of the many companies who produced film, cameras, and developing supplies or who offered processing no other matched Eastman-Kodak. It was a model for success in the 20th century and cornered 90 per cent of the market. Kodak was once THE pioneer of the photography industry. Starting with founder George Eastman in 1885, they were at the forefront of every breakthrough in the film and photography industry for a century, including, ironically, digital photography an invention of Kodak engineer, Steven Sasson.

But when the market started changing and digital photography began to replace film, Kodak was slow to adapt. Two years ago Kodak filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

While new companies and their old competitors revolutionized the industry through digital imaging, Kodak continued to invest in better and more efficient ways to use film, remaining the best at what they did. What lasted over a century took only a decade to be virtually dismantled. Just because it’s always worked doesn’t mean it will always work.

The problem was that the demand for the film market began to disappear and nobody at Kodak seemed to notice until it was too late. By the time they tried to transition, let go of a declining technology

and invest in the digital market, it was too late.

A great “product” still needs to meet the needs of the customer.

In the Western World, the Christian Church has had an even longer run at the top of the “religion market” than Kodak had in the film business. Like Kodak, the church faces a similar challenge. It is not that the Christian “model” is necessarily broken, but more that it does meet the needs of the society in which it lives. It may be time for a change.

Embracing the newest and most exciting doesn’t always guarantee success. If in the process of trying to “survive” the Church diverts from its core values and purpose, then all the latest technology, theory and practices in the world are not going to help the cause. It is key that we not be blind and deaf to the “market”, to the needs and wants of the world we are trying to reach. Like the raising of children, there is no instruction book or step-by-step checklist provided to keep up with the changes. Being relevant in the lives of our members and the world is no different in many respects than it was in Jesus’ day. In Jesus’ day, the gospel offered hope, meaning, purpose to those who were seeking such things but not finding them in the culture and economy of the day.

A hundred years ago when our culture was still very limited in its mobility, membership in the church community was critically import to its members who would spend most if not all of their lives together. The church was one great family filled with many families who laughed, cried, celebrated and mourned together as they passed through life.

Today’s world is nothing like that. Our world is transient. Families aren’t being born, working and dying within a 50

kilometre radius. That means the needs of the people in the community are now different.

While our world has gotten more integrated through improvements in travel and technology, it's allowed us to redefine our sense of community. We now have a number of options where we can share those life moments. Church can still be one, but that's no longer needed solely in the same way.

So what is needed? Are there still the disenfranchised among us? Are there still people suffering? Those are the people who Jesus targeted for his ministry. The answer is certainly Yes. Our "community" model worked well for a long, long time. And if the world hadn't changed, it would probably still work just as well. But it has. That means we've got to get back to our core values.

Kodak forgot that it was really about what George Eastman started doing back in the late 1800s: bringing home and

preserving quality images of life. They got away from that by being more concerned about the medium, the film, rather than the message. The questions for us as a Church, a Denomination and as a Congregation are: Do we face the same challenge in a rapidly changing world? Will we remember the message, the good news of the risen Christ who sets the captives free, or will we stay stubbornly stuck to our traditional ways?

We celebrate the year 2013 with all its successes and blessings. We thank you for your supporting with your presence, your talents, your time, and your money. We look forward to the challenges and blessings of 2014. As a congregation we will have to deal with a projected deficit, but together we can meet that challenge, especially if we centre on who we are called to be and who we are called to serve and not lose our way.

Rev. Guy



MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Respectfully submitted by - Lorne LeDrew, Chair M&P



The past year was a relatively quiet one from an M&P perspective as the staff continued to provide yeomen service to the church. Over the summer, we were fortunate to obtain two summer students through Student Employment Programs- Peter Myles (SWASP) and Mitchell Burt (Level I, II, III). Peter Myles, who continues to volunteer in the office assisted with the Bulletins, did a file clean up and generally helped out around the office. Mitchell Burt assisted David with maintenance as well as conducted tours of the sanctuary. Both Peter and Mitchell did a great job which was appreciated by everyone.

Both Linda and David were very busy this year due to a number of things, not the least of which was the increase in Rental activity. Nevertheless things have been kept up to date largely with the help of the following volunteers:

- Thomas Dunster
- Ryan Flynn
- Marcel Burton
- Peter Myles
- Doreen Riche
- Diane Hogan
- Delores Vaughan
- Paula Vaughan
- Pat West
- Lorne King

Ten volunteers may seem like a lot but we still need more. As a consequence we are actively seeking more volunteers to help out. So if you have even just a couple hours a week to spare please let us know.

Linda Hogan and David Noseworthy have been working diligently and we want to thank them once again for their work and dedication.

Keith Wiseman continues to provide leadership and coordination in Pastoral care and we are so very fortunate to have someone of his calibre in our midst. Thanks Keith!

Once again throughout the year our music staff continually went beyond the call of duty. We wish to thank Doug Dunsmore, Dana Collins, Carl Goulding and Edsel Bonnell who continue to provide a ministry of music that we all cherish.

I would also like express my sincere gratitude to the members of the M&P Committee; Roy West, Pam Snow and Roberta Gill who continue to provide faithful service. I wish to also make special mention of our dear friend and colleague, Alf Anstey who was an active and valued member of our Committee right up to the time of his death. He left a big hole to fill in the committee and in our hearts.

In closing, the Committee wishes to express our sincere gratitude to Rev. Guy whose leadership and guidance continues to inspire us all.



WORSHIP & SACRAMENTS

Respectfully submitted by Angeline Anstey, Chair

Mandate

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

Services of Worship

Rev. Guy Matthews continues his inspirational and visionary leadership among us, faithfully conducting worship each Sunday assisted at times by our Congregational Designated Minister, Keith Wiseman. Our musical staff- Carl Goulding, Douglas and Grace Dunsmore, Dana Collins and the members of the Senior and Junior choirs contribute significantly to the quality of our weekly worship. The Gower Community Band under the leadership of Edsel Bonnell shared the celebration of their 40th Anniversary with our congregation several times throughout the year, culminating with their special Anniversary Sunday service in October led by former minister, Rev. Sandy Maclean. We also thank committees and other clergy who have been willing to lead worship when needed. On occasion we have welcomed other congregations to Gower or have worshipped in their sanctuaries. Sermons are available on the Gower website and hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Sacraments Holy Communion was celebrated 5 times throughout the year and 13 children were baptized.

Funerals Twenty- six funerals were registered at Gower this year.

Marriages Sixteen marriages were performed or registered at Gower in 2013.

Committee Supporters:

The Worship & Sacraments Committee is able to fulfill its mandate because of the efforts and support of other members of our congregation. Special thanks to:

- All who volunteered to participate in worship by reading scripture and offering prayers, and to those who operate the sound system and who maintain the Gower website.
- All who willing helped in the serving of Communion throughout the year.
- The Sunday School who participates in Children's Time and the Christmas pageant.
- The Outreach Committee for their regular Minute For Mission, Birthday Sunday and Food Bank promotions.
- The Stewardship Committee for their Stewardship Thought.
- We are grateful for the faithful work of Carl Wright, Chief Usher and Doug Peters, Chief funeral usher and for all who serve as ushers each week.
- Thanks to Gail Wideman who continues to arrange Greeters for each service, and to those who volunteer to greet people at the door each Sunday.
- Judi Somers, who continues to organize supplies for our weekly Fellowship Time

And the committees/groups/individuals who faithfully host and provide refreshments every Sunday.

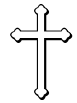
- All committees/groups who participated in our first Ministry Fair in October, highlighting their work and initiatives for the education of congregation members.
- Carl Stevenson, who continues his financial support of the committee through his annual art show.
- Doug Dunsmore, who arranged with Sarah Rose for the donation of the beautiful Steinway piano now in our sanctuary.
- Linda Hogan and David Noseworthy for their design and sale of pen sets with proceeds to go to the W&S Committee.
- The Property Committee for their continued cooperation in maintaining a safe and well- maintained sanctuary.
- Pat West who maintains the Church Rolls.
- Linda Hogan, David Noseworthy and volunteer office staff for their tireless support in many ways.

The Committee

I wish to express my deep appreciation and thanks to the Worship & Sacraments Committee: Keith Wiseman, Gwen Alcock, Cal Best and Linda White for all their help and support this past year. Keith is continuing in his Discernment process for full-time ministry and we wish him and the Discernment Committee well. Rev. Guy continues to inspire us with his leadership and vision, and we thank him for his tireless work.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AS NOTED IN THE OFFICIAL REGISTERS



BAPTISMS:

Isla Jean Igloliorte
Damien Cyril James Kean
Abigail Emily Suzanne Moores
Chloe Frédérique Larose
Sullivan Michael Charles Power
Charla Abigail Nickerson
Luke Douglas Roderick Stapleton

Caleb David Bruce Milley
Hunter Cyril Edward Moores
Carter James Warren
Craig Jason Hunter White
Charlotte Elizabeth Hawco
Olivia Catherine Michael Menecola

DEATHS:

Mildred Paradis
Hazel Blackwood
Robert Johnston
Marjorie Fleet
Lavinia Rees
Frances Noseworthy
Max Pottle
Phyllis Courtney
Cassandra King

Bruce Bowden
Jabez Jones
Joan O'Grady
C. Williams
Viola Winsor
Stanley Noftall
Bing Wah Au
Donna McGrath
Marjorie Drysdale

Bill Marshall
Maxwell House
Jean Smith
Marion Noftall
Elsie Bauld
Dorcas Bursey
Alfred Anstey
Bruce Bauld

WEDDINGS:

Rita Northcott & Robert Elliott
Carol Bartlett & Stephanie Howlett
Carla Colbourne & Richard Hinwood
Katherine Ollerhead & Matthew Fiander
Sabrina Warfield & Robert Janes
Anthony Lockyer & Wilson Roberts
Kristina Strong & Colin Coombs
Haley Nielsen & Matthew Kinden

Maria Sol Modesto & Robert Vardy
Megan Laracy & Dean Burton
Amanda Kerwin & Dominique Jean
Jennifer Coish & Christopher Sellars
Lisa Duffett & Trevor Sabean
Brieanna Reilly & Douglas Angel
Sitka Polk & David Francis
Jessica Frenette & Adam Hill

BEQUESTS

TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND:

The Endowment Fund consists of bequests left by individuals in their wills to Gower St. United Church. The money in the fund is held in trust with the interest used in accord with the instructions in the wills. Where no direction is given in the will, the interest is applied to the Operating Fund. Before the establishment of the Endowment Fund in 1996, unless the wills instructed that the funds be kept in trust, generally the bequests were used as revenue by the church in the year they were received or shortly thereafter.

We hold in grateful memory the following individuals who, through their final act of stewardship, have provided for continued financial support of the church they loved.

**Clarence & Ruth
Badcock
Daphne House
Kay Grouchy
Leslie LeDrew
John & Blanche Taylor
Gladys Roberts
Dr. Thomas Stentaford
Margaret Whelan
Beatrice Day
John & Maude Leamon
Audrey March
Kevin Osmond
Dr. Herbert Pottle
Elinor M. Soper**

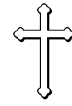
**Marjorie Peters
Velda Richards
Marion Soper
Frances Lench
Grace & Wilfred
Barbour
Edna Stephenson
Zeta Butt
Peggy Snelgrove
Doug Osmond
Frances Wells
Dr. Harry Roberts
Hilda White
James Nurse
Gordon Butler**

**Willis Benson
Thomas & Helene House
Walter Grouchy
Rev. Walter H Macabe
Carrie Martin
Alma Pittman
Ethel Janes
Frank Leamon
Gertrude Barbour
Harold Lake
Uriah (Hughie) Alcock
Olga Anderson
John F. Pittman
Harold Butler
Edna Green**

We would also like to thank all those who have made offering to the different funds and to the Church in memory of their friends and loved ones.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Anstey-Moore, Chair, CE Committee, and
Sunday School Coordinator

Committee Membership:

Carolyn Anstey-Moore has agreed to stay on as Chair of the Christian Education Committee and Sunday School Coordinator in 2014. The Committee membership is currently:

Carolyn Anstey-Moore (Chair)
Dana Collins

The CE Committee held monthly meetings in the Church Office on the first Wednesday of each month during the year, with discussion focused on the committee's work, in particular in the areas of youth ministry and the Sunday School program. On Sunday, October 20th the CE Committee had the opportunity to participate in Gower's Ministry Fair, and presented a display of photos, materials and other resources, that capture the essence of youth ministry at Gower.

We are always looking for new committee members! We are currently down to a skeletal committee, with only two members, which limits the work that we can do. If you are interested in serving on this vital committee or helping with Sunday School, please contact Carolyn Anstey-Moore (by phone 754-6922 (evenings) or by email carolynansteymoore@nl.rogers.com)

Update on Sunday School Program:

Sunday School is held during the 11 am service and is a combined, multi-age class. About 20 children are registered this year ranging from 3 to 11 years of age. We use a lectionary-based curriculum called Seasons of the Spirit that combines traditional bible stories with modern social and environmental themes. Five (5) members of the congregation volunteer as teachers, with a teaching commitment of about one Sunday

per month. In addition to Sunday School, we also have a nursery for pre-Sunday School aged children. Each Sunday it is tended by a church volunteer, allowing parents to attend the service.

Various special Sunday School sessions were held throughout the year. On Palm Sunday, the children participated in the service by handing out palms to the congregation, and prepared their own miniature Lenten Gardens; while on Easter Sunday, the children participated in a Resurrection Eggs activity that taught the meaning of the various Christian Easter symbols, and told the Easter Story in a hands-on, interactive way.

The Sunday School program finished on June 17, 2013 with a farewell party. Junior Congregation, for ages 3 and up, was held throughout the summer months.

The 2013-2014 Sunday School program commenced on Sept. 15, 2013 with a welcome back party and registration.

The Sunday school children participated in a number of special worships over the 2013 Advent season. On November 25, the children and parents enjoyed the 2nd Annual Santa Claus Parade Family Luncheon. It was a great success again this year, and families enjoyed a lunch of Mac & cheese, hotdogs and sweets before heading to the Downtown Santa Claus Parade. The following Sunday, (December 1), the children continued to learn and prepare themselves for Advent and Christmas by participating in the "Hanging of the Greens". This year, while the "Hanging of the Greens" worship was carried out in the sanctuary, the children participated in a "kid-oriented" version of this traditional

celebration downstairs, and enjoyed learning about the religious significance of various Christmas traditions and decorations. On Sunday, Dec. 8, the Sunday School children performed their Christmas Pageant. This was lead by Dana Collins and included musical support by the junior choir. By modifying the script, all of the children were able to participate and enjoyed performing their play for the congregation. This year the pageant was so well received, the children were asked to perform an encore performance at the Christmas Eve service!

In addition, most of the Sunday School children are also members of the junior choir, which is directed by Dana Collins and practice Sundays at 10:30 before the service. This past year, the junior choir performed at

a number of special worship services, including the Family Sunday, Thanksgiving, White Gift, and Christmas Eve services.

We thank all of the Sunday School teachers for their continued commitment and enthusiasm, as well as the parents and rest of the congregation for their support throughout the year. Also, many thanks to Susan Wilton for her continued dedicated work in organizing and maintaining a clean and safe church nursery, and to our many nursery volunteers for their support.

Lastly, we wish to express our sincere thanks to Kelly Hudson-Lewis and Sue Wilton, both of whom left the committee this year, for their dedication and hard work during their time of service on the CE Committee.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by Barb Myles, Outreach Chair



This past year has been very active for our small committee;

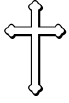
- supported World Development and Relief through monthly Birthday Sunday Collections
- supported Mission and Service Fund with monthly announcements and Gifts with Vision project
- held Lent Bank Fundraiser with proceeds of over \$800.00 going to Bridges To Hope
- held Thanksgiving Food Drive, and donated food to Bridges To Hope
- hosted Volunteer Appreciation Lunch along with invitation to the Gower Congregation, April 2013
- organized White Gift Service, with distribution to Iris Kirby House, Emmanuel House, Naomi Centre, Street Reach and For The Love Of Learning
- weekly volunteering at Food Pantry, and representation on the Board at Bridges To Hope

- initiation of monthly Social Justice Movie Series, February 2014, which will continue the first Monday of each month at 7 pm in the Lecture Hall

The Gower Street Lunch Program continues to provide lunch and fellowship to anyone who wishes to attend, every Wednesday in the Lecture Hall from 1:00-2:00 pm. Recently the number of guests has ranged from 45-65, but has been as high as 100. A \$5000.00 grant was received from the Ice Caps Cares Foundation in the spring of 2013, and we are receiving more calls from members of the community who have heard of the program and want to volunteer.

Outreach welcomes and encourages your active participation in a particular project that interests you or as a committee member in 2014.

Committee Members include Len Busby, Jill Handrigan, Pat Mercer, Judi Somers, and Barb Myles.



PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by Christopher Wright, Chair



1. Visitation programme

The Pastoral Care Committee currently oversees has 18 visitors to over 60 Gower members. Visitations involve meeting with or telephoning Gower members who are unable to attend church on a regular basis for a variety of reasons. Gower members appreciate a visit or call and they feel they are connected to our church and that the church cares about them. Often a prayer or bible reading is shared if the Gower member wishes. It is an opportunity for interaction and exchange. Over 300 visitations were made in 2013. Individual visitations are also made to Gower members in local hospitals and Care Homes.

2. Care Home Services

On a monthly basis for most of the year the following groups conducts church services on behalf of Gower:

- UCW at Tiffany Village
- Men's Club at Cambridge Estates
- Pastoral Care Committee at Hoyle's Care Home
- Pastoral care Committee at Hillcrest Estates

3. Christmas Gift Package

On December 14, 2013 volunteers under the auspices of the Pastoral Care Committee and the leadership of Rev. Florence Sanna, assembled and distributed a Christmas gift package to 47 Gower members.

4. Visitation In-service

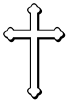
A training workshop was held on February 13, 2014 for new members of the Pastoral Care Committee and for other Gower members on how to have a successful visitation. Many practical ideas and approaches were given by Rev. Sanna.

5. Other Activities

The Pastoral Care Committee assists Barbara Myles three times per year at the Wednesday Gower Lunch programme. The Committee takes responsibility for the Sunday Service socials for January.

6. Committee members

Keith Wiseman (Congregational Designated Minister), Rev. Veronica Brett-Williams, Maude Peach, Max Beckett, Karen Butt, Shirley Chafe, Phyllis Cole, Judi Kelland, Chris Wright (Chair).



SENIOR CHOIR

Respectfully submitted by Carl Stevenson, President



We have had another year under the direction of Dr. Douglas Dunsmore. We now have 34 members. During 2013 there have been a number of changes: unfortunately we are down by four members – Dorothy Dick, Beth and Andrew Cranston, and Eden Diza Tugade. Dorothy now resides in St. Philips and has found the commute to Gower for evening rehearsals difficult. Andrew and Beth are now both involved with the music for the services at Topsail United Church but are still occasionally with us, in particular at the Christmas Eve communion service. Eden has decided not to continue as a choir member.

We are always attempting to add to our numbers and are happy that just recently Phil Graham joined our tenor section. Hopefully we will have several more new members before the end of 2014.

Our additional activities during the past year were:

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

The choir provided several appropriate anthems at the 8:00am communion and 11:00am services on March 31st, Easter Sunday. Between these two services we enjoyed a fellowship breakfast in the Lecture Hall organized by the choir executive and several additional choir members.

On May 16th the choir was present at Carnell's for the funeral of Phyllis Courtney, wife of Cyril Courtney, a former choir member and active member of the congregation.

Joan O'Grady, a long time member of the soprano section passed away on June 9th.

We were present at her Gower funeral on June 11th to honour her memory and to support the family.

Our pre-summer Bar-B-Q was held at Audrey and Peter Nell's on June 14th. We were then off for the summer but did sit in on an ad hoc basis for some of the summer services. During the year's Festival 500 activities we provided the Sunday luncheon on July 7th for guests, the Minnetonka choir from Minnesota.

Dr. Bill Marshall passed away on Sept 19. Bill was a faithful member of the choir for several years before his illness prevented him from being with us. We were in the choir gallery to provide musical support at his funeral on Sept 23rd.

We were also present for Dr. Max House's Gower funeral on Oct 21st.

Alf Anstey passed away on Nov 24th. We were there for Angeline and family supplying musical support at his Gower funeral on Nov 29th.

Our annual Christmas party was held at the Stevenson's on Dec 7th and at this event we bestowed on Dorothy Dick the status of Choir Member Emeritus.

During the advent season we again provided appropriate anthems at each service and for the Candlelight Communion Service on Christmas Eve. Additional instrumental music for this service was provided by Grace Dunsmore on flute accompanied by Carl Goulding. It is quite obvious that our choir members have increased for this service (by some 8 or so) since we usually have former members and family members who are home for the Christmas season join us.

The choir has two bank accounts in its name:

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

Special Projects Account

Opening balance, Jan 1, 2013	\$3790.64
Closing balance, Dec 31, 2013	3516.01

Social Account

Opening balance, Jan 1, 2013	\$ 213.48
Closing balance, Dec 31, 2013	413.48

Our executive committee: Carl Stevenson – President
Roberta Gill – Vice-President
Marilyn Peters – Secretary/Treasurer
Ruth Churchill and Sandra Davis – Gown Conveners

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

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

GOWER COMMUNITY BAND 2013: “XL!” and EXCEL!

Respectfully submitted by
Edsel Bonnell, Director, Gower Community Band



It was literally A Year to Remember! And to Celebrate! After a year of planning in 2012, the “GCBXL” Year in 2013 -- marking the 40th year of music and community service by Gower bands -- met every expectation and achieved every objective set by the GCB Executive and its Events Committee. To do so took a daunting commitment of time and hard work in planning and implementing a year of special performances and events, including two Reunion Weekends; one in the summer (Aug. 3-4) and one during the actual Anniversary celebration (Nov. 1-3). But the joy of meeting colleagues from the very first days of the original Gower Youth Band in 1973, with all the love and laughter that accompanies such gatherings, was a priceless reward for every member of the present GCB. Many of the 450 musicians who have passed through generations of Gower bands are now living in various parts of North America, Europe, and Asia, and it was indeed a joy to receive greetings from those who couldn't get “back home” for the reunions.

The “GCBXL!” special events included: A “**Festival for Organ and Band**” on February 10, when the Band collaborated with Gower organist R. Carl Goulding for a concert in support of the Gower Organ Restoration Fund. A special feature of this concert was the premiere performance of a work for Organ and Band by composer Michael Bramble entitled “Heart of a Community”, which had been commissioned by the GCB for the occasion. The performance raised \$3,000 for the Organ Fund.

Another Legacy project was the acquisition of a **Portrait of Rev. Hammond Johnson**, which was presented at the Gower service on June 16 along with a brochure written by archivist Garfield Fizzard. The portrait now hangs in the Memorial Building, which was

built in 1927 through the vision and enterprise of the beloved minister.

A third Legacy from the GCBXL year was a \$4,780 gift to Memorial University to fully endow the **Gower Youth Band Legacy Scholarship**, which has been providing annual MUN Music entrance scholarships of \$1000 to promising young musicians throughout the province since 1986. This final enhancement ensures the continuation of the scholarship in perpetuity.

A **Summer Reunion Band Service** was held on Sunday, August 4. “Old Timers” had gathered with current GCB members for a fun-filled “old-fashioned practice” in the Band Room on the day before, with results ranging from hilarious to miraculous! However, the music on Sunday was truly impressive, and greatly appreciated by the congregation as well as Band families and other summer visitors to Gower. Rev. Guy Matthews preached a memorable sermon on the topic “The Band is a Lesson for Life”. The weekend concluded with a massive BBQ and Family Sports Day at Justina Park.

Sunday, October 27, was a **GCBXL Service of Thanksgiving and Renewal** with guest minister Rev. Sandy MacLean presiding. Rev. MacLean was Minister at Gower from 1979-1984, and had two sons in the Band. We were delighted that he and Lila came back for the XL events. The service was followed by a congregational luncheon hosted by the GCB Events Committee, where there was literally standing-room only in the Band Room! October 31 is the actual Anniversary Date marked each year by the Band, so the weekend of November 1-3 was the culmination of the year-long celebrations. Friday evening, November 1, was the **Meet ‘n’ Greet Reception** of the Fall Reunion, followed by the **GCBXL Gala Concert** at

Holy Heart Theatre on Saturday night, November 2. The year ended with a **Celebration Banquet** at Holiday Inn on Sunday evening, Nov. 3, and it was an unforgettable experience of nostalgia and thanksgiving for the capacity audience in the banquet hall.

Other Activity: In addition to the major performances and events of the 40th Anniversary Year, the Band maintained its commitments to church and community with the annual Palm Sunday Musicale at Gower, Seniors' Concerts at Meadow Creek Retirement Centre, Masonic Park, the Caribou Veterans' Pavilion at the Miller Centre, Cambridge Estates, Tiffany Village, Hoyles' Home and Escasoni, as well as the annual Shriners' Christmas carol service and concert and the GCB's Terra Nova Gala featuring award-winning works in the Band's annual \$1,000 composition competition at MUN Music. Membership in the GCB meant a major commitment of time and energy in 2013, with a total of 15 performances, not to mention 47 rehearsals, seven workshops, and some two dozen Executive, committee and full-Band meetings during the year!

Finances: In planning for the XL year, the GCB Executive realized that in order to attain the objectives of providing Legacy gifts for church and community, organizing major celebrations, concerts, and reunions, and increasing our Instrument and Equipment Reserve Fund to replace or restore aging instrumental assets, as well as to serve our vision of scholarship enhancement and extended community service, a significant increase in annual income would be required for 2013. An objective of \$40,000 was set as an appropriate target (reflecting the "XL" theme of 40 years of service!). We are pleased and proud to report that through the success of committee activities in concert promotion, advertising sales, corporate and individual sponsorship, as well as the generosity of benefactors and loyal supporters, total income

for 2013 amounted to \$48,759.67. Total expenditure was \$29,372.79, for a net contribution to our Reserve Fund of \$19,386.88. (Detailed statements of Income and Expenditure are available from the Band or the Church Office). While instrument costs continue to increase (some major instruments are priced in excess of \$10,000), we are confident that with a prudent mix of acquisition/restoration and continued annual fund-raising, we will be able to meet our renewal needs in order to maintain our commitment to community for many years to come.

Appreciation: I must close this report on a personal note. In reflecting on the success of all aspects of the 40th Anniversary Year, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge a deep debt of gratitude to our volunteer General Manager, David Robbins, for his leadership and tireless work in fund-raising and every XL project planned and undertaken, as well as to his Executive team and various vital Committees for their whole-hearted commitment of time and talents. A special "thank-you" must go to Chair Janet Howells and the members of her all-important Events Committee who really turned plans into projects and made them all happen so well. Every member of the Band was committed to preparing quality music for performances, as well as working on committees as required, promoting concert sales, and providing financial support. I also acknowledge with great appreciation the support and collegiality of Associate Director Ron Collins, who shares the duties of Musical Direction. And on behalf of all the above, I offer our heartfelt thanks to all friends, supporters, and benefactors of the Gower Community Band in the congregation of Gower Street United Church and in the community at large. The wonderful "adventure in music and service" over the past 40 years would not have happened without your love and practical support. May you always share in our joy and blessings.



SENIORS CLUB



Respectfully submitted by Gola Roberts, Coordinator, Gower Seniors Club

The Seniors Club enjoyed another prosperous year. The monthly gatherings continued to be well attended with a majority representation from the wider community. Many heart-felt thanks have been expressed by the members following each gathering.

The Club also continues to “**Reach Out**” to the wider community, especially at Christmas, donating food items and money to **Bridges to Hope**.

Much appreciation is extended to the Men’s Club who through their active and tireless efforts prepares meals every second month and drives members to and from the gatherings. This type of service is indeed an immeasurable blessing. Also, the positive response from the congregation, especially during the Christmas Gala and the kind response to requests for baked goods and other grab bag items is of exceptional value. An expression of thanks are extended to friends of the Club who willingly volunteered their time, helped to set-up, served meals and provided entertainment each month.

A special thank you to the Walsh Brothers, Gerard and Ron who for ten consecutive years have provided affectionate musical enjoyment on a volunteer basis.

A sincere thank you to Rev. Guy Matthews for his interest and support, Keith Wiseman, Congregational Designated Minister, for his willingness to participate, and The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy, Minister Emeritus, for her utmost interest.

Many thanks to Linda Hogan, Office Manager and David Noseworthy, Custodian, for their help.

In closing, much appreciation is extended to Sharon Monahan-Nash, secretary/treasurer for her stupendous efforts; Joyce Power, Member at Large, whose hands and support ensures that the kitchen is kept in an outstanding manner, and Carrie Lethbridge, Liaison Member, for her capable coordination of the monthly calls to the various Seniors Retirement Complexes.

FINANCIAL REPORT - JANUARY 1, 2013 - DECEMBER 31, 2013

Bank Balance brought forward January 1, 2013		\$ 231.62
Income:		
Dinners	\$3247.00	
Other Collection/Donations	\$ 250.00	
Total Income	<u>\$3497.00</u>	
		\$3728.62
Less Expenses:		
Dinners	\$2652.84	
Hired Help (clean-up)	\$ 570.00	
Gifts	\$ 108.00	
Bank Fees	\$ 59.40	
Total Expenses	<u>\$3390.24</u>	
		\$ 338.38
Less Donations:		
In Memoriam - Operating fund	\$ 50.00	
Bridges to Hope	\$ 110.00	
Total Donations	<u>\$ 160.00</u>	
		\$ 178.38
Bank Balance as of December 31, 2013		\$ 178.38

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Monahan, Treasurer



HERITAGE AND ARCHIVES

Respectfully submitted by Jim Hiller, Chair



The Official Board asked the Committee to undertake preliminary planning of events to mark the Gower congregation's 200th anniversary in 2015. This is being done, and we would still appreciate suggestions from all members of the church. The committee would also welcome knowing who might be willing to assist in implementing the Gower 200 programme. We hope to submit recommendations to the Board in the near future.

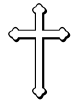
Since the Committee has to be consulted about proposed changes to the church fabric, it is now represented on the Property Committee. The congregation is the custodian of an ageing but special historic building, and these decisions are not easy. In this connection, we are investigating the possibility of obtaining a restoration grant from the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

A summer student performed very useful archival and related work in 2013, and we hope that another hiring may be possible in 2014. The church archive needs some investment of time and money, and we are grateful to the Finance Committee and the Board for recommending an increase to the Committee's operating grant. The Committee is also aware of the need to develop a formal archival policy.



GENERAL PROTESTANT CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by Bill Bussey on behalf of Vernon Simmons



The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc. Report of the Chairman of the Board To the Annual General Meeting Tuesday, January 28, 2014

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at Mount Pleasant, we filled, leveled and re-sodded a large number of graves and leveled up a number of headstones.

During the year we had 218 burials, a decrease of 8 over the previous year; and of these 52.75 % were cremations, a small increase over the previous year. The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	3.78%	5.30%	2.75%
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	86.55%	79.60%	84.86%
The Field of Honour	<u>9.67%</u>	<u>15.10%</u>	<u>12.39%</u>
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>
Total Burials	238	226	218
Cremations Included	32.52%	51.32%	52.75%

Your Board met ten times during the past year.

Our Trust Fund for Perpetual Care has decreased and now totals \$247,000.00. This is invested in GIC's to earn an average of approximately 1.71%.

In 2013, a GIC in our trust fund matured and was added to the capital funds, bringing the total to \$210,700. A new building must be constructed in Memorial Gardens before we can begin using the new Cemetery. Construction will begin this spring. We also need a backhoe for digging and snow clearing, an artesian well and septic system, and hydro brought to the site. We estimate the total cost will be approximately \$400,000.

MAE Engineering consultants are redesigning our drawings for a steel building, which will cost less than the original wooden building.

The columbarium is paid in full, and we have sold 48 of 80 niches – more than 50%. This year we will consider preparing an area for the next phase and purchasing a second columbarium.

Early in 2013, we prepared a pamphlet outlining a brief history of our cemeteries, the cost incurred to date in developing 10 acres in Memorial Gardens, and the estimated cost of the work to be completed before burials could take place. The pamphlets were given to every representative for their congregations for insertion in the church bulletins. We were expecting a better response than we received regarding a Special Offering or some other fund raising initiative. Only four congregations contributed directly toward our fund raising, which we are thankful for. I encourage every church representative to work on some way they could get involved in raising funds for our cemeteries. I offer a special thanks to the churches that supported the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in their commitment to donate all profit from their December sale of citrus fruit to Memorial Gardens.

On June 18, a Consecration Service was held in Memorial Gardens, with ministers from six congregations participating. The weather was good, but the attendance was very disappointing, with only 30 – 40 people present. It demonstrated how little support we are getting from our congregations for the work that the Board of Directors had put into developing the new cemetery.

The Memorial Service at Mount Pleasant went well; the weather was good, attendance was good, and our offering was up for \$100 from last year. Another service was held at the General Protestant Cemetery with a small number of attendees; everything went well, and the offering was \$401, up \$160 from last year.

We appreciate those member churches that support the cemeteries financially and otherwise and thank them most sincerely. However, we are still not receiving financial support from some of our 19 member churches. The cemeteries are the churches' responsibility. Each representative should make sure that their assessment is paid each year.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Harold Chubbs
Chairman of the Board



GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Respectfully submitted by Linda Nickerson, President



UCW maintained an active membership of 32 women in the past year, with an average attendance of 20 members per meeting. Compared with 2012, which was an extremely busy year with extra events and activities, 2013 was relatively low key.

The group held two major successful fund raising events in 2013; the Paddy's Day tea & sale and the Christmas/Fall tea & sale. They were the major source of our revenue for this year. We also held a flea market in May but the profits did not justify the amount of time and energy we put into organizing it. Our traditional fall dinner and fashion show was postponed until the spring of 2014 and the Crafter's Fair, a relatively new project, was cancelled due to low registration. Fund Raising continues to be a major challenge, and like other Gower committees, UCW looks for new and creative ways too increase funds, while trying to maintain a strong focus on fellowship and worship. The number of active, able-bodied members is dwindling,

so we are especially grateful to those Gower members and friends of Gower, who willing assist us with our projects, giving of their time and energy. We are sincerely grateful for their contributions.

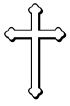
As part of our stewardship program, our monthly service at Tiffany Place continues to be a positive, rewarding experience; as is our annual Christmas dinner for the Pottle Centre. We also strive to host the Wednesday Lunch program 2-3 times per year. Several of our members, as part of visitation, regularly visit those who can no longer attend our regular meetings.

As my first year as president comes to an end, I would like to say a special thank you to the executive for the support that has been given me in acquiring the necessary leadership skills. I look forward to a productive year in 2014 that will benefit all UCW members with fellowship, service to God and community.

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
 FINANCIAL REPORT
 JANUARY 1, 2013 – DECEMBER 31, 2013

Balance brought forward January 1, 2013		\$811.61
INCOME:		
Membership monthly offering	\$ 1344.60	
Donations	\$ 585.00	
Bring & Buy Fundraiser	\$ 457.00	
St. Patrick's Tea & Sale	\$ 1571.00	
Fall Sale	\$ 4598.45	
Catering (funeral)	\$ 674.42	
Least Coin	\$ 14.50	
Tiffany Village	\$ 284.99	
Flea Market	\$ 1080.45	
 Total Income:	 \$10610.41	 \$11422.02
EXPENSES:		
Gower Street United Church		
Operating Fund	\$5000.00	
Mission & Service	\$1500.00	
Organ Fund	\$ 500.00	
Restoration Fund	\$ 500.00	
In Memoriam	\$ 100.00	
Operational:		
Donations, gifts .	\$ 95.33	
AGM	\$ 80.75	
St Patrick's Tea	\$ 53.35	
Funeral Catering	\$ 416.87	
Fall Sale	\$ 134.45	
Flea Market	\$ 104.44	
Bank charges	\$ 10.42	
East District Presbytery	\$ 740.54	
Outreach: United Church	\$ 414.68	
Community	\$1126.77	
 Total Expenses:	 \$10777.60	
Net balance		\$ 644.42

Anne Lambert
 Treasurer



GOWER STREET MEN'S CLUB

Respectfully submitted by Roy West, President



The Men's Club wishes to thank the Gower Street Congregation for all of its support throughout 2013. Thanks to this ongoing support we have had another successful year of fellowship at our monthly meetings and in our various fund-raising activities. These activities allow us to reach out in service to our church and the local community..

The Club carried out many of its usual activities during 2013. In March we were able to make another contribution of \$2000 to the Organ Restoration Fund. Also in March our Take-out Teas were well received and for the first time we invited those people from the congregation who helped make the Take-out Teas a success to an "appreciation" dinner at our April monthly meeting. Our Flipper Dinner in May allowed us to make donations to several community based organizations including Emmanuel House, VOWR, the Pottle Centre, Burry Heights Camp, the Agnes Pratt Chaplaincy Fund and the Mission and Service Fund.

We wish to give a special word of thanks to Henry Whalen, who for the last few years, in June, has organized the Men's Club year-end function at a Chinese Restaurant for Club members and their partners. Towards the end of the year we held both our Annual Auction and Christmas Dinner.

As you can see from the attached Financial Report, these activities left the Men's Club in a strong position to continue with its work within our church and community. This enabled the Club to make a commitment for the repair of the elevator once the leaks in

the SE tower of the church had been fixed. As the year progressed it became apparent that considerable work needed to be done on the SE tower and the estimated cost to the church would be in excess of \$40,000. In September the Men's Club agreed to a donation of \$25,000 towards the project with a promise of additional help over the next three years.

A major focus of the Men's Club is in serving and helping others. This year we continued to support the Gower Senior's Club by both driving people to meetings and preparing some of the meals. A group from within the Club faithfully conducts monthly services for people living in Cambridge Estates and other members have assisted Street Reach by organizing three Wednesday lunches.

During the year three stalwart members of the Men's Club died. We are deeply thankful to all three, Jabez Jones, Bruce Bauld and Alf Anstey, for the major contributions they made to the life and work of the Club. We join with their families in mourning their passing and give thanks to them for sharing their gifts with us and for enhancing the fellowship of our Club.

Finally, I want to offer my thanks to all the club members for their friendship and dedication over the year. We all look forward to another year of faith, fellowship and service in 2014.



**GOWER ST. UNITED CHURCH MEN'S CLUB
FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 31, 2013**



	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Cash Balance Jan. 1	<u>25,537</u>	<u>19,334</u>
<u>REVENUE:</u>		
Dinner Meeting	1,424	1,547
Donations	185	1,000
Auction	5,711	4,492
Ladies Night	2,815	3,015
Take Out Teas	21,167	20,087
Flipper Dinner	5,430	5,020
Fundraiser	0	2,480
Other	0	0
	<hr/> <u>36,732</u>	<hr/> <u>37,641</u>
<u>EXPENSES:</u>		
Dinner Meeting	2,400	2,053
Donations	3,590	3,625
Auction	644	495
Ladies Night	1,597	1,572
Take Out Teas	9,617	8,455
Flipper Dinner	2,211	1,964
Fundraiser	0	1,104
Tower Project	2,129	0
Lecture Hall	0	5,194
Bank Charges	100	97
Kitchen	693	5,277
Luncheons	710	1,177
Misc.	0	425
	<hr/> <u>23,691</u>	<hr/> <u>31,438</u>
NET	<hr/> <u>13,041</u>	<hr/> <u>6,203</u>
Cash Balance Dec. 31	<hr/> <u>38,578</u>	<hr/> <u>25,537</u>

Gower Street United Church
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
February 24, 2013
Lecture Hall, following morning service

1. Welcome

Rev. Guy Matthews opened the meeting and welcomed those present. About 65 members of the congregation were in attendance.

2. Opening Prayer

Rev. Guy Matthews led us in prayer.

3. Appointment of the Chair and Secretary for the Meeting

Moved by Pat West and seconded by Ken Butt that David Roberts chair the meeting.

Carried

Moved by Ken Peters and seconded by Barb Myles that Karen Butt act as secretary for the meeting

Carried

David Roberts thanked the Men's Club for preparing the soup, the UCW for the dessert and all who helped with the lunch in any way.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Diane Hogan and seconded by Bruce Evans, that the Agenda as circulated be adopted.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the 2012 ACM

The minutes of the last Annual Congregational Meeting held February 26, 2012 were moved for acceptance by Diane Hogan and seconded by Florence Sanna.

Carried

6. Message from the Chair of the Board

The Chair, David Roberts referenced his report on pages 4-5 in the 2012 Annual Report. He noted that it has been the first full year with our new ministerial team of Rev. Guy Matthews and Keith Wiseman and that it was a good decision to have them. There was an operating deficit last year and another deficit projected for this year; we are a healthy church, but we need to address the deficit in 2013. David highlighted the valuable work of the many clubs, groups, and committees including those people who work behind the scenes and he thanked all those volunteers that helped make the church what it is today. He also thanked all the staff, Linda Hogan, Dave Noseworthy, Rev. Guy Matthews, Keith Wiseman, Doug Dunsmore, Edsel Bonnell and Carl Goulding. David then thanked the 7 Board members who are leaving as well as the members who are continuing to serve.

7. Message from the Minister

Rev. Guy Matthews referred to his report on page 6 in the Annual Report. He appreciates being invited to come here. He has had a sharp learning curve getting to know the congregation and culture of Gower. Rev. Guy says Gower is a community rich in culture with vibrant and faithful members. In the midst of changing demographics, cultures and

faiths we at Gower are using our knowledge to the benefit of the community and the church. Rev. Guy thanked the congregation for their support.

8. In Memoriam

Rev. Matthews read aloud the names of loved ones listed on pages 9-10 in the 2012 Annual Report. He offered a moment of silence and prayed for those listed, their families and any extended family members who passed away this year.

9. Reports of Committees and Groups for Approval

- **Finance** – Ken Peters reported in the absence of John Evans, Chair of Finance. He highlighted the report of the Finance Committee and Operating Fund Actuals for 2011, 2012 and Budget for 2013 as presented in pages 31-32 of the Annual Report. The audited financial statements are available from Linda Hogan. Most items are comparable to last year. Of note: under Income, Special: the actual in 2012 includes a donation by Barb Myles for the carpet in the sanctuary; under Expenses, Property includes the carpet and maintenance contract to Stella Burry. In the Budget for 2013, Remuneration expense is up because it includes Dave Noseworthy's wages.

Pat West thanked the Finance Committee for all their work. She suggested that the report is not a complete view of the church's finances and requested that in the future, in addition to the Operating Financial Statement, a comprehensive financial report be published to show a summary of all other funds including Restoration, Organ, and M&S funds along with loan balances and payments.

Motion

Pat West/Sheridan Parsons

That in future the Financial Report included in the Annual Report includes a summary of all the funds in the church so there is a comprehensive view presented of the overall financial status of the church.

Carried

The auditors for the past 3 years have been the firm of Gardner and Coombs. Prior to that time, auditors were sometimes members of the congregation who did not serve on the Finance Committee. In future years, the congregation will approve auditors at the ACM.

Motion

Pat West/Sheridan Parsons

That the Financial Statement for 2012 and Budget for 2013 be approved.

Carried

- **M&S** –Barb Myles reported that the 2012 goal was set at \$40,000 because the Actual for 2011 had been 39,835. M&S contributions for 2012 totalled \$36,110 (World Development and Relief \$986, UCW \$2,000 and congregation \$33,110). They have set a realistic goal of \$36,500 to align with the 2012 Actual.

Motion

Barb Myles/Linda Hogan

That the goal for the Mission and Service Fund for the year 2013 be \$36,500

Carried

- **Nominations Committee** – Rev. Dr. Marion Parady referred to the report as written. She thanked committee members: Judi Somers, Linda White, David Roberts, and Rev. Guy Matthews for sharing the workload.

Expression of Appreciation

Motion Marion Pardy/ Judi Somers

That the ACM extends deep appreciation to the following, who have completed their term of office on the Official Board and to those who have resigned their position, acknowledging their contribution to Gower Street United Church:

Gar Fizzard – completed two terms as Chair of Heritage and Archives;

John Evans – completed two terms as Chair of Finance;

Shirley Andrews – completed 3 1/2 years as Chair of Nominations;

Daryl Pullman – completed two terms as Member at Large;

Verne Somers – completed one year as Treasurer;

Pat West – completed 5 years as East District Delegate;

Robyn Drodge – completed 2 years as East Delegate.

Carried

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

Motion Marion Pardy/ Judi Somers

That Lorne LeDrew, who has completed one term of office (3 years) as Chair of Ministry and Personnel, be extended for another term of 3 years (2016)

Carried

Election of Members to the Official Board

Motion Florence Sanna/Judi Somers

1. That Ken Peters be elected as Chair of Finance Committee
2. That Fred Earle be elected as Treasurer
3. That Chris Wright be elected as Chair of Pastoral Care Committee
4. That Jim Hiller be elected as Chair of Heritage and Archives Committee
5. That Marion Pardy be elected as Chair of Nominations Committee
6. That Karen Tuck be elected as East District Delegate
7. That Linda White be elected as East District Delegate

Carried

Appreciation to All Members

Motion Marion Pardy/ Judi Somers

That the ACM extends appreciation to all new and continuing members

Carried

Change of Constitution

Motion Marion Pardy/Judi Somers

That the ACM approve that the Constitution of Gower Street United Church be changed to add the words, “up to” before “...eight Members at Large” in article 2.1 under “Membership and Responsibilities”.

Carried

Adoption of Report

Motion

Marion Pardy/ Judi Somers

That the Nominations Report to the Annual Congregational Meeting including the Draft Proposed Composition of the Official Board of Annual Congregational Meeting, February 24, 2013 be approved.

Carried

Marion also indicated that the Nominations Committee is going to recommend to the Official Board that consideration be given to establishing a Communications Committee for the church. David Roberts thanked Marion for her enthusiastic and excellent work as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

• Other Reports

Motion

Linda Hogan/Carl Stevenson

That all other Committee and Group reports as written in the circulated 2012 Annual Report be received

Carried

10. Any Other Business

Florence Sanna asked if it would be possible to receive the Annual Report earlier than the day of the meeting. David Roberts replied that it should be ready a week before the ACM, but reports were not received early enough and, in particular, this year, winter storms have caused delays.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jim Churchill at 2:07 PM.

David Roberts, Chair

Karen Butt, Secretary

Organ Restoration Fund Committee 2013 Annual Report

During 2013 we received cash contributions (donations/offerings) of \$47,873. This important progress in 2013, coupled with funds carried forward from 2012, enabled us to pay down over \$50,000 on the loan balance in the fiscal year just ended. Accordingly, as of December 31, 2013, after meeting our interest obligations, and covering all of our necessary repair and maintenance expenses, the balance on the organ loan had been reduced to \$127,303. It must also be noted that the fund had a cash balance of \$11,377 at yearend. This cash balance, combined with the ultimate collection of \$4,262 in outstanding accounts receivable due to the fund at December 31, 2013, means we now have the capability to reduce the organ loan to \$112,000. In other words, we are more than three quarters of the way toward funding the initial \$500,000 capital cost of the restoration of the organ.

Our success to date in the Organ Restoration financial campaign continues to be attributable, in a multitude of ways, to the wonderful commitment and ongoing support of the Gower Congregation. This comes to us in the form of regular direct donations, special donations in memory of family and friends, as well as continuing support for, and attendance at, various functions and activities sponsored by; the Men's Club, the UCW, the Choir, and the Band. In addition, it must again be emphasized that our success is also very much attributable to support from the broader community – the various “friends of Gower”; the foundations, the charitable funds, and various members of the music community. We are particularly appreciative of gifts from friends who no longer live in the province, but who remember the value of Gower to their families in years gone by, and for whom, Gower holds a special place in their hearts.

The Congregation will recall that the Gower Community Band under the direction of Edsel Bonnell and in company with Carl Goulding at the organ, led off the 2013 campaign with a wonderful Festival of Organ and Band music. This concert in early February, not only provided a valuable financial contribution, but an enjoyable cultural dividend to all those who attended. We wish to acknowledge as well the ever-present commitment and dedication of Carl Stevenson through his annual November Art Exhibition and Sale. From the outset, Carl's efforts, supported by his family and those that have purchased his works, have provided a special lift to our campaign each year. These gestures, individually and collectively, are so vitally important to bolstering the campaign and are so greatly appreciated.

The Organ Restoration Committee wishes to emphasize its sincerest appreciation, on behalf of the entire Congregation, to every individual, group and organization that has supported the Organ Restoration Campaign to this point. As we continue the campaign in 2014 and tackle the final quarter of our obligation, we invite and welcome your ongoing support to help us to finish the job.

Respectfully submitted,
David Norris, Chair
February 2014

GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH

SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31 2013

WITH BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31 2014

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Respectfully submitted by Ken Peters, Chair

It just seems like yesterday that we were here talking about the 2012 year end. Well 2013 is now behind us and as chair of your finance committee I have the duty to bring you all up to speed on what kind of year we had in 2013.

We had a pretty good year overall but unfortunately we ran a deficit on the operating fund. We came in under what we had budgeted but that still left us with a deficit in excess of twenty thousand dollars. Our revenues continue to trend downward while our expenses are moving in the opposite direction. To put the number in perspective, remuneration which is the wage package offered to our staff and the heat and light expense to run the church used up almost 84% of our total income in 2013. With a staggering percentage such as this we have very few areas on the expense side that we are able to trim or remove altogether.

Our committee feels that we need to address the revenue side with regards to the day to day operations of the church. As a congregation we need to develop a long term plan to create a revenue stream that can support the operations of the church without having to be totally dependent on the giving's of the congregation. Gower has been dealing with deficits as far back as we can all remember and we come together each and every time to overcome these financial hurdles. In the short term I feel that will be the case once again but for the long term viability of this church and congregation I think it is imperative that we start a plan to relieve some of the financial pressure from the shoulders of our congregation.

I would like to recognize and thank the other members of your finance committee. The members include your treasurer Fred Earle, Pat West, Jordan Wright and Rev Matthews. We have a very strong committee with active participation and commitment. Thank you all for your support.

Ken Peters
Chair of Finance

Gower Street United Church
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2013

ASSETS

	Operating Fund	Restoration Fund	Endowment Fund	Organ Fund	Other Funds	2013 Total	2012 Total
Current assets							
Cash	42,580		24,075	11,377		78,032	117,215
Short term investments			250,000			250,000	250,000
Accounts receivable	2,947					2,947	6,004
HST rebate receivable	3,165					3,165	5,674
Prepaid expenses	4,727					4,727	
Due from (to) other funds	94,260	33,490	-	4,262	58,814		
Total current assets	<u>147,669</u>	<u>33,490</u>	<u>83,258</u>	<u>15,639</u>	<u>58,814</u>	<u>338,871</u>	<u>376,893</u>
Capital assets							
	1,913,163			462,372		2,375,535	2,375,535
Long term investments							
			481,625			481,625	493,407
Total assets	<u>2,060,832</u>	<u>33,490</u>	<u>574,884</u>	<u>478,011</u>	<u>58,814</u>	<u>3,206,031</u>	<u>3,247,835</u>

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities							
Payables and accruals	305					305	22,681
Current portion of long-term-debt	10,000			33,000		43,000	43,000
Total current liabilities	<u>10,305</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,305</u>	<u>65,681</u>
Long term debt							
	45,834			84,303		140,137	200,593
Total liabilities	<u>56,139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,303</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>183,442</u>	<u>266,474</u>
Fund Balance							
	2,004,693	33,490	574,884	350,708	58,814	3,022,589	2,981,361
Total Liabilities and fund balance	<u>2,060,832</u>	<u>33,490</u>	<u>574,884</u>	<u>478,011</u>	<u>58,814</u>	<u>3,206,031</u>	<u>3,247,835</u>

FUND BALANCES

Gower Street United Church
Statement of Operations and Changes In Fund Balance
December 31, 2013

	Operating Fund	Restoration Fund	Endowment Fund	Organ Fund	Other Funds	2013 Total	2012 Total
Revenue							
Offerings	221,413	21,459	-	45,373	16,085	304,330	328,783
Investment income	52,227	-	-	-	-	52,227	56,769
Rental income	30,810	-	-	-	-	30,810	24,288
Fundraising	8,630	-	-	-	-	8,630	17,189
United Church Women donation	5,140	-	1,288	500	-	5,840	11,625
Unrealized gain(loss) on investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,562
Men's club donation	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,650
Total revenue	318,320	21,459	1,288	47,873	16,085	402,449	446,875
Expenditures							
Salaries and wages	221,132	-	-	-	-	221,132	186,818
Repairs and maintenance	9,216	5,763	-	2,320	-	17,304	69,925
Utilities	62,543	-	-	-	-	62,543	57,203
Office and sundry	15,281	-	-	-	-	15,281	14,379
Committee expenses	8,829	-	-	-	-	8,829	13,717
Insurance	11,760	-	-	-	-	11,760	11,182
United Church assessments	10,201	-	-	-	-	10,201	10,403
Interest on long term debt	2,244	-	-	4,490	6,568	6,734	9,034
Other fund expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,084
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,506
Interest and bank charges	2,490	388	-	-	-	2,878	2,732
Total expenditures	341,675	8,161	-	6,810	6,568	361,214	383,885
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	-	15,298	1,288	41,067	8,519	41,231	62,990
Fund balances, beginning of year	2,028,051	16,192	576,172	309,651	48,295	2,961,361	2,918,471
Fund balances, end of year	2,004,656	33,490	574,884	360,708	56,814	3,022,582	2,981,361

Gower Street United Church
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Operating Fund
December 31, 2013

	2010 <u>Total</u>	2012 <u>Total</u>	2014 <u>Budget</u>
Revenue			
Offerings	221,413	245,703	210,500
Investment income	52,227	58,788	55,000
Rental income	30,510	24,288	35,000
Fundraising	8,630	17,189	10,000
United Church Women donation	5,140	8,626	
Men's club donation	-	690	
Total revenue	<u>318,320</u>	<u>365,233</u>	<u>325,500</u>
Expenditures			
Salaries and wages	221,132	186,818	224,500
Repairs and maintenance	9,210	62,528	32,200
Utilities	62,543	67,203	68,800
Office and sundry	15,261	14,378	18,160
Committee expenses	6,829	13,717	9,100
Insurance	11,780	11,182	12,348
United Church assessments	10,201	10,403	10,201
Interest on long term debt	2,244	3,088	2,200
Professional fees	-	3,505	
Interest and bank charges	2,480	2,782	2,500
Total expenditures	<u>341,875</u>	<u>385,559</u>	<u>381,009</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	25,355	12,328	55,109
Fund balances, beginning of year	<u>2,028,048</u>	<u>2,040,374</u>	
Fund balances, end of year	<u><u>2,004,693</u></u>	<u><u>2,028,048</u></u>	
Committee Budgets			
Worship & Sacraments			2500
Christian education			1200
Outreach			450
Heritage & Archives			1000
Pastoral Care			250
Offical Board			200
Stewardship Expenses			<u>3500</u>
			9100

Gower Street United Church																				
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - Other Funds																				
December 31, 2013																				
	Archives	Handbell	Benevolent	Bequest	Cemetery	Choir	Bridges to	Garden	Gower Youth	Sound	Christian	D Osmond		Benevolent	Chaplaincy	Dorcas	Outreach	2013		
	Fund	Choir	Fund	Fund	Fund	Fund	Hope	Fund	Band	System	Education	Organ	Memorial	C&S Head	Fund	Beads	Fund	Total		
										Memorial	Trust	Memorial	Fund	Fund						
Revenue																				
Offerings	90		320	2,000	1,705	500	1,080		3,150								55		7,185	16,085
																				-
Total revenue	90	-	320	2,000	1,705	500	1,080	-	3,150	-	-	-	-	-	55	-	7,185		16,085	
Expenditures																				
Other fund expenses			712		1,700	400	1,773	193						146					1,642	6,566
																				-
Total expenditures	-	-	712	-	1,700	400	1,773	193	-	-	-	-	-	146	-	-	1,642		6,566	
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	90	-	392	2,000	5	100	693	-	193	3,150	-	-	-	-	146	55	-	5,543	9,519	
Fund balances, beginning of year	507	456	2,066	20,645	2,015	1,500	1,678	-	167	-	295	800	220	7,721	5,891	97	465	773	4,923	49,295
Fund balances, end of year	597	456	1,674	22,645	2,020	1,600	985	-	360	2,855	800	220	7,721	5,891	-	49	520	773	10,466	58,814