



# Sunset United Church

## *2017 Annual Report*

### *Annual Meeting – February 25, 2018*



## ***Celebrating 50 Years!***

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**-Ministers:** Kathy Platt (Jan. to Aug. 2017)  
Michael Webster (Sept. to Dec. 2017)  
**-Youth and Young Adult  
Program Coordinator:**  
Michelle McConkey

**Sunset United Church**  
**Mission Statement**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

*Sunset United Church as an Affirming Ministry is a nurturing Christian community of:*

- Joyful worship;*
- Open-minded faith exploration and spiritual growth;*
- Love, hope and Social and Ecological Justice;*

*living out Christ's message within and beyond Sunset.*

**Statement of Faith**

*WE declare publicly our commitment to creating a community where we welcome people of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, ability, ethnicity and economic circumstance.*

*At Sunset United Church, everyone can take part in every aspect of church life including: membership, leadership, celebrating life passages and marriage. We affirm that diversity is truly a gift of God and that all people belong here.*

*We celebrate the richness that diversity brings to our church, even as it challenges us individually and collectively. As we continue our discovery of what it means to be an affirming and inclusive community, we understand that teaching and learning about each other is a faithful process of mutual listening and understanding.*

*We pray for God's Spirit to guide us as we work for reconciliation and justice for all persons in church and society.*

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<i>(Cover Photo: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: Photo Courtesy of Karen Cartmell)</i>	

## **Agenda**

### **51<sup>st</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting**

**February 25, 2018**

### **Sunset United Church**

1. Lunch (following Worship Service)
2. Call to Order
3. Devotion
4. Attendance
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Appointment of Counters
7. Minutes: February 26/2017 Annual Congregational Meeting
8. Business Arising from February 26/ 2017 Minutes
9. Resolutions
10. Business Arising from Board Minutes
11. Presentation and Discussion of Annual Reports
  - a. Presentation of Finance Committee Report and Financial Statements
12. Presentation of 2018 Budget
  - a. Motion to approve Budget
13. Appointment of Financial Reviewer
14. Nominating Committee Report
15. Nominations for the Church Board
16. Nominations for the Board of Trustees
17. New Business
18. Acknowledgement and Thanks
19. Adjournment
20. Benediction

**Minister's Letter:**  
**Thank You and Farewell Letter from Kathy Platt**  
**(January 2017– August 2017)**

**A Thank-you and a Farewell note from Kathy**

My heart is full to over-flowing with gratitude for the wonder-full celebration this past Sunday. The words that were spoken, the tunes that were played/sung, Emily dancing in the centre of our circle, the pictures, the laughter, the tears, the food – all of it was spectacular!! Your generosity in the purse of money I received literally leaves me speechless – Arthur and I are both profoundly grateful! There were so many people that were involved in putting the day together – THANK YOU! I know that the heart and soul behind the whole event was **Jean Cameron**. It was good to have time to de-brief with Jean over coffee on Monday afternoon– many hilarious “behind the scenes” stories that she could finally tell me now that the secrecy was no longer needed! Thank you so much for your support of Jean as she sifted through all the many pieces that went together to make the party possible. If any of you are planning on visiting me in Portage La Prairie, just remember you need to check with Jean first – apparently, she is planning on being my roommate at my apartment in Portage! (just kidding!!)

Doreen Killoh graced me with one of her beautiful Blue Moon paintings. I am leaving it on display by Jayne’s desk for a few weeks so you can enjoy it too – but it will eventually be travelling with me to Manitoba! Karen Cartmell graced me with an amazing photo book of memories and notes from many of you. She put a lot of care and compassion into choosing the pictures – many, many thanks! That book is also on display by Jayne’s desk, and if you would like to add any more notes/signatures, please feel free to do that, although it will most definitely be travelling to Manitoba with me!

As you can imagine, by the time the program was done on Sunday afternoon, I was feeling rather emotional! Now that my tear ducts have dried up a bit, and my brain has re-booted, I have a few more things to say! When Russell left to begin his new ministry with Eastside United, it took some time to re-vision how we would do a family ministry in the mix of all the other work that I was doing. Having Michelle McConkey join our team was such a gift for our community! She and I have worked well together – I would come up with some wild and wonderful themes, and she would figure out a way to actually make them come to life! I love her creativity, her quick mind, and her patience with my stumbling relationship with technology! Over the course of 11 years, I have worked with 3 different office coordinators – Nora, Marcie and Jayne. Each one of them brought their own personality and skill to this position, and each one has been the right person at the right time. Jayne Strinholm has been a rock, especially during the recent chaos and turmoil as I worked my way towards taking leave of this place. She is articulate and creative – wasn’t the power point she created for Sunday afternoon incredible?!? I was very touched that she made it fit with my son Alex’s guitar playing as the backdrop to it all. Jayne’s passion for this place and for the work that she does is often evident - she offers a ministry of hospitality and welcome that speaks volumes about how this is more than just a “job” for her. Christian shows his love for Sunset in the set-up each and every week – he doesn’t join us on a Sunday morning, but he and April (and often their kids) make sure that the floors are swept and our chairs are set up and ready for us – I count that as a gift. Working with Nancy, Shirley & Kevin each Sunday has truly been a blessing. Music is in their very bones –

and as our music ministry team, they have most definitely been a treat to work with. The notes of the choir anthem often linger in the air and remind us of the "Sweet Spirit" that is present in our space.

I know that there are countless others that I could mention and/or thank – as I say often on a Sunday morning – the circle would not be the same if any one of you were not a part of it! As I sit in Manitoba this next fall I have a myriad of cards to be opened that say such things as: "open when you need a few Sunset memories" – I will wrap myself up in my beautiful prayer shawl, open a card or two, and give thanks for the gift of being connected to this community. And in the wise words of Heather Nelson – "*I am not missing from your circle – the circle just got bigger by a lot!!*"

Just to close off, I don't actually leave Regina until August 13<sup>th</sup>. Although I may not be here on the weekends where I am not preaching, I am not taking holidays, and will be in the office every week. Please, drop in and visit, or make a lunch date, or give me a call – I would love to see you! If you are in the City on the weekends, **July 9<sup>th</sup>** will be my last Sunday leading worship in our building – we will celebrate communion and I will soak up the Sweet Spirit of our worship space! When I first arrived in Regina, we had a service to mark the covenant between myself, Sunset United, and Wascana Presbytery. On Sunday, **August 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will be worshipping at Whitmore Park United, and Tricia and I will lead in a service of de-covenanting – I will hand back some of the symbols of my ministry, and there will be a blessing as I set out on a new path. Please come and join us for worship as often as you are able between now and then – the Tri-Church schedule is on our website in the Life & Work: announcements section.

I leave you with this blessing that we used on Sunday morning:

^In the leaving – in the letting go – let there be this to hold onto at the last:

***The enduring of love,  
The persisting of hope,  
The remembering of joy,  
The offering of gratitude,  
The receiving of grace,  
The Blessing of peace.  
May it be so.***

^Circle of Grace, Jan Richardson, ©2015, Wanton Gospeller Press, Orlando, Florida.

**Much love to you all....Kathy**

## **Minister's Report from Michael Webster (September to December 2017)**

Change is good! At least, that's what some people say. Others say it is a curse. I say that change is what we make of it. And in the end, change is unavoidable.

Sunset saw a lot of change in 2017, at least in terms of worship leadership. First, Kathy. Then some different faces, many of them familiar, during the tri-church summer schedule. And then myself in the last four months of the year on a two-weeks-on, one-week-off pattern. Whew!

I can't speak for the first eight months, but my experience of the congregation toward the end of the year is that, yes, you learned you appreciate consistency, but more important, you learned that you are resilient and adaptable and have a wealth of resources to draw on when you need them.

These are important things to know about yourself, and they are the kinds of strengths that will serve you well in a world that is bound to keep throwing us curveballs.

During any time of change, we have an opportunity to look both behind and ahead. In 2017, Sunset looked back in appreciation of Kathy's long and successful ministry. And you looked ahead with anticipation to receiving Tricia Gerhard, your incoming minister.

Change is indeed what we make of it, and Sunset seems to have made the most of the changes 2017 has brought.

On a personal note, I have very much enjoyed my brief ministry among you. In my time as your "fill-in guy," I found you to be welcoming, accepting and just generally easy to get along with. You have even put up with some very bad jokes – you're my kind of people! I wish God's blessing on you as you continue in the work of Jesus' ministry.

**Submitted in faith,  
Rev. Michael Webster, retired supply minister**

## **Message from the Chairperson**

What a year this has been! I think the saying goes "the only constant is change". I would add, that at Sunset, another constant is a congregation full of talented people willing to help with the many tasks and jobs that are part of being a church community.

We started the year grappling with the news that Kathy Platt had accepted a new position in Manitoba and would be leaving Sunset. This meant that some important work needed to be done and many members rose to the challenge. First a ten-person Joint Needs Assessment Committee developed a comprehensive report. Then an eight-person Joint Search Committee used that report to conduct a search for a

new minister. A huge **Thank You** to the committee members for all the time and energy they gave – both committees met numerous times over a short period and there was also much work done between meetings. The congregation was also an important part of this process – thank you for providing your input to the JNAC and for participating in the congregational meetings where we approved the JNAC Report and heard and approved the recommendations of the Search Committee.

In the midst of the JNAC and Search process, we said goodbye to Kathy Platt. I'm having a hard time expressing what Kathy meant to Sunset. She was a huge part of our community and, during her eleven years here, took on many roles that were not necessarily in her job description. But as she would remind us – Sunset is more than one person. For many of us, the first half of 2017 was spent working through our grief and sadness and also thinking about the big changes in store.

In the late spring, the Worship Committee was working on plans for the fall. It would be the first time in recent memory that Sunset would be without a minister. A temporary minister was the dream solution, but they are in short supply. Then a part-time proposal was received from Rev. Michael Webster. It turned out to be the perfect fit. Michael, together with Michelle, provided a sense of normalcy, while also showing us that change is good.

During the fall, the Search committee brought forward a candidate to the congregation – Rev. Tricia Gerhard. She was unanimously accepted as the next minister for Sunset. Then we entered a new season of anticipation and waiting.

And, in the middle of everything, we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We had a wonderful supper together and a special Sunday service with Rev. Lori Erhardt.

The first few months without Kathy showed us how much she had been doing on a daily or monthly basis. For a majority of the year, the Board's focus has been on keeping things running at Sunset as normally and smoothly as possible. There have been a few bumps along the way, however many people have stepped up to help with programming and planning and many other tasks. There are too many to name, but please know that your efforts have been seen and deeply appreciated.

Aaron Orban, our past chairperson, has come to the end of his six-year term. Thank you, Aaron, for your commitment to Sunset. We will miss your thoughtful presence at Board meetings.

Personally, I stepped into the chairperson role a bit earlier than expected, as Tracy Leader and his family moved to Kelowna, B.C. Thank you for your patience and encouragement – there has been a steep learning curve!

So, after that recap of a busy and slightly crazy year, Thank You. Thank you to everyone that made contributions large and small. Every bit counted and together we kept Sunset strong and vital. As a church community, we embraced the changes throughout 2017 and we are on a good path to head into the changes ahead in 2018.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Hilary Wallin,  
Board Chair**

## **Sunset United Church Annual Meeting Minutes**

**February 26th, 2017**

- 1. LUNCH**  
The Ladies Fellowship provided the lunch and cookies were provided by the Board. Thank you to the Ladies fellowship for providing the lunch for the annual general meeting.
- 2. CALL TO ORDER**  
The meeting was called to order by the Board Chair, Tracy Leader who noted that two weeks notice of the meeting had been provided and that a quorum of at least 40 members of Sunset United Church was present. All those in attendance had the right to vote.
- 3. DEVOTION**  
Kathy Platt told us to pay attention to where the spirit is at work while we are attending this annual meeting.
- 4. ATTENDANCE**  
52 persons signed the register which was circulated during the meeting.
- 5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
**Moved by Karen Cartmell/Aaron Orban that the Agenda be adopted. Carried.**
- 6. APPOINTMENT OF COUNTERS**  
Myrna Stark-Leader and Jean Cameron volunteered to serve as counters if required.
- 7. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Moved by Karen Cartmell/Aaron Orban that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 be adopted. Carried.**  
No errors or omissions were identified.
- 8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES from Last Year**  
None was brought forth at this time.
- 9. RESOLUTIONS**  
No resolutions from the floor were introduced.
- 10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM BOARD MINUTES**  
None
- 11. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS**  
**11.1 Finance Committee Report**  
Karen thanked Arlene Fehler, Treasurer this past year for all of her hard work. Karen thanked Don Wuschke for being envelope steward and issuing the tax receipts. Special thanks to Jayne handling all of the requests coming into the office day to day. Thank you to the finance committee for counting collection every week and their hard work.

Thank you to Denelle Hansen who has reviewed the financial statements for this past year.

On behalf of the committee, Karen Cartmell advised of the good news of a positive cash flow of \$8,972. This money has now been added to the Contingency fund to cover future unexpected expenses.

**Motion by Karen Cartmell/Jeff Lindskog that the financial statements on pages 34-39 of the Annual report be accepted. Carried**

**12. PRESENTATION OF 2017 BUDGET**

-Total estimated revenue of \$224,300 and including an estimated \$10,000 in voluntary M & S contributions.

-Total estimated expenditures of \$224,300 including a voluntary M & S target of 10,000.

The budget's revenue estimates are based on previous years. Expenditure estimates are based on prior year actual, along with known or anticipated cost increases/decreases for 2017.

**Moved by Karen Cartmell/Ruth Blaser that the congregation approve the proposed budget as outlined on Page 38 to Pages 39 of the Annual Motion Carried.**

**13. APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL REVIEWER**

**There has been no financial reviewer appointed to date, this will be discussed at the next Board Meeting.**

**14. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The nominating committee report was presented by past Chair of the Board, Aaron Orban.

Thank you to all the individuals that are remaining on the Board and thank you to the people that are coming onto the Board.

Shari Powers, Marilyn Bzdell and Mark Pitman are stepping down from the Board.

Sharon Frei was nominated as Congregational Representative.

Barb Flaten-Orr as Recording Secretary.

**Moved by Aaron Orban, seconded by Judy Fawell that the Church Board for 2017 be comprised of the positions and persons in the Nominating Report. Carried.**

**15. NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Nancy McBean term is finished for Board of Trustees.

**Aaron Orban advised that, as of this annual meeting, Dave Millar be named to the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Terry McKague. Carried.**

**16. NEW BUSINESS**

Kathy provided pictures and reflection presentation of the last 10 ten years at Sunset which was truly enjoyed by all in attendance.

## **17. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND THANKS**

Jean Cameron thanked Kathy for all of the work this past year, Thank you to Michelle for her work with the children and youth this past year. Thank you to Tracy Leader for providing leadership as Chair of the Board. Thank you to Jayne for keeping up with all of the office duties and requests that come in daily.

Nicholas Belanger adjourned the meeting.

**Following Adjournment, Kathy Platt offered a Benediction.**

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**Tracy Leader, Chair**

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**Marilyn Bzdell, Secretary**

## **Reports**

### **Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunset!!**

This year marked the 50th Anniversary of Sunset United Church. A committee was formed and a celebration was planned for the weekend of November 25 and 26. We had a catered dinner on Saturday with 169 people attending. A photo booth, organized by Karen and Andrew Cartmell, provided lots of laughs before dinner. Folk enjoyed perusing the many copies of Sunset photo directories from over the years. Michelle McConkey organized a PowerPoint, that was enjoyed throughout the evening.

Ross Macnab was our master of ceremonies for the evening. With his incomparable sense of humour, and his very apparent love for Sunset Church, he led us through a wonderful program that included reminiscing by Andi Schenk and Keith Schneider, and musical gifts from our choir, Jeannie McKillop and Nancy Edwards, and Kevin Petrychyn. The evening concluded with a Blessing for Sunset delivered by Terry McKague.

Our Sunday worship was led by a former Sunset minister, Lori Erhardt. It was wonderful to have Lori return to our Sunset community. After the service we enjoyed an anniversary cake.

**Members of the Anniversary Committee were Jessie Carlson, Hilary Wallin, Sharon Frei, Jeannie McKillop, Peg Achtymichuk, Nancy McBean, Gail Bradley, Judy Halliday, Jean Cameron**

## **2017 Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report**

The 2017 Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) was formed in February 2017 to answer to the call from the Board of Sunset United to assess the needs of our faith community. The committee members were Nicholas Belanger, Doug Billett, Marilyn Caughlin, Yolanda Hansen, Trina Hodgson, Patrick Innes, Wes Staruiala, Hilary Wallin and two Presbytery Representatives Rhonda Korpan and Darrel Reine, who assisted us in navigating the report, procedures and documents required.

### **Sunset United 2017 Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) Consultation Process**

To collect information for our JNAC process, the committee created a survey in which all Sunset United members, adherents and attendees were invited to share their thoughts. This survey had 57 questions ranging from demographic information to open-ended questions to gather feedback on current Sunset structures and initiatives. It was available in two formats: online through Survey Monkey and through paper copies at the church. It was shared widely with our faith community through emails, Sunday announcements and a link on our website. There were 94 completed survey responses, representing both individuals and households.

Other forms of input into the JNAC report included an additional questionnaire for Sunset staff members, information from a youth group consultation event, information from the 2016 Sunset annual report and other Sunset documents.

The JNAC committee carefully considered all of the information gathered and used both the demographic information and key themes pulled from the responses to form the JNAC report. The committee was pleased with the high level of input from our faith community.

On May 21, 2017, the congregation's members were invited to vote on the report and recommendations of the committee. The congregation's members voted in favour of the committee's report and recommendations as presented.

On behalf of the JNAC, I'd like to thank everyone who completed the surveys, questionnaires and participated in the youth group consultation. I'd also like to thank our Presbytery Representatives Rhonda Korpan and Darrel Reine.

**Sincerely,  
Nicholas Belanger, Chair  
2017 Joint Needs Assessment Committee**

### **Joint Search Committee**

The search committee was comprised of: Brenda Scarfe – secretary and choir member, Trina Hodgson – who made contact with the applicants, Kevin Perrey – worship committee, Glendene Gray – member at large, Karen Wotherspoon, - member at large, 2 presbytery reps. – Darrell Reine and Rhonda Korpan, and me, Marion Tudor, who chaired the committee.

The Search committee met approximately 8 times over the course of the summer and into September, first setting up the process and advertising the position, then reviewing applications, interviewing, and discerning next steps.

On October 15, we were ready to bring an applicant's name forward for approval of the congregation and we were happy to see the motion pass unanimously.

We thank the congregation for their trust in us as we completed this important work, and I personally want to thank all the members for their valuable and generous contributions of time and energy.

**Marion Tudor, Chair, SUC Joint Search Committee**

### **Affirming Ministry**

There continues to be a gracious and welcoming presence within the community of Sunset United Church. While the formal work of a committee has not been active over the course of the last year, I think it is fair to say our commitment to supporting and welcoming people who identify as LBGTQ2 continues. We have ensured we have door decals in place to welcome people to our building. We have utilized a rainbow peace candle to help further identify our commitment. As is our annual tradition, our congregation took part in the Queen City Pride Parade with other affirming congregations. A nice part of the experience is not only the people in the parade, but the members of the congregation seen along the parade route showing their support. There is renewed energy to formalize the Affirming Ministry Working Circle and further the awareness of the commitment we have made as a congregation.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Trina Hodgson**

### **Sunset United Church Choir**

The Sunset United Church Choir is a volunteer choir that sings four-part harmony. We provide music leadership for Sunday worship services by singing one anthem and assisting the congregation with hymns. We rehearse on Wednesday nights. The choir is under the direction of the wonderful Nancy Edwards. Shirley Hill and Kevin Petrychyn are the talented accompanists. Shirley Hill organizes the choir music library. The choir performed at a gospel evening at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in May. The choir had a very busy fall preparing music for a Gospel music service, the Sunset United Church 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party and church service, and the Christmas choir service. The music ministry of the Sunset Choir is an important feature of Sunset United Church worship services.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Scarfe**

## **2017, our year in Worship at Sunset**

We had a very busy year here at Sunset United Church. Here are some of the highlights from the past year.

We continued with our meatball dinners during the winter months. For the first time in a while Sunset had an Ash Wednesday service in March. We did some Truth & Reconciliation conversation evenings along with a blanket exercise. In the Spring, 12 individuals were confirmed to Sunset in a Sunday night confirmation service.

In the summer months we continued with our Tri Church services. We had our farewell service for Kathy in June along with a wonderful Pride service celebrating 10 years of becoming an Affirming congregation and had our annual Sunset camping weekend at Rowan's Ravine.

We formed a subcommittee to help with the planning of the autumn season. We had huge support from Darrell Reine from Westminster United and Dexter van Dyke (retired) from Heritage United. Thank you to both of them for answering all of our questions and helping us make sense with what to do when we have no permanent minister in place. The work that the sub-committee did helped us in finding a wonderful temporary minister to join us in the autumn, Michael Webster. Michael showed us it was not that scary to change things up. He gave us wonderful services throughout the autumn season including a great gospel service. Michael was only with us for a short while but he left us with great memories. We will always think of him fondly and remember how much he loved worshipping with us.

One of the biggest highlights this autumn was Sunset's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We followed the Saturday night dinner up by inviting Lori Erhardt back to lead us in worship on Sunday morning. Thank you to the anniversary party committee: you did a wonderful job even if we went over budget by thirty dollars!

We also hosted a family movie night at Sunset in the fall and watched Mary Poppins while eating a lot of popcorn.

In December we never slowed down: we continued to celebrate the Christmas season with our annual Choir service, Sunset Christmas decorating party and our annual kids craft Christmas party.

Also, in December, we announced our new minister Tricia Gerhard and we are so excited to have her and her family officially become part of Sunset. This is going to be a very exciting year.

Thank you to all the lay ministers and guest speakers who stepped in to help us out this year: Karen Cartmell, Bryan Tudor, Mark & Delise Pitman, Terry McKague, Val Cotterill. Also a big thank you to Marion Tudor and the clickers.

**Submitted by:**  
**Kevin Perrey, Worship Committee**

## **Family Camp**

Once again, we camped at Rowan's Ravine group camping area for a weekend early in June. Our numbers fluctuated during the course of the weekend as some families were not able to be there the whole time, with approximately 30 people in total. It was a lot of fun, as always, with the highlight being (for the children especially) the arrival on Saturday evening of a very friendly and active dog. Much Frisbee throwing was had by all – thank you Mark!

There was some discussion and concern about what would happen to family camp when Kathy had moved on from our congregation. It was decided that this was something we could continue to do, with or without our new ministry personnel, and that no matter what the future brings, we want to keep this annual event. It's a great opportunity for children and families to get to know each other better, and discover things that we have in common.

**Submitted by Marion Tudor, camp resident 'Grandma'**

## **Refugee Sponsorship Committee Update**

The chairs of the committee are CaraGay Driscoll (Sunset United Church), Kathy Blais (Wesley United Church), Linda Paul (Wesley United Church). Wesley United Church are the sponsors. Sunset United Church are support.

The process has taken much longer than we expected. We began our meetings in November of 2015.

Finally, we are making progress. The families went for an interview, medical checks and security checks. Everything is in order. We expect the family of 6 and the family of 2 to arrive sometime in the next few months. We will only be given 2 weeks notice prior to their arrival.

Currently, we are meeting to refocus and to discuss emergency accommodations among other things.

**Respectfully submitted by  
CaraGay Driscoll**

## **Sunday School Update**

We are using the Workshop Rotation Module which allows us to focus on one story for 2-3 weeks. The kids are able to learn more of the story through different methods like arts and crafts, science, games, and food! We explored many stories from the Bible including: Ruth and Naomi, the baptism of Jesus, Elisha and Elijah, the names of God, Creation, Feeding the Sheep and, the Lord's Prayer.

This year for Lent, I used my journey on the El Camino pilgrimage to illustrate the story. It was fun telling the kids about the pilgrimage and showing more pictures from the trip. There were a couple kids who received a Bible for graduating Grade 3.

We had fun making decorations for a planned outdoor service, even though weather kept us inside that day.

During our Family Camp Weekend, we had activities and fun! The weather was better, less rain this year! We had the Sunday School kick-off in September complete with pizza and outdoor games! The kids welcomed our interim minister, Michael, with a large card made by the kids. For Advent, I used two books: How the Grinch Stole Christmas and The Polar Express to point out elements of the Christmas story in a new way.

Throughout the year, I had over 25 different people volunteer as helpers for Sunday School! Thanks to everyone who came back with us!

**Respectfully submitted, Michelle McConkey**

### **Youth Group at Sunset United Church**

It was a busy year for the youth group. We started out the year with our annual sleepover at the church (we had 12 youth spend the night at the church) in January. Our event in February was a Murder Mystery and gift exchange. We learned some valuable lessons about gratitude that night. A group of 3 youth and 2 adults were able to travel to WE Day in March in Saskatoon. Our seats were even closer to the main stage! They all wanted to support more causes and get a closer seat next year! In April, we participated in a JNAC night to give the youth input in our search for a new minister. There was pizza and discussion. A good opportunity for us to see what the youth enjoy and what they want from their church.

Kathy and I held Confirmation Classes in February/March for 9 youth and 3 adults. They were confirmed in a special service in May. It was wonderful to welcome these people as members of the Sunset community.

We took a break from events until September when we had a pizza party planning event with our tri-church community. This was fun to meet and plan with other youth in Regina. In October, we helped out at Wesley's Halloween Carnival event. The youth enjoyed dressing up and scaring people in the haunted house! We had a packed year in 2017!

**Respectfully submitted, Michelle McConkey**

### **Michelle's Reflections**

2017 was a busy year at the church full of changes. It was difficult preparing to say good bye to Kathy but by her third final service, I think I was finally ready. I only come in one day during the week but I found myself popping in other mornings and evenings to finish things for that week. Being the only person in the church can be quiet and calming. I enjoy those evenings with just me, my music, and occasionally a movie from Netflix.

The Confirmation classes made me recall my own journey. I grew up in the United Church. I was baptized at only a few months old. I went to Sunday School, I joined the choir. I went through a year of exploration before deciding to join. A piece that I brought up during confirmation was the connection of the Church and Canada. We are a part of Canada, it was passed by an act of Parliament in 1925. Being a younger church can have some difficulties but I believe that it also allows us to change. Even if those changes take three or more committees and more meetings than you can remember. When I first moved to Regina, I didn't go to church. It was a professor, who noticing that I was having a difficult time, encouraged me to do something that I did at home like church. I went to Wesley United. I didn't go every week but it grounded me. I still find that grounding in the church. I am glad that I am a member and happy that I made the decision. Now that I have been at the church 4 years (5 years in August 2018), I think I finally feel comfortable. It still has changes and I know more will be coming with a new minister but I am excited for the changes.

**Respectfully submitted, Michelle McConkey**

### **Confirmation Classes**

Confirmation classes were held starting early in 2017 with Kathy and Michelle leading the classes. There was about four hours of initial conversation about the United Church of Canada. There was much learning and discussion about this...it provided the confirmands as well as Kathy and Michelle with lots of food for thought!!

Next they arranged for several congregational members to join the group for a *speed meeting* session (similar to speed dating but meeting instead!). Each confirmand spent around 10 minutes with various members of the congregation and each were given the opportunity to ask questions of one another. This was a great way for the confirmands and congregational members to get to know each other as well as what each other's thoughts were about the church.

Then Kathy met individually with each person so she could get a sense of what they were thinking about the "church" and their faith journey and beliefs. Once these meetings were complete, each of the confirmands were asked if they wished to join the church.

The following 12 people choose to join the church:

Emma Cameron  
Jamie Scarfe  
Denelle Hansen  
Lauren Thies  
Kyla Thies  
William Powers  
Claire Hamilton  
Sarah Black  
Andrea Schenk  
Patrick Innes  
Hannah Strinholm  
Kayleigh Strinholm

**Respectfully submitted, Jayne Strinholm**

## **What Confirmation Class Meant to Me....**

I had wondered what being confirmed and joining the church would mean to me. I wanted to better understand what the United Church was all about as well as I wanted to feel closer to the church and to my faith. For me, confirmation was the key to doing just that. My experience was very positive in that I learned so much and grew so much closer to the church and the family that it is to me. My questions were answered and it made me realize what faith really is to me. I am very glad I had the opportunity to participate in Confirmation classes and join the United Church.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Hannah Strinholm**

## **Bible Study**

**"And You Thought You Knew the Christmas Story" Bible Study.** Michael Webster, (our "fill-in" minister as he liked to call himself) held study sessions that took an in-depth look at the birth narratives in Matthew's and Luke's gospels. Four sessions were held (Nov 10, Nov 16, Nov 30 and Dec 7). The first session was held at Edie Phillips house and the large number of attendees barely fit into her living room! The final three sessions were held at the church. Ten to twenty people were in attendance at each of the sessions. Many thanks to Michael for providing us with this interesting Bible Study session.

**Respectfully submitted, Jayne Strinholm**

## **Community Services Committee**

The members of our committee are Janet McMurtry (chair), Bryan Tudor, CaraGay Driscoll and Richard Toppings.

The Community Services Committee is engaged in the following activities:

1. **Meals on Wheels:** operated with a number of volunteers from the Sunset Community under the direction of Peg Achtymichuk.
2. **Annual Appeal:** we co-ordinate an annual special appeal to raise money for local agencies. The appeal ran this past year between April 9 and May 7, 2017, in support of the Phoenix Residential Society and the South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy. We raised \$3,015, in total, down from \$5200 in 2016.
3. **Minute for Mission:** to raise the profile of the work done by the United Church's Mission and Service Fund, we provide bi-monthly up-dates on M&S projects, in Canada and globally.
4. **Rainbow Youth Centre:**
  - a) On the fourth Tuesday of every month (except July, August and December) we provide 4-6 volunteers to assist with preparing and

serving supper to the teenaged clients of the RYC. This year RYC suffered significant damage from a sewer backup on April 3, 2017. As of the writing of this report, RYC is not yet able to serve meals. As a result, we have not volunteered for the monthly suppers since March 2017.

- b) Every year for the White Gift Sunday service, we collect gifts from the congregation to be donated to RYC and we provide a number of volunteers for the RYC Fall Barbeque and Christmas party.

**Respectfully Submitted by the Sunset Community Service Committee for 2017-Janet McMurtry, Bryan Tudor, CaraGay Driscoll and Richard Toppings**

*(Attachment below as part of Community Service Report):*

### **United Church Housing Corporation**

We are a nonprofit corporation providing three different housing options. Our objective is to provide seniors with low cost living. We provide programming, meals and snacks.

We have Hewitt Place which are 20 independent living low cost rental units. We have Mutchmor which has 42 assisted living units with varying accommodation, from a single room with shared bathrooms, studio units and good-sized units with one bedroom. We have Wascana Wing which is 50 assisted living units in a 4-floor apartment building. The units are studio or one bedroom.

Each of the Assisted Living wings have a dining room where all meals are provided. We have a wing that is rental space for a Daycare. Some residents volunteer at the Day Care.

1. This year our occupancy level is up which is positive.
2. We have a contract with the Health District to provide a certain number of Units at the different levels of accommodation.
3. This year we have a roof to repair and with a grant from a Foundation and donations from United Church Congregations we have raised close to the amount needed to cover this cost. Thank You to the individuals who supported this.
4. We are changing our bylaws because of the governance restructuring of the United Church.

We continue to work to provide housing for seniors at a low cost.

**Submitted by Gary and Jessie Carlson.**

## **Congregational Care - House Groups**

The House Group Program at Sunset is a way of engaging as many people as possible in the activities involved with Sunday services. Every member of the congregation is a member of a House Group. Each House Group is responsible for one month of the year. This includes finding volunteers to assist with ushering (being worship hosts), reading the opening prayers, lighting candles and serving coffee after church. Each House Group has one or two leaders. We have a couple of groups with leaders who are ready to step down soon, and one group without leaders, so I'd ask anyone who might be willing to become a House Group Leader to contact Sunset Office or Bev Hui.

We haven't brought about any major changes to the House Group system recently. We are, however, always making small changes. The Task Descriptions and list of months allocated to each group are now on our website, under Life and Work (Groups and Committees). A copy of the House Group binder is on the shelves under the small House Group bulletin board in the foyer, with another copy in the office. Please take a look at it, and the Task Descriptions. If you have any questions, check with your House Group Leader, or Bev Hui.

We are open to any ideas which will improve our system. Our success is dependent on the commitment and dedication of the House Group Leaders, and the many people who volunteer to fill the positions each month. We acknowledge these contributions and thank Kathy, Michael and Jayne for their support in 2017.

The House Group schedule for 2018 is as follows:

<b>Month</b>	<b>House Group</b>	<b>Leader</b>
January	HG 1	Leaders – Cathy & Doug Billett
February	HG 2	Leaders – Jean & Bob Cameron
March	HG 3	Leaders – Marilyn & Don Bzdel
April	HG 4	Leaders – currently no leaders
May	HG 5	Leaders – Hilary & Devin Wallin
<b><u>June 3, 10</u></b>	HG 6	Leaders – Bev & Bosco Hui
<b><u>July</u></b>		
<b><u>August 12, 19, 26, 2</u></b>	HG 7	Leaders- Malita Marshall
<b><u>Sept 9, 16, 23, 30</u></b>	HG 8	Leaders – Olive & Bob McLeod
October	HG 9	Leaders – Doreen & Jim Wyatt
November	HG 10	Leaders – Jeannie & Rick McKillop
December	HG 11	Leaders – Brenda Scarfe

**NOTE:** *The schedule for the Tri-Church for the summer of 2018 is still to be finalized. Those months underlined represents a tentative schedule. The tentative schedule is: June 17, 24, July 1, 8 at Wesley United Church: July 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5 at Whitmore Park United Church: August 12, 19, 26, September 2 at Sunset United Church.*

Many thanks to the members of the congregation for your willingness to help when asked. We look forward to your continued support in this important ministry.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Bev Hui, Co-ordinator**

## **Fundraising:**

### **Biannual Quality Used Clothing and Toy Sales**

The Children's Clothing Sale is still going strong. We determined that 2017 was the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the sale! Definitely the longest running consignment sale in Regina. For each sale we had about 500 shoppers through the doors and we cut and sorted between 5500 and 6500 tags. If you've never been by the church on a sale day – maybe just drive past at about 12:45 to check out the line up! It is usually down the street and around the corner, sometimes even all the way back to the parking lot entrance.

For the very first time we had a debit machine. The shoppers really appreciated the convenience and our cash desk volunteer appreciated how easy it was to operate. It will be back at the next sale.

A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped out. We couldn't have sorted all those tags without you! We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 sales.

**Submitted by Hilary Wallin, Clothing Sale Coordinator**

**Committee Members: Andi Schenk, Denelle Hanson, Karen Jackson, Karen Wotherspoon, Michelle Seeley, Shari Powers, Theresa Hohne, Tricia Gerhard, Yolanda Hansen**

### **Sweet Singing Concert**

On Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, Jeannie McKillop and Joan Therens put on a concert at Sunset in the form of a dessert party. Gail Fensom organized this event and enlisted the help of ten people who donated desserts. It was a fun afternoon attended by 86 people and with tickets being sold for \$10, we made \$860.00. After expenses, we were able to donate a good portion of these funds to our caretaker, Christian.

**Respectfully submitted by Gail Fenson**

## **Other Initiatives:**

### **Mid-Winter Pasta Suppers**

Back by popular demand (*mainly from Brock Wallin!*), it was the third year of Pasta Suppers. Four suppers were held during January and February and were very well attended. We sure love to eat! Between 30 and 40 of us gathered on each night for good food and good company. The pasta and sauce were provided and everyone one brought a salad or dessert to round out the meal. It was really amazing how the potluck part worked out – there was always enough of everything. There was no formal programming, just relaxed conversation and fellowship. It was a lovely way to spend a Saturday evening in the middle of winter.

**Submitted by Hilary Wallin**

## **D & D Nights**

In the Fall of 2017, we started a new small group ministry session called "DVD & Discussion" or "D&D Nights" for short. Over 4 weeks, ten people gathered to watch the movie "Walking the Bible" featuring Bruce Feiler. The program was rather informal: watch a segment, discuss it, share a snack, watch another segment, and then discuss it.

It was interesting to see the places in the Bible, rather than just read about them. We talked about the fact that these stories are not happening in some far away place to unknown people – you could actually see the landscape, and the harsh conditions, and see the context of the stories. Some of the people in the group had actually been to Jerusalem and surrounding area, and could share their first-hand experiences with us.

Throughout the evenings, we got to know one another better, enrich our faith / spirituality and discuss questions we had about the Bible. It was a great way to connect with each other.

We are hoping to hold another "D&D Night" in the spring of 2018. Please plan to join us!

**Karen Cartmell,  
Co-ordinator**

## **New Immigrant Family from Ukraine**

In April 2017, a new family immigrated to Regina from Ukraine with only a "bag of socks and a bag of hope". As soon as the Sunset community found out about this family in need, they quickly offered to help them out. Within a few days, coats and pants and shoes and tops were collected in order to clothe this family. By the end of the first week, they had beds to sleep in, and blankets to keep them warm. Donations of furniture, and dishes, and kitchen appliances soon followed.

A big thank you to everyone for your generosity in helping to welcome this family to Canada.

**Karen Cartmell**

### *Letter of Gratitude from Inna, Sergey, Nikita & Jessica:*

*Dear, Karen!*

*You can't imagine how grateful we are! All these things that you have collected for us with the help of your friends and acquaintances have very much facilitated our first days here in Canada. Thanks to you and the community we have almost everything necessary for life. Beds, chests of drawers, chairs, tables, utensils and a huge amount of things - all this is undoubtedly your merit.*

*We appreciate your help and we want to say that we are infinitely glad that God brought us together with people like you and your friends. We hope that this meeting*

*is not accidental. We are infinitely happy that there are such disinterested people as you who have found the opportunity and time, possibly to the detriment of their families, and helped absolutely strangers.*

*Thank you very much! May God bless you all and reward your families with grace.*

*Yours faithfully  
Inna, Sergey, Nikita and Jessica  
30.05.2017*

## **Sunset Ladies Fellowship**

We continue to meet on the second Monday of each month unless otherwise stated.

### **Programs:**

- a) In February, we had Jodi Hartnell, travel consultant for Helmsing Travel who talked about traveling in small tours, especially for seniors. There was great advice on making a decision to take a trip and how to make the most of it.
- b) In March, Jaclyn Ross, who is a trained Social Worker and a certified Birth Doula discussed the roll of a Doula during pregnancy and birth.
- c) In April, our own Susie Ross gave a presentation entitled 'Organizing One's Affairs' . This discussion was geared to women and was most interesting.
- d) In the month of May we enjoyed our ever popular 'Sing Friends and Neighbours' give their final performance.
- e) In June – we had our 'Ladies Lunch Out' at The Cottage.
- f) In October, Kathleen Spatt and Doreen Sitter gave an interesting talk about CARP.

### **Fundraising:**

- a) A successful Bakeless Bake Sale

### **Service to the Church:**

- a) Catered and served for two funerals.
- b) Provided lunch for the Annual Meeting (the Board provided cookies).
- C) Provided supplies for the kitchen.

**Donations:** as listed in the Financial Report

### **Respectfully submitted:**

**Joan Johnston for  
The Sunset Ladies Fellowship Group**

# Sunset United Church Ladies Fellowship – Financial Statement

## CREDITS

<b>2016 Balance Forward</b>	<b>\$6972.52</b>
Bible a Month	100.00
Bakeless Bake Sale	818.70
Catering (funerals)	1200.00
Donation	<u>100.00</u>
	<b><u>\$2218.70</u></b>

**Total Credits**                    **\$9191.22**

**Respectfully submitted by Doreen Killoh**

## Debits

Kitchen supplies & misc.	1966.08
Cards and Stamps	17.48
Singing Friends & Neighbours	35.00
Can. Bible Society	24.00
Gift Appreciation	<u>450.00</u>
	<b><u>\$2492.56</u></b>

## Donations:

Regina Food Bank	200.00
Carmichael Outreach	500.00
Lumsden Beach Camp	500.00
Mutchmore Lodge	500.00
Regina Anti Poverty	500.00
Regina Transition House	300.00
Sk. Conference Bursary Fund	200.00
St. Andrews College	400.00
Mission & Service Fund	500.00
Our Daily Bread Ministries	100.00
Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre	500.00
Regina Food for Learning	<u>500.00</u>
	<b><u>\$4700.00</u></b>

**Total Debits**                    **\$7192.56**

**Balance as of Dec. 31, 2017**                    **\$1998.66**

## Investments-GIC

Jan 25-Jan 25/18	\$6882.61
2017 Interest	<u>\$34.41</u>
Total	<b><u>\$6917.02</u></b>

## **Ministry and Personnel Committee**

The United Church of Canada requires that each congregation have an M&P Committee. The Committee's main functions are to support the staff; to facilitate the resolution of concerns raised by staff, and by members of the congregation, concerning staff; and to make recommendations to the Finance Committee regarding staff remuneration and benefits.

This has been a challenging year for all staff at Sunset Church. We said goodbye to Kathy Platt, who was our Minister for 11 years. In June we had a farewell event for her with speeches, music, stories, food, laughter and tears! Kathy left us in mid-August, and headed to Portage la Prairie, where she has accepted a call to McKenzie United Church.

We were so very fortunate that Michael Webster, who recently retired from St. Martins United Church in Saskatoon, agreed to fill in until a new minister started at Sunset. Michael was with us from mid-Sept until the end of December, and worked 2/3 time. We are grateful to Michael, and we so enjoyed his time with us.

With all the changes this year, our Office Coordinator, Jayne Strinholm has taken on even more responsibility than she had before. She has become our "go to" person in pretty well all matters! Jayne is so efficient, and is a gracious welcoming presence at Sunset. We thank her so much for all the extra work that she has taken on over the past 6 months.

Our Youth and Young Adult Program Coordinator, Michelle McConkey, has also had to take on more responsibility this year, and works more on her own. She has accepted this challenge, and continues to develop and deliver programs and events for our children and youth. Our children at Sunset love Michelle, as do we all!

Thank you to Christian Moran, our Caretaker, who keeps our church clean, and sets up for Sunday worship, and for many other events at Sunset. Our Sunset congregation mourned with Christian, when his wife, and the mother of his 3 children, passed away suddenly in September. We helped and supported him through this terrible time.

We so appreciate our Music Director, Nancy Edwards, for the talent and dedication that she brings to this position. Thank you to Nancy for the many years that she and our choir have enriched our Sunday mornings with marvellous music. We also thank our musicians, Shirley Hill and Kevin Petrychyn, for their wonderful contribution to the music at Sunset. How we love our music at Sunset!

At a Congregational meeting in October, the Sunset congregation accepted the report of the Search Committee to extend a call to Tricia Gerhard to become our Minister at Sunset. Tricia starts in mid-January, and we look to our future with excitement and anticipation. Welcome Tricia! We are so happy to have you join our Sunset community.

We are blessed at Sunset to have all these wonderful people supporting us, leading us and caring for us!

**Submitted on behalf of M&P Committee Members Heather Haid, Ross Macnab, Susan Black, and Bryan Tudor by Jean Cameron (Chair)**

## **Property Projects:**

### **Floor Maintenance:**

August, 2017: Floors have been stripped, sealed and refinished with 5 coats of wax on August 8, 2017. This service has been done satisfactorily by LAST CHANCE JANITOR SERVICE LTD. This cost was less than half of another estimate so of course we used this company and they did a great job. Christian Moran looked after all other floors in the Church Hall.

A Big Thank You to Garnet Park and volunteers who helped with moving the piano and furniture for this big job.

**Doreen Killoh,  
Property Committee.**

### **Replacement of the Washroom Fixtures off the Centrum Space:**

The Ladies and Mens Washrooms had the toilets replaced for the first time since their installation. The new toilets now use one fifth the amount of water per flush so that should reflect a saving on the water bill.

Litzenberger Plumbing & Heating Inc. was the contractor for this job which was very well done just in time for our 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The Ladies Fellowship covered the cost of the Ladies Washroom. The Official Board covered the cost of the Mens Washroom which included a new toilet and new Flushometer valve.

All this work included removing and disposing of the old and installation of the new at a very satisfactory cost which was approved by all.

**Doreen Killoh,  
Property Committee.**

### **Major Outdoor Property Projects at Sunset 2017**

This past year Sunset had some outside property projects that were finished. In the summer, we hired a company that had experience with flat roofs to repair the section of the flat roof that kept leaking. It appears we now have this issue solved. We also invested in some new eavestroughs all around the original part of the building. The Board decided to also invest in adding leaf guards to the eaves to make autumn clean up a lot easier, as leaves were causing blockages in the eavestroughs which compounds roofing issues. We still have to figure out a plan with the downspouts that are near the sidewalks and the corner sections by the office door, which are still having issues. A new item to address for next year is removing the old pergola covering the back deck as the wood has rotten to the point that it is pulling from the walls, causing a safety issue.

**Submitted by Kevin Perrey**

## **Website**

The website continues to be a way to connect with church members near and far and a way for Sunset to be visible in the wider community. The website will always be a work in progress, however no significant changes were made during the past year. In the fall, Michelle McConkey agreed to take on some of the website management duties and she has been learning how the administration side of the website works. We look forward to some content updates and website changes as we welcome Rev. Tricia and move through 2018.

**Respectfully Submitted by Hilary Wallin**

## **Wascana Presbytery Report**

Delise Pitman and I have been pleased to represent Sunset United members at Presbytery during the past year. Delise chaired Presbytery until the end of June, then handed the reins over to Tricia Gerhard. Delise is now the chair of the pastoral relations committee, and I am a member of that same committee.

Below you will find a condensed version of the work done at Presbytery during the past year. Wascana Presbytery includes 22 pastoral charges, 12 rural and 10 urban. There are currently 7 pastoral charges which do not intend to call or appoint a minister, therefore needing a pastoral charge supervisor. It also includes two special ministries, Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry(RAPM) and South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy shared with Twin Valleys, Chinook and Good Spirit presbyteries. Incorporated bodies in the presbytery are United Church Housing (Mutchmor Lodge & Hewitt Place), Clare Parker House and Lumsden Beach Camp (LBC).

Wascana Presbytery met four times in the past church year - 3 one day meetings and a June potluck, business meeting and celebration of ministries. The Presbytery designed a process for careful consideration for the Remits from GC42. These took considerable time at each meeting but feedback from presbyters was that they appreciated having time to discuss the remits in depth.

Presbytery appreciated hearing from Liz Mackenzie explaining the new compensation model for ministry personnel, reports from RAPM and LBC and time with Krystal Sheremeta, President of Conference. LBC is involved in a visioning/planning process with the help of EDGE. Wascana Presbytery was very concerned about the Saskatchewan Government decision regarding Spiritual Care in our hospitals. Removing the administration makes it almost impossible for paid chaplains and volunteers to reach the people who need them. We have participated in an ecumenical group which is trying to address these concerns (with little success so far).

We now know that Remits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8 were approved by a majority of presbyteries and pastoral charges. On January 10, the Boundaries Commissions released its report indicating that there would be 17 Regional Councils. Saskatchewan is a region in itself. At the end of this calendar year, Wascana Presbytery, and all other Presbyteries, will cease to exist as they are not part of the new structure of the United Church of Canada. We realize that in this area we need to turn to the future and plan for ministry to serve the people and to act justly. Therefore at the January 20 Presbytery meeting, we are devoting the afternoon to a process to receive accurate and up to date information, uplift what has been important to us and to celebrate what we have been and to shift the focus from the past to the future.

**Respectfully Submitted by Marion Tudor**

## **Licensed Lay Worship Leader**

Over the past 2 years, Sunset UC has supported me while I completed the Licensed Lay Worship Leader course offered by the United Church of Canada.

This course prepares lay people to organize, lead worship, and deliver sermons, in order to fill in for a minister who is on vacation, sabbatical, ill, or in churches that simply do not have a full-time minister.

The course involved attending weekend sessions and reading books to learn more about theology, United Church history, and the Hebrew and Christian scriptures (aka Old and New Testament). We were introduced to different preaching styles and had opportunity to write sermons and preach them to our course-mates. The discussions we held, and information shared, really opened my eyes to what some of my colleagues in rural Saskatchewan are facing.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course and am grateful that Sunset UC gave me this opportunity.

**Karen Cartmell**  
**LLWL**

## **Board of Trustees Report**

According to the guidelines outlined by the United Church of Canada, the role of the Board of Trustees is to provide oversight over the real property of the pastoral charge, engaging with those directly involved in those matters pertaining to maintaining, enhancing, and insuring the church, so that it retains its value and utility.

In carrying out its responsibilities at Sunset, once a year the Trustee meet as a committee to review its mandate and consider those matters that relate to its work. This year's meeting took place on May 17, 2017, at which time the Board welcomed its newest member, Dave Millar, who had been elected at the most recent annual meeting. The board also extended its thanks to Kathy Platt for her continuing interest in the work of the Trustees during her tenure as minister.

Among the topics considered at the meeting was the role of the Trustees with respect to investments, a matter that had been brought to the attention of the Board by the church treasurer. Although no investment decisions were pending at the time, the Trustees affirmed their willingness to become involved in such matters if and when they occurred.

The Board received an update on insurance matters, given that changes had taken place as a result of Jeff Lindskog having recently left Regina, making it necessary for the church Board to find a replacement to oversee insurance matters. The church had been very fortunate to obtain the services of David Stearn, a member at Sunset with a background in the insurance field. One of David's initiatives was to arrange for a formal evaluation of the property and its contents, the first since 2009, which was applied to the annual renewal of the contract with the insurance carrier.

In addition to these matters, Trustees had been advised throughout the year about such topics as finances, which continue to be favourable in nature, property improvements, including work on the eaves, roof and plumbing, and developments resulting from the resignation of

Kathy Platt as minister. As a worshipping community we are fortunate to enjoy the leadership being provided in ensuring that Sunset fulfills its mission as a pastoral charge of the United Church of Canada.

As a result of my term on the Trustees coming to an end in 2018, this will be my last annual report. Allow me to take this opportunity to indicate what a privilege it has been to serve as chair of the Board of Trustees during much of this time, following the death of Alex Young, and to have represented the Trustees at meetings of the Church Board.

Let me also thank Janice Dockham for her service as secretary of the Board during the past six years, as well as George Peters, who has agreed to coordinate the work of the Trustees following the 2018 AGM. With the anticipated addition of two new members to the Trustees, matters will continue to reside in good hands.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Terry McKague, on behalf of Janice Dockham, George Peters, Keith Schneider and David Millar**

## **Finance Committee Report**

2017 was an interesting year from a financial perspective. Although our donations (PAR, envelope and offering plate donations) were lower than in previous years, our expenses were also lower. This enabled us to end the year with a positive balance of \$12,789. This money was added to the Contingency Fund to cover future unexpected expenses. At year end, the balance in the Contingency Fund was \$83,132.

Our lower Operating expenses were mainly due to 2 reasons. Firstly, since we now have a Capital Projects Fund, expenses of a long-term nature for the upkeep of the building are no longer covered by the Operating fund. Secondly, by only having a minister for 2/3 of the time in the fall months, our Personnel expenses were lower.

The Capital Projects Fund started the year at \$20,678.25. Roof repairs (eavestroughs, downspouts, and leaf guards) for \$12,060.86 were done in 2017 to ensure the safety of the building. Donations of \$2,330.00 were received throughout the year. At year end, the balance in the Capital Projects Fund was \$10,947.39.

The Memorial Fund started the year at \$6,100.00. Donations of \$495.00 were received throughout the year. At the Board's request, a new TV for the Centrum was purchased out of the Memorial Fund money for \$1,902.49. At year end, the balance in the Memorial Fund was \$4,692.51.

In 2016, the Board created a "Congregational Education Fund" to support the approved education of members of the congregations. No disbursements were made in 2017. At year end, the balance remains at \$1,000.00.

Periodically, money is collected by Sunset UC to be used for specific purposes. 2017 was a particularly busy year for special events. In order to reduce the confusion of how the money is to be handled, the Finance Committee created some new policies this year. The policy for "Fundraisers" and other collections of money covers items such as: fundraisers for Sunset UC

(such as music concerts or trivia night), fundraisers for other organizations (such as Sauti Moja or Lumsden Beach Camp), special collections (such as a minister's goodbye purse or collection for a needy family), special events (such as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner), money donated during a Sunday School kick-off luncheon, and the Children's Clothing Sale. If you are planning to hold an event, please get a copy of this policy from the Office Co-ordinator prior to collecting any money. This will make the entire process easier.

The Finance Committee also revised the guidelines for "Gift and Memorial" donations to ensure the process was clearly documented.

As always, the Finance Committee continued to oversee all the financial matters of the church throughout the year. I would like to thank the members of the committee for ensuring the collection was promptly counted, balanced, and deposited into the bank every Sunday. The Committee included: Bill Martin, Don Bennett, Bosco Hui, Bob Brown, Georgia Joorisity, Don Wuschke, Arlene Fehler, and Don Orr. Thanks also to Jayne Strinholm for her continued help on ensuring the financial accounts are entered and up to date.

Don Bennett has decided to retire from the Finance Committee at the end of 2017. Thanks, Don, for all your years of dedication to this committee. If anyone in the congregation would like to volunteer to count collection on Sunday mornings, please come and talk to me, or another member of the Finance Committee.

I would like to extend a huge "Thank You" to Don Wuschke, Sunset's Envelope Steward, for all his years of service in handling our PAR contributions, analyzing the annual pledge forms, and issuing tax receipts. I was amazed to hear that he has been faithfully performing this duty for 30 YEARS!! His dedication and knowledge has been greatly appreciated. Don has decided to retire from this position at the end of 2017, and we will miss his expertise.

Nancy Toppings has agreed to be Sunset's new Envelope Steward, starting January 2018. She has already been working hard in this capacity, as part of a team of people preparing the 2017 tax receipts. Thanks Nancy, for taking on this important role in our church.

A special thanks goes to Arlene Fehler, Sunset's Treasurer, for her expertise and devotion in managing the financial transactions, and creating financial statements in a timely manner. I also appreciate the extra time she spent this year, in helping out with the pledge forms and tax receipts. I'm grateful for her dedication to the church and look forward to working with her again next year.

Thank you also to Denelle Hansen who has reviewed the financial statements for us again this year.

The Budget for 2018 is similar to other years' budgets. The Board has once again recommended that 5% of the budgeted collections (ie \$10,000) be allocated to the Mission and Service Fund for 2017. An additional 5% of budgeted collections (ie another \$10,000) is anticipated to be received from individual members who specifically allocate donations to the Mission and Service Fund.

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Karen Cartmell,**  
**Chair, Finance Committee**

## **Treasurer's Report**

Detailed financial statements for 2017 and the proposed budget for 2018 are included elsewhere in this Annual Report. A brief summary is outlined below:

### **2017 Revenue & Expenditures**

We ended 2017 with a positive cash flow of \$12,789. with revenue from all sources of \$219,749. This will help build our Contingency Fund. Additional figures are included in the Statement of Restricted Funds.

Special thanks to the Committee that hosts the Sunset Used Clothing and Toy Sales. The two Clothing Sales netted \$10,141. for the operation of our church.

A Miscellaneous Category has been added to both sides of the Income and Expense Statement. Generally, this category reflects one-time events so a separate budget line is not appropriate. In 2017, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner ticket sales and related Expenses were applied to the Misc. Categories.

### **MISSION AND SERVICE CONTRIBUTION TARGET**

The 2017 budget included a Mission & Service Fund expense of \$20,000., comprised of a commitment of \$10,000. (5% of budgeted collections) from the operating budget and the remaining amount to be paid from voluntary donations. Voluntary contributions for 2017 totalled \$6,614. The Board approved a contribution \$3,386. to Mission & Service to top up the Voluntary M & S to \$10,000. Therefore, Sunset United Church total M & S remittance to the United Church of Canada for 2017 was \$20,000. Ladies Fellowship forwarded an additional \$500. to M & S.

### **PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET**

The operating budget proposed by the Church Board for approval of the Congregation at the Annual Meeting is included elsewhere in the Annual Report. It includes estimated total revenues of \$223,900. and estimated total expenditures of \$223,900. for a net balanced budget.

#### **Revenue:**

Collections	\$200,000.	
M & S Voluntary Contributions	10,000.	
Other Revenue	<u>13,900.</u>	\$223,900.

#### **Expenditures:**

Operations	\$203,900.	
Mission & Service (5%)	10,000.	
Mission & Service (Voluntary)	<u>10,000.</u>	<u>\$223,900.</u>
<b>Net Revenue over Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ 0.</b>

The budget's revenue estimates are based on previous years. Expenditure estimates are based on prior year actual, along with known or anticipated cost increases/decreases for 2018.

The proposed expenditures of \$223,900. include a M & S contribution of \$10,000. from the operating budget. The Board also proposes that the Congregation approve a Voluntary M & S Contribution Target of \$10,000. If this target is met, Sunset's combined M & S contribution will be \$20,000. in 2018.

Many thanks to finance chair Karen Cartmell for her valuable input.

Thanks also to Denelle Hansen for conducting a review of the church's financial transactions and statements for 2017.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Arlene Fehler, Treasurer**



## **Review of the Financial Statements**

February 3, 2018

To the Members of Sunset United Church,

I have reviewed the financial statements of Sunset United Church for the year ended December 31, 2017. I included in my inspection the monthly statements of operation, bank records and other information supplied for the day-to-day workings of the Church.

In conducting my review, I examined the recording of revenues, as well as supporting evidence for acquisition of expenditures.

It is my opinion that these financial statements accurately portray the receipts and expenditures of Sunset United Church for the 2017 year-end.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denelle Hansen".

Denelle Hansen

**Sunset United Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at December 31, 2017**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash	82,073	80,652
Term Deposit	16,962	16,927
GST Receivable	736	542
Prepaid Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	99,771	98,121
Land and Buildings	<u>868,723</u>	<u>868,723</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	968,494	966,844
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
United Church of Canada Mortgage	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	0	0
<u>RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>		
Capital Projects Fund	10,947	20,678
Congregational Education Fund	1,000	1,000
Contingency Fund	83,132	70,343
Memorial Fund	<u>4,692</u>	<u>6,100</u>
<b>TOTAL LIA./RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	99,771	98,121
<u>EQUITY</u>		
United Church of Canada	<u>868,723</u>	<u>868,723</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	868,723	868,723
<b>TOTAL LIAB./RESTRICTED FUNDS/EQUITY</b>	968,494	966,844

**Sunset United Church**  
**Income & Expense Statement**  
**As at December 31, 2017**

	<u>Dec. 31/17</u>	<u>Dec. 31/16</u>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
Clothing Sale	10,141	10,402
Collections	188,308	195,939
Anonymous	2,981	2,849
Mission & Service Voluntary	6,614	6,488
Fundraising	0	211
General Rent	9,106	8,026
Interest Inc	50	48
Sunday School	99	135
Sundry	18	-32
Miscellaneous	<u>2,432</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>219,749</b>	<b>224,066</b>
 <b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
<b>1. Administration</b>		
Mission & Service	20,000	20,000
Office Expense	6,458	8,416
Official Board	548	454
Presbytery Assessment	11,116	11,400
Conference Registrations	<u>0</u>	<u>270</u>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>38,122</b>	<b>40,540</b>
 <b>2. Building</b>		
Building & Maintenance	6,481	12,091
Electricity	4,616	4,971
Gas	3,216	2,688
Telephone	2,093	1,947
Water	2,675	2,288
Insurance - Property/Liability	3,445	3,250
Janitorial Supplies	<u>737</u>	<u>557</u>
<b>TOTAL BUILDING</b>	<b>23,263</b>	<b>27,792</b>

<b>3. Committee</b>		
Affirming	193	100
Benevolent	265	140
Christian Education	2,022	1,446
Community Service	100	136
Publicity	589	1,560
Worship	4,400	3,920
Search and Hire	<u>246</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL COMMITTEE</b>	<b>7,815</b>	<b>7,302</b>
<b>4. Personnel</b>		
Minister - Salary	38,837	46,272
Minister - Housing	16,000	18,000
Minister - Con. Ed	871	1,521
Youth Co-ordinator - Salary	11,779	9,664
Youth Co-ordinator - Con. Ed.	0	1,120
Travel Expenses	197	26
Pension & Benefits	21,421	21,202
Office Coordinator	21,769	19,858
Caretaker	11,951	12,229
Music Leaders	9,925	<u>9,560</u>
Treasurer	<u>2,000</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>134,750</b>	<b>139,452</b>
Miscellaneous	<u>3,010</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>206,960</b>	<b>215,086</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>12,789</b>	<b>8,980</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>	<b>12,789</b>	<b>8,980</b>

**Sunset United Church  
Statement of Restricted  
Funds  
As at December 31, 2017**

<u>RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>	<u>Balance Jan 1/17</u>	<u>Transfers 2017</u>	<u>Balance Y/E Dec 31/17</u>
Contingency Fund 1)	70,343	12,789	83,132
Memorial Fund 2)	6,100	-1,408	4,692
Congregational Education Fund	1,000	0	1,000
Capital Projects Fund 3)	<u>20,678</u>	<u>-9,731</u>	<u>10,947</u>
<b><u>TOTALS</u></b>	<b>98,121</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>99,771</b>

**NOTES:**

- 1) Addition of 2017 Net Cash Flow of \$12,789.
- 2) Contributions of \$495., Withdrawal of \$1903. for TV
- 3) Contributions of \$2330., Withdrawals of \$12,061. for Roof Repairs and Eaves

## Sunset United Church 2018 Budget

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2017</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Collections	200,000	200,000
Clothing Sale	7,000	7,000
General Rent	6,600	7,000
Fundraising	200	200
Mission & Service Voluntary	10,000	10,000
Mortgage	0	0
Sundry	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>223,900</b>	<b>224,300</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>1. Administration</b>		
Mission & Service (5%)	10,000	10,000
Mission & Service Voluntary	10,000	10,000
Office Expense	6,000	5,000
Official Board	500	500
Presbytery Assessment	11,100	12,000
Conference Registrations	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>37,800</b>	<b>37,700</b>
<b>2. Building</b>		
Building & Maintenance	7,000	7,480
Janitorial Supplies	1,000	1,000
Electricity	6,000	6,000
Gas	4,500	3,500
Telephone	1,900	1,900
Water	2,500	2,400
Insurance - Property/Liability	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
<b>TOTAL BUILDING</b>	<b>26,900</b>	<b>26,280</b>
<b>3. Committee</b>		
Affirming	300	300
Benevolent	500	500
Christian Education	2,000	2,000
Community Service	500	500
Publicity	1,000	1,200
Worship	<u>5,700</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<b>TOTAL COMMITTEE</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>9,500</b>

<b>4. Personnel</b>		
Minister - Salary including housing	58,550	64,800
Minister - Con. Ed	2,000	1,500
Youth Co-ordinator - Salary	16,900	15,470
Youth Co-ordinator - Con. Ed.	750	750
Travel Expenses	500	500
Pension & Benefits	24,000	23,000
Office Coordinator	20,000	18,800
Caretaker	14,000	13,500
Music Leaders	10,500	10,500
Treasurer	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	149,200	150,820
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	223,900	224,300
<b>NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Sunset United Church Church Board – 2018

### Executive Officers

Chair – **Hilary Wallin** (*board term expires 2020*)  
Vice Chair – **Kevin Perrey** (*board term expires 2020*)  
Past Chair – **Vacant**  
Treasurer – **Arlene Fehler**  
Secretary – **Barbara Flaten-Orr**

### Ministry (ex officio)

**Rev. Tricia Gerhard**

### Committee Chairs or Designates

Worship and Christian Education – **Kevin Perrey & Lana Orban**  
Affirming Congregation – **vacant**  
Finance – **Karen Cartmell**  
Property – **vacant**  
Stewardship – **vacant**  
Congregational Care – **Bev Hui (House Groups)**  
Community Service – **Janet McMurtry**  
Membership – **vacant**  
Communications – **vacant**  
Ministry and Personnel – **Jean Cameron**  
Fund Raising – **vacant**  
Website-**Michelle McConkey**

### Other Groups

Board of Trustees – **George Peters**  
Presbytery Representatives – **Marion Tudor, Delise Pitman**  
Ladies Fellowship – **Judy Fawell**

### Congregational Representatives (member at large)

**Sharon Frei**  
**Brenda Scarfe**  
**Ken Fensom**

### Board of Trustees: **George Peters – Chair** (*6 year term expires 2020*)

**Dave Millar** (*6 year term expires 2023*)  
**Keith Schneider** (*6 year term expires in 2022*)  
**Doug Billett** (*6 year term expires in 2024*)  
**Don Orr** (*6 year term expires in 2024*)  
**Monte Kesslering** (*6 year term expires in 2024*)  
**Marina Jeffery** (*6 year term expires in 2024*)  
**Olive McLeod** (*6 year term expires in 2024*)

## **List of Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Memberships Transferred in and Transferred out, Members Received by Confirmation for 2017**

### **Baptisms**

-Jacob Dale Jack Bradnam, son of Daniel Bradnam and Danielle Bradnam (Fraser)  
-Mercer Levi Matthew Moore, son of Levi Moore and Brianne Moore (Towers)  
-Jacquelin Grace Faye, daughter of Mitchell Faye and Carmin Faye (Siwek-Gray)  
-Wynn Hendricks Mitchell, child of Paul Mitchell and Lisa Whaley  
-Sullivan Birch Mitchell, child of Paul Mitchell and Lisa Whaley  
-Hayleigh Ann Mercy Franklin, daughter of Terralee Franklin  
-Luc Raiden Luis Gonzales, son of Jesse Gonzales and Jodi Stewart  
-Graidon Stewart Gonzales, son of Jesse Gonzales and Jodi Stewart

### **Weddings**

*None*

### **Funerals**

Edna Marie Judy Davison  
Gladys Jean Crawford  
Evelyn Francis Werner  
Dorothy Evelyn Rowan  
Judy Suzanne Brownlee  
Beatrice Irene McBeath

### **Members Received by Confirmation**

Emma G. Cameron  
Jamie L. W. Scarfe  
Denelle Hansen  
Lauren M. Thies  
Kyla M. Thies  
William E. Powers  
Claire M. Hamilton  
Sarah G. Black  
Andrea V. Schenk  
Patrick M. Innes  
Hannah K. Strinholm  
Kayleigh A. Strinholm

### **Members Transferred In**

Trina Hodgson  
Heather Nelson  
Nancy Toppings  
Richard Toppings  
Sharon Frei

### **Membership Transferred Out**

*None*