

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Ministers - Rev. Stephen Fram

Organist and Choir Director - Malcolm Bradley

Chair, Unified Board - Shirley Hazen

Church Secretary - Thelma Blaikie

Grace United Church Annual Report 2018

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Minister's Report 2018

Grace United Church is an Affirming Ministry committed to transforming lives by living God's vision as an active part of the diverse community in the Heart of Dartmouth. In the name of Jesus Christ, we journey together in faith as people, embracing every age, race, gender identify, sexual orientation, family composition, mental and physical ability, cultural background and socio-economic status in the life and work of Grace United Church.

I love the last verse of John's gospel. "...there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." **John 21:25 NRSV.**

I believe that as we live out our commitment to follow Jesus we are the body of Christ. We are his hands, his feet, his heart, his compassion in our world. And indeed, I suppose if they were written down, the world itself (even the cloud) could not contain the books that would be written. So with this in mind, I invite you to read through this annual report and you will get a sense of our shared work and ministry in 2018. And may this story and the story that you find behind the printed words inspire and guide our common life as we seek to be the church in this time and place.

In closing let me express my gratitude for the ministry of the members of the Unified Board, its committee's, and groups. Their support, guidance and leadership is what makes our mutual ministry and mission something worth writing about.

To our Supervised Field Student from AST (January 2018 to April, 2019), Heather Cronhelm; our music director, Malcolm Bradley; our administrative assistant, Thelma Blaikie; and our caretaker, Bill Busby, I say thank you for your ministry and the opportunity to minister with you.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Stephen Fram

Baptisms

- April 08, 2018 - Bree Lynne Mayka
- June 24, 2018 - Curtis Donald MacSween
- Chase Atlas Perrin
- Lucian Kevin James Willett
- November 25, 2018 - Levi Scott McGaw
- December 23, 2018 - Andrew Sinclair Hartling
- Maggie Anne West

Marriages

- April 28, 2018 - Gaye Elizabeth Squires and Evelyn MacMullen
- June 16, 2018 - Brian Glenn Fraser and Sara Ashley Gillmore
- September 08, 2018 - James William Doggett and Samantha Michelle Rourke

Deaths / Funerals / Memorial Services / Committal Services / Visitations**2017**

- August 03, 2017 - Mildred Mae DeMont
October, 2017 - James Thomas Beck

2018

- January 19, 2018 - James Manson Bond
January 30, 2018 - Winifred Mary Ross
February 11, 2018 - Evelyn Mabel Dixon
March 25, 2018 - Judith Dolina Eames
May 01, 2018 - Ellen Doreen MacQuarrie
May 14, 2018 - Walter Roy Stanford
June 09, 2018 - James Derek Moore
August 11, 2018 - Calvin Garnet DeMont
September 08, 2018 - Kathleen Murdoch MacArthur
September 26, 2018 - John Fraser Napier
October 16, 2018 - Joseph Robinson Penney
November 20, 2018 - Vonda Marlene Hansom
November 28, 2018 - Thelma Mamie Lillian Misener
December 05, 2018 - Doris Ella Farquharson
December 09, 2018 - Edna Gwendolyn Lee

Some "People" Statistics - 2018

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Number of Households	263	262	260	265	263
Number of Persons	632	630	628	641	637
Membership, January 1 st	585	584	583	576	568
Received by Profession of Faith	1	0	1	0	1
Received by Transfer	7	1	2	0	2
Restored	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0
Members Who Died	9	2	10	8	7
Members Who Transferred	0	0	0	0	1
Removed At Own Request	0	0	0	0	0
Membership, December 31 st	584	583	576	568	563
Resident Members	412	411	405	398	393
Non-Resident Members and/or Inactive	172	172	171	170	170
Baptism					
Children (12 and under)	8	5	8	1	7
Adult	0	0	0	0	0
Marriages	3	1	1	1	3
Funeral / Memorial Services / Visitations	12	6	14	10	12

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 04, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Shirley Hazen, Chair of the Unified Board, called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at approximately 12:47 pm, on March 04, 2018. The meeting was held in the sanctuary of Grace United Church. Sufficient members of the congregation attended the meeting to constitute a quorum (quorum is 20 members). The minister was present.

DEVOTION

The Reverend Stephen Fram led the devotion. He asked the congregation to remember those of our members who passed away in 2017 as he read out each of their names. He closed in prayer.

APPROVAL OF THE ACTING SECRETARY

MOTION: Moved by Christopher Wolfe and seconded by Martin Walker that Thelma Blaikie be approved as the acting secretary. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Cindy Penney and seconded by Clifford Muise that the Agenda be approved as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

It was noted that in the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting, on page 7, under Nominating Committee Report, # 6, that there was an error with the word "positions" which should have the "s" removed to read "position".

MOTION: Moved by Hugh Hall and seconded by Andrew Paton that the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved with the above noted correction. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE 2017 ANNUAL REPORTS

It was noted that in the Grace Initiatives Committee Annual Report that missing were Deborah Odell's name from the list of members and a note that the late David Inkpen had been a member from the inception of the committee until his death.

MOTION: Moved by Alice Baker and seconded by Mark Hazen that the Annual Reports for 2017, with the addition of the Christian Development Committee Annual Report and with the exception of the Communication Committee Proposal, the Treasurer's Report 2017 and the Budget 2018, be approved as circulated with above noted additions. Motion carried.

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 04, 2018

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

MOTION: Moved by Darrell Harvey and seconded by Stephen Penney that the Plan of Organization for the Unified Board be amended:

- a) to add Communications Committee to the list of Main Committees;
- b) to add a list of duties for the Communication Communications under Duties of the Main Committees that are from the mandate of the Grace United Church Communication Committee Proposal;
- c) to add that the Membership of the Communications Committee be a Chairperson (also known as the Communications Advisor) who is a member of the Unified Board and an additional 3-5 members of the congregation or local community; and
- d) to remove the Communications Advisor as a required member of the Innovation and Implementation Committee. Motion carried.

2017 TREASURER'S REPORT

Lynn Loder presented the Treasurer's Report. The detailed report is found on pages 46, 47 and 48 of the 2017 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Hugh Hall that the Grace United Church Treasurer's Report for 2017 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

2018 BUDGET

The Budget was presented by Lynn Loder. The proposed budget is on pages 47 and 48 of the 2017 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Jill Thompson that the recommendation for staff salaries, contracts, benefits and honorariums presented in the 2018 Budget be accepted. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Blair MacKinnon that the Grace United Church 2018 Budget be approved as presented. Motion carried.

MISSION AND SERVICE OBJECTIVE FOR 2018

Mission and Service objective for 2018 was proposed as thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00).

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Martin Walker that the objective for the Mission and Service Fund for 2018 be thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00). Motion carried.

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 04, 2018

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Committee consisted of Hugh Hall, Vicki Harvey, Blair MacKinnon, Ann Mugford and Martin Walker.

Martin Walker presented the report of the Nominating Committee:

1. The position of Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually by the congregation.
Chair: Shirley Hazen
Vice Chair: Pat Cleave
2. New members to the Unified Board for a three (3) year term are:
Alice Baker, Worship Committee
Wanda Baker-Hayward, Christian Development Committee
Connie Mack, Finance Committee
3. Members of Unified Board reappointed to a new three (3) year term are:
James Connolly Paul McKeown
David Foster Clifford Muise
Karen Foster Laura Muise
Ian Hayward Cindy Penney
Mark Hazen
4. Members of Unified Board reappointed to a new one (1) year term are:
Darrell Harvey
Darrell Spencer
5. Elected to Chair of Committee positions for a three (3) year term are:
Wanda Baker-Hayward Chair, Christian Development Committee
Brian Foster Co-Chair of Innovation & Implementation Committee
Karen Foster Co-Chair of Innovation & Implementation Committee
Connie Mack Co-Chair of Finance Committee
6. Elected as Trustee is:
Lynn Loder
7. Acknowledge the contributions of the following Board Members who are retiring from the Board:
Brian Hennen
David Huestis
Elizabeth Robertson
8. Vacancies:
There are two (2) positions available as Lay Representatives to Presbytery.

Further nominations from the floor were called for three (3) times.

MOTION: Moved by Cindy Penney and seconded by Mark Hazen that nominations cease. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Martin Walker and seconded by Mark Hazen that the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted. Motion carried.

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 04, 2018

NEW BUSINESS

North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre (NDORC)

Martin Walker reported that Grace United Church continues to be a very strong supporter of the centre. Lynn Loder has accepted the position of Treasurer.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Shirley Hazen gave thanks to the staff, contract staff and students - Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley, Thelma Blaikie, Bill Busby, Mary Jo Harrison and April Hart. A Thank You to Frances Wallace for her role in Bookkeeping and to Harry Wallace for his role in Payroll. Committee Chairs and members of committees were thanked for their contributions. Grace United Church has a lot of volunteers who were thanked for their support and contributions.

A vote of thanks was extended to everyone who helped to prepare and/or serve the delicious lunch to the congregation before the meeting.

Blair MacKinnon extended a thank you to Shirley Hazen for her huge contribution of guidance and direction as Chair of the Unified Board.

BENEDICTION

The meeting was closed by Rev. Stephen Fram with the delivery of the Benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Cindy Penney and seconded by Ann Dent that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Thelma Blaikie, Acting Secretary

Report of the Unified Bard 2018

We thank Grace United Church for their great example of creativity and commend them for their willingness to look faithfully at the challenges before them. We commend their commitment to each other and to the agencies in the wider church and community who respond to the needs of the marginalized, here and around the world.

The above quote is the closing lines of the report of the last triennial visit of Presbytery's Pastoral Oversight Committee and it captures much of what brings me joy and satisfaction in my role as Chair of the Unified Board. The Board environment, and indeed the environment of the Church is supportive, yet willing to face challenges and have difficult conversations.

We have had difficult conversations about how we "do the businesses" of the larger Church when we made Board level decisions on National Church remits (essentially motions of the national Church about how it operates) and now as we develop an understanding of the changes taking place as a result of the final decisions by the last General Council. The Court structure (like levels of government with the national Church) changed January 1, 2019 as Halifax Presbytery and Maritime Conference ceased to exist and were replaced by District 15 (Nova Scotia and Bermuda).

We had difficult conversations about money as we came through the summer with a much larger than expected deficit. We were open about the state of finances and what we would need to fulfill the mission and obligations that we had agreed to in the budget. As we talked about it, in our notes in the bulletin and through our stewardship campaign, you responded so we finished the year with essentially a balanced budget. You have demonstrated the commitment to each other and to our mission in the world in a very tangible way.

We had difficult conversations at the Board level, as we came face-to-face volunteer burn-out. Our program of rentals was so successful it was burning out our volunteers on the Property Committee. Members of the Board developed a job description, and we have contracted a part-time Rental Manager.

As you read the reports of the various Committees of the Board you will see many examples of creativity and of commitment to the needs of the Congregation, the Church building and the world around us.

The creativity of the Grace Initiatives Committee as they seek fundraising projects that help build community in the Church (and add to the bottom line of the budget) is to be commended as is the willingness of many to help support these endeavors.

We have mixed creativity with our commitment to the larger world with our "What about some bread for the Foodbank?" and "build a royal wedding cake" (out of pasta) to support the foodbank, Hope Dolls to support leprosy programs, and the leadership provided through Innovation and Implementation Committee and United Churches for Dartmouth for the Poverty Solution Workshop. Not to mention the creativity of cooking that our volunteers undertake to provide a monthly meal to Margaret's House.

We have seen creativity in what occurs in our worship services and in our Sunday School. We have seen commitment in the implementation of the next phase of the audio-visual system (AV) and of the work done to keep our property in good shape.

Report of the Unified Bard 2018 (continued)

Our Board Reports elaborate on the many activities undertaken over the past year but inevitably we do not capture everything. Volunteers from Grace are an important part of many organizations, especially the North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre (supports the foodbank operated out of Stairs).

Over the years, Grace has been an active part in providing a learning environment for candidates for Ministry. One of the events that was a source of joy in 2018 was the ordination of Brian Curtis, a candidate from Grace, and Mary Jo Harrison, an intern at Grace. Volunteers play an important role as they form the Lay Support Team.

As I finish my term as Chair, I wish to thank the Board members for their commitment to the Board and to Grace and to the many members of the congregation that help support our activities. I also wish to acknowledge and thank Rev. Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley, Thelma Blaikie, Bill Busby and Heather Cronhelm for their commitment to Grace. We would be much poorer in vitality and spirit, if it wasn't for the gifts that you share with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley J. Hazen
Chair

Members of Unified Board 2018

Minister

Rev. Stephen Fram

Chair

Shirley Hazen

Vice Chair

Pat Cleave

Immediate Past Chair

Martin Walker

Clerk of Session

Andrew Paton

Treasurer

Lynn Loder

Envelope Steward

Martin Walker

Worship Committee

Andrew Paton, Chair

Alice Baker (March to December)

James Connolly

Martin Walker

Christian Development Committee

Wanda Baker-Hayward, Chair (March to December)

Vicki Harvey, Chair (January to March)

Member (March to December)

Ian Hayward

Mark Hazen

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee

Ann Mugford, Chair

Donna Hull

Patricia Mallowney

Deborah Rowsell (January to November)

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Hugh Hall, Chair

Lorna Carter

Jenny de Zoete

Finance Committee

Betty Robertson, Co-Chair (January to March)

Blair MacKinnon, Co-Chair

Connie Mack, Co-Chair (March to December)

Brian Hull

Lynn Loder

Members of Unified Board 2018 (continued)

Property Committee

Darrell Blenus, Chair
Darrell Harvey
Robert Picco
Darrell Spencer

Innovation and Implementation Committee

Brian Foster Co-Chair
Karen Foster Co-Chair
David Foster
Brian Hennen (January to March)
Paul McKeown
Stephen Penney

Special Gift Fund Committee

Lynn Loder, Chair
Blair MacKinnon
Connie Mack

Communication Committee (new committee formed in 2018)

Shirley Hazen, Chair
Stephen Penney
Martin Walker

Lay Representatives to Presbytery

Mark Hazen (January to March)
Barbara Henderson
Cindy Penney

Members, Unified Board (Not on a Committee)

Clifford Muise
Laura Muise
Deborah Odell

Worship Committee Annual Report 2018

The Worship Committee has general responsibility for matters associated with the worship service at Grace United. This includes: prayers with worship leaders before the service, recruiting readers for scripture at the Sunday service; organizing and serving of communion; baptism and marriage policies and approvals; pulpit supply arrangements, assisting in music coordination; and decorating of the sanctuary for key seasonal events.

In 2018 the Worship Committee was comprised of Reverend Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley (Organist & Choir Director), Alice Baker, Dick Charlton, Jim Connolly, Ron Shaw, Martin Walker and Andrew Paton, Chair (and Clerk of Session).

The Worship Committee held nine regular meetings and one special meeting in 2018, at which there was good, active participation by the committee. At our February committee meeting, Mark Hazen, from the Grace Audio Video (AV) committee, attended as a guest, to speak about AV upgrade efforts at Grace and seek input from our Worship Committee for priorities of phase 2 upgrade work.

Reverend Stephen Fram continued to bless us at Grace United and serve as our Minister providing spiritual leadership during the worship service and otherwise. In January, a first-year student from the Atlantic School of Theology (AST), Heather Cronhelm, joined the ministry team and will be with us at Grace United for three terms, until the spring of 2019. Ms. Cronhelm participated weekly during the school year in the worship service and on occasion was responsible for the sermon. Ron Shaw served as worship leader for two services when Reverend Fram was on vacation, March 18th and October 24th. On May 27th, when our minister was attending Maritime Conference, Malcolm Bradley led the service.

The worship service in our sanctuary at Grace is a blend of word and music involving our ministerial team, choir and congregation. In 2018 our Sunday services began with the congregation articulating our Grace United Vision and Mission statement. A children's story or time with the children was a regular part of the Sunday service and Bible Playshop, a scripture-based drama involving congregation members, continued to play a key role in Sunday services on a regular basis. Music is a key element in the worship service at Grace United and we continued to employ both Voices United as well as more complementary, More Voices in our singing. The choir presented choral anthems nearly every Sunday, and solos or duets were regularly presented by choir members too. As well, other groups, such as the King Street Band, offered of their musical talents. Our AV system with screens/monitors at the front of the sanctuary and improved sound system has made a difference in the church service experience. The words for the prayers, scripture and hymns are now provided on the screens. Though we still have the hymn books in the pews, they are not often used by the congregation. Hearing assist units acquired this year now help those who have difficulty with the audio part of the service. In 2018, as a means of expanding the reach of Grace United, the practice of posting video clips (YouTube) of the sermon and the anthem(s) from each Sunday's service on our Grace United website, continued.

This was Grace United's 165th Anniversary and at our special Anniversary Service on November 18th, Reverend David Hart, the recently retired minister from Bedford United Church, was our guest preacher.

Worship Committee Annual Report 2018 (continued)

During the two key times in our church calendar, Christmas and Easter, we had special worship services. On Easter Sunday, there was both an 'early riser' service at the ferry terminal as well as the regular 11:00 am service at Grace United. During Advent there was a special service of lessons and carols on Sunday December 16th and on Christmas eve there was both a children's service at 4:30 pm and a more traditional service at 7:00 pm.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion took place at six worship services in 2018, including one during the summer period when the congregation from St. James United joined us at Grace for combined services. Three were according to the Methodist style (congregation comes forward) and three in the Traditional style (congregation is served in the pews).

There were 7 children baptized and welcomed into our Christian family at Grace in 2018. The children being baptized were given a children's bible, candle and certificate of baptism. As well, one adult member of the congregation was received into membership through profession of faith.

Three weddings took place at Grace United in 2018, one each in April, June, and September.

In 2018 Grace United continued to provide a ministry of word and music at places beyond our church sanctuary at Grace United. One was at Parkland at the Lakes residential complex along Baker Drive, where once a month on Wednesday afternoons, there was a service for residents. Another was at Oakwood, a seniors' complex in Woodside, where on a rotational basis with other local churches, we provided a Sunday afternoon service a number of times during the year. These services were led by our minister and our director of music, who were joined by a number of members from the Grace choir.

A key project of the Worship Committee in 2018 was to have the United Church crest displayed in some way in the church sanctuary. The committee decided to have it on an antependium ('scarf' or banner) hanging in front of the pulpit. Thanks to the work of Catherine Mertens we now have four different coloured (e.g. white, red) antependia to be used during the various times in the church year.

I thank the members of the Worship Committee for their dedicated service during the year and particularly Reverend Stephen Fram, for his spiritual leadership and ministry, and Malcolm Bradley for his ministry of music. Finally, on behalf of the Worship Committee, I thank all those from the congregation who contributed of their time and talent to make the worship service an important spiritual experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Paton
Chair of Worship and Clerk of Session

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2018

Director and Organist	Malcolm Bradley (since 1992)
Members as at December 2018	30 (includes some snow birds)
Executive	President Eleanor Hall
	Treasurer Chris Wolfe
	Librarian/VP Ian Fraser
	Secretary Connie Mack & Margi Hennen
	Social Susan Forsyth

Membership changes:

Christine Millar, soprano, resigned in the Spring, and the tenor and bass sections each were augmented by one. Phillip Fraser, tenor, and Terry O'Driscoll, bass. A warm welcome to both singers.

Choir Mandate:

To support the congregation in the singing of hymns and to enrich worship services with spiritual, inspirational, contemplative, and uplifting music with voices and musical instruments. The music genre includes sacred, classical, gospel, spirituals, modern African, and modern Western styles of composition and text. The choir has an enthusiastic group of singers performing solos or duets, and even presenting their own compositions and arrangements.

Choir members, as available, take part in Sunday afternoon services at Oakwood Terrace about four times a year, singing the old favorite hymns and usually an anthem or a solo. Services are also held Wednesday afternoons, once a month, at Parkland at the Lakes, Baker Drive, by Stephen Fram, supported by Malcolm and some choir members.

Whenever possible, choir members will sing at funeral services for the comfort of the bereaved families and friends.

Special Events / Services with choir:

This year, 2018, did not see major choir events, as Malcolm wanted to pay more attention on singing without accompaniment, diction, and dynamics.

After having had two years of learning and presenting a commissioned piece and a larger piece for Christmas in 2016 and 2017, Malcolm had the choir focus on sacred music for regular Sunday services and some special ones, like May 27, when our minister, Stephen Fram, was away to attend the UC Conference. Another mostly musical service was held on July 22, before Grace Church was breaking for vacation.

For Anniversary Sunday, November 18, the choir presented three new pieces, and on the third Sunday of Advent, December 16, the choir participated greatly in the Lessons and Carols service. These two are annual special music services, as is the last Sunday in May.

Guest organist:

Pat McCormack, a choir member, is always ready to fill in when Malcolm is away. Thank you, Pat, for your musical contributions to the choir and congregation.

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2018 (continued)

Guest musicians this year were:

The King Street Band on several services; May 27 - Connor Gray and Terry O'Driscoll (basses), and Louise Grinstead (piano); July 22 - Alison Roe (flute) and Debbie Miles (violin); November 11 - Heather Mayka (trumpet); Terry enjoyed the choir so much that he joined. November 18 - Hilary Brown (cello), and Cynthia Davies (piano). On December 23 and Christmas Eve, we had a German exchange student, Felizitas Daun, singing two duets of German Christmas hymns with our German alto. She spent one school semester with the Hayward family, attended Dartmouth High, and helped at Sunday School.

Appreciation and many thanks are given to these outstanding instrumentalists and singers, also to our choir members brave enough to sing solos, duets, trios, and quartets, and to the King Street Band augmenting the choir on occasions.

Many thanks and appreciation also to the choir members who are so faithfully attending rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services, and especially to Malcolm for his musical expertise and dedicated work with this wonderful and gifted group of singers (listed here by choir number):

Sopranos - Sheila Haines, Elinor Benjamin, Alice Baker, Eleanor Hall, Jennifer Eames, Karen Leslie, Jill Thompson, Mim Fraser, Hélène Lemay, Shirley Cameron, Margi Hennen

Altos - Debbie Fram, Jennifer Garvey, Brenda Weir, Ann Dent, Susan Forsyth, Frances Wallace, Connie Mack, Pat McCormack

Tenors - Chris Wolfe, Phillip Fraser, Hugh Hall, Douglas Jones, Andrew Paton, David Fraser

Basses - Ian Fraser, Terry O'Driscoll, Ron Shaw, John Menzies, Brian Hennen

Choir socials:

The choir combined its Christmas 2017 and Spring 2018 socials this year with a catered party in the party room at Holtwood Court on April 22, arranged by Malcolm. He also invited us for our pre-Christmas social on November 18 for a potluck party in the same location, much enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Shirley Cameron for booking the party room in her (and Malcolm's) building, to the social committee for preparations, and choir members for bringing such delicious dishes.

Choir rehearsals:

Choir rehearsals are Wednesday's from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Grace United Church in the upper hall.

Singing in a choir is a very rewarding commitment as it enriches the lives of both the singers and congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Mack
Choir Secretary

**Grace United Church
Choir
Financial Report 2018**

Balance Forwarded January 1, 2018 **\$2,831.56**

Receipts

Dues	\$ 250.00
Donations	\$ 105.00
Donation - In Memory of Judy Eames	\$ 720.00
 Total	 <u><u>\$1,075.00</u></u>

Disbursements

Nova Scotia Choral Fed Membership	\$ 75.00
Music Purchase	\$ 97.33
Cynthia Davies - Nov 18th service	\$ 250.00
Hilary Brown - Nov 18th service	\$ 200.00
White Gift donation	\$ 50.00
 Total	 <u><u>\$ 672.33</u></u>

Closing Balance December 31, 2018 **\$3,234.23**

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Wolfe, Treasurer
January 7, 2019

Christian Development Committee Report - 2018

In March of 2018, I took over as Chair and it was a busy year. Besides the usual activities, members of CD participated in a Poverty Solutions Workshop in September. Some ideas came out of this meeting at Woodlawn United Church that led to other get togethers to discuss how to proceed. Other members attended a workshop at Cole Harbour - Woodside United Church led by Ross Lockhart.

We held our annual Seder Supper in the church basement which was well attended, along with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and the Easter breakfast and the sunrise service. We held the Appreciation Sunday in June for all the volunteers who work with the youth of our church and the youth who come for the programs at our church.

Sunday School has about 18 children who attend and sometimes all of them are there at once. It is great to see that front pew so full! The nursery also has a good number of children each Sunday. Scouting and Guiding are still going strong at Grace. We had planned a Sunday School/Church pizza oven party for June but we were unable to have it so we planned a back to church pizza oven party in September but were unable to have this due to the oven needing repairs. We hope to have this pizza oven party in June.

Adult Education is going well at Grace. We have a new format with three churches involved. Rev. Sarah Raeburn from Stairs did a 4 week study at Grace and Rev. Ivan Gregan from Port Wallis will be doing one at Stairs in January with Rev. Stephen Fram doing one at Port Wallis near Easter. Our book club is busy reading books every month and anyone is invited to come along. Our lending library is out each week and there are some new books. Our library of books for purchase is also open each week. Also Spirit Café is going well with a schedule of discussion topics picked up until February.

At Christmas, the children decorated cookies for Margaret's House. There were about 6 trays of cookies that were brought over and that did not include the ones that the children ate. Our annual Grumpy Innkeeper Children's Christmas Eve Service was well attended. The numbers were down at our annual Advent Event, but all had a great time.

I would like to thank Kim and Sarah Connolly for all the work they did as Sunday School Coordinators from January to June; Rachael Hayward for her work in the Nursery every week; and to Vicki Harvey for Chairing CD until March this year, for helping me by answering any question that I had and for leading Sunday School from September to December.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Baker-Hayward
Chair

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2018

Members of the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee:

Rev. Stephen Fram, Betty Lou Suddard, Eleanor Hall, Mary Walker, Donna Hull, Pat Mallowney and Ann Mugford (Chair).

Our Committee accepted the resignation of Debbie Rowsell in September. We want to express our appreciation for her contribution to the work of PC&O Committee over the past year.

Following is a summary of our efforts over the past year, to support our congregation (**Pastoral Care**) and to 'reach out' to our community (**Outreach**).

Pastoral Care

- **Visitation Coordination Committee** - Betty Lou Suddard is providing leadership for this committee. Here is her report:

Pastoral Visitors Report 2018

The 10 members of the Pastoral Visitors group have had another busy year with regular phone calls and visits to members of the congregation who are unable to attend church or limited in their ability to attend for various reasons.

A project undertaken this year has been to deliver a "Prayer Shawl" to those individuals mentioned above. These shawls have been beautifully knitted by Mary Veitch and donated. The individuals receiving the shawls have been very appreciative and stories continue to be heard about how touched they were to receive this gift, and the comfort it has brought them.

The Christmas project which involves a visit and delivery of a poinsettia, or - in a few instances - an alternate gift of shortbread or chocolates, was again carried out in early December. A total of 27 gifts were delivered. Recipients expressed their appreciation for being remembered at Christmas by the Grace United congregation.

Pauline Murdock continues to carry out the Greeting Card Project. This year she mailed a total of 32 cards: Sympathy Cards - 14; Illness/Accident - 11; Birthday cards to those 90 or over - 7.

- **Sunday Greeters** continues to be coordinated by Eleanor Hall. She has added new volunteers to her list and is delighted with our congregation's willingness to participate in this ministry.
- **The Ambassador** is coordinated by Donna Hull. She reported that she has recruited new members to her list of volunteers and would encourage more participation from our congregation. Donna would like to remind our congregation that she has a short 'how-to-guide' to assist those who participate in this important ministry.
- **Funeral Receptions** are coordinated by Mary Walker. She is thankful for her dedicated group of volunteers who readily respond to her requests for assistance.

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2018 (continued)

- **Coffee Fellowship** is coordinated by June Charlton. We appreciate her commitment to this ministry. June has submitted the following report:

Coffee Fellowship 2018

The Sunday, after-service, Coffee Fellowship had another excellent year, thanks to all the volunteers who help out each Sunday.

During the year, the Pastoral Care Committee arranged volunteers for the first Sunday of each month, Choir members volunteered for the second Sundays, different members of the congregation volunteered for third Sundays, Terry Collett did all the fourth Sundays and Mary and Martin Walker all the fifth Sundays. Our thanks go to these regular volunteers, and to those who took a turn during the year. If you would like to add your name to a reserve list of volunteers please let Ann Mugford or myself know.

It is not a difficult job once the routine is known and I can't think of a better way to meet all the people who gather to avail themselves of refreshments and conversation. Step by step directions are posted up in the kitchen, and assistance is always at hand for new helpers. The two (or three) Volunteers are asked to bring cookies and a carton of milk and members of the congregation often supply extra cookies, which are always appreciated.

Outreach

- **Tree of Warmth** [formerly The Mitten Tree] - In December, our congregation decorated a Christmas tree with items that bring warmth to those in need. There was a special request for male and female underwear, in addition to the need for socks, gloves/mittens and tuques. In total, our donations included 68 m/f undergarments; 137 pairs of m/f socks; 24 pairs of m/f gloves & mittens, 39 m/f hats & tuques; 10 children's hats; 32 pairs of children's socks, 29 pairs of children's mittens; 12 scarves, a sweater & a pair of earmuffs. The 353 items were divided and delivered to Margaret's House, Brunswick Street Mission and Out of the Cold Shelter at St Matthew's United Church. Helen Hartley, Mary Walker, Donna Hull, Pat MULLOWNEY and Ann Mugford coordinated this project.
- **Unified Board Contributions** - Each year our Unified Board budgets \$3,500 for contributions, on your behalf, to agencies in our community, which are involved in outreach activities. For 2018, our Committee recommended the following donations that were approved by our Board:

Adsum House	\$200
Alice Housing	\$100
Atlantic School of Theology	\$300
Benevolent Fund	\$400
Byrony House	\$100
Camp Kidston	\$1000
Coverdale	\$100
Dal Chaplain	\$300
Food for Phoenix	\$100
Laing House	\$100
Phoenix House	\$100
North Dartmouth Outreach Centre	\$500
Stepping Stone	\$200

Pastoral Care and Outreach Annual Report 2018 (continued)

- **Alice Housing & Coverdale** - During the spring and fall, our congregation had the opportunity to donate personal care items to Alice Housing [Safe second stage housing and supportive counselling for women and children in their recovery from intimate partner violence] and Coverdale [An organization to provide support and services to women and girls experiencing the justice system]. It was our way to contribute to those who need this support and to those who provide it. Pat Mullowney coordinated these projects.
- **Christian Relief and Development Coalition** [in support of Feeding Others Of Dartmouth at Margaret's House - also known as F.O.O.D.]:
Grace United's representative on the Coalition, Ann Mugford, now reports to the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee. Here is her report:

Christian Relief and Development Coalition

The C.R.D.C. consisting of representatives from fifteen churches of various faiths in Dartmouth, supports F.O.O.D. at Margaret's House. Grace United has been a member since 1982 and currently has one representative. The group meets on a monthly basis excluding summer months.

Through regular Sunday giving and designated donations, Grace makes financial donations to assist the operation of Margaret's House. In 2018, those donations amounted to \$1,889.42

Another special part of our commitment to F.O.O.D. at Margaret's House is the preparation of meals, one day a month, for 100 guests. Over 30 members of our congregation (organized in groups of 10 [and, on a rotational schedule) contribute to this very important need. Susan Forsyth has agreed to monitor and provide leadership to this project. In addition to these meals, we contribute to special meals for occasions like Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This usually involves cooked hams and turkeys. Throughout the year we check in with the staff about any specific needs they have and, when possible, respond accordingly.

The Christmas Full of Caring Auction and Dinner, held yearly, in December, is the major annual fund raiser. This year it raised close to \$30,000, which is our target set for this event. Again, our Grace congregation was very supportive by donating baked goods and other auction items, by sponsorship or by attending/participating in the auction. I want to express a very special thank you to all for your continued, generous and thoughtful support.

In 2018, a total of 38,517 meals were served to guests at Margaret's House.

In closing, our committee would like to express sincere appreciation to our Grace family, for responding so generously and graciously to our many and varied requests. We are truly grateful. To each committee member, I would like to express deep gratitude for your leadership, commitment and support for all our pastoral care and outreach endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Mugford
Chair

Ministry and Personnel Committee Annual Report 2018

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee is responsible for providing consultative services to church personnel, to liaise between personnel and church members, to conduct annual performance reviews with the Grace Minister, Office Administrator, Organist/Choir Director and Caretaker. Also, M&P is to provide Finance with annual guidance on possible changes to salaries and other expenses related to permanent staff and contracted staff.

At the 2018 Grace Church Annual Meeting, Hugh Hall was confirmed as the continuing M&P Committee Chair. Continuing members of the committee are Jenny de Zoete, Cathy Spencer and Lorna Carter.

In mid-January 2018, following M&P meetings, M&P recommendations for salary and related remuneration for all church personnel (staff and contractors) were presented to the Finance Committee in anticipation of the budget for the coming year. In March, position descriptions/contracts were revised and updated following decisions of the Unified Board at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

In March, the Chair of M&P met with the Caretaker to review the interval for that contract and the term for the Caretaker contract was revised to coincide with that of all other Grace staff, namely, January to December. Therefore, following Unified Board approval, the remaining 2018 period of the Caretaker contract was amended to May 01, 2018 to December 30, 2018.

By June, 2018, M&P had completed the performance reviews for each Grace United Church staff and contracted employee. The Unified Board approved changing the Church Secretary position title to Office Administrator. Also in June, M&P members worked with the Office Administrator to respond to the recommendations in the report of the Fire Prevention Officer concerning the Church Office.

Based upon M&P Committee advice, the Unified Board approved additional professional development funds for 2018 for Malcolm Bradley, the Organist/Choir Director, in compensation for funds Malcolm did not use previously due to recovery from surgery.

M&P worked through the year with Property Committee to create a position description/contract for a "Rental Manager". M&P then prepared a statement of Rental Manager Qualifications, a Contract for the position, advertising wording and a recruitment plan for the position and a presentation to the Unified Board for staffing the position. The Unified Board approved the plans and, after a Search and Selection Committee was implemented and candidates were screened, Mr. Dale Wilson was selected as Rental Manager at Grace United Church and he will begin work in mid-January, 2019.

M&P continued to be represented at monthly meetings of the Unified Board and to provide monthly reports, where appropriate.

Respectfully written and submitted:

Hugh Hall
Chair

Innovation & Implementation Committee (I-Squared) Annual Report 2018

The committee, comprised of Brian and Karen Foster (co-chairs), Rhonda Dixon, David Foster, Paul McKeown, Stephen Fram, Stephen Penney and Brian Hennen, did not meet in 2018. We initially proposed to move to a quarterly meeting, and this soon devolved into proposing an ad hoc schedule. The rationale was that our committee's mandate is to consider new ideas or initiatives and figure out how to implement them, and so we would meet when we had a few ideas to discuss. However, no ideas were brought to us, revealing that most of our previous ideas probably began with committee members taking a personal interest in some matter or other and bringing their own ideas to I-Squared. That this has not happened lately could indicate: that the ad hoc plan isn't working, that Grace has exhausted its capacity for new ideas, or that congregants and committees are not aware that they can throw ideas to us and we'll figure out what to do with them.

The Chairs do not have the ability to commit to more frequent meetings, but we doubt there are no new ideas out there in the congregation that I-Squared could be enlisted to nurture. Thus, the committee continues to be open to ideas from the congregation and would meet to discuss and plan implementation if such new ideas are brought to us. If other committees could please keep our committee, and its mandate, in mind whenever they are considering new programs or initiatives for Grace, that could help revive our work.

All of the above notwithstanding, I-squared has contributed to or discussed the following initiatives:

1. The AV group's plans and request for input (resolved?) - provided feedback via email
2. Reviving the "congregational picnic" - idea proposed but not yet pursued
3. Poverty Solutions - Workshop and follow-up initiatives - I-squared co-chair Karen was a member of the planning committee responsible for the first workshop at Woodlawn UC in late 2018 (in partnership with United Churches for Dartmouth and the United Way). Karen has stayed involved to a decreasing degree in two follow-up initiatives that have emerged from that initial meeting:
 - a) working toward a community gathering / social space
 - b) contemplating a social enterprise

These two initiatives would be good ground for I-squared to reconvene in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Foster
Co-Chair

Property Committee Annual Report 2018

The Property Committee has been very active in the past year with a number of rental additions, upgrades, retrofits and maintenance programs completed.

I always want to thank the members of our group who worked tirelessly during the year to ensure the projects were completed in a timely fashion.

The following projects were completed through individual efforts and work group gatherings:

- Alarm system repaired
- Adult change table mostly funded through the Club group was ordered and installed in January
- Lower hall floor cleaned and waxed
- Updated dehumidifiers in lower hall areas
- Replaced furnace filters
- Checked all emergency lighting and replaced batteries/ bulbs
- Reset timers for the winter season
- Snow removal planned for winter 2019
- Cleaned property storage room
- Stored various equipment away
- Investigated certain roof areas for leaks or deterioration

Most of the Church's general areas, the entire kitchen and some offices were painted and plaster was repaired. A month long project completed when the Church was closed last August.

After a formal fire inspection there were some areas that needed code upgrades.

- Railings added on exit ways and some stairs
- Additional smoke detectors added
- Areas were cleared of excess material
- Some electrical was required to upgrade certain circuits and lighting

A reinspection in late fall proved to be successful with no areas of concern noted.

Driveway was repaved before erosion forced water in the basement.

Lower hall floor was stripped and waxed.

We also had four work parties during the year, doing repair and maintenance items.

Hired a Rental Manager (Dale Wilson), who started in mid January 2019.

Our group looks forward to continuing planning and to execute projects that will maintain the integrity of the property, offer the space for community and provide a safe and comfortable environment to carry out our programs and services.

Respectively submitted on behalf of the Property Group: Darrell Harvey, Bob Picco, Darrell Spencer, Martin Walker, Dale Knox, Ian Fraser

D.W. Blenus
Chair

Board of Trustees Annual Report 2018

In the spring of 2018 the Board welcomed Lynn Loder as a new Trustee.

The year passed with the Trustees being called upon to deal with minor issues only. A mini refrigerator was deemed surplus and removal from the premises. Through their activities on other committees at Grace the Trustees remain informed of matters related to the 'real property' of the church.

List of Trustees:

Susan Forsyth
Darrell Harvey
Lynn Loder
Blair MacKinnon
Darrell Spencer

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell Spencer
Chair

Communication Committee Report 2018

At the last Annual Meeting of Grace United Congregation, a motion was passed to establish a Communications Committee. The mandate of the Committee was to seek to inform, engage, motivate internal and external stakeholders of Grace about the broad mission of the Church. This Committee has responsibility for providing advice, resources and/or services regarding both internal communications and external communications.

It took a number of months to establish a Committee as a Chair had to be recruited. Currently the Committee consists of Shirley Hazen - Chair, Martin Walker and Stephen Penney and Stephen Fram, in his position as Minister. Larry Reynolds has volunteered to assist with projects. The first meeting of the Committee was held October 29, 2018. Work has begun on the scope of what is required and how we can best use the assets that we have. Projects will emerge from this work.

One of the first projects undertaken was to develop new communications around the budget for the Stewardship Campaign. The narrative budget of previous years was replaced by an infographic.

The Communication Committee has oversight over our various communications activities:

Pre-show PowerPoint: A slide show is shown prior to each service and during the week at the King Street entrance. It conveys some information about the service, upcoming events, activities of the church and contacts for further information to participate in Church activities. For the Anniversary Service and the Sunday after, the slide show contains many historical pictures.

Website (gracedartmouth.ca): Traditionally most of the site has been managed by Rev. Stephen Fram with Shirley Hazen updating the slide show. In 2019, the Committee will be undertaking some update of the website. In 2018, there were 2,886 unique visitors (down 19.6 per cent from the previous year). Some visitors returned multiple times so that there were 4,193 visits and 8,258 - page views. Our home page accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the visits. As to be expected, Canadians were the majority of our visits (89.4 per cent); Americans were second (8.6 per cent); and Chinese were third (0.52 per cent).

Facebook ([gracedartmouth](https://www.facebook.com/gracedartmouth) or [Grace United Church](https://www.facebook.com/GraceUnitedChurch)): Facebook is our most dynamic presence on social media, generally having a daily post. We have developed some constants about our posts - a "Throwback Thursday" which shows a historical picture, a valentine series in February and Christmas carols in the Christmas period. Posts are divided between informing people what we are doing, promoting events, raising spiritually interesting questions, etc.

We have started putting many of our events on facebook. Facebook allows the option of paid promotion which we only did twice this year for Ham Jam. We have found for events in which we have some reputation in the community the sharing of the events has resulted in wide exposure. Our Spring Perennial Sale was seen by 75,000 people and our Giant Book Sale was seen by 21,700. For our 67 events posted on facebook, 93,100 people were reached.

Overall, we have 274 followers of our facebook (44 added this year), 267 of which are in Canada. Between our followers and people that like our posts we have a reach that extended as far as four people in Samoa.

Communication Committee Report 2018 (continued)

You Tube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/gracedartmouth/videos>): Grace has its own You Tube Channel on which it posts videos of sermons, drama, anthems and special musical offerings. The Channel has 49 subscribers, a gain of 13 from last year. Views of 2018 content ranges from three views to 115 but we have an older Choir piece that has received 8,600 views.

Twitter (@gracedartmouth): Most of our tweets are linked to our facebook postings and we have 142 followers.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley J. Hazen
Chair

Grace Women's Bowling League Annual Report 2018

On Tuesdays at 1:00 pm from January to April and commencing again in September until the week before Christmas, twenty bowlers of four teams could be found at the Woodside Bowlarama for an enjoyable afternoon.

Not only did we bowl but could be found socializing while waiting for our turn to bowl.

In May we enjoyed our closing banquet before our summer break. This was held at the Baker Drive Public House. At this time prizes were awarded.

After the summer break we returned to bowling in September. On the Tuesday before Christmas we bowled for chocolates. This was the final day of bowling in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Pernette

5th Dartmouth Beaver Colony and Cub Pack Annual Report 2018

It has been another busy year for us at 5th Dartmouth.

The **Beaver Colony** meets on Wednesday night from 6:30 to 7:30. Most evenings we begin with our opening and then participate in a craft and play a few games. In the Fall we participated in Apple Day by selling apples at the entrance to the Dartmouth Farmers Market at Alderney Landing. This year we raised almost \$800.00. In the first half of the year we had 15 Beavers registered and in the Fall we have 15 Beavers registered.

The **Cub Pack** meets on Tuesday night from 6:30 to 8:00. Most evenings we begin our meeting with our opening, inspections, badge work and play a few games. We went to Cuboree at Camp Harris in the Spring of 2018. We also had an overnight camp at Camp Harris in December. We had 18 Cubs registered in the first half of the year. We are down to 8 Cubs registered in the second half of the year. This was due to 7 Cubs moving up to Scouts.

We began the year with 5 Scouters (leaders) in our Cub Pack. We lost all but one Scouter in the second half of the year. We currently have two Scouters that lead both Beavers and Cubs. Thank you to Billy, Elizabeth and Peter for making the commitment to Scouting and the youth in our community.

Thank you to Grace United Church for providing the space for us to meet on a weekly basis.

Yours in Scouting,

Ian Hayward
Group Commissioner
5th Dartmouth

Men's Breakfast Club Annual Report 2018

The Grace United Men's Breakfast Club once again scheduled eight Sunday morning breakfasts in 2018, each held at 8:00 am on the third Sunday of the month, fall, winter and spring. The breakfasts continue to be popular and fairly well attended, usually with between 16 to 22 men, attracted both by the pleasure of early Sunday morning Fellowship and by the nutritious free food.

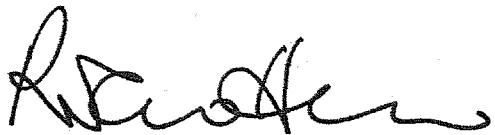
The food is essentially free because breakfast is provided and paid for by one of the four small groups who each take turns during the year. The groups are drawn from among the men, each group serving a hot and inventive knife and fork breakfast, with tea, coffee, juice, bread and jam, and occasionally fruit. All this heartily consumed. The format is simple: We say Grace, consume food, have a short meditation and prayer, introduce a speaker, and finally close with questions, appreciations, updates and then benediction around 9:15 am.

In 2018 our Guest Speakers have included the following:

January 21 st	Heather Cronhelm	My faith journey to date
February 18 th	Joe Gibson	CEO of Freedom Foundation
March 18 th	Bryce Fisher	Halifax Graveyard restoration
April 15 th	Darrell Beaton	NS Sheriff Services
May 20 th	Michelle Brenton	Destination Halifax
October 21 st	Ian Hayward	The hosting of International Students
November 18 th	Mark Hazen	Update on Anti-Poverty Initiative
December 16 th	Malcolm Bradley	Christmas Carols around the piano

We have no doubt 2019 will be another successful year. And all men are reminded to make careful note of the upcoming breakfast dates given in the Grace Bulletin, or on the Grace website, Face Book, on the sign up sheet at the back of the church, or on the pre-service slide show. All are welcome. We assemble in the lower hall around 7:45 am; socialize over coffee, line up at the serving hatch for a plateful of the finest, add a touch of whatever, then sit at the table to enjoy a very pleasant morning with friends. An excellent start to the day. Come and join us!

Respectfully submitted,



Dick Charlton
on behalf of the Men's Group.

AV System Upgrade Project Report 2018

In 2018 Grace United Church (through the AV team) undertook a project to complete the upgrade of the church's Audio-Visual system. The project was originally initiated in 2015 with the needed replacement of its entire audio system and the deployment of a temporary video system. Over the last 3 years the audio equipment purchased has served the needs of Grace very well; however, there were system gaps identified. These gaps included: the need for new technologies to support hearing impaired Congregants; improve sound capture in the Sanctuary; and the need to replace the temporary video equipment. These improvements were focused on improving the audio and visual worship experience for Congregants / Choir, and establishing the technology needed for internet based Out Reach.

The current phase of the project commenced mid-2018 with a Needs Assessment. The scope of the project included: acquisition of hearing augmentation equipment; upgrading of specific AV system wiring; new microphones to capture the Choir's Ministry of Music; the replacement of video camera(s), video mixer and support computer; and the acquisition of a portable sound system to support Church activities outside of the Sanctuary (e.g. Spirit Café, AGM's, etc.).

The project experienced a number of setbacks and delays, but by the end of 2018 the installation was 75% completed. One of the early successes with this phase of the project was the deployment of hearing augmentation equipment for Congregants with hearing problems. This part of the system utilizes a dedicated VHF transmitter to send signals to receivers that are worn by users. The receiver amplifies the audio signal received and provides it to the user either via an ear piece or T-Loop connected to their Hearing Aid. The Church purchased 6 receivers, and between 4 and 6 units are deployed every Sunday. "Feedback" received from the users on this equipment has been overwhelmingly positive, the new equipment has enabled them to hear Sunday Service far better than they could before.

System deployment, configuration and AV Team training will continue into 2019. The entire revamped AV system is expected to fully operational by mid-March 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell Harvey
on behalf of the AV Team

United Churches for Dartmouth (UCfD) Annual Report 2018

United Churches for Dartmouth (formerly Dartmouth United Futures (DUF)) is a venue for collaboration and sharing between congregations of the United Church in Dartmouth, NS. In terms of the new United Church structure it might even be a "cluster". The group meets quarterly, rotating between the various congregations. In general, many of the members of UCfD are at the Board Chair level. While currently few ministerial staff attend, they are encouraged to do so.

In 2018 we met as follows:

Date	Location	Program
March	Grace United	Review of Spirit Café, Communications Plan, Facebook site
June	Grace United	Planning for AntiPoverty Initiative, Communications
September	Grace United	AntiPoverty Workshop; Shared Bible Study; Presbytery transition
December	Stairs Memorial	AntiPoverty Initiative; Review of shared bible study

In 2018, UCfD initiated three major projects in the form of a Shared Bible Study program between Port Wallis, Grace and Stairs Memorial, and a response to the municipal strategy on Building Poverty Solutions developed by the United Way, and a revamped social-media presence.

The Shared Bible Study program (first iteration in Oct 2018) has ministerial staff from one congregation providing leadership in a bible study using the venue of a different congregation. The first iteration was a four-evening introduction to Christianity led by Rev. Sarah Reaburn and held at Grace United. The second iteration will start on Feb 2019 on Alternative Theologies (e.g. Celtic) led by Rev Ivan Gregan and held at Stairs Memorial United.

In response to the municipal antipoverty strategy developed by the United Way. UCfD sponsored an AntiPoverty Workshop on 22 September at Woodlawn United. The workshop had attendance from five congregations and developed a number of areas where we might contribute to the overall Building Poverty Solutions strategy. The United Way provided a great deal of support in the planning and conduct of the workshop. Following the workshop a group of interested members has met five times and held discussions with other antipoverty groups and organizations. The primary outcome of these meetings is the understanding that the target community must be involved, and that there is need for opportunities for inclusive community building. The group is currently exploring opportunities to trial a community drop-in centre in the East Dartmouth area. The aim would be to provide a zero-cost place for the community to gather, and provide the opportunity to develop an understanding of East Dartmouth community needs.

Under the leadership of Kathy Colaiacovo (Port Wallis) DUF changed its name to UCfD and developed a Facebook site for sharing inter-congregational and community events. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UnitedChurchesforDartmouth/>. It aims to provide a venue to announce and share events between congregations and also to promote the larger Dartmouth community.

United Churches for Dartmouth (UCfD) Annual Report 2018

Spirit Café (begun in 2017) was continued with alternating discussion and music events at Rosetto's Café (formerly Ma Belles). This initiative was supported by Stairs, Grace and Port Wallis ministerial staff. Spirit Café is a non-traditional spiritual gathering at a local café on the 1st (discussion) and 3rd (music) Tuesdays of the month. We were blessed in 2018 to have Adam Johnson from Port Wallis lead us in the music program. Discussion topics ranged widely :

God of Still Waiting: Exploring Advent
Spirituality of Remembrance
Where is Christ in Communion?
Pilgrimage: Is it just a Journey?
The Spirituality of Alcohol?
Prayer: What does it accomplish?
Is Love enough? Responding to School Shootings.
Ascension: Where is Heaven?
What does Resurrection mean to you?
The Daily News: Hearing and Responding in Faith
Tri-Unity of God - passée or au courant?

One of the main benefits of UCfD/DUF has been the opportunity for senior members of boards to meet and exchange ideas. At every meeting there is an opportunity for each congregation to tell the others what their congregation has been doing and has planned for the next quarter. Other congregations have the opportunity to ask questions and some amazing discussions have resulted.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Hazen
Chair, United Churches for Dartmouth.

Halifax Presbytery Representatives Annual Report 2018

In 2018 Grace United had two presbytery representatives - Barbara Henderson and Cindy Penney. Rev. Stephen Fram was the Secretary of Halifax Presbytery. Representatives attended five of the six full court meetings in 2018 and Barbara, Cindy and Stephen attended the 93rd (and final) Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference May 24-27.

Presbytery considered and voted on remits for the restructuring of the United Church of Canada -

- 1) Three Council Model (passed)
- 2) Elimination of Transfer and Settlement (passed)
- 3) Office of Vocation (passed)
- 4) Funding of new Model (passed)
- 5) Ministry Partners (passed)
- 6) One Ministry (defeated)
- 7) Candidacy Pathway (defeated)

The 93rd Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference took time to both reflect on 93 years of work and look forward, imagining the future of the church. Four candidates were ordained, including two who have touched our lives at Grace - Brian Curtis and Mary Jo Harrison. Conference elected commissioners to General Council and Regional Commissions for Regions 14 and 15.

On July 22nd, the 43rd General Council enacted remits so we moved to a three-council model of governance. Halifax Presbytery and Maritime Conference have been dissolved. As of January 1, 2019, we are now part of Region 15 which includes Nova Scotia and Bermuda with Rev. Faith March McCuish as the Executive Minister.

The final meeting of the full court of Halifax Presbytery was held on November 13 at First United Church in Musquodoboit Harbour where Presbytery with "gratitude, grief and celebration marked the conclusion of 93 years of faithful service". The proposal of the Funds Review Team for the Transition of Halifax Presbytery Legacy Funds into the 3 court model was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Henderson
Cindy Penney

Grace Initiatives Committee Annual Report 2018

Grace Initiatives is pleased to present this report for the Annual General Meeting.

The fund raisers we engaged in during the year 2018 are as follows:

- Giant Book Sale
- Bulletin
- Ham Jam
- Lobster
- Loonies and Toonies
- Memory Tree
- Plant Sale
- Sea Glass
- Tea and Sale
- Gentle Yoga
- Sobeys/Superstore Gift Cards

The following events are planned for 2019:

Ham Jam	9 March
Lobster Supper	27 April
Perennial Sale	25 May
Tea and Sale	26 October
Sea Glass	23 November
Book Sale	30 November

Yoga will be held every month during the winter months on the 1st and 3rd Saturday.

As most of you are probably aware, we have now engaged in selling Sobeys and Superstore gift cards and we receive a 5% discount on each card sold. We are hoping that this will be a successful fund raiser and supported by all members of the congregation.

The total net revenue after expenses for Grace Initiatives for 2018 was \$23,188.00.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for all of their support and assistance in our fund raising efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Blair MacKinnon
Member, Grace Initiatives Committee

Special Gift Fund Annual Report 2018

The Special Gift Fund is concerned with the publicizing of, administration of, and investment of special gifts including memorial funds which are both restricted and unrestricted as to use.

On the two following pages are the year end reports for the funds under the administration of Lynn Loder, Connie Mack and Blair MacKinnon. The reports were prepared by Lynn Loder.

We would ask that members of Grace United Church remember the Special Gift Fund of the Church when preparing personal wills and also for consideration for special donations at any time. Your continued support and generosity will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy worship and fellowship together here at Grace United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Loder
Treasurer

Grace United Church
Special Gift/Memorial Fund
as at December 31, 2018

		\$\$
	Fund balance at Jan 1 /18	80,835.56
Receipts	Donations - general	1,840.00
	Donations for Organ Fund	220.00
	Dividends	591.66
	Unrealized loss on ManuLife shares at 12/31/18	-1,019.16
	Interest	535.19
	Total Receipts	2,167.69
Disbursements	Total Disbursements	0.00
	Net Surplus at Dec 31/18	2,167.69
	Fund balance at Dec 31/18	83,003.25
Assets		
	Bank - CIBC	211.59
	GIC, 1 year cashable, 1% interest rate	59,869.51
	Total Cash & GICs	60,081.10
684 shares	ManuLife (stock value at Dec 31, 2018)	13,249.08
	Total Cash at Dec 31/18	73,330.18
	Due to / from affiliated Funds	
	Due from Grace Operating fund.	9,573.07
	Due from Ministry Bursary Fund	100.00
	Total due from affiliated Funds	9,673.07
	Total Fund balance at Dec 31/18	83,003.25
	Notes to Fund balances	
	Unrestricted Cash Funds and due from Grace general fund & Bursary	56,469.98
Restricted funds	Supporting the youth of the church Note A	466.59
	Supporting youth music at the church Note B	755.43
	Funds held on behalf of the Organ Fund Note C	2,389.10
	Total restricted funds	3,611.12
	Total Cash Fund	60,081.10

Note A - for the general benefit of supporting the youth of the church

Note B - for the general benefit of supporting youth music at the church

Note C - Funds held on behalf of the Organ Fund

**Grace United Church
Ministry Bursary Fund
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018**

This fund is available to assist candidates from Grace United Church for the ordained or diaconal ministry of the United Church of Canada.

The principal balance of \$5,000 is to be maintained in perpetuity as part of the conditions requested when it was originally donated. Only the interest earned from the principal balance is allowed to be disbursed.

Balance of Funds Available	\$\$
for Disbursement - January 1, 2018	3,536.00
Interest Income earned during the GIC term	180.66
Funds paid out to Ministry Candidate	-100.00
Balance of Funds available Dec 31,2018	<u>3,616.66</u>
CIBC GIC with an annual interest rate of 2.50% with a term of 1 year maturing December 10, 2019	5,000.00
Reinvested accumulated interest	3,616.66
Due to Special Gift fund	<u>100.00</u>
Total amount invested	<u><u>8,716.66</u></u>

**Grace United Church
Organ Fund
January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018**

		\$\$
Organ fund started 1963	Fund Balance Jan 1,2018	10,466.96
	Receipts - Donations	220.00
	interest income	285.09
	Disbursements	<u>0.00</u>
	Fund Balance Dec 31,2018	<u><u>10,972.05</u></u>
	Cash & GIC	
	Funds held by Special Gift fund	2,389.10
	CIBC 3 year GIC escalating rate of 1.25% maturing April 16, 2021	8,582.95
	Total Cash and GIC	<u><u>10,972.05</u></u>

Envelope Steward's Report for 2018

Contributions of Grace United Church 2018

Month	Loose	Local*	M&S Fund	Building Fund	2018	2017
January	324	12,067	2,564	1,981	16,935	16,879
February	225	10,871	2,346	1,764	15,205	15,625
March	152	11,123	2,363	1,901	15,538	15,666
April	317	13,721	2,352	1,960	18,350	19,038
May	297	10,673	2,226	2,035	15,230	15,606
June	297	10,545	2,141	1,726	14,708	15,911
July	295	10,611	2,088	1,872	14,866	12,967
August		7,933	1,898	1,704	11,534	15,236
September	212	15,694	2,273	1,851	20,030	15,669
October	270	13,298	2,251	1,863	17,681	18,234
November	346	15,366	2,762	1,934	20,407	17,193
December	854	22,684	2,441	2,046	28,024	24,881
Total	\$3,589	\$154,584	\$27,701	\$22,635	\$208,509	\$202,905

* includes Easter, Anniversary, Christmas and Initial offerings.

Average Contributions

Year	Envelopes		Contributors without envelopes	PAR	Total	Receipts	Average
	Used	Not used					
2018	56	(9)	49	80	194	208,509	1,075
2017	62	(3)	36	84	182	202,905	1,115
2016	59	(3)	29	81	169	232,962	1,378
2015	56	(4)	40	83	179	210,207	1,174
2014	63	(8)	38	81	182	225,232	1,238

Envelope Steward's Report for 2018 (continued)

Contribution Range

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Unused	9	3	3	4	8
0.01 – 200	62	45	23	40	50
201 – 400	16	19	26	26	20
401 – 600	17	13	16	13	15
601 – 800	8	15	11	12	10
801 – 1000	11	10	9	9	11
1001 – 1200	17	13	11	14	9
1201 – 1400	14	11	15	13	11
1401 – 1600	5	12	13	10	13
1601 – 1800	10	5	5	5	6
1801 – 2000	6	4	7	3	5
2000+	28	33	33	34	32

Special Offerings and Other Contributions

	<u>Easter</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>	<u>Christmas</u>	<u>Food Bank</u>	<u>F.O.O.D.</u>
2018	2,125	2,400	4,103	4,042	1,889
2017	1,310	2,061	2,415	2,796	1,664
2016	2,975	1,725	2,066	2,609	1,488
2015	2,210	2,820	4,680	2,327	1,645
2014	2,014	1,519	5,010	3,339	3,058

Respectfully submitted,
Martin Walker – Envelope Steward

Finance Committee Report Year ended December 31, 2018

During most of 2018 Grace experienced significant losses due to flat revenues and some unexpected expenses. However, strong givings during the final months of the year, especially in December, resulted in a small surplus by year end. Local budget offerings increased by approximately \$6000 compared to 2017 and revenues from hall and kitchen rentals, as well as special initiatives, contributed to a successful year. The finance committee would like to thank those who made extra contributions, helped with fundraising, volunteered, or otherwise made this possible. We would also like to thank Darrell Harvey and Darrell Blenus for their tremendous work on Grace's rentals over the past few years. We welcome Dale Wilson as our new rental manager in 2019.

During the Stewardship campaign for 2019, we asked the congregation to increase their givings by 5%. We are pleased to report that we received tremendous support and expect that givings will reflect the ask in order to balance our budget and cover our projected expenses.

The building fund was replenished this year and ended with a balance of approximately \$38,000.

As in prior years, we encourage everyone to consider PAR (pre-authorized remittances) as their method of giving to Grace. It helps smooth out our cash flow and enables us to predict our givings more accurately.

The Finance Committee would like to thank Frances and Harry Wallace for their excellent bookkeeping services, Thelma for her support throughout the year, and Martin Walker in his new role as envelope steward.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Mack, Co-chair Finance
Blair MacKinnon, Co-chair Finance

Grace United Church

Comparative Balance Sheet

	As at 12/31/18	As at 12/31/17
ASSET		
Current Assets		
Bank - CIBC	31,213.93	29,763.04
Short-term investments	31,577.14	41,270.80
Due To/From Memorial Fund	-9,573.07	-513.07
Accounts Receivable	1,040.00	0.00
HST Recoverable	3,222.10	2,174.48
Prepaid expenses	5,200.00	0.00
Prepaid Expenses - Insurance	1,470.28	1,470.28
Prepaid Expenses - Total	6,670.28	1,470.28
Total Current Assets	64,150.38	74,165.53
TOTAL ASSET	64,150.38	74,165.53
LIABILITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accts Payable - F.O.O.D.	1,612.26	1,198.10
Accounts Payable	3,128.85	4,420.54
Deferred Revenue - Inclusive Choir	2,060.00	4,160.00
Deferred Rev - Kitchen Rental Expen	0.00	0.00
To/From A/V Sound System Fund	-8,450.29	563.29
Deferred Rev - Web Page Development	3,000.00	3,000.00
Deferred Revenue miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Deferred Revenue - Total	-3,390.29	7,723.29
Receiver General Payable	1,454.29	1,417.30
Due to Mission & Service Fund	2,441.02	2,865.35
Due to/from Library Fund	881.55	1,017.52
Rental Reserve Fund	7,805.95	18,434.25
Due to/from Building Fund	38,071.84	25,145.44
Due to/fr Church Renew/partnership	3,000.00	3,000.00
Refugee Sponsorship Account	96.00	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	55,101.47	65,221.79
TOTAL LIABILITY	55,101.47	65,221.79
EQUITY		
Equity - General Fund		
Retained Surplus - General Fund	8,943.74	1,569.72
Current Earnings	105.17	7,374.02
Total Equity - General Fund	9,048.91	8,943.74
TOTAL EQUITY	9,048.91	8,943.74
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	64,150.38	74,165.53

Grace United Church
Budget 2019, Actual and Budget 2018 and 2017

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Budget
Revenue					
Local budget offering	176,803	158,294	162,615	151,838	162,880
Interest earned on GICs	300	307	100	128	100
Hall rental	23,500	23,592	22,000	22,785	20,000
Kitchen Rental	17,250	17,241	16,000	16,376	7,500
Other rev /Club Dartm. Serv. fee (note 1)	9,859	767	2,000	2,178	
Funding- Intern (UCC and Mar Conf)				8,500	6,500
Internship Donations				9,696	9,700
Grace Initiatives Committee	18,000	26,315	16,000	21,745	15,000
(Hfx Presbytery) , Spirit cafe	300	1,590	750	720	1,000
Concerts - Music at Grace				2,260	
Grant - Govt. for Halifax Explosion Show				9,500	
Grant - Presbyt. Inclusive Choir (note 2)	2,060	2,100	0		
Subtotal Other Revenue	71,269	71,912	56,850	93,888	59,800
Total Revenue	248,072	230,206	219,465	245,726	222,680

Expenses & Disbursements**Salaries & Honoraria**

Salary - Minister (note 3)	79,263	68,015	58,015	57,158	57,158
Salary - Intern				11,136	11,137
Contract - Organist	17,923	17,641	17,641	17,380	17,380
Salary - Office Administrator	15,871	15,621	15,621	15,390	15,390
Honorarium - Christian Edu.	500	1,500	500	500	500
Honorarium - Bookkeeper	1,900	1,850	1,850	1,800	1,800
Honoraria - Other (note 2)	2,650	3,010	1,200	1,465	1,000
Honorarium- Envelop Sec	1,900	1,850	1,850	1,800	1,800
Honoraria- special music	500	500	500	495	500
Rental Manager (start Jan 14/19)	8,721				
Contract - Janitor	13,474	13,082	13,082	12,017	11,912
Total Salaries & Honoraria	142,702	123,069	110,259	119,141	118,577
UC pension expense/CPP/Other benefits	14,500	14,250	14,800	14,490	14,800
EI expense	1,600	1,564	1,700	1,536	2,200
Continuing education- minister	1,415	1,393	1,393	1,374	1,374
Professional development- organist	1,500	2,500	1,500	0	1,500
Subtotal payroll expenses	19,015	19,707	19,393	17,400	19,874
Total Payroll and Honoraria	161,717	142,776	129,652	136,541	138,451

Grace United Church
Budget 2019, Actual and Budget 2018 and 2017

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Budget
Church Premises & Housing					
Housing Allow - Minister (note 3)	0	10,000	20,000	18,500	18,500
Housing Allow - Intern				3,200	3,200
Power	6,500	6,383	6,500	6,397	6,000
Water	1,350	1,317	1,300	1,222	1,200
Heating fuel	10,000	10,036	9,500	8,971	7,000
Repairs & Maintenance	8,320	13,125	7,500	8,282	6,000
Furniture & fixtures (note 1)	15,000	3,352	3,500	2,800	1,200
Computer / software	1,000	0	1,500	2,201	1,500
Cleaning supplies & misc.	1,500	1,355	1,600	1,546	1,500
Total Church Prem.& Housing	43,670	45,568	51,400	53,119	46,100
Church Administration					
Travel Allowance - Minister	2,200	1,919	2,200	2,125	2,750
Travel Allowance - Intern				180	200
Printing, postage, stationery	3,000	3,361	2,600	2,556	2,500
Telecom	4,330	3,719	3,500	3,405	3,400
Insurance	6,000	5,881	6,000	5,881	6,000
Bank charges & interest	1,500	1,416	1,500	1,459	1,500
Taxes - Hydrant	125	115	150	115	150
UCC Assessment (Hfx Presb) (note 4)	8,930	8,065	8,113	7,963	7,963
Total Church Administration	26,085	24,476	24,063	23,684	24,463
Church Activities					
Choir	800	820	750	550	750
Christian education	1,000	533	1,000	441	2,016
Worship	2,500	2,571	2,500	1,954	2,500
Coffee fellowship/ Pastoral Care	700	735	700	613	600
Communication committee	500	544	350		350
Grace Initiatives expenses	0	3,127		2,614	
Miscellaneous/concerts	100	0	200	105	200
Long-range planning/ I ²	200	143	250	259	0
Total Church Activities	5,800	8,473	5,750	6,536	6,416

Grace United Church
Budget 2019, Actual and Budget 2018 and 2017

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2017 Actual	2017 Budget
Allocations & Discretionary					
Outreach	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
UC Observer subscriptions		45		65	
Halifax Explosion Presentation				9,170	
Unified Board	1,000	670	1,000	1,731	750
Total Allocations & Discret.	4,500	4,215	4,500	14,466	4,250
Total Expenses before Reserve Fund	241,772	225,508	215,365	234,346	219,680
Allocation to Rental Reserve Fd (note 5)	6,300	4,593	4,100	4,006	3,000
Total Expenses & Allocations	248,072	230,101	219,465	238,352	222,680
Net Income (Deficiency)	0	105	0	7,374	0
 M&S Objective	 20,000	 27,698	 30,000	 28,651	 30,000

Statement of Building Fund
Jan 1, 2018 to Dec 31, 2018

Balance Jan 1, 2018	25,145
Donations Received	22,634
Disbursements	<u>-9,708</u>
Balance Dec 31, 2018	<u>38,071</u>

Notes to Budget

- Note #1 in 2019, a Service fee of \$9109 will be received from Club Dartmouth towards the purchase of a change table costing \$12,000
- Note #2 In 2018, a Presbytery grant was received to pay the Inclusive Choir Director's honorarium, (approximately \$2,000 for 2018 and 2019 respectively)
- Note #3 The Minister's Housing Allowance is reflected in his salary effective July 1, 2018
- Note #4 Payments to the Halifax Presbytery have been replaced by UCC Assessments effective January 1, 2019
- Note #5 The Kitchen reserve fund and the Building reserve fund have been combined to Rental Reserve Fund

Audit Committee Report 2018

We have audited the general operations balance sheet of Grace United Church as of December 31, 2018, and the general operations statements of revenue and expenses for the year then ended. We followed the Grace "Self Audit Program" prepared by William Foster, C.A.

The committee conducted some random tests by tracing payments through accounts, reviewing the system of receipts and deposits of funds and posting to the General Ledger, and discussing the effectiveness of systems with those responsible. We did not have access to, nor did we examine, the accounts of various sub-committees and records of various fund raising programs, and portions of payroll managed through the United Church of Canada.

The committee found no irregularities and it is satisfied with the general operations of accounting systems used to prepare annual financial statements. The finances were organized and documented in files and in a computer program.

The committee recognizes the significant effort and time invested by the volunteers and officers who are responsible for the various financial aspects of the church and recommends that the congregation be informed of this good stewardship. The committee also recognizes the organization, documentation and the adherence to good financial practices. We commend the church on fostering the following financial practices: e transfers, cheques, PAR...to reduce the amount of cash exchanging hands and to assist with enhanced budget planning.

The following three recommendations were discussed by the committee:

1. Add the following step to the Audit: Check that HST rebates are being claimed. (Although this step was not listed on the Audit steps, we did review the statements and found that HST rebates are being claimed twice a year. Having the step included will ensure that HST is reviewed each year.)
2. Review, and update, if necessary, insurance coverage to reflect the increase in rentals.
3. As you move forward to model the Mission Statement of the church and prepare the church building /premises to become more accessible for all abilities, seek Provincial Government funding grants that may exist for accessibility and healthy lifestyle initiatives.

In closing, the Audit Committee would like to thank the representatives of the church's financial team for their cooperation and for the provision of the necessary information for the committee to complete the audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Rowsell
and Assistant