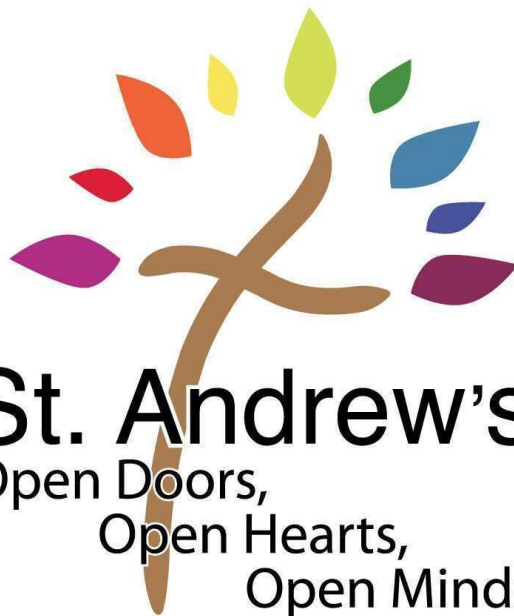


**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
HALIFAX, N.S.**



**2018
ANNUAL REPORT
201st YEAR**



St. Andrew's: Our Values, Our Mission

Who we are

St. Andrew's seeks to be a community for transformation, both for ourselves and for our world:

- Here we gather, in a safe and welcoming space, with others who offer support and compassion. Here we are accepted for who we are and find our identity in sacred and holy love.
- Together we are invited to shed the superficialities with which we too often settle and to wrestle with the critical issues that affect us. We are informed by ancient wisdom in both our Christian and other faith traditions and ask how this connects to current culture and challenges.
- Listening is as important to us as speaking. Through deep encounters with the divine presence and one another, we find healing and direction as we discover joy for our weary spirits.
- Finally, we are led to act upon what we have experienced, offering hope to a hurting world.

Our Core Values

- **To love God and to love one another:** As Christians, we seek to follow Jesus' teaching. Within this simple ethic lies a lifetime of challenge!
- **To be inclusive of all:** all genders and orientations, all abilities and challenges, all seekers and questioners, all followers of different faith traditions as well as those with none. By welcoming all, we open ourselves to the insights and perspectives that they bring. Our diversity leads us to value *integration* of different points of view for a more holistic understanding.
- **To be courageous:** We face life's challenges open to change and do not blindly settle for traditional ways that no longer carry meaning.
- **To pursue excellence:** St. Andrew's works with passion and energy to provide the best we can, with the abilities we possess, in our worship, programming, community building and outreach.

Our Mission

St. Andrew's can best contribute by focusing our ministry (in Halifax and beyond) by:

- **Responding to spiritual hunger.** While our society is wealthy in many ways, it dwells in profound poverty in others.
- **Creating connections** across religious and social borders. We seek to bring together diverse perspectives that intersect in our community.
- **Standing for justice:** social, economic and environmental.
- **Fostering the development of alternative, transformational leadership** within our city - and supporting leaders in various fields. We note the need for effective leaders who will respond to the challenges our society is facing.

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In Memoriam – 2018

Eleanor K. Brown

William F. Mason

Daphne H Faulkner

Melda R. Murray

Gerald A. Klassen

Timothy B. Taylor

Alexa E. MacKay

Robert M. Watson

Elizabeth P. MacLean

Loving God,

We thank you for those who have gone before us – your people who served and worshiped in this place. We are grateful for their contribution and we ask for grace and strength to build on their foundation. May we continue to serve you in ways of love and faithfulness. Amen.

Lead Minister's Letter

Dear St. Andrew's Friends,

I just reviewed my annual report letter of a year ago, and saw that it was 1000 words long! You'd think it was one of my sermons. This one will be much shorter and to the point. These are the points I want to make:

1. In terms of worship vitality, partnerships, spiritual practice, social justice, leadership cohesion, and joyous community we really are doing well at St. Andrew's. Our amazing team of lay leaders and ministers is firing on all cylinders and a great deal of forward progress is being made.
2. Our arrangements for financially sustaining the church and its mission are no longer viable. The days when congregational givings could support a city-center, multi-staff church like ours are over. Our expenses are too big, and current realities prevent younger generations from covering them with their donations.
3. The factors outlined above make it clear that the time for very seriously considering property development **is upon us**. We have to begin the process of making a decision now, and the decision will have to be made in 2019 or shortly thereafter. This decision will not be made hastily, or superficially, or without wide conversation and consultation. Look for a series of information and consultation sessions to be launched shortly after the annual meeting and to **continue throughout the year**.

Thank you for everything that each of you has contributed to St. Andrew's in the past year. There is much to celebrate, especially the creative contributions of so many people. It's been a tremendously rich year for me; and I expect 2019 to be at least as rich.

Many blessings,

Russ

Minister

If you gathered all the people who work for St. Andrew's into one room, how many would there be?

Well we counted – and for this year there would 180 plus. Kelly Kitamura and Virginia Crawford did the counting – and it wasn't easy – because some of you work front and centre, and some behind the scenes; some commit many hours, and some show up when needed. 185 hardly captures the sum hours, the diversity of doings, and the very cool way that our gifts, spirits and personalities combine to make this community.

We, and all those who participate in our worship and service, **are** St. Andrew's - pursuing deep thinking and social courage, moral imagination and joy, inner life, outer life, and life together. And we do this with a generational sense of time. 185 volunteers this year. How many before? How many to come? How many have worshipped? How many will? We are honored by every voice and life that is and has been a part of this community.

It is the WHO and the WHY that come before the HOW and the WHAT.

Our community functions best when it practices deep listening and discussion. We listen to our world and to God; we listen to one another and to ourselves. Out of it comes understanding, purpose, and solid decision-making. We will need all of this in the coming year – which is to say, we will need all of you.

It may be useful to set aside some time for quiet reflection on your own heart's deepest motivation, to listen for the most sacred or essential why of your life. It may be something you have known and carried your whole life. It may be changing, evolving in some new direction. I put a great deal of trust in your essential, wise, intuitive soul. Deep listening will not steer us wrong.

Proverbs 4:23 *Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it is the wellspring of life.*

When it is time for sharing this heart of yours – the why and who of you – please don't be shy. The people and projects and energy alive in our community and its kindred places are a generative narrative for our time. Let that narrative emerge alongside the financial narrative, the building narrative, the mission narrative. We can attend to all, with confidence and some joy, if the WHO and the WHY are held before the HOW and the WHAT.

With love and grace,

Susan

Minister of Music

This has been a year of highlights, as our church broadens its vision of the mission and ministry of worship, and music has played a prominent role. Our sanctuary band adopted the moniker “Mostly Righteous”—‘cause we’re not only brothers anymore—and performed a full length show of roughly 25 tunes, compiled from material the band has played in worship over the previous three years. We held this event in June in the upper hall, with table and chairs set out, licensed bar and treats. We had a great turnout, and just a fantastic night of partying.

Through the summer the sanctuary underwent a major redesign as the floor was replaced and new chairs came in to replace the pews. Of course, the major worries were about the appearance of the space and the impact on the wonderful acoustics. In the months since the changes there is near unanimous agreement that the aesthetics have only been improved. The sanctuary is now a bright space, and one’s eyes are drawn upward to see the stained-glass windows and architectural features of the arches. In terms of acoustic impact, some have said that certain frequencies are slightly muted. We’ve not had these impressions tested, but even for those discerning ears that hear a small difference, what has been gained in visual appeal and comfort on balance more than compensates. I stay in contact with our prime arts community users of the sanctuary space, and the reviews from Symphony Nova Scotia, Halifax All-City Music, Music Nova Scotia have all been very positive.

Mostly Righteous offered a second performance at the end of September with guest Cuban band *Plan Ashé*, following a similar licensed coffee house-style format in the sanctuary. It was another extraordinary night of celebration through music of various styles. Thank you to the Mostly Righteous members who gather on a near-weekly basis to support our music in worship. You are all very fine collaborators, and we are so enriched by your gift of time and talent. Mostly Righteous is Dana Lynn Farrell, Shelley Meisner (vocals); Peter Baylis (vocals and percussion), Chris Churchill (bass, backing vocals and ankle bells), Ross Dickson (guitars of all sorts and backing vocals), Steve Tugwell (guitar, vocals), Kevin Parks (piano, percussion, vocals) and supported John Finley (flute), Hillary Manchester (flute), Doug MacKay (drums), Chris Mitchell (Sax) and Paul St-Amand (trumpet)

St. Andrew’s Choir continues to play a prominent and indeed critical role in our worshipping experience. Two long-time dedicated members of the choir retired in 2018; Betty Sutherland and Doug Brown. They are both missed on a weekly basis. Betty continues to log our hymn use and report for licensing purposes. Thank you, Betty for this important service. It is true that the choir is performing fewer anthems, but what we ARE doing is working on slightly more difficult repertoire for a longer period of time. We are also very intentionally building community within the group, and paying closer attention to how our role as music leaders and animators enlivens our own worship experience, and in turn gives spirit to the experience of worship for the entire community on Sunday morning. I am grateful for the dedication of the members of the choir, and for their commitment to communicate the gospel in every song they sing. Features of the choir year include the Ecumenical Good Friday service, hosted at St. Andrew’s this year; the choir led music at the Convocation of Atlantic School of Theology in early May, also at St. Andrew’s; the Service of Lessons and Carols on Dec 24 at 10pm was an occasion for the choir to shine, as we prepared four challenging and beautiful pieces of music for this service.

Here is a list of the choir's membership in 2018:

SOPRANO	TENOR
Nada Benmokrane	Trish Betts
Dana Lynn Farrell (Section Lead)	Doug Brown
Heather Fraser	Ross Dickson
Beverley Hennigar	Tamsin Robson (Section Lead)
Beth Matthews	Kevin Selig
Shannon Sterling	
Se Uk Walling	BASS
ALTO	Doug MacLean
Ruth Cordes (Choir Librarian)	Colin Oulton (Section Lead)
Denice Grant	Bill Outhit
Sherise Jones (Section Lead)	Hugh Williamson
Nancy MacNairn	
Hillary Manchester	

If you should ever have suggestions of music that could be used in worship, or would like to offer your gifts as a part of the choir or our worship band, please speak to me. I very much welcome your input and involvement.

I continue to grow in my identity as a Minister of Music. For the third year (also 2016 and 2017) I worked with Dana Pardy to offer music leadership at Maritime Conference. For continuing Education, in October this year I attended an fantastic conference on paperless music leading with "Music that Makes Community", held at the Crossroads Camp and Retreat Centre near Newark, NJ. It was a blessing to meet colleagues from the ecumenical spectrum in the Northeastern US, and to learn new skills in congregation music leading. I have begun to put some of that to practice in our worship. I intend to follow up with more in-depth training and offer more enriched practice of music for praise, prayer and contemplation in worship and other settings.

It is my privilege to serve in music ministry in this place with such potential and possibility. I am daily enlivened by the opportunities that exist for us as a community and am excited by the part I can play in animating and realizing our community's goals. I pray for our continued growth in spirit to better show God's kin-dom at work, here at the corner of Coburg and Robie.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Parks
Minister of Music

Chair of Council's Letter

Dear Friends,

On behalf of your Council, I offer this report on the life and mission of Saint Andrew's United Church in 2018.

The first order of business is to recognize the continued excellence of our dedicated ministerial team and support staff. I thank our ministerial team for once again meeting our commitment to offer Deep, Dynamic Worship to all who walk through our doors seeking spiritual nourishment, fellowship and a time for thoughtful reflection. I do not take any of this for granted and deeply appreciate the careful planning and preparation required to create the Saint Andrew's worship experience. I also want to recognize the ministry work that takes place throughout the week on everything from pastoral care, to small group programs and representing Saint Andrew's to the wider community. We are truly blessed to have Russ, Susan and Kevin P on our team.

We would not be able to fulfill our mission without the incredible support of Linda Burrows, Kevin Burke and the assistant Sextons. They are a pleasure to work with and we are lucky to have them.

Thank you to the entire team.

In 2018, your Council divided its time between addressing the challenges associated with ongoing operational issues as well as pursuing several strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening Saint Andrew's over the longer term. Special attention was devoted to the following strategic initiatives:

Staffing Model

We celebrated Susan Chisholm's ordination in May thereby completing the work of the Internal Needs Assessment Committee and fulfilling the wishes of the congregation to have two, full time ministers.

More recently, Council hired Robbie Shaw in a volunteer capacity to fill the newly created position of Business Manager. In this role, Robbie will provide strategic and operational leadership by working closely with the Ministers, Council, staff and volunteers to establish and execute business plans consistent with our resources and mission. In the coming year Robbie will focus his time and effort on:

- Physical Plant Review and Site Renewal/Development Strategy
- Space Rental Opportunities
- Stewardship Strategy (donations/bequests) and Committee Renewal
- Supporting SASI's Business Planning

Council has also created a paid, half time position aimed at providing both Robbie and the leadership team with day to day operational and business support. Marilla MacLeod-MacLean has accepted this position and we welcome her to the Saint Andrew's team.

One might wonder why Council is making these investments in our staffing model at a time when we are running large operating deficits. I would argue that now is the time to invest in the capacity we need to improve our financial sustainability. Mission requires resources and you will note that three of the Business Manager's objectives are clearly focused on revenue generation. Achieving sustainability will require growth in both donations and rentals as well as the creation of a new income stream from a property development. Although the Business Manager's fourth objective, supporting SASI, speaks primarily to our Values and Mission, the SASI initiative may one day be in position to make a financial contribution to Saint Andrew's.

We must all understand that our operating deficit is not sustainable and the option to make significant spending reductions remains on the table for future Councils to consider. In the meantime, I believe we should make every effort to increase our income and for this we need committed resources in the form of qualified staff and volunteers.

With the changes we have made, our new staffing model is robust enough to tend to the spiritual and pastoral care needs of our faith community while also giving us the capacity to address our financial and operational challenges.

SASI (Centre for Social and Spiritual Innovation):

Following extensive internal and external consultations, Council believes SASI will play an integral role in bringing our Mission to life and putting our Values to work. The goal is for SASI to be a financially sustainable social enterprise, collaborative in nature and dedicated to fostering spiritual growth and transformational leadership. Specific objectives for SASI include the development of a Transformational Leadership Program, the creation of a Hub for multi-faith cooperative work on social justice and the sharing of spiritual practices from a diverse range of faith traditions.

A Steering Committee consisting of representatives from Saint Andrew's and community partners is tasked with the development and implementation of SASI.

Improvements to the Sanctuary:

After a series of consultations and a special meeting of the congregation, it was decided to replace the pews with chairs and to install new flooring in our beautiful sanctuary. The project was completed on budget in September and I think the changes have enhanced our worship experience both in terms of comfort and the flexibility to arrange seating in different and imaginative configurations. The improvements we have made to the sanctuary should also enable us to attract new uses and users for the sanctuary throughout the week. Success on this front will increase rental income and help reduce our operating deficit.

What other improvements to the sanctuary should we consider in the future?

Property Development/Site Renewal:

Council continued to discuss potential development of the property as a means to generate a new source of income to sustain and grow our mission and to provide us with modern, purpose- built space to house our various activities. With the creation of the Business Manager position and the recent formation of a Site Renewal Committee, we now have the capacity and expertise to get serious about renewal and development options for Saint Andrew's. As work advances on this file, there will be ample opportunity for information sharing and consultation with the congregation and the surrounding neighbourhood. At this stage I do not know the best option for our future, but I am convinced that some sort of development is essential. In other words, we need to determine how best to transform at least some portion of our property into a new source of income. Progress on this important issue will require great effort, patience and respectful discussion.

Volunteer Reset:

Put simply, we need volunteers. As good and committed as they are, staff cannot (and should not) do all that is needed to fulfill the Mission we crafted together in 2017. Under Susan Chisholm's leadership, a Volunteer Reset initiative was launched last spring to encourage folks to volunteer their time in new and innovative ways. Whether it be taking a leadership role on Council, serving on a committee or making a task-based contribution, we need people to step forward. Successfully resolving our volunteer deficit is every bit as important as fixing our budget deficit.

Based on my own experience I am happy to report that volunteering at Saint Andrew's has added new meaning and purpose to my life. It might do the same for you.

I encourage you to read all the reports contained in this document to get a complete picture of last year's activities and accomplishments. Reading these reports and speaking to the people involved may lead you to discover an opportunity to contribute.

There is one event in particular from 2018 that we should remember with real joy: the birth of Zakariya Almasalmeh on April 25. Susan helped us celebrate this birth in a powerful sermon that still resonates with me.

The Almasalmeh family came to Canada as refugees in 2016 thanks to the generous support of this congregation. Wesam and Waed are adjusting well to life in their new country. Wesam is studying full time at Dalhousie as he prepares his application for acceptance to the School of Pharmacy later this spring. Waed is making good progress with English even as she looks after baby Zakariya and daughters Aisha and Bilasan. Our lives intersected with theirs and our faith community has been enriched by our acts of kindness towards them.

It has been a great privilege to serve as Council Chair these past two years. Although our aspirations currently exceed our resources, I believe we have a strategy in place to close the gap.

In any event, I think this is a good challenge to have at a time when so many other churches are shrinking inward. Let's continue to aim high and find the means to stay the course.

I wish to thank my fellow Council members for their friendship and support. Together, I think we made a difference in the life and mission of Saint Andrew's United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Roe
Chair

Congregational Roll – 2018

Number of households under pastoral care– January 1, 2018	324
Number of households under pastoral care - December 31, 2018	316
Members – January 1	288
Members – December 31	292
Adherents – January 1	323
Adherents – December 31	309
Total Congregation – January 1	611
Total Congregation – December 31	601

The member designation is given to both adults and youth who were confirmed in the United Church. Adherents are those of all ages, including children who have not been confirmed or who were confirmed at another church and have not transferred their membership to St. Andrew's. If your membership is with another church and you wish to transfer to St. Andrew's, please call our church office. Transfer of membership may be done at any time.

During 2018 there nine confirmed.

Every United Church must keep a membership register. St. Andrew's register began in 1925 when the United Church was formed. The register contains the names of every person who is or has been a member. This includes persons who no longer attend St. Andrew's, but have not transferred membership to another congregation. These persons are considered to be "non-residents". Some may begin attending again and some may transfer their membership. As of December 31, there were a total of 74 on the non-resident list.

For 2018

Number of funerals 8

Number of baptisms 3

Number of weddings 2

Transfers of members in 2

Transfers of members out 4

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2019

NOTE: TERM ENDS AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD FOLLOWING YEAR NOTED BELOW

COUNCIL

Treena Faloon, Chair (2020)
Tricia MacLeod, Vice Chair (2020)
Eric Roe, Past Chair (2020)
Bob Shepherd, Secretary (2019)
John Gunn, Treasurer (2019)
John Young, Board of Trustees Chair (2019)
Karen Ferguson, Communications Chair (2019)
John Finley, Hospitality and Special Events Chair (2019)
Carole Cooley, Ministry & Personnel Co-Chair (2019)
Katherine Frank, Ministry & Personnel Co-Chair (2019)
Kelly Kitamura Pastoral Care Chair (2019)
Elaine Gunn, Social Action Chair (2019)
TBD, Stewardship Chair
Penny Bedal, Worship & Music Co-Chair (2019)
Krista Locke, Worship & Music Co-Chair (2019)
Robbie Shaw – Member at Large
Betty Sutherland – Member at Large
Rev. Dale Chisholm – Member at Large
Will Webster – Member at Large
Rev. Dr. Russell Daye, Covenanted Staff (Ex Officio)
Rev. Susan Chisholm, Minister (Ex Officio)

TRUSTEES

John Young, Chair	Justin McDonough, Vice Chair
Frank Sommerville, Past Chair	Dale Noseworthy, Treasurer
Wayne MacLean	Diana Dalton
Bruce Lusby	Terry Brennan

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Carole Cooley, Co-Chair (2019)	Katherine Frank, Co-Chair (2019)
Barb Stonehouse, Past Chair (2019)	Margaret MacKay, Past Chair (2019)
Roy Hayward (2019)	

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Penny Bedal, Co-Chair (2019)	Krista Locke, Co-Chair (2019)
Susan Alexander (2019)	Margaret MacKay (Communion Chair) (2019)
Heather Chase (2019)	Robert (Bob) Shepherd (2019)
Russ Daye, Ex Officio	Dana-Lynn Farrell (2019)
Kevin Parks, Ex Officio	Susan Chisholm, Ex Officio

COMMUNION

Margaret MacKay, Chair (2019)
Bob Shepherd

Margot Robar (2019)

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Michael Bird
Bruce Lusby
Don Couse
Doug MacLean

Brian Robar
Eric Roe
Marilla MacLeod-MacLean
Kevin Burke

SITE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Eric Burchill, Chair (2019)
Eric Roe
Diana Dalton
Dale Noseworthy
John Young

Ken Burt
Ian Sutherland
Robbie Shaw
Russ Daye

HOSPITALITY AND SPECIAL EVENTS

John Finley, Chair (2019)
Virginia Crawford (2019)
Frank Sommerville (2019)

Terry Brennan, Ex Officio
Sandy MacLean (advisor)

WELCOMING

Janet Skiba (2019)

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

John Gunn, Chair (2019)
Bruce Nauss (2019)

Peter Boudreau (2019)
Scott Taylor (2019)

LIBRARY

Betty Sutherland, Chair (2019)
Karen Ferguson (2019)

David Sutherland (2019)

PASTORAL CARE

Kelly Kitamura, Chair (2019)
Betty Anderson (2019)
Alma Hayward (2019)

Joan Auld (2019)
Jean Shaw (2019)
Susan Chisholm, Ex Officio

ROLLS

Margot Robar, Chair (2019)

MEMORIALS

Betty Anderson (2019)

STEWARDSHIP

Will Webster
Don Stonehouse
Bruce Nauss

Ian Johnson
Robbie Shaw

COMMUNICATIONS

Karen Ferguson, Chair (2019)
John Gunn

Kevin Parks, Ex Officio

SOCIAL ACTION

Elaine Gunn, Chair (2019)
Janet de Saint Sardos, Past Chair
Linda Scherzinger (2018)

Ellen Taylor (2018)
Carol MacLean (2018)
Jennifer Stevens Ross (2019)

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of the 200th Annual General Meeting
February 18, 2018

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Eric Roe at 11:45 am.

2. Opening Prayer

Russ Daye opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. In Memoriam

Margot Robar read the names of the members and adherents who passed away in 2017.

4. Election of Chair and Secretary

Eric Roe asked for nominations for chair and secretary for the meeting.

Motion by Janet de Saint Sardos to nominate Carole Cooley as chair for the meeting. Seconded by Robbie Shaw. Motion carried.

Motion by John Finley to nominate Barbara Karten as secretary for the meeting. Seconded by John Gunn. Motion carried.

Eric Roe handed the meeting over to Carole Cooley.

5. Voting Privileges – Carole Cooley

Carole outlined the purpose of the meeting and asked for a motion to extend voting privileges to adherents of the congregation.

Motion by Betty Sutherland to extend voting privileges to adherents of the church. Seconded by Betty Andersen. Motion carried.

6. Approval of Agenda – Carole Cooley

Carole briefly reviewed the agenda and asked whether there were items to add to the agenda. No items were brought forward.

Motion by Katherine Frank to approve the agenda. Seconded by Steve Tugwell. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2017 Annual Meeting – Carole Cooley

Carole asked for comments and corrections regarding the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on March 5, 2017. One correction was brought forward, namely to correct the date in the agenda item Approval of Minutes to February 21, 2016.

Motion by Elaine Gunn to approve the minutes as printed with the correction of the date as brought forward. Seconded by Robbie Shaw. Motion carried.

8. Ratification of Values and Mission Statement – John Gunn

Carole called on John Gunn to address the ratification of the values and mission statement as printed in the annual report. John outlined the history of the document. No further questions or comments were brought forward.

Motion by John Gunn to ratify the “St. Andrew’s: Our Values, Our Mission” document in the annual report, as a core statement of what St Andrew’s chooses to be and do for use in decision making and communication of our purpose and direction to the world. Seconded by Janet de Saint Sardos. Motion carried.

9. Committee Reports – Carole Cooley

Carole asked whether there were any questions or comments regarding the Annual Committee Reports as printed in the Annual Report pages 17 - 35. No questions or comments were brought forward.

Motion by John Finley to approve the committee reports as circulated. Seconded by Katherine Frank. Motion carried.

10. Nominating Committee Report – Eric Roe

Eric Roe explained that in previous years, the nomination committee presented their report at the AGM for approval of new committee members by the congregation. However, in light of ongoing discussions about broadening opportunities to contribute to the work of the congregation, Council recommends extending the terms of current members on committees for up to three months while these conversations are being held. Questions arose from the congregation whether the motion included trustees and presbytery. Doug Brown, the presbytery representative has already resigned from Presbytery. Eric explained that the motion was for all committees, including Trustees. Russ Daye further clarified that the motion is intended for all committees and that if need be, individual solutions can be found for members who cannot continue past their official term.

Motion by Karen Ferguson to extend all committee members' terms by up to three months in order to allow the volunteer reset and review process to be completed. Seconded by Helen Ferguson. Motion carried.

11. Chair of Council Report – Eric Roe

Eric Roe encouraged everyone to read the written report of council in the annual report.

Eric highlighted five key initiatives:

1. The year of invitation under Ian Fraser's inspired leadership increased St. Andrew's visibility in the broader community and encouraged the congregation to grow more deeply in their faith and spirituality. As part of the year of invitation, St. Andrew's developed a greater social media presence and improved the website under leadership by Kevin Parks.

2. A permanent staffing model of two full-time ministers was implemented based on the work of an Internal Needs Assessment Committee in consultation with the congregation. Susan Chisholm was hired as a full-time minister for St. Andrew's. Eric extended sincere thanks to members of the Needs Assessment Committee and the Search Committee.

3. St. Andrew's developed a Values and Mission statement with the purpose to guide decision making and to inform the broader community about the values and mission of the church.

4. Over the last year, Council has explored how St. Andrew's can better serve the community in fulfilment of the stated mission and with the potential to move towards financial sustainability. Council and the executive worked with the Common Good Solutions group and with many community groups to develop the idea of a Social and Spiritual Innovation Centre. In the coming weeks, Council will consult with the congregation in a similar process as for the mission statement about this idea and its implications.

5. Council recognizes that stewardship renewal remains a critical objective, and that not enough progress was made regarding financial stewardship to sustain the operations over the long term. St. Andrew's continues to draw on the endowment fund. Council continues looking for a volunteer to lead the stewardship program and exploring opportunities for site development.

Eric thanked all staff for their work for the congregation, in particular, the ministerial staff Linda Burrows in the office, Kevin Burke taking care of the building. Eric reminded the congregation that St. Andrew's cannot rely on staff alone to do all the work of the congregation. Council initiated a volunteer reset and review process, with discussions about restructuring the way members of the congregation can contribute to the work of the congregation. Council will be organizing volunteer information and recruitment events.

The question was raised whether Council had looked at other things apart from the Social and Spiritual Innovation Centre. Eric explained that Council worked with Common Good Solution, which is a group with expertise in social enterprise initiatives, and that the concept of a Social and Spiritual Innovation Centre arose from this work. Such a centre would address all four elements in the mission

statements. The thinking has developed to a point where Council wants feedback and input, and discussion groups with the congregation are being organized.

12. Board of Trustees Report – John Young

John Young, chair of the board of Trustees, briefly spoke to the Trustees' report as printed in the annual report on behalf of the board. John made it clear that if the current level of spending keeps up, St. Andrew's will be out of money in seven years. If the current level continues, there will be a 25% decrease of the endowment fund within two years, assuming the market is stable.

The Trustees want to send a clear message that the revenue side of the church must be increased or the expenses reduced in the near future.

John also advised the congregation that Terry Brennan has agreed to serve as a Trustee to replace David Stewart, who passed away last year.

***Motion by John Young to accept the Trustees' report as printed in the Annual Report.
Seconded by Frank Sommerville. Motion carried.***

***Motion by John Young that Terry Brennan be added as a member of the board of Trustees.
Seconded by Lorne Ferguson. Motion carried.***

13. Financial Report and 2018 Proposed Budget – John Gunn

John presented a brief overview of the detailed financial report as printed in the annual report, with a few comments about the 2017 results and the 2018 planned budget. John said that at last year's AGM, he had pointed out to the congregation that we are living in the budget not but within our means, and that he hoped he would present a very different budget in 2018. However, this is not yet the case.

In 2017, revenues from envelopes and PAR were lower than the previous year by roughly the same amount that these revenues had gone down in 2016. On the expense side, Council had added \$5000 for research on social enterprise and salaries and benefits were higher than budgeted. Payroll in 2017 did not include extraneous expenses; however, when the 2017 budget was drawn up, the staffing models were still largely unknown, and the expenses were underestimated. The negatives in the budget were offset by lower than expected property costs due to a lower heating bill.

The 2018 budget is relatively similar to the 2017 budget, as it still draws on the endowment fund. John advised that the congregation cannot live beyond their means indefinitely; however, this year it would have been impossible to create a budget within the means without serious cuts to central parts of St. Andrew's. The salary expenses in the 2018 budget are increased, reflecting the second full-time minister and paid Sunday school leadership. Some of the musicians are on payroll rather than on contract, which shifted their expense from the music budget to the salaries. Russ Daye will be working and compensated at 90% at his suggestion.

John said that Council has decided to ask everyone to increase givings by 5% to reverse the recent trend of reduced offerings.

Overall, John said that he believed that money enables the mission and money has to follow the mission. However, financial and real estate resources are limited and dwindling. The congregation still has some money to absorb the shortfall for a limited time, but 2018 will be a critical year for the mission to work towards a balanced budget.

In answer to a question about the difference in the music budget, John explained that the National Church suggests that regular contributors should be paid out of salaries and benefits rather than on a contract basis. Based on this recommendation, Chris Churchill' contract was moved from the music budget into the salaries line item. The section leads were paid as part of payroll before. Guest musicians are still on a contract basis in the music budget.

When asked why the website management costs increase 3-fold, John explained that the efforts to increase social media presence are included in the website management costs, and that they could be moved to the communications budget.

Russ Daye said that St. Andrews is going off a “demographic cliff” where it is losing older members who contributed greatly to St. Andrew’s, and that the current financial situation is clearly not sustainable. He said that generally, city centre churches that are thriving are getting an increasing part of their revenue from sources other than congregational offerings, and that St. Andrew’s needs to do some development in that area, for example with the new centre that is under discussion. Secondly, St. Andrew’s needs to find a way to increase bequests and offerings, and some of us will have to give a little more in the next few years.

Robbie Shaw thanked John Gunn for his dedication and outstanding work for St. Andrew’s.

Motion by John Gunn to approve the financial report for 2017 and the proposed budget for 2018. Seconded by Lorne Ferguson. Motion carried.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Ruth Cordes pointed out that in the annual report, the UCW report was not included with all the other committee reports, and, therefore, had not been officially included in the motion to approve the reports.

Motion by Ruth Cordes to approve the UCW report. Seconded by Carolyn Slade. Motion carried.

14. Courtesies – Roy Hayward

Roy Hayward expressed gratitude on behalf of the whole congregation to the many people who make St. Andrew’s the vibrant congregation it is today. Roy thanked Russ Daye for his leadership, his thought-provoking sermons with a strong and relevant message and his teachings of meditative and spiritual practices. Ian Fraser and Susan Chisholm, who were with St. Andrew’s for part of 2017 both provided first class sermons and leadership. St. Andrew’s is looking forward to having Susan as a second full-time minister and together with Russ, provide St. Andrew’s with one of the best ministerial teams anywhere. Roy thanked Kevin Parks for his ministry of music, the choir and the many outstanding guest musicians, including the Mostly Righteous Brothers. St. Andrew’s is blessed by the quality and variety of music presented Sunday after Sunday.

St. Andrew’s is also most fortunate to have Linda Burrows as the office administrator, who continues to run the office efficiently with a warm, patient and caring personality. The sexton Kevin Burke along with his assistants continues to keep the premises in good order, safe and clean. Roy thanked Linda and Kevin for their work and care of St. Andrew’s and for being so helpful in many ways when staff and volunteers needed their help.

Roy also thanked Eric Roe as Chair of Council and all the members of Council and the committees for their excellent leadership during the year, and gave a special thank-you to the members of the UCW for all the work they do around the church.

Last but not least, Roy extended thanks to all the other numerous volunteers who help make St. Andrew’s the dynamic and welcoming church that it is today.

The excellent staff and dedicated volunteers will ensure that St. Andrew’s will continue to live out our theme of “Open Doors, Open Hearts and Open Minds”.

The meeting closed at 12:35 pm with a benediction pronounced by Russ Daye.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2)

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

June 3, 2018

1. **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order by Eric Roe at 11:40am.

2. **Opening Prayer**

Susan Chisholm opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. **Volunteer Reset and Nominations**

Susan Chisholm provided an overview of the St. Andrew's governance structure and updated the meeting on the results of the volunteer reset process.

She explained that our governance structure includes Council and a number standing committees. She also noted the creation by Council of an Executive Committee of Council consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Past Chair, Treasurer, Chair of Management, Clergy and the Office Administrator. Accountable to Council, the Executive acts on behalf of Council in between Council meetings and as otherwise directed by Council.

Susan reported that the objective of the volunteer reset process is to develop new ways for people to contribute to the mission of the church beyond the existing Council and Committee structure. Susan said that by adopting a two-tiered approach to volunteerism people can choose to contribute through our various standing committees or through a new volunteer model based on:

- Episodic, tasked based contributions to our mission
- Clear communication of purpose and needs
- Ways to invite/involve friends and neighbours
- Easy online and/or Sanctuary board sign up process
- Committees that foster friendship

By show of hands, there was overwhelming support for the creation of the Executive Committee as well as the two-tiered approach to volunteerism.

A Nominations report was tabled and reviewed. Nominations are necessary to extend the term of several Committee Chairs, to fill vacancies on Council and to welcome new members to various standing committees.

Motion by Penny Bedal to accept the Nominations Report (below). Seconded by Scott Taylor. Motion carried.

Kelly Kitamura, Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee

Janet Skiba, Chair of the Welcoming Committee

Penny Bedal and Krista Locke, Co-chairs of the Worship & Music Committee

Karen Ferguson, Chair of the Communications Committee
Betty Sutherland, Chair of the Library Committee
John Gunn, Treasurer
Robbie Shaw, Council Member at Large
Dale Chisholm, Council Member at Large
Betty Sutherland, Council Member at Large
Ellen Taylor, Pastoral Care Committee
Heather Chase, Worship & Music Committee
Frank Somerville, Hospitality & Special Events Committee
Bruce Nauss, Finance Committee
Peter Boudreau, Management Committee
Elaine Gunn, Social Action Committee
Virginia Crawford, Hospitality & Special Events Committee
Jennifer Stevens-Ross, Hospitality & Special Events Committee

4. SASI Consultations and Next Steps

John Gunn set the context for this agenda item by quoting several elements of the 2017 Annual Report:

From the Chair of Council's letter: - "Your Council spent the (2017) year focused on ... five key strategic initiatives: Year of invitation / Staffing model / Values and mission statement / Investigate social enterprise opportunities / Stewardship renewal."

From the Lead Minister's letter – "The 'mainline church' is in deep crisis and rapid decline / (St Andrew's is) one of the few faith communities in the mainline church that has a good shot at ... surviving, thriving and gifting the world with one of the new contours of Christianity."

From the Board of Trustees Report: - "The Trustees have significant concerns with the viability of the Endowment Fund should the trend seen in past few years continue (i.e. annual operating deficits of \$100,000)."

From the draft Values and Mission Statement (approved at the Annual General Meeting Part 1 in February 2018) – "St. Andrew's can best contribute by focusing our ministry (in Halifax and beyond) by responding to spiritual hunger, creating connection across religious and social borders, standing for justice and fostering the development of alternative transformational leadership."

John then summarized the process and results of recent congregational consultation Sessions:

During March and April, 82 of us participated in one of six consultation sessions to consider ideas for making our values and mission statement real in the world. Each session featured a small group discussion after experiencing two presentations: - one describing St Andrew's current context, and a second offering a proposed vision of our future ... involving the creation of a Centre for Social and Spiritual Innovation (SASI). A summary of the group discussion notes together with responses from the St. Andrew's Council was circulated to the congregation.

The thoughts most commonly offered by the discussion groups can be summarized in three sentences: The SASI proposal solidly reflects the St Andrew's mission / It would be an elegant application of St Andrew's resources to address threats to its ongoing existence. / Making it happen will be a challenge: - we'll need to do some things differently, and there's lots of work to be done.

After receiving the input and guidance of the consultation groups, the St Andrew's Council intends to further scope out the details of the SASI proposal, test the SASI model and keep up the consultations. Planned next steps are outlined in the summary document that has been circulated.

Russ then discussed SASI's Transformational Leadership Initiative which will gather 24 change-makers/emerging leaders from around mainland Nova Scotia and from a variety of racial, economic and cultural backgrounds. The objective of the program is to graduate each year a resilient, spiritually friendly cluster of emergent leaders who will pursue their careers in relationship with each other thus breaking down the social barriers that divide us.

5. Sanctuary Floor and Seating

Eric Roe introduced the item by indicating that it is Council's view that we should replace the floor and move to flexible seating. Floor replacement quotes have been received from several contractors with an estimated cost in the range of \$40,000. He noted that insurance proceeds from the fire plus donations to the building fund are more than adequate to cover these costs.

In order to replace the floors, the pews will have to be removed. Council believes we should replace the pews with flexible seating because such seating has the potential to enhance our worship experience and open the sanctuary to new uses throughout the week. He said that Council is looking for feedback in advance of its June 21 meeting. He said this feedback will build on comments received during the recent SASI consultations as well as comments received in response to the recent Friday emails. Many people took the opportunity to speak with all speakers voicing their support to replace the sanctuary floor and move to flexible seating.

6. Closing Prayer

Russ provided a closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 12:50

Board of Trustees

The Trustees are pleased to report that our investment portfolio managed by SEAMARK Asset Management Limited performed very well this year and enabled the Trustees to advance all monies requested by Council to the operation fund.

The Trustees continue to be concerned that the ongoing annual deficits incurred by the Church will, over time, adversely impact the funds available in the Endowment Fund, Consolidated Fund and Manse Fund as the annual payments from the Trustees are exceeding the annual income earned by the Funds maintained by the Board of Trustees.

The attached schedule shows the significant decline in the value of our portfolio which has incurred because of the declining market and the significant payments we have been making at Council's request.

Because of the payment schedule for this fiscal year, we expect a further decline in the value of our portfolio. This decline is of concern to everyone and all of us need to consider taking action to preserve the value of our assets for the long term.

St. Andrew's United Church - Board of Trustees
Fair Market Value of Portfolio

	31-Dec					
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Endowment	1,145,485	1,394,036	1,453,950	1,486,330	1,425,746	1,521,456
Consolidated	158,604	172,891	173,038	169,366	167,856	155,433
Manse	254,671	279,094	280,274	271,388	270,713	250,802
TOTAL	1,558,760	1,846,021	1,907,262	1,927,084	1,864,315	1,927,691

Concerns from the Board of Trustees

Continuing to use the endowment fund to support operating deficiencies without offsetting bequests will lead to a rapid depletion of the balance of the Endowment Fund should this trend together with rapid change in market value seen in past years continue.

The Trustees recommend we look for other solutions to balance the budget beyond relying on the Endowment and Manse Funds. We understand Council has authority to withdraw funds however as Trustees, we have a duty to advise of our concerns, and the long-term impact of continuing to withdraw funds above that associated with the annual funding formula.

Thank you for your attention.
John A. Young, Q.C.,
Chair

United Church Women (UCW)

St. Andrew's UCW had a busy year of meetings, fellowship and service. The group has 23 active members and 17 home members. New members are always welcome.

Nine meetings were held throughout the year, generally on the third Monday afternoon of the month. These included a dinner at Le Bistro in February, and our annual pot luck supper and penny auction in June. In March we hosted a baby shower for the Almaslmah family. At the April meeting our special speaker was Emma Halpern, Executive Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society, Mainland Nova Scotia. Personal care items were collected and donated to the Society. In October, Ann Bradley spoke to us on Food and Spirituality, and Carolyn Slade led us in a fun exercise program in November.

The UCW provided catering services for six funeral receptions and assisted with a wedding reception. On May 28 we hosted the Halifax UCW Presbyterial Spring Rally. The theme for the rally was Spring Renewal, and Rev. Susan Chisholm led the devotional portion of the meeting. We held our annual Yuletide Bake Sale Plus on November 25, with the proceeds going to Brunswick Street Mission. A yard sale organized by the Youth Group and Rev. Susan Chisholm was a welcome addition this year, and added significantly to success of the event. We would like to thank them for their participation.

All donations for 2018 are detailed in the accompanying financial statement.

During 2018 we felt the loss of the passing of two of our life members, Elizabeth (Liz) MacLean and Eleanore Brown.

Thank you to all the members for making 2018 a successful year of worship, fellowship and service and to the Congregation for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted:

Charlotte Sutherland, Chair

St. Andrew's UCW - Financial Statement - 2018

Closing balance from 2017 statement		\$4,141.76
Income:		
Member donations (monthly envelopes)	\$1,175.00	
Receptions - 6 funerals	\$2,370.00	
Bake Sale Plus 2018 (net)	\$2,587.27	
Sale of jewellery from Bake Sale Plus 2017	\$182.05	
Calendars (net)	\$80.02	
Other fund raising	\$150.00	
Maritime Conference Financial Services (interest)	\$80.00	
Fellowship of the Least Coin	\$10.70	
	Total income:	\$6,635.04
Donations:		
St. Andrew's Benevolent Fund	\$500.00	
St. Andrew's Chair Campaign	\$500.00	
St. Andrew's Memorial Fund (re Eleanore Brown & Liz MacLean)	\$50.00	
Sunday Suppers	\$500.00	
Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$150.00	
Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp	\$500.00	
Brunswick St. Mission	\$2,500.00	
Fifty/Fifty group (ingredients for Christmas Sunday Supper contribution)	\$150.00	
HRCE school breakfast programs (Joseph Howe School)	\$500.00	
Women's Interchurch Council of Canada (Fellowship of the Least Coin)	\$10.70	
	Total donations:	\$5,360.70
Expenses:		
Mandate subscriptions (2 years)	\$96.27	
Halifax Presbyterial UCW & Maritime Conference UCW dues	\$115.00	
Expenses re receptions & Presbyterial UCW rally	\$227.26	
	Total expenses:	-\$438.53
Closing balance:		\$4,977.57
Investment Certificate: Maritime Conference Financial Services		\$2,000

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ministry and Personnel

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee acts as liaison between the clergy and lay staff and St. Andrew's congregation and Council. This is a mandatory committee required by the bylaws of the United Church of Canada. M&P oversees the roles, functions and entitlements (vacation, sick leave, continuing-education time) of clergy and lay staff. When M&P receives personnel-related concerns from the congregation, the committee works to find a resolution to the issues. Each year, the committee meets with clergy and staff members to review and evaluate their performance over the past year and to discuss goals for the coming year.

Committee meetings are held monthly, with the exception of the summer months. M&P reports regularly to Council and the business of the committee remains confidential.

This past year, M&P coordinated the hiring of Jocelyn MacLean as Faith Formation Coordinator and added several Assistant Sextons to the roster, reflecting the increased facility usage. The committee worked with Susan Chisholm and Russ Daye reviewing, evaluating and amending job responsibilities and confirmed Linda Burrows as Occupational Health and Safety representative. M&P developed the Employee Handbook for ministry personnel and staff, which was approved by Council. Last fall, M&P welcomed Carole Cooley to the committee.

We are grateful to our ministers and lay staff for their leadership, hard work, diligence and ongoing commitment to St. Andrew's.

A sincere thank you to all M&P members for their time and efforts on behalf of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Stonehouse and Margaret MacKay, Co-chairs

Committee Membership 2018

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Barb Stonehouse, Co-chair
Margaret MacKay Co-chair
Tricia MacLeod
Bob Shepherd
Roy Hayward
Carole Cooley

Worship & Music

If one word could capture a year of worship and music at St. Andrew's it would be: TRANSFORMATIONAL. It is difficult to pinpoint when or where this transformation began so this report will focus on just some of the highlights.

There is an over-arching mandate at St. Andrew's to address Other Pathways, whether that's other faith traditions, issues of gender orientation, or even questioning the place of God in church, to name a few. Topics like these, advertised on the church sign, website and Facebook generated a lot buzz this year, bringing people through our doors and commenting on line. We have Kevin Parks to thank for bringing us up to speed with 21st-century technology.

Last May launched Rev. Susan Chisholm into full-time ordained ministry at St. Andrew's. All agree that her skills mesh brilliantly with Russ's. They're a ministerial team *extraordinaire!* Her wide-ranging expertise is even more evident when she produces videos, power points, fundraising campaigns and preaches without notes.

That talented team would not be complete without Kevin who, in the past year, has co-ordinated many professional and volunteer musicians to provide the congregation with a broad range of inspiring music covering almost every genre. He's been very forthcoming about sharing what he's learned during his study leave.

One of the most profoundly transformational events of the year was the laying of a new floor and the addition of flexible seating in the sanctuary. These were sea-changes that presented physical, emotional, even spiritual adjustments for everyone. Traditions were challenged. Boundaries were altered. Ways of doing worship were rearranged.

Like a child learning to walk, there were weeks when there were too many chairs and not enough aisles; or, too few chairs and a scramble to pull out more during the first minutes of a service. Kevin's detailed diagrams were subject to everyone's opinions on how much the rows should curve. Some people wanted privacy in worship; others wanted to see and feel close in community. Where to place the choir, piano and Mostly Righteous band all went into the mix. Risers or no risers? And a pulpit? One is being sourced now. We're still discovering the many possibilities flexible seating offers and some of its challenges.

This versatility is reflected in the progression of the worship service too. Last Fall and during Advent the order of service was represented by the "U". We gathered, engaged in reflection, were taken into deeper spiritual practice, moved back to reflection and outward into the world. Worship in the first part of 2019 is more "J"-shaped. We start with prayer and practice and reflection moves us towards service in the world as worship concludes.

All these transformations, however, are taking us along a path that is different from other downtown churches with which we have shared past worship experiences. Last Summer, Russ, Susan and Kevin provided Sunday worship on a weekly basis and next year we'll try to find our own time and way to acknowledge the challenges that many people face around Christmastime.

Not only does St. Andrew's have gifted professionals at the helm but we need to acknowledge the contributions of many gifted lay people to the life of our congregation. Many are reticent but when they stand to tell their personal stories, share their music, offer their prayers, or, like the youth group lead entire worship services, everyone realizes that each of us has something valuable to contribute to the journey that St. Andrew's is exploring so creatively. It is the hope of this committee that, in the upcoming year, even more people will participate actively and enthusiastically in worship and music opportunities at St. Andrew's.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Bedal and Krista Locke, Co-chairs

Faith Formation

The purpose of the Faith Formation Committee is to "connect people to the life and the community of the church".

This past year St Andrew's offered a **Confirmation Class**. There were 8 youth and one young adult that attended: Emma Davies, Dana-Lynn Farrell, Zoey Florizone, Wyatt Johnson, Emma Kocsis, Cameron Lusby, Lachlan McDonough, Matthew Shaw, and Anneke Stroink. Confirmation was June 11, followed by a lovely reception for families hosted at the home of the Florizones. It has been decided that Confirmation will be held every two years.

The **Youth Group** continued in the Fall. There are 12 youth that meet every second weekend for discussion, activities, service, and fun.

The **Sunday school** attendance is variable. We send out weekly emails to communicate what we will be doing on the following Sunday, which is sent out to 10 families. As children grow, they have more and more activities. I was hired on a contractual basis for Sunday school programming and support the ministers in Faith Formation. I try to create flexible programming and always welcome them with open arms when they do come! We are very excited that three new families decided to join the St Andrew's community just this year.

We have created a new space in the **sanctuary** for quiet cuddling and breastfeeding mothers. And we ensure the Nursery is open every Sunday.

Our **Christmas Pageant** was a great success. There were 12 children from the Sunday School group involved, and enthusiastically presented "The Living Creche". We'd like to thank Margaret Harrison and John Davie for their continued theatrical expertise and work!!

Into the Geography of Spirit a small group experience of contemplative practice was offered throughout the year.

I would like to thank all who helped with Sunday School and Youth activities this year; and Susan Chisholm for her ministry. Thank you for your time, wonderful friendship, and shared spirit.

Submitted by

Jocelyn MacLean, Coordinator

Pastoral Care

Since June, the Pastoral Care Committee has met formally once in October 2018. Through visitation (at home and in hospital) and phone calls, our committee provides support to members of our congregation who are in need. We are grateful for the guidance of Rev. Susan Chisholm, Minister.

This year, we collaborated with the Faith Formation Committee to produce cards for members receiving pastoral care. These cards have been very well received by all.

We have used the online sign up link to successfully recruit three new visitation volunteers. After submitting their criminal record check to the office, these volunteers will be assisting our committee with visitation to our congregation.

The Advent Service was led by Rev. Susan Chisholm at Parkstone. Kevin Parks, Minister of Music, and the Him Singers led the music. Members of our committee attended and took part in this lively and well-attended service.

We are in the process of establishing a group of men who will be assisting us with outreach and visitation. We are thankful for the men who have volunteered to assist us with this ministry.

2018 Committee Members:

Betty Anderson (Past Chair), Joan Auld, Susan Chisholm, Alma Hayward, Kelly Kitamura (Chair), Jean Shaw

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Kitamura, Chair

Benevolent Fund

Ministerial staff receive periodic requests for benevolent assistance, and authorize payments from the fund as deemed warranted and as available resources allow. During the year donations totaling \$2,616 were received by the fund, and payments totaling \$2,412 were made from the fund.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gunn, Treasurer

Communications

St. Andrews utilizes a number of communication strategies to connect with the congregation, its partners and the larger community. They include the weekly bulletin, announcements during worship, the website, the weekly email, the outdoor sign, two screens at the back of the sanctuary and social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

This past year the Committee continued its efforts to increase the effectiveness of our social media. In that regard, Kevin Parks was hired as our Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator on a contract basis. The amount of dedicated time and required skills exceeded that which could be provided by a volunteer. This contract has since been renewed for the upcoming year. Additionally, John Gunn joined our committee this year, bringing his skills in reviewing our social media data and assessing the cost-effectiveness of our efforts.

A new initiative we have begun this past year is creating and using video posts, a popular social media tool to promote Sunday worship and special events at St. Andrews. Additionally, we are using these videos to raise awareness both within the congregation and in the community of distinguishing features of St. Andrews such as the Brunswick Street Meal-a-Month Sunday, the Mostly Righteous House Band, Sunday Suppers, Sunday Drop-in, etc. We have created and circulated to Council a list of pointers for anyone at St. Andrews looking to promote events or features of St. Andrews. Communications is happy to provide assistance in this regard.

Sermons continue to be posted on the website, Facebook and Twitter via Sound Cloud weekly. Current events are also posted. A “green page” was added to our website this year to highlight St. Andrews’ ongoing green initiatives and activities. While our numbers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram continue to increase, we encourage congregants, friends and partners of St. Andrews to “like” St. Andrews on Facebook and to follow St. Andrews on Twitter and Instagram, as well as to share posts.

Many thanks to John Gunn, to our Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator Kevin Parks, and to the staff who have made, and continue to make, contributions to Communications.

Karen Ferguson, Chair

Hospitality and Special Events

Advisory Group-

John Finley (Chair), Kim Parkhill, Karen Ferguson, Kelly Kitamura & Virginia Crawford (Coffee Schedules)

Volunteers-

Many thanks to the over 60 volunteers who have made the lunches and coffee service possible.

Coffee service- Virginia Crawford and Kelly Kitamura, have monitored a roster of about 50 coffee servers and leads with a rota that seems just sustainable. Additional volunteers are always needed as some have been unable to continue. Online signup has not worked. The coffee in the sanctuary before and after service has been generally well appreciated but requires at least one individual who can carry cups and coffee urns from the kitchen. The sweets from Pieces of the East continue to be popular. The weekly cost of \$100 is roughly 1/3 covered by donations.

Meals- The only meal event this year was the very successful potluck Feb 10 before the Moja Makani show. A Shrove Tuesday pancake fundraiser for Phoenix is being planned by the social action committee.

Other events- On April 23 a special talk on Healthy Oceans Healthy People was presented by Dr Boris Worm. There was also a display of Ocean related art from 14 Bells Gallery, courtesy of the owner Cheryl Bell, who sold a painting and made a donation to St Andrews. This excellent talk was well attended and the discussion very informative about the deterioration of the oceans and what can improve things. Dr Worm's Ocean School international youth education program was highlighted.

Several other special events are being considered. With the new seating format in the Sanctuary more forms of presentation are now possible. If you know of an event which could work well in our space and be of public and congregational interest please let us know. These events are not labour intensive but offer more opportunities for fellowship, relation to our community and pursuit of our social and community responsibilities. If you know of a speaker or film or artist whom we could contact please let us know.

Summary:

It has been a privilege to serve St Andrews on this committee. The last year has been one of reorganization and trying new ideas for hospitality. Most of our endeavours have been well appreciated and we hope to continue on a sustainable course, with help from our Members. Our Advisory Group is looking for additional members as well.

Submitted by John Finley,
Chair of Hospitality

Social Action

In broad terms, the mandate of this committee is to engage with the congregation and the wider community in advocacy and action on issues of social justice such as poverty, racism, solidarity with First Nations, climate change, and peace with justice in Palestine and Israel.

Some highlights of the past year :

A policy regarding plastic water bottle usage by renters/ users of St. Andrew's was developed and presented to Council—with unanimous support. All facility users must use alternatives to disposable plastic water bottles.

The Green Team grew to include two dedicated individuals—Linda Davis and Linda Scherzinger! Please see their separate report.

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper raised nearly \$1200 for Phoenix Youth Programs.

The Main Street Halloween Family Fun Night was a grand success in October with lots of participation from clergy, our music ministry, the staff, the congregation, the Ladybug Day Care and the neighborhood

Brunswick Street Mission—Elaine Gunn—one of our Committee members—is on the Board of BSM representing St. Andrew's; the Breakfast program is supported by committee members doing volunteer recruitment and other hands-on activities.

The St. Andrew's Garden Report is included in the Green Team Report.

A Lunch and Learn was held in October with the topic of Let's Talk About Plastic and this was followed in December by another Lunch and Learn which introduced the international movement for "Green Rights-A Human Right to a Healthy Environment " with a video by Silver Donald Cameron.

The Sunday Drop In Centre continues to serve guests of the Sunday Suppers through the months of November to April. Sixty to eighty people attend and enjoy hot drinks and homemade cookies, conversation, art opportunities, card games and a warm and welcoming atmosphere! Alma and Roy Hayward continue to provide able and compassionate leadership with support from volunteers from the congregation, the community and the universities.

Committee members include Pam Brown, Linda Scherzinger, Carol MacLean, Ellen Taylor, Elaine Gunn, Jennifer Stevens-Ross, Trish Betts, Joanne Roy, Marilee Burwash -Brennan, and Janet de Saint-Sardos.

We have changed our meeting time to the first Tuesday of each month, 10:30 -12:30 in the Lower Fellowship Room and new members are always welcome.

Thank you to all committee members for your dedication and enthusiasm over these past three years; and thank you to staff, clergy, council and the congregation for your continued encouragement and support of this committee's work!

Respectfully submitted,

Janet de Saint Sardos

GREEN TEAM

1. Sunday April 15th, the Sunday before Earth Day, the Green Team sponsored a Lunch N' Learn following the morning worship service: Eliza Knockwood, Mi'kmaq Spiritual Filmmaker Artist from PEI showed her film, "Water Protectors" and led a discussion following the film. Mi'kmaq Elders accompanied her and enhanced the discussion. Eliza and the Elders also shared sacred objects and told Mi'kmaq stories to the Sunday School children prior to the Lunch N' Learn.
2. From late May to mid October volunteers including Ian Johnson, Roseanne Reeve-Newson, Virginia Crawford, as well as Susan Alexander, Linda Davis and Linda Scherzinger from the congregation and Adelaide Canning from Sacred Heart School helped care for the St Andrew's garden. In previous years the fresh produce from our garden was donated to the youth drop-in centre, "The Arc" in the North End of Halifax. The Arc has recently closed so we are looking for another appropriate place to donate our fresh produce. In the meantime, as it became available it was shared with members of the congregation who made generous donations towards the garden's future and took home fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, dill, cilantro and garlic to enjoy. This was the first year we were able to harvest some grapes from the garden!
3. Sunday October 14th we sponsored a Lunch N' Learn following the morning worship service: "Let's Talk About Plastic". Students from the Environment Committee at Sacred Heart did a presentation on the plastic problem with a focus of its impact on the oceans. Those present were invited to discuss concerns, ask questions, share suggestions and to take action. The group discussion was very animated as many had questions, information and suggestions. The Green Team distributed an information sheet and invited people to act on their concern by (a) writing to the federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change urging Canada to go beyond voluntary requirements and to phase out single-use, throw away plastic; and by (b) signing a petition to the top 5 polluting corporations urging them to do their part to end plastic pollution. These actions were posted on the church website.
4. At the November meeting of the Church Council we proposed a "Plastic Water Bottle Policy" for St Andrew's which was passed unanimously.

5. Sunday Dec. 2nd we organized a Lunch N' Learn to introduce the international movement for "Green Rights: a Human Right to a Healthy Environment" with a short video by Silver Donald Cameron. People were invited to gather at the church in 2019 to watch and discuss the free on-line course at Cape Breton University taught by Silver Donald Cameron, and possibly to invite him to come to St Andrew's in person in the spring as a special guest speaker.

Minyara Mission Report

Background

In response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Syrian civil war, the Presbyterian Church of Minyara, Lebanon operates a refugee health clinic and a school in this predominantly Christian village located just 6km from the Syrian border. Following a visit to Minyara in the spring of 2016 by Russ, John Smith and Eric Roe, Saint Andrew's entered into a formal partnership agreement with the Presbyterian Church under which we contribute funds each month in support of the refugee clinic and school.

Our financial contribution to the Minyara Mission comes from funds designated for this purpose. The success of our refugee sponsorship fund raising efforts for the Almasalmeh family created a significant surplus which was then designated towards the work of the Minyara Mission. These funds were supplemented by donations arising from the 2017 visit to Halifax by Rev. Hadi Ghantous and several members of his Minyara congregation. The recent Minyara Christmas card campaign raised over \$6,500 in support of the Mission. Our monthly contribution to the Mission is \$2,000, divided equally between the rental of the school facility and pharmaceuticals for the clinic.

With our support, the Minyara Mission has attended to the medical and dental needs of over 4,000 people since the start of our partnership in 2016. The Mission's school hosts approximately 80 girls and boys aged 5 to 12. In addition to learning Arabic, English and mathematics, the children enjoy a nutritious meal at the school each day and receive regular health checks from the clinic's nurse. Recognizing that the refugees who have settled in the Minyara area are the poorest of the general refugee population in Lebanon, and that most of the parents are illiterate, it is amazing that these children can learn their native Arabic as well as English. They also learn that they are loved and valued as human beings.

Current Situation

Although the Syrian civil war appears to be nearing its end, the refugee crisis in northern Lebanon is far from over. The refugees will remain where they are until they believe they can safely return home and that they will have the means to support their families. The facts on the

ground indicate the services of the Mission's clinic and school will be needed for some time to come. Unfortunately, at the current monthly contribution rate the funds we have designated for the Minyara Mission will be exhausted by June.

Next Steps

Fund raising ideas are being actively considered and more information on this to follow. In the meantime, please consider donating to the Minyara Mission through Saint Andrew's.

Submitted by,

Eric Roe

Brunswick Street Mission – Meal a Month Program

The following is the 2018 report for the Brunswick Street United Church Mission. On the third Sunday of each month, from September to June, donations are brought to the church service where they are placed in a box for Brunswick Street. Our thanks goes to Linda Burrows for seeing that reminders are placed in the bulletin each month. Thanks also goes to Kevin, our Sexton, who has the donations ready for pick up and has been most kind about bringing them out and putting them in the car. This has been particularly appreciated during those past number of months when we had medical problems. In this regard, thanks goes to Vivian and Trueman Layton who volunteered to do the driving while Bill wasn't able.

The donated food items are given to those who are in emergency situations and go to Brunswick Street for help. The people serviced by the Mission are often on provincial assistance that does not always cover the necessities of life for themselves and their families. The situation becomes more dire for them and the working poor if an emergency crisis erupts requiring extra money.

St. Andrew's is the only United Church to make it their mission to offer help to this worthy cause on a regular basis. Thank you to those who faithfully donate each month. On behalf of Brunswick Street Mission and the recipients of your help, Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Wyman
Bill Chaddock

HIM Singers

HIM SINGERS is a men's group who sing in the Mary Holmes Room the first Tuesday of the month from October to and including May. There are currently 14 men in the group, and we meet at 7:15 pm. After the singing the old hymns (with some new ones) we gather to solve the "world problems" and share in refreshments.

We welcome any new members and we sing the melody. Our pianist is Vivian Layton who is a special person to put up with our many (talents?). She is our dedicated leader. Thank you Vivian.

In December we attended a service at Parkstone. The service was arranged by St. Andrew's, and we had a marvelous time singing Christmas Carols. Music is the common denominator, and the residents seemed to enjoy our participation. After the service, the very capable staff had refreshments for all.

Thanks to Linda Burrows for arranging our room each month.

Should anyone wish to have a fun time singing, please come out the first Tuesday of the month from October – May. We welcome you.!

Respectfully submitted,

Don Couse

Finance and Administration

The Finance and Administration Committee met four times during the year to carry out the following responsibilities:

- Preparation of proposed annual operating budget for consideration of Council
- Regular monitoring and reporting to Council of actual financial results compared to budget and financial position of the church's operating fund
- Oversight of annual regulatory filings
- Oversight of weekly collection counting
- Oversight of offering envelope management and issuance of charitable donation receipts
- Review of terms of renewal of the church's insurance policy
- Oversight of financial control processes and results

Highlights of financial control processes in place during the year include:

- Treasurer is meeting regularly with Office Administrator to provide support guidance and oversight.
- All cash, other than that controlled by Trustees, is flowing through a single bank account.
- Monthly reconciliations of the accounting records to the bank statement provided by Scotiabank are being prepared by the Office Administrator and reviewed by the Treasurer within two weeks of month-end.
- Treasurer is conducting monthly reviews of the detailed general ledger, journal entries, bank and loan statements, lists of amounts receivable and payable.
- Financial accounting data files are being backed up and stored offsite on a monthly basis.
- Budget to actual variance analysis reports are being regularly reviewed by Council
- Treasurer is reporting at each Council meeting that accounting records are clean, balanced and up to date.
- Grant Thornton has reviewed a full set of financial statements for the 2017 and 2016 years.

Respectfully submitted,

John Gunn, Chair

**St. Andrews United Church
2019 Operating Budget**

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2017 Actual
REVENUE				
ENVELOPE AND PAR OFFERINGS				
General Operating	250,000.00	240,595.95	263,000.00	250,367.69
Mission and Service	40,000.00	37,505.09	40,000.00	39,634.42
Building	30,000.00	23,955.00	30,000.00	28,748.00
Easter	1,000.00	565.00	1,000.00	1,127.00
Anniversary	0.00	160.00	0.00	435.00
Christmas	1,000.00	1,110.00	1,000.00	1,042.00
Initial	0.00	125.00	0.00	408.00
Less: Transfers to Designated Funds	(72,000.00)	(63,135.09)	(72,000.00)	(70,551.42)
TOTAL ENVELOPE AND PAR OFFERINGS	250,000.00	240,880.95	263,000.00	251,210.69
OTHER INCOME				
Loose Offering	14,000.00	11,380.70	13,000.00	13,163.50
Total Rental Income	88,000.00	59,862.33	58,000.00	60,964.75
Fund Raising Projects	1,000.00	32,115.00	1,000.00	662.28
Miscellaneous Income	11,000.00	12,977.32	10,000.00	11,041.90
A. M. MacKay Trust	28,000.00	29,291.78	28,000.00	27,630.22
O.E. Smith Trust	10,000.00	10,049.14	10,000.00	10,115.79
Mary Holmes Trust	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	15,000.00
Less: Allocation to Designated Purposes	(1,000.00)	(32,165.00)	(1,000.00)	(11,500.00)
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	156,000.00	128,511.27	124,000.00	127,078.44
TRANSFERS FROM TRUST FUND				
Creighton Trust	500.00	542.00	300.00	331.00
Longard Trust	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,034.00
McInnes Trust	1,500.00	1,291.00	700.00	789.00
Organ Fund Trust	4,000.00	3,743.00	3,000.00	2,898.00
Endowments and Manse Fund Income	59,000.00	68,055.52	66,000.00	68,604.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS FROM TRUST FUND	66,000.00	74,631.52	71,000.00	73,656.00
TOTAL REVENUES PLUS TRANSFERS FROM TRUST FUND	472,000.00	444,023.74	458,000.00	451,945.13

**St. Andrews United Church
2019 Operating Budget**

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2017 Actual
EXPENSE				
SALARIES AND BENEFITS				
Salaries and Wages	350,000.00	312,196.92	307,000.00	303,098.63
Canada Pension and Employment Insurance	21,000.00	18,252.68	18,000.00	17,263.82
UCC Pension and Benefits	49,000.00	40,502.41	40,000.00	31,843.11
Travel Allowances	1,000.00	948.39	1,000.00	4,075.84
Continuing Education Allowances	5,000.00	3,887.15	5,000.00	4,986.66
TOTAL SALARIES AND BENEFITS	426,000.00	375,787.55	371,000.00	361,268.06
PROPERTY EXPENSES				
Electricity	10,000.00	9,498.96	10,000.00	9,508.92
Heating Fuel	35,000.00	35,662.14	34,000.00	28,530.89
Water	4,000.00	3,814.38	4,000.00	4,100.19
Maintenance and Repairs	21,000.00	19,023.03	21,000.00	22,495.32
Snow Removal	6,000.00	8,080.83	6,000.00	5,966.25
Garbage Removal	5,000.00	5,492.46	5,000.00	4,949.58
Cleaning Supplies	4,000.00	3,449.03	4,000.00	3,911.76
Insurance Premiums	23,000.00	22,895.00	23,000.00	22,895.00
Furniture and Equipment Purchases	3,500.00	2,357.44	3,500.00	3,880.38
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,500.00	2,178.62	1,500.00	1,622.66
TOTAL PROPERTY EXPENSES	113,000.00	112,451.89	112,000.00	107,860.95
WORSHIP AND MUSIC EXPENSES				
Music Supplies, Fees & Licenses	1,500.00	1,717.38	1,500.00	940.27
Piano and Organ Maintenance	2,000.00	1,299.00	1,500.00	1,114.12
Worship Equipment & Supplies	2,000.00	2,988.79	4,500.00	1,958.17
Pulpit Supply	1,000.00	1,167.00	500.00	600.00
Choir Services & Sub Music Director	1,000.00	1,515.00	1,000.00	1,020.00
Musicians	1,500.00	1,523.99	1,000.00	3,074.00
TOTAL WORSHIP AND MUSIC EXPENSES	9,000.00	10,211.16	10,000.00	8,706.56
COMMITTEE EXPENSES				
Communications	1,000.00	1,480.86	1,000.00	370.67
Faith Formation	2,000.00	1,516.86	2,000.00	492.35
Hospitality	2,000.00	2,468.47	4,000.00	2,516.75
Executive Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	174.35
Ministry and Personnel	500.00	709.77	500.00	500.00
Outreach	500.00	586.06	500.00	380.86
TOTAL COMMITTEE EXPENSES	6,000.00	6,762.02	8,000.00	4,434.98

**St. Andrews United Church
2019 Operating Budget**

	2019 Budget	2018 Actual	2018 Budget	2017 Actual
GENERAL AND OPERATING EXPENSES				
Telephone	7,000.00	7,541.58	6,000.00	6,565.60
Postage	1,000.00	969.33	1,000.00	1,439.37
Photocopier	5,000.00	5,496.46	4,000.00	5,079.91
Office Supplies	1,000.00	884.17	1,000.00	927.11
Computer Repairs and Supplies	2,500.00	2,618.26	1,500.00	2,794.64
Website Management	9,000.00	8,250.00	9,000.00	3,224.90
Financial Charges	3,500.00	3,676.15	3,500.00	3,558.64
Legal, Accounting and PR Services	6,500.00	6,450.00	9,000.00	10,607.44
Other Miscellaneous Office	1,500.00	420.29	1,500.00	1,611.72
TOTAL GENERAL AND OPERATING	37,000.00	36,306.24	36,500.00	35,809.33
STRATEGIC PROJECTS				
Centre for Social & Spiritual Innovation	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Radical Stewardship	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,933.09
Syrian Refugee/Muslim Partnering	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,174.70
Year of Invitaiton	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,948.07
TOTAL STRATEGIC PROJECTS	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	19,055.86
TOTAL PRESBYTERY AND CONFERENCE	21,000.00	20,376.00	20,000.00	18,439.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	616,000.00	561,894.86	557,500.00	555,574.74
OPERATING DEFICIENCY FOR THE YEAR	(144,000.00)	(117,871.12)	(99,500.00)	(103,629.61)
ACCUMULATED DEFICIT JANUARY 1	(29,469.83)	(61,598.71)	(61,598.71)	(57,969.10)
SPECIAL TRANSFER FROM ENDOWMENT FUND	144,000.00	150,000.00	161,098.71	100,000.00
ACCUMULATED DEFICIT DECEMBER 31	(29,469.83)	(29,469.83)	0.00	(61,598.71)

**St. Andrews United Church
Statement of Financial Position
- General Fund**

	<u>Dec 31, 2018</u>	<u>Dec 31, 2017</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Bank	53,375	85,202
Receivables	44,965	8,883
Receivable from Trustees	<u>4,924</u>	<u>5,213</u>
	<u>103,264</u>	<u>99,298</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Payables	22,770	27,895
Deferred designated givings and fundraising proceeds (Note 1)	<u>109,964</u>	<u>133,002</u>
	<u>132,734</u>	<u>160,897</u>
EQUITY		
Prior Years Deficiency	(61,599)	(57,970)
Current Years Deficiency	(117,871)	(103,629)
Special transfer from Endowment Fund	<u>150,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
	<u>(29,470)</u>	<u>(61,599)</u>
	<u>103,264</u>	<u>99,298</u>

Note 1. Deferred designated givings and fundraising proceeds

Purpose designated	Balance Dec 31 2017	Revenues & Transfers 2018	Expenditures funded 2018	Balance Dec 31 2018
Building	86,578	85,620	(112,217)	59,981
Mission and Service	0	38,070	(38,070)	0
Benevolent	1,550	2,616	(2,412)	1,754
Brunswick Street Mission	592	2,265	(1,963)	894
Choir	2,397	0	0	2,397
Flower and Gift	377	430	(175)	632
Hymn books	395	0	0	395
Memorial	4,631	2,645	0	7,276
Outreach	744	1,311	(1,833)	222
Minyara Mission	27,997	7,248	(24,447)	10,798
Almasalmeh Family	2,614	26	(971)	1,669
Sunday Suppers	0	738	0	738
UCW	4,142	5,175	(4,339)	4,978
Other	985	22,855	(5,610)	18,230
Totals	<u>133,002</u>	<u>168,999</u>	<u>(192,037)</u>	<u>109,964</u>