



Parkdale United Church



*We are an inclusive Christian community with a deep yearning for God
and God's vision of equity, justice, and well-being for all.*

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Emerging congregational ministry priorities for 2016...

- Support people to live faith in the world day-by-day – Parkdale United is not the end product of our ministry, we are a community that nourishes, equips and encourages people to engage life with care, hope, joy, justice, loving-kindness, peace.
- Improve communications within our congregation and to the larger community. Update our outdoor illuminated church sign; rent sign boards seasonally; dedicate efforts to building connections in the community; maybe engage social media tools.
- Continue to create service and support for mission and outreach programs within our congregation, local and global community.
- Care for our Eritrean refugee family with financial, personal and practical supports as they make challenging adjustments to their new life in Calgary and Canada.
- Seek meaningful opportunities to nurture relationships and build connections with one another in our community.
- Maintain our commitment to sharing our church facilities with community serving and faith based groups and programs.
- Beginning in January Parkdale United will be home to YQC (Young Queer Church) a monthly young adult evening worship service. This regional worship service is sponsored by Calgary's Affirming United congregations seeking to support, inspire and care for young adults (16 – 25) who self-identify on the LGBTQ spectrum.
- Identify and schedule a variety of activities, events and programs to help nurture the spiritual life and well-being of our congregation.
- Watch for creative ways to continue our support of the Mission and Service programs of the United Church of Canada.
- Support and enhance the pastoral care work of our congregation.
- Build upon the energy, leadership and programs in caring for and serving our children and families with younger children.
- Be intentional in evaluating the life and mission of our congregation, and attentive to staff, governance and program modifications that will enhance our work.

Parkdale United Church Annual Reports
January to December, 2016

Table of Contents

Staff Reports

Ministers' Reports:

Rev. Murray E. Laverty, D. Min.....page 3 - 4

Committee and Group Reports

Council.....page 5
Operations Committeepage 6
Choirpage 6
Musicians 4 Refugees YYC page 7
Healing Ministry..... page 7
Sunday Schoolpage 7
PUC Men's Cribbagepage 7
PUC Men's Breakfastpage 8
United Church Women – Generalpage 8
Prayer Circle page 8
Worship Arts page 9
Ministry and Personnel Committeepage 9
Parkdale United Church (Calgary) Foundationpage 10
Book Clubpage 10
Journaling Grouppage 10
Pastoral Care Committee.....page 11
Calgary Presbytery Report.....page 11-12
Faith and Justice Committee.....page 12-13
Project Ploughshares page 14
Minutes from 2016 AGM meeting..... page 15

MINISTER'S REPORT – MURRAY E. LAVERTY

2016 was a good year here at Parkdale United. The year included working with specific ministry objectives. We offered some new education events and worship experiences, and were intentional about getting better connected with one another. We shared life together in good activities, times of joy and celebration, and also in seasons of heartache as loved ones in our community lived with illness, grief and suffering, and our world experienced real difficulties.

Our faith does not immunize us from challenges. Rather, in God we find strength and encouragement to live with compassion, care and hope day-by-day. Our church programs, new and the well-established help us build connections with one another, God and the world. They help inform us of ways we can live with faith and act for justice. You have heard it before, the church is people. People like us. People who journey together, who trust God, and who seek to be partners in creating healing, building justice, making peace and sharing loving-kindness.

Please read through the reports of some of our church committees and working groups. These are brief descriptions of some of what has been part of our congregational life this past year. I, with you, am extremely grateful for the leaders, committee members and volunteers who offer their skills, gifts and participation in the work we do and the ministry we share, season after season.

There are numerous ministry highlights in 2016 – the ongoing support of our refugee family (three women and three children) from Eretria, with a special thanks to our passionate congregational team for the hours and hours of practical, personal and social support they are giving this family; good worship series in Lent and Advent, Five Great Old Testament Stories in October, special services with Nursery Tales and Gospel Truths, and interviews with congregational members as part of our What Does the Lord Require of You series; teaching Prayer – Time Tested Practices; the caring support we extended to families as several longstanding members died; the great work at creating congregational values and then practical direction for a generous bequest given to Parkdale United by the late Dr. Jan Tollefson; and the tremendous financial support given to the Calgary Interfaith Foodbank and Acadia Place through our Parkdale United Church Christmas Fund.

Thank you to the Intentional Planning Team – Sheila Campbell, Barb Giles, Jim Latimer, Lee Morris, Suzanne Parkinson who have provided some purposeful planning and ideas for our congregational committees, working teams and Council this year.

I am sincerely grateful for the strong capable leadership we have in our staff team and the wonderful contributions each one makes to Parkdale United.

- Children's Ministry – Jennifer Razzo, Maria Ramirez, Thomas Unruh, Emily Flood, Claire Perrella
- Music Ministry – Michael Coburn
- Church Administration – Ruth Jacques
- Building Caretaker – Mike Hudec

I enjoy and value working with all the congregational committees and task teams. The sharing of ideas, considering possibilities, creating programs and working together in response to needs or issues or challenges is energizing and satisfying. Parkdale United is blessed with many, many capable people who continue to willingly share their energy, gifts, talents and time in helping make this community live and thrive. Thank you, it is a privilege to be in ministry with you.

Worship

- ◆ Plan, create, produce weekly and seasonal worship services
- ◆ Study, prepare, deliver weekly sermons (worship reflections)
- ◆ Special services Celebrations of Life, Weddings, Interments

Congregational Development

- ◆ Leadership in congregational visioning, values and mission
- ◆ Leadership in congregational administration and organization
- ◆ Program planning, creating and implementing

Congregational/Pastoral Care

- ◆ Pastoral care and visitation in homes and hospitals
- ◆ Pastoral support in times of crisis, celebration, confusion
- ◆ Pastoral leadership in committees, task groups and ministry teams

Pastoral Services: January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

- ◆ Baptisms – four
- ◆ Celebrations of Life – five
- ◆ Interments – two
- ◆ Weddings – one

Committee/Congregational Leadership

- ◆ Congregational Spiritual Life
- ◆ Council; Council Executive
- ◆ Communications Task Team
- ◆ Faith and Justice Committee
- ◆ Intentional Planning Task Team
- ◆ Operations Committee
- ◆ Pastoral Care Committee
- ◆ Picturing Parkdale – interior decorating, design, furnishings, policies
- ◆ Staff – development and program coordination/facilitation
- ◆ Stewardship Committee
- ◆ Tollefson Bequest Task Team
- ◆ Worship Arts Team – enhancing our worship life

Presbytery/Conference Service

- ◆ Presbytery Meetings, Training Events and Workshops

Community Service

- ◆ Calgary Foundation – Board of Directors, Grants Committee Chair
- ◆ University of Calgary Institute for the Humanities – Advisory Committee

Continuing Education

- ◆ Homiletics Conference; Process Theology Summer Course at VST; Reading Study Week; Community Learning Days

Next Year – concerns, objectives, plans

- ◆ Work with our congregational committees and ministry teams with special emphasis on education, mission/service, worship programs
- ◆ Strengthen our congregational capacity, welcoming, leadership, care
- ◆ Explore community connections, relationships, outreach programs
- ◆ Respond to new priorities and action plans as they are developed and agreed upon in our ongoing intentional planning and committee processes

COUNCIL

Church Council meets on the first Wednesday of every month except July and August, and is responsible for oversight of the ministry and mission of Parkdale United Church, implementing the wishes and identifying the needs of the congregation.

Council members during 2016 were Lee Morris, Suzanne Parkinson, Gordon Thomson, Jean Tollefson, Jeff Unruh, Mike Kirby, Ken Coburn, Susan Daye, Barb Giles, Rob Stanners, Vergensie Ward deBoer, Marc Lebel, Sue Brodrick, Susan Rafaat (Secretary), Sherry Anderson-Kepke (Past Chair), Rev. Dr. Murray Laverty, Sheila Campbell (Chair).

Following are a few highlights of Council's work during 2016:

- Intentional Planning Team met several times to continue brainstorming and planning for programs throughout the year.
- Hosted many great breakfasts and lunches including a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and a Christmas workshop with supper and craft making.
- Presented an afternoon program on "Mental Illness in the Family".
- Several other programs were hosted.
 - a Prayer group – expanding your experience of being in conversation with God led by Murray Laverty;
 - a group "Attending to Essentials – Wills, Odds & Ends" led by Lauren Warrack & Suzanne Parkinson;
 - a group led by Jim Latimer "Our Journey with Indigenous Peoples";
 - a men's discussion group led by Sandy Navrady using Wayne Muller's latest book "A Life of Being, Having and Doing Enough".

All these groups were well attended and very interesting!

- Continued to buy extra copies of the United Church Observer for newcomers and visitors.
- Sue Brodrick reported on the changes recommended at General Council and also an informative summary of each "remit" as it pertains to the suggested changes. Council will be voting on these recommendations very soon.
- We have received a wonderful bequest from the estate of Jan Tollefson. A group has been meeting to study the options for the possible uses of this donation. A report will be given at the annual meeting regarding the decisions reached.
- A very successful garage sale was held in April, 2016.
- Continued to support Acadia Place financially and with volunteer leadership.
- Our financial support for our refugee family with three adults and three children from Eritrea has now ended, but the volunteer committee has continued with ongoing support for this family. Many thanks again to this wonderful group under the leadership of Sheila Navrady for their continuous care.
- Special offerings were received for the Food Bank to assist them with the tough economic times they are facing. We received over \$12,000, plus a grant from the Mary Fund in the amount of \$10,000.
- Continued to support the Calgary Queer Church; services to be held at Parkdale monthly. Average attendance at this service is 50.
- We have a wonderful new sign at the front of the church. Many thanks to Ken Coburn.
- Our Children's program continues to grow with many thanks to Jenn Razzo, with assistance from Thomas Unruh and Maria Ramirez. The nursery also is growing with support from Emily Flood and Claire Perrella.
- Council arranged to transform the library nook into a comfortable conversation seating area and to place the library into the empty main floor office.

Submitted by Sheila Campbell, Chair of Council

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Operations Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) and is responsible for caring for the physical and financial assets of the Congregation. Continuously, the committee reviews and executes building and equipment maintenance, reviews and approves building use by outside groups, reviews financial statements, receives income and pays expenses, supervises the caretaker and counts and deposits the weekly offering. Other special projects are undertaken as necessary.

Members of the Operations Committee are Sherry Anderson-Kepke (who is the church's bookkeeper), Ken Coburn, Jan Collins, Wayne Flood, Allan Laird, Rev. Murray Laverty, Ted Moon, and George Norton. Please consider joining the Operations Committee as we are looking for additional members. We are fun-loving and friendly bunch!!

Mike Hudec, our caretaker, "owns" the building, is truly a "caregiver", and we need to continue to express our thanksgiving for his ministry.

The building is being well used by community and other outside groups. Building use income in 2016 amounted to \$76,000. This level of use, and income, would not be realized without the hard work of the Church staff, most notably the office administrator, Ruth Jacques, who is usually the first point of contact with outside users, and Mike Hudec, who tirelessly sets up rooms and keeps the building clean and comfortable.

During the past year, the Operations Committee undertook or oversaw a number of projects, the most notable being the following:

- Installed dimmable LED lighting in the labyrinth, replacing harsh fluorescent fixtures;
- Purchased and installed the new illuminated outdoor sign, featuring new LED lighting technology, enhanced identity (with UCC and Affirm logos), fewer lines of larger lettering and a updated look;
- Replaced the carpet in the Project Ploughshares office with laminate, as the carpet was well worn, and;
- Supported greening initiatives by commissioning a detailed assessment of the auditorium roof.

We thank the congregation for its generosity and for its continuing support for the ministries of Parkdale United Church.

Respectfully submitted by K. H. (Ken) Coburn, P. Eng., chair, on behalf of the Operations Committee

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH CHOIR

Choir Director: Michael Coburn

Choir Members: Janice Carruthers, Margaret De Laet, Anne McFaul, Teeya Scholten, Heidi Schroter, Peggy Williams, Sheila Campbell, Sheila Smith, Barbara Giles, Ben De Laet, Nick Finn, Lawrie Fisher, Lawrence Parrish, Bob Robson, Henno deBoer, Sam Duru.

The PUC choir provides musical leadership in services as well reflecting on the theme of the service through appropriately selected anthems. The choir also represents PUC in the United Church community at musical gatherings throughout the year.

Highlights from 2016 have been being involved in Twelfth Night, seeing continued improvements in the choir, challenging ourselves with new repertoire, and choir social events throughout the year.

Submitted by Michael Coburn

MUSICIANS 4 REFUGEES YYC

On behalf of Musicians 4 Refugees YYC, Michael Coburn would like to thank the PUC congregation for the support and generosity you have shown us. Over the past year we have run three fundraisers and raised \$20,000 to support refugees in Calgary in settling into their new lives. The work we do would not have been possible without people like you who share our vision.

PUC HEALING MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

Healing Pathway is an energy-based therapeutic approach to healing. It uses light touch to influence the energy system with the intent of balancing the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health and well-being of the individual being treated. Most sessions take place in the healing rooms in the upper part of the church.

Team members are Evelyn Peterson, Mary Ellis, Jan Collins, JoAnne Atkins, Peggy Williams, Susan Rafaat, and Teeya Scholten. We have learned the techniques through Healing Pathway Society workshops. We strive to meet monthly to practice techniques.

The healing team offers healing sessions to members of the congregation, their family and friends. In 2016 we gave approximately 30 healing sessions. Several clients came for multiple sessions. Some reasons people seek healing are for cancer, pre and post-surgery, grief, stress, fatigue, pain, to name a few. We are available to provide healing sessions after church service on Sundays or other times by appointment. We can also visit homes or the Foothills Medical Centre.

To receive a healing session, please contact Evelyn Peterson at 403-283-8121 or the church office.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Collins

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The past year has been a one of growth and change for the Sunday school. In the fall we increased to three groups: the nursery (birth to kindergarten), primary (grade 1-4), and youth (grade 5+). We have been averaging about three to four kids per class each week, and the nursery has also grown to four to five regular little people each week. This class split was facilitated by the addition of two teachers in the fall - Thomas Unruh and Maria Ramirez.

The consistency of attendance, and extra leaders made it possible for us to put on a Christmas Presentation at the end of the year. It had been several years since a pageant had been put on, and it seemed that it was enjoyed by many people.

We have tried a few different curriculum ideas over the past year to try and engage the kids – the most engaging classes seem to have been the ones where we have pulled the kids out of the classroom and into the garden, kitchen, and sanctuary. Hopefully, 2017 brings us more opportunities to get out and move! We will continue to try and find programming which helps the kids know the Bible and find ways to use its lessons in their own lives.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Razzo

PARKDALE UNITED MEN'S CRIBBAGE

Men of the Congregation gather for cribbage on the second Wednesday afternoon of the winter months (November through April). Some are beginners and others are seasoned veterans of the game, and attendance is between four and eight men. All men of the Congregation are invited to attend.

Submitted by Ken Coburn

PARKDALE UNITED MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men of the Congregation meet for breakfast the first Saturday morning of each month (excluding July and August) at 8:00 am at the Village Park Inn in Motel Village. There is no agenda; just conversation and fellowship. Attendance each month varies with the seasons, but is generally between five and twelve participants, averaging eight. All men of the Congregation are invited to attend.

Submitted by Ken Coburn

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Parkdale U.C.W. has 12 active members and numerous home members. Time marches on and, of course, we are all ageing. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:45 am. New members are always welcome. We are happy to have Noemi Flores join our group.

Activities for the year:

- 1) Lunch meeting at La Vienna Restaurant in January, 2016
- 2) Child Well Being Initiative: we made 9 soft dolls and hand a fun time dressing them, making their faces and hair styles. They were delivered to Presbyterial to give to MLA's as a reminder of child poverty.
- 3) Friendship Dessert Party was very successful. We enjoyed the musical entertainment of "The Lovin' Toonful", one of Bob Robson's quartets. This year we recognized Beth & Jim Balshaw, and Margaret & Jim Latimer, for their many contributions to Parkdale Church. We also enjoyed lots of great desserts.
- 4) Bake Sale. Thank you for the congregational contributions of baked goods.
- 5) Discussion topics:
 - a) Being a Christian – What does it mean?
 - b) Serendipity
 - c) Greta Vosper, based on the Observer coverage
- 6) Charities; Men's Hostel, Presbyterial
- 7) Closing picnic in May

We are sorry to have lost three U.C.W. members – Helen Grassick, Ella Moon and Ethel Thornton. They are greatly missed.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Smith

PRAYER CIRCLE REPORT

Prayer Circle meets to share requests for prayers that have come to the church, and then we take them home to include them in our own prayers. The requests we receive are mainly for individuals who are experiencing illness and difficult times but also for groups and concerns both local and worldwide. You can request prayers by leaving a note on the prayer slips provided in the boxes on the prayer tables at the front of the church or by speaking to a member of the group. Members of the group are: Sheila Campbell, Vergensie Ward DeBoer, Susan Daye, Murray Laverty, Kay Loeb, Evelyn Peterson, Joyce Poniecki, and Ida Wyllie. New members are welcome.

Respectfully submitted by Ida Wyllie

WORSHIP ARTS

The Worship Arts Committee includes our minister, Murray Laverty, and congregation members, Chet Marlett and Beth Balshaw. Our goal is to generate creative ways to enrich the weekly worship experience and to encourage participation in worship. We reflect on the lectionary readings, develop themes for worship and brainstorm how we can best engage the congregation in meaningful worship experiences.

Some highlights from the past year:

- For the Lenten Season, our theme was “Tell Me the Story of Jesus.” The weekly chapters of the story were Knowing the Way, Crying Over Jerusalem, Nourishing the Tree, Providing Second Chances, Loving Wastefully, Entering Jerusalem, Facing Reality, and He Lives! Alleluia! A compass, prayer shawl, watering can, lantern, score card, and sandals were symbols that helped to tell the Story of Jesus.
- Nursery Tales and Gospel Truths featured The Three Little Pigs and two visits from Stillwater the Panda Bear telling some Zen Shorts. On each occasion, a Bible text was paired with a children’s story, complete with illustrations.
- Our theme of “What Does the Lord Require of You” allowed us to celebrate the ministries of Heidi Schroter, retired pediatrician who served the people of the Stoney/Nakota Nation and Bill Crabbe retired police officer who served with Calgary Police Services.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Balshaw

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members: Susan Rafaat Chair Jan - Jun 2016
Sue Brodrick Chair Jul – Dec 2016
Anne McFaul Retired from Committee Jun 2016
Carl Braun Retired from Committee Jun 2016
Jeff Campbell
Joan Cameron
Nick Finn
Chet Marlett Came on Committee Sep 2016

In 2016 the bulk of the work completed by the M&P Committee was the Congregational Survey which was aimed at getting input regarding the staff members from a wider circle of the church. The survey was completed, tabulated and discussed with the appropriate staff by their M&P liaison as to the things that are going well, as well as what seems to be a concern. The actual survey results were not made public, the congregation was thanked for their input in an announcement in the bulletin in the fall of 2016. Individual staff performance reviews were done in the spring, and it was discussed and decided that going forward the performance reviews would start to be done in the fall of each year. The reason for this change is that the salary increases are always done in January so it made more sense to do the reviews in the fall.

We also in the fall of 2016 hired two new Sunday School/Youth Leaders to work with Jenn Razzo and our children’s and Youth program on Sunday mornings. We are happy to have Maria Ramirez and Thomas Unruh working with Jenn. The committee also prepared the 2017 budget number for council for all the staffing costs. The committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, but since I became chair if we have no actual business to deal with we do not meet.

Faithfully submitted Sue Brodrick, Chair M&P Committee

PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH (CALGARY) FOUNDATION

For 2016 the Directors were JoAnn Atkins, Jim Balshaw, Sue Brodrick, Sheila Campbell, Sandy Navrady, Ken Coburn, Sheila Smith and Gordon Thomson. The Church Council Chair is also an ex-officio director.

In 2015 we received donations of \$11,061.

Charitable expenditures in 2016 totaled \$1,500 of which \$750 was in support of Stephen's Backpack Society and \$750 in support of the CNANW Conference.

The Foundation invests and administers, on behalf of the Congregation, the Mjolness Family Fund, a gift to Parkdale United Church in 2010. During the year expenditures from the fund was \$24,634, of which \$4,000 was given to the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank in the spring of 2016, \$10,634 went to replace the sign on the corner of the lot and \$10,000 matched donation to the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank from White Gift Sunday donations from the congregation.

Parkdale United Church received a large bequest from the Jan Tollefson Estate, of which the Foundation has been asked to invest the monies for the Council until a plan has been approved to spend the bequest.

The Foundation Director's met three times in 2016 to do the work required of the foundation and prepare for the Annual General Meeting.

A special thank you to Gordon Thomson for his work as treasurer, and keeping on top of the investments, renewing them when they mature or moving them to other investment vehicles in order to create good value on all investments. Also, a special thank you to Jim Balshaw, who keeps track of all the records of the Foundation, as the secretary of the Board.

After the 2016 AGM to be held on March 5, 2017 there will be 2 persons retiring from the Board. Gordon Thomson and Jim Balshaw will have completed their second terms on the Board of the Foundation and I would like to thank them for their dedicated service over the past six years.

Faithfully Submitted – Susan Brodrick, Chairperson

PARKDALE BOOKCLUB

Lynn Sloane – Coordinator, Beth Balshaw, Joan Cameron, Barbara Clark, Margaret De Laet, Doreen Kot, Lisa Cameron McBain, Lindsay Hunt, Lee Morris, Joyce Poniecki, Sheila Smith, Sue Singleton, Jean Tollefson, Ida Wyllie, plus 15 or so others on mailing list

The Parkdale Book Club meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month except for July and August. Books of diverse genres are chosen by book club members. About 6 to 12 people attend each meeting and the discussions range widely (sometimes wildly). Anyone is welcome to join the book club. Please contact Lynn Sloane at sloanelm@shaw.ca or 403 262 5340 to get on the mailing list for the book club newsletter, prepared roughly once a month from September to June. We also have a Facebook page: search "Parkdale Book Club Calgary".

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Sloane

NO WAY TO DO IT WRONG: PARKDALE JOURNALING GROUP

Three to six of us meet on a Wednesday evening about once a month, to journal together. Currently, the active members are: Lynn Sloane (facilitator), Ida Wyllie, Noemi Flores, Joyce Poniecki, Lindsay Hunt, Anne McFaul, and Danica Heidebrecht. Sharing of writing is not expected. The journal group welcomes new people. Please contact Lynn Sloane at sloanelm@shaw.ca or 403 262 5340 for more information. Daily journal prompts are available on Facebook page: search "Dr. Lynn Sloane".

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Sloane

PASTORAL CARE

Our Pastoral Care Committee is a group of Parkdale United Church people working together to provide encouragement and support to the congregation that all may know and care for one another. Thank you to the greater church membership for your help and care for those around us.

Our members are: Murray Laverty, Sally Coburn as current chair, resigning from this position and that of Visitors' Program lead effective December 31st, 2017, Joan Johnston, Joyce Poniecki, Sue Singleton, Barb Giles, Susan Daye and Avis Thomas as secretary. Evelyn Peterson has rejoined the committee and Sarah Leeuwerke is a new member. Jan Collins is an at home member. We meet up to five times a year.

Among our responsibilities, the committee oversees visits to those who no longer can make it to church. Healing Touch, the Prayer Circle, prayer shawls and stones, knitted prayer squares, jam for newcomers, letters to the homebound, Parkdale's Labyrinth and the Christmas gift bags fall under our pastoral care umbrella. Of note, the baby and prayer shawl ministry began in 2005 and more than 200 plus shawls have been made to date by about twenty-five knitters. The shawls are blessed and given to those experiencing struggles or limitations and to newborns within our congregation, on special occasions and for special service.

The Prayer Circle consists of eight people who meet several times a year to pray for individuals, groups and concerns both local and worldwide. Requests for prayers come through leaving a note on the prayer tables at the front of the church in the boxes provided or by speaking to a member of the group: Sheila Campbell, Susan Daye, Murray Laverty, Kay Loeb, Evelyn Peterson, Joyce Poniecki, Vergensie Ward deBoer and Ida Wyllie.

Some of our activities in 2016 have been a pastoral care prepared lunch for the church's Healing Touch practitioners before their meeting, the distribution of roses to many in our midst this spring and the organization and running of an afternoon presentation for all interested by Fran Porter. She shared the story of her daughter who suffered from mental health issues.

Please speak with any of us if you have a pastoral care concern or an interest in helping in any of these areas. You are welcome to join us at one of our meetings in order to be introduced to the workings of our committee. Just confirm this with Sally in advance. Remember, opportunities exist to take on leadership roles within our committee.

Thank you from Sally Coburn and your Pastoral Care committee at Parkdale United Church.

CALGARY PRESBYTERY REPORT – NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

As I look back on 2016 and my commitment to the wider governance of this United Church of ours, I realize I have a role on three courts of the United Church as a leader as well as a commitment to the Presbytery by being an active member on the Personnel Support Commission.

First of all is I am an active member of my own congregation.

I still do work at the Presbytery level as a member at large. With the reorganization of how Calgary Presbytery does their work, we meet as a Presbytery only 2 or 3 times a year for educational events and some networking, then the business of the Presbytery is done by the commissions who meet on an as needed basis, which works out to be 8-10 times per year. In April 2016 the Presbytery became an Affirming Presbytery. The rest of the work of the whole Presbytery in 2016 was used mainly to educate our presbyters on Remit 5,7 and 8 which were remits from GC42 that were to be voted on only by the Presbytery's.

At the Conference level, I chair the Planning and Administration Committee of the Conference, which is responsible for the finances of the conference, as well as the volunteer leadership required to make sure that the committee work of the conference has enough people to do their work. In August of 2016 the Executive Secretary of Alberta & Northwest Conference, Rev. Lynn Maki retired. With all the governance of the church being reviewed by remits in 2016 and 2017 the conference took this opportunity to start to do things differently; along with Saskatchewan Conference and Manitoba &

Northwestern Ontario Conference, we the three conferences started sharing two Executive Secretaries. Each Conference has 2/3 time Executive Secretaries. Bill Doyle works 2/3 time for Saskatchewan Conference and 1/3 time for Alberta & Northwest Conference and Shannon McCarthy works 2/3 time for Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario Conference and 1/3 time for Alberta & Northwest Conference. Five months into this new opportunity and things seem to be going relatively well. Change is good!!!!!!

At the National level, I am on General Council Executive as the Lay Representative from Alberta & NW Conference. The work at General Council this past year has been mainly focused on remits to be voted on by all congregations and presbytery's in early 2017 as a result of the work of the Comprehensive Review Committee. We on the General Council Executive know again that change is needed in order for this United Church of ours to move forward in the 21st century. If you are interested in the work of the wider church please feel free to talk to me, or go to the internet and google the United Church of Canada and you can see what the wider church is actively involved with. Faithfully Submitted Susan Brodrick

FAITH AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Members: Doreen Kot, Jean Tollefson, Sheila Smith, Bev DeLong, Noemi Flores. Heidi Schroter and Mary Ellis part time.

Sub-committee for Band Aid work: Doreen and Mike Kot, Ben and Margaret DeLaet

Outreach and working for social justice are strong traditions at Parkdale. Our committee is a small dedicated group of people generously supported by the congregation. Our goals are:

- To identify social justice concerns and examine them from a faith perspective.
- To encourage awareness in the congregation of justice issues.
- To encourage effective programs of outreach.
- To provide advocacy on issues of faith and justice.

Within Parkdale, we educate ourselves and the congregation on social justice issues, and do advocacy. Actions taken include:

- **Sunday Evening Movies;** movies with a social justice, or an entertainment theme are held once a month. Average attendance is about 20 and conversations are interesting! (Thank You for the new church sign for advertising.)
- **Funding from the "movie fund"** enabled us to further "Green" Parkdale through the installation of four low flush toilets (each saving 7 litres of water per flush). Three more planned for 2017.
- **TRC:** continued exploration of the 94 action recommendations from the Truth and Justice Reconciliation Commission.
- **Education on Nuclear Weapons Abolition** by sharing postcards from Presbytery that called for the Prime Minister to take leadership on nuclear disarmament diplomacy.
- **Education on value of local foods** through the 100 Mile Lunch
- **Climate Change:** With the assistance of Rev. Bill Phipps we had a service on climate change and the church's policy.
- **Encourage sales of Dizolve** laundry soap for education on greener alternatives and sales of Fair Trade Coffee.

We cooperate with 10 other church denominations (some 130 congregations) through Kairos Calgary, a branch of Kairos Canada (www.kairoscanada.org). We supported their petition urging the Government to include First Nations Education in schools. (Success!)

We also collaborate on the project "A Place to Call Home" (APH) to provide housing to those homeless or near-to-homeless. The group develops and supports policy changes with the Calgary Homeless foundation to lessen problems of housing and poverty. Kairos Calgary/CUPS supports "Housing First" models on four apartments and gradually helping to pay out the mortgages. Other actions taken:

- **Coldest Night of the Year:** The donations for this walk completed the last part of the \$1,000,000 mortgage on Acadia Place. Thank you to Parkdale. The mortgage on Bankview will be our goal this year. This ensures non-profit residences for the clients.
- **Acadia Place/White Gift Christmas Fund:** \$1,000 was donated to KAIROS Affordable Housing Working Group. We organized and helped fund the Christmas celebration at McDougall United.
- **Spring and Fall clean up at Acadia Place:** Band Aid organized and provided compost and fertilizer for the Community garden that was planted in the spring. Enactus Calgary, Band Aid and Kairos planted orchard trees and berry plants at Longbow. In addition we supported McDougall United with the addition of vegetable planner boxes and soil to all four buildings.
- **Longbow Apartment coffee program:** Parkdale shares this program with other churches and we sponsor coffee time the first Wednesday of the month. It is mostly men. Anyone is welcome.
- **A Place to Call Home Volunteer Program:** We participate in KAIROS/CUPS project.
- **Arthur Smith Award:** It is a particular pleasure to announce that the Arthur Smith Award and a Monetary Award was present to Kairos Affordable Housing from the Calgary Homeless Foundation. This award recognized our innovative long standing commitment to Housing First and Homelessness. Parkdale has had a role in this project for 9 years. We were also nominated for a Generosity of Spirit Award.

To further respond to homelessness, Parkdale's "Bandaid Project" supports the work of Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS). Research by CUPS and Calgary Homeless Foundation reveals that, where support is offered to people in permanent homes, there is a lower use of public services such as police, hospital incarceration, etc. The annual cost of housing has been reduced from \$46,000 to \$22,000 for 72 individuals (some of Parkdale's clients) resulting in a saving of about \$2.5 million.

- Since Band Aid started this Project over a few years ago we have supported roughly 3,000 people.
- In 2016, over 200 people including children (114 from KAIROS Affordable Housing APCH buildings) were supported with a wide variety of help. Drinks for colonoscopies, waterproof mattresses, 40 beds, cribs, blankets, computers etc. In addition, APCH Resources centres and Community Developers were supported with computers, breakfast supplies, lunch bags, chalk, shelving, kitchen supplies, etc.
- In 2016, Parkdale contributed \$13,016 to Bandaid projects enabling the funding for storage space, gasoline and some new supplies like bed frames, etc. The money is used very cautiously. Individuals are being housed with an average cost of \$114 per person.
- Donations in kind come in from the congregation (thank you to the Grassick, Latimer, Williams, Nichols, and Parish families, among others), other interfaith churches, and friends, Bow West Appliances, Country Hills Storage, Bootlegger, Tip Top Soil, Eleanor Halton, Barry Sin Computer Tech, Banff Trailers Square Dances, University Women's Club and the Crowfoot Y.

We are grateful for the generosity of the Council of Parkdale United Church for funding for, or permitting the use of Parkdale space for, many social justice groups. We are also grateful for the volunteer work of members of the congregation in supporting social justice projects. Through all of our efforts, we have supported Inn From the Cold, Coldest Night of the Year, A Place to Call Home/Acadia Place, Longbow, Claire, Bankview, CUPS/Bank Aid, Project Ploughshares, Initiatives of Change, Calgary KAIROS Affordable Housing Working Group, Ronald McDonald House dinners, Fair Trade initiatives such as Bolivia MINKA SWEATERS, Affirming Groups, Foothill's Hospital outreach groups and others.

To educate ourselves, we have attended educational sessions such as the Presbytery Learning Day Oct. 22 (that included showing the film "The Making of an Elder"), Robert McClure blanket exercise, Policy Briefing from KAIROS on transition to Low-carbon Economy, Mercy and Justice Workshop, meetings of the Canadian Network to abolish Nuclear Weapons, Poverty and Housing Webinar and other webinars during the year.

In service - Faith and Justice Committee

PROJECT PLOUGHSHARES CALGARY

Project Ploughshares was created in 1976 as a Project of The Canadian Council of Churches to study the link between militarism and development. The Calgary branch was formed in 1982 and it encourages informed dialogue on peace and social justice issues.

The Board of Project Ploughshares Calgary (PPC) is lead by Past Chair. Tracey Braun, Carl Svoboda is Treasurer, Kerry Duncan McCartney is Board Secretary, Jean Tollefson, Bev Delong, Lena Osman, Shinobu Apple and Vicki Perkins are Directors on the PPC Board.

PPC sadly said good-bye to Karen Huggins in June of 2016 after having her as Program Director for 5 years. PPC welcomed Sultana Virani as Program Director in the fall of 2016. Sultana has big shoes to fill. Fortunately, Karen offered to get Peace Fair 2016 off the ground and Chaired and directed all things Peace Fair. Peace Fair which is held every November, supports vendors who support Fair Trade, Social Justice and Environmental issues.

Every second Wednesday of the month, PPC facilitates educational meetings where informed Speakers present current issues on Peace and Security Issues. We also are very involved in coordinating events such as the Floating Lantern event which commemorates the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and partner with 2020 Vision for Humanity to hold Symposiums on topics such as Human Security. The 2016 Floating Lantern event was a great success where more than 200 attendees attended in pouring rain to remember those who lost their lives and all who were affected by the bombings. We are looking forward to the 2020 Symposium on Human Security – Calgary Model to be held from March 30th to April 1st 2017. The keynote Speaker is Cesar Jaramillo, Executive Director of Project Ploughshares National and it promises to be a very educational and informative 3 days. We hope to see all of you at this event.

We would like to thank the Board and staff at Parkdale United Church for their ongoing and generous support.

Respectfully submitted by Sultana Virani

Parkdale United Church AGM Minutes of February 28, 2016

Sunday February 28, 2016 at 11:55 am

Sheila Campbell called the meeting to order. Sherry Anderson-Kepke then led us in an opening reading.

It was moved by Ken Coburn, seconded by Barb Giles, that Sheila Campbell be named chair of this meeting. Carried

It was moved by Sherry Anderson-Kepke, seconded by Gordon Thomson that Sue Brodrick be named recording secretary for the meeting. Carried

It was moved by Sherry Anderson-Kepke, seconded by Isobel Parrish that we approve the agenda as amended adding Refugee Family Report as Item 11. Carried

It was moved by Helen Grassick, seconded by Sheila Smith that the vote be extended to all members, adherents and youth present on all matters to be brought before the meeting. Carried

It was moved by Jenn Razzo, seconded by Anne McPhaul that we approve the minutes of February 22th, 2015 annual meeting. Carried

It was moved by Gordon Thomson, seconded by Bev DeLong that we accept the annual reports as submitted. Carried

Ken Coburn presented the financials for 2015. It was moved by Ken Coburn, seconded by Barb Giles that we approve the 2015 financials as presented. Carried

Jeff Unruh then presented the 2016 budget. It was then moved by Jeff Unruh, seconded by Sandra Horton that the 2016 Budget be approved as presented. Carried

It was moved by Sherry Anderson-Kepke, seconded by Gordon Thomson that we elect the following persons as Council Officers:

Sheila Campbell	Council Chair, second term until spring 2017
Sue Brodrick	Council Member at Large, second term till spring 2018
Lee Morris	Council Member at Large, second term until spring 2017
Suzanne Parkinson	Council Member at Large, second term until spring 2017
Marc Label	Council Member at Large, first term until spring 2018
Robert Stanners	Council Member at Large, first term until spring 2018
Vergensie Ward DeBoer	Council Member at Large, first term until spring 2018

Carried

Sue Brodrick then gave a brief update on how we are progressing with our refugee family.

We were then asked to keep Ruth Jacques, our administrative assistant in our prayers as she continues to heal from surgery, as well as Kim Leong who is filling in for Ruth in the office.

Murray Lavery closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm