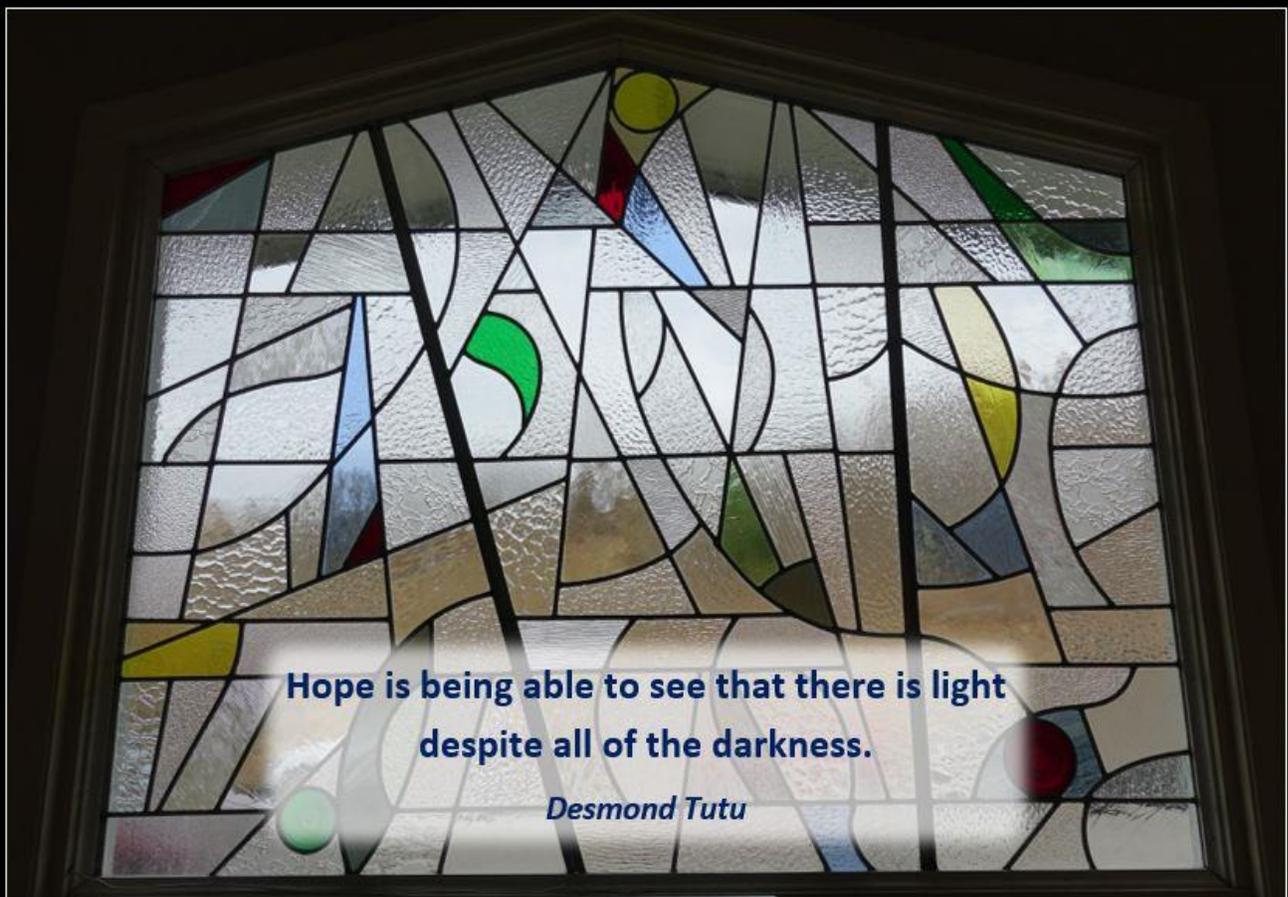




# Parkdale United Church

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 2019



This reflection is courtesy of Parkdale United Church, Calgary, AB.  
[www.parkdaleunitedcalgary.net](http://www.parkdaleunitedcalgary.net)

Parkdale United Church Annual Reports  
January to December, 2019

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2019 was a good year here at Parkdale United. The year included working with specific ministry objectives. We offered some new education events, service opportunities 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 in seasons of heartache when loved ones lived with illness, grief and suffering, and our world experienced real difficulties.

Our faith does not immunize us from challenges. Rather, we live in God's presence and are given strength, patience and encouragement as needed to live with compassion, care and hope, day-by-day. Our church programs, new and those 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. We have said 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 hope, making peace and sharing loving-kindness.

Please read through the reports from 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. The vitality of our congregational life, the projects we take on, the programs we offer and the ministries we sponsor are all facilitated by good people lending a hand and helping make good things happen. Gratitude, appreciation and thank you to one and all!

Congregational highlights in 2019 include ongoing support for our newcomer families from Eretria with special thanks to the passionate team who continue to provide practical, personal and social support to these good people; good worship series in the Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas seasons; special adult learning opportunities; monthly Sandwich building for distribution through the Calgary Drop-In Centre and working teams lending a hand at the Airdrie Foodbank; extra caring support extended to numerous families who experienced significant health challenges, death and grief; we received and installed the first of two series of stained glass windows beautifying the front entrance; successfully added funds for a comprehensive solar panel installation on the sanctuary roof to be built in early 2020; tremendous financial support given to our 2019 Christmas Fund with a total of \$10,175.70 gifted to the Alex Community Health Centre.

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 – Kate Currie
- Building Caretaker – Hector Renderos

I enjoy working with our congregational committees and task teams. I find the sharing of ideas, considering possibilities, creating programs and working together in response to needs, issues and challenges energizing and satisfying.

Parkdale United is blessed with 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, 2019 – December 31, 2019

- ◆ Baptisms – five
- ◆ Celebrations of Life – eight
- ◆ Interments – three
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Worship Arts Team – enhancing our worship life

### United Church of Canada Service

- ◆ Meetings, Training Events and Workshops

### Community Service

- ◆ Calgary Foundation – Board of Directors, Vice Chair and Grants Committee, Chair

### Continuing Education

- ◆ Reading Study Week; Festival of Homiletics; Vancouver School of Theology – a summer school course; Community Learning Days and Conferences

### Next Year – concerns, objectives, plans

- ◆ Work with committees and ministry teams with special emphasis on education, mission/service, worship programs
- ◆ Strengthen our congregational capacity in welcoming, leadership, care
- ◆ Explore community connections, relationships, outreach programs
- ◆ Respond to new priorities and action plans as they are developed and agreed upon by Council, Intentional Planning Team and congregational committees.

## **COUNCIL**

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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 2019 were Sue Brodrick, Ken Coburn, Susan Daye, Marc Lebel, Suzanne Parkinson, Sarah Leeuwerke, Heidi Schroter, Sheila Navrady (Secretary), Sherry Anderson-Kepke (Past Chair), Rev. Dr. Murray Laverty (Minister), Sheila Campbell (Chair).

Following are a few highlights of Council's work during 2019:

- \* 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.
- \* Also hosted a breakfast meeting during February for the Calgary Area United Church Clergy Event with Rev. Brian Pearson, Rector of St. Stephen's Anglican Church as speaker.
- \* Presented several well attended groups; a discussion group held monthly led by Mary Sheridan has met to discuss "topics worth talking about"; and a men's discussion group led by Sandy Navrady. Both these groups were very interesting!
- \* Continued to buy extra copies of the United Church Observer for newcomers and visitors.
- \* A group has met several times to assist with making sandwiches for the Drop in Centre. We also have a group that is volunteering their time to work at the Airdrie Food Bank.
- \* Another very successful garage sale was held April, 2018.
- \* Our financial support for Suliman Idris from Etirea has now ended, but the volunteer committee the has continued with ongoing support for this family. Many thanks again to this wonderful group under leadership of Sheila Navrady for their continuous care.
- \* We held a Seniors Lunch in the fall which was very well received. Thanks to Pastoral Care for looking after this event. Plans are being made for another luncheon to be held in the spring.
- \* A Mindfulness group has been meeting at the church with Derek Luk. It is going very well and will continue in the spring.
- \* We have beautiful new stained glass windows in the foyer of the church. Many thanks to Bonny & Don Gass for this wonderful donation.
- \* Special Christmas offerings of \$10,175.70 were received for the Alex Community Health Centre.
- \* A church picnic was held in June in the church's back yard.
- \* Solar panels will be added to the sanctuary in 2020. This project is being looked after by a committee with Marc Lebel, Ken Coburn and Jim Balshaw. This will be handled by Skyfire and donations made by the Jan Tollefon fund, a grant from the United Church, and members of our congregation will cover the costs of these solar panels.

Submitted by Sheila Campbell, Chair of Council

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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The Trustees hold the physical property of the Congregation (the land and building) in trust for the United Church of Canada. The following were elected to the Board of Trustees at the 2018 Annual General Meeting: Jo Anne Atkins, Sue Brodrick, Ken Coburn, Murray Laverty, Sandy Navrady, Suzanne Parkinson and Gordon Thomson. The Trustees did not meet in 2019.

Submitted by Ken Coburn

## **PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH CHOIR**

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Choir Director: Michael Coburn

Choir Members as of December 31, 2019: Margaret De Laet, Susan Daye, Heidi Schroter, Sheila Campbell, Sheila Smith, Barbara Giles, Ben de Laet, Nick Finn, Bob Robson, Henno De Boer.

The PUC choir provides musical leadership in services as well as 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 2019 have been singing at Twelfth Night, seeing the tone and capability of the choir increasing, and attracting a few new members.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

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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, Wayne Flood, Rev. Murray Laverty, Kim Leong and George Norton. Please consider joining the Operations Committee as we are looking for additional members. We are fun-loving and friendly bunch!!

We also thank Jim Balshaw, who helps out with "electronics projects", Helen Heacock who oversees the garden, and Bill Crabbe who volunteers to look after lawn care.

Our caretaker is Hector Renderos.

The building is being well used by community and other outside groups. Building use income in 2019 amounted to \$116,000; which contributed 30% of the church's total operating income. This level of use, and income, would not be realized without the hard work of the Church staff, most notably the office administrator, Kate Currie, who is usually the first point of contact with outside users, and our caretaker, 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:

- Supported the solar panel project, commissioned structural engineering assessments of the auditorium and sanctuary roofs
- Replaced one projector in the sanctuary
- Authorized major maintenance on the elevator
- Purchased a power sweeper for clearing sidewalks
- Minor maintenance projects, replacing many fluorescent light ballasts, countertop repairs, drywall repairs and painting

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

## **PUC HEALING MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

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Healing Pathway (HP) is a Christian, energy-based therapeutic approach using teams of two trained practitioners who use light touch with the intent of opening the energy centres of the body. Most sessions last 3/4 hour and usually take place in the healing rooms in the upper part of the church.

There are currently five team members including Evelyn Peterson, Lee Morris, JoAnne Atkins, Jan Collins, and Teeya Scholten. During 2019, we met and performed Healing Pathway sessions for a variety of people.

We offer HP sessions by appointment after church service on Sundays, or at other times. We can also visit homes or come to hospitals. We do not charge for sessions; however, donations are welcomed to cover the costs of ongoing in-service training.

To book a healing session please contact Evelyn Peterson at 403-283-8121 or [evelynpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:evelynpeterson@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted by Teeya Scholten

## **PARKDALE UNITED MEN'S BREAKFAST**

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Men of the Congregation meet for breakfast at 9:00 am on the first Saturday morning of each month excluding July and August. In early 2020, the venue was changed to Sunterra Market on Kensington Rd., immediately west of Crowchild Tr. There is no agenda; just conversation and fellowship. Attendance each month varies with the seasons, but is generally between four and eight. All men of the Congregation are invited to attend.

Submitted by Ken Coburn

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

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We've enjoyed another year of watching the kids grow, and change, and learn. Our class grew this fall, as some of the little kids have graduated from the nursery to the big kid class. That is not to say that the nursery isn't still busy! We have continued on since this fall using the Deep Blue Curriculum for One Room Sunday School. It's a great program that has allowed us to switch things up each week from acting out stories, doing traditional crafts, or trying a variety of object lessons to help the see the Bible lessons from a new perspective. We have also had the kids involved upstairs, with our Christmas pageant, as well as helping out with coffee time a couple of times per year. We are always trying to keep the kids engaged, and learn about being part of God's community.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Razzo, Sunday School Coordinator.

## **PRAYER CIRCLE REPORT**

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Prayer circle receives requests for prayers. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month except for July and August. You can request prayers by leaving a note on the prayer slips provided in the boxes of the prayer tables at the front of the church or by speaking to a member of the group.

Requests are confidential.

Members of the group are: Sandra Beattie, Sheila Campbell, Susan Daye, Murray Laverty, Evelyn Peterson, Sandra Horton. Many thanks to retired chair Ida Wyllie.

New Members are welcome.

Submitted by Sandra Beattie

## **UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

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Parkdale U.C.W members meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:45am. We have, on average, eight active members, and eight home members who we miss but still keep in touch. After many years, Ida Wyllie has retired as secretary. We thank her for all the work she has done, not only as secretary but in all the other positions she has held. New members are always welcome.

Activities:

1. Lunch at Boston Pizza
2. Thanks to the congregation for supporting our Bake Sale
3. Charity donations: Calgary Ploughshares Society, Mission & Service, Kamp Kasota, Men's Hostel, Presbyterial, Band Aid and Parkdale United Church Calgary Foundation
4. Spring picnic at the church

Programs:

1. Sharing our summer events
2. Sharing our Family Histories
3. Discussion: Do we need proof that God exists?
4. Sally Coburn introduced us to Belly Dancing. It was wonderful and lots of fun. Thank you Sally.
5. Discussion: Gretta Vosper update

We are sorry to have lost three U.C.W. members during 2019: Berta Fisher, Mary Kirby and Kay McCaughey. They are greatly missed.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Smith

## **WORSHIP ARTS**

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The Worship Arts Committee includes our minister, Murray Laverty and congregation members, Chet Marlett and Beth Balshaw.

Our goals include:

- creating a warm and caring atmosphere for worship services
- generating creative ways to enrich the weekly worship experience
- encouraging participation and engagement of the congregation in the worship services
- being aware of the any and varied reasons that people come to church and offering opportunities for those needs being met
- making worship an inviting experience

We reflect on the lectionary reading, develop themes for worship and brainstorm how we can best engage the congregation in meaningful worship experiences. Every Sunday, we do the very best we can to achieve these goals.

Highlights of 2019 worship services include the Sundays throughout the Advent season (Nurturing Christmas Moments – Make Time, Breath, Notice and Connect), sharing flashlights at the Children's Christmas Eve service (Love and Light) and the warm, personal feeling of the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Balshaw

## **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

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Members: Sue Brodrick                      Chair  
              Jeff Campbell  
              Chet Marlett  
              Bob Robson  
              Catherine Lebel

In 2019, the M&P Committee's work was fairly light.

We hosted a staff appreciation evening in February for all staff and their partners and the M&P Committee. This was well attended and I believe enjoyed by all.

The M&P committee put a lot of effort in the budget process for the staff salaries following the appropriate guidelines made available for both paid accountable ministry as well as professional musicians.

Maria Ramirez returned to our Sunday School in the fall of 2019.

We also tried a different process for staff performance reviews which was well received and much less cumbersome than the previous process.

Of course, our other piece of business each year is to formulate the staff budget for the next year which takes some time and care.

As chair of the M&P Committee, even though we have scheduled meetings the second Tuesday of each month, if we do not have any business to deal with we do not meet. I would like to personally like to thank the committee members for their dedication to this very important work.

Faithfully submitted by Sue Brodrick  
Chair M&P Committee

## **PARKDALE UNITED CHURCH (CALGARY) FOUNDATION**

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For 2019 the Directors of the Parkdale United Church (Calgary) Foundation were JoAnn Atkins, Sue Brodrick (Chair), Sheila Campbell, Jim Balshaw (Vice Chair), Ken Coburn (Secretary), Gordon Thomson (Treasurer), Sheila Smith, and Barb Giles.

In 2019 the Mary Fund Income supported three initiatives equaling \$6,965. The money was used for making sandwiches for the Drop In Centre, hosting a Minister's Lenten Day of Caring, as well as the cost of making some new banners for our church entrance and coffee area. The Mary Fund also supported a matching grant to the Alex Centre of \$5,000, which was Parkdale United churches Christmas Project. This fund known as, the Mjolsness Family Fund is invested and administered by the Foundation on behalf of the Congregation.

The Foundation Director's met two times in 2019 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. I would also like to thank Ken Coburn the Foundation's secretary, for keeping track of all the records of the Foundation.

At the 2019 AGM to be held on March 8, 2020 there will be new board members elected and recognition of any retiring board members.

Faithfully Submitted by Susan Brodrick  
Chairperson

## **PASTORAL CARE**

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### Mission Statement:

A group of Parkdale United Church people working together to provide encouragement and support to the congregation that all many know and care for one another. Pastoral Care members are building a particular kind of Parkdale United Church Community, one that welcomes people, connects people with people and one who cares for those in need among us. We are the pulse of the church. We cheer up, recognize and encourage.

### Annual Message:

Thank you to our greater church membership for your help and care for those around us. Our members are: Murray Laverty, Sarah Leeuwerke as current chair, Barb Giles, Lauren Warrack, Joan Johnson, Susan Daye, Marg DeLaet, Irene Norton, Marg Latimer, Eleanor Kenny and Wendy Grey. In 2019, Avis Thomas and Sue Singleton retired from Pastoral Care after many years of dedicated service. Our group meets four-five times per year.

The responsibilities of Pastoral Care are many and diverse, but as outlined in our mission statement our overarching responsibility is aiding in congregational care. Our programs include ringing the doorbell, a visitor program which ensures that every member of our congregation receives the connection and care they need in their lives. It is available to those who are ill, homebound or facing difficult situations. Our Christmas gift and spring gift programs aim to bring the congregation together in cheer and connection. Other programs that focus on connecting members of the congregation with one another is our letters to the homebound which connects those who cannot make regular service with church activities. Another responsibility is spiritual care and programs such as prayer shawls, stones and squares, the Prayer Circle and Healing Pathway ensure that members receive what they need when they need it. Our memorial reception team is dedicated to helping with receptions for those who are grieving providing our Church community and our greater Parkdale community with invaluable service during difficult times. Other programs under our umbrella include holiday letters to retired ministers, anniversary and baptismal cards and a monthly ladies lunch brunch at Boston Pizza and a monthly breakfast at Cora's.

In the early months of 2019, Pastoral Care hoped to find an event that could be helpful to our members. In the fall, Pastoral Care with help from McInnis and Holloway hosted an information session about end of life considerations. It was well attended and well received by Parkdale United Church members and our greater Parkdale community. It is the hope of Pastoral Care to be able to provide future information sessions that are practical and helpful for our community in addition to our other programming.

Pastoral Care is always happy to welcome new members and new ideas to our group. Our meetings are posted in the weekly bulletin or you can reach out to any member for more information. On behalf of the entire Pastoral Care committee it is a pleasure to be a part of the Parkdale United Church community and a privilege to be able assist in growing community connections that enrich our daily lives.

Sincerely, Sarah Leeuwerke

## **NO WAY TO DO IT WRONG: PARKDALE JOURNALING GROUP**

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The journal group remains in hiatus due to lack of involvement. For those who want to journal on their own, daily journal prompts are available on a Facebook page: search "Dr. Lynn Sloane", or contact me (sloanelm@shaw.ca) to let me know you'd like your contact information added to an address list to receive journal prompts each day by email

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Sloane

### Faith and Justice Annual Report for 2019

**Harry Nigh, rehabilitation architect, tells us: “So I say to people in the faith community, get your hands dirty. The liberation theologian Gustavo Gutierrez asks: how do you work against poverty, if you don’t know the name of one poor person? Justice needs to have a personal, relational dimension, otherwise we’re talking theory. If you walk alongside someone, and they begin to trust you with their story and open up their heart, you become a friend. Then justice takes on a whole new perspective.” BROADVIEW MAGAZINE**

#### **Our goals are:**

To identify, encourage awareness and effective advocacy from a faith perspective issues of social justice.

**Movies Night:** Approximately once a month, most with a social justice theme and providing a safe place for open discussion. Average attendance 15-20 per evening.

**To lessen poverty and homelessness** we continued with our involvement with **BAND AID** and **KAIROS Affordable Housing (A Place to Call Home- Housing First)** and **CHF/ Home Space/CUPS**. **CUPS** won an award for their work with the Resiliency Matrix. See the video (LINK: <http://vimeo.com//3606550115>) to learn how it works and how **BAND AID** participates in the “Housing First” program.

#### **Housing was supported for 141 adults and 97 children this year. 44 beds were used.**

Parkdale supports come from a wide variety of places. Compost from Tip Top Soil, Bootlegger, Bow West Appliances, Country Hills Storage, as well as donations of gas, storage, labour and housing goods from families downsizing,

St. Andrew’s Presbyterian added \$4,950 for the purchase of beds to our budget for the year of \$14,689. Parkdale United contributed \$2,216 (about 15% of our expenses) with an additional donation of \$500.in December.

#### **To enable and facilitate Truth and Reconciliation:**

- We viewed and discussed the three documentaries **First Contact (ATPN)** .
- Supported Bill 262 an act in harmony with United Nations Declaration on Human Rights.
- Many people housed by Parkdale are First Nations. Wednesday morning coffee and conversation times.
- Parkdale persons have been attending the Blanket Exercises held in various churches.

#### **To support the Affirming Network of Faith Communities:**

We supported the call to action letter campaign in Support of Trans and Gender Diverse People. The Rainbow Railroad immigration project is well underway, and housing is supported by us. We anticipate more involvement next year as they add seniors to the project. They received funding from the Calgary Homeless Foundation for micro loans to divert LGBTQ2S people from shelters.

**Promoting Peace and Justice Project Ploughshares:** Parkdale makes space for an office and regular meeting for this organization.

There were many workshops such as ethical investments and immigration studies, as well as other interesting speakers and educational events.

#### **To work for Environmental and Economic Justice:**

- **Solar Project:** Our proposal for the Solar Project was accepted by Council. The boiler replacement, assessment and funding has been completed and the project will begin. Some of the funds were received from Faith and the Common Good.
- **Fair Trade and No plastic products:** Coffee, Dizolve Eco-strips and Unwrapped Life shampoo products were sold.
- **Updating our** Creating a Climate for change brochure at the request of Faith and the Common Good

#### **Other Social Justice Activities:**

- Provided United church refugee sponsorship for another group
- Hundred Mile luncheon organized to encourage attention to local food sources.

- A Sunday worship service with Hayley Gislason of HomeSpace sharing poverty and homeless strategies in Calgary.
- SPARKS meetings. (North cluster meetings of Calgary Presbytery.)
- Workshops attended: St. Thomas Social Justice gathering, Presbytery on Growing your Church,

With respect to the KAIROS Affordable Housing apartment buildings:

- **Coldest Night of the Year** participation and donations to funding the Bankview Mortgage.
- **Helped organize the CUPS/KAIROS Affordable Housing** Christmas party at McDougall United including donations for gift certificates.
- **Wednesday coffee and conversation once** a month at Longbow.
- **Community Bread program** every Thursday night at Longbow.
- **Longbow's Community Stampede breakfast. Thanks to Jim Latimer for the entertainment.**
- **Compost and gardening** for Bankview, Longbow and Acadia Place.
- Longbow **fence painting**.

**Members:** Bev Delong, Jean Tollefson, Doreen Kot, Heidimarie Schroter, Sheila Smith, Noemi Flores

- Sheila Smith Representative on the Affirm Committee
- Margaret De Laet organizes Fair Trade coffee supplies and sales
- Bev Delong and Jean Tollefson Ploughshares Calgary Society representatives
- Doreen Kot KAIROS Affordable Housing
- Band Aid Committee Ben and Margaret De Laet and Doreen Kot
- Noemi Flores for Right Relations at Wildrose United and Ronald McDonald House
- Heidimarie Schroter Council representative

Respectfully submitted  
Doreen Kot, Chairperson, Faith and Justice Committee

## **PARKDALE BOOKCLUB**

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Co-ordinator & Newsletter creator – Lynn Sloane

Members: Beth Balshaw, Sue Brodrick, Joan Cameron, Heather Curry, Margaret De Laet, Lindsay Hunt, Sharon Janzen, Doreen Kot, Lee Morris, Ruth Radetzky, Mary Sherman, Sheila Smith, Jean Tollefson, Ida Wylie, plus 15 or so others on mailing list.

The Parkdale Book Club meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month except July and August. Books of diverse range are chosen by book club members – we nominate ideas throughout the year and vote on the top 10 in May for the following year. 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”. Here is our schedule for the next 5 months:

Feb 8	Lynn	<i>The Cruellest Month</i> , Louise Penny
March 14	Sue	Marcus Borg's novel, <i>Putting Away Childish Things</i>
April 11	Beth	<i>The Ghost Keeper</i> by Natalie Morrill
May 9	Sharon	<i>The Black Candle</i> by Catherine Cookson
June 13	Lindsay	<i>There Will Be No Miracles Here</i> by Casey Gerald