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ANNUAL REPORT 2009

BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, January 31st, 2010

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 7th, 2010

Minister of Worship: Rev. Jim Allan

Interim Minister: Rev. Heather Koots

Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Aubrey Edworthy

Office Administrator: Carmen Emmott

Custodian: Brad Campbell

Door Monitor: Jenna Hohmann

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TRUSTEES of Robertson-Wesley United Church

General Purpose: The Trustees are authorized on behalf of the Congregation to hold in trust all properties of the Congregation.

Membership: There shall be no fewer than 8 Trustees. Vacancies shall be filled by election by the Congregation.

Specific Duties: To erect and repair buildings; to permit use of property for church purposes; to sell, mortgage, exchange or lease the property with the consent of Presbytery. Trustees' activities are restricted and governed by public statute, the UCs "Trust of Model Deed" and lawful directions of the Official Board or Church Board or Church Council and of other courts of the UC having jurisdiction.

CURRENT TRUSTEES: Harry Bridges, Lois Field, Bill Hamilton, Karen Hansen, Janet Hughes, Ray McKall, Allison Seymour, Bud Squair, Ed Verdin, and Don Williams.

MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Robertson-Wesley United Church
February 15, 2009

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Lorne Langman called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.
2. **Invocation:** Rev. Jim Allan gave the invocation.
3. **Opening Hymn:** Tammy-Jo Mortensen led the singing of the opening hymn, "Where Two or Three are Gathered".
4. **Appointment of Acting Secretary:** Lorne Langman announced that Board secretary Colleen Ouellette would take the minutes of this meeting.
5. **Approval of Agenda:**
MOTION: It was moved by Norma Johnston and seconded by Gary Jenkins "That the agenda for this meeting be approved as printed."
- CARRIED.
6. **Approval of Minutes of 2008 AGM:**
MOTION: It was moved by Don Williams and seconded by Margery Wright "That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on February 3, 2008 be approved as printed."
- CARRIED.
7. **Annual Report**
 - (a) **Introduction:** Lorne Langman introduced the 2008 Annual Report, thanking Bud Squair and Carmen Emmott for compiling and printing it.
 - (b) **Act of Remembrance:** Rev. Jim Allan presented a Power Point tribute to those members who passed away in 2008.
8. **Responses**
 - (a) **Congregational Response:** Larry Wright spoke about reconnecting in 2003 with Robertson-Wesley, the church he attended as a child. For him, Robertson-Wesley represents a community to belong to, a church where his family can worship together, and a new perspective and vision for his own ministry in the Armed Forces. Margery Wright added that coming to Robertson-Wesley was like coming home to her former church in Regina after sixteen years of worship in the military community.
 - (b) **Church School Response:** Paul Wright described some of his favourite activities in Kids' Church: baking, crafts, fun and "some religious things". He enjoys the new meeting spaces for Kids' Church, especially the Fire Room, where the group starts with a story from the Bible and the Lord's Prayer.
 - (c) **Youth Group Response:** For Sarah Wright, Youth Group is fun, but it has also taught her leadership skills and confidence. She added that she likes the United Church, and church in general, thanks to her experiences at Robertson-Wesley. Rebecca Wright appreciates the things she learns in Robertson-Wesley's terrific Youth Group, and declared that Youth Rally is the

“awesomest thing ever”. She is currently taking confirmation classes, and is eager to vote at the next Annual General Meeting.

(d) Staff Response: Rev. Jim Allan introduced the new Robertson-Wesley website, which is now up and running. Reactions were very positive, and it was added that the Youth Group website will soon be linked to the main site.

9. Ministry & Personnel: Committee chairperson Jim Triscott announced that new members are needed on this committee, which offers support for ministry personnel and church staff and serves as a liaison with the congregation. A short-term assistant has been hired for custodial projects, and volunteer coordinators Jill Lambie and Matthew Miller are working to organize volunteers to ease the staff workload in other areas.

10. Financial Report for 2008: In the absence of Treasurer Pat Stewart, Gary Jenkins presented the Financial Report for 2008. Referring to page 14 of the 2008 Annual Report, he noted that, even with a transfer from the Memorial Fund, there was a deficit of \$22,491.00 in 2008. The 2009 budget projects a deficit of nearly \$16,000.00, leading Mr. Jenkins to remark that changes will be needed in the next few years in order to avoid some major financial problems.

11. Approval of Budget for 2009:

MOTION: It was moved by Gary Jenkins and seconded by Gary Pecknold “That the budget for 2009 as presented in the Annual Report and discussed at the budget information session on February 8, 2009 be approved as the budget for Robertson-Wesley United Church for the 2009 financial year.”

– CARRIED.

Ann Thomas noted that in 2008 Robertson-Wesley gave more to Mission and Service than any of the other churches in the Edmonton Presbytery (\$53,340.00 + \$2,000.00 from the UCW), but this is less than what would have been given in past years when it was a flat percentage of total givings. In order to meet our Mission and Service goals for 2009, it will be necessary for congregation members to give more, over and above their regular givings.

MOTION: It was moved by Carol Anne Inglis and seconded by Margery Wright “That the Finance Report be amended as follows: That Robertson-Wesley United Church set a goal for our Mission and Service contribution that is based on 10% of the envelope givings of the previous year. Of that total, half should be paid out of the general operating funds and remainder raised through special offerings and appeals.”

Following discussion, Chair Lorne Langman called for a vote.

- MOTION DEFEATED.

12. Appointment of Auditors:

MOTION: It was moved by Gary Jenkins and seconded by Ann Thomas “That Ellis Group be appointed as the auditors for Robertson-Wesley United Church for the 2009 financial year.”

– CARRIED.

13. Recognition of Retiring Board Members: Lorne Langman thanked retiring Board members Clara Dyck, Nancy Heule, Donna Krucik, Garnet Stronach and Garnet Thomas and presented them with a gift from the congregation. He also thanked past chair Sandi Darrell. Sylvia Duffus thanked Lorne Langman for a job well done as Chair and also presented him with a gift.

14. Nomination of 2009 Board Members: Lorne Langman introduced the proposed Board Members for 2009.

15. Approval of 2009 Board:

MOTION: It was moved by Gail deVos and seconded by Donna Krucik “That the report of the nominating committee for Members of the Board for 2009 be approved as presented.”

- CARRIED.

The Board consists of the following members:

Executive Committee:

Chair: Sylvia Duffus Vice-Chair: Morris Treasure
Past Chair: Lorne Langman Secretary: Colleen Ouellette
Treasurer: Pat Stewart
Ministers: Rev. Jim Allan and Rev. James Ravenscroft
Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Chairs of Standing Committees:

Faith Formation:
Ministry & Personnel: Jim Triscott
Fellowship:
Property: Jim Triscott
Finance: Pat Stewart
Seniors' Care: Sheila Sunley
Membership: Brenda Sheppard
Stewardship: Jack Waters
Outreach: Norma Johnston
Worship: Shauna Scott

Other Board Members:

Presbytery Representatives: Margery Wright, Lois Field, Ann Thomas
United Church Women: Lorna Berlinguette
Members-at-Large: Rosemary Dunbar

Lorne Langman thanked the congregation before handing the meeting over to the new chair, Sylvia Duffus. Sylvia Duffus accepted, asking for everyone's help in her new role. She then announced the Special Congregational Meeting on March 8, 2009, to discuss the recommendation to ask Affirm United to recognize Robertson-Wesley United Church as an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada. Lorne Langman also announced that the Edmonton Schoolboys' Alumni Band will hold a concert at Robertson-Wesley on February 22, 2009, with a portion of the funds raised being donated to Mission and Service.

16. Closing Hymn: Tammy-Jo Mortensen led the singing of “Deep in our Hearts”.

17. Adjournment:

MOTION: Sylvia Duffus moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m., reminding Board members of the meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m.

- 18. Benediction and Commissioning:** Jim Allan concluded the meeting with a benediction, and announced that the commissioning of the new Board will take place on Sunday, February 22, 2009.

LORNE LANGMAN
Chair

COLLEEN OUELLETTE
Secretary

ROBERTSON-WESLEY OFFICIAL BOARD REPORT

From Chair of the Board

I have completed the first year in a two-year term as Chair of the Robertson-Wesley Board. 2009 has been a challenging year. It began with a bang with a letter from our minister James Ravenscroft, who informed us that he was leaving us as of the end of June for a new position at St. Albert United Church. Although we were pleased for him, we were very sorry to see him go. We gave him a good send off in June. This left us in a position of having to repeat the Joint Needs Assessment (JNAC) process with Edmonton Presbytery to review all aspects of the life and work of our congregation, to evaluate our needs and resources, and finally to produce a report with recommendations of where we go from here. It is only after this process is completed and agreed to by members of Robertson-Wesley at a congregational meeting that we can appoint a Search Committee for the vacant position.

Unanticipated circumstances delayed the appointment of an Interim Minister until the fall. We are delighted that Heather Koots agreed to become our Interim Minister in a part time capacity. Circumstances also delayed the appointment of members of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee, which had its first meeting in December. Your Joint Needs Assessment Team includes the following: Lois Field, David Beckman, Carole Ann Inglis, Glen Warren, and Morris Treasure (Chair) from R-W and 2 members representing Edmonton Presbytery, Stephan Johann and Beth Baptiste.

In June, Jim Triscott, who was acting as Chair of both Property and Ministry and Personnel Committees, realized he had taken on too much responsibility and resigned both positions. I would like to thank Jim Triscott for his work on the Board for the last several years. Jack Waters agreed to transfer from Stewardship Chair to Property and David Beckman came on board as Chair of Ministry and Personnel.

Robertson-Wesley was approved by Affirm United as an Affirming Congregation this year. We are now a full member of Affirm United. The decision to seek and accept approval received both board and congregational approval. Thank you to the members of the Affirming Committee for all your work in the past several years to make us aware of the issues surrounding this decision. This Committee is now a Standing Committee of the Board currently overseeing the implementation of the Safe Harbour Program in our facility.

In October we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Robertson Presbyterian Church with a Celebration Sunday service and a special luncheon served following Worship. Special thanks to the worship committee, Karen Hansen and Donna Krucik for their part in planning this event. The Choirs were delighted to launch their CD at this time. Thank you to Tammy-Jo and others who helped make this CD a success.

The Church Building is a very busy place throughout the week as we continue with monthly Community Dinners and acting as a Food Bank Depot to name only a few activities. We share our space with the Cantilon Choirs, Grandin Prescolaire, The Alberta Baroque Ensemble, and The Pathways Centre.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow board members and the staff of Robertson-Wesley for all their work in the past year. I also would like to thank all who have contributed to the work of this congregation. You have indeed been “faithful stewards.”

Blessings
Sylvia J. Duffus
Chair of the Board

REV. JIM ALLAN, MINISTER OF WORSHIP

During most of 2009, I offered a seven-part “series of series” of sermons on Christian doctrine: Creation, Grace, Christ, Trinity, Church, Ethics, and Destiny. The purpose was to liberate our understanding of our faith from the dogmatic straight-jacket of rigid interpretation and to let our beliefs live and breathe again.

We are living through a time of breathing new life into the dry bones of our church’s structures, beliefs, traditions, and practices. Caught between some who cling rigidly to a static view of tradition and others who would abandon our heritage, we endeavour to live in our present moment of history, both creatively responsive to the opportunities and challenges of the future and deeply rooted in our rich heritage.

During this past year, the idea of being a welcoming community of faith took on a new depth of meaning for Robertson-Wesley as we took the final step to being recognized by Affirm United as an Affirming Ministry.

In reviewing its manual, the Church Board has realized that the function of the committees is continually evolving and therefore the mandates of the committees need to be updated on a more frequent basis. Instead of a static structure that just needs to be maintained, we are learning to let the structure evolve in a way that reflects our sense of call and discipleship as a congregation.

We are also experiencing a continual stream of newcomers to Robertson-Wesley, people who come here the first time for any of a vast array of different reasons. They like what they experience and decide they want to belong to this faith community. Here again, we see the combination of appreciation for our living heritage and the fresh life and spirit that new people bring.

Through all of this and more, the future of Robertson-Wesley emerges. Viewing the valley of dry bones, Ezekiel asks, “Can these bones live again?” And it turns out the answer is, “Yes, they can!”

REV. HEATHER KOOTS, INTERIM MINISTER

‘Interim Ministry’ is a very strange animal! One definition states that an interim minister, when not called to a congregation to lead it through times of extreme turmoil, should fulfill a role as one who provides some, but not necessarily all of the essentials of pastoral and worship life during a time of transition. Robertson-Wesley is a congregation in a time of transition. You bid James farewell and then began the process of preparing a JNAC and awaiting its recommendations. In the interim I was asked to come to the congregation to provide some of those essentials of pastoral life...in this instance working with children and offering support to the youth leaders. Having recently moved from the southern part of the province, I knew very little about Robertson-Wesley but was happy to join the team and try to fulfill the role asked of me until the end of June. What I have discovered since my arrival in September is a community of intensely faithful, hardworking and friendly people; a widely diverse group sharing their gifts in widely diverse ways. There are times when I have to remind myself that I have only known most of you for a few months because you have a way of drawing newcomers such as myself into your fellowship and making them feel so warmly welcomed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to become part of your life and work at Robertson-Wesley, and to celebrate this gift of warmth and welcome.

I have spent many of my half-time hours here preparing for and leading the Kids’ Church program. I really enjoy being with the R-W kids and look forward to working with them each week. I was pleased to offer an afternoon Christmas Eve worship service for preschoolers and their families, one of the highlights in my work every year, and enjoyed being part of the youth groups’ Christmas Eve Drama. They shared a wonderful worship service with an appreciative congregation. My time with the youth has been somewhat limited; however, they are a great group of young people, and I am amazed by the quality of programming the volunteer youth leaders offer. In the last six months of my time here, I intend to shift more of my attention to working with this group as we plan an all-church

family event (watch for upcoming news of this, because you won't want to miss it!), worship leadership, Junior High Youth Rally, and a weekend retreat this Spring. As time allows, my other priorities are to take some of the work load from Jim by sharing in worship leadership, occasional worship services at Canterbury Manor, and a small amount of pastoral care. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know he and all the wonderful staff at Robertson-Wesley, each talented in their particular areas of ministry and each willing to share those talents with the rest of us.

One of the gifts an interim minister is able to offer is the observation of a congregation through fresh eyes, and having spent the past five and a half months doing just that, I see enormous potential in this community to offer unique and exciting ministry to young families. The neighbourhood is filled with pre and school age children and Robertson-Wesley could, should you choose it, become a beacon for faith-based programming for families. One of the drawbacks of being an interim minister is that while identifying areas of growth potential, it is not always possible to establish programs that will require sustained energy once the term of ministry is completed. I encourage you to consider the possibilities.

In closing, I would again like to thank everyone at Robertson-Wesley for welcoming me into your community. I would also like to thank Jim, Tammy-Jo, Brad, and Carmen for letting me feel a part of the staff team. I look forward to the next six months with each of you as together we share the 'spirited' promise of God on our journey of faith.

FAMILY MINISTRY REPORT

The mandate of the Family Ministry Committee is to provide oversight, coordination, and assistance in the delivery of family ministry programs and initiatives, endeavouring to address faith formational and spiritual care needs of everyone at Robertson-Wesley United Church, especially as relating to children, youth, young adults, and families.

The Family Ministry Committee for 2009 has consisted of: Geoff Anderson, Tory Bachmann, Colleen Ouellette, Joyce Soans, Margery Wright, Heather Warkentin (chair), Jim Allan, and Heather Koots.

With the departure of James Ravenscroft, we anticipated a challenging time. However, James took the time and care to leave our programs with good resources and excellent volunteer leadership. Thanks to this, and thanks to Jim Allan's support, we were able to run smoothly while we waited for Heather Koots to join our ministry team. She very capably took the reins.

The Kids' Church and youth leadership teams have done a great job running the Sunday morning programs and special events. In Kids' Church, the kids have enjoyed a variety of activities like cooking, crafts, science and games, while looking at several stories from the Bible. The Garden Patch (our preschool kids' church program) has been growing, and the children have been busy learning about God's love and some simple Bible stories.

The Robertson-Wesley Youth Group began the 2009-2010 year with a handful of leaders including Heather Koots, Geoff Anderson, Katrina Davidchuk, Sarah Wright, and Joni Soans. The fall began with the traditional potluck dinner kick-off in September. During subsequent Sundays, the youth explored ethics by discussing issues such as healthcare and community trust. Then, the youth explored the Christian tradition of Saints and Sainthood. Once November slipped away, the youth began preparations for the Christmas season by beginning to write a script for the Christmas Eve service. Throughout the fall, the youth enjoyed several fun nights including a night of bowling. Finally, the youth presented a successful Christmas Eve service entitled, "Christmas Scene Investigation." As well, two leaders and one youth managed to have a fantastic time attending the Senior High Youth Rally in Airdrie. In the coming spring of 2010, the youth look forward to the Robertson-Wesley Youth Group Retreat, the Junior High Youth Rally in Leduc, the R-W Winter Family Event, and some volunteering within the church family.

The Young Couple's Potluck is now the GenXY potluck, and we have had more young adults joining us every time we meet. We are looking for more ideas for young adult activities, so if you have suggestions, please let one of us know. We are also planning some fun family events for 2010 and hope the whole congregation will attend.

STATISTICS 2009

AVERAGE MONTHLY ATTENDANCE – 2009

January	139	February	167	March	210
April	254	May	183	June	193
July	107	August	104	September	159
October	180	November	210	December	231

CONFIRMATIONS

Lisa Burdge, Shauna Konelsky, Anna Marie Matheson, Rebecca Wright, Nick Ellenberger, Geordie Matheson, David Cameron Matheson, Isabelle MacDonald, Ariel MacDonald

TRANSFERS AND REAFFIRMATIONS INTO R-W

Helen Dragish, Ruth Burdge, Marjolein Makowecki-Fuentes, Ainsley Brown, Sean Brown, John-Paul Hermano, Doug Glowicki, Dragana Glowicki, Marjorie Sanford, Bill Sanford, Clarence Rhodes, Wilson MacLennan, David Beckman, Kirstin Safinuk, Anita LaHay, Micky Fedunec, Tom McLaughlin, Lourdes McLaughlin, Cheryl Ullah

BAPTISMS

Emmalynn Alexandra LaHay, Teah Marion Glowicki, Reese Mia Glowicki, Jonah Walter Makowecki-Fuentes, Brooke Adrienne Trefanenko, Shaylean Josie Laschowski, Lucas Craig Matthiessen, Danika Esther Prince

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

Brenda Jean Haugen, Jean Isabelle Bradshaw, Mary Gladys Hanratty, James Bernard Uniacke Wood, William George Mather, William Stewart McGregor, Lane Lockhart Lemieux, Douglas Randolph Matheson, Kelly Leeja Maher, Marjorie Ethel Cawker, Margaret Rose Christensen, Frances Elva Taylor, Norris Alexander McLean, Robert Robertson Francis, Robert S. Matheson

WEDDINGS 2009 – in order of date

Matthew and Sabrina Sparrow, David and Laura Smythe, Claudette Esterine and Robert McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. Bosiak, Adam and Melanie McKale, Tom and Meghan Hughes, Summer Yeo and Aaron Langstraat, Edwin and Yasuko Chen, Janet Clark and Neil Brown, Stephen and Erika Dykau, Benjamin and Amanda Sacks, Scott and Rachael Klemko, Jason and Lauren Singh, Dan and Lisa Thibeau, Jesse and Ramona McKay, Robert and Joanne Aldridge, Carlo and Melissa D'Elia, Adam and Lisa Popek, Doug and Tanya Hofforth, Kristopher and Orissa Sabourin, Shauna Konelsky and Lynn Chalifoux, Mike and Lauren Gardiner, Jeffrey and Zeny Karas, Mr. and Mrs. Tony and Melanie Ha, Crystal Gushulak and Jennifer Warren, Erick and Heather Wahlstrom, Shaughnessy and Diana Giolet, Simon and Karissa Johnson, Karen and Steven Dubbelboer, Cory and Sandra Urbanovitch, Jeffery and Ayslinn Raab, Tannis and Bradley Treen, Chris and Terri Sherbanuk, Jay and Alex Clark, Michael and Lindsey Parkatti, Greg and Lindsay Thompson, Tory and Victor Bachmann, Reg and Sheila Bruce, Lyle and Kelsey Westergaard, Trevor and Candace Dreger, Christopher and Marie-France Carriere-Twaits

From the Director of Music

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! - Psalm 150

January is such a great time to take stock of the past year, and it has been a full year of music making! The big triumph this year was the completion of the “Song Forever New” CD. This entailed 2 recording sessions for the each of the Choir of R-W and the R-W Ringers. So many people put in many hours of editing, writing liner notes, doing graphic design, and proofreading. The whole project turned out very well, and we are getting much critical acclaim including a “4 star” review in the *Edmonton Journal*.

The Choir of Robertson-Wesley had the opportunity to sing a wide variety of music. In the spring, we continued our joint cooperation with the Choir of Knox-Metropolitan United for two performances of Mozart’s *Missa Brevis* and Bach’s *Cantata No. 4* for choir, chamber orchestra and soloists. We had the pleasure of presenting it once as a service and once as a concert to recoup some of our costs. As always we worked hard preparing music for Holy Week and Easter. In the fall, the choir went on a retreat, led by U of A professor of education, Bob de Frece, thanks in part to a grant from the Alberta Choral Federation. December was extremely busy as we prepared music for our own concerts and services, but also for outreach events. The choir sang at the December community dinner, at Lessons and Carols, a “mini-Messiah” and many choristers sang at the Christmas Bureau caroling at the Winspear Centre, and of course on Christmas Eve. During these special performances and services, the choir sang almost 100 anthems at 35 services. We also were able to participate in a Royal Canadian College of Organists Hymn Festival. The choir was active in non-musical ways as well with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, and social events hosted by Clara Dyck, Kathleen & Chris Gowers and Lea Callebaut. Thanks to the section leaders for their strong musical and professional leadership – Claire Rolheiser, Kalea Turner-Beckman, Julie Golosky, Casey Edmunds, CD Saint, and Adam Arnold.

The Robertson-Wesley Ringers were preparing diligently for each service this year. During this past year we played at six Robertson-Wesley services and at a few special functions, including Christmas music at Londonderry Mall. It is such a pleasure to be able to help in the community in this way. As always we enjoyed sharing our music with you at a short concert after the service on June. The Ringers also served at the pancake supper and at coffee hour.

The Cantilon Choral Society under the direction of Heather Johnson continues to be based at our church, and provided music at seven of our services during the year, as well as filling the building with beautiful music during the week. We also appreciated the visit from the Kamloops Honour Choir.

Our outreach choir – Choral Morphosis continues to thrive and grow clearly indicating to us that there is a need for this kind of musical outreach for those with disabilities. Director Melissa Barnes and pianist Kim Sieben have been hard at work teaching, inspiring, laughing, dancing and singing with the choir which has grown from about 3-4 in its first year to 15 or so last year, to almost 30 registered this year. They joined with the choir of R-W in the spring to present an anthem together. This musical outreach would not have been possible without funding from the R-W Trust Funds, and continues to be supported in that way as we continue to search for donations and grants to become self-sufficient.

Special music was also provided throughout the year and especially during the summer. At Easter we always have the Pergolesi brass quartet under the leadership of Ken Read, and during the year we had additional instrumentalists including Joel Grey, Chenoa Anderson, Jeff Campbell, Bob Fenske, Laura Snyder, Maria Cherwick, Andrew Sims and a host of players for Christmas Eve. We also had some liturgical dance blend with our musical offerings including dancers Casey Edmunds, Jill Hoogewoonink and Roxanne Hoogewoonink.

Thanks to all who provide music at special services during the year as well – Holy Week, Koinonia, community dinners, teas, Soul OUTing, and Outside-the-Box. Many thanks to the volunteer singers and players who give generously of their time and talents, to all those who have contributed to the Music Endowment Fund and Special Music Fund and to the congregation for their strong support of the music program at Robertson-Wesley.

Tammy-Jo Mortensen

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer and Finance Committee oversee the budget of Robertson-Wesley. They also develop policies in relation to church finances and the church investments. In 2009 they accomplished the following:

1. Developed the budget for 2010.
2. Sent out three financial statements to contributors to keep them up to date on their givings situation.
3. Produced monthly financial statements and reviewed the on-going status of the church revenues and expenditures.

Again in 2009 our givings have not met our revenue projections. The Budget projection for 2009 was \$345,000; however, actual contributions totaled \$305,705 which is a substantial shortfall of \$39,296. Although givings started off 2009 relatively strong, they did not meet the projection targets after August. The projection for rental of the church for weddings, funerals, and general use exceeded the target by \$13,358. Our expenditures were lower than anticipated because James left on June 30, 2009, and we did not hire Heather until the end of September and then on a half-time basis. Robertson-Wesley's operating deficit after adjustments for items that were specifically approved by the Board to come from Trust Funds is \$8,725.

With givings actually decreasing and our expenditures rising, our church needs to look at options for keeping our deficits under control. The present Deficit Reduction Fund will stand at \$32,416 after the 2009 deficit is paid from it.

After everything was paid for the total cost of the Sanctuary Floor and Temperature Controls was \$76,057 including recarpeting the chapel for which Donna Krucik graciously agreed to pay the greater part of the cost. The contributions totaled \$68,753 leaving \$7,304 to come from the Capital Fund. Thanks to everyone for supporting this project.

Looking at the M&S commitment, Robertson-Wesley did not meet its obligation of \$55,000. The 2009 Budget showed \$7,500 from general revenues and \$47,500 from Special Givings (donations, Communion Offering, and Fundraising Events). We missed our Fundraising target by \$7,043. However, remember we decided to reduce the contribution from general revenues by \$10,000 because of our fiscal situation so we increased our overall individual givings to M&S in 2009. We have taken the final \$7,500 from M&S in 2010 so we have an even greater challenge this year.

The members of the Finance Committee besides the Treasurer are:

Betty Squair
Garry Jenkins
Eric Sauze

Garry Pecknold
Ed Verdin
Jim Allan

I want to express my gratitude to all the members for the help they have given me over the last year. Especially on behalf of the congregation and myself, I want to recognize Garry Jenkins' dedication as our volunteer church accountant. Every Wednesday Garry pays the bills, inputs the revenues and adjustments to the financial system, and deposits funds at the bank, a big commitment of time and effort on his part and an invaluable help to the church and me.

Secondly, I want to recognize Ed Verdin who takes care of the givings system. He oversees the operation of the Servant Keeper System, inputs the pledges at the beginning of each year, generates the statements which are sent out to let people know where they stand on their givings, and produces the tax receipts at year-end. He contributes a lot of time and effort in this task and it is most appreciated.

Along with Ed, my thanks goes out to Carmen Emmott, the Church Administrator, who does the inputting to Servant Keeper each week and issues manual income tax receipts as they are required.

I would like to thank Shauna Scott who does the investment statement at year-end for the auditors. Her thoroughness and assistance makes my task truly easy in preparing for the auditors.

Thank you as well to all the counters who do an excellent job each and every Sunday. These people give up coffee time to count the givings each Sunday and then the Head Counter deposits the money in the bank. Thank you for your dedication!

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Stewart

E. I. Clarke Fund

The E. I. Clarke Fund earned interest and income of \$11,167 in 2009. The Committee allocated the following funds in 2008 totaling \$11,500:

George Spady Centre	\$3,500.00
Bissel Centre	\$3,500.00
Inner City Pastoral Ministry	\$2,000.00
Choral Morphosis	\$2,500.00

At the end of 2008 because of the economic downturn the fund had fallen to a value of \$128,193 but has recovered nicely in 2009 to \$189,383.

The Clarke family continues to strongly support the fund and contributed \$12,100 in 2009. Their continuing support and interest in the fund and in Robertson-Wesley United Church is greatly appreciated.

Wesley Fund

The Wesley Fund earned \$15,596 in income in 2009. The Committee allocated the following funds in 2009 totaling \$15,500:

No Room at the Inn	\$2,000.00
George Spady Centre	\$2,000.00
Candora Society	\$1,000.00
Bissell Centre	\$4,000.00
Boyle McCauley Health Centre	\$3,500.00
R-W Benevolent Fund	\$3,000.00

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The final report of the Communications ad hoc committee was adopted by the Church Board in October 2008. Some of its implementation is complete and some remains to be done. The report laid out a plan for development in four areas:

1. **Branding**

This includes our new logo and slogan, “Spirited”. This section is complete having been incorporated into most of our literature—worship bulletin, pamphlets, etc. The Membership Committee has even found a new way to have our name tags produced incorporating the logo.

2. **Internal Communications**

We are enjoying the new look of our newsletter, “Between the Aisles”, with Glen Warren doing layout and Laura Snyder taking the lead with the editorial team. Our new set of pamphlets was completed during the year together with a beautiful new set of pamphlet racks. And the Property Committee did a great job of integrating the wheel-chair access and rainbow flag icons with the website address into our sign board.

3. **Web Site**

Our new website, launched a year ago, has been well received and appreciated. We are communicating to a generation who will find us on the internet before they would ever look us up in the phone book. Along with an array of more constant information, there are five pages of the site that are updated weekly: the Calendar of Events, News, Join Us This Sunday, Volunteer Opportunities and Sermons. It also makes most of our print media available including the newsletter and pamphlets.

4. **External Communications**

This includes all of the ways in which we share the life of Robertson-Wesley through public media such as newspapers, public bulletin boards, radio and television. This is the area in which the most implementation is yet needed. Tammy-Jo Mortensen, as our Director of Music, has done a superb job over the years of promoting our music program through the public media; and our Office Administrator, Carmen Emmott, updates our advertisements in the Edmonton Journal and community newspapers. The next step is to expand this to include more of the media opportunities available to us (many of which are free) and to include the whole life of the congregation.

In the review of the Church Board manual, it has been proposed that we re-establish a standing Communications Committee to oversee and integrate all of this work and to bring it to the Board on a monthly basis. Through it all, we are encouraged by the realization that there is so much exciting good news just waiting to be communicated in so many ways to so many people!

FLOWER GROUP REPORT

The flower group with an average membership of 28 members meets three times a year in January, June, and September.

We decorate the church with lilies and hydrangeas at Easter, poinsettias, a Christmas tree, garlands, lights and candles at Christmas, as well as festive decorations for Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day.

During the year, memorial or other special occasion floral bouquets are donated by congregation members. The flowers are ordered each week from Flowers by Merle. After delivery to the Church, they are watered and attended to on Saturdays for the service on Sundays. Following the service, they are delivered by the flower group to housebound congregation members, or to grieving members, members in hospital or nursing homes, or picked-up or delivered by the donors. Names of recipients are suggested by the ministers. We encourage members to let the church office know of anyone who would benefit from such a visit.

The flower donations are noted in the church bulletin each week and the donor's family member is recognized by the minister in prayer.

Anyone wishing to place flowers in the church should contact Betty Jean Buchanan at 780-452-0007 or Gayle Houston at 780-452-5350. New members are always needed and welcomed. For more information, the above ladies may be contacted.

In addition to the flowers, the group attends to the cleaning and polishing of the brass candlesticks which are set out with candles for the Festival of Lessons and Carols and for the Christmas Eve service.

This year The Flower Group made a donation to the Church towards the restoration of windows. Most of the funds came from the garden party held in 2008. A further pledge was made from the Jim Lovette donation.

Gayle Houston – President

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Your Outreach Committee has completed another busy and effective year operating several programs. Twelve Community Dinners were served in Memorial Hall at which 1549 Oliver area guests enjoyed hot nutritious meals. Our Food Bank Depot dispensed more than 1600 hampers of food to families in need. The Magic Pantry gave 1,114 bagged lunches to individuals requesting food at our door. In May and June the Bissell sandwich program made and delivered 525 loaves of meat sandwiches. Operation Friendship, a Boyle-McCauley seniors drop-in, was provided with 4 hot noon meals during the summer months. Our Refugee Program gave assistance to a family support group for Burmese (Karen) refugees, in partnership with the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. We spent over \$8,000 on our 2009 programs, none of which has come from the R-W operating budget. The stories of these programs become more compelling in the following details:

Community Dinners - This year was very busy, quite exciting, and as usual the numbers increased as did the costs. We provided a free hot dinner, and sometimes musical entertainment, to an average of 129 persons, singles and families from the Oliver area on one Saturday each month. Thanksgiving dinner was one of the largest, at 203 guests. Volunteers purchased food, cooked and served 12 dinners through 2009, at a total cost of \$4,081.16. Average cost per dinner was \$340.10. 404 volunteer positions and 1,046 volunteer hours were required to produce and clean up after these meals. Our neighbour, Christ Church Anglican, which has helped in the past with our Christmas dinner, was unable to do so this year but assisted with preparing the potatoes and salad and donating a

few gifts. George and Lois Ford were the mainstays of the program, but they want to express deep gratitude to all the volunteers who helped things run so smoothly. Thanks also to Rev. Jim Allan for his effective visiting at each dinner, to our generous donors who helped to pay for the food, and to the bakers in our congregation who raised money through bake sales. These ongoing donations, and the diligent search for inexpensive but nutritious food, have meant that the Community Dinner program has stayed in the black throughout its operation. In fact Community Dinner funds covered some of the 2009 costs of our other food programs, such as the Magic Pantry, Bissell sandwich program, Operation Friendship, and Habitat for Humanity. It is important to note that significant donations have come from outside the congregation, showing how well the broader community respects and supports this work.

The Food Bank Depot - The recession seems to be still in evidence. During 2009 the Food Bank Depot at Robertson-Wesley received an average of 40 calls (phone calls and walk-ins) between 8:30 and 10:30 every Wednesday morning. Volunteers - Alison Seymour, Janet W. Clark, Irene Morin, Elsie Coon, Isabelle Verdin, Colleen Ouellette, Grace Marquis, and Janet Hughes manned the phones, 2 or 3 at a time, and unfortunately due to space problems at the distribution site, only 30 requests could be accommodated. The volunteers were forced to refer the additional 6-8 clients to the main Food Bank. From 1:30 to 2:15 another crew of volunteers - Albert de Vos, Garnet Thomas, Nicki Stein, Maxine Baker, Linda and Kendall Hauca, Janet W. Clark, Ian Inglis, and Pat Stewart - came to unload the 15kg boxes, sometimes up to 75 boxes, from the Food Bank truck and carry them to the narthex, a new distribution site, where the hampers were given out. During Christmas week, the R-W staff decided to donate a Christmas hamper, with gifts, to one of our food bank clients instead of exchanging gifts with each other. A young Mexican family living near the church benefited from their generosity.

Magic Pantry - The need for the bagged lunches distributed at the door of the church remains very high. 1,114 lunches were handed out at a cost of \$2,197.11. The average per month was 93, at a cost of \$1.97 per bag which consists of ready to eat items such as juice boxes, crackers and cheese, etc. Most of the recipients are homeless, without a home address so unable to access the Food Bank. The need seems to be highest in the summer months, and we are most grateful to Carmen Emmott, Gail de Vos, and Brad Campbell for their assistance with this program.

The Bissell Sandwich Program - This neat and fun food program was headed up by Gail de Vos. Her competitive sandwich builders built 525 loaves of meat and cheese sandwiches during 8 weeks in May and June, while having a good time socializing with each other. Gail and Albert de Vos purchased supplies and delivered the sandwiches to the Bissell Centre. Bread supplies from McGavin's seemed less available so numbers are a bit lower this year. These sandwiches are but a small part of Bissell's attempt to supply sandwiches and a hot drink to their clients each day of the year. Thank you to all the wonderful sandwich builders. We will need you again in '10.

Operation Friendship - During the summer months, June through September, we provided four hot noon meals, serving an average of 140 inner city seniors each time at the Boyle McCauley Seniors Drop-in Centre at a cost of \$100 per dinner. R-W bakers provided delicious cakes for dessert. Elsie Coon, Lois Ford, and Karen Hansen (who never missed one) handled the major serving tasks, and thank you to the others who assisted. This project has a history with us going back 15 or 20 years.

Refugee Program - We still receive occasional requests from refugees living in Edmonton for assistance with sponsoring refugee families, but have decided again this year to assist refugees already in Edmonton with settlement needs. We have donated \$75 per month to the Karen (Burmese) group which meets weekly at the Mennonite Centre for language assistance, homework help, and social activities, to assist them with sandwiches etc. at these gatherings. We also collected clothes for a new Karen family who arrived this year.

Helen Mack Bequest - In her will, Helen Mack generously donated approximately \$80,000 to fund Outreach projects at Robertson-Wesley, specifically the Community Dinner program but not limited to that program. In late 2009, the "Helen Mack Outreach Fund" finally became available to the church, and it is hoped that the income from this fund will continue to keep Community Dinners, as well as our other outreach projects running for many years to come. The Outreach Committee is responsible for distributing the Fund. The Outreach Committee is very thankful, to Helen Mack, and to all the many volunteers who with their donations and labour have made our programs so successful.

Lois Field, for the Outreach Committee

Norma Johnson, Gail de Vos, Janice Lacapra, Evelyn Beveridge, George and Lois Ford, Elsie Coon, Janet Hughes, Bart McCaughey, Brad Warkentin

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN REPORT

Again, the UCW had a warm, interesting and challenging year living up to its aims of fellowship, learning and fund-raising. We met the second Tuesday of each month, with a devotional, program and tea.

We had two catered lunches, in June and December. The programs included:

- Diane McIntyre speaking on the Tanbur Aid Society which helps educators in Tanzania and Burundi
- Donna Krucik and Carole Treasure leading a program on "The Empire and First Nations."
- Rosemary Dunbar showing slides of China of the 1980's
- Gayle Huston showing pictures of her trip to Turks and Caicos
- Members telling stories of their families coming to Canada from the British Empire
- Lorna Berlinguette presenting a power point of her trip to Pre-Olympic China
- At the Thank Offering Mike Ryan telling of his initiating Clean Scene, a proactive program to keep young people off Edmonton Streets as well as to mentor drug addicts.
- Larry Wright presenting a power point of Afghanistan and his ministry there
- The St. Albert Retired Teachers Choir singing interspersed with Christmas readings organized by Pauline Wellsman

We raised money in a number of ways: monthly donations, a Thank Offering, catering, bake sales and calendar sales. All the proceeds are donated to worthy causes.

Special mention should be made of the Catering Committee chaired by Donna Krucik with at least six very hard-working members. They catered at six memorial luncheons, giving great support to grieving families and friends and at five other events.

In February of 2009 we donated a total of \$3,000.00 to charity.

- \$1,000 to Mission and Service of UCW Presbyterial M & S
- \$1,000 to the Robertson-Wesley sanctuary floor
- \$250 to the George Spady Centre
- \$250 to Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation (E4C)
- \$250 to Inner City Pastoral Ministry
- \$150 to Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action
- \$100 to Jellinek House

In May we sent \$400 to Bissell Camperships and in June another \$2,000 to UCW Presbyterial M & S. After the Fall Thank Offering, half the money raised was forwarded to UCW Presbyterial M & S and half to Clean Scene.

It has been a pleasure and honour to work with the women of Robertson-Wesley United Church.

Sincerely,

Lorna Berlinguette, Chair

AFFIRMING COMMITTEE REPORT

2009 marked another milestone in Robertson-Wesley's long history as a welcoming and inclusive congregation. At a special congregational meeting held in March, members voted to seek official recognition as an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada. A wonderful celebration of Affirming took place during the June 7 worship service, followed by a luncheon featuring rainbow cupcakes! Representatives from other Affirming congregations in Edmonton participated in the service and welcomed Robertson-Wesley to the growing circle of Affirming ministries across Canada.

The new Affirming Committee began working in June by defining its terms of reference, which include the following objectives: 1) To perform a supportive role to existing congregational structures to achieve the objectives of the Statement of Welcome and Inclusion; 2) To identify and respond to the need for further education, programming, or other initiatives in the area of inclusiveness; and 3) To ensure that all parts of the life of Robertson-Wesley United Church are carried on in an inclusive and affirming manner.

At the request of the R-W Board, the Affirming committee organized Safe Harbour training (www.safeharbour.ca) for staff and interested members of the congregation, and looks forward to further Affirming initiatives in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Ouellette and Glen Warren, co-chairs

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT

Robertson-Wesley United Church: *Spirited*

Hardly a day goes by without volunteers at our church planning, setting up, or a volunteer opportunity happening at Robertson-Wesley. Many of us are involved in one or more activities here at our church. What a celebration of our many gifts!

This year has seen the development of our Volunteer Opportunity Box in the Bulletin insert, the stream lining of our bulletin board in Memorial Hall, the connecting of R-W people willing to volunteer with the chairs of the many committees and activities. In May we had a Saturday Volunteer Appreciation celebration. All in all, I think the communication with, and the support of the Volunteer Coordinator, has improved.

Over the course of 2009, the Volunteer Coordinator position continued to evolve. As we strive to meet the needs of the R-W Board, staff and committee members, there continues to be discussion around the duties of the Volunteer Coordinator. But the most important part is that all are committed to this position and the role that can be played here at Robertson-Wesley.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Carmen Emmott, Office Administrator, Brad Campbell, Custodian, and Jenna Hohmann, Door Monitor, who take our many calls, e-mails, questions, and bookings. And who make sure things are ready for us when we need it. It truly takes a team to keep Robertson-Wesley United Church *SPIRITED*.

Submitted by,

Jill Lambie

PROPERTY REPORT

The property committee is responsible for the maintenance and operation of our 100 year old historic church. The committee is a dedicated and hard working group that works together and on their own to keep our building operating. The members of the committee include Don Thomas, Karen Hansen, Albert DeVos, Louis Berlingette, Morris Treasure, Rosemary Dunbar, Arnold Maki and Jack Waters. This group deserves a big thanks for the many hours they have volunteered for us. I would also like to thank the outgoing chair of the property committee Jim Triscott. Jim spearheaded many of the projects at R-W, including the renovation of the floors and organized the moving of the service to the memorial hall when the floor renovation was being done. Jim was chair of M&P and had a full time job as well. Thanks Jim.

I mentioned the floors. The sanctuary floors were strengthened, the carpet was replaced and the hard wood was refinished. The chapel had the carpet replaced and narthex had the floor replaced. The design was done by Garnet Thomas. Thanks Garnet.

Louis Berlinguette and his group of many volunteers, took the screens off the basement windows, fixed the broken windows and repainted them. This was done for the cost of the paint. It is sure nice to have people in our congregation who will do this kind of work for us. Thank you.

Karen looked after fire alarms, and Louis and Don worked on the lawn and flower gardens with others. We have great team in property.

Brad Campbell needs special recognition. He makes our church operate. He has kept our church clean, painted, and maintained. He saved us so much money in maintenance this year. He is always looking for ways to keep the church in top notch condition on a fixed budget.

In 2010, we hope to fix the concrete stairs and rails on the alley side of the church. We hope to pay for this through donations from the congregation and grants from the City of Edmonton Historic Agency. We plan on re-leading and fixing another stained glass window this year with the help of a donation from the flower group. We will continue to maintain the building to keep it safe and clean.

Blessings to all from the Property Committee

Jack Waters
Chair

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

In June Jack Waters was asked to switch from Chairing the Stewardship Committee to Property. Board Chair Sylvia Duffus and minister Jim Allan worked out a plan for the Fall Stewardship Visitation program. A small group of volunteer visitors agreed to be part of the program this year. A training session was set up and attended by a number in this group. Each was assigned 5 people to visit. The visitors reported by e-mail on the results of their visits. An evaluation of this program will take place in early 2010. A proposal for a revised Stewardship Committee is being considered under a new Stewardship Chair in 2010.

Submitted by,

Sylvia Duffus and Jim Allan

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

This has been a GREAT year for the Membership Committee! While we lost Morris Treasure to the position of Vice-Chair, we did gain his wife Carole who joined Brenda Sheppard, Dode Heule, Isabelle Verdin, Susan Hutson and Gail deVos.

We held two Newcomer's Breakfasts – one in April and one in October. So far, we have welcomed 41 newcomers to our church and the number is still growing. For each breakfast, we ask a different committee to attend along with staff members and during the breakfast, we have everyone stand and give a little "bio" of themselves. Information packages are then given out to each newcomer detailing church programs, upcoming events, and ways in which they can volunteer at the church.

Each member of the committee takes turns in assisting the Minister with baptisms, confirmations, transfers, and re-affirmations. This year there were a total of eight baptisms, nine transfers, eight re-affirmations, and nine confirmations.

We are also responsible for staffing the Visitor's Table each Sunday in the Narthex with the help of members of the congregation. Visitors are asked to fill out a card which is then given to the Minister for a follow-up call. We also appreciate the help of Ron Soans and Pauline Wellsman of the Newcomer's Team. They approach newcomers who have signed in at the table, speak with them, invite them for fellowship after church, and ensure they are introduced to a Minister and also someone from the Membership Committee. This is a group effort, and we truly value Ron and Pauline's help.

Our committee is also "trying" to update the Church Membership Roll by entering written data into the computer. This is a very slow, labour intensive job and someday, we will have it done.

Our committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm, and we welcome anyone who would like to join with us.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2010 with many new people coming to our church.

Submitted by

Brenda Sheppard, Chair of the Membership Committee

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL REPORT

On June 11th, 2009, I agreed to chair the Ministry and Personnel (M & P) Committee for the church as the previous chair had resigned. The first 2 to 3 months were a steep learning curve for me as I spent my time reviewing files, documents, and United Church policies, primarily as they pertained to the M & P work of Robertson-Wesley United Church (R-WUC).

M & P is a confidential, consultative standing committee of the Board. Members of M & P are appointed by the Board to work closely with both R-WUC ministerial and church staff and to provide a liaison between them and the congregation.

The current members of M & P include myself, Patrik Foff, Eric Sauze, and Wilson MacLennan. Since I assumed the chairmanship, we have held two meetings; one in September and other in November 2009.

At the September 2009 meeting, we discussed how we would work together as a team and how we could ensure that both the staff and the congregation would feel welcome to discuss concerns with our committee. We also decided which committee member would work closely with which staff member.

In November 2009, I reported on the M & P workshop I had attended along with approximately 45 other M & P members from the Presbytery. We also discussed what M & P would like included in the Robertson-Wesley Board Manual; this was subsequently discussed with the Board. In addition, we discussed a proposal to reduce the summer working hours of the church office starting in July and August 2010. The church office would be open from 9 am to 1 pm Monday through Friday. This suggestion will be proposed to the Board for approval in January 2010.

As you probably know, the M & P Committee deals with many personal and confidential matters. It is our intent to ensure that the staff and the congregation know they can bring appropriate concerns to our attention and that we will work diligently to resolve them while ensuring that the integrity and confidentiality of all parties is maintained.

Respectfully submitted,

David Beckman
Chair M & P

SENIORS' CARE REPORT

The Seniors' Care Committee is a small committee under the very capable leadership of our chair, Sheila Sunley. This committee relates to the needs of the seniors in the congregation.

We have several major projects through the year. Most importantly, we oversee the distribution of the elements to shut-ins for Home Communion. This happens twice a year – in the spring near Easter and in October. At Christmas time, we have the Great Christmas Visitation where we ask volunteers to visit people who are no longer able to get to church. A kit is prepared with a Christmas card, prayer, and any other information that might be interesting to them, like the newsletter. We very much appreciate the Robertson-Wesley members who volunteer to take communion to our shut-in members and who participate in the Great Christmas Visitation. The committee holds a tea at Canterbury Court every spring. Congregation members are very generous with their time and baking to make this a success. The residents seem to look forward to this event, and we have a full house every year. We also have a tea at Rosedale, usually in September, for our Robertson-Wesley members there. That's a smaller event but, nonetheless, just as important. We appreciate all Hazel Dolphin's assistance with this and, on behalf of Robertson-Wesley, her ongoing contact with the folks at Rosedale.

The committee held a strawberry Social in June of 2009. Although it was not as well attended as we would have liked, it was still a happy time.

During the year, cards are sent to members who are ill, bereaved, or “thinking of you” cards. We also send cards for the first anniversary of couples who have been married at Robertson-Wesley.

We would like to thank all the people who volunteered and helped the committee with their projects. We are a small committee and could not do the projects we do without your help. We would also like to especially thank Tammy-Jo for her musical contribution at the Canterbury Tea and at the Strawberry Social.

Submitted on behalf of the Seniors’ Care Committee,

Marjorie Howard, Secretary

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

As I write this on Christmas Day, I’m still reflecting on the beauty of last night’s Christmas Eve Choral Service and I’d like to start by thanking the people who work so hard to bring us not only that service, but all the services throughout the year. This includes our ministry team: Jim Allen, James Ravenscroft for the first half of the year and Heather Koots for the last few months; our Director of Music Tammy-Jo Mortensen; and the very important support staff: Carmen Emmott, Brad Campbell and Jenna Hohmann. Then there’s the choir, and bells, and the many guest musicians who add so much to our worship. Also not to be forgotten are the scripture readers, the communion servers, and the ushers and greeters and people who spend the time to ensure all these jobs are done every week. There’s also the Flower Group who ensure the sanctuary is always graced by beautiful flowers. And the host of other volunteers who help in so many ways – serving refreshments, counting offerings, maintaining the building and doing all the other jobs that keep a large and busy church functioning. In particular, I would like to thank the past and present members of the Worship Committee for all of their help and support this year. Past members include former chair, Nancy Heule, who still provides strong leadership in adult education, Norma Johnston, who, among many other tasks, organized the scripture readers, and Matthew Miller, who organized the ushers and greeters. Current members include our secretary, Heather Etsell, Jill Lambie and Susan Hutson, who organize the communion services, Cheryl Ullah, who has taken over the job of organizing scripture readers, and Karen Hansen and Donna Krucik, who fill in ably wherever they are needed. Thanks also to Gary and Joan Pecknold for taking over the job of ensuring we have ushers and greeters every week.

Thinking back over my first year as Chair of Worship, there have been a few downs (such as losing James Ravenscroft) and a few ups (such as gaining, if only temporarily, Heather Koots). There were several highlights, including some beautiful and meaningful Easter and Christmas services, lots of wonderful music, the fun services in the Memorial Hall while the sanctuary was being renovated, and, of course, the wonderful celebration of Robertson Presbyterian’s 100th Anniversary (and I would be very remiss in not giving special thanks to all who helped plan that service and, in particular, Karen Hansen, who organized the hospitality and Tammy-Jo Mortensen and Heather Etsell, who organized the publicity). And there was much learning, both in the formal sense through sessions like the Saving Jesus seminar and in learning what it takes to organize a worship service (who would have thought it included things like pandemic precautions).

Looking forward to next year, there are many exciting things on the horizon. Nancy Heule is following up last year's Saving Jesus seminars and the book study of *The Shack* with Ecological Christianity starting in January, and there are more educational opportunities in the works. We are instituting a Sermon Reflections process which will give all members of the congregation a chance to learn about and have input into the process of developing the weekly sermon – watch your bulletins for dates and times. And there's another important anniversary to plan for – January 2011 is the 40th anniversary of the formation of Robertson-Wesley United Church and a big party is definitely called for.

All in all, it should be another interesting and rewarding year.

Shauna Scott
Chair,
Worship Committee

MISSION AND SERVICE REPORT

Many people contributed to the success of the M & S campaign this year. Glen Warren ably took over any fund raiser to do with baking: Muffin Mania, the Cake Walk and the gigantic Cookie Craze to which so many contributed so much. Thanks to the many, many people who baked cookies. Surely, we'll never have record-breaking low temperatures. But we still raised almost \$800.00

Tammy-Jo, our cheerful organist, organized the Victorian Tea and recital, with Glen, Clara Dyck and others producing dainties to die for in the interludes between beautiful singing.

Thanks to Lorne Langman and Lois Field. The School Boys' Alumni Band enlivened a Sunday afternoon with a great variety of music.

And the live auction was again fun, fulfilling the needs of many people and letting us all work together.

Garden lovers took the tour bus to the homes of the Stewarts, Berlinguettes, Langmans, Lois Field and a non-congregation plant enthusiast. And let's not forget Pennies from Heaven in Advent and Lent.

What is particularly heart-warming is that so many in the congregation participated in one way or another not only to enjoy themselves but to contribute to the betterment of those in Edmonton, Canada and the world. And that's what Mission and Service is all about. It's about looking beyond ourselves to those less fortunate.

How do we raise [the money](#)? Now our pledge cards have two blanks, one for general contributions, one for M and S. It is vitally important to pledge to M and S because, always, the majority of our givings comes from pledges. Secondly, we have the opportunity to give on Communion Sundays. We hear a Minute for Mission the week before, detailing examples of where the money goes. And thirdly, we fund-raise. All are necessary to fulfill our mission.

Let's put M & S over the top.

Thank you,

M & S Chair

Lorna Berlinguette

KOINONIA REPORT

Koinonia (meaning “**fellowship**” in Greek) has been an alternate worship service at Robertson-Wesley United Church, held monthly from September to June.

Each service emphasizes informality, fellowship, and lay leadership. Koinonia’s proud **43 year** history has certainly been unique among Edmonton area United Churches and for many years has been instrumental in developing the knowledge and confidence of individual members required to express our faith.

Teams of 3 to 5 leaders plan and lead the services. In the past, we have received ministerial support and encouragement. The services allow for lay expression of contemporary spiritual themes and the friendships that have developed from these shared responsibilities. While the Koinonia group has changed somewhat over the last few years, we do continue to play an essential part in the overall Robertson-Wesley United Church community. Our 2009 to 2010 schedule of worship and other events was as follows.

January 23, 24, & 25, 2009	Theme: Irish (It was a big weekend for the wee folk)
February 22, 2009	Theme: Life’s Journeys
March 22, 2009	Theme: Lenten Table Conversation
April 12, 2009	Theme: Easter Sunrise Breakfast
May 24, 2009	Theme: Rooted and Built Up
June 28, 2009	Theme: Farewell to James (held at Stronach/DeRoche’s)
August 23, 2009	2009/2010 Planning session & barbeque
October 25, 2009	Theme: Food, Fish, & Thanksgiving
November 22, 2009	Theme: The Gift of Christmas
December 5, 2009	Annual Progressive Dinner
Friday, January 22 to Sunday, January 24, 2010	Rundle Mission weekend retreat at Pigeon Lake

We extend a personal invitation to all members of Robertson-Wesley United Church’s family to attend any of these services. We begin our services with a Potluck supper at 5:30 pm.

**Please contact either Joann Cooke (780-454-0170)
or Gary Pecknold (780-453-8003) for further information.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Pecknold

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

It has been an honour to represent Robertson-Wesley as your Presbytery representatives this year, and to meet and work with friends from other congregations in Edmonton Presbytery.

Presbytery consists of ministry personnel, both active and retired, as well as elected lay delegates from Pastoral charges. Presbytery's Ministry Support Committee under Sally Boyle approves calls, transfers and retirements, and oversees pastoral appointments in the Edmonton region. The Ministry Support report forms an important part of monthly Presbytery meetings which are hosted by the various churches and usually include delicious refreshments, occasionally a barbecue, lunch, or dinner. Meetings were held this year at Ottewell, Kirk, Knox-Metropolitan, McClure, and at Edmonton Garrison, the latter hosted by Larry Wright.

In October there was an all day session at the newly opened Spirit West (formerly Gilchrist) Church, which was dedicated by Presbytery in April, the first new Edmonton church in many years. Many of us also attended the installation of James Ravenscroft at St. Albert United, and Bruce Miller at Garneau United, as well as the Alberta and Northwest Conference meeting, held this year in Sherwood Park May 22 – 24. Edmonton Presbytery sent two delegates to General Council in Kelowna in August - ministry delegate Denise Davis-Taylor and lay delegate Jill Spaner, both from St. Paul's. Denise also attended a "Parliament of the World Religions" in Australia in December, to which Presbytery sponsored two delegates, one being a native elder, to give a presentation on Aboriginals in Canada. Some other activities of Presbytery were

- * The 2010 budget was passed, with an overall 8% increase in assessments.

- * Approval of the "New Possibilities report in February. Later, in October, the Governance section was reviewed by Dan Hotchkiss, who produced the report and gave some interesting insights into Board governance. This is an important statement on the future of our church, and can be read on the Presbytery website – www.uccedm.org/. Churches are urged to include this website in church calendars, so that congregations can learn what is happening in the wider church. Church events can be publicized there as well.

- * Ministry Education Committee under Linda Gow, supervises ministry students both ordained and non-ordained.

- * Chaplains Ken Morris and Betty Marlin both retired this year after many years service to Presbytery members' pastoral needs. The search is on for new chaplains to do the important work of pastoral care for members of Presbytery and retired ministers and their spouses.

- * Shelley Williams, Executive Director of Bissell Centre, spoke about the Edmonton Committee to End Homelessness, which produced a report entitled "Edmonton 10 year Plan to End Homelessness – A Place to Call Home." A video was produced depicting several hard to house people who were given apartments in Edmonton and helped with adjustment to living indoors. A copy of the video was given to each Church Cluster Group.

- * Supported the Sacred Space Project through a presentation by Louis Cardinal and Will Campbell. Edmonton has a large native population of about 60,000 people, and aboriginal elders have approached the city to access a land area that can be used as Kici Aski Sacred Land, a space for cultural and ceremonial activities in the city (not pow-wows). Fox Farm has been suggested.

- * Presentation by Royal Alex Manager of Supportive Care Rev. Dr. Neil Elford on the slashing of hospital chaplaincy programs. Letters have been sent by Presbytery to our Government and Opposition leaders outlining the impact of recent staff cuts on supportive care services in hospitals and requesting an investigation into why Dr. Elford's position was abolished by Alberta Health Services.

* With Presbytery's support, Spirit West United opened its doors early in the year, and had its official opening in April, the first United Church to be built in Edmonton in 13 years.

*Presentation on the history of the annual Church Nut Drives in support of camp programs.

*Interfaith and intercultural activities. Rev. Don Mayne received the Monsignor Irwin Award from Catholic Social Services for his work in this area.

* Some churches received loans for church repairs or renovations.

* Participation in various Joint Needs Assessment or Joint Search Committees.

* In June the new executive was installed. Rev. Don Koots, Chair. Donna Krucik will look after Heritage Resources. In December, Virginia Sauve tendered her resignation as the Chair of the Communications Committee after close to four years in this role.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Field, Virginia Sauve, Ann Thomas, and Margery Wright.