

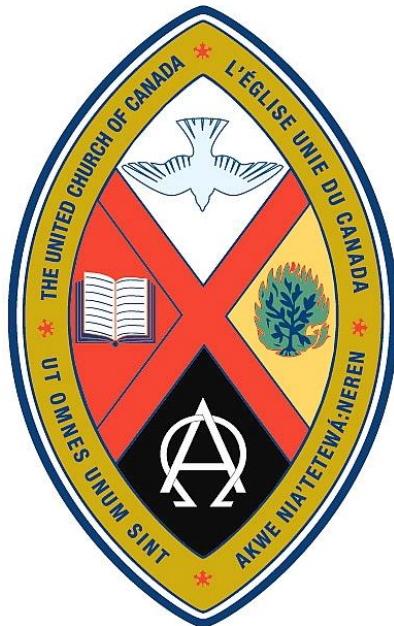


2018

Robertson-Wesley Annual Report

Budget Information Session
Sunday, February 3, 2019

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 10, 2019



Minister of Congregation and
Community Development:
Minister of Spiritual and
Pastoral Care Development:
Director of Music:
Office Administrator:
Facility Manager:
Financial Manager:
Event Assistants:

Rev. Karen J. Bridges

Rev. Leigh Sinclair
Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Elyse Munro

Brad Campbell

Garth van Herwaarden

Roderick Mamita

Richard Kennedy

Rhea Sola

Choral Morphosis Assistant:

Felicia Drever

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Trustees of Robertson-Wesley United Church	2
2018 Statistics	2
Minutes: Annual Congregational Meeting	2
Official Robertson-Wesley Church Board	4
Common Themes Unite Programming	4
Minister of Congregation and Community Development	6
The Minister of Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Care Development	7
Office Administrator	8
Director of Music	8
Communications	10
Catering Ministry.....	11
Discernment, Envisioning, and Policy Pod (DEAP)	11
Family Ministry Committee.....	12
Fellowship	13
Fundraising.....	14
Koinonia Worship.....	15
Ministry and Personnel	16
Men’s Group	17
Mission and Outreach Pod.....	17
Mission and Service	18
Edmonton Presbytery and Alberta Northwest Conference.....	19
Nominations Committee.....	20
Outreach Committee	20
Property	22
Spirited Arts Movement.....	22
Spiritual Formation Pod	24
Stewardship Committee	25
Treasurer	25
UCW & Friends.....	26
The Wesley and Clarke Funds	27
Worship Committee.....	29
Ushers & Greeters.....	30

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, Sylvia Duffus, Lorne Langman, Ray McCall, Vital Ouellette, Allison Seymour, Bud Squair, Karen Hansen

2018 Statistics

Average Sunday Morning Attendance:

January	170
February	171
March	108
April	215
May	159
June	126
July	91
August	106
September	153
October	170
November	175
December	171

Confirmations	4
Reaffirmations	3
Transfers	3
Baptisms	11
Funeral/Memorial Services*	23
Weddings*	20

* For services performed both at Robertson-Wesley and offsite.

Minutes: Annual Congregational Meeting
Robertson-Wesley United Church
February 11, 2018, 12:00PM

DRAFT MINUTES

Chair: Michelle Salomons

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Call to Order	Michelle Salomons welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order	

2. Invocation	Rev. Leigh Sinclair opened the meeting with a prayer and a call to Holy Manners.	
3. Opening Hymn	<i>Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives</i> (More Voices #6)	
4. Act of Remembrance	Rev. Karen Bridges and Rev. Leigh Sinclair read the names of who died in 2017 and lead us in prayer.	
5. MOTION to allow adherents be allowed to vote:	MOTION: Felicia Drever moved that adherents be allowed to vote at the 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting. Seconded by Roy Skoreyko. Motion Carried.	
6. Approval of Agenda	MOTION: Gary Pecknold moved to accept the agenda for the 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved as presented. Seconded by Betty Squair. Motion Carried.	
7. Approval of the 2017 Meeting Minutes	MOTION: Richard Kennedy moved to approve the meeting minutes for the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting held on February 12, 2017. Seconded by Lois Field. Motion Carried.	
8. Approval of Annual Report 2017	MOTION: Lea Callebaut moved to accept the 2017 Annual Report as printed. Seconded by Mike Wolfer. Motion Carried.	
9. Motion to accept 2017 financial statements	MOTION: Donna Chmielewski moved the acceptance of the 2017 financial statements as audited year ending December 31, 2017. Seconded by Roy Skoreyko. Motion Carried.	
10. Motion to accept 2018 budget.	MOTION: Donna Chmielewski moved the approval of the 2018 Annual Budget as presented. Seconded by Karen Hansen. Motion Carried.	
11. Appointment of Auditors	MOTION: Chris Gowers moved to continue using Ellis Group to audit Financial Statements. Seconded by Colleen Ouellette. Motion Carried.	
12. Recognition of Retired Official Members	Darren Neigel (Secretary) Ron Soans (Past Chair) Geoff Anderson (Presbytery)	
13. Election of 2018 of Official Board Members and Trustees	MOTION: John Fleming moved to accept Donna Chmielewski as Treasurer, Paul Verdin as Secretary, Gary Pecknold, Joan Pecknold, Tricia Lee Wasmund and Felicia Drever as Presbytery representatives. Seconded by Betty Squair. Motion Carried.	
14. New Business	A brief outline of the new United Church structural changes that may come to pass in 2019 was given.	
15. Closing Hymn	Praise With Joy the World's Creator VU #312 (1, 4)	
16. Benediction	Rev. Karen Bridges offered some closing remarks.	
17. Adjournment	MOTION: Colleen Graves moved to close the Annual Congregational Meeting. Adjourned. 1:20 pm	

Michelle Salomons, Chair

Darren Neigel, Secretary

Robertson-Wesley United Church
Official Annual Congregational Meeting
February 11, 2018
12:00 p.m.

Official Robertson-Wesley Church Board

It has been a pleasure to serve as chair of the Robertson-Wesley Board for the year 2018. I am thankful to our board members for their hard work and dedication. We are very blessed to have so many kind, caring and capable people willing to serve. I am also very thankful for the hard work of our many volunteers and our pod leaders and committee members. Our wonderful staff; Ministers, Administrator, Facilities Manager, Director of Music, Financial Manager and Events Staff continue to do the work to help us grow and thrive.

We are so fortunate to have welcomed so many new faces to our church again this year. As we grow and add new members, we can do more things and share new ideas. It is exciting to see new members come, feel welcomed and want to call Robertson-Wesley United Church their place of worship.

We also remember those of our congregation who have passed away this year. We continue to feel their presence in our midst as we continue the work they have started. When we gather and share caring, kindness and friendship, we can feel the Holy Spirit is present. I am grateful for the continued financial support from our members to support our mission to do the work of Christ.

As a board, we added an anti-bullying policy and the conflict of interest policy to our leadership manual. These new policies along with the document called, Holy Manners and our Duty of Care policy are in the leadership manual for the church and available to any member upon request.

We said farewell to Edmonton Presbytery this year and welcome the Northern Spirit Regional Council. Each year, in March, we have a fundraising planning meeting to schedule the fundraisers for the year. Please plan to attend if you have a fundraising idea you would like to present.

It has been an honour to serve as your chair this year and I look forward to serving as Past Chair for 2019. Our acting incoming chair for 2019 is John Fleming. Special thanks to Michelle Salomons for serving an extended term as chair and past chair. Her guidance and support has been invaluable and deeply appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Graves,
Chair, Robertson- Wesley Official Board

Common Themes Unite Programming

Many of you have noticed that since September 2018 the worship, education, spiritual formation, and outreach programming have explored monthly themes. Even the display window outside Memorial Hall and the sanctuary environment shifts month to month (sometimes week to week!)

These themes, which will continue until June 2019, have been inspired by this year's (Year C) Lectionary Scriptures; what the staff and Pods have been hearing from individuals and groups; as well as issues and themes coming from both our local neighbours and the wider United Church of Canada. They were woven into worship by Karen Bridges, Tammy-Jo Mortenson and Leigh Sinclair at the annual worship planning meeting and broadened to include workshops, anthems and both adult and children's learning programming.

In September, we began by reminding ourselves of and re-committing to our Holy Manners and our Statement of Welcome and Inclusion. We celebrated that we are a Christian community and share a common life where all the pieces of faith come together and we can practice being the children of God we are created to be! You may have been challenged to ponder safe practices at a workshop or to commit to practicing more patience during worship.

In October, led by our Stewardship Committee, we sought to become First Responders...to God's call! You may have experienced this call at the workshop Mapping our Faith Journey (led by Laura David Foster and hosted by the Spiritual Formation Pod) or by making your pledge to give to Robertson-Wesley financially in 2019.

In November, we explored Eldership and were inspired by elders and children connecting as friends and mentors for our faith journey. As a Christian community, we honour our elders and teachers through listening, accompanying and sharing our gratitude. You may have listened to our Indigenous Elder Evelyn Day (in a circle hosted by the Mission and Outreach Pod) or purchased a poinsettia to honour a loved one in your life.

In December, we entered Advent challenging ourselves to make space in our lives for God to be reborn in hope, peace, joy and love. We physically emptied our worship space to explore spiritually making room for Christ and we also emptied the display window for a time. You may have come to a Contemplative Practices evening which focused on spiritual practices of Slowing Down (hosted by Spirited Arts Movement) or gone house to house with Koinonia eating and singing.

2019

Inspired by our journey so far together we embark into 2019 by exploring the theme Acceptance. We are seeking to accept ourselves and others. As a Christian community we are called to explore what it means when God said and still says: IT IS GOOD! All is whole when perceived through God's heart.

In January, the display window was full of new language about the spectrums of Gender Identity and Sexuality. Worship included stories from members in a newly begun tradition called "Moment of Holy Honesty." The Men's Group and Food for Thought groups look at the scandalous stories in the Bible.

In February, we will enter into more awkward conversations, this time about diversity, power and privilege (a workshop will be hosted by the Mission and Outreach Pod) and acknowledging racism and inequality while celebrating our differing but amazing gifts from God. Are you ready to ask the awkward questions and enter dialogue?

In March, as a Christian community, we will seek out faith, the infinite frontier and the rituals of the Christian Faith. Our continuing mission: to explore God's new world, to seek out justice and serve others, to boldly pray, following where Christ has gone before. How will you engage?

The Season of Easter (April) we will celebrate Christ the Revealer of beauty in all peoples. As a Christian community we are invited to name our own needs, to help others fill their needs and to celebrate our diversity. This means our church "looks" different than it did last year, last century, last millennia. Are you ready for what Christ has revealed and is revealing?

And in this revelation of Grace, we will complete our journey by reveling in the Spirit for June! We will revel in the Spirit through prayer, practice and praise. We will celebrate all we have learned in the past year and prepare our hearts and minds for the recreation of summer. Are you ready to unleash the Spirit?

Theme titles for the program year:

- Holy Pieces
- Becoming First Responders...To God's Call
- Honouring Elders
- Making Space
- Acceptance
- Awkwardness, power and privilege
- Enter, Exercise, Engage in Rituals
- Christ the Revealer
- Revel in the Spirit

Minister of Congregation and Community Development

The word that I associate with this year is RESPOND. The Stewardship theme, *Become a First Responder to...God's call*, has been lived out well by the congregation and the community that we serve. Over the past year we have received notes and messages from people who live in the community expressing gratitude for how much they appreciate the outreach ministry we provide as a congregation to people in the community. They are thankful for our bag lunch program, and some have sent money to support this ongoing ministry. People are grateful for the opportunity to care for their bodies, minds and spirits through yoga, the Spirited Arts programs, and Community Dinner for example, and people from the community are also more than willing to respond through volunteering.

The Spirit is alive and well, and working in mysterious ways. Robertson-Wesley continues to be a safe space for all people to re-engage their faith, find faith, and live out their faith in ways that fit for each individual. Our message that "if you are here, then you are a member" surprises people and is very welcomed. All that we require is your presence, we trust God to do the rest.

It says in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
And there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
And there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God
Who activates all of them in everyone.*

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

People are responding by getting involved. Each week someone tries something new, and offers their services to help with the mission and outreach of the church. Each week a new friendship is made, and someone feels less isolated. Each week we witness acts of kindness both within and outside this building. That is the Spirit at work!

Some highlights this year for me are as follows:

- Watching children choose and connect with an elder in our congregation, the smile from the elder when chosen, and the development of this new friendship.
- Hearing the stories of people in the congregation who had strangers come to their aid.
- Working with the Summer Admin Student as we planned and created the program year.
- The creation of the Anti-bullying and conflict of interest statement.
- The Community BBQ's
- God on Tap at the Nook Cafe
- The learning at the workshop that explored the movie Indian Horse, and the Eldership Workshop, and mapping our faith journey.

We received 2 grants - one from *The United Church of Canada Foundation* that provides us with money to offer free art therapy to residents at *Canterbury* which we believe will address issues of isolation, end of life journey and meaning in the last stage of life. The other grant is from *The New Church Development Fund* and allows us to offer full-time staff support to the *Affirming Ministry* in Edmonton. We have been granted money to pay for a full-time person along with rent for office space for 2 years with the possibility of further funding. This position will reach out to the LGBTQ2+ community and agencies that seek to support this community. The position will also help other Edmonton congregations in the *Affirming* process when requested.

We also began to explore new ways of living out our statement of Welcome and Inclusion through the introduction of Mutual Invitation and Allyship. The act of inviting, invitation, is a way of giving away power. "Accepting an invitation is a way to claim power." Hospitality and inclusion will be most successful when we practice mutual invitation not assuming that each of us feel the same power. Allyship is a lifelong process of building relationships based on trust, consistency and accountability with marginalized individuals or groups of people.

These practices will help us live inclusively in our diversity here at Robertson-Wesley and in the world. As a church we need to continue to learn new practices which help us act with compassion and respect. As a church we need to shift our language and be mindful of assumptions that we make in order to live into the commandment that Jesus gave us, “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Let us continue to discern together what the Spirit is calling us to do.

Respectfully submitted by
Rev. Karen Bridges

The Minister of Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Care Development

I have been “getting my feet under me” at Robertson-Wesley this past year. My first full year among you has helped me see the plethora of ministry we do together and the possibilities that still abound in our community. I have experienced your strength of faith as you have loved one another in the midst of joy, sadness, and conflict. I am deeply grateful that at R-W we endeavour to be a caring community living into Holy Manners.

We have learned a lot this year together, leading us to the creation of new programs like *Food for Thought* and new policies like our anti-bullying practices. Learning has also taken place at workshops and retreats. *Membership* classes, always a highlight for me, included ‘new to faith’ Christians and experienced members – all seeking to know God more fully in their lives. The *Pastoral Visiting Training* retreat had another great year as 20 people came to learn to pray and care for others. As a whole congregation, we have explored forgiveness, listening to our elders and practicing other Holy Manners. The *R-W Library* was moved and renewed and is an amazing space to ponder, read and learn (thanks to Neil Rutherford for all his hard work)! I am deeply grateful to all who live into our anthem: to walk in the Spirit of Christ in this place: the spirit of learning!

Between the Aisles, our quarterly publication, is another way we share learning, insights, news and opinions. We have over 100 readers! I am grateful to be a part of its team of editors: Maria Adria, Janet Clark, Nancy Heule and Marilee Stevens. In 2018 we said, “thank you” to Tammy-Jo Mortensen and Tanya Eckenswiller for their faithful service and welcomed Elyse Munro (layout) and Lisa Fairweather (copy editor) to our circle.

We also walk in the Spirit of Christ: the spirit of caring and many of you have cared for others this year. Formally, about a dozen folks visit homebound people, on our behalf, bringing joy and hope to them as well as church news. Our Pastoral Visiting Coordinator, Tamara Wright, helps us keep track of these visits confidentially. Rev. Karen and I visit between 5-10 people a week, focusing on both emergent issues and ongoing care. We are deeply grateful for the wisdom and faith we hear at these visits.

Rev. Karen and I, with support from the *Ministry and Personnel Committee*, work together to set time apart for rest, leisure, prayer and study. This year, I undertook intentional study online (a clergy support circle learning about family systems and leadership), overseas (reading about Paul and walking in his footsteps in Ephesus, Corinth and Athens) and at home (doing two online courses, one on the Bible and one on Racism). I also needed a short medical leave – right in the midst of Lent and Holy Week! I am deeply grateful for a full recovery and for the strong and flexible staff who covered for me in the caring Spirit of Christ!

I write now from my heart and invite you to strive to wear “God’s wardrobe” this year, as Paul describes in Colossians. Please ask staff and other leaders for support in this endeavour. Please be gentle with yourselves, and one another, as we practice what may be new habits. Let us care for one another as we become the people God would have us be! And be thankful.

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord

has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.” Colossians 3: 12-17

Respectfully submitted by
Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Office Administrator

I come from a non-religious background so when I started at Robertson-Wesley in May of 2018, I didn't really know what to expect. All of my church connotations came from funerals attended as a child, television, and movies, I had a notion of judgemental priests, staunch congregations, pantyhose and uncomfortable dress shoes.

I arrived on the Sunday before my first shift to be introduced to the congregation, hoping I was dressed right for church. Should I have worn those pantyhose? I wondered, as I nervously approached the church doors. My fears were immediately allayed as I was greeted with a warm welcome, a smiling face and a hug! A congregation member, who didn't even know me and had no idea I was the new office administrator welcomed me with open arms and I quickly realized that my view of church was about to change.

It's hard to describe the community and staff here at R-W, but I think the following words sum it up well: Welcoming, Warm, Affirming, Open, Kind, Giving, Fun, Sarcastic, Smart, Creative, Empowering, Receptive, Humble, Non-Judgemental, Human.

This year I have helped to transform our website and have taken over updating it on a weekly basis. I have also begun to manage our various social media profiles and with the guidance of our team try to bring my secular voice and millennial perspective to our platforms in a way that will help make R-W more accessible to people like me, who might need to have their pre-conceived notions about church shaken-up.

My days consist of various administration and hospitality duties, too numerous to list here in great detail. R-W is a busy place and I love being surrounded by the vibrant people and lively programs that give this space it's feeling of warmth and community.

I am always working towards cutting costs where I can and so far I have reduced the cost on a few essential things such as business cards, giving envelopes, and our phone plan. With the help of Brad and Garth, we have refined the booking procedures, which has been beneficial not only operationally but also financially.

I am grateful to work at R-W in an environment where my voice is heard and I have a great deal of agency. I look forward to continuing to take on new exciting tasks and help R-W flourish.

Respectfully submitted by
Elyse Munro
Office Administrator

Director of Music

“...Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts....” Ephesians 5:18-19a

What a fantastic year of music-making at Robertson-Wesley United Church!

The **Choir of Robertson-Wesley** had the opportunity to sing a wide variety of music. We have continued our joint cooperation with the United on Whyte Choir and this year presented “Celtic Mass for the Sea” with Celtic band/orchestra as a service at United on Whyte and as a concert here at Robertson-Wesley, combined with a multi-media show of Peter Holmes’ “Water Portraits” photographs. As always we worked hard preparing music from Sunday to Sunday and for special occasions. For Holy Week and Easter this year the a cappella Córteet sang on Maundy Thursday, choir at Good Friday, instrumentalists at Easter Vigil and Brass and Choir on Easter Sunday. Some of the services with an abundance of music included Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve. Over the year in worship, the choir sang almost 100 anthems at approximately 35 services, and the choir participated in the videotaping of the episode of “The House of God”. Thanks to the section leaders for their strong musical and professional leadership: Claire Rolheiser, Julie Golosky, Casper Seely and Matthew McGuigan.

The choir was able to participate at events in the community many times last year including the Christmas Community Dinner and several choristers sang at the Christmas Bureau caroling at the Winspear Centre. Our section leads were very busy being hired for caroling gigs around town. With the R-W Music Society, we put on a very successful “Oscars” cabaret in January.

The choir was active in non-musical ways as well with the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, and social events hosted by Clara Dyck, Maria Adria & Leah Gramlich and Kathleen & Chris Gowers.

The **Robertson-Wesley Ringers** prepared diligently for each service this year. During this past year the R-W Ringers played at five Robertson-Wesley services. The R-W Ringers played a concert at Kiwanis Place in May, just before our lunchtime Sunday concert here at Robertson-Wesley on May 27. In December we also played at Residence St. Thomas and had a social gathering afterward. We were privileged to play some brand new compositions for bells, and we are particularly delighted with the wonderful composer we have in our midst, Betty Radford. The Ringers also served at the pancake supper and at coffee hour.

Nova Bells is now a 5 octave choir and we played for a few services last year and one Sunday at Spirit West United Church. We also played in May at Kiwanis Place and in December at Residence St. Thomas. We often have just a few of the Nova Bells add some sparkling bell tones to hymns, anthems, or other liturgical music in the service. It is wonderful to have a multi-generational group such as this at R-W!

The **Cantilon Choral Society** under the direction of Heather Johnson continues to be based at R-W, and provided music at eight of our services during the year, as well as filling the building with beautiful music and joyous energy during the week.

Our outreach choir, **Choral Morphosis**, continues to thrive and grow. Long-time director and founder of the program, Melissa Hladyshevsky has not returned after her maternity leave to the position of conductor, but is instead working behind the scenes administratively. We are thrilled that Rebecca Parsons has stayed on this year as conductor. Rebecca and pianist Pamela Graham have been hard at work teaching, inspiring, laughing, dancing and singing with the choir which has grown from about 3 people in its first year to close to 50, now into our 11th full year! A few years ago, they started a second group, Choral Arts, so that more advanced members are able to do some acting, musical theatre etc. This musical outreach ministry would not have been possible without the funding for the last several years through the Helen Mack Fund, and in the new year with assistance from the Wesley Trust Fund, and also the Robertson-Wesley Music Society, through two anonymous donors. Continue to pray for the choir as we continue to search out stable sources of funding. We presented a year-end concert in June and a Christmas concert in December, both at St. Timothy’s Anglican Church and sang at a service at Robertson-Wesley, one solo piece and one in combination with the Robertson-Wesley choir.

Special music was provided throughout the year, especially during the summer. On Easter Sunday we had the Pergolesi Brass quartet. During the year we had additional singers and instrumentalists including Belinda Chiang, Rob Clark, Jim Findlay, Mingmei Xu, Georgia Englot, Melisa Guilbeault, Ron Soans, Marilee Stephens, Dessislava Gavriolova, Córteet, Casper Seely, Julie Golosky, Amber Stefanyk, Matthew McGuigan, Andy Melson, Liz Faulkner, Dan Waldron, Suzanne Langor, David Mar, and Robin Doyon.

Thanks to all who provide music at special services during the year as well – at Koinonia, UCW, community dinners, hymn sings, teas, Canterbury services, and Soul OUTing. Many thanks to the volunteer singers and players who give generously of their time and talents, to all those who have contributed to the annual budget, the Music Endowment Fund, Special Music Fund, the Organ Restoration Fund, and the Robertson-Wesley Music Society. I'm deeply appreciative of the congregation for their strong support of the music program at Robertson-Wesley.

Founded in 1986, the Robertson-Wesley Music Society is a separate entity independent from R-W United Church - an incorporated society under the Alberta Societies Act. It has a constitution and by-laws and a volunteer board that operates the society. They file reports with the granting agencies, with Alberta registries and with Canada Revenue Agency to keep their charitable status.

Its aims and objectives as outlined in the founding documents are:

- to promote cultural events, specifically musical events, at Robertson-Wesley church
- to promote a high standard of handbell ringing, choral singing and musical performances

The music society operates through donations, fundraising, and ticket sales. The society also applies for grants, and monies from those grants, as stipulated by the granting agencies can only be used for concerts and public performances, not church services, as churches are not eligible for these grants.

All members of the music society benefit directly from the ability to perform in the community, to invite others to perform, and the community at large benefits from accessible (often free) music in their community.

Respectfully Submitted by
 Tammy-Jo Mortensen
 Music Director

Communications

2018 was a year of transitions in the Communications Role. Tammy-Jo stepped down from her role as Communications Coordinator and the role was temporarily split between Leigh, Tammy-Jo, Karen and Elyse. In the Fall of 2018, Elyse took over the communications role and maintenance of the website and social media pages. We continue to communicate through various media forms such as our website, R-W eNews, *Between the Aisles*, *YouTube*, *Facebook*, *Instagram*, and *Twitter*.

In 2019 we will be working to re-vamp our *YouTube* channel to harness the power of that medium and reach more of our community (and the world!) to spread the message and ministry of Robertson-Wesley.

As always we welcome submissions for our e-news and *Between the Aisles* publications, for more instructions visit our website at www.rwuc.org/publications. The deadlines and publication dates for 2019 are as follows:

e-News	Between the Aisles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March: deadline Feb20/ published March 1 • April: deadline March 13/ published April 1 • May: deadline April 25/ published May 1 • June: deadline May 24/ published June 1 • July: deadline June 26/ published July 1 • Aug: deadline July 26/ published Aug 1 • Sept: deadline Aug 27/ published Sept 1 • Oct: deadline Sept 26/ published Oct 1 • Nov: deadline Oct 25/ published Nov 1 • Dec: deadline Nov 25/ published Dec 1 	<p>2019 Lent Deadline for submissions: Feb. 10th, 2019. Release date: March 3, 2019.</p> <p>2019 Summer Deadline for submissions: May 19, 2019. Release date: June 16, 2019.</p> <p>2019 Fall Deadline for submissions: Aug. 11, 2019. Release date Sunday, September 8, 2019.</p> <p>2019 Advent Deadline for submissions: Oct. 27, 2019. Release date: Sunday, Nov 24, 2019.</p>

Respectfully Submitted by
 Elyse Munro

Catering Ministry

The Catering Ministry is a ministry of caring for grieving families who choose to hold a funeral or memorial service at Robertson-Wesley. At such a difficult time, it can be comforting to meet with other family members and caring friends after the service. The Catering Ministry offers its help by ordering food from an excellent caterer and serving it, along with beverages, to family and guests gathered in Memorial Hall.

The Catering Ministry's volunteers (both women and men) served six memorial luncheons in 2018, with net proceeds totaling \$1757.25. Continuing with the tradition established by the *United Church Women*, this money will be donated to The United Church of Canada's *Mission & Service* (\$900) and the *RW Kitchen Renovation* (\$857.25)

Respectfully Submitted by
Colleen Ouellette, coordinator

Discernment, Envisioning, and Policy Pod (DEAP)

The DEAP Pod is comprised of individuals from Robertson-Wesley who feel called to contribute to the development and growth of the congregation by listening and trying to discern the direction that the Spirit is moving this community.

Whether you are participating in a program, attending a worship service, sipping a cup of tea during Fellowship in Memorial Hall, or chatting in the hallway, you will often hear people saying, *Robertson-Wesley is my home. Robertson-Wesley is my family. Robertson-Wesley is where I belong.*

In her 2018 book ***Dare to Lead*** Brené Brown writes: *True belonging is the spiritual practice of believing in and belonging to yourself so deeply that you can share your most authentic self with the world and find sacredness in both being a part of something and standing alone in the wilderness. True belonging does not require you to **change** who you are; it requires you to **be** who you are.* At Robertson-Wesley we strive to create an environment for this to happen for all people.

- **Why have you chosen to be a part of the Robertson-Wesley community?**
- **In what ways have you experienced a sense of connection or belonging at Robertson –Wesley?**

At DEAP gatherings we share and discuss what is happening as a way of understanding and celebrating our congregation's service to one another and the larger community. We also take time to consider issues and questions. Working with DEAP is an enjoyable experience and a reminder of the needs in the community as well as in our congregation. Hopefully, by combining the information gathered and our ongoing group discussions, a Spirit-led welcoming atmosphere will continue to be provided at Robertson-Wesley.

Like the year before it, 2018 was a year of renewal and change in our lives and within our community. We continued to grieve the absence of those who built and led our community before us and we tried our best to maintain their vision, legacy and work. These changes inspired discussions of deep and incremental change in the history of Robertson-Wesley, as well as acknowledging grief through our services and interactions with one another.

Change in leadership represents an opportunity to make some adjustments to how things have been as well as honour what has worked well. This may be divisive as we each opine on what can or should change and what should continue as it has. Generally speaking, our community continues to pay respect and tribute to those who built our church while looking for better ways to serve a dynamic and diverse community. Under the most ideal circumstances, this can be a difficult line to walk. However, we have seen people respond with grace and a willingness to serve a changing world with joy and gratitude, as those who have served before us.

- **Did you see this too or something else?**

The DEAP Pod group also experienced some profound change as two long-serving members, Joann Cooke and Geoff Anderson, through discernment of their own, decided to take a break from service to DEAP. We were truly blessed to share in their wisdom and observations over the past number of years and are now doubly blessed as Elsie Coon and Charl Els began sharing their unique insight and experience in October.

Currently meeting as the DEAP Pod are Jill Lambie, Robert Mah, Carol Anne Inglis, Elsie Coon and Charl Els. If you have visions, issues or questions you'd like the group to consider, please contact one of the current members or one of the ministers. DEAP meetings are held the first Tuesday of almost every month from 5:00 – 6:45 pm at the church.

A Collaborative Submission for the 2018 Annual Report

Family Ministry Committee

Robertson-Wesley has a strong family bond and the role of the Family Ministry Committee is to strengthen the feeling of family by building cross-generational events that bring young and old together. We are also responsible for what happens downstairs on Sunday – from the littlest to the oldest kids and youth and supporting transitions from kid's church to adulthood through ministry from young adults.

Garden Patch (Pre-kindergarten)

The Garden Patch continues to be a lively place this year! Attendance has been steady and we have a large number of young kids at Robertson-Wesley, whether they are visiting for just one Sunday or attending regularly. We have been fortunate to have several volunteers who take turns leading the lessons - thank you all! In the Garden Patch, our children learn the stories of the Bible and the teachings of Jesus through story, song, drama, games, crafts and play. Every week is a different adventure! We also teach the youngest members of our congregation about the community that is our church and help them to discover how they are important members of this community. It is amazing to see the bonds they are building, even at such a young age!

Kid's Church (Elementary school age)

Our group of children found many wonderful times to interact with one another while sharing faith based activities. Early in the year the children experienced rituals and sacraments through role-play using crackers and juice. We have also been fortunate to spend time with Laura David Foster, Art Therapist. The children enjoyed going on an 'in church field trip' to the special art room where we explored creatively, weaving in bible themes; paint and shave cream art was a big hit. Making rain sticks to play at Easter time was another engaging art based activity. Of course, any chance we had to get outside on the grass and have some adventurous fun playing games was extra special to our energetic group.

Sharing in a lovely outreach effort, the children packaged Candy bags to be given out in the Magic Pantry lunches. They were very disciplined in only eating a few candies after many bags were assembled. As well, they made lunch for the congregation to share after church in Memorial Hall.

This fall we saw new children taking on leadership roles in reading scripture, which is not an easy task even for many adults.

Engaging with Elders in our church family has been mutually wonderful for the kids and the adults involved. Having a conversation with a person who has lived so much life adds to the building of our church community.

As leaders we loved having the curriculum and activities planned and organized over the summer by Rev. Karen with the help of the summer student. September to December ran especially smoothly and we continue to appreciate how the well-used craft room is now in prime shape.

We are privileged to spend this time with the kids as they learn and grow together as part of our Robertson-Wesley community.

Youth (Junior High/High School)

Youth Group in 2018 has transformed. A few of our older youth graduated this summer, but we got a fresh batch of grade 7s and even some new members. A few more girls this year have changed the dynamic of discussions; the

youth are not afraid to give awesome feedback. We have been enjoying the lessons and the small art projects that the curriculum suggests. Some of our Saturday night activities included some regular things like frisbee golf, flashlight tag, and volunteering with the community dinner at Christmas. We also helped with providing lunch for the congregation and some prayers for worship. We tried a few new things like swimming, which had a great turnout and the youth really enjoyed, as well as laser tag, which was quite the adventure!

Young Adults

We have continued to offer God on Tap, which happens approximately every two months. Young adults meet to discuss God and their faith at a local café. This program has expanded to include all adults and has been happening at The Nook Café which is owned by one of the congregational members.

Mom & Dad's Group

This is a drop-in group for parents with babies and toddlers. It is a group that provides support to parents as they navigate parenthood. It is also a starting place for babies and toddlers to begin socialization with one another. Many of the children first met in this group and are now friends and are growing up together in the church. It is also open to the community.

Family Programs and Events

Messy Wednesday

This program continues to support families as we feast over a meal and build community together. Our wonderful chef and menu planner, Lindsey Esau, and our alternate cooks Garth van Herwaarden and Jason Golinowski and our helper Richard Kennedy continue to support the program and we are grateful for their willingness to help prepare the food and space for the families that gather. This allows families to simply come and relax after a hard day at work and provides a safe space for children to interact and run off some steam. We average 16-25 people each time we meet, which presently is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Games Night

On January 27, 2018, we held our second annual Games Night in Memorial Hall. This is an informal evening of fellowship and spirited fun. Karen broke the ice with some group games, and then the rest of the evening was spent playing old favourite board games and learning new ones. The highlight for some of the younger participants was a game of flashlight tag at the end of the evening.

BBQs

On April 28, June 24, and September 23 RW hosted community BBQs in front of the church. Lunch is offered at no charge to community members and the congregation and crafts and games are available to entertain young and old alike. Many families in our neighbourhood live in apartments and enjoy the opportunity to use our lawn as a safe space for their children to play while the adults have lunch and catch up with their neighbours. A huge thank you goes out to Brad Campbell and his team of BBQ chefs for preparing the smokies and condiments for these events. We also held a Tail Gate Party in November with crafts and games for all ages to accompany the great BBQ! Thank you to Laura David Foster for her help with the crafts, and face painting.

Respectfully Submitted by

Tory Bachmann, Rhonda Black, Elizabeth Nash, Andrew Seale, Joni Soans, Heather Warkentin, Rev. Karen Bridges (ex-officio)

Family Ministry Committee

Fellowship

Fellowship involves the planning for and presentation of the reception after the church service each Sunday: organizing the food and drinks (buying, making, accepting donations); setting everything out; serving; cleaning up afterwards. Co-chairs are Sylvia Duffus and Janet M Clark.

The “Fellowship Kitchen Krew,” as we now call ourselves, is comprised of Sylvia Duffus, Janet Clarke, Karen Hansen, Monica Gerla, Ruth Belford, Felicia Drever and Susan Hutson.

We are always grateful to individuals and groups in the congregation who help by donating food, setting up and cleaning up. And then there are those who “step up to the plate (and dishwasher),” such as the Men’s Group when our members were away at the Women’s Weekend. Also of note is that we have had the help of “first responders” on many occasions. Always wonderfully supportive is Brad Campbell; and few Sundays go by without the contributions of Richard Kennedy and Melisa Guilbeault.

We do have one request. To save us last minute angst and inconvenience, if you and/or your group borrow food, coffee, dairy products or juice from our stores (always labelled FS or Fellowship), please replace it or inform us. As noted earlier, we love the donations we receive, in the donation baskets or in the kitchen. You might have noticed that whatever we put out for Fellowship seems to disappear rapidly, especially if it looks homemade or healthy. Help us all out, please!

That said, it makes our hearts happy to witness the buzz of conversation, the laughter, the welcoming of guests, the glee of cheerful children, and all of us involved in one the most important offerings of our church—a vibrant fellowship community.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sylvia Duffus and Janet M Clark

Fundraising

Each year members of the congregation are invited to attend a Fundraising planning meeting where people who have ideas and are interested in planning fundraisers gather together for a conversation facilitated by the R-W Board. The purpose of this gathering is to coordinate the fundraising events so that we do not compete with each other for the same pot of money, and so that we spread the fundraising events over the full year. The practice that is followed is to have only one fundraising event per month. The monies raised at these events are used to offset the operational costs of the church thereby decreasing the amount of money required through donations.

At this meeting we begin with questions. What is the purpose of this event? How much do we expect to raise? Could this be combined with another fundraising idea? If it was held in the past year, we ask what was successful and what could be improved? Where is the money being raised coming from (i.e. Congregation members or from the outside community)? How much volunteer time is required? Is this a good use of our volunteers? Once these questions are answered the group together agrees on the events for the coming program year which runs from Sept – August. We are exploring moving to a calendar year. This was the agreed upon list of events for **2018-2019**.

September 2018 Art Sale Coordinated by Sheila Carr-Stewart and Pat Stewart.

Money raised: \$1698.60

During our art sale, a book sale was held in room #11 downstairs.

Money raised: \$500.00 (This is higher than when books were sold at rummage sales.)

October 2018 Italian Dinner coordinated by Pat Stewart and Brenda Sheppard.

Money raised: \$1194.00

November 2018 Merry Makers Market coordinated by Connie and Jack Waters and Nancy Heule.

Money raised: \$1100.00

Christmas Decor was sold at the Merry Makers Market, netting \$400.00 (this is included in the total amount raised). Again, this revenue was higher than when Christmas items were sold at rummage sales.

December 2018	Floral Arranging Class coordinated by Tony Jansen and Brenda Sheppard. Money raised: \$1608.85
January 2019	Coffee Cantata presented by Music Society.
February 2019	Breakfast with Speaker Jesse Lipscombe coordinated by the Stewardship Committee.
March 2019	March 5 - Pancake Supper coordinated by Music Society. March 16 - St. Patrick's Day dinner coordinated by Pat Stewart and Brenda Sheppard.
April 2019	April 27 - Rummage Sale coordinated by Victoria Fedorak

Our April 2017 Rummage Sale was held in one room, the Memorial Hall, to better manage the workload relative to number of volunteers. A concession seating area was welcomed by our customers, who enjoyed a refreshment break. The sale net, was \$2541.21, including concession.

Beyond these events, there have also been some bake sales after church where the money raised is given to the Anniversary Fund or M&S Fund. These are to happen 4 times a year.

Koinonia Worship

2018 was a worship-full year for the Koinonia group! Beginning with potluck dinner fellowship around the tables in Memorial Hall, and worship planned by members of the group, the evenings brought inspiration, something new to our faith journeys, and a feeling of acceptance, caring and community to those in attendance (average 25 people).

January's worship portion of the evening began with the theme Sacred Meals, Sacred Stories. We heard the stories of a few individuals in the Bible and how their lives can help transform ours into sacred living. Following a period of discussion, Holy Communion was celebrated. We are grateful for Rev. Leigh's sharing in the leadership of this service. February's service was entitled Let's Focus on Peace; so appropriate in today's violent world. "May we begin to heal the hatred in the world around us, by healing our own hearts first.... Let Peace begin with Me"! An evening of Scriptures, Music and Song, in March, provided us with gratitude to be living in God's wondrous world, a sense of peacefulness, and a reason to sing praises to our God!

A fair number of Koinonia friends, and several people from the community at large, braved the cold and met at the Promenade overlooking Victoria golf course, to welcome the joyful morning at the Annual Easter Sunrise Service. Following that, we returned to the Church for a scrumptious pancake breakfast, prepared mostly by the K-Men! It was an evening of reminiscing at our April worship, where we were invited to Share some of our Stories, Remember Special Friends, and Continue to build Community.

The service for May (suggested at the Planning Session last August) didn't quite work out, so instead, the group went into gear with what has become known as Sunday Sundaes Sing, where we celebrated our faith, our love of R-W and each other! A rousing hymn sing ensued with some of the old favourites and some of the contemporary songs of the Strathdees and others, intersected by inspirational readings. The evening ended with??? Ice cream sundaes, of course!

The very much looked-forward-to long-weekend Annual Koinonia Retreat, at Lac Santé, was held in early June with the generous (and tolerant!!) hosting by Jack and Connie. Excellent accommodation, excellent food, and most of all, excellent company! Even the puppies did their part in the Sunday morning meditation!!!

An energetic group returned to Joy and Garnet's for an end-of-summer BBQ and a planning meeting for the new season of Koinonia. It's always amazing to me how enthusiastic folks are in choosing themes, and forming small groups to undertake the planning and conducting of services year after year!

The first meeting was carried out in September by Karen H. who regularly takes the summer to research very thoughtful themes. This year she chose Loving our Neighbours, an inspiring theme for the beginning of the new worship season!

As part of the whole body of Christ, each of us responds in our own way, and during the October service -- entitled Gifts of the Spirit -- we were encouraged to give thanks, sing, and take time to discern our own unique gifts. The Discipline of Hospitality, was the interesting theme chosen for November. Through multiple readings, hymns and prayers, we were challenged in our faith, offered courage in the midst of hardship, and grace as we interact with others in our everyday lives. "Following Christ's example, we are called to make room for strangers, as well as friends, welcoming everyone into full life with God".

As has been the tradition, immediately following the morning service for White Gift Sunday at Robertson-Wesley, the Koinonia group, under the able leadership of Carol Anne, sorted and boxed the gifts so generously given by the congregation; and Louis once again, kindly offered to transport the gifts, food and financial donations to Bissell Centre.

The final get-together of 2018 was the annual Progressive Dinner, held in 3 homes in Edmonton's central communities, for an amazing potluck in each location, singing of Christmas carols and just being together in this special season!

We'd like to thank Phyllis for being our loyal pianist and hymn-picker-outer; to Margery for agreeing to play for us when we needed her; to Elyse, for her patience and assistance while we sorted out dates and for fitting in our announcements when it was almost too late; for Brad and Richard who have helped set-up and clean-up each meeting; and for all our faithful attendees, who provide delicious things to eat, wonderful leadership, and amazing, supportive friendship!

Koinonia's door is always open to those who are curious about it, who are interested in a particular theme, who want to share time with "new" and "old" friends. Koinonia usually meets the 4th Sunday evening, but be sure to check the Sunday Bulletins for the announcements. You will be welcome indeed!

Respectfully Submitted by
Joann Cooke

Ministry and Personnel

The Ministry and Personnel Committee consisted of seven members of Robertson-Wesley United Church in 2018: Karen Gabert, Christopher Gowers, Nancy Heule, Kathryn Rambow, Eric Sauze, Sarah Wiens and Lisa Fairweather. With appreciation, we accepted the retirement of our friend Chris Gowers from M&P this year.

We are a thriving faith community AND modern organisation, active in our personal spiritual lives and in the world. We have an incredible variety of people who find nourishment at Robertson-Wesley and we continue to be impressed by the professionalism of the staff and volunteers who light up our facility and our community.

Highlights of this year from our Committee's perspective:

- Welcoming the addition of Elyse to our team in April and saying goodbye to a dear friend and team member, Tanya
- The gifts of Leigh, Karen, Tammy-Jo, Elyse, Garth and Brad, our artist leaders Laura and Brooke, as well as our dedicated events assistants and Choral Morphosis assistant staff Roderick, Rhea, Richard and Felicia. Our facility and our people are lovingly cared for.

- Creating and hosting two sessions of our "Creating Safe Spaces" workshop, which we will continue to host in 2019.
- Hiring our wonderful STEP summer student, Kaitlynn.
- Supporting staff as they transformed our church's website.
- Working with the Board to update our policies, such as anti-bullying and conflict of interest.

We also did the usual updating of job descriptions and handling issues as they arose.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee looks after confidential staff matters, and as such, regular meetings are attended only by committee members and sometimes staff members. We are available any time to answer questions or discuss matters - please let any one of us know!

Respectfully submitted by
 Lisa Fairweather
 Chair of Ministry and Personnel

Men's Group

The RW Men's Group is a loosely structured social group that enable the gentlemen of Robertson-Wesley United Church to gather together in the morning of every second week of the month, from September through to June for general conversation, presentations of interest and occasional tours outside of Robertson-Wesley facility. Presentations and tours were open to all attendees of Robertson-Wesley to attend.

The RW Men's Group is small enough (24 people) to operate on a format of general consensus with the only individual leadership being the individual who has the most complete and latest email addresses, and thus controls the communications. Special thanks to Louis Berlinguette for his efforts in this regard.

Activities this year consisted of five coffee mornings in Memorial Hall, Tony Jansen presentation called Discovering Singapore, spring breakfast brunch in Grant Harlton's garage followed by a trip on the Old Strathcona Street Car, a tour of the Alberta Aviation Museum and the annual pre Christmas Brunch at Alberts Restaurant on 124th Street. Attendance to these meetings varies from six to twelve individuals.

Respectfully Submitted by
 Jim Triscott

Mission and Outreach Pod

During 2018, this Pod continued to focus on the Calls to Action, from the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, which pertain to our Church.

These following recommendations come from the Calls to Action pertaining to the Churches, they are numbers 58-61. See below:

58. We call upon the Pope to issue an apology to Survivors, their families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools. We call for that apology to be similar to the 2010 apology issued to Irish victims of abuse and to occur within one year of the issuing of this Report and to be delivered by the Pope in Canada.

59. "We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of

residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary.”

60. We call upon leaders of the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faiths, in collaboration with Indigenous spiritual leaders, Survivors, schools of theology, seminaries, and other religious training centres, to develop and teach curriculum for all student clergy, and all clergy and staff who work in Aboriginal communities, on the need to respect Indigenous spirituality in its own right, the history and legacy of residential schools and the roles of the church parties in that system, the history and legacy of religious conflict in Aboriginal families and communities, and the responsibility that churches have to mitigate such conflicts and prevent spiritual violence.

61. We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement, in collaboration with Survivors and representatives of Aboriginal organizations, to establish permanent funding to Aboriginal people for:

- i. Community-controlled healing and reconciliation projects.
- ii. Community-controlled culture- and language revitalization projects.
- ii. Community-controlled education and relationship building projects.
- iv. Regional dialogues for Indigenous spiritual leaders and youth to discuss Indigenous spirituality, self-determination, and reconciliation.

Towards this end, i.e. education for members of the congregation, several initiatives have begun.

Evelyn Day, Indigenous Elder to the United Church Congregations of Edmonton, began her work in January in collaboration with the Moving Forward with Reconciliation committee. Evelyn has participated in a gathering to view the movie, “Indian Horse”, followed by a discussion in which she shared her wisdom and gracious being.

In November, Evelyn and her partner, David Elliot, gathered with around twenty people after worship, to teach us about the role of the Elder in Indigenous cultures. This gathering was privileged to experience her warmth and teachings.

The Moving Forward with Reconciliation committee will be continuing to examine ways in which to fulfill our partnership with Indigenous peoples to address the recommendations noted above.

One of the tasks remaining is to consider how to acknowledge that our church is on Treaty Six and Métis Homeland Territory apart from our statement of inclusion.

As an outcome of the NAIN conference held in August in Edmonton, further initiatives towards exploring intercultural issues and to continue the work on being inclusive in our diversity will be held in 2019.

Among other topics, in January, a workshop on Gender and Sexuality will be held. As well in February, a workshop on Power and Privilege will be offered.

Yoga classes with Colleen Ouellette have become so popular, that a second weekly class has been added on Fridays. These classes serve the wider community with many participants volunteering for other programs.

Respectfully submitted,
with thanks to Rev. Karen Bridges for her support and guidance,
Dawn Allan.

Mission and Service

The Mission and Service (M&S) donations from Robertson-Wesley included \$20,680 from congregational givings and \$1,500 from the UCW, a total of \$22,180. Thanks are offered to all who gave to M&S this year whether by your regular givings, special offerings on Communion Sundays or quarterly M& S bucket celebration days.

Monies raised by our congregation are submitted to the United Church of Canada to support the church and its mission. It provides funds for local organizations such as the Bissell Centre here in Edmonton and other similar organizations in Canada serving the poor and homeless. It also supports special humanitarian projects in developing countries working with partner organizations.

We continue to raise awareness about the importance of Mission and Service this year with readings from **Minutes for Mission** on Communion Sundays. This year’s M & S theme was **Loving our Neighbours**. These stories illustrate

how our M&S is touching the lives of so many people. This publication is made available in both print or online through the United Church Website. The M&S Bucket Sundays encourage us to share the joy of our special celebrations with our donations.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sylvia Duffus
Mission and Service Coordinator

Edmonton Presbytery and Alberta Northwest Conference a final year of supporting and oversight.

It was an honour to serve as your representatives to Presbytery and Conference this past year. Edmonton hosted the final meeting of the Conference in Sherwood Park and we attended the meetings and worship experiences there. Edmonton also was the location for the Conference's anti-racism events attended by both the past and current Moderator of the United Church. Edmonton Presbytery was also responsible for voting on remits and electing representatives to last summer's General Council which lead to the new structure and thus the formal closing of both our Presbytery and Conference. Lastly, we ensured folks outside our congregation knew about events at R-W and thus we had guests at our Pastoral Visiting workshop and music events. Throughout the year, Presbytery and Conference committees continued to do their diligent work for congregations and ministry personnel. Gary Pecknold served on a very busy executive! Thanks for all the great memories and hard work!

Submitted by Gary and Joan Pecknold (who completed their terms as representatives) and Felicia Drever and Trisha-Lee Wasmund (who will continue to represent us in the wider church).

Northern Spirit Regional Council the new way we connect to our neighbouring United Churches.

In the new structure of the United Church of Canada, *Robertson-Wesley United Church* (R-W) will continue to elect four (4) delegates to the wider church as our representatives. These four members of R-W will have with voice and vote on *The Northern Spirit Regional Council*. Its first gathering will be in Valleyview, AB in May, 2019. At this inaugural meeting, it will elect an executive for this Regional Council and also decide on some structural ideas proposed to it by its current executive body. It will elect a delegate to the national decision making body: the *General Council* (and its executive).

Rev. Karen and Leigh will be voting members (ex officio) of this Regional Council. Our oversight will come from a newly created and national *Office of Vocation* (OV). It is led by an elected Board (including a delegate from our Regional Council) and has deployed staff members across the country to help with support and oversight. Our OV staff person is Rev. Karen Medland and she will work out of Edmonton.

Regional Council's Purpose

The regional council is responsible for encouraging and engaging in:

- a) Joining our collective hearts, voices, and resources to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world;
- b) Local, regional, national, and global initiatives and partnerships (community, ecumenical, and interfaith) for ministry, mission, and justice work;
- c) Ministry with children, youth, and young adults;
- d) Honouring and living into intercultural mission and ministry;
- e) Living in covenant with Mother Earth and All My Relations in the Earth community

Just like here at R-W, where we have a Board and committees that make decisions, teams that enact decisions and Pods that discern and learn, the *Northern Spirit Regional Council* will be made up of three kinds of groups. One kind, called a **Commission**, will be empowered to make decisions in one area (so far there is one focused on Pastoral Relations and one on Property matters). Another kind, called **Committees**, will have tasks and responsibilities

delegated to them (long term and short term) by the Council. Lastly, there will be other groups for creating conversation and learning opportunities! These will be self-run and self-funded and be either geographic focused **clusters** or larger (some national) **networks** united on a topic.

The *Northern Spirit Regional Council* will also have an elected **executive** body to ensure operations continue between meetings and to hear reports from all these groups. They also will prepare the Budget for the full Council's approval each year. The revenue for this work will be partly from our General Council assessments and partly from your Mission and Service dollars. In the future, it may include additional assessments for its work.

Edmonton churches are privileged to have the Regional Council offices here in the city including two staff people working out of the Kirk Center (formally Kirk United Church). Other regional staff people (including our Executive Minister, who we share with two other *Regional Councils*) will work out of Regina, SK and Winnipeg, MB.

Respectfully Submitted by

Rev. Leigh Sinclair, member of the *Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive/Commission* until June 1, 2019.

Nominations Committee

The nomination committee consists of Ted Blezard, John Fleming, Karen Hansen and Ron Soans including staff support from Rev. Karen Bridges. Our committee reduced in size when John Fleming kindly volunteered to take on the position of acting incoming Chair of the board in 2018. Karen Hansen stepped down from this committee. We are seeking 2 R-W members interested in joining this ad-hoc committee. This need has been announced to the congregation in 2018 and we hope interested members will consider joining.

The nominations team is mandated to find suitable candidates from our R-W members for elected positions on the board and other leadership positions and to recommend their names to the Annual Congregational Meeting, where the general body can officially vote their appointment to the Board. The role that Nomination committee plays is to be available to the congregation members for consultation and to receive their interests for open positions on the Board.

The need for an incoming Chair of the Board will be a standing need every year. Interested candidates for this position please contact us ASAP. Also, this year we are seeking a new Treasurer to take over in February of 2019. Those with an accounting background who are interested in serving with the Board as a treasurer please contact any nomination committee member immediately. We are also seeking a couple of Regional Council Representatives. We trust the Spirit of Christ, in R-W, will move our congregation members to this calling and we look forward to welcoming all who show interest in being part of the Board.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Nomination Committee,
Ron Soans

Outreach Committee

Membership: Brad Warkentin (chair), Lois Field (secretary), Rhonda Black, Norma Johnston, Bart McCaughey, Garnet Thomas, Rev. Karen Bridges. (We were very saddened by the death of long-time member and outreach leader Gail de Vos during the year.)

The Outreach Committee helps provide oversight and/or financial support of several of Robertson-Wesley United Church's (RWUC) long-running outreach initiatives. Programs running out of RWUC include the Community Dinners, Magic Pantry, Food Bank Depot, Community BBQs, Messy Wednesdays, and Spiritual Arts Collective. RWUC Outreach has also assisted external community organizations/programs such as the Choral Morphosis choir, Edmonton General

Hospital (Palliative Care), Inner City Pastoral Ministry (Bissell Centre), Bissell Sandwich program, Operation Friendship Seniors Society, and refugee sponsorships. Highlights from a few of these activities are highlighted below.

Community Dinners (coordinator: Rhonda Black). The Community Dinner mission statement is: *“To serve free, nutritional meals in a social, caring community atmosphere.”* In 2018, Community Dinners served 1754 guests, averaging 146 guests/ month at a per meal cost of \$2.41. Our leadership team is a stellar group of people, enthusiastic and flexible. We have a base of regular, committed, energetic volunteers and welcome many new helpers each month. It is a gift to have a talented chef and a crafty baker who treat our guests to delicious tasting food and homemade baked desserts. The atmosphere created in the preparation for and during dinner is the true meaning of community. (Report by: Rhonda Black)

Santa’s Workshop was offered again at the December Community Dinner. Generous and caring church members donated over 300 new and handmade warm accessories for Santa’s Workshop. In December, each of our Community Dinner guests chose a warm gift as well as a selection of unsold Christmas décor. Remaining warm accessories (over 4 boxes) were donated to the Bissell Center White Gifts.

Magic Pantry (support staff: Karen Bridges). This program hands out lunches at the church door every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to on average 32 people per week, and approximately 52 sandwiches per week. We have moved to providing sandwiches in these lunches along with juice, cookies, crackers and pudding. Parents of the congregation whose children are in Cantilon choirs regularly assist in making sandwiches, and Connie and Jack Waters pick up supplies. We have many volunteers both regular and new who help to hand out the bag lunches each week. (Report by: Karen Bridges)

Operation Friendship Lunches (coordinator: Dawn Allan). We provided financial support, home-made desserts, cakes, and volunteer servers for four lunches in June through September for approximately 200 inner city seniors (each lunch). Volunteers included Karen Hansen, Garrett Mytrash, Jim Allan, Norma Johnston, and Rosemary Dunbar. (Report by: Lois Field)

Food Bank Depot (coordinator: Garnet Thomas). Our Food Bank depot had another very busy year, taking in food requests Wednesday mornings and unloading and distributing hampers in Memorial Hall the same afternoons. We averaged 25 to 27 hamper orders each week, but occasionally it was close to 40. Our current location in Memorial Hall is comfortable for our guests and ideal for our work. Janet Hughes, who was on the founding board of the Food Bank along with C. Janet Clark, helped found the first satellite depot at RWUC.

A significant change came at the end of 2018, when our morning intake crew ended their duties of receiving peoples hamper requests and turned intake over to the operators at the main Food Bank. This ended thirty-seven years of receiving client phone calls at R-W and the record-keeping that goes with it. The intake crew were on hand by 8:15 am, come blizzard, rain or hail, to receive calls on a dedicated phone line. They also often received requests at the door, when the phone was too busy. They really enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie that developed between crew members and the people needing hampers. We owe these women our sincere thanks. Our most recent morning intake crew members included Janet M. Clarke, Colleen Ouellette, Irene Morin, Grace Marquis, Elsie Coon, Victoria Fedorak, Jan Millson, Peggy O’Neil, and Rosemary Dunbar.

Our afternoon distribution crew included Nikki Stein, Derek Sutherland, Jack and Connie Waters, Beth and Dick Hoskins, Andrei Dobrovolsky, Mel Hauca, Sherry Belcourt, Garnet Thomas and daughter Kathy Juszko, and usually two young Latter-Day Saints elders.

We anticipate that in 2019 our clients will soon get used to calling in requests directly to the Food Bank, and with economic conditions the way they are, we will likely have another busy year. (We will be short-handed from January to April, and would appreciate anyone who could help.) (Report by: Garnet Thomas)

Helen Mack Fund. Funds provided by the Outreach Committee to the various programs it supports are primarily supplied from the Helen Mack Fund, which was created from a generous bequest specifically designated for outreach projects. The allocation of Helen Mack funding is discerned by a subcommittee (Brad Warkentin, Pat Stewart, Robert Mah, and Lois Field) that meets twice yearly, or as necessary. The fund has been an ongoing blessing to the work of

RWUC and the surrounding community. A total of \$17,100 was withdrawn from the fund in 2018 to support this work. (Report by: Brad Warkentin/Lois Field)

Property

This year started off as a year to maintain and plan for our future projects. We started the year getting plans drawn for our kitchen project. After a year of consultations, we came up with a preliminary plan. This plan was distributed and more changes were made to come up with our final plan. The total cost for this renovation is \$130,000 dollars. Pat Stewart has applied for 2 grants on behalf of the church; one of which has been approved as of Jan 17, 2019 total amount of \$67,528.00 from the Federal Accessibility Grant. We expect to hear about our application for \$53,333.00 from the Provincial grant in March 2019.

We completed two projects this year. One was the security system. Under the leadership of Doug Densmore, we applied for a grant to put video cameras and a fob locking system at the front door. We received the grant and the system was installed this fall. It has been working well, and we have the parking lot, alley, front entrances and hallways under 24 hour surveillance. Thanks Doug.

The second project was the renovation of the East Room. The old cabinets and sink were removed and the new room was painted and new flooring was installed. This made a big difference to the room making it much more functional. This job came under budget thanks to Brad, Roderick, Richard and myself.

The yards were amazing again this year. Thanks to the garden group Leah, Rhonda, Rosemary, Jim, Melisa, and Sarah for all the work with the flowers, vegetables and trees. This year we had some garden boxes added. Louis made one box and the concrete planters were donated by The Brick. The grass was maintained by Brad and Roderick.

As usual our facility has been maintained to the best standards by Brad and his facilities support staff and volunteers. Our old building is maintenance intensive, but Brad seems to keep up with the work. Thanks Brad.

For the past several years the property committee has set a goal that would have the church property income cover the operating expenses. I am pleased to inform the congregation that this year we will achieve our goal. In the future we hope to increase revenues from the building to help cover more of our expenses.

As usual it has been a great year for our committee. Many thanks to Albert deVos, Karen Hansen, Rosemary Dunbar, Louis Berlinguette, Arnold Maki, Morris Treasure, Doug Densmore, Lorne Langman and Jack Waters. If anyone is looking for a fun committee to be on we would be pleased to have you. Thanks to everyone.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jack Waters, Robertson-Wesley Property Committee

Spirited Arts Movement

It has been exciting to see how the Spirited Arts Movement has grown over the year, for as it says on our Facebook page, "healing is justice, and justice is healing." The Spirited Arts Movement is committed to seeking ways to end isolation and building relationship through the process of creating. The Arts include: visual arts, writing, drama, movement, music, and art. This is mainly an outreach ministry that has enabled us to provide free space and workshops to the community at large. It is a diverse group of people that are served. Some are on social assistance, some deal with mental health, some with grief, some who are healing from cancer or other physical injuries, all ages have been represented at the various programming and we hear over and over again about how grateful people are

that R-W offers this program. The Spirited Arts Movement has been funded by Grants for the past 8 years. It is facilitated by Laura David Foster and Brooke Leifso, with the support of Rev. Karen Bridges.

The Spirited Art Studio

The "Spirited Art Studio" is a community-based art program that started in the fall of 2015, and runs weekly during the school year, and once/month with the community dinner (which has been the busiest time). The community is outgrowing our space! On Monday nights we sometimes move out of the studio and set up in the lower hall, making space to accommodate everyone who would like to be a part of it. On average, there are now 8 -10 people participating regularly on Monday nights (up to 15). On average there are 4-5 people participating regularly on Wednesday afternoons (up to 8). The Art Studio time has been offered in the afternoons for a full year and the afternoon time changed from Tuesday to Wednesday this fall. Over time the participation in the Art Studio has grown. Because the Monday night studio time has been offered for more years it has more participants, and we anticipate the other will follow suit. Some are from the RWUC congregation, and at least as many are from the surrounding community of Oliver and greater Edmonton, and as far as Mill Woods and St. Albert. Though most begin because they appreciate that all are welcome in the inclusive space, and that there is no cost or commitment with the drop-in set up, people who attend regularly have given feedback that they come to enjoy the creativity and sense of belonging. The Art studio has also been a valued addition to our monthly Community Dinners. After dinner, people are invited to head down to the Art Studio to create with others. On average we see 15-25 people. This year they created Mandalas which are placed on the tables for each community dinner now. They created art for their community and it is beautiful.

Healing Workshops

The "Mindful Art Practices for Self-care" workshops have also been growing and have some regular attendees. We have had to cap the number of participants to a maximum of 15, mostly because of space and costs, but also because of the kind of meditative experiential involved would not have the same impact with a larger group / room. There were three workshops last year, and four workshops have been planned this 2018/19 year, one was presented in November, the next is in February.

Justice Workshops

Last year we explored the theme "Gendered? Just Human?" which explored expressions of gender and its relationship with our humanity and spirit through the arts. Using stereotypically gendered arts forms (like wood work and embroidery) along with the visual arts, movement, photography and film, participants were invited to explore what we define as masculine/feminine and work towards breaking down stereotypes. We also offered drumming workshops for people to find new ways of expressing themselves. These workshops were attended by a variety of people over the year.

Contemplative Practices

This past year we offered 6 different Sunday evenings for people to come and participate in artistic spiritual practices. The purpose of these evenings was to provide people with activities that helped them to reflect, discern, and explore different themes. The themes were: Remembrance; Seeking Purpose and Meaning; Broken Relationships, Broken Dreams; Caring for the Care Giver; Earth Day and Healing of Creation; The World Vigil; Thanksgiving and Gratitude. In the fall we decided to offer this program at a few alternative times and days. People who have attended leave feeling focused, at peace, refreshed and fulfilled. It is a wonderful silent time to be with oneself and the Spirit.

NAIN Conference July 2018

At the North American Interfaith Network Conference the Spirited Arts Movement offered a workshop on what we do here at R-W. At this workshop we networked with other groups and individuals who also believe that the Arts are a way of healing and justice in this world. There were around 30 participants who were very excited and engaged by what R-W offers the community through the use of the ARTS.

Grant from The United Church of Canada Foundation

Good news! R-W has received a grant from the National church to provide free Art Therapy to residents at Canterbury in 2019. Laura David Foster will begin working with residents twice a month to use the arts as a way of exploring end of life, and the isolation that is experience when living in long term care facilities.

Art Therapy Student

In partnership with St. Stephen's College on the U of A Campus, Robertson-Wesley has been a practicum site for students in the Art therapy program. This partnership allows Robertson-Wesley the opportunity to offer approximately 300 hours of free art therapy to the congregation and community that we serve. Pattie Pryma worked with us in 2018 and we hope to bring on a new student in February of 2019.

Respectfully Submitted by

Laura David Foster, Brooke Leifso, and Rev. Karen Bridges (staff support)

Spiritual Formation Pod

Spiritual Formation Pod gathers 3-5 times a year and includes all who come to its conversations! Our hope is to find out how the Spirit is moving among us and how we can best form a faith that is resilient and life-long. This year, we prayed and pondered on two main topics: how we do we strengthen our relationship with God and what place do flowers take in our worship and pastoral care. Ideas developed in Pod conversations of 2017 and 2018 lead to a few new programming ideas put into action this past year.

Spirited Saturdays

A gathering to explore how we can use healthy boundaries to develop faith, health and community. These were called "Saying No to say Yes." Over three Saturday mornings ten people participated in learning about assertive choice-making!

Food for Thought

This is a combination of two desires heard from our congregation. One was a regular Bible Study and one was something held on Wednesday's that choir members could join in on. So just like the first disciples, we shared food and explorations of the Bible. Differing translations of the Bible as well as Spiritual Gifts and Eldership in the Bible have been studied. Join in on Wednesday supper times (6:00-7:15) in 2019 to look into how our Bible explores gender, race and mental health.

Flower Ministry

Flower ministry of many kinds has a long history at Robertson-Wesley, through Flower Group in particular. After a Pod conversation about what we hoped to continue and what we sought to expand, our volunteers, Worship Committee and Pastoral Visiting team continue this ministry.

- a) People can bring flowers on Sundays to mark special occasions. If they let the office know early in the week, the occasion can be included in the bulletin.
- b) People can honour people by pre-ordering a large bouquet Easter Sunday (hydrangeas) and last Sunday of November (poinsettias). Thanks to the volunteers who help coordinate this, inspired by the Flower Group.
- c) People can take a single flower from a provided bouquet to someone you go to visit (available on the first Sunday of every month). Thanks to the Makis for your leadership.
- d) Our summer garden beauty will be brought indoors for bouquets, when the season is right and you can always bring in your summer blooms as well! Thank you gardeners!

The Pod conversation needs your heart and voice! Join us in 2019 to discern: what makes it worship (what space, ritual or practice makes an event worshipful) and what makes it pastoral (a continuing conversation with Pastoral Visiting) and so much more!

Respectfully submitted by
Sarah Wiens and Rev. Leigh Sinclair (staff support)

Stewardship Committee

Our purpose is to inspire, invite, educate and thank the people of R-W.

In 2018 we explored the theme: **Become a First Responder....to God's Call.** Our program to support God's work commenced on Thanksgiving Sunday when pledge cards were distributed while congregational members and the ministers shared personal responses to God's call. On October 14th a Firefighter participating in a family baptism shared why he chose to become a first responder followed by a sermon about when it is hard to respond we need to step into God. The following Sunday Rev. Leigh shared her experiences during the Slave Lake fire and how we need to ask how we can help before we respond. October 28th was Covenanting Sunday where pledges and gifts were presented and blessed while we sang "Give me Lord a thankful heart"

- **When a person of faith hears God's call, how should they respond?**
- **Assess, Ask, Respond**

On Saturday April 7th Casey Edmunds spoke at our Stewardship Breakfast where he talked about the purpose of volunteerism and community engagement. Casey's inspiring and entertaining presentation was highlighted by sharing personal experiences. Proceeds went to support the work and outreach of Robertson-Wesley.

The number of people pledging has increased by one (1) from 2018. The pledged amount has increased by 10,555.00. However, there are 33 people on PAR who have not submitted a pledge form with a total dollar value of \$41,600.00. Mission and Service saw an increase of 5 contributors but the amount pledged for M&S has dropped by \$1005.00.

	2019		2018		(Increase/Shortfall)	
	Pledges	Amount	Pledges	Amount	Pledges	Amount
Regular	69	198,772	68	188,217	1	10,555
M&S	43	14,811	38	15,816	5	(1,005)

Robertson-Wesley is a community where every person is welcome. When an individual responds to God's call, just as the Biblical widow did with her mite, we are all blessed and God's kingdom comes one step closer.

The Stewardship Committee is seeking a couple more members to join this vital and fun work.

Respectfully submitted by

Members: Jill Lambie, Sylvia Duffus, Pat Stewart, Ian Inglis, Rev. Karen Bridges (staff support), Rev. Leigh Sinclair (staff support)

Treasurer

A loss is projected for the year (audited financial statements have not been concluded at the time of writing) for Robertson-Wesley United Church.

The unaudited December 2018 financial statements show Robertson-Wesley United Church with a loss of approximately \$62,000 for the year. Compared to the 2018 budget, Donations came in at 85% (2017 was 94%), which is equivalent to a cash deficit of \$70,619, Property Income exceeded its budget by 14%, and Fundraising is at 94% (2017 was 66%). The expenses for the church are 5% under budget, translating to a cash savings of \$29,000. The largest categories that are under budget are Ministry and Personnel by \$12,000 and Repairs & Maintenance by \$13,000.

Robertson-Wesley United Church's investments are valued at \$1,403,750 at the end of December.

We are in need of a few more people to sign up for counting the weekly donations. It is a small commitment of approximately 30 minutes after Sunday worship for a month. The Finance Committee is also looking to gain another member or two, one with strong computer knowledge. Please be in contact with the Treasurer should you be interested in helping out in these areas. Thank you to the Finance Committee for your work this year, and to everyone who worked on carrying out the mission of the church during 2018.

Respectfully submitted by
Donna Chmielewski
Treasurer

UCW & Friends

Executive: Rev. Leigh Sinclair (staff resource liaison), Victoria Fedorak (chair), Margery Wright (secretary), Donna Krucik (treasurer), Janet M. Clark & Lorna Berlinguette (executive support), & Elsie Coon (communication support).

UCW Programs for January – December of 2018:

- January:** AGM & Year 2017 Review, Catered Luncheon, Funds Disbursement, Discussion of revised sharing of executive responsibilities
- February:** Memorials: Cassie Gatehouse, Margaret Andrews, & Gail de Vos, Valentine's Day luncheon, Discussion of Catering Ministry, formerly UCW revenue, now coordinated by volunteers and for 2018 and 2019 monies will be given to *M&S* and *Kitchen Renovation* funds.
- March:** Video on the Environment by Tom Axworthy, Discussion of catering transition from UCW to RWUC
- April:** Presentation by Jack Waters on Kitchen Renewal plan, Final viewing of Axworthy video, 90-year-olds' birthday party proposed for May, 2018
- May:** Report on Alberta & NW Conference UCW meeting (Janet Clark) Report on UCW's 90-year-olds' birthday party (Lorna Berlinguette)
- June:** Catered luncheon, Presentation on Indonesian travel, by Tony Janson
- August:** Meeting of UCW executive regarding budget and program ideas for 2018-2019
- September:** Presentation of Safe and Caring Spaces by Rev. Leigh Sinclair, Update on UCW budget and funding, Discussion on fundraising options, and Discussion of 2018-2019 program options
- October:** Presentation by Marg May: Teaching at Norway House Residential School, Report by Margery Wright on the National UCW meeting
- November:** Presentation by David Lopez of FIND organization, regarding their support of household basics to Edmontonians transitioning from homelessness to social housing.
- December:** Christmas Social Luncheon and Special Devotions: Biblical Foods

UCW & Friends, membership includes 38 members. To reflect our welcome and inclusion of all, we have adopted the new moniker of UCW & Friends.

We begin each meeting with the following:

RECOGNITION OF TREATY SIX: *We [I] wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory and a traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous Peoples, including Cree, Saulteaux (sew-toe), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, and Nakota Sioux Peoples.*

Our monthly programs aim to reflect our UCW purpose and prayer:

UCW Purpose: To unite women (and friends) of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ, in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

UCW Prayer: *And now, go with us, Lord, into the days ahead. Strengthen us for peace. Keep us humble, and may we live and work together, and so striving, build a new and better world for tomorrow.*

Fellowship: We continue to remember present members with greeting cards, and phone calls when possible. As well, we take time to remember past members with candle lighting, contact updates, and reflection. Each month we share refreshments, catered in January and June, and provided by members for the other meetings. On May 29, our UCW hosted party for 90-year-olds was organized by Lorna Berlinguette, with contributions by UCW and others. Nine of fifteen esteemed 90-year-olds of our congregation attended. The event was held in an activity room at the General Hospital.

Budget & Revenue: As of January 2018, catering for funerals and other events (previously our primary source of revenue) is done by a group of volunteers for the whole Church. Its revenue in 2018 went directly to the UCC's *Mission and Service* and the *RW's Kitchen Renewal*.

We continue to explore fundraising options that will allow us to support our primary charities and projects: *Mission and Service*, and *Kitchen Renewal*. Our present revenue includes generous donations from members and guests and the sale of baked goods and preserves by Donna Krucik. Added to these is our used book sales (initiated by Victoria Fedorak) and the sale of "Twoonie Treasures," (initiated by Janet M. Clark) wherein books and treasures are contributed by and purchased by members and guests.

ACCOUNT BALANCE (before disbursement): _____ (December, 2018) <u>\$6023.87</u> (December, 2017)
DONATIONS: * <u>\$5900</u> (January, 2018)
*2018 DONATIONS TO: -Mission & Service -Kitchen Renewal - Edm. Food Bank - Center for Christian Studies -Rundle Mission -St. Stephen's College -A Family in Need

Gratitude: UCW & Friends thank all Robertson-Wesley staff for their support. As well, we thank members and friends for their contributions.

Respectfully Submitted by
Victoria Fedorak,
Chair, UCW & Friends

The Wesley and Clarke Funds

The Wesley Trust Fund

The Wesley fund was established in 1971 when the Wesley United Church (originally, Wesley Methodist Church) building was sold. Proceeds of the sale were designated to be invested, with the proceeds which were donated to be used for social development in the Edmonton area.

The E. I. Clarke Memorial Fund

The Clarke Fund was established in 1968 by a member of the Robertson United Church congregation, the late Edwin Irwin Clarke (d. 2009). This fund is designated to be invested, with proceeds donated to outreach projects. The Clarke family, presently of Victoria, have made additional contributions to the fund in recent years.

Wesley & Clarke

The Wesley & Clarke Trustees meet annually, usually in late November, to consider requests for funding in relation to the amount available for disbursement that year. The current trustees are Rev. Karen Bridges (Chairperson, *ex officio*), Donna Chmielewski (Treasurer, *ex officio*), Dr. David Buchanan, Robert Mah, and Marg May.

2018 Allocations

	Wesley	Clarke	Total
Bissell Centre	5,000	5,000	10,000
George Spady Centre	5,500		5,500
Operation Friendship	2,400		2,400
Inner City Pastoral Ministry	2,500		2,500
Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities	2,000		2,000
No Room in the Inn (YESS)	3,200		3,200
R-W Benevolent Fund	4,000		4,000
Choral Morphosis	2,400		2,400
R-W Spirited Arts Movement	5,000	8,000	13,000
Total Allocations	25,500	19,500	45,000

Total Allocations in Recent Years

	Wesley	Clarke	Total
2017	25,500	19,500	45,000
2016	23,000	18,000	41,000
2015	22,000	18,000	40,000
2014	22,500	17,000	39,500
2013	21,000	15,500	36,500

Commitment

Robertson-Wesley continues its commitment to the management and allocation of these Trust Funds according to their originally specified purposes. Along with these disbursements go our prayers for the thousands of people whose lives are supported and enhanced by these contributions.

Respectfully submitted by
Rev. Karen Bridges, Chairperson of the Wesley & Clarke Trustees

Women's Weekend

Our 2018 R-W Women's Weekend Anthem

Our 2018 Women's Weekend is a community of tenacious women celebrating life:

the spirit of **peace**

where friendship and love abide;

the spirit of **laughter** and **joy**

where spontaneity bubbles over;

the spirit of **adventure**

where we travel together on our faith journey;

the spirit of **trust**

where we respect each other with openness and honesty;

the spirit of **meditation**

where we pause to look inward;

the spirit of **creativity**

where ideas, activities and symbols abound;

the spirit of **beauty**

where we appreciate all Creation;

the spirit of **challenge**

where we encourage ourselves and each other to grow;

the spirit of **acceptance**

where we have the freedom to express our individuality;

the spirit of **togetherness**

where we blend our faith flavours.

R-W 2018 Women's Weekend **infused with the Spirit.**

On the weekend of September 14th to 16th, 2018 fourteen Robertson-Wesley women gathered at Strawberry Creek Lodge for our 15th annual R-W Women's Weekend. Every year our Weekend theme changes as each year our planning committee members change. This year our theme was *Faith is the Spice of Life*. Our Women's Weekend is a time for R-W women to get to know each other, explore their faith, share fun and laughter and to appreciate the indoor and outdoor beauty of Strawberry Creek Lodge. Our Women's Weekend Anthem is a glimpse into some of the connections that were made this year.

Respectfully submitted by
Jill Lambie

Worship Committee

We at Robertson-Wesley are fortunate to experience worship in a broad context. It may begin for most of us at Sunday morning services led by our ministry team, but we view worship as encompassing any gathering together of a community in response to God's call. We find here many opportunities to explore our faith with regular programs for people of all ages and walks of life—programs such as Spiritual Reflections, God on Tap, Food for Thought, Garden Patch, Arts Studio, Men's and Women's Groups and workshops on various topics, just to name a few. By these we are inspired to carry our faith with us beyond the walls of the church and into everyday life. Showing compassion to a neighbour experiencing loneliness or alienation, for example, can be regarded as an act of worship.

As to worship services in 2018, with many highlights to reflect on, it is difficult to single out particular ones on which to report. There were memorable special services this year during Lent, and at Easter and Christmas. Small groups gathered on Ash Wednesday (February 14), Maundy Thursday (March 29), the Easter Vigil (March 31) and at a sunrise service (April 1). During Advent, the popular Lessons and Carols led by the Robertson-Wesley Choir took place on December 9 in the afternoon. An especially moving service on the evening of December 19 was "Blue Christmas." This was a time of healing, quiet reflection, remembrance and peace, offered especially for those we often forget about during the holiday season who find themselves away from family and friends. On Christmas Eve, we celebrated with our usual well-attended "triple-header"—a family celebration at 4 pm, a contemporary service at 8 pm, and a candle-light choral service at 11 pm. And On Christmas morning the music portion of the service in the chapel was led by R-W's resident *a cappella* group, the Córdet.

At Robertson-Wesley, we feature at least two types of Sunday worship (other than the traditional morning one). Koinonia is a casual style of worship and fellowship which is typically offered on the fourth Sunday of each month in the evening. Folks meet for a pot luck meal followed by informal worship on a given theme. Activities throughout the year include other events such as breakfasts, outdoor picnics and a "Sunday Sundae Sing!" Another alternative style of worship at R-W, is "Soul OUTing," addressing our church's commitment to inclusivity of the LGBTQ2+ community. These meetings normally take place on the evening of the second Sunday of each month.

Life passages such as baptisms, confirmations, re-affirmations, as well as new and transfer of memberships, continue to form an important part of worship throughout the year. Many thanks to Susan Hutson and Brenda Sheppard for co-ordinating these services. Thanks also to Jill Lambie as the main facilitator of servers at Communion.

Special mention should be made of the creation of season paraments by the Sanctuary Environment Group. The group conceived of new green paraments which were used this year for "ordinary seasons" (i.e. excluding special seasons such as Christmas, Lent and Easter). The Trinity theme features the green background representing the Creator God, the swirls of gold the Sustainer Spirit, and the cross the Redeemer Christ. The cross on the pulpit cloth was created from natural wood. Bearing in mind that the design of these paraments takes just as much time (if not more-than) hands-on production time, it was no small feat for the group to undertake this project. We appreciate the time they have given to create and assemble these paraments for the enhancement of our sanctuary environment.

Once again, many kudos go to our ushers and greeters who come forward week after week to offer a smile of welcome to all who enter our doors. The importance of this first impression of our faith community to newcomers cannot be underestimated. Thanks again to Pat Stewart and Brenda Sheppard for their expert co-ordination of ushers and greeters. Indeed, we are fortunate to have resourceful volunteers for all of our activities, worship and otherwise, at R-W. These include scripture readers, flower arrangers, kitchen personnel, choristers, leaders of all sorts... I could go on and on. I invite all who read this to take a moment now and then to say "thank you" face-to-face to as many of our amazing volunteers as you can!

With a year under my belt as a member of the Worship Committee, I consider myself more than blessed to have such an easy group of people to work with. Thank you to Brenda, Jill, Pat, Susan, Laura, and especially to Revs. Karen and Leigh, and to Music Director Tammy-Jo, for your thoughtfulness and diligence, and for putting up with this newbie! I look forward to 2019, and to sharing time with everyone at Robertson-Wesley.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Klakowich, Chair
Worship Committee

Ushers & Greeters
WE NEED YOUR HELP.....PLEASE

Do you remember when you first visited Robertson-Wesley United Church by coming to a Sunday service? And do you remember there was a person there to welcome you and hand you a bulletin AND also answer any questions you may have had? Well, that person was a Greeter and is part of a "Team of Greeters" along with the Head Usher who has that job once a month of organizing a team of Greeters. We have been very fortunate the last few years since we started this Model of greeting people as they come into our Church and the people who have signed up to be Head Ushers or Greeters have done an absolutely amazing job. But... we would like to give the "regulars" the ones who would always say YES when asked to take on the job of Head Usher or Greeter a break and that's where many of you come into play. It is NOT a hard job. You receive a sheet of very clear instructions about what to do before the service starts and you are also given a list of people who love to Greet and either myself or Pat Stewart will "shadow" you the first time to help you and to answer any questions you may have.

We know there are many people in our congregation who only a year or two ago, were "Newcomers" to Robertson - Wesley and were made to feel welcome the first time they came to R-W.....now we would like YOU to help us out and become a Head Usher or a Greeter welcoming all those people who come to our Church for the first time to feel welcome and experience all that Robertson-Wesley has to offer, just like someone did to you when you first stepped into this wonderful Church. If you would like to give it a try, please come and speak to one of us and we will help you.

Submitted by
Brenda Sheppard and Pat Stewart



10209 123 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1N3
Phone: 780-482-1587
www.rwuc.org

