



June 9, 2019  
Congregational  
Meeting

2018  
Annual  
Program  
Report

THIS YEAR  
— 2018 —  
at Eastside



**eastside**  
united church



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## Agenda

1. Call to order.
2. Motion to allow adherents to vote.
3. Motion to adopt the agenda.
4. Motion to adopt the minutes of the 2019 Congregational Finance Meeting.
5. 2019 Budget
6. JNAC Faith Story
7. Nominations and Elections:
8. Leadership Team, Ministry and Personnel
9. Enabling motion: "That the Eastside Leadership Team be empowered to deal with and act on all routine and emergent matters until the next congregational meeting except those matters which, according to The Manual of the United Church of Canada, require congregational approval."
10. Motion to adjourn.



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Eastside United Church is a progressive spiritual community,  
celebrating God's goodness as expressed through diversity.

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## Eastside Finance Congregational Meeting Minutes March 10, 2019

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Nicole Haynes.
2. Motion to allow adherents to vote.  
*Bonnie Yake so moved. Seconded by Brian Mitchell-Walker. Carried.*
3. Motion to adopt the agenda.  
*Rachel MacDonald so moved. Seconded by Leif Riesach. Carried.*
4. Motion to adopt the minutes of the June 2, 2018 Congregational Meeting.  
*Leona Martin so moved. Seconded by Clare Banks. Carried.*
5. Living Spirit Council Report – Lisa Wilson-Sturm.  
*No report – Lisa Wilson-Sturm not in attendance.*
6. Finance Report – Jim Fallows.  
Jim reviewed the Statement for January 1 – December 31, 2018 which included a comparison with 2017 and 2016. Although 2018 showed a slight surplus (\$5,525) this could be accounted for by the fact that monies were received when Whitmore Park was closed, plus there were some funds remaining from the mortgage drive done in 2016 to cover some mortgage costs. The mortgage still has about 5 ½ years to go with a balance for our portion of \$46,375.00. When compared to 2016 and 2017 ES revenue decreased about \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 per year. And expenses increase each year. Therefore, reviews have been done to try to determine options in moving forward. There is generally a budget prepared and presented at this meeting, but the Leadership Team was unable to prepare a balanced budget as forecasted revenues would not meet the forecasted expenses. In order to be balanced, ES required revenues of between \$145,000.00 and \$147,000.00. The LSC budget is fine, but not ES and perhaps not St. Philip's either. The formula used to determine how much each congregation puts toward the common costs (eg. Building repair, photocopier, insurance, etc.) is dependent on each congregations' revenues. When the revenues for the three congregations were reviewed for 2018 it was found that, although ES revenues were lower, the other congregations were as well; so much so that there was an increase to the ES portion (from 32.00% in 2018 to 35.32% in 2019). But the largest outstanding commitment/payable by ES is to Mission & Service. At the end of December 2018 over \$31,000.00 was owed but that amount was recently reduced to \$25,577.00 when a payment was at the end of January. The M&S submission was deferred as ES was required to



cover its shared costs for the LSC, plus the expenses specific to ES (ie. Salaries). There is also an outstanding amount owed to Presbytery although there has been a reorganization into Regions so not sure where those funds are owed. Jim spoke about a past motion made committing the congregation to submit 10% of all revenue to M&S which meant, if there were not enough donations to M&S, the difference would need to be made up from the general donations.

*Jim moved that Eastside United repeal the commitment to remit 10% of all donations to Mission & Service. Seconded by Anita Tessier. Some discussion. Carried.*

Greg Thomas was invited up to give a report on his review of the books for 2018. In doing the review, he followed the questionnaire provided by the United Church. He reported that the audit showed that general accounting practices were followed.

7. Motion to appoint reviewer of Eastside 2018 books  
*Jim Fallows moved the appointment of Greg Thomas as the internal auditor for 2019. Seconded by Wanda Barr. Carried.*
8. Enabling Motion: “the Eastside Leadership Team be empowered to deal with and act on all routine and emergent matters until the next congregational meeting except those matters which, according to the Manual of the United Church of Canada, require congregational approval.”  
*Janet Bjorndahl so moved. Seconded by Michael Tessier. Carried.*
9. Motion to adjourn.  
*Bonnie Yake so moved. Carried.*

## Minister's Report

*Gratitude therefore emerged...as the antidote to foreboding joy. If the opposite of scarcity is enough, then practicing gratitude is how we acknowledge that there's enough and that we're enough. Brené Brown, Daring Greatly*

This quote is from one of the books that the Craft/Study group did this fall. Foreboding joy is described as that feeling we can have when we feel deep joy, but then fear creeps in that something bad is going to happen. Too often we do not allow ourselves to experience the joy. Gratitude helps us stay with the joy. We have much to be grateful for as a community of faith, given what we have been through, and how we have come out of it. So I wish to focus this report on gratitude.

The second book the Craft/Study group is working on is *The Inconvenient Indian*, an insightful book that is helping us understand the challenges of Indigenous people in North America. It gives context to the news we are hearing lately, from the MMIW report, and issues of reconciliation. It is with gratitude that we are able to explore such issues with grace, patience, and openness.

I am grateful for the lay leaders who dedicate their time and talent to the ministry of this place. The Leadership Team has had a heavy load this year with some difficult situations to deal with; I commend each member of this small team for coming through this year with grace, and for the commitment they show to this community. I support the Congregational Care committee who offer so much support and care to the members of this community in need. The Faith Formation committee which looks after Christian education and worship oversight, is another committee I offer support to. They are a dedicated group who plan, discern, and envision ministry in these areas, with energy and enthusiasm.

The ministry of the Community Dinner fills me with gratitude. This fall we renewed and revamped the Family Dinner with some changes for it to become a Community Dinner. I am grateful for the \$3500 secured in funding from the Innovations Fund of The United Church of Canada, part of the Embracing the Spirit money. They like when we learn from an experiment and adapt a program. The Community Dinner is now open to all in the church and community. We are building on the fact that we had one woman coming who brought 10-15 friends each time. I am deeply grateful for the two kitchen teams have been established to lighten the load on the team that was doing it. Thanks to Wanda Barr, Doug Scheurwater and Linda Fowler who are doing much of the Kitchen leadership of the teams! The format of the dinner has changed to incorporate an informal worship time of song, scripture and prayers, loosely modelled after Dinner Church. I am also grateful for contributions we received from Safeway, Co-op, and Second Cup for some of the meals. I am also excited to see some cross-pollination of those who attend who are not connected to Eastside, attending Film & Faith and worship.



I am grateful for Ethan Williams stepping in to lead the choir, and to see the choir grow. His leadership has been a blessing and I have heard much positive feedback from choir members. I am grateful for Cindy Haynes' continued leadership with *Arise!* which has been able to offer music almost every month. I am filled with gratitude for Barry Sudom and the guys he has gathered (Brian Abrahamson, Maitland McNeil, Ethan Williams) to help fill the gaps in music when *Arise!* wasn't able to play. I feel really grateful when people find a new home in Eastside and jump in to participate in the community.

I am grateful for our growing relationship with Indigenous Christian Fellowship (formally Indian Metis Christian Fellowship). I am grateful for the team of volunteers who help prepare and serve their monthly breakfasts. This year we attended together the Treaty 4 Days Pow Wow in Fort Qu'Appelle in September. It was a great day of building relationship and learning together. We have also started together INI Café, Indigenous, Non-Indigenous Café, Reconciliation through Performing Arts. The event is once a month at ICF with one Indigenous and one non-Indigenous performer. This June 14, our own Rachel MacDonald will be playing.

I am grateful for my learnings and experience in Parish Ministry leadership. These learnings led me to follow up with a request for breakfast food from Glen Elm School. As a result we have a growing partnership program that would include Munch Café, Glen Elm School, and the Living Spirit partners, as well as a potential partner with a Muslim women's organization. The program would see lunch being prepared with young people from the school, once a week, to provide lunches for children who can't bring a lunch. While our initial funding application was not successful, we can apply to the Embracing the Spirit Fund and have a good chance of being successful.

With the financial challenges we faced which came to light near the end of 2018, I began the work of Stewardship and formed the Gratitude Team with Wanda Barr, Teresa Strachan, and Maureen Hughes. I am so deeply grateful for this team and the wonderful Stewardship work we have all done together as a community of Eastside. Who would have thought that in four months we would not only have raised \$38,000 to pay the debt we had to M&S and Presbytery, but also surpassed our target goal for our Stewardship campaign?! We set a generous goal of getting our PAR and envelope givings to \$150,000. At this writing we are over \$154,000. I have been praying for the human and financial resources for Eastside to be sustainable to carry out our ministry and mission. It looks like prayer has been answered, and I am filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who are so committed to this wonderful community!

I am grateful for the ministry we have together with the Living Spirit Centre and the increased cooperation and partnering we have done this year. Along with our Advent and Lent services, Christmas and Easter shared services, we have had two shared Sunday services. In July we had a shared Canada Day service and in November we





had a shared Remembrance Sunday service. June 23 will be a shared service for Indigenous Sunday. We will worship together at 9:30am followed by the blanket exercise and a cold potluck feast. Together we have also offered *Messy Church*, a joint family ministry program, one Saturday each month from December to June. It is hoped that this will continue for the fall, once we evaluate whether there is enough interest and leadership.

My involvement with the wider church continues through my involvement with the Anglican-United Dialogue group as well as serving as program chair with Skylight Festival. One of the offshoots of the AC-UC dialogue is that we have begun conversations with St. Philip Anglican to explore whether we would like to be a shared ministry. This dialogue is in its early stages and I am very grateful for this opportunity.

I am grateful for the opportunities for Continuing Education to continue learning and growing in my faith and skills. This year, with some feedback experienced regarding my preaching, I attended the Festival of Homiletics, a preaching conference that was very energizing and helpful. I am also working with Jim Tenford, minister from St. Andrews' UC in Moose Jaw, who has agreed to mentor me in my preaching. We will also be setting up a worship and preaching feedback team so if you wish to participate in this, let me know. I also took advantage of a number of webinars (online courses) on stewardship, including using the UC stewardship resources.

I am filled with gratitude for this community. It has been clear through this time that so many of you find Eastside important and meaningful. It was heartening to experience worship services well attended in spite of the financial and leadership challenges we were experiencing. I am deeply grateful for the support that I experienced during this time as well as for the challenge which has helped me to grow. I am filled with gratitude for Suzanne who continues to offer so much to her position and so often goes beyond the call. Her creativity and commitment is greatly appreciated. For this ministry and all of you, I am truly grateful. May you practice gratitude to deter foreboding joy and relish when you experience joy.

Blessings  
Russell Mitchell-Walker, Diaconal Minister

## Leadership Team Report

The Leadership Team has met five times since the last program congregational meeting in June 2018. Many thanks to Sarah Tkachuk, Jim Fallows, Bonnie Yake, Bonny Manz, Russell Mitchell-Walker, and data and communications coordinator Suzanne Joyce for all they have done. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this group of faithful people over the last year.





This year, in addition to the Joint Needs Assessment that was called at the end of last year, Eastside was faced with a stark reality when Wascana Presbytery called for a formal review of the congregation stemming from a significant financial deficit that left us unable to pay our debts. This review, conducted by outside reviewer John Burton, assessed the current state of Eastside through various official documents, reports and feedback from the congregation. The results of this review were passed on to a Region sub-committee, The Committee on Community of Faith who met with the Leadership Team co-chairs and Russell Mitchell-Walker, who provided a response to the report. After taking into account the report and the responses, the Committee presented their recommendations at a congregational meeting. The Leadership Team took these recommendations and have responded to the Committee with a plan that addresses their concerns and requirements for repayment of debt.

This has been a tough year and it has been amazing to see how the people of Eastside have banded together to do what's necessary to ensure the future of the church. It goes beyond the monetary donations, which were incredible in and of themselves. We've witnessed people come together to provide new ways to church including new music offerings, a newly formed Gratitude Team and many others, which has resulted in renewed and deepened relationships. Eastside has come out of this stronger than ever. When the future of Eastside looked uncertain, the people of the congregation stood together and said "we're not willing to let this happen".

As I will be stepping down this year, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Leadership Team for all of their strength, guidance, dedication and service to Eastside. Board service is the toughest volunteer role and a leader is only as good as the team they have around them. I am incredibly grateful for all of the support I have been provided over the past five years, and while my official service has ended, I'm looking forward to seeing how the Leadership Team and Eastside community grows and moves forward.

I also want to recognize and celebrate the many leaders and members at Eastside who give their time and talents wholly in so many different ways. I cannot thank you enough for what you all do. Know that Eastside would not be the same without you. It is clear the Spirit is alive in Eastside and the Living Spirit Centre. May we continue to live with Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

It has been our privilege, as a Leadership Team, to serve our congregation this past year. Please take time to read the committee reports which follow to get an overview of our work, supporting the many and varied ministries happening at Eastside United Church.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole D. Haynes, Chair





## Board of Trustees' Report

Members of the Board of Trustees are: Doug Scheurwater – Chair; Ruth Hannah – secretary and Keith Hopkin, Russell Mitchell-Walker (ex-officio).

There was no activity between April 2018 and March 2019.

Submitted by Ruth Hannah, Secretary.

## Eastside United Committees & Ministries

### Ministry and Personnel Committee

Tasks carried out by M&P fall under the following categories: review of responsibilities and position descriptions for staff; staff performance reviews; liaison with staff members; development of work plans; and communication with the congregation.

Russell's position description was updated in 2017. M&P will undertake to update Suzanne's position if this is deemed necessary.

Goal setting in the fall and a performance review in June have been carried out for both Russell and Suzanne annually. In the future, M&P will solicit input from other committees when conducting the annual review, and will share the results of the performance review with the leadership team.

At present, Lori Latta is the designated staff liaison for Russell. M&P will find someone to act as Suzanne's designated M&P liaison.

We realize that Russell and the Leadership Team need to have clear mutual understanding of the commitment to the long-term strategic goals of the church and a shared vision for how all our resources support these goals, including Russell's time, expertise and energy. M&P commits to a mutual planning process with Russell, Suzanne and the Leadership Team to ensure that work plans are aligned with the strategic priorities of the church and its members.

We feel that much effort has been spent in the past year to elicit feedback from the congregation, including informal surveys, focus groups, and formal sessions with the reviewer, John Burton. This has put us in a unique position of having a great deal of honest, thoughtful feedback at this time. We would recommend looking at the suggestions that have been made to help Russell in his work and in planning his continued education.



We plan to speak to the congregation about the role of M&P, our need for new members, and how to handle conflicts when they arise. We will address the congregation during a service in June, and also include a printed version in the church's summer newsletter.

Respectfully submitted by Cathie Henderson and Lori Latta

## Faith Formation Committee

Faith Formation set the following goals this year:

Goal	Outcome
Support promotion of LSC programs and events that all are welcome to.	Announcements from other congregations are included in the weekly updates
Explore Messy Church	Messy Church was held in December, January, February, March, April and May in partnership with Bread of Life and St. Phillips. Eastside's role was to provide the crafts for the event. A few dedicated Eastside members supported this each time
Promote themes of worship	Themes for the service were promoted through the weekly emails. We will continue to work on this goal next year.
Have at least 2 multi-generational services	We held multi-generational services on Christmas Eve, November 18, and Palm Sunday

Highlights for the year included:

- Debbie Menz, John Bishop and Stephanie Banks joined Faith Formation
- Christmas highlights:
  - ◊ Shared Christmas Eve service with Bread of Life
  - ◊ Christmas carols and Nativity night
  - ◊ Rainbow Youth supported once again through outreach
- Easter highlights:
- Eastside hosted Shrove Tuesday
  - ◊ Easter Egg Hunt was led by Brian Mitchell-Walker, Stephanie Banks and Leanne Sudom- had about 25 children attend (there were a lot of Easter Egg Hunts that day in Regina)
  - ◊ Good Friday service was with Bread of Life
  - ◊ Eternal Spring with Flute group and dancer contributed on Easter Sunday

- Faith Story sharing continued to occur monthly
- Continued to have monthly Film & Faith
- Craft Study group began to study *The Inconvenient Indian*
- Russell began to offer prayers and invited members to join him three times per week
- Community Dinner teams worked well to share the work and alternated monthly
- A new musical group was formed with Brian Abrahamson, Ethan Williams, Maitland McNeil and Barry Sudom
- *Arise!* continued to provide music ministry almost every month
- Baptized:
  - ◊ Kaliya daughter of Heather and Tyler Sobolski
  - ◊ Kane son of Darrin & Jamie Carlson (in June)
- Social Innovation Challenge plans were set with November 8 & 9, 2019 for the event
- Wedding and Funeral policies were revised and approved by the Leadership Team
- Ethan Williams led the choir for Advent and Easter
- Sunday School was prepared by Amanda Benesh, Cathie Henderson and Leanne Sudom for all Sundays except those identified as multi-generational or special in some other way (e.g. the long weekend in May, Easter, etc.)
- We have been unable to get house leaders for House of St .Francis, House of Esther and House of Dinah. Leanne Sudom has taken on the organizing of these house groups this year.

Respectfully submitted Leanne Sudom  
Co-chair Faith Formation Committee

### *House Group Coordinator Report*

Eastside United has five house groups that share responsibility for worship service tasks including greeting, reading, serving Communion, operating PowerPoint, and helping with coffee or potluck lunches. On average, there are 20 active families assigned to each house group.

I have continued in the role of House Group Coordinator this past year.

We now have three house groups without leaders. Thank you very much to Dale Banks (House of Esther) and Heather and Taylor Balfour (House of Dinah) for their past service to Eastside. And thanks to Leanne Sudom for pinch-hitting in the leader role while we search for new individuals to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in learning more about what's involved in being a house group leader, please talk to me.



And a huge thank you to our current house leaders who ensure a tremendous Sunday morning worship experience for you: Martha—Brian Mitchell-Walker and Bonnie Yake; Noah—Cathie Henderson and Jayne Krueger-Jickling.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Joyce

## Congregational Care

Committee members are Delia Baidoo, Clare Banks, Michelle Dickie, Linda Fowler, Elaine Hill, Sheri Nupdal, Barb Rio, Russell Mitchell-Walker, advisor.

This year our work continued with the following goals:

- To become aware or informed of people in need within Eastside.
- Making monthly phone calls to those who have an identified need (illness, grief, loneliness, isolated, etc.).
- Welcoming newcomers on Sunday morning through the designated Congregational Care Greeter from the committee.
- Coordinating and participating in the Prayer Chain. Committee members are on the prayer chain, manage the list of those who wish to be on the prayer chain, and send prayer requests.
- Grief Support through offering the *Journey Through Grief* booklet series and prayer shawls and visits to those who are bereaved.
- Manage the Prayer Shawl ministry.
- Supporting one another to carry out the ministry
- Support the Healing Team, who offer prayers and anointing during communion.

This year the Health & Wellness seminar series after church was deferred due to many other after church meetings and commitments of congregants. We hope to revive the speaker series in January of 2020 so if you have suggestions for speakers or theme topics, please let us know.

This year we started two new practices: celebrating new babies born into our community with a welcome card to the family; and overseeing the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre Worship service for the residents.

We are committed to encouraging the congregation to keep us informed when people are in need.

We met the first Thursday of each month from September until June. We use a rotating chair process as well as a rotating phoning process. This year we created/ revised our Terms of Reference and plan to finalize this document by fall 2019. We would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Healing Team ; Wanda Barr, Brian Mitchell-Walker, Jean MacKay, Rachael MacDonald and Delia Baidoo.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the prayer shawl knitters/crocheters/contributors: Debbie Morehouse, Gladys Oleksyn, Lucille Henderson, Clare Banks and the other “anonymous secret angels” whose shawls mysteriously appear in the bin each month. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Elaine Hill who manages the grief booklet schedule for our committee, and Sonia Abrahamson for the card sending ministry and Elaine as the liaison between the committee and Sonia. Thank you all.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Fowler

## Affirming Ministry

While we continue to be without a formal committee, we do have interested and supportive members who step up when asked. Once again we coordinated an affirming presence in the Pride Parade, this year expanding it to a Welcoming Faiths contingent, reflective that we had a Buddhist priest marching with us the previous year. Russell was unable to attend as he was away, so St. James United Church took the lead role. There was a good group from each of the Affirming Ministries, Sunset, St. James, Wesley, Eastside, and some from Knox Met as they are in process of becoming Affirming. Folk from Bread of Life and other Lutherans joined us as well.



This year, the Affirming Ministries nationally launched an initiative called PIE Day, encouraging Affirming Ministries to plan events around being Public, Intentional, and Explicit (PIE) in their welcome of LGBTQ+ people. With thanks to Busi Mabhemba, Heather Balfour, Ernie Poirier, and Brent Langeberger (Bread of Life) we had our own PIE Day event on March 14. Over 40 people attended to enjoy some fair activities, being welcomed to Treaty Four and learning about Two Spirit People by Lorna Standing Ready, hearing stories, and of course pie! It was very well received here and across the country and will likely be an annual event.

This year, Welsey UC is hosting a sign making potluck evening on June 14, the night before the parade. We will have a multi-church group in the parade and all are welcome to join us at 11am June 15, at Broad and 13th Avenue. New this year is a worship service in the park after the parade, hosted by Affirming Ministries, for all at 2 pm.

If you would like to be a part of Affirming Ministry activities, let Russell know. Affirming Ministry Activity supporters/planners have been:

Leanne Sudom, Janet Bjorndahl, Busi Mabhemba, Heather Balfour, Jean Mackay, and Brian Mitchell-Walker

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker.





## Craft/Study Group

Our Book Study group is growing! We're averaging eight people, but sometimes we're up to ten. We've studied a book called *Daring Greatly : How the courage to be vulnerable transforms the way we live, love, parent and lead* by Brené Brown. I believe we all got a little transformation from this book!

Then we started studying *The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King. This book has opened our minds to the struggle of Indigenous people. As a white person, I've realized structures the government set up were for the benefit of Europeans, not the Indigenous i.e. residential schools.

We invite you to come and try this group in the fall! We always have coffee, tea and goodies and lots of laughter!

Respectfully submitted by Carol Hein

## Film & Faith

Film & Faith continues to meet monthly, usually on the third Friday of the month to attend a movie at a theatre and then have discussion about the spiritual themes at a local restaurant. We are often dependent on the movie theatre schedule which means movies are not confirmed until the week of our gathering. Folk are invited to vote on their choice of three possibilities. The group has taken ownership of the conversation often with someone other than Russell asking the question, "Where did you see God in the movie?" Some of the movies enjoyed this year were *Green Book*, *BlackKKlansman*, *Indian Horse* and *Boy Erased*. While most attendees are from Eastside we have had a few retired ministers join us this year and we have been thrilled to welcome one of the participants of the community dinner to the group.

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker

## Wascana Rehabilitation Centre Worship Services

For at least the past 10 years, Eastside volunteers have led worship services and helped porter residents to and from the chapel at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre on the third Sunday of every other month (February, April, June, August, October, December). The alternate months were facilitated by Wesley United Church. Until Fall 2018, each congregation's 'month' unfolded independent of the other.

This ministry has faithfully been coordinated by Shelly Williams. Thank you, Shelly, for your vital contributions!







We have been blessed to have leaders who have been willing to share their expertise to lead the services, namely, Anna Marie Donovan, Lucille Henderson, and Lorna King. Thank you all for providing meaningful, spiritually rich services for the Wascana residents, family members, and all the present volunteers.

We have also been blessed to have the music leadership of Wendy Hardman. Thank you, Wendy, for your gift of music and song.

The portering complement has fluctuated . There have been several pleas for increased numbers of all volunteers each year at the annual meeting time. This year the expansion of the volunteer base from Eastside is once again requested . Gratitude is expressed to all the portering volunteers who usher residents to and from the chapel; Bonnie Yake, Busi Mabhena, Shelly Williams, Lucille Henderson when she is not leading, Diane Dopko, Barb Rio, Linda Fowler, Stephanie Banks, and Nancy Cranfield .

In November 2018, after collaboration with Carolyn McBean, the Wesley coordinator, a plea was made at the last session of Wascana Presbytery for leaders, musicians, porters (with an emphasis on porters). No porters were recruited, but we were able to obtain commitment from Lorna King, a recently retired United Church minister who has moved back to Regina, as an alternate leader for both churches. Since November, Eastside and Wesley have worked cooperatively to provide this ministry at Wascana Rehabilitation Centre. Tentative plans are underway to forward a request for volunteers from other Regina United Churches via the Regina cluster meeting on June 19, 2019.

As of May 9, there are 27 residents who have indicated [or their families have indicated] that they would be open to the invitation to attend a United Church service. On average between 10 and 14 residents with 7 -8 family members attend the service. This number has been increasing over the past year, sometimes taxing the porters if at least 6 are not present. WRC's support to worship leaders is through its 'Therapies Manager'. There is commitment to provide an abbreviated volunteer orientation to Worship service providers in the fall.

This year Shelly has indicated a desire to reduce her role in coordination, so she and I are co-coordinating Eastside's months of service.





This ministry is much appreciated by the residents and family members at Wascana Rehabilitation Centre and is an important part of our pastoral care and outreach endeavours at Eastside.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Fowler

## Gratitude Team Report

The Gratitude Team formed in response to the recent financial crisis at Eastside and to embark on a stewardship campaign. The team currently has four members: Russell Mitchell-Walker, Teresa Strachan, Maureen Hughes and Wanda Barr.



Wanda attended the Stewardship Buzz event at Wesley United on February 5, which was led by Kathryn Hofley from the United Church national office. Kathryn introduced the resource *Called to Be the Church: Loving Our Neighbours* which suggested several options for stewardship. We have found this very helpful in our work.

We met for the first time on March 12 to develop a plan of action and set our goals. Sarah Tkachuk, Leadership co-chair attended to offer her support, and Rachel MacDonald came with ideas for raising our visibility in the neighbourhood and fund-raising at the same time.

As Easter was approaching and summer months not far off, we decided to get to work immediately by doing a \$1 to100 envelope drive to pay down the M&S owing. With that project, we raised over \$7,000 to add to a very generous donation of \$10,000 we received. The Gratitude Team wrote thank you notes to all who had contributed.

Our next project was to plan a Gratitude Dinner for Friday, April 12 - with no budget! We asked for donations and had a wonderful meal of lasagna, salad, garlic bread, apple crisp and cheesecake. Three ladies from St. Philip gifted us with kitchen services for the evening. We had over 40 people attend the dinner. The Gratitude Team presented stewardship packages to attendees and explained our plan to secure the future budget needs. Stewardship packages were given out after church the following two Sundays, and any not picked up were hand delivered by the Gratitude Team. The week after the dinner, we received another generous gift,

which was the final amount needed to settle our debt. We feel that a Miracle of Abundance is taking place in our community of faith!

For several weeks, we asked someone to do their “Why I Give” story in place of the Minute for Mission. We choose to use the *Called to Be the Church: Loving Our Neighbours* Three Sundays of Gratitude outlined in the resource. (Aren’t you glad we didn’t choose the Five Sunday option?!) May 12 was the final service and we asked people to please return their response sheets by that date so that we would know approximately what would be committed to Eastside United over the next year. This allows the Leadership Team to plan for our future. If you have not yet returned your response, it is not too late! We are grateful for all we receive to carry out our mission and ministry.

We look forward to the future with optimism, faith and deep thankfulness for all that God has supplied through your generosity. We welcome any and all help on the Gratitude Team as we continue to write many, many notes of thanks.

*Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!*

Respectfully submitted by Wanda Barr, on behalf of the Gratitude Team

## Wascana Presbytery Report

This is the last report on meetings of the Wascana Presbytery. It ceased to exist December 31, 2018 as a new governance was being implemented in 2019 onward.

The June 2018 potluck supper was hosted by the Plainsview Pastoral Charge in Grand Coulee. Committee reports were presented as well as celebratory remarks on the past year.

Strasbourg United Church hosted the September 29, 2018 meeting, chaired by our President, Tricia Gerhard. The highlights were the report of General Council 43 and discussion on the Transition Process. An Interim Executive for Region 4 (all of Sask.) had met earlier to discuss transitioning.

The final meeting was held at Wesley UC on November 17, 2018. A Transitional Cluster Coordinating Committee (TCCC) with Catherine Barnsley, as chairperson, was established. The other members are: Vicki Nelson, Randy Graham, Kent



Stewart, Cameron Fraser and Donna Rumpel. The meeting closed with a service of remembrance, celebration and sadness.

A number of meetings, both rural and urban, have occurred in this area of Region 4, now called Living Skies Regional Council. These were planned by the TCCC team in early 2019. The urban cluster, especially, is meeting to discuss and explore sharing of resources as congregations, including exploring having fewer buildings and congregations in Regina. The inaugural meeting of Living Skies Regional Council was held in Swift Current May 30th – June 2nd, 2019. And so we move forward.

Submitted by Leif Riesach on behalf of Russell Mitchell-Walker and Sheri Nupdal



## Clare Parker Homes Inc. 2018 Annual Report to Congregations

Clare Parker Homes (CPH) has had a busy year. CPH opened its sixth home in May 2018. This allowed 3 men to transition from Valley View Centre to the Regina community. Along with this CPH has expanded the Community Inclusion Program (quality of life day program) to support all of our homes. In early 2019, CPH will be working with the Ministry of Social Services to support 2 additional homes for people transitioning out of Valley View Centre.

Community Inclusion supports 12 people in various opportunities. 3 people have gained paid employment through Community Inclusion and the Supported Employment Transitions Initiative (SETI) grant at Harbour Landing Village, Tom's Independent Grocers and ReStore. Some of the people we serve spend time volunteering at REACH (Regina Education & Action on Child Hunger), and as a result we have been able to establish a valued place for these volunteers.

Early in 2017, the agency began working with the Ministry of Social Services to develop a replacement plan for one of our older homes in which 5 people reside. We are happy to report that this home will be rebuilt on site by summer 2019. The people were transitioned in October 2018 to other homes within CPH.

CPH continues to strengthen the focus on person-centred care in order to increase quality of life for the people that we serve and develop a greater community presence.

The broad mix of professional, church, family and community board members ensures that all aspects of issues are considered, with spirited discussion lending itself to sound decision making.



Through partnerships with Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Chip & Dale Homes and Citizen's All (Moose Jaw) we continue to be able to bring the Disability Support Worker Certificate program to Regina to better educate our employees. The agency has partnered with Bed, Bath and Beyond and the Good 360 program in order to receive donations for Household items regularly.

In summary, in 2018 we operated 6 homes, with 23 residents, and with additional service contracts provide care services for 33 individuals. With the opening of two additional homes in 2019, our services will reach 42 individuals from 40 families. Upon reflection, we continue to be blessed by all the staff, volunteer, and family commitment in support of our agency. We look forward to continued enhancements and improvements during 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Rosa Smith, Executive Director

## Living Spirit Centre Ministries

### LSC Council Annual Report –2018

As the Covenant between Bread of Life Lutheran, St Philip Anglican and Eastside United Church says, "the Living Spirit Centre is a community of three Christian congregations. We have come together, with the blessing of our respective denominational authorities, to share human and spiritual resources, and physical facilities, while maintaining our distinct identities. With this covenant, each congregation pledges its support, respect, and continued cooperation, one to the other. The LSC Council reviews the vision and direction of the shared ministry, oversees the work of the shared ministry... and has authority in matters of a financial nature as specified in the Joint Ownership Agreement."

Executive Council members were Lisa Wilson-Sturm (St Philip), Chair; Alicia McEwen (Bread of Life), Vice Chair; and Bonny Manz (Eastside), Secretary. Other Council members were Heather Brownell (St. Philip), Marilyn Leier and Renee Bechard (Bread of Life) and Bonnie Yake (Eastside), as well as clergy the Rev. Stewart Miller (Bread of Life), the Rev. Russell Mitchell-Walker (Eastside), and the Rev. Nancy Yee (St Philip).

The LSC Council met five times in 2018. We developed and agreed upon guidelines for tenant rental approvals, established a better communication process between LSC and the office staff, hosted a successful A Taste of Skylight Festival of Arts in the Spirituality and Justice in the spring, and supported publication of pictorial directories for all three congregations.



This year we continued to work towards more financial transparency, timeliness of statements, and accuracy of budget. In that light, we approved new, more intuitive accounting codes for use in 2019 and going forward. Eastside has a separate LSC account with its signing officers, the assistance of Eastside Data and Communications specialist Suzanne Joyce, and accountant Janet Stevenson. We also approved formal job descriptions for members of the LSC Executive.

In 2018, Property and Maintenance installed new flooring in the basement, repaired roof leaks in the East Sanctuary and Narthex, did parking lot patching, installed an automatic door opener in the north entrance and installed window covering in the East sanctuary. Installation of a similar covering on the South entrance windows is planned for 2019.

The LSC is home to Munch Café and Catering, a growing business providing employment for individuals with cognitive disabilities, the Arcola Wellness Centre, the Arcola East Bridge Club, TOPS, Harmony Group AA, Holy Yoga, and the Amici Singers. We celebrate that we are a welcoming space for so many!

The LSC held an Epiphany supper early in 2019 to reaffirm and resign the LSC Covenant, which was updated and approved by all parishes in early 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Wilson-Sturm, LSC Chair

## LSC Women's Spirituality Breakfast

The Women's Spirituality Breakfast is a tri-parish gathering which brings all Christian women together to share a meal and conversation, and to nurture our spirits in a variety of ways. Anita Tessier is the coordinator of the group with Wendy Hardman helping to find some of our speakers.

We meet the second Saturday of each month September to June from 8 to 10 am. We have conversation and food for the first 45 minutes at the table and then we move to a circle to focus on a specific topic to listen and share.

The group is self-sufficient, with women donating their time/or a small freewill offering (suggested - \$4) to pay for breakfast selections with two volunteers as servers each Saturday. A diverse group of women attend, with some from the LSC congregations and some from elsewhere. We give an honorarium to the speakers we invite but some decline it. As of May 31, 2018, we have a balance of \$689.97 in the bank.



During 2018/2019 we had a variety of speakers and topics as follows:

Sue Bernt – hearing loss

Anastasia Zubrycky – tour of Harbour Landing Village & breakfast for a price.

Grace Howlett – learning to mind your energy for greater health and happiness

Sheri Nupdal – sharing Christmas memories

Denise Horth – death Doula – preparing for death

Donna Gartshore – local book author of Love inspired romance

Kathy Waite – CARP (Canadian Association for Retired Persons) priorities, activities & benefits

Amber-Joy Boyd – legally blind woman and her story

Vi Fahlman & Barb Bentley – facts about skin care that you didn't know.

Annual retreat at Qu'appelle House of Prayer – Glenn Zimmer – the spiritual journey through different stages of life. What happens when our world is rocked /our faith shaken/deconstructed? (What has been your journey this past year? Bring something to represent it.) Also time enjoying the grounds with labyrinth, hike up the trail to the hill by the cross and worship in chapel overlooking the valley. Lunch and snacks were included in the cost of the day.

The themes and speakers are announced each month in the church bulletins and email sent to those women that have requested to be included on the email list. Some women choose to attend all, some select a few. It continues to be a great group for women to share and help each other in what women do in the world and in our community today. All sharing stays in the circle. All women are welcome to attend. Thanks to Wendy Hardman for helping to find speakers and Bonny Manz to help open the church to get ready for the breakfast.

Respectfully submitted by Anita Tessier (Coordinator/Secretary/Treasurer)

## LSC Visual Arts Committee

Committee Members are Holley Schuman (Bread of Life), Ruth Gentile (St. Philip), and Donna Lindskog – part time (Eastside United).

In 2018 our committee was fairly busy. Our work involves setting up displays, wall hangings and items related to the seasons of the Church Year to act as a visual reminder of the church season and to make the environment appropriate for worship.

Our committee is looking for anyone who is interested in joining us. We are getting older and need to get some people to learn about visual arts and be the next leaders of this committee.

Respectfully submitted by Holley Schuman





## LSC Meditation Group

The Living Spirit Meditation Group runs from September to May, meeting every Monday (except for holidays) in the East Sanctuary at 7 pm. Each year we do 2-3 walking meditations using the labyrinth. The members take turns leading the meditations (only once they feel that they are ready to lead). We have music CDs and a meditation book to help members lead the meditation if needed. The group is open to everyone in the community. There is no cost.

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Nupdal

## LSC Book Sale Table

The amount collected from the Book Table for 2018 was \$626 – thanks to all the people who purchased books and donated books. This money is used for special projects which are not covered in the Budget.

Respectfully submitted by Leona Martin

