

*187th Annual  
Activity Report  
and  
Congregational Meeting  
for 2012 - 2013*



*First United Church - 2010-11*

*First United Church  
Port Credit, Mississauga*

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# Annual Activity Report 2012-2013

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**FIRST UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - PROGRAM – June 10, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER: The Congregational Meeting, held in the Sanctuary of First United Church following the morning worship service, was called to order by Rev. Blair Corcoran.

IN MEMORIAM: The following members who passed away since the last Spring Congregational Meeting were named and remembered in prayer:

Lloyd Finley  
Paul Harrigan  
Roy Collins

Lloyd Chapman  
Marjorie Gregory  
Art Benoy

Dorothy McMillen  
Margaret Burrows  
Donald Ray

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND SECRETARY:

MOTION: Moved by Barb Finlay, seconded by Pat Skinner that Ed Mock be appointed as Chair, for this meeting. CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Andy Choles, seconded by Pat Skinner that Carol Wickham be appointed as Secretary, for this meeting. CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Moved by Gordon Maw, seconded by Stephen White that the minutes of the previous meeting – June 5, 2011 – be accepted as printed. CARRIED

CHAIR'S REPORT - Ed Mock

The next item on our agenda is the acceptance of the 186th Annual Activity Report. I hope everyone has had an opportunity to read the reports summarizing the many activities of this congregation over the past year.

The various committees and groups listed in this report are responsible for the activities and programs that contribute to our ongoing congregational life. Some of these programs also contribute to the community in Port Credit. Council is always looking for new opportunities to expand our programs, so if you have an idea for a project (short or long-term), please let us know.

To all the volunteers who organize and run our programs and activities, my associates on Council, and to the staff – Blair, Christine (for keeping our administrative stuff in order), Laura and Sandy (for a superb music program), Candida (for her efforts with Children's Church), Robin & Alex (for taking care of the Nursery), I offer a sincere thank you for helping to keep First United on the map.

This is my last report as Council Chair. My two year term is coming to an end six years later! I have enjoyed the experience of being Chair and overseeing the operation of this congregation. I would like to thank you for all the support and encouragement I have received and hope you will offer the same support to the new Chair.

I would now ask for a motion to approve the 186th Annual Activity Report.

MOTION: Moved by Mike Miller, seconded by John Anderson that the 186th Activity Report be accepted. CARRIED

It was noted from the congregation that thanks should be extended to the Donaldson's – Gail & Jack – and all their team – for their efforts on behalf of The Compass. Also sincere thanks and applause to Ed for his many years of outstanding leadership.



**FIRST UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - PROGRAM - June 10, 2012**

PRESENTATION OF THE NOMINATING REPORT:

Ed Mock, Chair of Council, reviewed the roster of the Church Council for the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, as distributed. There are few changes for this coming year. Barb Finlay mentioned the duplication of her name in the Spiritual Development Group.

MOTION: Moved by Andy Choles, seconded by Andrew Miller that the Nomination Report, with the change noted, be accepted as printed. CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS/QUESTIONS:

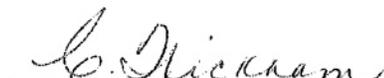
A question was asked concerning the group formed earlier this year to determine the church's future. Ed replied that, for the present time, it is on hold.

BENEDICTION:

The closing prayer and benediction was given by Blair Corcoran.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

  
Ed Mock, Chair

  
Carol Wickham, Secretary

# In Memoriam

(June 2012 to May 31, 2013)

“The Souls of the righteous are in the Hands of God”

*Dorothea (Dolly) Burrows*

*Jean Catherine Brown*

*Elizabeth Rose Densmore*

*Ruth Hickox*

*Anna Currie Kennedy*

*Harry Tatchell*

“I am the resurrection and the life.  
Those who believe in me will live,  
even though they die;  
and those who live  
and believe in me  
will never die.”



# Membership Statistics

## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS – MAY 1, 2012 TO APRIL 30, 2013

	<u>People</u>	<u>Families</u>
<b>Total Membership as of May 1, 2012</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Received by Confirmation (under 18)</b>	<b>+ 0</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
<b>Received by Transfer/Re-affirmation</b>	<b>+ 0</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
<b>Re-instated (Inactive Roll/Non Resident)</b>	<b>+ 0</b>	<b>+ 0</b>
<b>Removed by Death</b>	<b>- 4</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Transferred to Other Churches</b>	<b>- 2</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Removed to Inactive Roll</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Transferred to Non Resident Roll</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Membership as of April 30, 2013</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>158</b>

*Prepared by:* Carol Wickham, Roll Clerk  
May 1, 2013

*Prepared for:* Annual General Meeting

# Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on May 14, 2013. The meeting started as a joint meeting with the Resource Management Group (RMG). Stephen White presented the details of the church's proposed insurance coverage for the year June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014. The insurance program, endorsed by the United Church of Canada, is tailored to the needs of First United Church. RMG accepted the recommendations and the Trustees concurred. Thanks were expressed to Stephen for his thorough presentation and efforts on behalf of First United Church.

The Board of Trustees met following the joint meeting. With Rev. Blair Corcoran temporarily in the chair, the Board re-elected Barbara Abrams as Chair and Kent Farrow as Vice-chair, and elected John Anderson as Secretary.

The Trustees wish to acknowledge, with appreciation, the extraordinary efforts of generous donors and the RMG in managing the mortgage repayment on behalf of the Congregation.

There were no events during the year that required the action of the Board of Trustees.

The Chair, by reason of Office, was a member of, and attended the meetings of the Church Council for the year.

*Submitted by Barbara Abrams, chair*

# First United Book Club

The Book Club met on three occasions during the year for some lively and thought provoking discussions. Two the books chosen – “Darwin, Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos” and “Amen” - were written respectively by United Church ministers Bruce Sanguin and Greta Vosper, who have managed to combine book writing with their full time pastoral duties. The third book “The Evolution of God’ was written by Robert Wright a noted American academic.

Despite their various topics - the environment, the practice of prayer and humanity's historical and contemporary understanding of a divine entity – all books had a common thread of offering perspectives on their subject matter which constructively challenged the more traditional theological approach.

Members enjoy the open and exploratory nature of discussions which offer fresh perspectives on our faith tradition at a time when opportunities for such dialogue in person seem to be limited.

*Submitted by John Green, Convenor*



# Community Programs Group

- Organization of Ushers
- Arranging of Speakers for Mission and Service Sundays and Minute for Mission
- Seniors' Luncheons (June, November and February)
- Homecoming Dinner
- Pre-Christmas Bake Sale (proceeds to the Compass)
- Reception for the Candlelight Service
- Pancake Supper with help from volunteers
- Choir Appreciation Lunch

The Community Programmes Group is presently made up of three different groups:

- Organization of Ushers
- Mission and Service and Outreach
- Food Preparation and Serving of the Over 80's Luncheon (this is done in conjunction with the Over 80's Planning Committee)
- Overseeing and Planning of regularly planned Social Functions

*submitted by Nancy Brodie*

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# Mission and Service

Through the United Church Mission & Service Fund, First United Church participates in mission projects around the world and here in Canada. Our contributions at First United to this Fund amounted to \$44,050 in 2012. This amount is very commendable and our M&S beneficiaries both in Canada and around the world are very thankful for our support. Our donations, however, are down by approximately seven percent from the year 2011.

It is interesting to note that the Service part of the Fund is funded by investment income and self funds, so that what we give to M&S goes totally to Mission projects.

Through Minutes For Mission, information on various Mission projects have been reported to the congregation. In future we hope to develop dialogue with the congregation to exchange ideas and visions concerning our participation in the many needs around the world and among us at home. These needs are ever increasing while Fund support has been declining. Our objective this year is \$45,000. This is a practical target and it would be great to reverse our declining givings over the past several years. Through our givings we are doing a small but significant part to help the world's needy.

*submitted by Cliff & Maxine Elliott*

## First United Foundation

The First United Foundation was created with Letters Patent dated June 23, 1999. All the members and future members of First United Church became members of the Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation was to help secure the financial future of the ministry and work of First United Church. That purpose has not changed.

It is the first object of the fund that through the "interest earnings" on the capital in the Foundation Fund it will:

1. help maintain the physical plant used by the Congregation
2. provide funds for "Outreach" within and beyond the borders of the Port Credit area and
3. provide funds for new initiatives in Outreach work.

The purpose of the First United Foundation Committee is to promote and encourage the donation of "Special Gifts"... gifts that are over and beyond the regular contributions of Congregational members to the life and work of the church. Such gifts may come from but not be limited to such sources as:

- wills and bequests (The Foundation must be named in the Will)
- insurance policies
- "gifts in kind"

The Committee responsible for the Foundation will be promoting the benefits of gifts to the Foundation to assure the continued presence and influence of this church in the Mississauga area. In 2013, the Foundation transferred \$750 to the church General Fund and \$750 to the Outreach Fund.

*submitted by Merle Zoerb – Chair*

# Memorials and Special Gifts Fund

The purpose of the Memorials and Special Gifts Fund is to encourage good stewardship by members, adherents and friends of First United Church through financial support of the Church from accumulated resources in addition to the regular ongoing contribution to the local budget and to the Mission and Service Fund. The arrangement offers an opportunity to make monetary gifts to the Church to celebrate births, marriages, anniversaries and memorials without affecting a commitment to the General Fund of the Church. A memorial gift to the Church is also a means of remembering friends and loved ones. All these gifts substantially assist in fulfilling the Fund's mandate of providing financial assistance to First United.

Special gifts may be made in a number of ways: by cash or cheque, a bequest in your Will, an annuity, or a life insurance policy in favour of First United. Also, a transfer of real or personal property, e.g., real estate, stocks, bonds, etc., may be made to the Church. There is an income tax advantage to donating financial stocks to the Church. Gifts to First United Church may be unrestricted or restricted as to the application of the funds. In order to assist the church in carrying out its mission, it is preferable to make an unrestricted gift.

United Church of Canada Special Gift Consultants are available to give professional advice to anyone considering a gift in a Will, an annuity, life insurance or a transfer of real or personal property to the Church. If this is of interest to you, please inquire at the First United Church office.

During the period under review memorial gifts of \$7,565 were received for which we are most thankful. This unusually large amount is the accumulation of the many gifts in memory of: Art Benoy, Jean Brown, Dolly Burrows, Roy Collins and Don Ray. Disbursements from the Memorials and Special Gifts Fund were: \$2,438 to upgrade the elevator, \$2,153 for additional cupboards, \$363 for stationery and \$40 a restricted gift to the Friends of Faith account. The first two payments represent a non-routine maintenance and a capital improvement that could not be accommodated in the local budget of First United.

*submitted by Don Shuttleworth - Chair*

## Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast is a regular occurrence on many Saturdays throughout the year. The breakfasts are organized by Blair Corcoran our minister, with no formal agenda, just good fellowship and a lot of fun. If you would like to enjoy a marvellous Irish breakfast at the Brogue Inn with good friends and guests then please come and join us. Simply contact Christine Barlow in our office and she will make all arrangements.

*submitted by Fred Gotzmann*

# Ministry & Personnel Committee

Ministry and Personnel is a mandatory committee required by The United Church of Canada in each congregation. It is confidential and consultative, tasked with supporting the staff and pastoral relations of the church. The committee of five members met four times this last year.

Our minister Blair Corcoran unfortunately suffered a heart attack in July 2012, which incapacitated him for several months. Happily he made a good recovery and was able to resume his full time duties by the end of the year. We all wish him continued good health with no more unplanned trips to the hospital. Blair has also indicated his wish to retire in the not too distant future. In anticipation of this, a Joint Needs Assessment Committee was established in November to determine the ministry needs of First United. It is anticipated this report will be presented to the congregation for discussion and approval in June 2013.

Sandy Becket, our talented organist, and Laura Fitzpatrick, our choir director, have provided outstanding leadership to our music ministry this past year. With her many contacts in the music world, Laura has brought us a wonderfully varied program which has been inspiring and very much appreciated.

In the office Christine Barlow coordinates the many activities in our church building, including the growing number of church rentals, as well as carrying out the many duties necessary to keep our church running smoothly. This past winter she did an outstanding job of organizing the church photo directory which was a huge amount of work.

Candida Silveira reliably coordinates our church school program on Sunday mornings and numbers seem to be growing in this ministry. We should also mention our church and nursery hosts who are so essential to the smooth running of the church, particularly Helen Tintpulver and Emma Beckett in the nursery, and Alex Wallace who has now moved on from this position after many years of faithful service.

On behalf of the congregation, the Ministry and Personnel Committee would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the staff for their work and contribution to the ministry of First United this past year.

*submitted by Carol Hennigar and John Anderson  
Ministry and Personnel Committee*



# The Music Program

The 2012-2013 season has been a busy one for the music program. To each and every member of our choirs, let me begin by extending my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the entire congregation for your very important contribution to our church services. The Lakeshore Voices, Full Spectrum, and Adult Choir have been hard at work this year, exploring a variety of musical genres, with a variety of musical guests. In addition to the Halton Youth Symphony string quartet, the Jazz Combo from the candlelight service, and our Easter service with the Toronto Brass Ensemble, our choirs have also been accompanied by oboe, saxophone, drums, trumpet, violin, flute and vibraphone. And of course, the congregation and choirs alike are always delighted to hear our glorious organ played by the very talented Sandy Beckett!

The Lakeshore Voices, consisting of singers in grades 1 through 6, welcomed some new members this year. As this group continues to grow, our focus is on developing musical skills including: singing in parts (rounds and harmony); performance experiences as soloists and small groups; musical terms and vocabulary; and vocal/choral techniques. If you know of any young people who might enjoy singing with us, please extend an invitation to them. Our rehearsals will resume in the fall on Thursday evenings.

The 5 members of the Full Spectrum, our youth choir, have made many appearances - individually and as a group - in our Sunday morning services. These exceptional young people have shared their musical gifts in many ways: through singing, of course, but also through playing violin, trombone and piano. They have collaborated in the last year with our other choirs in order to accompany them on various instruments, and - on occasion - to sing with them. We rehearse on Sundays immediately following the service, and we look forward to singing with Aaliyah Hiddleston, Rebekah Manose, and Dylan Raymond as they graduate from the Lakeshore Voices into the Full Spectrum in September.

Members of our Adult Choir, a dynamic group of approximately 25 singers, have explored a wide variety of musical genres and styles this year. We have performed a diverse collection of anthems during the Sunday morning services here at First, from Classical to Gospel and Jazz. If you have any ideas for our future musical selections, please let us know. We are also always looking for new members, so if you'd like to drop by one of our Thursday evening rehearsals, please do. New members are always welcome!

*submitted by Laura Fitzpatrick, Choral Director*

# Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team of First United Church is made up of 16 members who meet monthly with Rev. Blair Corcoran to review the “health” of the congregation and to make plans for the care of those in the church family who have a special need at that time. Care might be given due to illness, a death in the family, lonely times at home, or maybe just a friendly “Hello” is offered in the form of a card, visit or phone call. The team works behind the scenes with great dedication to their work, and also responds when a need comes up during the month between meetings.

Care is also given to those who are facing the difficult first anniversary of the death of a loved one. A card or phone call lets them know that others remember and travel with them.

Those 80 and over who are celebrating a birthday receive a card and cheery greetings each year. The team appreciates any help they receive in keeping up to date with people reaching this wonderful milestone.

The privacy of the people the team reaches out to is always foremost in our minds, and the information shared at the team meetings is treated with the greatest respect.

Please don't hesitate to inform Rev. Blair of a need in the congregation. Sometimes an opportunity to care or help has been missed because the church did not get a call.

The following folks are currently on the team: Rev. Blair and Alison Corcoran

Kay Anderson	Nancy Brodie	Chris Dowdall	Denise Edmonds
Liz Gotzmann	Wilf Rogers	June Ray	Nancy Rudderham
Helen Shuttleworth	Don Shuttleworth	Tanya Swinbourne	Ruth Tait
Graham Watts	Connie Young		

As the years go by, the team welcomes new members and honours the work done by all the former members who willingly gave their time and resources to support this congregation in bad times and good.

Our thanks to all Pastoral Care Team members for their dedication to First United and it's people.

“May the Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from the other”. Amen.

*Respectfully submitted by Denise Edmonds*

# Quilting Group

Our quilting day is every Tuesday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the stage in Peter Jones Hall. We have seven members and welcome new ones. If you know of anyone who would like to enjoy fellowship and perhaps learn a new skill, contact June Ray or Helen Heatley. No experience is required. A number of crib and queen size quilts have been completed. An old quilt was repaired and a baby quilt was sold. We have raffled off a queen size quilt at the Bites and Bids Luncheon again this year. Proceeds were donated to First United Church debt reduction fund.

*submitted by Helen Heatley*



# Presbytery Liaison

Rev. Kathy Toivanen, Erin Mills United Church and Rev. Stephen Huntley, Tansley United Church shared the chair position of Halton Presbytery in 2012/2013. James Cooper and Wendy Cranston became the First United Church Presbytery Liaisons in September 2012. Sandy Skinner is the chair of HUCEC (Halton United Church Extension Council).

Pastoral Charge information is available on the Presbytery Website: [www.haltonpres.org](http://www.haltonpres.org). We, the members of Halton Pastoral Charges are encouraged to visit this web site for information and activities in our Presbytery. The site has been newly updated by the Strategic Mission Development Committee, of which Carol Hennigar is a member. The site offers a number of helpful features including a church finder, and an option to search for churches by types of programming offered.

This past year, the Fourth at Four programme, (the fourth Tuesday of every other month at 4:00 pm), and Vital Congregations events continued, discussing stewardship, preaching, Christian education programming and other relevant topics for congregations. These series are for all lay and clergy members of Halton Presbytery who wish to attend. The Presbytery has decided that it is timely to look at the scheduling of these events to see if they still accommodate the needs of Presbytery members.

*submitted by James Cooper and Wendy Cranston*

## United Church Women

In January we amalgamated the two units. We meet the second Tuesday of the month.

- Oct. 21 Betty Turcott, the past President of Nat'l UCW was our guest speaker for Women's Sunday.
- December we attended an Advent Service at St. Stephen's on the Hill with 3 other local UCW's.
- April 6th at Cooksville UC was the Annual Presbyterial UCW Meeting. The morning speaker was Dr. Gretchen Roedde, author of "A Doctor's Quest". She has developed a programme to help mothers and children's health to combat HIV/AIDS. In the afternoon the speaker was Rev. Thom Davies on Icons. One hundred women participated from Burlington, Oakville and Mississauga.
- April 27th Nancy and I attended Conference UCW Annual Meeting at Old Windham UC in Simcoe. The speaker in the morning was Rev. Jim Carney. He spent his Sabbatical with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.
- In the afternoon was Rev. Heather McLean. She is the Finance Development Officer for the United Church in London Conference.
- Our annual Bites and Bids was held May 2nd with the help of many people.
- This year besides Outreach to St. Paul's College in Waterloo, Five Oakes, and Compass, we donated to the General Fund and to Mission and Service.
- We purchased a new TV and DVD player. We had a cupboard built for them and placed in the Parlour for all to use. We purchased new clocks and new tea carafes for the kitchens.

*submitted by Pat Skinner*

# Resource Management Group

The Resource Management Group, commonly referred to as R.M.G., manages the financial and physical resources of First United Church. The Committee is made up of 10 members from our Congregation which includes the Minister, the Past Chair of Council, the Chair of Memorials & Gifts and the Treasurer.

The Church Council Constitution requires us to prepare monthly financial reports for the review and approval which in turn are presented to the Church Council on a bi-monthly basis for final approval. In addition to the monthly reports, the Committee is responsible for preparing the Annual Fiscal Budget, which is presented to the Congregation every January for approval.

After balancing the budget and ensuring the Church is not running at a deficit, the Committee also acts as Property Manager over seeing the physical operation of the building. This requires a constant day by day monitoring of maintenance requirements to ensure the “ bricks and mortar “ remain solid to maximize the use of the facility we have to benefit both the Congregation and our Community. These maintenance requirement items include Tenant Rentals outside Congregational activities, major and minor repairs, cleanliness, compliance with Fire and Safety and Accessibility regulations, and, in general, improve the existing building to enhance and facilitate Congregational activities and programs. Although this has been a major topic of discussion in the past at our monthly meetings, good on-going maintenance is paying off with a lessening need to address major repair items.

Congregational Fundraising (and Fellowship ) also falls under R.M.G. which is needed to help augment existing Revenue streams. This also compliments the ability to achieve the common goal of growing the Congregation in membership, through increased fellowship, Community Awareness and Outreach. We recently held a Concert in April and have the bi-annual Auction scheduled for October.

R.M.G. has a mandate to keep the Congregation informed as to our financial position and/or major expenditures on building improvements on an on-going basis. This is published monthly in the “ First Things First “ weekly bulletin.

Our final responsibility is Stewardship which has been appropriately renamed “ Step-Up and Awareness Campaign “ . The most recent Campaign ended March 17th, which was successful in educating the Congregation as to the costs of operating our Church, how expenses are paid and in turn emphasizing the need for weekly Offerings. This Campaign is intended to continue on an annual basis.

On behalf of the R.M.G. Committee, I wish to thank the members of First United Church Congregation for their continued support to meet our common goal. Only through the growth and strengthening of our membership can we achieve our mission to our local Community and the World.

*respectfully submitted by David Wheeler, RMG Chair*



# Spiritual Development Program Group

First United Church has had a very good year that has certainly remained very busy. The SDPG has been happy to help provide programming and help to facilitate worship, in its varied forms, at the church.

The Nursery has been overseen this past year by Alex Wallace. This has allowed a 9:00 a.m. drop off time for children of the choir members so that they may attend morning rehearsal. Quite a large group of kids choose to gather before the service in the nursery. Thank you Alex, Candida and other volunteers, especially Emma Beckett and Helen Tintpolver, for supervising these kids before service.

Candida Silveira continued to provide wonderful leadership of the Children's Church program. The children are always happy to see Candida every Sunday. The Children's Church also led the worship for their annual White Gift Service. Plans are in the works for other special experiences during Children's Church. The SDPG has endeavoured to organize parental volunteers to assist in the Children's Church program so that it remains successful and a joyful safe place for learning about God.

In addition to supporting the traditional Sunday morning worship, the SDPG has offered support to other fellowship groups within the church including the book club, Men's breakfast and a new women's' group called Women Connecting. Special events supported this year by the SDPG included the Craft Dinner and Christmas Tree decorating

The choirs, under the very capable leadership of Laura Fitzpatrick and keyboard talents by Sandy Beckett, have provided inspiring moments of Music. The choirs include the Adult Choir, the Lakeshore Voices, and the Full Spectrum.

SDPG would like to thank all members that generously contributed their time and talents to church this year. A special thanks to our Children's Church and Nursery leaders and volunteers. Thank you to all members of the congregation who contributed by reading scripture, serving communion, ushering, participating in book or other discussion groups, maintaining the church library, lighting candles before worship service, serving on committees or in other ways gave of themselves to create a meaningful worship experience. Thank you to all members of the staff who help to provide inspiring and meaningful worship each week. All of your contributions are certainly appreciated by all.

*Submitted by: Andrew Choles,  
Chair of Spiritual Development Program Group*