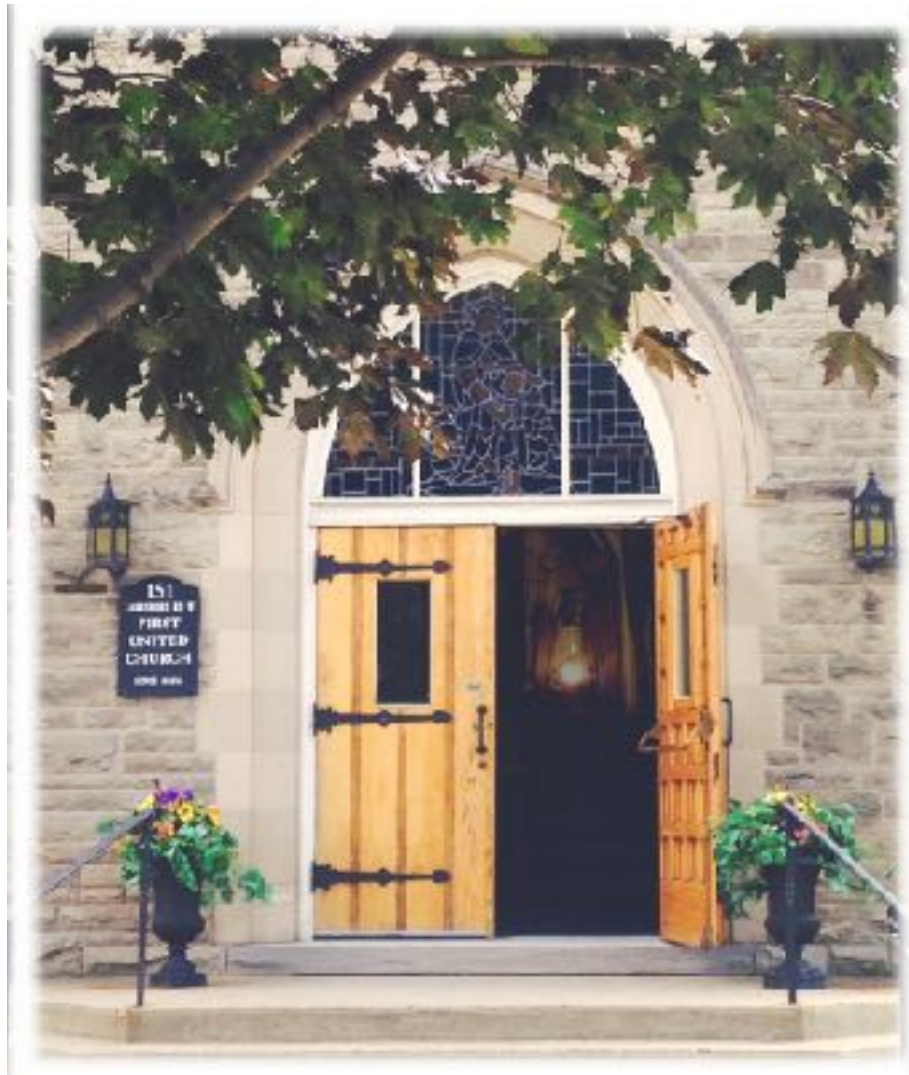


*192nd Annual  
Activity Report  
for 2017 - 2018*



*First United Church  
Port Credit, Mississauga*

Prepared: May 22, 2018 | Distribution Date: May 27, 2018 | Annual Meeting Date: June 3, 2018

# Annual Activity Report 2018-2019

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First United Church  
Minutes of the Congregational Meeting - Financial  
February 4, 2018

**Call to Order**

The Congregational Meeting was held in the Peter Jones Hall of First United Church following the morning service and was called to order by the Rev. Ken MacDonald. Ken offered a prayer to open the meeting.

**Appointment of Chair and Secretary**

**MOTION:** Moved by Kay Cranston, seconded by Joanne Quennell, that Ed Mock be appointed as Chair for the meeting. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Moved by Carol Wickham, seconded by Andy Choles, that Susan Eggleton be appointed as Secretary for the meeting. CARRIED

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**MOTION:** Moved by Gordon Maw, seconded by Scott Beckett, that the Minutes of the Congregational Meeting (Activity) held on June 4, 2017 be approved. CARRIED

**Presentation of the 192nd Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2017**

The Financial Statements were presented and reviewed by Stephen White.

**MOTION:** Moved by Adam Choles, seconded by Christine Whiting, that the 192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2017 be accepted. CARRIED

**Presentation of the Budget for the 2018 Calendar Year**

Stephen White presented and reviewed the 2018 Budget submitted for approval by the congregation.

**MOTION:** Moved by Kay Cranston, seconded by Jennifer Brodie, that the Budget for the 2018 Calendar Year be approved. CARRIED

**Business from the Floor**

None

**Motion to Close**

**MOTION:** Moved by Andy Choles, seconded by Allan Pleasance, that this meeting be closed. CARRIED

The meeting closed at 11:18 am.

Ed Mock, Chair

Susan Eggleton, Secretary

# In Memoriam

MAY 1, 2017 TO APRIL 30, 2018

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

*Dorothy Burrell*

*Judith Hamm*

*Hattie Milne*

*Mary Moyer*

**“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.”**

# Minister's Report

Last fall we held a Community Round Table led by EDGE that was well received by the community and we will continue them. Meetings were also held to discern our future. At the Feb. Congregational meeting these hopes by our congregation were consolidated into priorities for our congregation. These were:

- To have excellence in worship and music
- To focus on ministry to seniors.
- To be a community center for information and networking.
- To network with other United Church congregations.

There was limited support for the priorities for the future since with an aging and declining congregation and reduced staffing they seemed feasible for not too long. Hoped for rentals have not materialized as well. Through our networking we have begun talks to share ministry, and that has led to discussions about amalgamating with Christ Church.

This will provide for more energy in worship with more people, opportunities for more leadership for programs, and sustainability for some time into the future. Amalgamation comes with much grief for the end of our congregation, but great hopes for a new vibrant congregation. It will take hard work to learn how to be a new congregation with a new vision and leadership.

Many blessings to our congregation as we venture forward. It has been a privilege to journey with you through the challenges of the past two years.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken".

Rev. Ken MacDonald

# Membership Statistics

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS – MAY 1, 2017 TO APRIL 30, 2018

	<u>People</u>	<u>Families</u>
<b>Total Membership as of May 1, 2017</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>104</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>- 4</b>
<b>Transferred to Other Churches</b>	<b>- 3</b>	<b>- 2</b>
<b>Removed to Inactive Roll</b>	<b>- 22</b>	<b>- 18</b>
<b>Transferred to Non Resident Roll</b>	<b>- 0</b>	<b>- 0</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Membership as of April 30, 2018</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>80</b>

*Prepared by: Christine Barlow, Office Administrator, May 21, 2018*

## Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on May 8, 2018. The meeting began as a joint meeting with the Resource Management Group to receive and accept the insurance proposal for 2018-19. The Insurance program is endorsed by The United Church of Canada and is tailored to meet the needs of churches. Thanks are extended to Stephen White for his attention to the insurance portfolio.

The Board of Trustees met following the joint meeting to select the following officers: Barb Abrams, Chair; Rick Cranston, Vice Chair, and Helen Woodward, Secretary.

The Trustees received with regret and appreciation, the resignations of Andrew Miller and Karen Caskey. Both Andrew and Karen have contributed much to this congregation.

The Trustees were briefed on their role and responsibility, in anticipation of some significant changes to the Congregation in the near future.

There were no events during the year requiring 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-Designate*

# Book Club

The book club met four times during the year and members enjoyed lively discussions at each meeting.

Our first book was “Here I Stand - a Life of Martin Luther” by Roland Bainton. The book was chosen in 2017 to recognise that the Protestant Church was celebrating the five-hundredth anniversary of Luther’s publication “Ninety-Five Theses” which has been generally acknowledged as the catalyst for the Protestant Reformation. Bainton’s work is considered a classic on the subject and it provided insights as to our denominational origins which are seldom mentioned in our present day church life.

Our second book was “Hillbilly Elegy - A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis” by J. D. Vance. The book is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis — that of poor, white Americans. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional and class decline feels like when you were born with it hanging around your neck. Members felt that the author provided a sensitive and sobering insight into contemporary life for a significant minority of people in a still very wealthy nation.

Our third book was “Sapiens” by Yuval Noah Harari. The book was critiqued by the UK Independent newspaper as “A brave and bracing look at a species that is mostly in denial about the long road to now and the cross roads it is rapidly approaching.” Of all the books read by the group on the last few years, “Sapiens” proved to be the most enthusiastically received. It also provoked prolonged discussion not he least on account of Harari’s thoughts on the challenges which the life sciences research poses to traditional Christian belief in the context of our present political and judicial systems.

Our fourth book was Kazuo Ishiguro’s novel “The Buried Giant”. Ishiguro was awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize for Literature. The book was set in post-Arthurian Britain and weaves a sometimes difficult path between the personal lives of the two main characters - Axl and Beatrice - an elderly couple seeking their lost son and the political landscape of a sparsely written-about period in British history. Despite the book’s occasional challenges, it met with approval and some stimulating insights on personal and family life in a faith setting by the members of the group.

As ever, the Book Club welcomes new members and any suggestions for a good read.

*Submitted by John Green, Convenor*

# Community Programs Group

The Community Programs Group is made up of three different groups:

- Organization of Ushers
- Mission and Service and Outreach
- Event Planning

## ACTIVITIES OF THE PAST YEAR

Organization of Ushers

Anniversary Dinner

Candlelight Reception

Monthly Afternoon Tea and Conversation (Sandra Church)

As part of our work with the Compass, there are dinners hosted at First United for Compass Clients at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

There are Food Drives several times a year for the Compass.

*Submitted by Nancy Brodie & Joanne Quennell, Co-Chairs*

## Canada 150 Street Party

The 150th Canada Day Celebration was a huge success. Peter Street was closed from traffic and, after the parade, First United and Westedge Community Church provided over 800 hotdogs, popcorn, water, candy, kids activities, crafts, treats and family fun all free to the people in Port Credit. We received a donation of matching funds from the Canada 150 Fund through the Mississauga Community Fund that helped fund this wonderful and well attended event.

This year the Canada Day Street party is being organized solely by Westedge Community Church and is expected to be a success once again. Even though First United is not involved in the planning process this year - volunteers are always welcome to help out - please contact the office if interested.

*Submitted by Christine Barlow*



Canada



# Outreach

## South East Mississauga (SEAM) Refugee Resettlement Committee Report

At the end of September all Syrian families invited to First United were introduced and shared in a BBQ on the front lawn following the service. Just as both Mohammed and Faiza had addressed and thanked the congregations the previous year at a similar event. The Aljaroudi family took to the mic to thank the congregations that made possible their emigration to Canada.

SEAM (SouthEast Area Mississauga Refugee Committee) brought together three United Churches – St. Stephen's, First United and Applewood. A total of \$97,500 was raised, which included \$50,000 from Applewood's Ann Graham Memorial Fund. The sponsorship period for the three families officially ended April 30, 2018, but the committee members are holding the few thousand dollars remaining in the fund to cover any emergency situations that might arise.

The Alsaadi family have now been in Canada for 27 months. They continue to live in their apartment on Bloor Street. All four children are healthy, speak fluent English, are doing well at Silverthorne Public School and are involved in sports and other community activities. The parents, Mohammad and Faiza, enrolled in ESL training on arrival and speak English very well. They have a minivan and are rapidly becoming very independent. Mohammad has taken on the role of homemaker so that Faiza, a physician with specialty training in obstetrics/gynecology, can pursue training in midwifery at Ryerson. She has done very well on the pre-entry exams and has one more to pass in June to qualify to enter the one year midwifery program this year.

Our second family, Taysir Al Tayeb and wife Lamya arrived 17 months ago. Their married daughter Suad has lived in Mississauga for 4 years. Taysir, age 74, is working and he and Lamya have their own apartment.

Our third sponsored family, Adnan Alajroudi and his wife Rana and their 3 children, arrived 12 months ago. They have an apartment on Eglinton at Erin Mills Pkwy. Their English skills are good. Adnan is trained in computers and has an Information Technology job that requires driving to Markham each day so we helped him to get a car. Their daughter Lana, age 8, has autism, and has recently completed a comprehensive psychological assessment that she required to qualify for admission to the ErinOak program in Mississauga, and is now on their waiting list. The older boy, 11 year old Majd, is a real whiz in school. Karam will be 3 in July and he is at home with his mother Rana, a sister to Suad and the daughter of Taysir and Lamya.

So that is an update on our three families. But what I want you to reflect on is what it must be like for each of these refugees and new Canadians when they watch the TV news and witness the suffering of their countrymen still living in Syria and the difficult daily lives of those still stranded in the refugee camps in Jordan. Just think about how they must feel. We know they are relieved and happy to be in Canada, and we feel the same way.

*Reg Perkin, on behalf of Gus Peebles, Scott Perkin, Carolyn Smith, Elaine Borlace*

# 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.

The capital of the Foundation is to be invested and the income be turned over to the Church, to be used to:

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 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:

- Cash or cheques;
- Shares of Public Companies, on which no capital gains tax will be payable; or
- Proceeds of insurance policies or wills governing distributions from estates, in which the "First United Foundation" must be named.

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 2017, the Foundation transferred \$1,100 to the church General Fund and \$1,100 to the Outreach Fund for a total of \$2,200.

Due to dividend increases in the portfolio, we expect next year's transfer to be \$1,200 for each of the general fund and outreach activities for a total of \$2,400.

*Submitted by Merle Zoerb – Chair*

# Memorials and Special Gifts Fund

The Memorials & Special Gifts Fund continues to provide an excellent way for our people to make memorial gifts and celebrate special events in their lives, which provides needed funds for special projects at our church.

Again this year, funds have been loaned to the General Fund to save on interest costs. In 2017, \$38,354.45 was loaned and returned at the end of the year; in 2018 to date, \$45,000 has been loaned.

Organ work (\$3,214.86), an electrical upgrade (\$3,430.69), and a new rail around the street steps (\$935.46) was paid for by the Fund.

Since May 1, 2017, ten unrestricted gifts and one restricted gift have been received.

Thank you for your continued support of the Memorials and Special Gifts fund.

*submitted by Susan Eggleton, Pat Skinner, Cliff Elliott (Treasurer)*

## Mission and Service

First United's Mission and Service givings to The United Church of Canada amounted to \$30,641.00 for 2017 from 65 members out of a total membership of 142 at year end 2017. This equated to a donation of \$471.40 per M&S giver. For 2016, 79 M&S givers contributed \$37,293.00 to The United Church of Canada. This equated to \$472.00 per giver.

Despite the overall reduction in M&S givings for the two years, givings maintained the same level per capita for those members of congregation supporting our national church in its Mission and Service ministry.

*Submitted by John Green*

# Ministry & Personnel Committee

Ministry and Personnel is a mandatory committee required by The United Church of Canada in each congregation. Its members are appointed by Council and its work is confidential and consultative. The main task of the committee is to be a consultative and supportive agency for church staff members and be the liaison between the congregation and that staff. In this respect, it is of utmost importance that any members of the congregation who have any concerns in regard to Church staff and the performance of their duties bring those concerns to the attention of our committee rather than confronting the staff member.

Currently there are four members on the committee, but with one leaving at the end of this year we are looking for persons who may be interested in joining us in our work. The committee also assists Council with other tasks from time to time, such as the review of any new or revised government legislation that impacts on the operation of our church, and the application of duty of care procedures within the Church.

Ken MacDonald continues to be our intentional interim minister as we work as a congregation to finalize plans for the future of our Church, and we have good fortune of having Christine Barlow tirelessly and diligently working on our behalf as office administrator. Leanne Piller has for the past year served as our choral director, and Sandy Garraway has continued in her role as church organist. Together they have continued our church's tradition of providing a strong and rewarding music program.

*Submitted by Joseph Reid  
Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee*

# Music Program

Another year has gone by and the choirs of First United have been busy! During the fall, they worked on special anthems for Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day services. In October, with lots of music to learn, they began preparing for the annual Christmas Candlelight service, which took place in mid December.

We have had changes in membership in all three choirs, which has been challenging but the choristers have adapted well despite the smaller numbers. Their flexibility, enthusiasm and positivity have shown that they can continue to work together to produce lovely, heartfelt anthems.

The children's choir, Lakeshore Voices, continued to participate regularly in worship services. There are four children ages 7-10 who are very keen! They are learning a variety of musical terms and skills each week in addition to their anthems.

The youth choir (The ATC) consists of four choristers in their teens and has performed several times with the adult choir during the choral season. They are wonderful sight readers!

The adult choir explored different ways to worship this spring which included a flash mob anthem for Holy Humour Sunday and leading the congregation in an intimate hymn sing service.

Thank you to all of the choristers for your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm! It is a pleasure to work with you each week. Special thanks goes to Sandy Garraway, our wonderful organist and collaborator for all of her time and talent.

*Respectfully submitted by Leanne Piller*

# Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team of First United Church meets monthly with the minister to make plans for the care of those in the church family where a need is recognized. Care might be given due to illness, a death in the family, lonely times at home, or maybe just a friendly greeting offered in the form of a card, visit or phone call to let them know they are remembered and treasured. The team works behind the scenes with great dedication to their assigned tasks, and also responds to any needs that come 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 the church office of a need in the congregation. Sometimes an opportunity to care or help has been missed because the church did not get a call.

In October we held a pastoral care worship with event following on Navigating The Health Care System for Seniors with Gary Epworth. The information and discussion was well attended and received.

The following folks are currently on the team:

Nancy Brodie	Chris Dowdall	Denise Edmonds	Liz Gotzmann
Rev. MacDonald	Helen Shuttleworth	Graham Watts	Connie Young

Our thanks to all Pastoral Care Team members, past and present, 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 Rev. Ken MacDonald*

# Presbytery Liaison

The United Church of Canada is currently divided up into 13 Conferences and 86 Presbyteries. We are a part of Hamilton Conference and Halton Presbytery. The presbytery meets once a month from September to April, and is responsible for working with churches who are searching for new ministers, thinking about making changes to their buildings, and who have students experiencing a call to ministry. The presbytery is made up of all of the ministers who serve and live in the area and lay representatives from each congregation. First United was represented at presbytery by our minister, The Rev. Ken MacDonald, James Cooper, and Wendy Cranston. Carol Hennigar and Sandy Skinner are also members of Halton Presbytery, serving as members-at-large.

Over the past year, First United has been serving with the presbytery in a number of ways:

A representative from Presbytery currently serves on First United's Transition Team.

Members of our congregation have been talking with other churches from our presbytery to discuss the future of United Churches in South Mississauga.

At the United Church's 42nd General Council (Corner Brook, NL, 2015), a number of big changes to how the United Church of Canada operates were considered, stemming from a nation-wide Comprehensive Review. In order to implement these changes, they needed to be voted on by congregations and/or presbyteries through a remit process.

The following remits were considered:

- (1) Three Council Model
- (2) Elimination of Transfer and Settlement
- (3) Office of Vocation
- (4) Funding a New Model
- (5) Ministry Partners within Mutual Recognition of Ministry Agreements
- (6) One Order of Ministry
- (7) Candidacy Pathway
- (8) Towards a New Model of Membership

Wendy and James guided the First United Church Council through the remit voting process, and our Council passed all the remits voted on by congregations. In the wider church, all remits passed except for Remit 6 – One Order of Ministry. These remits will go to the 43rd General Council meeting (Oshawa, ON, July 2018) for discussion and, if approved, for implementation. <http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/remit-implementation>

In addition to approving changes to the traditional operating practices of the denomination, presbyteries and pastoral charges voted in favour of a streamlined three-council model and a new financial arrangement among pastoral charges, communities of faith, regions, and the General Council. Work has begun to help the Church move smoothly through the next steps in the remit implementation process. How these changes will affect First United Church will be worked out over the next few months.

If Remit 1 (Three Council Model) is enacted by the 43rd General Council, Regional Councils will replace the Conference/Presbytery structure as of January 1, 2019. First United would be located in Region 9, along with the United Churches of Oakville, Milton, Burlington, Hamilton, Brantford, and St Catharines. See the following web link for the new regional map of Canada: <http://bit.ly/2BYZl0t>

First United Church is a community of God's people growing in faith, but we are not growing alone. We are a part of a much larger denomination and Christian community whom we support and who supports us – through love in action. Thanks be to God.

*Yours in Christ,  
Wendy Cranston and James Cooper  
First United Church Lay Representatives to Halton Presbytery*

# Prayer Shawl Ministry

A dedicated group of mostly anonymous knitters continued this year to keep the cupboard full of prayer shawls. These were distributed by the minister, Pastoral Care team, and members of the congregation - providing warmth and comfort in a gift lovingly made and threaded with prayers. These were offered in times of challenge, but also times of celebration such as baptism.

Countless small prayer patches were also created and freely offered - found on the table by the Prayer Wall and many were also provided to The Compass

We are grateful for this quiet ministry of service and love by the people of First United Church.

*Submitted by Carol Hennigar*

# Quilting Group

The Quilting Group meets every Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM on the stage in Peter Jones Hall. We would gladly welcome anyone else to join us.

This past year, we donated back-to-school supplies to the Compass. Other projects were a baby quilt and a throw for members of our group.

A lap quilt and a throw were raffled off at our second annual Marketplace which was held on November 4. Several new vendors participated at this event. As a result of this successful sale, \$2,000 was raised and contributed to the General Fund of the Church.

*Submitted by Helen Heatley*



# Resource Management Group

The Resource Management Group (RMG) manages the financial and physical resources of First United Church.

The RMG:

comprises a Committee made up of 8 members from our Congregation including a representative from the Memorials & Special Gifts Committee and the Treasurer.

meets monthly between September and June each year.

receives from the Treasurer monthly financial reports for review by the RMG and the Church Council

prepares the Annual Budget, which is reviewed by the Church Council and then presented to the Congregation at the Annual Financial Meeting held early in the calendar year.

The maintenance and repair of our property, building and equipment as well as the rental of our facilities are other tasks undertaken by the Resource Management Group. Rentals are a very important source of revenue and a fully functional building is necessary for both the activities of First and of our rental clients.

At First we could not exist without the donation of time, talent and financial resources and we continue to work through a time of transition. The challenges to our financial and volunteer resources are leading to significant changes but with opportunities for a strong future.

*Respectfully submitted by Stephen White, Convenor*

# Spiritual Development Program Group

The work of SDPG continued this year with the gracious leadership of our very talented musicians: our beloved, talented Sandy Garraway as our pianist/organist, who has gifted all of us with her beautiful music for more than 23 years, as well as our wonderful choral director, Leanne Piller who chooses the anthems with care and is able to coach the best out of our choirs. We are so fortunate to have first-rate musicians in-house to lead the Adult Choir, ATC, and Lakeshore Voices. Thank you to all participants for giving their gift of song each week.

With our Children's Church leaders heading on to other endeavors this fall, SDPG looked to alternative ways to offer church to the children. Involving the parents of the children, we asked which of these options they preferred to try and we would reassess the options at Christmas. Currently, we set out the Activity Bags and have space in the Parlour for children to explore them during the service, with volunteers available whenever children are present.

Scott Beckett, our current candidate for ministry has now successfully completed his Master of Divinity and has been declared qualified for the ordered ministry of The United Church of Canada. Scott is awaiting settlement in his internship as he continues towards ordination. We will miss him at First but wish him every success, much happiness, and God's every blessing as he continues his journey.

Special events coordinated by SDPG include the old favourite - the Craft Dinner and Christmas Tree decorating, which had more than 35 people in attendance, as well as the shared Good Friday service (with Christ Church and St. Stephen's-on-the-Hill) and the Easter Sunrise service and breakfast. SDPG continued to organize the lay readers and communion servers. I want to thank the members of SDPG who have given much of their time and energy to the works of this committee and First United.

SDPG would like to extend thanks to all members of staff who have worked so diligently to ensure that worship comes together each week. Our thanks to all within our congregation who give of their time, talent and treasure to participate in and/or lead in the life of our church.

*Submitted by Erin Furlong  
Chair of Spiritual Development Program Group*

# Transition Team

Over the past year, the Transition Team has continued to work on ways that would create a financial and spiritually sustainable future for First United.

In September, the Team arranged a BBQ dinner and conversation with 5 south Mississauga United Churches (First, Christ Church, Cawthra Park, St Stephen's and Applewood) around opportunities for sharing resources and ways of better communication between the congregations. This group was expanded to include Sheridan United and has met on several other occasions.

Also, in September the Transition Team held a day long retreat to review all the information gathered from the congregation and other sources to develop 5 mission ideas and 5 operational actions. These possibilities were presented to the Congregation at a workshop in October. The feedback from this workshop shaped the development of the 2018 Budget. These changes included a reduction from a full to half time minister and a reduction in the costs of music leadership.

A Community Roundtable was held in October. This event facilitated by The Edge was an opportunity for many of the organizations and social service agencies that serve the Port Credit area to get together and discuss their needs and concerns. Another Roundtable is scheduled for mid-June 2018.

Several congregational updates and discussions were held over the winter and spring. In February, a workshop was held following the Financial Annual Meeting to discuss and develop mission ideas.

Over the first few months of 2018 it has become clear that the revenue assumptions made in the 2018 Budget (offerings remaining at near 2017 levels and the addition of two key rental opportunities) were not possible. The forecast of a slight cash increase for the year will likely be a more substantial cash decrease and a situation that is no longer sustainable.

In April the Transition Team augmented by the Convenor of the Spiritual Development Group and the Chair of the Board of Trustees met with representatives from Christ Church regarding a possible amalgamation of the two congregations. These discussions have resulted in some very optimistic possibilities. We hope that both congregations will support this direction and these discussions will continue and result in a successful union of the two congregations.

Members of the Transition Team are: Jennifer Brodie, Kay Cranston, Ed Mock, Donna Pounder, Jane Shaver, Rev. Ken MacDonald, and our Presbytery appointed members – Rev. Jim Cairney and Karen Seunarine.

*Respectfully submitted by Ed Mock, Chair*

# United Church Women

We have 20 active women that meet monthly. We share the Advent Season with 4 other local UCW'S. We send Christmas Cards to our former members who have moved away and to our shut ins.

At our Pot Luck Dinner in Oct. we plan our year. Our meetings vary from speakers, movie night, book review to an outing. Our outing was to a Hindu Temple in Toronto. It was such an interesting and informative tour.

We thank all the women for a successful year.

*Submitted by Pat Skinner*