

St. Martin's United Church

2015 Annual Report

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Agenda

Call to Order	
Opening Remarks	
Opening Prayer	
Approval of Agenda	
Our Mission and Vision	3
Minutes of 2014 A.G.M. dated March 8, 2015	4
Reports:	
Board Chair Report	9
Christian Education	10
Worship Committee	10
Lay Pastoral Visitors	11
Outreach Committee	11
Outreach: Garden Committee	13
Outreach: Refugee Committee	13
Property Committee	14
Long Range Planning Committee	16
Ministry & Personnel	16
Presbytery Representatives	18
Affirming Congregations Steering Committee	18
Ministry by Phone	21
Website	22
Stewardship Committee	23
United Church Women	23
St. Martin's Book Club	26
Contemporary Singers	26
Fellowship Handbell Choir	27
Worship Band	27
Sanctuary Choir	28
Communications Committee	28
Staff Reports	
Michael Webster	29
J. Keith Hall	30
Darren Wooff	31
Trustees: Introduction of Trustees	34
Nominations	
Celebrations & Memorials	34

ST. MARTINS UNITED CHURCH

VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

VISION

St. Martin's United Church strives to be a thriving, growing and welcoming faith community. Following in the path of Jesus, we seek to live faithfully in the midst of everyday life.

MISSION

St. Martin's United Church publicly affirms that diversity is truly a gift of God and that all people belong here. We commit to living in right relationship with our Creator, ourselves and the wider community.

VALUES

We

- Nurture Christian faith, purpose and joy.
- Embrace diversity and welcome all, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, physical or mental ability, culture, education, economic status, family status, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Care for each other through all stages of life.
- Strive to be a justice-seeking and compassionate community.
- Provide opportunities for fellowship and service.
- Embrace the mysteries and challenges of life.
- Share our faith journey.
- Strive to live with respect in creation.

Endorsed by the St. Martin's Annual Congregational Meeting

March 9, 2014

Approved by St. Martin's Board March 27th, 2014

**St. Martin's United Church
Annual General Meeting for 2014
Date March 8, 2015**

1.0 Call to Order: 10:15

2.0 Opening Remarks: Ken Glover

3.0 Opening Prayer: Rev Michael Webster

4.0 **Motion #1: Judy Thomson / Dr. Bette Brazier**

That voting privileges on Temporal Matters be extended to all who are present.

Carried

5.0 **Motion #2: Dick Neal/Kali Brazier-Tompkins**

Approval of Agenda

Carried

6.0 **Motion #3: Nancy Pike/Jean Nahachewsky**

To approve Minutes of 2013 A.G.M. Dated March 9, 2014

Carried

7.0 Celebrations and Memorials: Rev Michael Webster, Rev Darren Wooff

8.0 Staff Reports: Highlights by Michael, Darren and Keith

9.0 Committee Reports:

9.1 Board Chair: Highlights by Ken Glover

9.2 L.R.P. Committee: Highlights by chair, Andrew Pawlovich

9.3 M and P Committee: Highlights by chair, Beth Williamson

9.4 Website: Highlights by Cathy Anderson

9.5 Affirming Action Group: Highlights by Ken Glover

9.6 U.C.W. Highlights by Eunice Kleppe. Introduction of Kathy Schmitz, new Vice President.

9.7 C.E. Committee: Highlights by Joanne Kerslake

9.8 Outreach and Outreach sub committees: Highlights by Dick Neal

9.9 Property Committee: Highlights by Gordon McMurtry

9.10 Presbytery Reps: Highlights by Cathy Anderson

9.11 Worship committee: Highlights by Bunny Pfeifer

9.12 Stewardship / Treasurer: Summary by James Cook (10:47)

9.13 Finance Committee: Summary by James Cook

Motion #4: James Cook/Randy Cline

To approve the Audited Financial Statement for 2014

Carried

Motion #5: James Cook/Dianne Young

To approve the Budget for 2015

Carried

Motion #6: James Cook/Nancy Pike

To approve Northrup Accounting & Consulting Ltd. as Auditor for 2015 Carried

10.0 **Motion #7: Donna Thiessen/Pat Turner**

To accept Committee Reports.

Carried

Motion #8: Randy Cline/Bob Armstrong

To offer appreciation and thanks to all Committee Chairs, members and officers of the Board.

Carried

11.0 Trustees Report: Introduction of Trustees.

Motion #9: Bob Armstrong/Kit Loewen

To reaffirm the following as trustees: Marie Dunn, John Chernoff, Eunice Kleppe, Bob Thomas, Rev Michael Webster

Carried

12.0 Nominations Report

Motion #10: Dr. Bette Brazier/Carol Lynn Nagel

That the slate of Candidates nominated be declared elected [including those nominated from the floor if any] Trish Demmans has accepted a nomination. There were no nominations from the floor.

Carried

Motion #11: Dr Bette Brazier/Bob Armstrong

That the Board be authorized to fill any vacant positions by appointment without the call of a congregational meeting.

Carried

12.1 Introduction of the Board for 2015, and our thanks to retiring members.

13. Other Business:

- ▶ Attendance Sheet was circulated. Announcement to request anyone who has not signed to please do so.

14. Closing Prayer: Rev Michael Webster

15. Motion #12 to adjourn: Shelley McFadden (11:46)

St Martin's United Church
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014
Date: March 8, 2015

96 total

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE

Bunny Pfeifer
 Stelly McFadden
 Gord McMurtry
 Cathy Anderson
 Laine Steves
 Elaine Crocker
 Marie Dunn
 Valerie Cameron
 Jim Richards
 Leona Richards
 Betty Lou Curtis
 Sheila Lockman
 Ruth Sandy
 Jacquie Christenson
 Mavis & Kay Nichlin
 Maurine Keith
 Nancy Keith
 Lillian McNulty
 Eunice Klipp
 Kathy Schmidt
 Don Smith

Jean Humbert
 Helen Humbert
 Lorraine Forsterg
 Lynn Deuley
 Miane Peters
 Dale & Maureen Boerbo
 Don Pfeifer
 John Ekering
 Earle Newton
 Harold Schultz
 Jean Nahachinsky
 Phyllis Wengirak
 Murray Freeman
 Jim Dunn
 Lois Bradley
 Bruce Canwell
 Ruth Anar
 Myrtle Dixon
 Jill Moulder-Finlayson

Please turn over.

22 / 42

page 2

Rev. Michael Webster
Rev. Darren Wooff.

Ron Fleming
 Elaine Wanhella
 Margaret Hendry
 George Christman
 Pat Thomas
 Don Williams
 Bob Anderson
 Wayne Kerstke
 Kit Loewen
 Al Seepren
~~Paul~~ Mavis Haight
 Rev. Michael Webster
 Jim Reid
 Carol Lynn Naege
 Tracy Murton
 Greg Bell Geri Janow
 Pat Turner
 Ken Turner
 Iris Clark
 Doug Clark
 Bob Armstrong
 Wayne Armstrong

Ken Pallanosty
 Mavis McPhee
 Kali Brazier-Tompkins
 Bonnie Reid
 Ralph Reid
 JUDY THOMSON
 DONALD SEALEY
 Keith Dryden
 Dorothy Dryden
 Helen Thomas
 ROSE WILLIAMSON
~~Don~~ Don Cook
 Donna Thiessen
 Christine Salamon
 Jenny Neal
 Randy Clout
 Maudie Clout
 Janet Smith
 Ray Smith
 Nancy + Frank
 Dianne Young
 Andrew Paustolik
 Ganne Kerstke
 Elizabeth Williamson
 Dick Neal
 James Cook
 Bette BRUIER
 Ken Glover
 Betty Lou Agnew

5/11/98

Report from the Chair

St Martin's Church has a strong board that is providing good support in their decisions for St Martin's mission, vision and values as we make decisions. We will continue to ensure that all our decisions work towards realizing the church we want to be.

Good Governance – The Board's term started without a board secretary, a key position. I have been working with Sandra Afseth to ensure that information is received in advance of the meetings and that the board is well informed. This past year has been challenging without a secretary in place – many thanks to Bette Brazier and Ken Glover and others for filling in as needed and for providing guidance and support. Andy Pawlovich has assisted in providing a longer-term perspective to our decision making.

Financial Oversight - James Cook has provided leadership in discussions with regard to the church's budget and how to ensure we have adequate resources to realize our mission. He has also been working to ensure financial procedures are in place and that we have sound financial operations.

Legal and Ethical integrity – We are blessed to have Beth Siemens on our board and appreciate her guidance in terms of personnel and general oversight. Our staff representation including Keith, Michael and Darren have shared their wisdom and experience, leading us to better decisions.

Leadership – Bette Brazier and Keith Hall have been working diligently to fill roles that have come open. The creation of the job jar has highlighted volunteer opportunities; we hope others will heed the need and support the ongoing work in the church. Bunny Pfeifer continues to volunteer for many tasks and provides good representation for Worship. Many thanks to the Building Committee for their work supporting the construction of the new entrance, we now have an entry that is safe and reflects our welcoming church. Gord McMurtry and his Property team have continued the good work with extensive research on best options for the maintenance and enhancement of our building and property.

New Board Members – In the past year, we have welcomed Maureen McPherson on Outreach, Trish Demmans on Christian Education, Kathy Schmidt for U.C.W. and Jerilynn Robertson to Presbytery. Throughout the year we have monitored how we are functioning as a board and provided information to support our members. We have also accepted with regret the resignations of Mary Lloyd, Pat Stuart, Shelly McFadden, Val Cameron and Joanne Kerslake.

Saskatoon and the World - Our Presbytery reps, Cathy Anderson, Nancy and Frank Pike, Jerilynn Robertson have provided strong representation and enhanced St. Martin's standing in Saskatoon and the greater church. Dick Neal and Maureen McPherson have represented our strong Outreach committee well and brought concerns from the community and the world to our attention.

Our committees continue to report on their good works. We are an active, vibrant church and impressed the Presbytery reps when they came for an oversight visit in the fall. We will strive to

develop stronger communications in the coming year and to address congregational and organizational concerns that arise. Thank you for the opportunity to assist in all the good work!

Submitted by Donna Theissen

Christian Education

Our small but dedicated committee hosted a variety of adult and multi-age events this past year including drumming and yoga workshops. Darren facilitated a Lenten book study. We are responsible for the Minute for Mission once a month.

The children's program is thriving far beyond weekly Bible Adventures. Talent shows, PD days and a hugely popular Vacation Bible School kept Darren and his volunteers busy.

The CE committee meets approx. 6 times per year, a very small time commitment. We are still looking for new members.

Submitted by Joanne Kerslake

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee meets monthly, September through May. In 2015, we accomplished the following:

- Found readers, greeters and communion servers
- Sent recommendations to the Board regarding weddings and baptisms
- Organized a decorating bee before Advent (and a de-decorating bee after Christmas)
- Helped change seasonal banners and arranged for Thanksgiving decorations
- Assisted with special services, such as Maundy Thursday and Easter sunrise
- Discussed previous services with Michael. What worked and what didn't? Advised him about upcoming services – eg, talked about changing the times of the Christmas Eve services (but decided not to)
- Received and considered suggestions from congregation members

At present, the committee is operating with a rotating chairperson, but is seeking a permanent chairperson.

Respectfully submitted by Bunny Pfeifer

Lay Pastoral Visitors

This dedicated group of four women has taken on the responsibility of providing a monthly contact for 25 congregation members unable to attend worship or church functions due to age, ill health, transportation issues and others. They are Lorraine Forsberg, Esther Edmonds, Myrna King and Carrie Stephens.

St. Martin's Community is blessed to have this caring group of individuals committed to our ministry of pastoral care. The group meets once a month to update the homebound mailing list and to share how their visits have gone. We are always looking at new ways to bring the church community to those we serve.

In 2015, the Lay Pastoral Visitors successfully conducted three sessions of the Home Communion program Spring, Fall and Advent. Working with the three ministers, this program provided communion to 54 congregation members. Much appreciation was extended by those participating and the program will continue in 2016.

If you would have time to donate a couple of hours a month to this important pastoral initiative of our church please contact Keith at 343-7101. The group meets the third Wednesday morning of every month at 9:00 am. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted, J. Keith Hall, Ministry Team

Outreach

This fall each committee was asked by the Board to submit a profile of its role in the church. The Outreach profile is as follows: `The Outreach committee provides information to the congregation about social justice concerns and needs in the local and wider communities and organizes opportunities for the congregation to respond to those needs.`

At the end of June Dick Neal, our Chair, took a sabbatical from the Outreach Committee to concentrate on the Refugee Sub-committee. His energy and enthusiasm has been missed! Committee members are: Maureen McPherson (Chair from July 2015), Pat Walker, Pat Turner, Eileen Gudmundson, Elaine Crocker, Brenda Goossen, Jeanette Liberty-Duns, Jean Nahachewsky, Judy Thomson and Darren Woof. We appreciate the on-going dedication of Ralph Reid in co-ordinating the Good Food Box. We are a very friendly group and new members are always welcome!

The following are some of the highlights of our work over the past year:

- **The Food Bank and Learning Centre:** On the first Sunday of each month we invite you to donate to the Food Bank with a "retiring offering" as you leave the sanctuary. These donations are saved throughout the year and donated at year-end in the hope that they will be matched by a corporation. A record \$6067.09 was donated in 2015. This amount was matched by PotashCorp, enabling a total of \$12,134.18 to go to the Food Bank. We also invite you throughout the year

to donate most-needed food and clothing items by depositing them in the bins in the lounge. The Food Bank employees who pick up the items have spoken about the generosity of this congregation. On March 14th Darren organized a very enjoyable children's talent show which raised \$100 for the Food Bank. Being aware that the shelves of the Food Bank empty during the summer when donations fall off and children are out of school, we organized a spring blitz. You filled 3 shopping carts with food over 3 Sundays in June.

- **Lunchtime talks:** Outreach organized 2 lunches following the 11:00 service. On March 15th about 50 people listened to a very informative talk by Rehanna Ahlsted about the wide range of services provided by the Food Bank and Learning Centre. On Oct. 25th Fran Forsberg from Grosvenor Park United Church talked to us about her experiences as a foster parent and advocate for gender-variant children. We also heard from a young person who is living with Fran and her family and is in the process of transitioning. It was a very informative and moving presentation.
- **Involvement with the Integrated Community Ministry of Riverbend Presbytery (ICM):**
 1. **Monthly lunches at the Kinsmen Activity Centre:** MaryAnn Sealey, Pat Turner and Maureen McPherson, with the assistance of Marie Dunn, Orla Lockerbie and Maureen Cline, organized a monthly lunch for inner-city residents at the Kinsmen Activity Centre on Ave. V.
 2. **10 X 10 art project:** St. Martin's was a host site for the ICM 10 X 10 art project. More than 50 paintings were on display in the sanctuary from March 21st to April 9th. This is the third year that St. Martin's has hosted this event. The paintings were sold by silent auction at Amigo's Cantina in May with half of the money going to the artist and half to ICM. St. Martin's will also host this year although the format for the display of the paintings will be different. Ten host sites will display six paintings each. The paintings will stay at each site until the silent auction which will be held this year at Station 20 West.
- **'The Coldest Night of the Year' walk to support the Lighthouse:** The walk took place on Feb. 21st. We had 17 walkers and 4 volunteers participating in this event. With your generous support, our team, the St. Martin's Speedsters, raised over \$5,000. For the Lighthouse. At the time this report was being written, the fund-raising for the 2016 walk was going very well.
- **Winter clothing donations to the Lighthouse and AIDS Saskatoon:** This is the second year we invited the congregation to donate gently-used winter clothing and we wondered if anyone would have anything left in their closet to donate! You did and once again many items of warm winter clothing were delivered to the Lighthouse and the AIDS office and were received with appreciation.
- **Advent Tree:** This year we decided to give you the opportunity to donate diapers, wipes, formula and other children's items to the Crisis Nursery and Interval House. There was a great response and both of these agencies were very grateful for the donations.

We are very appreciative of your support for our Outreach projects!

Respectfully submitted, Maureen McPherson

St. Martin's Community Garden

In 2009, a group of interested people got together to plan the development of a community garden on the church property. The idea was to convert a seldom used grassy area into a garden space for interested people from the surrounding community. Initially there were 10 garden plots. The garden area was expanded in size in the fall of 2011, and now it can accommodate 18 plots.

Members of the St. Martin's Community Garden are interested in gardening for a number of reasons:

- building community capacities and strengths,
- beautifying neglected pieces of land,
- creating accessible food growing space,
- building opportunities for healthy plant-people interactions,
- creating opportunities for community residents to engage in healthy recreation.

The garden is as much about growing community as it is about growing food.

Every year there is a combination of returning and new members. There is a fee of \$20 required for use of a plot. Applications are due in early April each year.

The garden is a project of the Outreach Committee and works closely with the Property Committee with respect to the use of the church yard. A small group of church members and gardeners provide the organization of the garden. This group includes: Don Cook, Bob Armstrong, Brenda Reeder, Brenda Goosen, Joyce Braitenback and Ken Turner.

Submitted by Don Cook

Outreach: Refugee Committee

The St. Martin's Refugee Committee has continued to support the refugees from Afghanistan this past year. We apologize, but for the security of the family we are using only their initials to describe them. With the accessibility of the Internet it has come to our attention that a simple Google search revealed much of the information we shared in newsletters and reports last year. Although we may be unnecessarily vigilant, the security threats this family experienced in Afghanistan were very real and so, we are respectfully being more cautious about printing their identity in information accessible through the World Wide Web.

We have continued to be actively involved with the G family this year. This includes our ongoing support of H, Ha, and their children as well as welcoming H's parents Ab and Aq this past June.

In May of this past year H found work with the Saskatoon Co-op and has recently been made weekend supervisor at one of the grocery stores. Unfortunately this is still a part time position but H is gradually being recognized for his skills and looking forward, eventually to a permanent full time position. Both H and Ha continue to study English; H is preparing to write an English language qualifying test and Ha is progressing from one level to another as she grows her knowledge of this new language. The children, I

and R continue to grow with I beginning kindergarten in September. Many volunteers have helped with driving and other tasks and the family have been well served by the efforts of St. Martin's people. Much appreciation to all who have supported this family through your service, donations or both.

As many of you will recall H's mother Aq was also confronted by the Taliban as she was protecting her son. When H and his family escaped to neighbouring Tajikistan he took his mother with him as they feared reprisals upon her life. Her husband Ab was able to join her so that their visas to Canada were approved together and they arrived safely in June. Figuring out a new country has been a little more challenging for this couple and English continues to be a significant barrier for them. Fortunately their spirits are generally optimistic and they are well supported H and Ha. St. Martin's financial commitment to this couple continues through to the summer and we will aid them in making the transition to government support.

Early in the new year we were updated related to our longstanding refugee request for AG. AG is a relative to two members of our congregation and has been waiting for close to five years in a refugee camp for the processing of his documents. In early January we were advised that AG had received his medical, a sign that at long last his documents are being processed. He has been joined by his sister who last fall had to flee her country. We are waiting prayerfully and hopefully about these developments.

The Refugee Committee believes that it is acting as ambassadors for the congregation and that together we are living out the gospel call to support the disposed of the world. Thank you for your service, financial support and prayers as we continue in this work which is both yours and ours together.

Submitted by Brian Walton
for the Refugee Committee

Property Committee

2015 was a year of challenge and progress. As you all know the elevator was destroyed again in early July. Repairs to it and the surrounding area were undertaken by the same contractor who handled the building of the new front entrance. If there was anything good about the whole experience it was in the synergies achieved by having the same builder carry on with the additional work. We have been very pleased with the quality of the work. Hopefully as we gather for the AGM the elevator door will have received its coat of signature St. Martin's "red".

One of our concerns, and I'm sure for many of you as well, has been to ensure that this cannot happen again. Towards that end the City of Saskatoon brought cement barriers for placement in the southwest corner of our lot. I was pleased with the timely manner in which the city put these in place. As I reviewed some of my communications with them in regards to the new signage and the placement of the barriers I notice that the barriers were described as "temporary". I feel strongly that these barriers be permanent and indeed be painted with those distinctive yellow and black stripes which indicate "DEAD END" (thanks Sheila Scott, for that suggestion during the "every person phone campaign"). Keeping the barriers in place and/or painting them is entirely a decision made by the city. We can encourage them to keep the barriers in place if we make our feelings known. I would like

to suggest that if you are moved to do so, you might send a letter or e-mail in which you, first of all, express your thanks for the quick and effective response to our our need for the protection afforded by those barriers. In addition, you might express your wish that these barriers be kept in place and that they be painted to make them even more effective. I have included the contact information of the city official who can respond to this.

Jay Magus, P.Eng. | tel 306.975.3171 jay.magus@saskatoon.ca

Another area of progress this past year has been the installation of new windows on the north side of the building as well as the kitchen. This, all thanks to the forward thinking of the building finance committee who have coordinated the gathering of funds from us all. We spent \$38,000 for windows in 2015. The UCW added \$10,000 to the fund which allowed us to replace the door at the top of the ramp.

We are monitoring the roof as we move into 2016 with an eye towards putting money into it or to complete the replacement of the remaining windows. Our preference is to carry on with the window replacement and leave the roof until next year.

The boiler continues to give us good service so we are feeling good about being able to carry on with “remediating the building envelope” as was the recommendation coming out of the conversation cafes.

As the building continues to age, its “working parts” continue to creak and groan. Thanks to expertise within the proper committee most of these “squeaky wheels” are being replaced and or repaired. Replacement of a fan motor, a compressor and fluorescent fixtures has been done “in house.” Similarly, roof repairs, snow shovelling, flower bed maintenance, small painting jobs, installation of parking signs are done by members of our committee, and volunteers (thanks Lorne Ulven, and Don Schmidtz) If you have some expertise in a particular aspect of building maintenance (we need a plumber) please consider joining our group.

Yours in fellowship,
Ken Turner, Don Williams, Bob Anderson, Al McPhee, *Gord McMurtry

Long Range Planning Committee

- With the opinion that our church governance structure may require revising, the board has asked our committee to begin investigating different types and styles of church governance. A subcommittee has been devised to begin the process.
- The St. Martin's Photo directory will be updated this fall. We appreciate Betty Lou Agnew for answering the call to organize the project. Photo times have been booked for the first week of October, as well as some time in the middle of the month. Appointment times will now be booked online. We do plan to have some volunteers to provide assistance for people that require help. There will be more information to follow in the coming months.
- The St. Martin's Men's Group has met for four gatherings and they have been well received. It has given those who attend, an opportunity to visit socially with other men in the congregation.
- The Second Fall Pasta Supper for 2017 is scheduled for November 6. The Men's Group will oversee the project.
- Michael, Randy Cline and I continue to sit on the negotiation committee with the city regarding a potential new fire hall for the north side of the church. Two independent appraisals are underway regarding that property.
- The Annual Fruit and Corn Fundraiser will continue this year. Any group within the church that is looking for a fundraising opportunity may find it to be a "fruitful" venture. Our committee is happy to provide our ongoing assistance.

Submitted by Andrew Pawlovich

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Our committee's primary responsibilities are to support the ministerial and non-ministerial church staff and act as liaison between the congregation and the church staff.

This year we were delighted to have Christine Salamon join our committee. In addition to Christine, our committee consists of Kali Brazier-Tompkins, Dean Carey, Earle Newton, Nancy Pike, Jerilyn Robertson and myself, Beth Williamson.

Over the past year the committee has worked on:

- Providing support and feedback to our ministers and lay staff
- Overseeing HR-related matters such as holiday time, performance reviews and goal setting
- Obtaining board approval for employees' salaries
- Assisting with budgeting for employment-related costs
- Ensuring coverage has been arranged during employees' holidays
- Overseeing the honorarium positions to ensure they are appropriately rewarded
- Receiving verbal updates from our ministers at every M&P committee meeting on their work
- Providing expressions of thanks and appreciation to our ministerial and lay staff, and to those filling honorarium positions
- Reviewed the employment contract for our new caretaker, Kevin Hurlburt, and obtained board approval for his hiring.
- Developing principles for adding or removing honoraria positions.

Our goals for the coming year include:

- Completing the principles for adding or removing honoraria positions, obtaining board approval and communicating to congregation
- Adopting the new compensation model for ministers

This past year we were informed that some of our congregation members do not know what our ministers' position profiles contain. These position profiles were last reviewed and set when the full JNAC was conducted in 2012, and can be found in that report. The following information is taken from that 2012 JNAC report:

St. Martin's United Church supports a team ministry that functions as a multiple staff model. Each minister has specific areas of accountability and all are expected to work together to plan activities to meet the spiritual needs of the congregation. Depending upon the activity, a specific minister may carry a leadership role and will be supported by his/her colleagues. All ministry personnel are expected to assist their colleagues where workloads require it, to facilitate the worship life of the congregation, to provide pastoral care, and to participate in the administration of the church in conjunction with boards and committees.

Although the JNAC goes into more detail for each position, following are the general descriptions for each position profile:

Minister I (Darren Wooff) will function as a full time member of the St. Martin's United Church ministry team, and will have the primary responsibility for leadership and pastoral care of children (newborn to age twelve) and their families, outreach and justice initiatives and activities, and the leadership of small groups and bible study for all ages (Christian education).

Minister II (Keith Hall) will function as a full time member of the St. Martin's United Church ministry team, and will have the primary responsibility for volunteer recruitment and training, newcomer and adherent relations, and youth and young adult (thirteen to thirty years of age) leadership and pastoral care.

Minister III (Michael Webster) will function as a full time member of the St. Martin's United Church ministry team [*note: this has since been changed and Michael now works 83% (i.e. 10 of 12 months)*], and will have the primary responsibility for the worship leadership of the congregation, Sunday preaching, pastoral care, and administration.

Please feel free to contact any of us if you have suggestions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Beth Williamson, M&P Committee Chair

Presbytery

We go to meetings in September, November, February and April. Some years, Saskatchewan Conference meets, but not in 2015. When it does, Presbytery forwards items to be discussed at Conference. Usually people who have gone on church-sponsored trips tell us about it and also show slides or a movie. Even the Moderator attended and a few of us had our picture taken with her.

Plus, St. Martin's is entitled to four representatives, but right now there are only three of us: Nancy Pike, Frank Pike and Jerilynn Robertson so we just need one more person to join us.

Submitted by Nancy Pike

Affirming Action Group Affirming Ministries

It has now been just over one year since our church community heartily supported a motion to become an "Affirming Congregation". In that time, we've continued to look for ways to meaningfully and contextually build upon the premises of that designation into the congregation's lifework.

Context for Affirming Work

As set out in our Mission statement, we believe that to be "affirming" is to live in such a way so that others know "that diversity is truly a gift of God and that all people belong here", and know that we are committed "to living in right relationship with our Creator, ourselves and the wider community". For us, to be truly affirming means that we all must continually reflect on our privilege and on our relationships with those in our communities who are marginalized. We recognize that it is critical to be leaders in personal learning as we hope to engage the congregation in collective learning. With that in mind, we strive to educate ourselves about a variety of equity issues and support the congregation in the same.

Our congregation has lived our "affirming" identity in many ways this past year. It is not possible to adequately capture the congregation's incredible commitment to the ongoing support for our most recently arrived refugees from Afghanistan. As well, some members of the congregation, including the youth group, experienced the powerful and compelling exhibit, *Walking With Our Sisters*. This experience helped to impress us with the critical work of reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Metis people. The congregation also participates in advocacy work related to the elimination of poverty (support for shelters and housing). Many congregants work tirelessly for events like "Coldest Night of the Year", Grandmothers for Grandmothers, and Inner City Ministries to name only a few.

Structures to Support our Work

St. Martin's commitment to growth as an Affirming congregation is facilitated and supported by the "Affirming Action Group". This small group meets to imagine, consider and plan educational opportunities for itself and the congregation. The Affirming Action group is deeply grateful for the patience and wisdom of the staff (Darren, Keith and Michael) as they work to help us realize our intentions.

St. Martin's participates in work with the "Saskatoon Affirming Ministries" (SAM). As part of that group, we continue to advocate for actions that are efficacious and meaningful in fulfilling our purpose as "Affirming" leaders.

St. Martin's also works with an informal group that we refer to as the "LGBT Friendly Churches". While this group meets mainly to consider matters relevant to sexual minorities and the church, there is an opportunity to share resources and to encourage one another in becoming inclusive.

Actions that Engage the Congregation

This past year, the Affirming Action Group, supported by staff, planned an Affirming Sunday that focused on mental health. While somewhat challenged by an untimely snowstorm, the worship service really encouraged us to live faithfully in support of those who experience challenges with their mental health. We considered the role of the church in interrupting and breaking down the stigma and isolation that is so damaging to the well-being of people in our communities.

The Affirming Action Group also plans regular "Affirming Minutes" that help to draw attention to those issues that separate us from one another due to marginalization. As well, the group seeks to identify and plan opportunities for the congregation to learn more about how we can live out our mission.

Hopes for the Future

The Affirming Action Group has identified a number of issues for our attention and focus in the year ahead. We are considering opportunities for the congregation to:

- more fully understand the concept of "privilege", and how our consciousness of our own privilege will free us from oppressive actions
- consider more fully how we can be a place of safety and support for those who experience challenges with their mental health
- more fully understand identity, expression and orientation with respect to sexuality and gender
- to reflect on reconciliation, and consider actions that advance right relationship with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples.

We are grateful for the commitment of the St. Martin's congregation, the staff and the Affirming Action group in helping to construct a truly affirming identity.

We are currently searching for a chair for our action group and some new members ...please join us!

Affirming Action Group
Kit Loewen
Ken Glover
James Bykowsy
James Cook
Keith Hall –Staff Liaison

Ministry by Phone Program

The Ministry by Phone program is an important way in which we re-connect with and reach out to the St. Martin's family. Just over 300 families are phoned twice per year by a group of 14 phoners, who are in turn supported by 7 prayermates. In 2015, both the Spring and Fall sessions went well, and we were again pleased to welcome new phoners and prayermates to the program.

We would like to express our thanks to all the phoners and prayermates for their continued dedication to this ministry, as well as for their support of us as coordinators. In addition, we would like to extend our appreciation for the service of the phoners and prayermates who decided to retire from the program in 2015, including Phyllis Kachur, who has been with Ministry by Phone since its inception. We are also grateful for the assistance of St. Martin's staff, especially Keith Hall, Michael Webster, and Sandra Afseth, as well as that of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Maryann Scott and Cathy Anderson,

Coordinators, Ministry by Phone

Website

The website has continued to be popular. We have continued to publish a weekly video of the Bible reading and sermon. This has been well-received. You can find us at <http://stmartinsuc.com/>

In 2015, there have been 8071 visits to the site, down slightly from 2014. Although the total number of visits is down, the number of unique visitors is up. An average of 449 unique visitors come to the website each month.

Since its inception in 2012, the Facebook page has grown to 132 followers, up 28 from 2014. It's a good place to catch-up on what's happening at the church. You can find it at <https://www.facebook.com/stmartinsuc> .

Website Visits by Month - 2015		
	People	Visits
Jan	445	643
Feb	345	540
Mar	504	702
Apr	555	776
May	361	573
Jun	346	492
Jul	359	507
Aug	480	702
Sep	505	809
Oct	544	830
Nov	452	784
Dec	490	713
Totals:	5386	8071

Submitted by Cathy Anderson

Stewardship Committee

We are very excited to see improvements beginning on our building this year – a tangible reward for the 2014 Capital Fundraising Campaign. We took a break from this initiative, choosing instead to focus on our operating budget deficit in 2015. That said, we received another \$41,000 in Capital funds through follow up letters to multi-year donors.

The stewardship campaign, summer giving ask and shortfall campaign have all focused on the ease and importance of contributing through the pre-authorized remittance (PAR) program. We continue to explore ways to engage and inform the congregation about the need to increase contributions so that St. Martin's can continue to provide service not only to our own members, but to the wider church and our many successful outreach programs. The Legacy Giving Event with Kathryn Hoffley was one such educational event.

The Stewardship & Finance committee meets approx. once every 4-6 weeks, with sub-committee meetings in between. Mary Lloyd and Barry Anderson have recently resigned due to work and personal commitments, so we would like to thank them for their time and enthusiasm. Please consider volunteering for these positions – this is an energetic and entertaining group of people to work with!

Submitted by Joanne Kerslake

St. Martin's UCW

As in the past the UCW began the year with the annual kitchen cleanup on January 19th. Our annual meeting was held January 26 conducted by Eunice Kleppe in the absence of our President Shirley Cross.

Our catering was down this year from previous years. We served food and refreshments for the Nutana Mennonite service in January, four memorial services, a Sask. Polytechnic workshop and Betty Laing's 90th birthday celebration. The UCW coordinated the Easter Ham supper in March serving over 400 people resulting in a profit of \$4216.14 which was turned over to the church. We also looked after the Tea Room and Bake table for the annual Garage Sale.

The World Day of Prayer service was held at Grace Westminster United this year with Eunice Kleppe and Kathy Schmitz taking part as representatives of St. Martin's.

Bunny Knight, Kerry Stephens and Kathy Schmitz prepared and served the breakfast at a Lenten service the Wednesday that St. Martin's was responsible for it. This year it was held at Nutana Mennonite Church.

Geri Janow is our Friendship Convenor who sends out cards to all who are ill, bereaved or celebrating a special occasion. The UCW provides the funds for the cards and postage.

In the summer the UCW contributed \$10,000.00 to the board for the replacement of the kitchen windows and the Ramp door. This is a project that we had been saving for several years.

This fall we made four batches of mincemeat to use up remaining ingredient inventory.

Our Christmas Tea & Bake Sale was a success. The bake table donations were less this year however the freewill offering at the door made it a profitable day. A special thank-you to Betty Cook for her beautiful pot-holders which were once again a very popular item.

As I complete my first year as Vice President I would like to thank all who have encouraged me as I slowly learn what this position involves. A special thank-you to Eunice Kleppe, Bunny Knight and our unit coordinators for their advice, guidance and support this past year.

If you would like more information regarding the UCW and their work please contact one of the following: Norma Romuld 303.343.1061, Kay Nicklin 306.955.2828, Bunny Knight 306.374.3982, Bonnie Erickson Wudrick 306.374.2689, Eunice Kleppe 306.343.1936, and Kathy Schmitz 306.343.0082.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Schmitz

UCW Finance Report

December 31, 2014 – December 31, 2015

	Proposed 2016	Proposed 2015	Disburse- ments 2015	Revenue 2015	Bank Balance
Bank Balance @ December 31, 2014					20773.62
Mission & Service	3000.00	3000.00	3000.00		
Oliver Lodge Chaplaincy	200.00	200.00	200.00		
Food Bank	50.00	50.00	50.00		
St. Andrews College	500.00	500.00	500.00		
Photocopying	75.00	75.00	75.00		
Stationery & Postage	300.00	300.00	200.00		
Equipment & Kitchen Rpr.		10000.00			
Kitchen Supplies	500.00	500.00	368.72		
Habitat For Humanity		200.00	200.00		
Memorial Donations	100.00	100.00	75.00		
Salvation Army	100.00	100.00	100.00		
Quest For Mexico	2200.00				
Ronald McDonald House	100.00	100.00	100.00		
Potluck Supper Speaker	50.00	50.00	50.00		
Lighthouse	200.00	200.00	200.00		
Christmas Gifts	100.00	100.00	150.00		
Provincial Gathering		200.00			
Easter Ham Supper			726.41		
St.Martins Ham Supper			4216.14	4942.55	
Catering			1278.06	4460.87	
Christmas Tea/Bake Sale			219.01	3237.20	
UCW Donations				1335.00	
Personal Donations				250.00	
Mincemeat			388.45	1595.00	
Garage Sale					
Interest				654.00	
Floats			1700.00	1700.00	
Life Membership Exp.			45.00		
<u>Kitchen Window/Ramp Dr.</u>			<u>10000.00</u>		
Totals	7475.00	15675.00	23841.79	17527.16	

Bank Balance @
December 31, 2015 14458.99

St Martin's Book Club

The Book Club is a small group that have been a part of St. Martin's United Church since the fall of 2002. During that time the group has shared 80 books. The Book Club continues to be open to anyone attending St. Martin's who enjoys reading. Some members choose to only read those books that interest them and therefore only attend from time to time, while others members are regulars. The group is always pleased to welcome new members.

Generally we are attracted to books that encourage us to explore our spiritual or moral beliefs both through the story and the group discussion. Many of the books we have read are part of the St. Martin's Church library and can be borrowed by anyone in the congregation. The binder on the display case by the library includes a list of all the books we have shared and the discussion questions.

During 2015 we read the following books:

- The Good Son - Michael Gruber
- Orphan Train - Christina Baker Kline
- The Enchanted - Rene Denfeld
- The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry - Rachel Joyce
- Ru - Kim Thuy
- All the Light We Can Not See - Anthony Doerr

Submitted by Mavis McPhee

Contemporary Singers

The Contemporary Singers continue to be a viable and energetic musical force within St. Martin's United Church. With a membership of 34 singers we strive to bring new and unique music to the worship experience in an environment of collegiality and fun. We were pleased to have three new members join us in the of 2015 to bring our choir roster to 34.

Our spring fund-raising Dessert Concert "Assorted Flavors 5" was held on Tuesday May 12th 2015. With special guests "It's Too Late Baby". This event was another resounding success.

Our windup potluck event was held at the home of Bette Brazier in June.

After the summer hiatus, the choir returned to rehearsals during the first week of September. We sing 3 Sundays a month, twice at 11:00 a.m. and once at 9:30 a.m. We also sing for funerals and other occasions upon request.

We were pleased to participate in the fund-raising "Sounds of the Season Concert" and provided musical leadership at the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. We wound up the year with a "Christmas Appetizer's Evening" at the home of Keith Hall. Rather than exchanging gifts, choir members contributed a

\$380.00.00 monetary donation to the Senior Youth Group Quest Mexico trip following a previous \$2500.00 donation. We continue to be most grateful for the talent of our dedicated accompanist Erin Tempel, organist Betty Lou Agnew, percussionist, D'Arce McMillan, violinist David Crossley, guitarist, Karen Davis and other guest instrumentalists.

We continue to rely solely on the proceeds from our fundraising concert to purchase music, instruments and other operating supplies. The chorus maintains an outside bank account. The balance as of December 2015 was \$3176.33

Respectfully submitted, J. Keith Hall
Director Contemporary Singers

Fellowship Handbell Choir

We continue to be impressed by how much the members of Fellowship Bells are growing as handbell ringers and musicians. The desire for a greater challenge lead us to purchasing some new music this year and it's been a lot of fun learning the new pieces. We have been trying to expand our use of different handbell techniques, which makes it more interesting for the group and hopefully more enjoyable for our audiences. We had a great time participating in the Sounds of the Season concert in December as well as playing on Sunday mornings a few times throughout the year.

We have become a tight knit group over the past few years and it has been great to see how close the members are as well as how welcoming they've been of new ringers. We all look forward to our Tuesday evening rehearsals and anticipate a great rest of the year.

Submitted by Tara Gallant & Cara Wilson

Band Together

Band Together is enjoying a very positive and collaborative season. Several new members joined the group and they benefited from the musical expertise and cohesiveness of a strong nucleus of longtime members. Over the fall months our instrumentalists consisted of two guitar players (Don Cook and Brian Dennis), a bass player (Lisle Dashney), a percussionist (Nolan Cline) and keyboard player (Randy Cline). We have had some shifts in personnel due to winter holidays, so we are delighted to have guitarist, Mitch Parkinson, rejoin the band for some Sundays. Our vocalists this year are Danica Tempel, Jane McMurtry, Beth Williamson (sopranos); Lori Cline Flath (alto); Tom Flath (baritone) and Al Loewen (bass), with occasional appearances by Isabel Cook. We are grateful for the expertise of our sound technician, Joel Yurach, in keeping us balanced! We would like to say a special thank you to Pat Davis, for his long-time work as sound technician and we wish him well as he moves on to new adventures.

The group meets on Wednesday nights at 7:15 pm and provides musical leadership at the 11:00 am service every second Sunday of the month. The band performed three pieces of varying styles for the

Sounds of the Season concert and the Advent Sunday services. At the moment, Band Together is busy preparing pieces for the spring season. The group is benefiting from a new physical arrangement, as we now use the grand piano on a regular basis and have shifted the other instrumentalists to the area around the piano. We continue to appreciate the chance to share our musical talents with the congregation in worship-full and spirit-filled ways. Band Together welcomes new members at any time!

Respectfully submitted by Lori Cline Flath,
Leader, Band Together

Sanctuary Choir

It is our hope and prayer, from the members of the Sanctuary Choir, that we have been able to fulfill our purpose to the congregation of Wt. Martin's these past months. That purpose being to lead and share with you, the choral music of Hymns and anthems during the 9:30 am services, and also to help support our wonderful Ministerial Staff and the messages they bring.

As you know, we meet for practice every Thursday evenings at 7:30. The faithful and dedicated group try to share their love of music and God's word. As the poet said, "Words touch the mind, Music touches the soul." What a blessing for our Choir to be able to offer both.

Please consider adding your voice to your choir – and join us for lively and fun practices on Thursdays.

"Praise is the language spoken in Heaven, so start practising now.

You are wanted and needed. Also desperately needed is a new, permanent accompanist for the Choir practices and Sunday A.M. An honorarium is even being offered. Please give us a call. Many thanks to the various accompanists who have so kindly given of their time and talents to see us through the practices and Sunday Services since our pianist moved to Regina.

Please come and sing with us.....You will be so welcome!

Respectfully submitted by Betty Lou Curtis

Communications Review Committee

In April 2015 there was a workshop at Grosvenor Park United Church on church communications. Donna Thiessen and Roger Williamson attended as well as Office Administrator, Sandra Afseth. This spurred an interest in looking at the ways St. Martin's communicates to our members and adherents and to the wider community. At the same time the ministry staff and Cathy Anderson were experimenting with a Facebook page and how to communicate via emails in a respectful way. These interests led to the creation of a Communications Review committee consisting of Sandra Afseth, Tracy Murton, Donna

Thiessen, Roger Williamson and Darren Wooff. Cathy Anderson will be asked to consult on web based communication tools.

The committee has met on January 21 and February 4, creating some parameters for our work. We plan to release a short survey to the congregation on March 13th, coinciding with the Annual Meeting. We will ask for the surveys to be completed for April 10th, collect the results and make a report to the May 26 Board meeting.

We hope that you will complete the survey and help us help the church to get the message out about our mission statement, vision and values.

Respectfully submitted, Darren Wooff

Ministry Reports

Rev. Michael Webster

2015 saw me complete my 10th year of ministry at St. Martin's. I can hardly believe a whole decade has gone by so quickly. The old saying is that "time flies when you're having fun," and I guess it's true. I find the ministry of St. Martin's United Church to be deeply rewarding.

My duties are in three areas: worship leadership, pastoral care and administration.

In 2015, I presided at 3 funerals, 3 weddings and 1 baptism. Those figures could be taken to represent a relatively slow year, but it certainly didn't feel like one! In addition to preparing and leading worship on Sunday mornings and at special services such as Christmas Eve, I also led a dozen services at various nursing homes. I offered pastoral care to parishioners in the hospital, in their homes and at the church. I was greatly moved by the experience of presenting prayer shawls from the congregation to those who needed them.

On the administration side, I worked with the following committees: finance & stewardship, long range planning, worship, property and the trustees. The big event in 2015 began when the City of Saskatoon approached the congregation about purchasing church land for the purpose of building a fire hall. I participated in the early discussions and am now, with Andy Pawlovich and Randy Cline, a member of the team that is negotiating with the city on behalf of the congregation.

If the negotiating team is able to reach an agreement with the city about the terms of an offer to purchase, that offer will be presented to a special congregational meeting. At that time, members of the congregation will vote whether or not to approve the offer. The offer must then be approved by River Bend Presbytery before it can be finalized.

In addition, proceeds from the sale are held in trust by the congregation for The United Church of Canada. Any use of the funds must be approved by the Presbytery. In practical terms, this means that the money can't go toward the annual budget, although the interest it earns can. Some of the capital can likely go to building improvements – for example, with Presbytery approval, the last of the money from the sale of the manse helped build our elevator.

As important as this may seem, it is the spiritual life of the congregation that will determine our future. With lively worship, a great music program, generous support of refugee sponsorship and outreach, dedicated volunteer workers, including an active UCW, and so much more, St. Martin's has a dynamic present and a promising future.

It is a privilege to join with you in the ministry of this place.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Michael Webster

Darren Wooff

"St. Martin's United Church publically affirms that diversity is truly a gift of God and that all people belong here. We commit to living in right relationship with our Creator, ourselves and the wider community." The previous words are the mission statement of St. Martin's United Church and since we voted to adopt that mission statement I've been thinking about how I might live this out as a staff person and as one of the leaders in our church. The aspect of our mission statement that stands out for me is "relationship with our Creator, ourselves and the wider community." St. Martin's was born out of the desire to provide a relationship with the Creator to the many children in the Churchill neighbourhood and has continued to be a community meeting place building relationships between those who have come through our doors and found a home. We also take seriously our commitments to the wider community and have active involvement with the core communities of Saskatoon through the Integrated Community Ministry (ICM) and are committed to communities around the world through our sponsorship of refugees. Our mission statement is not just words on paper; it is lived out through our actions.

My hope is that I might continue to live out St. Martin's mission by continuing to build relationships within and between families and children. My goal for our children's ministries is to help them to build a relationship with God by experiencing a safe and healthy Christian community. While we do strive to provide bible literacy our primary purpose is to develop relationships with the children that will remind them that the church is a welcoming place for children. We also encourage the development of intergenerational relationships through the Faith Friends program and through the involvement of guests and volunteers during our Vacation Bible School and our Professional Development (PD) day camps. Our Children's Christmas play is usually a chaotic event because we try to include all in that play—even those who develop their own parts!

I live out my responsibilities to the wider community by serving in the church structures of Presbytery (Saskatoon and area) and Conference (Saskatchewan). I attend meetings of the Saskatoon Refugee Coalition and am the Saskatchewan Conference Liaison for refugees. I attended the refugee Sponsorship Agreement Holder conference in Winnipeg in May of 2015. I also attended a conference in Chicago on social justice in June of 2015 to help me collaborate with the Outreach committee on

improving our relationships with the wider community. Throughout most of 2015 I was on a search committee for Grosvenor Park United Church as they were seeking a minister.

Perhaps the thing I am most proud of this year is that I initiated a planning meeting with Keith, Michael and me in September to talk about the year to come in the context of St. Martin's mission statement. The ministry staff and the Church Board are looking more closely at how we might "live in right relationships" and I believe the more we follow this mission the more people will want to join us and the more we will be faithful to Jesus' call to this specific church. St. Martin's was born to bring people together and provide a place to learn about God. This is still our mission and we have the gifts in each one of you to carry out that mission. This is what I pray for in this coming year.

Respectfully submitted, Darren Wooff

J. Keith Hall

I continue to be blessed in my work at St. Martin's United Church and appreciate Darren, Michael, Sandra, Kevin and the teamwork so vital to our roles in this place. I remain responsible for Youth and Young Adults, Volunteer Management, New Member Relations and Pastoral Care.

Youth and Young Adult

- Weekly Sunday morning program has continued in its normal routine since the last AGM. We do not meet on Communion Sundays but there is a program on all other Sundays facilitated by me. Sheldon Dugas, Dawn Martenskoop, Tracy Murton and Adrienne Starks have also resourced the group when I was occasionally absent.
- 18 youth are currently registered. Attendance at Sunday morning sessions has been 6-8.
- Youth prepared food for EGadz on Sunday January 18th under the leadership of Dawn Martenskoop and Tracy Murton.
- Organizational meeting were held 6 times between us and Westminster United Church in Humboldt related to the Quest Mexico trip slated for February 2016. Brenda Curtis, Kerry Agnew and I resourced this group related to the purpose, facilities and goals of the Quest trip as well as cultural preparation. The group also did considerable grant application processes as well as fundraising to reach its goal. 4 youth from St. Martins will be participating.
- 4 youth participated in Youth Rally March 2015
- 2 youth participated in GO PROJECT in Vancouver GO Project and in Halifax.
- Two youth, Bob and Cathy Anderson and myself also participated in monthly developmental meetings to plan the Riverbend Presbytery Exchange to Incheon South Korea which occurred in October 23- November 5th, 2015.
- Plans for Youth Rally in March 2016 and two Go Projects 2016 which St. Martin's will be hosting in our facility are underway.
- Senior Youth Poinsettia sale with profits to Quest Mexico was held in late November and early December 6.
- I have had lunch or coffee with a group of young adults in the congregation who are not in regular attendance. This has been an important and exciting connection/reconnection time. Conversations will continue. Several participated in Christmas Eve worship.

Worship Band

- Lori Cline Flath provides leadership for “Band Together”. I continue to provide administrative support. The worship band provides music leadership every second week at 11:00 am service.
- Worship Band participated in the “Sounds of the Season” concert which raises funds for the Quest Mexico Youth trip to Cuernavaca Mexico.

Welcoming and New Member Relations

- Manned welcome table with identified “go to” people for new comers is set up each week in the front lobby September to May. Information has been featured each Sunday in “Welcome Time.” I have followed-up with about 56 newcomers in 2015 identified through Blue Ribbon, Bible Adventures registrations, newcomer’s brochures and word of mouth. My approach is one of welcome and invitation.

Worship Leadership

- Darren and I shared worship development for the Sundays of Michael’s leave, working with Brian Walton, Bette Brazier and Anita Retzlaff on the Sundays in January 2015.
- I continued to share in worship through involvement in children’s time, communion services or other aspects of worship with my colleagues. The worship leader and I select worship music together to suit the theme. Once a theme has been established, I develop all imagery for both services. All the text is produced by worship leader and Office Administrator.
- I conducted one funeral and lead worship both at St. Martin’s and Grace Westminster during the summer exchange.

Pastoral Care

- Lay Pastoral Visitors meets monthly to review ministry to those unable to attend regular worship services due to ill health or transportation issues. They are currently offering the care of the congregation to approximately 25 congregation members. In 2015, successfully conducted three session of Home Communion.
- Ministry by Phone held spring and fall sessions in 2015. Under the very capable leadership of Mary Ann Scott and Cathy Anderson this ministry remains vibrant and very much anticipated by congregation and staff members. Feedback is dealt with seriously and in as timely as manner as possible.
- I continue to share responsibility for Pastoral Care to adults, youth and young adults with Darren and Michael.
- The Prayer Shawl ministry is being guided by Esther Edmonds with me as the staff liaison. The group meets once a month and the shawls are currently being blessed on the first Sunday of each month during Communion. 25 shawls were gifted to the people of Incheon South Korea during the Riverbend Presbytery Exchange.

Affirming Action Group

- The Affirming Action Group continues to meet and is currently working on the theme of Reconciliation.
- The group requires a chairperson and I am currently the staff liaison working with the group.

Volunteer Management

- I have responded to several committees with name suggestions to fulfill specific committee functions or roles over the past few months. This has enabled me to involve some newer folks as well as re-examining current members for their volunteer skills and availability.
- “Job Jar” was initiated in December 2015 to highlight volunteer needs and opportunities in our community.

Wider Church Involvements

- Conducted a Pastoral Oversight visit with presbytery Lynne Baine at Third Avenue United Church on behalf of the presbytery in June 2015.
- Attendance at Presbytery meetings.
- Chairperson of the Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy. St. Martin’s hosts five yearly meetings of this group.

Professional Development

- Took three weeks of study leave in April 2015 and in October 2015 to complete requirements for the Pastoral Care year and to begin the requirements of the Social Ministry Theme year of the diaconal ministry training program through the Centre for Christian Studies.

Additional Responsibilities

- Acted as the designated staff “go to” person during Sandra’s training period in 2015
- Facilitated the hiring process and initial training of our new caretaker Kevin Hurlburt in September 2015

Respectfully submitted by J. Keith Hall
Candidate for Diaconal Ministry

Board of Trustees

In our denomination, the real property of each congregation (including land, buildings and investments) is held in trust by the congregation's Trustees on behalf of The United Church of Canada. Trustees are governed by the United Church's Model Deed Trust and take direction from the Church Board.

We are required to have a minimum of three Trustees. As of the previous Annual Meeting, the Trustees were: John Chernoff, Bob Thomas, Marie Dunn, Eunice Kleppe and Rev. Michael Webster (chair). Since then, John and Bob have offered their resignations and Lynn Forsberg has agreed to serve.

The Trustees met once in 2015 to discuss a matter regarding property insurance.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Michael Webster

Celebrations & Memorials

Weddings

Mark Chernoff & Samantha Watson
Michael Borch & Adrienne MacGowan
Brian Cisecki & Sylvia Stevenson
Svend Eibich & Jana Moxness
Paul Humbert & Fay Elke

Funerals & Memorials

Doris Holtsman
Verna Pittman
Shirley Uhrich
Eunice Andreen
Margaret Afseth

Baptisms

Liam Sydney Fatteicher
Mila Leslie Jane McMurtry
Lila LeeAnne Day