

# St. Albert United Church



**Annual Report**  
2018 - 2019

**Annual General  
Meeting**  
**June 16, 2019**

## **Our Mission:**

*As followers  
of Jesus,  
we cultivate  
spaces where  
everyone  
has room to  
grow; we share  
God's hope for  
the Earth.*

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- D. **Sabbatical Team: Motion: to empower Council to name members to the Sabbatical Team at St. Albert United Church. Moved by Myra Avey, seconded by Jessie Parker. Carried**

**New Business:**

- A. **Removal of member from Board of Trustees: Motion: to remove the name of Michael Pich (deceased) from the Board of Trustees of St. Albert United Church. Moved by Alan Waldie, seconded by Frank Parker. Carried**
- B. **Confirmation of new Trustees: Motion: to confirm Mike Anhorn as a Trustee for St. Albert United Church. Moved by Vi Oko, seconded by Bruce Partington. Carried**

**Motion: to confirm Bobbee Healy as a Trustee for St. Albert United Church. Moved by Iris Chodan, seconded by Marilyn McSporrان. Carried**

- C. **Report from Stewardship:** Kathy Hutchinson presented a preview of the new website that will be live by December 1, 2018.
- D. **Report from Finance:** Ken Hutchinson spoke to the current financial position of St. Albert United Church.
- E. **Minister's Report:** Rev. Mervin extended appreciation to all the volunteers and the support he has received from the congregation. Rev. Sally thanked this congregation for welcoming her into the community. She gave advanced notice that in December and again in February, she will be creating opportunities for all members of the congregation to engage with the Transition process.

**Closing Prayer:** Rev. Sally Boyle provided the closing prayer.

**Motion to Adjourn moved by Lionel Larcombe. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.**



## Council Report June 2019



*Change is inevitable in church communities. Without change we cannot grow and move forward, but 2018/19 has been an exceptional year for change at St. Albert United Church and the United Church of Canada.*

*At home, we continue to benefit from the care and leadership of Rev. Sally and our Transition Team. The team has facilitated some major adjustments to the structure that existed at St. Albert United. The change began with an adjustment to our front office where we welcomed our new Office Administrator Laurie Symbaluk, and a reduced schedule that we hope will better meet the needs of the congregation. The restructuring included new computers and phones and a major edit of the paper and furniture in the office, but the new reality is positive. Many thanks to the volunteers who spent considerable time deciding what goes and what stays. Our sincere thanks also to the volunteers who came in to the office daily before Laurie began her position in February. A friendly voice on the phone is something we cannot be without! We thank you for your patience as we all adjust to our new reality.*

*The work of the Transition Team is ongoing. There is still much to be explored and much to learn. We need to know if we are “getting it right.” Our team members are Wendy Poirier, Gord Welsby, Elizabeth Powell and Neil Lonsbury. They would be glad to hear from you if you have any concerns, and especially if you have positive feedback.*

*All changes require learning and adjustment. Both here at St. Albert United and in our new Northern Spirit Region, work continues to ensure our needs, both spiritual and physical are being considered. Change requires courage to speak up if we are not comfortable with any aspect of the transitions. We are not alone!*

*St. Albert United Church is still a vibrant program church thanks to the many volunteers who share their time and passion. We are also a church that honors a person’s need to step back, so new volunteers are always welcome and necessary if we are to be family to one another. Please speak to the minister or any member of Council if you are willing to become more active at St. Albert United. There is room for everyone to grow.*

*Our Search Team is working with a representative from Northern Spirit Region to receive applications for the ¾ time ministry which we as a congregation discerned was our present need.*

*Rev. Sally will have completed her commitment to us in June, and with God’s help we will be engaged in a new ministry.*

*Rev. Mervin is out and about in community on Sabbatical. The aim is to join our church community with our neighbours and discover where we might “Draw the circle wide”. We appreciate your patience while our Sabbatical Team explores ways to keep our church life running smoothly in Rev. Mervin’s absence.*

*As we celebrate our year of change and learning, we look forward with great anticipation to participating in our new reality. By September, when Rally Sunday kicks off our new church year, we can look forward to new surprises.*

## The Board of Trustees

The current Trustees for St. Albert United Church are Bruce Partington (Chair), Susan Waldie (Secretary), Iris Chodan, Howard Johnson, Michael Anhorn, Robert Poirier, Bobbee Healy and Rev. Mervin Gallant, welcome to the new members of council (Michael and Bobbee) who have been added to our Land Title.

The role of the board of Trustees is an oversight role. When things are being taken care of well, the Trustees have a minor role in the life and work of the church. This past year has been that kind of year. Thank you to all the volunteer hours that made this possible.

The Board of Trustees works with the Property Committee to look after our building and the grounds. The day-to-day operation and maintenance of the church property is the responsibility of the Property Committee. In the fall, the trustees and members of the Property committee have a joint walk around to note anything that might require attention. Thanks to members of the congregation who continue to step up with special call funds to finance the replacement of the much needed property upgrades, ie: building painting, roof replacement and upgraded audio visual sound/video system. We are encouraged by the effectiveness of our upgraded AV system.

Also a special thank you to an anonymous member who provided us with a low interest loan to finance recent financial shortcomings. With limited cash resources, the Property Committee is doing an excellent job of maintaining our facility.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Bruce Partington



## Property Committee 2018-2019

This year we have seen the following changes about the church.

1. We have successfully had all the locks re-keyed and new system of identifying them.
2. The Sound and AV System has been installed and working for us in the Sanctuary. We would like to thank the Enhancement Committee for their work on this project.
3. Also our thanks to Jamieson Kruger Plumbing for their support with our boiler system.
4. The completion of the re-staining of the exterior of the church.
5. The waxing of the floors
6. Replacing the carpets in the Narthax.

We would like to express our thanks to the volunteers who have assisted in cleaning the exterior grounds around the church, the storage areas and the office.

### Upcoming Year – 2019-2020

1. Painting the lower basement hall and kitchen.
2. Waxing the floors.
3. Extra lights in back of Sanctuary
4. Security – Remote Access & Camera (awaiting price)
5. New door closures
6. New Mic for Sound System
7. Eaves trough Heat Cables
8. UCW is replacing the Kitchen floor – (Thank you)

Thank you,

*Ian Skogstad*

*Alan Waldie*

*John Mitchell*

Property Committee

years' experiment of being on a Tuesday after the pancake supper.

The Maundy Thursday 'nibbles potluck Upper Room meal' service was given new significance with Rev. Sally's coffee and muffins/timbis communion. The Easter "Vigil" was changed to noon to 5 pm sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoon with vigil stations arranged by Rev. Mervin. Unlike the last several years, there was no first service of Easter on Saturday evening.

Our committee would encourage you to consider bulletin sponsorship. This an opportunity for anyone in our congregation to sponsor the Sunday bulletin for \$25.00 (to help cover costs). You may sponsor 'just because' or the sponsorship can be in honour of a special occasion or a loved one.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Parker, Chair

## Sunday Coffee

Thank you to all who have volunteered over the past year to make the coffee, serve and clean up on Sunday morning. Sixty five people volunteer and many of the same people volunteered several times. This is a big time commitment as it involves the whole of a Sunday morning and it is greatly appreciated.

The coffee donations provide a means of purchasing coffee supplies such as coffee, juice, cookies, milk, stir sticks etc. and we have enough money so not to involve the church budget.

If you have never volunteered and would like to give it a try please sign up and you will be paired with someone who has experience. Instruction hints are available.

Submitted by  
Bobbee Healy & Laureen  
Wright



## United Church Women

We are not only pretty faces in the pews of St. Albert United Church—but active dedicated women contributing to the life and work of the church. Our numbers are many—57—the largest UCW in the Edmonton and St. Albert area.

We are more than coffee on a Sunday morning, hot cross buns at Easter or a catering service. We attempt to live into our mission and live that loyalty to Jesus Christ through devotion and action.

It has been a busy year with some transition as the age of our members increase and as our abilities decrease. Thank God for all the members of the church who help us put up tables, bring in baking for our bake sale, come to our bake sales and buy goodies, come to our Spring Fling and our Christmas potluck and vesper service. THANK YOU!

We do funeral catering — clean the kitchen — make prize mincemeat - replace needed kitchen items such as grills and coffee makers.

Our intention is to replace the kitchen floor and have a small group looking at what we will purchase - once we raise the necessary funds.

Our money collected from our service goes to social action in community and for the wider church.

We support M&S, Bissel, Operation Friendship, Camp Wahelo—CGIT, the Youth Emergency Shelter, Win House, St. Albert Appetite To Achieve, St. Albert Stop Abuse In Families and St. Albert victim Services.

Our food bank is another service we support as well as a Foster Child.

Your involvement in any UCW function contributes to our work of the church. THANK YOU!

## Music Ministry

The purpose of our music ministry is to lead the congregation in worship and provide an avenue through which individuals may share their talents and participate as an integral part of worship.

I want to thank our volunteer hand bell directors - Kathie Zalasky, director of United in Bronze, and Holly Parker, director of Genesis Ringers – for their dedication and willingness to share their considerable expertise. The handbell choirs are a special form of outreach, attracting ringers from the community who would not otherwise be connected to our congregation.

The role of the organist/pianist is essential for our worship services and I would like to thank Donna Graham for sharing her musical gifts with us throughout the year. I would also like to thank Deborah Gallant and Margaret Crerar who played during the summer or in Donna's absence.

We also appreciated the musical talents of musicians Peter and Mary Jensen, violinist Elisa Tyrell and flutists Kimberley Hall and Sarah Huisman in our worship services this year.

### **Choir**

We were very pleased to welcome two new full-time choir members this year, Cheryl Watson and John Robertson, as well as singers who sang with us for short periods of time. Thank you to each choir member for your commitment, enthusiasm and hard work throughout the year!

The choir prepared and sang 28 anthems this year, including several pieces with United in Bronze and Genesis Ringers. This fall, members of the choir also had the opportunity to sing in the Day of Peace concert with the Concordia concert choir and orchestra at the Winspear Centre. We always enjoy singing with the handbell choirs and our Christmas Lessons

and Carols service with United in Bronze and Genesis Ringers was a highlight again this year. We were also pleased to participate in the annual Community Carol Sing at the Arden Theatre.

### **Genesis Ringers**

Another year of fun, laughter, and bell ringing has flown by. Thank you to Sheri who joined our choir this year and all the 'regular' ringers for their dedication and joyfulness as we rehearsed and learned music this year. Thank you to everyone who filled in while ringers were away, on vacation, or needed time to recover from surgery. We had a great time with United in Bronze at our outreach concert at Mission Hill Village on November 26, with United in Bronze and the choir December 2 for the Lessons and Carols service, and ringing with the choir in January, plus ringing in 3 other church services during the year. The 14th annual Bells and Dessert concert at the end of May is always a highlight in our handbell year.

### **United in Bronze**

United in Bronze was happy to welcome Janet Hughes and Shelley Wywal to their ranks. Our ringers this year have demonstrated flexibility and growth as we worked through more difficult pieces and switched positions occasionally. As director, Kathie was particularly grateful for the volunteer leadership of Brynn Bellingham who stepped in when Kathie was on a medical leave.

Thank you to all of the singers, ringers and instrumentalists who have shared their gifts with our congregation this year.

Submitted by Margaret Ward-Jack

Music Director



## Outreach Committee

St. Albert United Church's Outreach Committee for 2018—2019 was chaired by Percy Zalasky. Active members included Betty Mackey, Marilyn Nelson, Laureen Wright, Kathy Packford, Lorna Allen, Helen Arnott, Joanne Wilson-Symonds and Alice Hinds. Margaret Mitchell and Troy Sartison served as liaisons with Church Council.

The Outreach Committee had an extremely busy church year, beginning by hosting the City of St. Albert Forum on Homelessness, which was well attended. On November 3rd, in conjunction with the UCW Christmas bake sale, Outreach held their annual book sale and raised \$1,078.50. Special thanks to Frank and Jessie Parker who collected and stored the books for us. \$800.00 of the proceeds was donated to the Bridge Fund at the St. Albert Community Village, which was in dire need of funds. That \$800.00 was part of a total \$1,500.00 we have given to the Bridge Fund in an effort to bolster our local presence. Additionally, in November, we organized two tours of the Food Bank for members of our congregation to make them aware of the needs and the volunteer opportunities at the Community Village.

Our Christmas activities included organizing White Gift Sunday on December 9th. We collected approximately 150 gift bags that were evenly divided among Bissell, the Mustard Seed and the Community Village. On December 16th Outreach hosted the cookie and cider fundraiser for No Room in the Inn and collected \$730.00 which with our budget, allowed us to donate \$1,000.00 to the Youth Empowerment and Support Services.

Our focus in 2019 was planning our annual church service. Guest speaker Jim Curnett gave

an inspirational talk on "Moving Beyond Charity" and Galalisa Star provided special music for the service. Outreach planned a follow-up workshop that was attended by 32 people, where we explored a template for identifying social issues and working to address them. Stay tuned for further updates.

Outreach also continued its involvement with Habitat for Humanity, serving two lunches to workers at the pre-fab build site. Twice this church year we worshipped with and served lunch to the ICPM congregation using the Bissell Centre. This happened on December 30th and May 26th. This outreach activity is always enthusiastically supported and volunteered for by our congregation.

Other activities that rounded out our busy year included bringing two meals to the Campus Ministry fold, supporting a Mexican delegate attending the 2019 NAIN conference, and hosting a forum on racism, conducted by MLA Trevor Horne.

All of these activities have made for a busy and fulfilling year. Our supportive and generous congregation makes our work possible. You are all part of our outreach and we thank you and look forward to your continued prayers and support!

Respectfully,  
**Percy Zalasky**  
Chair of Outreach



- Educational events attended by some LIRR members and a few congregants were: Alexander First Nation Traditional Pow Wow with Drumming Competition, Traditional Dancing and the Induction of a very young dancer into Traditional Dancing.
- Indigenous Canada - a 12 week U of A online course provided by the library in a group setting.
- Rundle Mission Tipi Dedication including erection of the tipi with an explanation of the significance of each pole, a traditional feast and a BE.
- New Blood Theatrical Performance and a Red Dress photography display in Leduc.
- Indian Horse film at St. Albert Landmark theater in the company of Elder Evelyn Day.
- Eight Fire series with debriefing circles organized by Michelle Nievadomy from Inner City Pastoral Ministry.
- Metis History presentation given by Sharon Morin, a St. Albert Metis, at an Edmonton Historical Society event.
- First contact - a film with cast members present, presented by RISE at Metro cinema.
- Treaty Talks - a film produced in Saddle Lake and presented at First Mennonite Church. Cast members were present for discussion.
- In This Together discussion with Indigenous panelists, organized by RISE and presented at the Arden Theatre.
- Art Gallery display depicting Indigenous culture.
- Marie Wilson, a TRC Commissioner, speaking about progress achieved since the Final TRC report was issued.
- Boost For The Journey 11—a retreat for reconciliation witness. Reconciliation is the ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships. Together, Canadians must do more than just talk about reconciliation; we must learn how to practice reconciliation in our everyday lives - within ourselves and our families, and in our communities, governments, places of worship, schools and workplaces. To do so constructively, Canadians must remain committed to the ongoing work of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships.

LIRR will continue striving to help us all to reach this goal.

Respectively,

Marilyn McSporrán & Kay Douglas



## Finance Report to AGM - June 16, 2019 Based upon information available in April.

Last summer we painted the exterior of our church. This was the latest in a series of major maintenance projects that we have completed. While we do not have any large projects on the agenda, we need to anticipate that we will continue to need to spend money to maintain our facility. We encourage you to donate to our Renewal and Renovation Fund which is similar to the Reserve Fund that those of you who live in condos are familiar with.

We received a loan from one of our members which will let us defer some of our major maintenance costs over the next 4 years. The loan was \$32,000. At June 30, 2019 it will have a remaining balance of \$26,383.

We anticipate that we will end the year with a surplus of revenue over expenses. This included both the cost of painting the church of \$28,000 and a major one time donation of \$29,000.

We would like to bring two methods of donating to our church in addition Pre-Authorized Remittances (PAR) and envelope giving's to your attention:

E-transfers can be made to [Sandy2SAUC@gmail.com](mailto:Sandy2SAUC@gmail.com)

Donations of stocks can be made through the United Church Foundation. By transferring the stock instead of cashing it and making a normal donation the capital gains are avoided. If you have questions, contact any member of the finance committee.

With either of these forms of donation please specify whether this money is for General Revenue, Missionary and Service, Renewal and Renovation or Other uses.

We would like to recognize the work of Rita and now Laurie for their role in keeping our financial records.

We appreciate the work of committees, of council and our ministers in managing and delivering the services of our church.

Finally we would like to thank all of you for your donations of time, talent and money to our church.

Respectfully the Finance Committee,

Sandy Skogstad (Treasurer)

Lionel Larcombe

Bruce Partington

Scott Packford

Howard Johnson

Mervin Gallant

Ken Hutchinson (Chair)

