

# Knox Annual Report 2016

January 2017



## Knox Council

In addition to the routine work of Council and the activities described in the reports from the working groups and commissions included in this report, the following activities were undertaken by Council.

A meeting was held in May to look at the ways in which the new Council structure could be adjusted and communication improved.

As a result, some changes were deemed necessary and are on the agenda of this AGM. Specifically, the proposed changes, if approved, will see the Ministry and Personnel Committee report directly to Council with a voting representative. The other change will add a voting position to Council representing the group responsible for external alliances and partnerships. This group would take the lead on liaison with Inn from the Cold and other agencies.

Council organized a workshop on August 27th, 2016 which looked at the next steps in the new initiatives that Council and the ministerial staff have been discussing over the past year. The 45 attendees engaged in lively discussion about future directions for Knox over the next three years.

The Council approved a mission for Knox with the components as documented in the brochure, "The Next 1100 Days". The brochure was included in the stewardship packages distributed to members and adherents in October.

A number of significant changes were proposed at the last General Council meeting of the United Church of Canada. Several of these proposals require the support of the congregations of the UCC. Members of the Council have attended workshops on the details of the changes and the voting processes involved. Over the next few months, members of Knox will be invited to discussions and to make recommendations on the proposed changes.



### Officers of the Council:

**Chair:** Mardy Roberts

**Future Chair:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Vacant

**Recording Secretary:** Sandra Hand

**Past Chair:** Margaret Miyagishima

### Commission Representatives:

**Worship & Spirituality:** Margaret Miyagishima

**Community Life & Justice:** Sharon Montgomery

**Church Management:** Chuck Curry

**Staff & Volunteers:** Janice Aiken

### Council Members (not representing commissions):

**Presbyter:** Janice Aiken

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## A Message from Dave

**As I begin this year 2017, I carry in me a strong sense of significance. Perhaps this is an illusion; perhaps this year is no more significant than any other – but it seems so to me. It is significant for Knox – this will be a year that calls forth courage, wisdom, and innovation from us. But it seems significant for Calgary and for the world as well.**

For me, the key moment of 2016 for Knox was the vision retreat held in late August. At that retreat, we affirmed two things (later affirmed by Council as well) that will, I hope, guide our efforts over the next three years and beyond. The first was the most basic – that our overall purpose as a church is the mission of God in the world, the ministry of reconciliation. God is (and therefore we are):

### **Reconciling humanity to God**

**Reconciling humanity to one another**

**Reconciling humanity to the earth**

**Reconciling humanity to their own best and true selves.**

This mission is of the essence not only to us as a church, but to society as a whole. The events and experiences of 2016 have given me increasing cause for concern. Our economy is not becoming more sustainable; we are still hurtling towards environmental and social disaster. We are not moving into the future; we are hoping for a return to the past (hopefully oil prices will rise again and we can continue as before). Current events do not show us becoming wiser, more compassionate, more “in communion,” but more fractious, stubborn, and even foolish as a species. The internet has not ushered in a new age of democracy and prosperity but has once again placed us in the hands of a very few wealthy and powerful individuals and corporations. This ministry of reconciliation is important, I believe, to all of us.

But as a church, we seem ill-equipped to offer it. We are declining both in numbers and in influence; our voice and presence are fading from the landscape. The form of the church needs to change, as we’ve been saying for over a year. It does, or we will simply fade away,

ignored on the sidelines of society. But we must not simply change the form of the church! We must also renew our profoundly personal, profoundly challenging quest to **be the church** in this time and place. To be involved in the ministry of reconciliation is to be reconciled ourselves. We must – and we can – as Gandhi said, be the change we seek in the world. And both Calgary and the world need the change we seek.

The second thing we affirmed at our vision retreat was a more specific plan for this change in form and this seeking of grace and integrity. We have four key initiatives to pursue over the next 1100 days:

### **Launch a new community ministry in our historic building.**

We are the custodians of a beautiful and inspiring building, and a gospel of great power and importance. But people in downtown Calgary mostly pass us by without notice. We intend to open our building to Calgarians in ways that engage the passers-by and open missional possibilities for us.

### **Develop a relational leadership structure.**

We have become bureaucratic and institutional over the past generations, when our true nature is relational and communal. As we seek the next generation of leaders, we will use community organizing skills to put relationships first, and to adapt our structures to the gifts and calling of those who step up to lead.

### **Become a post-colonial church.**

The church has for generations (and even centuries) been enmeshed in colonialism – an alliance with political and economic power, and with white, Euro-centric culture. This has compromised our faithfulness and integrity in ways we are beginning to



see – especially since the Truth and Reconciliation hearings and report. This will be a process of repentance and re-visioning for us, as we begin to see ourselves as learners, and partners in mission with those who are different from us.

**Create a mission-driven vision for our annex** (1960 building). The annex has been booked for the past couple of years by the Inn from the Cold, as an emergency family shelter. Thankfully, that shelter is no longer needed! However, that means we need to find ways to use the 1960 annex in missional ways – ways that also provide needed revenue for our continued operation.

Considerable groundwork has already been done in all four initiatives. We have begun serious negotiations with our first missional partner for use of the Annex. Several of our members have undergone training in relational leadership through our membership in MACG – the Metro Alliance for the Common Good. Also through MACG, through the Interfaith Council, and other avenues, we are developing a network of relationships with First Nations groups and interfaith partners. And we have some clear ideas about what kinds of new ministries might draw Calgarians into Knox, and into a ministry of reconciliation shared with a variety of partners downtown.

This is an exciting time! It is also a time in which considerable nerve and wisdom is required. With the Inn from the Cold moving out of our building, and before new partners move in, we are likely to

face a daunting budget deficit this year. The idea of opening our building to the public in new ways will be both exciting and challenging, simply because we value our historic building so highly. To look at the church we have been – a church that so many of us have worked so hard to build, and which we also value highly – as bureaucratic and colonial will also be hard and in some ways demoralizing.

But this is the gospel! This is the challenge and the potential of our time! In my last annual report I wrote that I felt my whole ministry has been leading me to this moment, and I feel that even more strongly today. Working with Greg, and Chellan, and all the rest of the staff, here at Knox with you, I feel we have perhaps the best chance of any church in Canada of making that crucial transition from decline to new life. A path both to new forms, and new integrity, seems open to us.

It will take some nerve. It will take a lot of grace. And it will take our best and most supportive teamwork. It is the difficult hours that bring forth our best, and show forth the grace and hand of God – so may it be with us.

## Knox Music Committee

**The Knox Community was treated in 2016 to another year of terrific and varied musical experiences. Most of the credit for this must go, once again, to our beloved and most-valued Music Director, Chellan Hoffman. She has championed many initiatives, worked far more hours than she is paid for and has raised the bar for musical excellence within our church.**

### Musical highlights of 2016

In January, Knox choir, together with Scarboro United Church choir, travelled to New York to perform some of the music of Dan Forrest at Carnegie Hall. Our two choirs were the only choirs from outside the United States. Altogether, the massed choir counted approximately 200 voices.

The "outreach" program called "Circle of Friends" continued to attract a series of excellent musicians.

Among them were the Guitar Society, the Mount Royal Chamber flutes, Impasto Duo, the Collegium Musicum, the One Voice Choir, Tim Janz, and Chellan Hoffman herself.

Knox hosted a student-led initiative to raise money for the victims of the Fort McMurray fire.

Our Music Director, Chellan Hoffman, and the Music Committee initiated a second musical "outreach" program called "Musical Chairs". This program offers the downtown business community with a musical bent the opportunity to prepare a 45 minute noon-time presentation for colleagues, family and friends.

The Knox choir continued to lead Sunday Services, and to bring music to the community (Bethany, funerals held outside the church etc).

Plans are afoot for the Knox United church choir, together with the Scarboro choir, to participate in the 2017 Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. No better way to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday than sing in the nation's capital!

### 2016 Knox Choir Events

#### Regular Choir Rehearsal

Thursday @ 7:30 to 9:30

#### Regular Sunday Morning Rehearsal

@ 9:45 for the 10:30 service

#### New York City, Carnegie Hall

January 17 to 21

#### Bethany Care Centre Chapel Service

Knox Choir sings  
February 28

**Central United Church**  
Knox choir leads shared  
service with Central United  
and Scarboro choirs  
March 25 (Good Friday)

**Easter Blues Vigil**  
EquiKnox band provides  
a new idea for Easter Vigil  
March 26

**Easter Sunday Service**  
Knox Choir sings  
March 27

**Western Canada High  
School Choir**  
Joins Knox Choir  
at Knox service  
May 01

**Kirkin' of the Tartans**  
(St. Andrew-Caledonian  
Pipe Band) / Gwen Gillespies  
70th anniversary in the choir  
May 05

#### Stampede Parade

EquiKnox band plays  
pre-parade music  
in the garden  
July 07

#### Bethany Care Centre Chapel Service

Knox Choir sings  
Sept 18

#### Wedding

Knox Choir sings  
Sept 24

#### Thanksgiving Service

EquiKnox Band plays  
Oct 09

#### Funeral of a Friend, Katherine Teh

Knox Choir sings  
Dec 02

#### Christmas Eve Services

EquiKnox band and Foothills  
Brass Quintet play with 30  
minute carol prelude  
Dec 24 @ 7:00 & 11:00

#### Christmas Day Service

Some Knox Choir  
members sing  
Dec 25

## A Message from Greg

**In summer/fall 2016, Dave Holmes and I created a proposal for the next 1100 days (3 years) at Knox. The Next 1100 Days proposal consists of four initiatives, the fourth initiative being the launch of new community ministry in our historic building. While all four initiatives form a cohesive unit—none of the initiatives work well in isolation from the others—I'd like to focus on the fourth initiative in this annual report.**

Knox has a well-equipped and well-maintained historic building located in the heart of the downtown business and residential communities of Calgary. Its stained-glass sanctuary is inspiring. The church narthex opens onto a steady stream of weekday office workers and a community of weeknight/weekend residents. A wonderful theatre, a large kitchen, and a handsome parlour sit below the sanctuary. These incredible spaces lay dormant most of the week (apart from concert rentals).

We understand God's mission (the *missio Dei*) as a ministry of reconciliation. In other words, God is breaking down walls and building bridges. God is (re)connecting people to God, to each other, to their true selves, and to creation—a remarkable agenda in an age in which our relationships in all of these areas are profoundly fractured. This understanding of God's mission is especially relevant in light of the widespread problem of social isolation in Canadian society. The consequences of social isolation are serious and wide-reaching. Socially-isolated people face an increased risk for numerous physical health issues, including impaired mobility, lung disease, arthritis, infectious illness, heart disease, and death. Social isolation has also been linked to depression, anxiety, social stigma, dementia, and increased risk of cognitive decline. Conversely, social connection has a positive influence on physical and mental health and wellbeing, as well as contributing to better economic performance, lower levels of crime, improved public health, and more effective government institutions.

What would it mean to make the incredible spaces in our historic building into places where people in our community and city are connecting to God, to each other, to their true selves, and to creation? What would it look like to welcome people into these incredible spaces every weekday morning, through the lunch hour, and into the afternoon and bring residents together on weeknights and weekends? What kind of place-making vision would turn these best spaces into sacred spaces and holy places where God's mission of making connections happens every day?

Prior to my arrival at Knox, I spent three years at Westminster United Church in Winnipeg, where I focused my energy on launching the Bell Tower Community Café (BTCC). The BTCC tagline is "making good things together," a reference to the collaboration between the church, community residents, local businesses, local musicians, and other non-profit orgs. It began with an attendance of 90-100 people and quickly grew to 150-200 people during the winter and 200-250 people in the summer when the cafe would spill out onto the church's lawn.

My call to Knox was in large part driven by the search committee's belief that a similar kind of experience could be developed at Knox. Consequently, I have spent a significant amount of time over the 18 months at Knox getting to know the people at Knox, its physical resources, and the resources of the surrounding community with a view to facilitating a community cafe experience that is indigenous to downtown Calgary. A significant part of this discernment has occurred during conversations at "office



hours" (drop-in meetings at local coffee shops) and in Kitchen Table discussions (mission-focused reading and discussion groups at my house). I have also worked on developing relationships with potential partners in Calgary, including Calgary Food Bank, local coffee shops/bakeries/grocery stores/etc., local musicians, local visual artists, and other non-profit orgs. I have used my study leave to research the Heartwood Community Cafe (Vancouver), Regent Park Community Food Centre (Toronto), Northwest Co-op Community Food Centre (Winnipeg), and The Alex Community Food Centre (Calgary). I am also researching Groundswell Cafe (Vancouver), Potluck Cafe & Catering (Vancouver), The Tea Room (Queen's University), and have studied two church-based place-making initiatives in San Francisco and visited three church-based place-making initiatives in London (UK), including the Sanctuary Café at St. James Church/The Sherriff Centre.

In a church context, a place-making initiative requires out-of-the-box thinking. It's not simply a matter of launching a church or a church launching a program. This fourth initiative in The Next 1100 Days vision is about launching a movement driven by God's mission of connecting people to God, to each other, to their true selves, and to creation. This will be a second-loop movement—an extra-institutional religious group working both alongside and apart from Knox, and on a different trajectory than the existing, first-loop culture and practices at Knox. It will be

connected to Knox, but not focused primarily on serving or supporting the existing ministry at Knox. It will be focused on the mission of making connections, and in so doing will position the historic building at Knox as a visible and credible community space in downtown Calgary, which will in turn generate the momentum, participation, and support needed for this beautiful building to survive and thrive in a postmodern, post-Christendom context. Two paradigms seem especially inspiring and appropriate for this place-making initiative: 1) eating together, and 2) working together.

This is an abstract of Greg's annual report for 2017. The full version can be found at <http://bit.ly/2jgNhlp>.

## Staff and Volunteers Commission

### Commissioners:

Janice Aicken Trifonia Barbosa  
Dave Mackidd



**This commission has been responsible for Ministry and Personnel, Volunteer Coordination, Leadership Development, and our Duty of Care program.**

### Major Changes

During the past year 2016, the UCC policy of ensuring that the mandate and work of the M&P (Ministry and Personnel Committee) be located in a stand-alone committee was followed, and the Ministry and Personnel Committee was established as a separate committee directly responsible to Council. As a result, this report will describe our unfolding ministry to the many volunteers of Knox as the Commission works to co-ordinate its activities with the Knox Overall Plan for the next 1100 days.

It may now be more appropriate to rename this the Volunteer Commission, since it no longer has a staff component.

### Past Actions

On April 30, we hosted the daylong workshop 'Leadership Development for Church Leaders' organized by the Metro Alliance for the Common Good: MacG.

Over four weeks in November, with the assistance of the ministers, we led a series of sessions that explored the kind of leadership needed at Knox as we prepare for the next 1100 days. These sessions used readings and discussion to explore topics that would stimulate and inspire us as a Knox Community to find ourselves in God's Mission in Calgary, in the 21st Century. Topics included how to develop and enrich our inner personal spirituality and develop and practice our communal spirituality; and, what does it mean and involve to become self aware, individually and within a group.

There has been an ongoing examination of and work with the Knox Privacy Policy concerning the use of congregational information.

### Intentions for 2017

We will continue to examine the Knox Privacy Policy which may lead to recommendations to Council later in the year.

It has been three years since we started collecting Police Check letters for our volunteers who have access to vulnerable persons or Knox financial assets. These should be renewed every two to three years, according to the Calgary Police Service. So we will be starting a renewed effort for this, as part of our Duty of Care program, in February. Dave Mackidd is currently updating our volunteer list, with input from the other commissions and council.

W.r.t. volunteer coordination, there have been almost no requests from the other commissions for volunteers. However, requests for volunteers have been placed in the Bulletin, presumably by the requesting committee. This does not

seem be an issue, since the new governance model has inspired more independence by the various committees that make things happen at Knox. But, it appears that a Volunteer Coordinator is not needed in the new model.

We would like to bring forward an initiative to recognize and reward volunteers who have made significant contributions to Knox over many years. We would welcome suggestions as to how to implement this initiative.

We will co-ordinate with other commissions as events are planned and carried out.

We will continue to develop leadership events that enrich and sustain us as we carry out the ministry of the Knox Vision over the next 1100 days.

**We thank you for the opportunity to be involved in the work of the Knox Ministry, in ways that are both visionary and practical.**

# Knox Annual Report

## Ministry and Personnel Committee

### Members:

Chair: Barry Rust

Secretary & Vice-Chair:

Lynda Murch

Kay de la Ronde

Audrey Good

Tim Bell

Murray Songer

Doug Chandler

The major function of the M & P Committee is to provide a consultative and supportive agency for the staff. Each staff member has an assigned liaison member of the committee who provides individual support whenever requested. There was significant work achieved by the M & P Committee over the year; the Committee met 9 times and held 2 social events to recognize the valuable work and efforts of the entire staff.

Changes in the Church management structure have added considerably to the committee's work load and I personally thank all members for their commitment and dedication to Knox. In the past year we have lost the services of Jim Smith due to time restraints, but have been most fortunate to add Doug Chandler, whom we welcomed in the fall.

### *Issues that were discussed and managed in 2016 included the following:*

The review of the new governance model in 2016 has identified a communications gap between M & P and the Council. Starting 2016, M & P now sends a representative to the Council meetings.

Work continued in developing a comprehensive job description format for the positions of Office & Facilities Manager, Events Manager and Wedding Coordinator. These are complex relationships and it will be important to support the staff and volunteers as they work through the processes in order to be effective and successful in their positions.

Stephanie Reynolds was contracted for the position of Communications Assistant and has been a successful addition to the Church Management team.

A roster of 3 wedding officiants for 2016 were approved by Presbytery and contracted.

Tarhata Araujo (Bing) and Adelaida Andrade (Didi) were contracted as Studio Assistants and have added a new dimension to Sunday services for all.

Jampa Tsetsen was hired full-time caretaker for the evening shift.

### *Items for 2017...*

To continue to support all staff in their work to fulfill the vision and mandate for Knox.

To increase involvement in the management and relationship between the financial aspects of the church budget and the staffing and contracts areas.

To play a role in the management and support of staff professional development and training.

To continue the work on streamlining and updating staff job descriptions and contracts within the framework of the new governance model.

To complete the creation of a relevant performance assessment document to use as a tool for annual reviews involving Ministers and other staff.



## Healing Ministry



Following the example of Jesus, our mission is to provide healing through the "laying on of hands", to bring harmony to the body, mind, and spirit, for ourselves and others.

The mission statement and change of name are new since our last report, and reflect more clearly who we are and what we do. Our name brings together the two strands of our history: Healing Touch Program, the energetic healing process developed by American nurse, Janet Mentgen, and the Christian-centred Healing Pathway, transplanted and nourished at Naramata.

Our group waxes and wanes with the faithful core (Doreen, Gladys, Sharon, Elizabeth) being the stabilizing force over the 18 years of our existence. One of the major activities of the past year was sponsoring a Level One course from which we gained 2 new members. This year we are organizing a workshop with the topic "The Science of Healing". This will be held on Saturday, February 25, and we anticipate a robust response from both the congregation and wider community.

## Ministry with Children and Families

As most readers of this report will be well aware, we are working on a new and non-traditional form for ministry with children and families here at Knox. We are NOT intending to develop a "Sunday school," for several reasons. One of our reasons is that programs for children and youth that take them AWAY from the worship life of the congregation for a separate program tend to mean that when children or youth "graduate" from their program they also "graduate" from church – having had no real chance to learn the dynamics and art of worship.

### Our intent in ministry with children and families is to do four things:

To equip parents and grandparents such that the home (and family life) becomes a primary place in which faith is taught and practiced.

To offer opportunities for children to experience and practice Christian faith – including introducing and enculturating them to Sunday morning worship

To build relationships among children and their families

To encourage children and families (people at every stage) to be actively involved in the life and ministry of Knox church (as a means to growth in faith and Christian character)

Near the end of 2015, space in the transept nearest the Labyrinth was opened up into the Studio, a space where children (and their families) could gather during worship. A Facebook group (Knox Spiritual Parenting) was initiated to facilitate conversation among parents (and leaders at Knox) to support parents in their task of "spiritual parenting."

2016 has been marked by the longer, slower process of learning our way into this new form of family ministry, and developing and implementing the details of the program – the curriculum and practice for the Studio, the supports for parents, the beginnings of community among parents and children.

In 2017 we hope to take further steps to integrate children into worship, including suggesting changes to our standard order of worship in some places, and to further develop our community of parents, perhaps partnering with other area churches in the process.

### Here is a brief summary of some of the work of 2016:

We hired two contract staff people to work with children and families in the Studio – Adelaida (Didi) Angeles (who has been our nursery co-ordinator) and Tarhata (Bing) Araujo, both with considerable qualifications in early childhood education and Bing, in particular, in theology and religious leadership as well. We are very happy to have them both in leadership!

We gathered a leadership team for this ministry, consisting at present of Adelaida and Bing, Heidi Exner, John Hall, Doreen Orman, and Ina Folkmann. This group meets monthly, works to design the program and provide its core leadership.

We have worked to open channels of communication with parents and other folk at Knox, with respect to children's programming, by conducting a survey and having structured conversations at coffee time.

We have been struggling with the challenges of a small and highly variable group of children in the Studio, trying to find activities that work with the children, and ways to integrate them into the morning worship, in prayer, music, story and ritual.

We have assembled a resource library, both for program leaders and for parents.



# Knox Annual Report

## Church Management Commission

*Under this Commission, there are the following working groups:*

### Office and Facilities Management

This committee supports The Office and Facilities Manager, Sue Forsyth, who oversees the day to day administration and management of the building. It also sets goals and reviews budgets for the same.

### Facilities

This group is not normally involved in day-to-day management but in the management of special capital projects, such as our drain re-lining project. Members are Chuck Curry, Ron Johnson and Bob Benner.

### Stewardship

This group functions throughout the year to assist in special projects where Knox members may volunteer or donate to assist in fundraising. The annual financial campaign is the prime function.

### Communications

This committee is staffed by Steph Reynolds, and managed by Marlene Hielema. Their primary duties have been the redesigning of our printed brochures, creating event posters, banners for the wedding fair booth, and the production of "What's New at Knox". In 2017 this role will be expanded to banner designs for the sanctuary building exterior.

The role of communications in marketing our ministry, education, weddings and justice initiatives is vital this year as well.

### Financial Management

This group, which also includes the Treasurer, oversees the revenue and expenditures of the annual budget. They also set policies for financial management.

### Archives

Knox has an archivist, James Cornock, who maintains our records of historic value. Financial records are the purview of the Office management.

## 2016 Review

2016 was a busy year for the Church Management Commission. To begin we were still following the drain problems. After installing four new toilets with a greater water flow, yet low flow, there were fewer problems, but we still had to have them re-lined to eliminate long term back up problems. After cleaning and visually inspecting with a camera several times we had them re-lined in December – a full year and half after extreme problems had occurred. A portion of the cost was covered by a Community Facility Enhancement grant from the Provincial Government.

**Tower Stone Façade:** In September Sue identified some potential problems with stone falling from the tower on to the sidewalk. As a consequence, we had the tower visually inspected by a masonry specialist, who saw many problems and dangers of stone fragments falling. Because Knox is a heritage building, it was necessary to request intervention from the City and Province to have a masonry company use a lift to inspect and remove all dangerous stone elements. The end result was a quote for the restoration work of the tower stone façade. The Commission is expecting that the restoration work can be undertaken in 2017 with the support of the Provincial and Municipal governments.

Steph Reynolds, our graphic designer, who has been publishing the "What's New at Knox", became a member of the Knox team in the summer, and she has been providing us with a newsletter that is informative as well as entertaining. Her caricatures of the staff are spot on! Steph will also be

designing a new look for our outside banners and new sanctuary banners. Look for those in the spring.

Jill LaForty, our events coordinator managed concerts and weddings throughout the year, but in 2017 she will limit her work to concert management. Consequently, we have hired a wedding coordinator, Heather Allison, who assumes her duties in January. We welcome her to the Knox team.

Inn from the cold preparations to accommodate storage of bedding and dry foodstuffs were constructed and installed in March.

New exit doors were installed in the north east exit of the gym in May.

Thanks to Ralph Dilworth, Craig, and Tenzen for garden planting and maintenance.

Many thanks for a new Stewardship Team that designed and produced the 2017 Financial Pledge Package. The team is Sam and David Teja, Keith Bacon and Kathryn MacGregor. Thanks for your vision and hard work. If anyone has not seen this package, please grab one at coffee in the Narthex, and donate generously to the Knox ministry.

Our finance team headed by James Wear has had a very busy year managing the Knox finances and forming in-house concert rental policies. Kathryn MacGregor has also joined the Finance team and will be working on the budgets while James Royer is providing supervision for our paid accountant, Kevin Murphy.

## Plans for 2017

In January Dave Holmes, Jill LaForty and Heather Allison will participate in a Wedding Fair to represent Knox as a wedding venue and to bring awareness to our excellent historic sanctuary, organ, ministers and staff.

The tower stone façade restoration project will go forward with calls for competitive bids for the work coupled with grant applications to the Provincial and Municipal Governments for financial assistance.

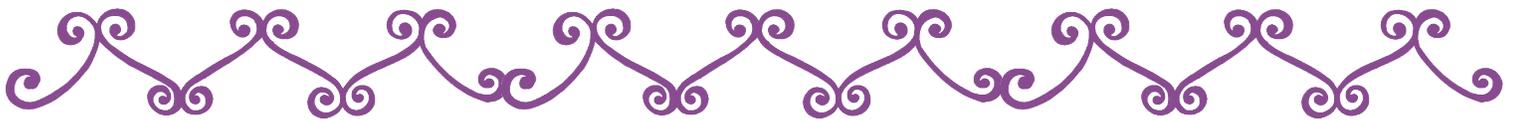
There is a plan to hire a summer student on a federal employment program for at least six weeks to do some interior and exterior painting.

As the A-TEAM, responsible for finding a rental client and arranging a space use arrangement with Knox in the Christian Education Building, moves forward, there will be a need to examine the Knox use of the space and what physical changes may be necessary to accommodate the client. By the end of 2017, we hope that Knox will have financial stability with a new partner. This is necessary as we examine ways to finance our ministry beyond what our members can afford to donate.

New and additional members are needed to fulfill the roles of the CMC working groups. If you are interested in the building and garden maintenance or restoration projects, please talk to Chuck or Bob. Talk to Marlene Hielema for helping with Communications. Talk to James Wear if you can help with Finance. If office management is your thing, talk to Ron Johnson.

### Commissioners:

<i>Chuck Curry</i>	<i>James Wear</i>	<i>Bob Benner</i>
Chair	Finance	Facilities
<i>Ron Johnson</i>	<i>Andrew Fox</i>	
Liaison to Office and Facilities Manager	Liaison to the Community Life and Justice Commission	



## Calgary Presbytery

Calgary Presbytery meets as four separate Commissions, at different times, approximately monthly. It also meets as a full court several times a year to study important justice issues and, to celebrate community in worship and in a meal together. Michael White is a member of the Local and Global Outreach Commission, and Janice Aicken is a member of the Congregational Support Commission.

After several workshops on learning what it meant to become an Affirming Presbytery of the United Church of Canada, Calgary Presbytery voted in plenary session, on April 19, 2016, on the question, "Do you want Calgary Presbytery to become an Affirming Presbytery?" The vote was overwhelmingly positive.

Calgary Presbytery has been planning for and working on the request of General Council 42 to study and vote on 8 remits before the next General Council meets - that is, over the next 2 years. A remit is a church wide vote that gives permission to change the Basis of Union Document that was established in 1925.

A workshop to study and vote on one critical remit will be presented to the Knox Congregation in early 2017. This remit will be a vote on the Decision of the UCC to move from a 4 Council Model to a 3 Council Model. Helpful information can be found at the website [www.gc42.ca](http://www.gc42.ca).

Over the past year, the Congregational Support Commission has been administering the UCC's regulation concerning a 'presbytery oversight visit' that is to be made by Presbytery to each church every three years.

As one of its educational events, this commission, held a workshop in September on the theme of the recognizing of and working with the many different theologies that are present in our United Churches.

The Local and Global Outreach Commission continues to support the ongoing work of the Habitat for Humanity in its efforts to provide affordable housing for the working poor. In addition, this Commission is continuing to work with other United Churches in Calgary who are interested in the resettlement of Syrian Refugees. The Commission provides support as needed to churches as they take part in this new endeavour.

# Knox Annual Report

## Community Life and Justice Commission

The goal of Community Life activities is to create environments which provide people with an opportunity to connect with each other.

Following are the various activities undertaken by individuals in our community to facilitate "people connecting to each other":

1. Coffee and snacks prior to and following each church service. A huge thank you to those who have consistently provided us with this generous service.

2. Ushering and Greeting each Sunday Morning is an essential and valuable activity where we acknowledge, give value to, and attention to all who enter our doors. A heart felt thank you to those who in the past have given so generously of their time to this important function and a welcome to the new individuals willing to fill this role. I am so grateful and excited to see new and young individuals doing this work.

3. Wednesday Noon Communion is a long standing tradition at Knox where people are able to connect to God and to each other. Wednesday noon communion provides a safe, peaceful, environment where individuals come together to find peace, relaxation, hope and rejuvenation- where they can connection to God, to each other and to their true self. This past year in an effort to promote opportunities for individuals to connect to each other we have provided coffee and muffins before and after communion. This has become a gratifying activity where interesting, stimulating conversations have developed and friendships have formed.

4. Bi weekly meet ups in various locations in and around downtown coffee shops and pubs have provided excellent opportunities for people to connect to each other, enjoy conversations and develop a relational knowledge of and understanding of each other. A tremendous thank you to the individuals who have consistently organized these gatherings- you have added greatly to the development and relational strength of our church community.

5. Receptions have been held following our Blue Christmas service and between Christmas Eve services. These two services provide individuals opportunities to connect to God and in providing a reception following these services we allow people the opportunity to "linger" - to savour their connection to God and if they wish : to connect to each other.

6. In the coming year we wish to continue all of the above activities and to extend our relational hospitality to support the broader community. We will be expressing our core values of radical hospitality and extravagant generosity by providing receptions following the Habitat for Humanity benefit concert and in support of the Coldest Night Walk in downtown Calgary.

The relationships and relational support we find in our church community is vital to our connection to God, to our connection to our "true self" , and the value of church in our lives. In order to maintain the vitality of the Knox community I extend an invitation to all who have ideas or thoughts about how we can strengthen and develop our community to please contact me: Ellen Lang. Let's talk, let's dream, let's plan, let's develop new and innovative approaches to promote "people connecting to people".

*Under this Commission, there are the following working groups:*

### Funerals:

This working group provides a reception after funerals, to reflect our values of radical hospitality and extravagant generosity. The service is paid for, so this is not a budget item. We need about 8 volunteers to help with these receptions. If interested, speak to Ellen Lang or Audrey Good.

### Ushers:

Ushering/Greeting at Sunday church services is an expression of radical hospitality. If you can help, speak to Ellen Lang.

### Wednesday Communion:

These noon-hour communion services the downtown community, in a tradition that has been followed at Knox for several years. This past year has seen the addition of refreshments offered before and after communion. If you can help, speak to Ellen Lang.

### Visiting:

Provides pastoral care to past/present members of Knox who are unable to attend worship services. Costs such as parking at care facilities, cards, and postage are budgeted for in the Knox general budget. Volunteers are needed. If you can help, speak to Ellen Lang or Audrey Good.

### Community Care:

(formerly referred to as CCC) As an expression of Radical Hospitality, this group offers lunches after Sunday services on an irregular basis. These events provide opportunity for relations between people to develop more organically than through traditional meeting structures. They reflect radical hospitality, as exemplified by the reception between 7 and 11 p.m. Christmas Eve services, or as at the Blue Christmas reception. If you can help, either on a one-time or ongoing basis, please speak to Ellen Lang.

### Aboriginal Issues:

This group will work with MACG Reconciliation focus group, to plan events that support their efforts. We hope to host a workshop on UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous People). Both Dave Holmes and Greg Glatz will participate in this. We will be exploring the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Report with the MACG members, and with Presbytery. Interested people should contact Sharon Montgomery or Susan Wood.

### Global Population:

This group may not continue, as few people have committed to assisting Dave MacKidd in education and awareness. Dave stated that he likely won't do that work within Knox.

### Justice Initiatives:

This working group exists to approve requests for sponsorship, or reduced rent for events scheduled here. Most decisions have been made by email of the 3 commissioners, plus office staff. One such request was The Huron Carole, featuring Tom Jackson and Friends, in December. This event was free to the organizers, as it was a fund-raiser for the Mustard Seed. This sold-out concert on Dec. 23 was supported by members of Knox working as ushers to add to the success of this event. Another example of such sponsorship is Habitat for Humanity's proposed event called Building Sacred Bridges. This is a musical concert scheduled for Feb. 11 at Knox, fund-raising for Habitat for Humanity. Inter-faith Council, and the interfaith Clergy Leadership Team are organizing this concert.

In addition, Ujaama Grammas will provide rainbow-coloured yarn bombs in May, to promote their work in supporting women in Africa, as well as promoting the Affirm celebrations held at Knox all week. We receive many requests to rent to non-profit groups. If their goals mesh with our vision, we try to accommodate these requests at low or no rent.

People who wish to be involved with this working group should speak to Sharon Montgomery.

### Mission and Outreach:

This working group administers the donations to Mission & Service, sending 60% to the national office of the United Church of Canada, and disperses 40% to local non-profit groups. They wish to update and display a chart listing the organizations that receive a donation. They also host a Mission Fair one Sunday afternoon in late winter or early spring, so that the congregation can meet the people & learn about their work. M&O has input into deciding the recipients of the offering from Christmas and Easter Sunday services. People who wish to help this working group should contact Pat Desaulniers, Michael White or Susan Wood.

### Affirm:

This working group is developing plans to celebrate the 10 year Anniversary of Knox becoming an Affirming congregation. So far the plans are for a week of celebrations in May, 2017. We will liaise with Gay Calgary & Queer Arts Film Festival & provide 1-2 films here. We wish to include a dance on the Saturday night, inviting LGBTQ from all over (this should pay for itself).

The Sunday service will include recognition of the Affirm people and process and related programs, which will be developed with the ministers. We need more volunteers to be involved on this working group so If you are interested in helping with the plans, please speak to Bob Benner.



### Excursions:

This is an ad hoc group that works with Ralph Dilworth, as he arranges tours for Knox congregants. In 2016, the Excursions group worked hard to ensure the logistics for the appearance of the Knox Choir at Carnegie Hall in New York. And, in April, Excursions organized a trip to the Art Gallery of Alberta in Edmonton to take in a wonderful exhibition of First Nations Art. At present he plans to coordinate travel to Ottawa for Canada Day with the joint Knox - Scarboro United Church choirs. As well he is considering several trips in southern Alberta, and one to Victoria. These do not require a budget line, as the people who participate pay their own expenses.

### YYC Bell Tower:

To be developed with ministerial guidance.



# Knox Annual Report

## Community Partnership Group

**Knox Council established this working group to investigate and build partnerships within the community with the goal being a missionally and financially viable use for the space left by Inn from the Cold.**

### Members:

Keith Bacon  
Heidi Exner  
Kay de la Ronde

Andrew Fox  
Greg Glatz  
Dave Holmes

During the first year of operation (2015) the Knox Inn from the Cold overflow shelter provided 223 unique families a total of 11,012 bed stays, with over half of these being for children. The statistics for 2016 tell quite a different story.

During the past year we were able to help 85 unique families with a total of 1,606 bed stays, with 56% of those beds occupied by children. The last time there were guests at the Knox Inn was September 2nd. The downturn in the local economy has had a positive impact on Calgary's homelessness problem in that the number of people seeking shelter in 2015 declined significantly. There are several reasons for this:

- People are not moving into Alberta as they did in previous years;
- Many are leaving the Province;
- IFTC has been able to take advantage of the greatly increased availability of lower cost rental units and move children and their families out of shelter and into more permanent housing.

IFTC's main shelter on 11th Avenue has not been operating at greater than 50% capacity over the past several months. Following a successful financial campaign in 2015 IFTC has been actively pursuing the possibility of purchasing Journey House 2 which is a 14 unit apartment building just down the street from Journey House 1. All of this means that the overflow shelter at Knox has served its purpose and is no longer required.

Knox's Council was kept fully informed of developments as they occurred and mindful of the impact on the 2017 budget that the loss of cost recovery funds from IFTC would have, Council established a working group to look into possible missional partnerships with community organizations with a view to finding shared uses for the building that are both missionally and financially viable.

**Organizations that had contacted Knox in the past, or had been referred as possibilities, were contacted with the following results:**

### Boys and Girls Club

**"Our mission is to provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life."**

May have some interest in renting the gym and lower kitchen.

### Inn from the Cold

**"Our mission is to provide shelter, sanctuary and healing to assist homeless children and their families achieve independence."**

Discussions have been put on hold until the newly appointed Executive Director, Abe Brown, assumes his responsibilities on January 9th.

### The Mustard Seed

**"Our mission is to build community and maintain relationships, providing essential and transformative services to those in need."**

The Mustard Seed's present focus is on single adults but it may be expanding to include homeless children and their families as well. This will be followed up once the Executive Director of Inn From The Cold takes up his position on January 9th.

### Servants Anonymous

**"Our mission is to provide long term programs, ongoing support, hope and wholeness to women, age 16 and over with or without children who are victims of, or at risk of, sexual exploitation and/or human trafficking."**

Servants Anonymous have no need for shelter or other Knox facilities.

### Woods Homes

**"We never say no, We never give up, We never turn anyone away."**

Wood's Homes is very interested in developing the under-utilized lower level of Knox Hall with a view to entering a minimum ten year agreement with a preference for a long-er term (twenty year) agreement.

Throughout the discussions the Knox group has kept its focus on the vision as outlined in "The Next 1100 Days" document and on a partnership that would help move that vision forward.

Preliminary discussions between Knox and Wood's Homes have centred around development of the lower level with a separate entrance for the exclusive use of Wood's Homes.

In addition, Wood's Homes has expressed interest in the possibility of sharing other Knox space by renting the gym, nursery, labyrinth, main floor and lower level kitchens. The Board of Directors of Wood's Homes has already given its approval to pursuing the discussions and obtaining some cost estimates. With the approval of the Knox congregation investigation into the various options will continue and will be reported to the congregation regularly.

## Board of Trustees

### Trustees:

**Chair:** Keith Bacon  
 Chuck Curry  
 Laverna Marchese  
 Mardy Roberts  
 Jim Smith

### Responsibilities:

- To hold all Knox United Church properties in trust for the Congregation.**
- To have an ex-officio representative on the Knox Council as a non-voting member.**
- To ensure appropriate insurance policies are in place.**
- To adhere to the guidelines set out in the Congregational Board of Trustees Handbook of the United Church of Canada.**
- To report to the Knox Council as invited.**

The Board of Trustees' primary focus over the past several years has been the administration of the "managed" investment portfolio of the funds realized from the 2001 sale of the air density rights over the historic church.

ScotiaMcLeod continues to be the administrator of the investment portfolio through their Martin Mueller Advisory Group. The market value of the portfolio at the end of December, 2016 was \$894K, which represents an overall increase of 14.2% in the market value of the portfolio from December 2015 year end figure.

In 2015 the investment portfolio provided a \$100K contribution to support the Knox Annex Roof Replacement Project. Funding was provided via a "Margin Loan" option available through one of our portfolio accounts. The loan was paid off during 2016 utilizing the revenue generated by our investment portfolios.

There is another investment fund that the Trustees provide limited advice and input on and that is the "Passmore Estate". This portfolio is administered by RBC Wealth Management. Earnings from this "Trust" are sent each month directly to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service fund with Knox Church receiving acknowledgement of this contribution. This past year \$139.2K was sent directly to the national M & S fund in Toronto. As of December 31st, 2016 the current market value of the Passmore Estate is \$3.208M. This represents a net gain of .83% over the 2015 year end value.

The Richard Barr Estate fund was created in April 2015. The Wills of Geri and Richard Barr designated a percentage of their estate to the Knox United Church Mission and Service Fund. The Justice Committee requested that the Trustees establish an investment "legacy" portfolio with our ScotiaMcLeod administrator whereby future returns from the portfolio would be designated to the Council responsible for Mission and Service. At the forthcoming April 2017 anniversary date of the establishment of this fund we anticipate that the first cheque will be presented to Knox Council.

## Worship and Spiritual Development Commission



### Commissioners:

**Margaret Miyagishima**  
**Patricia Place**  
**James Cornock**

2016 was a busy year for the various components of Worship and Spiritual Development. Several of the component parts of WSD have submitted their individual reports, which speak to the breadth and depth of the work carried out.

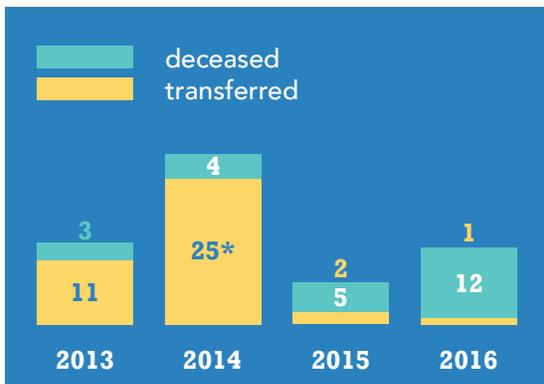
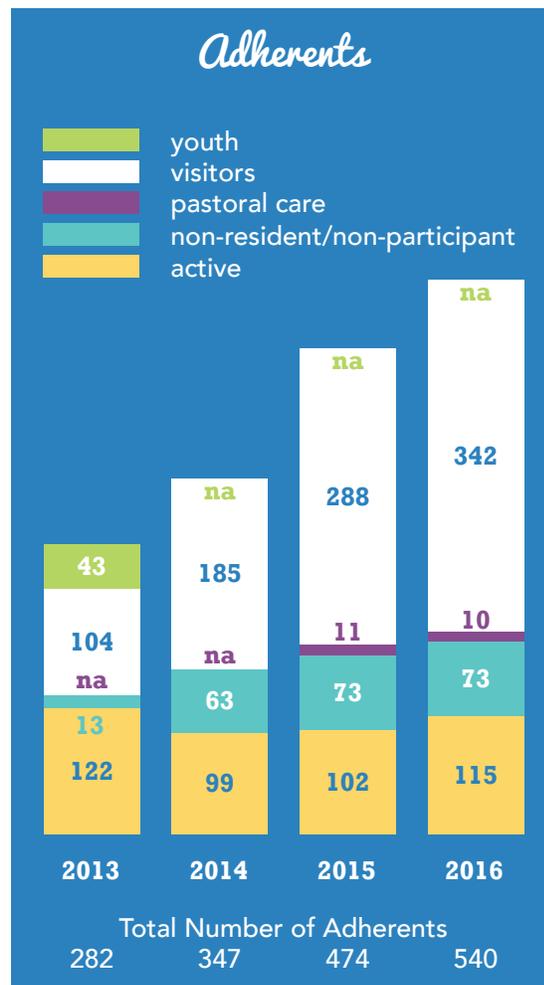
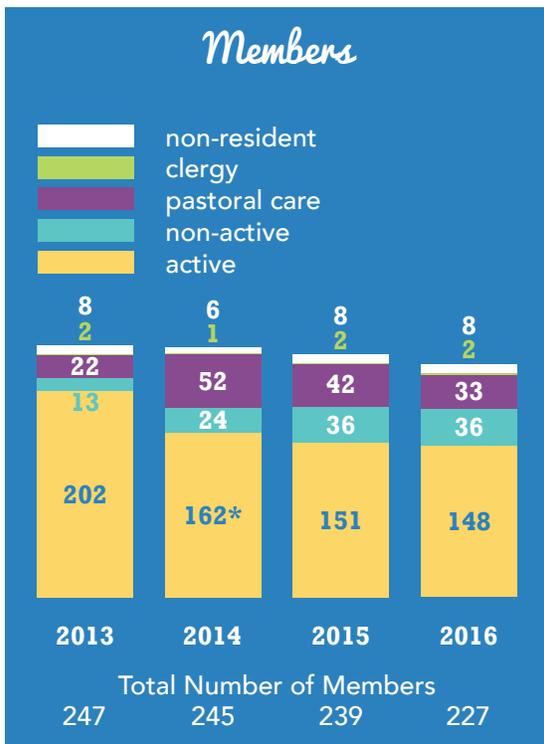
A retreat was held in August to explore the current situation at Knox and in the church in general, and to explore the vision of our two ministers of a suggested way forward for Knox. The retreat and the ideas proposed were received very positively. The discussions started continue through

Adult Spiritual Development activities such as the Kitchen Table and Crawl Space meetings. A wonderful and serendipitous outcome of the retreat was the creation of an ongoing series of informal Knox get togethers over coffee or perhaps something stronger.

As a whole, the commission has been working on building and strengthening alliances both within Knox and externally. For example, WSD partnered with Community Life and Justice to bring the Knox community together for a celebratory evening sharing a meal together and preparing Knox for Advent and Christmas.

2017 will bring more opportunities to learn, to connect and to grow.

## Membership Statistics



\* updating the data base was done in 2014 to reflect changes that had occurred in several previous years

## In Memoriam

*Florence Dow*  
July 22, 2016

*Lucilla Hoskin*  
June 08, 2016

*Jean Leslie*  
August 14, 2016

*Jean Theroux*  
November 16, 2016

*Terry Foreman*  
August 03, 2016

*Nan Innes*  
November 23, 2016

*Carl Stephenson*  
March 08, 2016

*Allan Thompson*  
October 29, 2016

*Nellie Forster*  
June 17, 2016

*Robert Kemp*  
April 20, 2016

*Katherine Teh*  
November 24, 2016

*Edith Whitson*  
March 22, 2016