

First Metropolitan United Church of Canada

A centre for
spiritual growth and
community engagement



Annual Report 2016

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A Centre of Spiritual Growth and Community Engagement

Our Mission Statement

We are a community called to live our lives as witnesses to God as known through Jesus. We invite others to share our Christian journey as we seek to be a transforming presence in our city and the world.

Our Values

To love one another unconditionally as God loves us.

To value each person's uniqueness and the gifts of community.

To actively care for and live with respect in Creation.

To nurture Christian spirituality and justice-seeking in ways that foster personal growth and creative interaction.

Our Vision

To be an alive, welcoming and inclusive Christian community for all ages.

To enter into worship that draws us closer to our Creator, and enabling us to be active followers of Jesus in our communities.

To nurture transformation through spiritual practices and learning that reconnects us to our Source and empowers us to be salt and light in the world.

To reach out with compassion and respect, seeking justice and healing within our church, our community and beyond.

Defining our collective theology is challenging. We are a people called to love, honour, worship and serve God. This calling is reflected through a diverse range of programs that reach inward to foster the spiritual growth of our members and outward to help meet the needs of our neighbours and others in the world beyond. We like to be challenged, and we welcome speakers on a diverse range of spiritual, social and global issues. We seek to meaningfully engage the broader community in an era of rapid and radical change. We firmly believe that action must accompany our faith.

Sunday Services

9:00 am Communion in the Chapel
11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary
12:00 pm Congregation Coffee and Fellowship

In Remembrance

January

CUNNINGHAM, Margaret Jan. 24

February

MANNIX, Ruth Feb 3

HOLLIDAY, Robert Daniel Feb 28

March

HODGSON, Deane (Diane) March 1

DARLING, Roy March 17

MacDONALD, Duncan March 19

DUHAIME, Lloyd P. March 25

April

COLLIER, M Eileen April 25

May

KING, Daisy May 4

SCAMMELL Audrey May 21

McILROY, Gordon May 23

BROKENSHIRE, Betty May 30

June

WALLACE, Lois June 21

HINKSMAN, Ian June 23

MATHESON, Robert June 29

July

SPOONER, Robert (Bob) July 6

ALEXANDER, Karen (Diane) July 6

DAVIDSON, Nita July 8

SMITH, Rev. Dr. Eveleigh July 11

KIRBY, Joyce July 24

BERGE, Kathleen (Kay) July 25

WALKER, William F. (Bill) July 29

August

STEWART, Inez Eva Aug 24

September

HOWDEN, Anne Sept. 9

JOHNSTON, John (Jack) Sept 7

October

ROBERTS, Eleanor Irene Oct 14

DERBYSHIRE, Rebecca Oct 15

GREENIAUS, Marie Oct 16

November

DREWRY, David Nov 26

THORN, Eileen Nov.26

MEEK, Dan Nov 28

THICKETT, Edith Nov 28

December

WHITELEY, Patricia Dec 1

WALKER, Catherine Dec 16



I am the resurrection and the life; all who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.
(John 11:25, 26)

Statistical Report 2016

Wedding Bells

David Collis and Elizabeth McManus were married by the Rev. Murray Groom on Feb. 20.

Gerald Murray O'Toole and Madelaine Hittos were married by Rev. Dr. Allan Saunders on July 24.

Kiran Adriane McKee and James Brent Stewart were married by Rev. Helen Waddell on October 8.

Baptisms

- Rayna Storme Rainsberry February 14, 2016
- Moses Lee-Namkung June 12, 2016
- Amelia Chelsea Jane Vowles July 17, 2016

Confirmations on July 17

Amelia Chelsea Jane Vowles
Magnus Arthur Lucas Rainsberry
Matthew Dylan Snowdon
Margaret Lise Krawciw
Maya Jacqueline Cate Kanstrup
Zachariah Henry Howden Mears

Transfer of Membership

Incoming: 0
Outgoing: 3

Church Membership

In-active members 34
Members 215
Non Resident Members 14
Adherents 224
Newcomers 6
Children 129
Friends 48

Average number of persons attending Sunday services

9:00 am 19
11:00 am 223

COUNCIL AT THE END OF 2016

Staff partner	Ivy Thomas
Chair	Vacant*
Vice-chair	Vacant*
Past chair	Vacant*
Secretary	Vacant*
Treasurer	Liane Clark

Standing Committee Chairs

Ministry and Personnel	Leanne Prestwich
Property	Larry McGill
Finance & Administration	Liane Clark
(Board of Trustees-- reports to Council Ken Johnston)	

Committee Chairs

Christian Spiritual Development & Worship	Edeana Malcolm & Marion Denton
Children Youth, Young Adults & Family	Lorna Pritchard & Kat Rainsberry
Communications & AV Sanctuary	David Bray & Jim Anderson
Epiphany Explorations Committee	Emily MacDonald
Hospitality	Moira Nassim
Music Advisory	Joan Mason
Newcomers Welcoming	David Prestwich
Outreach	Janet Gray
Spiritual Care & Wellness	Tom Attig
United Church Women	Marie McKee & Joan Dowse

Other Committees (reporting to Council)

Margaret Cameron Memorial Fund	
Archives & Heritage	Margery Hadley & Sharron Higgins
Library	Denise Holmen

Task Groups (reporting to Council)

Transition Team	Tom Attig
Redevelopment Task Group	Ross Breckon & Paul Jenkins
CYYAF Review Team	Lorna Pritchard & Kat Rainsberry

*At the time of the writing of this report, Council is still operating without an official Chair or Secretary. Since April, 2016, these positions have been shared at meetings by Committee Chairs who are also members of the Council. Also, Council Executive was suspended and Council as a whole has been doing its work. This has posed some challenges, but for the most part the governance of First Metropolitan has run fairly smoothly, thanks in very large measure to Liane Clark, who has often acted as de facto chair in ensuring that nothing slipped through the cracks.

Some members of the Council, accompanied by Ivy Thomas, attended a workshop at Highlands United Church on November 5 called "LeaderShift: Critical Conversations on Leadership, Governance and Ministry," conducted by Don Hotchkiss. This was an opportunity to look at different ways that we might restructure our governance model at First Met. This group gave a presentation of highlights of this workshop on March 30, 2017 and it was generally agreed that we ought to strike a task group to deal with this matter. Copies of Hotchkiss's book, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, are available in the office for those who are interested.

Minister's Report from Ivy Thomas

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. Ecc. 3:1-8

Indeed, the seasons in the life of First Met are changing. The year 2016 lived this out abundantly. Emily MacDonald, Health and Wellness Minister retired early in the year and we welcomed Kyla Morrison Morgan into the role.

On June 30, Rev. Dr. Alan Saunders retired after 17 amazing years with First Met. He took the congregation from amalgamation to Epiphany Explorations and beyond! Deep gratitude goes out to Rev. Tammy Lindahl, Pastoral Care Minister, for her willingness to step up and take on the responsibilities of Lead Minister, while continuing as the Minister of Pastoral Care, through August.

Finally, on December 31, Megumi Matsuo-Saunders retired as the Children, Youth, Young Adults and Family (CYAAF) Minister after 17 years of service. A search is well underway for a new CYAAF Minister and we anticipate the position being filled in time for Fall, 2017. Both Alan and Megumi enriched the life of this congregation with their vision, energy and passion. We wish them many blessings in their retirement.

In September, the congregation began a two-year Intentional Interim. This path was decided upon by Council to allow the congregation a season of grieving the end of a long-term pastorate, as well as a season of building up the congregation and visioning into the future. All of this to prepare us for a season of new beginnings with a new Minister.

On September 1, I began my two-year appointment as Interim Minister and the Fall months were spent getting to know each other, with small group coffee socials being held in people's homes and in the church. I was blessed to have this opportunity to meet so many congregants and learn more about you.

In these and other informal conversations, a few items were identified that the Transition Team also noted as important matters for the interim time to address. These included:

- A new governance structure that doesn't require as many members (currently 26 on Council)
- A building up of the leadership – for various reasons, there was a shortage of leaders in key positions, including Council Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, as well as M&P, Property and Music Council who have each seen people needing to step down as the new year approached.
- Improved communication – how do we listen and share in ways that provide open, respectful, and informative communication within the life of the congregation.

The Transition Team will be looking at these and other aspects of congregational life over the next 20 months and we encourage you to join us in our congregational conversations and focus groups. It promises to be an exciting time for everyone!

In closing, I want to offer my heart-felt thanks for the warm welcome I have received and my appreciation for your commitment to First Met. May this next year be a time of planting seeds, building each other up and embracing the future that God has planned for us.

Shalom,
Ivy

Spiritual Care and Wellness Ministry

Chair: Tom Attig

Present Membership: Secretary – Kathy Cook

Staff Partners: Spiritual Care – Tammy Lindahl

Health and Wellness - Kyla Morrison-Morgan

Members at Large: Irene Baddeley, Patti Buchanan, Vreny Mathis, Sharron Higgins

Personnel changes

Emily MacDonald retired after five years of wonderful service as First Met’s Health and Wellness Advocate. Our committee made job description recommendations to the Lead Minister Search Committee, and we were happy to welcome Kyla Morrison Morgan as our new Health and Wellness Advocate in May on a temporary contract. After several months of outstanding service, we were pleased to learn at the end of the year that Council had approved her being extended a permanent contract.

Helen Waddell, Cam McMillan, and Blain Thierry all resigned from the committee in the course of the year. Their contributions were many, and they are sorely missed. Two new members joined the committee: Vreny Mathis and Sharron Higgins.

At the end of the year, Tom Attig resigned his position as Chair after five years of service to take on the responsibility of Chair of the Transition Team working with our new Interim Minister, Ivy Thomas. Vreny Mathis and Sharron Higgins graciously consented to serve as Co-Chairs beginning in January of 2017. The SC&W ministry is grateful that Tom will remain part of the committee and would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his years of faithful leadership.

Highlights of SC&W Activities for 2016

In the course of the year, plans were finalized for development of a Spiritual Care Visitation Ministry to complement the Care Call Ministry established a few years ago. Barbara Langton stepped forward to serve as coordinator of that ministry, volunteers were recruited and trained in late summer and early fall, and the new ministry was commissioned at a Sunday service in the fall. Since then, the two Visitation and Care Call Ministries have joined forces and both are now actively serving members of First Met who are home bound or living in care facilities.

SC&W continues to work with and support all of these additional “umbrella” ministries under its charge:

- **Care Giver Support**
- **Prayer Connections**
- **Gentle Yoga and Chair Yoga**
- **Summer Strollers**
- **Healing Pathways**
- **Tai Chi**
- **Knitting Group**
- **Visitations and Care Call Program**

Margaret Cameron Memorial Fund (reports to Council through Spiritual Care & Wellness)

Staff partner: Tammy Lindahl

Robin Krause

Shirley Newell

Pat Davey– Secretary

Penny Bond

Caryl Oja

Janet Gray



Yoga in the Chapel



Tai Chi



Summer Strollers



Visitation and Care Call volunteers

Worship and Christian Spiritual Development for 2016

Our purpose is to provide oversight of worship services that are responsive to the needs of the congregation and to plan, promote, guide and support adult Christian development and education.

We are very fortunate that we have many people that are helping carry that out.

Last year our Lenten Series in individual homes was very successful.

Guest preachers were Ross Lockhart, John Bell, Bethel Lee and Lois Wilson. We had our Truth and Reconciliation service and a special St Patrick's Day service.

We also had memoir classes and Enneagram workshops.

In the sanctuary we have decorated with draping of coloured fabrics, hanging of pictures by our church family members, and flower arrangements by our flower committee who are doing such a great job.

We continue to support children and youth in worship. We started having communion the first Sunday of the month.

Our committee was pleased to work with Allan and Megumi Saunders, Tammy Lindahl, Ivy Thomas, and Kelly Charlton.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Denton and Edeana Malcolm.



Megumi Matsuo Saunders retired
December, 2016

Allan Saunders retired June, 2016



Ivy Thomas arrived

August, 2016

Worship & Christian Spiritual Development Committee Members

Staff Partner: Ivy Thomas
Edeana Malcolm– Co-chair
Marion Denton– Co-chair
Lois Downs
Brendan Tuey
Niki Sacoutis

Jane Dawson
Flower Committee
Marg MacQuarrie
Arlene Anderson
H&G James Fund
Joan Dowse

Library Committee Members (reports to Council Through CSD-Worship)

Denise Holmen– Chair
David Chamberlin– Alternate Chair
Gillian Chamberlin
Pat Davey

Phyllis Duval
Terry Swan
Clare Lowery



Baptism of Rayna Rainsberry



Japanese School Choir



Palm Sunday Foot Washing



Cuba Sunday

Music

This past year has been a characteristically busy one for Music at First Met with a wide range of music presented by many different groups, including in house choirs, our Pringle Handbells, solo singers and instrumentalists, visiting International groups and a few impromptu sing-alongs at various social occasions in the Fellowship Hall.

The Sanctuary Choir continues to provide an excellent standard of choral music for the 11 a.m. Worship services and for many of the extra services throughout the church year, mainly Advent, Christmas and Easter. **The Children's Choir** presented several times during the year and has made wonderful progress under their new Director, Ms. Bambie Maree, who came to us in September.

Pringle Bell ringers are running at full capacity, having had several new members join this year. They add a particularly special sound and are always working hard to improve techniques for sound performances.

The Choral Bursary Programme continues to thrive and our choral scholars have proved their worth time after time. One of their number, Ethan Hill is also doubling as the organ scholar under my direction and has played several times for worship. This is excellent training for him and benefits First Met tremendously. Extra monies have been budgeted for the addition of a 5th choral scholar which will give much needed support in the Sanctuary choir's bass section.

Guest musicians continue to play regularly throughout the year, whether in worship services (Sundays, Celtic Vespers, All Saints, Christmas, Easter) and for concerts outside the realm of worship. They provide additional depth and interest to our music and are drawn from the professional musical community, the University of Victoria, the Victoria Conservatory of Music and from the First Met congregation.

In April of 2016 I attended the United Church of Canada's '**Music Matters**' Conference in Delta, BC. It was quite interesting, although its main focus seemed to be on music in smaller churches therefore had little relevance to First Met. I did, however, connect with several musicians with whom a good range of ideas were discussed.

Special concerts this year were in February, '**Songbirds and Snowbirds**' and July, '**Kathaumixw International Choirs**' and the '**Handbell Berries Handbell Ringers of Japan**'. All were well attended and helped to boost the Music Bursary Fund. The traditional **New Year's Day** concert with musicians Lanny Pollet and Denis Donnelly was well attended but was less successful financially.

The Music Advisory Group met several times during the year and I wish to thank particularly Joan Mason as chair of that group for her tireless help and support in all areas of the music programmes. I look forward to working with a new Music Group in 2017 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Charlton

Director of Music Ministry

Music Advisory Committee

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Staff partner– Kelly Charlton | Carol Brown– Pringle Bells |
| Joan Mason– Chair, Celtic Vespers, Taize | Joan Mickelson– 9 am |
| Mona McGill– Special services | Kenneth McCallum– CYYAF |
| Sharon Stennes– Choir, 11am service | |



Choral Scholars (*l to r*): Gina Johnson, Ethan Hall, Matt Hausmann, Jennifer Turner

Communications & Audio-visual Sanctuary Committee

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Staff Partner– Ivy Thomas | Al Fowler– Facebook, Twitter |
| David Bray- Co-Chair | Joan Mason |
| Jim Anderson- Acting Co-Chair– FH Sound/DVDs | Irene Baddeley |
| John Newhouse– Cameras, Livestream | Andrew Faulkner |
| Helen MacKay– Lighting, Hearing devices | Resources |
| Paul Hilton– Lighting | Patricia Simpson– Photography |
| Jane Louie– Resource, Visuals | Edeana Malcolm– Newsletter |
| Shirley Bardy– Lighting, Hearing devices | Brent Parrish– Website Consultant |



Epiphany Explorations

discover the extraordinary in the ordinary

EE 2016 was a great success and received rave reviews from those in attendance. It was a wonderful combination of dedicated volunteers, inspiring speakers and performers and a amazing atmosphere of thoughtfulness and fun. Here are some of my highlights.

Clarice Dillman, EE 2016 Co-Chair

- **Fred Rollins**, First Nations Elder opening prayer and playing his flute. Absolutely beautiful!
- Both of **Tom Axworthy's** presentations on the Middle East and the Mackenzie River Delta. Given without a note and filled with information we rarely hear. The Mackenzie River Delta is huge and feeds so much. It is at huge risk. There is no federal legislation on these bodies of water, despite much work being done in the 80s only to be dropped.
- **Linda Mulhall's** presentation on the importance of rest and how it is so difficult to do in our society.
- **Anna Carter Florence** on the biblical story of Tamara. A difficult to hear story that could have been written today. She was an amazing presenter.
- **Megan Rohrer** on Transfiguration: a story of transgender in the bible. A profound presentation.
- **Leonard Sumner**, everyone loved his performance of First Nation's rap music.
- **Naomi Tutu**, just having her with us and what she embodies was a thrill.
- All the music! Life giving and soul moving. Special note of Sweet Lowdown, Shady Mountain and **Julia Cunningham** on the harp who are local!
- The 2 Sunday Services. Everyone loved the balloons and dancing in the aisles. Wonderful messages. Great music by **Julia** and **Aidan** at the 9 am and **Bruce Harding** at the 11 am services.

Special kudos to all the volunteers, the Core Team members, **Fran Pollet** for the music and **Brent Parrish** as producer and director of the great AV Team.



Naomi Tutu Photo by Anna Shkuratoff



Tom Axworthy Photo by Brent Parrish

Epiphany Explorations Planning Committee

Staff partners– Ivy Thomas, Kelly Charlton, Tammy Lindahl, Cullen Morton, Sharon MacDonald, Katya Rumyantseva (Registrar)	Edeana Malcolm– Prayer Coordinator
Emily MacDonald– Chair	Al Fowler– hosting/volunteers/Facebook/Twitter
Penny Bond– Asst. to Registrar, Exec. Secretary/Brochures/Programs/Sign	Niki Sacoutis– Hospitality
Denise Holmen– Presenters Coordination	Don Evans– Our Place Liaison
Vanessa Hammond– Registration Desk	Joan Mason– Parking Coordinator, Promotions Coordinator, Communications Coordinator
Jane Louie– Visuals/Graphics/Layout	Jan McArdle– Special Needs Coordinator
Helen Mackay– Lights/Sound/Recordings	Barry Ralston– Presenters Search
Barbara Langton– Information Desk	Rennie Warburton– Member at Large
Ruth Ratzlaff– Information Desk	Forrest Nelson– Member at Large
	Mandy Wilson– Member at Large

Redevelopment Task Group

The Redevelopment Task Group (RTG) had reported that it expected to receive a formal proposal from the Intercultural Association (ICA) by the end of October for redevelopment of the Fellowship Hall. This proposal was to be based on a feasibility study conducted by ICA's engineering and architectural consultants and shared with the RTG earlier this year. ICA informed the RTG in mid-November that on the advice of its space-planning consultants it would not present a proposal at this time. ICA reported that in the consultants' opinion ICA's costs in completing renovations to the property would not be warranted in a leased space arrangement. ICA has indicated it may be interested in exploring other options for redevelopment of the Fellowship Hall.

The RTG has decided that with no ICA proposal forthcoming it will consult the BC Conference Property Resource Team and begin preparations to issue a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) to organizations and developers in our community who might be interested in buying or developing the Fellowship Hall site. ICA has been informed it would be welcome to respond to this expression of interest once it is issued. Council and the congregation will be consulted during development of the RFEOI and before it is issued.

Members of the RTG in 2016: Ross Breckon, Paul Jenkins, (Co-chairs) Linden Holmen, David Bray, Kathy Cook, Steve Gray, Larry McGill, Mike McCauley (Presbytery Representative).

Interior Group: Larry McGill, Marion Denton, Hally Hofmeyr, Don Bourdon



Overnight shelter at Our Place & First Met

Fifty homeless people have a warm, dry place to sleep

For the second year in a row, Our Place and First Metropolitan United Church opened an overnight shelter to provide sleeping mats for up to 50 vulnerable people. Due to much needed demand, however, the shelter moved from a winter-only sanctuary to year-round sleeping accommodation.

“Every winter it breaks our hearts when we close our doors in the evening, leaving vulnerable people with so few places to go,” says Don Evans, executive director of Our Place. “By working with First Met, we were able to provide overnight shelter for 50 people who might otherwise be left on the street.”

Along with individuals, the overnight shelter accommodates couples and people with pets, two groups that have an especially difficult time securing a dry, safe place to sleep.

“We want to remove as many barriers to shelter as we can,” adds Evans. “People don’t want to be separated from their partners or pets. They simply want to be indoors and out of the cold.”

Our Place is a unique inner-city community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted and the homeless. Individuals and businesses provide the majority of financial support for its programs and services. Our Place provides over 2,000 meals per day, hot showers, education, job skills, free clothing, counseling and outreach services, plus over 200 transitional housing units and shelter beds. Most importantly, it provides a sense of hope and belonging to our neighbours in need.



Above: Staff of Our Place
First Met shelter



Above: Big Band
Fundraiser for
Refugees



Left: Out of the
Rain Volunteers

Outreach Committee

Staff Partner– Ivy Thomas

Janet Gray– Chair, Kairos

Vacant- Out of the Rain

Tom Lane– Amnesty

Kathy Cook– Refugee Sponsorship

Jan Drent– Adult Shelter Liaison

Vacant– Truth & Reconciliation

Penny Bond– Angel Gifts

Vacant– Mission & Service

Andrea Hofmeyr– Our Place Monthly Serving

Halley Hofmeyr– Our Place Monthly Serving

Vacant– Climate Ecological Justice

First Met Outreach Work 2016

- Climate action film series (Jan – April)
- Out of the rain youth shelter (Oct – April)
- Adult shelter with Our Place
- Welcoming a new refugee in May and continuing support for earlier family
- Fundraising for Refugee support, Out of the Rain, Lenten school project, Our Place
- Amnesty letters (5-6 times a year)
- Treaty 8 support around land rights and Site C
- All Candidates meeting for Federal Election (non-partisan)
- Staying connected to Downtown Service Providers
- Monthly Our Place Sunday dinner support by team of volunteers
- Angel Gifts for Our Place family

Refugee Sponsorship

Our congregation continues to work with St. John the Divine Anglican Church to support refugee sponsorship through fundraising and support of newcomers. In 2016, volunteers continued to support two newcomers from Afghanistan, whose one-year of financial support ended in September, and also welcomed an LGBTI refugee from Gambia in May. Immigration applications were submitted to sponsor the 11-year-old son of our newcomer from Afghanistan and a Palestinian/Iraqi family of 5. In support of refugee sponsorship, approximately \$34,400 was raised in 2016 from direct donations as well as individual fundraising, such as the sale of woodworking by Paul Jenkins, the Art Auction by Linda Mulhall, Thrifty Smile Cards, the Ride for Refuge, and the Big Band Concert Cabaret and pie auction.



Welcoming Alieu Sarr from Gambia



United Church Women (UCW)

Highlights

- two joint meetings of Mildred Mossop and Unity Groups
- Ecumenical Advent Service
- honouring Kay Maguire who moved to Nanaimo and Irene Bevan who retired
- Life membership pins to Pam Shemilt and Megumi Matsuo Saunders
- October service “Ingathering of the Least Coin” supporting Women’s Inter-Church Council
- Cards were sent to UCW & Congregational members on special occasions.
- Bibles were given to the Confirmation class
- “Day Apart” in June
- the BC Conference Presbyterian AGM held at Shady Creek/Brentwood United Church.
- Christmas gifts to the staff who support the work of the UCW
- gifts in appreciation of retiring staff members, Emily McDonald, Allan Saunders and Megumi Saunders



Megumi at UCW meeting

Financial Donations

CYYAF
 Youth Leadership
 Outreach
 Hospitality
 M&S
 Office
 Flowers
 Grace & Howley Bursary
 Choir Bursary fun

 Sponsorship for children to attend Camp Pringle

 Supplies for Camp Pringle kitchen

 Knitters Group

 “Raise the Roof” project

 UCW South Island Presbyterian

 “Project Connect” sponsored by the Coalition to End Homelessness.

SingYourJoy

 ROTO Ministry in Uganda supporting two African elders

 Prison Fellowship Canada

Staff Partner– Megumi Matsuo Saunders
 Joan Dowse– Co-president
 Marie McKee– Co-president
 Patti Buchanan– Recording Secretary
 Irene Bevan– Treasurer
 Janet Harper– Corresponding Secretary
 Barbara Robertson– Corresponding Secretary

Leadership Review Team

Lead Minister Review Team: John Newhouse (chair), Tom Attig, Al Fowler, Janet Gray, Marion Denton, Dale Land, Kathy Cook, and Leanne Prestwich(M&P)

As a team, we often met weekly over the 2015/2016 period of time. Time was spent reviewing all aspects of church activities and looking closely at what role and tasks our Lead Minister (Allan Saunders) had taken on during his 17-year position here at First Met.

As a team we tried to convey to the council and congregation as best we could with regular newsletter, bulletin and website updates of our activities.

Our Interview and Lead Minister Review team goals were as follows:

- Living into a new mission and identifying priorities that make us an inclusive, vibrant and authentic people and community

- Reviewing and renewing our governance structures and our existing redevelopment plans
- Examining how we can initiate and launch stewardship renewal (stewardship including volunteers, ministry and administrative staff, and finances) so we can match our mission to our available resources
- Re-imagining ministerial roles and how staff can work together as a team to address the needs of all ages of the congregation

We posted our First Met ad for a one year Transitional minister Feb 28,2016 and then with direction from BC Conference changed our ad to be one for a 2-year Interim Minister, with approval by First Met Council.

We received a total of 5 applications for this position and we selected Ivy Thomas based on her application, skype interview, personal interview and reference checks. Our recommendation

Transition Team

Transition Team: Tom Attig (chair), Rev Ivy Thomas (Interim Minister), Barry Bolton, Janet Gray, Kathy Cook, Marion Denton, Moira Nasim, Gaye Sharpe (Presbytery rep), Doug Koch (Presbytery rep)

This team took over from the Transition Team in June and our mandate is to work with and support the Interim Ministry of this church and to assist Ivy as she works with the congregation to live into our vision for First Met and enable the congregation to call a new lead minister.

We began meetings in August prior to Ivy Thomas arriving to work to prepare her welcome and assist with a smooth transition from Allan Saunders to a new minister.

We meet regularly, often more than once a month.

Transition Team goals as of October 11, 2016 are:

- Engage in congregation-wide discussion of a) core values and beliefs and b) What ministry(ies) God is calling First Met to live out in the coming years.
- Review our governance structures in terms of a) changes in national church policy b) What model is needed to live out the ministries of First Met and c) how best to address the leadership crisis within the congregation
- Engage with the redevelopment committee in considering redevelopment options and possibilities to optimize effective response to the call of the church.
- Formally engage with the congregation to identify communication challenges and address them through appropriate means.

- In consultation with the ministry staff, evaluate ministerial roles and determine the best model for addressing the needs of the congregation and its ministries.
- Review non-ministerial staffing needs.
- Help to initiate stewardship renewal that fits with the ministries of the congregation.

Some highlights of the past months:

October – Ivy’s covenanting service; setting goals

November – Vancouver workshop on Church Governance; financial updates; Redevelopment Committee update; started small group coffee socials to introduce Ivy and begin ‘listening’ to congregation

December – completed 13 small groups and reached over 100 people from congregation; hosted a BC conference Respectful Workplace workshop for Staff, Council and Transition Team members.

This team will continue and by spring 2018 the congregation will issue a call for a new minister to lead us into the next decades. Our hope is that a new minister would begin work by September 2018.

We are grateful to all of those people who have offered their input, gifts and talents to the ongoing work of this team. Thanks for your input.

Respectfully submitted by Barrie Bolton and Janet Gray.

Children, Youth, Young Adults & Families (CYAAF)

Staff Partner– Megumi Matsuo Saunders

Todd Glover

Lorna Pritchard– Co-chair

Marva Smith

Kat Rainsberry– Co-chair

Paul Henderson

Leanne Vowles Tuey

Don Krawciw



Family Fun Friday



Youth in Revolution Square, Havana, Cuba

Activities in 2016

- Mardi Gras
- Shrove Tuesday Men’s pancake supper
- Ash Wednesday
- Lenten project
- Palm Sunday procession
- Maundy Thursday Seder meal/Tennebrae
- Shizuoka students’ visit & Mother’s Day flowers
- Great parade
- Congregational camp
- Confirmation
- Hiroshima Day
- Rally Sunday
- Advent event with heritage food
- White Gift Sunday
- Christmas Eve with animals
-



Confirmation, July

Other Highlights

- Cuba Mission Exposure Trip
- Family Fun Fridays
- Summer Day Camp
- Meg Hickling Sexual Health Education for Families



Congregational Camp, June, 2016

CYYAF Review Team

Lorna Pritchard– Co-chair

Kat Rainsberry– Co-chair

Don Krawciw

Leanne Vowles-Tuey

Marva Smith

Marie McKee– M&P Representative

Hospitality Committee

Staff Partners– Cullen Morton, Tammy Lindahl

Moira Nasim– Chair,

Irene Baddeley– Secretary

Heather Querengesser

Vicki Atwell

Susan Walma

Barbara Robertson

Alva Jenson

Assistants-

Edie Faucher

Dick & Irene Bevan



Newcomers Welcoming Committee

Staff Partner– Tammy Lindahl

David Prestwich– Chair

Brenda Porter– Vice-chair

Lynda Page

Barbara Whitney

Property Committee

Team Leader/Chair: Larry McGill

Staff Adviser: Cullen Morton

Present Membership: John Newhouse (Deputy Chair), Chris Rainsberry, David Osmond, Roman Kuroyedov, Cullen Morton.

Objectives for 2016:

Within its mandate, the work of the Property Committee addressed the attainment of Goal 4.0 of the Strategic Plan: **To Provide the Building Infrastructure to “Respond to the Needs of our Community” and the fulfillment of Council Objectives, specifically:**

- Continue to support the Redevelopment Task Group processes
- Building Condition Assessment projects for implementation in during period 2016-2020. See Proposed Capital Works Program to 2020, attached.
- Monitor the service performance of completed works
- Ensure preparation and implementation of an ongoing building development and maintenance program
- Ensure integration the recommendations from the Emergency Preparedness Task Group
- Strive to reduce the building energy consumption.

Highlights/Achievements of the Year as related to Objectives:

- Provided logistic support of Process Teams and the Site Redevelopment Task Groups
- Implementation of Building Condition Assessment Report recommendations and Building Condition monitoring
- Prepared projects for future implementation
 - heating systems rehabilitation: upgrade has again been rescheduled; Sanctuary heating system continues to be stable
 - implemented FMUC/ ICA leasehold improvements, periodic maintenance required under leasehold agreement
- Building Operation and Maintenance Program: Building and Grounds (Operations and Maintenance and Periodic Capitalized Maintenance Work Plan for 2016 was completed as reported through the Finance and Administration Committee.

Coming Year- 2017:

Building and Grounds and Capital Works plans, programs and budgets were prepared and submitted for consideration by Finance and Administration Budget Team, Council Executive and Council and for approval by Congregation.

Submitted by:

Larry McGill, Chair,

Property Committee

Contact Information: Telephone, 250 519 0651; larryhmcgill@gmail.com

Finance & Administration

Staff Partner– Ivy Thomas

Andrew Faulkner– IT Support

Larry McGill– Property Chair

Robin Krause– Stewardship

Liane Clark– Treasurer, Chair

First Met’s ministry plan for 2016 was the same as the previous year due to three retirements taking place in 2016 including two long-term staff members, the Lead Minister and the Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families Minister. However, the plan also included going into a formal Interim ministry process which started on September 1, 2016 and which is looking to a future ministry plan whose financial effects may only start being seen in 2017 and 2018. While the 2016 ministry plan did not generate financial vitality overall, the various ministries all covered their direct costs and a tight leash continued to be kept on administrative expenses leading to a small net profit for church operations.

First Met is blessed with two sources of financial resources outside of congregational givings which means there are no gaps in supporting its mission and ministry. One source is letting income. Due to the usable square footage of its buildings and the fact that First Met only uses about half of that square footage currently, First Met has been able to source income from a combination of long-term tenants and one time letting events. The second source is the First Metropolitan United Church Foundation, a separate legal entity whose primary purpose is to “assist in the building or equipping of facilities, and to enhance programs and ministry at First Metropolitan United Church”.

Due to a combination of excellent stewardship of the Foundation’s trust funds and good financial market conditions in 2016, First Met was able to cover any gaps in mission and ministry delivery costs through income provided from the Foundation. First Met has also ensured since 2012 that the Foundation will continue to have funds for the future by starting and nurturing a Legacy Circle which provided over \$40,000 to Foundation funds in 2016.

Liane Clark

Archives & Heritage (reports to Council through F&A)

Staff Partner– Ivy Thomas

Margery Hadley– Co-chair & Archivist

Sharron Higgins– Co-chair

Don Bourdon

Helen MacKay

FIRST METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2016 *(unaudited)*

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Schedule 1)	2016	2015
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash	\$ 51,498	\$ 28,965	\$ 80,463	\$ 169,576
Accounts receivable	15,497	1,341	16,838	4,897
GST receivable	3,264	423	3,687	7,825
Due from Foundation <i>(Note 4)</i>	43,494		43,494	8,148
Due from Operating Fund		300,877	300,877	274,492
Prepaid expenses	29,726		29,726	36,628
Investments	<u>58,762</u>	<u>63,580</u>	<u>122,342</u>	<u>131,678</u>
	202,241	395,186	597,427	633,244
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT <i>(Note 5)</i>		836,853	836,853	868,899
INTANGIBLE ASSETS <i>(Note 6)</i>		<u>125,921</u>	<u>125,921</u>	<u>144,203</u>
	\$ 202,241	\$ 1,357,960	\$ 1,560,201	\$ 1,646,346

FIRST METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2016 *(unaudited)*

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Schedule 1)	2016	2015
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Bank indebtedness	\$	\$ 6,687	\$ 6,687	\$ 6,061
Accounts payable	107,136	123	107,259	118,860
Due to Restricted Funds	300,877		300,877	274,492
Deferred revenue <i>(Note 7)</i>	48,377		48,377	71,570
Current portion of notes payable <i>(Note B)</i>		5,500	5,500	5,500
Current portion of deferred contributions <i>(Note 9)</i>	7,033	1,072	8,105	32,770
NOTES PAYABLE <i>(Note 8)</i>				
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS <i>(Note 9)</i>	12,770	6,000	18,770	27,875
	476,193	119,135	595,328	644,881
NET ASSETS				
Internally restricted		1,238,825	1,238,825	1,244,921
Unrestricted	(273,952)		(273,952)	(243,456)
	(273,952)	1,238,825	964,873	1,001,465
	\$ 202,241	\$ 1,357,960	\$ 1,560,201	\$ 1,646,346

FIRST METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

Statement of Operations

Year Ended December 31, 2016 *(unaudited)*

Statement of Operations

Year Ended December 31, 2016

(Unaudited)

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Schedule 2)	2016	2015
REVENUE				
Donations from registered charities	\$ 245,315	\$ 14,573	\$ 259,888	\$ 185,581
Gain (loss) on investments	3,729	(2,036)	1,693	1,205
Givings	415,928	6,990	422,918	459,882
Investment income	2,184	1,871	4,055	3,401
Letting, net	309,235		309,235	283,670
Other income	3,751	303	4,054	3,408
	<u>980,142</u>	<u>21,701</u>	<u>1,001,843</u>	<u>937,147</u>
EXPENSES				
Administration <i>(Schedule 3)</i>	115,132	100,833	215,965	238,425
Building and grounds <i>(Schedule 4)</i>	170,337		170,337	152,499
Staffing costs	575,476		575,476	569,886
	<u>860,945</u>	<u>100,833</u>	<u>961,778</u>	<u>960,810</u>
Net program deficit <i>(Schedule 5)</i>				
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ <u>42,540</u>	\$ <u>(79,132)</u>	\$ <u>(36,592)</u>	\$ <u>(95,489)</u>

Board of Trustees

Staff Partner– Ivy Thomas

Ken Johnston, Chair, Investments

Vacant– Treasurer

Vacant– Insurance/ City of Victoria

Pam Shemilt

Irene Moore– Legacy Circle

Larry Scott– Secretary

Ministry & Personnel

Staff Partner– Ivy Thomas

Leanne Prestwich– Chair

Laura Walsh

Marie McKee

Irene Baddeley– Volunteer Coordinator



Above: Pancake Supper

Right: McKinnons

retire after more than 50 years of service to First Met



Below: Annual Violence Against Women service



Megumi & youth at annual Hiroshima & Nagasaki memorial

2016 FIRST MET STAFF



Allan Saunders
Lead Minister
Retired in June



Megumi Matsuo
Saunders
CYYAF Ministry
Retired in December



Emily MacDonald
Health & Wellness Advocate
Retired in February



Ivy Thomas
Interim Minister
Began in September



Tammy Lindahl
Minister of Spiritual Care



Kelly Charlton
Director of Music Ministries



Kyla Morrison Morgan
Health and Wellness Advocate
Began in April



Sharon MacDonald
Church Office –
Letting



Katya Rumyantseva
Finance



Cullen Morton
Building Supervisor



Bruce Davies
Facilities

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