

OTHER REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP and GIFTS OFFICER, GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE

July 2020

Stewardship Update 2019 Annual Report

Even though we are in the midst of the Pandemic and unable to continue working face to face and in groups as in the past, work continues with the generous people of the United Church of Canada.

2019 was a year of change and opportunity for many congregations in our Region. Even before the Pandemic hit we were starting to use more technology and meetings were increasingly happening on-line. Well, haven't we mastered that now?

My regional responsibilities have become more broad and I am now the Regional Stewardship & Gifts Officer for Western Canada serving Pacific Mountain, Chinook Winds, Northern Spirit, Living Skies and Prairie to Pine. I love to see your faces in person, however, I will not be making travel plans to be with individual Communities of Faith going forward. I believe we can manage quite well on Zoom. I am available for all of your questions and seminars on Congregational Giving, Mission & Service, Legacy Giving, Governance and Policy around CRA and investments and represent the United Church of Canada Foundation in the west.

My 2020 - 2021 focus will be in Stewardship Education. Time to go back to basics and I can't wait to connect with Communities of Faith around their mission and ministry and steps to make them more vital and sustainable.

Please connect with me at any time with questions, comments or just great ideas!

Blessings on your ministries!

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Harding, Regional Stewardship & Gifts Officer

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JUBILEE FUND

One of the things which the Pandemic we are currently living with teaches is the importance of flexibility. The Jubilee Fund is no exception to this reality. As a result, programs have been cancelled or postponed and Zoom has been used extensively for meetings and decision-making. But in spite of these “inconveniences,” the past year has been full of positive experiences and accomplishments both before the lockdown in March as well as after.

A major event for the Jubilee Staff took place over the summer of 2019 when the offices moved from 207 Fort Street to 1622-B St. Mary’s Road. It is now sub-letting space from the United Church, which became vacant as a result of church restructuring. The Jubilee Staff were graciously welcomed by the United Church folks and are very much enjoying the larger, accessible space. It seems to be a good fit for all concerned.

In July 2019 there was a test launch of *HOPE – A Poverty Simulation*. This Poverty Simulation was designed by a committee of folks who were both familiar with the Jubilee Fund and/or have worked within the poverty reduction sector. Three members of the committee are Diaconal Ministers in the United Church, two of whom have many years of experience working in outreach ministries. The plan was to offer this simulation in August 2020 but it had to be cancelled because of COVID. It will be offered at a later date when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, the simulation is available on a cost recovery basis for rental to the community at large. If you are interested in hosting such an event, please call the Jubilee office.

The 2nd Annual Project Tour took place on a very rainy evening in September 2019. It provided an opportunity for participants to become acquainted with a couple of the Jubilee Fund projects including Diversity Food Service at the University of Winnipeg and the Garden Grove Child Care. The 3rd Annual Project Tour, which was slated for September 2020, has succumbed to COVID-19.

The 2nd Annual Champagne Brunch was held at the Assiniboine Park Pavilion on November 9, 2019. The guest speaker was Jamie Wilson, a former Treaty Commissioner in the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. Jamie gave a very enlightening presentation on treaties with First Nations. The 3rd Annual Champagne Brunch is slated for November 7, 2020. Bashir Khan, a Winnipeg Immigration and Refugee Lawyer will be the guest speaker. Sidhu Mohammed, a refugee who lost his hand to frostbite after walking across the Canadian border from the USA, is one of Khan’s former clients and will also share some of his story.

Community Based Solutions, at which community speakers present on poverty related topics followed by Jubilee’s Annual General Meeting, has become one of Jubilee Fund’s annual events. The theme for this year’s gathering was mental health and addictions and was held via Zoom on April 22. Molly McCracken from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives; Kate Gale who has lived experience with mental health and poverty; and Jason Ediger, a psychologist with the Cognitive Behaviour Therapy Institute, were the speakers. Although it was a very different format from the in-person gathering which was first planned, the response from those in attendance on line was very positive.

An initiative of the Jubilee Fund prompted by the Pandemic is an Emergency Loan Fund Program to provide operational cash flow relief for charities and non-profits that are negatively impacted by COVID-19. So far, at least one non-profit organization has applied for, and received, financing.

New members of the Paid in Full Club this past year are Sunny Mountain Day Care, the SEED Winnipeg Recognition Counts Program and Pollock's Hardware. Congratulations!

So, in spite of the disruptions of the lock down and staff working from home, it has almost been "business as usual."

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Duncan

MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL



Manitoba Multifaith Council, and before that, its predecessor, **Manitoba Interfaith Council**, has had a long partnership history with the wider United Church community, first through the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, and now a renewal of that relationship through the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We embrace this opportunity to continue and honour our relationship.

Belle Jarniewski in completing her second term as President, notes, "As we deal with unexpected challenges and uncertainty, our faith communities have quickly learned to adapt to the current normal. Humbled as we are by this virus, we are reaching out to one another in important and positive ways — from the day-to-day phone calls, Zoom, Skype, and FaceTime virtual visits and meetings to doing our best to ensure that our families, our friends, and even strangers do not feel abandoned or hungry.

"Places of worship have quickly looked to out-of-the-box solutions in order to provide daily, weekly, and even holiday services. Funerals are also being live-streamed, as friends and family are unable to participate in traditional mourning processes. Clergy help to bring us through these difficult times with an important virtual presence." "Our MMC year of activities was of course cut short. Nevertheless, I am grateful for the many events which filled our calendars from September to March".

A few highlights from the year:

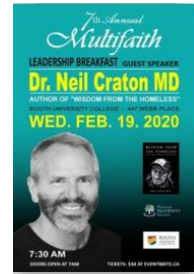
Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding



The Manitoba Multifaith Council was pleased to honour Sensei Fredrich Ulrich as the 2020 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding. As with all worthy nominee submissions, Sensei Ulrich has had a significant and lasting impact on the Winnipeg Community with his vast and varied interfaith outreach. Throughout his career Reverend Ulrich has been actively involved in interfaith work including involvement with the Interfaith Round Table for 10+ years.

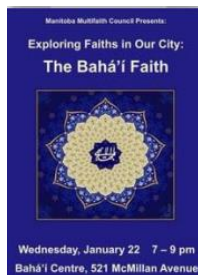
Multifaith Leadership Breakfast

The annual leadership breakfast was held Wednesday, February 15, 2020 at Booth University College with Dr. Neil Craton a Sport Medicine Consultant at Legacy Sport Medicine, as keynote speaker.



In addition to a vast medical career, Dr. Craton is also known as a local author of an award-winning book, *Wisdom from the Homeless: Lessons a Doctor Learned at a Homeless Shelter*. This book was inspired by Neil's service as a volunteer physician at the Saul Sair Health Centre at the Siloam Mission. The event was successful in spite of frigid temperatures. Both the warm spirit emanating from attendees and the powerful, inspiring message shared by Dr. Craton

Education



The Education Committee began to implement a program of information evenings about religions that, although well represented among the population in Manitoba, are less known to the public. The first two evenings, were held on the Baha'i and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints on January 22 and February 12 respectively. The planned evening on Sikhism had to be postponed to the fall due to Covid 19. At each session, they shared the history/origin of the faith, international engagement (where is this faith practiced), some basic beliefs, some, local community, a day in the life of... (what does a life lived according to this faith look like in Winnipeg), challenges (for instance persecution, mixed marriage), service (how does this religious community contribute to humanity), and, finally, also on how various religious traditions share a common humanity. The presenters were diverse, including men, women, young and old.

Spiritual Health Care

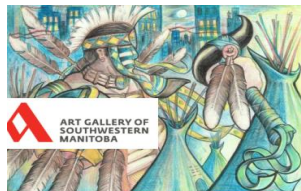
The Spiritual Health Committee planned two half-day workshops entitled Caring for People Living with Trauma on November 13th at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. 25 people who registered for the workshop came from Winnipeg and some rural communities. The evaluations expressed appreciation for the workshop.

The Spiritual Health committee is in the process of planning another workshop that may continue with the theme of trauma, or stress and anxiety related to living with the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information will be circulated when details of the seminar are complete.

MMC continues to advocate for Spiritual Care positions to be filled where they are vacant or deleted.

On a positive note, the St. Boniface General Hospital hired five more spiritual health care practitioners and now offers services 7 days a week.

Justice and Corrections Committee



The work of Divisional chaplaincy continues to participate on the Manitoba Multifaith Council Justice Committee, which has a renewed focus on encouraging faith communities to safely support inmates returning to the community. The Art Contest is in its 10th year with Knox United Church in Brandon sponsoring this year's contest. The theme, **'This is my story'** resonated with many participants. The professional artist who adjudicated the

contest remarked that the quality of entries has improved. The art is on display at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba in August. The Chaplaincy Advisory Committee proves to be an important venue through which the Community Safety Division can directly meet with MMC representatives.

150 Days of Solidarity, Reconciliation and Prayer: July 15th – December 11th 2020.

This year marks 150 years since Manitoba became Canada's fifth province. Because of COVID-19 all celebratory events to mark this year have been postponed. In commemoration of Manitoba's 150th birthday, Manitoba Multifaith Council(MMC) has invited Manitobans of all various faith traditions and those of no formal faith observance to consider joining them in 150 Days of Solidarity, Reconciliation and Prayer. MMC acknowledges and appreciates the work of all frontline workers and volunteers.

We encourage all Manitobans to be creative and generous and to reach out to their neighbours in acts of kindness and solidarity. Please participate even in some small way for increased collaboration and spirituality. We can draw closer to one another and rejoice in the gifts of peace, hope, and love both now and in the future. For more information, please go to their [Facebook](#) page.

Thank you, Paul Peters Derry for being our rep over the past years.

*Respectfully submitted,
Your new rep, Diane Dwarka,
Manitoba Multifaith Council, Board member*

**MANITOBA INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION COUNCIL
(MIIC)**



It is my pleasure to report on the life and work of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council as a United Church representative serving on its Board of Directors. The mission of M.I.I.C. is to welcome and provide settlement services for refugees and immigrants living in Manitoba. Our work centres out of Welcome Place in Winnipeg, with a range of services to assist refugee/newcomers in their settlement and integration into Canadian society.

MIIC has been assisting refugees and newcomers from around the world for the past 70 years. In recent years, the work expanded rapidly, and so with it our organization and staff size. Government grants to provide support services for The Resettlement Assistance Program fuelled much of that recent growth, and as some of you may know, that grant was withdrawn from us this year. This, needless to say, has placed our Board and Staff into a time of deep change to programs and needing to let staff go. With the leadership of the staff who remain, (and in spite of COVID-19 slowdowns), we have continued to reach out to newcomers and sponsors, offering whatever settlement services and assistance we can provide.

We know there are many congregations and community groups across this province/region who are engaged together in welcoming one or more newcomers to Canada. If there are ways our staff could be of assistance to you, or your newcomers, please be in touch. You will be able to read more about us on our website, MIIC.ca.

As we go forward into this new year, I want to assure you that “MIIC Welcome Place” is alive and well. We are grateful for the Provincial and Federal Governments and The United Way, in the ways they support this important work, and we are grateful to the individuals and congregations who support the work of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council, with their volunteer time, their dollars, and their prayers.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Marilyn Anderson Corkum*

WESTERN INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY NETWORK



(The Western Intercultural Ministry Network includes the people of, and leadership from, Pacific Mountain, Northern Spirit, Chinook Winds, Living Skies, and Prairie to Pine Regional Councils.)



The Interim Executive:

At the Annual General Meeting of the **Intercultural Ministry Network** (Northern Spirit Regional Council and Chinook Winds Regional Council) held on October 16, 2019 at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton, the then executive decided to expand our network to include all of the Western region under an assumed name “**Western Intercultural Ministry Network**” with the following members as its Interim Executive: **Kay Quon** – Elder (Edmonton), **Katheryn Yamashita** (Lethbridge), **Julie Graham** (staff support), **Pamela Won** – Secretary, (Calgary) **Kwang Beom Cho** – Vice-chair (Winnipeg), **Alwin Maben** – Chair (Coronation)

At that time we did not have anybody from the **Pacific Mountain region** at the AGM to be coopted into the Interim Executive. However, with help from the Regional Councils and with little persuasion, we were able to have **Deborah Richards** representing **Pacific Mountain Region** and **Kurt Katzmar** representing **Edmonton Intercultural Ministry Network** and later **Dambar Khadka** joined us as Interim Executive member. We are grateful to all our interim Executive members for their wisdom, enthusiasm and input with regard to the functioning of our committee

Policies and Procedures (Terms of Reference):

As an Interim Executive we started working on preparing **Policies and Procedures (Terms of Reference)** with Dr. Kathy Yamashita on the chair. We thank Kathy for drafting the terms of Reference and the committee accepted the same with some corrections which was later shared with all the five Regional Councils for their information (Copy attached).

Committee Meetings:

Our first Interim Executive Committee meeting over Zoom was on **November 5, 2019**. In order to keep the momentum going after the success of our Continuing Education and Learning Day event - **“Continuing the Awkward Conversation to become an Intercultural and Sustainable Church”** (Oct.16-18, 2019) with **Rev. Dr. Eric H.F. Law** and **Rev. Dr. Andrew Sung Park** at Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton and a **“Korean Ministers/Lay Leaders Gathering 2019”** on Oct.18-19 at Edmonton Korean Church with Rev. Dr. Andrew Sung Park, we began planning to host the **Education and Learning day event for 2020**. Initially, we planned to host it in September 22-25, 2020 at FCJ Centre, Calgary with the Theme: **“New Wine” – Creating Missional, Sustainable and Intercultural Ministries in the United Church.** While **Rev. Dr. Eric Law** was returning as one of the Main Speakers we were also hoping to have the support from or collaboration with **The First Nations** and **“Being Good Relations”** Network. After preparing a budget for this event, we also sought financial support from all concerned regional councils who were gracious enough to accept our proposal and the budget. So far the committee has met seven times over Zoom. We are especially grateful to Dr. Kathy Yamashita for taking the minutes and sharing it as Pamela Won was not able to participate in most of our meetings.

Continuing Education and Learning Day event 2020:

With COVID-19 coming in the way, we had to change our plans with regard to hosting the Education Event. While we retained the Theme: **“New Wine” – Creating Missional, Sustainable and Intercultural Ministries in the United Church.** with **Rev. Dr. Eric Law** as returning Main Speaker, we also contacted few Indigenous leaders to be the Second speaker. We are happy that **Rev. Tony Snow** accepted our invitation and will be the other Speaker at this event. In consultation with the speakers, our committee decided to host this year’s Education Event online on three separate Fridays with a particular theme which is as follows:

September 25: Missional Ministries

October 2: Sustainable Ministries

October 9: Intercultural Ministries

There will be presentations, dialogue between Tony and Eric, small group conversations, Q and A, and a break in each session. At the end of each day, participants will be given “homework” contextual to their ministry, and tools to engage people in their ministry. They will bring their experience and reflection back to the following session. Each day will include an optional afternoon or evening informal conversation circle to close the day; these will be based regionally, linguistically, and more. While the cost is free, registration is required. For full information please go to: <http://bit.ly/2CqFRjt>. We look forward to many participating and benefitting from this event.

With the change in plans the budget too was revised and we are grateful to **Norther Spirit** and **Chinook Winds Regional Councils** for approving our budget and also for extending Staff support to our ministry. We are particularly grateful to **Julie Graham** for the tremendous staff support she is extending to us.

Zoom Chai/Coffee Conversation:

A special feature has been the two **Zoom Chai/Coffee Sessions** we had this year. The first one on **February 4, 2020** was mainly for those who attended the last education event. This session was chaired by Dr. Kathy Yamashita and was quite well attended with lots of suggestion and concern shared with regard to intercultural ministry. The second session was on **June 23, 2020** where the focus was on Racism within the United Church. This too was well attended and was planned and Moderated by Deborah Richards and Julie Graham to whom we are very much grateful. Another session is planned for **November 17, 2020 at 12.30 PM (MST)**. All are welcome to participate.

Support to DUIM:

“Deepening Understanding of Intercultural Ministry” offered by the Canadian Council of Churches from time to time has not been held Alberta so far. There was a request to host the same in Alberta with the help of Edmonton Intercultural Ministry Network. Rev. Jonathan Schmidt - Associate Secretary: Intercultural Leadership; Justice and Peace, had an exploratory meeting with Rev. Kurt Katzmar and other members of the Edmonton Intercultural Ministry Network on February 5, 2020 at Sherwood Park United Church. Unfortunately not much progress has been made due to COVID-19.

Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting this year will be on **November 24, 2020 at 12.30 PM (MST)**. We hope that interested folks from all regions will participate in this and that we will be able to form a New Executive to continue the work of Intercultural Ministry within our region with new vision and enthusiasm.

Once again we express our sincere gratitude to all the Regional Councils in the Western Region, particularly, **Northern Spirit** and **Chinook Winds Regional councils** for all the support and encouragement we have received and look forward to continued support and guidance in the important ministry for the Glory of God and for the good of all God’s children.

Respectfully submitted,

Alwin Maben, Chair

