

THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF ST. MARK'S UNITED CHURCH 2008 / 2009

Presented to the Congregation on Sunday, June 7, 2009

St. Mark's United Church
a congregation of The United Church of Canada
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www.st-marks.ca

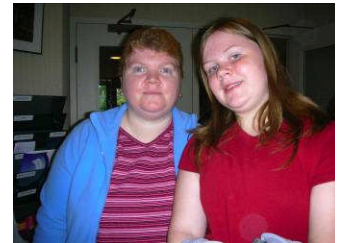


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June 8, 2008

February 8, 2009

**Agenda for the Annual Meeting
Congregational Life and Ministry**

June 7, 2009

11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary

12:30 Lunch

1:00 The meeting is convened by Chairperson Larry Smith

Approval of agenda and of minutes of the February 8, 2009

Review of the year by the Board Chairperson and by the Minister

Presentation of the Mission and Ministry Reports

Acceptance of the Auditor's Reports for 2009

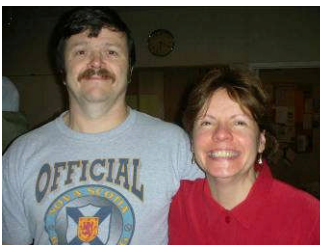
Appointment of Auditor for 2010

Appreciations to retiring Officers, Board and Standing Committee members

Election of members to the Church Board and to Standing Committees

Proposals to the Congregation:

New Business



MEMBERSHIP PROFILE 2008 / 2009

369 Members and 154 Adherents in Households:

153 Resident Members; 20 Non-resident Members;
172 Adherents, including 46 children

Baptized this year:

Anastacia Deepika Harinarian
Abigail Justine Wint

Married this year:

Stephanie Susanne King and Leo Joseph Peter Audette
Melissa Catherine Harmer and Jeremy Eric Gilchrist
Jaclyn Christine Schnarr and Ryan McIvor Webster
Jaclyn Joan Seames and William Daniel Slovitt

Ones associated with our Congregation who have died this year:

George Henry Booth
Katherine – D'Erina Kerry Legris
Tessa Jane MacCallum
Linda Marlene Potter



REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

*Larry Smith,
Chair of the
Church Board*

WHAT A YEAR

They dragged me “kicking and screaming” back into the chair, but what a year it has been.

Starting with our anniversary service. I can still hear the words and feel the emotions of that day. What an honor it was, as Chair, to be part of that service and to be the one to present Alan with a much over due service award, it meant a great deal to me.

From there we moved into our “50 for 50” Christmas Hampers. A huge effort, double of anything we have done in the past. St Marks’ should be very proud of this accomplishment, it was a Herculean effort by all, but a STANDING ovation should go to Marg Mooney and her Outreach team, a job well done! Well above and beyond the call of duty.

Our services continue to be involving, stimulating, innovative and thought provoking, hats off to Mary Ethel and her Worship and Kathy and her Christen Education committees. I guess Alan had a little input there to and should be thanked. Thanks Alan!

Our music continues to overwhelm, to Ginny and her choir, KUDOS

Our drive for self sufficiency. Again when we lost our major tenant, shock waves went through the Board. Loreen and her Finance & Stewardship Team immediately took up the challenge. Under their direction and leadership, and your faith and commitment, we are now not reliant on a major tenant and can look to make this space more accessible to community help groups.

Our congregation continues to grow and continues to assimilate into one; I hope we all continue to work at this. It is wonderful to see new faces greeting at the door and being part of our services, it was great to have so many of our new members join us at our curling night and to have Don and Gord take the lead on our baseball night in September. A big THANK YOU to both Carol and her Membership Team and Meri-Ann and her Social Team who hosted dinners to bring us together in a less formal setting than Sunday service and get to know each other a little better.

My earlier terms as Chair saw us through some interesting and some times difficult times, and, although the commitment and enthusiasm of the people at St. Mark’s never diminished, there were times. What a thrill it has been this year to chair meetings and to become re-involved with the Board. I was only kidding about the kicking and screaming part, but I did have strong reservations about following the strong leadership of Allison and Bart and undoing all of the great work that has been accomplished over the past four years, but it did not take long to see that that work ethic, the commitment to making St. Mark’s a great place and the enthusiasm is still there. Thank you again for allowing me to serve as Chair.

Larry Smith

REPORT OF THE MINISTER

The Rev. Alan Hall

There is a parable in the gospels of Mark (2:22), Matthew (9:17), Luke (5:39) and Thomas (47:3) about old and new wine. The advice is that the new wine not be poured into old wine skins. You see, the new wine is still busily fermenting and could destroy the old wine or stretch the wine skin to

breaking. Both would be lost! Jesus, or at least those who have followed him, appear to have a well honed appreciation for wines and are not wanting to waste any of it!

I've been thinking that St. Mark's this past year is proving that this parable doesn't hold a lot of grape juice. We've been blessed these last two years with many new members. There is always a risk of rupture when old and new mix, as the gospel writers caution. But in our experience you who have come in this time have come more like another fine wine, folding into, filling out, and enriching the rich flavour that was already here. You have come with grace and generosity and been met with grace and generosity! It has been a fine blending which delights all at the feast!

This is not by chance. Here at St. Mark's we have for well over a decade been consciously working to articulate a clear sense of mission, to understand well the call to ministry in the spirit of honour and respect that Jesus points us to, and to appreciate the blessing of generous hospitality, also practised by Jesus and demonstrated throughout the history of our Hebrew ancestors. Dare I suggest that in this time we were aging the caskets for this new blend? With the care and attention, the grace and the generosity that all have offered, the result is a very fine vintage. So, to you I say, good and faithful servants, you have used the trust well and met rich blessing in doing so.

I'm also thinking of the parable in the context of how we have been melding together the established traditions of our Christian scriptures and practices with new and unfolding understandings of scripture, of God, and of faith. We have taken the wisdom of the parable to heart, bringing reason and experience to the faith that has been handed to us, just as John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, intended. Again, the result could have been riotous! But it isn't, thanks to open hearts and open minds, to good will and much good humour. We are forging a progressive, inclusive, and life-affirming blend of old and new that sustains and nurtures, delights and pleases. Again I say, well done good and faithful friends!

2008/2009 was an exciting year at St. Mark's with a continued expansion of membership, the recognition as an affirming ministry, and the decision to use our vacant weekday downstairs space for community partnerships and programmes. My role, in consultation with the Ministry and Personnel Committee and with the Church Board, has been to continue to focus upon worship leadership and preaching as we live into new understandings of the mission we have claimed and to expand my pastoral duties to assist with the on-going integration of all of our members in these new days. One component of this has been leading the Confirmation programme this spring. Not being a parent, I'm not sure I was ready for how many channels teenagers function on at any given moment, but I am impressed with their thoughtfulness, their capacity to ask intelligent questions, and their lightening good humour.

In the wider United Church, I have served on the Presbytery's Pastoral Relations, Oversight and Development Committee as well as on the Southeast Presbytery Commission established by the Toronto Conference to discern the mission and to design the governance structure for the new presbytery. Glen Greenwood, our delegate to the Toronto Scarborough Presbytery describes in his report the results of this work. At the General Council, I am concluding six years on the Permanent Committee for Ministry and Employment Policies and Services as well as my term as chair of the Oversight and Discipline Steering Group.

After a full, demanding, and satisfying year, I am ready for a bottle of fine wine on my new deck. Perhaps you will join me in a toast of gratitude to the Spirit that indeed embraces us here at St. Mark's.

Amen.

The Rev. Alan Hall

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Harry Brown, Chair
Dan Slovitt, Secretary
Kathryn Moase,
Treasurer
Nancy Corrick
Lloyd Dunstall
Jack Ratcliffe
Larry Smith
Alan Hall (Minister)

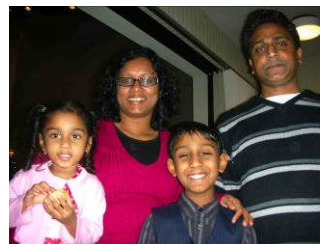
The ministry of the Board of Trustees shall be to hold, on behalf of the United Church of Canada, the property and the trusts for the use of the congregation of St. Mark's United Church.

The Board of Trustees continues to ensure that their responsibilities are conducted responsibly, including protecting various funds, seeing that the Church and its property and resources are adequately insured and that they carry the appropriate liability.

Trustee representatives met with the Church Board Ministry Teams, who receive funds from the Embracing the Spirit Fund, to explain the guidelines, interpret changes and to engage in discussion now that the \$100,000 milestone has been met. Accomplishing this goal is a major milestone in our legacy fund – to everyone who has made this possible, thank you!

A task that the Trustees are currently working on, with the assistance of the Nominating Ministry Team, is the establishment of a team to develop an archives programme so that as our present becomes history, we are preserving the records and the tradition for the future.

Harry Brown



Auditor's Report - Trust Funds

Nanci MacKenzie,
Auditor

I have audited the statement of financial position of St. Mark's United Church – Trustees' Funds as at December 31, 2008 and 2007, and the statements of operations & changes in fund balances and the statement of cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audits.

I conducted my audits in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of St. Mark's United Church – Trustees' Funds as at December 31, 2008 and 2007 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



Toronto, Ontario
May 4, 2009

Nanci L. MacKenzie
Chartered Accountant



REPORT FROM THE PRESBYTERY DELEGATE

*Glen Greenwood,
Presbytery
Delegate*

As you may recall from my various updates many exciting changes have been going on in Scarborough Presbytery over the last year or so.

As of July, 2009 portions of three previously separate presbyteries - Toronto Don Valley, Toronto Scarborough and Toronto South will be amalgamated creating Toronto Southeast Presbytery. The primary objectives of this reorganization are to bring the resources with the Toronto Conference closer to the congregations and mission units and to make the best use of the financial resources available. We are committed to enabling and supporting good, faithful and healthy communities of faith.

The vision of our new Presbytery will be;

After reviewing mission statements, studies, and evaluations of the originating presbyteries, engaging conversations, prayer, and discernment, the Toronto Southeast Presbytery affirms that it is called

*to enable and support good, faithful, and healthy communities of faith
within our member pastoral charges
and
to provide opportunities for cross-congregational initiatives
where individuals from congregations with shared calls to specific ministries may work
together.*

The Presbytery will be a place where mutual support and encouragement are found, collegiality is nurtured, congregations learn with each other, bonds of shared ministry are forged, and lively, affirming worship is made, while at the same time attending to the administrative responsibilities of personnel and property and engaging in public witness and programmed.

As we move forward I will continue to keep you updated.

This new creation is the work of a lot of people. For us, Harry Brown and Alan have served in the group that worked so diligently on creating what our new Presbytery will look like. We thank them for their wisdom and hard work. Our church has created "a new thing," which we can be proud of.

Glen Greenwood





REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH BOARD

Christian Education Ministries

*Kathy Lisle
Chair*

*Bart Boniface
Elizabeth Deonarine
Carolyn Mykusz*

Christian Education Ministry was very active in 2008 – 2009. Many, many thanks to all the people on the committee (Bart Boniface, Carolyn Mykusz, Elizabeth Deonarine) and the people who are not on the committee but continue to provide support and great ideas (Katharina Manassis, Melinda Calway, Art Nicholson, Mary Ethel Morton, Sandra Barnes, Marg Mooney). We are also fortunate to have excellent Sunday school volunteers..... but we could always use more (and more committee members)!

In fall of 2008 the children decided to raise money for a Mobile medical centre by doing a bake sale, selling some crafts at the turkey dinner and holding a raffle. By the end of November they had raised enough money (\$800!!). The children received a certificate and thank you for their efforts.

Also, in the fall of 2008 the children and youth participated in the creation of the 50th Anniversary Banner. Melinda provided the inspiring design and guidance throughout the project. Suzanne did a wonderful job of sewing. Various artists worked on the leaves. It was an amazing team effort to have it completed and hanging in the sanctuary by October 19th!! Many thanks to everyone!

The Christmas pageant was held on December and went very smoothly. Alan found an interesting play with roles for a number of children so that everyone could take part. Lots of helpful adults provided support behind the scenes to make it an excellent day. Also, some of the talented young musicians (playing French horn, trumpet, sax, clarinet, flute) accompanied the congregation in 3 of the Christmas hymns!!

Children's Sunday was held on January 18th. The children were given parts to read from "We Hold These Children" originally written by Rev. Richard Bott, St. Andrew's Haney United Church, Maple Ridge, B.C. There were 3 bible readings about situations involving children which the congregation discussed. We examined the role and the feelings of the child in the story and compared it to the present.

Confirmation Classes were held once a week on Tuesdays for 6 weeks in spring. The young people attending learned about the church (past, present and possibilities for the future) and had an opportunity to talk with some of the church leaders about their faith and perspective.

This was the third year for Week of Guided Prayer (3 nights of Guided Prayer, actually). There were several excellent facilitators and we used passages that corresponded to Lent which led to very interesting discussions.

Several excellent Book Reviews are posted on the St. Marks webpage and discussion lunches were held to further explore two of the most recent books reviewed.

In the past year the number of children and youth attending St. Marks has increased dramatically. We'll be looking at how to provide creative and meaningful Sunday School programmes for a wide variety of ages. It's very exciting to have so many children in the church!

Kathy Lisle

Communications Ministries

Bart Boniface
Chair

Over the past year the newly formed Communications Committee has been reviewing our present forms of communication while gathering information and resources that will help the team as we move forward. This has been a learning process as we delve deeper into website design and maintenance, community newsletters and other methods of outreach.

Kristen Erner
Suzanne Harmer

St. Mark's is a progressive, inclusive and life affirming Christian community of faith within the United Church of Canada and it is this mission and ministry that must be communicated clearly and consistently beyond the membership of St. Mark's. One of the major ways we deliver this message is through the use of our website at www.st-marks.ca and this is where we began our research.

Thanks to Kathryn Moase and Alan, our webmasters, we have a great website that has been warmly received, well run and is full of information. With their help we have started a comprehensive review to determine what changes might be desirable to make it more current and reflect the core values and identity of St. Mark's. This also presents an opportunity to bring new functions to the website and build future content. The Internet is a tremendous medium, not only to help communication within our membership but also to express the "good" that is St. Mark's.

I would also like to thank Kristen Erner, Suzanne Harmer and Alan for their participation and thoughtful input over the past year and our prayers and best wishes go out to Suzanne as she returns to university in the fall. One of the greatest strengths of this committee is the ability to openly and honestly discuss all aspects of St. Mark's life and work, which is an asset when it comes to evaluating where we are and where we want to be. It's all about communication.

Bart Boniface

Finance & Stewardship Ministries

Loreen Naylor,
Chair

The ministry of the Finance and Stewardship Committee shall be to lead the Congregation in understanding and appreciating Christian Stewardship as a natural and thankful response to God and to manage the financial obligations of St. Mark's.

Nicky Slovitt
Kristen Erner
Randy Stroud

Kathryn Moase,
Board of Trustees

Jane Greenwood
Treasurer

Dan Slovitt
Stewardship
Administrator

The good news financially for St. Mark's this past year is that as a congregation we are now self-sustaining. We are able to fully fund our core ministry work from offerings and fund raisers. For many years, St. Mark's has depended on rental income from other organizations that used our space in the downstairs of our building. In 2008, our tenant left and our ministry team was responsible to recruit a new tenant. Our team used this opportunity to focus on the congregation's long time vision to be a self-sustaining congregation, and we decided that it might be achievable. The church board launched an intentional offerings increase commitment program in late 2008 to support the proposal to achieve self-sufficiency. By February, 2009 we met our commitment target and were able to declare that based on offering intentions of our members, we are now a self-sustaining congregation.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment to the ministry of our congregation through your volunteer work and your financial support. We now have the exciting opportunity, flexibility and freedom to develop ways to utilize our building space resources at St. Mark's in ways that will support our community.

The St. Mark's community is filled with stories – over a long period of time, the lives of many people have been touched, supported and changed through the various ministries of our congregation. The Finance and Stewardship Ministry team coordinated a stewardship program in 2008 to develop a book of St. Mark's stories as a contribution to the 50th anniversary celebration. "For a Moment, a Month, or a Lifetime" includes personal stories from individual members and others about the impact that St. Mark's has had on their lives. These personal statements of ministry and faith over the years deepen our understanding and appreciation for our ministry together at St. Mark's.

Thank you to Jane Greenwood, our Church Treasurer, who prepares our financial statements each month and provides the Ministry Team and the congregation with regular reports as to our financial status. Thanks also to the teams of counters under the leadership of our Stewardship Administrator, Dan Slovitt, who record weekly givings, do the banking, and maintain offering records. Their work is time consuming and important, and we appreciate their commitment.

In 2008, even with the loss of our income associated with the day time tenant, our fundraising events far exceeded our budgeted figures and we ended the year with revenue in the bank. We entered 2009 with a projected small budgeted deficit for the year. So far this year, offerings are on target. If we are able to sustain that trend and with upcoming fund raising events for 2009, we anticipate that we may end 2009 with revenue in the bank once again.

I'd like to thank those members of the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team who have enthusiastically and generously shared ideas and responsibilities.

We are thankful for the range of ministries provided by St. Mark's and the thoughtful and faithful stewardship of our resources by the congregation to enable and sustain ministry to each other and our community. Thanks be to God!

Loreen Naylor

Auditor's Report -- General Fund

*Nanci MacKenzie,
Auditor*

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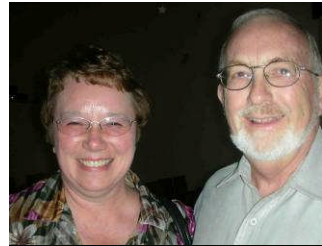
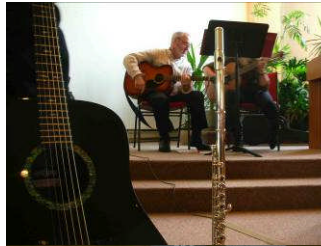
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Toronto, Ontario
May 3, 2009

Nanci L. MacKenzie
Chartered Accountant



Membership Ministries

*Carol Caise,
Chair*

The role of the Membership Ministry Team is to provide care and nurture for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the members and adherents of St. Mark's congregation. I believe this goal has been met by the Team.

*Shirley Bull
Bettie MacKenzie
Myrna Morton
Art Nicholson*

Over the past year, the Membership Team (Art, Bettie, Shirley and Myrna) were kept busy contacting the folks who identified themselves as visitors to St. Mark's in the Guest Book, welcoming them and making them feel at home.

The Membership Team hosted three events this past year.

- A Pot Luck dinner to welcome new members was held on February 22nd. Attendance was excellent with – lots of great food and conversation.
- On March 12th John Taylor led us through an evening of Caring for the Caregiver. This Spa evening held for the Pastoral Care Team, as well as for those who care for members of their family or friends, was well attended. Thanks John for a great evening.
- The annual Volunteer Appreciation evening was held on Thursday, May 14th. We not only thanked the folks who volunteer on Church Committees, in the Choir, as Scripture readers, Greeters, Companions to Jill, Coffee Hosts, Pastoral Care Team, but welcomed those in the congregation interested in participating in these areas .

The Pastoral Care Team is a very important part of our Team, always doing a great job keeping in touch with members of the congregation, ensuring they are kept connected with their St. Mark's family. Thanks to Shirley Bull, Carol Caise, Diane Chadwick, Nancy Corrick, Helen Jones, Marj Karppi, Bettie MacKenzie, Gibby Milne, Trudy Mills, Marg Morton, Myrna Morton, Mary Ethel Morton, Roberta Ratcliffe, Teresa Smith and Doris Watson.

Shirley was been kept busy sending many cards of care, concern and celebration on behalf of the Church – thanks, Shirley.

St. Mark's held a baptism on April 19th, welcoming two little ones to the congregation - Anastacia Deepika Harinarain and Abigail Justine Wint. Thanks be to God for these two wonderful additions to St. Mark's. Mary Ethel introduced the babies to the congregation. Although for a minute or two I thought they might be going home with her.

This year six St. Mark's young people and one from Guildwood Presbyterian attended Confirmation classes on Tuesday afternoons here at the Church. At each class a member of the Church Board joined the group. Confirmation will be held at the June 7th Sunday service .

Several new folks have transferred their membership to St. Mark's. Tom & Pat Carroll; Rob & Julia Peck; Gayle Feeney; Gord Maunder; Ruth Joyce; and Louise Loucareas were formally received at services on May 24th. An additional transfer of membership service will be held in the fall. We are pleased to welcome them to the St. Mark's family.

Many thanks to the Members of the Membership Team - Shirley Bull, Bettie MacKenzie, Myrna Morton and Art Nicholson.

Carol Caise

2009 Anniversary Award Recipient

With all of the other activities going on around our 50th Anniversary Service the Nominating Committee decided that we would not present any of the usual service awards.

However we also decided that we would be terribly amiss if we did not take this special opportunity to award a very special service award.

As Chair of the Board I was delighted to be the one to make this presentation although I know there are many others who may know this individual a little better than me, many of the words I spoke are their words, but I couldn't agree more with what they wrote.

Teresa and I were just new to St Mark's when Wib decided to retire and a Search Committee was put together to look for a replacement. As a result of this search the Reverend Alan Hall was called to the St Mark's congregation in 1986, some 22 years ago.

The Search Committee had determined that St Mark's was ready for a change and the challenge of an expanding ministry. Calling a minister in the early stages of his ministry created enthusiasm and an expectation of what might lie ahead as we, the congregation, embraced a future centered in becoming a community of "God's good news lived out, a church with a purpose". Back then we were a group with a good mix of new and old, Teresa & I were the new kids on the block; and there was certainly a stir in the air! What challenges would he bring? And, were we up to those challenges.

I sort of remember a story about Brenda Newell, who was on the committee, and a young, bearded, cigar smoking, but I can't remember whether it was positive or negative, but we all know how that relationship turned out.

In the United Church of Canada candidates are ordained or commissioned into the ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care. Our most recent Statement Of Faith translates this calling in the words '*In the church some are called to specific ministries of leadership*' including witnessing to the good news, upholding, the art of worship, comforting the grieving, guiding the wandering, building up the community of wisdom and standing with the oppressed.

A daunting task, to say the least!

Yet Alan has been all of these and more. Most of us can recall a time when his presence, his ministry has touched us deeply –

- perhaps in a time of sickness or loss of a loved one,
- perhaps a sermon that jarred our thinking and challenged to new understanding,
- perhaps gathering about the table shoulder to shoulder receiving the sacraments as members of a complete community,
- perhaps working together in an outreach project bringing care to those in need.

Perhaps it simply was a touch on the arm or a hug that reinforced the constant message that we are not alone.

I know I can relate to each of these and I know you can to. I thought given this opportunity that I could tell a few of my stories about growing up with Alan, BUT, number one, I never grew up, and two, so many other people had such wonderful things to say I will move on.

Alan's ministry has extended beyond the St. Mark's community as he's been called to serve those in very difficult circumstances. His ability to bring comfort and solace in times of grieving to those reeling from events beyond their understandings and to begin the healing process is widely known. His caring

has led to a close association with West Hill Community Services to the point that St. Mark's is on their first call list when needs arise.

Alan has served and continues to serve the broader United Church of Canada. His influence has been felt in Presbytery, Conference and General Council. He is known as a bit of wizard; he was instrumental in the redesign of the General Council organizational system and continues to serve on a major central committee; he was called to Conference to assume executive Secretary duties; he has served presbytery in many capacities. Alan brings front edge thinking to these leadership roles, different governance structures that are efficient and responsive to today's needs in a changing world. Alan also serves his profession, a body of women and men called into service. He is currently leading a Task Group mandated to recommend changes to the practice of pastoral ministry and the Church's response to the care, protection and discipline of ministry personnel. He serves as editor of the United Church's newsletter on issues affecting ministry personnel.

Integral to Alan's ministry is education. He is well read, pursues continuing education courses and seminars and seeks to expand understandings of God and ministry. Sunday services have central themes; sermons are informative and challenging. There's always something to take into the week. With all of these attributes and all of these responsibilities one wonders if he has a life. Well, yes, he does! He's an avid photographer and traveler; he loves to entertain and to be entertained; he keeps physically fit; he loves kicking back and relaxing.

It was my great pleasure to present this award to the Reverend Alan W. Hall for his generous service to St. Mark's United Church, its community of faith, its extended community and to the United Church of Canada in recognition of a ministry well developed and for the ministry yet to be realized.

Larry Smith,
Chair of the Church Board

Anne Parks, Chair

Many thanks to the members of this year's committee. They were dedicated, enthusiastic and rarely missed a meeting. As a result, we were able to complete our tasks for the year.

Jeannette Balgopal

Helen Jones

Katharina Manasis

Early in the fall in cooperation with Teresa Smith and the Property Ministry Team, we accepted the resignation of Barry Brett as custodian and hired Peter Hills on a part-time contract.

The M & P Committee made a plan to interview the minister, church secretary and musical director about their thoughts on their position descriptions. Jeannette and I interviewed Carol. Katharina and Helen talked to Ginny. Alan came to a meeting with the committee on March 2, 2009.

After an open discussion, modifications have been made to each of the job descriptions and up-dated copies are now in the office binder.

Wording was made consistent with the Church's Mission Statement.

My sincere thanks to Helen, Jeannette and Katharina for their thorough, efficient contributions to the Ministry and Personnel team.

Our sincere gratitude to Alan, Ginny and Carol, who continue to share their talents, integrity and inspiration, not only with the St. Mark's family, but with the community-at-large. St. Mark's is truly blessed to have them.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Parks, Chair
Ministry & Personnel Ministry Team

Nominating Committee

2008 / 2009 CHURCH BOARD & MINISTRY TEAMS

<i>Chairperson</i>	Larry Smith (08)	Kathy Lisle (10)	<i>Christian Education</i>
<i>Vice- Chairperson</i>	Mary Ethel Morton (10)		<i>Communications</i>
<i>Past Chairperson</i>	Allison Cheron (10)	Loreen Naylor (09)	<i>Finance & Stewardship</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Carol Caise (10)	Carol Caise (10)	<i>Membership</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jane Greenwood (11 R)	Anne Parks (09)	<i>Ministry & Personnel</i>
<i>Board of Trustees</i>	(to be elected by the Trustees)	Margaret Mooney (09R)	<i>Outreach</i>
<i>Presbytery Delegate</i>	(to be elected by Church Board)		
		Teresa Smith (09)	<i>Property</i>
<i>Minister</i>	The Rev. Alan Hall	Meri-Ann Harmer (09)	<i>Social</i>
		Mary Ethel Morton (09)	<i>Worship</i>

MINISTRY TEAMS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (6)

Kathy Lisle (Chair) (10/11)
 Bart Boniface (09)
 Carolyn Mykusz (10)- Youth
 Doreen Taylor (11)
 Elizabeth Deonarine (11)
 vacancy

SOCIAL (5)

Meri-Anne Harmer (Chair) (09)
 Jan Lee (09)
 Bev Purvis (10)
 Karen Boniface (10)
 Jennifer Brett (11)

PROPERTY (5)

Teresa Smith(Chair) (09/10)
 Joanne Doty (09)
 Reg Lanning (09)
 Harry Tim (10)
 Bill Shedden (11)
 Karen Boniface (gardens)
 Wendy Whittam (gardens)

WORSHIP (5)

Mary Ethel Morton (Chair) (09/10)
 Nanci MacKenzie (10)
 Kate Greenwood (11)
 Allison Cheron (11)
 Trudy Mills (11)
 Ginny Gies Music Director

NOMINATING (3)

Jane Greenwood (10)
 Art Nicholson (10)
 Marg Mooney (11)
 Vice Chair of Church Board (Chair)
 Chair of Church Board
 Past Chair of Church Board
 Minister

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP (4/6)

Loreen Naylor (Chair) (09/10)
 Nicky Slovitt (09)
 Kristen Erner (10)
 Randy Stroud (11)
 Trustee Treas.
 Church Treas. Jane Greenwood (11)
 Env. Secretary

MEMBERSHIP (5/6)

Carol Caise (Chair) (10)
 Shirley Bull (09)
 Bettie MacKenzie (10)
 Art Nicholson (10)
 Myrna Morton (11)

OUTREACH (5/6)

Margaret Mooney (Chair) (09 R)
 Arlene McCulloch (09)
 Liz McCrimmon (09)
 Sonya Chamberlain (10)
 Luella Stephens (11)

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Anne Parks(Chair) (09)
 Helen Jones (10)
 Katharina Manassis (11)
 Jeannette Balgopal (11)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dan Slovitt (2/10)	Nancy Corrick (2/10)
Larry Smith (1/11)	Jack Ratcliffe (1/11)
Harry Brown (3/12)	Lloyd Dunstall ((3/12)
Kathryn Moase (2/13)	The Minister (Rev. Alan Hall)

COMMUNICATIONS (3/5)

Bart Boniface
 Kristen Erner
 Suzanne Harmer

Outreach Ministries

Marg Mooney, Chair

Sonja Chamberlain

Liz McCrimmon

Luella Stephens

The 2008-2009 year has been a busy one for St. Mark's and its Outreach Ministry Team. For the church's 50th Anniversary, it was decided that St. Mark's would fill 50 Christmas Hampers for 50 families "adopted" through West Hill Community Services. With the support of the congregation, this project was a success.

In addition, with the generous financial support of the ECUT, stockings were filled for another year for children and parents attending the Christmas party organized by West Hill Community Services Family Resource Centre. We continue to try to be strong community partners to West Hill Community Services and look for creative ways to be supportive.

The Outreach Ministry Team participated in designing a policy for ministry and administrative staff to safely deal with unexpected visitors at the church door, in this case, people requiring direction to a social services agency. In addition, and as an offshoot result, St. Mark's provided 24-hour Emergency Bags to The Storefront. The bags hold basic food supplies for a meal and snacks to tide a family over after hours, until they can be seen by the appropriate agency.

Welcome Boxes were filled with the basics for establishing a household and distributed through the Furniture Bank at West Hill Community Services to newcomers to Scarborough, many of whom had found homes through the Streets to Homes program.

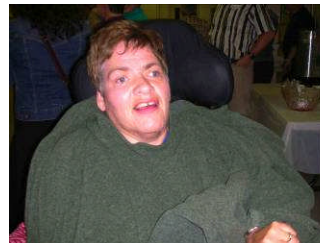
The Out of the Cold program at Knox United Church ran again from November to March and St. Mark's was responsible for providing dinner, entertainment, breakfast and a bagged lunch to the guests on one of the weeks. This service is provided for homeless people, or in some cases, people who have a place to live but who may not have the resources to buy enough food. More than a dozen churches and community groups share in the Knox program.

St. Mark's again made a donation to the Dental Clinic at the Scarborough Urban Health Outreach Centre. This free clinic serves people who neither have dental insurance nor receive social assistance.

As St. Mark's became an Affirming Ministry in 2008, the Outreach Team has been exploring ways to do outreach, honouring this designation. We are part of a group of churches constructing a United Church/Affirm United float and we will have members in the Gay Pride parade being held at the end of June. We provided a link on our website for a health week initiative sponsored by Rainbow Health, and will continue to post legitimate items of a supportive nature to the GLBTQ community.

Finally, in a continuing effort to serve in the local community, St. Mark's has become a member of the Neighbourhood Action Partnership (NAP) in the Kingston-Galloway-Orton Park area. This means that we will be notifying our congregation of activities happening in the community that will help grow it in a positive way, and initiatives that will offer opportunities for participation by our members.

Marg Mooney



Property Ministry

*Teresa Smith,
Chair*

We haven't met much as a committee this term, but a great deal of work has been done by the Property Committee.

*Joanne Doty
Reg Lanning
Bill Shedden
Harry Tim*

*Karen Boniface} gardens
Wendy Whittam}*

- New parking lines were painted and the sink holes in the parking lot filled in.
- All the doors locks were re-keyed and new keys distributed.
- Negotiated a contract with a new carte-taking staff.
- Dealt with a malfunction of our fire alarm system
- Snow removal contract was renewed, but not happy with the job they did. Will be looking for a new contractor
- Re-arranged location of tables & chairs; easier access. Room as cleaned and painted.
- Minor replaces were made to the air conditioner unit.
- Lawn care agreements have been made.
- A large project has been started to rid the church of outdated materials, improve storage by discarding old unused and or broken furniture. To destroy old accounting records not required. To arrange archive material, painting.
- Property committee helped out with the Turkey dinner, set up and taking down tables.

These are just a small numbers of items that have been done to keep our building safe, healthy and operational inside and out.

Thanks for Karen and her gardening team that keep the grounds looking fabulous. Thanks to Barry for cutting the grass. Thanks to Carol and Alan for their assistance through out year.

Thanks to Reg and Bill for repairing, preparing and painting the classroom downstairs! To Harry for getting the lines painted and filling in the sink holes in the parking lot.

Many thanks to the committee and anyone else who contributed to making us look good.

Teresa Smith



Social Ministries

Meri-Anne Harmer
Chair

The purpose of the social committee is to help with the building and strengthening of the St. Mark's community. We try and do this by preparing and sharing food for many events during the year. Here are some of the events that have taken place this year.

Karen Boniface
Jennifer Brett
Jan Lee
Bev Purvis

In September we set up a list of coffee hosts for Sunday mornings.

In October we helped celebrate the Anniversary service with cake and beverages following the service. We also hosted the pasta dinner for the GST auction.

In November we helped with the kitchen duties to host the Turkey dinner.

In December we served a continental breakfast and hot cider before the choral service.

In February we served a lunch consisting of hot soup and turkey sandwiches before the congregational finance meeting and as well we got together one afternoon and prepared frozen Sheppard's pies to sell to the congregation. This was a huge success and we sold all 35 pies. We also helped served a pancake dinner for shrove Tuesday.

In May we served a wonderful Spring breakfast to 64 members of the congregation.

In June we prepared the lunch for the annual mission ministry meeting and will hold our annual strawberry social after the church service on the 21st of June

All the members of the social committee have worked hard and had very successful projects this year. We all work very well together and all seem to provide a warm welcoming environment that St. Mark's is so well known for. I think all of the events we undertook helped to build and strengthen the St. Mark's community. I also would like to thank all my hard working enthusiastic committee members, who are a pleasure to work with. I would like to thank Bev Purvis for all her hard work and wish her well as she moves into her new home this June. We will miss her welcome smiles and stories.

Meri-Anne Harmer

Worship Ministries

Mary Ethel Morton
Chair

The purpose of the Worship Ministry Team is to gather the congregation in regular worship and praise of God which is celebrative, challenging and inspiring.

Allison Cheron
Kate Greenwood
Nanci MacKenzie
Trudy Mills

Thanks to the Ministry Team members: Allison Cheron, Kate Greenwood, Nanci MacKenzie, Trudy Mills and Virginia Gies (music director). Members of the team + other volunteers are responsible for "hosting" Sunday service; which includes unlocking the doors, preparing the Communion table, turning on the sound system, assuring the greeters are all present and there is a volunteer to light the Christ candle.

Ginny Gies, Organist

The team solicits volunteers to help lead the summer services while Alan is enjoying his greatly needed time off. Thank you to all those who volunteered for last summer. Don't feel left out – we'll

probably call on you this summer!

Another duty is to keep track of the worship music, and report to LicencSing (tm) – our music permission body – every month.

This past year we have had the pleasure of many additions to our choir. The Greenwoods have finally lost their claim as the “largest musical family” – the Conquers being the new record holders. We are also pleased to welcome, Rev. Darren Liepold as our one & only tenor. Fortunately, he has the training, voice & humility to have been assigned “section leader”!

The Projectionists Team is also an important part of the Sunday Service. Kathryn Moase, Nicky Slovitt, Melinda Calway, Carol Caise and I work together to make sure that the Service flows.

We were pleased to welcome Paul Hutchinson as our minister on Pulpit exchange Sunday. Also, Darren Liepold in his official capacity as the Mission and Service Fund Officer, as he spoke to us about his recent visit to Columbia on behalf of M&S.

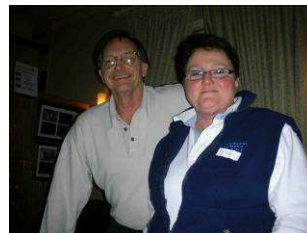
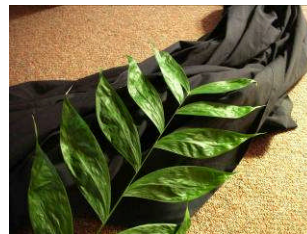
The Worship & Membership teams have been working together to increase the number of volunteers who read, greet & assist our disabled members. If you find you're not inclined to volunteer for a committee job – please consider joining our Sunday volunteers.

The Worship & Social Teams hosted a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday for the members of Scarborough Presbytery & St. Mark's congregation.

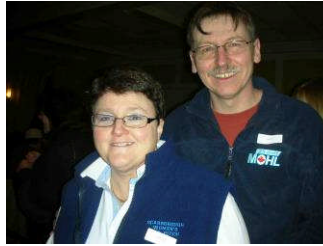
As always, none of this would mean anything without the constant support of our minister. Many thanks Alan, for making this a meaningful and enjoyable calling. Best of luck to the next Worship chair – I will be happy to assist in any way I can.

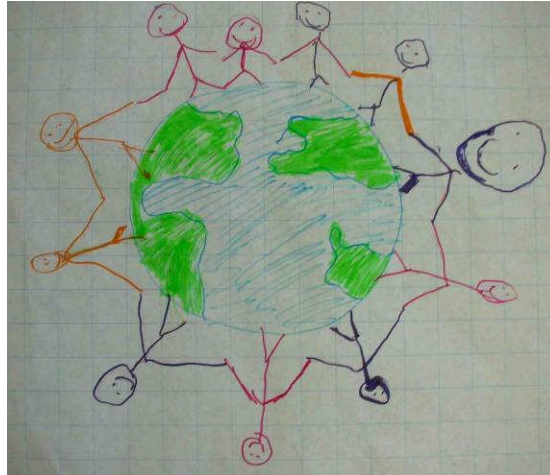
Thanks to all of you for supporting our ministry. God bless you all.

Mary Ethel Morton



REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE CHURCH BOARD





MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting on the Mission & Ministry (2005/2006) Sunday, June 8 , 2008

Opening:

After the morning service, forty-six members of the congregation gathered downstairs and enjoyed a light lunch prepared by the Social Committee. At 1:00 p.m., Allison Cheron, Chair of the Church Board, called the meeting to order, lighting the Christ Candle.

MOTION: (Jane Greenwood, seconded by Mary Ethel Morton)

That the agenda for the June 8, 2008 Congregational Annual Meeting be approved as written.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Mary Ethel Morton, seconded by Virginia Gies)

That the minutes of the Congregational meeting held on February 10, 2008 be approved.

CARRIED.

Review of the Year

Board Chairperson

Allison Cheron, Chair of the Board, thanked everyone for their support during her two years as Chair of the Church Board. She indicated her pleasure at getting to know more people during that time. In addition to sharing her experiences over the past two years in the Annual Report, she added that it was a privilege to have been involved in the Regionalization discussions and in St. Mark's being able to move forward thanks, in part, to the addition of a new tenant.

Minister

Alan welcomed Malcolm Spencer, who recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination. Malcolm is also a retired minister of Glen Rhodes United Church one of the six Affirming Churches in Toronto. He has been serving as our facilitator during the Affirming discernment process.

Alan thanked the congregation for the party that celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination, 22 of which have been spent at St. Mark's. He noted that although last year was a year of transition, this year St. Mark's has lived into its new Mission Statement.

He identified Worship as the largest piece of his work and shared his appreciation for the support he receives from the Ministry and Personnel Ministry Team and the congregation. He shared he was not the only one doing ministry at St. Mark's and that it was a privilege to engage with our congregation.

The United Church of Canada General Council has had a light agenda compared to the work three years ago. Alan will be working on a new project – Steering Group for Discipline and Oversight. He is also involved with Scarborough Presbytery's Pastoral Relations, Conflict Resolution, as well as pastoral oversight work with Malvern Emmanuel. He expressed his pleasure working with Allison during her time as Board Chair.

Ministry Team Reports:

Christian Education

Katharina Manassis explained that the Christian Education Program has not changed, but expanded to include such activities as the Book Club; the children learning more about other people; the overseas animal project, as well as involvement in the new Evergreen project, which includes all members of the congregation.

Membership

Catherine Deneault reported the Membership Ministry Team has endeavoured to apply the principals outlined in our new Mission Statement by looking toward future goals and growth at St. Mark's by exploring not only new ways of welcoming everyone warmly and sincerely but also by positively supporting all people here and beyond our walls.

Outreach

Marg Mooney described the three components of the new Mission Statement – Progressive, Inclusive, Life-Affirming - as key in the functioning of the Outreach Ministry Team. The Outreach Team supports the Out of the Cold Program, Scarborough Urban Clinic's Dental Program (which helps individuals look better in order that they can apply for jobs), as well as the annual Christmas Hamper project.

Social

Meri-Anne Harmer noted that the purpose of the Social Ministry Team is to help strengthen St. Mark's sense of community. She conveyed that she had a wonderful team and thanked them for their support.

Worship

Mary Ethel Morton thanked Ginny and the wonderful voices of the choir. She advised that there is a need for folks to greet/host and read the Sunday scriptures. She expressed her appreciation to those who presently volunteered.

Finance and Stewardship

Jane Greenwood reported on behalf of the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team, as Loreen Naylor, Chair of the Team, was away. Jane noted that when she attends Scarborough Presbytery's treasurer's meetings St. Mark's is seen as a progressive Church community. One of the Team's future plans of inclusiveness is to gather stories from everyone that tell of what St. Mark's means to them.

Property

Teresa Smith advised that Karen Boniface had supported the Property Team during her recovery. She noted that it takes a lot of effort to maintain the Church. With the Church's commitment to the Environment, the custodian is trying to use environmentally friendly cleaning products. A new energy efficient fridge has been purchased for the kitchen. One of the upcoming projects is to clean out the rooms downstairs.

Ministry and Personnel

Anne Parks shared that she had a great committee during the past year and that the staff were a fantastic team of professionals.

Board of Trustees

Harry Brown reported that the Trustees are the holders of the Church's insurance policies. He thanked everyone for their contribution to the Embracing the Spirit Fund, which will support the future of St. Mark's.

Report of the Auditor:

Nanci MacKenzie advised that the Auditor's Reports for the Church and the Board of Trustees are included in the Annual Report. She noted that the numbers need revision and that an updated report is available. She blessed Jane for keeping the Financial Reports.

Motion (Kevin Balgopal, seconded by Art Nicholson)

That the auditors report be accepted as written.

CARRIED

Nomination Ministry Team Report:

Larry Smith reported that members had been selected for the ministry teams after a very busy couple of months.

He requested that appreciation be given to those who have completed their terms.

Motion (Larry Smith, seconded by Jane Greenwood)

That the congregation of St. Mark's United Church extend its appreciation to the following who are completing their term as members of the Church Board and as chairs of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees:

**Allison, Cheron (Chair of the Church Board)
Bart Boniface (Past Chair of the Church Board)
Catherine Deneault (Chair of Membership Team)
Jane Greenwood (Treasurer)
Katharina Manassis (Chair of Christian Education Team).**

CARRIED

He requested approval of election of members to the Church Board

Motion (Larry Smith, seconded by Melinda Calway)

That the following members of St. Mark's be elected to the Church Board of St. Mark's United Church:

Officers:

**Chairperson – Larry Smith (10)
Vice Chairperson – Mary Ethel Morton (10)
Treasurer – Jane Greenwood (11)**

Elected Members:

**Kathy Lisle (10) (Christian Education)
Carol Caise (10) (Membership)
Margaret Mooney (9) (Outreach – one year extension)**

CARRIED

Larry Smith reported that the Nominating Committee will be recommending to the Church Board at its June 2008 meeting the appointment of **Glen Greenwood (09)** as the St. Mark's delegate to the **Toronto Scarborough Presbytery and member of the Church Board.**

Larry reported that there is one vacancy on the Board of Trustees.

Motion (Larry Smith, seconded by Mary Ethel Morton)

That Kathryn Moase be elected to a second term on the Board of Trustees.

CARRIED

Motion (Larry Smith, seconded by Jane Greenwood)

That Nanci MacKenzie be appointed auditor for 2008.

CARRIED

Larry offered condolences to Nancy Corrick on the passing of Bill. Bill was Envelope Secretary at St. Mark's for 15 years.

Motion (Larry Smith, seconded by Nancy Corrick)

That Dan Slovitt be appointed Envelope Secretary (11R)

CARRIED

Motion (Larry Smith, seconded by Anne Parks)

That it is with appreciation that the Congregation of St. Mark's United Church extend its thanks to the following who are completing terms on Standing Committees this year or who have asked to discontinue their commitment.

Membership: Catherine Deneault

Christian Education: Katharina Manassis, Myrna Morton, Sandra Barnes, Jean McConnell

Worship: Jane Agosta, Jeff McCrimmon

Social: Elizabeth Deonarine

Finance & Stewardship: Carolyn Nicholson, Bill Corrick

Outreach: Jeannette Balgopal, Kathy Lisle

Ministry & Personnel: Randy Stroud, Kate Greenwood.

CARRIED

Motion (Larry Smith, seconded by Melinda Calway)

That the following members be elected to the specified Standing Committees:

Christian Education: Kathy Lisle (Chair), Doreen Taylor, Elizabeth Deonarine

Finance & Stewardship: Randy Stroud

Property: Bill Shedden

Worship: Kate Greenwood, Allison Cheron, Trudy Mills

Social: Jennifer Brett

Membership: Carol Caise (Chair), Myrna Morton

Outreach: Margaret Mooney(Chair – one year extension), Luella Stephens.

CARRIED

Larry reported that the Nominating Committee will be recommending to the Church Board the appointment of **Katharina Manassis and Jeannette Balgopal** to the Ministry & Personnel Ministry Team for three-year terms. This is a Board responsibility. The M&P Committee will then consist of Anne Parks (Chair). Helen Jones, Katharina Manassis and Jeannette Balgopal.

Proposals to the Congregation:

Affirming Congregation

Mary Ethel Morton congratulated Malcolm on the 40 year Anniversary of his ordination. She noted that the Affirming Congregation Discernment Task Group held a number of sessions to discuss the JNAC recommendation that St. Mark's become an Affirming Congregation.

Marg Mooney noted that there was very little dissent regarding becoming an Affirming Congregation at the educational evenings and that the most common comment has been "Aren't we already there". If the decision is to request Affirming status, the message to the community will be that St. Mark's is a safe, welcoming place.

Before putting forward a motion, those present were asked to share comments regarding their views on the subject:

- Many churches say everyone welcome. We have done work walking the walk – throwing the challenge to others.
- Serving Lunch, asking the congregation and walking the walk – grateful to be part of the process.
- Historically churches are not supportive of this. This presents an opportunity for St. Mark's to lead the way and be an example.
- Women and Black Community marginalized – another opportunity to accept all in creation.
- Can't believe we still need to have this discussion
- "Always welcome" only words – the actions we do are what counts.
- Have only attended St. Mark's for nine months, but found ourselves accepted. St. Mark's taking a leadership position.

The discussion was summed up by Stew Axford when he said that St. Mark's took a stand 20 years ago – therefore, through the years it has been understood that was an inclusive and affirming congregation.

To ensure that everyone would be comfortable with their decision and vote, Bart Boniface suggested that a paper ballot be used for the vote regarding an Affirming Congregation.

Motion (Bart Boniface, seconded by Wendy Whittam)

That a paper ballot be used to decide regarding acceptance of St. Mark's United Church becoming an Affirming Congregation.

DEFEATED
(8 for, 1 abstention)

Motion (Mary Ethel Morton, seconded by Marg Mooney)

After an extensive programme of discernment led by a task group over 2007/08 and consistent with the direction adopted by the Congregation with its acceptance of the Joint Needs Assessment report and Decisions (2006), the Congregation of St. Mark's United Church adopts the recommendations of the Church Board found in the report of the Affirming Congregation Discernment Task Group Report (May 8, 2008) and request of Affirm United that St. Mark's be recognized as an officially designated "Affirming Congregation".

CARRIED
(1 against, 1 abstention)

Malcolm Spencer congratulated St. Mark's for taking this step.

Amendment to the Mission Statement

Following approval to request that St. Mark's be recognized as an officially designated Affirming Congregation, a motion was put forward to amend the new Mission Statement.

Motion (Mary Ethel Morton, seconded by Marg Mooney)

On the recommendation of the Church Board and to explicitly state our intention to be inclusive and affirming of all people regardless of ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation, the Congregation of St. Mark's United adopts as its Mission Statement the following:

*St. Mark's is called to be a progressive, inclusive and life-affirming Christian community of faith within The United Church of Canada **that is committed to engaging faith, scripture and tradition in progressive ways that seeks to be inclusive of all, regardless of ability age, class, ethnicity, gender race or sexual orientation, and that will strive to affirm the inherent blessing of life found in all of creation.***

CARRIED

Communication Team

Bart Boniface thanked the Strategic Planning Team for their help to distil the recommendations from the Joint Needs Assessment Committee. One of the recommendations was for a Communications Team to be established to work in concert with the standing ministry teams to communicate the mission and ministry of St. Mark's beyond its doors. This recommendation will require amending St. Mark's Constitution to include the Duties and Responsibilities (attached) of this new ministry team whose purpose is to assist the Church Board and the Congregation in communicating the mission and ministry of St. Mark's to the various communities beyond the membership of the Congregation that St. Mark's serves or might serve.

Motion (Bart Boniface, seconded by Melinda Calway)

On the recommendation of the Church Board, the Congregation of St. Mark's establishes a Communication Standing Committee, with the terms to be included in St. Mark's Constitution.

CARRIED

Adjournment:

Allison thanked everyone for attending and participating in the day's discussions. She also thanked the Meri-Anne Harmer and the Social Ministry Team for the excellent lunch. Alan closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting for Finances
Sunday, February 8, 2009**

Opening

With 43 members and adherents present, Larry Smith, Chair of the Church Board, opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. by welcoming the members of the congregation and lighting the Christ Candle. Larry thanked the Social Committee for preparing the luncheon enjoyed before the meeting.

It was asked if all present were allowed to vote. Alan noted that on matters of a "temporal" nature, including finances, according to The Manual (2007) (Basis of Union 5.8.2 and Bylaws Section 113) and to St. Mark's practice, adherents are entitled to vote.

Motion (Jane Greenwood, seconded by Teresa Smith)

That the agenda for today's meeting (February 8, 2009) be approved.

CARRIED

Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meeting – June 8, 2008

Motion (Betty Jarman, seconded by Ginny Gies)

That the minutes of the Congregational meeting held on June 8, 2008 be approved.

CARRIED.

Background to Congregational Funds

Loreen Naylor, Chair of Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team introduced the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team – Dan Slovitt, Nicky Slovitt, Kathryn Moase and Randy Stroud. She provided background information of Congregational funds and how they are managed.

Loreen reviewed the names for the General Fund and the Benevolent Fund and asked if they were clear in their meaning and what they were used for. There was discussion at each table. Some of the issues identified were:

- Benevolent is more like "an emergency basis fund";
- Do people coming from other congregations understand the meaning of Benevolent;
- Name for the Benevolent fund needs a name that indicates a general concept of its use;
- "Benevolent" seems condescending – possibly named "Local Outreach";
- Likes "Community Outreach";
- Instead of General Funds, prefer "Operating Funds".

Jane Greenwood then reviewed the financial statements for 2008.

Motion (Trevor White, seconded by Dan Slovitt)

That the 2008 Financial Statements be approved.

CARRIED

Background to Trustee Funds

Kathryn Moase, Treasurer of the Trustees, reminded the congregation that the tabled Trustee financial statements are "unaudited reports", and that we can expect some changes when they are audited and reported to the Congregational Meeting in June.

Kathryn identified the different funds, where the dollars come from and how they are used. Kathryn manages all the funds to accrue as much interest as possible. The table groups were asked to

discuss the names of the Trustee Funds and how the monies are collected. When asked, the table groups did not feel another Trustees' estate planning session was necessary at this time.

MOTION (*Teresa Smith, seconded by Catherine Deneault*)

That the 2008 Financial Statements be approved.

CARRIED

Description of our financial planning process

Loreen Naylor provided an overview of St. Mark's Financial Planning practices. There were no issues identified when those in attendance were asked how transparency and participation could be enhanced.

Loreen then reviewed the 2009 budget. She reminded that the GST Auction is a bi-annual event. She noted that the higher local offerings objective for 2009 reflected the sustainability commitments that had been received.

St. Mark's new Presbytery assessment is higher due to:

- St. Mark's increased membership;
- Dunbarton Fairport United Church has transferred to Oshawa Presbytery resulting in a small number of members in Scarborough Presbytery;
- The Presbytery's commitment to support the Malvern Community Outreach Ministry is increased this year.

When speaking on sustainability, Loreen thanked the people in the congregation who were able to increase their givings, as well as the commitment of new members. Any income from a tenant would increase the maintenance budget, increase allocation to capital funds and increase allocation to outreach funds.

Marg Mooney asked if "offering slips" could include "Community Outreach" as opposed to Benevolent.

Marg explained the function of the "Dental Clinic".

Nominations to the Nominating Committee

There are no vacancies on the Nominating Committee this year.

Next Congregational Meeting – June 7, 2009

Larry Smith advised those in attendance that the next Annual Congregational Meeting would be held on June 7, 2009

Closing

Larry thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. Alan closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11p.m.



