



# STORY *of the* YEAR

JULY 1 2014 *to* JUNE 30 2015



## CONTENTS

MINISTER'S MESSAGE	01
A CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY	02
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	08
FINANCES	10

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



**IT HAS BEEN SAID** that Jesus' teaching of "do not judge" was actually an invitation to approach life with an attitude of *yes*.<sup>1</sup> It is only when we begin with *yes* that we speak with the voice of our souls and not our egos. A response of *yes* to the call of Spirit allows us to follow the often-unpredictable road to deeper and richer experience, grace and faith.

# yes

Canadian Memorial leads with *yes*, and the past year has been no exception. *Yes* to excellence in worship and music, *yes* to deepening community and spirituality, *yes* to growing our children's and family ministry, *yes* to learning opportunities and spiritual practices, *yes* to responding to people and places in need.

In April 2015 the congregation offered overwhelming support for enhancements to our Sanctuary, which will see significant improvements to sound, lighting, technology and accessibility. The sanctuary enhancements will draw on the remainder of the monies generously donated to the 2010 Capital Campaign "Renewing our Sacred Space" pillar. An additional amount of more than \$26,000 was raised through the generosity of our members from April to June 2015.

Within these pages you will hear stories in word and image that witness to the resounding *yes* of Canadian Memorial to the active call of Spirit in our midst.

**Beth Hayward**  
*Minister*

1. Richard Rohr, *Yes And...: Daily Meditations*, Cincinnati, Ohio, Franciscan Media, 2013, p. 362.

# A CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY

**OUR LARGE, MULTI-ROOM CENTRE** provides a home for many of the congregation's activities and serves as a community hub for mission partners and private renters hosting programs of meditation and spiritual exploration, educational activities, professional training and workshops, health activities and support groups, and more. A snapshot shows 1414 activities occurring in our 5 meeting rooms over 322 days in 2014-15, of which:

- 566, or 40%, were for congregation programs, partnerships and events
- 848, or 60%, were from mission partners and private renters

## A SPACE FOR CELEBRATION & REMEMBRANCE

The Sanctuary of Canadian Memorial United Church and Great Hall of our Centre for Peace make perfect spaces for marking significant occasions. We are open to all and provide wedding and memorial services that reflect the many values and beliefs of our community, performing interfaith services, LGBTQ ceremonies, and hosting families from across the world to gather around life's milestones. In 2014-15 we were privileged to provide service for 26 marriages and 7 celebrations of life.



PHOTO CREDIT: Ryan MacDonald



## A HOME FOR CONGREGATION & COMMUNITY EVENTS

We gather to celebrate community milestones and events throughout the year, and in 2014-15 welcomed 15 new members, celebrated the baptism of 3 children, said farewells to 5 members moving, and marked the passing of 5 individuals within our congregation. We saw the return of many ongoing and annual events that deepen our connections with each other, such as Sunday coffee after service, regular newcomers lunches, seniors' teas and Maple Group meetings, a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, a community barbecue, a congregational visioning retreat, and more.

New and notable this year was a retreat to the stunning Camp Fircom on Gambier Island. With fifty participants aged three to "over eighty" the community was indeed deepened through the wonderful experience of being away together. We're calling it the First Annual!





## WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship shapes the heart of our community, opening our heart to the persuasive presence of Spirit. Our worship is lively, reflective and thought provoking. Our special services at Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Day fill the church to overflowing: touching people with word and music. We've had great success in opening the choir and orchestra to the broader community for special services resulting in people attending worship more regularly.

We continue the tradition of welcoming excellent guest preachers including:

**Rev. Chris Dierkes**, *spiritual practitioner*

**Rabbi Dr. Laura Duhan Kaplan**, *Professor of Jewish Studies*

**Amos Gvirtz**, *peace activist*

**Christine Boyle**, *community organizer*

**John G. Stackhouse Jr.**, *Professor of Theology and Culture*

**Dr. Harry Maier**, *Professor of New Testament*

This coming year we will continue our emphasis on excellence in preaching with guest speakers:

**Douglas Christie**, *Professor of Christian Spirituality*

**Kim Phuc**, the 'nine year old' from the famous Vietnam War photo

*and many more!*



As we look to the future, particularly with our renewed space, we will host a few key outreach events that connect us to our greater community.

These will:

- allow the church community to get involved in a large event, creating synergy, focus, and bonding
- showcase what the church has to offer in “worship, music and concert” experiences
- partner with other like-minded arts/worship/theological communities to have events that appeal to the Vancouver community at large.



### CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Our children, youth and family ministry continues to grow with many young families finding a spiritual home in our midst. We seek to nurture and support children and families on their spiritual journey, so that children might approach the world with wonder while grounded in the promise of God's love.

This year saw the launch of our Family Breakfast Circle, bringing together families for a healthy breakfast and intergenerational activity monthly, as well as a new Youth Group for 11-13 year olds, deepening the connection of our youth with one another and with Spirit. Each Sunday we offer a staffed toddler's room and our Children's Church program.

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE & EDUCATION

Congregation inspired and led programs formed the core of our Choose Your Own Spiritual Adventures workshop series launched in 2014, presenting hands on explorations of everything from bible study, talisman making and labyrinth walks, to using prayer beads or engaging in sacred dance.

2014-15 saw programs and connection circles continue our twice monthly healing ministry, the ongoing weekly discussions held by our Seasons of the Church circle, Tuesday night meditation, Living Your Spiritual Gifts workshops, climate lectures, writer's groups and Deepening the Mystic writer's workshop, and much more.





We look forward to the year ahead and the coming of the Blue Sapphire of the Mind book study, Cinema Sophia movie series, Your Evolving Nature three part course, Bible study and other offerings to deepen the spiritual lives and commitment of our community.

**ALLOCATED FUND PROGRAMS**

Supported by designated contributions, allocated funds support programs and congregation initiatives such as Streetmeals, In from the Cold, Theological Training, and Environmental and Sustainability initiatives.

**PRESBYTERY, MISSION & SERVICE**

Our congregation contributes to the BC Conference of United Church of Canada through our presbytery assessments, and supports the mission and ministry of the national body of the United Church of Canada through our Mission and Service fund.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**WE LIVE OUR VALUES** by serving as an active responder to community need and, promoting peace and social justice in our world. Among our outreach and aid initiatives are:

**STREETMEALS**

A centre seeing more than 22,000 visits annually, Directions Youth Services partners with us for our initiative providing food, toiletries, clothing, sleeping bags and other much needed items for street-involved youth. Our volunteers give more than 500 hours of time annually providing a monthly home-made lunch for participants in the centre’s Street Youth Job Action program.

In 2014-15 our Streetmeals Scholarship assisted 4 street-involved and at-risk youth to attend post-secondary programs through financial support, building a foundation for self-sufficiency and long term benefit to our communities.

**IN FROM THE COLD**

Providing a monthly meal for First United Church in the Downtown Eastside, our volunteers filled more than 500 shifts in 2015 to serve over 2000 meals, share stories and music, and leave participants on both sides of the kitchen feeling full, connected and cared for.

**EVELYNE SALLER MEALS**

We provide direct assistance to individuals in need by distributing meal tickets for the Evelyne Saller Centre in the Downtown Eastside. Welcoming 40 to 50 people weekly to our office, we provided more than 2,500 meals in 2014-15.

# FINANCES

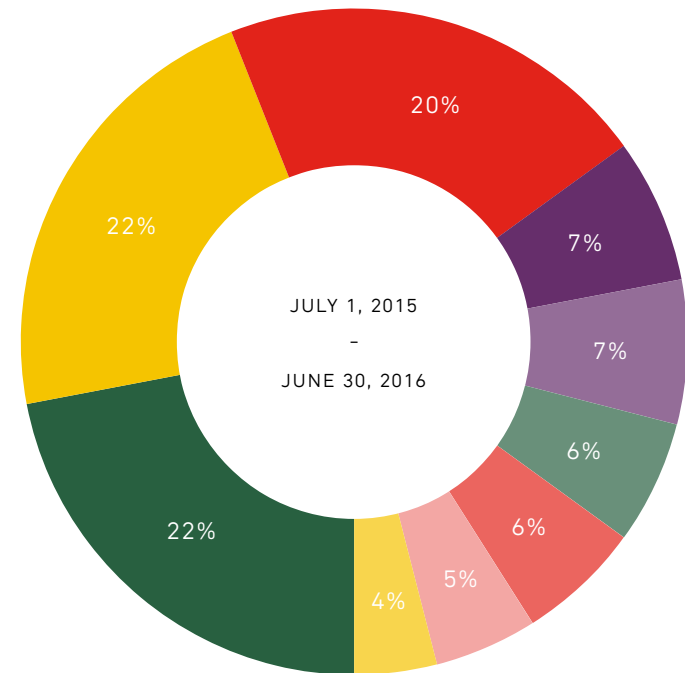
**IN 2013-14 OUR EXPENSES** for operations of \$538,700 were met through offerings and contributions of \$222,262, earned revenues of \$153,824 from facility rentals, and \$48,660 from weddings, memorials and other earnings, as well as \$111,145 in interest, gains and withdrawals from our investment and transfers from allocated funds. An additional \$54,311 in contributions were made to our allocated funds to support congregation led programming outside our general operating budget. Excellent gains in the value of our investments left Canadian Memorial in good shape and showing a surplus at the close of the fiscal year.

At the time of this writing, we anticipate that 2014-15's operating expenses of \$605,109 will be met by contributions of \$202,458, as well as \$151,277 from facility rentals, \$64,107 from wedding and memorial fees, \$40,916 in other revenues, and \$146,351 in interest, gains and withdrawals from our investment and transfers from allocated funds. We expect direct contributions of more than \$46,000 to help support expenses in our allocated fund programs.



Story of the Year

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, we will invest in our programming and community with planned expenditures of \$657,408 in general operations, and an expected \$48,596 in our allocated fund programs as follows:



- ADMIN. & GENERAL OPERATIONS - 22%
- WORSHIP & MUSIC - 22%
- CENTRE FOR PEACE OPERATIONS - 20%
- CHILDREN & FAMILIES - 7%
- CONGREGATION/COMMUNITY EVENTS - 7%
- SPIRITUAL PRACTICE & EDUCATION - 6%
- PRESBYTERY, MISSION & SERVICE - 6%
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH & AID - 5%
- WEDDING & MEMORIAL COSTS - 4%

# WHO WE ARE



**WE ARE AN OPEN HEARTED**, open minded and progressive Christian church serving a diverse community drawn from across the city of Vancouver. We serve a participating community of 400 including a congregation of 194 members, we see an average of 180 people weekly at Sunday worship.

Canadian Memorial welcomes seekers into our vibrant faith community. Through the synergy of word, music and an evolutionary perspective of the gospel, we lift spirits with messages of hope and inspire people to engage intentionally on their personal faith journey. We support spiritual growth with connection circles and short-term programs, and we encourage all to engage with their spiritual gifts so they can enact the ministries to which God calls them.

## CONTACT US

MINISTER: Beth Hayward

DIR. OF MUSIC: Lonnie Delisle

DIR. OF CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS: Danica Black

ADMINISTRATOR: Jason Queck

WEDDING DIRECTOR: Marion Allaart

**Canadian Memorial United Church & Centre for Peace**

1825 w. 16th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6J 2M3

604 · 731 · 3101, [office@canadianmemorial.org](mailto:office@canadianmemorial.org)

**[WWW.CANADIANMEMORIAL.ORG](http://WWW.CANADIANMEMORIAL.ORG)**