

2016/2017 Canadian Memorial United Church Board of Directors



Brandon Walker (chair): Over the last nine years, I have been continually more engaged and inspired by our vibrant CMUC community as a place to contemplate the big questions, connect in Spirit, and create a more righteous world. I envision a growing community of faith, led by radical openness. I'm grateful for our music, our strong preaching, our children's programs, our Connection Circles, and the roles we play in social justice. I see financial stewardship and development of lay leadership as some of the board's greatest goals over the next three years.



Frank Bassett: Born and raised in the US, I moved to Canada in 1999, and became a Canadian citizen in 2006. I live in east Vancouver with my husband Brad, two children (Grady 4, and Annelle, 5 months), and miniature dachshund, Digby. Raised as a Methodist, I joined CMUC in April of this year, drawn to this community of faith where diversity is celebrated, social justice is a focus, and where our children can find their own spiritual paths.



Aila Karpio: I first started attending CMUC in the spring of 2009. I appreciate that Canadian Memorial allows me to cherish my Christian upbringing and at the same time explore other spiritual traditions. I am the founder and president of Spets Association Management and also Honorary Vice Consul of Finland in BC. I have sat on many nonprofit boards and professional advisory committees over the years. I am married to Kyösti Sutela and we have three adult daughters



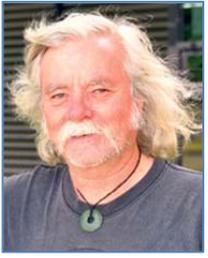
Donna Kilgallin: I joined Canadian Memorial board because I hope to continue the outreach and welcoming aspects of our open minded church. I also hope to help liaise between other United churches so we can unite our services in myriad ways. For CMUC to continue to unfold with purpose and divine promise, I envision a strong, three-part foundation: an involved and transparent board, an engaged congregation, and a committed minister.



Frances Kitson: I have been attending Canadian Memorial for ten years, and am delighted to be serving my first year on the Board. A native Vancouverite, I have trained and worked in theatre, and bring a spirited vitality to the CMUC community I call home. I currently work as a Construction Safety Officer, and am looking forward to starting my Master of Divinity degree at the Vancouver School of Theology next September!



Heather Olson (Secretary): I have been attending CMUC for about five years now and can hardly begin to describe how much this place means to me. As a member of the Music worship team, I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to deepen my relationship with God through song and word, every Sunday morning. Even more recently, however, I have felt a strong calling from within to deepen my commitment to the church and become more involved in the “new thing” that we are doing here. I feel especially called to reach out to the young people in our congregation and help to encourage their own seeking and exploring.



Bob Russell: During my lifetime's spiritual quest, I have been particularly influenced by the beliefs and practices of aboriginal peoples, Sufi mysticism, Esoteric Christianity, and Tibetan Buddhism. Having come to realize the critical role that spiritual communities must play if the world as we know it is to be preserved, my wife Robin and I consider ourselves fortunate to have found a home within the tolerant and mature community at CMUC. As a Board member, I am committed to promoting the regular meditation and contemplation practices required for our inner deepening, and to strengthening CMUC's outer work as expressed through its many social action programs.



Tom Schaeferle (Treasurer): I was raised in a small town in the US mid-west and originally attended the Congregational Church, which later became the (US) United Church. It was a great experience, singing in the choir with my dad and leading a brass ensemble playing baroque pieces. I moved to Minneapolis, found the love of my life, and then to Texas before coming to Canada in 1975. We started attending Canadian Memorial almost 35 years ago, so have enjoyed five preachers during that time. I'm very happy with the direction the Church is moving, especially the music and Beth's unique touch on evolutionary spirituality and from the heart style. 40 years as an architect is enough for me: I'm looking forward to delving deeper into my spiritual journey and enjoying the CMUC community.



Gabriel Viehweger: I am rational and creative. My rational side sees spirituality as serving a need (of the human condition). My creative side understands that I have full responsibility for what my spirituality looks like. Thus I have allowed myself to be choosy about spirituality until finding an understanding that works for me. My spiritual journey reflects a rejection of much information (much of my religious upbringing), an acceptance of what some others have taught, the results of my own personal experiments/experience, and an understanding that there are many paths.



Meg Watson: I am a mother, grandmother (the best), wife, retired school teacher, volunteer reader at a Langley inner city school, and 8-year member of our amazing congregation. My spiritual journey has led from Sunday School at Shady Creek United, to Highlands United, to Church of Divine Man, to Psychology of Vision with the Spezzanos, to Centre for Spiritual Living, to CMUC, to a pilgrimage to Arunanchula in India. Attending CMUC has been a gift and a constant opportunity for service. My goal for the new year is to renew our prayer committee. Thank you all for our inspired community that nurtures individual journeys, explores new ideas, and has proven we can pull together with Grace.