



*“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”*

*—Luke 24:32 (NRSV)*



Dear Friends in Christ,

Together in 2014 we journeyed in the light of Jesus, in so many ways. We journeyed in communities across Canada and around the world. We have seen new and exciting models of church and of proclaiming Jesus. We have started new programs and services and we have ended others. Our hearts have burned within us as we journeyed.

Together in 2014 we have sought the help and advice of one another and of God as we discerned our path and considered next steps. As we look back upon 2014 we say thank you to everyone for your generosity of time, skills, wisdom, and resources. We have entered 2015 with the combined clarity, love, and hope that each person has brought to God's work. Thank you for your part in our collective Mission & Service and for all that you have done for our journey together.



*The Right Rev. Gary Paterson, Moderator  
Nora Sanders, General Secretary*

## Rendez-vous 2014:

### Share, Connect, Grow



*Our gifts for Mission & Service support youth and young adult ministry.*

It's four days of crazy fun, boisterous singing, and deep reflection. Every three years, United Church youth, young adults, and their leaders gather for an event called Rendez-vous. In August 2014, this national gathering in Winnipeg had a jam-packed schedule of worship, workshops, outings, and just meeting other young people from across the country.

*“I am inspired to go back home and share the message of God and get more involved.”*

**Participant**

# A Vision for Leadership



*Our gifts for Mission & Service support students, Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, and six other theological schools and two education centres.*

Deb Anderson-Pratt is a member of the Okanese First Nation and a second-year student at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. She is currently the student minister of Wanakapew United Church. She is also a fourth-generation residential school survivor—her great-grandmother was the first to attend, and her daughters represent her family's fifth generation in the schools.

While the residential school Anderson-Pratt attended was Anglican, her grandmother had her baptized in Catholic, evangelical, and Mormon churches. "With all these churches in my life, I grew up with that fearful, punishing God." Her journey took her through motherhood, sobriety, and

then a meaningful job as her band's welfare administrator.

*"The God I have an understanding of today is loving and forgiving."*

"I started to see the power of God in my life. The God I have an understanding of today is loving and forgiving. Over the years I've gone to many churches,

but never felt God there. Today, I can go into any of those churches and feel God because God is in my heart."

From Pieta Woolley, "Renewing the Spirit," *Mandate* (November 2014).

# Second Chances



*One of dozens of community ministries across Canada supported by our gifts for Mission & Service, Stella's Circle has been offering second chances since 1945.*

A large, old house in the middle of St. John's, Newfoundland, is home to 16 people trying to make a new life for themselves. Some have come out of prison, some have just left rehab, others are recovering from mental illness, but all are still fragile and need support for their next steps.

Emmanuel House is a residential program of Stella's Circle, a United Church community ministry. Emmanuel House offers a home to adults who need a safe place for four months while they address their social and emotional challenges. There's supportive counselling, help with going back to school, some skills training, a chance to make new friends, nutritious meals, and follow-up services to help people transition back to the community.

Susan Pye, the program coordinator, explains, "Being able to see people's strengths, resilience, talents, and skills—that feeds our staff. It gives us hope and encouragement when we see that people can grow, that people blossom and flourish. And that's just amazing and such a privilege to see."

*From Minutes for Mission 2015.*

*"Emmanuel House was my stepping stone. Those months there really helped me, and I keep moving forward every day. It is an amazing program."*

**Kathy, former Emmanuel House resident**

# In Global Partnership



*Our gifts for Mission & Service supported 97 global partners in 2014, including People's Action Forum, which has been making a difference in the lives of rural Zambians since 1994.*

People's Action Forum works with communities in rural areas of Zambia, ones that are remote and often difficult to reach.

People's Action Forum supports community-based projects that are locally identified and managed, with a particular focus on women and children, in five areas of daily life: education, food security, health, economic opportunities, and awareness-raising. It trains teachers, provides books and other learning and teaching materials to schools, offers adult literacy training, creates accessible water sources, and provides education for children, agricultural training, and greater awareness of HIV/AIDS.

A series of hands-on community workshops called WASHE focus on water, sanitation, health, and the environment, putting responsibility for ownership and care of the water supply into the hands of the community and providing its members with the practical tools and knowledge they need to do that well.

*Through our partnership with People's Action Forum, the United Church participates in social transformation for long-term sustainable development in Zambia.*

# Serving the Church: Comprehensive Review Task Group



Back row, left to right: Russel Burns, Vic Wiebe, Moderator Gary Paterson.  
Front row, left to right: Beth Symes, Wilson Gonese, Cathy Hamilton (chair),  
Lauren Hodgson, Kenji Marui.

Recently the Comprehensive Review Task Group led chapel at the General Council Office. The three-year-long commitment of these dedicated volunteer clergy and lay people is coming to a close, and they offered reflections on their time together.

Kenji Marui, who serves at Calvary United Church in London, Ontario, spoke of the challenges of the past three years, of moments of heated debate and disagreement as parts of the report were released to the wider church.

*“We were amazed and inspired by the many moments of coincidence and serendipity that the Spirit provided to draw us together as we worked.”*

**Comprehensive Review Update, July 2014**

Wilson Gonese, who serves at the Springvale: Grace Pastoral Charge in Springvale, Newfoundland, offered a different perspective. He described his experience on the Comprehensive Review as “humbling” and a “gift to serve.” He said that when attending Conference and presbytery meetings and other consultations, people were honest with the Task Group that United

Church members would passionately tell them what wouldn’t work as well as what worked. Wilson says, “I feel honoured to serve the church in this way.”

We as a church are so thankful for their commitment!

## Thank You!

With gratitude, we celebrate the gifts we have shared for God's mission. Our gifts enable us and others to walk in justice and act with loving kindness. The generosity of the people of the United Church in 2014 for both local mission and ministry and Mission & Service offers hope and kindness to people and places in Canada and around the world.

# Financial Snapshot 2014

## The United Church of Canada

A second consecutive year of double-digit investment returns coupled with expense savings arising from painful cuts approved in 2013 resulted in a small surplus in the 2014 General Operating Fund. Our \$1.1 million operating deficit was more than offset by investment growth. Overall revenue continues to decline, but expense reduction has kept pace so far. 2014 Mission & Service giving declined \$390,000 from 2013 levels, but this drop was much less than in recent years. Bequest revenue was down markedly from a particularly strong 2013 result. Bequests and investment gains by their very nature can fluctuate markedly year over year. Future budget projections continue to demonstrate the need for urgent and substantive change, but the recent above-average investment returns have at least slowed the rate of unrestricted reserve depletion and given us more capacity to make the changes we need to make.

We continue to emphasize responsible investing practices, including shareholder engagement activity and values-based proxy voting. The United Church was approved as a signatory to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment in August 2014 and subsequently signed the 2014 Global Investor Statement on Climate Change.

## The United Church of Canada Foundation

The year 2014 was another year of growth. As of December 31, 2014, the Foundation held \$54.14 million in assets within 461 trusts and endowments, an increase of \$3 million over 2013. Total income in 2014 was \$5.47 million, an increase of 12.7% from 2013. The Foundation made grants of \$4.3 million, which is an increase of 26.4% from grants in 2013. These grants include \$2.3 million from short-term funds, with the proceeds typically designated to congregations, church-related organizations, and other registered charities; grants to the General Council Office of \$1.7 million, including support for Mission & Service and program work; and \$0.87 million to 73 programs and scholarships.

**For the full report and audited financial statements please see  
[www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca) and [www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca](http://www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca)**



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To comment on this report or make suggestions for future years, e-mail [giving@united-church.ca](mailto:giving@united-church.ca).

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