

Mount Royal United Church

1800 Graham Boulevard, Town of Mount Royal QC H3R 1G9

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www.mountroyalunited.ca

Annual Report 2017

Our Mission Statement

We are called together as a community of faith,
resolving to be welcoming and caring
as we follow Jesus' commandment to love one another.

We witness to the movement of God's Holy Spirit in us
and through prayer, study, worship,
and by working for justice and peace.

We value diversity, joyously affirming that whatever
their ability, age, ethnicity, gender, language, race,
sexuality or status,
all are invited to participate fully in the life of this
congregation.

Notre Énoncé de Mission

Réunis et appelés en tant que communauté de foi,
nous nous engageons à être accueillants et attentionnés,
déterminés à suivre le commandement de Jésus
de nous aimer les uns les autres.

Nous témoignons du mouvement de L'Esprit Saint en
nous et à travers la prière, l'étude, le culte,
et nos efforts pour atteindre la justice et la paix.

Nous estimons la diversité, affirmant joyeusement que
peu importe l'âge, les capacités, l'ethnicité, la langue,
l'orientation sexuelle, la race, le sexe, ou le statut social,
tous sont invités à participer pleinement à la vie de cette
congrégation.

The Mount Royal United Church Annual Congregational Meeting is called for:

Sunday, March 18, 2018

after the regular 10:30 AM worship service

*Mount-Royal United Church
1800 Graham Boulevard
Town of Mount Royal, Québec
H3R 1G9 (514) 739-7741*

*Please help reduce number of paper copies that Mount Royal United Church must make. This report is available for download in PDF format from the Mount Royal United Church website through www.mountroyalunited.ca
Online copies do not include financial data. Please contact the office for these data.*

Last updated: April 15, 2018

Please check the lower left hand corner of any page for the date code, which should match this date.

Section One – Reports not having a financial component or nature

The following section contains reports not having a financial component or nature. This section has been included from the copy of the Mount Royal United Church Annual Report – 2017 present on the Mount Royal United Church website located at www.mountroyalunited.ca

A second section contains reports having a financial component or nature, and which will be omitted from the website version of the Mount Royal United Church Annual Report – 2017 presented on the Mount Royal United Church website located at www.mountroyalunited.ca

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

Table of Contents

Mount Royal United Church Mission Statement / Front Cover.....1
Mount Royal United Church Annual Congregational Meeting -- March 18, 2018.....1
Section One – Reports not having a financial component or nature.....2
Table of Contents.....2
Message from the Minister, The Rev. David Clinker.....4
Congregational Events.....5
Church Council.....6
Pastoral Care Committee.....7
Statistical Summary.....7
Mount Royal United Church Women.....8
Buildings and Grounds – 2015.....8
Christian Education and Sunday School & Youth Group.....9
Youth Group and Young Adults.....10
Affirm Committee.....12
Nominating Committee.....13
Worship Committee.....14
Outreach.....15
Mission Strategy Committee.....16
COCLA.....17
Ministry and Personnel.....19
Membership Development.....20
Discernment Committee.....20
Refugee Sponsorship Committee.....21
Baptisms and Dedications.....23
Marriages.....23
In Memoriam.....24
Mount Royal United Church in Photos.....25
Section Two – Reports having a financial component or nature.....29
Financial Report.....30
Income and Expenses.....31
Income and Expense Statement and Proposed Budget.....32
Board of Trustees – 2015.....33
Minutes from the Mount Royal United Church Congregational Meeting -- May 26, 2016.....34
Minutes from the Mount Royal United Church Congregational Meeting -- February 05, 2017 -- Lynn Hall.....36
Minutes from the Mount Royal United Church Annual Congregational Meeting -- April 26, 2017 -- Lynn Hall...38

Addendum:

**Mount Royal United Church – Financial Statements (Unaudited)
December 31, 2017 (Draft)**

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017
Message from the Minister, The Rev. David Clinker – 2017

I would like to offer two ‘snap-shots’ from 2017 which could be easily overlooked, yet which tell not only about 2017, but about the heart and soul of Mount Royal United Church.

The first snap-shot is of the moment, witnessed only by a couple of people, when three cheques were signed in our business office. One cheque was written in the amount of \$500, a second cheque was written in the amount of \$400, and a third was written in the amount of \$300. The three cheques, made out to our three closest food banks (Multi-Caf, NDG Food Depot, and COCLA), were significant not because they were unique, but because they were the first of such cheques to be written. For thirty-six months, the food banks collectively receive \$1,200 per week for our Unis Frais project – a project whereby our congregation will supply fresh fruits and vegetables to the most marginalized and needy people in our neighbourhood. That tells you a lot about Mount Royal United Church!

The second snap-shot is a picture from October 22nd, the day which Mount Royal United Church became an Affirming Congregation. After Bill Ryan spoke to our congregation, we stood and pledged our mission “to value diversity, joyously affirming whatever their ability, age, ethnicity, gender, language, race, sexuality or status all are invited to participate fully in the life of this congregation.” Then the Rev. Shaun Friday presented the Affirming certificates. Again, this event was not a ‘one off’, or even the culmination of years of exploration of LGBTQ2 issues. This was a moment when we truly oriented ourselves toward being a ministry of inclusion and hospitality that welcomes, includes and celebrates all people and their ability to contribute to our shared ministry. As a congregation, we have gone forth from that moment proposing national training for all clergy in LGBTQ2 issues (issues that are often referenced but often not confronted or fully understood by all paid accountable ministers in the church) – and – to further our openness to all people, planning for a new fully accessible washroom in the church.

Of course, these are just two snap shots of 2017. Throughout this report, as well as in our achieve book and – as is so typical today – on people’s phones you will find more pictures of significant moments, events and encounters. This past year was rich and full with diverse events, from our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (begun by one of our high school students, (Elliott Conyers)); Kid’s Night Out (arranged by Johanne Schumann, Coleen Schroeder and Hui-Cha Cho); our Joint Refugee Sponsorship Committee, community concerts, our youth’s 30-Hour Fast; Mount Royal United Church Women’s ‘Tea and Scones’; Yuletide Fair, Empty Bowl’s fundraiser, all the way to the Children’s Christmas Pageant.

Together, these snap-shots make a wonderful collage that reveal Mount Royal United Church as a diverse and vital congregation. If you take a look, you will see in each picture a cast of characters – many doing unexpected things. There are our Sunday School Children setting the communion table. There is Gretel John introducing our guest Black History Month speaker, Emil J.. There is Jessica Gauthier at the piano while Grant Hynes sings a solo at the Blue Christmas Service. There is Leanne MacLachlan leading worship during a Children’s Time. There is a bass and drum kit set up in the Chancel, and the choir singing Pharell Williams ‘Happy’. There is Nathan Mills pushing an elderly woman from the church back to Le Graham after worship. There is Erica Gisel and Ann Laughlin looking at how to make our building more accessible. There is Tun Thwin with a card, and Margaret Heathcote reading a Psalm, and Heather Copeland hanging a beautiful banner of ‘Hands’. There is a group gathered around a book called “Fishing Tips”. Brenda Pelton is working on the “Mission Strategy” while Lex Green is photographing the Harvest Table. How grateful I am to all the many people who made 2017 such a splendid year.

I am also grateful for the many people who participate in our shared ministry: Michel Gauthier, Jessica Gauthier, Laurence Gauthier, Simon Riendeau, and Steven Abadi, and our wonderful Choir make worship rich and meaningful each week of the year. Ricky King, our long serving custodian, and Justin Evangelista our Sunday

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

Sexton. Betty Miller in the finance office and Bev Levine in the general office share my day to day experience of Mount Royal United Church. Leanne MacLachlan has supported our children and youth ministry. And since September, I have enjoyed Cindy Casey as our United Theological College In Ministry Year Student. How fortunate we have been in having their support.

As those first two snapshots that I shared remind us: Ministry is about taking new opportunities that are before us to proclaim and share the love of Christ. We have found a new way of supporting those who live with food insecurity – a three year Uni-Frais Program. We have reached out to others in declaring ourselves an Affirming Congregation – and we continue to reach out to all people, no matter where they are from or how they define themselves. Mount Royal United Church is blessed with vision and energy to allow its ministry to evolve and develop as we walk on in this journey of faith.

May God bless you all in this new time of ministry.

Sincerely,

David Clinker

Mount Royal United Church Congregational Events – 2017

Our Lobster Dinner

A joyful time was had by all when we hosted a sold out crowd for our famous Lobster Dinner in May. Firstly, we are in debt to Ray and Suzie Batrie who, every year, work their magic as they help us to obtain so many of our needs at greatly reduced cost. Next comes the hard working committee who this year added wonderful homemade complimentary hors d'oeuvres and strawberry Prosecco to welcome our guests as they gathered for the main event. All this was carefully and happily prepared by a great group of dedicated members: Suzie Batrie, Sue Clinker, Brenda Pelton, Gwen Kirton, Elizabeth and Gary Boivin, and Heather Copeland Stubington. Many thanks to all who made this a memorable evening.

Halloween Party and Italian Dinner

Who would have thought that two lovely senior sisters in our congregation could have almost single handedly prepared a sumptuous Italian meal for 100 people? Gloria and Gilda Cecere took on this gigantic challenge with grace and grit and were loyally supported by Johanne Schumann and Frank Panarello, Coleen Schroeder and Mario Caporicci and several more willing helpers. This very enjoyable evening was sprinkled with wonderful Halloween surprises carefully planned and hosted by Winnie Stewart. We arrived to the toe tapping sounds of a great live band and a huge swinging piñata stuffed with Halloween candies was waiting for the children. They had a great time whacking it until it burst open and showered them with Halloween treats. Kudos to Winnie for planning such a happy Halloween for children and adults alike. We indulged in a delicious cannelloni dessert knowing that we would all then hit the dance floor to work off all those extra calories. Bravo! Thank you to all for a great evening.

Heather Copeland,
Chair

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

Mount Royal United Church Council – 2017

Council Members:

Elizabeth Boivin, Donald Buchan, Don Cho, The Rev. David Clinker, Bob Conyers, Heather Copeland, Laure de Langavant, Emsey Elkas, Cathy Farrell, Jessica Gauthier, Lex Green, Margaret Heathcote, Barbara Hindle, Neil Hindle, Gwen Kirton, Doug Morrissey, Brenda Pelton, Ann Price, Ann Stanfield, Paul Stanfield, Winnie Stewart, Tun Thwin, Ellen Morneau (as chair of Mount Royal United Church Women)

At our regular monthly council meetings, committee chairs present a summary of the work accomplished at Mount Royal United Church. But at a recent meeting, as we went around the room introducing each member to Cindy Casey our student minister, it was overwhelming to hear the amount of behind the scene effort each member offers. Council members sit on multiple committees, raise funds, cook meals, arrange events, decorate the sanctuary.

We give thanks to our hard working, gifted members who ensure seamless worship, pastoral care, fiscal responsibility, social justice and property integrity. They are truly living out our mission in our world.

2017 saw the fruition of several projects: Affirm United Membership and Service of Celebration; the start of Uni-Frais (provision of fresh fruit and vegetable to COCLA, MultiCaf and the NDG Food Depot). And we are getting close to welcoming our sponsored Syrian family.

New Council initiatives this year include the formation of a Membership Committee chaired by Don Cho. Its goal is to update our church role and plan strategies to attract new members.

Also, Council voted to create a Financial task force to help address our operational deficits. They have pursued several church property rental possibilities this year.

As the church in society changes, we voted on several remits which will affect local congregations, call to ministry, and the structure of the United Church of Canada.

We pray for a productive, creative year ahead.

And we can never express enough thanks to The Rev. David Clinker, our inspired minister.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Pelton
Council Chair

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017
Mount Royal United Church Pastoral Care Committee – 2017

Sometimes it's the simple, seemingly small gestures that lift the spirit. For many, many years, John Mackay has helped ease grief, encourage recovery, celebrate the joy of a special occasion, or just said "We're thinking of you," in beautifully hand-written notes and cards on behalf of Mount Royal United Church. It's practically a ministry in itself. Thanks to John, our caring congregation extends a heartfelt touch in times of change, letting people know we are with them. Give John a hug next time you see him!

John is part of the ever-busy Pastoral Care Committee which, under the guidance of The Rev. David Clinker, keeps in touch with more than 50 less active Mount Royal United Church members. Amalgamations with three other congregations over the years, as well as the aging of some of our own core, have increased the need for friendly contacts. Moves to residences farther afield, or incapacitating health concerns, make it hard for many to keep up connections under their own steam.

The Pastoral Care Committee tries to bridge these gaps with regular visits, telephone chats, drives to appointments, outings, errands, church services, and special events as well as thoughtful notes. Holiday greetings and the personal delivery of poinsettias at Christmas, and spring plants at Easter keep many more in the loop, as do John's wonderful cards.

Our deep appreciation and love go to Pat Grier, who hung up her Pastoral Care hat at the end of the year. Since the time of The Rev. Bob Wallace, Pat has provided extraordinarily compassionate and devoted care for countless members of our congregation. Her insights and wholehearted willingness to help will be greatly missed. Thank you, thank you, Pat!

Huge thanks also go to committee members Suzie Batrie, Lorna Dougan, Joan Meyer, John Mackay, Sadie Fergus, and Ginnie King, as well as the completely amazing Rev. David Clinker.

Ann Laughlin Stanfield
Chair

Mount Royal United Church Statistical Summary – 2017

	<i>January 1 to December 31, 2017</i>	January 1 to December 31, 2016	January 1 to December 31, 2015	January 1 to December 31, 2014	January 1 to December 31, 2013
Total Households	141	150	141	183	200
Baptisms / Dedications	2	3	4	6	7
Marriages	13	10	8	5	6
Burials	14	20	14	12	21

Please see the Baptisms, Weddings and In Memoriam pages at the end of Section One

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

Mount Royal United Church Women – 2017

Our membership holds steady at 40 members, with about 22 active. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month. At our meetings we discuss upcoming events followed by a program of interest and thought. Of course we start each meeting with tea and goodies, which is a necessary component of any United Church meeting. In January we held our Christmas luncheon in the church, and our Spring Luncheon at the home of the chair.

Bazaar: Our bazaar was very successful this year, raising \$8,061.36.

Book corner: Following church service we sell used books for \$1.00, and we raised \$151.13

Roof for the Roofless: At Coffee Hour on Sunday, there is a container for donations of nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies. This money is donated towards the repair following the severe flooding and cyclone damage in the villages south of Chennai South India.

Sunday Morning Coffee: Kyeyoung You was hired to prepare the coffee and clean up after. Hui-Cha Cho shops for the provisions and other members bring goodies. We need volunteers to help serve the coffee and tea each Sunday.

Flowers: Carol Murphy provides the flower arrangements for special services in the sanctuary, eg. Christmas and Easter.

Tea and Scones: 65 tickets were sold, 17 dozen scones, homemade jars of strawberry jam and Devonshire cream, a successful event raising \$1,306.84. Also, we sold baking and odds and ends.

We would like to thank everyone for their generous support over the past year.

Ellen Morneau
Chair, Mount Royal United Church Women

Mount Royal United Church Buildings and Grounds – 2017

Many thanks to Emsey Elkas, Ellen Morneau, Bob Tabah, Don Cho, Donald Buchan, Doug Morrissey, and our minister, The Rev. David Clinker, for the many hours spent making sure our buildings continue to be in good shape.

Total major repair expenditures for 2017 were under \$14,000, a significant improvement from the previous year's \$31,500. Major components were repairs to the church heating system after ten years of faithful service (\$6,000), the church roofs after a particularly strong wind/rain storm (\$4,000), upgrading our security system (\$2,600) and repairs to the manse (\$1,200).

For 2018, a major expense will be replacing most of the windows in the manse (\$15,000).

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stanfield, Chair

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

Mount Royal United Church Christian Education and Sunday School and Youth Group – 2017

Sunday mornings we welcome our young people to nursery, Sunday School and Youth Group where they gather to learn of God's love through stories, play, song and games. Our diverse group of young people bring joy and vibrancy to our church pews, in our classrooms and hallways. From the Nursery, to the Daisy Morrow Room, the Lower Hall, and the Parlour, our children and youth gather under the leadership of our dedicated volunteers who make learning God's word fun and meaningful.

Our Leaders:

Nursery: Susannah Clinker

Junior Sunday School: Johanne Schumann, Coleen Schroeder Caporicci

Senior Sunday School: Nathan Mills, Elizabeth Boivin

Youth Group: Mary Redpath, Leanne MacLachlan, Doug Morrissey

Cathy Farrell steps in any of the levels as the need arises

Coordinator Sunday School, Youth & Young Adults: Leanne MacLachlan

The Curriculum:

Children ages 5-11: From January through May 2017, Sunday School children learned stories of Women Superheroes of the Bible, a continuation of the Superhero Theme (a Christianity Cover curriculum). From September through December, the Sparks curriculum was used. The more formal Sunday School classes ended in June which meant a more relaxed gathering time with Leanne in the summer for the children.

Youth ages 12+ met most Sundays to study topics from the Caffeine Curriculum and also gathered outside Sundays to socialize. Sunday morning discussions cover current social issues and conflicts that are explored within the context of their faith and beliefs.

Highlights & Activities of 2017: (See Leanne's report for details)

It has been a privilege for me to serve our young people. They keep me young! Our nursery attendant is welcomed by the smallest of the children with the biggest of smiles each and every week! The dedication and hours of weekly prep work by our leaders are amazing. Without them, we would not be able to draw in new young families who attend Mount Royal United Church joyously each Sunday!

Thank you to Leanne for her leadership throughout this past year, AND for the new signage board! Thank you to The Rev. David Clinker always for your inspired guidance and support. And thank you to the congregation for your ongoing support. Most of all, thank you to the children and youth of Mount Royal United Church, who delight us each Sunday with your energy and enthusiasm whenever we gather to celebrate God's love in our world.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Boivin, Chair

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

Mount Royal United Church Sunday School, Youth Group and Young Adults – 2017

Hightlights and Activities of 2017

JANUARY

Kid's Night / Family Night Out continued in 2017 under the direction of Johanne Schumann and Coleen Schroeder.

FEBRUARY

February was a busy month for all ages. The Sunday school, youth group and young adult group all had dedicated events for their own ages. We also celebrated Valentine's weekend with our traditional Skating Sunday where ages from five and up participated. The 2nd annual, very successful, Shrove pancake dinner was led by the Elliot Conyers and family, with the support from dozens for set up, serving and clean up. The reviews were very positive.

APRIL

In April, we celebrated Easter with old friends, and many new ones. Over 20 kids of all ages participated in our trivia and games. Youth participants helped with the Tea and Scones events – with both serving and clean up. We had a dedicated, interactive Sunday to invite our younger members in to learn more about Communion. We ended the month with a games night at the church for our Youth and Young adult members.

MAY

In May, members of our youth group helped to serve and clean up at the annual Lobster Soirée. Our group celebrated with pizza and dessert.

JUNE

The last month of our school year was busy! There were several events leading up to the youth group's traditional 30-hour fast, including a picnic and family dance, both well attended. For our fundraising efforts, including the fast itself, over \$1,600 was raised for Mount Royal United Church's food security project. The Sunday of the fast, we celebrated the graduation of two of our youth group members – both from High School to CEGEP.

Over 20 participants of all ages help celebrate the end of our school year on June 11th with games and a picnic in the park.

SUMMER

During the summer months, children under the age of 18 were welcomed to join a teacher or volunteer during the service for unstructured play. On average we had between 4-6 participants each Sunday. When the weather was nice, we were outdoors as often as possible. During rainy Sundays we watched movies and had discussions about their purpose. We also spent one Sunday learning to knit! Overall the children continued to build relationships with one another that would lead into the school year.

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

In August, two young adults participated in Rendez-Vous 2017. This event is a Canada Wide Forum for youth and young adults in the United Church to gather together, worship, create fellowship and build faith. It sparked a lot of discussion, and was a truly unique event.

SEPTEMBER

Rally Sunday helped kick off the new church year with a multi-generational scavenger hunt with teams tasked with reaching out to everyone at Mount Royal United Church to discover new faces and friends. This was followed by a Rally Day lunch of pulled pork, mac & cheese and brownies.

In Sunday School we created 2 groups: K to grade 3, and grades 4 to 6. A new curriculum, created by Spark House, was selected for both groups. This allowed us to use the same curriculum for both ages, and still have age appropriate materials. The youth group continued with their Caffeine curriculum.

OCTOBER

In October, we held 2 major events for all: Apple picking on October 1st, and Halloween for Hunger on October 31st. These events continue to be successful and well received. In between we had events dedicated just to the youth and young adult groups.

NOVEMBER

We had a youth and young adult led Sunday service. This Sunday service was the result of four weeks of preparation work on their behalf, and went over well with the congregation. We will look in to doing this again in the future.

DECEMBER

We celebrated the Christmas season in many different ways. The Pageant was performed on December 10th, with musical performances by members of our Sunday school. All ages participated in the performance. On December 15th, a large group gathered to sing carols for the Graham and several local families. On December 16th, the youth group sleepover at the church for a Christmas movie marathon. This sleepover helped us to wake up bright and early for Santa's Breakfast. This year, over 100 tickets were sold to the breakfast, and between tickets and the raffles, we raised \$1,029. On Christmas Eve day, we had family-friendly services with crafts available in the sanctuary for our younger members. We ended the year with a Christmas break, so all ages could return renewed for the next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne MacLachlan

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

Mount Royal United Church Affirm Committee – 2017

The Affirm Committee had a busy year. We met throughout the year with continued discussions in many areas, some of which included signage at Mount Royal United Church, our new Mission Statement and its visibility in our church and on our website, the building of a handicap-accessible washroom, and the official move to becoming part of Affirm United. The year culminated with our Celebration Service on October 22nd where we officially became a member of Affirm United.

Details and actions of some of this discussion follow:

Our new Mission Statement is now posted on the official Mount Royal United Church website, and is printed in the bulletin in both English and French on many Sundays. It can also be found at the entry doors to our church. The Affirm United logo is also posted on the website, on the outside bulletin board and at the entry doors.

The Celebration Service acknowledging becoming members of Affirm United took place in October with a beautiful service and profound words from Mr. Bill Ryan, who also spoke to our congregation at the beginning of this discernment process. All of the speakers who, at the request of this committee, came to Mount Royal United Church over these past five years, were invited to attend this celebration.

The service was followed by a congregational luncheon provided by members of the congregation, where the Affirm United certificate was presented by The Rev. Shaun Fryday. Shaun has been instrumental in guiding this committee through this process and his help has been greatly appreciated.

We have also received helpful guidance and insight along this journey from The Rev. David Clinker. We are also grateful to the members of the congregation who have been open in this process, provided questions to our committee and attended many of our discussions and functions.

Future work includes investigation into building a handicap-accessible washroom under the assumption that the Federal government will again provide funds for this kind of renovation. The application process for this funding should again be open as of the Spring of 2018. It was agreed by the Trustees in the late Fall to move forward with this.

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Davies, Genie Morrissey
Co-Chairs

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017
Mount Royal United Church Nominating Committee – 2017

December 2017

The Elders whose term expired in this past year were invited to serve for a further term of three years and most of these elders accepted the reappointment with pleasure. They were as follows: Elizabeth Boivin, Donald Buchan, Emsey Elkas, Cathy Farrell, Doug Morrissey, and Ann Price. We sincerely thank these Elders for their decision to continue in this important role. Gillian Davies decided to take a well-deserved break from her role as an Elder and we thank her for her years of service to Mount Royal United Church. Ingrid Thompson is now supporting Westmount Park United Church's ministry. We thank her for her dedicated work on behalf of Mount Royal United Church. Doug Pryde was elected as an Honorary Elder, joining Don Cogland, Bill Grier and John Mackay as our esteemed Honorary Elders.

During the year, we were also blessed by the fact that most of the Chairs of our committees agreed to continue their excellent work and we thank them for their continued service in these leadership roles. The Chairs of committees for 2017-2018 are as follows: Property Use Committee – Doug Morrissey; Ministry & Personnel – Neil Hindle; Trustees – Paul Stanfield; Buildings and Grounds – Paul Stanfield; Congregational Activities – Heather Copeland; Mount Royal United Church Women – Ellen Morneau; Pastoral Care – Ann Laughlin; Outreach Committee – Ann Price; Christian Development, Sunday School and Youth Committee – Elizabeth Boivin; Refugee Sponsorship – Donald Cho; Membership – Donald Cho; Affirm Committee – Genie Morrissey continues as chair; Gillian Davies has stepped down from the role as co-chair. Worship Committee – Gretel John has assumed the role of Chair, and we thank Margaret Heathcote for her great leadership in this role. We also wish to thank Leanne MacLachlan for leading our successful Sunday School program for Children and Youth.

The Church Council Officers for 2018 will comprise Brenda Pelton as Chair of Council, Ann Laughlin as Secretary of Council, The Rev. David Clinker as Minister, Margaret Heathcote as Clerk of Session, Bob Conyers as Treasurer, and John MacKay as Roll Clerk. The Mount Royal United Church representative to Montreal Presbytery is Paul Stanfield.

Two positions remain open: Chair of Stewardship, and Vice Chair of Council. The Committee will continue to work on filling these vacancies during the upcoming year.

The responsibility for the Nominating Committee falls under the auspices of the Council. In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Council for their hard work and support of the Nominating Committee responsibilities throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Nominating Committee,

Neil R. Hindle

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017
Mount Royal United Church Worship Committee – 2017

The year of 2017 was an eventful one for the Worship Committee and our church as a whole.

We celebrated the New Year on January 1st with a joint service at St. Peter's Anglican Church, with about 30 persons from Mount Royal United Church in attendance. We were also in attendance at the service of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity held and graciously hosted at St. Joseph's Church.

During February, Black History Month, we had our "Love" themed Jazz service with the Jazz Trio, our own Michel Gauthier, and guest musicians Pierre Dubois and Christian Leclair. Our guest speakers were Fred Mehrabi, the Multi-Caf Coordinator, and for a second visit to our church, Jonathon Emile.

On a sad note, we lost our beloved Reg Ferguson, long standing member of Mount Royal United Church and amazing bass singer of our Choir, after a brief illness. He is very much missed. And however, on a happy note, Michel Gauthier and Jessica Wise quietly and privately had their nuptials. We wish them a Blessed Union.

During the summer months while The Rev. David Clinker and Michel Gauthier (organist) were away, Justin Luchinski and Jacques Hains were our musical subs, and our worship leaders were Dr. Alwin Spence, Tessa Griffin, and Lorane McKenzie from Union United Church, and also The Rev. Marie Claude Manga.

In September, we welcomed student minister Cindy Casey to our church, and we also welcomed bass singer Steven Abadi to our choir, and the Banner of Hands was dedicated on Rally Day.

After much discussion and deliberation, October 22nd was our Affirm Service with Guest Speaker Bill Ryan. An excellent luncheon followed the service and was enjoyed by all.

In November Emsey Elkas was awarded a Canada 150 Tribute for Community Service by MP Anthony Housefather. Congratulations Emsey!

December was a very busy time with the children's pageant, portraying the age old story from the point of view of a court case against the loud shepherds heralding the news of the Newborn King, Santa's Breakfast, the Choir's Choral Presentation, Pop-up lunch, Blue Christmas Service, and Christmas Eve's AM service and candlelight evening service.

Thank you to all who helped over the course of the year: The ushers and lay readers shepherded by Gwen Kirton; Jessica Gauthier for our Facebook page; Heather Copeland, Ann Price and Elizabeth Boivin for their beautiful decorating skills; Mary Johnson and the Elders for communion preparations; Donald Buchan for taking care of the candles, fundscrisp and soup; Michel Gauthier, our soloists and choir for all the beautiful music; Hidarni for morning coffee, and to all who contribute in the many varied ways to keep our church family always moving forward.

And last but not least, thank you to the Committee members for your trust and faith in having me as your new Chairperson, and a most heartfelt Thank You to Margaret Heathcote for her wonderful years of service to this committee. And not forgetting The Rev. David Clinker, who guides us all with such invaluable leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretel John – Chair of Worship Committee

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

Mount Royal United Church Outreach – 2017

The Outreach Committee consists of Don Cho, Gillian Davies, Emsey Elkas, Bill Grier, Ginnie King, Tun Thwin, and Ann Price (chair).

Empty Bowls:

This year Outreach was pleased to again participate in the Empty Bowl event held by the Town of Mount Royal's artisans' pottery group. The money raised, was for the benefit of COCLA and Multi-Caf.

Summer Camps:

Hurrah for summer and the funds raised for the camps! Because of it, the children in our area were able to enjoy summer camp! The money raised by the church for this endeavour was distributed to:

Cote des Neiges Council of Churches for their 4 camps (Mountain Sights Community Centre, Loisirs Soleil Inc, Centre Communautaire de Loisirs Cote des Neiges, St. Paul's Anglican Church Camp)	\$5,432.60
Montreal City Mission summer camp	\$500.00
St. Columba House summer camp	\$500.00

White Gift:

Christmas was made brighter for the organizations supported as follows:

COCLA	\$1,250.
Multi-Caf	\$750.
Montreal City Mission	\$500.
St. Columba House	\$500.

Mount Royal United Church is a very generous congregation. Those who visit the organizations which we support can see the gratitude of those in need first hand. To those of you who do not have this opportunity, the members of Outreach wish to convey our appreciation and that of your beneficiaries for all that you have shared!

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25: 35-36

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Price, on behalf of the Outreach Committee

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017
Mount Royal United Church Mission Strategy Committee – 2017

Committee Members

The Rev. David Clinker, Heather Copeland, Gillian Davies, Lex Green, Margaret Heathcote, Brenda Pelton, Ann Price, Ingrid Thompson, Tun Thwin, Robin Willard

The committee in its eighth year, has met five times in 2017.

As well, we organized events to highlight our fresh fruit and vegetable program – Sunday service speakers Daniel Rotman from the NDG Food Depot in April, and Julio Rivera-Gamarra and Jessica Sbarra from COCLA in June; and a contest to name the program in May.

The person who submitted the winning “Uni-Frais” won admission to our Lobster Dinner.

From the “Mission” funds generated by the sale of the Rosedale-Queen Mary site building, we have been able to send \$1,200 weekly to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to COCLA, the NDG Food Bank, and MultiCaf for one year now, with a commitment for two more years. The food banks have submitted quarterly financial reports to ensure accountability. And ties are strengthened with a committee member “liaison” regularly visiting each of the Food Banks.

The program has been met with much enthusiasm from staff and clients:

From MultiCaf: Clients like the leafy red lettuce rather than the old brownish iceberg lettuce. Both the cook and home distribution manager are excited to report that the flexibility to buy fresh fruit and vegetables allows a much better experience for many visitors.

From NDG Food Depot: “It’s more than food baskets. It’s good to go out and speak to people”

The funds continue to support Women on the Rise, a former Rosedale-Queen Mary site tenant, with a yearly grant of \$15,000 and a commitment for one more year. Lex and Robin have offered significant hands-on help as well.

We were approached by the NDG Community Council this year requesting support for the Art Hive NDG. This is a free art studio providing workshops to foster creative play, skill sharing, and community building. Its work is intercultural and intergenerational. After site visits and staff presentations, we gave \$500 to this program.

Also, this year Elizabeth House was granted \$1,000 to help them in their work with young vulnerable mothers through their Residential, Academic and External Programs from pregnancy to motherhood to community living.

Looking to the future, we hope to concentrate on children who need improved nutrition through breakfast and / or snack programs. Fact finding is underway with our three Food Bank partners.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Pelton

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

COCLA – 2017

COCLA'S ACTIVITY REPORT

For the period: January 1 st 2017 to December 31st 2017

PRESENTED TO: MOUNT ROYAL UNITED CHURCH

For the period of 2017, COCLA continued to help and to support families and seniors that are vulnerable, live in poverty, who are isolated and are socially excluded, in the borough of Saint-Laurent, by providing to their basic needs. Our mission is sub-divided in two missions:

- a) Economic Mission (social economy): COCLA promotes the development of the community's knowledge by implicating the citizens so that they can find the path of change for themselves and for others.
- b) Social Mission: COCLA is oriented in inclusion, sharing and respecting all the members of the community without regard to the origin, the race, the gender, the belief and the political thinking.

Below are COCLA's results:

FOOD SERVICE

During these past 37 years, COCLA has developed expertise in access and food proximity by creating two businesses in social economy (Community Harvest grocery store and FOGO restaurant). Each week, our Harvest grocery store receives fruits and vegetables donations in good and bad quality. The most vulnerable Families financially who are affected by the food crisis (high prices) have a tendency of going to the community grocery stores to fill their basic needs (example: food). COCLA answers to their needs by giving them the opportunity, without discrimination, a variety of products that are accessible from Tuesday to Saturday.

We are very happy to have your financial support for the Unis-Frais project (March 2017 to December 2017: (\$12,900), but it is not enough to distribute fairly to families because the number of our beneficiaries greatly exceeds your financial support that you us per week (300\$/per week).

Our team, with our little budget, works very hard, during long hours, without any vacation, to give the opportunity to 450 families per week to feed themselves, because COCLA does not receive any funding for food access. We also supported Syrians refugees with any contribution for a period of two months, but now we had to close our door to them due to lack of funding. Furthermore, we are obliged to pay expensive bills concerning the cold rooms, transportation, insurance, rent, among others, with the little budget that we have.

SOCIAL ECONOMY PROGRAM RESTAURANT FOGO

This initiative answers to several areas:

1. Seek Financing
2. Counter the waste of fruits and vegetables, by transforming and involving our beneficiaries in COCLA'S associative life, thus, giving them empowerment to make changes in their eating habits.
3. Insertion into the labor market: FOGO has enabled 22 people to get out of poverty, by giving them the opportunity to gain experience, to prepare them for insertion into the labor market.
4. A place that allows for the creation of activities suited to the elderly, in order to break their isolation and give them the power to act in their daily lives.

SERVICES FOR THE SENIORS

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

The Outreach worker for seniors in Saint-Laurent, who reaches out to seniors that are isolated, vulnerable and at risk of social exclusion, in the various living environments that they frequent in Saint-Laurent. The outreach worker listens to them, informs them, supports them, accompanies them through their steps and refers them to the appropriate resources in Saint-Laurent. For the period of 2017, 1,850 seniors were met, and 280 seniors have come out of isolation and 30 seniors with low mobility were supported.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

These services were developed with the purpose to, support our social mission, with the contribution of:

- The Ministry of Public Security for the compensatory work.
- With the members and non-members of COCLA by volunteering in different tasks.
- The Community partners: CABC (they send us volunteers to help us with our activities).

Thank you for your financial support with the Empty Bowls: \$1,570 and the White Gift: \$1,250. These funds were used to provide Christmas baskets to our clients, and for the Christmas Lunch for the vulnerable seniors that do not have family, and for other families.



Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017
Mount Royal United Church Ministry and Personnel – 2017

December 2017

The Ministry and Personnel Committee provides a confidential setting for consultation with and support and assessment of ministerial, administrative and facilities staff. Its mandate is to:

- provide consultation and support for staff members;
- review working conditions and salary levels of staff members;
- oversee the relationship of these staff to members of the pastorals charge and others;
- oversee the relationship between responsibilities and relationships of these staff members;
- support and oversee the relationships between these staff members;
- consult with these staff members about their continuing education;
- review performance of these staff members annually.

During the 2017 calendar year, the committee reviewed performance matters of staff, discussed individual job challenges and requirements and recommended salary adjustments where appropriate. In addition, we held discussions with The Rev. David Clicker on such matters as approving his proposed education program for the year, as well as operational and congregational matters.

We have an excellent committee, and I wish to thank the other members of the committee, Mary Johnson and Ellen Morneau, for their help and support of this very important function within our congregation.

We would also like to thank our staff members for their hard work and dedication to our congregation throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Hindle
Chair

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017
Mount Royal United Church Membership Development – 2017



Membership Development (reinstated as of October 2017) Don Cho Feb 28, 2018

The goals of this team are to stimulate the membership and welcome new comers into our church community unconditionally. As to how to do this, we have a three point preliminary focus for years 2017-2018. At the moment, we are a small group, and have possibly three persons who are willing to work on this challenge. Two projects have been started and will be implemented in the near future.

Team: Donald Cho, Hui-Cha Paek Cho, Johanne Schumann Panarello, Mario Caporicci,

Mount Royal United Church Staff: The Rev. David Clinker, Beverley Levine, Betty Miller

Mount Royal United Church Discernment Committee – 2017

Committee members The Rev. Read Sherman (Presbytery Representative), Margaret Heathcote, Doug Morrissey, Brenda Pelton and Joan Reid have met regularly with inquirer **Jessica Gauthier** as she responds to her call to ministry.

Using United Church resources as the basis for our meetings, we have learned much about living out God's mission in the world.

We have just started compiling the "Report and Recommendation" form. This report will then be shared with the inquirer, church council, Presbytery and the Conference.

The committee is very grateful for the time we shared with Reg Fergus.

Respectfully submitted

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017
Mount Royal United Church Refugee Sponsorship Committee – 2017



Accueillent ensemble une famille de
réfugiés
Jointly Sponsor a Refugee Family

Merci d'avance pour votre aide !
Thanks in advance for your help!

January 23, 2018 (Revised)
Donald Cho

Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSR) Progress report #6

Your joint sponsorship team has agreed to settle a family of five for one year. Edwar and Fadia are the parents, with son Homan (12 yrs) and daughter Rita (9 yrs). Fedaa is the sister of the mother. Their family contact in Montreal is Georgette, a cousin.

It has been 19+ months since our application was submitted to Immigration Canada. We continue to patiently wait. Please find time to pray for the well-being and safety of the family on this arduous journey.

Update:

Action Réfugiés Montréal (ARM) Emily informed us that as of the week of January 16, 2018, Fedaa, the sister of Fadia received her CSQ - Quebec certificate to come to Quebec. The rest of the family is awaiting theirs. As to when and whether we have two weeks' notice, no one knows; neither do we know if the whole family will be traveling together. We await further upcoming news.

Latest news update:

- On Jan 29, Fedaa was informed by Immigration of her arrival date to Montreal as March 16, 2018.
- On Jan 31 ARM's Emily received notice that Fadia and her family received their CSQ certificate.

Sponsoring a refugee family involves covering all costs for one year, related to food, shelter, health care and relocation, and helping the family find work, learn French, and settle in Montreal, Quebec.

Our financial appeal from our two churches and community has been outstanding. We have reached \$43,274. A total funding of \$46,000+ would be required. This extra funding is for unexpected medical needs not covered in the interim insurance plan, especially dental care. If you want please submit your donation at your preferred church.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement with our Syrian Refugee Sponsorship. It is very much appreciated. *With God's blessings and guidance, we march on.*

Our wish list for items from you:

If you can help please contact Hui-Cha Cho at 514 270-4870, or Johanne Schumann at 514 219-1532.

Mount Royal United Church Annual Report 2017

1. Warm winter coats for each family member:
 - ✓ Edwar 1 adult men's coat medium size
 - ✓ Fadia 1 adult women's coat 10 / M size
 - ✓ Fedaa 1 adult women's coat 16 / XL size
 - ✓ Homam 1 children boy's coat 10 – 12 size 12 years
 - ✓ Rita 1 children girl's coat 10 size 9 years
2. Scarves and toques, and mitts for each family member

23-Jan-18

Meet our Joint Sponsorship Team

1 Austin	Mary	16 Green	Lex
2 Ball Creighton	Christine	17 Henderson	Angela
3 Barrigar	The Rev. Chris	18 Johnson	Mary
4 Batrie	Susie	19 Keener	Diana (Di)
5 Brebner	Eva	20 Mahé	Nolwen
6 Buchanan	Wilfred	21 Morrissey	Genie
7 Burrell	Ruth	22 Pelton	Brenda
8 Cho	Donald	23 Price	Ann
9 Cho	Hui-Cha	24 Schumann Panarello	Johanne
10 Clinker	The Rev. David	25 Shine	Dr. Joseph
11 Crossling	Fiona	26 Thompson	Ingrid
12 Davidson	Scott	27 Timmins	Mtr Gretchen
13 Davies	Gillian	28 Wheaton	Sandra
14 Dydzak	Mtr Joseph	29 Begdache	Ghad
15 Elkas	Emsey		

“ *Let There be Peace on Earth !* “

The UNHCR reported in 2014:

19.5 million refugees – those fleeing their homes across international borders and

38.2 million internally displaced people – those who remain within their own country but cannot return to their homes.

Baptisms and Dedications

*Charlotte Ann Purcell
Harper Madison Perreault*

Marriages

*Michel Gauthier & Jessica Wise
Jeremy Cherrett & Danielle Pisciueneri
Roberto Irizarry & Bianca Olszenka
Yves Lauzon & Laura Loiseau
Alexander Wahba & Shelley Cogland
Henriques King & Jasmine Shakes
Jean-Marc Poce & Vania Uong
Julien Lu & Jennifer Chung
Beya Cisungu & Audrey Mbwaya
Federico Di Santo & Claudine Lauzier
Matthew Tabah & Jessica Smith
Domenico Maluorni & Manon Gibeault
Richard Willis & Lorelee Rubino*

In Memoriam

2017

Robert Hindle

Yosh Ogura

Helen Curwood (James)

Frank Riou

Bernice Elliott (Kinglsey)

Reginald Fergus

Russell Ford

Colin McOuat

Kim Soon Tan

Lanni de Langavant (Garner)

Anna Zaryn (Seifert)

Jessie Finlay (Hills)

Lillian Melrose (Dick)

Edith Thompson (Olsen)

2018

Beatrice Dalglish (Lennox)

Dorothy Vallieres (Hurlburt)

Albert Gurinskas

Barry Milner

James Spence