

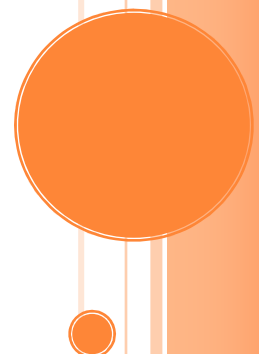
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009

Augustine United Church

for consideration at the

Annual Meeting Part I May 2, 2010

Augustine United Church
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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009

Augustine United Church

Duty of the Official Board or Council:

“To submit to the Pastoral Charge or Congregation(s) for its consideration reports on life and work, including a full statement of receipts and expenditures, of indebtedness, and of estimates for the ensuing year . . . The Official Board should prepare therefrom for submission to the annual meeting a general report covering all the work of the Pastoral Charge, with such recommendations as it deems wise. It is recommended that the annual report be printed and circulated among the members of the Congregation(s).”

-Section 184 (a) of the Manual of the United
Church of Canada

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AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH – MAY 2, 2010

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Election of Moderator and Secretary
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting April 26, 2009
5. Approval of Minutes from Special Congregational Meetings?
6. Business Arising From Minutes
7. Motion to Receive Annual Report
8. New Business
9. Budget 2010
10. Date of Annual Meeting Part II to approve leadership slate
11. Motion to Adjourn and Closing Prayer

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING
April 26, 2009

AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING (PART I)

The meeting is convened in the Guild Hall in accordance with The Manual, with fifty-two people in attendance.

Call to Order and Opening Prayer:

Council Chair Glynis Quinn called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. Reverend Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd offered an opening prayer that the proceedings be graced with guidance, wisdom, and compassion.

Election of Moderator and Secretary:

There was consensus that Linda Watson and Garth Bradley act as Moderator and Secretary respectively.

Approval of Agenda:

Speaking to the circulated agenda, Linda explained that Budget (item 9) would be switched with New Business (item 8) as the former linked with Annual Report (item 7). She announced the two items to be included in Business Arising from the Minutes and the item to be included under New Business. There were no additional items suggested from the floor.

Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting April 27, 2008:

Moved by Garth Bradley and seconded by Virginia Cramer that the Minutes be approved. At the suggestion of Lesley Massey, it was confirmed that both the mover and the seconder were present at the meeting. Carried.

Approval of Minutes of Congregational Meeting November 23, 2008:

Moved by Garth Bradley and seconded by Gloria Dow that the Minutes be approved. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

- a) Heritage Status: Property Manager Stuart McVey announced that Augustine United Church had officially been granted a Grade II historical municipal designation, which protects the outside of the building and its windows as well as the Sanctuary. He added that this designation allows the church access to expertise and funding for major repairs. Stuart then answered questions from the floor.

- b) Supervised Ministry Education Site Application: Loraine announced that our application had been approved and that we have been matched with a student.

Annual Report:

- a) Motion to Receive Annual Report: Moved by Bruce Ball and seconded by Enid Butler that the 2008 Annual Report be received. Carried.

- b) Review of 2008 Financial Statements:

Treasurer Monique Vandale thanked Robert Miller for reviewing the Statements. She pointed out that revenues and expenditures for the Oak Table had been separated due to the Oak Table Community Ministry now having its own Board. She explained that the deficit of \$9,568 for the church as a whole was due in part to Boiler Fund expenditures being greater than the donations received. As a result, she said, Augustine's financial reserves had been "reduced significantly".

Oak Table Team Leader Bev Ridd pointed out from the floor that donations to the Oak Table donations may have been higher than shown in the reviewed statement. The Finance Team will investigate this matter as the reviewed figures cannot be changed after the fact. Monique then responded to questions from the floor.

Motion: Moved by Monique Vandale and seconded by Con Butler that the financial statements for 2008 be accepted as reviewed. Carried.

2009 Budget:

Motion: Moved by Glynis Quinn and seconded by Barb Ball that the congregation accept Option 2 as presented by the Finance Team, as Augustine's operating budget for the year 2009.

To provide context for what the Leadership Group (Council members, Team Leaders, and employees) was asking, Glynis read a prepared statement, mentioning positives such as our inclusiveness, our Outreach ministries, our committed ministry team, our growing membership, and our designation as a Supervised Ministry Education Site.

Nevertheless, Glynis continued, "We are in serious trouble and we are going to have to work very hard during the next year if we are to secure our future as a viable United Church congregation." 2009, she said, would be "our last chance" to reverse the trend of using money from our reserves toward paying the operating losses of the congregation, since another deficit would require us taking money out of our Memorial Fund. Glynis then cited some of the painful, but necessary, cutbacks of Option 2 that anticipates a deficit within the reserves we have.

Finance Team Leader David Viggars then used a series of overhead transparencies to give a detailed overview of the revenues and expenditures anticipated in 2009. The need for a more broadly based level of financial support was evident in the graph showing that 40% of our donors contribute 90% of our donations. Reiterating that our pattern of repeated deficits was not sustainable, David concluded with this challenge: “The budgets for 2010 and beyond must be close to break even. What can each of us do so that together we can reach this goal?”

Following discussion, the motion to accept Option 2 was reread and the vote called. The motion was carried with two dissenting votes.

New Business:

Motion: Moved by Bev Ridd and seconded by Linda Ann Sturgeon that responsibility for Oak Table Reserves be transferred from Augustine United Church to the Oak Table Community Ministry. Carried.

Note: With input from Finance during discussion before the vote, it was understood that Oak Table reserve funds would continue to be held in trust by Augustine until they mature, with OTCM being responsible for stewardship of the funds.

AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING June 21, 2009

AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING (PART II)

The meeting is convened in accordance with the adjournment of Annual Meeting (Part I) held on April 26, with due notice given of the change from May 31 to June 21 due to unforeseen events. A clear quorum was present in the Guild Hall

Regrets: Gloria Dow, Linda Watson, Patrick Woodbeck

Opening:

Glynis Quinn, Chair of Council, called the meeting to order at 11:45 am. She invited everyone a piece of the cake recognizing five individuals ending service – Barb Ball, Garth Bradley, Brian Hemeryck, Jean Storey and Allison Wilcox – and called for a round of applause for their contributions. Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd offered a prayer of gratitude of community and leadership volunteers and called upon the Spirit for wisdom to guide the meeting.

Agenda Review: Enid Butler, filling in for Linda Watson as Moderator, reviewed the Agenda, citing the last item of “Other” as opportunity for new business from the floor.

Correction of Annual Report: Treasurer Monique Vandale circulated a revision of page 36 of the Annual Report entitles “Grants”. She reported that the last paragraph referring to the gift from the Blennerhasset Foundation has been omitted by accident and that a letter of apology had been sent. The paragraph read, “In march 2008 Augustine received a \$5,000 grant from the family foundation. The gift is designated for Sanctuary Window Repairs. The amount is currently included in the Building Fund.”

Motion (Monique Vandale/Art Veldhuis): that the revised version of page 36 be approved. Carried.

Constitutional Amendments:

Sue Weldon and Glynis spoke to the amendments. They were made in consultation with a representative of Winnipeg Presbytery so that the Constitution can be approved by this body. No changes were made to the Team structure, as it was accepted by Presbytery. Rather, two changes were agreed upon in order to reflect *The Manual* references to quorum and voting status of members and non-members at congregational meetings.

The proposed changes follow:

III.A.1. Membership

121st Annual Report of Augustine United Church

- a) By Baptism, we are made members of the whole Church of Jesus Christ, the Church catholic. In Confirmation we come before the Church to acknowledge for ourselves the covenant of our baptism, to profess publicly our personal faith, and to open ourselves to the grace and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, we become members of our local congregation, Augustine, and of our denomination family of faith, the United Church of Canada.
- b) Members of the local congregation by Profession of Faith (Confirmation) or by Letter of Transfer from another congregation are entitled to vote at congregational meetings.
- c) With the consent of the membership, non-members (adherents) may vote on specific temporal matters. (as per manual 2007, 5.10, 5.10.2 and 001, page 42 where spiritual and temporal matters are delineated.

III.A.4. Meetings

- a) A quorum at a congregational meeting shall be twenty members, in full standing and at least one member of the order of Ministry Personnel (as per section 123 of the *Manual* (2007).

Motion (Sue Weldon/Linda Ann Sturgeon): that the proposed amendments be accepted. Carried.

Leadership Slate:

Glynis spoke to the circulated handout: Augustine Leadership (Proposed in bold/italics for consideration of June 21, 2009 Congregational Meeting). The change so indicated were as follows:

Church Council: Glynis Quinn, chair 2009-2011 (2nd term); Gloria Dow (secretary) 2009-2011; Moe Vandale (treasurer) 2009-2001 (2nd term); Anthony Steffes (member at large) 2009-2010

Presbytery Representatives: Linda Ann Sturgeon, 2009-2011 (2nd term)

Property Team: vacant, leader

Pastoral Care Team: Theresa Chammartin, leader 2009-2011

Social Justice Team: Patrick Woodbeck, leader, 2009-2011

Faith Development Team: Catherine Cross and Charissa Buhler, co-leaders 2009-2011

Worship Team: Anthony Steffes, leader, 2009-2011 (2nd term)

Finance Team: David Viggars, leader, 2008-2010

Congregational Life Team: Garth Bradley, leader, 2009-2011

Enid then called for further nominations from the floor. None was forthcoming.

Motion (Glynis Quinn/Barb Ball): that the leadership slate be accepted as presented. Carried.

Lorraine then asked everyone present to acknowledge the contributions of our volunteers, especially member of Council.

It was noted that Kathleen Venema was omitted as a member of the Worship Team and that her name needed to be added.

General Updates:

Student Intern: Lorraine spoke of the importance to the national church of new, young ministers as 70% of ministers are 50 years old or more. She praised the bold decision of our congregation to apply as an education ministry site and the gratifying response thus far in financial support for a student intern over and above regular givings. She challenged all members and adherents to support the decisions we make as a whole, even those who had different opinions. Eileen Cormack then reported on the progress to date of furnishings and accommodation.

Patrick Woodbeck Candidacy; Glynis announced the recommendations of the Discernment Committee and of Council that Patrick go forward as a candidate for ministry. She commended Irene Rainey, Linda Ann Sturgeon and Art Veldhuis of our congregation for their work on the committee which went well over a year. Art spoke on behalf on the committee of Patrick's progress and plans.

Trustees Report: Bruce Ball identified tenants as a major responsibility of Trustees as we have three properties under lease. He announced that arrangements have been made to have our building appraised at no charge. He added that an evaluation of building contents was needed and asked for input of possible contacts.

Presbytery Report: Nancy Renwick reviewed the annual meeting of Manitoba and North West Ontario Conference of the United Church attended in May by 350 delegates. The theme was "How Then Shall We Live?". Linda Ann Sturgeon spoke to the business items of worship, Mission and Services, Presbytery assessment and personnel changes.

Future Fund Raising: Lorraine and Glynis spoke to possible opportunities for fundraising: IMAX theatre, Quiz Master, and Rumors Comedy Club. There were general support for a congregational Games Night early in the fall. Events being planned are a Fall Supper in October, a Choir Concert in November, and a Bake Sale in December. Enid emphasized the importance of reaching outside the congregation in planning such events so the same people are not burdened each time. Lorraine emphasized that any individual could, in the spirit of the moment,

initiate a modest fundraiser. (Note: The first step is to inform the Finance Team for its blessing!)

Adjournment:

David Viggars moved the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 pm. Carried. Loraine offered a closing prayer that all leave with joy and hope.

AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

September 13, 2009

This meeting was held immediately following the Sunday morning service, in the Sanctuary.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Glynis Quinn at 1135.

Glynis indicated that there was one item of business remaining from the annual meeting held in June, 2009 - to remove the name of Brian Hemeryck from the Board of Trustees.

MOTION: Gloria Dow – Seconded by Garth Bradley

“That the resignation of Brian Hemeryck from the Board of Trustees be accepted and that Brian Hemeryck’s name be removed from the Board of Trustees.

VOTE: Carried

Glynis introduced the next item of business, that of electing three persons to the Board of Trustees.

MOTION: Gloria Dow – Seconded by Lesley Massey

“That the following persons be appointed to the Board of Trustees of Augustine United without term:

Enid Butler

Jean Grevstad

Garth Bradley

SPOKE TO MOTION:

Glynis emphasized that people considered for appointment to the Board of Trustees are long-standing members of the congregation who have been involved in the life and work of the church. The three persons presented for election today meet these criteria and all are currently involved in leadership roles within Augustine United.

VOTE: Carried

ADJOURNMENT: Glynis adjourned the meeting at 1145.

OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF THE PASTORAL CHARGE

Every now and then I will look through my old photo albums—or for the techies out there, plug my flash drive into the TV and watch a slide show of colourful memories. Each snapshot tells a story and together they create a grand narrative of adventures.

Each page in this Annual Report gives us a snapshot of one particular aspect of the life and ministry of Augustine over the past year. We give thanks for our ministries of music, worship, social justice, small groups, Sunday School, stewardship, pastoral care, congregational life, Oak Table, Fort Rouge Ecumenical Apartments, Presbytery and our work in the community and wider church. Each of these snapshots of ministry tells a story about our passions, interests and just plain hard work! There is much to celebrate in each of these areas.

A significant addition to our ongoing ministries was the arrival of our student intern minister, Alison Etter, in September. We have been able to offer her a ministry of education, support and supervision while benefiting tremendously from her ministry of word, pastoral care, administration and leadership. She has strengthened many aspects of the various ministries described in this report.

Together, these snapshots create a grand narrative of vibrant ministry. There is even more to celebrate when we bring our varied interests, passions and hard work together into the one ministry of Augustine. Instead of holding up each of our individual torches separately, we bring them together to create one brilliant flame that sheds significant light for our surrounding community. As our community partners continue to reinforce, God is still working through Augustine to make a difference in this city and to help others—even those of other faith traditions—to make their lights shine as well.

Matthew 5:16-17 gives us both an apt descriptor of Augustine's collective ministry and a challenge for us to continue casting a light of compassion, acceptance, beauty and justice in our community:

You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with [our generous God]. (The Message translation)

As we read through this 2009 Annual Report, let us give thanks for our generous God and for the many generous hands that have welcomed the Spirit to work through them. May this report inspire us to continue bringing out the God-colours in this world.

Shalom,

Lorraine MacKenzie Shepherd

REPORT OF THE MINISTER EMERITUS

Augustine is a place about which it is impossible to remain neutral. This is a positive statement to make, I think. To be able to maintain an attitude of neutrality about any church suggests that nothing about it has been a challenge, nothing has made a demand, nothing has exhilarated, cheered, worried or blessed. A church you can take or leave is a dead church.

It appears to be the nature, perhaps the calling, of Augustine to provide a style of ministry and mission about which it is impossible to be neutral; once you set foot in the door, you sense that there are and there have always been issues to contend with in this place, that your own comfort and ease cannot be the primary agenda of others, about you, and that though others will do their utmost to include you and to make you feel welcome, you likely will have some choices to make, some attitudes of your own to examine, regarding worship, money, mission. Perhaps that is one of the reasons many place a foot in the door and soon step out again. Quiet neutrality is not an option, nor is the opportunity to hide or to keep to yourself.

A sign of life, I say. It would be wonderful if every new person stayed, of course, and there have been times when we bent over backwards to accommodate everyone's needs in an understandable effort to attract and keep them. We assumed people knew what their true needs were and would respond to the efforts we made on their behalf. That should work-- but it doesn't, in my view. My guess is that people come with needs that are so deep they are unable to articulate what those needs may be. They are like the rest of us, even if we have been part of the church for eighty years or more; we are alike in that we are all looking until something finds us.

The Church's ministry of word, sacrament, pastoral care and mission is offered in the hope and the belief that something in it will be for us "a means of grace"—a means whereby that which is holy will reach out and touch, in us all, those deep needs of which we have only dimly been aware; that the remarkable, steady love of God revealed to us in Jesus will shatter our stony hearts and plant within them the quiet gift of joy.

Even though I have been part of Augustine in one way or another since my own baptism here well over seventy years ago, I see myself as one of those newcomers at the door compelled to make choices and to examine attitudes. With me, this is an ongoing process, necessity and discipline. But I am the better for having to undertake it.

I am also grateful, sincerely so, for the opportunities open to me to continue my own ministry in ways that are vital and energizing to me and, I hope, of benefit to you. Preaching gives me reason to continue the development and practice of my craft. And small group ministries (study groups) provide the opportunity, and the trust, to see something of the depths in those who attend, and to benefit from the riches of personhood that they bring.

Donald Ross
Minister Emeritus

REPORT OF THE INTERN MINISTER

My time at Augustine, though short, has been a precious gift to me. I have been inspired by the generous welcome I received here, and by the beauty of Augustine's people, building, history, and mission.

The final months of 2009 held many special and sacred moments. Members of our Young Adults Group ate together, laughed together, prayed together, and shared the quiet holiness of a starry night in November, around a campfire. The New Members Group held times of startling insight, genuine caring, and challenging honesty. In November, the Responsibility to Protect forum offered a special depth of questioning and exploration. And in December, we prayed together in the style of Taizé, sharing peace, healing and hope together.

Augustine's Sunday School is small but enthusiastic, and I'd especially like to remember the contributions of the children and teachers. Their curiosity, creativity and energy make Augustine a dynamic place to be. The Las Posadas Family Christmas Eve Service was a personal highlight for me, as shepherds, sheep and angels enthusiastically welcomed the birth of Jesus.

Week after week the Augustine choir, and our music director Stuart McVey, provide rich, uplifting music for our worship services. I feel privileged to worship in a community blessed with this gift of musicality and commitment.

After-worship coffee hour has been a holy time for me. This ministry of hospitality that goes on week after week makes it possible for us to foster deeper connections and community with each other, in a divided and sometimes isolating world.

And, I have found Augustine to be a prayerful community. I really value the caring and compassion shown for people who are struggling through life's more difficult moments, both during our Prayers of the People on Sunday mornings, and throughout the week, as our prayer intercessors carry out their important ministry.

I'd like to thank everyone at Augustine for your willingness to become a learning site for a ministry intern. It's a risk and a commitment; and I hope the gifts we have shared have been mutual. Thank-you, especially, to the Lay Supervision Team who have generously given of their time to provide support, feedback and meaningful conversation, and for their willingness to be honest and open to learning. To those who prepared my apartment and office, and who donated items, I truly appreciate your kindness. Thank-you to Sue, Stuart and Alice for your help and support, and especially to Loraine for the wisdom, insight and compassion you have offered as my supervisor.

I will carry Augustine in my heart in the months and years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Etter

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Many may see the year of 2009-2010 as a difficult one. Canada struggled to emerge from an economic downturn; Haiti and Chile faced natural disasters wiping out land, housing, and most importantly taking the lives of many people. Closer to home, individuals within our congregation experienced difficult times, personally, or affecting a family member or close friend. All of these things cumulate into a tone for the year that made some glad to see it come to an end, and others feel life and time are moving too fast.

With this context as a backdrop, we add the specifics of our life together at Augustine. Our prayers have extended to those individuals facing challenges within their personal lives. We have said goodbye to some whose time here on earth with us came to an end. We have welcomed the time spent with our Intern Minister, Alison Etter. Our church community has been enriched by this experience. We have seen new leaders emerge among us, and welcomed others back after a respite, both taking on important jobs within our faith community. This is evidenced in larger team participation, a new young adults group, a busy and involved group of trustees, website development, the return of the Augustzine, and a general recognition there is a growing number of “go to” people within Augustine. Many other things also give us hope, including the increasing number of children and babies in our midst. It is our gift to watch them grow and develop, explore and question, and sometimes enjoy “Candid Camera” type moments as they participate.

At last year’s Annual Meeting we were presented with some clear and difficult challenges. Our reserves were dwindling, and we committed to another deficit budget. We felt the burden of an impending vacancy in the rented portion of our building. Our budgeted deficit was \$10,295. At the end of the year our reviewed accounts show our deficit was actually \$17,510. This scenario does not reflect the work the congregation did to reduce the deficit. Without the vacancy in our rental property, our deficit would have been \$4,690, a little less than half of the budgeted deficit of \$10,295. We cannot afford to lose sight of the nugget of hope buried in this information.

During our Stewardship Campaign we boldly asked for more, and got quite specific about what that might look like depending on one’s current level of giving. The number of people making a pledge this year increased, as did the amount pledged. When someone makes that decision to pledge, it signifies commitment that they have moved from the “I’ll give what I can, when I can” category to the “I commit to this amount, and promise to meet this commitment” category of giving.

Granted, we don't know what may meet us around the corner, but neither are we inexperienced at dealing with the unexpected! As we move ahead and continue to work at being a Christian community of faith in God's world, let us accept the challenges we may face with a clear and confident "I DO, WITH GOD'S HELP" response.

Respectfully submitted;

Glynis Quinn

Chair, Augustine Church Council

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY MANAGER

During 2009 we completed several projects with work done by professionals, but most were accomplished with the dedicated volunteer labour and support of people from our congregation. Thanks goes to these people for their energies and financial contributions.

We hire professional people when work requires special skills or tools or is dangerous such as a roof repair , but little is beyond our volunteers to repair, rebuild, install or paint.

The roof over the entrance at 109 Pulford was completely rebuilt and inside the office at the top of the stairs insulation, lighting, a new ceiling and new roof drain were installed. While this work was done, we moved the occupant to a basement office which we renovated for her use.

The north west entrance (vestibule, stairwell and lobby) was patched and painted. This area received new radiators as the old had frozen. The Lounge/Nursery was painted. The Phoenix Room had joists repaired and a new ceiling installed and painted. New energy efficient lighting was provided.

The Vestry (Lorraine's office) was painted and new electrical and flooring was installed.

The Intern's office was painted and refurbished.

Choir lighting was installed along the balcony rail in hopes that the choir might see to sing even higher notes.

A broken toilet in NAFRO Dance Studio extensively damaged bathrooms on three floors. These were rebuilt with insurance resources.

The 109 Pulford Street handrail was painted by volunteers from our church and MacDonald Youth Services.

Security lights were installed above the lane door and the entrance to MYS.

Our kitchen received its Class 1 health certificate.

We received, through donation, chairs for our Guild Hall and a stove for the kitchen.

Thanks again to the congregation for their support, both financial and volunteer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stuart McVey

Property Manager

HERITAGE STATUS

City of Winnipeg
Planning, Property and Development Dept.
Planning and Land Use Division
15-30 Fort Street
Winnipeg, MB. R3C 4X5
ATTN: Jennifer Hansell, Historical Buildings Officer

March 27, 2008.

Dear Miss Hansell,

On behalf of Augustine United Church, Trustees and Property Team we request the inclusion of the following description for municipal historical designation.

Recommendation: Grade II with the following character-defining elements:

Exterior:

- The north-facing church located on River Avenue
- Complex rectangular plan with Guild Hall/Sunday School building attached to the south end, squared bell tower with metal-clad spire in northeast corner, attached corner turret with conical roof, finial and slender stone spires in southwest corner
- The steep and complex gabled and cross-gabled roof structure
- Exposed, roughly-dressed limestone cladding and buttresses with smooth-cut limestone accenting
- Pointed arch openings throughout featuring stained- and leaded-glass windows with delicate wooden tracery on the front (north), east and west elevations

Interior:

- Formal Auditorium plan featuring a raised choir loft at the south end of the sanctuary with pipe organ, wood plank floors sloping down to the front of the Sanctuary, curved wooden pews placed in radiating rows, and a U-shaped upper gallery along the north, east and west walls supported by delicate columns
- High ceilings with ribbed plaster, coved transepts and decorative medallion screens
- Curved staircases in northeast and northwest corners with decorative wood balustrades and newel posts.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Stuart McVey
Property Committee Chair

Linwood DeLong
Trustees Chair



Planning, Property & Development Department • Service de l'urbanisme, des biens et de l'aménagement

Planning and Land Use Division • Division de l'urbanisme et de l'usage des sols

March 12, 2009

Augustine United Church
444 River Avenue
Winnipeg, MB. R3L 0C7

Attention: Stuart McVey, Property Committee Chair

Dear Sir:

RE: 444 RIVER AVENUE (AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH), WINNIPEG

I am writing to congratulate you on the recent heritage designation of this structure.

As you know, the building was placed on the "Buildings Conservation List", under the terms of the Historical Buildings By-law 1474/77 (as amended), by City Council on October 2, 2008 as a Grade II Structure.

We commend your efforts to conserve this building as part of Winnipeg's vibrant community of built heritage and welcome you as stewards of this magnificent structure. A heritage property presents both exciting opportunities and rewarding challenges, and we look forward to a productive partnership in this regard.

Best Wishes,

Giles Bugailiskis
Senior Planner (Heritage)

Embrace the spirit • Vivez l'esprit

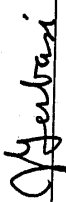
Unit 15 – 30 Fort Street • 30, rue Fort, unité 15 • Winnipeg • Manitoba R3C 4X5
<http://www.city.winnipeg.mb.ca/ppd/>

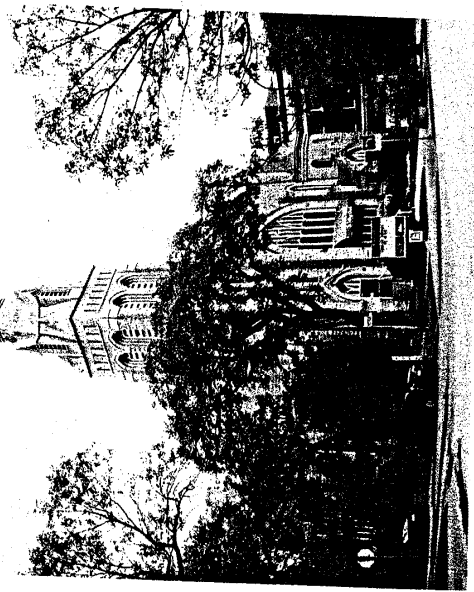


This Certificate is to recognize that on October 2, 2008

**Augustine United Church,
444 River Avenue, Winnipeg**

was listed on the Buildings Conservation List
as a Grade II Heritage site under the terms of the
Historical Buildings By-Law No. 1474/77.


Councillor Jenny Gerbasi
Chairperson, Historical Buildings Committee



REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

In response to a growing number of initiatives at Augustine, the Communications Group was formed by council to publicize and promote the activities of the church. This group consists of five members, Charlie McDougall (chair), Nancy Renwick, Rick Maclowick, Kim Holgate and Alison Etter.

The group has responsibilities in the following areas: improving communications between the church and its membership, increasing Augustine presence within the neighborhood, and promoting the work of Augustine within the larger community. The committee has addressed these goals through the following initiatives.

Our major initiative this year was the design and re-launch of our website. Please visit it at: www.augustineunitedchurch.org. This site has many new features which will assist the larger community in recognizing Augustine as a community that seeks justice; caring, respectful relationships; inclusiveness; a welcoming spirit; and a place for spiritual growth within an Affirming Christian community.

We wish to thank Loraine, Alison, Council, Team leaders, and the congregation for their contributions of website material.

The Communications Group facilitated daily correspondence from the World Council of Churches meeting in Greece. Through a daily blog, Loraine was able to keep church members informed about the activities of this significant church event.

We designed a brochure to assist Augustine in increasing its presence in the neighborhood and in promoting the church within the greater community. It is suitable to be handed out at community events. They were used at a weekly table at the Osborne Village market, hosted by the Gas Station Theatre last summer.

The group also resurrected the AugustZine, providing a forum for congregants to communicate church activities, members' interests, and information about liturgical seasons. Contributions are welcomed at: augustzine@mts.net.

In addition, the Communication Group assisted the church in communicating public events to the media. We created media releases for the Responsibility to Protect Forum in November, ensuring the event was well publicized.

Looking forward, the Communications Group will focus on anticipating trends and emerging events at the church. We anticipate that effective communication with the congregation, will help to boost participation and build community at Augustine.

REPORT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM

Our Team's mandate is to provide social opportunities for the congregation to meet and get to know one another, evoking the lyrics "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you." Our congregation certainly nurtures an atmosphere where acquaintances can quickly become friends. We do, truly, "care for one another."

Our team is indebted to the roster of individuals who regularly sign up to ensure that it is a very rare Sunday that after-church coffee is not served. A wonderful support group was evident this year with perhaps (since no one keeps count) a record number of Sundays when impromptu helpers appeared at the kitchen counter before the service to drop off homemade baking, materialized after the service to assist with pouring or cleanup, took tea towels home for laundering, and so on.

Our most rewarding undertaking was the Winter Escape event on February 24. The evening was very much a collective effort with the theme "Dessert and Talent Offerings," with Tim Higgins as M. C. In spite of the raging storm, 42 people were determined to chase away the winter blahs. It was a lot of fun, a good mix of Augustine and Oak Table ministries, and we raised \$300 for Augustine!

A Congregational Lunch near the end of June has become a tradition, and this year did not disappoint. Smoked wieners donated by Millers Super Valu Meats were barbecued, accompanied by an array of sides and "fixins", to which Sobeys contributed.

Our Team's contribution to the Summer Social Fundraiser, generating \$170, was to host a picnic in Assiniboine Park, with 12 people attending the twice-postponed event. We enjoyed one of the warmest and sunniest Sundays of the summer, ate a sumptuous lunch, and strolled through the English Garden and the Leo Mol Sculpture Garden.

With December 21 marking the shortest period of daylight in the year, we hosted a "Farewell to Fall/Welcome to Winter" lunch on December 20. Three crock pots delivered beef, turkey, and vegetarian chilli, all homemade.

I am most grateful for the help and support of Shelley Coombes, Martha Hill, Cindy Wait, Amanda Wolfe, Alison Etter and Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd.

On reflection, I see the potential in our congregation for a more adventurous or "youthful" outing that would take advantage of a new locale. Do not hesitate to make your idea known and to volunteer your energy!

Respectfully submitted,

Garth Bradley, Team Leader

REPORT OF THE FAITH DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Beginning in September, Catherine Cross and Charissa Buhler became co-leaders of the Faith Development team. Other team members include Garth Bradley, Kristin Sheffield, Alison Etter, and Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd.

Our focus is to provide opportunities for faith development and study for all ages through Sunday School and small group ministry. "There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good, (1 Corinthians 12:6-7).

Sunday School

Allison Wilcox stepped down from the position of Sunday School Coordinator. Her dedication and hard work these past years has made for a smooth running Sunday School program.

Sunday School teachers we welcomed back were: Jennifer Campbell, Catherine Cross, Doug Gauthier, Patrick Woodbeck, Pam Homenick and Kathy Carlson. Joining the team were Charissa Buhler and Sheila Ranson. We have continued using the Whole People of God curriculum, which can be accessed online, to help guide the lessons each Sunday.

Throughout the year, the number of children attending, regular and casual, totaled 16 children. Their ages ranged from 3 to 12 years old. A need for a 10yrs+ youth group was recognized to effectively minister to the older children. We are in the beginning stages of planning and look forward to starting it up in 2010.

For the second year in a row, Augustine held a Christmas Eve Family Service which was led by the Sunday school. A Mexican themed service, focusing on the tradition Las Posadas, allowed both children and adults to participate in the play as well as include any other visiting children who wanted to be part of the play at the last minute (there were 2 new children who joined us). At the end of the service, people were invited to the back of the sanctuary for cider and cookies. Approximately 75 were in attendance, more than doubling the attendance from the previous year.

Small Group Ministry

The model we chose to follow for small group ministry was based on Anne Martin's book, *Rooted in the Divine*. It provides practical ways for congregations to facilitate small group ministry.

The New Members Group with Loraine continued meeting into January from 2008 with approximately 8 participants. In February a group of about 5 attended a Church architecture group with Don Ross. The Lenten Study with Loraine and

approximately 8 others examined the theological background of A New Creed. In the spring, a group of about 10 attended a small group with Loraine on Voluntary Simplicity and Keeping Sabbath.

Lorraine and Alison led a New Members Group in September with 12 participants. In November, Don Ross led a Bible study with 7 participants. It was based on a book by Marcus Borg called, *Reading the Bible again for the First Time*.

The Faith Development Team discussed plans for beginning a Young Adult's group. The following report gives more details.

Sadly, Catherine Cross passed away in November. Her leadership, creativity, and strength were a great asset to this team. She is greatly missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Charissa Buhler, Team Leader

REPORT OF THE YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

The Young Adults Group includes young adults in their late teens, 20s, and 30s. The group gathers on Sunday evenings about twice a month. The purpose of the group is to build community between young adults of the congregation. It provides a safe place for sharing questions and experiences. Each time we meet, we pray together for the members of the group and other concerns.

The group began in November and met four times in 2009.

Our first meeting, on November 1, was a dessert party and brainstorming session. We thought of activities in four categories: Fun, Learning, Spirituality, and Action. We used the ideas generated at this session to plan activities for the rest of the year.

On November 15, we held a board games night at Augustine. On November 29, we traveled to St. Vital Park for a bonfire and marshmallow roast. On December 20, we held a Christmas party and Doctor Mario Wii tournament at the home of Charissa Buhler.

Attendance at meetings ranged from three to eight people. Most of the members attend Augustine regularly and are members of a Team, or volunteer in some other capacity. All the members stated they value the chance to form closer relationships with others their own age. While the Young Adults Group does not undertake planning activities for the congregation, it does help young adults feel more connected to the congregation.

Submitted by Alison Etter

REPORT OF THE FINANCE TEAM

Members: Jonathan Baker Glenise D’Arcangelo, Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd (Minister), Alison Etter (Intern Minister), Sue Stephens (Office Administrator), Monique Vandale (Treasurer), David Viggars (Team Leader)

The task of the Finance Team is to oversee the management of Augustine’s financial affairs to ensure that its financial position and transactions are consistent with Augustine’s mission, and with the requirements of both the United Church of Canada and Revenue Canada. Of course, generally accepted standards of transparency, ethics, and good practice are applied. It is our responsibility to report promptly to Council any financial situations which jeopardise the achievement of its objectives or conflict with legal, regulatory or ethical obligations.

Thank You to Volunteers

We are grateful to the Sunday morning counters who throughout the year, in rotation, have counted and recorded the collections and other income. This year the task has been carried out by Jonathan Baker, Glenise D’Arcangelo, Jean Grevstad, Brian Hemeryck, Nancy Pinnell, Anthony Steffes and David Viggars.

We would like to express our thanks also to Garth Bradley and his team of Stewardship workers for a very successful stewardship campaign whose results are described below.

Last, but not least, as Finance Team Leader and Treasurer we would like to thank the other members of the Finance Team for their support and advice during the year.

Stewardship Campaign, Givings and Fundraising

In the stewardship campaign for 2009 we requested only small increases in givings to keep pace with inflation. Nevertheless, apart from contributions specifically intended for building projects, there was an increase of close to 10% in the givings. Table 1 shows givings since 2006, leaving aside the anomaly created by the large contributions to replacing the boilers in 2008, there has been a steady increase, demonstrating the generosity of Augustine’s supporters

Table 1: Pledged and unpledged givings from identifiable givers in years 2006 to 2009

Purpose	2006	2007	2008	2009
Local programs	\$86,188	\$86,691	\$93,909	\$96,628
Mission and Service	\$11,053	\$12,504	\$12,976	\$13,588

Building projects	-	\$7,060	\$17,736	\$2,725
Student Intern support	-	-	-	\$3,209
Other monetary donations	\$3,097	\$5,894	\$4,294	\$4,616
Supplier donations	\$843	\$3,417	\$1,186	\$4,303
Total	\$101,181	\$115,566	\$130,101	\$125,069

This year's stewardship campaign, for 2010, asked those who gave less than \$1,000 in 2009 to consider increasing their givings by \$60. There were 86 givers in this category in 2009. Not all of them have made pledges for 2010, but the 25 who did pledged an average of \$700 each compared to their average givings in 2009 of \$403 – much more than a \$60 increase. The campaign also included a request to those who gave more than \$1,000 to consider increasing their givings by 2.9% to keep up with inflation. In fact the average pledge in that group increased from \$2,633 (\$3,060 actually given) to \$2,903. This represents an increase of about 10% - well above inflation.

The deficit for 2009 stands at \$17,510, considerably higher than the budgeted amount of \$11,195. Although this looks discouraging in view of the objective set out at the last annual general meeting to move towards a balanced budget it is important to realise that much of this deficit is the result of the unexpected loss of one of our long term tenants. As a result our income was reduced by almost \$13,000. So, if our tenant had not left, our deficit would have been less than \$5,000, which would have been in line with our objectives, and indicates a very generous response on the part of our congregation to the challenges presented in the 2008 annual report. At the time of writing this report a few details are still needed before the budget for 2010 can be finalised, Nevertheless it appears certain that it will show an uncomfortably large projected deficit . It is important however to realise that this is the result of two large items which are not expected to recur. Firstly, although negotiations for a new tenant are in progress they have not been finalised yet and it is clear that a new tenant will not be in place before May at the earliest. Income for 2010 from our leases therefore continues to be anomalously low. If the negotiations are successful and a new tenancy begins in May the rental income for the year will be approximately \$15,000 below what would have been received if our previous basement tenant had not left. Secondly, the expenditure for 2010 includes a repayment of about \$6,700 in GST. This is necessary because several years ago an error was made resulting in unnecessary collection of GST from one of our tenants. The error was identified early in 2010 and consequently the amount erroneously collected had to be repaid. Without the GST repayment and the low rental income the budget for 2010 would probably have shown a small surplus. If we continue to keep our expenditures under control and keep our leased areas fully occupied we should be able to look forward to a balanced budget in 2011.

New format of financial statements

This year, as result of recommendations from the accountant who reviewed our 2009 accounts, we have changed the format of our financial statements to conform to the Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for not-for-profit organizations. Previously our presentation statements have followed a format more common in small for-profit businesses. Members of the Finance Team have been given some help and advice in understanding the new format by members of the congregation who are familiar with the different standards. Finance Team members are willing to provide, or obtain, information to assist others in understanding the new format.

The Finance Team would like to thank Gord Elvers of *Gaudette Elvers LLP CGA* for a substantially reduced rate on the cost of providing the review of our accounts, and for compiling our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Fundraising

During the year a number of people worked very hard organising fundraising events. The total raised was \$10,219. We are very grateful to all the people involved for their efforts.

During the year it became apparent that the Shop and Save program had attracted little interest from the congregation and was yielding too little to justify the administrative work it entailed. Consequently the Finance Team recommended to Council that the program be terminated, and Council accepted the recommendation, which was implemented accordingly.

Oak Table Community Ministry

The formal separation of Oak Table Community Ministry from Augustine necessitated by United Church policy has been completed and therefore our accounts no longer show any activity due to OTCM. There is one exception to this. Augustine continues to hold GIC investments on behalf of OTCM because these are not transferable until the maturity date. When these GICs mature the proceeds will be handed over to OTCM.

Augustine still regards support of the Oak Table as an important part of its ministry, and provides space and facilities as well as administrative services at no cost to the OTCM. This practical support is over and above the congregation's designated monetary gifts to the Oak Table. The value of this in-kind support appears in our budget under "OTCM support". We gratefully acknowledge the Oak Table Community Ministry's contribution of \$1,000 to offset part of the cost of the in-kind support. We are also grateful to the OTCM for continuing to fund internet services (valued at about \$600) for itself and Augustine using grant money it obtains for that purpose.

The Building

Our building supports the ministry of Augustine in two ways. It provides space and facilities for our worship and for other ministry activities, especially the Oak Table, and it yields rental income to offset costs. Of course it can fulfill these roles only if it is properly maintained. As usual, the year has seen significant costs from repair and maintenance work on the building which are described in the Property Team report. Significant expenditure will be required in the next few years on the windows and the roof. Now that the building has been recognised by the City of Winnipeg as a heritage building we are able to apply for grants that are available for the preservation and restoration of heritage buildings. Several staff and volunteers have undertaken the very considerable work of applying for such grants. There is nothing to report yet on the success of these applications, but we thank those involved for their efforts.

The OTCM has submitted a grant application for funds to upgrade the flooring in the areas they use in order to meet the recommendations of Provincial and City authorities. No decision has been received yet.

The Rationale for our Work

The financial affairs of the church tend to attract less interest and attention than worship, programming and other more noticeable expressions of the Church's life. However, the proper financial stewardship of our monetary resources has an impact on most other areas of our church's life. Sunday offerings are part of our worship for a reason; our donations are part of our response to God's presence and guidance, as we commit ourselves to this local expression of the Body of Christ.

Certainly, those of us who track the flow of financial resources and apply ourselves to reporting the results with transparency and helpful commentary, hope that our efforts serve God as well as Augustine's members and adherents. We invite you please to consider your role in the financial support of this faith community and wish you God's blessings in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted

David Viggars
Finance Team Leader

Monique Vandale
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Team Members: Christine Coltart, Jean Grevstad, Lori Lovell, Pat Chammartin, Theresa Chammartin (Team Leader) Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd (Minister) Alison Etter(Intern Minister)

Mandate: To work with the ministers to update the pastoral care list and to ensure that members and adherents receive adequate care and support.

Offering care and support to those in need is the primary focus of the Pastoral Care Team. Under the direction of and in partnership with our minister(s) much has been accomplished this past year.

Communion dates were planned around Easter and Christmas with those who either reside in personal care homes or who are otherwise “Shut In”. This “Breaking of the Bread, offers a sacred time of communion with God and us and provides a vital connection to those who cannot participate in our services. Many pastoral visits were made and calls placed to those in crisis or need. Also several Christmas cards and get well cards were mailed. Maintaining regular communication is a vital part of our Team’s work.

We were blessed to have Alison Etter serve on our Team and, through her, many more visits and calls were made. A big “Thank You” to Alison for her immense help and sharing her gifts of compassion and prayer.

In addition to the above, we as a team regularly update our membership and adherent list and try to connect with those whom we haven’t see for awhile.

During the summer Loraine’s inspiration gave birth to our virtual prayer circle. In the back of our church is a prayer box where anyone who wants prayers is invited to put in a confidential request. The prayer requests are confidentially held within the Team, and only necessary information is distributed to prayer intercessors who originally were asked to pray for a period of one month. As a Team, we were astounded at how many people came forward to be intercessors. Many of them are willing to pray much longer than the original thirty days. We are indeed a prayful community who genuinely “care for each other” as stated in our Mission Statement.

In the fall of 2009, Christine Coltart regrettably resigned after many years on the Team. Her presence is missed and we thank her for her endless dedication and compassion shown to others.

Also in the fall of 2009, we were blessed with a newcomer, Lori Lovell. She brings to the Team her unique gifts and abilities and we are most grateful for her presence.

Lastly, we grieve with all those who lost a loved one, and we remember those in our congregation who have died, and who, though not physically here, remain alive in our hearts.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Chammartin

Pastoral Care Team Leader

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

This past year has seen many changes in the Social Justice Team including long time leader Jean Storey stepping down. We would like to thank Jean for all of her time, effort and commitment to the Social Justice team and its predecessor the Community Outreach Team. This year's team consisted of Amanda Wolfe, Virginia Cramer, Meaghan Buchanan, Echo Ivans, Stefani-Raine Allan and Patrick Woodbeck (Team Leader), Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd and Alison Etter.

Last year the Social Justice Team continued the tradition of hosting a luncheon on Earth Sunday and this past year's organic lunch was a huge success. The Team was also involved in a series of Interfaith services held at Temple Shalom, Winnipeg Central Mosque and Augustine. Once again the Social Justice Team was involved in the Winnipeg Pride Parade as we marched with the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, which has become the first Affirming Conference in Canada. In September, the Team welcomed hosted a 100 mile lunch attended by many members of the congregation. The Team also worked through the Action Table to bring many urgent actions and letter writing campaigns to the attention of the congregation. We look forward to hosting these and other events in the year to come.

The Social Justice Team welcomes all members of the congregation to join in exploring the themes of eco-justice, human rights and justice as we continue to explore our place in God's world.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patrick Woodbeck
Social Justice Team Leader

REPORT OF THE WORSHIP TEAM

The mandate of the Worship Team includes working to provide meaningful and regular worship for the congregation; developing policies for weddings, funerals, and baptisms; overseeing the administration of sacraments; and overseeing membership admission, removal and transfer. The work of the Worship Team is to fulfil this mandate while observing congregational policies and core values; considering the congregation's input and feedback; adhering to the membership requirements of *The Manual* of the United Church; and supporting a larger team of volunteers who work together to support the work of the worship ministry at Augustine.

Worship Team members are Anthony Steffes (Team Leader), Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd (minister), Don Ross (minister emeritus), Alison Etter (student minister, August-December), Stuart McVey (organist/choir director), Bruce Ball, Joan Baragar, Keith Black and Kathleen Venema. The Worship Team supports the work of a larger group listed below:

Choir:

Soprano: Meagan Reimer (soloist), Barbara Ball, Joan Baragar, Debbie Isaacs, Karla Weir

Alto: Sandra Benum, Helen Black, Gerry Daly, Lenora Patrick, Bev Ridd, Oriole Veldhuis

Tenor: Keith Black, Linwood Delong, Rick MacLowick, Linda Taunch

Bass: Tim Higgins (soloist), Jonathan Baker, Brian Hemeryk, Ramon Khan, Anthony Steffes

Liturgists: Bruce Ball, Garth Bradley, Michelle Morton, Gareth Neufeld, Glynis Quinn, Moti Shojania, Kathleen Venema, Patrick Woodbeck

Arranging Greeters and Offering: Gloria Dow

Recruiting Readers: Rick MacLowick

Arranging for Baptism and Communion, including servers: Eileen Cormack

Sanctuary Decorations: Anthony Steffes, Linda Taunch, Georgette Lessard, Ramon Khan, Brian Hemeryk

Sanctuary Maintenance: Christine Coltart, Gloria Dow

The Worship Team sees worship at Augustine as scripture based worship that responds to the faith, spiritual, sacramental, social and political needs of the congregation. The Team works hard to be consistent with United Church traditions, policies, and developments. Maintaining a regular order of worship that is consistent and comfortable to the congregation while being open to creativity is one of our challenges. Some notable topics and actions from our Worship Team meetings this year include:

- Responding to Eileen's request to supply additional communion service vessels and altar cloths
- Examining language and theology
- Considering and supporting services involving additional instruments, children's participation, stewardship statements from members of the congregation, Taizé evening services
- Working hard to maintain a bare bones worship budget, which we managed to do exceptionally well due to the generous donations of communion supplies, bulletins, decorations, music, labour and expertise from various members of the Worship Team and congregation

As the year unfolded we were confronted with various blessings and obstacles. A blessing was the addition of a student minister, Alison Etter, who joined us in September and will remain with us until April 2010. Having Loraine, Don, and Alison is an incredible state of grace. An obstacle presented itself when a planned choir concert for November needed to be cancelled due to the unfortunate accidental fall of Stuart, who broke his ankle in three places. That necessitated his being away to recuperate until January. However, as blessings seem to abound at Augustine in times of need, Helen Black and David Viggars came forward to fill in the musical program through Christmas Eve, accompanying and leading as required. Additionally, Alison Etter and Sara Regehr Neufeld contributed flute accompaniments for the late service, with Ethan Wilcox playing organ, and Loraine the piano for the early service on Christmas Eve.

As we enter 2010 as a strong Worship Team we look forward to a year of new members, baptisms, exceptional creative worship and music, a choir concert, and many challenges and debates that will be part of the way we grow in supporting worship at Augustine United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Steffes, Team Leader, Worship Team.

REPORT OF THE MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is mandated by *The Manual* of The United Church of Canada. The Ministry & Personnel Committee is not a decision-making team but is advisory and consultative in nature, seeking to:

- assist in meeting the Mission and policies of Augustine United Church
- support an effective performance management system
- encourage communication amongst staff, Council and the congregation
- provide the medium through which concerns or issues may be expressed and/or resolved e.g. mediation, conversation

The Ministry and Personnel Committee meet regularly to:

- make recommendations to the Church Council regarding staffing, salaries, position descriptions and working conditions
- conduct an annual performance review for all staff and provide recommendations for the Council
- facilitate the timely resolution of issues

In 2009, the Ministry & Personnel Committee was comprised of Sue Weldon (Chair), Eileen Cormack and Art Veldhuis. The committee met 11 times in 2009, communicating with council through the Ministry and Personnel Chair. The committee focusing on the following goals:

- To develop a staff handbook for ministry and lay staff regarding expectations, policies and procedures specifically related to Augustine United Church
- To value staff, through a consistent liaison and support process
- To continue to focus on a healthy, respectful workplace.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Weldon

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

According to the *Board of Trustees Handbook of The United Church of Canada*, the Trustees of a congregation hold all of the property of the congregation for the use and benefit of that congregation. Property refers to both Real Property (land and buildings) and Personal Property (money, investments, furniture and equipment). While the Trustees hold title to the property, they must follow the direction of the Church Council as to its use.

During 2009 the Trustees, working with Council and Teams, have ensured that sufficient insurance is held for our property, and have participated in an appraisal of the property done with the support of the national church. As well, Trustees take a leadership role in the rental of our property. This took a considerable amount of time as the space vacated by Yoga North has proved to be difficult to lease. Bruce Ball and Linwood DeLong deserve a special thanks for their work in this regard.

In the fall of 2009 the Board of Trustees was expanded to bring the number of members to five. Work was started to clarify the role of the Trustees regarding oversight of such things as investments, insurance and an audit of Church property, as well as supporting the people working on grant applications to prioritize needs regarding building upkeep and repair. Stuart McVey, as property manager, has given invaluable support to the Trustees with regard to property issues. Linwood DeLong has begun the process of digitizing the papers and documents held by the Trustees which will ensure a secure data base of information.

Unfortunately, property rental has taken up far too much time, which has resulted in some work of the Trustees being placed on the back burner. It is hoped that this can be quickly and satisfactorily resolved.

Bruce Ball
Garth Bradley
Linwood DeLong
Jean Grevsted
Enid Butler

REPORT OF RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT FORUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Responsibility to Protect Forum took place on the afternoons of Sunday, November 15 and Sunday, November 22. The purpose of the Forum was to provide an opportunity for people of faith together, explore, and discuss a critical human issue that is challenging to our faith. About forty people attended the first afternoon, and fifty the second.

Part I was titled “Christian Considerations to Peacekeeping and Peacemaking; Exploring Christian traditions of just war and pacifism in light of the Responsibility to Protect.” The three speakers were Peter Denton, ethicist, military historian and United Church minister; Tom Faulkner, Associate Professor of Church & Society, Faculty of Theology, U of W; and Helmut Harder, Professor Emeritus, Canadian Mennonite University.

Part II was “Christian Responses to Stories of Genocides & Massacres” with Waldemar Janzen, refugee from Soviet oppression; Evasio Murenzi, survivor of early Rwandan massacre; Marceline Ndayumvire, survivor of Burundi genocide; and Henny Paritzky, Holocaust survivor.

The Forum was cosponsored by the University of Winnipeg’s Faculty of Theology, who provided posters and honoraria for the speakers.

There was lively discussion in small groups and in the sessions plenary. All speakers were engaging. Participants seriously considered the dilemmas of armed intervention, pacifism, non-intervention and non-violent resistance from a variety of Christian traditions and perspectives.

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES

Over the course of the last 12 months, Augustine has been well represented at the Presbytery, with Linda Ann Sturgeon and Nancy Renwick serving as representatives along with Loraine Mackenzie Shepherd. Bev Ridd and Alice Szemok also served through the Oak Table Ministry, now represented as a separate body at the Presbytery.

The theme at the 2009 meeting of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario at the University of Winnipeg in April 2009 asked the question “How then shall we live?” Over the course of the weekend, presbyters discussed the many different aspects to the question and were invited to reflect on them in talks by Cheryl Jourdain, Gail Asper and the Rev. Bill Blaikie. Those discussions around how shall we live continued, in different ways, over the course of the year at meetings held by the Winnipeg Presbytery.

There were a number of key issues that came up over the course of the year. Among them was a reduction in funding to the Presbytery. This challenge resulted in cuts to a number of areas. In spite of these losses, the Presbytery is moving forward, with focused energy and focused resources on the many areas of work we do.

One of the other key areas of discussion was how to proceed with the Rainbow Ministry, the LGBT ministry within the United Church in Winnipeg, after the minister serving in that role moved on to serve the church in a different capacity. A committee was struck to examine the issue and at the March, 2010 meeting a Joint Needs Assessment Committee was announced to begin the search for a new minister for Rainbow Ministry

As Winnipeg Presbytery moves forward into 2010, there is an ongoing discussion around the possibility of a new ministry in southwest Winnipeg as the church looks to expand into that area. Presbytery will also continue to work to meet the needs of those we serve in our ongoing work through the other ministries. And at the upcoming meeting of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario in Kilarney in May, we will continue to move forward within the broader context of the work of the national church.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Renwick

REPORT OF THE BUNCH FOR LUNCH

This a group of Augustine seniors who meet in the Red Cross Room of Augustine United on the first Tuesday of each month, between October and June. Except for December (Christmas meeting) and June (wind up) we bring our own lunch and enjoy a beverage prepared in the kitchen. We have a business meeting, take a collection and have a social time. Sometimes we have a speaker or someone will show videos of a recent trip, etc. A monetary donation is made in memory of a deceased member.

The majority of the people who make up the “Bunch for Lunch” are remaining members of UCW missions units from the 1940’s, 50’s, 60’s and through the years until they disbanded in the 1970’s. The remaining members didn’t want to lose touch and formed this group.

An average of 12 members attend, and monthly birthdays are celebrated with cake, candles and song. All ages of new members are welcomed.

Jean Grevstad

REPORT OF THE OAK TABLE MINISTRY

On December 9, 2008, Winnipeg Presbytery officially recognized the Oak Table Community Ministry as an Outreach Ministry of Winnipeg Presbytery and approved our new constitution. In December we applied to the Charities Board of the Canadian Revenue Agency for a charitable number. The OTCM was granted charitable status in May 2009. We have a nine member Interfaith Board with three sub-committees. Rev. Alice Szemök is now the minister of the Oak Table Community Ministry and accountable to the OTCM Board. Enid Butler, Don Rivers and Bev Ridd represent Augustine on the Program Committee. Bev Ridd also serves as the Board Chair. Linda-Ann Sturgeon is a Winnipeg Presbytery appointee to the Board.

In 2009 we continued to provide hospitality and programs for the members from the Osborne Village and surrounding areas. Most of our members are on Social Assistance, have minimum wage jobs or are homeless; many have addictions or mental health problems. This year more homeless people and transients (some living under the Osborne Bridge) are attending our Ministry, swelling our numbers in the warm weather.

The Oak Table is open Monday –Thursday from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Volunteers come at 12 noon to prepare coffee and a light lunch. A selection of sandwiches or a hot dish such as soup or chili is served to the members along with juice and coffee. We also serve sweet goods and fruit or veggies as available. Each month we celebrate those with birthdays by serving Birthday Cake donated by our partner churches. We wish to thank the members of the Sikh community for providing a curry meal once a month for our members this year.

On Wednesday we have our popular Art Program. In 2009 it was led by Katie Guth, (Crescent Fort Rouge), Lynda Dean (St. Pauls Anglican) and John Bahry (St. Mathews/Maryland Artist's Circle). Once again several artists from the group exhibited and sold art at the "Art from the Heart" show in November. As well greeting cards were made and sold throughout the year.

After consulting regular attendees, the OTCM Minister arranged with the Winnipeg Regional Health Educator for Fort Rouge (Amanda Younka), to provide a series of programs for our members. In 2009 these included a Healthy Living Bingo, and information sessions on Addictions, H1N1, Foot Care, Coping Skills, and the Depression Mobile Unit. As well the local nutritionist led a session to help people read information on food labels and demonstrated how to prepare a low-cost meal.

Once again members of the Oak Table participated in the Spring Osborne Community Clean-up.

Programs such as these have resulted in an increase of self-esteem and confidence in many of our guests. Guests are now becoming part of the Oak Table volunteer teams.

Some of the special events that we arranged in 2009 included the Spring Barbeque, a July outing to Birds Hill Park, Christmas week activities and the New Years Party. We also provided special food and activities for occasions such as Valentines Day, Halloween and Thanksgiving.

At a volunteers meeting in November, attendees participated in a Fire Protocol and H1N1 information session. As well the volunteers received and approved the new Volunteer Manual and OTCM Code of Ethics developed in compliance with the *United Church Standards and Best Practices Manual*. Several volunteers also attended a First Aid course in 2009.

Over the year, daily attendance at the Oak Table Ministry has ranged from 15 – 70. In the Fall, an average of 30-40 people attended each day. Many more people (80 – 100) attend special events like the New Years Party and Barbeque.

Thirty volunteers worked at the Ministry in 2009. The Oak Table can only function because of their commitment and support. We appreciate their gifts of time and energy.

We are always grateful for the weekly donations of food we receive from the Augustine congregation. We are also grateful for the financial donations, food, clothes and gifts we receive from our partner churches in the Alpha and Omega cluster of Winnipeg Presbytery. We also appreciate the regular donations of coffee and baked goods from Starbucks, baking from the Lilac Bakery and the gift cards we receive from the Safeway for purchases for our Spring Barbeque and New Years Party.

I wish to thank all the members of the OTCM Board and the Oak Table Community Ministry Program Committee for their support this past year. I also wish to acknowledge the commitment of Alice Szemök, our Oak Table minister, in following Jesus' example of being in solidarity with hurting and vulnerable people.

Respectfully Submitted

Bev Ridd

Augustine United Church representative

to, and chair of, the Board of

Oak Table Community Ministry

REPORT OF THE FORT ROUGE ECUMENICAL APARTMENTS

The Fort Rouge Ecumenical Apartments (FREA), located at 400 Stradbrook Avenue, is owned and operated by the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation (MHRC). The Community Ecumenical Ministry (CEM), created in 1966 by Augustine United Church, Crescent Fort Rouge United Church, St. Luke's Anglican Church and Trinity Baptist Church, had a mandate to assess the changing needs of the community. From its beginning the CEM investigated the need for housing in the area, particularly apartments for elderly and low income people. In late 1970, federal and provincial legislation arranged for governments to provide the necessary funding for construction of apartments in the area for the foregoing demographic. Construction of the Fort Rouge Ecumenical Apartments began early in 1972 and the building was ready for occupancy in June, 1973.

The Board of Directors, which manages the day-to-day operation of the Fort Rouge Ecumenical Apartments, consists of volunteers from three of the four founding Churches, i.e., Augustine United Church, Crescent Fort Rouge United Church and St. Luke's Anglican Church.

Approximately one-third of the 146 apartments in the building are one-bedroom apartments and the remainder are bachelor apartments. Fourteen of the bachelor apartments are designed for wheelchairs.

Facilities in the building are many and include an auditorium complete with a kitchen facility, lounge areas, a craft/game room, an exercise room, a library stocked by the Winnipeg Public Library, and on the roof a heated, glassed-in atrium with a lounge area and, outside on the roof, walkways, elevated gardens, and outdoor-seating, all for the enjoyment of the tenants. Laundry facilities are available for use by the tenants.

Age and Opportunity conduct programs for the tenants and the community during the week and have been an integral part of this facility since its opening.

Security includes closed-circuit TV at all entrances to the building and in the main hallways, a computerized key-system for entry into the building, a Medico key-system for each apartment and a medical alarm system in each apartment.

Banking, transportation to a supermarket, hair-dressing and foot-care are all available in the building for the tenants and the community.

There is a waiting list for one-bedroom apartments, However, bachelor apartments become available for rent on a more frequent basis. Eligibility requirements are for those who are 55 years of age or older. Rent is based on the income of the tenant.

Should anyone be interested in moving in to the Fort Rouge Ecumenical Apartments, further information can be obtained by contacting the Manager of the Fort Rouge Ecumenical Apartments as follows:

Building Manager

Fort Rouge Ecumenical Apartments

400 Stradbrook Avenue

R3L 2P8

Telephone – 284-5801

Yours truly,

W. (Bill) Morris

Augustine United Church Representative

on the Board of Directors

of the Fort Rouge Ecumenical Apartments

PASSAGES
JANUARY 2009 TO DECEMBER 2009

BAPTISMS, MEMBERSHIP, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

Baptisms

Raena, Penner	April 19, 2009
Donovan, Colleen	April 19, 2009

New Members

Raena Penner	April 19, 2009
Colleen Donovan	April 19, 2009
Kristin Sheffield	April 19, 2009
Charlie McDougall	April 19, 2009
Cindy Wait	April 19, 2009
Martha Hill	April 19, 2009
Marian Martin	May 10, 2009
Charissa Buhler	May 10, 2009
Joan Baragar	May 10, 2009
Blair Buchta	June 21, 2009
Kim Holgate	June 21, 2009

Marriages

Kristin Lynn Sheffield and Raena Lee Penner	March 15 th , 2009
Andrew Ian MacDonald and Kara Nicole Peterson	August 29, 2009
Jason Akkerman Andrich and Francesca Arkley	September 5 th , 2009
Anders Jon Larson and Katrina Dawn Dancyt	September 12 th , 2009
Craig Steven Hodgins and Kathryn Elizabeth Schick	October 3 rd , 2009
Bryan Charles Tinling and Cynthia Lee Busser	November 14, 2009

A note of thanks to Bob Gilbert, West Broadway Community Ministries, who helped officiate weddings for people from outside the Augustine Community throughout the year.

Deaths

Carol Anne Philipps	Feb. 27, 2009
Linda Diane Julius	March 19, 2009
Richard Van Berkel	May 25, 2009
Rodman John Earl Huska	June 24, 2009
Catherine Ann Krykewich Cross	November 16, 2009

GRANTS AND BEQUESTS

BEQUESTS

In memory of Marion Bradley	\$20
In memory of Catherine Krykewich Cross	\$50
In memory of Linda Julius	\$50