



2006 MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT



Our mission is to bring God's justice, kindness and love to the lives of others. Our concern for that mission is shown by the ways in which we seek to reach out with caring hearts, and a generous spirit.

http://www.united-church.ca/msfund/worship/ms_service.shtm

Committee Members:

Marie Barlow

Nancy Hoevenaars

Dave Taylor

Kevin Webb (Co-Chair)

Michael Collins

Wayne Kaake (Co-Chair)

Joanne Watson

Committee Goals:

1. To educate the congregation of Robinson Memorial United Church about the United Church Mission and Service Fund.
2. To have the congregation actively participate in selected outreach projects.

Accomplishments in 2006:

1. Terms of Reference Document completed and approved.
2. Raising awareness about Mission and Service
3. Outreach
4. Fundraising
5. Congregational Donations to the Mission & Service Fund

Introduction:

There was a passing of the torch in 2006 with David Taylor retiring as Chair with Wayne Kaake and Kevin Webb jointly assuming the position as co-chairs. The committee is very appreciative that Dave has remained on the committee to provide ongoing guidance and support. The committee, while small, is dynamic. This is reflected through their active participation and new ideas that have made the co-chairs work so much easier.

The "Bread Run" is a very successful and rewarding Robinson local outreach project (see addendum report on page 5). Every Thursday volunteers such as Jean and John Dollar, Dorothy Nelson, Marie Barlow, Al Rawson, Lois and Keith Lindsay, Mary Lawrence, and Dave Wenn pick up bread donated (usually by grocery stores) to the Men's Mission on York Street. If the Mission receives more bread than they can use these Robinson "runners" deliver the surplus to a Cascade area assisted housing project in East London. The Mission and Service Committee, on behalf of the congregation and those who receive their weekly bread, would like to extend our thanks for their selfless dedication.

The committee would also like to express its thanks to Kim for her support and assistance for inserting M&S information in the Sunday bulletins as requested and to Steve for putting up the beautiful Mission and Service window shaped bulletin boards in the Wallace Room: windows to the world – how appropriate!

1. Terms of Reference:

It is sometimes said, “that you don’t know you have arrived unless you first know where you are going.” It was not initially clear to the new co-chairs exactly what was the mandate and expectations of the committee. Therefore, 2006 was primarily spent developing its mandate for the future and the creation of a document known as the Mission and Service Committee Terms of Reference. This document was approved by the Committee at its October 1, 2006 meeting and endorsed by Council at the October 16, 2006 Council Meeting. The primary purpose of this document is to provide the committee with a “map” so that it knows where it is going and when it arrives!

2. Raising Awareness:

One of the goals of the committee is to continue to inform the congregation about Mission and Service, the M&S Fund and the World Development and Relief Fund. A “Minute for Mission” would be read from the pulpit every third Sunday and “Snippets for Mission” would be placed in the bulletin at least once a month.

3. Outreach:

The second goal of the committee is to actively engage the congregation in local outreach projects. Local in this context is defined as outreach undertaken by committee with the support of the Robinson congregation. Due to limited human and financial capacity, the committee could, realistically, only undertake a maximum of two outreach projects: one in London and one internationally.

Once the new terms of reference were approved, the committee began working in the fall to identify these two outreach projects. Joanne, Wayne and Michael were tasked with finding a London organization to support while Kevin, David and Nancy investigated possible international causes. After the review of several local organizations and causes it was determined that the committee would focus its 2007 activities on supporting:

1. Locally, **Literacy London** was selected because of the identified need and donations of any size could be utilized for the purchase of literacy materials while not dependent upon repeat donations.
2. Internationally, **Water** was selected because this is an emphasis of the United Church and due to the congregations’ familiarity with the Hoevenaars family well fundraising in 2005.

4. Fundraising

a. Mission and Service Elegant Scarves

One of the first fundraising activities undertaken by the committee was the selling of Mission and Service Scarves to raise funds for the Mission and Service fund. There was a considerable amount of work involved with this

project from getting the appropriate permissions to use the M&S logo and getting the correct colours from General Council.

The project was “kicked off” at the Church Bazaar held on November 25, 2006 and continued through to December 31, 2006. A total of 52 scarves (28 black; 13 Navy Blue; and, 11 White) were sold at \$15 each for non-personalized (29) and \$20 each for personalized (23). This exceeded original projections! There were also some scarves sold beyond the congregation Robinson Memorial United Church to:

- First St. Andrews, London (7);
- Dundas Centre United Church, London (3); and,
- St. Pauls United Church, Sarnia (5).

Also, one scarf was purchased and subsequently given to Julie Kincaid, the senior staff person for Mission and Service at General Council. She was very impressed with the quality of the scarf!

As of December 31, 2006 the unofficial total raised for the Mission and Service fund from the sale of the scarves is: **\$341.00.**

Please note that the elegant scarf project is ongoing even though it will not be publicized. If anyone would still like to order a scarf please complete an order form, available in the Wallace Room, and either hand it into a Mission and Service Committee member or the Church office. The Committee will reintroduce the project in the fall of 2007 and offer it as a potential fundraiser to other United Churches.

b. Coffee Hour

The committee decided to fundraise by having a freewill donation box available when Mission and Service is responsible for coffee after Sunday service. Occasionally, it will also provide “treats”, such as the eggnog and muffins on December 31, 2006 that raised \$25. The funds that are raised will be utilized to support the outreach projects. As of December 31, 2006 the total raised was: **\$56.00 (actual amount to be confirmed)**

c. Mozambique Well Fundraiser:

During the Advent season there was a request from Middlesex Presbytery for the United Churches to raise funds to build wells in Moeipa, Mozambique. There were several announcements from the pulpit and information in the Sunday bulletins. The Mission and Service Committee placed a “thermometer” on the Mission and Service bulletin board located in the Wallace Room to track the donations. As of December 31, 2006 the total raised was: **\$156.30**

d. Other Fundraisers:

The committee is investigating other fundraisers in 2007 that it can implement either independently or in cooperation with other Church committees and/or groups.

5. Congregational Givings to Mission and Service:

The Mission and Service fund connects us to others around the corner and around the world to whom we offer a loving hand of support. The M&S Fund connects us to each other as members of the United Church in Canada and Bermuda, enabling us to speak with a united voice in advocacy and justice work and to participate together in our worship life. The M&S Fund connects us to our faith: we live in God's world, we believe in God who works in us and by the Spirit. The M&S Fund is the only fund in which members and friends of the United Church pool their donations. It is through the Mission and Service Fund that we collectively live our creed "to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, and to seek justice and resist evil." (<http://www.united-church.ca/msfund/whatis.shtm>)

Nationally, as of December 15, 2006 the Mission and Service fund has received a total of \$20,082,577.58 from congregational donations. This represents 67% of the 2006 \$30,000,000 goal.

The Robinson Memorial United Church congregation has contributed \$12,644 to the Mission and Service Fund as of November 30, 2006. This represents 97% of the \$13,000 2006 commitment. (Note the final numbers are not yet in but it is expected that Robinson will exceed its 2006 goal).

CONGRATULATIONS to the Robinson Memorial United Church Congregation for exceeding their goal in 2006.

The 2007 objective is to raise a minimum of **\$12,000** for the Mission and Service fund through Congregational donations.

In retrospect, 2006 was a year of transition for the Mission and Service Committee as it developed a more formal set of goals, objectives and activities to provide it with the "map" to move forward. 2007 promises to be an exciting year as the committee, with support from the congregation, becomes more effective in meeting its goals as set out in the Terms of Reference.

Respectfully submitted by

Kevin Webb and Wayne Kaake
January 15, 2007

Robinson Community Outreach

February 11, 2007

Daily Bread Run



Each Sunday, the Daily Bread Box at the rear of the Sanctuary, is checked to see if any groceries have been donated. I wait until I have four or five bags before I make a trip down to St. Paul's.

There are special occasions when there is a large collection, such as "White Gift Sunday" and Thanksgiving, etc... The groceries are welcome at anytime. They get delivered to the side door of St. Paul's and taken upstairs during the morning.

I would like to thank the dedicated Robinson volunteers, including:

Jean Dollar	Lois Lindsay
Mary Lawrence	Dorothy Nelson
Pinky Rawson	Dave Wenn

Mitten Tree at Christmas:



When the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary is dismantled, the mits are placed in plastic bags. Jamie Greene, as the treasurer of East London United Church Outreach Cluster (ELUCO), was asked to take care of the mittens and take them to the next ELUCO meeting where they will be given to Carole Langford, the Social Worker with ELUCO, East London.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Barlow