

# UNION CHURCH WELCOMING COMMUNITY

annual  
report  
2015



UNION  
CHURCH  
佑寧堂

## TRUSTEES

Geoff Lovegrove (Chairman)  
 Rosanna Chan  
 Alan Law  
 Isabel Morrison  
 Henry Ngan  
 John Nicholls  
 Marga Wulfgram-Ip

## DEACONS

Don Kanak (Clerk)  
 Terri Appel  
 Charles Caldwell  
 Jean de Groot  
 Shlivya Dhavale  
 Steve Nutland  
 Alexander Mak  
 Mike Witthoft  
 Brian Woo  
 Catriona Woodrow  
 Christine Wu

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

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 Gus Henderson (Vice-Chairman)  
 George Ding (Hon. Treasurer)  
 Ellen Ahn (Hon. Secretary)  
 Jane Arnett  
 Po Cheung  
 Kenneth Chiang  
 Simone Loke  
 Alison Middleton  
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 David Runciman  
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# Senior Pastor's Message

By Greg Anderson

Read these reports and relish the way God continues to work at Union.

On Christmas Eve we learned that the long-awaited permission to build was received. This was the result of fervent prayer and the heroic work of the BUFF committee. Let's continue to pray and prepare for the future our Lord has planned for us.

The secret of Union's growth has been our attention to the "grand essentials." Worship, children's ministry, youth ministry, congregational care, and missions have had banner years. Thank you for your prayers and participation.

As we face an always uncertain future, I thank God for the joy of serving with you. The church boards, the staff, and volunteers have made this a place of growth and grace. Let's celebrate where we have been and where we are going. And let's follow even closer after Christ.



Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg".

# Trustees' Report

By Geoff Lovegrove, Chairman



The Trustees for 2015 were: Mr. G. Lovegrove (Chairman); Dr. Rosanna Chan; Mr. A. Law; Mrs. I. Morrison; Dr. H. Ngan; Professor J. Nicholls; and Mrs. M. Wulfram.

As described in our Ordinance, the Trustees are the body corporate of Union Church. The Corporation holds the church's property in trust for the purpose of a church: for the public worship of God; for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the principles and usages of Protestant Christians for the sole object of spreading the knowledge of Christ; and for the instruction of children and adults; provided always that the Church shall accept as its primary standards the Word of God

as witnessed to by the scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments, the Trinitarian Doctrine of the Christian Faith, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. A day-to-day function of the Trustees is to oversee the management of investments Union Church is fortunate enough to possess through the foresight and good stewardship of our predecessors.

The church has two main investment funds: the General Fund and the Three-Quarter Century Fund. There are no restrictions on the use of the former; however, there are on the latter. The Three-Quarter Century Fund was established shortly after the First World War, about 75 years after the foundation of the Church, and any income or capital can be used only

for specified expenses and outgoings connected with maintenance of the church's Ministry. In effect, the Three-Quarter Century Fund is the investment set aside to ensure that we can continue to employ a Minister should we ever be unable to pay our way.

At the end of 2015 the market value of the General Fund was approximately HK\$13.41 million and of the Three-Quarter Century Fund approximately HK\$7.57 million, each showing a loss for the year of about 1.8%. The General and Three-Quarter Century Funds have lost about 2.2% and 2.4%, respectively, over the past five years, and have gained about 64% (60 %) over the past 10 years.

The Trustees' objective for the two Funds continues to be to achieve long-term capital growth with a low to medium level of risk exposure. The two Funds are invested in Fidelity Global Investment (FGI) Fund – Stable Growth Fund (Class A), managed by FIL Limited. The FGI Fund is authorised by the Securities & Futures Commission and complies with MPFA regulations and also meets the Trustees' criteria by

having an asset mix of 50% equities, 45% bonds, and 5% cash.

The Trustees do not have personal control over the ethical nature of the companies in which the church's funds are invested so they are not able, for example, to screen out gaming or other stocks they consider inappropriate for the church to hold. However, the Trustees note that Fidelity is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, a voluntary framework for incorporating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues into investment decision-making and ownership practices. The Principles for Responsible Investment are consistent with FIL Limited's approach to Corporate Social Responsibility. The ESG concept evolves from Ethical Investing, which started many years ago when religious organisations questioned their investments in companies that did not align with their faith and began making moral choices about where they invested their funds. FIL's approach to responsible investment is as follows:

- always act to protect its clients' economic interests and to maximise their investment returns;
- actively integrate ESG considerations into the investment decision-making process;
- incorporate ESG issues into ownership policies and practices;
- seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by entities in which FIL invests; and
- be proactive in strengthening its links within the investment industries, governments, regulators and exchanges around the world in order to determine the most effective ESG initiatives for its investment process and set out a clear marker as to its commitment to maintain a high ethical standard.

In overseeing the management of the Church's investments during 2015, the Trustees summarise the situation as follows:

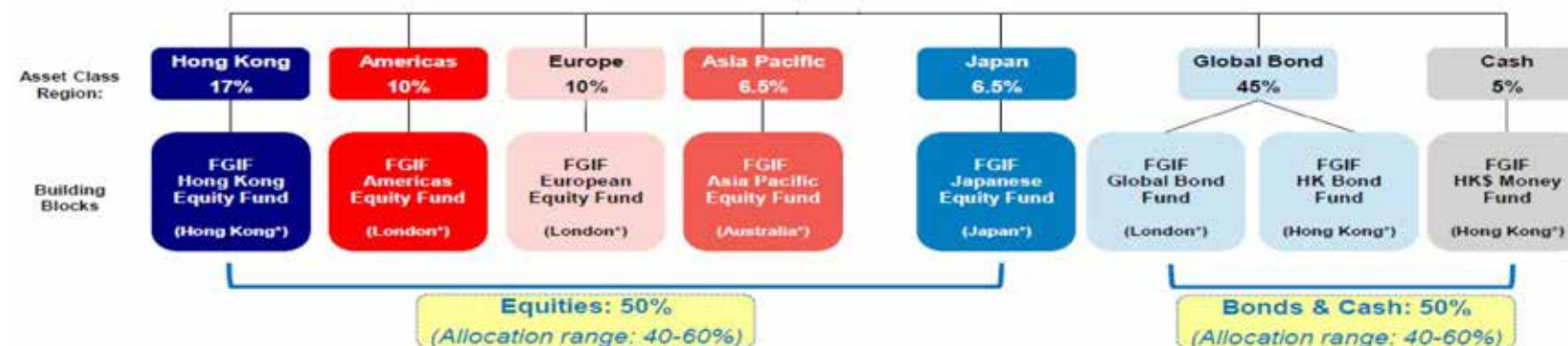
(a) the aim of the church's investments is steady growth and income with low to medium risk;

(b) the funds are managed by Fidelity: FIL Investment Management (Hong Kong) Ltd; and

(c) the funds are invested 50% in equities in six regional (worldwide) pooled funds, 45% in bonds in two regional (worldwide) pooled funds and 5% cash.

The Chater (Union Church) Endowment Fund is an endowment fund that is too small to be managed alongside the General and Three Quarter Century Funds. Invested in Hang Seng H Share Exchange Traded Funds (with a small amount of cash), the Fund was valued at HK\$80,219 at the end of 2015, showing a loss of about 24% on the year. No disbursement was made from the Fund to Committee of Management which, in accordance with the Fund's Deeds, is responsible for the use of any income.

The Trustees have been represented in redevelopment discussions (through the BUFF committee as reported elsewhere) by Dr. R. Chan and G. Lovegrove with professional advisors when required (e.g., matters relating to



Source: FIL Limited

tax and the reversion trust set out in the church's Ordinance). On the advice of tax and legal advisors the Trustees have agreed to maintain control of the property up to the time when long leases are sold to third parties to pay the developer's costs, profit and fees. Also, because our Ordinance contains a reversion trust stating that if we cease to use our premises (or any substituted for them) for the purposes of the trust described above for more than two years then instead, the Trustees must hold the Church's assets in trust for the London Missionary Society in Hong Kong. We have been advised that this reversion trust is unlikely to be triggered as a result of the redevelopment project but we have agreed to a request by Henderson to seek a declaration by the courts to this effect. This and unforeseeable serious delays in Government approvals have resulted in redevelopment not being as far advanced at the end of 2015 as had been hoped and the overall programme has been set back about twelve months. Notwithstanding this, the developer continues to remain positive and encouraging. The Trustees wish to express their gratitude to the many members of the congregation who have contributed their skills and who have worked extremely hard to overcome hurdles that are part and parcel of implementing a redevelopment such as the church is planning. The Trustees remain confident in the proposed redevelopment which means that today's congregation can leave a church that will remain both independent and financially secure for many future generations.

## Deacon's Court

By Don Kanak, Clerk



The Church Ordinance charges the Deacon's Court with responsibility with the Minister for matters relating to the spiritual welfare of the Church. Deacons meet with the Senior and Associate Pastors monthly for prayer, deliberation, and encouragement of each other and of the various Union ministries. During 2015 we were blessed with three new deacons, Jean de Groot, Steve Nutland and Brian Woo. We were also moved by the departure of deacon Andrew Chua, as he and Debbie accepted the Lord's call to return to London to pursue theological studies, mission and ministry. We also celebrated deacons Alexander Mak and Catriona Woodrow deciding to commence formal theological study in Hong Kong. We will all be enriched by their scholarship,

sharing, and spiritual growth.

In addition to duties as a group, deacons serve individually as liaisons to Union's ministries, working with the pastors, staff, ministry volunteers, and counterparts on the Committee of Management to support each ministry's spiritual health and effectiveness. The deacons (and ministry liaison roles for 2015) were as follows: Terri Appel (Missions, Youth); Charles Caldwell (Prayer, Youth); Jean de Groot (Small Groups & Adult Education); Shlivya Dhavale (Prayer); Alexander Mak (BUFF, Small Groups, and Adult Education); Ken Morrison (Stewardship); Steve Nutland (BUFF, Stewardship); Mike Witthoft (Fellowship, Membership, and HR); Catriona Woodrow (Fellowship,

Membership); Brian Woo (Worship and Music); Christine Wu (Children's Ministry, U-Café).

There are few churches as diverse as Union. Our diversity covers all dimensions: faith traditions, ethnicities and languages, professions and careers, interests and passions, spiritual gifts and callings, and so on. Diversity creates challenges, but Union flourishes in diversity when we remember our founding (1849) Declaration of Faith, to get beyond the small matters in which we differ, and unite in the "great realities" — that we love and are loved by Christ Jesus, who died for us, and in so doing offered us a new, better, eternal life, and a chance to serve Him and others.

In 2015 Union again flourished through its many ministries, inspired worship and music, and a range of outside speakers in events from the 200th birthday celebration of James Legge, to the visits of Chip Hardwick, Jerry Root, Philip Yancey, and others. We were blessed by a faithful Prayer Ministry, and by many opportunities for Fellowship, from Small Groups and newcomer/new member lunches to all-church BBQ, Thanksgiving and Christmas meals together. Our Youth inspired us with their faith and purpose, and our Kingdom Kids reminded us at Christmas of their talent and the special love that Jesus has for children.

It is impossible to capture "spiritual health" in a measure or phrase, but recently the deacons gratefully received from Po Cheung an analysis of the All-Church Survey conducted

last October. The survey explored Union's demographic diversity and also asked for the Congregation's feedback on all aspects of the church. Po reported that the survey showed high levels of satisfaction overall. I was encouraged that the highest scores of agreement were in response to the two most important questions: "Do you agree that being at this church has made a significant difference in my relationship with Christ?", and that "Do you agree that the teaching of this church helps me grow spiritually?" We should not receive this good news with complacency, but rather be thankful to God for blessing Union with the presence of the Holy Spirit, and making Union a place of spiritual growth.

I thank each deacon, the pastors and staff, the CoM and Trustees, and the many volunteers, who selflessly dedicate their time and talents to serve specific ministries and Union overall. It has been a pleasure to serve with you.

# Committee of Management Report

By Roy Huang, Chairman



*"The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established." (Proverbs 19:21)*

Your Committee of Management is comprised of volunteers elected at the Annual General Meeting and who, together with the Senior Pastor, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary as ex-officio members, take up responsibility for the management of Church property and the temporal affairs of the Church.

In addition to their collective

responsibility for such matters, each member of COM works closely with one or more ministries of the Church whose reports are included throughout this year's annual report. Individual COM members provide continuity and connection between the various ministries of the Church and COM to ensure that ministries have a voice at COM so that their issues and concerns might be heard and their events and celebrations might be shared.

This year's COM ministry representatives were: Stewardship – Simone Loke; Small Groups and

Fellowship – Grace Siu; Youth – Frank Proctor; Children – Po Cheung; Worship – Ken Chiang; Missions – Jimmy Phua; Oasis – Gus Henderson; Property – Jane Arnett; BUFF – David Runciman; Communications & IT – Po Cheung and Frank Proctor; Legal – Roy Huang; and Human Resources – Alison Middleton and Ken Chiang.

In 2015, COM often in consultation with the Deacons, Trustees and Church staff, again addressed the myriad of matters that are part of Church life including budgeting and funding, personnel changes, property matters, insurance, policies and procedures. In addition, this year we conducted an All Church Survey, the last such survey having been conducted in 2012. We received 371 responses to the survey, which was conducted in October, and in terms of what is “very important” to respondents (284 out of 356 or 79.78% said “preaching” and 240 out of 344 or 69.77% said “spiritual growth”), 59.48% of respondents were “very satisfied” with the preaching and 84.66% of respondents were “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the church overall. While grateful for these results the survey returns also indicate that there is room for the greater involvement of respondents in the life of the Church beyond Sundays, which presents a wonderful objective for 2016.

Redevelopment planning continued to make progress in 2015 and all involved remain as committed as ever to the vision of a new church and will continue in 2016 to push through the plans that have been shared at

different times during the course of the year. Despite a number of issues and challenges, big and small, the BUFF team has been creative and tireless in overcoming each one and has kept BUFF firmly on track.

As reported in the Treasurer’s report, we ended 2015 with a surplus largely due to better than expected giving and lower expenses in relation to staff costs. Due to your prayers and faithfulness, we enter 2016 in a sound financial position.

When one looks around at all that is going on at Union Church, there are so many people to thank. In particular, the Church staff (our pastors and ministry heads and assistants, administration and housekeepers) and the numerous volunteers among us deserve recognition for what they do every day to “making Union a place where Christ is exalted and each person matters.” We should be grateful for every member of staff and every volunteer, their faithfulness and trust in God, for what they have accomplished in 2015 and without whom little would get done and with whom COM’s job is so much easier. COM looks forward to working more closely than ever with both staff and volunteers in 2016.

## Encourage

### Associate Pastor’s Report by Michele Bland



*“God loves people because of who God is, not because of who we are.”*

It seems fitting to quote from Philip Yancey in this year’s report since hosting him for two nights was one of my personal highlights. These evenings were well attended and went very smoothly thanks to the various teams who helped. Special thanks to Charles Caldwell who believed Union Church was tech-savvy enough and would embrace online booking system Event-Brite. Thank you to the various teams who helped make these evenings successful - scanners, booksellers, ushers and greeters.

“Christians are not perfect, by any means, but they can be people made fully alive (Soul Survivor: How my faith

survived the church).”

Seeing people become fully alive in Christ was another highlight. Teaching baptism and membership classes, as well as meeting parents who wanted to have their children baptised and/or dedicated was a privilege and encouraging.

- 15 babies/children were baptised
- 3 babies/children were dedicated
- 17 people became members of Union Church
- 14 adults were baptised

“Christianity is not a purely intellectual, internal faith. It can only be lived in community.” (Philip Yancey, Church: Why Bother?)



There were many expressions of community this year. The All Church Family Retreat was a great opportunity for the UC community to connect to God and with one another at Wu Kai Sha. It was a wonderful weekend with Dr Jerry Root who came from Wheaton College. He taught, challenged and encouraged us. Special thanks to Lee-Ann for her administrative abilities and the staff team who provided various programs - Brenna youth; Lee-Ann children; Chris worship.

Other forms of community included some training and equipping. Jerry Root spoke on Evangelism Training for small group leaders; I facilitated a Grief Share group for five weeks as well as facilitating two small groups.



Small Groups continue to provide opportunities for community building. These unique groups meet in various forms, in various locations and on various nights of the week. There are young adult groups, mom's groups, married's groups, men's groups and the list goes on. Special thanks to: Charles Schmitt, Dave Donnelly, Eric Fung, Crystal Lo, Denis Wong, Rina Tan, Barbara Yorks, Mike and Sheri Witthoft, Nick and Terri Appel, Lyn and Teresa Fox, Mike Powers, Eunice Chan, Elizabeth Badolato, Jordan Wilkins, Citrine Ho, Joshua Ng, Diana Lin, Anna Denney, Bernard Wai, Alex Ting, Rebecca Brosnan, Amos and Alison Lyso, Krisitan Odebjer, David McKellar, Terry Liang, Andrew MacGeoch, Alexander Mak, Ellen Demuynck, Tina Liu, Brian and Carrine Woo, Karen Chan Mulvenna, Patrick and Mariam Wong, Ester and Eugene Chung, Linda and Aaron Tan.

The Family-in-Need team practically and pastorally cares for 9 people on a regular basis. The needs are varied and dynamic. I am grateful for the committed and thoughtful ministry of the chairman Charles Schmitt, Isabel Morrison and Jean de Groot.

The Hospitality Team plays a vital role in providing connecting opportunities to build community. This year there were Welcome Lunches (4); Membership Lunches; Summer Kick Off BBQ's (2); Potato Salad competitions; Pastor Greg's Birthday Bash; Fall Kick Off BBQ's (2); Fall Brunch for 9:30AM service; Small Group and Christian Education lunch; Connect Sunday and the

annual Thanksgiving Feast. Over many Sundays throughout the fall the hospitality team was serving as we attempted to build community through 6 weeks of family meals after church. I am very grateful for the help of Kwai Ying, Bianca Yip, Colleen Nichol, Mariki Venter and Mariam Wong.



The deacons work hard at building community and it is a joy to work with them. They play various roles to build up the body of Christ. Thank you -Don Kanak, Charles Caldwell, Terri Appel, Alexander Mak, Ken Morrison, Steve Nutland, Shlivya Dhavale, Catriona Woodrow, Mike Witthoft, Christine Wu, Jean de Groot and Brian Woo. This year we fare-welled Andrew Chua who moved to the UK.



My role at Union has also afforded me pastoral care opportunities. I have conducted funerals and weddings, as well as met couples for pre-marriage counselling and pastoral care. I have also continued to give RTHK radio devotionals, participated in the Christian Council committee for radio, as well as connect regularly with the women's clergy group.

Philip Yancey stated, "I rejected the church for a time because I found so little grace there. I returned because I found grace nowhere else." I love the church and it is my prayer that Union Church will be a place where grace is freely dispensed.

## Prayer Ministry by Charles Caldwell

God warms His hands at our hearts when we pray. God speaks to us through His written word, the Bible. We speak to God through prayer. Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between His will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer. The backbone of the church's prayer ministry team is the Union Church Prayer Chain. Prayer requests or praise reports are emailed to this group who remember people in their prayers. This year the prayer chain increased considerably in size to well over 125 individuals. Individuals who have left Hong Kong remain on the prayer chain, therefore, in many ways, people are receiving global prayer coverage once prayer requests are submitted. Throughout each week, intercessors receive prayer requests or praise items. General prayer items are placed in the weekly Sunday bulletin and on the church web site. This past year, those attending church would have seen an increase in prayer support following each service on Sundays. The Prayer Ministry team also held several prayer evenings for the church, specifically the church redevelopment project was lifted up in prayer at this time. If you feel called to join the Union Church Prayer Chain, or to pray with people after services, please let us know.

*"Prayer does not change God, but it changes the one who offers it." Soren Kierkegaard (1847)*

If your day is hemmed in with prayer, it is less likely to come unraveled. If you wake unexpectedly in the middle of the night, ask God whom you should pray. When you are in the dark, listen, and He will give you a very precious message.

For the coming year, our goal is to stimulate individuals to pray more for one another and to challenge one another to pray for those whom we wish not to pray! Jesus said in the Bible, "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." Matthew 5:44. We encourage people to rely on one another, as the Body of Christ, for prayer and encouragement, not just during difficult times but also to give praise for the successes in life. Nothing tends more to cement the hearts of Christians more than praying together. Never do we love one another so well as when we witness the outpouring of each other's hearts in prayer. Just as we share in the joys of life we also share in the tears. *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)*

*"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:13-14)*

## Educate

### Assistant Pastor's Report by Matthew Fredericks



Theologian Karl Barth wrote, 'Prayer without study would be empty; study without prayer would be blind.' Prayer is absolutely essential to the ongoing successful proclamation of the Gospel by the congregants of Union Church to the Mid-Levels community, in workplaces and homes across Hong Kong, and in serving needy people around the world. Union's prayer life undergirded the family retreat, Alpha, many mission trips, the Walk to Emmaus, the worship teams' preparation and delivery on Sundays, each sermon, the hard work of the small group leaders--to name only

a few. Union also studied this year. Studying and applying to daily life a 2,000 to 3,500 year old text, though guided by the Holy Spirit, is hard work for everyone. Sermons, Bible studies, and private devotions are invaluable resources for this work. The church as an entity sought to know Christ more intimately through Paul's lessons in Romans 12-16, the stories of Genesis 16-35, and the instructions in 1 Timothy 1-6. Pastor Greg finished his series on Romans and then initiated and completed a new series on the first epistle to Timothy. Thanks to Pastor Greg's passion for cultivating

Union's relationship with universities and faith communities around the world, noted guest speakers and authors shared and enriched greatly the Sunday pulpit. Visiting speakers included Dr. Sam Tsang, Abdu Murray, Dr. Chip Hardwick, President Jeff Greenman, Dr. Mark Gandolfi, Stephen Howard LVO, Andrew Chua, Dr. Philemon Choi, Rev. Dr. Paul Stevens, Dr. Os Guinness, Dr. Ramesh Richard, Pastor John Snelgrove, and Bob Kilpatrick. May Union persist in a full devotion to prayer (Colossians 4:2) and keep the tradition of being a place wherein the scriptures are examined daily (Acts 17:11). As St. Benedict emphasised, 'ora et labora,' and may our studious, servant-hearted labour and ardent prayer lead us ever to the Cross of Christ.

## Children's Ministry by Jacklien Lee

The vision of Union Church Children's Ministry is to raise children for Christ's Kingdom by providing a program for children ages 10 years old and younger in a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment. We strive to provide a place where children can learn about God's Word in fun, thoughtful, and interactive ways.

In 2015, our specific goal was to raise compassionate and caring children who are able to share God's love with their community, especially people in need. Programs and events organized throughout the year were organized around this goal.

Last year on Easter Sunday, a worship and interactive storytelling session took place on The Green, followed by activities such as decorating cookies and making crafts, in addition to an Easter egg hunt. More than 120 kids attended.



Our Vacation Bible School last summer was titled "EVEREST", which we formatted into five-hour long Sunday

School lessons over the course of five weeks. Our goal for Vacation Bible School was to create awareness about a community in need, and the deadly earthquake that struck Nepal was a very worthwhile cause that fit this goal. Not only did the children learn about God's love and mercy, but they were also able to put these same attributes into practice by raising more than HK\$12,000 in donations for the victims. This money was donated to the Crossroads Foundation to purchase tents and food supplies for those affected by the earthquake.

At the end of October, we welcomed more than 360 people to the Union Church grounds as we held our annual Hallelujah Party, which had a Jungle theme this year. All three of our Pastors and more than 40 volunteers committed their time and energy to make the event a great success, not only for the Union Church family, but also for the wider community. Through this event, we have added new families into our regular Sunday School program and also the Union Church Playgroup program.

In December, we collaborated with a Christian production company, Dove Tales, to stage the "Christmas Unplugged" Children's Musical. This Musical re-told the story of the birth of Jesus Christ and incorporated the younger generation's obsession with electronic gadgets. More importantly, the musical emphasized the importance of family time and

community service. We had two separate casts for the two services, so that more children would have the opportunity to participate in the musical.



We also worked alongside the Saturday Small Group led by Patrick & Mariam Wong to organize a Christmas dinner for the homeless and poor elderly people under the care of **Saint Barnabas Society & Home**, which was perfectly in line with our 2015 goal. We worshipped, played games, served hot meals, and presented the elderly people with gifts of daily necessities. Kingdom Kids parents and children had participated in a cookie-baking session held at Union Church beforehand, and gave out cookies to the elderly and homeless people during the dinner.



In addition, with the leadership, guidance, and support of Julian and Judith Ragless, we visited the **HOLF (Home of Loving Faithfulness)** with a group of 16 children and 18 adults to perform a mini-Christmas Unplugged Musical for the HOLF residents. We also presented the staff and volunteer workers at HOLF with Christmas gifts and a donation of HK\$46,984 as a love offering to support the amazing work that HOLF has been providing to our community.

We held two Book Fairs in 2015, one in February and another in November. We provided a wide variety of books such as Bibles for children and adults, devotions, storybooks, trivia books, parenting books, prayer books, Philip Yancey books, and children's music and video CDs and DVDs. We had a great response from parents and received favorable comments about the variety of books on offer.

The beginning of 2015 was a challenging time for our Ministry, as we bid farewell to our beloved Children's Ministry Director, Ting Guevarra. Ting did a marvelous job, bringing the Children's Ministry to a new level of success. We are indebted to her for her loving ministry to all the families of Union Church. We also had to bid farewell to about ten families during the year, including our Creche Manager, Michelle Borgeest, who moved with her husband to Singapore.

It has been difficult to bid farewell to so many people this year, but we take comfort in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to

harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". We rejoice in knowing that God will go before these families and set the path before them as they move to new destinations.

We give thanks to our Lord for watching over us during this transition period and providing us with replacements for both the Children's Ministry Director and Crèche Manager in a timely manner. We welcomed Jacklien Lee to the role of Children's Ministry Director, Elena Liu to the role of Creche Manager, and Elza Wong to the role of Children's Ministry Assistant. They have been given the task to continue the wonderful work that their predecessors have set up before them.



We also give thanks for all our amazing volunteers. Without their love, support, and dedication, our Ministry would not be as vibrant. Our volunteers are the heart of our ministry and they play a key role in helping us fulfill our goals and realize our vision. The Children's Ministry is truly thankful for their devoted service and we are eternally grateful.

We look forward to seeing what God has in store for the Children's Ministry

in 2016. We continue to trust in the Lord for His provision and guidance as we continue to share God's Word and walk hand-in-hand with our families in raising our children for Christ's Kingdom.

## Youth Ministry by Brenna Dykman



2015 was a wonderful year for the Youth Ministry at Union. Over the past year, we have seen tremendous growth in our program—both spiritual, as our youth have grown in their faith, and also in the size of our group. This fall we hit record high attendance of more than 70 youth one Friday night, and Friday Youth Group attendance has been averaging 50 to 60 kids.

Some of the other highlights of the youth programs have been:

Over the Easter break, we took 22 youth and adults to Mongolia to work with **Flourishing Future**. It was a special week that challenged both youth and adults to review life priorities and to renew our commitment to seek and learn more about God.

In late May, we celebrated the end of our confirmation class by confirming 11 of the 12 students and baptizing five of our youth at our 'Youth Sunday Service.' The Youth Band kicked it off with a wonderful set and the congregation was touched by the deep and profound testimonies that the youth shared.

In October, 31 youth and adults went down to Manila, Philippines to partner with **Kids International Ministry (KIM)**. The youth built 3 homes in the community and also helped with KIM's feeding programs and at the local children's home. In addition, we participated in an amazing night of worship and shared testimonies with the Jazz home for at-risk girls and the youth group of Union Church of Manila.

While there have been many great moments this year, one of the most moving occurred at this year's Youth Banquet, which set a record year for fundraising. The generous Union Church community sponsored our youth to go to the Philippines and build 9 homes for families in need, which brought tears to the eyes of many of us.

This was a wonderful year for our youth and our program. We would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has given of their time and talents; without our faithful volunteers we could not have had the success that we did. We look forward to what God has in store for the Youth Ministry in 2016.



## Oasis by Matthew Fredericks



In its fourth year, Oasis continued to serve as a launching point for young adults to build Christian friendships, serve others, and know God better. Oasis met every Wednesday including over several public holidays. Over 200 young adults attended an Oasis mid-week service.

Oasis is an umbrella term for all the young adult programs at Union Church, encompassing roughly 300 people. Aside from Wednesday nights, there are many active Bible studies, affinity groups, and small groups comprised primarily of young adults. Joshua Ng and Citrine Ho have lead for many years 40.31 FM, a small group that gathers every Sunday for Bible study, and hosted amazing events such as a retreat to Lantau on 6 September. Amos and Allison Lyso lead a small group for young professionals on Sundays after church. Bernie Wai, Rebecca Brosnan, Diana Lin, and Kristian Odebjer lead affinity groups, respectively, for Young Businessmen, Young Businesswomen, Women in the Bible, and Young Lawyers.

The young adults undertook several major service projects. A team of sixteen went to Mongolia and helped to organise a camp for 80 street children for a week: Planning and leading all the camp activities. The Young Businessmen and Young Businesswomen's group raised \$23,000 to **Care for Children** to underwrite the advertisement for the organisation's major promotional event in Hong Kong, the ultimate purpose of which is to facilitate the adoption of 2,000 orphans. Jordan Wilkins provided inspirational leadership in both projects.

The young adults hosted several large events on Wednesday night. These included Sandra Wright Shen's performance of several seminal classical, baroque, and romantic composers, Philip Yancey's indelible talk on prayer, the Unity Service, and finally the James Legge Panel for visiting scholars. These events alone attracted over 600 people.



Oasis conducted several series, including a series of Bible studies led

by Jordan Wilkins and Judy Hon (on Galatians), Alex Ting (on 1 Samuel), and John Anderson and Wendy Hsu. John and Wendy have created a cohort of Hong Kong University students. The university students presence in Oasis is something new and a tremendous addition, and we owe John and Wendy hearty appreciation for their patient building in this new area. In a 'Conversations with Critics' series, Pastor Matthew presented the views of several atheists or agnostics on Christ, and weighed how Christians might respond. Oasis leaders, Alex Ting, Rebecca Brosnan, Bernard Wai, Brenna Dykman, and Mike Powers all shared fantastic insights into the the problem of evil, the meaning of Easter, and the Christian walk.



mapping, professor Lauren Pfister on spiritual disciplines, architects Eunice Seng and Koon Wee on the church in the city, LTS professor Wayne Nieminen on forgiveness, HKU professor Harry Hui on new year resolutions, activist Tom Bailey on serving children, Perry Lam on self-identity, Chief Secretary Stephen Lam on faith in the crisis, Regent President Jeff Greenman on uncertainty--all these and others connected our faith to the worlds we live and work in.



The gamut of guest speakers at Oasis was diverse and dynamic. Financier Caesar Luk spoke on evangelism, scholar Jerry Root on C.S. Lewis, banker Parker Griffin on giving versus taking, counsellor Archa Glass on women's ministry, activist Kurt Johansen on the Middle East, explorer Anthony Willoughby, and warrior and elder Emmanuel Mankura on territory

## Evangelise

Senior Pastor's Report by Greg Anderson



This year we celebrated the 200th birthday of Union's founder James Legge. The foundation of witness and worship he laid in the 1840's has been built upon in some very special ways in 2015.

The worship at Union grows from strength to strength. The quality and the quantity of musical offerings are staggering. Worship Director Chris Yorks leads a team of 100 volunteers who provide a musical ministry that brings us closer to our Lord. Besides the amazing worship teams, we celebrate a choir that reached a new level of excellence with their Christmas cantata.

Alpha continues to lead people to Christ and into Union. It is appropriate that a porcupine showed up after Alpha one Wednesday. But when I mentioned that porcupines don't usually go to

church so we have to go where they are—sort of like the unchurched—over thirty people told me that they were spiritual porcupines checking out Christianity. These seekers come because you have invited them and helped make Union a safe place to learn about Jesus Christ.

The Missions Committee spearheads our outreach efforts. A groundswell in interest in local mission complements our growing commitment to overseas mission. This, along with our thriving prison ministry, is a direct response to requests from many of you to get more involved locally. The special offerings and pass-through funds have helped bring relief, development, and evangelism all over Asia. A variety of mission trips have helped us realize that missions is more than giving money. Thank you Missions Director Lee-Ann McFarlane and the Missions Committee!

## Alpha by Patrick Wilson



In 2015, we continued evening Alpha Courses in April and September, and around 65 guests and leaders took part. We have also continued running an Away Day in the middle of the course, rather than a full weekend away, as this has proved more popular and allowed more guests to attend. We have been blessed to stay at Tao Fong Shan for these events and have been continuously reminded of God's faithfulness through His meeting with us on this beautiful mountain top.

During the year, I attended the Alpha Leadership conference in London, and also met Tricia Neil (President, Alpha International) and Bishop Sandy Millar (Nicky Gumbel's spiritual mentor) recently in Hong Kong. All these events

provided me with inspiration and encouragement to continue running Alpha, because of the great need for Alpha in our community.

Our next course will start in April 2016 when we hope that the new HTB film series will be available for use. Please remember that the most effective way to encourage a new guest to attend is by way of a personal invitation to the Introductory Dinner or to the course itself.

I would like to thank our Core Team members, group leaders and helpers, taskforce members, church staff and food donors who have ALL contributed so much to the success of Alpha this past year. If you would like to help Alpha, we would really appreciate a cooked dish on an ad hoc or regular basis, for which we will reimburse your costs. Our guests love their weekly suppers to start off each session, but the cost of catered food continues to rise and is putting a strain on our budget.

Finally, we thank God for his faithfulness and give Him the glory for all He has done and continues to do through the Alpha ministry.

## Worship by Chris Yorks

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).*

It was a wonderful year of worship, fellowship, training, and new initiatives for Union's worship ministries. Thank you all for your worship, servant hearts, and inspiration throughout 2015 and beyond!

### Worship Ministries

The **8:30AM Communion Service** is in its sixth year and is averaging around 30 people. It continues to bless our congregation through a committed group of attendees. The vision for this worship continues as a family communion service with the inclusion of children participating in the service, liturgy, and music. Community and fellowship were also built up through a series of brunch fellowships, letters of encouragement, and activities thanks to the hospitality and creativity of Danielle Bradsher and our other volunteers who serve as readers, ushers, and musicians for this weekly communion service.

The **9:30AM traditional service** is well grounded in choral traditions and harmony thanks to Forrest, Janice, and our gifted Choir which continues to expand in numbers, welcoming new members on a regular basis! The

sense of community and commitment is nurtured through the common goals of worship, fellowship, and excellence in music. The Advent cantata continues to be a highlight with the presentation of "The Silence and the Sound". Once again we were treated to a full orchestral accompaniment. Highlights for 2015 also included our symbolic Good Friday service, Easter brass and choir, special Missions Worship – and let's not forget the celebration of St. Andrew's Sunday, with the robust tunes of our pipers! We are grateful to all our instrumentalists and singers who share their time and talent for the glory of God. If you sing or play an instrument, you are welcome to join us in 2016!



Our **11:00AM Contemporary Service** continues to grow and increase with new singers, players, and worship leaders. We are ever-blest with their commitment and the excellence of their singing and playing—for, as many moved away or on to University this year, God has continued to

provide for our worship-leading needs (although we could always use another instrumentalist or two!) Last year we saw the start-up of a new generation youth band, ages 10-15, who have grown and bonded together as a worship team! They also played and sang for the Youth Christmas Banquet and at a very special wedding reception under the capable leadership of intern John! It was also a year of fellowship, prayer, and worship events for our leaders, with in-house worship gatherings, teachings, and conferences building up our playing and singing skills for the Lord. We also enjoyed Union's fifth annual Christmas Musical, "Christmas Unplugged", thanks to Jacklien Lee, Dove Tales Theatre Co. and our many volunteers!

Highlights for 2015 also included implementation of Planning Center Online, Carols on the Green, various jazz-styled worships, and Jazzy Christmas with our very own Union ensemble and singers arranged with the help of Tim Wilson. Last, but not least, thanks to our many volunteers for sharing their gifts and talents within Union and beyond these walls in mission and outreach to the community. God bless the ministries of our worship leaders and the many volunteers of Youth With A Mission whose mission we see at work at Union and throughout the world!

The **U-Café Service** meets simultaneously with the 11:00AM service in the Fellowship Hall. Attendance at this service continues to be strong. We saw the advent of new worship leaders with individuals stepping out and leading, and family-

led worships including parents and children together. U-Café would not be possible without the efforts of coordinators and volunteers bringing together the technical aspects, music, creative design, and the beautiful food and fellowship provided for all who attend. Our volunteers are loved and appreciated! We now have a consistent pastoral presence in U-Café as well, thanks to Pastor Michele and Pastor Matthew. May U-Café continue to thrive in 2016 as we work to improve logistics and the smooth running of the service.



The **5:00PM Evening Service** continues to be led by gifted teams of musicians and worship leaders. We continue to see a number of new visitors and attendees that are changing the face of this established worship. We also featured special guests and events to help build community and strengthen fellowship. The worship groups remain strong, with new singers and players joining the team. Our 5:00PM service continues to be an integral worship service for Union Church.

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17).*

## Preaching by Greg Anderson



Our Senior Pastor, Greg Anderson did most of the preaching, with the assistance of Assistant Pastor Matthew Fredericks. We were blessed with the following Sunday special speakers:

- Bob Kilpatrick, Christian songwriter
- John Snelgrove, Founding Pastor of The Vine Church
- Ramesh Richard, Dallas Theological Seminary professor
- Os Guinness, Author affiliated with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries
- Paul Stevens, Regent College
- Philemon Choi, Founder of Breakthrough, anti-poverty advocate
- Mark Gandolfi, Head of St. John's Counselling Centre

- Jeff Greenman, President of Regent College
- Sam Tsang, Author and New Testament scholar
- Chip Hardwick, Director of Theology, Evangelism, and Christian Formation PCUSA
- Abdu Murray, Speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries
- Stephen Howard, CEO of Business in the Community, Prince's Trust, UK

Two additional highlights were the ministries of Jerry Root from Wheaton College at the Family Retreat, and best-selling Christian author Philip Yancey who spoke at Union two memorable nights in November.

## Missions by Lee-Ann McFarlane

*“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”*

This year’s mission focus was **Beautiful Feet** – an encouragement to our congregation to be the bearers of the good news of Christ Jesus in Hong Kong and abroad, thorough outreach and service trips.

There is tremendous need in the world – 50 million refugees, child trafficking, orphans and widows, and the list goes on reflecting the totality of human suffering. But having limited funding makes it really important to hear how we can be good stewards of what God wants to do through this local body. How can there be healing without the knowledge of Jesus Christ? Romans 10:14, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” To this end, one of Missions priorities in 2015 was supporting organizations and individuals who focused on spreading the gospel through the promulgation of the word and through discipleship ministries.

**SERVING GIVING GOING.** Union is not only generous with their financial giving, they are also generous with their time. **Foursquare children of Promise** in Cambodia still stirs the hearts of our congregation. As a church, we support an entire church

home in Pdau Penh for vulnerable children for HKD144,000pa – just one of the 106 FCOPI homes around the country. In celebration of our continued relationship, 22 people from Union travelled to Cambodia in June, spending time with the children, painting a home, playing soccer and helping to run a vibrant VBS program.

In Mongolia, **Flourishing Future**, an organization that helps impoverished communities, one family at a time, continued to grow with the opening of the ARC, a second community centre providing a play group, ESL courses and other training opportunities. Pastor Matthew led a successful trip in July, where 16 UC and OASIS members ran a week’s activities at a camp for children normally confined to the city. This year we were able to support the work of FF with HKD200,000.



Through a partnership with a Lutheran Theological Alumni Student, Union connected with a pastor who runs a preschool in Myanmar. The preschool gives the children an opportunity to

see Jesus in the staff, activities and care. Eight union congregants made a pioneering trip to Yangon in May and enjoyed engaging with the children in VBS style activities and hearing more of the pastor’s story. Finances were given to the preschool – **LIGHT OF THE WORLD** to enable the school to build new toilets, buy a generator for the many black-out days, and corrugated iron sheets to repair the roof.

Several trips were made to the Philippines by Union Church members. In March and May several people visited the Shekinah Bible College in General Santos to enjoy the graduation of Union Church sponsored students, and participate in a youth training event in Bawing.

In October, 16 people enthusiastically headed to Tacloban in the Philippines, a town recovering from one of the most devastating Typhoons ever recorded and served alongside **Kids International Ministries (KIM)**. As well as visiting memorial sites, participants got down and dirty – helping to make and haul buckets of cement for the new KIM centre which will provide training opportunities to the local community as well as providing education for local children.

Another later trip to take place was to Heng Yang in September, where Marga Wulfgram led 14 congregants to visit the work of **International China Concern** – an NGO which meets the needs of abandoned disabled children. As well as going, Union Church served the organization with finances, a continued annual donation of HKD120,000 to maintain a home for

young disabled women. Truly, Union Church showed itself as a church with a mission – to be Christ’s beautiful feet to all the world!

We continued supporting several other organizations which focus on spreading the Gospel. **Faith Comes by Hearing** is having an amazing impact around the world with over 274 million people having access to the bible now in their own language! Union Church gave HKD122,000 towards the Proclaimer Bible being distributed in Cambodia. **Asian Development Ministries** continues to teach rural pastors who have very little education how to explain the Word to their congregations, and we supported their work with HKD50,000. In the Philippines, as well as many Union Church small groups supporting students attending the **Shekinah Bible College**, Union Church helped support **International Care Ministries** work in General Santos. As one of our special congregational offerings, Union also generously raised HKD88,143 for ICM for THRIVE, a vital program which encourages and offers training to the pastors who lead the **ICM TRANSFORM** networks in their communities. Faith truly comes by hearing and Union’s international kingdom partners attest to what God is doing in their communities and how lives are being changed for eternity.

Union Church takes seriously the mandate to reach out to our neighbours – “those in Jerusalem and Judea”. Union has strong links to ALPHA, and in 2015 Union supported ongoing projects in HK, including a marital

counselling program, as well as continuing to fund courses at Union Church. Continuing to partner with the **Min Mun Church in Tung Chung**, Union congregants headed to Tung Chung in March and participated in a wonderful outreach to the local elderly who live in some of the traditional villages. The elderly were invited to have a basic medical check and then asked to join a feast – with over a hundred enjoying entertainment and a hotpot meal.



Union Church, with the **Kun Sun Prison Association**, leads a monthly visit to Stanley Prison and 10 participants enjoy several hours of fellowship and bible study with inmates. In addition to the visits, Union Church also supported Kun Sun in 2015 with HKD200,000, which helped fund a rehabilitation home for women and a half way house for men leaving prison.

**Inner City Ministries** continues their unique work to the Nepalese community and UC continued funding in 2015 with HKD120,000. Chung King Ministries assists the homeless and refugee community receiving HKD144,000 in support, and **St. Barnabas**, where a number

of congregants faithfully serve the vulnerable elderly each month received HKD30,000.

We are really grateful for our ongoing partnership with the **Lutheran Theological Seminary**. In 2015, we supported students from Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar – some who have returned to their countries to continuing serving in full time Christian ministry.

**Sons and Daughters** – a ministry to the night workers in Wanchai opened up a flat in 2015 as a place of support and care for the young men and woman working in the sex trade. In addition to annual support of HKD50,000, UC helped fund the facility with HKD70,000. In December, we also continued our annual mouthwatering tradition of baking and decorating sugar cookies to make up gift bags for **YWAM** staff to distribute around HK as means of sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

We had some beautiful times of ministry this year at the **Home of Loving Faithfulness**. Although numbers are small, those participating have become regulars and are enjoying building relationships with the staff and residents.



Over 100 people of all ages again travelled to **Sham Shui Po** on various Saturday nights throughout the year and helped distribute meals to people who have made their homes on the street. Usually after the events, Union Church participants would hang out together and continue fellowship over great food!

We had a wonderful dilemma this past October when we received so many donated clothes for our “Wardrobe to Wardrobe” sale that we ran out of space to store them. What a great problem to have! We held the clothes sale in conjunction with the Filipino Ministry and after raising over HKD8000, we were still able to send a truckload of clothes to Christian Action in support of their programs. The HKD8000 was used to purchase bibles for new members attending the Filipino church.



During the year, as the need or opportunity arises, Union Church Missions takes special offerings. UC is a compassionate church. In response to the earthquake that struck Nepal in April, we collected relief and disaster

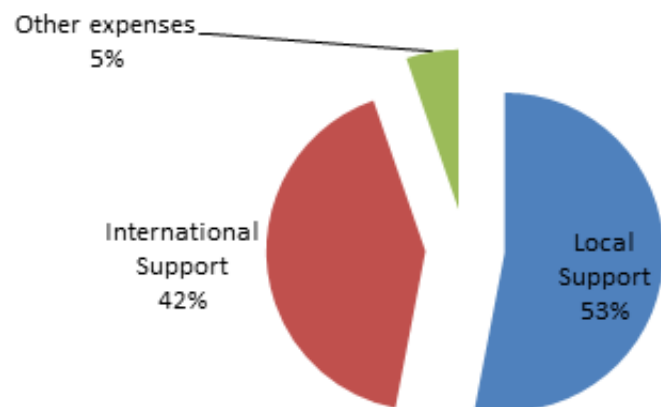
kits for the families affected by the earthquake and a special offering raised HKD97,000. This amount was disbursed to two organizations working in Nepal - **Crossroads Foundation** and **Gospel for Asia**. A special offering, taken in October with proceeds going to **Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor** (HKCNP), raised HKD56,644. Finally, our Christmas offering raised HKD65,283.60. with proceeds going to **Habitat for Humanity** and **Flourishing Future** to build houses, and also to members of the Filipino Fellowship, who had homes destroyed by a recent typhoon. Thank you, thank you UC for your generous giving!

Another highpoint of 2015 was our Missions Sunday in October. Crystal Lo did an outstanding job of helping the Missions team produce a beautiful display, and through photos, other visual aids and wonderful food, we were able to share the vision of missions and highlight the wonderful organizations we support around Asia. Over 60 people attended the lunch, and I’m very grateful for a mission’s team who are creative, motivated and inspired to share what God is doing through Union Missions.



Union Missions is active on behalf of the church. We take stewardship seriously and prayerfully. If you are passionate about Missions, and would like to serve the body of Christ by being on the team, please do contact me, or Committee of Management Representative, Jimmy Phua.

## Union Missions Support 2015



## Filipino Ministry by Ruth Tablada

*Our Anthem and Battle cry: “To Do All To The Glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17)*

First of all, I would like to thank the Union Church family. William Carey said, “I will venture to go down, but remember that you must hold the rope.” Many of you have held and are still holding the rope by praying, encouraging others, and providing moral as well as financial support. Thank you for standing with the Filipino Ministry, so that we can continue to stand firm and remain faithful in serving our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for **HOLDING THE ROPE!**



themselves “the Intercessors Team”. They meet every Sunday for prayer and have created a Facebook account to be able to pray for others effectively. As a result, we have experienced the display of God’s glory and power on many occasions – i.e, healings of the physical body and relationships, improvement in work-related problems, and financial provision, among many other things. Indeed, our God is great and mighty.

God healed the cyst which grew on the top of my foot. I have been in pain, but through prayers it disappeared. Thank you for all for your prayers.

In the Discovery Group, we have on average about 35 new believers. Please pray that they will grow deeper in their walk with the Lord. New believers continue to invite their friends to their fellowship gatherings at Hong Kong Park.

In October, the Filipino Fellowship had a joint outreach program with the Mission Ministry, headed by Lee-Ann McFarlane, to invite the Filipino Community in Hong Kong for a “Wardrobe to Wardrobe” sale. Every one who came to this event received



### Highlights of Filipino Ministry

Prayer is a powerful force! Jeremiah 33:3 says: “Call unto me and I will show great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” I thank God for raising nine dedicated, faithful women who call



“Gospel Tract” and some stayed on to join our afternoon worship service. We were very thankful that the Mission Team decided to give the proceeds of the sale to Filipino Fellowship and we were able to purchase bibles for new believers who were baptised.



### Shelter Ministry

In my flat I shelter people who are sick, terminated from work, or are between jobs. It is a ministry of care and love. I thank God for His grace.

Lastly, praise God for the Mission Ministry at Union Church. Twice a year I travel with the team to General Santos City to visit and minister to those under the scholarship program of Union Church, as well as visiting Bawing Alliance Evangelical Church, Shekinah

Alliance Evangelical Church, and the Kindergarten under International Care Ministries.

For all of this, I will close by quoting Ephesians 3:20-21: “Now onto him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

## Administration

### Property by Rosanna Chan

The property committee is set up to look after the maintenance and improvement of Union Church’s premises, so as to facilitate the smooth operation of our church. This year, with the possibility of redevelopment on the horizon, we have mainly focused on the upkeep of the church and refrained from doing any major improvements. We spent about 88% of our HK\$250,000 budget.

I highlight below some of our larger items of expenditure for 2015.

- We spent about HK\$36,000 on repairing our aging Sanctuary rattan seats.
- During the rainy season, we had severe water leakage in the fellowship hall, which was found to be from the Manse patio. Waterproofing and retiling was carried out which cost HK\$23,500.
- Our Sanctuary floorboards date from the 1970’s and every year a number of them come loose, creating a hazard for our congregation. We carried out repair and waxing of the floor in the Sanctuary, foyer and the corridor outside the toilets in August. This amounted to about HK\$19,000.
- One of the awnings in the front courtyard started leaking and was found to have a tear. Our larger marquees also required significant repair and some of our smaller mobile tents required replacement.

Our annual cost for this was over HK\$16,000.

- In addition, we keep up with our regular maintenance and repair of other areas such as air conditioners, fire equipment, landscaping, plumbing, and drainage and pest control.
- At the end of 2014 and in the middle of 2015 we received letters of complaint about two trees on our property, one at the front overhanging Kennedy Road and the other at the back overhanging the Tramline. We employed Earthasia, a landscape consultant, to assess them; we were advised to trim them to reduce weight as well as remove some dead branches. The trimming of the tree in the front was carried out in March with one lane of Kennedy Road being closed off, and the other one was carried out one December night after the Peak Tram closed for business.

We are most grateful to our gracious God for protecting and blessing us throughout 2015. Our committee would also like to thank everyone who has helped with maintaining our church property this year including our faithful contractors, church staff, and janitors. Special thanks to one of our contractors who donates most of his work and faithfully turns up to help whenever we have an emergency.

## Building Union for the Future by The BUFF Steering Group

BUFF Steering Group Members:  
Rosanna Chan, Geoff Lovegrove,  
Kay Ian Ng and David Runciman

Your BUFF committee has continued to work diligently on the redevelopment project throughout 2015. A highlight of the year, after much toing and froing with the authorities, is that on Christmas Eve we obtained a significant approval towards our redevelopment. That approval represented a milestone, but more amendments will have to be made before we can start physical work. The plans showing substantially the facilities that will constitute the church element were on display at the Table on the Green over two Sundays in January and will again be on display in March just before the AGM. We will continue to work on other aspects of the approval process including updating the residential layout to take account of new regulatory and market requirements that have arisen subsequent to the approvals granted for the residential floors many years ago. We will also apply to rotate the apartment block by 14 degrees (anti-clockwise) so that the residential block will have a better view.

We continue to work smoothly with Henderson Land on this project. On the legal side, we have consulted with tax advisors on the structure of our redevelopment and believe that we are well-placed. Section 17 of the Union Church Ordinance states that if the Church were to cease to use, occupy, or enjoy our premises for the purposes of the Church for more than two years,

then the Trustees of Union Church must hold the Church's assets in trust for the London Missionary Society (because the Trustees' current mandate to hold the assets in trust for use as a church would have ceased). We do not feel that the reverter clause in section 17 would be triggered but, out of an abundance of caution, Henderson has asked, and we have agreed, to seek a declaration from the courts that the reverter clause does not come into force as a result of the redevelopment project. This issue has to be resolved such that purchasers of the apartments can be assured of receiving clean title to their units, as Henderson is reliant upon the apartments allocated to them to recoup the cost of the whole development including the church facilities. We are also starting the process of negotiating a development agreement with Henderson.

The above work streams will take time. Our current best case timetable is that we aim to start fit-out of the temporary premises at Golden Center in Sheung Wan towards the end of 2016, with a move to Golden Center in the first quarter of 2017.

In the process of exhibiting the plans and speaking with church leadership as well as our congregation, we have been receiving feedback, which has been passed on to our architects and other professionals to work on. As always, the BUFF committee is very happy to answer any specific queries that a church member may have.

## Stewardship by Roy Huang



Our new Stewardship slogan in 2015, "Celebrate the Joy of Giving", highlights your reflexive response to God's grace through your generous giving to Union. Your investments in the Lord's Kingdom have not only kept the operations of our church going, but have also allowed us to continue our spiritual outreach to our members and our community. The stewardship drive this year celebrated your generous financial contributions – together with your selfless donation of time and talents – which has enabled all our ministries to build the Body of Christ: evangelizing God's Word (our pastors' and guests' sermons, Sunday worship, Alpha courses, Outreach Mission and Filipino Ministry); encouraging God's Care (our pastoral

care and counselling, Fellowship, Hospitality and Prayer Ministries); and educating in God's Way (Children's and Youth Ministries, Oasis and Small Groups). As faithful stewards of the Lord, we ended the year in a solid financial position and have put your treasure to work transforming lives.

We still have much to do in the coming years. Besides continuing to grow our ministries, we shall also embark on the redevelopment of God's house – Building Union For the Future. While we are excited about having a new spiritual home to accommodate our growing congregation, the financial and logistics challenges of the endeavour will certainly require your continuing support and generosity.

*"We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give."  
Winston Churchill*

### 2015 Commitment Card Result

PLEDGE	NO. OF PEOPLE	AMOUNT (HKD)
New	17	636,000
Existing	94	5,609,880
		6,245,880
One-off	40	2,522,125
FOHKC		
New	2	48,000
Existing	13	9,27,600
		9,75,600
GRAND TOTAL	166	9,743,605

## Human Resources by Alison Middleton

Committee Members: Greg Anderson, Roy Huang, Gus Henderson, Kenneth Chiang, Mike Witthoft, George Ding, Anita Au, Alison Middleton

During 2015 we built on the strong foundations put in place during 2014. The appointment of Anita Au into the role of Administration Director has been a great success and has really allowed Union Church to focus in on people and employee relations, making the administration team even more efficient. Anita has done a great job combining these new duties with her key role of supporting families at times of great joy at weddings and at times of loss during funerals. Our administration and accounting team—Josephine Lee, Zarifa Li, Irene Lau and Floris Kwan—has done an excellent job in providing support to church staff and congregants.



We have continued the good work carried out in 2014 to further tighten up on our policies and procedures and to continue refining the Employment Manual to address any gaps. We have now reviewed and updated all our contracts of employment, reissuing

them to all staff along with revised job descriptions.

This contract review involved discussions and consultation with all the ministry staff. As a result, some key roles and responsibilities have been redistributed, both in line with workload and also playing individual strengths/interests. With effect from 1 January 2016, Brenna was appointed to the role of Christian Education Director. For the time being, Brenna will continue to oversee Youth, which has flourished under her leadership. In recognition of her wider role we have appointed a new Youth Director, Antonin Ficatier, and a new Assistant Youth Director, both of whom will join later in 2016. Brenna will also oversee small group ministry and adult education.

Pastor Michele's focus in 2015 has been on baptism and membership. She moved from part-time to full-time between December 2015 and March 2016 to step into Pastor Greg's shoes by providing leadership to the team during his sabbatical. Pastor Matthew is our main preacher during Pastor Greg's sabbatical, and also continues to lead a strong young adult ministry, Oasis. Chris Yorks, our Worship Director, has significantly expanded our volunteer worship teams.

After much discussion with Lee-Ann McFarlane, our Missions Director, we have made the decision to carry out a full review during 2016 of our Missions strategy and Lee-Ann will be leaving Union Church at the end of June to

pursue new opportunities. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Lee-Ann for all her hard work and to wish her and Freddy all the best in their future ventures.

Our Children's Ministry continues to thrive under the leadership of Jacklien Lee with many popular and successful events like the Hallelujah Party, the Book Fair and the unforgettable children's musical, "Christmas Unplugged". After Ting Guevarra's departure, Jacklien has continued to build on the strong foundations of Sunday School with the help of Elza Wong, our Children's Ministry Assistant, and our Sunday School teachers and volunteers.

We were saddened by the departure of our Crèche Manager and Playgroup Assistant, Michelle Borgeest. We also thank Jessica Mak for her 3 years of administration work, and welcome both Vivi Ng, our new Administration Assistant, and Elena Liu, our new Crèche Manager.

We would like to express thanks to our janitorial staff for all their ongoing hard work in maintaining our premises and providing continuous support to various ministries' events.

We praise and thank God for the hard-working and committed staff we have at Union and we ask for His continued blessings on all as we move forward into 2016.

# The Union Church Team



NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
The Rev. Dr. Greg Anderson	Senior Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeping the diverse parts of Union united</li> <li>Head of staff</li> <li>Primary Preacher</li> <li>Represents Union to wider community</li> </ul>
The Rev. Michele Bland	Associate Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcomes and integrates visitors into church life</li> <li>Provides pastoral care and prayer support</li> <li>Oversees Playgroup</li> <li>Arranges baptism, membership classes, small group ministry and hosts "get connected" events</li> </ul>
The Rev. Matthew Fredericks	Assistant Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leads/Organises Oasis</li> <li>Secondary Preacher</li> <li>Staff Liaison with Alpha</li> </ul>
Mr. Chris Yorks	Worship Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designs and coordinates worship services</li> <li>Serves as Worship Leader and support to volunteers</li> <li>Directs children's music and instrumental activities</li> </ul>
Mrs. Jacklien Lee	Children's Ministry Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for programmes for children between 0 to 10 years old</li> </ul>

NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
Miss Elza Wong	Children's Ministry Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists programs for the Children's Ministry</li> </ul>
Miss Elena Liu	Crèche Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for the care of babies under two years old on Sundays</li> </ul>
Miss Judy Hon	Playgroup Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handles all matters related to playgroup, from lesson planning to classroom teaching</li> </ul>
Ms. Annie Liu	Playgroup Lead Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designs and teaches at playgroup sessions.</li> </ul>
Ms. Alison Lee Ms. Sandy Yamaguchi Ms. Ho On Yee	Playgroup Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist classroom teaching and preparations.</li> </ul>
Ms. Brenna Dykman	Christian Education Director / Youth Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Ministry Programming</li> </ul>
Mr. John Anderson	Youth Intern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists programs for the Youth Ministry</li> </ul>
Ms. Lee-Ann McFarlane	Missions Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missions Ministry Programming</li> </ul>
The Rev. Ruth Tablada	Filipino Ministry Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pastor for the Filipino Congregation.</li> <li>Provides counselling, Shelter-Pastoral care, and discipleship</li> </ul>
Ms. Anita Au	Administration Director Wedding and Funeral Coordinator Calendar Co-ordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages the overall daily church operations, including office management, human resources, contracts and management of administrative and custodial staff. Assistant to Senior Pastor.</li> </ul>
Ms. Georgianna Tse	Internal Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides project management for the BUFF project, coordinating activities including budget control, user requirements &amp; removal exercise etc.</li> </ul>
Ms. Irene Lau	Accountant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handles church accounting matters</li> </ul>
Ms Josephine Lee	Office Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General administration &amp; church operations support</li> </ul>
Ms. Vivi Ng Ms. Zarifa Li	Administrative Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General administration &amp; church operations support</li> </ul>
Ms. Fanny Cheng	Janitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Takes care of the maintenance &amp; cleaning of the church compound</li> <li>Performs &amp; maintains the overall church housekeeping duties</li> </ul>

# The Union Church Family

## 14 ADULT BAPTISMS

1. Anderson, Andrew
2. Badolato, Elizabeth
3. Brosnan, Rebecca
4. Choi, Kent
5. Dykman, Brenna
6. Lau, Astrid
7. Law, Cynthia
8. Lo, Vivian
9. Logan, William
10. Power, Mike
11. Tseng, Nathan
12. Wu, Jane
13. Zhu, Benny
14. Zhu, Ellen



## 5 YOUTH BAPTISMS

1. Appel, Olivia
2. Bland, Elise
3. Caldwell, Sebastian
4. Fox, Jessamina
5. Weathington, Ian

## 15 CHILDREN BAPTISMS

1. Boggis, Arlo
2. Cai, Josh
3. Cai, Kayla
4. Chu, Jesse
5. Ding, Jacob
6. Fung, Mikah
7. Henderson, Naomi
8. Huang, Karis
9. Ikeda, Lucien
10. Kunchat, Lionel
11. Li, Emmanuel
12. Lo, Gwyneth Belle
13. Zhu, Alex
14. Zhu, Allan
15. Zhu, Alpha

## 9 CONFIRMATIONS

1. Appel, Olivia
2. Bland, Elise
3. Caldwell, Sebastian
4. Espinosa, Andrea
5. Espinosa, Nicolas
6. Espinosa, Santiago
7. Fox, Jessamina
8. Garrett, Will
9. Weathington, Ian

## 3 CHILDREN DEDICATIONS

1. Ah-weng, Emmanuelle
2. Isaacs, Arielle
3. Smith, Maura



## 17 NEW MEMBERS

1. Chan, Ivy
2. Cheung, Theresa
3. de Rooy, Johan
4. Foster, Amanda
5. Foster, Andrew
6. Garcia, Miki
7. Lackey, Cynthia C.
8. Lackey, Stephen
9. Lyso, Allison
10. Lyso, Amos
11. Militello, Jackie
12. Miller, Bradley
13. Sadsad, Grace
14. Sadsad, Lester
15. Wai, Bernard
16. Wong, Mandy
17. Yeung, Maurice

## REGULAR ATTENDEES LEFT HONG KONG

1. Anisha, Abraham & Von Hindenburg, Hannfried
2. Borgeest, Adrian & Michelle
3. Chua, Andrew & Deborah
4. Cripps, Mark & Cordelia
5. Di Carlo, Bill (William) & Lori
6. Garrett, Scott & Linda
7. Grelet, Angela
8. Grindle, Clayton & Brooke
9. Koh, Fiona
10. Law, Cynthia
11. Lin, George & Harrington, Melissa
12. Mcmanus, Ken
13. Mueller-Rappard, Benjamin & Samantha
14. Nelson, John & Kathleen
15. Proutiere, Laurent and Kae
16. Smith, Craig & Jane
17. Souliyaung, Jack
18. Tang, Jennifer
19. Tang, Thomas & May
20. Tobin, Thomas
21. Toh, Peggy & Tham, Kevin
22. Tsang, Yanice
23. Jan de Hek, Willem & Simons, Adrienne
24. Zhang, Liang
25. Zimmerman, Grey & Mandi

## 31 WEDDINGS

## 118 FUNERALS

# Treasurer's Report

by George Ding

## Financial Highlight

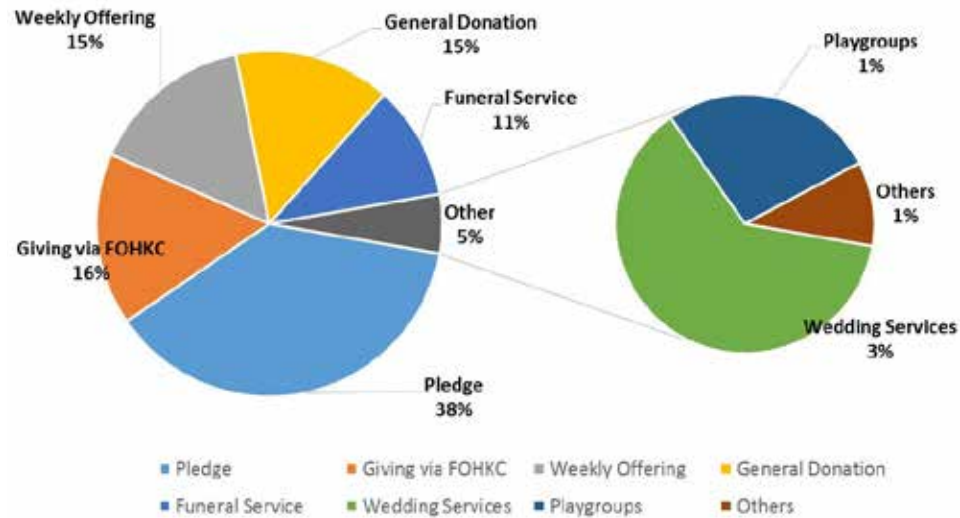
Union Church strives to be a good steward of the financial resources entrusted by our congregation. This year has been marked by a positive operating result. The General Fund, our main operating fund, has recorded a surplus of HK\$2.9 million. This reflects historical high income at HK\$15.8 million and expenses that are slightly decreased from last year at HK\$12.4 million<sup>1</sup>.

## Revenue

Thanks to your generosity, we exceeded many of the revenue goals set in our 2015 budget. We received \$13.3 million in General Fund giving, with an additional \$2.6 million of revenue generated by various Church-operated programs. In addition, we received designated giving ("pass-through") donations to missions of \$2.2 million, which were supported by Union Church and approved by the Missions Committee. Our General Fund giving was 13.6% above our 2015 goal and 14.4% above our 2014 actual.

The breakdown of general fund revenue is as follows.

Total Revenue: HK\$15,853,510



<sup>1</sup> All figures provided herewith are based on the unaudited financial reports by the finance staff as of 31 December 2015.

## Expenses

Thanks to the management of COM and diligence of church staff, we conclude this year with a reduction in general fund operation expenses of 9% relative to budget, and 3% relative to actual 2014 expenses.

The breakdown of general fund expenses and comparisons to budget and prior year actual are as follows (HK\$ in thousands).

Total Expenses: HK\$12,380,787



## BUFF and Redevelopment Reserve Fund

The church redevelopment project (BUFF) has been proceeding steadily this year. Instead of charging BUFF-related expenses against the general fund as we did in 2013 and 2014, we have been authorized by COM to book the BUFF expenses against the Redevelopment Reserve Fund (RRF) starting from this year onward. We believe that the adjustment provides clearer representation of our operation and capital expenditures.

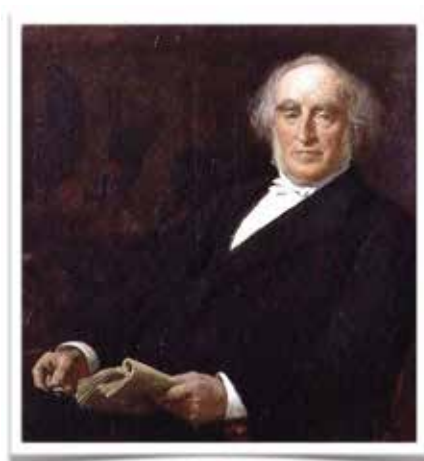
In 2015, BUFF related expenses were HK\$ 1,179,737. The balance of the RRF was HK\$3,957,867 as of 31 December 2015.

# A Brief History

by Greg Anderson, David Bunton, Brooke Himsworth and Geoff Lovegrove

20 December 2015 marked the 200th birthday of James Legge, who founded Union Church in 1844. He was a Scottish Congregationalist, working for the London Missionary Society. Then known as Union Chapel, the first building was constructed in 1845 on Hollywood Road. An English service was held in the morning and a Chinese service in the afternoon.

Legge served as pastor from 1844-1867 and from 1870-1873. He began translating the Chinese classics into English. His translations are used to this day and still in print. He was a major figure in early Hong Kong and the founder of the very first government school (now called Queens College). The Legge Lectures have been named in memory of James Legge.



The Rev. Dr. James Legge

In 1866, Union Church relocated to a new site on Staunton St. near Hollywood Road and Lyndhurst Terrace. It was called "the handsomest building in the colony." Dr. Legge returned to the UK in 1873, where he became Oxford's first professor of Chinese.

In 1890, the church was moved stone by stone to the present Kennedy Road site. Meanwhile the Chinese service became a sister church, Hop Yat, which has produced over 1000 daughter churches. Union's only daughter church is Kowloon Union (1924).

The Japanese occupation of Hong Kong during WWII saw the forced closing of Union. The events surrounding its total physical destruction remain a mystery. (The most intriguing thesis is that it was used to rebuild Government House especially the Japanese tower.)



Union Church on Staunton Street (c.1868)

The survivors began fund-raising and the existing fellowship hall was built in 1949, then used for worship until the sanctuary was finished in 1955. The education annex was built in 1970 and later named after the 1977 death of the Rev. Dennis Rogers, perhaps the most significant 20th century Union pastor.



The Annex and the Bell Tower

Since the handover in 1997, Union has changed from a predominately European expatriate congregation to a church that is 60% Asian. Union has gained a reputation for strong lay leadership and launching new ministries (Alpha, Emmaus) that have greatly blessed the wider community.

Gregory Anderson, arriving in 2007, is Union's 21st senior pastor. Michele Bland is Union's 3rd associate pastor, and Matthew Fredericks is the 2nd assistant pastor; Ruth Tablada is the 1st pastor to the Filipino fellowship.



First non-royal to be depicted on a HK postage stamp

Union has gone from a ministry of the London Missionary Society to an independent congregation. Three boards govern the church: The Deacons Court, Committee of Management, and Trustees. A charter member of the Hong Kong Christian Council and active in the Network of International Churches, Union faces the future with a firm sense of its founding charter:

**"We differ in small matters, we agree in great realities. We trust that we are one in Christ Jesus. We all love Him who died for us. On the fact of this great unity, our Union as a church is based."**

-JAMES LEGGE 1849

# Acknowledgement

We thank God for providing us with these wonderful people:

All the ministry leaders who wrote the reports.

Office Staff: Anita Au, Irene Lau, Floris Kwan, Josephine Lee, Zarifa Li and  
and Vivi Ng.

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Photos: Brian Woo, Patrick Wong, David McIntyre, and all who captured  
the great shots at Union.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!

Ellen Ahn  
(Honorary Secretary)



**BUILDING  
UNION  
FOR THE  
FUTURE**

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JAMES LEGGE 1849