



# UNION CHURCH

LOOKING UP TO  
HIS WAY...



UNION  
CHURCH  
佑寧堂

annual  
report  
2016

TRUSTEES

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

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Don Kanak  
Steven Kim  
Catriona Woodrow  
Shlivya Dharvale  
Christine Wu  
Ken Morrison  
Jane Petkovic  
Brian Woo  
Jean de Groot  
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Simone Loke (Deputy Treasurer)  
Ellen Ahn (Hon. Secretary)  
Frank Proctor (Deputy Secretary)  
Po Cheung  
Alison Middleton  
Jimmy Phua  
David Runciman  
Grace Siu  
Ken Chiang\*

\*resigned in July

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# Senior Pastor's Message

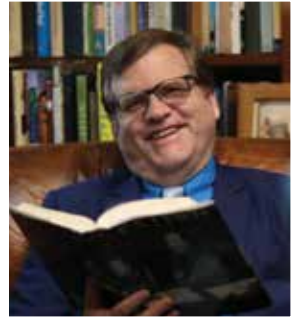
by Greg Anderson

Even after ten years as Senior Pastor, I continue to be amazed by the people and programs of Union Church. God continues to use this strategic congregation to call people to Christ.

This annual report reflects what will probably be the last year in Union's current facility. We owe a massive debt of gratitude to the Building Union for the Future (BUFF) team. When the whole story can be told, you will be amazed at the obstacles that were surmounted. The emergence of the Deacons as a strong spiritual voice and the continuing excellence of the COM has been a joy. And I continue to thank God for my colleagues on the staff who, partnering with such gifted volunteers, lead such fruitful ministries.

We rejoice in the amazing growth of the youth ministry, the lives touched by Alpha, and the worship and education opportunities that each Sunday affords.

Holly and I are grateful for the sabbatical in Cambridge the church granted in early 2016. We continue to thank God for each of you as we minister together in these uncertain but exciting times.



Gratefully,

# Trustees' Report

by Geoff Lovegrove, Chairman

The Trustees for 2016 were: Mr G Lovegrove (Chairman); Dr R Chan; Mr A Law; Mrs I Morrison; Dr H Ngan; Prof J Nicholls; and Mrs M Wulfgram.

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 2016 the market value of the General Fund was approximately \$13.67M and of the Three-Quarter Century Fund approximately \$7.72M, each showing a gain for the year of about 2.0%. The General and (Three-Quarter Century) Funds have gained about 13.8% (13.0%) in the past five years, and gained about 36.8% (33.1 %) in 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

Trustees' Report

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:

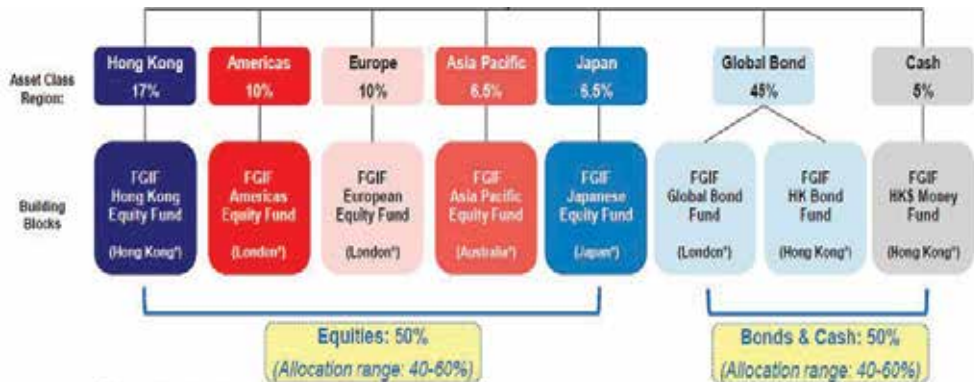
- always act to protect its clients' economic interests and to maximise their investment returns;
- actively integrate ESG considerations into the investment decision-making process;
- incorporate ESG issues into ownership policies and practices;
- seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by entities 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 2016, 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



Source: FIL Limited

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 \$80,451 at the end of 2016 showing a gain of about 0.3% 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 on matters relating to tax, land matters, charitable status, agreements with the Developer and landlord of temporary premises, insurance 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.

The reversion trust in our Ordinance states that if we cease to use our premises (or any substituted for them) for the purposes of the trust outlined 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.

The Trustees applied to the courts in order to clarify the situation in the case of the site being redeveloped with long leases of flats being sold to pay the Developer and the church occupying temporary premises for about 5 years.

The courts ruled that the implementation and completion of the proposed redevelopment and the granting of leases in respect of the flats/parking spaces of the proposed redevelopment would not trigger the reversion trust. All major Government approvals relating to the overall design of the new building have been obtained.

Temporary premises that had been offered by the developer were withdrawn during the year and new premises had to be located and lease arrangements agreed thus, at the end of 2016 there is still uncertainty concerning this and consequently the overall redevelopment programme. However, it is hoped to vacate the premises at Kennedy Road before the end of Q3 2017 and to move back by mid-2022.

The Developer continues to remain positive and encouraging notwithstanding the delays that have occurred. 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 for many future generations that is both financially secure and can remain independent.

# Deacons' Court

by Mike Witthoft, Clerk

The Church Ordinance charges the Deacons' 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 2016 we welcomed 2 new deacons Jane Petkovic and Steven Kim and accepted Terri Appel's and Alexander Mak's requests to take a time of rest away from the actively serving on the Deacons' Court. We also wish to thank Don Kanak for the many years he served as Clerk of the Deacons' Court, and for his willingness to continue to serve as a member of the board.

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 their liaison roles for 2016 were as follows: Catriona Woodrow (Missions), Shlivya Dhavale (Prayer), Charles Caldwell (Youth and Prayer), Jean de Groot (Human resources, Small groups and FIN), Ken Morrison (BUFF), Brian Woo (Worship and Music), Steven Kim (Fellowship and Pastoral care), Don Kanak (Missions), Christine Wu (Children's ministry and U-café), Steven Nutland (Stewardship).

In 2016 Union flourished through our many ministries, worship and a wide range of outside speakers, Jerry Root, Gary Hoag, Bob Kilpatrick, Tricia Neill, Kenneth Bae and Jerry Jackson.

We were blessed by a faithful Prayer ministry, many opportunities for Fellowship, from small groups, to welcome lunches and an all church BBQ, and Thanksgiving celebration meals together.

Our youth continue to inspire led by Brenna Dykman for the first half of 2016 and Antonin Ficatier for the second half of 2016. Let us not forget the little ones, the children, led by Jacklien Lee our children's director, they inspire us with their eagerness to learn the Word of God.

As we prepare our church for an exciting new journey, the deacons are committed to increasing our depth and breadth of Love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are committed to pray for the moving away from 22A and the moving into Sunlight Tower. The process will be both sad and exciting at the anticipation of a new beginning.

I thank each deacon, the pastors and staff, the CoM and Trustees, and many volunteers for their time and talents to serve specific ministries and Union. 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 the Senior Pastor, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary as ex-officio members and from this year the Associate Pastor who together take up responsibility for the management of Union Church property and the temporal affairs of Union Church.

In addition to their collective responsibility for such matters, each elected member of CoM works closely with one or more ministries of Union Church. Their reports are included throughout this year's annual report. Individual CoM members provide continuity and connection between the various ministries of Union 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. CoM members also regularly participate in weekly staff meetings.

This year's CoM ministry representatives were largely unchanged from 2015 and were: Stewardship – Simon Loke; Small Groups and Fellowship – Grace Siu; Youth – Frank Proctor; Children – Po Cheung; Worship – Ken Chiang, Po Cheung; Missions – Jimmy Phua; Oasis & Adult

Education – Gus Henderson; BUFF – David Runciman; Communications & IT – Po Cheung; Legal – Roy Huang; and Human Resources – Alison Middleton, Ken Chiang.

Officers this year were: Roy Huang, Chairman; Gus Henderson, Vice-Chairman; George Ding, Honorary Treasurer; Simone Loke, Deputy Treasurer; Ellen Ahn, Honorary Secretary; and Frank Proctor, Deputy Secretary.

We welcomed and said good-bye to a number of staff in 2016 including Lee-Ann McFarlane, Antonin Ficatier, Hunter Purvis, Sarah Nutland, John Anderson, Elza Wong, Judy Hon, Cheryl Farmer, Alison Lee, Elena Liu, Ganga Suduwelikanda, Georgianna Tse, Zarifa Li, Vivi Ng, Carly Soon and Justin Cheong. Without the dedication, patience, understanding and support of our staff, including ministry directors, administration and janitors, who very often work long hours behind the scenes, little at Union Church would move forward so smoothly and so well as they do now. In 2016, CoM approved a 2% cost of living adjustment for all staff, the purchase of Group Life Insurance for all full-time staff and making part-time staff eligible to participate in the group medical insurance plan for the first time. Our staff, often unsung, are a valuable part of the Union Church community and deserve our praise for jobs well done and gratitude for their tireless efforts

despite circumstances that can be difficult at times. To each member of our staff, including those who have moved on from Union, thank you.

2016 was the year that we were supposed to have moved into temporary premises. Now we are looking for that to happen near the end of summer 2017. All building plans for the redevelopment of 22A Kennedy Road have received the necessary government approvals and a tenancy agreement for temporary premises in Sunlight Tower, 248 Queen's Road East, has been signed. The BUFF working groups, including finance, users, design, communications and relocation, are again hard at work so that we will be ready for the move to Sunlight Tower. There remains however the last and final piece which is finalizing and signing the development agreement with Henderson Land.

Although CoM, Deacons and Trustees have ultimate responsibility for BUFF, tremendous thanks must go to Kay Ian Ng, David Runciman, Geoff Lovegrove and Rosanna Chan who comprise the BUFF Steering Committee, each of whom has given significant amounts of their personal time over the past several years to getting us this far. We owe thanks of course to many others, too numerous to name here, who have contributed to the work of BUFF.

Looking ahead, aside from the logistics of the move to Sunlight Tower and settling into the temporary premises, the Sunlight Tower 200 persons

capacity limitation mandated by Hong Kong fire regulations means we will be creatively looking at how and when (other than Sundays) we come together to worship and fellowship. The leadership is truly excited by the possibilities that are opening up to us because of these space limitations!

Also looking ahead, fund-raising for BUFF will become a priority. As reported in the Treasurer's report, we ended 2016 with a surplus due to better than expected giving and lower expenses in relation to staff costs and significantly lower than planned BUFF related costs. Pledges for 2017 are on target. Due to your prayers and faithfulness, we enter 2017 in a sound financial position which should remain so even after taking into account 2017 BUFF expenses which are expected to be significant; however, without additional fund-raising for BUFF, BUFF expenses will quickly and significantly reduce our General Fund.

Following numerous meetings of a working group formed early in the year to look at Missions' guiding principles and its governance, and after discussion with the Missions Committee, the Joint Leaders approved a "Statement of Principles" addressing what Missions means to Union Church, and "Rules Clarifying the Role with respect to Missions of the Pastor, Deacons, CoM, and Missions Committee". Led by Don Kanak with significant contributions from Pastor Michele Bland, Rosemary Henderson and Catriona Woodrow and others, the Statement of Principles and the new Rules reflect an alignment within the leadership of Union Church regarding

the vision of Missions that encourages both good stewardship and broader engagement within our church.

There is so much more that has happened in the life of our church this year and I strongly encourage you to read the other reports contained in this 2016 Annual Report.

Finally, as I step down from CoM I would like to say that it has been a privilege for me to serve alongside Senior Pastor Greg and my fellow members on CoM these past four years. Seeing things from the inside can sometimes be discouraging but I leave encouraged by so much of what I have seen, by those I have worked with, and by all that is happening at Union Church. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Let's always stay close to Him.

# Encourage

## Associate Pastor's Report by Michele Bland

The Westminster confession of faith states, "man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever." As I reflect on 2016, I can think of many ways we attempted to bring glory to God through our service.



Serving in community, enabled collaboration with the staff team to create new ministries. In January, Lee Ann, Brenna and I hosted a women's retreat in Thailand, entitled "Running the Race." During the three nights we enjoyed worship, small groups, various connecting opportunities and learning from our guest speaker, Terri Appel. The connection that happened during this event has been a source of encouragement and prayer support for many throughout the year. This event was a great platform for women (28 of us) to come together and, in turn, reach out to other women. As a result, there had been two additional events for women. In April, we hosted a "Double Up" dinner with 150 ladies gathering in the fellowship hall for a home cooked meal, worship and

hearing the testimony of Bronwyn Alexander. In the fall, we hosted another dinner for women, the "Masquerade Dinner," with the theme resilience. On this night, 80 women gathered to hear the encouraging testimony of Lindy Fok and a talk by life coach Alison Middleton.

In March, as a staff team, we worked together and hosted Dr. Jerry Root for our all church family retreat. The retreat included opportunities for children, youth and adults to worship, to play, and to be encouraged in the word of God. Jerry also made himself available for conversation and lunches. In addition to meeting with staff directly, he featured at a staff and leader's lunch and seminar event.

Serving with various leaders was also a fulfilling way to enjoy God. This year, there was intentional time to work with the deacons and some members of the mission's team. Additionally, the deacons seized a unique opportunity to host Canon Andrew White which enabled us to practically address issues of the persecuted church through an evening service and a fundraiser.

Serving in the teaching ministry has been inspiring. This year, we offered a Lenten teaching series on The Lord's Prayer, and it was encouraging to be a part of this team. Pastor Matthew, Brenna and I enjoyed hosting a small group leader seminar. It has also been

a joy to be a part of two small groups, who meet regularly, and see the participants grow in their relationship with the Lord. I had the privilege of teaching several baptism classes and five babies/children were baptised; two children were dedicated; 12 people were baptized through immersion and 18 people became new members. I have continued to contribute to the RTHK radio ministry team.

Serving to help people get connected was meaningful. As a community, we hosted Welcome Lunches, Kick Off BBQ's, Annual Thanksgiving Feasts - and the list goes on. I am so grateful to all those who agreed to cook endless turkeys and hams, as well as those who serve faithfully at these meals. Special thanks to Miriam Wong, Mariki Venter, Sheri Witthoft, Colleen Nichols, Bianca Yip and Teresa Fox. Also, Pastor Matthew, Brenna and I joined together to host a "Baby Bash," a get-connected event for parents with babies.

care and concern the FIN team (Family in Need) has toward those to whom they regularly minister. Special thanks to Charles Schmidt, Isabel Morrison and Jean de Groot.

Serving in the area of pastoral care has been most enjoyable. I have enjoyed meeting up with people in my office, or elsewhere. I have continued to enjoy regular hospital and home visits (especially with deacon Steven Kim). Marriage and pre-marriage counseling have continued to be a part of my ministry, as well as GriefShare -a ministry for those who have lost a loved one to death.

A big part of enjoying God, was simply seeing what others were doing for Him, and then getting involved -with Jeff Rotmeyer in Love 21, as we hosted Mats of Kindness, crocheting plastic bags for homeless in Hong Kong; with Sheryl Nutland to Cambodia for a VBS with UC family; and with Anna Rees, Teresa Fox, Laurel West and Tess Lyons baking cookies for Sons and Daughters ministry.

The Lord has been faithful. There were good things that happened in 2016. I was able to complete my Doctorate in Psychology and my family and I continue to enjoy being a part of the Union Church family. As we look to the new year, may we all look to see where God is working - and join in. And together, may we seek to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever.



Serving those who have physical needs within the community has been very rewarding. I am very grateful for the team spirit, the wisdom, as well as the

## Prayer Ministry by Charles Caldwell

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”*

*(Colossians 4:2)*

The Prayer Ministry serves to offer prayer and support to the Union Church family. We are committed to the power of prayer and encourage you to give our team the opportunity pray for you. Our goal is promote dependence on God through prayer, which is a key cornerstone in Union Church. The backbone of the church's Prayer Ministry team is the Prayer Chain, with over 125 individuals praying privately. Prayer requests or praise reports are emailed to this group who remember people in their prayers. The Union Church intercessors include people who have left Hong Kong thus the prayer chain provides global coverage. If you feel called to join the Union Church Prayer Chain please let us know. Throughout the year opportunities are held to learn more about prayer and become more effective at praying.

This past year, we witnessed the prayer chain fielding well over 200 prayer requests, praying with people at Union Church after services or during church events. A theme for the Prayer Team included a renewed focus on the many blessings we might take for granted in Hong Kong and a focus on praying for the Persecuted Church. Some of this past year's prayer activities were also quite special. During the Good Friday 2016 service, the attendees pierced pieces of paper with a nail to symbolise

their burdens that Christ carried on the cross. Following the service over 200 pieces of paper were collected and a team of intercessors prayed over each and every paper before Easter Sunday. At another prayer evening, 50 major prayer requests from the previous 18 months were prayed over again by intercessors. We prayed praise over the miracles, prayed compassion over the deaths and prayed the Lord's will over everything in between. One of our more special events included an overnight prayer vigil that partnered with Union Church's Youth Group on the final evening.

*“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)*

Prayer is central to our relationship with God. It is a conversation, a communion with Him. God delights to hear our voices and our prayers. Prayer can be passionately intercessory or quietly meditative. The Bible teaches that ‘the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective’. As a Prayer Ministry team, we are privileged to come alongside you in prayer. We encourage people to contact us with prayer requests or come and serve with us if they have a passion for prayer. We have also created a WhatsApp group to spread prayer requests faster.

E-mail: [prayer@unionchurchhk.org](mailto:prayer@unionchurchhk.org)



# Educate

## Assistant Pastor's Report by Matthew Fredericks



As the Assistant Pastor, I shared five responsibilities in 2016: I led the young adults, preached once a month, supported the men's ministry, supplemented adult education, and acted as the staff liaison to Alpha.

Patrick Wilson is the intrepid, tested, and excellent leader of the Alpha program. This year he integrated a new Alpha video into our community in the spring, and in the fall we recruited a full Fellowship Hall of new Alpha goers, including twenty people in their twenties. Please see the Alpha report for further details.

There were three complementary efforts on adult education this year. First, Brenna Dykman, the adult education director, taught several courses. She organised a Lenten series on the Lord's Prayer. In the fall, she taught a Theology 101 class covering such topics as christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, eschatology, pneumatology, etc. During Advent, she presented an overview of the

Old Testament through the lens of passages expressing the hope of a Messiah. Second, Danielle Bradsher and Chris Yorks organised a spectacular program, "Read the Bible in One Year." 117 people enrolled and 290 purchased either Chronological Bibles or One Year Bibles. They hosted four fellowship dinners with talks on the Bible attended by 186 people! Dr. Francis Borchardt of Lutheran Theological Seminary spoke at one, I spoke at two (on the Holy Spirit and on the transmission of the Bible), and Brenna spoke at the last dinner. Third, I taught a year long course on the Bible. From February 28, 2016 until January 22, 2017 (i.e. the Year of the Monkey), we met 21 times, discussed every book of the Bible, and enjoyed an estimated average attendance of 20 people. 100 different participants joined. Journeying through the Bible in one year was the year's most fruitful spiritual practice for me and many others.



Union Church had a very active men's ministry life in 2016. Andrew MacGeoch, Aaron Tan, Ray Warhola, Terry Liang, Nick Appel, Bernard Wai, Amos Lyso, Alexander Ting, and Charles Schmitt are but a few of the Union brothers leading a men's group or program. For instance, Andrew MacGeoch hosts a Thursday men's group as well as a monthly Friday luncheon at the Hong Kong Club. Ray Warhola intended to direct the fall Walk to Emmaus but Super Typhoon Haima thwarted the retreat. After my wedding ceremony on May 28th at Union Church, Pastor Greg asked me to assume a more active role in men's ministry. Charles Schmitt and I launched a course called Authentic Manhood attended by twelve men. Inspired by the success of Pastor Michele and Brenna (who created an all-Union women's dinner with 150 attendees in the spring), Pastor Greg, Kenneth Morrison, Peter Maize, Johan de Rooy, and I organised a men's fellowship dinner at the Hong Kong Club. Comedian Nury Vittachi and Pastor Greg spoke on the seasons of life. 60 men attended. This was the first, intentional, all-Union men's event

organised since I arrived in 2012. We look forward in 2017 to monthly plenary men's fellowships to build the Union brotherhood.

Pastor Greg, after nine years of ministry, accepted a sabbatical to Cambridge. Between January 10th and March 27th, Pastor Michele, Brenna, and I delivered a sermon series on Mark. We preached through every chapter of the gospel. After his return, Pastor Greg began a sermon series on Jesus's "I Am" statements in John's gospel. I preached a complementary Old Testament series on Judges, examining Ehud, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson, and also a mini-summer-series on the value of doubt. In the fall, Pastor Greg guided us powerfully through Philippians.

Young adults underwent a major transition this year. In 2012, Kristin Franke and Kyle Koster founded a Wednesday evening service called Oasis for young adults. From 2012 through 2015, the average attendance was 25 young adults. A snapshot of Oasis September-December in 2015 illustrates this historic trend: an average of 26 people attended 17 services. Yet this trend shifted dramatically in 2016. From January to June, the average young adult attendance declined precipitously to 13, legitimating a change. Analysis suggested the decline in young adults involved targeting an unworkably broad age range, 18-40 years old. While the majority age received attention, I inadvertently marginalised minority age





brackets that had different questions, interests, and needs. Also the passive, lecture orientated style left non-extroverts disconnected.

Together with Union's dynamic youth director, Antonin Ficatier, we organised a memorial "funeral" service for Oasis and relaunched young adult ministry. Antonin and I developed an age sensitive model with five age clusters:

- 1) university students (led by Antonin),
- 2) young professionals in their twenties,
- 3) single thirties, 4) married couples with at least one spouse under forty, and 5) couples with a child under three years of age (led by Amos Lyso).

With the exception of the third, each grouping has 25-30 active participants. Once a month we plan an event for all young adults, which generally attracts a historic Oasis attendance level of 25. Otherwise we host weekly cluster gatherings, with an attendance of 5-20 at each. Our new approach emphasizes the mutual sharing of knowledge and faith experiences through meals and discussion, rather than the absorbing of knowledge through talks and lectures.

The change in approach to young adult ministry may reflect a millennial preferment of egalitarian rather than hierarchical contexts. It has certainly revitalised our program. On the other hand, the vision of young adult ministry did not alter. The vision remains to encourage all 18-40 year olds to invest time with Christ and one another.

## Children's Ministry by Jacklien Lee

Our mission for Kingdom Kids as we continue to grow in faith and in number for Christ's kingdom: *"Train up a child in a way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it".*

In 2016 our Sunday School program, which comprises of 16 classes continued its successful run with a weekly attendance of 120 to 150 children. We are blessed with 42 volunteer teachers and 4 youth helpers. The Children Worship Time continue to gain positive momentum with the children, teachers and parents worshipping God together through interactive and lively songs. Sunday school offering raised \$24,000, which were given to **MOTHER'S CHOICE** as children's chosen charity.

In February, Kingdom Kids and Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor ran a successful PEACE BOX campaign, which handed out a total of 150 boxes to Kingdom Kids families to be filled with essential items for the children and adults of the less privileged families in Hong Kong. Kingdom Kids also had the privilege to distribute some of these boxes directly to the children from Kids Learning Program of the St. Barnabas Society & Home.

For Mother's and Father's Day, we have organized some fun and meaningful activities to celebrate these special occasions. On "Mom's Date", we had a total of 60 mothers and children who

spent a wonderful afternoon together art jamming with Gavin Coates and learning some funky dance moves with dance instructor Zhanna Mahlysh.

On "Dad's Date", Children's Ministry invited the African Drumming and Dancing Connection Group to teach and lead a drumming and dancing routine. We were honored that Mike Powers taught our children some basic self-defense lessons as well. We had a total of 118 people that attended our Dad's event, which completed with a yummy lunch prepared by Children's Ministry, with the help of a volunteer chef.



In summer, we organized a **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** titled “**Joseph’s Journey from Prison to Palace**” which ran over the course of 5 weeks. As part of our VBS Kid to Kid program, we ran a “Bag Pack for A Child” campaign to support the children of FCOP International Cambodia and raised over \$44,000. The amount raised was used to purchase backpacks and stationeries for the children as per request and these items were distributed by Union Church families who visited Cambodia in November.

In mid-October, we led a group of 30 adults and children for a BREAD RUN. A Bread Run, founded by Feeding Hong Kong organization, aimed at bridging the gap between hunger and food waste by collecting fresh bread and sandwiches from shops across Hong Kong at closing time. All the children and their parents truly appreciated the opportunity to participate in this Bread Run and have learned a great deal about food wastage and their role in caring for the less privileged community in Hong Kong.



At the end of October, we welcomed over 430 people to Union Church as we held our annual **Hallelujah Party** with an “Outer Space” theme. This event attracted families from Union Church Playgroup, Small World and Island Christian Academy School and community around the church. We are also thankful for the support of over 40 volunteers who made this event a true success.



For the second year running, we collaborated with a Christian production company, Dove Tales, and staged “**A Galactic Christmas Adventure**” Children’s Musical. This Musical re-told the story of the birth of Jesus by incorporating characters from the movie of Star Wars and the message of “HOPE”. A total of 150 children participated in this Musical and we have received wonderful feedbacks from the children and parents, and they are looking forward to our next Christmas Musical.

In addition, we brought our Christmas Musical to the HOLF center and shared the joy of Christmas with the residence and workers there. A total of 50 children and adults joined this community outreach.



The year 2016 was a great year for our ministry as Kingdom Kids were able to put into practice what they have learned in Sunday School through loving and caring for the community, especially for those in need and we are eternally grateful for all of our dedicated and wonderful team of Sunday School Teachers and helpers, who shared and modelled God's love for all the children to imitate. We are also thankful for Elza Wong, Michelle Borgeest and Elena Liu, who dedicated their time and love for our ministry. Lastly, we welcome Ganga Suduwelikanda to join us with the ministry to our babies.

## Youth and University Ministry by Antonin Ficatier

I had the pleasure to start my ministry at Union Church in June 2016. For those of you who do not know me yet my name is Antonin and I am married to Jess. I am originally from France, but lived in China and more recently in the United States. I hold degrees in Economics, International Business, Theology and Christian Education. I started my career as an entrepreneur and recently switched to full-time ministry. I am really excited to be the new Youth Director at Union Church, since working with youth in an international environment is a real passion of mine.

Youth Ministry is a vital ministry for Union Church and I am grateful that the leaders of the church agreed to expand my team in order to fulfill the ambitions and the needs of our ministry. Hunter Purvis, freshly graduated from Elon University, arrived in August, as the Assistant Youth Director, followed by Sarah Nutland in the position of Youth Intern, and Justin Cheong as Youth Band Leader.

2016 was a year of transition for Youth Ministry at Union Church. Brenna Dykman was in charge of the first half of the year, then moved to a different position at Union. Here are some of the highlights of the Spring term, as she recalled:

- over Easter break 12 youth and 5 adults went down to Tacloban, Philippines working with Kids

International Ministry to help in the rebuilding projects after the area was wiped out from typhoon Yolanda.

- there was a great turn out for our annual spring events. 58 youth from Union Church and Community Church joined together for “*Poverty X*.” Another 60 youth participated and 18 adults came to help with “Amazing Grace” our yearly citywide scavenger hunt. Both youth and adults had a blast! 75 youth showed up for our end of the year party, but that was still not our biggest night at youth group as we hit a record high for attendance with a group of 80 youth coming together for fellowship and to learn more about God.

Here are a few more highlights after my official installation in June:

- a dynamic **Summer Program** with many activities organized throughout the summer (kayak, bowling, beach day-out etc);
- the start of an ambitious year-long **Confirmation Class**: 18 students signed-up for this class, that will lead them to Confirmation in May 2017;
- the start of a **students-aged University Group** called Uni-ON. The group meets on a weekly

basis and participates in Young Adults activities of the church,

- a Family **Mission Trip** to the Philippines with the non-profit Kids International Mission for a long weekend in October;
- the launch of a Cooking Ministry, a time on Friday evenings when parents and youth prepare food together for dinner;
- creation of a **Youth Mission Board**: a group of 4 youth who brainstorm and envision what Mission means for our Youth Group.
- We also held the traditional **Youth Christmas Banquet** in November. It was a great opportunity for families and youth to spend quality time together and to learn more about the youth group. We also raised money for Love21, a non-profit organisation working with Down syndrome kids in HK.

- Development of our **Christian Clubs**: in addition to a weekly presence at West Island School, we started to do outreach at Hong Kong International School as part of our Christian Club idea.



In a nutshell: Youth Ministry at Union is a solid and growing ministry but it is also a fragile one. Having a large number of youth can be challenging and requires a lot of energy and attention. Hunter, Sarah, Justin, and I work closely with our team of Adult Leaders who are helping us to develop and strengthen our relationships with our youth, and to help them grow in their faith in Christ.





## Playgroup by Annie Liu

*Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19: 14)*

The Union Church Playgroup is a place where young children and their families can experience God’s love. We believe it is our mission to share God’s love through our teachings and actions.



Currently, the Union Church Playgroup runs adult-accompanied classes from Monday to Friday. There are five classes, which meet either once or twice a week, serving children from 10 months to over 3 years old. There are over 50 children who are currently attending our classes. We employ a play-based approach that incorporates both free play and structured activities, utilising both the indoor and outdoor space. Children are encouraged to learn through the exploration of their environments and the planned activities

- such as painting with different tools or making a splash at the water table! Classes are organised around different themes, which lasts between 4 to 6 weeks. Songs and activities are based on the given theme to enhance the children’s awareness and learning.

The children start their day with free play time, where they are free to play with a variety of toys. These toys encourage the children to work on their fine motor skills, as well as their cognitive development. The outdoor area encourages the children’s gross motor development, as they kick balls, drive cars, or just run! As the children grow, they also begin to engage in imaginative play with one another, learning to negotiate and play together.



During Circle Time, the children engage in singing and movement. They learn to listen to instructions and practice following given directions. They also have the opportunity to learn more about the given theme. In the Fall 2016 term, the overall theme for the

PlaySteps class was “God’s Creation,” where the children learned about all the wonderful and awesome things our God has filled this world with! From the trees, plants, and fruits, to the fish in the seas, and the animals in the jungle, God’s creation is truly amazing!



The playgroup has undergone some changes in 2016, as we bid farewell to the Playgroup Manager of five years, Judy Hon. Judy was dedicated to her work and we are very thankful to her. We have been blessed with having Cheryl Farmer join the playgroup team in August, as the full time Playgroup Coordinator.

As the children in our care grow and new ones join, we continue to trust that God will lead us and help us plant His love!



# Evangelise

## Senior Pastor's Report by Greg Anderson

The three activities grouped under “Evangelise,” include Alpha, Missions, and Worship. Each of them has had a spectacular year on the program front. We thank God for the renewal of Alpha this year and the many who met Christ. The Missions program was revamped, with an emphasis on local missions, greatly enhanced mission trips, and a concern for persecuted Christians. The variegated worship services and styles of Union continue to bring people to Christ and growth in him.

We continue to thank God for Chris Yorks. Chris continues to involve the entire congregation in worship. His musical talent and pastoral heart have touched Union deeply. We thank God for the work of Lee-Ann McFarlane in missions ministry and pray for her as she moved with Fred to South Africa.

But the real secret of the programs is and has been the amazing volunteers. There are so many who could be mentioned. But let's highlight Patrick Wilson who has been leading Alpha for well over a decade. In Missions, Dennis Hopton has served on the mission committee for a decade. And we continue to thank God for Forrest Morr who has directed and Janice Lo who has accompanied our choir so many years. They are but examples of the several hundred Union volunteers who make evangelism programs happen at Union.

## Alpha by Patrick Wilson

2016 was an exciting year for Alpha. In April, the new film series was released and we trialed it as a “Revival Course” just for previous leaders and helpers. The new film series has been filmed all over the world. It is an updated and engaging way of presenting Alpha and was a hit with our Revival Course guests.



In October, Stephen Ying, in conjunction with Union Church, hosted a fund raising dinner at Asia Society premises in Admiralty. Ms. Tricia Neill, President of Alpha International, was guest speaker and, despite some early showers, guests were able to enjoy an amazing musical performance in the courtyard before a lovely dinner.

Around half of our guests on the September course were young adults and couples from the previous Oasis fellowship group. This was a move to attract more young adults to take part in Alpha. It's encouraging that many

of them have signed up for the follow up course in January 2017: The Jesus Lifestyle.

We are planning new Alpha courses in April and Sept / Oct 2017. Please remember that the most effective way to encourage a new guest to attend is by way of a personal invitation.

Many thanks to our Core Team members, group leaders and helpers, church staff and food donors who helped so much with Alpha last year. 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.



## Missions by Greg Anderson

Union Church was founded by a missionary (James Legge in 1844) and to this day it is “missional” to its core. Not only through the Missions Committee, but through children’s, youth, and young adult ministries, the great commission is carried out in a variety of creative forms.

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### A YEAR OF CHANGE

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This has been a year of transition for this critical area of ministry. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Lee-Ann McFarlane, who served as Director of Missions until June 2016. She, along with her son Fred, were loved and cherished members of the congregation. She leaves behind a strong committee and a growing passion for “serving, giving, going.”

The Senior Pastor became the acting head of the Missions Committee and Education Director Brenna Dykman came on board to plan the mission trips. Anita Au and Irene Lau stepped in to provide administrative and accounting support.

A special task force was created that met February-June to examine our ways of doing missions. The result was to commend the committee for a fantastic job and to encourage them to work with the Senior Pastor and Deacons to set a few overarching priorities. The Deacons encouraged the committee to focus

on persecuted Christians and local mission work.

The visits of Canon Andrew White, “The Vicar of Baghdad,” and Kenneth Bae, a missionary imprisoned in North Korea, energized the congregation. A staggering \$647,434 was raised to support Syrian Christian refugees after Canon White’s visit.

The local mission mandate from the Deacons was the passion of two new members of the missions committee. As a result, Union became very active in the Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor. We collected \$150,560 in a 10/10/10 special offering in October. Union members joined the board of HKCNP and members participated in a mentorship program with youth as part of the government’s Child Development Fund.

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### A YEAR OF CONTINUITY

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#### Foreign Missions:

Union members continued to support some stellar mission organizations.

**Foursquare Children of Promise** in Cambodia not only received \$202,000 in funding, 33 Union members visited orphanages during two trips.

**Flourishing Futures** and **Desert Rose** in Mongolia received \$247,000 in funding as well as a visit by Lee-Ann and some Union attendees.

Fifty youth and adults went to Manila in October to build houses for **Kids International Ministry** (KIM). Union families, at the Youth Christmas Banquet raised \$147,000, enough funds to build nine houses!

**International China Concern** (ICC), an NGO working with disabled, abandoned children received \$120,000 from the committee with additional money raised in the annual “Walk the Wall” fundraising event. (Pastor Matthew and some Union Young Adults were the first to finish, running the entire course.)

**Faith Comes by Hearing** continues to be the favorite mission cause of Union Church. In January, Jerry Jackson, the founder preached at Union and in November, Troy Carl, the COO spoke. Hundreds of thousands of audio Bibles for illiterate people in their own languages have been provided by Union members.

Union Church continues to play a major role in the General Santos region of the Southern Philippines. We are active in three major ministries in GenSan: 1) the **Bawing Alliance Evangelical Church**, 2) **International Care Ministries (ICM)** and 3) **Shekinah Alliance Bible College**.

This past September, a missions team traveled down to Sogod on Leyte Island in the Central Philippines where we kicked off a large new church planting program to plant at least 5 new churches each and every year across Leyte and Samar. Much of

the training will be done by professors from Shekinah, and Union Church is instrumental in making this happen.

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## LOCAL MISSIONS

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Union continues to provide an outreach to the elderly in Tung Chung. Union members participate in prison ministry and the committee provided \$100,000 in funding to the **Kun Sun Prison Association**. We continue to work with **Youth With a Mission** in their **Sons and Daughters**, a ministry to sex workers in Wanchai. The **Home of Loving Faithfulness** received \$60,000 from the committee. The Christmas Eve offering of \$61,000 went to **Mother's Choice**. The committee thanks those members who faithfully volunteer at **St. Barnabas** and other local charities, quiet acts of unsung Christian charity to the poor.

The committee gave \$146,000 to **Lutheran Theological Seminary** to provide scholarships to students from Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. The students attend Union, working with our sound ministry and teaching Sunday School.

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## IN SUMMARY

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Through a mission budget of \$2,000,000, special offerings of \$1,335,588, and hours of volunteer ministry, Union seeks to help fulfill Christ's **Great Commission** to share the Gospel and **Great Commandment** to love each other. Thank you for making this ministry possible with your time, talents, and treasure.

## Worship by Chris Yorks

*“You shall love the Lord your god with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind...” (Mark 12:30).*

It was a year of worship, prayer, fellowship, training, and new initiatives for Union’s worship ministries. Thank you all for your servant hearts and commitment throughout 2016 and beyond!

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### WORSHIP MINISTRIES

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The **8:30 AM Communion Service** is in its seventh year averaging 30-40 people. It continues to bless our congregation through a committed group of attendees and still attracts new worshippers. The vision for this worship continues as family communion with the inclusion of children participating in the service, liturgy, and music. Many thanks to all our readers, prayers, ushers, and musicians who serve our Lord with their many talents.

The **9:30 AM Traditional service** is well grounded in choral traditions and harmony thanks to Forrest, Janice, Ryan, 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 “Joy! A Gospel Christmas Celebration” beautifully accompanied with full orchestra. Highlights for 2016 also included, symbolic Good Friday service, Easter brass and choir.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services, and let’s not forget the celebration of St. Andrew’s Sunday along 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 2017!

Our **11:00 AM Contemporary Service** continues to grow and increase with new singers, players, and worship leaders. We are ever blest with the commitment and excellence of their singing and playing. For as many who have moved away or on to University this year, God continues to provide our worship leading needs. However, we could always use another

instrumentalist or two! Last year saw the continuation of our youth band which has grown and bonded together as a worship team! They also played and sang for worship on a regular basis under the inspirational leadership of Justin Cheong! 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 sixth annual Christmas Musical, "**A Galactic Christmas Adventure**", thanks to our Children's Ministry team, Dovetails Theatre Co. and our many volunteers! Highlights for 2016 also included our worship small group participating in Alpha, Carols on the Green (in the Sanctuary this year), and various jazz and gospel workshops, and Jazzy Christmas with our very own Union ensemble and singers arranged with the help of Mike Legge. We also were grateful to Rob and Betty Porter and their talented and expanding team keeping our AV needs running smoothly! Last but not least, thanks to our many volunteers for sharing their gifts and talent within Union and beyond these walls in mission and outreach to the community. God bless the ministries of our worship leaders and the volunteers of **Youth With A Mission** whose mission we see at Union and throughout the world!

**The U-Café Service** meets simultaneously with the 11:00am service in the Fellowship Hall. The attendance at this service continues to be strong. We saw the advent of

new worship leaders with individuals stepping out and leading, and the growth of our U-Café bands and participation of our youth on a regular basis. U-Café would not be possible except for the efforts of coordinators and volunteers bringing together technical aspects, music, creative design, and the food and fellowship provided for all who attend. 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 2017 as we work together to improve the logistics and smooth running of the service.

### **The 5:00 PM Evening Service**

continues to be led by gifted teams of musicians and worship leaders. We continue to see new visitors and attendees changing the face of this established worship. We also featured special guests and speakers which expanded and attracted a different group of worshippers to this service. The worship groups remain strong with some 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

Greg Anderson (29) continued to do most of the preaching, but only just. During Greg's sabbatical in the first quarter of 2016, Matthew Fredericks (17) preached on most Sundays, assisted by Brenna Dykman (2) and Michele Bland (1).

This was a banner year for visiting speakers:

- Jerry Jackson, Founder of Faith Comes by Hearing
- Gary Hoag, Christian finance author
- Bob Kilpatrick, Christian recording artist and speaker
- Dr. Richard Schultz, Wheaton College professor
- Rev. Yak-hwee Tan, Cambridge New Testament lecturer
- Dr. Michael L Lindsay, President of Gordon College
- Jo Vitale, Apologist with RZIM Zacharias Trust
- Tricia Neill, CEO of Alpha International
- Canon Andrew White, "Vicar of Baghdad"
- Troy Carl, COO of Faith Comes by Hearing
- Dr. Jeffrey Greenman, President Regent College, Vancouver
- Kenneth Bae, Missionary to North Korea



- Dr. Jerry Root, Professor at Wheaton College



## Filipino Ministry by Ruth Tablada



*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)*

Thank God that we belong to an unchanging and unshakeable Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ! This year many of the new believer's faith had been tested due to sickness, accidents to members of their families, crops and houses being destroyed by typhoons and work-related problems. Some got discouraged to a point of not attending the church service. We thank God for those who persevered despite these challenges. They learned to trust God and depended on Him to provide strength. Our thanks and appreciation goes to our faithful Intercessory Team.

I have conducted one leadership training course this year which was well attended. However, we need to train more new leaders as two of our elders, who also lead the bible study, will be leaving Hong Kong for New Zealand and Russia respectively.

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### CHINESE NEW YEAR 2016

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The Chinese New Year celebration was held at the Alliance primary school in Whampoa Garden, Kowloon. There were about 300 overseas workers with various nationalities. The theme was “All the Voices We Hear But One” which was inspired from the book of Psalms, chapter 95 verses 6 to 9 especially the verses which says, “Today, if you hear His voice do not harden your heart”. Many lives were touched by God during this event.

On October 9, some of the ladies from the Filipino Fellowship joined the “Walk the Wall”, which was organized by the International China Concern (ICC) with Marga Wulfgram as the Team Captain. In December, a team from ICC came to our worship service to present the Certificate of Appreciation for participating in the Walk. They wrote, “Thank you... for giving your time, for raising funds, to help transform lives. Together you raised \$79,000, which will bring love, hope and opportunity to hundreds of abandoned and disabled children in China.” The Filipino Team raised the highest funds for the event.

I believe that mission is the very heartbeat of God. God's people must participate and get involved in mission for His glory.

The flat where I live is also a Ministry centre seven days a week. Every



Saturday, eight to twelve people gather for bible study and worship. My place is also a temporary home for those who lost their job or those who are ill and recovering. Filipino Ministry is a ministry of love and compassion. I thank God for His sustaining grace and strength!



Thank you for praying for us and all the support you extend to the Filipino Ministry. God bless you!

# Administration

## **Property** by Rosanna Chan

The property committee is set up to look after the maintenance and the improvement of our church premises so as to facilitate the smooth operation of our church. This year, with redevelopment very much in mind, we have mainly focused on the upkeep of the church and refrained from doing any major improvements.

We thank God for keeping our church premises in relatively good order so the necessity for major repairs was minimal, thus keeping us within our reduced budget. We have spent about 94% of our \$220,000 budget. I will highlight here some of our larger items of spending. Following on from the complaint about a tree at the back of the property, we consulted a landscape consultant and had it professionally trimmed. This year we consulted a structural engineer and concrete specialist having noticed some cracks in the Sanctuary and thankfully, was assured that they were not structural. Some superficial repair was done to some of the cracks. We replaced 3 side covers of our large marquees at back courtyard and on upper courtyard. We also replaced a set of fire alarm panel which was malfunctioning. Regular maintenance and repair of air conditioners and fire alarm systems, regular landscaping works and other miscellaneous repairs were carried out.

committee would 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 has continued to donate his work to our church as his service to the Lord. We are very blessed indeed.

We thank God once again for protecting and blessing us throughout 2016. Our

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

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain” Psalm 127:1*

2016 has been another journey of faith for the BUFF team. During the course of the year, there were trying times when we encountered setbacks, and some wondered whether we made the right decision to proceed. Through these difficult periods, God continued to guide and lead so that solutions were or could be found, and that gave us the assurance that it is God at work building His house.

On the planning and buildings regulatory approval front, we knew we had a very challenging issue with the Landscape Master Plan. There was a very high threshold required to obtain permission to fell trees on the site, without which we would not be able to build the church. We worked hard at various alternatives including a tree-planting compensation scheme for the new development to replace trees we propose to fell. But the compensation ratio was a high bar, and even meeting the ratio was not sufficient. As our consultants predicted, the process took more than six months with a number of iterations with the authorities. Finally, the authorities approved the plan but on the basis that we had to keep a large old tree bordering the tramline. Preserving a tree brought with it other challenges – it meant that we had to have an arc of seven metres in radius around the tree which had to be cordoned off without building works so that its roots would not be affected; and we also needed to put in foundation works for the tree to keep the tree standing through the construction period. We needed to do so without compromising on the number of car parks and plant room space in the basement where the roots are but we are also not allowed to dig deeper for more basement space. We are working to solve this brain-teasing puzzle. A preliminary solution has been identified and we need to make that a reality.

You may recall that the developer’s solicitors raised the “reverter” issue. Section 17 of the Union Church Ordinance states that if the Church were to cease to use, occupy or enjoy our premises for more than two years for the purposes of the Church, then the Trustees of Union Church must hold the Church’s assets in trust for the London Missionary Society (because at present the Trustees hold the assets in trust for use as a church). We did not feel that this reverter in section 17 would be triggered by our development but how do we prove it such that a future purchaser of an apartment cannot raise this as an objection to our title? In theory, we could seek to clarify that through an amendment to the Union Church Ordinance but getting an amendment

through LegCo would take a long time and the process would be very complicated. As an alternative solution, we applied to the High Courts for a declaration that our interpretation was correct. The LMS in HK (represented by Rev Lee Ching Chee) was fully supportive. The court application was submitted in June and, after a hearing, the Judge ruled in our favour last November. The court ruling has therefore put the issue beyond doubt.

In September, Henderson informed us that they had sold Golden Center in Sheung Wan, which was where we had planned to have our temporary accommodation during the re-development period. That was a significant setback. With Golden Center no longer available, we set about searching for alternatives. The search was extensive and thorough. Dozens of (if not a hundred) options were considered carefully from all perspectives and negotiations to secure the premises were a delicate balancing act. God however provided us a much better replacement in the form of a tenancy at Sunlight Tower at Queen’s Road East, Wan Chai. It is a top-quality building, close to Kennedy Road, easily accessible by different means of transport, rectangular in shape and all on one floor for high efficiency.

The most critical item now is the Development Agreement, which we need to agree and sign with Henderson by March 2017. Our ability to hold on to the Sunlight Tower tenancy beyond March is dependent on this. There are some challenging negotiations ahead and we pray for God’s wisdom and guidance to lead us in this process. If we can sign the Development Agreement in March, we aim to move to Sunlight Tower in the summer.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank many who have contributed so valuably to this process. Some of our advisers and consultants worked on a pro bono basis, some on a much discounted basis and some have been patient with us to carry on working during this prolonged period without even asking to be paid. We also acknowledge the perseverance of our joint venture partner who has continued to work with us through all the ups and downs for more than three years.

We pray that the waiting time for all of us will soon end, the buildings work will then begin and, with that, a **Bright Union For the Future** will emerge.

Rosanna Chan, Geoff Lovegrove, David Runciman and Kay Ian Ng

Stewardship by Simone Loke



In 2016, Union embarked earnestly on the redevelopment of God’s house in BUFF. Being mindful of the challenge of imminent capital raising needs, the Stewardship Ministry took a relatively different approach for this year’s Stewardship drive. Instead of a prominent celebrative month, we chose to take a softer “pledge renewal” appeal, emphasizing two aspects of Christian stewardship – “Christ-centered living” and “biblical finance principles”, preparing members spiritually for the financial challenges to come.

We have been blessed with our Kennedy Road church location for over 67 years. To rebuild and to relocate would inevitably mean a

few years of adjustments to how we have been conducting ourselves at Union. Focusing on Paul’s teaching in the Book of Philippians, Pastor Greg led us all in increasing our awareness of Christian living through a number of programs and sermons. From reminding us of a Christian lifestyle through the “Simple Living Handbook” challenge - simplifying our daily living albeit in the most little way, to emulating Christ’s concern over the less privileged through the 10/10/10 Offering, to praising our Lord’s provisions and sufficiency in Jeff Greenman’s “Fragrant Offering”, and to highlighting the promise of our eventual Heavenly citizenship upon living as distinct Christians in his “Hope” sermon. Simplicity, brotherhood, confidence in God’s provisions and fixing our eye on the Lord will take us through the road to our new church home.

2016 Commitment Card Result

PLEDGE	No. OF PEOPLE	AMOUNT (HKD)
New	16	416,400
Existing	94	5,746,800
		6,163,200
One-off	55	2,389,613
FOHKC		
New	2	36,000
Existing	13	1,155,000
		1,191,000
GRAND TOTAL	180	9,743,813

Striving to raise financial awareness in a Christian life is the other aspect preparing our congregation at Union. The Stewardship Ministry introduced a structured biblical finance study through launching the “Navigate Your Finances God’s Way” class in early 2016. The study aims at encouraging a deeper and more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the study of the biblical financial principles that God has spelt out in the Bible. Not only was the course met with much enthusiasm and with a high “stay-till-completion” participation rate, we are also proud to have our very own “graduated”, and further “indoctrinated” Union members starting the same biblical finance classes in 2017 and propagating God’s guidance in how we could deposit treasures in our “accounts in Heaven”. Investing in where our hearts are will exemplify our faith in God’s plan for each of us at Union.

Your increasing generosity in the last years has not only enabled us a smooth running of Union’s operations but has also helped furthering the build-out of the Body of Christ at our church. We praise and thank the Lord’s blessings through your continuing support for His work at Union. In 2017, we shall have much to do in light of BUFF, on top of growing our life-transforming ministries. May the Lord continue His blessings upon us and lead us through all the financial and logistic challenges ahead.

## Human Resources by Alison Middleton

Committee Members: Greg Anderson, Roy Huang, Kenneth Chiang, Mike Witthoft, George Ding, Jean de Groot, Steve Nutland, Anita Au and Alison Middleton

The Committee was very busy in 2016 and can look at some solid steps forward in terms of institutionalizing our policies and procedures, and functioning as a team.

A comprehensive review of staff members was completed in December, which gave the committee the chance to review a year of opportunities and challenges.

Senior Pastor Greg Anderson, about to complete his tenth year at Union, was on sabbatical for the first three months of 2016. Pastor Greg and Holly greatly appreciated the time in Cambridge and the time he spent with his dying mother after his sabbatical.

In Pastor Greg's absence, Pastor Michele Bland served as the acting head-of-staff and Pastor Matthew Frederick served as the preaching minister. This provided both a chance to expand their horizons and the church is grateful for their service and support during Pastor Greg's absence. The church celebrated Pastor Matthew's wedding to Jolene in May and the awarding of Pastor Michele's Doctor of Psychology in December.

Worship Director Chris Yorks continues to develop the music program of Union

with creativity and excellence. His ability to cultivate volunteers and his partnership with choir director Forrest Morr and organist Janice Lo is a gift from God.

The most talked about growth area of Union in 2016 was the youth ministry. Brenna Dykman, assisted by her intern John Anderson, grew the largest youth group of any Hong Kong church. Brenna was promoted to Christian Education Director in January and recruited Antonin Ficatier from Princeton to replace herself. Hunter Purvis joined the Youth Ministry as the Assistant Youth Director in August. Both have made a great start and have already made their mark.

Our Children's Ministry continues to draw new families to the church and provides a variety of special events as well as regular Sunday School. Jacklien Lee is only part-time, aided for most of the year by Elza Wong, Elena Liu, and Ganga Suduwelikanda, who joined in November, makes her achievements all the more impressive.

Judy Hon led the Union Playgroup for five years of great growth. When she resigned to take a teaching position in International School of Macao, Annie Liu, the lead teacher, Ho On Yee, both teacher and assistant, Sandy Yamaguchi and Alison Lee, the assistants and Cheryl Farmer, our new Playgroup Coordinator continue to build on Judy's legacy. New programs like the Drop-in Days and Holiday Club were very well received.

We bid our farewell to Lee-Ann MacFarlane, our Missions Director and her son Fred in June. They have moved back to South Africa and the position was not refilled. Pastor Greg was the staff person in charge, and Brenna Dykman provided support to the record number of Union members going on mission trips in the fall.

Anita Au as Administration Director fulfilled many different job roles as she helped staff to see, to quote her, "God's big picture". She dealt with day-to-day operation and personnel issues, consulting Alison Middleton, our HR Professional on the Committee as necessary. Anita has also continued to build the wedding and funeral ministries which brought more than HK\$3million in revenue this year.

The Administrative staff suffered from some health issues that made us short-handed this year and there was more than the usual turnover. We thank Zarifa Li and Carly Soon for their contributions to the team and Georgianna Tse for her work with BUFF and we wish them Godspeed. We welcomed Vivi Ng in a full-time and Sum Cheung in a part-time administrative role. We thank Josephine Lee for her nearly six years' of service in administration and property. We are so grateful for Irene Lau's gifts as our Accountant and her assistant, Floris Kwan.

The HR committee commends the dedication of our janitorial team –

Fanny Cheng, Wilson Wong, Judy Lam, Lau Chau Kwai, Chan Yum Ming, Chan King Pong and Sam Hui for being there to serve the congregation every day of the week.

In summary, we praise and thank God for the staff of Union and seek to help them fulfill their callings as they minister to us as a congregation. We thank you for your ongoing trust and prayers as we aim to balance both the needs of the church and the needs of our employees.

# 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>• Arranges baptism and membership classes</li> <li>• Leads two small groups</li> <li>• Hosts “get connected” events</li> <li>• FIN - Family in Need</li> </ul>
The Rev. Matthew Fredericks	Assistant Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leads Young Adults Ministry</li> <li>• Secondary Preacher</li> <li>• Staff Liaison with Alpha</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>
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>



NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
Ms. Jacklien Lee	Children's Ministry Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Ministry Programming for children between 0-10 years old</li> </ul>
Ms. Priskilla Fachruddin	Children's Ministry Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists programs for the Children's Ministry</li> </ul>
Ms. Ganga Suduwelikanda	Crèche Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for the care of babies and toddlers under two years old</li> </ul>
Ms. Annie Liu	Playgroup Lead Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversees all matters related to playgroup</li> </ul>
Ms. Cheryl Farmer	Playgroup Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handles all matters related to playgroup, from lesson planning to classroom teaching</li> </ul>
Ms. Ho On Yee	Playgroup Teacher/Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists playgroup lesson planning to classroom teaching</li> </ul>
Ms. Sandy Yamaguchi	Playgroup Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist classroom teaching and preparations</li> </ul>
Mr. Antonin Ficatier	Youth Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Ministry Programming</li> </ul>
Mr. Hunter Purvis	Assistant Youth Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists Youth Ministry Programming</li> </ul>
Ms. Sarah Nutland	Youth Intern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists programs for the Youth Ministry</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</li> <li>Assistant to Senior Pastor</li> <li>Oversees Playgroup</li> <li>Handles all weddings and funerals</li> <li>Handles all church bookings</li> </ul>
Ms. Irene Lau	Accountant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handles all church accounting matters</li> </ul>
Ms. Floris Kwan	Accounting Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant to the Accountant</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. Sum Cheung	Administrative Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General administration &amp; church operations support</li> </ul>
Ms. Fanny Cheng Mr. Wilson Wong	Full-time 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

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## 9 ADULT BAPTISMS

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- 1. Karunawardhane, Sanjeewa
- 2. Lam, Gillian
- 3. Liu, Elena (Liu, Zhiyuan)
- 4. Tang, Austin
- 5. Tian, Mary (Tian, Ying Zhi)
- 6. Wang, Jasmine
- 7. Yao, Andrew
- 8. Yau, Samuel
- 9. Yee, Jack

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## 3 YOUTH BAPTISMS

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- 1. Bland, Elliott
- 2. Maddess, Amber
- 3. Mark, Parisa

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## 5 CHILDREN / INFANT BAPTISMS

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- 1. Foster, Lawrence
- 2. Lee, Evan
- 3. Lee, Scarlett
- 4. Shimazaki, Marco
- 5. Yang, Peter (Yang, Jiaqi)

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## 2 CHILDREN DEDICATIONS

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- 1. Chan, Charis
- 2. Donne, Samuel



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## 18 NEW MEMBERS

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1. Barth, Michael
2. Cheung, Raichel
3. Eyres, Alia
4. Hirs, Jacqueline
5. Hirs, Peter
6. Hu, Julia
7. Lee, Jong
8. Lee, Sonia
9. Lundquist, Paul
10. Maize, Peter
11. Maize, Wendy
12. Mao, Stephen
13. Marsh, Reid
14. Parks, Jen
15. Petkovic, Jane
16. Sheng, Jillian
17. Venter, Mariki
18. Venter, Michael

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## REGULAR ATTENDEES LEFT HONG KONG

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1. Anisha, Abraham & Von Hindenburg, Hannfried
2. Chiang, Ken & Christine
3. Dondiego, Mila
4. Fields, Daniel & Laura
5. Hon, Judy
6. Hull, Scott & Danielle
7. Jugo, Tessie
8. Huang, Nada
9. Pike, Thomas & Christy
10. Sng, Koon San & Yong, Louise
11. Tan, Mitchell & Chung, Vivian
12. Tobin, Tom & Lisa
13. Wilson, Tim & Angel

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45 WEDDINGS

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124 FUNERALS

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# Treasurer's Report

by George Ding

## Financial Highlight

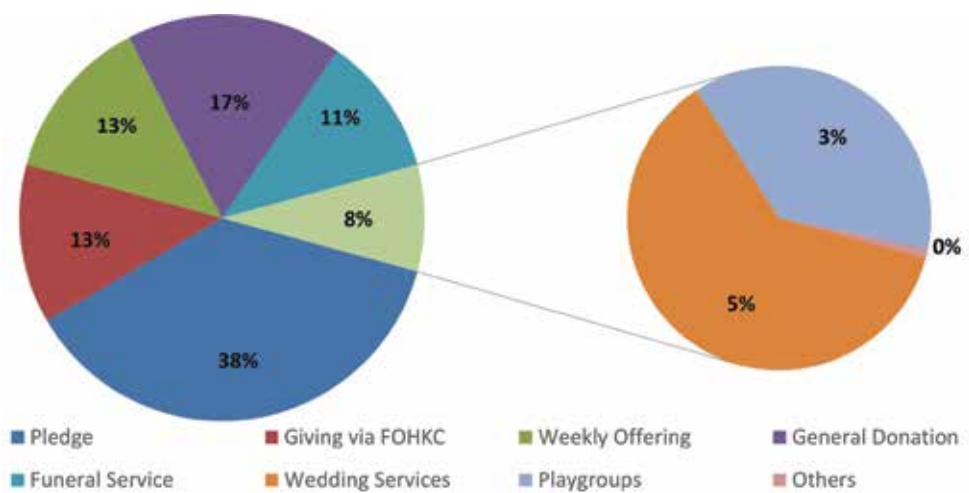
Union Church strives to be a good steward of financial resources entrusted by our congregation. We are grateful to report another year with positive operating results. The General Fund, our main operating fund, records a surplus of \$1.5 million<sup>1</sup> (after deduction of Building Union for the Future, “BUFF” expenses). The net asset of the church stands at \$26 million at the year-end of 2016, with approximately half in cash and its equivalent and half in mutual fund investments.

## Revenue

Thanks to our Lord’s abundant blessings and your generosity, we receive \$12.8 million in the General Fund offering, with an additional \$3.1 million revenue generated by various Church operated programs. In addition, we receive designated offering of \$3.5 million to missions and ministries that are supported by Union. Our General Fund offering was 7% above our goal in 2016 but trailing 3.4% from actual last year.

The breakdown of general fund revenue is as follows.

Total Revenue: \$15,962,595



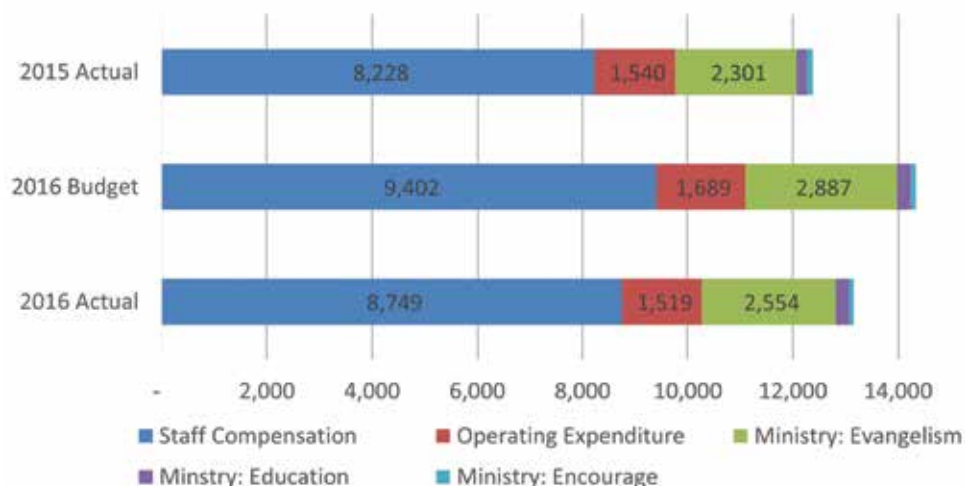
<sup>1</sup> All figures provided herewith are in Hong Kong Dollars and based on the unaudited financial reports by the finance staff as of December 31, 2016.

## Expenses

The annual operating expenses is 6% higher from actuals in 2015. This increase is mainly driven by inflation and slightly higher staff headcount this year. Thanks to the CoM's leadership and church staff's diligence, the actual expenses are 9.2% below the budgeted amount.

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

Total Expenses: HK\$13,160,000



## BUFF and Redevelopment Reserve Fund

The church redevelopment project (BUFF) has made significant progress this year. At the beginning of this year, CoM authorized the Treasurer to replenish the Redevelopment Reserve Fund ("RRF"), which brought the fund's balance back to \$5 million. BUFF team concluded an extensive temporary location search by entering a leasing negotiation with Sunlight Tower REIT by the year end. As the temporary location is secured, this brings both challenges and opportunities on many facets of Church's operations in coming years.

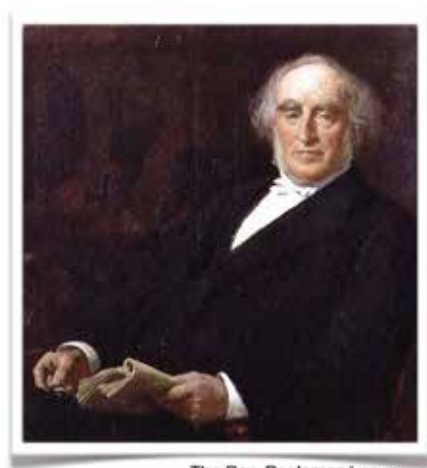
The one-off transfer from General Fund to RRF was at \$1,042,133. BUFF related expenses was at \$1,534,957 in 2016. The balance of the RRF stands at \$3,633,760 as of December 31, 2016.

# A Brief History

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

Union Church was founded in 1844 by the Rev. James Legge, a Scottish member of 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 translated the Chinese classics into English and the Bible into Chinese. His translations are used to this day and are 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.” In 1873, Dr. Legge returned to the UK 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 the Church. The events surrounding its total physical destruction remain a mystery. (The most intriguing thesis is that the Church’s wooden beams were used to rebuild the Japanese tower in Government House especially.)



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 Rev. Dennis Rogers, perhaps the most significant 20th century Union Church pastor, following his death in 1977.



The Annex and the Bell Tower

In recent years, the Church has changed from a predominately European expatriate congregation to a church that is 60% Asian. It 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 Church has matured from a ministry of the London Missionary Society to an independent congregation. Three bodies 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.

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Cover Designer: Brian Woo, for his creativity and brilliance

Photos: Brian Woo 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