



**UNION
CHURCH**
WALK IN HIS WAY...

annual
report
2017



UNION
CHURCH
佑寧堂



TRUSTEES

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

DEACONS

Charles Caldwell (Clerk)
 Mike Wittoff (Clerk*)
 Ken Morrison
 Catriona Woodrow
 Shlivya Dharvale
 Steven Kim
 Alexander Mak
 Christine Wu
 Brian Woo
 Roy Huang

* until November 2017

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

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 Peter Flshwick (Vice Chairman)
 George Ding (Hon. Treasurer)
 Amos Lyso (Deputy Tresurer)
 Andrew Foster (Hon. Secretary)
 Timothy Ng (Deputy Secretary)
 David Runciman (BUFF)
 Grace Siu (Worship)
 Simone Loke (Stewardship)
 Alison Middleton (Human Resources)
 Jimmy Phua (Missions)
 Anson Wang (Property)

Table of Contents

PAGE

01	Senior Pastor's Message	2
02	Trustees' Report	3
03	Deacons' Court Report	7
04	Committee of Management Report	8
05	Encourage	
	Associate Pastor's Report	11
	Prayer Ministry	13
06	Educate	
	Small Group & Adult Education	15
	Youth & Young Adults Ministry	16
	Children's Ministry	18
07	Evangelise	
	Senior Pastor's Report	21
	Alpha	22
	Missions	23
	Worship	25
	Preaching	27
	Filipino Ministry	28
08	Administration	
	Property	29
	Stewardship	30
	Human Resources	31
09	The Union Church Team	32
10	The Union Church Family	34
11	Treasurer's Report	36
12	A Brief History	38
13	Building Union for the Future	40

Senior Pastor's Message

by Greg Anderson

2017 will go down a landmark year in Union's history. Twenty years after planning approval was obtained, Union moved from 22A Kennedy Road in order to redevelop.

It was in the words of Charles Dickens, "the best of times and the worst of times".

Saying goodbye to the old facility was hard. Some of our members didn't make the move. The final service at Union was a magnificent example of how God has worked and will continue to work through Union Church.

The new facility has given me a new lease on pastoral life. The opportunities for us in Wan Chai will make the next few years eventful.

The staff of Union Church has been heroic. They saw several key team members move away and they lost their church. But did they ever find the faith and energy to move forward! Thank you.

Great thanks to the BUFF Committee, the CoM, Deacons, and Trustees for their leadership in very perilous times. The hosts of volunteers (especially the 'yellow shirt brigade') welcomed everyone to the new facility in fine fashion.

Read the reports and rejoice in the partnership between our Lord and his people that has made 2017 a year that will change Union forever—and I mean eternally.

In closing, in what has been the most challenging year of my ministry, I thank God for some remarkable leaders. Mike Witthoft guided the Deacons as Clerk, and has passed the reins to Charles Caldwell. Roy Huang led the CoM until February and then Frank Proctor took over. I marvel at their faith, humility, and sheer ability. Geoff Lovegrove, the chair of our Trustees, has seen the twenty years of his work in redevelopment bear fantastic fruit. God has put the right people in the right place at the right time.



Gratefully,

Trustees' Report

by Geoff Lovegrove, Chairman

The Trustees for 2017 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 2017 the market value of the General Fund was approximately \$16.26 million and of the Three-Quarter Century Fund approximately \$9.18 million, each showing a gain for the year of about 18.9%. The General and (Three-Quarter Century) Funds have gained about 19.1% (17.7%) in the past five years, and gained about 26.3% (23.6 %) 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 Mandatory Provident fund Schemes Authority 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

Trustees’ Report

investment decision-making and ownership practices.

The Principles for Responsible Investment are consistent with FIL’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 2016 Fidelity’s ESG team actively engaged with more than 650 companies on issues such as governance and remuneration, board composition, capital structure and environment and social issues. They also voted at more than 3,700 shareholder meetings, voting against management in nearly a third of cases to protect the rights of investors.

FIL participates in the debate over the development of appropriate standards for responsible investment through its membership in the following forums:

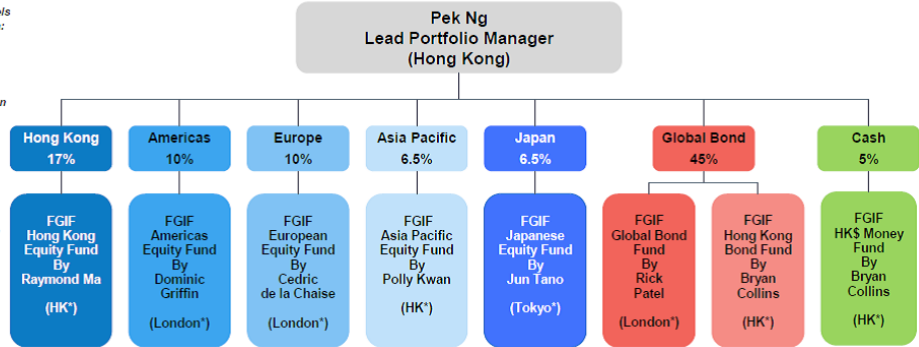
- International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN)
- Asian Corporate Governance Association (ACGA)
- Asia Securities Industry and Financial Markets (ASIFM)

Structure of the FGIF Stable Growth Fund

Two Levels of Alpha:

Asset Allocation

Security Selection



- Hong Kong Investment Funds Association (HKIFA)
- The Association of British Insurers (ABI), the Corporate Governance Forum, Investment Association (IA), and UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) in the UK
- The Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO)

In addition, Fidelity is a signatory to the UK Stewardship Code and the Japanese Stewardship Code.

In overseeing the management of the Church's investments during 2017, the Trustees summarise the situation as follows:

- the aim of the church's investments is steady growth and income with low to medium risk;
- the funds are managed by FIL Investment Management (Hong Kong) Ltd; and
- the funds are invested 50% in equities in five 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 \$99,561 at the end of 2017, showing a gain of about 23.8% for the year. No disbursement was made from the Fund to the Committee of Management which, in accordance with the Fund's Deed, 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 clause 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 for residential apartments are sold to third parties to pay the Developer's costs, profit and fees. The reversion clause 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 courts ruled (in 2016) 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. All major Government approvals relating to the overall design of the new building having been obtained, the Joint Leaders and Trustees agreed a Development Agreement with the Developer which was sealed and signed on 28 March 2017 in the manner set out in the Ordinance. Appendices to the Agreement concerning a long lease pro forma and a management agreement for the residential apartments being sold on long leases are still being finalised in consultation between the Church's and Developer's legal advisors. Temporary premises were acquired in 18/F Sunlight Tower, 248 Queen's Road East and the first

service there was held on 3 September 2017. It is hoped to move back to 22A Kennedy Road during Q1 of 2023 or before. The Developer continues to remain positive and encouraging notwithstanding the considerable delays that have occurred. The Trustees wish to express their gratitude to the many members of the congregation who have so willingly contributed their skills and time and who have worked extremely hard to overcome the many 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 Report

by Mike Witthoft, Clerk

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

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. Towards the end of 2017 and moving into 2018, we welcome two new deacons Roy Huang and Yan Yu, while Alexander Mak returned from being a resting deacon. However, we also saw the following deacons step down from actively participating on the Deacons’ Court: Jane Petkovic, Jean De Groot and Steve Nutland. We thank all these deacons for their service and commitment to Union Church.

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 are as follows:

BUFF	Ken Morrison
Children Ministry	Roy Huang
Christian Education	Alexander Mak
Fellowship/ Membership	Steven Kim
Family In Need	Brian Woo
Human Resources	Charles Caldwell / Roy Huang
Missions	Catriona Woodrow

Pastoral Care	Catriona Woodrow / Alexander Mak
Prayer	Charles Caldwell / Shlivya Dhavale
Small Groups	Christine Wu
Stewardship	Charles Caldwell
U Café	Christine Wu
Worship	Brian Woo
Youth	Charles Caldwell

During 2017 Union Church entered a new season as we moved our congregation to Sunlight Tower in Wan Chai, God went before us and with us as we have settled into our temporary premises. The experience is refining us and molding us into a vessel. The deacons have been conscious of shepherding the flock following the move. It is an exciting time as we find our way in our new home and God reveals what he has in store for Union Church. Please pray for our pastors and staff as they settle in to their ministries.

Personally, I have experienced much change in 2017 and entered a new season of life, as I stepped down from the Clerk of Deacons’ Court and became a resting deacon. I wish to 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.

From the Deacons’ Court: The deacons give praise and thanks for Mike Witthoft’s service to Union Church and his leadership as the Deacons’ Clerk.

Committee of Management Report

by Frank Proctor, Chairman

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

The 12 volunteers who serve on Union Church’s Committee of Management (COM) are responsible for managing the temporal affairs of the Church, ranging from human resources and stewardship to legal affairs and property. In addition, each member of COM serves either as a liaison for one or more of Union’s ministries, or as the point person for a functional area.

This year’s COM members (with their responsibilities noted) were:

Grace Siu (Worship); Amos Lyso (Youth and Children’s); Jimmy Phua (Missions); Alison Middleton (Human Resources); David Runciman (BUFF); Peter Fishwick (Communications and IT); Drew Foster (Legal); Timothy Ng (Small Groups); Anson Wang (Property); and Simone Loke (Stewardship). Treasurer George Ding and Senior Pastor Greg Anderson were ex officio members were. Our officers were: Frank Proctor, Chairman; Peter Fishwick, Vice Chairman; Drew Foster, Hon. Secretary; Timothy Ng, Deputy Secretary; George Ding, Hon. Treasurer; Amos Lyso, Deputy Treasurer.

2017 was a year of new beginnings for Union Church, as we moved from the premises at 22A Kennedy Road to our temporary home in Sunlight Tower. With this step, we have embarked on an exciting new chapter in Union’s history,

which will culminate with our move to our brand new home in Kennedy Road some five years hence.

It is never easy to be forced to think beyond your comfortable routine, but it is invariably healthy; the move has led us to rethink everything from our weekly schedule of service times and our space requirements, to new roles and responsibilities. We have been humbled and blessed by the adaptability, understanding, and grace that our congregation showed during this process.

All of us owe tremendous thanks to the BUFF Steering Committee—Kay Ian Ng, David Runciman, Geoff Lovegrove and Rosanna Chan. Although COM, Trustees, and Deacons share ultimate responsibility for BUFF, these four individuals are really the ones who made a successful move and redevelopment possible. They have unselfishly given of their time and talents for years, working almost on a daily basis.

In addition, we are especially indebted to the indefatigable Patrick Wilson, who oversaw the Sunlight renovation and the preparations for the move, as well as Clive Whittington, our coordinator for the move itself.

The staff worked many long, difficult hours under stressful conditions to maintain Union’s service and ministry during this period without missing a beat. I would like to thank all our staff, including ministry directors, administration, and janitors for their dedication, hard work and professionalism.

The transition to Sunlight Tower was a constant theme running through COM's activities during the past year. In order to communicate plans for the move and our new space, and to listen to any questions or concerns, we participated in a series of three Town Meetings in April/May, and in making hundreds of "UCare" telephone calls to the congregation to discuss the move.

On the practical side, after the Development Agreement with Henderson Land was signed in March, we proceeded to finalize the contract with the building contractor for renovation of the 18th floor of Sunlight Tower into our worship space, designed by the architects at KplusK. In the autumn, we concluded the Formal Tenancy Agreement for our space in Sunlight Tower. The sanctuary was ready just a few weeks behind schedule, and we held our first service in Sunlight Tower on 3 September 2017.

A number of essential housekeeping details were completed during the summer. For example, our insurance coverage was adjusted to include both our new leased space in Sunlight Tower as well as 22A Kennedy Road. We also used the move as an opportunity to implement a much-needed upgrade of Union's IT system and security.

In the busy, chaotic first Sundays in Sunlight Tower, Pastor Michele's "yellow shirt brigade" of volunteer greeters and ushers brought vigor and enthusiasm to their roles, and a positive energy to Sunlight Tower.

We are blessed that attendance has remained strong across all services. As

we settled in, COM began looking for resolutions to the capacity challenges at Sunlight Tower, particularly at the 11:15AM service. Services have been added at 5:15PM on Sunday and midweek on Wednesday evenings, to provide more opportunities for worship. Although COM considered several additional locations in the Wan Chai area to supplement our space Sunlight Tower, we found no suitable spaces that were nearby and within our budget. We are blessed to have the Hotel Indigo just across the street, and this has provided temporary space on two floors for Youth's U-Bar and the U-Café services. For the present, Hotel Indigo remains the best alternative space, and the services there have quickly developed their own tone and personality.

Although many of our activities were focused on the move to Sunlight Tower, COM was busy in other areas as well.

It is important to use technology to enhance members' ability to connect with the Church, and we have begun live streaming our Sunday services in real time over the internet. A generous donation allowed us to add two new cameras in the sanctuary, to make a high-quality livestream possible.

In June, a Union Church app was launched to help us keep in closer touch with announcements and events, watch and listen to sermons and talks, and connect for prayer requests and small groups.

An online payment system was also inaugurated this year, so that for the first time, Union members may donate directly online through the Union Church website and the Union Church mobile app.

Committee of Management Report

John Jamison was confirmed as the new chair of the Missions Committee this year. His appointment caps a multi-year review of the Missions Committee's priorities and policies. John is well suited to this role, and we are confident that the Union Church will continue to be an instrument for the Lord's work through ambitious missions work.

During the past year, we said goodbye to two much beloved ministry staff — Matthew Fredericks and Hunter Purvis.

In addition, as a consequence of the move, we had to discontinue our Union Church playgroup. We thus sadly bid farewell to the playgroup staff—Cheryl Farmer, Ho On Yee, Annie Liu, and Sandy Yamaguchi.

But there were some cheerful new faces too. We welcomed Sum Cheung to the administration staff. Monte Peterson joined us in August, working on a part-time basis, to help bolster our small group and adult education programs. And we were very pleased that we could increase Pastor Michele's weekly hours so that she can expand her work in pastoral care, small groups, and other areas.

As I conclude my three-year term on COM and step down after my year as Chairman, I would like to express my appreciation for being able to serve alongside such a hardworking and committed group of fellow COM members. It has also been a great honor and privilege to work with the entire Union staff, especially Pastor Greg.

May the Lord continue to guide us and bless us in our work at Union Church.

Encourage

Associate Pastor's Report by Michele Bland

We are reminded in Ephesians 5:25 and Acts 2:20 that Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. According to Mark Dyer, "church is a local collection of people committed to Christ, to regularly assemble and have his Word preached and obeyed, including Christ's commands to baptize and to celebrate the Lord's Supper." When I think of the work of Union Church in 2017, I am encouraged that we are moving in the right direction. Union Church has gathered onsite and offsite, in prisons, on the missions field and abroad. Thanks be to God.



We kicked off 2017 with the **Ladies Retreat** in January entitled, *"Perfectly Imperfect"* in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. There were 30 ladies who attended and together we enjoyed connecting with God and meeting new friends. It was wonderful to share the planning and speaking with Brenna Dykman, as well as speaker Terri Appel. This event was a wonderful launch to the new year for women and a great platform for several women's events and ministries. Additional ministries included two ladies **Get Connected Dinners** - *"Seasons of Life"* dinner in May with speakers Junita Dubois and Rev. Christa Von Zychlin, and fittingly

the all-girl teen worship band, as well as the fall *Wilderness Dinner* featuring Dr. Julianna Rotmeyer as speaker and Crystal Lo, Anna Rees, Christine Wu and Alison Lyso as flash mob worship team. Both sessions enjoyed homemade dinners, great fellowship and were well attended with 100 ladies each.

Easter Monday, a team of 19 ladies, after meeting for several preparation sessions, went to **Lo Wu Correctional Institution for Women**. There we shared the gospel through songs, stories and testimonies to 280 women and it was reported that 38 women responded to receive Christ as their Lord and/or rededicate their lives to Christ. What a blessing it was to have our multi-cultural and multi-lingual teams reached out and connected. Additionally, several women have continued with prison ministry and are facilitating regular bible studies and attending regular prison ministry training through HK Kun Sun Association.

This summer, with the leaving of Pastor Matthew, Anto and I fulfilled the annual Union Church outreach in **Mongolia** with Flourishing Futures. With a small team and

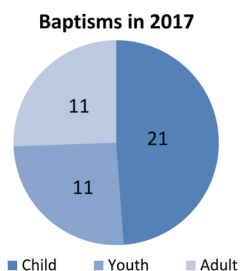


Encourage

over 100 orphan children to attend to, we worked hard to provide a dynamic and engaging program –a full week of Summer Camp. What a blessing and privilege it was for us to minister to our ministry partners first hand. What a fantastic team, special thanks to Jessica and Isabel Papadopoulos, Elizabeth Pang, Tim Petkovic, Lorraine Mccrohan, and Tina and Joshua Chan.

In our new location during the month of September, Union Church hosted lunches in various restaurants within the city. Thank you hosts for your support and for building up the UC community. With the move we also worked on developing a larger **Usher and Greeter team**. Thank you Tess Lyons and Steven Kim for your leadership with the ‘yellow shirt brigade.’

Christian Education this year also included regular **Baptism** and **Membership** classes. As well as, **GriefShare** which was offered twice this year, providing people an opportunity to meet others who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Thank you Walter Wu for being a vital part of this team. Additionally, I have enjoyed seeing the Monday and Friday **Small Groups** grow in relationship to God, service and in number.



Total: 43 baptisms
2 child dedications
9 new members

It was exciting to baptize 7 people on the beach this year!

The Finance in Need (**FIN**) team, Charles Schmidt, Isabel Morrison, Jean de Groot (who left HK at the end of the year) and deacon Brian Woo meets regularly with individuals and provides financial, emotional and spiritual support to those in need. This is such a valuable and rewarding ministry which meets felt needs.

Regarding **Pastoral Care**, I am very grateful for deacon Steven Kim who is a very active and dynamic participant of the Pastoral Care Team and it is a blessing to make hospital visits with him.

Our **Deacons** work hard to serve the people of God at Union Church, making themselves available for prayer on Sundays, meeting new members, processing ways to help our congregation connect. I thank each one of you for your faithful service and ministry and look forward to our monthly meetings. Thank you Charles Caldwell for initiating several prayer events this year, which was vital in preparation for the move.

Additional highlights this year included preaching, being a member of the HK Christian Council Radio Committee, recording 10 radio broadcasts “Reflections”, working with UC colleagues to host Screenagers; and speaking at the Ecumenical Unity Service. Lowlights included bidding farewell to some key UC members, as well as to colleagues Pastor Matthew, Brenna and Hunter.

I am very thankful to the Lord for a year filled with blessings and answered prayer. Christianity, “is a corporate matter, and the Christian life can only be fully realized in relationship with others”. I am grateful for the community in which we are in and am in hopeful for what the Lord will do as we reach out and care in His name.

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 to pray for you. Our goal is to 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 via e-mail and over fifty people on the WhatsApp Prayer Group. Prayer requests or praise reports are sent to these groups who remember people in their prayers. The Union Church intercessors include people who have left Hong Kong thus the Prayer Chain provides global coverage. The Prayer Ministry team is experienced in listening and responding compassionately to anyone who has anything on their heart; be it spiritual, physical or something to celebrate. 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.

With the migration to WhatsApp, we have seen an explosive growth in prayer. In 2017, over 3,600 messages of prayer, praise and encouragement were generated in the WhatsApp Prayer Chat alone. This is more than double the prayers generated in the first year of the WhatsApp Prayer Chat and 1800% more than the e-mail medium in 2016.

This past year also saw the creation of Prayer Sunday – the second Sunday of each month. While people are always available to pray after each service, Prayer Sunday puts an extra push towards prayer on that day and we have seen many people transform their relationship to prayer.

Many prayer sessions took place leading up to the Sunlight Tower move. These took place in the old sanctuary and we also held two prayer walks. One of the last Sundays in the old building saw over 30 people participate in a prayer walk from 22A Kennedy Road to Sunlight Tower – the largest prayer gathering in recent memory – where we prayed not only for Union Church but for many neighbours and critical needs between Mid-Levels and Wan Chai topped off with prayer sessions inside Sunlight Tower before the move. Intercessors carried little stones from 22A Kennedy Road that will be “prayed back” to our new church in several years. Last but certainly not least, a final prayer session was held in the old sanctuary in the final hours before the doors were closed and keys handed over to the developer.

We prayed praise over the miracles, prayed compassion over the deaths and prayed the Lord's will over everything in between. We have seen little prayers emerge out of the Children's Ministry, popcorn prayers emerge out of the Youth Group, and a waterfall of prayers emerge out of our Prayer Team.

“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

E-mail: prayer@unionchurchhk.org

[illegible]

Educate

Small Group & Adult Education by Monte Peterson

After returning to Hong Kong and Union Church with my family in July 2017, I was welcomed into the role of coordinating the church's study of just10, by Canon J. John. Beginning in September and continuing into December and January, 10 of our current small groups and 5 new groups studied the Ten Commandments and considered how they continue to apply in our lives today. Pastor Greg also led us through a sermon series of these commandments, giving people the opportunity to meditate on God's guidelines for our lives from various viewpoints.



In addition to the just10 study, I transitioned into a role of supporting and coordinating all small groups and fostering opportunities for adult education. To that end, Union sponsored several guest lecturers this fall, including Andy Filardo, speaking on finance, Rev. Dr. Jan Martin Depner speaking on the Reformation, Dr. John Yates speaking on Hearing God, and Dr. Denis Alexander speaking on Science and Faith.



None of these events would have been possible without the administrative and janitorial support of our staff and the faithfulness of our congregation, who work together to build up the kingdom of God. It is a privilege to serve among you in this work, and to continue to seek God's purposes for Union in this new location with new opportunities for ministry. The goal for both small groups and adult education is to *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” 2 Peter 3:18*. I pray that we all continue to grow in both the grace and knowledge of Jesus in 2018!

Youth & Young Adults by Antonin Ficatier



Some news about my team: after serving for a year as Assistant Youth Director, Hunter Purvis left HK in September to go back to the U.S. His position has not been filled yet. Justin Cheong replaced Sarah Nutland as Youth Intern in the summer. Justin is also leading the Youth Band and helping me with some administrative tasks. It was my second year as Youth Director at Union Church: still many things to learn, but I am slowly seeing the results of the seeds planted the year before.

YOUTH MINISTRY

2017 was a year of transition for our Youth Group with the move to our temporary location in Sunlight Tower. Overall, the move went smoothly for the Youth Group. The youth are excited about gathering in a very modern building in the middle of such a vibrant neighborhood.



2017 was an exceptional year for our Confirmation Program, with 17 youth confirmed and 11 baptized.

During the year an average of 32 youth came for our Friday Youth Group, and 11 came for our Sunday Youth Group. This is slightly below our 2016 numbers, but higher than 2015.

In terms of Missions, our Youth Group participated in several local initiatives with partnered organizations (HOLF, Love21, Impact HK) and travelled abroad for our two annual Mission Trips:

- Cambodia in April with FCOP International
- Philippines in October with Kids International Ministries (KIM)

Union Youth Group would not exist without our faithful group of adult volunteers who willingly give their time and energy every week to educate and connect with our youth. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them from the bottom of my heart for their incredible ministry.



YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults Ministry was a little bit slow this year, with a few sporadic events organized by Assistant Pastor Matthew Fredericks before his departure in June.



My wife Jess and I started a small but encouraging new initiative for Young Adults: a weekly dinner for Young Adults aged 18-35 years-old on Wednesday night in Sunlight Tower. An average of 11 Young Adults joined for the month of December, including Young Adults from other international churches. Dinners provide a time for Young Adults from different backgrounds to come together and engage in healthy discussion over a meal.

I am looking forward to 2018 for Young Adults at Union Church. Our new location at the heart of Wan Chai has injected huge potential into the Young Adults Ministry!

Children's Ministry by Jacklien Lee



2017 was filled with lots of great memories at both 22A Kennedy Road and Sunlight Tower. We are thankful to God for His blessings and His continuous guidance and provision throughout the year for Children's Ministry and our Kingdom Kids' families.

This year, Children's Ministry continues on with our mission to *"Train up a child in a way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it"* and by His grace we continue to grow in faith for the Christ's kingdom.

Our Children's Ministry programs are divided into three sections. The first is our core program - the Sunday School program, second is the Family-based events and third, the community outreach programs. All three sections are inter-related. Through our Sunday School program, children learn about Jesus and experience the love of Christ through Bible-based lessons and fun activities. Furthermore, we introduce our children the love of praise and worship in our Kids Worship Time. The Sunday School offerings collected through our worship session from September 2016 to June 2017

was amounted to HK\$29,405.30 and the children collectively decided the offerings to go towards supporting HK SPCA.

For our Family-based events, we organized events such as Easter Sunday activities, Mom's Date, Dad's date and our highlight annual family event - "Hallelujah Party". This year's Hallelujah Party was a collaboration between Union Church and Methodist International Church (MIC), where MIC generously provided the venue and Union organized the event.



The year we'd also witnessed the largest number of graduates (25 kids) in our Sunday School that moved on to our Youth Program. We are very proud of our graduates and their families for their dedication to God and their Sunday School. We want to bless them and cover them in our prayers as they continue to seek a closer relationship with Christ and also with their peers.

During the summer, we organized a Vacation Bible Study (VBS) titled “Fun Factory”, where the children learned that they are all created so wonderfully complex with their own special abilities and God’s love for them is unconditional.



In the winter, we organized our much-loved Children’s Christmas Musical, it is the third year running that we collaborated with the Christian Production Theatre company, Dove Tales Theatre Co. We are so proud of our children who were amazing throughout the whole production and we are also thankful for the full support that we received from all the parents.

Children’s Ministry also instill in children to love and respect others, especially for those in need. One of the ways to achieve this is by encouraging kids and their families to take part in our community outreach program. We have organized 3 community outreach this year, first was through partnering with Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor by filling over 200 PEACE BOXES for the under-privileged families in Hong Kong. We are so proud of the Union Church’s community eagerness

in supporting this PEACE BOX campaign. Second, we organized a mini Christmas Musical at the Home of Loving Faithfulness (HOLF), where 40 people made up of adults and children lovingly performed a Christmas Musical for the residence and staff of HOLF. Lastly, Children’s Ministry organized a Christmas program for about 30 children from the St. Barnabas Home & Society Kids Program.



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated Children’s Ministry staff, past and present, namely **Priskilla Fachruddin, Michelle Borgeest and Ganga Suduwelikanda**. We are grateful to our Worship leaders, Sunday School teachers, faithful event volunteers and many others who have spent their time, energy and love in helping us raise our children for God’s Kingdom. We give thanks and praise the Lord for all of these dedicated and awesome volunteers. Children’s Ministry is truly thankful for their heart of service and we are eternally grateful.

We want to commit our Children’s Ministry and all of our families, staff and volunteers in God’s hand in the year of 2018, that God will use us mightily to share the love of Christ and the great news of salvation through Jesus Christ with others and most importantly to make Christ the center of our lives and our Children’s Ministry. It is our prayers that Kingdom Kid’s families will continue to grow together in their faith in Jesus Christ.



Evangelise

Senior Pastor's Report by Greg Anderson

I have been a consultant for the 3rd edition of the "Atlas of World Christianity". The church is growing rapidly in Asia, but in Hong Kong money rather than Jesus seems to be Lord. The sad fact is that the Christian population of Hong Kong continues to shrink. There are many growing churches, but most of that growth is from Christians leaving one church for another.

Since 1844 Union Church has been a place to share the good news of Christ. The major ways we do it are through Alpha, Missions, and Worship. Please read each of these reports carefully.

Let me take a moment to praise the key leaders in these programs.

Patrick Wilson continues to lead Alpha and he and his wonderful wife, Jane are about to start a marriage class. Tricia Neil, the President of Alpha International, was through Hong Kong and thanked Union for our financial support of Alpha around the world.

Chris Yorks continues to find and train musicians to man the growing number of Union services. We thank Forrest Morr and his choir, who faced a challenging year with key members opposing the move. The love and charity they've showed toward dissenters was Christianity at its best.

The Missions Committee found a new head in John Jamison. The resulting committee, with old and new members, watches over a strategic part of our evangelistic efforts. Well done!

Alpha by Patrick Wilson



We started off 2017 with “The Jesus Lifestyle” course which was a follow up to the previous Alpha. This time we covered the second part of the series based on the Sermon on the Mount. After that, due to the work involved in planning and fitting out the temporary Union Church premises in Sunlight Tower, we were unable to run a Spring Alpha course. However, in September, following the move, we began our first Alpha in Sunlight Tower. It was a challenge getting used to our new premises, such as not being able to cook our own food on site (in order to comply with one of the building lease conditions). Still, we managed by ordering in more food despite the vagaries of Foodpanda in delivering food on time, or delivering it at all!

The Autumn Alpha course was relatively small with just two groups. However, this led to a greater intimacy between guests and leaders than might otherwise have taken place. Once more, we went to Tao Fong Shan for our Away Day and we were blessed by the Holy Spirit’s presence amongst us.

During the year, Tricia Neill, President of Alpha International, spoke at an Alpha International Partners dinner in Hong

Kong bringing us up to date with Alpha worldwide. In November, Rev. Nicky & Sila Lee, Associate Vicar of HTB, spoke at a dinner about the latest developments with “The Marriage Course”, one of which is the 2 year programme to re-film the complete course.

Looking forward to 2018, we are planning to run HTB’s “The Marriage Course” in the spring followed by another Alpha Course later in the year.

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 Missions Committee

Missions at Union Church encompasses our ministry to the world beyond our church walls and congregation, including Hong Kong (Local Missions) and the rest of the world (International Missions). Union Church takes part in missions financially through our Missions Fund, special offerings, and designated giving, and through the hands and feet of our members and staff. In line with Union's overall work to encourage, evangelise, and educate, Union's missions work is based on our biblical commission for compassion (Matthew 9:36-38), evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20), and discipleship (Ephesians 4:11-13).

COMPASSION



Compassion ministries at Union are those ministries to share Christ's love with the world, often providing material and educational support to those who might not otherwise encounter God's love and care. Locally in Hong Kong, the church and its members continued to lead and support impactful compassion ministries such as

serving meals to the elderly, engaging with disabled children, and painting a mural at the Home of Loving Faithfulness. Internationally, the church took part in building projects and care for the needy in Cambodia, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Mainland China.

EVANGELISM

Evangelism ministries at Union are those ministries to fulfil the Great Commission of Christ. Locally, Union continues to support Alpha both financially and through our labour, as well as Chung King Ministries, Inner City Ministries, and outreaches to men's and women's prisons with the HK Christian Kun Sun Association. Internationally, we have continued our long-term partnerships on church plants and evangelism including Light of the World Church in Myanmar, Foursquare Children of Promise in Cambodia, and the Sogod Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in the Philippines.



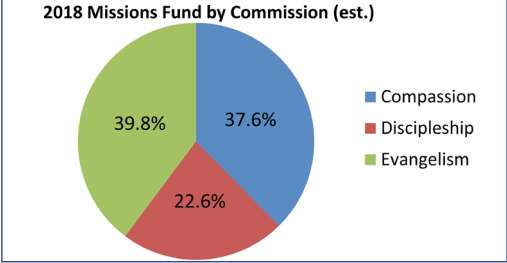
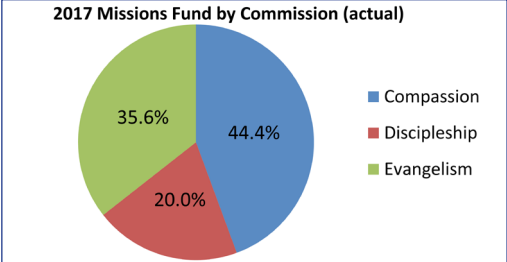
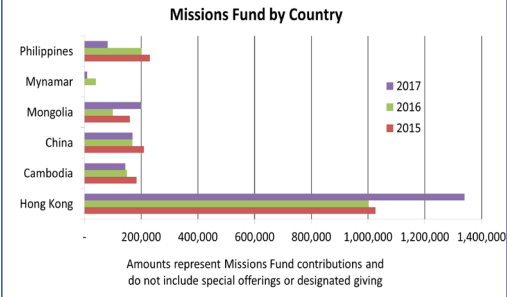
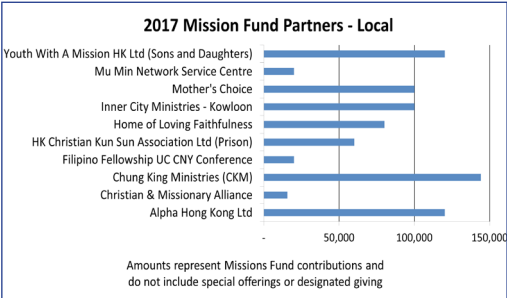
DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship ministries at Union are those ministries to equip the body of Christ for service, either as lay or ordained workers.

In Hong Kong, we support and take part in discipleship ministries such as the Filipino Fellowship CNY Conference, training programs offered by Youth with a Mission, and the enormously strategic scholarships to the Hong Kong Lutheran Theological Seminary students from developing SE Asian countries. Internationally, we supported discipleship through financial support of Asian Development Ministries (SALT) and the Shekinah Alliance Bible College in the Philippines and a bridge-building visit by church members to the Union Theological Seminary in Guangzhou.

GOVERNANCE

In 2017, Union Church gave approximately 12% (\$1,449,524) of our overall church budget to missions through the Missions Fund. Missions Fund partners have been vetted by the church and most projects involve Union members and staff as volunteers or leaders. The Missions Fund was also supplemented by a generous gift of \$200,000 from City Church and \$223,133 carried over from 2016. Special offerings raised \$94,029 for the Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor and SAT-7 Academy. Amazingly, individuals also gave \$1,155,149 to missions partners through designated giving, nearly as much as the Missions Fund. In 2017 the Missions Committee began implementing the decisions from the 2016 agreements by the Joint Leaders to clarify our responsibilities and policies, including the approval of our new Union Church Policies for Missions. We also enhanced our financial oversight by conducting new analysis of our past giving and a more detailed financial planning for the coming year.



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, transitions, prayer, fellowship, and new initiatives for Union’s worship ministries. Thank you all for your servant hearts and commitment throughout 2017 and beyond!

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

The **8:45AM Communion Service** is in its eighth year averaging 40-50 people and growing. 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. We now have a small quartet of voices leading worship and always welcome new singers. Many thanks to all our readers, pray-ers, ushers, and musicians who serve our Lord with their many talents.

The **9:45AM Traditional service** is well grounded in choral traditions and harmony thanks to Forrest, Selene, Janice, and our gifted Union Church Choir. There have been some challenges this year in the midst of our transition to Sunlight Tower, but our choir remains strong and united in the Lord, and as always, welcomes new singers to join! The sense of community and commitment continues to be nurtured through the common goals of worship, fellowship, and excellence in music. The

Advent cantata continues to be a highlight with the presentation of *“Sing Joy To All The World!”* Highlights for 2017 also included symbolic Good Friday service, Easter brass and choir, Christmas Eve (LED) Candlelight services and let’s not forget the celebration of St. Andrew’s Sunday along with the robust tunes of our in-house piper Julian Ragless! 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 2018!



Our **11:15AM Contemporary Service** continues to grow and increase with new singers, players, and worship leaders. We are ever blessed with the commitment and excellence of their singing and playing. For as many who have moved away or onto University this year, God continues to provide our worship leading needs. Although, we could always use another instrumentalist or two! Last year saw the continuation of our youth band under the leadership of Justin Cheong. We thank

Justin and his team for leading worship at our varied venues in both Sunlight Tower and Hotel Indigo! It was a year of fellowship, prayer, and worship events for our leaders with both in-house worship gatherings and practical teachings building up our playing and singing skills for the Lord. We enjoyed Union's sixth annual Christmas Musical, **"Follow That Star Ferry"**, thanks to our Children's Ministry team, *Dovetails Theatre Co.* and our many volunteers! Highlights for 2017 also included our various jazz and gospel worships and a memorable closing worship service at 22A following the typhoon! St. John's Cathedral also invited us to lead their Gospel service at the Cathedral; a good time in the Lord was had by all! We are so grateful to Rob and Betty Porter and their talented and expanding team keeping our AV needs running smoothly; especially for the smooth transition from 22A to Sunlight Tower. 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 and U-Bar services meet simultaneously with the 11:15AM service at Hotel Indigo. It has not been an easy transition from Union to Hotel Indigo, but praise God these services have been resilient in attendance thanks to a committed congregation and leadership. The **U-Bar** is a work in progress and we hope to strengthen the vision and outreach for that service in 2018. Many thanks to Justin and the worship leaders who have faithfully served at **U-Bar** in patience and

joy while this new service evolves in the Lord! We are also grateful for a consistent staff and pastoral presence for all worships. May **U-Café** and **U-Bar** continue to thrive in 2018 as we work together to improve the logistics and smooth running of these important worship services.

The **5:15PM Evening Service** is led by gifted teams of volunteer musicians and worship leaders. We continue to see new visitors and attendees changing the face of this established worship. It has also grown in the number of people attending after a short hiatus in September and October during our transition. We are grateful God led us to re-instate this integral worship service. The worship groups remain strong with some new singers and players joining the team; we have also refreshed the liturgy and order of service providing time for reflection and meditative prayers. This is a service that we pray will continue to expand and grow, as is our prayer for all our worships in their many forms and liturgies!

"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

Senior Pastor Greg Anderson preached 43 sermons this year (nearly three-quarters of all sermons for Union). In addition, the pulpit was shared by former Assistant Pastor Matthew Fredericks (6), former Christian Education Director Brenna Dykman (4), Associate Pastor Michele Bland (2), former Assistant Youth Director Hunter Purvis (2) and Youth Director Antonin Ficatier (1)

The change in location and extra services would have been far more difficult were it not for Rob Porter and his AV team (and the miracle of live streaming)!

A great group of visiting preachers have also visited this year:

- Sam Tsang—New Testament author and professor in Seattle
- Esther Chung—HK Christian Kun Sun Association



- Lauren Pfister—Hong Kong Baptist University
- Harry Lucenay—retired Southern Baptist preacher
- Ray Bakke—Bakke Institute of Urban Ministry



- Darrell Johnson—1st Baptist Vancouver and Regent College
- Morgan Jackson—Faith Comes by Hearing
- Jeff Greenman—Regent College President
- Ken Wytsma—Founder, Justice Conference
- Andrew Chua—Former Union Deacon and current life coach

Filipino Ministry by Ruth Tablada

We ended the year 2017 with great rejoicing and thankfulness knowing that God has been with us giving us victories after victories. God used our past to assure us our hope remains secure in God's everlasting faithfulness.

As it always has been, my flat where I am staying serves also as a shelter and recovery place for the sick. On the Sunday that Typhoon Khanun skirted Hong Kong and in the midst of the T8 storm signal, we held our Worship in the flat with standing room only to accommodate those who came out for their holiday.

Thanksgiving Celebration was held in a park close to my place and the police came responding to complaints of some neighbours. Our Christmas Celebration was held at Tamar and went well. To God be the glory!

HONG KONG GOSPEL FESTIVAL

The Fellowship joined the HK Gospel Festival on 3 December. Members were encouraged to bring their non-christian friends to the Crusades to hear the Gospel Message. There were 9 of us that served as Counsellors during the event. Praise the Lord there were 480 who received the Lord Jesus Christ.

INTERNATIONAL CHINA CONCERN

3 December: Eighteen of us from the Filipino Fellowship joined the "Walk the Wall" raising funds for the disabled & abandoned children of China. Praise the

Lord for the opportunity to support this great cause! For the second year our Filipino Team had the highest raised Funds for ICC.



We keep on pressing on to the glory of God, Growing Stronger, Digging Deeper and Reaching Higher!

Administration

Property by Rosanna Chan

This year has been an unusual year for us as God cleared the way for our redevelopment. We spent the first 9 months of the year at 22A Kennedy Road and in September, we moved to our new temporary premises in Sunlight Tower in Wan Chai.

With this relocation in mind, we reduced the spending on the old premises to a bare minimum, only maintaining what was important for safety, smooth operation of the church and the compliance with necessary regulations. In July, some spalling concrete fell from the eave of the bell tower onto the entrance staircase. Thank God that no one was there and no injury or damage was sustained. Protective scaffolding was put up and repair was carried out in accordance with submission to the Buildings Department. Apart from this, the year was relatively uneventful, thus using up only half of a very much reduced annual budget.

Our premises at Sunlight, being newly fitted out and without any outdoor areas, would be much less costly to maintain. Much of the repair would be under the care of the building management, hence very little was expended in our first 3 months there.

As we move out of 22A, it is an opportune moment for me to step down as chairman after quite some time in the position. I am truly grateful to all our past and present members of the committee, our office staff, our janitors and all our wonderful contractors for their support over these

years. I would like to say a very special thank you to Mr. Lawrence Kotwall who has faithfully and sacrificially served on it for over 20 years.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Anson Wang as the new chairman. We pray for God's continued protection for his service at Sunlight as well as his preparation for our return to our permanent home back at 22A in a few years' time.

Most importantly, I would like to thank God for loving, guiding and protecting Union all these years! It is His mighty hand that has brought us thus far.

Stewardship by Greg Anderson



In the 2017 Stewardship letter, I’ve asked:

We are at an exciting moment in Union’s 173 history. Will we struggle over the next five years or will we thrive and grow? The answer to that question is up to you and me. Can we “raise our game” and find the resources for some exciting new opportunities?

The answer is, we raised our game! Thank you for your generosity! In addition to giving close to \$9 million for fitting out the new facility and BUFF expenses, you’ve pledged a million dollars more to the stewardship drive than last year.

Special thanks to Simone Loke for leading the stewardship ministry. She has helped us make it a year-round adventure. Her greatest legacy has been to launch and maintain the “Navigate Your Finances God’s Way” classes. Union members old and new have told me how the class has impacted their living and giving.

God is at work at Union. I thank each of you for sharing your resources for God’s glory and the good of His church.

2017 Commitment Card Result

PLEDGE	No. OF PEOPLE		AMOUNT (HKD)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
New	16	8	416,400	156,000
Existing	94	93	5,746,800	5,715,000
			6,163,200	5,871,000
One-off				
New	21	11	282,488	178,739
Existing	34	39	2,107,125	3,042,697
			2,389,613	3,221,436
FOHKC				
New	2	0	36,000	-
Existing	13	12	1,155,000	1,174,000
			1,191,000	1,174,000
GRAND TOTAL	180	163	9,743,813	10,266,436

Human Resources by Alison Middleton

HR Operations Committee Members: Greg Anderson, Mike Witthoft (handing over in the latter part of the year to Charles Caldwell), George Ding, Jean de Groot (before her departure to South Africa), Anita Au and Alison Middleton.

We thank our committee members for their faithful service and giving of their time during the last 12 months.

2017 has been an exceptional year in every sense for the staff at Union, with the move to Sunlight Tower bringing with it times of great change and challenge; new services, new programs, new venues. All staff are to be fully commended for their resilience, flexibility and great support during this time of transition. A great team effort by all.

Unfortunately we have had to say 'au revoir' to several members of Staff this year. We thank them for all their services and wish them well in their various future endeavours:

- Matthew Fredericks – Assistant Pastor, moved back to the US for further education
- Brenna Dykman – Christian Education Director, moved back to the US for ordination study
- Priskilla Fachruddin – Children's Ministry Assistant, has just given birth to a beautiful boy – our congratulations!
- Hunter Purvis - Assistant Youth Director, moved back to the US

- Miriam Meidinger – Admin Assistant, moved to Taipei
- Sarah Nutland – Youth Intern, moved on to explore new, exciting career opportunities
- Michelle Borgeest – Children's Ministry Assistant, moved back to Australia

We have also welcomed new Staff to the Union family this year bringing with them new skills:

- Monte Peterson – Small Groups and Adult Education Manager
- Philip Ho – Admin Assistant
- Sum Cheung - Admin Assistant
- Justin Cheong – Youth Intern and Youth Worship Band Leader

In summary, we praise and thank God for the staff of Union both past and present, and especially for their great resilience and approach to change over the course of our most challenging year to date, and also for their cheerfulness and willingness to embrace a new way of doing things. We seek God's blessing to help them fulfill their callings as they minister to us as a congregation and we ask for prayers and ongoing trust as we and they aim to balance both the needs of church and our staff going forwards over the next 12 months in our new home.

The Union Church Team



NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
The Rev. Dr. Greg Anderson	Senior Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keeping the diverse parts of Union united• Head of staff• Primary Preacher• Represents Union to wider community
The Rev. Dr. Michele Bland	Associate Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcomes and integrates visitors into church life• Provides pastoral care and prayer support• Arranges baptism and membership classes• Leads two small groups• Hosts “get connected” events• FIN - Family in Need
The Rev. Ruth Tablada	Filipino Ministry Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pastor for the Filipino Congregation• Provides counselling, Shelter-Pastoral care, and discipleship
Mr. Chris Yorks	Worship Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designs and coordinates worship services• Serves as Worship Leader and support to volunteers• Directs children’s music and instrumental activities
Ms. Jacklien Lee	Children’s Ministry Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children’s Ministry Programming for children between 0-10 years old

NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
Mr. Antonin Ficatier	Youth Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Ministry Programming
Mr. Justin Cheong	Youth Intern Youth Band Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assists programs for the Youth Ministry
Ms. Monte Peterson	Small Group & Adult Education Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Group & Adult Education Programming
Ms. Anita Au	Administration Director Wedding and Funeral Coordinator Calendar Co-ordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages the overall daily church operations, including office management, human resources, contracts and management of administrative and custodial staff Assistant to Senior Pastor Oversees Playgroup Handles all weddings and funerals Handles all church bookings
Ms. Irene Lau	Accountant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handles all church accounting matters
Ms. Floris Kwan	Accounting Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant to the Accountant
Ms. Josephine Lee	Office Administrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General administration & church operations support
Ms. Sum Cheung Mr. Philip Ho	Administrative Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General administration & church operations support
Ms. Fanny Cheng Mr. Wilson Wong	Full-time Janitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes care of the maintenance & cleaning of the church compound Performs & maintains the overall church housekeeping duties

The Union Church Family



11 ADULT BAPTISMS

1. Cheung, Jefferson
2. Dhavale, Solomon
3. Fox, Teresa
4. Ho, Eric
5. Hsu, Wendy
6. Ip, Joyce
7. Kunchat, Yongyut
8. Leung, Jessica
9. Lo, Lesley
10. Wan, Freda
11. Wong, Ella

11 YOUTH BAPTISMS

1. Caldwell, Carys
2. Caldwell, Jasper
3. Caldwell, Sela
4. Dillon, Danielle
5. Fox, Emerson
6. Leung, Alison
7. Sze, Bryan
8. Tamms, Asha
9. Tamms, Shae
10. Weathington, Grant
11. Yuen, Nathan

17 YOUTH CONFIRMATIONS

1. Banfield, Alex
2. Caldwell, Carys
3. Caldwell, Jasper
4. Caldwell, Sela
5. Depner, Jacob
6. Dillon, Danielle
7. Fox, Emerson
8. Luk, Esther
9. Moriarty, Cheney
10. Nicholls, Jonathan
11. Sze, Bryan
12. Tamms, Asha
13. Tamms, Shae
14. Tellvik, Caleb
15. Tellvik, Joshua
16. Weathington, Grant
17. Yuen, Nathan



21 CHILDREN / INFANT BAPTISMS

1. Carpenter, Jacob
2. Bronsnan, Declan
3. Cai, Charles
4. Cai, James
5. Cholewka, Chase
6. Furneaux, Bradley
7. Godfrey, Alana
8. Goosé, Adélie
9. Ho, Amelie
10. Kember-Cheah, Mariella
11. Kember-Cheah, Minni
12. Li, Christopher
13. Li, Danielle
14. Schertle, Aaron
15. Sekar, Ajay
16. Shaw-Perona, Gabriel
17. Tsu, Pearson
18. Tyrrell, Christian
19. Wong, Alicia
20. Wong, Ciela
21. Yeung, Nathan

9 NEW MEMBERS

1. Au, Karen
2. Chong, Frances
3. Espinosa Higuera, Ulises
4. Lo, Andrew
5. Mooser, Verena
6. Moriarty, Amie
7. Moriarty, Michael
8. Ng, Isabella
9. Wirth, Rachel

REGULAR ATTENDEES LEFT HONG KONG

1. de Groot, Frank & Jean
2. de Groot, Sian
3. Lee, Josephine
4. Nieminen, Wayne & von Zychlin, Christa
5. Samuel, Jacob & Mathew, Sneha
6. Su, Steven & Liu, Annie
7. Sze, Benson & Yamaguchi, Sandy
8. Tobin Family



15 WEDDINGS (until Jul 2017)

104 FUNERALS (until Aug 2017)

2 CHILDREN DEDICATIONS

1. Geary, Victoria
2. Lo, Gabriella

Treasurer's Report

by George Ding

Financial Highlight

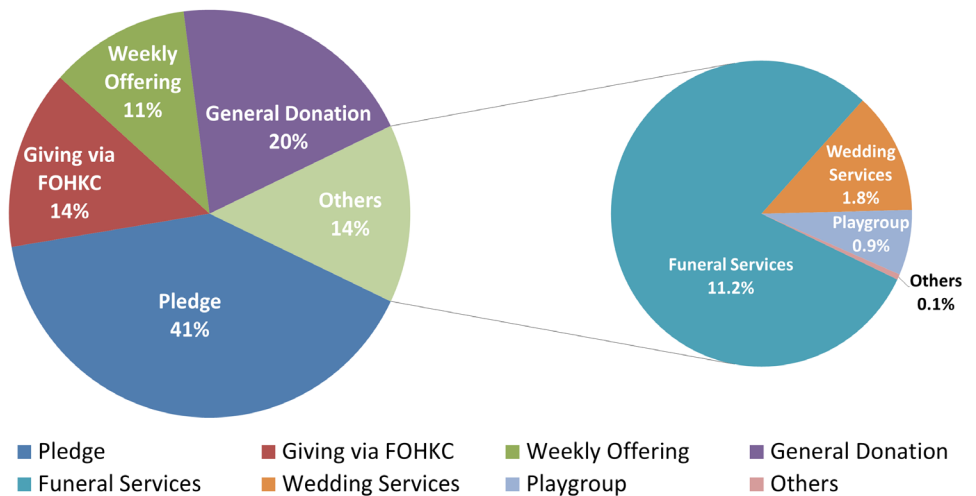
Union Church strives to be a good steward of financial resources entrusting by our congregation. We are grateful to report positive financial results in a year of transitioning to our current premise at the Sunlight Tower. The General Fund, our main operating fund, records a surplus of \$5.3 million . This reflects \$2.7 million surplus from operating activities and \$2.6 million from investment return. The net asset of the church has increased 37.6% from the last year's and stands at \$36.2 million as the end of 2017.

Revenue

Thanks to our Lord's abundant blessings and your generosity, we receive \$13 million in General Fund offering, with an additional \$2.1 million revenue generated by various Church operated programs. In addition, we receive designated offering of \$2.3 million to missions and ministries that are supported by Union. Our General Fund offering was 19% above our goal in 2017 and 1% higher from the actual last year.

The breakdown of general fund revenue is as follows.

Total Revenue: \$15,124,523



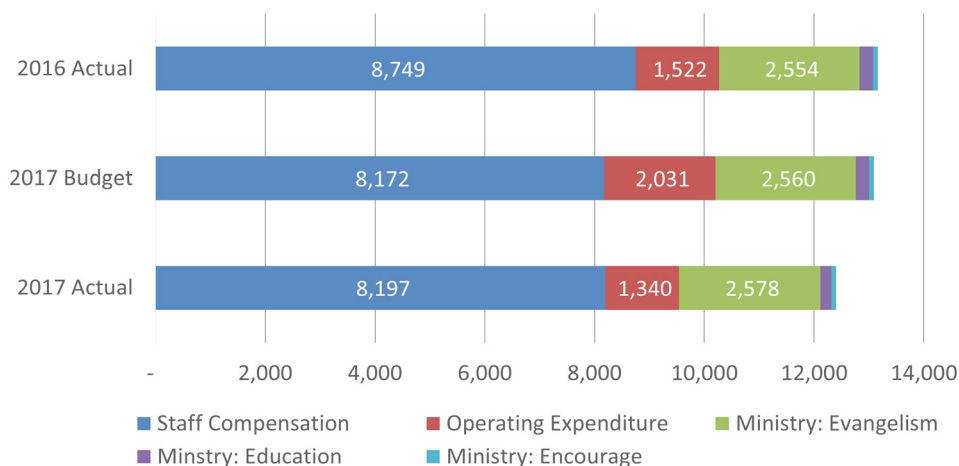
¹ All figures provided herewith are in Hong Kong Dollars and based on the unaudited financial reports by the finance staff as of December 31, 2017.

Expenses

Thanks to the CoM's leadership and church staff's diligence, the actual expenses are 5.2% below the budgeted amount and 6% lower from actuals in 2016. This reduction mainly reflects a lower staff headcount this year.

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

Total Expenses: HK\$12,404,267



BUFF and Redevelopment Reserve Fund

The Building Union for the Future (BUFF) project has reached a major milestone this year. The Church relocated to Sunlight Tower and started first worship service there in September.

The joint-leadership authorized a fund-raising campaign for this phase of the BUFF project. A fund-raising committee was convened by Mr. Roy Huang (until February 2017) and by Mr. Kay Ian Ng (through the conclusion in October). The Committee of Management authorized the Treasurer to open a new bank account with Bank of East Asia for receiving BUFF related donations. All these donations are recorded with Redevelopment Reserve Fund.

Thanks to our God's unending blessings and your generosity, the campaign raised HK\$9,012,014, which covered all of the design, construction and moving costs of the Sunlight Tower premise. BUFF related expenses incurred is HK\$8,084,258 in 2017. The balance of the Redevelopment Fund stands at HK\$3,713,010 as of December 31, 2017.

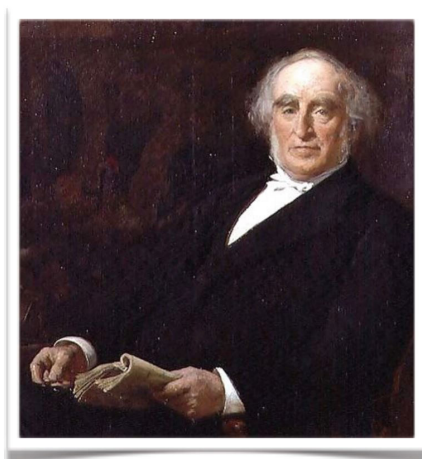
A Brief History

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.

In 1866, Union Church relocated to a new site on



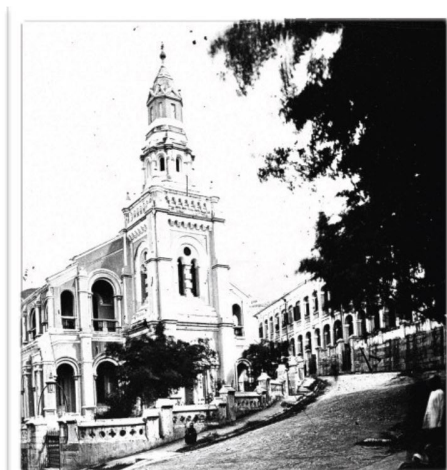
The Rev. Dr. James Legge

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.)

The survivors began fund-raising and the existing Fellowship Hall was built in 1949, then used for worship until the sanctuary



Union Church on Staunton Street (c.1868)

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.

In recent years, the Church has changed from a predominately European expatriate congregation to a church that is 60% Asian.



The Annex and the Bell Tower

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 Ruth Tablada is the 1st pastor to the Filipino fellowship.

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



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

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.

After twenty years of groundwork, the church moved from 22A Kennedy Road to a temporary location at Sunlight Tower, 248 Queens Road East, Wan Chai. The Kennedy Road will be redeveloped in collaboration with Henderson Land. There will be a beautiful new free-standing sanctuary as well as a tower with church offices and residential flats. This will be the third church on the Kennedy Road site.

But with all the change, our purpose remains the same. It was reflected in a document first written by James Legge in 1849:

“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

Building Union for the Future by The BUFF Steering Committee

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

After two decades of planning, debating a number of re-development or extension options for more space, seeking the Lord’s will, and overcoming one obstacle after another, 2017 was the year in which we finally committed to, and embarked on, the re-development of Union Church’s 22A Kennedy Road site.

In January, we started the year by signing a tenancy agreement for 18th Floor, Sunlight Tower. Sunlight Tower would only sign a long-term tenancy. At that time, we had yet to finalize our development agreement with Henderson and therefore if the development agreement did not materialize, Henderson would not want to keep paying rent at Sunlight Tower for the long term. We negotiated a clause that entitled us to terminate the tenancy if the development agreement was not signed by the end of March. Thus we had to race against time to agree and sign a development agreement. Frantic negotiations ensued and we signed the development agreement with Henderson with just three days to spare!

The period from April to August was extremely hectic. Several work streams progressed at full speed. First was the renovation and fit out of Sunlight Tower. It was a challenging task to fit it out tastefully so as to be attractive and conducive to worship, to cater for everyone and all activities in a place much smaller than 22A Kennedy Road, and to keep within a constrained budget. Again, this was achieved “just in time” before we vacated Kennedy Road, and within our budget too. Secondly, the relocation committee was also in full swing preparing for the move. Every item had to be considered whether it was to be moved to Sunlight, stored for the new 22A or disposed of. The move had to happen with military precision during the weekdays of one week so that Sunday services before and after the move were not affected. The third work stream was fundraising. We kicked off a fundraising campaign aiming to raise \$10 million. Of that amount, \$5 million was to cover the fit out cost of Sunlight Tower. The

remainder was to cover professional fees (primarily architectural design fees for the new 22A and Sunlight Tower and legal fees to advise the church on legal issues and documents relating to the re-development incurred over a number of years), moving and storage costs, communication costs and other miscellaneous items. By year end, we were very thankful to have raised \$8.1 million. Any further donations in the coming year will be gratefully received.

At the end of August, we had our last service at 22A Kennedy Road before moving to Sunlight Tower. Grand plans were made for the final Sunday services. Alas, the typhoon intervened such that the Sunday morning services could not be held. We had to change our plans at the very last minute. The typhoon cleared in the early afternoon. That enabled the entire church body to squeeze into the sanctuary at Kennedy Road for a combined, emotional and unforgettable farewell evening service.

September saw the new beginning of our church life based at Sunlight Tower. As expected, there were teething issues to sort out but, overall, the move was smooth and as good as can be expected. We also handed over the 22A site to Henderson who have started preliminary development works.

December was a tense month. The Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) sat to hear an application from someone to have our buildings at 22A Kennedy Road declared as a Class 1 monument deserving of preservation against demolition. The AMO upheld their previous decision to categorize our building as Class 3 (for which certain artefacts and photographs were preserved). After that decision, we then obtained our demolition consent just before Christmas and look forward to construction works beginning in 2018.

The BUFF Steering Committee wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the re-development efforts in 2017. Most importantly, we thank God for His guidance and leading the way.

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

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we agree in great realities.
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