



*Season of blooming*

# UNION CHURCH

annual  
report  
2018



UNION  
CHURCH  
佑寧堂



## TRUSTEES

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

## DEACONS

Charles Caldwell (Clerk)  
 Terri Appel  
 Shlivya Dharvale  
 Roy Huang  
 Steven Kim  
 Alexander Mak  
 Kenneth Morrison  
 Brian Woo  
 Catriona Woodrow  
 Christine Wu  
 Yan Yu

\* until March 2019

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

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 Andrew Foster (Honorary Secretary\*)  
 George Ding (Hon. Treasurer)  
 Amie Moriarty (Vice Chairman\*)  
 Timothy Ng (Deputy Secretary)  
 Jimmy Phua (Missions\*)  
 Juliana Rotmeyer (Adult Education Ministry)  
 Trevor Tam (Worship)  
 Anson Wang (Property and BUFF Liaison)  
 John Jamison (Communication\*)  
 Andrew Lo (Member)

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# Acting Senior Pastor's Message

by Michele Bland

Last year was our first full year at Sunlight Tower and overall it appears that we have settled into our life and ministry in this part of the city of Hong Kong. There were some big changes last year, the biggest change was that after almost 12 years of ministry at Union Church, Pastor Greg preached his final sermon on December 30th. Other staff changes included, Anto Ficiater moved from youth to young adults, Hunter Purvis was hired for youth ministry, Dr Joyce Wu joined part-time to work in worship and the role held by Anita Au was taken up by David Ashton-Howorth. It's been a year of change, challenge, prayer, conversations, and process.



However, when I think of last year I am also reminded of the many new initiatives that were launched. We started Recharge, a mid-week opportunity to connect. Initially, this started as a mid-week service with speakers, then it evolved into dinner with a variety of classes targeting various seasons of life and interests. We hosted a pastoral care series featuring talks by various experts including, Suicide (Dr. Jamie Chiu), Grief and Loss (Dr. Amos Lyso), Pain and C. S. Lewis (Dr. Greg Anderson), Stress Management (Alison Middleton), Depression and Conflict Resolution (Dr. Michele Bland). The staff have enjoyed working together on this initiative.

Second, Union Church has become a Stephen's Ministry Church and in the Fall I started training (20) members of our congregation twice a week to become Stephen's Ministers. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. This 50 hour training program participants learned how to listen for, care for and walk with those going through difficult times.

Third, in an attempt to continue to build community and provide an opportunity for all the congregations to gather together, we held two worship gatherings, "One Worship." These events were followed by a family lunch - a kick off BBQ in June and a Thanksgiving Lunch in November. These were wonderful services of worship and connectivity. Another connecting event was the Union Church family cruise held in November. What a great time away with friends and family! Thank you Jane Arnett and Jenny Brown.

In our desire to be more intentional in outreach, in December the staff hosted an "Open House" inviting every person who works in the office of Sunlight Tower to a Christmas Lunch. It was encouraging to spread Christmas cheer with some of our neighbours. A new ministry to English speaking seniors at China Coast was also initiated by Theresa Cheung. Theresa has worked hard to create a team and raise money for this community.

There was also a new monthly prayer initiative, Parents in Prayer. There were evening prayer events held at Sunlight Tower and at 22A Kennedy Road – as well as weekly prayer held each Tuesday morning at 7:45.

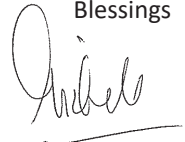


In addition to these new initiatives, we have continued to be encouraged by – the Annual Ladies Church Retreat to Vietnam, the Semi Annual Ladies dinners in May (speaker Alia Eysers) and October (speaker Linda Biek), and the regular ladies' small groups studies. The FIN (family in need) team continues to be active and engaged, thank you Charles Schmidt, Isabel Morrison and Brian Woo for your care and concern.

As we begin a new chapter, I have been reflecting on what it means to be a healthy church. Extensive research in churches found that there are nine characteristics to a healthy church. They are:

- **Love, Acceptance and Forgiveness:** healthy churches create an accepting warm environment
- **Relational Integrity:** in healthy churches broken people feel safe, and there is authenticity and transparency in their relationships
- **Hunger for Personal Growth:** in healthy churches people show a strong desire to know God in an intimate manner
- **Worship Styles:** healthy churches offer varied worship styles
- **Prayer:** in healthy churches prayer was a high priority
- **Relationship-Centered Ministry:** healthy churches focus on relationships versus programs
- **Use of Personal Stories:** healthy churches value and focus on 'personal life change'
- **Service:** healthy churches encourage people to use their gifts for ministry
- **Networking:** healthy churches are aware that they need others in the city to reach out

I am grateful for all the ministry leaders and staff who teach, lead, listen, pray, clean, envision, visit, plan, equip, greet, connect, sing, discern, help and make Union their spiritual home. It is my hope and prayer that we will commit to working together to be a healthy faithful community. That we will continue to be a "light shining in darkness -people who are building each other up and spurring one another on towards love and good deeds."

Blessings  


# Trustees' Report

by Geoff Lovegrove, Chairman

The Trustees for 2018 were: Mr G Lovegrove (Chairman); Dr Rosanna Chan; Mr A Law; Mrs I Morrison; Dr H Ngan; Prof J Nicholls; and Mrs M Wulfram. As described in our Ordinance, the Trustees are the body corporate of Union Church. The Corporation holds the church's property in trust for the purpose of a church for the public worship of God and for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the principles and usages of Protestant Christians, and for the sole object of spreading the knowledge of Christ, as shall seem most agreeable to the Word of God and not for the purpose of introducing or supporting presbyterianism, independency, episcopacy or any other form of church order and government about which there may be difference of opinion, but under such form of church government as the members shall direct, and also, subject to such direction, for the instruction of children and adults, and for religious and philanthropic purposes and for the providing of a residence for the Minister, provided that the Church shall always accept as its primary standards the Word of God as witnessed to by the scriptures of the Old and 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 2018 the market value of the General Fund was approximately \$15.202M and of the Three-Quarter Century Fund approximately \$8.584M, each showing a loss for the year of about 6.5%. The General and Three-Quarter Century Funds have gained about 8.7% (7.8%) in the past five years, and gained about 54.3% (52.7 %) in the past 10 years.

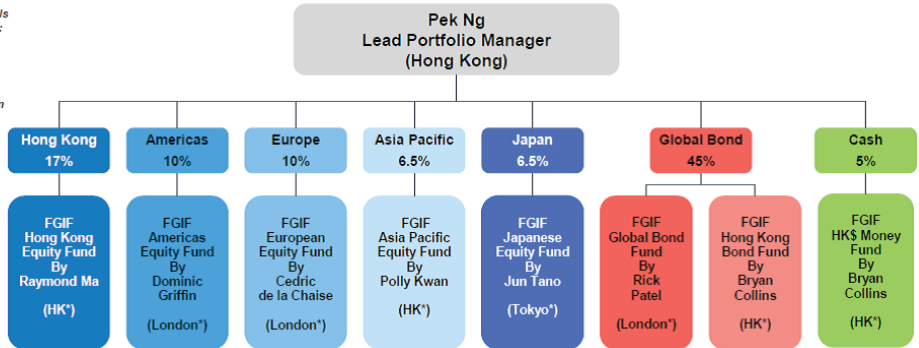
The Trustees objective for the two Funds continues to be to achieve long-term capital growth with a low to medium level of risk exposure. The two Funds are invested in Fidelity Global Investment (FGI) Fund – Stable Growth Fund (Class A), managed by FIL Limited. The FGI Fund is authorised by the Securities & Futures Commission and complies with Mandatory Provident fund Schemes Authority regulations and also meets the Trustees' criteria by having an asset mix of about 50% equities, 45% bonds and 5% cash.

## Structure of the FGIF Stable Growth Fund

Two Levels  
of Alpha:

Asset  
Allocation

Security  
Selection



The Trustees do not have personal control over the ethical nature of the companies in which the church's funds are invested so they are not able, for example, to screen out gaming or other stocks they consider inappropriate for the church to hold. However, the Trustees note that Fidelity is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, a voluntary framework for incorporating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues into investment decision-making and ownership practices.

The Principles for Responsible Investment are consistent with FIL'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:

- 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.
- 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)
  - always act to protect its clients' economic interests and to maximise their investment returns;

- 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 2018, 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 FIL Investment Management (Hong Kong) Ltd; and

(c) 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 \$87,591 at the end of 2018 showing a loss of about 11.0% 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 steering committee as reported elsewhere) by Dr R. Chan 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. Appendices to the Agreement signed in April 2017 concerning long lease and management agreement pro formas for the residential apartments being sold on long leases are still being finalised in consultation between the Church's and Developer's legal advisors. The Trustees wish to express their gratitude to the members of the congregation who are contributing their skills and time working on BUFF and who have 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.

Rev. Dr. Greg Anderson departed from Union Church on 31/12/2018 after 12 years as our Senior Pastor. We are grateful for his service and offer him and his family our best wishes for the future.

Geoff Lovegrove

Chairman



# Deacons' Court

by Charles Caldwell, Clerk

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

During 2018, the Deacons Court consisted of Alexander Mak, Brian Woo, Catriona Woodrow, Charles Caldwell, Christine Wu, Ken Morrison, Roy Huang, Shlivya Dhavale, Steven Kim, Yan Yu, and Terri Appel who returned from being a resting Deacon mid-year. Typically the Deacons Court formally meets monthly but 2018 saw the Deacons meeting almost weekly, and certainly fortnightly, from May onwards.

2018 was a year of mixed blessings. On January 4th a church wide prayer **“Lord, change me and use me. Lord, change Union Church and use Union Church!”** was initiated and challenged the status quo. This lasted for 361 days and has continued into 2019. There has indeed been much change, including the departure at the end of the year of Pastor Greg Anderson. We sincerely wish every blessing to Pastor Greg and his family for the future.

The process leading to Pastor Greg's departure was the subject of our Special General Meeting in January 2019 which generated a wide diversity of views and heartfelt feelings. However, many have expressed that they left the meeting with a greater sense of unity and a strong desire

to look forward, to journey with God's help and inspiration to become a more Christ-centred and loving community of faith. The Special Meeting also showed the importance of having more regular congregational meetings where we can share openly together. This will be a feature of the 2019 year ahead.

The journey forward begins with the need for self-examination for all of us. This starts with “me”! Where we have fallen short, may we sincerely confess and seek God's forgiveness and restoration – knowing that when we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and forgives and restores us to fellowship with Him. We pray that through this, we all experience healing and reconciliation as we enter this new season at Union Church, beginning with the theme “Returning to the Father's Heart – Our First Love”.

We are blessed to have Pastor Michele, our acting Senior Pastor, leading us at this time. Pastor Michele is truly a person with a pastor's heart, and one who knows and generously shares the acceptance and blessing of the Father.

The Deacons are praying about the timing for a Senior Pastor search. We believe that we at Union Church should not rush into this process but should prayerfully discern what is needed as we move forward. We will regularly communicate and update the congregation and would greatly appreciate your prayers for wisdom on this important matter.



*“For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. ”*  
*James 1:23-24*

One key lesson we have discerned is the need for the leaders – all of us - to “step up” and lead more effectively, modeling a prayerful, authentic Christ-centred unity and alignment. Indeed, we all can look into the mirror and reflect on how we can keep Jesus on point with our own personal compass. Please pray for the Deacons and Union Church in this regard.

The vision statement of Union Church is ***“making mature followers in all nations for Christ, through our united lifestyle, witness and mission.”*** May this be so! And may we always cherish and give thanks for the love and grace of God which we receive so freely, yet at such great cost to our Saviour!



# Committee of Management Report

by Peter Fishwick, Chairman

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)*

The Committee of Management at Union Church are responsible for all temporal matters relating to Union Church, from HR to legal to stewardship and property. In addition, each member serves as a liaison to a ministry or as a functional area point person.

This year, the CoM members were:

Peter Fishwick, Chairman and IT  
Aime Moriarty, Vice Chairman and Youth/  
Children

Drew Foster, Hon. Secretary and Legal  
Tim Ng, Deputy Secretary and Small Groups  
George Ding, Hon. Treasurer

Trevor Tam, Worship

Andrew Lo, Stewardship

John Jamison, Comms, and also HR when  
Alison Middleton stepped down for family  
reasons in April

Jimmy Phua, Missions

Anson Wang, Property and liaison with  
BUFF

Juliana Rotmeyer, Ladies Fellowship and  
Deacons Liaison

2018 was another year of change. In 2017 we moved from 22A, Kennedy Road, to 18th Floor of Sunlight tower, so we could redevelop the church premises in conjunction with Henderson.

2018 saw the departure of our Senior Pastor, Greg Anderson, after 12 years of excellent service, and we wish him well in  
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his future endeavours.

Pastor Michele Bland was appointed as the acting Senior Pastor, whilst we assemble a search committee to conduct a worldwide search for a suitable replacement.

The redevelopment of 22A, Kennedy Road, continues apace, with the original church having been demolished and foundations for our new home currently being dug.

The BUFF steering committee continues to manage relations with Henderson and it appears that we may be able to return to 22A sooner than originally planned. Geoff Lovegrove stepped down from BUFF and Patrick Wilson took his place.

On the pastoral staff side, Anton Ficatier moved from Director of Youth to Director of Young Adults, and we welcomed back Hunter Purvis as the Director of Youth.

We also employed a new Assistant Worship Director, Dr. Joyce Wu. On the Administrative side, Anita Au left us and David Ashton-Howorth replaced her as Operations Director and Cary Yim joined us as an Administration Assistant.

As I conclude my two years on CoM and my year as Chairman, I would like to thank all the members of CoM for their hard work and commitment, Pastors Greg and Michele, for their unfailing support and the entire pastoral and administrative staff of Union Church, especially David Ashton-Howorth, who has made such a difference to the management of Union Church.

I pray to God, that he will continue to guide Union Church and the future CoM.

# Encourage

*“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”  
Isaiah 43:19*

God is doing a new thing with prayer at Union Church. The backbone of the church's Prayer Ministry team is the Prayer Chain, with over one hundred individuals praying privately via e-mail or the over sixty people on the WhatsApp Prayer Group. 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... in 2018 that number was over 9,200! This is more than six times the prayers generated in the first year of the WhatsApp Prayer Chat and 5400% more than the e-mail medium in 2016.

Since 4 January 2018 the Prayer Chat prayed daily ***“Lord, change me and use me. Lord, change Union Church and use Union Church!”*** As we go to press with the 2018 Annual Report, this daily prayer has surpassed 420 days.

In 2018 the most active day of prayer on the Prayer Chat was 23 February. On that day we celebrated a milestone birthday, prayed for a handful of people suffering from the flu and gave praise for the many blessings we had received from our Lord. Gratitude was the theme of that day. The most active time on the Prayer Chat is between 7 to 9 AM, Noon and in the evening from 9 to 10 PM. The prayer

## Prayer Ministry by Charles Caldwell

messages average 12.99 words each, illustrating that prayer is simple and only a few thumb taps away.

In 2018 we held numerous prayer events at Sunlight Tower and three prayer events on the construction site at 22A Kennedy Road. Every Tuesday morning a small, intimate group of intercessors meet at Sunlight Tower to pray for Union Church, the congregation and many other local, regional or global prayer items. We have seen many prayer groups spontaneously burst out and have been encouraged by the increasing number of people attending these impromptu sessions.

***“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***

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 you have a passion for prayer. We pray that the Lord will change us, use us, change Union Church and use Union Church. Join us in prayer and watch what astonishing things God has in store for our future.



*Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.* Soren Kierkegaard

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

Below is a word cloud of the key themes captured in the 2018 WhatsApp Union Church Prayer Chat.



# Educate

## Adult Education & Small Groups by Monte Peterson

The process of growing in our faith and becoming more like Christ is lifelong and multi-faceted. We support Union members and friends in this growth in a variety of ways:

**Small Groups:** We have small groups for men, women, couples and mixed groups, as well as for families. Groups meet during lunch and in the evenings, and in locations all over Hong Kong. Groups use a variety of curricula, including church-wide studies, books of the Bible, and topical book studies. More groups are incorporating service into their life together, including outreach with St. Barnabus and in Tung Chung.

**Church-wide studies:** These studies include sermons, classes and small group participation, such as Luke for Lent, (which also included a Wednesday night series on Luke's parables), and the autumn Beatitudes study.

**ReCharge:** Our Wednesday night program includes food, fellowship, worship and learning. Class offerings have included Pastor Michele's series on mental health, Manna and Mercy, (a 6-week overview of the themes of the Bible), C.S. Lewis' Reflections on the Psalms, Overflow (a course on generosity), and young-adult-specific classes led by Anto.

**Lectures:** Lectures by Union members as well as scholars from around the world enrich our life and study together. In 2018,

we learned from our own Chris Fung on his newly published book on Revelation, Dr. John Walton, an Old Testament Professor from Wheaton College, preaching and teaching on Genesis 2, and Christopher Legge, on the history of Union Church.

**Bless the City:** In recognition that our learning should always lead to action, we joined together to bless our neighborhood and city in a variety of ways. The first Bless the City was held in April, with 90 participants serving through crocheting, a kindness walk, visiting the elderly, trail-cleaning, making cards for Sons and Daughters and a picnic and walk with our disabled neighbors. The second Bless the City was held in November, with over 80 serving with Habitat for Humanity, ImpactHK, Sons and Daughters, Ebenezer School for the Blind, crafting, and China Coast Elderly Home.



**Taize Worship** and meals in March, April, and May, with leadership from a few brothers visiting from Taize, France.



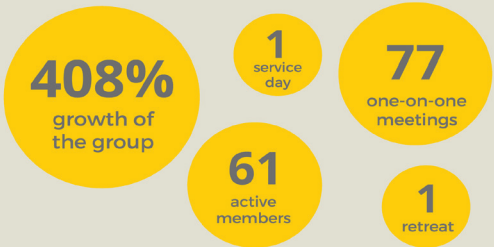
## Young Adults & Men by Antonin Ficatier

### YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults Ministry started in **July 2018** with the appointment of **Antonin Ficatier** as Young Adults Director. The ministry has grown rapidly since then.

The vision is to equip Young Adults to become mature followers of Christ, through fellowship, learning and service.

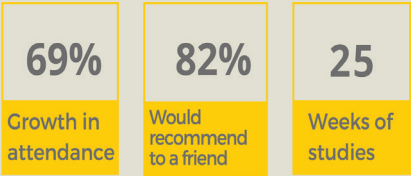
#### In 6 months\*:



### YOUNG ADULTS Goals for 2019

- 20% MORE YOUNG ADULTS
- 2 RETREATS
- 5 STUDIES
- 4 SERVICE DAYS

### WEDNESDAY STUDIES



*\*numbers taken from July to December 2018*

### MEN

Gathering men together is not an easy task! **Antonin Ficatier** took the lead of this challenging ministry in **July 2018**.





## Youth by Hunter Purvis

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### Overview

2018 was yet another year of transition for our Youth Group.

Union Youth have adapted quickly to their temporary home here in Sunlight Tower, and the year has involved plenty of learning experiences in exploring how to use our great facilities.

There have once again been significant changes to **Youth Ministry Staff** – Antonin Ficatier has moved into a growing and vibrant Young Adults ministry, while Hunter Purvis is now Youth Director. In recognition of his professional and spiritual growth over the last three years, Justin Cheong has become Youth Assistant.

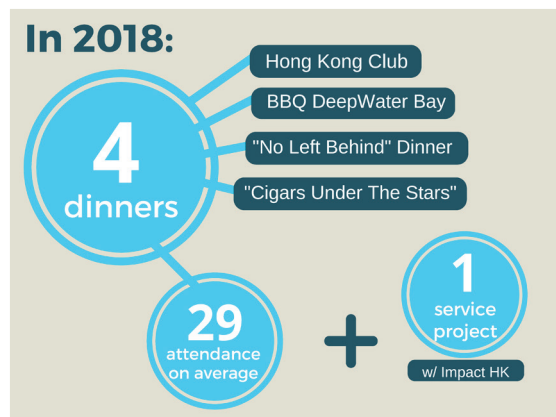
2018 was a great year for our **Confirmation Program**, with 5 youth undertaking the Confirmation process and affirming their personal relationship with Christ with the support of the congregation.

During the year an average of 30 youth came for our **Friday Youth Group**, and 20 came for our **Sunday Youth Group**. In the Fall, Friday attendance has risen again to 32 and Sunday Youth Group grew even more, with an average of 27 youth now attending weekly. **Union Youth is growing quickly** and we are thrilled with the personal relationships with Christ that are being formed.

The vision is to help Men connect through quarterly dinners, but also to help them grow in their faith through service projects and prayer gatherings.

#### MEN Goals for 2019

4 DINNERS  
2 SERVICE PROJECTS  
4 PRAYER GATHERINGS (NEW!)





## YOUTH Goals for 2019

### 1. Equip Youth with practical and relevant skills/behaviors

Scripture is replete with down to earth, practical advice and examples of how to live our lives in a way that glorifies God and is dedicated to our neighbors. This

Year we will engage the Youth and equip them with skills and practices that they can utilise in their everyday lives in school, with family, friends and more. By the end of 2019 we want to have prepared a **‘tool box’ of healthy, Christ-oriented behaviors** that are useful and relevant

### 2. Develop coherent Objectives and Strategies for Union Youth Group

At Union Youth, we want to have a clear direction we want to go in and strategies to get there. With the overarching commission of Christ himself to “Go into the world and make disciples,” we will be working this year with staff, parents, volunteers and Church leaders to create a **comprehensive plan** of how to move in that direction and what strategies and actions we must implement in order to get there in the long term.

In terms of **Missions**, our Youth Group participated in several local initiatives with partner organisations (HOLF, Love21, Impact HK, Sons and Daughters) and also travelled abroad for an annual **Mission Trip to the Philippines** in October with Kids International Ministries (KIM). In addition, at the **Christmas Banquet** this year, we raised over \$40,000 HKD for Youth Missions. We are looking forward to a new year of being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

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. Their passion for mentoring and guiding young disciples is what makes Youth Group work. As the Youth Director, I want to personally thank each and every one for their dedication and commitment.

## Children's Ministry by Jacklien Lee

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

Year 2018 brought about a lot of challenges and changes to Union Church and our Children's Ministry, but one thing is certain is that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. God is always good, always loving, always all-powerful. No matter how this world changes around us, we can trust God is consistent. With this assurance, Children's Ministry will continue 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 Christ's kingdom.

We have finally settled-in to Sunlight Tower as our home and being in this strategic location of Wanchai has helped us attract neighboring families and communities to our Children's program.

In 2018, we successfully organised many of our programs within the Sunlight Tower premises, such as the Easter Sunday, whereby the children were taken through three different stations to experience the re-enactment of the last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection together in a group. The children also had the opportunity to enjoy an egg hunt on the 6/F floor, which is an outdoor area, where the kids thoroughly enjoyed the hunt. Then we organised “ANGST”, a family educational movie screening to help raise awareness of mental health. It was well received as both children and adults attended attentively.



EASTER SUNDAY



MOM'S DATE

Children's Ministry also organised a wonderful Mom's Date, whereby a large group of Moms and their children had a lovely afternoon making soap bars and learned how to dance the “Hawaiian Hula Dance” and finished off with a delicious spread of afternoon tea and snacks together. In the summer, we organised a stamping craft and watercolor painting summer programme for our children and the attendees were overwhelmed.

Our VBS “SHIPWRECKED” in year 2018 was one of our most successful VBSs so far. Not only we were able to pull it off within the Union Church premises without any outdoor space, but all of our children happened to love this VBS program. We have our Youth Director and Youth children to thank as they helped made “SHIPWRECKED” VBS that much more fun by volunteering as Crew leaders.



VBS SHIPWRECKED

In the Fall, we were also blessed to be able to host our Hallelujah Party within Union Church premises successfully. For our Hallelujah Party, we invited Dove Tales Theatre Company and they performed a fantastic show of “DAVID & GOLIATH”. Our church families and our visitors had a wonderful time together at this event and it was a wonderful opportunity to show visitors our church in a fun and interactive way.

We also had a great Winter by all of our families, where we shared the wonderful news of Jesus’s birth for all to hear and see through our “BETHLEHEM NEWSFLASH” Children’s Christmas Musical. Our children performed amazingly as they sang and acted out the Nativity Play for their parents and the congregants to enjoy. We also brought the joy of this great news to the Home of Loving Faithfulness (HOLF) by performing our “BETHLEHEM NEWSFLASH”



VBS SHIPWRECKED CREWS



Nativity play at the HOLF Center . Over 40 people, children and adults, performed in front of the HOLF residents and workers and it was a wonderful moment for all of us.

Children's Ministry also helped the Mission Committee in organising and delivering a campaign for the Christmas services by raising the awareness for Home of Loving Faithfulness and encouraging the congregants to support HOLF in prayer and financially. Union Church congregants in return responded by collectively and generously contributing monetary support in excess of HK\$200k.

Children's Ministry closed off the year by supporting the St. Barnabas Society and Home Christmas Program organised and led by Saturday Small Group leader Patrick Wong and Mariam Wong. In this community outreach, our families helped serve hot dinner for 100 elderlies and people who are homeless, and we shared the joy of Jesus's birth through worshipping and fellowshiping together.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our amazing **volunteers**, especially our Sunday School teachers, who have dedicated their love, energy and time in helping us raise all of our children for God's Kingdom. Children's Ministry is truly thankful for their heart of service and we are eternally grateful.

We want to commit our Children's Ministry, all of our children and their families, staff and volunteers in God's hand for the year of 2019. May God use us mightily to share the love of Christ and that we will put Christ at the center of our lives and our Children Ministry. It is our prayer that Kingdom Kids' families will continue to grow together in their faith in Jesus Christ.



“DAVID & GOLIATH” HALLELUJAH PARTY

# Evangelise

## The Marriage Course and Alpha by Patrick Wilson

We started off 2018 by running “The Marriage Course”. This is one of the Family Life courses developed by Holy Trinity Brompton church (HTB), London, home of the Alpha Course. It had been several years since the course was last run at Union so we were pleased that 8 couples took part. Each evening, the Fellowship Hall was transformed into a cosy restaurant where couples could enjoy their ‘date night’. We were delighted that the course was well received and that, after the course had ended, one couple volunteered to host the next one.

In May, I was fortunate to attend the HTB Leadership Conference at Holy Trinity Brompton, Bukit Bintang, in Kuala Lumpur. This is HTB London’s first overseas church plant and the hub for Alpha Asia Pacific. The event was inspiring and a great encouragement to keep the Alpha momentum going particularly as the majority of the world’s unchurched peoples live in Asia.

In September, despite many seemingly insurmountable difficulties, we were able to run a small Alpha course. In order to host this better, we included Alpha as one of the courses offered in the ReCharge

programme on Wednesday evenings since the format of a shared supper and worship matched a typical Alpha evening. Once more, we went to Tao Fong Shan for our Away Day and this time, we shared the occasion with another Alpha group that Gillian Lam was running at her home.



Many thanks to our Core Team members, group leaders and helpers, church staff and food donors who helped so much with running The Marriage Course and 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 these ministries.





## Prison Ministry

### MEN - NICK APPEL

Union church has been partnering with the Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association and serving at Stanley Prison for 10 years serving the Other Nations (Non-Chinese) inmates. The classes started with an average of around 15 men joining the classes. Now each month we average 60. In these ten years we have seen inmates come into a relationship with Jesus Christ and some decide to get baptised inside the prison as a statement of their faith in Jesus.

Highlights of 2018 was Kun Sun's 40th Anniversary of prison ministry. KSA held a walkathon to raise funds and symbolise 40 years of walking together in prison ministry. Union church members joined the walkathon as a sign of unity and being one of the long term KSA partners walking together in this ministry. The Union Church Stanley Prison team participated in the 'Bless You Month' ceremony where we sang and danced for the Senior officer of

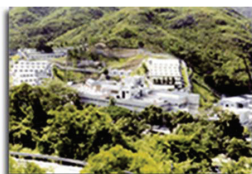
the prison in order to share the blessings of Christ to the prison and encourage inmates to live out their faith and share words of encouragement to their fellow inmates and also those who work in the prison. This helped to create a strong working partnership and harmony inside the prison allowing more opportunities for the gospel to be shared through the lives of the believers.

### WOMEN - YAN YU

There are 12 ladies in the team, led by Yan. We launched in December 2018, so far we have had three visits. Each time a team of nine would go, visiting women prisoners in the Tai Lam correctional institution. We are committed to visiting six times a year, though some of us (Janita Dubois and Yan) visit more often with mixed teams including volunteers from other churches.

**Dragon Boat Festival public holiday Outreach  
Monday, 18 June**

**Visit to  
Tai Lam Correctional Institution  
- Women's Prison**



**Sign-up**

**Prison Ministry**

## Missions by the Missions Committee

Union is a church founded by the missionary James Legge and the London Missionary Society and we remain a missional church. Missions at Union Church encompasses the Lord's ministry to the world beyond the church walls and congregation, including Hong Kong (local missions) and the rest of the world (international missions). Union views our time and money as sacred and we seek to distribute these funds wisely. Over the past 10 years alone, Union has given almost \$16 million through our Missions Fund and almost \$24 million through Designated Giving and Special Offerings! But even more important is the time and energy that our members and staff commit each year to bringing Christ's message and love to the world beyond our church walls.

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### UNION MISSIONS FUND

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Each year Union allots roughly 12% of our projected annual budget to the missions fund which is overseen by the Missions Committee. In 2018, the Missions Fund allotment was over \$1.5 million, of which slightly more than half went to international missions involving a mix of programs focused on compassion, evangelism, and discipleship. During 2018, Union expanded its giving horizons into the Middle East through a partnership with SAT-7 and we responded to the Kerala floods in India via relief funds through gifts to Gospel for Asia and Habitat for Humanity. We had a special focus on impacting local churches in developing areas with the Foursquare Children of Promise (FCOP) Church in Cambodia

and Light of the World (LOTW) Church in Myanmar.

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### DESIGNATED GIVING

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Union members continually show themselves faithful in their supplemental giving towards previously approved and vetted ministries that Union Church supports. This year's generous designated giving surpassed even our church missions fund with notable contributions of over \$200,000 to both the FCOP in Cambodia and the 4.2.20 Foundation in Israel which is committed to training Bible translators from around the world. The congregation also continued supporting many designated giving partners through large gifts to CAMACOP (church planting) and Shekinah Alliance Bible College in the Philippines, Desert Rose in Mongolia, and the St. Barnabas Society here in Hong Kong.

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### SPECIAL OFFERING

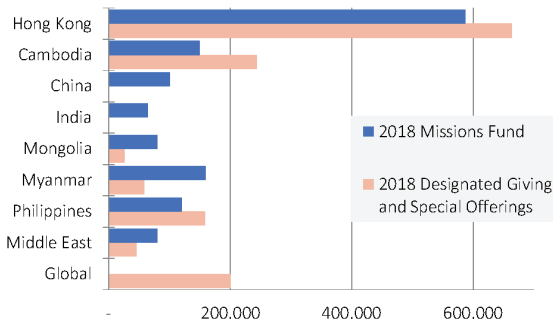
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Every year Union makes a call for special offerings for partners and projects that need special support. This year's Christmas offering had an overwhelming response of over \$266,000 given to the Home of Loving Faithfulness following a visit from their founder Valerie Conibear. Our annual special offering for the Hong Kong Church Network for the Poor's (HKCNP) 10.10.10 program also raised \$286,000 this year. Union congregants also joined this year's special focus on the LOTW Church in Myanmar by giving \$58,000 towards the complete redevelopment of their heavily deteriorated church building.

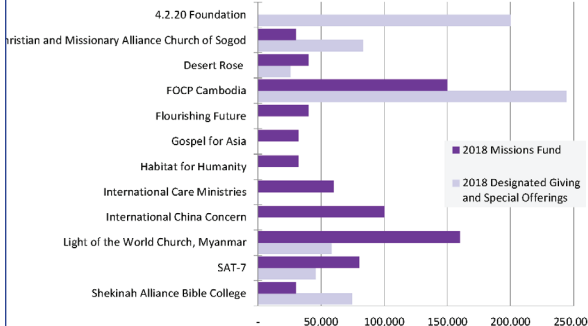
## GIVING OF OURSELVES

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus doesn't command us to only give financially to missions; He commands us to GO and make disciples of all nations. Union members continue to take personal responsibility for this commission for missions by giving of ourselves to compassion, evangelism, and discipleship ministries. Locally, many members serve on a regular basis in local ministries to enable Alpha groups, prison ministries, and work with the handicapped, the poor, and the elderly. More and more of these ministries are moving into skills-based volunteering where they can apply their professional training to their ministries. Missions trips such as the youth group experienced in the Philippines with Kids' International Ministries (KIM) have also given members the opportunity to carry out their calling to missions outside Hong Kong. Union is also blessed to have many members who have committed their careers to working within ministry organizations, many that Union partners with. Others within the congregation serve in sustaining ways as members of boards or committees in ministry organizations. If you are hearing God's call to GO and make disciples, but you're not sure where to get involved, please talk with members of our church staff or Missions Committee to see where you can find meaningful ways to serve.

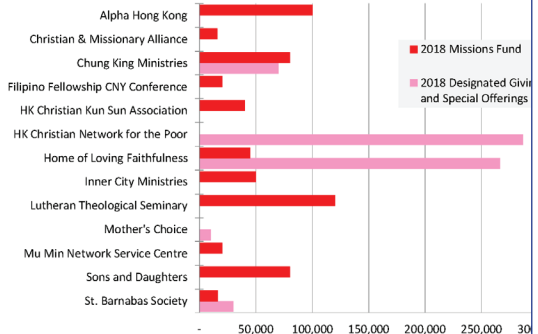
### 2018 Missions Giving by Region



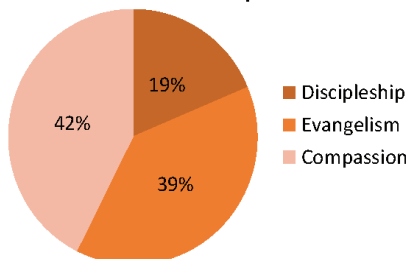
### 2018 International Missions



### 2018 Local Missions



### 2018 Missions Fund by Commission



## 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, adapting, prayer, fellowship, and new initiatives for Union’s worship ministries. Thank you all for your servant hearts and commitment throughout 2018 and beyond!

### WORSHIP MINISTRIES

The **8:45 Communion Service** is in its ninth year averaging 40-50 people and stable. 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 continue to have a small group 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 **9:45 AM traditional service** is well grounded in choral traditions and harmony thanks to Forrest, Selene, and our gifted Union Church Choir. There have been some challenges this year as we settled into 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 “Celebrate The Joy!” thanks to Forrest’s creative compilation of anthems from cantata’s past! Highlights for 2018 also included, symbolic Good Friday service, Easter brass and choir, One Worship and combined choir concluded with a celebratory Thanksgiving feast! Christmas Eve (LED) Candlelight services were a blessing and we all fit into SLT! 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 2019!

Our **11:15 Contemporary Service** continues to grow and increase with new singers, players, and worship leaders. We also welcomed Joyce Wu as Assistant Worship Director. We are ever blest with the commitment and excellence of our staff and volunteers. For as many who have moved away or onto University this year, God

continues to provide our worship leading needs. Last year saw the continuation of our youth band under the leadership of Justin Cheong and with the addition of a junior youth band under the direction of Joyce Wu. We are grateful for our teams leading worship at various venues in both SLT and Indigo! It was a year of fellowship, prayer, and worship events for our leaders with both in house worship gatherings and stepping out for the One Worship gathering last June with combined choir, band, and worship teams. The Recharge Service begun in January was transformed into a night of food, fellowship, worship, and teaching in a small group setting. As a result of this change, we saw numbers and enthusiasm for this mid-week gathering grow and flourish! Union's sixth annual Christmas Musical, "Bethlehem News flash" was enjoyed by all, thanks to our Children's Ministry team, Dovetails Theatre Co. and our many volunteers! We are also 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 our local communities.

**The U-Cafe** service continues to meet at Indigo Hotel with a strong and committed congregation. It has not been an easy transition from Union to Indigo but our worshippers have settled in nicely! The U-Bar worship was transformed into a venue for our growing Sunday school and those attendees are now attending the U-Café service which has maintained a steady number of people. We are also grateful for a consistent staff and pastoral presence at that service as well.

May U-Cafe continue to thrive and strengthen in 2019 as we worship together!

The **5:15 PM 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 over the last year. The worship groups remain strong with some new singers and players joining the team. We also had the privilege of having the Taize Community with us last spring as we led a series of worship in the prayerful and meditative style of the Taize community. We pray the 5:15 service 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*



## Filipino Ministry by Ruth Tablada



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### FILIPINO MINISTRY

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Another year of grace. God has given us some wonderful soil for growth. In Colossians 2: 6 – 7 we are told, “you have accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord. Now keep following Him. Plant your roots in Christ and let Him be the foundation for your life. Be strong in your faith, just as you were taught. And be grateful.” As God’s people we build our lives on Jesus. Our very existence, our day-to-day living, our every breathing moment has its source in Him. God wants to see in us the kind of fruit through the blood of Jesus; from someone who has been given a new life by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus tell us in John 15:5 “Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me.” The key is to be connected to Jesus! The year 2018 we encouraged each one to keep following Jesus whatever circumstances they are in and always be grateful because God is good and faithful!

### Prayer:

We started the year 2018 January with Prayer & Fasting and since we had no place to have it we gathered in the Park in cold weather. Having experienced the power of prayer of many answered prayers on healing of sicknesses, relationships, lives transformed, provisions, protections, guidance and many others. Glory to His name!

### Evangelism:

We thank God for Dr. Andrew Luison sharing with the Congregation how to use “God’s Gift” card to share it with others. Some were trained and equipped with other tools like the “Four Spiritual Laws” of Christ Campus Crusades and Evangelism Explosion using the 2 Diagnostic Questions: First, “Do you for sure that you’re going to be with God in Heaven one day?” Second, “If God were to ask you why He should let you into His heaven, what would you say?” These two questions will enable us to discern and diagnose where people are spiritually and what are they trusting in for eternal life.



2,477 gospel tracts were given to individuals

100 people shared with the Gospel and out of the 100, there were 46 of them prayed to receive Jesus Christ into their lives as Saviour and Lord. The founder of the Campus Crusades for Christ, the late Dr Bill Bright has said, “the success of witnessing for Christ is sharing the Gospel in the power of the Spirit and leaving the result to God.” Evangelism is a lifestyle. We know that God’s Word is powerful and it will not return void to those who received it.

### **Chinese New Year 2018**

Participants learned Discipleship Essentials for Christian Living and Discipleship for Spiritual Leadership. It was an enriching learning and rewarding experience! It has led many to a deeper walk with Jesus.

### **Shelter Ministry**

Continued to serve as a temporary place to stay for those who lost their jobs, those who were looking for a new employment, a place of recovery from health issues and those who have on going cases relating to their employment. One of them has stayed for 6 months and asked to continually report to the CID. While they are investigating the case she’s not allowed to work. Thank God after long months of waiting December 2017 – May 2018 she was finally cleared of all accusations filed by the employer. The place is also used for Saturday Bible Study and Worship.

### **Baptism**

There were eight that have undergone baptismal instruction this year but only four of them made it. The other four were prevented by their husband and parents. We thank God for the four who followed the Lord in water baptism.

### **Walk the Wall with ICC**

We thank God for the privilege and opportunity to be able to join the walk and raise funds for the orphans and disabled children in China.

Praise God for added Bible Study Group from 7 groups now it is 8! We have been on the Study on Discipleship Essentials “Who Is Jesus?”

**To God be the glory great things He has done!**

# Administration

Property by Anson Wang

Union Church moved from its previous location in Kennedy Road to Sunlight Tower in September 2017 in order to allow the redevelopment of its site at 22A. Submission for Demolition, ELS and Foundation completed and approved in 3Q 2017 and 2Q 2018. Demolition of existing buildings completed 2Q 2018. Foundation work is now under way and the superstructure contract is due to begin October 2019. The Occupation Permit for the development is scheduled for June 2022 and we anticipate moving into our new Church premises at 22A Kennedy Road in late 2022 to early 2023.

The working model of the development has been on display on the Church reception table and showed the disposition of our new Sanctuary, Church premises and the podium with the residential block above it.



# Building Union for the Future

by the BUFF Steering Committee

After a hectic 2017 year, 2018 was much calmer for BUFF. Union had settled in to the new premises at Sunlight Tower and the 22A Kennedy Road site had been handed over to Henderson Land to progress with the re-development. During the year, demolition of the old church building was completed and work on the excavation of the ground (to provide for basement and foundation works) and on lateral support (in the form of piped piles around the site boundary) commenced. The building works are on schedule for occupational permit to be issued in the second half of 2022 and for fit out of the new church to be worked on for moving back to 22A Kennedy Road in first half of 2023.

During the year, the BUFF team continued to work on improvements, refinement and further detailing of the design of the new church. Some notable design achievements included that we can now have the sanctuary floor and the fellowship garden to be on the same level (where previously they were on two levels) and re-designing our entrance so as to have distinct and beautiful arrival entrances for both the church and the residential tower. A scale presentation model of the proposed new building was put on display at Sunlight Tower from December 2018 to February 2019. In addition to the design work, a number of important decisions on choice of air conditioning system and sanctuary cladding material were made. Our thanks to Patrick Wilson and Maurice O'Brien for faithfully attending the design meetings on behalf of Union.

Going forward, two very important work streams are the design of the interior of the new church and the associated fund raising to finance the interior fit out. Although the fit out works won't begin physically until 2022, the planning and fund raising would need to start now. Members who wish or feel called to play a part in these work streams (and it is a privilege to be working on building God's house) are encouraged to reach out to any one of us.

Our Kennedy Road site remains very much in our hearts. We have held quarterly prayer meetings on site (by prior arrangements with the contractors) to pray for God's blessings and protection for safety of the workers and smooth progress of site works. We plan to continue with the quarterly prayer meetings and also hold an Easter sunrise service on site this April.

On the personnel front, Geoff Lovegrove stepped down from the BUFF Steering Committee in early 2018 after having guided BUFF efforts for many years (even preceding the formation of the BUFF team). We offer our grateful thanks to Geoff for his most valuable contribution and wise counsel towards BUFF. We are also very grateful that Patrick Wilson has answered God's calling to step in to replace Geoff on the BUFF Steering Committee.

Stewardship by Andrew Lo



2018 has been a year of change for Union Church-the new location in Wanchai, loss of major income from weddings and funerals, news of Pastor Greg’s resignation, and external factors like the financial markets downturn had an impact on our stewardship drive.

In Pastor Greg’s last stewardship letter, he reminded us when we look to the needs of Union, and to our personal and family financial challenges, the promise that “God will satisfy every need of yours” is encouraging.

Despite the challenges, we see how our faithful God continues to provide and guide His leadership at Union Church to be good stewards of His resources. In the year, Union started a mid-week (recharge) service, revamped young adult and men’s ministry (Anto), and increased small group participation (Monte) and meanwhile our existing ministries continue to grow.

The stewardship drive this year has resulted in \$6.8million. We are heartened to see your sustained support. The impending change in leadership in the church has naturally caused some concern. I hope and pray that the congregation will continue to rally around Pastor Michele and the joint leaders like you have demonstrated at our recent Special General meeting. We hope to have your continued support and generosity in 2019.

2018 Commitment Card Result				
PLEDGE	No. OF PEOPLE		AMOUNT (HKD)	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
New	8	5	156,000	252,000
Existing	93	57	5,715,000	3,322,800
			5,871,000	3,574,800
One-off				
New	11	7	178,739	92,550
Existing	39	27	3,042,697	2,318,908
			3,221,436	2,411,458
FOHKC				
New	0	1	-	12,000
Existing	12	8	1,174,000	849,000
			1,174,000	861,000
GRAND TOTAL	163	105	10,266,436	6,847,258

## Human Resources by John Jamison

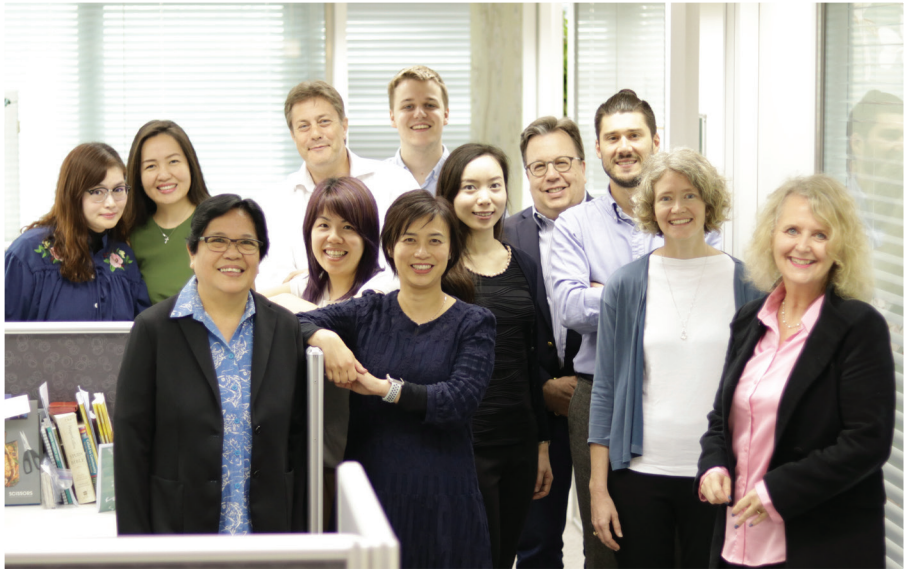
HR at Union Church includes the planning and administration of staffing, performance management, compensation and benefits, and training and development. HR falls under the Committee of Management (CoM) and is coordinated by the CoM HR with the assistance of the HR Committee. HR is managed by the Operations team which reports to the Senior Pastor.

On the staffing front, we have had some important changes this year. On the ministry side, Pastor Greg Anderson's time as Senior Pastor at Union came to a close at the end of 2018 with Pastor Michele Bland stepping in on an interim basis as of January 1. Michele has taken on this role on an acting basis before and we are very blessed to now have her in the Senior Pastor role as the search for a permanent Senior Pastor is carried out. Antonin Ficatier has also transferred from the Youth Director role to Young Adults Director, which is a newly created position to focus on this important population in Union and in the world. The Youth Director role was filled in July by Hunter Purvis who previously served at Union in 2016-2017 as the Assistant Youth Director under Anto. We've also been joined by Joyce Wu in a newly created role as Assistant Worship Director on a part-time basis. On the operations side of staffing, the Operations Director position lost Anita Au last summer, but gained David Ashton-Howorth who came onboard in September. The operations team was also joined by Cary Yim who takes over from Sum Cheung as an Administrative Assistant.

On the performance front, we want to recognise the high level of performance that our staff maintained across the board during our first year in Sunlight Tower. Staff have kept things running while responding and adapting to space and scheduling constraints as well as new work environments, commutes, and processes. Our staff deserves recognition for performing with a good heart in our new temporary home. Also this year, we updated our performance review and objective setting process to encourage more collaboration and future-focus. The focus this year will be on setting ambitious goals for the ministry work that we share. Members and volunteers should be able to talk with their leaders and staff about what they can contribute to in the coming year.

On the training and development front, CoM has agreed this year that a strategic HR focus moving ahead will be on building up staff capabilities for making solid plans and decisions for the ministries and operations that they oversee. This will include reinforcing staff proficiency in program and people management, passing more approval to the staff level, and the seamless utilisation of a professional ops team. We've also had a focus this year on giving staff more opportunities to build their community with team outings and social activities. Similarly, we've also had opportunities for the staff to interact with Joint Leaders (Deacons and CoM) to build strong communication and collaboration with guest speakers such as Rev. Dr. Rob Penner in January of this year.

# The Union Church Team



NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
The Rev. Dr. Michele Bland	Acting Senior Pastor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works with Ministry Teams</li> <li>• Head of staff</li> <li>• Preaching, teaching, equipping - Stephen's Ministry</li> <li>• Pastoral Care</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>
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>
Mr. Antonin Ficatier	Young Adults Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young Adults Ministry Programming</li> <li>• Men's Ministry</li> </ul>



NAME	POSITION	JOB INTRODUCTION
Mr. Hunter Purvis	Youth Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Programming</li> </ul>
Ms. Monte Peterson	Small Group & Adult Education Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small Group &amp; Adult Education Programming</li> </ul>
Dr. Joyce Wu	Assistant Worship Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist the Worship Director</li> </ul>
Mr. Justin Cheong	Youth Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assists programs for the Youth Ministry</li> </ul>
Mr. David Ashton-Howorth	Operations Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages the overall daily church operations</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. Cary Yim Mr. Philip Ho	Administrative Assistants	<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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## PREACHING

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Senior Pastor Greg Anderson preached 32 Sundays this year. In addition, the pulpit was shared by Acting Senior Pastor Michele Bland, Young Adults Director Antonin Ficatier, Small Group and Adult Education Director Monte Peterson and Youth Director Hunter Purvis.

A great group of visiting preachers have visited this year:

- Chip Hardwick — Jan 2018
- Paul Watermulder — Jan 2018
- Charles Caldwell — Feb 2018
- Steve Brady — March 2018
- Pastor John Snelgrove — April 2018
- Andrew Chua — May 2018
- Dr. John Walton — June 2018
- Dr. Richard Higginson — June 2018
- Pastor Matthew Fredericks — July & August 2018
- Enoch Hsu — August 2018
- George Cladis — August 2018
- Jason Young — September 2018
- Bishop Reniel Joel A. Nebab — October 2018
- Morgan Jackson — November 2018
- Christopher Legge — December 2018



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## CHILDREN / INFANT BAPTISMS

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1. Ah-weng, Eilidh
2. Brosnan, Mary
3. Choi, Eleanor
4. Hatch, Freya
5. Huang, Caroline
6. Lyso, Josiah
7. Simsa, Evelyn
8. Simsa, Pedro
9. Tan, Julian
10. Yip, Audrey
11. Yip, Davin

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## ADULT BAPTISMS

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1. de Rooy, Jane
2. Jones, Luke
3. Lee, Ivy
4. Lo, Dawn
5. Loke, Shireen
6. Ng, Eric
7. Mak, Alvin
8. U, Pauline



## YOUTH BAPTISMS

1. Foley, Keira
2. Yuen, Declan

## YOUTH CONFIRMATIONS

1. Barrett, Gina
2. Foley, Keira
3. Lacave, Melchoir
4. Tyrrell, Poppy
5. Yuen, Declan

## NEW MEMBERS

1. de Rooy, Jane
2. Foley, Katherine
3. Hatch, Jonathan
4. Jones, Luke
5. Lam, Hilarie
6. Lee, Ivy
7. Lo, Dawn
8. Loke, Shireen
9. Ng, Eric
10. Mak, Alvin
11. Staalman, Cornelis
12. Staalman, Trudy
13. Tellvik, Johan
14. Tellvik, Monika
15. Yau, Joanna



# Treasurer's Report

by George Ding

## Financial Highlight

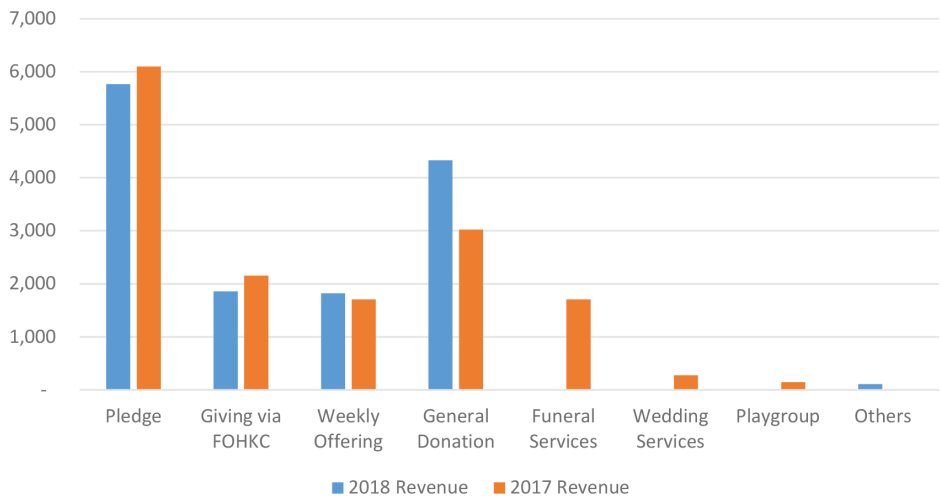
Union Church strives to be a good steward of the financial resources entrusted to us by our congregation. We are grateful to report financial results in an eventful year during which we have operated out of the Sunlight Tower. The General Fund, our main operating fund, records a deficit of \$3.1 million<sup>1</sup>. This reflects a \$2 million deficit from operating activities and a \$1.1 million loss from our investment portfolio. The net assets of the church have decreased 8.4% from last year, and stands at \$33.9 million at the end of 2018.

## Revenue

Thanks to our Lord's abundant blessings and your generosity, we received \$13.8 million in offerings in 2018, an increase of 6% from 2017. Our congregation expanded support to missions and ministries beyond Union's four walls. We received \$2.6 million in Designated Offerings, an increase of 17% from last year. However, we lost the revenue generated from premise related programs completely after relocating to Sunlight Tower. Our overall revenue (excluding BUFF) decreased by 8.2% from 2017.

The breakdown of general fund revenue in 2018 and 2017 is as follows (HK\$ in thousands).

### Total Revenue: \$13,883,738



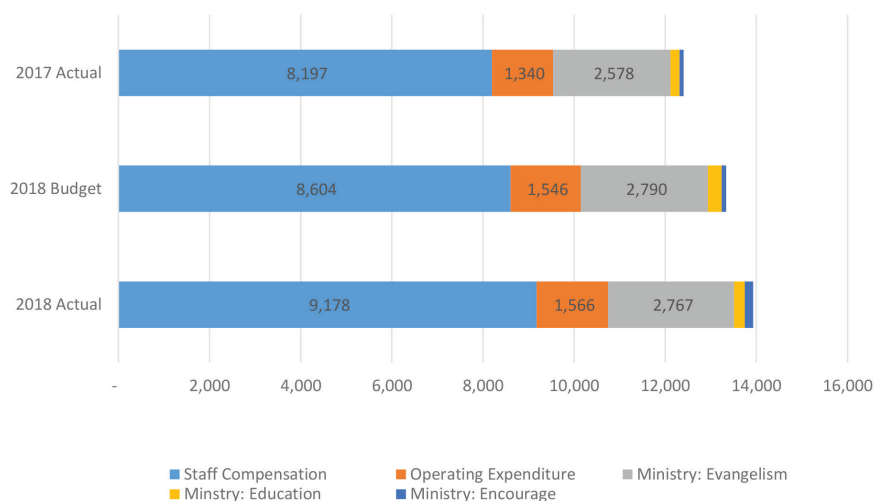
<sup>1</sup> All figures provided herewith are in Hong Kong Dollars and based on the unaudited financial reports by the finance staff as of December 31, 2018.

## Expenses

This year's operating expenses recorded a 12.3% increase from actual in 2017 and a 4.4% increase over the budgeted amount. The increased spending in ministry programs and expenses related to personal service are the major contributors.

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

### Total Operating Expenses: HK\$13,927,797



## BUFF and Redevelopment Reserve Fund

The Building Union for the Future (BUFF) project proceeds as planned. The construction of the new church building breaks ground this year. We have received additional BUFF offerings of HK\$644,634 and incurred project related expenses of HK\$1,681,055 in 2018. The balance of the Redevelopment Fund stands at HK\$3,177,143 as of December 31, 2018.

Thanks to our staff's initiative, we opened the online donation function in our Union Church mobile APP and website this year. The offering amount is relatively small compared to traditional cheques and pledge cards. We are delighted to report that it is growing in numbers and amounts rapidly.

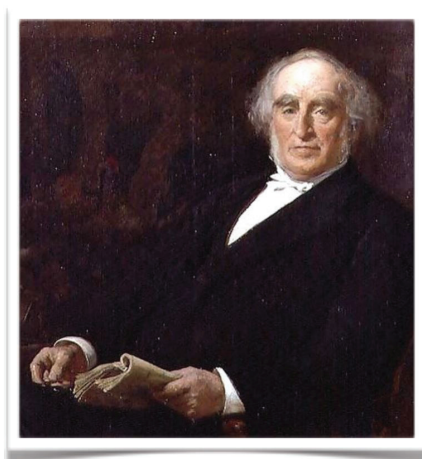
# A Brief History

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



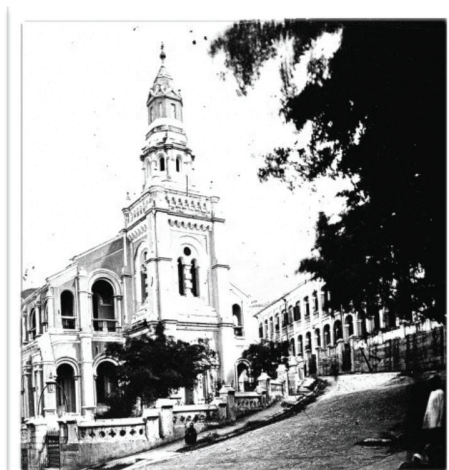
The Rev. Dr. James Legge

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

# Acknowledgement

We thank God for providing us with these wonderful people:

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A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!



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