

“Changing Seasons”

Hamilton Conference



**HAMILTON
CONFERENCE**
The United Church of Canada

Annual Reports

2018



**HAMILTON CONFERENCE
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
2017-2018**

REPORT BOOK



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Standing Committees

▶ Archives Committee	1
▶ Division of Ministry Personnel & Education	2
▶ Education & Students Committee	3
▶ Interim Ministries Committee	5
▶ Internship & Educational Supervision.....	6
▶ Conference Interview Board.....	9
▶ Pensions & Group Insurance	10
▶ Mission Strategy and Support.....	11
▶ Nominations.....	12
▶ Pastoral Care Team.....	13
▶ Property Committee.....	14
▶ Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Committee	14
▶ Staff Committee.....	16

Educational Institutions

▶ Brock University Ecumenical Chaplaincy	18
▶ Guelph Ecumenical Campus Ministry.....	19
▶ McMaster University Ecumenical Chaplaincy	20
▶ Five Oaks Education & Retreat Centre	23

Other Reports

▶ General Council Executive	24
▶ United Church Women Executive of Hamilton Conference	26
▶ Wesley Urban Ministries	27

Network Reports

▶ Affirm Network.....	29
▶ Children and Youth Network	30

▶ Week of Guided Prayer Network31

Presbytery Reports

▶ Bruce Presbytery33
▶ Hamilton Presbytery.....35

Staff Team Reports

▶ Hartmans, Peter Executive Secretary37
▶ Diane Blanchard Personnel Minister38
▶ Diane Matheson-Jimenez Minister for Social Justice and Youth.....40
▶ Kim Uyede-Kai Minister for Congregational Support.....43
▶ Dave Jagger Stewardship & Gifts Officer45
 ▶ Mission & Service Giving in 201747

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The mandate of the Archives and Records Committee of Hamilton Conference is “*to encourage congregations and presbyteries to care for their important records in the best possible manner.*” To carry out its mandate, the Archives and Records Committee

- provides advice to pastoral charges and presbyteries,
- informs pastoral charges of their responsibility, per *The Manual*, to deposit records at the Central Ontario Conferences Archives in Toronto,
- assists pastoral charges who have questions and concerns about archives and records,
- reviews presbytery minute books, and
- plans special events from time to time for ministry personnel and lay people on archives and record keeping.

Committee and general archives information are found on the Hamilton Conference website under the “Resources” section: <http://hamconf.org/archives/>. Answers to many questions about archives and records may be found on this webpage, as well as contact information for the various presbytery representatives who serve on the committee. Thanks to Barbara Hampson at the conference office for her excellent support of this webpage.

The Conference Archives and Records Committee met twice in 2017. We were saddened by the loss of Eileen Burnes, a longstanding committee member, a few days after our April meeting: she continues to be missed. Much of our 2017 focus was on the status of pastoral charge holdings at the Archives to encourage donations of absent archival records. Through its oversight role with review of presbytery records, as well as providing advice and workshops, the committee seeks to preserve the history of congregations and presbyteries.

Our Conference Archivist is Erin Greeno, who also serves as the Central Ontario Conferences Archivist (Bay of Quinte, Hamilton, London, Manitou, and Toronto). Our Central Ontario Conferences archival collection is housed at the Toronto Christian Resource Centre, 40 Oak Street, Toronto, as is the General Council Archives. The committee receives outstanding assistance from Erin and the Archives staff to support our work.

In 2017, the Central Ontario Conferences Archives received 20 acquisitions comprising 9.6 meters of textual records, as well as 18 microfilms, photographs and architectural drawings from Hamilton Conference presbyteries and pastoral charges. In addition to housing these collections, in 2017 the Archives received visits from researchers (287), online & telephone requests for information (930), as well as requests for baptism/marriage/burial transcriptions (145).

The Archives and Records Committee would not function without the support of its members, as well as that of Rev. Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary of Hamilton Conference. It is a blessing to work with dedicated and faithful people who are passionate about preserving the history of our church.

- Rod Coates, Chair

DIVISION OF MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND EDUCATION

The members of the Division of M.P.& E. are: Margaret Bain (Pensions and Group Insurance), Diane Blanchard (Staff Support), Bob Brunner (Interview Board), Deanne Dickson and Harold DeVenne (Co-Chairs of Education and Students), Candy Harvey (Internship and Educational Supervision and Division Secretary), Michelle Hogman, (Settlement), Sybil Wilson (Interim Ministry), and Judy Zarubick (Chairperson).

The purpose of the Division of Ministry Personnel and Education is:

“to give oversight and coordinate all Conference responsibilities and concerns for matters relating to the training, settlement, continuing education and welfare of members of paid and accountable ministry staff on the role of Hamilton Conference.”

Over the past Conference year our Division will have met by Conference Call three times. Also throughout the past year we have conducted email polls on sacramental licensing and the right to perform the Solemnization of Marriage. This process is used for the timely response to pastoral charges who request licensing for eligible Ministry Personnel. This past Conference year we received 9 requests for sacramental licensing: 8 were granted and one did not meet the requirements. We also received two requests for the Authorization to Solemnize Marriages. The two requests were recommended to the Executive Secretary to forward to the Registrar General.

At each of our meetings the chairs of the various Conference Committees report to the Division. This includes Settlement, Pensions and Group Insurance, Education and Students, Interim Ministry, Internship and Educational Supervision, and Interview Board. Hamilton Conference is blessed to have gifted and dedicated people who volunteer to do this work on behalf of the church.

Much of what the committees do relates directly to the four priorities as named by the Conference. By training, matching, offering educational events, interviewing, walking with and caring for the ministry personnel and students in Hamilton Conference our Division aids them to be able to strive for healthy congregations and presbyteries, offer effective leadership, bearing faithful public witness, while strengthening partnerships within congregations, communities, and the wider church.

Another focus in the work of our Division is an annually held workshop a “Called to Leadership Event” for ministry personnel. This usually occurs in the spring. This year’s event was called “Leadership Through Transformation & Change,” held at the Conference Office. It was a retreat day with Betty Pries on the intersection between spirituality and the practical realities of change for those in Leadership, and the Rev. Richard C. Choe on photography as a spiritual practice during transformation & change. It was well received by all who attended.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Zarubick, Chair of the Division of M.P&E.*

EDUCATION AND STUDENTS COMMITTEE

The Conference Education and Students Committee assists presbytery Education and Students Committees in their work on behalf of students for Ministry in the UCC, communicates with candidates as appropriate, and arranges the annual New Ministries Day when “final” interviews with candidates take place.

The Committee is composed of representative(s) from each presbytery’s Education and students Committee, Conference Intern and Educational Supervision Committee, and Conference Interview Board, with staff support from Diane Blanchard. Meetings are held at Conference office or by teleconference when appropriate.

The priorities of the Committee are:

- Organize and host the annual New Ministries Interview Day for candidates who are preparing to be Commissioned or Ordained at the next possible Conference Meeting date
- Encourage communication among the presbytery Education and Students Committees in order to share experiences and resources in support of the candidates.
- Review and maintain the Vocational Assessment process through Six Oaks Consulting, which all inquirers must complete prior to becoming a candidate.
- Create and bring awareness of the current educational “streams” available for all candidates and communicate the needs and concerns of Hamilton Conference to these different educational faculties.

These responsibilities enhance the candidate’s learning opportunities, thus facilitating greater understanding and the acquisition of skills through experience, to cope with the increasing demands of congregational ministry. Healthy congregations and healthy pastoral relationships are the ultimate goal of our Committee—just as is true of our Conference. We model partnership and co-operation with the leadership of presbytery E&S Committees of the Conference and interact with the various educational systems.

Current Year

With feedback from the prior New Ministries Day in mind, we made plans for the December 1, 2017 NMD. This time, we returned to Five Oaks, to support their endeavour to continue offering a venue for events of this nature. Arrangements for food were made with the Caterer who works with Five Oaks and we were pleased with what they offered.

Our quarterly meetings encourage collaboration and sharing of resources across the presbytery E&S Committees, thereby reducing duplication of effort to create processes or materials that are already available. The presbytery E&S committees depend on the Conference Interview Board and Conference Intern and Educational Supervision teams to complete important steps in the candidate process. Our quarterly meetings allow for discussion that usually enables potential issues to be identified and dealt with, ensuring as much as possible a positive experience for our candidates.

Year Ahead

The Celebration of New Ministries Ordination Service on May 26, 2018 at the Conference Meeting will include the ordination of our candidates Andrew Macpherson (Hamilton Presbytery) and Robert Lawson (Erie Presbytery). It will also complete the three-year term of the co-chairs of this committee. During this year, we have enjoyed working with Diane Blanchard as our staff support.

Recognizing that major changes within the UCC will create a transition period for the work of Education and Students Committees, we will be open to carrying on with the work, probably until the end of this calendar year.

In the changing environment in which the United Church finds itself, we will have ongoing discussions with the educational faculties to ensure our candidates are provided with the best possible education by these schools.

As the Remits proceed through the approval process, we will have to be diligent to stay abreast of changes that will impact the revised process of education, experience and approval for new candidates for ministry.

Summary

For us as co-chairs, this year has been interesting and satisfying. We had a successful New Ministries Day that included a change in venue as we returned to Five Oaks. Now we anticipate another year of change as adjustments and revisions are made to processes and requirements that are familiar. It seems likely that the one constant in our work will be... change. We look forward to watching and participating in the transitions that will come.

It is a pleasure to work with the fine people who make up our E and S Committee—the presbytery E&S Chairpersons; CIES and CIB chairpersons; Secretary Elizabeth Agnew and Diane Blanchard as staff support. They are thoughtful, co-operative and generous... committed to the work we do.

We thank each one of them for their dedication and support. God bless us each and all.

*Respectfully submitted,
Deanne Dickson and Harold DeVenne, Co-chairs*

INTERIM MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Interim Ministry Committee of Hamilton Conference is responsible for overseeing the work of Interim Ministry within the Conference. The following preamble from *The Manual* of the United Church of Canada explains the purpose and meaning of “interim ministry” and gives a definition of an “Interim Minister”:

Interim Ministry

An “interim ministry” is a time-limited ministry in a pastoral charge. The purpose of the interim ministry is to work toward specific goals decided on by the presbytery and the pastoral charge.

An “interim minister” is a member of the order of ministry or designated lay minister who has been designated by the Conference to serve in interim ministry.

As the Interim Ministry Committee, we are responsible for the designation of persons to serve in interim ministry, education of presbyteries about their responsibilities in the designation process and in the setting up of an interim ministry within a congregation, and the education of transition teams in pastoral charges where interim ministry is taking place.

Discharging these responsibilities directly impacts *the health of congregations and presbyteries* when a congregation is effectively served by an Interim Minister. *Partnerships are strengthened* when transition teams work with the Interim Minister for the congregation. Through the process they model *effective leadership and viable partnership*. Having more designated Interim Ministers in the Conference increases the availability of well-prepared leaders for specialized congregational situations in the presbyteries.

A Summary of Work

This year the Committee

- recommended one person— Barbara Fullerton, OM—for Initial Designation;
- Reviewed final reports of Interim Ministry at three pastoral charges: Sydenham United (Erie), Forest Hill United (Waterloo), and Eden United (Halton);
- Supported the Interim Ministers’ regular (about every six weeks) lunch meetings for fellowship and in-service education through discussion of their experiences, opportunities, and challenges;
- Supported two (Fall and Spring) Interim Ministers’ retreats;
- met with the Hamilton Presbytery Executive for a conversation about Interim Ministry, the role and expectations of Interim Ministers, and how presbytery can effectively work with the Interim Minister for the health of the pastoral charge;
- Prepared a two-page primer on Interim Ministry working in collaboration with members of Hamilton Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee;
- prepared a set of questions for Interim Ministers to use in doing their self evaluation as part of the final reporting of Interim Ministry in a pastoral charge.
- The committee chair and the Conference personnel minister participated in the national consultation on the Office of Vocations and Effective Leadership for Healthy Pastoral Relations held in London in October 2017.

During the year, two members retired from the committee, having completed their terms and two joined giving us a full complement of members: Harry Disher, Dave Hall, Meg Grieves (Vice Chair), Hugh MacDonald, Ken MacDonald (secretary), Pegi Ridout, Eleanor Scarlett, Pat Tooley, Sybil Wilson (chair).

Thanks to everyone for your service and an added thank-you to those who have extended their term through the transition period as the Church moves from a four-court to a three-court structure. Thanks to our staff resource persons: Diane Blanchard, Conference Personnel Minister and Sue Duliban, Administrative Assistant.

Respectfully submitted

Sybil E. Wilson, Chairperson

INTERNSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISION

One of the ways that Hamilton Conference implements our priorities of Healthy Congregations and Effective Leadership is through the involvement of congregations in preparation for ordered and lay ministry. Our mandate is to help facilitate the formation of Ordained and Designated Lay Ministers (DLM) through Supervised Ministry Education (SME) experiences with a trained Educational Supervisor. Our tasks are to recruit and encourage internship sites and supervisors and to assess and to approve applications from them; to provide educational events (called “Gatherings”) for Interns/Students, Educational Supervisors, Lay Supervision Team (LST) members, and Designated Lay Ministers (not yet recognized); to support and provide training for Lay Supervision Teams; to oversee Supervised Ministry Education for DLMs and those in other Ministry Based Programs (e.g. AST Long-distance and Summer Education Program); and to host educational supervisor refresher courses. Most of our work with SME supervisors and students is done through liaising, site visits, the review of evaluations, and our interaction during the three “Gathering” events. There are two national Matching Meetings where interns are matched with educational sites and supervisors from (almost) across Canada. Our Chair attends these in June and in October. The number of interns submitting applications to this method of locating an internship site has tended to dwindle drastically over the past several years.

During 2017–2018, we have six students for ordained ministry and one student for Designated Lay Ministry learning in Hamilton Conference churches. The student placed at the June Matching Meeting in an eight-month internship was Andrew Macpherson, interning at St. Luke’s United in Toronto Conference, supervised by the Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea. All six M.Div. students interning in Hamilton Conference are enrolled in the Atlantic School of Theology Master of Divinity Summer Distance Program. This is a five-year program. Gavin Williams is now at Carlisle-Kilbride Pastoral Charge in Carlisle and Kilbride, supervised by the Rev. Robert Thaler, and Jan McCormick is at Hillcrest United in Georgetown, supervised by the Rev. Dr. Paul Crittenden. They are in their third year of the program. We have two students in the second year of the AST program. Alison Miculan is at Copetown United Church in Copetown, supervised by the Rev. Bill MacKinnon, and Gail Fricker is at Knox United Church

in Ayr, supervised by the Rev. Elyse Feltrin (from London Conference). Our fifth student is Caitlin MacKenzie, a first year AST student at Jerseyville United Church, Jerseyville, supervised by the Rev. Heather Weaver-Orosz. As Heather is supervising for Hamilton Conference for the first time, she is assigned a mentor—the Rev. Dr. Diane Walker. Our sixth AST student is Marsha Roberts, at Ripley-Bervie Pastoral Charge in Ripley and Bervie, supervised by the Rev. Heather Davies. The seventh student, Janice Pow, is in her first year of the DLM program. She is leading in ministry at the KTV United church and supervised by the Rev. Cathy Dilts. Each of the students has a member of the CIES acting as a liaison, to which they can turn to for help and support.

There is one AST student from Hamilton Conference that continues doing their Supervised Ministry Education with a pastoral charge outside of the Conference boundaries. Amadeus Pyralis is at Cole Harbor Pastoral Charge, in Bay of Quinte Conference.

Our educational component began this year with training events for the Lay Supervision Team members of the new pastoral charges involved in Supervised Ministry Education. We held separate training events at St. Andrew’s United, Ripley; Jerseyville United; Carlisle United; and (Kelvin, Teeterville, Vanessa) KTV United. The educational component was continued through three “Gathering” events held between September and March. We try to plan our Gatherings to take place at the pastoral charges where the students are interning. This allows for sharing of the hospitality and the interns to visit other congregational settings for learning, and it gives us further insight as a committee into the internship sites and to our interns. We changed our format slightly for the “Gathering” meetings this year. As we mostly have students in programs that are longer than 8 months, some of the topics were becoming repetitive. We polled students for topic suggestions and shortened our meeting time by an hour and a half.

In September, we met at St. Andrew’s United in Ripley. The September “Gathering” is always a required event for new students. Most students and supervisors were able to attend, as well as some Lay Supervision Team members. Topics included Ministry in the Rural Context/Theological Reflection practices, examining the Standards of Practice pamphlet, setting learning goals and learning covenants. In November, we met at the Hamilton Conference Office with the topics of One Order of Ministry Remit, Models of Church Boards/Councils, and Methods of Closure. Our March Gathering was held at Jerseyville United Church. Topics included All Things Stewardship (Dave Jaggar, Stewardship and Gifts Officer for London & Hamilton Conferences), and Edge Grants. Students were gifted with a flash drive of resources to use. In addition, the educational supervisors were led in a discussion on off-site supervision policies and procedures—and the LST members present were led in a review of LST guidelines. We always allow time at our Gatherings for each group (i.e. Students, Supervisors and LSTs) to meet together. Our students, supervisors, and LST members always comment on how helpful they find this networking time. Our students take turns in leading us in an opening worship time.

Just before Christmas, we received the mid-term evaluation from our first-year AST student, supervisor, and LST. I forwarded our written summary and comments to each student, supervisor, and LST. We will be expecting a mid-term evaluation from our first-year DLM student, supervisor, and LST at the beginning of summer.

We are grateful for our supervisors who are very dedicated and who ensure that their students are experiencing the full range of ministry. We are very appreciative of the congregations that have welcomed the students into this formative time and the reflective support of their LST. The end-of-year evaluations for the AST students and the final evaluation reports from our DLM will be shared at the beginning of May and a response letter will be sent to the students, their supervisors, and Lay Supervision Teams with copies to their Education and Student Committees.

The Ministry of Supervised Education cannot happen without congregations who are willing to share their financial resources and the time of their ministers, and ministers who are willing to share their time. The Church is grateful to all who participated this year. At the National Matching Meeting in June we will once again try to match interns and sites from across the country. As of the time of writing this report, we have one student application and two site applications to present.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the committee. They support the necessary work that is ours to do. They bring great wisdom to our discussions and they make the work of a chair a relatively easy task to accomplish. My appreciation and gratitude goes to the Rev. Diane Blanchard in being our Conference Staff person with this committee.

This may be the final report received from CIES. We are moving forward into change with joy and thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Candy Harvey (Chair)

Committee Members: Secretary—Marilyn Rogers, the Rev. Ron Pocklington, the Rev. Kim Wright, Marion Brown (resigned winter 2018), the Rev. Ann Stafford, the Rev. Laura Williams (resigned winter 2018), Rosemary Benbow, Yvonne Wright, the Rev. Barbara Fullerton, Pat Gilmore, and the Rev. Diane Blanchard (Conference Staff).

CONFERENCE INTERVIEW BOARD (CIB)

The Conference Interview Board's purpose is to make recommendations regarding those seeking to become part of the Order of Ministry in the United Church of Canada. We interview those who are in the process for becoming Ministers from within our Church and those who are Ministers in other Denominations seeking to become United Church Ministers by admission. The Conference Interview Board is made up of both lay people and order of ministry and our staff support comes from the Conference Personnel Minister. We meet about four times a year on Saturdays but will work to accommodate other times if necessary.

So far CIB has met in September & November (2017) and January of this year and our next planned interview day is in May. We will meet twice this fall if there is need. So far this Church year we have interviewed three inquirers and one final admission interview. In all cases a team of CIB members review all documentation and conduct the interviews, then all members of the board that are present discuss the interviews. The board then makes our recommendation.

At present the Conference Interview Board consists of Jessica Cottrell, Judy Zarubick, Yvonne Wright, Cathy Dilts, Ann Fleming, Heather Gilmour, Jean Bethune, John Van Duzer, Dwain Ketcheson, Mary Elliott, Roy Holton, Barbara Fullerton, and Bob Brunner as Chair. Our staff support is the Personnel Minister, Diane Blanchard and we also receive the support of Ron Pocklington as our Chaplin. I thank all on the Board for your time and discernment gifts. You all work through the interviews with openness, compassion and grace. I still continue to be impressed and comforted by your Faith and insight as you interview and then reflect what you see in our prospective ministers. After all the prep work and an hour-long interview, the energy when the full board is discussing the interviews is quite remarkable.

We remind ourselves each time we meet of the privilege we have in serving our God in this manner. We get to experience often the Spirit moving among us during the interviews and our discernment. We are often fed by the passion, deep faith, and energy of the interviewees. We discern not as individuals but as representatives of our Church and seek to see the depth and value of an interviewee's Faith and Call even through Theological differences while supporting the ideals of the United Church of Canada.

With Respect

Bob Brunner, Chair Conference Interview Board

PENSIONS

The responsibilities of this committee are outlined below as found in the General Council Committee Handbook and the Pension and Group Insurance Committee Mandate:

- Promoting the interests of the pension and group insurance plans in the Conference;
- informing the presbytery and pastoral charges on matters of current interest concerning the pension and group insurance plans;
- promoting in the presbyteries an active interest in the welfare of plan members and pensioners living in the Conference;
- reporting to the Conference on the work of the appropriate General Council working unit;
- organizing annual visitation of pensioners living in the Conference.

This Committee will have met twice this year to review the work of the presbytery convenors and to discuss matters relevant to the work of the committee as listed above. This report is being written prior to a meeting in April with the Hamilton Conference Retirees Association to which the committee has been invited. The meeting will address the question of how we will be able to continue our support of retirees/pensioners within the new region of which we will be a part.

Each of the presbytery convenors has been in contact with the pensioners within their respective presbyteries. Several of the convenors have offered opportunity for the pensioners to gather for food and fellowship at least once during the year.

Committee chairperson, Margaret Bain, had the opportunity to attend one of these gatherings in Bruce Presbytery to speak about the pension plan, insurance and what changes are taking place within our church. The requirement for a Police Records check was also highlighted to inform pensioners who are still active (i.e. have a licence to marry) that this is required. Also, to highlight the new requirement to update this each year through the online form or to send in the information once a year.

Convenors also offer support to those pensioners who may have need to apply for further assistance with their financial and/or health challenges.

We have the responsibility, along with our conference staff, of honouring the retirees and jubilands at the General Meeting of Hamilton Conference. This took place at the General Meeting in May of 2017.

Thank you to all who are a part of this important work – especially to the convenors who work diligently to stay in touch with those who have retired and those on long-term disability. Thank you to Diane Blanchard for her presence at our meetings and the wisdom, insight, and guidance that she offers to the committee.

It was suggested last year, when this report was reviewed, that the addition of the names of the convenors for each presbytery be added to the report. So here is the list as of the writing of this report.

Bruce:	Joanne Miller	Halton:	Bill Sparling
Waterloo:	Heather Leffler	Erie:	Art Tobey
Hamilton:	Maureen Hayman	Niagara:	Beth Dohn

*Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Bain, Chairperson*

MISSION STRATEGY AND SUPPORT

Another year has passed and the MSSC Committee has been very busy discerning, on behalf of Hamilton Conference Executive, the applications that have come before us for the Mission Support Grants, Investment in Mission and Ministry Grants, and Capital Assistance Grants and Loans. There are several subcategories of Capital Assistance Grants and Loans: Capital Loans for a pastoral charge; Congregational Development fund loan; Church/Manse Modernization and Improvement Grants; Technology and Support Grants; and Loans and/or Grants for Camps and Education/Retreat Centres. The Capital Assistance Grants and Loans are vetted by the MSSC but finally approved by General Council. Information on all the types of applications and their requirements may be found on the Hamilton Conference website under the “Property & Finance” heading.

One of the first thing that needs to be said is “Thank you”! We could not do our work without the ongoing support of those in Hamilton Conference who support the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church and those who make intentional choices around supporting the Investment in Mission and Ministry Fund. We were delighted that the block grant that was apportioned to Hamilton Conference was unchanged this year compared to last year.

The following Mission Support Grants were approved:

Wesley Urban Ministries	\$60,000.00
Saugeen Wesley Pastoral Charge	\$41,850.00
Cape Croker Pastoral Charge	\$41,850.00
New Credit – Delaware Pastoral Charge	\$41,850.00
National Uniting Pastoral Charge	\$35,360.00
McMaster Chaplaincy	\$ 5,000.00
Brock Chaplaincy	\$ 5,000.00
Guelph Chaplaincy	\$ 5,000.00

The following Investment in Mission and Ministry Grants were approved:

Guelph Ecumenical Chaplaincy	\$10,000.00
Tobermory Pastoral Charge	\$10,000.00
St. Mark’s (Dundas) Pastoral Charge	\$10,000.00

The following Capital Grants and Loans were forwarded:

Cave Springs Camp Grant	\$ 4,000.00
St. John’s (Chesley) United Church Modernization Grant	\$ 2,433.00
Oneida Church Modernization Grant	\$ 5,000.00

This can be challenging work. Almost every proposal that we receive has exciting ministry contained within it. The Committee is committed to following the guidelines for our Grants and Loans to ensure an equitable playing field across Hamilton Conference. We deeply appreciate the amount of work that goes into completed applications that come before us. This work could also not have been done without the passion and dedication of the staff at Hamilton Conference – Kim Uyede-Kai and Ruthanna Mack. As we move forward to the new iteration of the church

with Regions we will have to find ways to continue this work with what will likely be less staff support. I am also thankful for the passionate work of each of the Committee member without whom these tasks could not be accomplished.

We have already had our first application deadline for 2018 and we look forward to future applications arriving for the September 30th deadline.

We do not know how this work will continue as me move into the anticipated new Regional structure of the United Church. We do know that this work will continue to be central to who we see ourselves to be as a Church that believes in the ongoing work of the Spirit in our midst. I encourage all to see how they might contribute moving forward in the work of Mission, Strategy and Support.

Tim Reaburn

Chair - Mission, Strategy and Support Committee

Mission, Strategy and Support Committee

Tim Reaburn, Chair	(Bruce)	Janet MacDonald	(Bruce)
Rosemary Addison, Vice	(Niagara)	Judith Fetter	(Niagara)
Ian Sloan	(Hamilton)	Peggy Bartlet	(Erie)

NOMINATIONS

At the May 2017 General Meeting of Hamilton Conference, the Nominations Committee was pleased to present a full slate of nominees for the work of Conference through to this time.

During the Conference Year when a vacancy is declared within a committee, Nominations will meet by email. The committee has one scheduled meeting during the year to fulfill the needs for the coming year and to prepare the Cumulative Report which is presented at the Conference General Meeting. At the time of writing we are again pleased that a full slate of volunteers has committed to completing their terms of office to the end of December 2018.

As chair of the committee I wish to thank Sue Duliban who acts as secretary for the committee, keeping track of changes and preparing the report to the General Meeting. Thanks also go to Peter Hartmans who, knowing so many of our people across the presbyteries, has been an excellent resource to the nominations process.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all who have volunteered through the last year, and possibly over many years. Your commitment of time and the sharing of the gift of your skills have served this our Conference well!

*Submitted by,
Ann Fleming*

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Where do ministry personnel turn when they have pastoral care needs? Where do families go for care when their partner or parent is their minister? The Pastoral Care Team is a group made up of representatives from our various presbyteries who are here to respond to the pastoral care needs of ministry personnel and their families. This is a role, responsibility, and privilege that the members of our team take on with great skill and passion. We also provide chaplaincy for the Conference Interviews, the New Ministry Day, and for the General Meeting of Conference. The pastoral care we provide ranges from one off e-mails or phone calls with those who may need assistance to on-going monthly conversations. Each member of the team provides care for an average of two to seven people with the majority of the care being short term (one to three conversations). The care we provide is confidential, supportive, and non-judgemental.

In addition to providing pastoral care to individuals the Pastoral Care Team meets three times a year in order to provide support for our members and to discuss pastoral care issues in our conference. These conversations led to the creation of the Health and Wellness Event which started in 2016 and has since been held annually. For 2017 the day included a variety of presentations, worship, and renewal options from a Sacred Fire, to spiritual practices, and a conversation about benefits. For those who attended it was a good day to recharge and reconnect.

During our September meeting we had a presentation on pastoral care around physician assisted death. We see a growing need for support for ministers who are providing pastoral care in these situations. As such, we are in the process of planning a learning day on September 27, 2018 at the conference office to learn more about physician assisted death and to reflect on the pastoral care needs for individuals and their families.

The pastoral care team invites ministry personnel and their families to remember that in times of need or discernment we are here to provide a confidential and supportive presence. To learn more about the Pastoral Care Team or to find the names and contact numbers of our members please visit <http://hamconf.org/pastoral-care-team/>.

*Respectfully submitted,
Micol Cottrell
Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator*

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The mission of the Hamilton Conference Office Property Committee is to oversee the care and maintenance of the Conference office building. As a meeting place for various gatherings and as a workplace for our staff, these facilities are central to the function and mission of Conference. The stated priorities of Hamilton Conference, and the staff who address them, all depend upon a well-maintained property, and thus we support those priorities by the oversight of our facilities.

During 2017 we have been essentially in a “holding pattern” with respect to the building and facilities. With changes in church structure on the horizon, our strategy has been to do what is necessary to maintain things but not to undertake any major projects or commitments. We completed lots of painting, we replaced carpet in the upstairs hallway, we bought a new service trolley—it has been a quiet year for us in comparison with recent years. Of course, we keep on top of building and equipment in terms of life expectancies and projections for replacement. We complete a walk-about at least annually to note anything that needs attention. We rely heavily on our faithful and industrious custodians, Allan and Diane Ellis. We also depend upon a roster of skilled tradespeople who consistently provide first-rate service.

Special thanks to our Executive Secretary Peter Hartmans for his hands-on attention to all matters relating to our facilities, and also to Ruthanna Mack, our administrative support person, for her services. They are both invaluable to our committee. I am also grateful to committee members Norene Anderson and Barbara Woodburn, who are always eager as we complete our tasks, and always have a ready smile.

These are indeed “changing seasons” in the life of the church. The Spirit beckons us. As we seek to follow, we share the responsibility of caring for our Conference facilities and keeping them in optimum condition, not only as a calling to the church, but also as a duty to God.

“...all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.” (VU543)

Respectfully submitted, Ralph Hayman, Chair

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Goals: To ensure the administration of the United Church of Canada Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Policy and Procedures; to educate and train ministry personnel, members, and adherents about “healthy boundaries” and about the policy and procedures. Our working committee 2017: John Benham chairperson, Lynn Hamilton, Bill MacKinnon, Anita Spiller, Jennifer Canning, Brad Inglis, Diane Matheson-Jimenez (Conference Minister for Social Justice and Youth), Diane Blanchard (Conference Personnel Minister).

COMMITTEE: This team is truly a pleasure to work with as together we follow best practices in how we work together and promote the policies of the United Church. Our staff support Diane Blanchard and Diane Matheson-Jimenez are incredible with sharing their support and passion for this ministry. This year General Council shifted our Conference consultant’s model

to a national pool of consultants. We also learned that our Sexual Abuse Prevention Response name was changing to Sexual Misconduct Prevention Response as a recommendation to shift from the word abuse to misconduct.

ANNUAL BOUNDARY WORKSHOP & WEBINAR TRAINING: Each year our committee's major focus is creating a new Boundary Training workshop. At the same time, we annually try our best to send one more committee member to the Marie Fortune 201 training usually offered in the United States. Colleagues return home energized by Marie's teachings, experience, and wisdom.

This year the SMPR committee offered two boundary training sessions May 2 and 6 with the focus on FINANCES. We also intentionally offered a Saturday workshop to enable lay people who work to attend. Hamilton Conference SMPR and a growing number of Conference SMPR teams are beginning to include lay people for the healthy boundary training. The addition of lay people to our workshops was quite impactful. We truly believe healthy boundaries are important for order of ministry and all lay leaders and congregants in our churches. The committee embraced the idea to take the Finance workshop on the road to Brantford, Erie presbytery in the early part of 2018.

Webinar Boundary training is also growing in popularity and supported by the General Council as equivalent to attending a training session in person. Hamilton Conference SMPR is now in line with the General Council policy that all ministry and personnel including retirees take refresher boundary training every five year. Previously, our conference was every three years.

Complaints: The SMPR committee did not have any complaints for 2017 and we hope that education is truly making a difference. Still it is abundantly clear from #metoo that 2017 was a transformative year awakening society to the epidemic of sexual misconduct in the work place. "Times Up" was another movement started in Hollywood to support those who have faced sexual harassment in the movie business with 200 plus volunteer lawyers offering free legal support. The times are thankfully changing but our focus on education must continue.

SMPR also reviewed reflections by Candidates for ministry in support of E&S work in our Conference and we provided support and training to leaders of our three summer camps, Youth Forum, and Children and Young Teens at Conference (CAYTS).

Thank you for your support and constructive feedback from our training sessions. The 2018 Boundary Training will focus on "Back to the Basics – What is Sexual Misconduct and how can we develop Health Boundaries in ministry?"

Respectfully Submitted, John Benham

STAFF COMMITTEE

The mandate of the Staff Committee of Hamilton Conference is to act as a support group to the Conference Staff. Members of the Staff Committee at present are Rosemary Addison (Chairperson), the Rev. Lynne Bandy, and the Rev. Bob Tschanz. We were deeply saddened to lose Jackie Childerhose, who died in December 2017, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. We miss her kindness, caring, and wisdom.

Hamilton Conference Staff consists of the Rev. Peter Hartmans, Executive Secretary; Kim Uyede-Kai, Conference Minister for Congregational Support; Diane Matheson-Jimenez, Conference Minister for Social Justice and Youth; the Rev. Diane Blanchard, Conference Personnel Minister; Sue Duliban, Administrator for Human Resources; Barbara Hampson, Administrator for Communications; and Ruthanna Mack, General Administration. The guidance and expertise of the Staff is greatly appreciated by the presbyteries, congregations, and ministry personnel of Hamilton Conference. Their leadership is highly regarded, known to be professional, yet, compassionate.

Meetings of the Staff Committee are generally held bi-monthly. At each meeting, members of the Staff Committee and the Hamilton Conference Staff gather for worship, followed by a time of refreshment and fellowship. The committee meets afterward with Peter Hartmans also attending. Oftentimes, the report that Peter presents offers the main topics for the meeting agenda. At our November meeting, the Staff Committee hosted a Christmas gathering for the staff. Each staff member was given a gift certificate in appreciation for their work, and for their commitment to excellence.

At present, Hamilton Conference Staff continues to work together as a team to support each other. That being said, there are still a lot of “what if” conversations concerning the restructuring of the governance of the United Church and, specifically, the transition to Regional Councils. We, as members of the Staff Committee, are committed to being supportive to staff members at this time by meeting consistently, by checking in with staff as often as possible, and, by making ourselves available for conversations when needed. We also wish to act as advocates for our staff members, should we be consulted as a committee or individually.

The final report of the Boundaries Commission for the new Regions was released on February 27, 2018. In the new structure, two of our current Hamilton Conference presbyteries, Waterloo and Bruce, will become part of Region 8 while Erie, Hamilton, Halton, and Niagara Presbyteries will become part of Region 9. General Council 43 has the final vote on the implementation of Remit One (the Three Council Model) and while there is a proposed staffing model for the Regional Councils, the Regions will have some flexibility regarding staffing.

On March 21, 2018, the provisional Executive Ministers for the Regional Councils were announced. The Rev. Peter Hartmans will assume the position of Executive Minister of Regional Councils 6 and 10, which include Northern Ontario and Toronto. The Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa will be the Executive Minister of Regional Councils 7, 8, and 9, which include Southwest Ontario into the Bruce. Rev. Cheryl-Ann will meet with the present staff of Hamilton Conference on April 10, 2018, in order to introduce herself.

Since the number one priority for the Staff Committee is to be supportive of the staff, it is suggested that the Staff Committee become a Transition Team for the present staff during the changeover to the new Regional Council Model.

The Staff Committee wishes to recognize the Rev. Peter Hartmans, who will be observing five years as Executive Secretary this March, with a total of eleven years at Hamilton Conference office. We also recognize Sue Duliban, and Ruthanna Mack, both of whom will observe their five-year anniversary in September.

In the fall of 2018, the Staff Committee will have an event to recognize the present Hamilton Conference Staff.

Staff Committee members have stated repeatedly that it is an honour to work and connect with such a remarkable Staff Team. We are blessed with a wonderful group of people, dedicated to their work and to their faith. We ask that you continue to hold them in prayerful support as they continue in their responsibilities within Hamilton Conference in a time of transition and uncertainty.

Respectfully submitted by Rosemary Addison, Chairperson