



Knox United Church ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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STAFF PROFILES



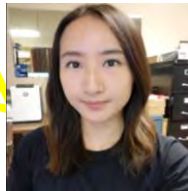
Jai mashi! I'm Damber Khadka, a ¾ time student minister at Knox. I serve in ministry here in order to learn and grow as a leader. I am also involved in leadership of the Jai Mashi Nepali congregation at Knox.

Hi! I'm Lesley Harrison, the full-time minister at Knox. I wear many hats, but mostly I am here to listen carefully and help the church respond faithfully to the needs of this community.



Namaste! My name is Manjit Partola. I have my own business as a bookkeeper and look after the financial records for Knox. You can reach me by email at mpartola@knoxwinnipeg.ca or by phone at 204-942-4579.

안녕하세요. (Annyeonghaseyo)! I'm Lisa Lee. Normally I work in the reception area greeting and directing visitors, providing support to the KEE program, managing bookings and communication for Knox, and generally keeping things organized. If you need to be in touch e-mail me at admin@knoxwinnipeg.ca



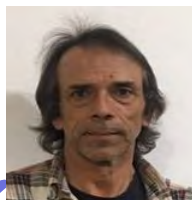
Habari! I'm Abdul Said. While my job involves evening and weekend caretaking at Knox, I'm the member of the staff who's been here the longest. If you want to know something ask me.



こんにちは (Kon'nichiwa)! I'm Yoshi Masaki, minister of the Japanese congregation and Minister Emeritus at Knox. I lead service in Japanese on third Sundays and provide pastoral care to the elders of that group.

नमस्कार (Namaskāra)! I'm Buddhi Lal Kami. I work as a building cleaner at Knox and fill in wherever I am needed—making coffee, doing inventory, shovelling—you name it.

Hello! My name is Dave Sveinson. I came to Knox looking for space to host AA meetings and now I make myself available to look after the boiler and as custodian as needed.



Hi, how are you doing? My name is Rusty Guiboche. I'm handy and have some time so I'm able to do whatever is needed. That might mean bleeding the boiler or cutting out pictures for Lesley. I did say whatever!

KEE staff: Len Assad, Lyle Baraniuk, Judy Leuzinger

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS AND CELEBRATIONS

Baptisms

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 1 Corinthians 12:13

Colleen Dasia Day

Yahya Shakal

Other Celebrations



How blessed are we to celebrate the moments that God has given us! We celebrated graduation ceremony of SRIJANA SHAHI in Post-Graduate degree on Human Resource Management from the University of Winnipeg. Srijana has such a spirit that she is a devoted believer of Christ, gifted with abundance of knowledge, leadership skills and much more to be known yet.

Srijana and her husband Subash. =>



I belong to Canada. All Canadians are my brothers and sisters. I was lost, and am found now. I cannot express how happy I am today. It is my day. That everyone know who I am today. Binod Chhetri, our youth member received his Canadian Citizenship in 2019. He says, his long waiting is over.

Congratulations! Binod.

Service in the Summer Camp



Immanuel Fellowship decided to give a try to experience a camping life, so was there for a weekend. We had lots of fun in the outing, especially youth had a great time together dancing, singing, walking and worship service under the sky.

Celebration of Marriage

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2

Anthony David Densmore & Stephenie Amanda Johnston

In Memoriam

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end.
Lamentations 3:22

Ina Williamson

Received into Formal Association

It is a United Church of Canada policy that Ministry Personnel who are not called or appointment to a community of faith, may carry out the functions of ministry in the United Church only if they have a formal association with a community of faith, are acting on behalf of that community of faith, and have the approval of the community of faith's governing body. This formal association is required for ministers to place their names on the Pulpit Supply List, maintain a License to Officiate at Weddings or for some categories of ministers to celebrate the sacraments. Three ministers in this Region requested to be in formal association with Knox.

The Board approved and we celebrate their presence at Knox:

Caryn Douglas

Deborah Murray

Ted Dodd

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PENNER

In early January, Knox lost one of its true supporters, and Winnipeg lost one of its best architects: David Penner. David was internationally recognized for his work, but he was a grassroots, down-to-earth person with a special love for this community. He designed many projects for us, and then would charge us almost nothing for his work (barely enough to cover his photocopying costs).



He designed the original Knox Cafe for the green space beside the church, and then did a second re-design of the cafe to incorporate an indoor market.

He was involved in supporting the original market in the park, and helped us get the necessary permits. He was then highly involved in the Central Park Revitalization project, and designed the glass waterworks building (beside the splashpad) to match the Knox Cafe (if it ever got built!). David also designed Knox Kitchen, and oversaw it being built, plus the renovations of washrooms, and later of the women's washroom. He helped when we were hit by lightning, and when the electrical room in the basement was leaking water. Over and over again he came to our aid. His last project for us was to design a possible washroom to be built behind the sanctuary, by the unused door (Qu'appelle and back lane door) that would be a help for concerts, etc.

Many times he paid out of his own pocket for Knox people to be at table with him at some big event in the city - including the table for 1000 a couple of years ago.

On a deeper level he believed in us, believed in the Central Park community, believed that people can be deeply involved in a design process - to make public space work for them. He loved this city, its downtown, and its diversity.

Much of his work was done "behind the scenes" so perhaps not a lot of people knew David, nor knew of his great contribution. Much of the revitalization could not have happened without him. Knox has lost a true and dear friend, and our city has lost of its finest citizens.

Submitted by Bill Millar

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that the One who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6 New International Version (NIV)

KNOX COMMUNITY HUB PARTNERS



- ✧ Bob Walsh
- ✧ Boys and Girls Clubs & Art City
- ✧ Canadian African Muslim Women's Association Inc
- ✧ Central Park Women's Resource Centre
- ✧ Ethio-Canadian Cultural Academy
- ✧ Faith Evangelical Mission Church
- ✧ Healthy start for Mom & Me
- ✧ House of Prayer
- ✧ Hope Community Baptist Ministry
- ✧ IIFCC, Rainbow Community Garden
- ✧ Knox Employment Entry Program
- ✧ Mosaic Newcomer Resource Centre
- ✧ NA group Foundation for Freedom
- ✧ Noon Break (AA)
- ✧ World Village Music



JAI MASHI MINISTRY REPORT



Jai Mashi is a vision of collaboration of a Nepali speaking ethnic immigrant ministry and a United Church Congregation – bringing two distinct cultural ministries into one. I hope this may help you understand where and how we are sustaining each other and why the Jai Mashi ministry is part of Knox.

Often when a newcomer community arrives at a United Church, the most common way this situation is handled is through establishing an ‘ethnic ministry’. In Winnipeg, we have had several: Chinese, Hungarian, and Korean. The advantages of this model include a monocultural community, where new immigrants, sharing common challenges, could worship and care for each other, in ways that it was hoped were in keeping with their cultural patterns. It provided a refuge and a stepping stone.

The disadvantage of this model is that the congregation was strong in the first generation, weaker in the second, and often closing shortly after that. The children of newcomers/immigrants, tend to often identify with the dominant/host culture so the intergenerational continuation didn’t happen.

Another model would be to have one integrated worship community - with translation in the early years for those who have limited English. The advantages for this would be ease, workload, etc. But the disadvantages are many: the newcomers often do not understand the language for many years, and so feel lost unless the service is fully interpreted. Interpreted services tend to annoy both communities, to some extent, and culture is not easy to interpret along with language, so newcomers often feel do not feel at home.

At Knox it was decided to weave the two patterns together and create a new pattern, one that had never been tried before. That created opportunities for regular worship in Nepali, following Nepali cultural patterns - a worship community that would intentionally, in every way possible, fold into the central worship community. As the years progressed, we envisioned the need for Nepali worship might become less acute as Nepali community members assumed a clearer role as participants in the main intercultural worship community.

Being intentional about this process, including deeply listening to those who have not yet found participation in the broader Knox worship, will be essential.



MINISTER'S REPORT

(PSALM 139:1-18)

"For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.....How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them – they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you."



As I sit down to write this report we are in the middle of, what the commentators are saying, will be one of the critical weeks in flattening the curve of the COVID-19 Pandemic. As many have said, these are unprecedented times and because of these times, we must pay attention to the wide range of individual feelings and expression of those feelings, even as we also consider the unique and potentially powerful new understandings of

community that are emerging. Perhaps it is because of the dynamic between individual and communal and our developing understanding of the importance of this connection, that Psalm 139 has provided comfort and guidance at this time and as context for this report.

You see, at Knox, throughout 2019, my first year in ministry with you, one thing has remained a constant as I try to understand the power, the challenge and the beauty of this Community HUB ministry. That one constant is God, the one who has created us as fearfully and wonderfully made, is with us, always and forever, we are never alone. Our constant God weaves us together even as we explore our different cultural norms, expectations and beliefs (believe me, not always an easy thing to navigate). Our constant God settles in with us, even as we try to make sense of ourselves as individuals (especially those of us shaped by individualistic backgrounds) and as communities (especially those of us shaped by collectivist backgrounds). Our constant God enjoys and even instigates playfulness, binding us together with laughter, good humour, and fun, possibly best expressed in the oft heard phrase, "That's Knox for you!" or "Sometimes I come to Knox just to see what will happen next." As a bit of a control person, it has taken me the better part of this year, to accept this as part of the culture of Knox. To accept that it may even be part of the identity of our Intercultural way as we learn from our diversity and the dynamic mixing of individuals and communities.





Thankfully, our God was evident and remained this constant presence throughout our Visioning process (including The Fresh Start Program with our new Regional friend, Julie Baker), which, both instructed and shaped us throughout 2019. Taught us about ourselves, while at the same time challenged and encouraged us to recognize where God was/is already at work in the world around us. Throughout it all, the best part has been, this constant God, weaving, settling in with us and playfully calling us to embrace the conflicts, rise to the challenges, laugh our way through the fun and, by the very nature of our being together, bring about transformation.

The Visioning Process was based on our embodiment of the shift between eight foundational questions:

- a) How do we bring them in? TO: How do we send them out?
- b) How do we survive? TO: How do we serve?
- c) What's our vision and how do we implement it? TO: What's God up to and how do we get on board?
- d) What can this church do? TO: What can we do together?

Both members of the congregation and the board took up the task with gusto (and, of course, with the energy of the Spirit) and developed **6 Themes** which will be used as the foundation of our strategic plan and implementation process in 2020:

Theme #1: Build on Intercultural and Interfaith Identity: Who is Knox UC together?

- Deep listening to one another, spiritual discernment, asking questions and researching – are all vital to understanding who we are and opening to where God is calling us.



Theme #2: Spiritual Practice / Faith Formation

- Understand the different spiritual gifts that are in our midst
- What do the roots of our different faith experiences teach us
- Risk the blessing of the unfamiliar

Theme #3: Outreach and Strategic Plan

- Effective programming and outreach grows out of a strong spiritual foundation
- Discern programming connection to congregational identity and God's call
- Consider human and financial resources

Here, I would like to highlight four Outreach Projects of Knox that were strengthened in 2019 as part of our core identity. First, Prayer Outreach (see report. Secondly, The Community Kitchen, which, in preparation for the reopening, saw the tireless work of many volunteers and staff. I believe this will be one of our most exciting projects as we live into the call to serve the community, creating employment and food



security. Third, our Senior Newcomer Group, which draws seniors from many different cultural and faith backgrounds and offers a space for education, language development, social engagement and the sharing of a diversity of foods, so yummy! Finally, The Global Market, which I was privileged to experience this past summer. And, it is perhaps because of some unexpected challenges with the Market, that we were inspired to implement a Market Organizing Committee. The committee has been meeting regularly in preparation for this year's Market (prayers said and fingers crossed that it will be able to go ahead).

Theme #4: Understanding Neighbourhood Needs and How to Partner/Collaborate

- See the opportunities to connect with what God is up to in our communities
- God presents a call to partnership
- Recognize how this call changes as the relationships change

Theme #5: Deepening The Understanding of Knox as a Community HUB

- This theme combines the research and discernment of theme #4 into action
- Partnerships, community, engagement, learning from and diversity with are the elements that make up a true HUB ministry

- The growing edge for Knox might be the exploration of relationship with partners, both in and outside the building

This is another exciting area of our ministry that deserves a comment. In 2019 we strengthened a number of our partnerships with building users and members of our Knox Community HUB. We meet regularly to discuss both practical elements of sharing space and energy and to discuss how we understand ourselves as partners sharing a common vision for our community and HUB. These meetings have been quite exciting and have built the relationships that are the foundation of our HUB! As part of the implementation of this Theme, we hope to host a “Community Round Table” in 2020, where we can see even more clearly what God is already up to in our midst.

Theme #6: Communication / Evangelism

- Linked to the “how” of growing a community HUB ministry
- Must have a clear identity, vision and strategic plan in order to know what you are promoting/evangelizing
- Evangelism is a simple story telling, finding ways to share our experiences of the gospel
- We have the power to change or reshape the story by what we decide to privilege, to hold up or give power to

This seems like a good place (probably an overdue place for some of you, if you’re still reading) to conclude my report, with being reminded of our individual and communal power to change or reshape our story (our constant God story) by what we decide to privilege. I challenge us all, during this time of Pandemic and, as we continue to write the vision story for our Knox Community HUB, to remember the words of the psalmist that privilege our constant God:

“Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover, and the light around me become night,’ even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.” (NRSV, Psalm 139: 7-12)

Submitted by Lesley Harrison





STUDENT MINISTER'S REPORT

I am so grateful to Knox, her Community, Minister, Board, Volunteers and Lay people who have provided the support and accompaniment throughout the year and beyond for sustaining this ministry and naming it to serve God's people. Many people are doing great stuff in the congregation and outreach ministries. Roles may vary from person to person, but our collaborative effort to uplift one another in faith, love, and care remains. It was a gift to serve in leadership with Caryn Douglas for a short period in 2018, and to welcome Rev. Lesley Harrison into the pastoral team as of the beginning of the year in 2019. God's blessings have been so apparent in a beautiful spirit amongst people and the many meaningful, marvellous, intercultural worship services that have peppered each month of the past year.

Our community at Knox is diverse, culturally vibrant, and passionately outreaching. We are also profoundly blessed by the energy and promise of the many children and youth who make their church home with us. My prayer is that we steward well this gift and responsibility that God has granted us. I am particularly thankful for our Board Chairs and Members, the members of the Lay Supervision Team, Education Supervisor, and the Ministry and Personnel Committee, who are an integral part of my education journey and ministry at Knox.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Last year was a year of transition for the youth ministry; however, it has remained strong and is moving forward in a positive direction. A few young adults and youth moved to other provinces, which caused me to think differently and take more responsibility for covering the gap in between. I would like to thank – Sabry, Duku, Isaiah, Meera, Sandhya, Ramesh, Isaac, Sarita and Bipana for their active participation in the ALF and Zeebu Youth Retreat workshops and meetings throughout the year.

A massive thank you has to go out to all the leaders that have helped us last year: Khem, Srijana, Buddha, Subash, Desh and Narbu for your vibrant leadership, assisting in Sunday school, and leading intercultural worship as well as Immanuel fellowship worship services. These youth members showed significant commitment throughout the year, and we could rely on them to organize things for us even if they were contacted at the last minute. These youth members often went the extra mile by picking up and dropping Youth Members home, setting up, and always wanting to help out. Not because they were asked but because they wanted to. They were punctual, even if they had had a hectic week with exams or work.

We are also hoping to send at least ten youth and young adults to attend the **RENDEZVOUS 2020**, which is going to be held at Calgary from August 11 – August 14 at the University of Calgary. I would like to encourage the parents to consider this as an opportunity for sending their children to partake in this United Church gathering of young people across the country for a celebration of vibrant music, inspiring speakers and fellowship.

Our youth visited Canmore United Church in Alberta last May 2019 on the invitation and request from that church and minister Rev. Bill Millar, a retiree from Knox who was on temporary

appointment. This visit not only helped us to develop a relationship but also shaped us to experience various worship patterns and cultures. A big thank you to Rev. Bill Millar for his continued support and past effort in bringing this vision of Intercultural ministry to Knox, especially bridging the relationship and creating a shared space for everyone to call home.

Pastoral Care around Knox and beyond

It is noticeable that providing pastoral care at Knox in itself a challenge due to its diversity and cultural differences. The demand for ministry can be overwhelming at times when we are welcoming a new family or an immigrant, and when we would not know where to begin. I would like to thank our members who provide support to those in need, at least by letting us know of who might need pastoral care. As a student minister, pastoral care is one of my learning goals. I welcome calls from our members and neighbours to share their pain, pay attention to their spiritual needs, and mostly to render the priestly presence.

I would like us to consider this list of possibilities as our collective responsibility to make pastoral care more effective and accessible to everyone.

- **Prayer circle** – form a group of two or three people to visit the sick in the hospitals and nursing homes when ministers are on holidays or not on duty.
- **Respite provider** – A person to keep in touch with the sick through phone calls or visitation to update on what's happening with the sick.
- If any one of us is an expert or professional in any specific area, please do let us know of your expertise so that we may together provide care when the needs of a person are beyond the capacity of the individual to cope on his/her own. It may require more people to be involved due to the magnitude of the problem

An update on my status

The year 2019 was my second year at Atlantic School of Theology towards my graduation; I would say – I am half-way and will have a few more times away in Halifax. So far, I have been doing well and hope to continue with the same spirit until I am done. I am thankful to the Knox community for your continued prayer support and goodwill, uplifting me in ways that always kept me accelerated and focused. I feel fortunate enough to be at Knox being surrounded by inspiring people who serve as my advisors and mentors.



Submitted by Damber Khadka



COMMUNITY SERVICE MINISTRY REPORT

Greetings to all,

Knox United is diverse band of people linked together by common love of God and a commitment to serving our neighbours. We are a people with ancient roots, emerging from all over the world and coming together as a vital community hub of ministries, groups, and services in the Central Park Neighbourhood.

We provide a bi-weekly foodbank supplied by Winnipeg Harvest, a monthly Bible Study, and a weekly food service after worship on Sundays.



FOOD BANK

Originally hosted by Calvary Temple with 150 household served weekly, Knox was asked to reopen and host those clients. This was felt to be too many to manage with our small volunteer base, so Winnipeg Harvest allows Sergio to serve a smaller number in order to have a friendly family feeling. They also permit walk-in clients at this location.



BIBLE STUDY



The Filipino Connection Bible Study has started in 2008 and met weekly on Fridays with the guidance of Pastor Noel Lapatha. It rotated between three houses and also to those who offered to open their house as a prayer house. In 2019 it was decided to meet monthly on every third Friday using the devotional *Hours with the Bible through the Gospel of Saint John*. It focuses on the spiritual value of this gospel which takes us on a journey that begins before Genesis.

Special thanks to Elsie Banaga in helping Sergio prepare the food we need for our weekly services and the foodbank. Other volunteers include Susie Ramales, Paul Menard, Salim, Grace, Luz, Efren from Calgary, Romy Tangonan, Damaso and Natalia Toledo, and the clients that help too. We are also grateful for Lisa, our church secretary.

Let us pray together and not stop thanking our Lord, not because of this virus, but to continue all the way. Let us have this motto from the time we wake up in the morning until we sleep: 'This is the day that the Lord has made and we will rejoice and be glad In It'. My special thanks to our Reverend Lesley that works so hard, and the continuing support from so many at the church. God Bless Us All. Very Respectfully Submitted and Peace to All,

Sergio (Serge) Banaga, food bank and community service ministry coordinator





JAPANESE MINISTRY REPORT

In 1942, during World War II, Japanese Canadians were ordered by the Government to evacuate the pacific coastal region. About 1200 people moved to Manitoba. Knox United Church opened the door to these people and Manitoba Japanese United Church has established on May 14, 1944. Manitoba Japanese United amalgamated with Knox in 1999. Rev. Yoshi Masaki is Associate Minister for the Japanese language ministry and Knox Minister Emeritus.

In 2019, Sunday Services in Japanese Language were normally held once a month on third Sundays in the Chapel. Members attend Knox services on other Sundays.

We still have many elderly friends in hospital and at home. Pastoral care has been very important in our ministry, both in person and also extended to friends who are living outside Winnipeg.

Submitted by
Rev. Yoshi-michi (Yoshi) Masaki,



BOARD REPORT

2019 got off to a spectacular start when our new fulltime minister joined the staff team at Knox and we all began to get to know and work with Lesley Harrison. Working at Knox has its challenges with all of it's moving parts. However, 2019 was a year in which we made headway as a church, giving thanks once again for the grace of God.

Intercultural Ministry is a vision that Knox has been seeking to live into. Intercultural ministry means living together with a respectful awareness of each other's differences. We do this by examining ourselves, building equitable relationships, and distributing power fairly. One of the questions that we have been working on in the board is how to become truly intercultural in our board governance: valuing diversity, respecting each person's gifts and skills, making room for every voice, being attentive to different ways of doing things besides the ways of the dominant culture.



We have been able to try various ways of lifting up these goals, including:

- Decision making by consensus
- Small working groups within the board so that each person has a chance to speak in a smaller group
- Mutual invitation
- Starting with a meal
- Always having a check in where each board member may speak without interruption or questioning
- Hearing from each person before making a decision
- Voting
- Using parliamentary procedure
- Setting the agenda together
- Setting norms for the group



Some things have worked for some people and not for others. Some of them have made it possible for quiet voices to be heard. As we are working on becoming more intercultural, we find that sometimes everyone on the board has a chance to participate meaningfully, and at other times dominant culture overwhelms us. However, since we are a diverse board, I believe it is worth seeking to become more intercultural in the way we make decisions.

The legal negotiations with the Manitoba Islamic Association (MIA) to hand off the building at 406 Edmonton St continued through the first half of the year. We were thankful for expert legal advice that helped us negotiate the ins and outs of the agreement and for the wisdom and time given by the trustees, which included Lesley as chair. Often trustees have little to do but this was not the case in 2019.

The negotiations were time consuming and demanded much energy. In addition, many things had to be put on hold during 2018 while we completed the search process and were without fulltime ministry leadership. Once the papers were signed and the keys to 406 Edmonton were turned over to MIA in June, we could turn our attention to other work that had been on hold e.g. decisions about what to do about the commercial kitchen. I am grateful to the Property Committee and Lesley Harrison for all of the research they have done in laying the groundwork for future plans. See more on this in the Property Committee Report.

In an effort to get to know our future neighbours the Board paid a visit to the Grand Mosque on a Saturday morning, where we had a tour and learned some of the basic tenets of Islam. We continue to seek ways to work cooperatively and build a good relationship with our neighbours to the north.

A Congregational Visioning Retreat was held on May 4 to begin the Strategic Planning process. It was followed up with table group activities at the next community service on June 9, after which Lesley prepared a report of key strategies. The Board met in the fall to prioritize these and begin thinking about action planning. A community roundtable is yet to be held to get wider involvement. See the Strategic Planning Report.

Lesley was asked by the Aurora Family Therapy Centre if Knox would host a newcomer senior group.

The Board agreed because we felt this would be a good way to test the café idea in the Seeds of Hope Proposal. The original proposal was to do a feasibility study for a seniors' café in the café room. Knox and Mosaic also put together a grant application in 2019 for the newcomer women's cooking and serving training with the café room as part of the proposal. Our proposal was not accepted; however, it was good working together. Our collaboration has led to other ways of partnering. Mosaic is interested in having a family resource centre in the café room on weekdays but configuring the space to allow for evening and weekend events hosted by Knox. It seems the vision of our original



Seeds of Hope application is coming to fruition.

Other highlights of the Year:

- United Fresh Start is a United Church program for helping new pastoral relationships start well. We invited Julie Baker to host three Fresh Start sessions with the board. It was felt they were worthwhile in helping Lesley and the board explore the culture of Knox.
- A Knox Konnect event was hosted in Café room by the Nepali youth in May. A congregation in Canmore that is working with Bill Millar on Intercultural Ministry invited a team of 12 youth and Damber to visit for the Palm Sunday weekend. The trip was funded by the congregation there and in part by Knox as the board felt it was an excellent way to share more widely what we've learned.
- A Covenanting Service for Lesley and Damber took place on September 15 beginning with a potluck supper at 5:00 pm and the Service at 6:00 pm. Many Knox people took part in leading the service and Noel Suministrado preached. Mary Best was our liaison from the Regional Council.
- Several services were held in park while the weather was good, which was a fun way to be visible and available to the residents of the neighbourhood.

For all these things we give thanks to God, “who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the divine power that is at work within us, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)



List of Board Members

Name	Position
Abodigin, Afaf	Member
Allen, Joyce	Secretary
Babaran, Esmer	Co-chair
Banaga, Sergio	Past-Chair
Dietz, Cynthia	Member
Grant, Danielle	Member (Part)
Hanel, Tom	Treasurer
Harrison, Lesley	Minister
Khadka, Damber	Student Minister
Stewart, Lori	Co-chair
Sveinson, Dave	Member
Tangonan, Romy	Member



DU VAL FOUNDATION REPORT

The Du Val Foundation met on January 23, 2020 to review 2019 and make allocations for 2020.

The members of the Foundation are: Lindsay Du Val Chair; Elaine Walker Secretary; Tom Hanel Treasurer; Lesley Harrison; Damber Khadka; Lori Stewart; Joyce Allen; Esmer Deculing; Armand Baccus; Sergio Banaga and Dave Sveinson. These members will remain through to the end of 2021.

The Du Val Foundation is responsible for two separate funds. The first is the Endowment Fund which supports building maintenance and programming including support of the Jai Mashai Ministry at Knox. This Endowment Fund is the primary support of the Church. Last year it provided the funds for the renovation of the Du Val Parlour.

The second fund is the Du Val Foundation Central Park Community Fund. This fund continues to grow and it is anticipated that within a year or two it will be large enough to consider providing small grants to programs in the Central Park area.

This year the Foundation voted to provide a grant of \$80,000.00 to support Knox, to continue to support the Jai Mashai Ministry and to contribute \$5,000.00 to the Music Ministry.

Both funds rely on donations for their growth. Donations can be made to The Winnipeg Foundation 1350 - 1 Lombard Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0X3. Please direct the donation to either the Du Val Foundation Endowment Fund or the Du Val Foundation Community Fund.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Property Committee consists of a dedicated hard working team of seven people, Tom Hanel, Raymond Ngarboui, David Sveinson, Sergio Banaga, Lesley Harrison, Damber Khadka and Joyce Allen.

2019 has been a busy year. Some of our accomplishments are visible, others are not but are important to the wellbeing of the church. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to check out the redecorated DuVal Parlour or the new flooring and painting of the reception area in and around the main entrance, go and take a look! Also, repairs to the roof have been completed thanks to the efforts of Tom Hanel, so there should be no leaks when the snow starts to thaw.

An Ad-Hoc sub-committee was formed to determine what is required to get our Commercial Kitchen up and running. We now have now hired a kitchen Manager, Helen Okocha for a three month trial to manage the use and operation of the kitchen and to maintain a schedule of users. If you want to say "hi" to Helen, she is sharing office space with Yoshi and the Japanese Ministry in the former Sunday School area of the basement. The plan is that at the end of the three month period we will meet with Helen, review the trial period, and make recommendations for future management of the kitchen. At this point I would be remiss if I did not thank Sergio for his hard work and diligence in caring for the kitchen on a regular basis prior to this arrangement.

The committee also oversees regular maintenance including but not limited to day-to-day caretaking, security system, HVAC system, pest control, and sound system. We ensure required inspections are completed (i.e. fire inspections) and required permits and certificates are obtained and posted in the appropriate places. We also monitor maintenance and caretaking staff and the Kitchen Manager.

We continue to work with our many other great partners who rent space in our church, including Healthy Start for Mom 'n Me, the Central Park Women's Resource Centre, Rainbow Community Gardens, and MOSAIC. We have begun collaborating with MOSAIC on renovating the Café room for daytime use as a Family Resource Centre. We are hoping to use the space for evening and weekend café events. MOSAIC has already completed renovations for several classrooms that benefit their programs and all church users.

I extend my sincere thanks to each and every member of the committee for their dedicated and hard work this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Allen
On behalf of the Property
Committee.



PRAYER OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT

KUC Prayer Outreach was initiated by Cynthia Dietz and Afaf Abodigin in 2018, and continued throughout 2019 once a week for about 48 weeks. At each prayer outreach session, neighbours were greeted, offered some hospitality, and then asked if they were interested in receiving a prayer. Their names and the nature of the prayer request were requested. Most times the Holy Spirit was revealed during the prayer, those that received the prayer felt loved, and the person giving the prayer felt blessed. During inclement weather neighbours were greeted, after the Sunday Church service, on the sidewalk outside Knox United Church's Edmonton St door, and offered a hot refreshment (coffee, tea or hot cocoa), and a yogurt portion cup or packaged cookie.

During the comfortable weather, the outreach occurred usually on a Thursday evening for an hour at the SW corner of Central Park adjacent to the Church property. Foldable benches and sometimes chairs were set up. Ice cold water bottles kept cold in coolers and yogurt portion cups were offered to passers by. Dana Miranda, Tate Hiebert, Claire Settee, and Afaf Abodigin helped occasionally, depending upon the season. Afaf and Claire Settee helped in the preparation and occasional sharing of herbal delights in portion cups from the Knox United Church Herb & Veggie Garden. Cynthia, Afaf, Colette Saunders, and Claire Settee helped in the cleaning and packaging of the garden products for freezing or refrigeration in the Knox United Church commercial kitchen.

KUC Prayer Outreach was also extended to Siloam Mission on the first Thursday of the month from 5:45-7:30 pm for eleven months of 2019 at a property adjacent to 300 Princess St. Siloam hosts spiritual care sessions weekly with Knox United Church offering leadership for one of the monthly sessions. Cynthia prepared the plan for the prayer session supported by the Spiritual Care coordinator of Siloam Mission, or another staff person or volunteer. Dana Miranda accompanied and helped Cynthia during one session. The outreach was designed to invite attendees to discuss a certain topic, to pray, and to share their challenges or celebrations of the week. Siloam offered a meal to all attendees. The sessions were very well received and attracted anywhere from 4-12 people.





A garden plot at the Rainbow Community Garden at the U. of Manitoba was assigned to Knox United Church for an outreach effort that focused on serving and reaching out to others by growing herbs and vegetables for the growers and community members to use. It became known as the Knox United Church Herb and Veggie Garden. The effort was led by Cynthia. About ten people from the church (Natalia and Damaso Toledo, Claire Settee, Sabry Duku Isaiah and Afaf Abodigin, Raymond Ngarbou, Cynthia, Lakki and Mangali Gurung, and by the Richmond Girls and Boys Club.

The first aspect of loving your neighbour is establishing and nurturing relationships. Relationship building was the purpose behind the garden. The effort started in June and was sustained through November, with mid-August being extraordinarily dry and the remainder of

the season extraordinarily wet. Plugs and seeds were provided by the Rainbow Community Garden and Cynthia, while Cynthia provided the tools and soil amendments. Substantial expenditures were made to water the plants. None of the seedlings survived the drought, so plugs were obtained and planted. The plot (about 100' by 20') was thought to be the most interesting and well maintained in the community garden according to some long-time gardeners.

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 3:23-25 New International Version (NIV)



RAINBOW COMMUNITY GARDEN & CENTRAL MARKET

Garden- Rainbow Community Gardens 2019 started with four seed start training sessions that took place at Sage Herb Garden, on St. Mary's Road, a mile away after the Perimeter Highway. Four groups of 25 family representatives attended the training and were provided with indoor growing kits. Most of the families were able to successfully grow seedlings inside their apartments that they then transferred outside in the spring and transplanted into their respective garden plots.



This year we used five sites including:

Niverville, Landmark, the Floodway, the St. mark Lutheran Church, and the University of Manitoba site where we were we got the authorization from the University office to increase the land by one extra acre to accommodate a few new families and Cynthia's herbs and vegetable growing project. Newcomer families of at least four members were involved in the growing season 2019, and among them, most of our Nepali congregation members. The Garden Committee considered Pastor Damber Khadka to continue playing a crucial spiritual leadership role that he has been holding at the garden site over the past six years.

Rainbow Gardens is 12 years old this year, and the project's major challenges remain transportation for families, water infrastructure to water plants, supplies, hand tools, and toilet access for women. Most supplies, tool rentals, water through the U of M, and transportation for a selected number of families, were covered by the Winnipeg Foundation. The Community Education Development



Association (CEDA) contributed personnel and transportation. The World Village Gospel Choir pledged a total \$255 from CD sales and proceeds from their concert toward the garden supplies. The St. Mark Lutheran Church also contributed \$500 toward the Rainbow Garden at the end of 2019. The money was raised through a special annual concert organized by the Church. Raymond and another Rainbow gardeners attended the concert and made a presentation to the audience.

Besides the outdoor gardening in summer, the Rainbow Garden program continued indoors with a winter program including djembe drumming, healthy eating, and Canadian life skills sharing and training from November 2019 to February 2020. Produce from the gardens were used to supply the Winnipeg Central Market with fresh produce for sale, and a portion of the produce was used for food preparation in the Knox Kitchen, and the hot food was sold at the Central Market.

In 2020, we aim to build a children's playground, seniors' sitting place, watering infrastructure, and compost toilets. Raymond wrote and submitted a grant proposal to the provincial government to ask for a Community Sustainability Grant, and is counting on the Winnipeg Foundation to cover a portion of the infrastructures costs and the garden supplies (seeds, seedlings, tools, tool rental, transportation, etc.). If the funding is approved, the University of Manitoba Architecture and Building departments alongside private contractors will build the infrastructure. A 5-year Land Use and Service Agreement was signed between the Rainbow Gardens and the University of Manitoba, to secure the land use for the families.

Market – The Winnipeg Central Global Market 2019 was jointly launched with the Aboriginal Music Week in Central Park. Performers came from various parts of Canada and the event co-organized with the West End Biz and the Central Neighborhoods, brought together hundreds of community members. Hot food and beverages were served to community members.

\$10,000 grant funding from the proposal submitted by Raymond to the Winnipeg Foundation to hire a Market coordinator assistant was approved, and the money helped cover most of the Market expenses. Raymond worked with the Central Neighbourhood and the University of Winnipeg, Urban and Inner City Studies department in securing a full-time paid person to be the Market Coordinator. Another arrangement has been made with the University to provide two full-time positions for the 2020 Market.

Knox Church, through its Pastor, Lesley, has been working with the Market committee and the Market partners to improve the project and its impact on the neighborhood. Congregation members took time to volunteer at the Market throughout the season. A portion of the Winnipeg Foundation money was used to contract a local company to build a professional website for the Market. The website is almost ready to go.



The Market faced ongoing entertainment challenges due to the lack of an appropriate sound system. Thanks to the Winnipeg Foundation grant, a set of two speakers and a PA were purchased, and that will address the sound system issue for 2020. Started on June 15, 2019, the Market season ended in the second week of September with a volunteers' recognition ceremony during which certificates of appreciation were presented to the volunteers, including Lori Stewart, Joyce Allen, Esmer Deculing, and Sergio Banaga. The ceremony was chaired by Pastor Lesley who said a prayer to close the Market 2019. This year Market is planned to start on June 20, 2020.

Finally, Knox, through Lesley and the Market committee worked jointly with community partners and agencies to co-plan and co-organize the Canada Day 2019 at Central Park. The event happened on July 1, 2019 and was very successful.



Please contact Raymond Ngarbouli at: (204)509-6259 or raymond@cedawpg.org to volunteer with either the Rainbow Garden or Central Market.



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT



Members are Susie Ramales, Tannis Balfour, and Afaf Abodigin. Srijana Shahi later joined the committee and generously gave her time while she was still a full time student at the University of Winnipeg. Major work done for the year was to begin updating the job descriptions of each staff member. Each committee member was paired with a staff person or two. The first task was to interview them about their tasks for their Job Description. They also met with them to discuss their accomplishments, goals and recommendations on how to improve the administration of the church, and how we could be supportive.

We met with Lesley Harrison, minister; Damber Khadka, student minister; Lisa Lee, receptionist/secretary; and Alex Milevic, musician separately for formal or informal job reviews. In discussion with each the committee members and staff were able to suggest how their performance could contribute

towards the improvement in the running of the church.

When we met with Damber and Lesley together, we talked over how their team was working and how the tasks on their job descriptions meshed with one another. A meeting with two members of the committee, Lesley, Damber, and Damber's student supervisor, Ken Delisle, was arranged to talk over these matters further. It was suggested that Knox church and the Nepali group convene, with an interpreter from the community, to discuss and agree on what the relationship of Jai Mashi and Knox should be. This has yet to be arranged.

The M & P committee arranged for Rusty Guiboche and Afaf Abodigin to cover Abdul Said's caretaking responsibilities when he was away on holiday in December and into January. They also implemented a mileage log for staff members to keep track of miles driven on behalf of the church, for making expense claims.

The M& P Committee would like to acknowledge Lori Stewart's time and advice during the committee meetings.

For the Ministry and Personnel Committee:
Susie Ramales



KNOX EMPLOYMENT ENTRY PROGRAM (KEE) REPORT

2019 included 2 funding proposals, 2 project officers and a whole slew of new requirements for both the statistical data records and the KEE personnel policies. All were necessary in order to be in compliance with our Government contract. I am grateful to Manjit Partola, our accountant and to the Personnel Committee of the Knox Board, who worked along side me to figure out what was required on all fronts.

The first funding proposal was due in February of 2019 and to this end, I am also grateful to Bill Miller, who laid the groundwork for this proposal, introducing me to the process and to the work of being the Executive Director for the program. The deadline for the proposal for this current fiscal year, was moved up from February 2020 to November of 2019 and so two proposals in one year. Although we did feel the crunch of the shorter time line this round, we were rewarded with a faster turn around on approval. Approval came through in February of 2020 and we were rewarded with a slight increase to salaries, as well as to the overall program operations.

In September we bid farewell to Yusuf Kacamak, our project officer and welcomed back Gail Korba (previously a project officer to the KEE Program). We have all been enjoying getting to know Gail (again) and learning some of the new expectations of our Government contract and data recording objectives.

Throughout the year, I have enjoyed getting to know our long-time KEE Employment Councilors, Len Assad, Lyle Baraniuk and Judy Leuzinger and Accountant, Manjit Partola and “shorter-time” (but no less valued) KEE Administrator, Lisa Lee. Each of them contributes in unique and important ways to the overall success of the program. They were also very helpful when we undertook to update job descriptions and set in motion the long-overdue revisal of personnel policies. Of course, it is hoped that with the implementation of these important documents, the program will experience renewed structure and therefore greater effectiveness. Together we were pleased to achieve our quotas for the 2019/2020 fiscal year (120 people found jobs through KEE) and, to look beyond just the numbers as we build our work relationships and the program in the upcoming fiscal year.

Submitted by Lesley Harrison

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year 2019 Accounting Overview

The accounting firm of Craig and Ross performed the accounting compilation review of the Knox United Church finances for 2019. The KUC 2019 Financial Statements are appended within the Knox 2019 Annual Report.

The table below gives an overview of this past year's sources of revenue and the gross expenditure in our church operations:

TABLE 1: 2019 FINANCIAL SYNOPSIS FOR KNOX UNITED CHURCH	
REVENUE SOURCES:	
1. OFFERINGS- ENVELOPES & PAR:	\$31,736
2. OPEN, DESIGNATED & MISC	\$8,296
3. BUILDING – CASUAL	\$26,708
4. BUILDING - COST SHARING	\$113,712
5. KEE PROGRAM BUILDING & ADMIN	\$42,077
6. INVESTMENT INCOME	\$14,271
7. CONTRIBUTIONS OTHER CHARITABLE	\$4,697
8. DUVAL FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$115,000
9. MHA LAND LEASE 406 EDMONTON:	\$0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$356,497
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$410,599
BALANCE:	(\$54,102)
 2018 CARRYFORWARD:	 \$58,345
 2019 NET ASSESTS END OF YEAR:	 \$4,243
(Numbers as per Craig & Ross accounting compilation review)	

Unlike 2018 where Knox United Church finished the year with a surplus of \$58,345 our 2019 year ended with a deficit of \$54,102. The surplus in 2018 was achieved due to the fact we did not have a full-time minister for that year and our payroll expenses were much less. The deficit for 2019 was the result of additional building expenses Knox incurred while in possession of 406 Edmonton Street.

Acknowledgements- Finance & Administration Staff & Volunteers

Knox was very pleased to have Rev. Lesley Harrison join our staff as our full-time minister commencing January 1st, 2019. Lesley has proven to be a great asset to Knox and in her first year we tackled many challenging endeavours which included the sale of 406 Edmonton Street to the Manitoba Islamic Association.

Damber Khadka provided his services to Knox and the Jai Mashi ministry throughout 2019. Being a student minister, Damber was employed by Knox at ¾ time. While in this position, Damber continued his United Church of Canada ministerial studies with the Atlantic School of Theology.

Our front receptionist, Lisa Lee, provided friendly and efficient service to all those entering Knox. Lisa has strong administrative skills and has worked diligently to provide support to the KEE program as well as the use of space bookings for events at Knox.

Knox now hosts many evening and weekend events. Abdul Said is our building caretaker who works on a part-time basis and helps covers all the events that occur during the off hours.

Buhdi Lahl has continued to provide us with his capable support on a part-time basis with the caretaking of our building.

The finances of Knox United are much more complicated than that of a typical Sunday services church. It is due to the capable assistance of our contract bookkeeper, Manjit Partola, that our finances are kept on track. We are pleased to have Manjit as part of Knox's administration team.

Special thanks to Dave Sveinson for his tireless assistance in helping us with our building. Whether it is looking after boiler maintenance, taking care of leaks, helping people find their way or closing the building for the night, Dave is always available to lend a hand.

My gratitude goes out to the members of the Knox Board of Directors for all the hours of service rendered throughout the year and attention given to the financial direction of the church.

The Reserve Fund:

Details of the Reserve Fund are provided in Schedule 1 of the KUC 2019 Financial Statements prepared by Craig & Ross.

The reserve fund consists of donations, bequests and other revenue that have been received for specific purposes.

The amount in our Reserve Fund as of December 31st, 2019 is \$597,801. This is down from \$655,610 at the end of 2018 as we had additional legal fees from the sale of 406 Edmonton Street to MIA, as well as building repairs that used a portion of the funds.

It must be noted that the building reserve went up by an amount of \$598,042 in November 2018 when Knox received a Lease Buy Out payment from the Manitoba Government which terminated Manitoba Housing & Renewal Corporation of its lease commitments to 406 Edmonton Street.

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2019 Disbursements from the Building Repair Fund:

The breakdown of the funds used from the Reserve Building Repair Fund for the year ending December 31, 2018 is as follows:

1.	TDS Law Legal fees - 406 Edmonton St. MIA Purchase	\$ 77,444.00
	Less: Hold back payment termination lease- 406	\$ (27,938.00)
2.	Floor Country Canada- Flooring Knox share	\$ 5,322.00
3.	MJ Roofing	\$ 12,131.00
	Total :	\$ 66,959.00

2019 Repairs & Improvements:

In November 2019 Knox continued repairs to the roof. The work was primarily around the northern section to ensure that joins between the wall masonry and the main roof structures were well sealed. Ongoing roof inspection and repairs are essential to stop water leakage that can result in damage the building interior. The expenditure on the exterior roof repairs in 2019 was \$12,131.00.

Property and Equipment Fund:

The Church property and equipment acquired prior to 1973 are shown on the statement of financial position at a nominal value of \$1.

Effective January 1, 1973, additions to these properties are reflected at cost. No amortization is recorded in the accounts.

The property and equipment of the Church was appraised for insurance purposes in December 2014 at a value of \$9,615,000.

All other capital assets purchased are expensed in the year of acquisition. No new equipment was purchased or expensed during the year.

Recognition of Grants Received:

The DuVal Foundation:

The DuVal Foundation provided Knox with generous support in the amount of \$80,000 which greatly assisted in the financial management of the church. In a separate grant, the DuVal foundation provided an additional \$35,000 in support of the Knox Jai Mashi ministry.

The Foundation provides for the management and control of donated assets and the annual income, subject to Board approval, is available for the maintenance of Knox United Church as a centre of Christian teaching and welfare work in the city of Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg Foundation:

Knox United Church is a sponsor of the Rainbow Community Garden. As such Knox would like to acknowledge the grant received from the Winnipeg Foundation in support of the Rainbow Community Garden: \$ 30,000.00 on March 15, 2019.

This amount was transferred directly to the Immigrant Integration Farming Community Co-op and is not included in the Knox financial statements. IIFCC is responsible for maintaining the records and submitting the final report to The Winnipeg Foundation.

Manitoba Heritage Grant 2018-19:

As a designated Manitoba Heritage Site, Knox United Church was able to receive financial assistance for the repairs done to our roof exterior over the past summers. We are grateful to have received a \$10,000.00 grant from MB Government Heritage Branch which has helped to offset the cost of these essential structural repairs.

Investments:

The following is a summary of the investments held by Knox United Church valued at their market value:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
109 shares of B.C.E. Inc. Co.	\$ 6,557	\$ 5,876

Knox Employment Entry (KEE) Program:

The Knox Employment Entry program is an employment assistance program funded by the Manitoba Government and is administered by Knox United Church with four full-time staff members. The staff conducts interviews with potential employment candidates and works with its industry liaisons to place the candidates in retail, hospitality and commercial sector job opportunities. The program has a high success rate in providing its candidates with jobs and thereby contributing to the overall improvement of their economic conditions.

The Knox Employment Entry Program accounts are maintained separately, and the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the program are not included in the financial statements of the Church. Funding for these program activities (received from Province of Manitoba) is used exclusively for the program's activities and staff.

Budget 2020

The Knox United Church 2020 Budget is also presented in this annual report for your consideration.

Special notes to the 2020 Budget and our general finances are as follows:

1. The budget accounts the salary of our full-time minister Rev. Lesley Harrison.

2. The budget also accounts for Damber Khadka being paid as a UCC student minister
3. Offerings for 2020 are budgeted to be in the same range as 2020 but slightly lower.
4. The DuVal Foundation funding was anticipated to be \$80,000 in general support.
In addition, the Foundation is providing \$5,000 in support of the Knox Music Ministry along with a potential additional amount of \$35,000 for the Jai Mashi ministry led by Damber Khadka.

I offer sincere thanks to all who contributed to Knox United in 2019 whether it be financially or in volunteer time.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Hanel
Treasurer – Knox United Church



TRUSTEES REPORT

2019 began with the finalizing of the termination of the lease with Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation. Although this was a positive move toward the sale of the 406 property, it did mean that in the short term Knox would become the landlords of this building. As landlords we were not only responsible for the building maintenance, but also for the two tenants who remained in the building: Knox Day Care and Golden Eagle (Neecheewam).

2019 continued becoming an unexpectedly big year for the Trustees of Knox as we were then called upon to negotiate the details of the sale of the 406 Property to the Manitoba Islamic Association (MIA). It had been hoped that the sale process would be relatively simple and short lived, however, in the end, the sale proved to be complicated and “long lived”, starting in the summer of 2018 and taking more than a year!

There were basically three areas of negotiations that needed to be worked through, first, the general details of the terms of the sale, which involved working through our law firm, Thompson, Dorfman, Sweatman and with our lawyer, Lewis Allen. Second, work with Winnipeg Presbytery and eventually Prairie to Pine Region (also tricky as the sale was happening in the middle of United Church restructuring) to receive approval for the sale given that 406 is considered a “real property” and so was considered owned by the wider United Church. Finally, and rather unexpectedly, what proved to be one of the greater hurdles in the whole process, the negotiation of The Shared Use Agreement or Party-Wall Agreement. This agreement is set up to outline the parameters for the use, maintenance of and responsibilities for the doors, passageway and elevator in the space between the buildings. Following numerous meetings and negotiations with the board members of MIA, we reached an agreement in mid-March. This was soon to be followed by the finalized sale in June 2019.



Among the many positives of this process, the one that stands out were the relationships that were established between Knox members and MIA members. Throughout the course of many meetings and tours between our church building and The Waverly Mosque, friendships began, new understandings of our faith backgrounds were made and much laughter ensued. Especially when we discussed the “party” we would have when the negotiations were all over.

In March of 2019, the Trustees approved The Standing Committee of City Council on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development, to list Knox United Church as a historical resource. Connected to this approval, Knox participated in our second year with “Doors Open Winnipeg”, sponsored by Heritage Winnipeg. Throughout the weekend of May 25-26th Knox saw over 200 people walk through our hallowed halls and eagerly learn about our 150-year history.

Submitted by Lesley Harrison