



2008 Annual Report



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Our Web address:
www.united-church.ca

Join the discussion at WonderCafé:
www.wondercafe.ca

Visit the Mission and Service Fund blog:
www.missionandservice.blogspot.com

View the United Church channel on YouTube:
www.youtube.ca/unitedchurchofcanada

Also, explore the websites maintained by many of
our local congregations and community ministries.

This annual report presents a snapshot of the United Church and some of its work in 2008. In June 2007, at the end of a year-long discernment process, the Executive of the General Council identified the priorities coming out of the 39th General Council as work that

- supports and develops congregational ministries
- deepens the experience of communities, with particular commitment to youth and young adult ministry, becoming an intercultural church, and living with respect in creation
- addresses the church's brokenness in our relationships with Aboriginal peoples, and moves toward healing and building right relations
- supports and empowers ministry personnel

These priorities have guided the report's contents. For comments on this annual report or stories that we may consider for future reports, please e-mail giving@united-church.ca.

From our past. To our future.

We are Canada's largest Protestant denomination. We minister to close to three million Canadians. We serve through **3,400 congregations** and hundreds of community ministries and programs across the country. We work with ecumenical and global partners in many countries. We witness our faith and love of Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, and action.

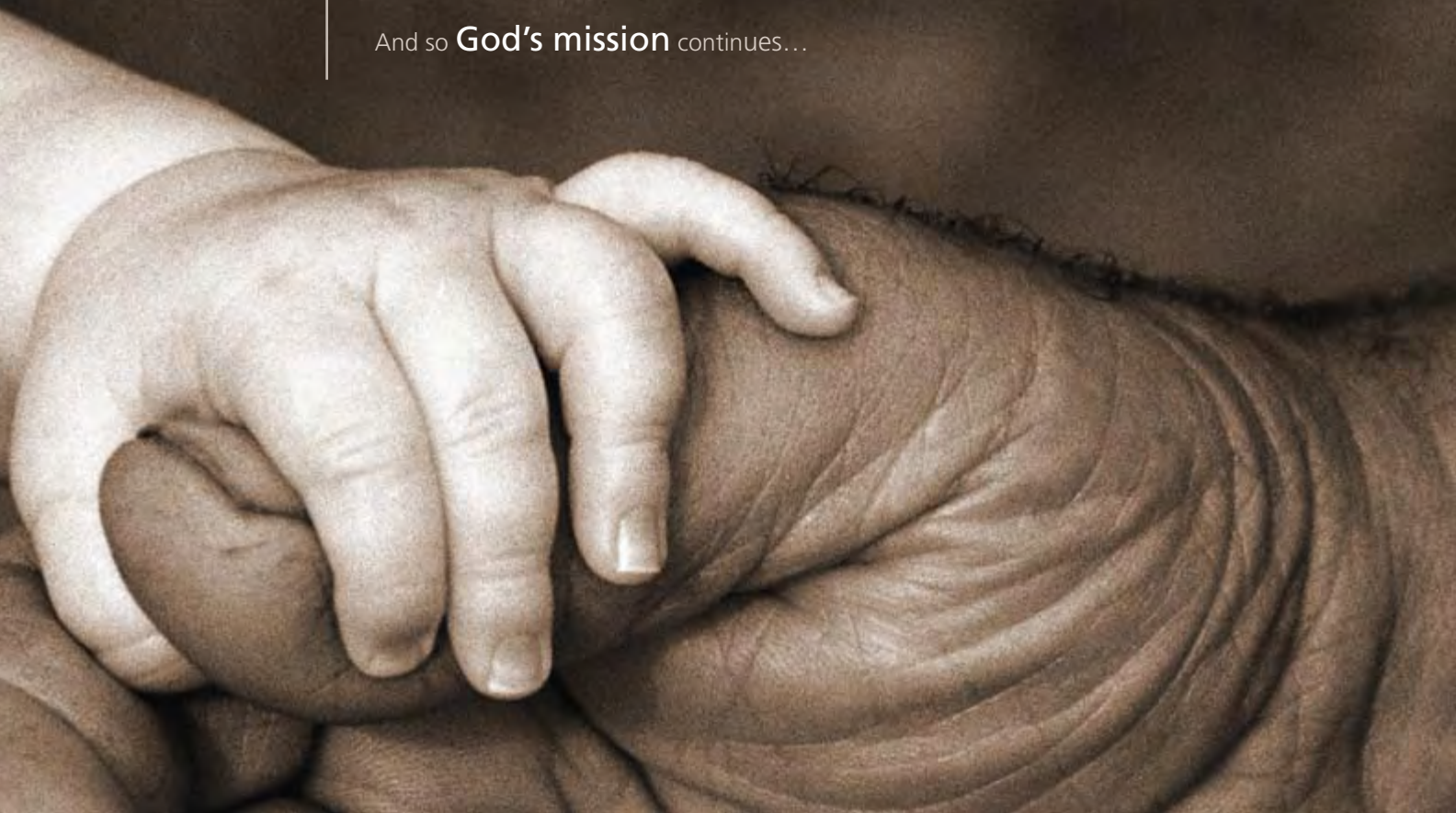
Our United Church was founded in **1925**. Canadian Methodists and Congregationalists, 70 percent of Canadian Presbyterians along with the Council of Local Union Churches joined to create a church that for the first time in world history crossed historical denominational lines. Each of the uniting churches had a long and rich history before 1925. Their origins were closely tied to the formation and evolution of Canada itself. Our founding men and women, however, envisioned a **national church** that would better serve the spiritual needs of developing areas in Canada and enable more effective mission throughout the world.

We are not only a united church but also a **uniting church**. Numerous individual congregations have come into the United Church since 1925. In addition, the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bermuda entered the union in 1930; the Canada Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, in 1968.

Throughout our history, the United Church has been in the forefront on matters of **faith and justice**. We partner with other Christian churches and interfaith groups whenever possible to work for justice, peace, and human dignity.

Ours is a rich and vital legacy of faith and of faith in action. Our work has sustained countless **thousands of people** in Canada and throughout the world.

And so **God's mission** continues...



Dear Friends in Christ,

Every financial statement is a theological statement. A budget is a confession of faith and an affirmation of our understanding of God. What we do with our “treasure” points to our passion, to our dreams, and to our understanding of God’s intentions.

In the following pages, you will find not just numbers but stories about people, faith, and commitment. These stories reflect the current priorities of The United Church of Canada, as discerned by the people of the church. They tell where our heart is and perhaps will encourage you to join us in the ongoing work of our community of faith.

We want to thank you for sharing your treasure and your love with many through the activities of our church. We also hope that by learning what we have done with your treasure, you will be inspired to continue to share with us in the unfolding, faithful work of The United Church of Canada.

Blessings and peace be with you,
The Right Rev. David Giuliano, Moderator



*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21

Chers amis, chères amies en Christ,

Tout état financier est aussi une déclaration théologique. Un budget est une confession de foi et une affirmation de notre compréhension de Dieu. Ce que nous faisons de notre « trésor » parle de ce qui nous passionne, de ce qui nous fait rêver, et de ce que nous comprenons des intentions de Dieu.

Vous trouverez dans ces pages non seulement des chiffres mais également des récits concernant des gens, leur foi et leur engagement. Ces récits mettent en lumière les priorités actuelles de l'Église Unie du Canada, telles que ses membres les ont établies. Ils vous parlent de ce qui nous tient à cœur, et c'est peut-être ce qui vous incitera à vous joindre à nous pour le travail en cours de notre communauté de foi.

Nous tenons à vous remercier, vous qui partagez votre trésor et votre amour à travers les activités de notre Église. Nous espérons aussi qu'en apprenant ce que nous avons fait de votre trésor vous soyez inspirés à continuer de le partager avec nous, par l'entremise du travail de l'Église Unie du Canada qui se poursuit avec fidélité.

Soyez bénis dans la paix,
Le Très révérend David Giuliano, Modérateur



Chers amis, chères amies,

Ce rapport annuel vous propose quelques aperçus de ce que l'Église Unie du Canada a accompli au cours de la dernière année. J'espère que les mots et les images que vous trouverez dans ces pages vous enthousiasmeront autant que moi pour le travail de notre Église.

Dans l'évangile de Matthieu, Jésus parle d'un jour où les justes demanderont : « Quand t'avons-nous vu affamé et t'avons-nous donné à manger, ou assoiffé et t'avons-nous donné à boire? Quand t'avons-nous vu étranger et t'avons-nous accueilli chez nous, ou nu et t'avons-nous habillé? Quand t'avons-nous vu malade ou en prison et sommes-nous allés te voir? » (Matthieu 25,38–39)

À travers les efforts de tous ceux et celles qui soutiennent le travail de l'Église Unie du Canada, nous commençons à vivre les réponses à ces questions. Ainsi, je suis fière de servir l'Église Unie et de partager avec vous, au moyen de ce rapport, les récits de notre foi en actes.

Nora Sanders
Secrétaire générale, Conseil général

*Car où est ton trésor,
là aussi sera ton cœur.*

Matthieu 6,21

Dear Friends,

In this annual report, we share some stories of the work of The United Church of Canada over the past year. I hope that the words and pictures on these pages will leave you as excited as I am about the work of our church.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells of a time when the righteous people would ask, "When was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" (Matthew 25:38–39)

Through the efforts of all those who support the work of The United Church of Canada, we begin to live the answers to these questions. I am proud to serve the United Church, and to share with you, through this report, stories of our faith in action.

Nora Sanders
General Secretary, General Council



The Values of Rural Ministry

THE BROAD SWEEP of the prairie landscape informed the late Rev. Dr. Clifford Elliott's soul. In rural Saskatchewan, he found inspiration for a wide-open view of the world. That's why the Spirit of Saskatchewan Ministry Trust Fund, which supports rural ministry, was set up by family and friends in his memory.

In 2008, this fund supported the studies of two United Church ministers. The Rev. Leigh Sinclair, who serves the United Church in Spiritwood, Saskatchewan, and the Rev. Anne McGrath, who serves Grace United Church in Wainwright, Alberta, are both studying to strengthen their capacity to serve rural communities.

*When people begin coming to church, they are
"welcomed for who they are."*

Sinclair ministers to a shared United–Evangelical Lutheran ministry. She is excited by how welcoming prairie people are to those seeking a church home. When people begin coming to church, she says, they are "welcomed for who they are." The need for pastoral care, healing, and support is real. Spiritwood is still recovering from the tragic killing of two RCMP officers two years ago.

Rural ministry has called McGrath from the beginning of her studies. When Saskatoon Theological Union introduced a program in Rural Ministry and Community Development, it

confirmed that rural ministry is a vital part of the work of the church as a whole. McGrath says the award will help in preparing "for further service to the congregation in which I now minister and to the larger community." Gifts from the trust fund set up in Cliff Elliott's memory will continue to enliven the ministry of our rural United Church ministries.



Read more about the trust fund:
www.united-church.ca/adultlearning/awards/elliott



Emerging Spirit is a United Church initiative to nurture a relationship with Canadians who do not attend church. The campaign reaches out using national advertising, viral videos, and other popular media. A key part of the campaign is the WonderCafé online discussion forum at www.wondercafe.ca.

Emerging Spirit aims to raise awareness about the United Church and to invite people to join with us on their faith journey. It also helps local congregations develop more effective welcoming ministries.



Learn more about Emerging Spirit: www.emergingspirit.ca



Seeking a Better Life

WITH THE RICH MIX of ethnicities in Canadian cities, many congregations take on unique cultural identities. In Montreal, for example, Camino de Emaus is a focal point for Spanish-speaking residents. And Camino, which receives essential support from the Mission and Service Fund, shares space, occasional worship, and community events with the French-speaking Église Unie St-Jean on St. Catherine Street.

Camino's ministers, the Rev. Rosa-Elena Donoso-Cruz and the Rev. Gonzalo Cruz, were refugees from Chile. They served as United Church overseas personnel in Costa Rica for many years before returning to Canada to begin a community outreach ministry. "We became a congregation in 2003," says Donoso-Cruz. "But we still see ourselves as a mission involved in both social outreach and pastoral work."

Cruz says that church members, most of whom come from a Roman Catholic background, "have gone through a journey and have opted for this type of church—democratic, respectful of women, and embracing gender and sexual diversity."

The Revs. Gonzalo Cruz and Rosa-Elena Donoso-Cruz

Members "have opted for this type of church."

Worship is a participatory event at Camino, and it takes on diverse forms. Some services are conducted in a circle, with everyone encouraged to participate. Worship is often held in the city's parks.

Having come to Canada seeking a better life, many members have found a voice within the United Church—about 35 people serve as a kind of parish council; a further 200 participate in activities from worship services and Bible studies to social events. They also hear, says Cruz, "the clear message that Jesus spoke for the poor."





The National UCW gathers for its annual meeting, hosted by Manitou Conference, September 2008



United Church Women Reach Out

A VITAL FORCE in so many of our congregations is the United Church Women. The UCW's support of the church's mission is diverse and far-reaching.

In 2008, the women of Heritage United Church, Musgravetown, Newfoundland, visited and entertained those living in their local retirement centre. In Cannington, Ontario, Trinity United Church Women introduced fair trade coffee to the congregation, thereby supporting small growers in Africa and South America. The women of Robertson-Wesley Church, Edmonton, studied prejudice, the impact of AIDS in Africa, and the work of the local United Church outreach ministry, the Bissell Centre.

Through such activity, the UCW reaches out to God's people in Canada and around the world.

In October 2008, eight United Church Women from Manitoba

"Our day at Cuatro Esquinas was outstanding," says Betty Piper of Powassan, Ontario. "To see such spiritual people caring for each other, the seniors' breakfast, and the discipleship program—it

The UCW's support is diverse and far-reaching.

and Ontario participated in the UCW Christian Institute for Gender Studies Exchange Program to meet with Christians in Cuba. The group learned about Cuban women and their families. They visited theological colleges, a retreat centre, and a small house church in the village of Cuatro Esquinas.

was amazing to be embraced by another culture and share what we have learned in Canada."

Over the last five years, the UCW has raised almost \$80 million for all purposes and over \$11 million for the Mission and Service Fund and programs like the Christian Institute.



To study learnings from the UCW Cuba exchange, download "Cuba: The Passion of Spirit":

www.united-church.ca/adultlearning/studygroups/general



**MEN'S MINISTRIES
NETWORK**
The United Church of Canada

THE UNITED CHURCH

encourages men to connect with each other and celebrate the many forms of ministry in which they are involved.

Some groups are called United Church Men or As One That Serves (AOTS) clubs. Others simply gather in the name of the church. Committed to the service of local congregations and the wider church, members enjoy the camaraderie of sharing, support, and spiritual growth. Men's ministries also include national and regional events such as the Banff Men's Conference and the Maritimes Men's Conference.

Our ministry to and through men is enabled through your gifts to the Mission and Service Fund.



Read more about men's ministry:
www.united-church.ca/allages/adults/men

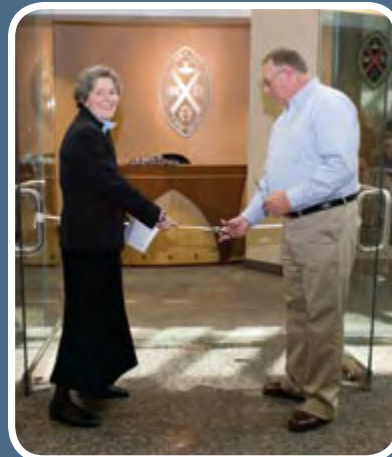
A New Home for the Archives

The records documenting the proud history of the United Church are preserved in the network of United Church archives across the country.

In 2008, The United Church of Canada Archives—including the General Council Archives and the archives of the Conferences of Bay of Quinte, Hamilton, London, Manitou, and Toronto—opened the doors of its new facilities at the General Council Office, Toronto.



Explore the archives network:
www.united-church.ca/local/archives



Ribbon-cutting ceremony at The United Church of Canada Archives, May 2008

Training Our Future Leaders



THE UNITED CHURCH is committed to training youth in Canada and abroad—our next generation of leaders.

The Baptist Theological Seminary in Managua, Nicaragua, is supported by the United Church through the Mission and Service Fund. Its partnership with the United Church and Queen's Theological College enhances the educational experience of the Nicaraguan seminary and, in turn, of Canadian youth.

In July 2008, Loyd Miguel Downs arrived in Kingston, Ontario, from Puerto Cabeza, Nicaragua, to study at Queen's

and join the staff of Future Quest, the theological college's summer program for high school youth.

Participants at Future Quest form deep bonds of community.

Participants at Future Quest form deep bonds of community.

Downs's presence challenged participants and staff alike to become more aware of the needs of people in Central and South America.

Future Quest also challenged Downs's view of North America. When he and four youth

volunteered at a community kitchen in downtown Kingston, he was surprised to find poverty and homelessness in such a wealthy country. When the group went to purchase food on a budget of \$1 per person to

experience the challenges facing people who live on welfare, Downs was as surprised as the youth at how little could be purchased to meet basic nutritional needs.

Each person at Future Quest Summer 2008 came to understand the importance of letting go of assumptions about other cultures. Participants found they shared similarities as well as differences. But as the Rev. Dr. Jean Stairs, principal of Queen's Theological College, says, "Language and other differences are easily overcome when one comes to know another as friend."



Explore theological school websites:
www.united-church.ca/contact/schools



Emmanuel College Chapel, Toronto

Room for the Prayers of All

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO is a culturally diverse campus. Emmanuel College, which provides preparation for ministry in the United Church, is also part of that diversity. On the east side of the campus, there are few

places for our faith neighbours to say their daily prayers. Emmanuel College's small prayer room next to the chapel became that place of hospitality and ecumenism—an interfaith space of prayer in downtown Toronto. Grace in our midst.

More Franchises than Tim Hortons?

More than 550 ministry leaders from across the church came together in June 2008 to share best practices and take their learnings back into their own local contexts. Over 60 workshops addressed the challenges of congregational leadership in a changing society. Learning groups continue online, and a second event is planned for 2010.



For more on More Franchises, visit:
www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events/morefranchises





Displaced farm workers in Zimbabwe, 2004

A Christian Response to Hunger

GOD CALLS US to build a just and equitable world. Whenever possible, the United Church works with others toward that goal.

A good example is our partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). The 15 Christian agencies that are members share a vision of a world where all have sufficient food. We pool human and financial resources to alleviate hunger now. And we advocate for policy changes that will help end hunger in the long term.

In the past 25 years, the Foodgrains Bank has provided more than 980,000 tonnes of food to people who are hungry in more than 80 countries around the world. It has supported projects in 23 countries, benefiting 1.3 million people with food aid, nutrition programs, and development assistance. The largest programs have been in Zimbabwe, Uganda, India, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

The Rev. Wendy Galloway serves Three Hills-Carbon

Pastoral Charge in Alberta. A United Church minister, she sits on the CFGB board of directors and is a proud member of a farming family.

“People in this area are familiar with the Foodgrains Bank because there is a growing project nearby in Linden. My experience, however, allows me to connect my congregations to its work at a more personal level through the stories and experiences of the other member agencies.”



Learn more about our partnership with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank:
www.united-church.ca/economic/food/cfgb



Food aid distribution, Govuro, Mozambique, 2004

Canadian Foodgrains Bank's 25th-anniversary quilt

*“God’s economy is one of wholeness and sustainability,
where all people might have ‘enough.’”*

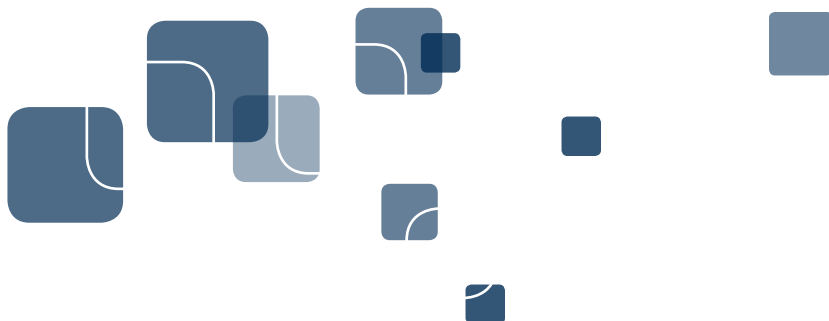
Galloway says it is important for United Church congregations to support the work of the CFGB through their offerings to the Mission and Service Fund.

“Together with our overseas partners, we depend on the expertise of the CFGB to keep

us informed about global issues and trends so that our projects can reach people in ways that can empower and sustain entire communities,” she explains.

“God’s economy is one of wholeness and sustainability, where all people might have ‘enough.’”

“The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a visible sign of hope that effective change is possible. But the support of congregations of all denominations is necessary for this work to continue.”



Ethnic Ministry Is a Gift to the Whole Church

ETHNIC CONGREGATIONS are supported by the church in a number of vital ways. But when meaningful relationships are formed between English-speaking groups and their ethnic partners, it enriches the community as a whole.

it received the support of the Mission and Service Fund. In June 2007, Oak Avenue United Church closed because of changing demographics and a declining membership. At the same time, Amazing Grace was ready to become a congregation.

worshipping in the Oak Avenue building.

In February 2008, former members of Oak Avenue United joined in dedication celebrations for the new congregation. Following a two-hour service filled with music and praise, everyone gathered in the church basement for a Chinese New Year feast.

“Amazing Grace is deeply involved in retelling the stories of the church.”

Amazing Grace Taiwanese United Church in Surrey, British Columbia, began as an outreach mission of Fraser Presbytery. For several years,

It was the wish of Oak Avenue to transfer its property to this newly constituted group. Soon thereafter, the Taiwanese congregation began

The congregation’s minister, the Rev. Brian Tsai, says Amazing Grace is an important spiritual and social link for the Taiwanese community in the Surrey area. “The major areas of activity are worship services, Bible studies, as well as Sunday school, church band, and fundraising events,” says Tsai. “Amazing Grace United Church is deeply involved in retelling the stories and celebrating the festivals of the church, in the ethos of The United Church of Canada.”



Amazing Grace congregation in Surrey, British Columbia, celebrates Chinese New Year and a new home



Learn about the role of ethnic ministries within an intercultural church: www.united-church.ca/intercultural

Behold! One Another: An Intercultural Conference



Nearly 270 people from diverse cultural communities and language groups met October 30–November 2, 2008, for the United Church's first conference on intercultural ministries. Many considered this conference a transformative experience and a time of deep encounter.



For more on Behold! visit:
www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/events/behold-one-another

A Broken Chalice Holds a Teaching

On Mother's Day weekend in 2008, 92 people travelled from United Church Conferences across Canada to a tent in Pinawa, Manitoba. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, youth and Elders, all were following a call by the Spirit to covenant to a journey toward right relations for the next five years.

Pinawa is a long way from Toronto, from where many items for the gathering were shipped or carefully wrapped and flown in suitcases. Two communion chalices were transported, one of which had been previously broken and repaired. On arrival, it was discovered that one of the two chalices was broken in several pieces—the one that had not been broken previously. It was not a good sign for the gathering. And yet... it held a teaching.

The broken pottery pieces, carefully placed on a cloth on the grass near the centre of the gathering, were the focus of many reflections over the three days. The pieces became symbolic of the costs of coming away from all that is safe and secure, of the violence of brokenness, and of the broken body of Christ.



Living Out Our Apologies

UNTIL THE EARLY 1970s, the Canadian government contracted with churches, including the United Church, to operate residential schools that were intended to assimilate Aboriginal children. Over several generations, 100,000 children were removed from their homes and sent to these distant schools.

Residential schools contributed to the loss of language, culture, and parenting skills. Tragically, in some cases, the schools were sites of physical and sexual abuse. For many, the experience caused deep hurt, and Aboriginal communities are still dealing with the long-term effects of the schools today.

In 1986, the United Church apologized for our role in imposing European culture on First Nations peoples. A second apology in 1998 specifically addressed the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

Over Moderator David Giuliano's term, he has visited many First Nations communities to repeat the words of these apologies in person. Often, he has been able to leave behind a translation into the appropriate language.

The Healing Fund, which supports healing programs in Aboriginal communities, is another important way for us to live out our apologies and be a part of the healing process. Gifts to this fund have been used to

- help Aboriginal youth reclaim traditional language and culture
- bring residential school survivors together for programs that include traditional healing
- support workshops aimed at repairing and transforming relationships between the church and Aboriginal communities



Learn more about residential schools and the Healing Fund:

www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/schools

www.united-church.ca/funding/healing

“We ask you to forgive us and to walk together with us in the Spirit of Christ so that our peoples may be blessed and God’s creation healed.”

1986 Apology to First Nations Peoples



Then-Moderator Robert Smith delivers the original 1986 Apology to First Nations Peoples at the 31st General Council, Sudbury

General Secretary Nora Sanders repeats the words of apology: (left to right) Nora Sanders, the late Chief StarBlanket, Ron Keewatin, and Saskatchewan Conference President Moses Kanhai at Calling Lakes Centre, Saskatchewan, October 2007



Moderator David Giuliano and Lindsay Schwientek, a Mohawk college student on summer staff at Five Oaks education and retreat centre, Ontario, with apologies plaque, November 2007



Ecumenical church leaders pledge to work for justice and reconciliation at the Remembering the Children tour (left to right): Rt. Rev. Dr. David Giuliano, Most Rev. Albert LeGatt, Most Rev. Sylvain Lavoie, Rev. Dr. Hans Kouwenberg, Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, and Sr. Rita Bisson, Saskatoon, March 9, 2008



Read the United Church’s apologies to First Nations peoples:
www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/relationships/apologies

Global Partners Give and Receive

CLOSE PERSONAL relationships require certain commitments—like co-operation and respect; sharing of work, goals, and rewards; and communication. The United Church engages in partnerships around the world that also reflect these qualities.

Our global partnerships are with national churches, ecumenical organizations, Christian councils, and church agencies. Some have evolved from global mission work, which started in the late 19th century. Some are more recent collaborations. All strive to give witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The United Church of Canada and its global partners are called to share experiences and resources, including gifts to the



The Rev. Martha Siame from the United Church of Zambia (*centre*), a Face-to-Face visitor to Parksville, British Columbia, in 2005

Mission and Service Fund, and to build relationships of respect. We are one partner among many, called to receive and to give.

We depend on our partners to alert us to local needs. Thanks to them, Mission and Service Fund dollars are put

to work where they are most needed. Partners also offer their experiences to us, enabling us to learn from their perspectives.

Our mutual partnerships—from Mozambique to China, from Nicaragua to Japan—are enabled through your gifts.



Learn more about the church's global partners:
www.united-church.ca/partners/global



Consulting with Our Partners

Representatives of The United Church of Canada and more than 20 global, ecumenical, and interfaith partners met in Toronto in June 2008. These periodic consultations allow us to learn from each other's contexts, to challenge each other, and to join in prayer and praise.

Patti Talbot, The United Church of Canada; Razek Siriani, Middle East Council of Churches; Setri Nyomi, World Alliance of Reformed Churches

[God] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does [God] require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God...

Micah 6:8



Dear friends,

As an instructor at a teachers' college in China, I face classrooms packed with the children of illiterate farmers. It is often the first time these students have been anywhere other than their small, unidentified villages.

Many are without a personal name until school registration. Many sacrifice meals in the college canteen to pay their tuitions. Their future lies back in their home villages where they will serve as poorly paid teachers, often in dilapidated buildings. I see no attainment of wealth, fame, or position here. The students I meet will never be successful by any dictionary definition. And for every individual reached through church mission, there are thousands more for whom there will be no provision.

However, because of your gifts to the Mission and Service Fund, we are training what teachers we can. They in turn will take their new-found knowledge back home to bring literacy to those who remain there. As Christians, we are called to share in God's mission—to be with our sisters and brothers the world over. It is one reason we continue to send people from Canada to partner with those in other lands. But what do we achieve?

In the last hour of Jesus' life, the only people who seemed to be with Jesus were the thief on the cross beside him and his own weeping mother. Are we, as a church, to expect more than this? I think not. We are to be with those who need our help and those with whom we find life.

As Christians, we are not called to fame or to fortune. Rather, we are called to follow the teachings of Christ. Perhaps, through greater understanding of what it means to walk with those in other lands, we will better become the community of faith we were first called to be.

—Gary MacDonald
Overseas Personnel in China



Read letters from United Church overseas personnel:
www.united-church.ca/communications/overseas

Youth Lead the Way

IN DECEMBER 2008, the United Church supported three youth delegates to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznań, Poland. Many observers, including government delegates and media, commented on the passion, creativity, and high level of expertise with the official process that these young Canadians sustained over two weeks of negotiations.

Jessica Wishart of Rockingham United in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was selected for her skills and environmental commitment. She acted as liaison between the international youth delegation and the UN Secretariat. A United Church grant also helped two delegates of the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition to participate: Heather

Sayine-Crawford of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, a young Aboriginal woman working on the impact of climate change in the north; and Hannah McKinnon, originally from Deloraine, Manitoba, and raised in the United Church, a young woman doing justice work in El Salvador.

Climate change is one of the most significant challenges of our day.

As McKinnon says, "We live in a smaller world today in many ways, but with much bigger differences

dividing us. Children and youth need to understand this planet we share and our role as stewards. As we work toward global justice, they need to remain the focus."

Climate change work continues with a UN conference in Copenhagen in late 2009.



Hannah McKinnon

A binding agreement on climate change for the post-Kyoto Protocol period is one of the most significant ethical challenges of our day. That's why the United Church will be there and why we are investing in the decision-makers of tomorrow.



Stay up to date on the church's involvement in climate change:
www.united-church.ca/ecology/climate

Heather Sayine-Crawford and Jessica Wishart, delegates to the UN Climate Change Conference



An Independent, Faith-Filled Magazine



THE OBSERVER has been a part of the United Church since its inception. With roots going back to 1829, it is the oldest continuously published magazine in North America and the second oldest in the English-speaking world. Surveys of today's 179,000 readers have found a majority consider the publication to be "the heart and voice" of the United Church.

How does *The Observer* keep up to date with its readers? It listens. A recent survey asks about readers' vision of the future of ministry, church attendance, thoughts on

"A New Creed" and faith, and leadership in the pulpit and the pew. The magazine will use this input to inform its stories and features, and to report to General Council on what readers are thinking.

Balancing these weighty matters are stories of hope, humour, and good spiritual health encountered across Canada. *The Observer* offers a chance to join a cross-country, cross-congregational conversation.

Along with advertiser and subscriber funding, the publication is assisted by a grant from the Mission and Service Fund. The magazine is also supported through the Friends of *The Observer* annual mail campaign. These vital sources of revenue permit reader costs to be kept low. To see M&S Fund dollars in action, just open the pages of *The United Church Observer*.

The Observer is a faith-filled magazine that now spans 180 years. Editorially independent, it remains an essential part of the wider ministry of The United Church of Canada.



Visit *The Observer* online: www.ucobserver.org



Faith in Our Books

The United Church Publishing House traces its roots to the Methodist Book Room, founded in 1829. UCPH publishes titles that support, challenge, and inspire. These books share our faith and vision within our denomination and beyond with members of partner denominations and secular markets. Notable publications in 2008 included Moderator David Giuliano's *Postcards from the Valley*, David Bruce's *Jesus 24/7*, Julie Kinkaid's *Overturning the Tables*, and the annual Lent book, *Why Would Jesus Say That?*



Learn more about UCPH:
www.united-church.ca/sales/ucph

Supporting The United Church of Canada

There are many ways to support the United Church.

Local Congregations

Local congregations are the lifeblood of The United Church of Canada. In 2007, the latest figures available, 286,500 donors gave **\$408,867,000** to support mission in their communities and around the world.



Mission and Service Fund

The Mission and Service (M&S) Fund supports God's

mission through the ministry of the wider United Church both in Canada and around the world. M&S enables our church to respond to human need with partnership development work, medical programs, and many community-based social programs. The fund also supports our worship life, the promotion of justice and peace and advocacy for environmental reform, and our administrative services through the General Council Office. In 2008, gifts from congregations, from the United Church Women, and given directly to the Mission and Service Fund totalled **\$29,312,000**.

World Development and Relief

Through World Development and Relief (WDR), we provide emergency relief and ongoing development opportunities.

It is a designated fund within the church's Mission and Service Fund that supports our global work in community development and relief.

In 2008, the United Church received **\$404,000** in gifts to WDR.

Special Fundraising Initiatives



The Healing Fund

The Healing Fund is a way you may support the United Church's ongoing

reconciliation work with Aboriginal people. In 2008, donors gave **\$26,000** to the Healing Fund.



United for Peace Campaign

Our United for Peace Campaign seeks to support

peace initiatives in Palestine and Israel, and in other parts of the world including Canada. This special appeal augments ongoing support to programs and activities currently enabled by the Mission and Service Fund. In 2008, donors gave **\$146,000** to United for Peace.

Emergency Response

In the event of a major disaster, the church may issue emergency response appeals for over-and-above gifts to meet a special need or immediate crisis. In 2008, donors gave **\$894,000** for emergency responses in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central/Latin America, and elsewhere. One hundred percent of donations are used to respond to humanitarian crises. The church covers all administrative costs.



How to Give



The United Church of Canada Foundation

The United Church of Canada Foundation

is a way of gifting to the future needs of our United Church community. Several focus funds, including Peace & Justice, Faith & Mission, and Sustaining Funds, support worldwide ministry. In 2008, donors gave **\$420,000** for all purposes to the Foundation. The Congregational Investment program allows congregations and institutions to participate in a pooled investment plan. See pages 24–27 for more about the Foundation’s work.

- Give to your local United Church congregation. Many congregations have their own websites that outline opportunities for support and ways to give.
- Give directly to The United Church of Canada at large:

Online at www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/donate

By telephone at 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2026 or locally 416-231-7680 ext. 2026

By mail to:
Direct Giving Program
The United Church of Canada
3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 300
Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Each year, The United Church of Canada receives many gifts from the estates of thoughtful donors. In 2008, the church received \$2,737,000 in such gifts from individuals. Local congregations of the United Church received 646 estate bequests valued at \$17,699,000.

The United Church of Canada is profoundly grateful to all those who give to support the mission and ministry of Christ’s church. Thanks be to God.

Charitable number: 10810 2435 RR0003

Scenes from the 39th General Council 2006, Thunder Bay, Ontario; the 40th General Council 2009 is being held in Kelowna, British Columbia



Learn more or make a donation:
www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/donate



The National Accounts of The United Church of Canada

Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2008

(amounts in thousands)

	General Operating Funds	Trust and Endowment Funds	Annuity Funds	Property and Building Funds	2008 Total	2007 Total
Assets						
Current						
Cash and cash in transit	\$ 6,611	\$ 1,338	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 7,949	\$ 7,032
Accounts receivable	12,749	–	103	99	12,951	6,852
Inventory	674	–	–	–	674	756
Other	427	–	–	–	427	543
	20,461	1,338	103	99	22,001	15,183
Investments	49,180	22,673	18,130	18,005	107,988	126,861
Capital loans	–	–	–	8,751	8,751	8,925
Capital assets	–	–	–	2,860	2,860	3,062
	\$ 69,641	\$ 24,011	\$ 18,233	\$ 29,715	\$ 141,600	\$ 154,031
Liabilities and fund balances						
Current						
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 4,550	\$ 1,176	\$ 146	\$ 34	\$ 5,906	\$ 5,510
Employee entitlement provision	–	–	–	–	–	1,137
Payable to external beneficiaries	–	–	6,871	–	6,871	7,420
Deferred lease inducement	2,901	–	–	–	2,901	3,158
Fund balances	62,190	22,835	11,216	29,681	125,922	136,806
	\$ 69,641	\$ 24,011	\$ 18,233	\$ 29,715	\$ 141,600	\$ 154,031

Audited statements are available on request.

The National Accounts of The United Church of Canada

Statement of Operations for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

(amounts in thousands)

	General Operating Funds	Trust and Endowment Funds	Annuity Funds	Property and Building Funds	2008 Total	2007 Total
Revenues						
Contributions to the Mission and Service Fund						
Congregations	\$ 27,691	\$ –	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 27,691	\$ 27,877
United Church Women	2,011	–	–	–	2,011	2,100
Investment income	(1,237)	2,136	1,228	1,872	3,999	11,037
Retail sales	2,532	31	–	–	2,563	3,189
Group insurance premiums	19,062	–	–	–	19,062	18,494
Annuities	–	–	585	–	585	1,191
Legacies	5,445	387	–	125	5,957	3,213
Recovery of administrative costs	2,651	–	–	–	2,651	2,566
Donations	1,357	424	–	–	1,781	1,390
Other revenue	6,800	13	–	240	7,053	2,703
Total revenues	66,312	2,991	1,813	2,237	73,353	73,760
Expenses						
Grants	17,354	977	–	430	18,761	20,228
Staff costs	18,704	51	–	–	18,755	20,705
Group insurance payments	17,754	–	–	–	17,754	15,725
Resources	3,701	10	–	–	3,711	4,339
Travel and meeting expenses	2,644	31	–	–	2,675	2,963
Office expenses	2,914	–	–	692	3,606	3,522
Annuities	–	–	2,333	–	2,333	2,137
Professional fees	3,120	13	–	48	3,181	5,540
Property and insurance expenses	603	–	–	416	1,019	972
Investment expenses	362	21	13	–	396	421
Total expenses	67,156	1,103	2,346	1,586	72,191	76,552
	(844)	1,888	(533)	651	1,162	(2,792)
Unrealized losses as a result of an other than temporary impairment	(6,677)	(3,078)	–	(2,445)	(12,200)	–
Excess of expenses over revenues	\$ (7,521)	\$ (1,190)	\$ (533)	\$ (1,794)	\$ (11,038)	\$ (2,792)

The United Church of Canada Foundation

THE UNITED CHURCH of Canada Foundation's mission is to support the future of The United Church of Canada. It does this by raising funds for endowments, prudently investing those funds, and making grants for the work of the church from income earned.

The Foundation also helps congregations, presbyteries, Conferences, and related church institutions invest their trust funds. And it assists individuals to make gifts of stocks or mutual fund units to their congregations.

With the Support of Our Donors

The work of the Foundation complements the Mission and Service Fund. The Foundation raises endowment funds that will provide long-term funding for the church.

The Foundation's endowment funds represent five broad themes reflecting priorities set

by the Executive of the General Council:

- the Living Spirit Endowment Fund to support the church where funds are most needed
- the Peace & Justice Fund, addressing peace, justice, and environmental concerns
- the Leadership Fund, training and supporting leaders, paid and volunteer
- the Theological Education Fund, supporting United Church theological schools and educational centres
- the Faith & Mission Fund, strengthening faith in United Church communities and helping them meet the challenges of membership, mission, and change

Donors like Nova Scotians Kenley and Dorothy MacNeill helped to support projects such as Wesley Urban Ministries' Youth Housing Program in Hamilton, Ontario, through their gift to the Foundation.

The Foundation raises endowment funds that will provide long-term funding for the church.



"We made a memorial gift to the Foundation's Living Spirit Endowment Fund as the best way for us to remember Dorothy's parents, Isaac and Minnie Bourne. They were faithful life members of Gower Street United Church in St. John's, Newfoundland. He was pleased to be appointed as a Chapel Steward, a term used by the Methodists. She was a keen member of the Woman's Mission Society and kept up to date through the *Missionary Monthly* magazine. Later on they were especially supportive of the church's new Young People's Band, which played at Isaac's funeral service.

"The Living Spirit Endowment Fund makes annual gifts to current projects of the United Church. Because our gift is a way for projects to receive money every year as the fund continues to grow, we find this an appropriate way to recognize Mom and Dad's lifelong support of the United Church."

—Kenley and Dorothy MacNeill

"I learned early from my parents that 'giving in various ways is part of living.' As I became older, part of giving came to be defined as a financial thank you to institutions that were contributing in a positive way to the community in which I lived and to the wider world.

"The United Church of Canada Foundation is important to me for the many ways in which it can help me to implement my financial 'philanthropic footprint.' One of the ways I worked with the Foundation was to set up an endowment fund that will continue to provide an income in perpetuity for my church and the Mission and Service Fund."

—Joanne Waddington



The Power of Giving

The Youth Housing Program at Wesley Urban Ministries in Hamilton, Ontario, provides youth at risk of homelessness and homeless youth with a two-staged, one-year supportive housing program, while developing their life management skills, stability, economic independence, education, and social development. Because of living in stable, safe housing at Wesley Youth Housing, youth are finally, for the first time, able to focus on something other than where they are going to sleep and what they will eat. They are developing vital skills necessary to move to independent living in the community.

The Foundation Helps People

Individuals and families have also established personal endowment funds to support their own congregations, the M&S Fund, the United Church Archives, and other favourite charities. Some of the funds are active and make yearly grants;

The Foundation enables people to make gifts that will support the church now and in the future.

others will become active over the next few years or when the Foundation receives an estate gift from the donor.

The Foundation Helps Congregations

The Foundation offers United Church-related groups access to a professionally managed institutional balanced fund that is normally unavailable to smaller investors. The fund has a low annual management fee of 1% of assets and is compliant with The United Church of Canada's Socially Responsible Investment Policy. Further, the Foundation retains 80% of the management fee to support our mission of creating enduring endowment support for the United Church.

The Foundation's Gift Fund Program helps individuals and congregations support their faith communities. Individuals make gifts of stocks or mutual funds to the Foundation and

instruct the Foundation to pass on the proceeds of the sale of those securities to their congregations or other church ministries.

Some donors use the program because their congregation doesn't have a brokerage account to handle gifts of stock or mutual funds. Others use the program because they want to be anonymous. Still others use the program because they can make one gift of stock or mutual fund units and then have the proceeds disbursed to several different organizations.

The United Church of Canada Foundation services local congregations and enables people to make gifts that will support the church now and in the future. The church is grateful for its current ministry and for the Foundation's future potential.



Visit the Foundation online:
www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca

Members of Fifty United in Winona, Ontario, gather in front of their church for a spirited game of shinny. Fifty Church's Board of Trustees invested half the proceeds from the sale of its manse with The United Church of Canada Foundation in 2006. "Since then the church typically withdraws a small amount each

quarter in order to help cover the minister's housing allowance. Monthly statements and quarterly updates are provided to us and the Foundation is never more than a phone call away," says trustee Kathy Cushnie.



Fiera Capital is the Foundation's fund manager. The performance of Fiera's Balanced Fund that the Foundation is invested in was in the top 25% of similar funds in 2008. The fund is 96%–98% compliant with The United Church of Canada's Socially Responsible Investment Policy and has a very low management fee of 1% per year. The total amount under investment at December 31, 2008, was \$16,196,500.

Foundation Financial Summary

at December 31, 2008

BALANCE SHEET	2008	2007
Assets		
Investments	\$ 1,787,692	\$ 1,609,917
Cash	355,841	525,558
Accounts & contributions receivable	55,333	40,888
Prepaid expenses	1,959	18,899
Capital assets	384	907
Total assets	\$ 2,201,209	\$ 2,196,169
Liabilities		
Accounts payable & accrued charges	\$ 366,393	\$ 602,056
Fund balances		
Operating fund	45,862	18,776
Gift funds	878	(196)
Endowment funds	1,787,692	1,574,626
Capital fund	384	907
Total, liabilities & fund balances	\$ 2,201,209	\$ 2,196,169
ENDOWMENT REVENUES		
Donations to endowment funds	\$ 420,120	\$ 475,652
Investment income	76,347	151,825
Total endowment revenues	\$ 496,467	\$ 627,477
GIFT FUND REVENUES		
Gift Fund donations	\$ 1,630,123	\$ 1,876,403
GRANTING ACTIVITIES		
Seeds of Hope grants	\$ 74,550	\$ 61,175
Gift Fund grants	1,623,477	1,876,120
Total grants since inception	4,300,725	2,602,698
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating donations	\$ 3,400	\$ 4,352
Sustaining grant from The United Church of Canada	290,000	297,500
Investment income & fees	164,432	139,706
Total operating revenues	\$ 457,832	\$ 441,558
Salaries & benefits	\$ 157,405	\$ 206,714
Fund development & investment programs	133,071	158,694
Transfer to Seeds of Hope grant program	30,000	40,000
Administrative expenses	84,908	54,074
Total operating expenses	\$ 405,384	\$ 459,482

Audited statements are available on request.

BOARD MEMBERS

Marion Best, Naramata, BC
 Fred Braman, Montreal QC (Chair)
 Bruce Cook, Blenheim, ON
 Kay de la Ronde, Calgary, AB
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 FONDATION DE L'ÉGLISE
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Fax: 416-231-3103

Web: www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca

E-mail: fdn@united-church.ca

Charitable number:

863109021 RR0001

Voting Members of the Executive of the General Council

as of December 31, 2008

David W. Giuliano	Moderator	Heather Burton	British Columbia
Nora Sanders	General Secretary	Marion Carr	British Columbia
Peter B. Short	Immediate Past Moderator	Allan Sinclair	All Native Circle
Fannie Hudson	Newfoundland and Labrador	Tarance Whiteye	All Native Circle
Andy Wright	Newfoundland and Labrador	Amber Ing	Ethnic Ministries Constituent
Mary-Beth Moriarity	Maritime	Emmanuel Ofori	Ethnic Ministries Constituent
Shirley Cleave	Maritime	Anne-Marie Carmoy	French Constituent
Brian Cornelius	Montreal and Ottawa	Stéphane Vermette	French Constituent
Lynn Boothroyd	Montreal and Ottawa	Ted Kostecki	Member at Large
Bruce Hutchinson	Bay of Quinte	Sheryl Johnson	Member at Large
Paul Reed	Bay of Quinte	Leah Weiss	Member at Large—Youth & Young Adult
Barbara White	Toronto	Allan Buckingham	Member at Large—Youth & Young Adult
Paul Stott	Toronto	Donald Hunter	Permanent Committee on Finance
Lewis Coffman	Hamilton	Martha ter Kuile	Permanent Committee on Governance, Budgeting and Planning Processes
Heather Leffler	Hamilton	James Blanchard	Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies
Chuck Scott	London	Diane Dwarka	Permanent Committee on Programs for Mission and Ministry
Sharon Willis-Whitwell	London	Carmen Lansdowne	Representative to World Council of Churches Central Committee
Cynthia Désilets	Manitou	[vacant]	Business Table
Bill Rogers	Manitou		
Betty Kelly	Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario		
Caryn Douglas	Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario		
Dwaine Dornan	Saskatchewan		
Linsell Hurd	Saskatchewan		
Donald Koots	Alberta and Northwest		
Louise Rogers	Alberta and Northwest		

The Executive also has corresponding members representing the national United Church Women, *The United Church Observer*, The United Church of Canada Archives, the Theology and Faith Committee, the General Council Agenda and Planning Committee, and our global partners.

Photos: The United Church of Canada unless specified below.

Cover, hands, Design Pics; faces, Wolf Kutnahorsky

p. 1, Design Pics

p. 4, Wendy Galloway

p. 5, Marta-Maria Cruz

p. 7, people, Wolf Kutnahorsky; vault, Lea de la Paz

p. 8, Design Pics

p. 9, chapel, Peg McCarthy

pp. 10–11, Zimbabwe, Alex Neve; Mozambique, Canadian Foodgrains Bank; quilt, Wendy Galloway

p. 12, Brian Tsai

p. 13, Sam Ocampo

p. 14, Chris Dumas

p. 15, Sanders, StarBlanket, Keewatin, and Kanhai, Holly Schick; Giuliano and Schwientek, Mardi Tindal; Remembering the Children, Tim Yaworski

p. 16, bottom, Jim Hodgson

p. 17, Wolf Kutnahorsky

p. 18, Joy Kennedy

p. 26, Pete Rainford



The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada 2009

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