

Feature

Year-End Huge Time for Mission & Service Fund

Imagine supporting a pastoral charge, a university chaplaincy, an outreach program, a partner church in another country, a water development project – and much more – with a single donation to The United Church of Canada’s Mission & Service (M&S) Fund. Courtesy of *Mandate* magazine, this issue of *Insight* provides an overview of how the United Church spends nearly \$37 million – most of it in donations to the M&S Fund – helping people in the United Church, in the wider community and in many places around the world. See pages 4 and 5.

The 2011 M&S goal is \$30.2 million. Although individuals and congregations give donations throughout the year, nearly two-thirds of the total amount is received in the last few months of the year; 2011 is no exception. At the beginning of September, just over \$12.5 million had been contributed.

Toronto Conference has always been a leader in support of the M&S Fund, providing nearly \$4.3 million in 2010. But the Conference is also a recipient of M&S dollars. In 2011, the Conference received a grant of more than \$300,000 to help operate the Conference and Presbytery offices, including staff salaries. In addition, the Conference is given nearly \$400,000 to distribute to applicants. Throughout the fall, Presbytery representatives visit each applicant – a pastoral charge or outreach

ministry – taking the stories of those visits back to their Presbyteries. In early November, a Conference-wide mission support consultation is held to review the applications and to make recommendations to the Conference’s executive in mid-November.

The fall is a busy and important time for the M&S Fund. To keep an eye on how the M&S Fund is doing, check out the General Council’s webpage <http://www.united-church.ca/funding/msfund>. The web page allows you to see how the contributions are flowing in from pastoral charges, the United Church Women, Presbyteries and Conferences.

Some quick M&S facts show what is supported:

- 119 pastoral charges
- 75 community outreach and social support programs
- 43 hospital, nursing home, community and university chaplaincies
- 23 ecumenical advocacy and interfaith organizations
- 31 global mission personnel
- 108 churches and Christian councils around the world
- 32 countries supporting ministry, training, development or relief projects
- 10 global ecumenical partners.

Contents

Congregations.....	pp. 2-3, 6-7
The Wider Church.....	pp. 4-5, 7
Calendar	p. 8



Dreaming God's Dream

By Deborah Aldcorn

A few years ago, an exhibition of 30 photographs taken by homeless people travelled to art galleries throughout York Region. The photographers had been invited to record their living circumstances. Because of her friendship with the project leader, Jane Wedlock, who has long worked in social change, helped with the program. "That was a very profound journey," she says. "I have always been interested in who gets to speak and who doesn't get to speak."

Artwork can deliver a powerful message, and these pictures show that homelessness is not solely a big-city problem. Essentially an indictment of indifference, they are available at www.yraeh.ca. The photos, with Wedlock's help, were also shown at a regional film festival.

Wedlock has been involved with social change projects for more than 20 years and has raised awareness about a number of issues, including food security and youth in crisis. When working with the York Region Alliance to End Homelessness, about the time of the photo project, it became apparent that transportation in York Region was a huge problem for people who are at risk.

"York Region is now looking at a transit subsidy for people on a low income," Wedlock says. "That's not going to answer all the questions about transportation, but it's a step in the right direction."

She currently works at the United Way with a York University program to build partnerships and promote research and develop projects, all aimed at making healthier communities – which may involve income, education, housing or social supports. Her interest in helping where she can has deep roots.

Although Wedlock and her husband raised their now-grown children in Richmond Hill, they travelled a fair bit before they emigrated from England to Canada. Two and a half years spent in Egypt was transformative for her, and that's where she became interested in community development.

"When I came to Canada, I wanted to find a congregation that does social justice work or has an exterior focus," she says. "I also wanted to live and work in the same place and I wanted to know my community."

"The Sunday after we moved here, I walked up to Richmond Hill United and I've never left." At the time, the church had started a food bank and had a refugee ministry. The congregation has about



Photo by Charlotte Jones.

Jane Wedlock seeks to make a better community.

400 families and continues to grow. Wedlock has served on many committees and in many roles over the years – from the Sunday school to pet visitor to chairing the long-range planning and finance committees. A current concern is seeking funds to make the church buildings wheelchair accessible. Social justice has always been a thread at the congregation, and Wedlock's aim always is to be inclusive.

"How can we be open to learning, open to the spirit, open to seeing things in new ways?" she asks. "That's where God is for me."

One group that Richmond Hill United serves is L'Arche, the international organization for people with intellectual disabilities founded in 1964 by Jean Vanier. Some of the group houses are in the area and their residents participate in the life of the congregation.

"For me, it's always who is teaching whom," Wedlock says. Of the residents, she says, "I have to think they are the teachers and we are the learners."

Linda Butler is the minister of worship and pastoral care at Richmond Hill United. She says Wedlock looks for potential partners to see how the church can help in their communities.

"I think of her as our resident eagle, seeing the big picture, and pushing us to think about a purpose beyond ourselves," says Butler.

With her work, professional and personal, to change her community for the better, Butler says Wedlock is "a dreamer of God's dream."

Congregations



Creativity requires asking genuine questions, those to which an answer is not already known. Questions function as open-handed invitation to creativity, calling forth that which doesn't yet exist.

Marilee Goldberg, *The Art of the Question*

Editor's note: Richard C. Choe expresses beauty in photography combined with quotes. Go to <http://wondergaze.blogspot.com> to see his work. If you take photographs that help to express the sacred, please send a sample to Insight at dallen@united-church.ca.

MILLS & MILLS LLP BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS ESTABLISHED 1884

"...generations of trust..."

Mills & Mills LLP is a trusted adviser to congregations, trustees, church officials and the courts of the church.

For over a century, we have advised on all manner and types of legal issues including real estate, employment, conflict resolution, applications for private legislation, property development, estates, leases, by-law compliance, The Manual of the United Church of Canada, governance, and, generally, all legal matters relating to the life and ministry of Ontario churches.

For information about our services or if you wish to arrange a free consultation about any issue affecting your church, please contact Paul Mills at (416) 682-7110 or Martin Campbell at (416) 682-7111, or email us at: paul.mills@millsandmills.ca or martin.campbell@millsandmills.ca.

We also invite you to visit our website at www.millsandmills.ca and the link to our Church Law Group for more information about our firm and the services which we provide.

MILLS & MILLS LLP • 2 ST. CLAIR AVENUE WEST, SUITE 700 • TORONTO, ON M4V 1L5

MISSION AND SERVICE AT A GLANCE

Funding Vital Mission and Service

GENERAL COUNCIL LEADERSHIP \$7.9 MILLION, 0% OF M&S FUNDS

8 Pension and Group Health Insurance Services: \$3.7 million, self-funded

Providing pension and group health insurance support for ministers and church employees.

7 General Council Leadership and Governance: \$4.2 million, funded from investment and other income

Providing, supporting, and enabling denominational and identity connections across the church through the role of the General Council Office, including the General Council and the Executive of the General Council.

FUNDING PRIORITY WORK \$9 MILLION, 24% OF M&S FUNDS

6 Conference Leadership: \$4.4 million, 12% of M&S funds

Funding to support Conference staff as they provide leadership and resources to presbyteries, ministry personnel, and local ministries. Each Conference is a vital expression of the work of today's church as it becomes the church of the future.

5 Support to Local Ministries: \$4.6 million, 12% of M&S funds

Providing Mission Support Grants to congregations that need short-term operating support as they grow or transition in ministry. Supplying core operational funding where required, providing loans and capital funding, and sharing resources and expertise with local ministries to address important issues.

FORECASTED 2011 MISSION AND SERVICE (\$37.4 MILLION)

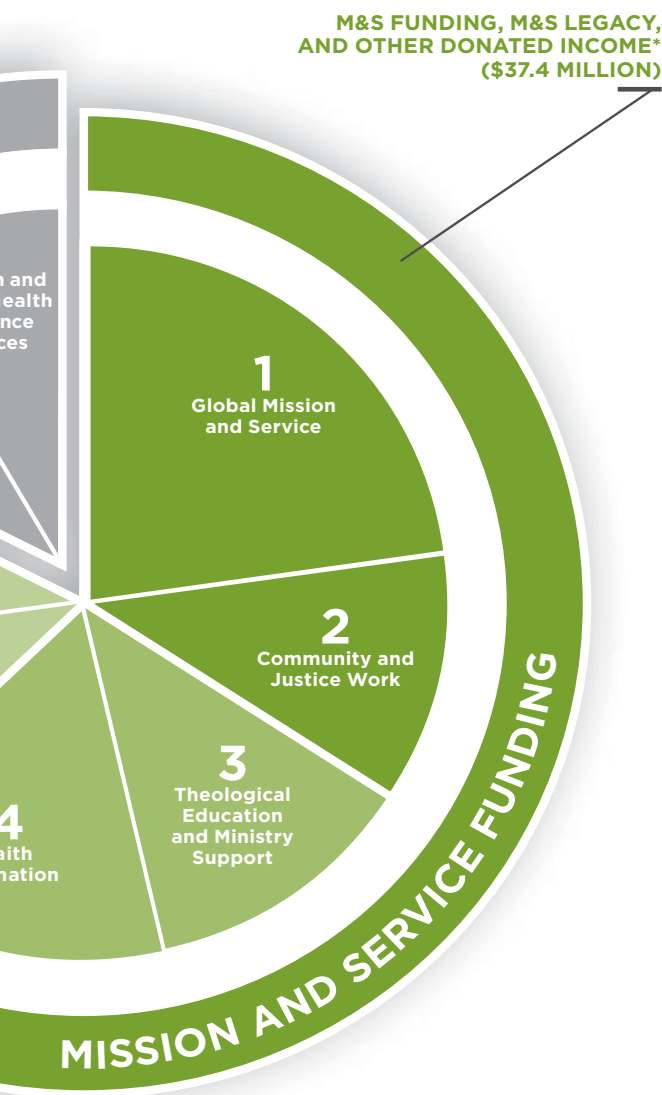


Mission and Service partner CESE supports a woman's clothing co-operative in Salvador, Brazil.

MISSION AND SERVICE AT A GLANCE

Service Programs

MISSION AND SERVICE EXPENDITURES



JUSTICE, WITNESS, AND RIGHT RELATIONS \$15.4 MILLION, 41% OF M&S FUNDS

1 Global Mission and Service: \$10.5 million, 28% of M&S funds

Acting for peace and justice by providing core operational and emergency funding to Mission and Service partners around the world to build their capacity and ability to carry out God's mission in their communities. This work is undertaken in cooperation with a range of global partners in the regions of Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean and Latin America.

2 Community and Justice Work: \$4.9 million, 13% of M&S funds

Supporting community and justice ministries, partnering to engage marginalized communities, and seeking right relationships across Canada. This includes the caring work of hospital and university chaplains, the Aboriginal Healing Fund, programs related to Indigenous justice and right relations, and support for Canadian ecumenical partners.

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP \$13 MILLION, 35% OF M&S FUNDS

3 Theological Education and Ministry Support: \$5.5 million, 15% of M&S funds

Educating and equipping our leaders for the church that we are becoming. Education for a range of ministries, including funding for theological schools, training for lay leadership, educating ordained and diaconal clergy, and providing student education bursaries. Providing ongoing support to ministers and congregations in pastoral relations.

4 Faith Formation: \$7.5 million, 20% of M&S funds

Forming the whole people of God and developing leadership for broader ministry. This area includes work in ministries related to children, youth and young adults, Aboriginal peoples, French, stewardship, and intercultural and diverse ministries.

The inner pie chart shows where the money is spent. The outer ring shows where the funding for this work comes from.

*Your M&S donation is combined with additional donated funds, including the Morrison Bequest fund, Emergency Fund donations, grants from trusts and endowments, designated gifts, investment income, and government co-financing.

Board and Policy Training

This is the final article in a series provided by Toronto Conference to help the church move toward compliance with the customer service standards mandated by the Government of Ontario.

The Government of Ontario requires every congregation to have a customer service policy and provide appropriate training for staff and volunteers before January 2012. The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005 (AODA) states that you must “train staff, volunteers, and any other people who are involved in developing your policies, practices and procedures on the topics included in the customer service standard.” Most policy development in local congregations is the responsibility of the Board, Council or Session. This means that Board/Council/Session members require training, even if they have no direct involvement in providing services to the general public. If they direct, monitor or evaluate policies on how goods or services are provided, it is important that they understand the AODA. It would be most helpful for these people to be trained before they write the policy.

Training for policy-makers must include:

- A review of the purposes of the Act and requirements of the regulation
- How to interact and communicate with persons with various types of disabilities
- How to interact with persons who use assistive devices, a support person or a support animal
- How to use equipment or devices available on the premises or provided by the person with the disability
- What to do if a person with a particular disability is having difficulty accessing the services provided by the congregation.

If policy-makers do not understand the Act and know what training is required, they will be ineffective in creating policies that maintain the dignity, independence, integration and equality of opportunity for people with disabilities.



When developing policies, practices and procedures, it is good to walk through the process a person with a disability might use when accessing staff or your building. You may have developed wonderful policies, but the practice of enacting them can be altogether different. For instance, if you have automatic doors, are they timed slow enough to allow a person with a walker to pass safely through them? If you have a doorbell so that someone with a mobility disability can alert staff to their presence in order to assist them, is it located in a place they can easily access? If you have an elevator to allow people of all abilities to gather in the church basement for a meal, are the tables high enough to allow a wheelchair to fit beneath? It is not enough to simply write policies. You must also prepare practices and procedures to accompany them, and ensure that they are practical and efficient. You might want to think about who is at the table when you make these policies. At the very least, consult with some of your congregation or community members who use your space to identify the challenges they encounter.

Every time a policy comes before the governing body of your congregation, the AODA requirements need to be part of the conversation. When creating policy, ask yourself:

- Does the policy we are implementing meet the requirements of the AODA?
- Is it welcoming?
- Is it just?

Accessibility standards are the guidelines organizations must follow to identify, remove and prevent barriers to accessibility. They require reasonable effort to ensure that everyone has access to the services we provide.

Congregations The Wider Church



Judy Wells, centre, gets a new look to make a difference.

Photo by Ian Chandler.

A Close Shave Helps Horn of Africa Appeal

By Sheila Cockburn

Rev. Bill Wells and his wife, Judy, served in four United Church Conferences – Manitoba, London, Bay of Quinte, and finally Toronto – before Bill passed away in 2005. Important to both of them was social justice. Judy continues to be involved with church and community issues such as the environment, the Stephen Lewis Foundation and poverty, and now has stepped forward to raise money for the Horn of Africa relief fund by volunteering for a head shave and a hairdo dyed purple.

Brought up in Newfoundland, the eldest daughter of Rev. R. B. Green, a minister who was not backward about coming forward (he later taught at Queen's Theological College), Judy was taught to stay "somewhat within the box."

Now, as a grandmother of five, she has put aside all restraint and does whatever is needed to help the world. The public shaving was performed on the labyrinth outside of Jubilee United Church, Don Mills, on Sept. 20. The effort has already raised close to \$6,000 and more arrives each day.

One of her favourite hymns from *More Voices* is "Go Make a Difference."



Classical
Organ Centre

Your church and home organ specialist

712891 Middletownline Rd
Norwich, ON N0J 1P0
519-879-9779
www.classicalorgan.ca
info@classicalorgan.ca

We offer full service & factory warranties

CONTENT
The organ that plays digitally recorded real organ pipes, built for homes and churches.



Former Vision Keeper Mourned

By Linda Parsons

It is with deep sadness that I am informing you of Sandi Hill's passing. Some of you might have heard that she passed away on Aug. 8, 2011, in her 50th year. She is survived by her son, Jay Zimmerman.

Sandi worked at the Conference office as the vision keeper for the Toronto Conference Aboriginal Solidarity Sharing Circle for three years. A former theological student at the Francis Sandy Centre, Sandi also played an important role in the Sisters in Spirit Campaign. She was a member of the HIV/AIDS Educational delegation to Zambia. A number of us have maintained close relationship with Sandi, and during her recent struggles with cancer were fortunate to have journeyed with her.



Sandi Hill (l) with Linda Parsons.

Photo by Joanna Parsons.

In mid-September, Eleanor Scarlett and I organized a celebration of Sandi's life. Held at the Conference office, the format of the gathering was sharing our stories and experiences of Sandi followed by a potluck supper. The celebration included people from the Conference, General Council and people who had heard Sandi speak at various events.

A. BETH MOORE, B.A., LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR AND NOTARY PUBLIC

Legal services for individuals, churches, businesses & corporations
Corporate/Commercial, Real Estate, Wills and Estates

2600 Danforth Ave. (at Main St.) TEL: 416 699-9829
Toronto, Ontario, M4C 1L3
Email: bmoore@abmoorelaw.com FAX: 416 699-8905

www.abmoorelaw.com

Musical events at Metropolitan United Church.
For all events, contact Patricia Wright, minister of music, Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen St. E., Toronto. Call 416-363-0331 ext. 26 or write patricia.w@metunited.org.

Thursdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. “Noon at Met” features free concerts. See www.metunited.org.

Friday, Nov. 25 - Metropolitan BachFest I - Parts 1-3 of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* At 7:30 p.m. with the Metropolitan Bach Choir, soloists and orchestra. Admission: \$30 BachFest pass (four concerts) for \$80. Call 416-363-0331 ext. 51.

Sunday, Dec. 4 - Carols United at 2 p.m. Sing favourite carols with the Metropolitan Silver Band and organ. Free admission; donations to Metropolitan's Community Services Ministry.

Sunday, Dec. 18 - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at 7 p.m. with the Metropolitan Choirs, Patricia Wright and Sarah Svendsen, organists. Freewill offering.

Emmanuel Con Ed Events for Fall 2011 and Winter 2012

For further information look online at www.emmanuel.utoronto.ca/coned.htm or contact Betsy Anderson at 416-813-4096 or betsy.anderson@utoronto.ca. There is a 15% congregational discount for two or more participating members and a 15% discount for an individual attending two or more events in the year.

Media and Muslims with Raheel Raza Nov. 19, 2011, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Emmanuel College. Workshop fee: \$30. RSVP by Nov. 12, 2011.

Communicating Hope: Reflection and Photography at Emmanuel College with Richard Choe Monthly Monday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m., January–May 2012 at Emmanuel College. Workshop fee: \$200. Registration deadline: Jan. 20, 2012.

End of Life Decisions: Medical Ethics and Hospital Chaplaincy with Abdulaziz Sachedina Wednesdays from Jan. 11– Feb. 8, 2012, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Emmanuel College. Fee \$300 (\$100 for a second person who registers with you), students and seniors \$150. Registration deadline: Jan. 4, 2012.

Amman Message: Pluralism and Authority in Islam with Nevin Reda and Azeezah Kanji Jan. 14, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Emmanuel College. Fee: \$25, RSVP by Jan. 6.

Art as a Form of Spiritual Expression with Vivianne LaRiviere Jan. 20-21, 2012, at Emmanuel College. Workshop Fee: \$175. Registration deadline: Jan. 12, 2012.

Accessibility Fund Established

The executive of Toronto Conference has established an accessibility fund to assist congregations and other ministries to become compliant with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Throughout 2011, *Insight* has been running articles designed to help congregations become compliant with this Ontario government requirement.

Customer service policies and training must be in place by Jan. 1, 2012. However, the long-term requirements of the bill will make all public venues accessible. This includes churches. Dollar-for-dollar matching grants of up to \$1,000 will help ministries to do smaller items such as providing signage, hearing devices, etc. Larger projects will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$5,000.

Money for this fund comes from under-spending of the Conference's budget in 2009 and 2010 plus unspent money from the communication technology fund, which closed Sept. 30.

The accessibility fund became active Oct. 1 and will remain open until the funds are exhausted. Find information at www.torontoconference.ca. Click on “Resources” and then go to “Funding and Grants.”

Insight

Volume 39, No. 6

Publisher: Toronto Conference

Editor: David Allen, Executive Secretary

Layout and Design: Carol J. Anderson

Insight is copyrighted by Toronto Conference. For permission to reprint articles, contact the editor.

Send submissions to dallen@united-church.ca

Insight will next appear in January. Deadline for the January issue is November 25.

Conference website: www.torontoconference.ca