

The United Church in Meadowood - UCiM Men's Group
Annual Report 2017

2016 & 2017 Chair: Douglas Purdey
Vice Chair: Jim Smith
Treasurer and Minutes Recorder: Don Thorpe
Council Rep: Algernon Karim
Mother's Day Tea Co-Chair: Ken Irvine

Friends; let me start by saying, "That WE serve our community, both within and outside our United Church, with love and pride, by the Grace of God, and with the friendship and leadership of Jesus Christ our Lord and shepherd."

WE serve and enjoy home-made, planned or themed dinners monthly, every 4th Thursday of the month, in our MacAskill Room Library, where the duties and dishes are shared by ALL. WE invite our "cooks" (and spouses) in our church, to prepare for our men, delicious quality and creative meals. WE have social time with snacks at 5:30, followed by Grace and dinner at 6:00 pm.

WE have been known to visit about all sorts of topics over dinner; sports, travel, popular current events, sometimes unpopular items in our news, and also our careers past and present. At 7:00 pm. we refer to the news involving our United Church in Meadowood, plus our greater community, and discuss how the UCiM Men's Group can assist them.

Over the past two years, on many occasions, we host Guest Speakers, that cover a variety of topics, such as Heart and Stroke Awareness, Prostate Cancer prevention, the future of the Assiniboine Park, the instruction and use of the Emergency AED Unit at UCiM, by **Dr. Rudy Ramchandrar** and myself, and enjoyed local speakers such as **John Hindle**, and **Rev. Gordon Taylor** and their personal stories of life experiences. One month, WE hosted and invited the whole congregation, to listen to **Col. Gary Solar**, the President of the Manitoba Intrepid Society. He gave a presentation on "A Man called Intrepid" our past Winnipegger, **Sir William Stevenson**, famous for his career in being a Master Spy and code breaker, and helping to end WWII.

Our **UCiM Men's Group** is famous for its Annual Mother's Day Tea, which creates a significant amount of revenue for the discussed and planned Special Projects within the United Church in Meadowood. WE are extremely grateful for the many volunteers, the **UCW**, and especially **Ken and Karen Irvine, and Don and Jean Thorpe**, for their leadership, and the participants that make this event so much fun, so colorful, so successful, an annual tradition for many families within South St. Vital. It is an important asset to our Church's future plans. WE are currently raising funds to replace the outdoor sign in front of our building, with a modern and safer electronic version.

Our **UCiM Men's Group**, have always come out to support the **UCW** in various joint functions. We assist at Funerals at UCiM, ushering folks, setting up tables and chairs, parking management, and clean up duties. Sadly, we sometimes know the person being honored, from within our Church community. WE helped at the UCW "Boot Sale", which is a "tailgate party" where one sells their old items from your home and garage, in our UCiM parking lot, as a Church fundraiser.

Our **UCiM Men's Group**, have always assisted and served **West Broadway Community Ministry**. An annual tradition that feeds, men, women, and children, needing assistance during winter, started by **Gordon Stimpson**, many years back. WE finance, prepare, and serve a Hot Chilli Lunch every winter for West Broadway folks, about 120 people, and arranging for kind donations from our neighbourhood **Sobeys and Extra Foods**. WE also financed and collected over 40 pairs of mitts for men this winter, with special thanks to **Jim and Debbie Smith**.

Our many participants claim the **UCiM Men's Group** experiences are very enjoyable and meaningful, as they witness how WE laugh, learn, work, and serve each other, through our Church and our community.

WE invite all men in our UCiM congregation to join us for food and fellowship monthly, and service to UCiM, and our greater Winnipeg community. Many Thanks to the Men's Group Executive and ALL regulars!

Enjoy what we have; Share what you can; and Always Remember; that YOU are not alone!

Thanks be to God.

May Your 2018, Be Better than 2017!
Doug Purdey
Chair of UCiM Men's Group
2016-2017