

"You will be my witnesses"

**O praise His Name
forevermore**

**UNION
CHURCH**

**annual
report
2023**



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Alan Law
Rosanna Chan
Jane Arnett
John Li
Jasmine Ng

DEACONS

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Kenneth Morrison
Alexander Mak
Malama Piliae
Shlivya Dhavale
Joshua Ng
Wanda Yuen
Grace Siu
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William Kuan (Vice Chair, Transition and Young Adults)
George Ding (Honorary Treasurer)
Jonathan Ah-weng (Honorary Secretary and Sunday School)
Emilie Banfield (Communications)
Po Cheung (Worship)
Shaun Dove (Transition - Security)
Ester Chung (Children)
Cecilia Lee (Youth)
Ricky Lai (Transition - Facilities Management)
Susan King (Filipino Ministry)
Stephen Shum (Missions)
Ellie Pang (Creativity and Women’s Ministry)

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Senior Pastor's Message

by Rev. Dr. Michele Bland

Our theme verse for 2023 was taken from Isaiah 43:18-19 NRSV

“Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

We started the year maintaining Covid restrictions which after three years were relaxed on March 1st and in the Fall we moved into our new facility on September 17th. What an exceptional year it has been!

First, I would like to extend my thanks. I would like to thank our BUFF Team - Building Union for the Future. Union Church is so blessed to have committed and talented resources to extend leadership throughout this redevelopment. I am also grateful for our Transition Team who remained hands on throughout the year to move us into the new facilities. Thank you.

It has been a pleasure to work closely with the Trustees, Committee of Management and Deacons. Thank you to John Nicholls, Michael Birley and Terri Appel for your leadership and support - so grateful for your partnership. As a team we have been intentional to work together and maintain communication channels. Throughout the year we have participated in 4 retreats which involved prayer, team building, oversight on policies such as weddings, funerals, Cafe Ministry etc. As leaders we also confirmed our vision statement,



“Building a home in Christ to seek, love and serve God and our neighbours.” And we solidified our core values - that is, as a Church we are Christ Centred, Welcoming, Building Community, Living Missionally, and Growing in Unity. Additionally, members of these teams are actively and regularly involved as liaisons with the various ministries of Union Church. So grateful for your partnership and your commitment and dedication.

- The word NEW truly summarises most of what happened in the latter part of the year. There were:
- New believers, new members, and the newly baptised
- New Ministries: Mentoring, Tweens, Restored Lives, Faith Driven Entrepreneurs
- New Alpha: three Alphas were offered simultaneously - in person, Alpha online for women, Chinese Alpha
- New Vibe: exciting new video content for Instagram and Facebook
- New Staff: Hilary joined as Choir Director in July; Teddy joined in July for

Digital Ministry; Joshua in October for Contemporary Worship; Eric became our Ministry Event Coordinator in October; Dorothy joined to help our Children's Ministry team in October; and more part-time custodians were added.

Additionally, we waited for the visa for our new Director of Youth - AJ Orniás

- New Stephen Leaders: Deidre Chan and Melody Landes were trained as Stephen Leaders which enabled us to launch training for new Stephen Ministers – cohort 3
- New Facilities: to decorate, acclimatise to, manage. Consideration given to the car park, hosting NGOs, external events and much more
- New ways to operate: we have onsite facility managers and new operating procedures
- New Cafe Ministry: we have been actively processing for a year with an external vendor
- New to offering Youth Ministry without a staff member: I am so grateful for the faithful youth volunteers on Friday nights - Wanda Yuen, Dale Weathington, Charles Caldwell, Cecilia Lee, Kathy Foley and Teresa Fox, and Sunday School teacher, Karen Au
- New to weddings and funerals: three funerals, four weddings
- New Committee: the Property Committee chaired by Michael Birley
- New joiners to worship and ministries - including a growing Choir
- New space for our growing Filipino ministry - conferences, classes.

On top of all this newness and in keeping with one of our core values, Welcoming, we hosted 67 events this fall that involved catering - we hosted lunches with our ministry partners, small groups,

newcomers, classes, and the list goes on.

As a church we have remained intentional in prayer – weekly, we continued with Tuesday morning online prayer and Friday morning Deacons' prayer; monthly, Wednesday night prayer, and Sunday onsite prayer at 22A Kennedy Road. Additionally, leading up to the move we produced a booklet called "*On the Move*" where we provided daily prayers for intentional strategic prayer for the month of August/Sept. We also provided an Advent booklet with daily devotions written by members of our congregation.

This year, I personally enjoyed facilitating GriefShare in January and a Lenten Lunch Bible study. With the relaxing of restrictions, we were able to host the Marriage Course in May - thank you Patrick Wilson, Jane Arnett and Ann Nacson; the Deja New fundraiser - the selling of lightly used clothing for Family in Need (FIN) - thank you, Tess Lyons; Kindness Walks - thank you, Cecilia Lee and family; and we hosted two Welcome lunches.

I am so grateful for our staff team - they have adjusted, adapted, created, implemented, prayed, supported, facilitated and worked tirelessly to serve our Lord and the mission of the church. Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication.

We farewelled youth intern Annie Strydom - we are grateful for her leadership; Forrest Morr, our choir director of 20 years and Juliana Rotmeyer our Director of Creativity and Women's Ministry who relocated to New Zealand. In so many ways it has been an incredible year.

What a joy and privilege to be in our new facility at 22A Kennedy Road - and such an honour to dedicate our new facility to

Senior's Pastor Message

the Lord with a Thanksgiving service in November. This service was celebrated with many clergy, family and friends - a reminder of what we can accomplish when we all work together for His glory and His purposes.

As we enter this new season - we are in a new neighbourhood with a tremendous amount of new possibilities. As I think of the coming year, I am excited to explore the new ways we can reach out and be His witnesses to a world in need!.

Blessings as we partner together
- Pastor Michele



Deacons' Court Report

by Terri Appel, Clerk

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. ~2 Chronicles 16:9

Praise the Lord; we are back at 22A Kennedy Road! Although we spent much of 2023 at Dah Sing Financial Centre, in September we made our way to the new 22A, full of gratitude and joyful anticipation of what the Lord would be doing there in our midst.

We have many things to reflect upon, and be grateful for, from this last year at Union Church, and on the Deacons' Court, as we seek to embrace and action our new church vision: **Building a home in Christ to seek, love and serve God and our neighbours.** The Deacons' Court membership has been consistent throughout 2023; with Pastor Michele leading the charge, we have deacons Alexander Mak, Eric Fung, Grace Siu, Joshua Ng, Ken Morrison, Malama Piliae, Shilvya Dhavhale, Terri Appel and Wanda Yuen. This year we have invited and will welcome two new members to the Deacons' Court at the AGM.

As the Deacons' Court met and prayed throughout the year a few themes have resonated with us: the need to put on new spiritual glasses from the Holy Spirit that we might gain a deeper spiritual perspective on our church life and new ministry opportunities; recognising that to abide in Christ means trusting that God will move in every situation to meet our needs and we can rest confidently and peacefully in Him; and that the mark of a true Christian is love. This love is witnessed

in the way we love God, obeying and acting accordingly from His perspectives as seen in the Bible, and how we love others. These things set us apart as Christ's disciples, in a world that needs to know our Saviour and Lord.

Aligned with these themes, we have been active in encouraging deepened relationships through flourishing ministries like the Women's and Creativity ministries, as well as increased outreach activities by a few of our small groups and the Filipino Ministry. In areas of growing ministries, Men's Ministry, Young Adults and Faith in the Marketplace have experienced significant growth, each birthing new activities and outreach into our broader community. Men's Ministry enjoyed another well subscribed retreat where a number of non-Union participants joined through invitation by Union men. Young Adults launched a successful Mentoring programme at Union this year, linking many members in fruitful mentoring relationships. Faith in the Marketplace ministry linked with other churches in Hong Kong to provide various conferences, training and panel discussions addressing outreach and evangelism ministries in our workplaces, creating spaces for participants to learn about these ministry opportunities. Finally, in our continued provision of Alpha, and with the organic growth of the new Chinese Alpha course - we have seen, and many Deacons are participating in, this new and rapidly growing ministry path for our Church. All of these demonstrate the themes of deepening spiritual perspectives through our ministries' growth, with practical

opportunities to build and serve God's Kingdom, as we are steeped in our love for Christ and others.

Deacons have been active in both identifying and raising up ministry leaders. This year, after much discernment and many discussions within the Deacons' Court, and with the Joint Leaders during our retreats, we opened new positions, one of those being the Director of Digital Ministry. This position was established to serve our online congregation through various digital platforms and short videos which encapsulate key messages and themes from our Sunday sermons and mid-week ministry events. The quality of the video productions and viewer responses has been very promising. We have learned a lot over the last 8 months about this area and have discovered that we are well-suited with this new delivery mechanism. It has opened up an entirely new level of congregants and engagement for us, one that can expand our outreach far beyond the four walls of the physical church.

Deacons were active in securing two other key positions for our Worship ministry. First the new Choir Director, Hilary Law, who has blessed our 9:45am Traditional service with superb choral arrangements this year. Hilary had large shoes to fill after the departure of our long-serving, beloved Choir Director, Forrest Morr, who retired to the USA in June. Hilary rose to the occasion brilliantly - bringing a depth of musical skill, talent and knowledge that resulted in our choir moving from strength to strength. A number of Deacons were also instrumental in securing an Assistant Director of Worship, Joshua Cheang, for a season, to support the 11:15am Contemporary service worship teams and the choir through

musical accompaniment during rehearsals. Deacons feel it is important to raise up leaders from within our church family. We praise the Lord that Dan Tupps, Director of Young Adults and Men's Ministry, has felt the call to ordination! Dan has been pivotal to discipleship growth within his current ministry areas. Deacons have encouraged and walked alongside Dan for the last few years, encouraging his gifts. Dan is now proceeding through an ordination process, under the guidance of Pastor Michele and a few deacons, as well as with outside clergy on his review panel. We envision that the full process will be complete after summer 2024 and that Dan will move forward as an ordained Associate Pastor.

The Deacons continue to pray daily with our "Change me, Use me" prayer messages; to pray as a group at our weekly and monthly meetings; we also host monthly prayer for the congregation on Wednesday evenings; and, as the need arises, pray after each of our Sunday services. In terms of future focus, and through prayer, we are discerning opportunities for broadening our outreach into the next level of Alpha for discipleship and prayer training; encouraging membership and volunteer subscriptions; identifying adequate staff to support our ministry areas - ensuring excellence in their provision; examining viable and accessible outreach populations that we can serve through dedicated ministries; and, looking at a potential Wan Chai drop-in ministry centre to continue our presence and outreach into areas of Wan Chai with great needs.

All of these potential areas should be marked by the love of Christ and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, as only through God's provision can they happen and

progress well. As Deacons, we are seeking unity of heart and mind, making collective decisions after careful and prayerful consideration of many perspectives, the most important one being our Lord's. We remain steadfast in this, and as Deacons, will continue to pray, discern, collaborate with, challenge ourselves, wrestle in faith, love through Christ and serve Union Church and the broader Hong Kong Christian church community in unity with our fellow leaders. The weight of the call on Union Church in this new season at 22A is not lost on any of us, as we seek to welcome and love all those in need of Christ's gifts of redemption and reconciliation, through our collective and dedicated ministries.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. ~1 Corinthians 3:6-9



Committee of Management Report

by Michael Birley, Chairman

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness ~Isaiah 43:19

I make no apology for quoting these verses again. Our Church is a wonderful work in progress. As each month in 2023 has unveiled itself, as we have met each Sunday and at other events during the week, I see new things happening at and with Union Church. What an epic period it has been for us all.

Over the last 12 months, the Committee of Management has continued to meet on a monthly basis by Zoom – we have found this to be the preferred medium leading to a continued high level of attendance and participation especially for those with younger families.

During the year, the members of the Committee of Management (COM) have been:

Michael Birley

Chairman; Stewardship; Property

William Kuan

Deputy Chair; Transition Committee – Chair; and Young Adults

George Ding

Hon Treasurer

Jonathan Au-weng

Hon Secretary and Sunday School

Emilie Banfield

Communications

Po Cheung

Worship

Shaun Dove

Transition Committee - Security

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Ester Chung

Children

Cecilia Lee

Youth

Ricky Lai

Transition Committee - Facilities Management / BUFF

Susan King

Filipino Ministry

Stephen Shum

Missions

Elizabeth Pang

Creativity Ministry and Women's Ministry

On behalf of us all I would like to thank all the members of your Committee of Management for their enthusiastic participation, the energy they have brought to not only our monthly meetings but equally importantly the ministries and areas of church activity to which they are committed.

At our last AGM, Elizabeth Pang and Stephen Shum were voted onto the Committee of Management. They have both jumped in at the deep end and immersed themselves in our meetings and the ministries they have taken on, Stephen in Missions and Elizabeth in the Creativity and Women's ministries. During the year, Ester Chung stepped down as the family decided to spend more time in the US. We thank her for her three years of service.

Whilst our Church and ministry activities at 248 Queen's Road East continued during much of 2023, at 22A Kennedy we were heavily engaged on fitting out of our new church premises. William Kuan, Ricky Lai

with Shaun Dove as part of the Transition Committee together with Jessey Xiong, Bronwyn Alexander and Pastor Michele worked with the existing BUFF team who oversaw this work. This was very much a ‘hands on’ process involving many, many site visits and meetings. We were eventually able to settle on a moving date of 12 September 2023 with our first services at the new 22A on Sunday, 17 September. And what an opening Sunday it was! The culmination of a six-year construction period and a further four years prior to that in the active approval and planning stages. We should not forget that the project was first presented back in the 1990s. Apart from all the paid consultants and advisors, the BUFF team comprising Kay Ian Ng, David Runciman, Rosanna Chan, Patrick Wilson, John Li, and Maurice O’Brien has given thousands of hours of their professional time and expertise. The outflow of that is evident to all when you walk through our new premises.

We also have to give thanks to our partners in the project, K+K Architects, the Henderson Group - Developer, Wecon – Main Contractor, IBI – Interior fit out, CBRE Project Managers, Savills Facilities Management, PTML – Electrical Consultants, among others.

I would also like to record thanks for all the prayers of the faithful – your prayers – that have surrounded, protected, encouraged and undergirded the entire project and all those involved.

Last year we talked about ‘Agile Church’. It would seem that Pastor Michele and the Union Church staff have continued to contribute in that manner. Adapting to a post-Covid Hong Kong and the preparation

for 22A and the start up period have produced lots of new opportunities and the commensurate number of challenges to go with them. Throughout the year our Senior Pastor has been involved with every aspect of our church life and none moreso than in the ability to do more with less, to improvise, to encourage new people to step forward and to do this whilst running all the Sunday and weekly worship activities very ably supported by Dan Tupps. I have valued her calm and attentive presence in our meetings and in all my other interactions with her. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes that the Church staff look after, our accounting team, our custodial staff and Bronwyn! Oh, how we will miss her and all that she has brought to us and her position on the staff at Union – but also a very active member of the congregation for 30 years – the greetings on Sunday mornings and the support for so many different areas of ministry and day to day activity.

We have several senior positions that remain unfilled and the staff and worship teams have ably covered any gaps that might have appeared. This coming year I hope that we will be able to address this shortfall, continue to build our capability as a church for the future and that God will provide us with the right people at the right time.

Being able to meet in person again without any restrictions has been wonderful as has being able to welcome old friends back to 22A and celebrate our new premises with a Thanksgiving service in late November. It is also very encouraging to see new faces at our services as evidenced every Sunday. Our attendance is beginning to rise again and Alpha courses in English and

Committee of Management

in Mandarin that are being run as well as other outreach initiatives are bringing new people into our community. Our Digital Ministry, streamed services and online presence have continued to expand our reach. Teddy's wonderful video clips and Rob, Betty and the AV team's enhancement of our presentation and sound in church and online are much appreciated.

Pastor Fe and our Filipino Ministry have added so much to us as a church. This vibrant community leads by example in their worship, fellowship and stewardship.

When I stand back and look at all the activities Union Church is now engaged in I give thanks. I am, however, very aware that with our move into 22A, our Church has only just crossed the starting line. We have a wonderful facility and I believe that we are called to respond to this blessing by building our capabilities and continuing to pray, looking upwards and reaching outwards. In 2024 let's do our utmost to honour our blessings and consider where each of us might be able to contribute to

the outflow that we earnestly hope will come from our Church on the Hill – Union Church at 22A Kennedy Road.

I talked about a bit of apprehension at the challenges of moving – that is now successfully (very successfully) behind us and we are looking to the future and still I hold these words very close:

'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?'

I believe our prayers 'Lord, change Union Church – use Union Church' are being answered and I continue to pray 'Lord, change me and use me.' Perhaps we might soon add 'Lord, change Hong Kong and use Hong Kong.' Let's play our part in that as we bring the Lord's love and salvation to a city in need.

With blessings and thanks,

Michael Birley, Chairman
Committee of Management



Trustees' Report

by John Nicholls, Chairman

The Trustees for 2023 were unchanged from 2022 and comprised Prof John Nicholls (Chairman); Ms. Jane Arnett; Dr. Rosanna Chan; Mr. Alan Law; Mr. John Li; Dr. Henry Ngan, and Jasmine Ng.

Each year we remind the congregation that the Trustees are the body corporate of Union Church in which we hold the church's property in trust for the purpose of a church for the public worship of God and for preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the tenets of Protestant Christians.

As stated in the Ordinance, the Trustees are responsible for providing a residence for the Minister. In the design of the residential units, it was initially proposed that 2 of these units could be used as a manse. However, the reality of converting two of these units into one was subsequently found to be architecturally unsuitable, and it was decided that the current format of the Minister (Senior Pastor) living in a residential accommodation would continue. It is fortunate that we were able to secure accommodation for the Minister close to the Church, and this cost is recompensed by the rent generated from the previously delegated new apartments.

From the congregation's perspective, the Trustees' main function is to oversee the management of investments Union Church has been fortunate enough to possess from the good stewardship of our predecessors.

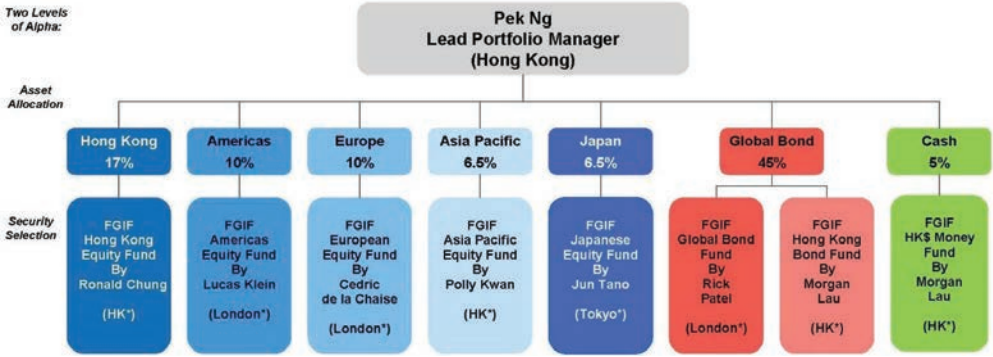
The Church has two main investment

funds: the General Fund and the Three-Quarter Century Fund. There are no restrictions on the use of the former; however, there are on the latter. The Three-Quarter Century Fund was established shortly after the First World War, about 75 years after the foundation of the Church, and any income or capital can be used only for specified expenses and outgoings connected with maintenance of the Church's Ministry. In effect, the Three-Quarter Century Fund is the investment set aside to ensure that we can continue to employ a Minister should we ever be unable to pay our way. As 2023 has been a challenging year for Church finances with redevelopment and societal changes, the Trustees allocated \$700,000 from this fund in accordance with the terms and conditions of the use of the fund.

The Trustees are regularly asked at the AGM why we do not move funds between the General Fund and the Three-Quarter Century Fund, and the simple reason is that following a court ruling the regulations do not allow us to do so, and we would have to apply to the courts to alter this.

As documented in the last Trustee report at the end of 2022 the General Fund was valued at \$10,494,211 and the Three-Quarter Century fund at \$8,973,445. Despite the relaxation of many activities after the pandemic, 2023 has still been a challenging one for the financial markets, with the effect of the pandemic and conflict in Europe causing a significant drop in assets. Our holdings have been invested in Fidelity Global Investment (FGI) Fund

Structure of the FGIF Stable Growth Fund



– Stable Growth Fund (Class A), managed by FIL Limited. The FGI Fund is authorised by the Securities & Futures Commission and complies with Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority regulations and also meets the Trustees' criteria by having an asset mix of about 50% equities, 45% bonds and 5% cash.

As of 30 November 2023 the balance in the General Fund was \$10,251,747 and The Three-Quarter Century Fund was \$8,399,683.

One concern that regularly arises from the congregation, and which was detailed in last year's report, is how our funds are invested. The Trustees do not have personal control over the ethical nature of the companies in which the church's funds are invested so they are not able, for example, to screen out gaming or other stocks they consider inappropriate for the church to hold. However, the Trustees note that Fidelity is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, a voluntary framework for incorporating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues into investment

decision-making and ownership practices. In addition, Fidelity is a signatory to the UK Stewardship Code and the Japanese Stewardship Code.

In overseeing the management of the Church's investments during 2023, the Trustees summarise the situation as follows:

- (a) the aim of the Church's investments is steady growth and income with low to medium risk
- (b) the funds are managed by FIL Investment Management (Hong Kong) Ltd, and
- (c) the funds are invested 50% in equities in five regional (worldwide) pooled funds, 45% in bonds in two regional (worldwide) pooled funds and 5% cash.

The Chater (Union Church) Endowment Fund is an endowment fund that is too small to be managed alongside the General and Three-Quarter Century Funds. Invested in Hang Seng H Share Exchange Traded Funds (with a small amount of cash), the Fund was valued at \$47,488 at the end of 2023, representing a 15% loss year on year. To comply with the charitable status

for the purposes of taxation, after an audit by the Inland Revenue Department, a small disbursement was made from the Fund's small income to the Committee of Management which, in accordance with the Fund's Deed, is responsible for its use. In the redevelopment of the Church the Trustees have been represented in redevelopment discussions (through the BUFF steering committee as reported elsewhere) by Rosanna Chan, Jane Arnett and John Li with professional advisors when required on matters relating to tax, land matters, charitable status, agreements with the Developer and landlord of temporary premises, insurance and the reversion clause set out in the Church's Ordinance. With the completion of the renovation, both Rosanna Chan and Jasmine Ng are now representatives on the Property Committee.

Now that we have completed the long-awaited move back to 22A Kennedy Road, the Trustees will be focusing on how to operationalise the logistics of dealing with the income generated from the Church's residential units at 22A so that there can be an equitable balance of long-term investment as well as contribution to the outreach ministry of the Church. On the advice of tax and legal advisors, the Trustees have agreed to maintain control of the property up to the time when long leases for residential apartments are sold to third parties to pay the Developer's costs, profit and fees.

The Trustees remain confident in the proposed redevelopment, which means that the congregation of 2023 are stewards of a Church that, for many future generations, will be financially secure, and can remain independent.



Prayer

by Wanda Yuen

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

~Romans 12:12

Praying continues to play an important part in Union Church. In prayers we pour out ourselves to God, we supplicate for others, we open a window for God to speak to us, and we also grant ourselves a chance to see how God moves hearts and circumstances.

Before moving back to 22A, we visited the construction site to pray for the completion of the building, for provision and protection from God, and for health and safety of the people who built this physical home for us. We prayed we would never lose sight of the call to use this building as a hub to send out servants to bring the Good News, and light and hope to those living in darkness. Another monthly prayer meeting was held every Wednesday at Dah Sing Financial Centre, our temporary meeting place. Special kudos to our Filipino sisters, who despite their packed Bible study, fellowship and service schedule on Sundays – the only day of the week they are off from work – they still squeezed in time to join us every month to pray at 22A.

Deacons continued to meet every Friday morning at 7:45am online to pray for our church, our Ministry Partners, for Hong Kong and the whole world. We are mindful to pray for Pastor Michele, the staff team and all volunteers, as “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few”. In prayers we show solidarity, we ask God to protect them from attack by the evil one, for health, strength, and joy in serving Him. God answered our prayers for new staff

leaders to direct the choir, youth, digital ministry, and contemporary worship. I personally witnessed the long wait for the right youth ministry staff leader. The ‘vacant’ time was not easy, yet fellow adult leaders managed to make time amidst our different work and travelling schedules, taking turns to lead Friday Youth, or bring our youth to the citywide youth gathering, Resound.

WhatsApp has been a vital tool in prayers too. It allows brothers and sisters in different countries and time zones to stay connected, to care for one another or to be taken care of, through prayer. Even when we can’t chime in with words, an emoji helps to show solidarity. Through messages, we track how God has answered our prayers. In praying we also fellowship – we share joys, grievances, setbacks, milestones, wisdom. The bonding is beautiful.

Let us not neglect praying together.



Educate

Young Adults by Dan Tupps

YOUNG ADULTS

Our Young Adults ministry had some exciting developments this past year. First, we changed our regular meeting time from Wednesday evenings to Sundays at 12:30pm, following the 11:15 service. This resulted in higher attendance on average and more consistency by our regular group members. We also had two young adults become members, one was baptised (the first public baptism at the new 22A building!) and two started singing in the choir! It's always great to see our young adults become more involved in the overall life of the church. And, although we had to say goodbye to some who were leaving Hong Kong, we had six new young adults who started regularly attending this past year.

We had various studies this past year during our Sunday afternoon sessions together, including the following:

- Transforming Our Work and Workplaces
- Parables of Jesus during Lent
- Ephesians
- Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith
- Union Church's Core Values

Not only did we study and learn together but we had fun activities building community and developing closer relationships. These included numerous lunch fellowships after our Sunday studies, Pizza and Games days, a hiking and bowling outing in Ma Wan followed by dinner at Dan and Geeta Tupps' home, a cycling outing in the Autumn and ending

the year with a Christmas lunch and gift exchange party. We also served together on several Kindness Walks to bless those in our Wan Chai neighbourhood.

We are thankful for the group of young adults God has brought to our church, that they are growing closer in their relationship with God and one another and are using their gifts to serve both the church and community.



Men's Ministry by Dan Tupps

MEN'S MINISTRY

Our men had great times of learning and fellowship this past year. Key highlights are:

Men's Studies

We had four different studies for our men this past year. In the Spring, our men studied the Parables of Jesus during Lent using the ONE2023 study material. During the Summer, there were two studies on The Sermon on the Mount and Abraham using BSF's WordGo app. In the Autumn, the men studied Joshua, also using the WordGo app. Special thanks to Ken Morrison, Michel Demuyck and Andrew Lo for their efforts in helping to lead these studies.

Men's Dinner (27 March)

We had nearly 40 men come out for our first Men's Dinner on site at Union Church in over 3 years! Thankful for all the men who came, which included several new faces. Steve Gaultney was our guest speaker who shared about the importance of mentoring. It was a great time of fellowship, worship and encouragement.

Men's Walk to Emmaus Retreat (20-23 April)

This was the first WTE retreat in 4 years! There were 5 pilgrims from Union, along with several others who were serving on the team. It was a great time of learning and growing together with other men both from Union and throughout the city.

Men's Fellowship of Hong Kong

Our Union Men continued to join this monthly citywide luncheon, hosted by our own Michael Birley at the Hong Kong Club. There were two special men's and women's lunches at the beginning and end of the year. Always a great opportunity to interact with other Christian brothers throughout the city for fellowship and encouragement.

Wings & Fries with the Guys

This continued to be a great connecting opportunity for our men for fellowship and relationship building throughout the year. Thankfully we were able to find a new venue after moving to our new 22A building – The Big Bite near HKU station.

We thank God for the renewal of some ministries this past year, new men becoming involved and connected, new relationships being formed and a deepening hunger for studying God's word together.



Faith in the Marketplace

by Vivien Teu

FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE

In 2023, our Faith in the Marketplace Ministry team organised a four-part series “Transforming Our Work and Workplaces”, in collaboration with Jimmy Pak and Alistair Chiu of Institute of Marketplace Transformation (HKIMT). Each session combined a presentation by Alistair based on materials from Dr. Paul Steven’s “The Kingdom of God in Working Clothes”, and by guest speakers who are workplace leaders from our community.

In the inaugural session on “Whose Work Matters to God”, we explored God at work and the intrinsic value of our work to serve God’s purposes as stewards of the earth and our talents. Charles Chadwell was the guest speaker who shared how his faith empowered him to deal with challenges in the workplace. In the second session on “Working in a Tough and Uncertain World”, Andrew Chua – back visiting in Hong Kong with his wife, Debbi – shared on faith values in the marketplace and understanding the reality of a world that doesn’t follow God. He offered practical encouragement to persevere. With the third and fourth sessions, “What’s So Good about Working” and “Taking Your Soul to Work”, Aaron Tan first shared testimonies of his faith and work journey, reframing work as mission. In the final session, Cecilia Lee shared how she has taken her faith and Spirit of Christ to her work every day, bearing witness to God’s hand on her projects and God’s love in her work community.

The successful four-part series culminated in a final panel discussion held in July on

“Our Faith at Work – Putting it into Practice”. The session was moderated by Eunice Seng, along with Charles Caldwell, Cecilia Lee, Joshua Ng and Alistair Chiu as speakers. It was a deeper dive taking the learnings from the earlier sessions to consider how we can take practical steps together in our communities towards serving God through our work and stewardship.

In November, we held Faith Driven Entrepreneurs (FDE) 101. As we start 2024, we are launching a cohort on a FDE foundation study which we hope would be the first of many, and also to connect with marketplace ministries of other churches in the FDE leaders group and FDI community in Hong Kong.



Mentoring by Dan Tupps

MENTORING

We praise God for the launch of our mentoring programme last year. Mentoring was the topic for the Men's Retreat in late 2022, and the momentum carried over into early 2023. After a training was offered for a few more men and women in January, we had a 3-part sermon series in February to share the vision and importance of mentoring to the broader congregation. Sermons were given by Pastor Michele, Charles Caldwell and Dan Tupps. During the final sermon, an opportunity was given for people to express interest in either being a mentor or finding a mentor, or both. Over 50 people expressed initial interest!

After much time and effort was spent on matching potential mentors and mentees, we had a celebration lunch in April to officially launch our programme. Another training for mentors was offered a couple of weeks later in May with around 20 mentors receiving the training. In total, we had about 20 mentoring partnerships throughout the year with around 40 people involved in the mentoring programme.

After a busy summer of post-Covid travel and transitioning to the new 22A building in the Autumn, we reconvened our mentors and mentees for a special dinner in December – Mentoring + Well-being. Charles Caldwell arranged for a guest speaker, Chloe Wong, to share on the "State of Well-being in Hong Kong" and strategies people can use for self-care, and how mentoring can help. There were 30 people who attended the dinner, including

some who were interested in learning more about Union Church's Mentoring programme.

Charles also created an anonymous survey to get the pulse of how mentoring was going for both mentors and mentees, and the results were shared at the dinner. There were 18 responses, and the results were very encouraging:

- 94% reported gaining value from the mentoring programme to a Great or Very Great Extent
- 76% said that the mentoring programme has helped with their relationship with God to a Great or Very Great Extent
- 50% met with their mentor/mentee at least 4 times in the first six months since the programme was launched and another 13% met 5 times or more!

We thank God for all our mentors and mentees, and how this programme has impacted all those involved.



Women's Ministry by Juliana Rotmeyer

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

It is a gift to witness alongside others + I believe that is a huge part of the Women's Ministry journey at Union Church. We witness together, walk together, pray together + share the good news. This year began with unexpected variables that could have derailed our momentum, but God was in ALL the details + carried us together right through making a way where there seemed none. It was a blessing to continue leading the women of Union Church this year. Together we witnessed as God continued to grow + strengthen HIS ministry HIS way.

The retreats are always a highlight for me + one of my favourite ways of doing church outside of church. This year we were blessed with two amazing opportunities to gather together, intentionally stepping closer to the Lord. Mid-year we launched a new one-day women's retreat **Encountering God** locally in Hong Kong which created space for women to join for much needed in-person fellowship + worship together. Nearly 40 women set off to Hoi An, Vietnam for **Flowers in Winter** at the 8th Annual Ladies Retreat in which we witnessed God bloom in unexpected places of our hearts.

Throughout the year the Ladies groups met weekly to share + discuss several studies. This year we had the joy of reading **Sensible Shoes, Falling Into Grace, The Pilgrim's Progress, Praying With Eyes Wide Open + All My Knotted Up Life**. With each book we witnessed a

journey of faith while we took our own journey witnessing to each other how God was touching our lives.

Together we gathered **@thetable** for two beautiful Ladies Dinners **manHUE + New Wine** with speakers Jasmine Ng + Susanne Salg. These evenings provide opportunities to witness heartfelt testimony, soak in worship + meet new friends. For the first time at Union Church, we ran a special online **Ladies Alpha** this year. It was absolutely beautiful to witness before our eyes as women took life changing steps spiritually opening that door, stepping onto the Christian path.

As our year finished sadly I stepped down as Director of Women's Ministry. Indeed, it is a gift to be a witness. The beauty is, I now get to witness God's fingerprints moving among all the women that I walked alongside as they step into planning, creating + gathering in new ways. God bless each of you! I leave with you with the words of Peter from Ephesians 4:1-3 *I want you to get out there + walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel.... pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences + quick at mending fences.*



Creativity Ministry by Juliana Rotmeyer

CREATIVITY MINISTRY

What I love about creativity is witnessing how people who think they are not called to be creative suddenly bloom + creativity is released in unexpected ways. Together this year we witnessed this creative birthing many times within our group through painting, words, photographs, prints + even sharing the good news! Creativity is such a unique way of stepping closer + deeper in faith with the Lord. This is for sure a heart language, one that we are ALL called to speak. I have loved witnessing the growth + maturing of this group as we continued to journey together learning how to see God in new ways + experience HIM in the everyday by faith.

It was a blessing to lead the **stART Retreat, Awake My Soul** again this year. This is one of my favourite gatherings where we journey for 2 days with each other as the Lord leads us to HIM. The results are undeniably a witness of HIS fingerprints among us that quite often leave many of us in tears of awe at HIS handiwork within us.

The journey deepened this year through several studies together including **Discovering God Through the Arts, Art + Faith, Seeing the Psalms, Art for the Soul + Walking On Water**. Each author had such a unique way of connecting Art + Faith. We learned, were stretched, experienced + grew with HIM, our great Creator of all that is. Just like any creative group, we did have the joy of making, even breaking things + rebuilding

them. It was in witnessing brokenness that we also witnessed God remake, renew + rebuild us.

As a church we witnessed God's fingerprints in a visual exhibition **Evidence of Things Not Seen**, we experienced God gathering us as **HIS Vessels**. In 2023, we were blessed with something new, a place to awake our souls + be HIS creative vessels sharing, witnessing + opening the eyes of our hearts to HIS gifts.

Joshua 3 reminds us that there is a time for everything. It was clear this was our time to unite + step on a creative path together. I hope that as I step down as the director of the Creativity Ministry, this group will follow HIS lead, share + nurture each other. May you not be like sheep with no shepherd, but rather look to the Lord who is our Shepherd, our Creator. The seeds have been planted. The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Matthew 9:38 May you go out among the church beyond the church walls + bloom!



...the world is full of things that are beautiful and good, but we often don't see them because we are too busy looking at our own problems.

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Seeing the Psalms

a creative journey depicting the Psalms through various art forms.

Tuesdays starting 18 July, 6 weeks online

day after day: the man-trip road! face him in it

14 GOS holds the high center, in secret sets the world's mess right, He decides what is right for us earthlings, gives people their just deserts.

14 They care nothing for what you think, if you get in their way, they blow you off. They live (they think) a charmed life. "We can't go wrong. This is our lucky year!"

14 They carry a mouthful of huzzes, their tongues spit venom like adders,

Youth by Annie Strydom

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday Youth

We kicked off our Sunday School programmes for this year, diving deep into prayer with our Origins prayer series! We looked at what prayer is, why it is important and how God invites us into a conversation with Him, not just to bring a list of demands to Him. After we got a good foundation in prayer, we moved on to learn more about God's character by looking into one of the most quoted verses in scripture, We looked at the original Hebrew words describing God's character and explained what they really mean. We then looked at whether that aligns with how we see God in our lives, and if not - how to bring it back to Truth! Over the summer, we looked at the ancient Jewish prayer, the Shema, which is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Again, we took a deep dive and into the original language, what this prayer meant to the people living in the wilderness, and how that could translate to our lives. I had such a joy teaching in Sunday school during this year, and it was one of the highlights of my week to really search through the scriptures and see all the depth of beauty it holds.

Friday Youth

We started off our year still meeting at Fini's for dinner before heading back to Dah sing Financial Centre for our regularly scheduled programme! In March, we could transition back to eating at church, which was such a blessing as we fellowshiped and ate together. We continued with our rotation of small groups, a fun/game night, watching an episode of The Chosen

and then a more specific message. Our discussions ranged from the persecuted church, laying down your rights, guarding your heart, identity, and so much more! We had many fun nights too. We also continued with our Kindness Walks every month, where youth joined Kathy Foley, who helped lead the walks through Wan Chai to bless and love our neighbours!

Missions Trip

This year, we had the amazing opportunity to return to Kids International Ministries (KIM), located in Antipolo, Philippines. We took a team of 39 people: our Youth, their parents and some of their siblings! One of our main goals going on the trip was to help plaster and get the walls of two classrooms painted and ready for their expanding high school. We also plastered the hallway and the stairs. We also worked in small groups, getting involved in different projects eg one group painted the Children's Home nursery while another planted grass for their outdoor field! Our team was also able to serve daily at the feeding programme. KIM collaborates with local pastors and their communities to provide food for the poorest of the poor. Seeing two-year-olds with no shoes walking up in the blazing sun with a big bowl to collect the food and bring it back to their families was such a perspective shift for all of us. The amount of joy that they had in their challenges was amazing. I was SO proud of my Youth for jumping in right away and playing with these kids and not thinking or hesitating to let them jump on their backs and give them a ride, play ball

Educate

games, chase them, to braid their hair. Joy and love transcend cultural and economic differences, and it was beautiful to see that!

Three of our older youth girls who are interested in becoming doctors / nurses were able to help with KIM's pregnancy clinic, where they provide fantastic pre- and postnatal care to women and girls who are pregnant and do not have access to health care. The girls assisted in three births! Talk about a life-changing experience for them, and they still talk about it all the time!

I was so thankful that Union Youth were able to reconnect with one of our main passions and values, which is local and international missions! This was also the first mission trip that a lot of our new youth had ever been on, and that was personally so special for me to witness. Thank you to all our leaders who also came with us and helped this trip happen!

Confirmation

Four of our youth progressed through our Confirmation mentoring programme, and three of them were baptised! Congratulations again to Paxton Eyres, Vincent Yee, Zoe and Zac Tan. Watching their love and understanding of the Lord grow has been so beautiful! I pray they will continue to walk in the way of the Lord and that their love for Him will deepen more and more.

Thank you!

A massive thank you to all of our leaders who diligently helped and served every week. To Kathy, Dale, Wanda, Teresa, Cecilia, and Charles, I could not have done this without you. Thank you so much for how you love our youth, champion them to know God more and live your lives as an example to all of our youth. You are AMAZING! It was my joy to be able to come back to Union Youth and serve as the youth leader for this past year. I will treasure this time forever.



Children's Ministry by Jacklien Lee

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our vision for the Union Church Children's Ministry is to raise all of our children for Christ's Kingdom. It can only be realised by staying faithful to God's Word. The Bible says to *"train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."* Proverbs 22:6

We continued to remain faithful to Jesus and in His calling, to raise our children in God's way and for His Kingdom. We shared God's Word and teachings with the children through various means: in-person Sunday School, the livestream of Kingdom Kids Sunday Edition, Vacation Bible Sunday School, community outreaches, the Children's Christmas Musical about the nativity, to name a few.

In addition, we continued to serve Jesus faithfully through many of our faithful volunteers. They consist of parents, brothers and sisters in Christ, and Youth, who faithfully dedicated and invested their time in sharing God's Word with the children. With God's grace and wisdom, our volunteers faithfully showed by example on how it is to love God and obey His teachings through their commitment to Sunday School.

We are especially thankful to God that finally we were able to move to our permanent location here at 22A Kennedy Road. Thanks and glory be to God for His faithfulness and provision, and the many wonderful memories created and lives changed, whilst we were at Dah Sing Financial Centre (formerly known as

Sunlight Tower). We are also grateful for the faithful volunteers who helped us move to the new and awesome children's space.

We are excited to continue to serve God and the community, and be a good steward through this new and improved space that God has blessed us with. We look forward to sharing the love and joy of Christ with the families and children that come through our door. We pray that many more people will get to know Jesus and have Him as their Lord and Saviour.

We are thankful for the continued support of all our families and our church community towards Children's Ministry. It is our hope and prayer that God will continue to equip all of us and use us mightily to raise all of our children for God's Kingdom.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." ~Romans 8:28







God is ir



- Class Rules**
- 1. Be Kind - Ephesians 4:32
 - 2. Be Respectful - Proverbs 15:1
 - 3. Be Honest - Ephesians 4:25
 - 4. Be Obedient - Col. 3:20
 - 5. Have a Good Attitude - Philippians 2:14



Digital Ministry by Teddy Packham

DIGITAL MINISTRY

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” ~Matthew 28:19

This has been an exciting year for Union Church and it’s been a privilege to capture on camera the move into 22A.

Over the last year there have been many highlights in the Digital Ministry. Filming the ‘On the Move’ series with many

congregants and witnessing their joy when experiencing the new building was a real treat. Then editing the videos in a way to help others experience the growing excitement over the move was great fun.

Even with four services each Sunday, each Sunday was a totally different experience. Sundays exhibited different seasons and every one had their own unique special feeling. I tried to capture this each Sunday with a social media reel as a way to highlight the way people interact and socialise within our church. It’s also an effective tool to reach people not in these



kinds of communities as they can see how powerful community can be!

Our social media numbers are growing across the board! The reach of our content on Facebook and Instagram has gone up by 20% and 60%, respectively, since 1 July 2023. We've also experienced almost a doubling in social media page visits. Our YouTube page has also gained over 100 more subscribers in this time!

AI might seem a little bit daunting, but did you know this year we posted our first Union Church AI image? During the Stewardship series with all the popcorn there was a story posted on social media that was an AI generated image! Using the prompt 'popcorn' and 'church' it was very interesting to see the results and will be interesting to see how ministries across the world use this new technology!

A favourite thing of mine is the moment of asking people questions while filming a

testimony. While the cameras are rolling and before the edit must be done, for me personally it is a very meaningful time to find out about others' journeys of faith. A highlight for this over the past year was Kathy and Kenneth's testimonials for the Thanksgiving Service in November. Hearing their journeys of faith, how Union Church has been an integral part of their faith journey, their delight at the new building and the journey the church went through get there. We spent a long time talking and it was very difficult to trim such great stories to only 3 minutes long!

As Wanda and Kenneth mentioned last year, this ministry needs your help! There are so many events all year at Union Church and a great way to spread the gospel is to share, share, share! Using your own social media share special events, Sunday services, Alpha etc. You never know where a seed may be planted for someone's journey of faith.



Filipino Ministry by Pastor Fe Warlyn Pepito

FILIPINO MINISTRY

As I reflect on the 2023 ministry the challenge of integration and adjustment were indeed challenging but it was worth it. And it's true that there's no one, no place and no situation beyond the reach of God's grace.

We began 2023 with prayer and fasting. It is a powerful practice that transcends boundaries of faith and culture, uniting each one in moments of reflection, gratitude, and connection with the Lord. And it enabled us to seek His guidance and strength so that we are inspired to navigate the challenges the New Year brings.

On 1 May, a momentous event happened – the baptism of Joy Porras. It was a time of victory as we officially welcomed her to God's family.

On 22 June, we had our Leaders' Teambuilding Retreat with the aim of being a more united fellowship. In addition to worship, we read Psalms 145, and shared a reflection. Then we went bowling, enabling us to release pent-up emotions and move forward with the ministry God has in store for us.

On 1 July we celebrated the anniversary of the formation of the Saturday Group. Our initial plan was to gather outdoors but as they say, expect the unexpected. To my surprise, the group I was meeting had their own group as well. This unexpected turn of events allowed me to witness the love of Jesus being shared among more than

20 people on the beach. Twelve of them accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour. They experienced a profound sense of belonging when I took them to the church in Wan Chai. As domestic helpers, they never anticipated being welcomed into our lovely community with such open arms and acceptance.

Just prior to moving from Dah Sing Financial Centre to 22A, we had a wall of gratitude in the old premises. The ladies were enthusiastic to write their thanksgivings on the wall, as they had experienced great things from the Lord. Having said all that, the theme for July revolved around focusing on forgiveness, challenges, rebuke, rejoicing, peace, and blessings. October highlights were Missions Month with outreach to unreached people groups, and the Women Empowerment conference with inspiring speakers and leaders from CAMACOP in the Philippines. Throughout the year, we were used by God to share Christ to people, to minister to ladies who got terminated, and provide accommodation for ladies who were terminated, waiting for their employment visas, for female missionaries, couples who were speakers, and one of our church congregants whose flat was partially destroyed by heavy rains.

In November, we celebrated Filipino Thanksgiving with the theme PAPURI sa Dios, meaning Praises to our God. It truly exemplified that God is deserving of all our praise even in challenging circumstances. He has the power to transform every mess, and turn every challenge to a powerful testimony where His name is glorified. To God be the glory.



FILIPINO MINISTRY
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
God's Image Bearer
21, 22, 23 OCTOBER
SAT & MON • 10AM - 5PM
SUNDAY • 2-5PM



Evangelise

Alpha by Patrick Wilson and Stephen Shum, Alpha Course Administrators

We ran The Marriage Course from April to June and were delighted with the newly updated version of the content. This time, we had 7 couples attend – the most we could accommodate in Wan Chai. Once again, we were able to turn our Fellowship Hall into a ‘romantic restaurant’ for the evening allowing couples to enjoy their ‘date night out’. The course ended with a celebration dinner for all the couples.

In September 2023, we moved into our new church building at 22A Kennedy Road and within weeks had started two ‘in person’ Alpha courses. One was in English and the other in Chinese - a first for Union Church! The latter came about because a group of Mainland Chinese working in Hong Kong was invited to join Alpha and we were able to run the course in Mandarin as the new Chinese Alpha film

series had just become available.

Introductory Dinners for both courses were held in our new Fellowship Hall and it was wonderful to have enough space to cater for everyone who attended. Once again, we returned to Tao Fong Shan for our Away Days and experienced the Holy Spirit moving on this mountaintop. After the courses had finished, one of the English speaking groups continued to meet for a follow up Bible study on Zoom.

We would like to thank all the hosts and helpers who helped to run The Marriage Course and both in-person Alpha courses last year. Finally, we thank God for his faithfulness and give Him the glory for all He has done and continues to do through these ministries!



Missions by the Missions Committee

Overseas Outreach Opportunities

With the loosening of travel restrictions following the pandemic, our church family had opportunities to re-engage with some of our overseas missions' partners. Trips were organised in cooperation with some of our overseas partners including:

1. Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) – Over a long weekend in June (22-25 June) a group of Union members went to Sarawak in the region of East Malaysia along with brothers and sisters from other churches in support of FCBH. This vision served to highlight the important work of FCBH among the Iban and Bidayuh tribal groups. The group spent one night living in a longhouse (communal living quarters) with Iban brothers and sisters, who have been listening to God's word in their own language through the proclaimers for more than a year. The visiting group marvelled at the transformational testimonies that were given by the members of the longhouse community. The next day they attended a special church service, cultural sharing sessions and meal with the Bidayuh tribe in the mountaintops surrounding Kuching. There, once again, the testimonies as the group visited homes and listened in the church were moving and the transformational power of God's Word was evident to everyone. We praise God for the work of our ministry partner FCBH and look forward to hosting more vision trips in the future as part of their "You are Chosen 2033" campaign.

2. Kids International Ministries (KIM) - After not being able to go on mission trips for three years, it was a thrill for a team of Union Church youth, parents and siblings to go back to KIM at Easter 2023. The group spent their time helping with the Children's Home, building classrooms for KIM's new secondary school, and serving food as part of KIM's outreach to the surrounding communities. The church attempted to take a second Family Missions Trip to KIM in October 2023 but the school holidays did not align sufficiently. We look forward to making the trip at Easter Break 2024.

Please look out for other overseas mission trip opportunities being supported by Union Church Missions including an FCBH vision trip in June to Manokwari, the capital of the Indonesian province West Papua, and other trips in the autumn to ministry partners in Cambodia and possibly Mongolia. An Easter Vacation Bible School trip for Union families to the Philippines with partner ministry International Care Ministries is in the planning stages for Easter 2025.

Local Outreach Opportunities

During the pandemic the Missions Committee, limited by travel restrictions found many new opportunities for our congregation to serve in our Hong Kong community. In 2023 we continued in many of the same activities as we also moved back into our new church home at 22A Kennedy Road.

1. Kindness Walks – this ministry of Union Church families, youth and children focuses on dispensing God’s grace and love to the poor and underserved population in our Wan Chai community. The team members follow a few paths through the heart of Wan Chai, handing out water, bananas, masks, food vouchers, and more to street cleaners, the homeless, small kiosk owners in the market and others who are living on the margin. Union Church is committed to supporting this outreach as one of the enduring legacies of our temporary relocation to Wan Chai.
2. Home of Loving Faithfulness (HOLF) – the Church organised two visits this past year to HOLF which is a Christian home for people with severe disabilities. In June, Union Church supported a shadow puppet show and enjoyed the performance together with the residents of HOLF. In December, our Children’s Ministry visited HOLF in a resounding encore of the annual Christmas pageant programme followed by fellowship with the residents.
3. Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association – after a long hiatus where prison visits were effectively banned by the Correctional Services Department during the pandemic, Union Church’s prison ministry volunteers in partnership with Kun Sun resumed face-to-face bible study services at Stanley Prison. Many of the pre-Covid Category B inmates that were attending our services had either been transferred or released upon our return. Stanley Prison has since been transformed into a “Remand” prison for inmates awaiting trial or sentencing. As a result of the long backlog on court cases still lingering from the pandemic, several of these men have been waiting as long as 2 years for their cases to be heard. Through our services, we can encourage and give these men the assurances of God’s love, grace and forgiveness and hope for their futures by their faith in Jesus Christ.
4. BLESS THE CITY - In our annual event held every Autumn, Union Church Missions sends out volunteers from our congregation to serve alongside our local Ministry Partners. This year our teams of volunteers participated in service opportunities at St. Barnabas’ Society and Home (supporting the poor and homeless), Chung King Ministry (supporting the elderly and poor, and some refugees), HOLF among many others.

Missions Sundays and Christmas Fair

Our new church home at 22A Kennedy Rod has been a welcome addition and meeting place for our congregation to become better acquainted with the Ministry Partners that our church has engaged with; Union Missions continued our monthly Missions Sunday programme in 2023. We invited both domestic and international ministry partners to come to our services to explain how they are delivering their God anointed services, to inform our church congregation on how Union Church has partnered with them to make a difference, and to encourage our Church family to get more involved. The annual Christmas Fair at end November was a huge hit in our expanded Fellowship Hall at 22A. Over 15 tables representing our Partners and Friends from Hong Kong and overseas displayed wonderful handmade product. It was another excellent opportunity to catch the vision for mission.

Volunteering

UC Missions is always looking to help plug our church congregation into ministries that they may have a passion for. Members have an amazing array of gifts and talents that many of our Ministry Partners would be thrilled to benefit from. Please contact us at uc-missions@unionchurchhk.org to get connected.

Team Changes

Our Missions Committee had some changes in 2023. We had to say farewell to our Committee Secretary Kathy Foley who faithfully served for more than a decade as

she and her family relocated to the United States. Kathy's dedication and diligence in not only looking after her assigned partner ministries, but in organising our monthly meetings will be sorely missed! We also welcomed new member Stephen Shum who has become our Committee Chair effective January 2024. We look forward to further growing our team in 2024 in what we hope will be a robust season for engaging our Ministry Partners both in Hong Kong and abroad.



Worship by Dr. Joyce Wu

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
~Ephesians 5:19-20

2023 has been a season of worship, change and new initiatives for the Worship Ministry at Union Church. Praise be to God for His steadfast love and guidance, and thanks to worship team and choir members for their faithful serving and commitment throughout the year!

We farewelled Forrest Morr, our former Director of Choir, with the choir singing and dedicating his favourite hymns at 9:45am services. We were thankful for his leadership over the years. We welcomed our new Director of Choir, Hilary Law, and Assistant Director of Contemporary Worship, Joshua Cheang, to the team. We were also blessed to have singers and instrumentalists joining the worship team and choir throughout the year.

We celebrated the new church building at 22A at our Thanksgiving Service, which featured powerful worship led by worship team and joint choir from the Filipino Ministry and Hop Yat Church Hong Kong Church. We are also thankful for God's provision of the new grand piano and organ, enabling us to create beautiful music to worship and glorify His name at 22A.

The 8:45am service worship team remained strong, featuring a rich and full music ensemble. Thank you for a group of committed singers and players

who faithfully serve our weekly morning worship! For 11:15am contemporary services, the worship team continues to grow in its style and quality with new worship leaders leading the team. Thanks to Eric Fung and Joshua Ng for leading our worship jam sessions in the summer.

For 9:45am worship services, the Union choir remained strong and committed with the addition of new singers. We celebrated Saint Andrew's Sunday with powerful bagpipe music and entered the Advent season with Union's annual Children's Christmas Musical, "Shelter from the Storm", and the choir presenting the Christmas Cantata "The Glory of Christmas" with children and congregation singing. The choir also performed the Cantata at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the city. We concluded the Christmas season with candlelight Christmas Eve services and a joyous Christmas Day service. It was a blessing to have our former Director of Choir, Dr. John Lawton, conducting his favourite piece "*Offertory*" by John Ness Beck at the last service of the year.

Thanks to Rob and Betty Porter and their team for creating a great sound experience for our rehearsals and services. We explored new ways to create the best worship experience possible for our in-person and online worship services at 22A.

We welcome you to join worship team and choir to make music and glorify our Lord together! We look forward to seeing how God continues to lead us in 2024.



Pastoral Care

Stephen Ministry by Tess Lyons

“..equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” ~Ephesians 4:12

Union Church is in its fourth year of the Stephen Ministry, which equips lay congregation members to provide high-quality, confidential, one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult season in life.

2023 numbers:

- 14 caring relationships between a Stephen Minister and care receiver
- 16 active Stephen Ministers
- 50 hours training to become a Stephen Minister
- 2 hours twice a month additional training for Stephen Ministers
- 25 hours of additional training to become a Stephen Leader
- 2 people (Melody Landes and Deirdre Chan) became Stephen Leaders

While several of our Stephen Ministers have left Hong Kong, the Ministry continues to provide Christ-centred care and support to hurting members of Union Church’s congregation and the wider community. As we seek to be the caregiver to those in need, we give thanks and glory to God, our ultimate Care Giver.

Mercy Ministry: FIN - Family In Need by Rev. Dr. Michele Bland

Jesus said, “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” ~Matthew 25: 35-36 NRSV

I am grateful for our Family in Need team (FIN) - Isabel Morrison and Eric Fung. This team walks alongside individuals in our congregation who are struggling. Typically, this is walking alongside asylum seekers. We are grateful for the financial support that is being given to this ministry as it is a non-budgeted item. This support enables people to be helped with basic needs like food and housing and it also helps with practical needs like tutoring, and it makes a huge difference in the lives of those we are walking with - thank you!

We are a called to stand in the gap - thank you - Pastor Michele



Administration

Building Union for the Future by the BUFF Steering Committee

As we started 2023, BUFF knew that this is THE year in which we would be tested. The question was: can BUFF deliver on the new 22A, which has been our vision for more than a decade?

In February, we finally obtained the “Occupational Permit” from the authorities. In short, this is the permit which says our premises meet the regulatory standards so as to be fit for occupation from a buildings regulatory perspective. It does not, however, mean we can move in immediately as our premises were still in “bare-shell” condition, ie without any of the interior fittings and just in bare concrete form.

In March, we started the fitting out process. This would be done by us on our own without the expertise of our developer joint-venture partner, whose obligation was to deliver the bare shell of our premises to us. We had awarded a fit out contractor to do the works. It was intensive. We completed the works at the end of August, leaving about two weeks to rectify defects.

September 10th was our last Sunday service at Dah Sing Financial Centre after. On 911 (September 11th) we started to pack up and we moved to the new 22A on the 12th. Our new sanctuary chairs, which were imported from Europe, were delayed and we began contingency planning for a first service without the chairs. Our chairs arrived just in time for a glorious first Sunday service on September 17th. God was (and is) in control.

Autumn arrived us with two heavy rains. Luckily, our church premises fared well (but not totally), and there are a few defects which BUFF continues to follow up on.

Very importantly, BUFF managed to keep within the budget during project implementation and did not have to ask the congregation for additional funding.

With the long journey from initial redevelopment concept to completion of our new church home now having finished, the BUFF team bids you a fond farewell.

All Praise to God for blessing us with such a wonderful church building! May He be pleased with, glorified and honoured in, the new 22A!



Stewardship by Michael Birley



UNION CHURCH
STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

“Stewardship is Transformational”

“...for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” ~Galatians 6:9

The theme of our Stewardship month in November was “Stewardship is Transformational” and we delighted in our own popcorn machine in Fellowship Hall to remind us of how significant the transformation can be! We are personally transformed through giving and giving facilitates the transformation of others.

The result was a 3% increase in the total commitments, with some 90 individuals pledging a total of \$7,019,148. So compared to last year, the projected giving is slightly more from slightly fewer people! Thank you all for your continued support and to those of you who have pledged for the first time. We have a very solid core.

It is my hope and expectation that we will look back in future years and be able to say that 2024 was when we began to see our numbers pick up again with the increase in attendance that we are already witnessing, and we began to see even more generosity from those giving on a regular basis.

As we have moved into the 22A our expenses have understandably increased – happily by not as much as we budgeted for initially. Now that we are secure in our new premises, we wish to build on the foundations that your Grace of Giving

Stewardship is Transformational



Giving at Union

UNION
CHURCH
佑寧堂



2022 COMMITMENT CARD RESULT

	NO. OF PEOPLE		AMOUNT (HKD)	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
PLEDGE				
NEW	0	2	-	72,000
EXISTING	58	52	3,491,720	3,001,948
	58	54	3,491,720	3,073,948
ONE-OFF				
NEW	1	1	1,200	10,000
EXISTING	22	25	2,224,000	2,883,200
	23	26	2,225,200	2,893,200
FOHKC				
NEW	1	0	2,664	-
EXISTING	10	10	1,083,000	1,052,000
	11	10	1,085,664	1,052,000
GRAND TOTAL	92	90	6,802,584	7,019,148

fundraising contributions laid in 2022. During the Family Meeting in November we discussed the hope that we would be able to cover the church's operating expenses through congregational giving. We are a ways short of that at the moment but it is a good target to aim for.

Good stewardship is not just about money.

Thank you also to all who have given their time and energy whilst serving on Sundays, greeting, in the Sunday School, classes and worship. During the week - Alpha, other ministries, outreaches, trips, care programmes, mentoring and cooking!

We know that this is a new season for Union Church and that will include a new season in our attitude toward and participation in Stewardship. We ask for that renewal in our willingness to be good stewards – after all, Stewardship is Transformational!

Human Resources by Jessey Xiong

GRATEFUL is the word we use for our staff team in 2023. We are grateful for God's provision for a faithful, hard-working, resilient, and capable staff team. We are grateful for the leadership team as well as the congregation who have been caring and supportive to the staff team and continuously praying for them. We are grateful for our staff who worked together to navigate through many challenges including the transition from hybrid mode of operations to full scale in-person operations, then moving from Dah Sing to 22A, through resource constraints and the dramatic enhancement of church programmes as well as increased operating scale and complexity.

Our team had 15 full-time employees and 8 part-time employees, which were around 18.5 full-time equivalents, as of the end of 2023. The team has been diligently working on 9 ministries, wedding and funeral services and non-ministry functions including operations, accounting, communications, administrative and custodial services.

Last year, we bid farewell to our Youth Intern Annie Strydom and our Children's Ministry Assistant, Kristine Ling. Annie is studying in the US while Kristine is now a full-time teacher. They did amazing work at Union Church and we wish them all the best.

Last year, we welcomed a group of talents to join our staff team. Hilary Law, Teddy Packham, Eric Leung, Joshua Cheang and Dorothy Pang joined us as our Choir Director, Director of Digital Ministry, Ministry Event Coordinator, Assistant

Director of Worship and Children's Ministry Assistant, respectively.

Looking ahead, we look forward to continuing to serve the Lord by working faithfully on every function He has called us to work on.

When I think of our team, there is always this song Glorious coming to my mind.
*It's like a symphony, just keep listening
And pretty soon you will start to figure out
your part
Everyone plays a piece, and there are
melodies
In each one of us
Oh, it's glorious*

We ask for wisdom, provision, and grace from the Lord as we continue to build His house in 2024.

Communications by Bronwyn Alexander

*... We will speak the truth in love,
growing in every way more and more
like Christ, who is the head of his
body, the church. ~Ephesians 4:15
NLT*

2023 was an amazing year to work with partners to inform, engage and connect with our people and the city and world. Our partners include Digital Ministry and other ministry leads, the AV team, the admin team and communications professionals in the congregation.

This year was crucial for communicating new opportunities for experiencing church

following the lifting of Covid-related restrictions in March 2023.

As we progressed towards summer, the On The Move campaign informed the congregation of the progress at the 22A construction site and relocation arrangements. Highlights included Teddy Packham's On The Move videos with our people revealing the special spaces awaiting us at 22A. The *On The Move* prayer devotional was written by people involved in the planning and implementation of the new church building, as well as those whose lives have been touched by the years worshipping and serving in Wan Chai. The prayers and devotions are moving and should be in a time capsule to remember and witness the heart of the church in this vital year.

Ending well at Dah Sing Financial Centre and landing well on Kennedy Road were crucial to living out our vision of building a home in Christ to seek, love and serve God and our neighbours, and embodying our core values of being Christ Centred, Building Community, Welcoming, Living Missionally and Growing in Unity. A highlight for many in the year was the Thanksgiving (dedication) Service on 26 November 2023 which featured church leaders from across the city and previous

Union Church pastors. It was marvellous to see the Sanctuary teeming with grateful worshippers.

Engagement with communities inside and outside the church remains strong as ministry leaders encourage and equip their groups. Communication channels such as email marketing, social media, and website demonstrate growth and deepening engagement with open rates, click rates, follows, likes and shares increasing on our platforms. The church newsletter, Acts@22A, continues to attain open rates of 40% and higher, well exceeding industry averages.

My personal favourite was the welcome desk on 18/F in Wan Chai and on the sidewalk on Kennedy Road. Nothing beats face to face communications and seeing your family arrive on a Sunday morning, greeting neighbours who do not yet attend Union Church, welcoming newcomers and introducing them around.

It's been a huge privilege to be a witness to the vision of God at work in Wan Chai and 22A.

Let's give thanks for 2023 – the time the Lord brought us to a broad place; he rescued us because he delighted in us (Psalm 18:19).

Transition Team by William Kuan

The Transition Team was established in June 2022 to facilitate the relocation of the church from Dah Sing Financial Centre to the New 22A.



Administration

2023 was truly a memorable, busy and exciting year for us. Working closely with the BUFF (Building Union for the Future) team and the church operations team, we have successfully (with God's constant coverage) managed the move in September 2023.

From the inception of the Transition Team in mid-2022 to the actual move, we have met every Wednesday to discuss, plan and execute all aspects of the relocation including the appointment of the outsourced Facility Manager, project management, communications, verifying the 'never ending' list of defects, security / safety arrangements and the 'monumental' task of packing up the church. For this, I applaud the team members (Ricky, Jessey, Bronwyn, Shaun, Asli Chan and Pastor Michele) for their undying commitment to this endeavour.

The pinnacle of the work was the 7 days from the last service in Dah Sing held on the 10th of September to the first service in the New 22A on the 17th.

All in all, during these 7 days we moved, 'packed and unpacked' 500+ boxes, 325 sanctuary chairs, 30 tables and numerous pieces (literally hundreds) of furniture and musical instruments over to the new premises. A special mention must be made of Wilson and the custodial team for their heavy lift and excellent work during the relocation, and also Rob and Patrick for their tireless work in setting up the AV, IT, security and door access systems.

It has been a blessing and privilege for the Transition Team to manage this very exciting phase of the project. Lastly, a million thanks to all the volunteers for

their assistance and importantly all credit to God for his ever-present guidance and protection during this period. Amen.

Property Committee by Michael Birley

Following the last AGM and with the move into our new premises at 22A approaching, it was proposed that a Property Committee be established to oversee and manage the church premises including residential units at 22A Kennedy Road. The Committee assumed responsibility for the running of the premises from the BUFF and Transition teams. To ensure an element of continuity both of these teams are represented on the Property Committee. The Committee meets on a monthly basis.

The Committee comprises:

- Committee of Management's representative(s): Michael Birley (Chair), Ricky Lai and William Kuan
- Trustees: Rosanna Chan, Jasmine Ng
- Member of Congregation: Kay Ian Ng
- Hon. Treasurer: George Ding
- Deacons: Ken Morrison
- Senior Pastor: Pastor Michele Bland
- Church Staff Member (with responsibility for Property): Initially Jessey Xiong.

With all the systems and operational challenges of moving into and running a brand new 21st century church facility it was decided to engage the services of Savills to assist us with the facilities management of the church premises. Henderson Leasing has been engaged to provide their expertise to market the 20 apartments that the Church owns.

Treasurer's Report

by George Ding

Financial Highlights

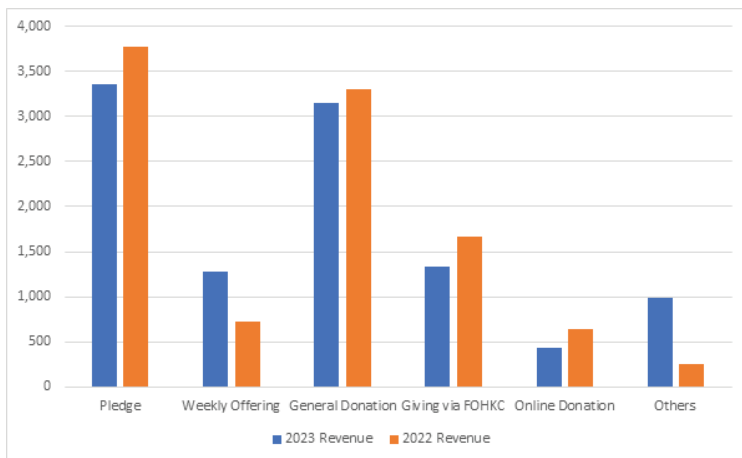
Union Church moved into the new church building at 22A Kennedy Road and held our inaugural Sunday service on 17 September 2023, culminating a thirty-year journey to build the new facility. The General Fund, our main operating fund, recorded a deficit of HK\$2 million, reflecting a \$2.5 million operating deficit partially offset by \$0.5 million in mark-to-market gains from our investment portfolio. We acknowledge recent operating deficits and the need for increased giving to cover high operating costs and to support our vital ministries. Despite the deficit, the net assets of the General Fund stood at a healthy \$76.3 million at the end of 2023, reflecting recorded fixed assets of the new premise and a significant increase of 53% from the end of 2022. The Church remains in a strong financial position as we begin our next chapter in the new building.

Revenue

Thanks to our Lord's abundant blessings and your generosity, we received \$9.5 million in offerings in 2023. Hong Kong's economy began to recover from the impact of the global pandemic and the population recorded an increase in 2023. Despite still significant uncertainties in society, our overall operating revenue increased by a modest 2% compared to the previous year.

The breakdown of General Fund revenue in 2023 and 2022 is as follows (HK\$ in thousands):

Total Revenue: \$ 10,546,515

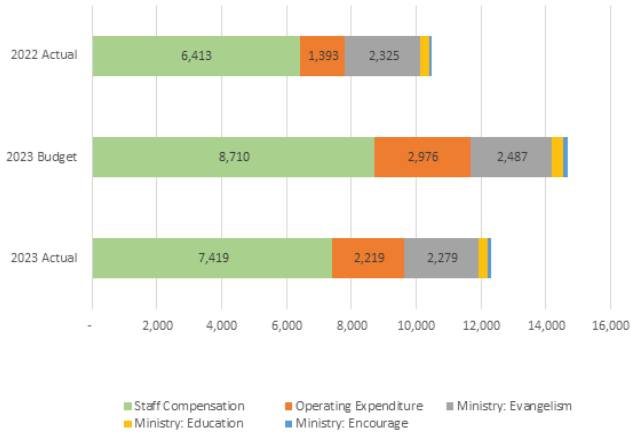


This year's operating expenses (excluding depreciation) recorded an 18% increase from the actual expenses in 2022 but were still 16% lower than the budgeted amount. Staff Compensation and Operating Expenditure contributed 55% and 45% of the increase in expenses, respectively, as a result of new staff recruitment following the end of the

pandemic and higher costs related to operating a larger facility. The expenditure on the ministry of Evangelism decreased by a modest 2% from 2022.

The breakdown of the General Fund operating expenses (excluding depreciation) and comparisons to budget and prior year's actual are as follows (HK\$ in thousands):

Total Operating Expenses: HK\$ 12,324,695



New Premises

The transition to our new 22A facility has been successfully completed, marking a significant milestone for our church. The fit-out and equipment have been recognised under the Church Ministry account as of the end of 2023. The leadership, with a heart full of gratitude, has decided to offer wedding and funeral services on a donation basis, limited to 30 services annually for each category, to serve our community while ensuring sustainability.

The newly established Property Committee has assumed the responsibilities of the BUFF (Building Union for the Future) and Transition committees, overseeing property management and maintenance. Renting out the church-owned apartments and parking spaces are outsourced to Henderson, with four residential units successfully leased by the end of the year.

To optimise our financial resources, the church invested in fixed deposits throughout the year, taking advantage of higher interest rates. The Trustees approved the transfer of \$700,000 from the Three Quarter Century Fund to the General Fund to cover increased operating costs at our new premises. BUFF recorded expenses at \$45,713,100 in 2023. The balance of the Redevelopment Fund stands at \$4,614,506 as of 31 December 2023.

We are grateful for the Lord's guidance and blessing and support of our church community as we embrace the opportunities and challenges ahead in our new premises.

The Year at a Glance

What a significant year in the life of Union Church – all glory to God for the successful completion of the facility at 22A Kennedy Road and the resumption of worship there.

Sermon Series

Sermons Series in 2023 included: Mentoring Matters, A New Kingdom - Lent, Life Changing Power, The One and Only - Attributes of God, Moving 101, Union Church Core Values, Stewardship is Transformational, Advent 2023.

Speakers

Rev. Dr. Michele Bland – 31
Dan Tupps – 12
Charles Caldwell – 1
Chris McKenzie – 1
Rev. Dr. John Snelgrove – 2
Pastor Wee Hian Chua – 2
Pastor Esther Tung – 1
Steve Gaultney – 1
James Tang – 1
Rev. Dr. David Swarr – 1
Clay Jackson – 1
Dr. Peter Lim – 1

There were 4 Radio Broadcast Sundays on RTHK this year, one of which was our Choir's Christmas Cantata.

Baptisms And Membership

Adult Baptisms - 4

Joscelyn Porras
Stephen J. Wilson
Abigail Lee
Ryan Chan

Baby Dedications / Baptisms - 5

Ethan and Dylan Chang
Connor, Elijah and Isaiah Cheng

Youth Confirmations - 4

Paxton Eyres
Zoe Tan (and baptism)
Zac Tan (and baptism)
Vincent Yee (and baptism)

New Members - 14

Joscelyn Porras
Michael Walsh
Irene Hui
George Fung
Jeeyun Kim
Sorena Primrose
Andrew Primrose
Rebecca Ewal
Willy Ewal
Nishchint Chawla
Puja Chawla
Julianna Wang
Ryan Chan
Howard Poon

Church Family Weddings

Malama and Cathy Piliae

Missed But Not Forgotten

Marti Law
and other dear family members and friends of Union people









The Union Church Team



The staff team is grateful to be part of the Union Church family and to have experienced a year as exciting as 2023 with the move back to 22A Kennedy Road. At end-2023, our staff and their positions were as follows:

The Rev. Dr. Michele Bland
Mr. Dan Tupps
Pastor Fe Warlyn Pepito
Dr. Juliana Rotmeyer
Mr. Teddy Packham
Dr. Joyce Wu
Mr. Joshua Cheang
Ms. Hilary Law
Ms. Jacklien Lee
Ms. Jessey Xiong
Ms. Irene Lau
Ms. Bronwyn Alexander
Mr. Eric Leung
Ms. Josephine Lee
Ms. Liza Sumagaysay
Ms. Dorothy Pang
Mr. Wilson Wong
Ms. Fanny Cheng

Senior Pastor
Director of Young Adults and Men's Ministry
Director of Filipino Ministry
Director of Creativity + Women's Ministry
Director of Digital Ministry
Assistant Director of Worship
Assistant Director of Contemporary Worship
Director of Choir
Director of Children's Ministry
Director of Operations
Accountant
Director of Communications
Ministry Event Coordinator
Office Administrator
Graphic Designer
Children's Ministry Assistant
Full-time Janitor
Full-time Janitor

The Church was also blessed during the year by the ministry of Annie Strydom (Youth Intern) and our previous volunteer Choir Director, Forrest Morr. Contractors and consultants greatly assisted the staff team: Rob and Betty Porter and their team members (AV); Patrick Raths (IT) and Asli Chan (Savills Facilities Management).

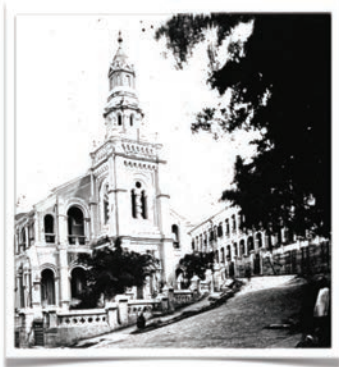
A Brief History

Union Church was founded in 1844 by the Rev. Dr. James Legge, a Scottish member of the London Missionary Society. Then known as Union Chapel, the first building was constructed in 1845 on Hollywood Road. An English service was held in the morning and a Chinese service in the afternoon.

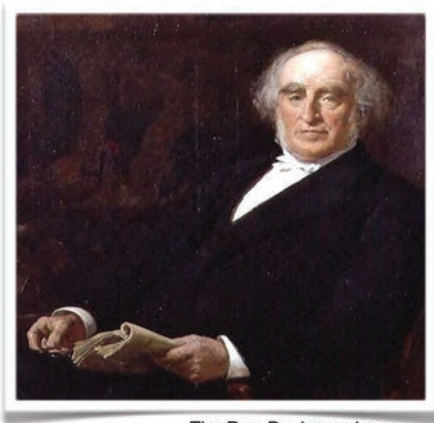
Legge served as Pastor from 1844-1867 and from 1870-1873. He translated the Chinese classics into English and the Bible into Chinese. His translations are used to this day and are still in print. He was a major figure in early Hong Kong and the founder of the very first government school known now as Queen's College.

In 1866, Union Church relocated to a new site on Staunton Street near Hollywood Road and Lyndhurst Terrace. In 1873, Dr. Legge returned to the UK where he became Oxford's first Professor of Chinese.

In 1890, the Church was moved stone by stone to the present Kennedy Road site. Meanwhile the Chinese service became a sister church, Hop Yat, which has produced over 1000 daughter churches. Union's



Union Church on Staunton Street (c.1868)



The Rev. Dr. James Legge

only daughter church is Kowloon Union, established in 1924.

The Japanese occupation of Hong Kong during WWII saw the forced closing of the Church. The events surrounding its total physical destruction remain a mystery. The survivors began fundraising and Fellowship Hall was built in 1949, with the sanctuary completed in 1955. The education annex was built in 1970 and later named after the Rev. Dennis Rogers, perhaps the most significant 20th century Union Church pastor, following his death in 1977.

Union Church is known for its welcoming and diverse multicultural and intergenerational congregation with a vision of building a home in Christ to seek, love and serve God and its neighbours. The Church embraces the core values of being Christ-Centred, Building Community, Welcoming, Living Missionally



First non-royal to be depicted on a HK postage stamp



and Growing in Unity. Union has gained a reputation for launching new ministries in Hong Kong (Alpha and Walk to Emmaus) that have greatly blessed the wider community.

The Rev. Dr. Michele Bland, arriving in 2012, is Union's 22nd senior pastor. In 2020, she became the first female senior pastor at Union. Rev. Dr. Gregory Anderson preceded Pastor Michele as senior pastor (2007-2018) and Rev. Ruth Tablada was Union's 1st pastor to the Filipino congregation (1991-2022).

Three bodies govern the Church: The Deacons' Court, Committee of Management, and Trustees. Union is a charter member of the Hong Kong Christian Council and active in the Network of International Churches.

After 30 years of prayer, planning and implementation, the Church redeveloped the 22A site in collaboration with Henderson Land. The latest generation Union Church building features a beautiful free-standing Sanctuary and a tower comprising a church podium and residential flats.

During six years of construction, the Lord rebuilt the spiritual heart of the church as we worshipped and served in what was previously known as Sunlight Tower, a commercial office building in Wan Chai.

With all the change at Union Church over the years, our purpose remains the same. It was reflected in a document first written by James Legge in 1849:

***“We differ in small matters,
we agree in great realities.
We trust that we are one in
Christ Jesus. We all love Him
who died for us. On the fact
of this great unity, our Union
as a church is based.”
-JAMES LEGGE 1849***

~ Written by Union Church staff, with gratitude to the previous authors of *A Brief History*: Greg Anderson, David Bunton, Brooke Himsworth and Geoff Lovegrove

Acknowledgement

We thank God for the wonderful people who helped put together this Annual Report:

Pastor Michele, the ministry leaders, Deacons, COM members, and Trustees who wrote these reports.

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THANK YOU ALL!





From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting, ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:16 NIV



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