



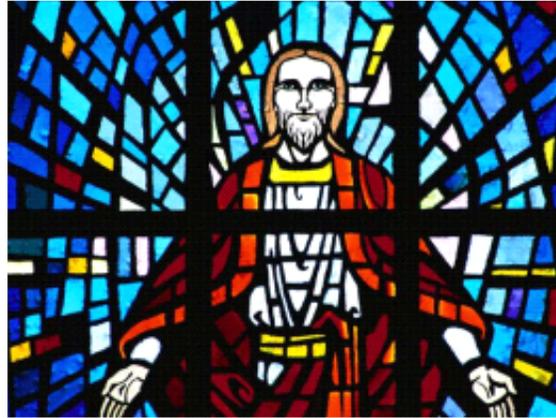
"CHRIST IN THE HOUSE OF MARTHA AND MARY"
To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory
of the Women of Our Church (1992)

Rideau Park United Church Annual Report 2017

2203 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1H 7L9

613-733-3156
rideaupark.ca

In Memoriam



Members, Adherents and Friends of Rideau Park

Edith Lois Bonnar	Cedric (Ted) Thomas Brennand
June Edna Mae Brown	Lisa Ruth Bryden
Claude Roberts Bugslag	Albert Franklyn (Frank) Cooper
Douglas Robert Chappell	Brian Gerald Dundas
Ruth Marie Ebertz	Clifford John Godding
Viola Mary Harasym	David Vernon MacGougan
Rupert Milford McDowell	Lester McWhinnie
Donald Murray Melick	John Malcolm McInnes
Joyce Eileen Munn	Kathleen Isabel Murphy
Allan Robertson	Orest Zenon Roy
Charles (Chuck) Ernest Spicer	Muriel Lillian Spratt
Ross DeWitt Stairs	Mary Gertrude Smith
Joyce Carol Stuart	Barbara Helen Stroulger
Omana Sarah Thoppil	Elizabeth Louise Duggar Udell

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11: 25, 26

In Memoriam	Inside front cover
Contents	3
Leadership at Rideau Park	4
Journey of Faith	5
Mission Statement of Rideau Park United Church	6
In Memoriam Donations	6
Organization Chart of Governing Bodies	7
Statistics 2017	7
Letter from the Staff	8
Reports:	
Council.....	9
A Congregation Growing in Spirituality.....	10-11
Council - Congregational Development Task Group	12
Ottawa Presbytery.....	13
Session.....	14
Session Task Group on Becoming an Affirming Congregation	15
Board of Trustees	16
Stewards	17-18
United Church Women	19-22
Committees of Council:	
Stewardship	23-24
Ministry and Personnel.....	25
Administrative and Communications	26
Nominations.....	27-30
Committees of Session:	
Worship and Music.....	31
Music Events	32
Chimes/Teen Bells.....	32
Handbells	33
Christian Development.....	34-35
Youth and Young Adult Ministry	36
Pastoral Care	37
Social Action and Outreach.....	38-39
Minutes of the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting	40-44

STAFF	Rev. Steve Clifton Rev. Elizabeth Bryce Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald Iain Macpherson Andrew Ager Debi Brown Debby Gerro Paul Sorg	Minister of Christian Family and Worship Minister of Community and Worship Minister of Pastoral Care Music Ministry Coordinator Organist Administrator Administrative Assistant Caretaker
COUNCIL	Marcia Gosse Patricia Whitridge Cathy Hollands Bob Nelson Dianne Keevil Harrold Maureen Stark John Scollick Bob Roden Steve Shipley Brian Hamilton Marilyn Law Doug Robinson Sheila Faure Heather Ingrams Nancy McPherson Wayne Bond Shanti Inman Michael Inrig Rev. Steve Clifton Rev. Elizabeth Bryce Debi Brown	Chair Vice-chair Secretary Chair of Session Session Representative Session Representative Chair of Stewards Treasurer, Stewards' Representative Stewards' Representative Stewardship Coordinator Chair of Ministry and Personnel Ottawa Presbytery Representative Chair of Board of Trustees President of United Church Women Chair of Administrative and Communications Chair of Nominations Member at Large Member at Large Minister of Christian Family and Worship Minister of Community and Worship Administrator (non voting)
	COMMITTEES	
SESSION	Bob Nelson Jeff Allo	Chair Clerk
Sub-committees of Session		
Christian Development	Tara Lynne Holton, Andrea Laliberté	Co-chairs
Worship and Music	Nancy Begg-Durkee, Kate Whitridge	Co-chairs
Social Action and Outreach	Sandra Weedmark	Chair
Pastoral Care	Peggy Rader	Chair
COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS	John Scollick	Chair
Sub functions of Stewards	Bob Roden	Treasurer
	Brian Hamilton	Stewardship Coordinator
	Rod Hagglund	Property
	Brian Hamilton	Property Renewal
MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	Marilyn Law	Chair
ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMM.	Nancy McPherson	Chair
NOMINATIONS	Wayne Bond	Chair
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Sheila Faure	Chair
UNITED CHURCH WOMEN	Heather Ingrams	President
PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES	Alyce Dunnewold	Brian Irvine
	Doug Robinson	Maureen Stark
ENVELOPE SECRETARY	Barbara Jeffrey	

Baptisms

Ella Hope Burke
Madeleine Evelyn Daisy Clitheroe
Abigail Grace DiNardo
Madeleine Rosemary Grace Faure
Ethan Jeffrey Michael Hanson
Kira Olivine Allison Hanson
Benjamin Ezra Inrig
Liam Miller Jee
Maggie Violet Jee
Emilia Grace Pagliarello
Marcus Gregory Triemstra
Everett Archer Presutti VanEvery
Charles Douglas Walker
Teagan Isabel Yetts

Transfers from Rideau Park

Beverly and Edward Lee
Margaret and Doyle Stinnett

Rideau Park United Church is a family of people who joyfully proclaim a loving God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

As caring members of this church, we seek to do this by:

- ✠ joining together in worship, prayer and music;*
- ✠ reading and studying the Bible;*
- ✠ living a Christian life;*
- ✠ nurturing both young and old in Christian education programs;*
- ✠ seeking justice for everyone; and*
- ✠ continually sharing our faith, hope, talents and resources with our community, country and the world.*

June Brown

Daisy Gordon

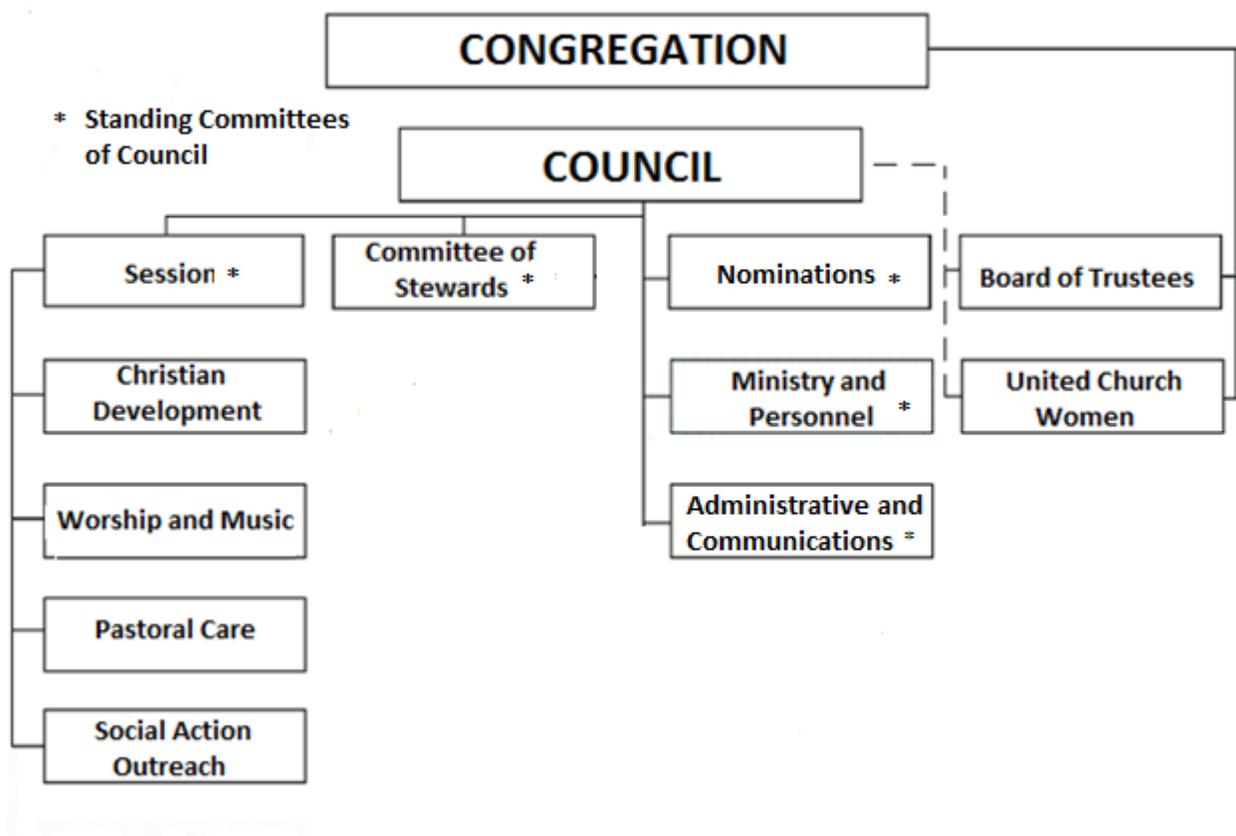
Vi McDuffee

Robert McMichael

Don Melick

Isabel Murphy

Muriel Spratt



Number of households as of December 31, 2017	478
Total number of persons as of December 31, 2017	1,181
Members received through Transfer of Certificate	0
Members removed through Transfer of Certificate	4
Persons removed by death.....	26
Number of weddings.....	7
Number of funerals	27

In the deep cellars of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, an ancient etching is preserved, covered in glass. It is a simple outline of ship, accompanied by the words: "Lord I have come." A 4th century pilgrim marked their pilgrimage from far away to a very holy place with the etching in stone of a ship at sea.

The Christian Church has long been depicted as a ship at sea. In stained glass and tapestry, in art and sculpture, over many generations the Church is depicted as a boat or as a ship at sea. God's people are like Noah's ark, a place of refuge in a stormy world. We are like the fishing boat on Galilee, carrying the Saviour and his followers to the far shore.

So as we reflect on another year of life in our congregation, is Rideau Park like a boat too? We are, compared to many congregations, a big boat and so sometimes it might take a while for us to change direction. We are deliberate and consultative as we navigate our way together.

We are, like bigger boats, built with compartments set apart from one another. Some may live in the music compartment, singing in choir or ringing bells. Others may work in the Outreach compartment, packing groceries for Christmas Cheer, raising awareness of community needs.

Some of us may move and work in a couple of compartments. Maybe though, there are compartments that we never enter. There may be areas of ministry that we rarely see. There are people hard at work whom we have never met, or whose names we don't yet know. Sometimes, if we do not see people working in an area of ministry we may come to believe that nothing is going on beyond our own compartments. But this is not true.

Our annual report is an opportunity to get a glimpse into those areas of ministry that we rarely see, to become aware of life and work in the other compartments of the Good Ship Rideau Park. So we might consider the pages of this report to be like a guide to the wider, broader life that exists beyond our experience of our community. It's a big ship. Take a tour.

As we sail on into another year together we might remember a Celtic prayer for ships and sailors at sea: Out on the sea, our boat feels so small. O God, be good to us. Amen

Steve

Elizabeth

Georgina

Andrew

Debi

Paul

Iain

Debby

The Rideau Park United Church Council membership is as follows:

Chair	Marcia Gosse
Vice-chair	Patricia Whitridge
Secretary	Cathy Hollands
Chair of Session	Bob Nelson
Session Representatives	Dianne Keevil Harrold Maureen Stark
Chair of Stewards	John Scollick
Stewards' Representatives	Bob Roden (Treasurer) Steve Shipley
Stewardship Coordinator	Brian Hamilton
Chair of Ministry and Personnel	Marilyn Law
Chair of Nominations	Wayne Bond
Chair of Administrative and Communications	Nancy McPherson
Members at Large	Shanti Inman Michael Inrig
Ottawa Presbytery Representative	Doug Robinson
Chair of Board of Trustees	Sheila Faure
President of UCW	Heather Ingrams
Minister of Christian Family and Worship	Rev. Steve Clifton
Minister of Community and Worship	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce
Administrator	Debi Brown (non-voting)

Council normally meets for four to five meetings in the year, with additional meetings occurring as required. Highlights of Council actions and decisions in 2017 included:

- consideration of the United Church of Canada Remits and favourable vote by Council: Remit 1: Three Council Model; Remit 2: Elimination of Transfer and Settlement; Remit 3: Office of Vocation; Remit 4: New Funding Model; Remit 6: One Order of Ministry;
- approval of funding from the RPUC Foundation for Ministry for the following projects/activities: \$5,100 for Mamawi Together for their website and legal fees and \$1,500 for sending Rideau Park youth to Rendez-Vous 2017 in Montreal;
- approval of the HD Video Webcasting Technology application for Ottawa Presbytery funding;
- approval of Rev. Steve Clifton's request to take his sabbatical in the summer of 2018;
- approval of a new stained glass window for the McKennitt Chapel;
- work on an updated Church Directory 2017;
- work continues on the revamping of the Rideau Park website;
- a presentation on the work of the Social Action and Outreach Committee.

I thank the members of Council for their support over the past year, as they have helped to bring peace, love, healing power, true faith, hope, light and joy to our meetings as we have worked through Council business. On behalf of all Council members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our church staff for all they do to make this congregation such a vibrant community. We are blessed to have a committed group of people.

Of course the idea that it takes a village to raise a child also applies here, and we recognize the many hours of volunteer help that allows Rideau Park to multi-task the numerous projects that are always on the go. Rideau Park is indeed blessed!

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Gosse, Chair

Martin Sable, a Capuchin monk defines spirituality in this way:

“Spirituality is an endeavor... it is an ongoing endeavour. That is, spirituality is not something we eventually finish, like a job or a project. We attend to it, nurture it, refine it till the day we die. Like the biblical notion of conversion, spirituality is dynamic and never-ending. Its goal is growth in our relationship with God and one another”.

Over the past few years we have engaged in the ongoing endeavour that is spiritual growth in so many ways: book studies, interfaith speakers, Lenten studies, quiet days, contemplative Eucharist services, labyrinth walks, meditation groups, in-church retreats, off site retreats, worship installations, summer projects, summer study groups, Lenten study groups, Bible studies from Genesis to Revelation.

We have held workshops on so many forms of spiritual expression: meditation, lectio divina, imaging prayer, Creation spirituality, Celtic spirituality, spiritual biography, psalm writing, grief work, drumming meditation, spirituality and art, indigenous spirituality, yoga as meditation, healing prayer.

We have brought in leaders from beyond our community and appreciated leadership from within our congregation. We have offered things that run for weeks and things that take an evening, even things that you do at home.

So now we pause and ask you: “What’s next?” What do you need to better connect to God? What do you yearn for? What would you like to learn about or experience? If there is something that you would like to explore or explore again, please let us know.

In 2017 there were many events and activities that were particularly directed at deepening the spiritual life that we share.

- A meditation group meets in a dedicated space in the lower hallway, at 9:10 am every Sunday morning. We practice silent meditation together weekly and the group is open to anyone who would like to give meditation a try.
- Through the year Sharon Sanderson offers the gift of quiet days, a chance to retreat on a Saturday in our own church.
- Sharon, with Elizabeth’s help, has been offering monthly Contemplative Eucharist services on Sunday afternoons; these services have been very well received. This initiative has run its course and ends in 2017. We thank Sharon for this gift she has given.
- Our weekly lectionary study, held every Wednesday morning, is a small gathering but the time is rich. In 2017 we have attempted to reinvigorate this gathering with several short series of studies in place of weekly study of the lectionary texts.
- Advent this year included three evenings of quiet contemplation, opportunities for stillness in a hectic season. Karen Fee led us in a retreat which included time for silence and stillness. The Encarna worship installation filled the sanctuary with candlelight, prayer and creativity. We had an evening of labyrinth meditation too.
- One Wednesday night in Advent and in Lent was set aside for a worship installation, Encarna, which helped people to explore Spiritual practices. What is Encarna? During Encarna the sanctuary is filled with candle light, sacred music fills the air and each person, at their own pace is invited to explore the space. There are stations for prayer and reflection.

- A further expression of our spiritual life is our prayer chain. The prayer chain is a place to bring prayers and concerns in confidence so that others in our faith community can pray for us and those we love. If you would like to join the chain, please speak to our coordinator, Doreen Hamilton.
- We now have a Healing Pathways ministry. Healing Pathway is a long standing UCC practice of healing prayer. We have five trained practitioners who offer prayer in the Gospel tradition of Jesus, on Thursday afternoons each week and on the third Sunday night of each month. People can book a visit through healingpathway@rideaupark.ca. Healing prayer is also available in the chapel after the 10:00 am service and with each communion service.

Blessings,
Reverend Steve Clifton

WE HAVE T-SHIRTS. For years Rev. Clifton has been telling us how, when he is out in the community participating in an event on behalf of our church, other churches and groups have had flags, shirts and other noticeable things that make them stand out.

Recently, the Sadler family made a donation specifically for T-shirts. Through this generous donation, our committee was able to order 150 T-shirts, with our cool “wordle” on the front, and the website address on the back. So I am happy to say, **WE HAVE T-SHIRTS.**

We have decided, due to the donated funds, to give the T-shirts out to volunteers to our community events such as the Heron Road Food Bank Walk, the Carleton Pause tables, and the Pride parade, etc... We hope our volunteers will wear these shirts with pride and in so doing will increase the visibility of Rideau Park. Of course, we also hope that everyone will want a shirt, and so, if there is enough demand, we hope to place another order and sell the shirts to anyone wanting one.

Congregational Development is always looking for ways to increase interest in Rideau Park. We began eight years ago, when concerns over declining attendance prompted council to form a task force or working group to study the issue. Under the leadership of Greig Scott, the task force studied such things as the changing demographics of the city. And over the years, our group has tried a number of initiatives to help raise the profile of the church.

In the past we have used bookmarks, post cards, and even a slide show to spread the word about Rideau Park. We continue to advertise in the local VISTAS newspaper. And once again, with a big thank you to the Christian Development Committee, we hosted another Open House/Welcome Back brunch this past fall. Oh yes, and did I mention, **WE HAVE T-SHIRTS.**

I would like to thank Wayne Bond, Steve Clifton, Brian Hamilton, Mary Lynne Holton, Marilyn Law, Lisa Sadler and Greig Scott for their continued commitment to the committee and more importantly to Rideau Park.

We continue to live in challenging times, and I am grateful that Rideau Park continues to provide so many programs and activities to help us cope with the stress of these challenges. We will continue to look for ways to help the church get its message out, and we would welcome anyone wanting to join us in this undertaking. We'll even give you a T-shirt.

Respectfully submitted,
Drew Presley, Chair

Rideau Park's Presbytery representatives and their committee involvement in 2017 are as follows: Rev. Steve Clifton (Chair of Presbytery 2017-2018), Rev. Elizabeth Bryce (Global Partners), Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald (Education and Students), Alyce Dunnewold (Interfaith Group), Brian Irvine (Finance), Doug Robinson (Chaplaincy Committee), Maureen Stark (Living the Apology),

In 2017 Ottawa Presbytery held monthly meetings from January to May, and September to December. United churches hosting the meetings included Woodroffe, Rideau Park, Knox, MacKay, St. Paul's, Orleans and Emmanuel. The hospitality and welcome extended to the members of Presbytery was greatly appreciated and contributed to the success of the meetings.

Highlights of Ottawa Presbytery actions and decisions included:

- Presbytery Chair, Phyllis MacRae, introduced the theme of regeneration of faith communities and organized a productive one-day March workshop at Rideau Park on this topic.
- Motions for Remit 3 to create a denominational office of vocation and Remit 4 to approve a new funding model for the church were approved as was the Sanctuary City Initiative to make Ottawa a sanctuary city.
- In the fall, Rev. Steve Clifton began his year as Chair of Ottawa Presbytery. With decisions likely to be made regarding changes to the organization of the United Church of Canada, this should be a critical year for Presbytery.
- Motions for Remit 1, the Three Council Model and Remit 2, to eliminate transfer and settlement were approved by Presbytery. It is anticipated that these remits will bring about significant change in the United Church if adopted by the national church.
- A report was received on the Haven Campaign to raise money for the Multifaith Housing Initiative. Over \$103,000 was raised and a further \$19,000 came in after the campaign ended. Members of Presbytery spoke about the project's success and commented favourably on the diversity of the people that moved into the housing project.
- A new online personnel manual is being made available for congregations and a new process for reviewing pastoral records will be implemented in the spring of 2018.
- The Co-Chairs of the Environment and Climate Care Committee (Caroline Penhale and Jessica Hetherington) updated Presbytery on Project Footprint, the carbon emissions reduction initiative. They sought input on next steps.
- A Memorial Plaque was placed at the Haven in recognition of the support provided by the United Church of Canada and Ottawa Presbytery.
- Michael Presley from Rideau Park presented an organizational change workshop for Presbytery. Michael also led Presbytery Executive in an organizational change discussion.
- A proposal from the Presbytery Regional Boundaries Working Group (RBWG) was considered. Three suggestions concerning the boundaries and number of regions in the United Church were sent on to the Boundaries Commission. The percentage of support for each suggestion was indicated.
- Rev. Paul Dillman presented and gained approval for the 2018 Ottawa Presbytery Budget.
- A motion for Remit 6 proposing a single order of ministry to replace the current division of Ordained, Diaconal and Designated Lay ministers did not pass.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Robinson, Presbytery Representative

The Session of Rideau Park is charged primarily with the spiritual affairs of the congregation. Some forty elders have been appointed to carry out this work and meet formally four times a year: January, April, September and November. However, members of Session are very active throughout the year.

Indeed, most of the work of Session is carried out between meetings by the Standing Committees; namely, Christian Development, co-chaired by Andrea Laliberté and Tara Lynne Lockhart, Pastoral Care, chaired by Peggy Rader, Social Action and Outreach, chaired by Sandra Weedmark and Worship and Music, co-chaired by Nancy Begg-Durkee and Kate Whitridge. The individual reports will be found separately.

Four long-serving elders: Helen Cutts, Don Melick, Jacqueline Newton and Marg Stinnett retired from Session at the beginning of the year, and more recently, Myrna Belo and Jessie Weldon retired after many years of faithful service. New elders appointed are Sandra Graham Korjus, Mary Lynne Holton, Susan Klimowicz, David Moriera and Lynn Sherwood.

The Clerk of Session, Jeff Allo, is also the keeper of the Nominal Roll of the congregation, including baptisms, marriages, transfers and funerals. During the year there were 14 baptisms, 7 marriages, and 28 funerals. Four people moved out of the congregation and no new members were added to the Roll. The names are to be found elsewhere in this report of the Congregation. Sadly, one of the deceased was Don Melick, a very long time and very active member of Rideau Park, who had retired from Session at the beginning of the year.

There was further discussion of Remits. The first four Remits had been approved in the previous year. The final remit, Remit 6, on One Order of Ministry, was voted on and approved in November with 19 in favour, 2 abstentions and none opposed.

An ad hoc group of Session, led by Alyce Dunnewold, had been formed last year to focus on Rideau Park becoming an affirming congregation. The group has been very active and details of their activities will be found on the following page.

Our response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations has also been under consideration and it is hoped that a more active role will be played in the coming year. Rideau Park has had some active involvement in some of the objectives of the report through Rev. Elizabeth's participation in the Mamawi Together organization.

At the November meeting a visioning exercise was carried out entitled "Evaluating our situation". The exercise consisted of eight questions focusing on how our congregation perceives our situation in relation to present and future needs and objectives for our church. It is proposed that further study of these issues be carried out in the coming year.

Also at the November meeting, Head Usher, Steve Shipley, gave an educational session on the procedure for carrying out communion.

Again this year, Session has been blessed with the active participation of our clergy in the formal meetings but also in the ongoing activities of work of Session. We are indebted to them for their wise advice and encouragement and look forward to continuing association and support in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. Nelson, Chair

Becoming an Affirming Congregation means undertaking a deliberate process of reflection, discussion and discernment on being fully inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirited people (LGBTQ2 people). Guidance for the process had been established by Affirm United, a ministry of the United Church of Canada. The process, which can take a couple of years, normally culminates in a formal congregational affirmation, public celebration, and on-going commitment.

In 2017, Session initiated the process and established a task group to shepherd it. The members of the task group are: Marilou Reeve, Nadia Senyk, Lorna McCrea, Dianne Keevil Harrold, Alyce Dunnewold, Robert Nelson (ex-officio as Chair of Session), the Reverends Steve Clifton and Elizabeth Bryce who also provide pastoral guidance.

The task group is now meeting with various committees and groups within the congregation to talk about the process and inquire about subject matters related to becoming affirming which a committee or group would like explored/discussed in depth. Topics could include theological underpinnings of full inclusion of LGBTQ2 people, understanding sexual orientation and gender identity, experiences of members of the LGBTQ2+ community, and barriers to full inclusion. It should be noted that the process of becoming an Affirming Congregation, while centred on LGBTQ2 people, can also help us to understand how we can open ourselves to the full inclusion and participation of all people on an equal footing, including people of other groups who have been marginalized or excluded.

In the coming year, the task group will continue to meet with committees and groups, respond to requests for further learning, work with committees and groups to develop an action plan, begin drafting a vision statement for discussion, and ensure our inclusive marriage policy is up to date. We continue to welcome comments, perspectives and feedback at any time from committees, groups and individuals of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyce Dunnewold

The Trustees, on behalf of the congregation, hold title to the deed of the church property, and are responsible for ensuring such property is adequately maintained and used in accordance with the objectives of the United Church of Canada. In addition, the Board administers a number of funds established at Rideau Park under the direction of the Rideau Park Council and/or its committees.

Revenues of these funds derived from donations and the subsequent investment earnings are as follows:

The **Douglas Brown Memorial Fund** is used to support social activities for the physically and mentally challenged.

The **Rideau Park Foundation Fund** has been established to serve as a permanent source of supplementary funding for special needs at the church. This was the tenth year that money from this fund has been eligible for disbursement. Half the donations to the fund in 2017 combined with investment earnings make \$6,109 eligible for disbursement in 2018.

Investment earnings from the **Dora Helmkey Legacy Fund** are turned over to the Committee of Stewards for use at its discretion. The principal is invested for a period of 5 years at which time the interest is disbursed.

The **Karl Rasmussen Fund** is used to assist people undertaking full-time studies directed towards full-time service in the Christian Church. Only income earned in a given year may be used for this purpose. Income becomes part of capital if not used in the current accounting period.

The **Reserve Fund** was established in 2010. It was established with funds received from the Hancock Estate and a small portion of the annual receipts from the Britt Estate. This year \$950 of the Britt Estate funds were made available for the Reserve Fund. The total investment and cash in this fund under the administration of the Trustees now amounts to \$139,818.

Income from the **Britt Estate** is to be used as Council deems appropriate. This year \$9,500 was received and Council decided that 10 percent (\$950) of this estate income was to be added to the Rideau Park Foundation.

Members of the Board: Sheila Faure (Chair), Ed Boothe, Norm Edwards, Bob Elliott, Murray Ferguson, Bas Groeneweg, Daryl Lindberg, Jacqueline Newton, Susan Vaughan, Keith Harris and Rev. Elizabeth Bryce (ex-officio). We would like to acknowledge and thank Murray Ferguson and Bob Elliott for their contributions to the Trustees over many years. They both retired from their duties in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Vaughan, Treasurer, Trustees

The Committee of Stewards is responsible for the management of the church temporal and financial affairs. The Committee Members were:

Chair	John Scollick	
Secretary	Steve Shipley	Lisa Sadler
Treasurer	Bob Roden	
Administrative Technical Support	Ron McPherson	
Counting Teams	Debi Brown (Administrator)	
Property	Rod Hagglund	
Representative on Council	Steve Shipley	
Security	Rob Blake (<i>past Member of Stewards</i>)	
Stewardship Coordinator/ Property Renewal Fund	Brian Hamilton	
UCW Representative	Lisa Sadler	
Members at Large	Brenda Bethune	Karen Humphries
	Mark Inman	Adam Kurz
	Mark Laliberté	Peter Osudar
	Bill Ott	Nadia Senyk
Staff Liaison	Debi Brown (<i>ex officio</i>)	

In 2017, the Committee of Stewards met monthly, except for February, March, July and August. At the monthly meetings members engaged in discussions regarding the ongoing financial status of the church, issues of fundraising, ongoing property maintenance, the Stewardship Campaign and property renewal projects.

Property Renewal at Rideau Park This year our accomplishments included:

- undertaking the second phase of the Parlour Kitchen refurbishment where we installed the kitchen cabinetry; fitted the granite counters; purchased new appliances – electric range, refrigerator, dishwasher, in-cabinet microwave and a new exhaust fan; mounted a new sink and faucet; added moldings; retiled the floor and painted the kitchen. Belatedly there remains just the final coat of finish for the cabinetry which is forthcoming.
 - applying for and receiving a \$10,000 grant from Ottawa Presbytery to upgrade Rideau Park's webcasting equipment allowing us to replace dated hardware with a software based system and to webcast in HD;
 - replacing the existing incandescent and florescent light bulbs in the Sanctuary and McKennitt Chapel suspended light fixtures, with LED bulbs. This has maintained the light levels and is saving significant energy;
 - replacing the halogen flood lights in the Sanctuary and Chancel arches with LED bulbs further reducing our energy consumption;
- Note:** Rideau Park's hydro bill in 2007 was \$7,744 and this year it was less than \$100 more at \$7,839. Rideau Park is seeing the ongoing return on its investments, particularly, considering the 17.3% inflation over the decade and all of the recent hydro price hikes.
- continuing the Sanctuary pew refinishing. The end of this major initiative can be foreseen.
 - replacing the controller for the sprinkler system;
 - receiving the results of the energy audit performed by Presbytery.

Property Renewal Funding Once again the UCW was a generous contributor to the renewal of the Parlour kitchen. Their funds, along with the pledges and givings of the congregation have allowed us to complete many projects this year. The Ottawa Presbytery grant has allowed us to improve the quality of our webcasts and continue to be a leader in this domain. Your ongoing support and encouragement for the work of Property Renewal is welcomed. Thank you for your past support and future consideration.

Acknowledgments: This year two members of the Stewards are retiring. On behalf of myself and the Committee of Stewards I wish to thank Peter Osudar who was a member of Stewards for three years and served on the Long Range Financial Planning Sub Committee and Karen Humphries who was a member of Stewards for three years. Their contributions were important for the functioning of the work of the Stewards and they will be missed.

The congregation is indebted to **Lisa Sadler** for her generous sharing of her time as the replacement for our Administrator, Debi Brown who was off on three months medical leave in the summer.

Our summer student **Zoe Sherwin** undertook a number of varied and helpful projects for Stewards including creating an inventory for our storage room, replacing the covers on the hymn books, renewing the banquet tables as well as attending to the custodial tasks for Paul during his summer holidays. Her work effort on our behalf was commendable.

Several congregational members, who are not Stewards, contributed extensive time and talent to the work of the Committee of Stewards and the Stewards wish to convey their appreciation for these contributions:

- **Barbara Jeffrey**, our Envelope Secretary;
- **Peggy Rader**, the 2018 Stewardship Campaign Chair, and all those who worked with her.
- The many evening **Duty Officers**, who are coordinated by **Robert Blake**.
- The many volunteers who assist Debi Brown with the weekly count.
- The **UCW**, which again contributed generously to the Mission and Service Fund and the financial health of the congregation.

I would also like to convey the Stewards' ongoing gratitude and appreciation to our church staff.

- **Paul Sorg**, who as the custodian, maintains the property and assists with setup and take down for so many church activities, making the physical facilities one of our greatest assets for our members and our local community.
- **Debi Brown**, our Administrator, who maintains the financial records and looks after the day to day financial transactions making our job as Stewards much easier. Debi also acts as staff liaison to Stewards and helps co-ordinate and supervise the rental activities.
- **Debby Gerro**, for her work as Administrative Assistant. Debby assists with preparation of notices and appeals, facilities rentals and other needs of Stewards, and is a valued member of the Rideau Park team.

Respectfully submitted,
John Scollick, Chair

The purpose of the United Church Women is to unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	58	Life Memberships*	40
Circle Group	8	Members at Large	23
E-buddies	18	Not Active	23

*New Life Membership: Mary Lynne Holton.

In Memoriam: Vi McDuffee, June Brown, Ruth Ebertz, Vi Harasym, Isabel Murphy, Muriel Spratt
Joyce Stuart

2017 EXECUTIVE:

Honorary Presidents	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Keva McKennirey**, and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald**
Past President	Lynda Coombe
President	Heather Ingrams
Vice President	Nancy Begg-Durkee
Recording Secretary	Judy Paré
Asst. Recording Secretary	Jessie Weldon
Corresponding Secretary	Grace Shaver
Treasurer	Marcia Gosse**
Archives, Literature, Communication	Marlene Hutchison
Bazaar Conveners	Heather Ingrams and Judy Paré
Community, Friendship, Visiting	Karin Ott
Finance	Lisa Sadler
Mission	Mabel Bannerman
Flowers	Marcia Gosse
Membership	Marcia Gosse
Nominations	Lynda Coombe
Quilting	Doreen Hamilton
Supply and Welfare	Lynda Coombe
Stewards Representative	Lisa Sadler
Council of Women Representative	Marg Nelson
Presbyterial Representative	Jessie Weldon

**Non members of UCW

Unit leaders: Unit 2 Mabel Bannerman Unit 3 Nancy McPherson
Unit 7 Sandra Weedmark Unit 10 Louise Mundle
E-buddies Gaveen Cadotte
Circle Contacts: Doreen Hamilton and Janette Hamilton Silcoff

Executive Happenings and Responsibilities:

President: Hurray and Hurray for the UCW and the wonderful support we get from the congregation in this church. We have had parties and potluck dinners, bazaars and book sales, candlelight service and cookies, valentines and vendors, World Day of Prayer and women working. This year I was so pleased to see so many new men and women in the congregation step up to help us at the Bazaar. We even had teens start up their own Princess Boutique which did quite well.

We have raised money for the parlour kitchen and still managed to send our usual generous donation to the Mission and Service Fund.

The June dinner was catered for the first time and went off without a hitch. We will probably do this again.

The Bazaar was magical this year with the wonderful tea room and its theme of "Let it Snow". As a thank you to Gretchen and her team we are going to call next year's Bazaar "The Night before Christmas bazaar". We used to name our Bazaars and we will try it again next year. Judy Paré and I are again going to convene the Bazaar. Bazaar receipts for this year now total \$26,781.

As an acknowledgement to our aging UCW, we held the candlelight service in the afternoon on November 27th. Many more attended the afternoon service than for recent past candlelight services in the evening. Marcia Gosse played the piano and a bell solo.

I have loved being UCW president and I urge all young women to get involved with an organization that is still going strong after 55 years. I hand the reins over to the capable hands of Nancy Begg-Durkee.

Finally I want to thank the UCW executive for being such a wonderful support and stepping up when needed. You are great ladies to work with.

Respectively submitted,
Heather Ingrams

Past President: Is a support and back up for the President.

Recording Secretary: Records the minutes of the Executive meetings and the two General meetings.

Corresponding Secretary: Sends and receives cards to and from people concerning sympathy, get well, congratulations and thank you for flowers, lilies and cards etc.

Treasurer: Thank you, Marcia, for the amazing job that you do.

Convener Reports:

Archives/Literature/Communication: As our membership list decreases, so too does the information that we receive. Most of the records have gone to the city archives. A file cabinet in the Parlour holds current financial material and Executive minutes.

Bazaar: This year's bazaar ran very smoothly and we raised \$26,781.

Community/Friendship: This committee offers friendship in the name of the church. It involves recording the Baptisms and Transfers of Membership that occur at Rideau Park. Additionally, parents of babies who have been baptized are greeted, welcomed, and given a booklet on baptism as well as a pamphlet about the UCW.

Finance: The UCW supports many charities and community services, and also contributes a percentage of its year end funds to Rideau Park's Ministry and Programs and also to Mission and Service. Funds raised at the bazaar represent a large portion of the money available for donations.

Mission: Our UCW has always been a strong supporter of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. In the March edition of The Observer, our UCW was featured as the UCW that gives the most to this fund. We make available copies of the "Mandate" to members of the congregation and the UCW members. Many people are unaware of the work of the Mission and Service Fund so it is hoped to have a "Minute for Mission" occasionally during Sunday service.

Flowers: The UCW provides flowers for the sanctuary each Sunday as well as the Easter flowers and poinsettias at Christmas. Thank you to those who delivered flowers. Recipients are those who are ill, grieving, or celebrating a special occasion.

Nominations: Jessie Weldon took on the position of Presbyterian Representative. Nancy McPherson will be the Vice President in 2018.

Quilting: The Rideau Park Quilters meet every Thursday morning from 9:30 until noon in the Parlour. Creativity abounds from baby quilts to queen size quilts, tied or hand quilted, appliquéd or patch. Our wonderful long time leader Ruth Ebertz passed away in 2017. We miss her very much.

Supply and Welfare: Tabs from soft drink cans are picked up by Barry Dewis and delivered to Clifford Bowey Community Centre. Eye glasses are taken to Venzia Opticians where they are picked up and used in third world countries. Used stamps are taken to Oxfam by Marcia Gosse to be used for their projects around the world. Marcia also takes Campbell soup labels to her granddaughter's school for their fundraising. Three large bags of wool were donated to the West Carleton County Knitters, south group. Last year they made over 1,000 items to be donated. The knitters of the congregation provide hats, mitts, scarves and they are delivered by Harold Black to Better Beginnings at Heatherington or to the Banff Centre. Collected this year were 19 touques, 2 helmets, 1 headband, 15 pairs of mitts, 14 scarves, 4 baby blankets, and 3 pairs of tights.

Council of Women: The Ottawa Council of Women (OCW) is an affiliation of women's organizations whose aims are to identify emerging social problems affecting women and their families and to educate the members about these issues. The Social Welfare and the Health sub-committees meet to study these issues more intensively, enabling members to prepare for discussion and voting on resolutions at the National and Provincial Councils of Women. The meetings are open and held at Rideau Park.

Stewards' Representative: Lisa Sadler attends Stewards meetings and reports back to the Executive meetings.

Unit Reports: Each of the 5 Units has a monthly meeting usually involving a program with film, video, guest speaker or a topic for discussion. A time of devotion is also an important part of the meeting.

Unit 2 - Hosts the Valentine Coffee Party and Bake Table. Holds the Book Sale in the spring. Manages the Deli table for the Bazaar which entails 6 work parties making turkey and meat pies and pizzas. (It seems we just can't make enough!) Thank you to those from the congregation who have helped, in particular, Lisa Sadler, Kathy Hannam, Alyce Dunnewold. Also, thanks to Steve Shipley and Jim Ebertz who man the pastry press.

Unit 3 - Holds the Spring and Fall Nearly New Sales which continue to draw customers from the community and provide a good outreach service. They also convene the very successful Bake Table at the Bazaar.

Unit 7 - Holds a Bake Sale at Easter and helps with Harmony Club May luncheon, Presbytery Mission Workshop luncheon and Ottawa Presbytery dinner. The Unit also is very helpful to assist other units in their projects and has been especially supportive to Unit 2.

Unit 10 - Meets monthly for study and a social time with the other members.

Circle Group - Holds a monthly book study. In 2017 we read and discussed "A Hidden Wholeness - The Journey Toward an Undivided Life" by Parker J. Palmer and we began reading "The Givenness of Things" by Marilynne Robinson. We held a successful book sale in conjunction with the Fall Nearly New Sale raising funds for the Parlour Kitchen renewal.

Samples of Programs: Various travelogues and programs on a variety of subjects.

Church Involvement: Council, Stewards, Elders, Worship, Nominating Committee, Choir, Pastoral Care/Visiting, Harmony Club, Bridge, Funeral Receptions, Bible Study, Quilting, Social Action, Knitting, Cross Stitch.

Community Involvement: Hospital Auxiliaries, teaching crafts at Abbotsford House, National Art Gallery, PEO, Canvassing, May Court, Alta Vista garage sale, volunteer with young developmentally disabled adults, Margaret Morris exercises, St. Vincent Hospital.

We are blessed with outstanding people who contribute so generously of their time, energy, and talents, to enrich the lives of those of our congregation, staff and community.

Thank you to the members of the congregation who helped with our major fundraising events: the Book Sales, turkey pie making, Nearly New Sales and last, but not least, the Bazaar!

The UCW would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald for their support. Thanks to Paul Sorg for all his cheerful help in setting up chairs and tables for Unit and Executive meetings and the major work setting up for the bazaar and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks also to the support staff for their assistance in so many ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Paré, Recording Secretary

Stewardship is the means by which we live out our mission statement. We individually and collectively accept responsibility for supporting our staff, church community and programs, locally, nationally and internationally. The annual Fall Stewardship Campaign secures Rideau Park's financial needs for the year ahead.

This year Peggy Rader, Rideau Park Chair of Pastoral Care and long time member of the Chancel Choir agreed to Chair the 2018 Stewardship Campaign. The congregation is thankful for her generosity in providing leadership for this important campaign.

In her letter to the congregation, Peggy spoke of appreciation and gratitude. "Deep appreciation makes sense of the past, brings peace for today and vision for tomorrow. There is no circumstance that is not responsive to the power of gratitude".

She observed that "Rideau Park has been a beacon in the storm, a safe haven during times of illness and stress, an inspiration to nourish our spirit through music, worship and fellowship. We have a community of faith worth cherishing and preserving". She exhorted us to generously share our financial gifts and blessings of time and talents to sustain and grow our church family in challenging times.

Each year we respond to God's generous Spirit and many blessings with our sustaining financial support. The annual fall campaign provides a time to reflect how rich we already are, and increasingly can be, in service, generosity, and in being ready to share. We can give and work together to ensure that Rideau Park remains a vibrant and vital church community for years to come.

Our thanks again to Peggy for her leadership and to Doreen Hamilton, Barbara Jeffrey and Debi Brown who provided the hands-on and administrative support for the campaign.

Stewardship Analysis: For 2018 we received 241 pledges from 478 households for a total of \$475,356 which is 8.1% less than last year. Of these, 198 (85%) honour their pledges through preauthorized remittances (PAR) via their banking institutions. We receive \$410,848 (88.5%) of our pledged contributions by PAR. Each week when the collection plates are passed we receive \$7,900 of PAR contributions. PAR givings ensures our cash flow throughout the year and enables us to keep our monthly Mission and Service contributions to the United Church of Canada current.

The Ministries and Programs Fund received pledges for \$188,387 (-8.8% or 18,101 less than 2017); Mission and Service \$48,237 (-32.8% or \$23,376 less than 2017); Property Renewal Fund \$37,944 (+5% or \$1,723 more than 2017) and Area of greatest need \$200,788 (-1.2% or \$2,474 less than last year). Combining Ministries and Programs and Area of greatest need yields -5% or \$20,577 less pledged for 2018 than 2017.

In 2017 pledging to the "Area of greatest need" augmented the Ministries and Programs Fund which was identified in need of priority funding. It was not necessary to access the Trustees' Reserve Fund capital in 2017. The Ministries and Programs small negative balance of \$1,335 or .24% of revenues was charged against fund equity retained in prior years .

Overall Rideau Park has experienced a decline in total amount pledged for the past 6 years. Pledges have decreased from \$578,004 in 2017 to 475,356 in 2018. The amount that comes from other revenues to meet our budget objectives has increased from 23.8% to a projected 30.8% in 2018.

While a number of contributors chose to increase their pledges for 2018 this did not offset contributions from cancelled pledges and pledges reduced due to life circumstances and the passing away of members.

Spiritual growth enriches a community of faith. Generous support and active participation in our community of faith is witness to God's grace among us. God has given us so much and there is much that we can share in return. One trusts that there is understanding, accommodation, respect and love for all. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Hamilton, Stewardship Coordinator

During 2017, the Administrative and Communications Committee continued to publicize Rideau Park's activities and events to the broader community in Alta Vista, south Ottawa and beyond through community newspapers, including VISTAS and Riverview Park Review, the weekly Ottawa South News, the weekly Our Town section in the Ottawa Citizen each Thursday, and the Events Calendar of our Rideau Park website. Over the course of 2017, 42 Rideau Park events and activities were publicized with 180 notices in the four community newspapers. These same events and activities were also listed with descriptions in the Events Calendar and occasionally in the News section on the Rideau Park website. The extremely well organized Wayne Bond, yet again, accomplished this task.

RP congregational events and activities continue to be advertised in Churchpost (thanks to Marcia Gosse) and the congregational emails, the annual activity booklet and various church brochures (jointly accomplished by church admin and ministers, as well as members of the Administrative and Communications Committee).

Reverend Steve continues to promote RP activities, commentary and photos on our RP Facebook page, including videos of interest to RP FB followers from time to time,

Moving from a back burner to a front burner this year, the RP website is undergoing scrutiny by an interested group of stakeholders. The goal is to have a website in 2018 that will be easier to navigate, more aesthetically pleasing, and above all, appeal to the under 40 year old segment of the Ottawa population looking for a welcoming faith community. Progress with this project will be brought to the congregation's attention via Council updates.

This year, Don Ford, a very dedicated member of our committee, cut back his volunteer tasks (although still overseeing the RP network). We, as a congregation, are sincerely grateful to the technical work he carried out on our behalf, for instance, enabling WiFi coverage on RP's premises and ensuring the cost-effective and timely purchase of software and hardware for all staff for many years.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy McPherson, Chair

The Nominating Committee is a Sub-committee of Council. The objective of the Committee is to ensure that all vacancies on Council, Session, the Committee of Stewards, Trustees, and Presbytery Representatives are filled each year. In addition, the Committee is responsible for recommending appointments for the position of Chair for each of the Sub-committees of Council, Session and the Committee of Stewards.

The Nominating Committee consulted both the Ministerial staff and the Council Chair concerning the church's lay leadership needs for 2018.

Summary of Nominations

Vacancies on Council for 2018 included a Session Representative to Council, the Stewards Representative to Council, the UCW President, and the Ottawa Presbytery Representative. In addition, the Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees completing their terms as of February 2018 included the Chair of Stewards, the Treasurer, Chair of Administrative and Communications, Chair of Ministry & Personnel and the Chairs of the Nominations, Congregational Development, and Pastoral Care committees as well as the two Co-Chairs of both the Worship & Music and Christian Development committees.

This year, twelve Elders on the Session were due to finish their terms in February 2018. Of these, eight agreed to renew their terms and four new people have agreed to serve as Elders. Their names can be found in the attached table titled, Members of Session. Session will have 41 members in 2018, the same as last year. Many Rideau Parkers have chosen to be contacted via email for information purposes, rather than by phone or personal visit. This has resulted in smaller district lists for most Elders.

Seven members of the Committee of Stewards completed their terms as of February 2018, but five have agreed to renew their terms for periods of 1-3 years; and one new person has agreed to serve, bringing the total number of Stewards to 14. Two Stewards who finished their terms in February 2018 have chosen to retire. The attached table includes the Members of the Stewards for 2018.

Recommendations:

The names of those nominated are found on the attached table. The congregation's approval is requested for:

1. the appointments to Council, including the extension of terms for some members and the appointment of a new Session Representative to Council;
2. the extension of terms of office for some Chairs of Committees, and the appointment of five new Committee Chairs;
3. the appointment of two new Trustees;
4. the extension of terms of office for some Elders and Stewards for 1-3 years; and
5. the slate of new Elders and Stewards.

The Committee would like to thank all those who are finishing their terms this year for their dedication and service to the church. The Committee would also like to express its appreciation to all those who have agreed to contribute their time and talents to the life and work of Rideau Park United Church in 2018 and beyond.

Another responsibility of the Nominating Committee is the review and development of an approach for creating, maintaining and ensuring the use of a new inventory of volunteer resources. Towards this end, the Committee has been looking at a major re-work of the volunteer resources survey and of the process for using it.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the Nominating Sub-committee: Mabel Bannerman, Marcia Gosse, Marilyn Law, Judy Paré, Drew Presley and Patricia Whitridge for their support and dedication to achieving our objectives. The advice and support to the Nominating Committee from the Ministers, Steve Clifton and Elizabeth Bryce, and from Alyce Dunnewold, has been much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Bond, Chair

The following pages list the appointments (both nominated and existing) to Council, Session, the Committee of Stewards, Board of Trustees, Presbytery Representatives and the Chairs of all Committees, with the terms of office that they have agreed to serve. The committee structure and positions in this list reflect the revised Constitution as approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February 2015.

For clarification, the year in parentheses after each name indicates that the person will serve in the position until February of that year (that is, until the congregational meeting in February). An asterisk (*) after the person's name indicates new appointments to the positions indicated. A double asterisk (**) after the name indicates extension of term.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- The Chair and Vice-chair are elected for two-year terms.
- All other Council members are elected for three-year terms, except as indicated.
- The Ministers are voting members.
- The Church Administrator is an ex-officio, non-voting member.

COUNCIL CHAIR	Marcia Gosse	(2019)
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR	Patricia Whitridge	(2019)
COUNCIL SECRETARY	Cathy Hollands	(2020)
CHAIR OF SESSION	Bob Nelson	(2019)
SESSION REPRESENTATIVES	Dianne Keevil Harrold	(2019)
	David Moreira*	(2021)
CHAIR OF STEWARDS	John Scollick**	(2019)
TREASURER	Bob Roden**	(2019)
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	Brian Hamilton	(2020)
STEWARDS REPRESENTATIVE	Steve Shipley**	(2021)
CHAIR OF MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	Carolyn Scollick*	(2021)
OTTAWA PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE	Doug Robinson**	(2019)
CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Sheila Faure	(2019)
PRESIDENT OF UNITED CHURCH WOMEN	Nancy Begg-Durkee*	(Dec. 2019)
CHAIR OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS	Nancy McPherson**	(2019)
CHAIR OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	Marilyn Law*	(2021)
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Shanti Inman	(2020)
	Michael Inrig	(2019)

Members retiring: Maureen Stark (Session Representative on Council), Heather Ingrams (UCW President and Representative to Council)

STANDING COMMITTEES

CHAIR OF SESSION	Bob Nelson	(2019)
CLERK OF SESSION	Jeff Allo	(2020)
ELDERS	See <i>Members of Session</i> section	

CHAIR OF STEWARDS	John Scollick**	(2019)
TREASURER	Bob Roden**	(2019)
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	Brian Hamilton	(2020)
STEWARDS	See <i>Members of Stewards</i> section	

CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	Carolyn Scollick*	(2021)
ADMINISTRATIVE and COMMUNICATIONS	Nancy McPherson**	(2019)
CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Greig Scott*	(2019)
NOMINATIONS	Marilyn Law*	(2018)
SOCIAL ACTION AND OUTREACH	Sandra Weedmark	(2019)
WORSHIP AND MUSIC	Co-chairs Kate Whitridge**	(2019)
	Karen Lamb*	(2021)
PASTORAL CARE	Brian Neal*	(2021)
CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT	Co-chairs Tara Lynne Holton**	(2019)
	Andrea Laliberté**	(2019)

Chairs retiring: Marilyn Law (Ministry and Personnel), Drew Presley (Congregational Development), Wayne Bond (Nominations), Nancy Begg-Durkee (Worship and Music), Peggy Rader (Pastoral Care).

TRUSTEES

CHAIR	Sheila Faure	(2019)	
SECRETARY	Norm Edwards		
MEMBERS	Ed Boothe	Catherine Ennis*	Bas Groeneweg
	Keith Harris	Daryl Lindberg	Ron Little
	Jacqueline Newton	Michael Presley	Susan Vaughan

Trustees retiring: Bob Elliott, Murray Ferguson

PRESBYTERY LAY REPRESENTATIVES

Alyce Dunnewold	Brian Irvine	Doug Robinson
Maureen Stark		

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS

Brenda Bethune*	(2020)	Rod Hagglund	(2020)
Brian Hamilton	(2020)	Mark Inman**	(2019)
Adam Kurz	(2019)	Marc Laliberté	(2020)
Ron MacPherson	(2019)	Bill Ott	(2019)
Bob Roden**	(2019)	Lisa Sadler**	(2019)
John Scollick**	(2019)	Nadia Senyk	(2020)
Steve Shipley**	(2021)		

Stewards retiring: Karen Humphries, Peter Osudar

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Elizabeth Acquaah	(2019)	Lorna McCrea	(2019)
Jeff Allo	(2020)	Anne Moore	(2019)
Nancy Begg-Durkee**	(2019)	David Moreira	(2020)
Wayne Bond**	(2019)	Bob Nelson	(2019)
Janet Buske-Wichser	(2020)	Peter Osudar	(2019)
Beth Campbell-Keays*	(2021)	Judy Paré**	(2021)
Gavin Currie	(2020)	Drew Presley	(2020)
Sandra Graham Korjus	(2020)	Julien Quesnel*	(2021)
Bas Groeneweg	(2020)	Marilou Reeve	(2019)
Janette Hamilton-Silcoff	(2020)	Bob Rennie	(2019)
Don Harper**	(2019)	Doug Robertson	(2020)
Lois Harper**	(2019)	Elaine Robertson	(2020)
Christy Harris	(2019)	Doug Robinson	(2019)
Dianne Keevil Harrold	(2019)	Merina Shulist*	(2021)
Mary Lynne Holton	(2020)	Lynn Sherwood	(2020)
Heather Ingrams	(2019)	Steve Shipley**	(2021)
Shanti Inman	(2020)	Maureen Stark**	(2021)
Susan Klimowicz	(2020)	Sandra Weedmark**	(2019)
Karen Lamb	(2019)	Kate Whitridge	(2019)
Marilyn Law**	(2021)	Patricia Whitridge*	(2021)
Jennifer MacKinnon	(2019)		

Elders retiring: Myrna Belo, Marlene Hutchison, Gary Seymour, Jessie Weldon

Rideau Park hosted many inspiring worship events over the course of 2017. In January we shared a service with sister churches, then celebrated *I Have a Dream* Sunday, and February saw the return of over 100 youth for the annual Worshiplude weekend. The Encarna prayer and reflection experience was offered during Lent and Advent, and mid-week retreats were held for Advent. Meditative services were held one Sunday afternoon a month.

The Meditation group meets Sunday before service, and Healing Pathway healing sessions are held by appointment on Thursday afternoons, after service on the 3rd Sunday, during communion by intinction, and some Sunday evenings. The Lenten spirituality program featured films about the life and passion of Jesus, as well as a book study and web discussion on “10 Things They Never Told Me About Jesus” by John Bell. A series exploring Oprah Winfrey’s *Belief* documentaries was offered.

The Worship and Music Committee met in January, February, May, June, September and November. The Committee welcomes participation in our worship and music programs, and thoughts on current and potential worship activities. The Worship and Music Committee looks forward to exploring and supporting the initiatives of the Working Group on Becoming an Affirming Congregation. Worship and Music, in response to Call to Action 48, continues to explore indigenous spirituality and relationship building with our local Indigenous Community.

The chancel choir and the bell choirs offered concerts during Advent and in the spring, the chancel choir sang Fauré’s Requiem in November, and children and youth participated in the fabulous pageant in December.

Our sincere appreciation to:

- Andrea Laliberté and her team of many for their time and effort in leading the children and youth chime and handbell choirs, and the extraordinary work in writing, directing and presenting the Christmas pageant
- Marcia Gosse for her wonderful dedication in leading the handbell choirs, providing first class concerts, and sharing the bell music ministry at Rideau Park and in the broader community
- Andrew Ager and Iain Macpherson for providing music leadership, Andrew for the beautiful organ and piano music, and Iain for his choral leadership
- Heather Ingrams, Becky Kurz, Caitlin Tabbenor, Leigha Robinson and Iain Macpherson, and the many volunteers who make our children’s choirs so very popular, for cheering our hearts and leading the children in Cherubs, Joyful Noise and Kinderpraise

Thank you to our Chancel Choir, which continues to grow, and to our excellent Section leads for the wonderful leadership in music. We are grateful for the many talented musicians who contribute to Rideau Park’s music ministry.

Thanks also to the organizers of coffee hour, communion support, ushering, decorating, advertising, hosts and coordinators of luncheons and special events, music leaders, and the staff of Rideau Park United Church. We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratefulness to Rev. Steve, Rev. Elizabeth and Rev. Georgina for their worship leadership and their guidance to the Committee during the year, and to Sharon Sanderson and Maureen Stark for their assistance with worship leadership.

The members of the Worship and Music Committee are: Kate Whitridge and Nancy Begg-Durkee Co-chairs, Judy Paré Secretary, Andrew Ager, Barry Dewis, Marcia Gosse, Dianne Keevil Harrold, Heather Ingrams, Karen Lamb, Marilyn Law, Iain Macpherson, Sharon Sanderson and Maureen Stark. The email address is worshipmusic@rideaupark.ca.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Begg-Durkee and Kate Whitridge, Co-Chairs

Sunday services, afternoon concerts and performances comprise only some of the musical events at Rideau Park in 2017. The significant performances included a Chancel Choir performance of the Fauré Requiem in November, followed closely by the annual Christmas Concert in December, which featured the Chancel Choir, the Teen Bells, Touch of Brass, Joyful Noise choirs and various soloists.

The audience support for both events was strong, especially the Christmas Concert. Earlier on in April, Andrew Ager performed "Rhapsody in Blue" on a Sunday afternoon. There was a very good turnout for this half-hour of well-loved Gershwin. In June we were treated to an evening of "Hits from the 30's to the 70's", performed by Andrew on the vintage pops organ that is usually stored downstairs.

The choir membership steadily maintained around 35-40 members. Joyful Noise children's choir, cooperatively directed by Caitlin Tabbenor, Leigha Robinson and Iain Macpherson had fewer members than in previous years, but held steady with 4 older students (Grade 4 and up) and about 12 younger students. Songs in which Joyful Noise and the Chancel choir joined efforts were well received, and will continue in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Iain Macpherson, Music Ministry Coordinator

In 2017, there were once again two ringing choirs for young people at Rideau Park United Church. Note-Able Sound Chimes ensemble, for ringers in grades 2 to 5, met in the Sanctuary every Thursday evening from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. The group was directed by Andrea Laliberté with assistance from Erin Brunet, Kaitie Jourdeuil, Merina Shulist and members of our teen bell choir. Grace Notes Teen Bells, for ringers in grades 6+, also met in the Sanctuary every Thursday evening and rehearsed from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. The group was also directed by Andrea Laliberté with the capable aid of Erin Brunet, Merina Shulist and Kaitie Jourdeuil.

Grace Notes once again had the special opportunity in February 2017 to participate and share music at Worshiplude, a gathering of over 500 youth from all over Ontario. This weekend long annual event coincides with Ottawa's Winterlude celebrations. Grace Notes shared in the Saturday evening Worshiplude service at Parkdale United Church.

In the Spring of 2017, both Note-Able Sound and Grace Notes shared their music in worship at Rideau Park on several occasions as part of Sunday worship. Both groups also had the opportunity to participate in the annual Bells in Spring concert.

In the fall of 2017, both groups enjoyed some of our largest ever enrolments. Many members of Grace Notes continued to serve as mentor ringers for our youngest chimers and we are grateful for their support. Note-Able Sound shared their music as part of the Christmas Bell concert and the Christmas Eve family service. Grace Notes shared their music at the Christmas Bell Concert, the annual Christmas Pageant and the Christmas Eve family service. The Teen Bells also participated in Youth and Young Adult Sunday in November.

For more information, or to register for one of our ringing groups for children and teens, please contact Andrea Laliberté at 613-248-1283 or marcandrea@rogers.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Laliberté

A Touch of Brass is one of five handbell/chimes choirs at Rideau Park, and one of three adult handbell groups with eleven dedicated members who play monthly for the glory of God at Rideau Park as well as various churches (Emmanuel United Church in Foxboro (Belleville), Gloucester Presbyterian Church) in the community. Their talents have also been shared at the Rehabilitation Centre and the UCW Christmas Candlelight Service.

La Bell Ensemble is the second adult handbell group with thirteen dedicated members who love to take the bells and share their talents at Rideau Park as well as various churches (MacKay United Church, Chelsea United, St. Timothy's Presbyterian, Emmanuel Apostolic Church) in the community. Their talents have been shared with Ottawa Presbytery, Oakpark Retirement Residence, Landmark Court Retirement Residence, Greenboro Senior's Association, an outdoor summer concert at the Lansdowne Aberdeen Pavilion, and a celebration of life service.

Ringin' Praise is the third adult handbell group with eleven wonderful members who are willing to learn. They are an enthusiastic group who enjoy learning the various bell techniques and sharing their talents with the joint bell concerts. No pressure!

The Bell Duet played at a celebration of life service, two Rideau Park summer services, a piano recital, and a luncheon.

All of the groups were active participants in the **Bells In Spring Concert** – a massed concert which incorporated three handbell choirs from other churches in the community.

In December we started the Christmas season with the **Ringin' In Christmas Bell Concert** for Rideau Park's Bell Choirs where \$2,300 was raised for Christmas Cheer and the Heron Emergency Food Centre.

It has been a busy season for all, but the ringers have shone through everything, and their gift of music brings joy to all who listen. Thank you to all the dedicated ringers – new and long-standing ringers alike!

If you are interested in joining this merry group of people and becoming a handbell ringer, please call Marcia Gosse at 731-2281.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Gosse

The mandate of the Christian Development Committee (CD Committee) is to take the lead in planning and developing programs and events to promote Christian development for people of all ages in the congregation.

In 2017, Tara Lockhart and Andrea Laliberté continued in their roles as co-chairs of the Christian Development Committee. In 2017, membership of the committee included: Rev. Steve Clifton, Bas Groeneweg, Anne Marie Tessier, Dieudonné Detchou, Andrea Laliberté (Co-chair), Tara Lockhart (Secretary, Co-chair), and Gary Seymour.

The following ongoing programs and annual events are overseen and shepherded by the Christian Development Committee:

Programs

Sunday School
Adult Bible Study Groups
Lenten Book Studies
Adult Retreats
Confirmation Classes
Vacation Bible School
HearSay Supper Group
Scouting
Shoe Boxes for charity

Events

Welcome Back Brunch
Carol Gardner Award
Carleton University Pause Table
Advent Happening

The Christian Development Committee is responsible for overseeing a variety of programs and events. Fortunately, we have dedicated volunteers who make it easy to accomplish such a range of activities. We also have the wonderful support of Rev. Clifton who ensures we have the resources to accomplish our goals.

With the help of fabulous volunteers, we continue to provide a vibrant Sunday School program. We were privileged to have dedicated Sunday School teachers providing weekly activities for ages 3,4,5 (Susan Kilborn and Candice Presley), grades 1-3 (Linda Hagglund), grades 4-7 (Andrea Laliberté) and grades 7-9 (led by Michael and Ben Presley). There were also many parents who supported these classes as helpers. Our toddler room for ages up to 3 years continued to be staffed by paid youth - Bronwyn Clifton, Lianne Presley and Rebekah Dillman.

We would like to thank Paul Sorg who ensured that Sunday School rooms were ready on Sunday mornings and also took care of the special arrangements and changes as requested.

Vacation Bible School offered a full day Camp Awesome program led by the youth of the Ottawa Presbytery and was supported by youth volunteers from Rideau Park. Camp Awesome was attended by 60 participants. Thank you to all who helped at Camp Awesome 2017. VBS Staff - Julien Quesnel, Ruth Bryce, Rebekah Dillman, Bronwyn Clifton, Allyson Hopkin; and volunteers: Dzifa Abegniah, Meadow Adlard, Caitlin Allo, Clara Brady and Mohammed Iwad; and, Congregational Coordinator: Zoe Sherwin. The full day camp model continues to appeal to working families and the Presbytery program - Camp Awesome - continues to be successful as it meets our needs as a congregation and, most importantly, the needs of the participants.

In February, the Christian Development Committee hosted 110 young people and leaders from the London Conference who attended Worshiplude in Ottawa. Christian Development provided breakfast for our guests on the Saturday and Sunday mornings during the Worshiplude program.

Bronwyn Clifton, one of our young people, took part in an exchange with the Dene Kew First Nation of Fort Resolution, North West Territories in March. Bronwyn, Ruth Bryce, Rebekah Dillman and

Jessica Nicholls attended the Rendezvous Youth Conference in Montreal this summer. We enjoyed their presentation at Youth and Young Adult Sunday in November.

The Christian Development Committee supported the Carleton University Pause Table during both April and December exams.

We are grateful to our Event Shepherds who helped make our many programs possible again this year: Ann Marie Tessier (Welcome Back Brunch), Tara Lynne Lockhart and Ann Marie Tessier (Advent Happening – Gingerbread Houses), Heidi Hopkin and family (Shoebox program), and Andrea Laliberté (Christmas Pageant).

In the fall, we recognized the long-term commitment to our children and young people by Alyce Dunnewold. She was given the Carol Gardner Award in recognition for her inspirational leadership with our Teen confirmation class and with costuming for the Christmas Pageant.

The Christian Development Committee comprises dedicated members who generously give of their time and talents. We would like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work this past year and we would like to welcome anyone who wishes to join in!

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Laliberté and Tara Lynne Lockhart, Co-Chairs

A snapshot of our 2017 ministry with youth and young adults:

Confirmation: In the fall 13 young people began the confirmation process. The group will meet from November through May in preparation for confirmation at the end of May 2018. Thank you to Alyce Dunnewold for co-leading the confirmation program again this year.

Pause Table Carleton: Rideau Park sends food and volunteers to the Carleton University Ecumenical Chaplaincy Pause Table in April and December, providing free food and friendly smiles to students during their exams. The Pause Table is a significant outreach. Foodbank use by students is not uncommon and stress levels at the end of term can be very high. For some students we are providing a snack and encouragement in a stressful time. For others the cupboard is bare, the fridge is empty and they have no more funds as the term comes to a close.

YAYA Sunday: In the fall we have a tradition of organizing a YAYA Sunday. Our young people took the lead on Sunday morning. Our youth bell choir provided music. Our older Sunday School students led the prayers and led the children's time in dramatic fashion. Our speakers were Rebekah Dillman, Bronwyn Clifton and Jessica Nichols. They shared their experience of attending Rendezvous 2017, the triennial UCC YAYA gathering, held in Montreal this past summer

Hospitality is part of our mission to young people. Our congregation has hosted youth and leaders for Worshiplude for many years. We had 110 people from London Conference for a February weekend in 2017. We also hosted the Cabinet of the Ontario Youth Parliament for a weekend in 2017. Rumour has it that we may be hosting all of OYP in 2019.

Worshiplude: A service brings 600 youth from all over Quebec and Ontario. They all came to Ottawa for Winterlude, were hosted by local churches and joined in with a worship gathering that included our youth bell group, Grace Notes.

Exchange Trips: Our young people have the opportunity to participate in exchange trips with First Nations communities through the Presbytery YAYA ministry and Exchanges Canada. In 2017 two Rideau Parkers, one youth and one adult leader spent 10 days on a trip to the Dene community in Ft. Resolution, North West Territories. The experience has been shared on a Sunday morning and at Harmony Club.

Camp Awesome: Our Presbytery runs the United Church regional Vacation Bible School Program over 6 weeks in July and August and many of our young people are involved in leading the program. When Camp Awesome comes to Rideau Park even more of our young people join in taking leadership for the week.

Our congregation is blessed with great young people who contribute much to our church's life. A number of our youth and young adults serve as Sunday School teachers through the Sunday School year. Young people staff our childcare room on Sundays. Projects like Advent Happening, Christmas Cheer and the Christmas Pageant engage our youth in the work of our congregation. They share musical gifts through voice choirs and bell choirs. Our young people bless us with their gifts in many ways. And we are grateful for all those who work with the youth of our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Steve Clifton

Pastoral Care has welcomed Brian Neal to our committee this year, and he has actually agreed to become Chair, effective in February. Our committee has grown over the past couple of years, and we are pleased to be able to offer the elderly men in retirement homes, male visitors, who are probably able to connect on a deeper level. Not everyone can make it to the monthly meetings, but we do have a healthy number of visitors.

Brian Neal will bring with him valuable training and experience with his background in "Healing Pathways", as well as the Pastoral Care course, which he highly recommends. Active listening is emphasized and encouraged.

The Seniors' Service was successful once again with 48 guests and drivers attending. The Parlour seemed a bit crowded this year, so we might consider hosting the reception in Beecroft, if the numbers warrant in the future.

Pastoral Care finally settled on a permanent meeting time of 1:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, when most members can attend. We usually make one exception for our end of year potluck supper.

In June, Pastoral Care hosted an information session about all the resources and services offered by the South East Community Health Centre.

Our "Hearts Remember Service" on November 5th was well received by 24 guests who attended. We also hosted, in conjunction with the UCW, 24 special guests to an early visit to the bazaar and tea in the morning.

Rideau Park's new photo directory included a visit by the photographer to three retirement homes in the area, arranged by Marcia Gosse.

Looking toward our future in 2018, our Seniors' Service and Tea has been scheduled for Sunday, April 22nd.

Sharon Gubbay Helfer, a participant in the Compassionate Listening Project has been invited to speak after coffee hour on April 15th, 2018. This event will be jointly co-hosted by Pastoral Care, and Social, Action and Outreach committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Rader, Chair

Purpose:

- Promote active concern for all God's people and creation;
- Identify and be aware of social justice and other relevant issues affecting society, both within and beyond the church community, and
- Put into action programs that support social justice and other relevant issues.

Addressing the needs of people in the broader community, at home and abroad:**Banff Avenue Community House; Blair Court Community House; Russell Heights Community House:**

The Social Action and Outreach Committee supports the community houses both financially and with volunteers who help with Homework Clubs.

Christmas Cheer Program: Rideau Park's out-pouring of generosity provides Christmas hampers and food vouchers to 150 plus families in our extended neighbourhood.

Heron Emergency Food Centre: The Social Action and Outreach Committee supports the Heron Emergency Food Centre financially, through the "First Sunday of the Month" food collection and with volunteers who shop and pack up food.

50+ Fitness/Gentle Yoga: Exercise group meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Yoga meets late afternoon on Wednesdays and Friday mornings. Groups run in 10 week sessions. All are welcome

Harmony Club: This is a group of 60+ seniors and they meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm (except June, July and August). Cards and conversation precede a lunch, followed by a speaker.

Group for Friends: This is both a fun and a support group for physically or mentally challenged people aged 18 to 40. They meet at Rideau Park for events such as dances and movie/pizza nights.

Euchre Club: The unofficial mandate of this club is, in order: to laugh; to talk and then play cards and we are very good at all three. The club holds parties, at Christmas and in June, for year end. The door is always open for new members and guests. We meet each Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:30 pm from September to June.

Peace and Development: In January we organized the "I have a Dream" Sunday with our guest speaker. This year our own Gaveen Cadotte gave a very thoughtful address.

Environment: Kristina Inrig continued to bring environmental issues to the committee as well as the congregation. She has been away since June but we look forward to her return in the Spring.

Refugee Committee: Ubah continues to work hard at both school and her job. She now has two jobs and is taking high school courses at the adult high school. We continue to assist her by paying half her rent. Our Syrian family is doing well. Their English is getting much better and in the summer they moved into a town house across from the apartment where they were living. This meant that no one had to change schools.

We arranged for them to get their OHIP cards, got the children into school, arranged for the parents to begin ESL classes, applied for their Child Benefits, got Mohammad and Osama into swimming lessons and soccer, got them bus passes, arranged dental and eye appointments, applied for Healthy Smiles Cards for the boys and many other things.

Ali decided to buy a car and now has a part time job at Food Basics. Safaa volunteers at a day care and Ahmad worked all summer at a car wash. He is doing very well in school and has received two awards for his English. Mohammad and Osama are doing well in school and Ali and Safaa are working hard to master the English language which is not easy for them.

It has been a busy and very rewarding year for all of us and the Awads appreciate everything that we have done for and with them. They have many hopes and dreams and we hope they will eventually be fulfilled.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Weedmark, Chair

Once again, 2017 was a busy year for the Ministry and Personnel Committee.

The year began with the happy announcement that Andrew Ager and Suzanne Bassett were going to marry. Rev. Steve Clifton officiated at the marriage which took place at Rideau Park on February 18th. The congregation responded generously with a gift for them and we had a reception following the service on February 26th, to celebrate their marriage.

Following a motor vehicle accident in December, 2016, Iain Macpherson encountered some health issues and was off work for two months during which time Andrew Ager took over as Music Ministry Director. Iain returned at the beginning of April and hasn't looked back. Andrew and Iain continue to work very well together and we are extremely lucky to have them.

Our Administrator, Debi Brown, underwent knee replacement surgery in May and as a result was off work for three months. She returned in mid-August and quickly resumed all her duties. In her absence, Lisa Sadler very capably kept track of the finances and issuing of cheques for which we sincerely thank her.

Rev. Steve Clifton has been very busy in his role as Chair of Presbytery but has also been very busy at Rideau Park. He is also involved in the changes regarding the governance of the United Church. He is planning on taking a sabbatical in 2018 starting on June 1, 2018 and will be back at work at the beginning of October.

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce has been asked by Presbytery to mentor a congregation in Maniwaki, Quebec, and she has also been involved in the discussions regarding the upcoming changes in the governance of the United Church. Despite all this she has continued to prepare wonderful services and be available to everyone.

Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald has continued to work very hard with those of our members who are confined to their homes or are living in retirement homes and nursing homes. She loves the work she is doing and we hope she will continue doing it for many more years.

The committee members are Judy Paré, Marjorie Melick, Marcia Gosse, Wayne Bond, Jim Holton and Bas Groeneweg. They are a wonderful committee to work with and I have appreciated all they have done during the past five years. Unfortunately Jim and Bas have decided to step down from the Committee. They will be sorely missed but we sincerely wish them all the best in the future.

Personally, I have very much enjoyed working with the staff over the last five years. They are a wonderful group of people to work with and their commitment to Rideau Park is exemplary. We are a truly blessed congregation. Carolyn Scollick will be taking over as Chair of the Committee and I wish her all the best.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Law, Chair

**Rideau Park United Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 12, 2017**

PRESENT: Alyce Dunnewold (Chair), Brian Neal (Recording Secretary). Mary Lynne Holton, Jim Holton, Saran Rizk, Drew Presley, Judy Paré, Karen Humphries, Michael Inrig, Bob Rennie, Marcia Gosse, Barbara Jeffrey, Cathy Hollands, Lynda Becker, Marilyn Bailey, Karen Lamb, Doreen Hamilton, Brian Hamilton, Gretchen Conrad, Merina Shulist, Krista Schneider, Heather Moon Martin, Doug Robinson, Heather Ingrams, Marlene Hutchison, Bob Roden, Norm Edwards, Lois Jensen, Jessie Weldon, Jeffrey Allo, Maureen Stark, Elizabeth Campbell-Keays, Nadia Senyk, Mabel Bannerman, Sharon Sanderson, Steve Shipley, Lisa Sadler, Marilyn Law, Gavin Currie, Pat Currie, Randolph Harrold, Dianne Keevil Harrold, Sheila Faure, Thierry Faure, Carmen Small, Bas Groeneweg, Helen Groeneweg, Wayne Bond, Sandra Weedmark, Rod Hagglund, Kate Whitridge, Elmer Janzen, Beulah Tulloch, Glenys Pike, Suzane Beausejour, Patricia Whitridge, Elizabeth Bryce, Steve Clifton, J. W. Scollick, Carolyn Scollick, Ron MacPherson, Joanne Rodgers, Shanti Inman, Peggy Rader, Bob Nelson (65 in attendance)

The Community Gathers Before God

1. Words of Welcome and Opening Motions The Reverend Elizabeth Bryce welcomed the gathering and asked for nominations for a Recording Secretary and Chair for the meeting. Alyce Dunnewold was nominated for Chair by Wayne Bond. Brian Neal was nominated for Recording Secretary by Mary Lynne Holton. They both accepted and as there were no further nominations, they were elected by acclamation.

2. Lighting of the Christ Candle Alyce called the meeting to order and called for a prayer to open the meeting.

3 Prayer of Approach The Rev. Elizabeth Bryce then opened the meeting with a prayer.

4. Motion re: Adherents Alyce called for a motion to permit adherents to participate and vote in this year's Annual Congregational Meeting.

Moved by Maureen Stark, **seconded by** Heather Ingrams, that all adherents of Rideau Park United Church be permitted to participate and vote at this year's Annual Congregational Meeting.

CARRIED

5. Approval of the Agenda Alyce asked for approval of the agenda.

Moved by Sharon Sanderson, **seconded by** Karen Lamb, that the Agenda be accepted as printed.

CARRIED

Life and Work of the Congregation

6. Receiving the 2016 Annual Reports and Congregational Meeting Minutes of 2016 Alyce recommended everyone read the Annual Report if they had not already. It speaks to the vision of many of our members, and you can read that threaded throughout the report. Alyce called for a motion to receive the 2016 Annual Report, the Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes from February 14, 2016, and the minutes from the Fall Congregational Meeting of November 13, 2016. These minutes were both printed in the Annual Report, pages 54-60.

Moved by Shanti Inman, **seconded by** Rod Hagglund, that the 2016 Annual Report, the Minutes of the February 14, 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting, and the Minutes of the November 13, 2016 Congregational Meeting be received as printed.

CARRIED

7. Receiving the Review Engagement/Audit Report Alyce called upon Bob Roden, Treasurer, to present the 2015 Audit Report and the financial statements for 2016. Bob started by thanking Debi Brown for all her work as Administrator, his fellow Stewards and Council Members for their support during the year, the UCW for their strong financial support, and the Congregation for their support throughout the year and especially their response to the year-end appeal. He then noted that Collins Barrow had verified all our accounts and finances. Although they noted some reservations associated with revenue verification, this is normal for charitable organizations.

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** Norm Black, that the 2015 Audit Report prepared by Collins Barrow be accepted.

CARRIED

At a previous Congregational Meeting, approval was given to have review engagements performed each year, provided that a full audit was conducted every fifth year. The most recent audit was in 2015. As 2016 is the first year following an audit, Bob Roden requested that the Committee of Stewards be authorized to engage Collins Barrow to conduct a review engagement of the 2016 Financial Statements.

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** John Scollick, that Collins Barrow be engaged to conduct a review engagement of the 2016 financial statements.

CARRIED

8. Receiving the Financial Statements for 2016 Bob provided a summary of our financial results for 2016. Pledges were lower than budgeted, but we ended with a surplus for several reasons, including the generosity of the congregation from the end-year financial appeal, higher rental income, a significant increase in support from the UCW, higher interest from the Britt Fund, as well as unbudgeted revenue from the Dora Helmkey fund. As a result, we were able to re-allocate a total of \$16,500 from this year's surplus to the Property Fund (\$11,500) and the Mission and Service Fund (\$5,000), and still end up with a small surplus of approximately \$3,000. Salary and benefit expenses were actually down a bit, as well as some property related expenses including heating, repairs and snow clearing. Bob also noted that the Audit Report is available from our Administrator if anyone would like to see it.

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** John Scollick, that the Financial Statements on pages 24 to 26, the Fund Account Reconciliation Statement found on page 29, and the Property Renewal Fund Report found on page 30 of the Rideau Park United Church 2016 Annual Report be accepted subject to a review engagement for 2016.

CARRIED

9. Property Report and Plan Brian Hamilton reviewed the work done on Property Renewal in 2016, and noted that a \$20K advance from the UCW had enabled an early start to the Parlour kitchen renovation. Much needed improvements to the heating system have also been made and should soon lead to improvements in the Pastoral Care minister's office which has always been exceptionally cold in the winter.

Moved by Brian Hamilton, **seconded by** Rod Hagglund, that the Property Renewal Plan for 2017, as found on page 31 of the 2016 Annual Report, be approved.

CARRIED

Alyce expressed our thanks to Brian for all his hard work both planning and doing the work of property repair and renewal.

10. Trustees Report Sheila Faure, Chair of Trustees presented the Trustees report, which is found on pages 18 and 19. She noted that because bank interest rates have been so low, the

Sheila noted that Fiera funds are also used by UCC, and in answer to a question, she confirmed that they are ethical funds. She also reported that the Dora Helmkey Legacy Fund had previously been invested with a five-year term, and had just matured in 2016 (as also mentioned in Item 8 above).

Offering Our Services

11. Stewardship Report Brian Hamilton thanked John Scollick for stepping up and being the Campaign Chair this year with a theme of “Live Simply”. Overall it went very well, although pledges are down a bit for 2017. This seems to be part of a trend over the last five years as the total pledge amount has declined from \$572K to \$517K in that time. Fortunately, we have been able to increase other sources of revenue to help meet our annual budgets.

12. Recognition of the Leadership that is concluding The Reverend Steve Clifton came forward to recognize and thank leaders in the church whose terms had completed. They included: Alyce Dunnewold (Council Chair and Elder), Brian Neal (Council Secretary), Cathy Hollands (Council Member-at-Large), Michael Presley (Vice Chair of Council and Elder), Shanti Inman (Clerk of Session), Don Melick (Presbytery Rep and Elder), Don Ford, John Durkee and Andrew Jeffrey (Stewards), Margaret Stinnett, Helen Cutts and Jacqueline Newton (Elders).

13. Recognition of Staff Alyce Dunnewold recognized the work and support we receive on a daily basis from Reverend Steve, Reverend Elizabeth and Reverend Georgina. What they do, they do very well, while always expressing a strong sense of loving kindness. The Admin team, Debi Brown and Debby Gerro, keep it all together for us; our Sexton, Paul Sorg, knows every quirk of our building; and our music leaders, Iain Macpherson and Andrew Ager, are truly exceptional.

14. Nominations Wayne Bond, Chair of Nominations, presented the Nominations Report on pages 40-43 in the Annual Report. He also expressed his appreciation for the assistance of all the committee members: Mabel Bannerman, Alyce Dunnewold, Marcia Gosse, Judy Paré, Marilyn Law and Drew Presley, with Reverends Steve and Elizabeth as advisors. He noted one change that did not make it in time for the Annual Report, that Patricia Whitridge has agreed to become Vice Chair of Council. Wayne noted that the Nominations Committee is planning the next Volunteer Appreciation Sunday for April 30, 2017. The Nominations Committee is also working on creating and maintaining a new inventory of volunteer resources, and is looking at a major rework of the Volunteer Resources Survey to support that.

Moved by Wayne Bond, **seconded by** Drew Presley, that the nominations for new appointments and renewal and extension of terms, as set out in the Nominations Report on pages 40 to 43 of the 2016 Annual Report, and with the addition of the nomination of Patricia Whitridge for the position of Vice-Chair of Council, be approved. **CARRIED**

15. 2017 Budget Bob Roden, Treasurer, presented the budget for 2017 (page 27 of the Annual Report). Revenue is predicted to be \$564K for Ministries and Programs and \$72K for Mission and Service. Salaries represent 75% of our budgeted expenses. The budget includes a 2% salary increase; however, there will also be a reduction in hours down to 14 hrs/week (requested by the Minister of Pastoral Care) so the Ministry and Personnel costs are expected to be about the same as last year (\$425K). Overall we are expecting to essentially break even in 2017.

Maureen Stark asked about the relationship between the Trustee Funds and the Ministry and Programs (M&P) Fund. The Trustee Funds (pages 19-20 in the Annual Report) are independently managed and do not appear in the financial statement for our general operating funds on page 24 of the Annual Report. However, when investment interest comes due from the funds, managed by the Trustees, it does come over to the Ministries and Programs Fund with some restrictions.

The Dora Helmkey Legacy revenue mentioned in Item 10 above is an example, as is the annual use of revenue from the Rideau Park Foundation Fund.

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** Heather Ingrams, that the Rideau Park United Church 2017 Budgets for the Ministries & Programs Fund and the Mission & Service Fund, as presented on pages 27 and 28 of the 2016 Annual Report, be approved. **CARRIED**

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** Gretchen Conrad, that the Committee of Stewards be authorized to borrow up to \$20,000 to cover any shortfalls in the Ministries & Programs Fund (formerly the General Fund) should they occur in 2017. **CARRIED**

16. Long Range Financial Plan Update Bob Roden reported on the progress made with the Long Range Financial Plan (LRFP). Over the last year the Working Group met with various groups and the representatives of numerous committees to get some feedback on the report and to receive any recommendations. Everyone was aware of the challenges facing our congregation and seems to be happy with what has been done so far. There was some pushback on the idea that we need to develop more partnerships because we already have many partnerships and just need to nurture them.

Going forward, Stewards will continue to look at opportunities to enhance non-givings related revenues. As an example, the recent renovation of the apartment has allowed us to rent that space out. Also, a High Definition (HD) Technology grant will enable us to expand outreach into the community. Stewards will continue to look for feedback on the Long Range Financial Plan, while recognizing that it is part of a bigger picture. Wider issues that come up, such as declining membership, will be raised to Council and other stakeholders.

A good discussion ensued about the challenges and opportunities facing Rideau Park. Sharon Sanderson asked if we could provide an opportunity for people watching from home to be able to donate over the web and to receive a charitable donation receipt. In fact, our website already supports donations over the web with charitable receipts provided by CanadaHelps. The possibility of explicitly offering that opportunity as part of the worship service broadcast has been considered, but would need a thoughtful and sensitive design so as not to detract from the worship service.

Merina Shulist noted that we seemed to be focused on, and successful with, engaging seniors in daytime programs, but what about engaging the younger generation in either daytime or evening activities? There was general consensus that this is an important consideration and needs further attention. However, this issue has been raised many times in the past, so new ideas are welcome. In the same vein, Thierry Faure asked how is our Sunday School doing? We are half the size we used to be, but still healthy relative to other churches. We have some excellent teachers and several combined-age classes. People are encouraged to come out to Hearsay on Thursday evenings to see how well we really do engage young families. Can we get younger and middle age folks involved in the governance of the church? We have tried many things, perhaps some new ideas would work. We may not be able to generate the same level of involvement with the newer generations because younger families are stretched in many different directions. It is encouraging to note that most of the kids in Sunday School today are with families that are new to our church, so the Sunday School is robust enough to attract new families to our church. It is also worth remembering that the Sunday School numbers reflect attendance in the pews.

Alyce thanked Stewards and in particular the Working Group for their efforts over the past couple of years to bring the Long Range Financial Plan together. With respect to the wider issues, she noted that Council has asked committees to come to Council and talk about their challenges, opportunities and visions. This activity will permit Council to see how best they can support the work of the committees. This can all contribute to long term planning. She also noted that Presbytery has a renewal workshop planned for March.

17. Other Business Alyce noted that all four Remits affecting the restructuring of the UCC had been passed by Session and Council.

18. Closing Remarks Alyce thanked the presenters for helping us understand how things are going and everyone in attendance for their active participation in the life and work of the church.
Sending Forth

19. Commissioning and Benediction Reverend Steve Clifton closed the meeting with a benediction.

20. Adjournment Moved by Marcia Gosse, **seconded by** Karen Humphries, that the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

Alyce Dunnewold, Chair

Brian Neal, Recording Secretary

Date