

Rideau Park United Church Annual Report 2022



**2203 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1H 7L9**

**613-733-3156
rideaupark.ca**

**To receive a report with full financial details please
contact the administrator at
administrator@rideaupark.ca.**

Table of Contents

LEADERSHIP AT RIDEAU PARK.....	1
JOURNEY OF FAITH.....	2
IN MEMORIAM.....	3
RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH IN MEMORIAM DONATIONS.....	3
CHURCH VISION STATEMENT.....	4
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	4
STATISTICS 2022.....	5
COUNCIL.....	6
STEWARDSHIP	6
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	8
UNITED CHURCH WOMEN	9
MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	10
PROGRAMS	11
Worship and Music	11
Social Action and Outreach.....	12
Christian Development	14
Environment.....	17
PEOPLE	17
Congregational Life	17
Nominations.....	17
Pastoral Care	18
Congregational Development	19
RESOURCES	20
Finance	20
Property Committee	21
Administrative and Communications.....	22
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES	24

LEADERSHIP AT RIDEAU PARK

STAFF	Rev. Steve Clifton	Minister of Christian Family and Worship
	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce	Minister of Community and Worship
	Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald	Minister of Pastoral Care
	Iain Macpherson	Music Ministry Coordinator
	Andrew Ager	Organist
	Debi Brown	Administrator
	Geoff Scollick	Custodian
COUNCIL	Ken Tong	Chair
	Heather Ingrams	Vice -Chair
	Lynn Sherwood	Secretary
	Bob Roden	Treasurer
	Gavin Currie	Chair of Stewardship
	Alyce Dunnewold, Nancy McPherson	Regional Representatives (EOORC)
	Michael Presley	Chair of Board of Trustees
	Nancy McPherson	President of United Church Women
	Jeff Allo / Wayne Bond interim	Chair of Ministry and Personnel
	Gaveen Cadotte	Member at Large
	Heather Boyd (Glen)	Member at Large
	Stephanie Bailey (Michael)	Member at Large
	Neil McGraw	Member at Large
	Shanti Inman	Member at Large
	Cathy Hollands	Member at Large
	Margaret Hart	Member at Large
	Steven Neal	Programs Liaison
	Drew Presley	People Liaison
	Ron MacPherson	Resources Liaison
	Rev. Steve Clifton	Minister of Christian Family and Worship
	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce	Minister of Community and Worship
	Debi Brown	Administrator (non-voting)

COMMITTEES

Programs

Worship and Music	Karen Lamb and Sharon Sanderson, Co-Chairs
Social Action and Outreach	Lynn Sherwood, Chair
Christian Development	Meg Steele, Chair
Environmental Action	Kristina Inrig, Chair

People

Congregational Life	Judy Paré, Chair
Nominations	Patricia Whitridge, Chair
Pastoral Care	Brian Neal, Chair
Congregational Development	Greig Scott, Chair

Resources

Finance	Bob Roden (Treasurer)
Property	Brian Hamilton, Chair
Administration and Communications	Kristie Marr, Chair

Eastern Ontario Outaouais	Alyce Dunnewold
Regional Council Representatives	Nancy McPherson

Envelope Secretary	Barbara Jeffrey
--------------------	-----------------

JOURNEY OF FAITH

Baptisms	Child	Logan Bouchard Remington Pierre Dussault Addison Teresa Flack Jeremy Eugene Kurz Olivia Charlotte Kurz Victoria Ida Pagliarello
Baptism and Confirmation		Claire Benn Nancy Elizabeth Sherman-Strome
Confirmation		Kieran Allo Kate Jensen Harback Haden Hopkin Nessa Hopkin Sydney Laliberté Jessica Roebuck
Transfer to Rideau Park		nil
Transfer from Rideau Park		nil

IN MEMORIAM***Members, Adherents and Friends of Rideau Park***

Roberta Atchison

Douglas Boyd

Bruce Carson

Walter Conrad

Gaston Dolbec

Dianne Ferguson

Marilyn Follet

Corrine Godding

Dorothy Good

Mary Harris

James Holton

Dorothy Horwood

John Brian Irvine

Christine Robin Johnson

Michael Makela

Jean Matheson

Vida Moore

Stan Parkhouse

Judith Robertson

Robert Seeley

Carmen Small

Margaret Sturley

Beulah Tulloch-Janzen

Hyacinthe Wade Howard

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

RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH IN MEMORIAM DONATIONS

Dianne Ferguson

Mary Harris

Audrey Henry

James Holton

Dorothy Horwood

Marguerite McNally

Jean Matheson

Colin and Marjorie Ogden

Margaret Sturley

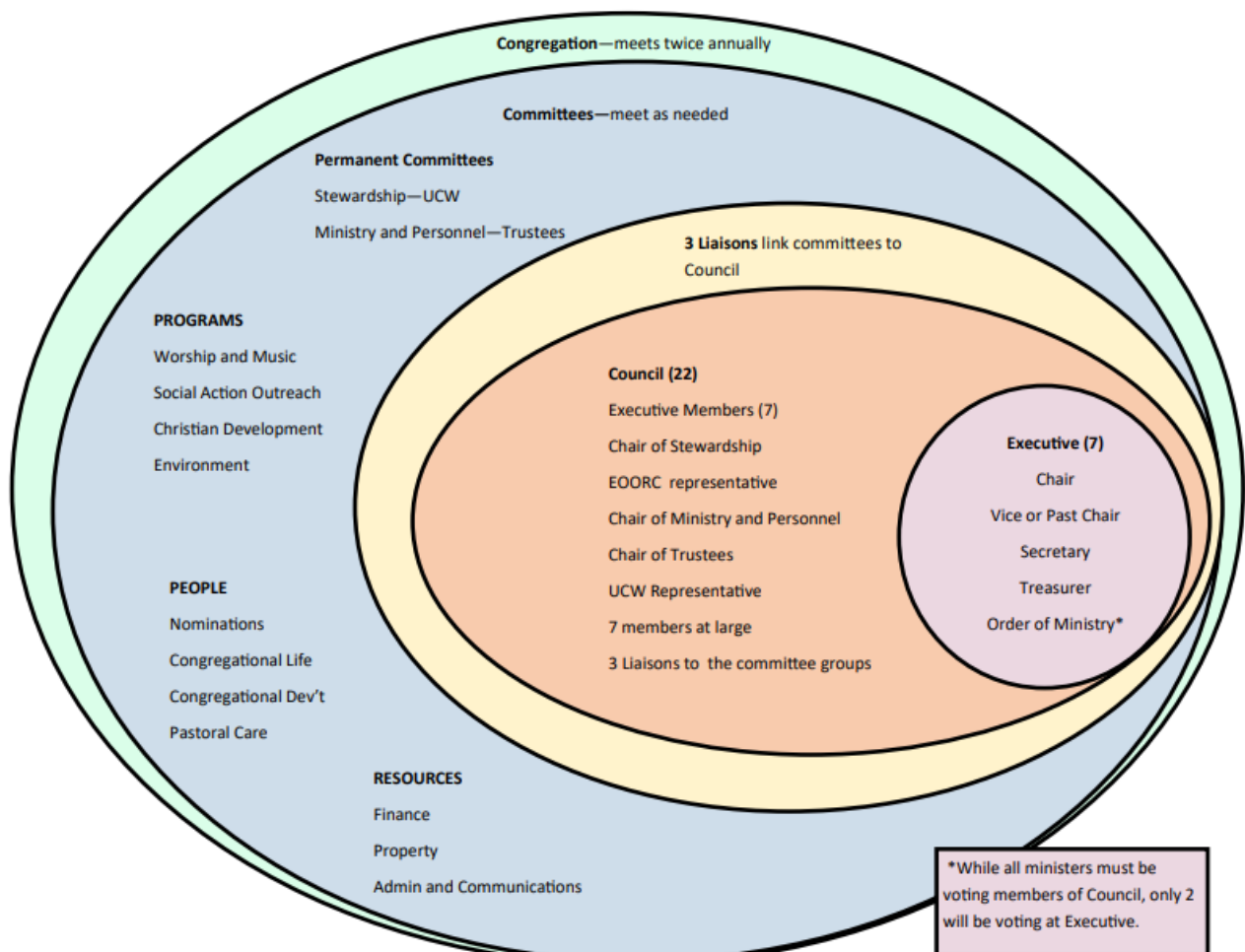
Hyacinthe Wade Howard

CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Rideau Park United Church is a vibrant faith community that seeks to embody a loving God as revealed in Jesus Christ. We recognize that, in order to reflect God's love and grace, and to faithfully follow in the path of Jesus, we are called to honour all God's children for their unique gifts, and to promote peace, social justice and a healthy environment as we work together to deepen our own spiritual growth.

We share in worship, prayer and learning, and we offer care and support to all, including those of diverse ages, abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations, races ethnicities, religions, and economic backgrounds. All are invited to participate fully, with mutual respect, in the life and work of the church.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



STATISTICS 2022

Number of households as of December 31, 2022	403
Total number of persons as of December 31, 2022	965
Members received through Confirmation	8
Members received through Transfer of Certificate	0
Members removed through Transfer of Certificate	0
Persons removed by death	15
Number of weddings.....	1
Number of funerals.....	14

COUNCIL

2022 proved to be a challenging year as we continued to adjust to circumstances caused by the ongoing Covid pandemic. Thanks to vaccines and boosters we were allowed to resume most in-person activities especially in the second half of the year. Thankfully mask mandates were replaced with mask guidance and recommendations. For the first time since 2019 we had an in-person Christmas Pageant, Bell Concerts and Christmas services. One could feel the sense of community, fellowship, and relief with being able to see people in-person rather than via a screen. During this time, we marvelled at the new heights and growth that the young people of the church attained over the last 3 years.

Church activities and use ramped up in the 2nd half of the year, however not everything is as it was pre-Covid. There are some noticeable age gaps in some youth programs - 3 years of a pandemic certainly has some knock-on effects with respect to progression and transitioning. This was certainly felt in the pre-school up to grade 4-5 age ranges. We are also experiencing a difficult time recruiting into several committees and church volunteer positions. Significant effort was made by the Stewardship Committee to revamp the time and talents database and I encourage Committees and those seeking volunteers to make use of this fantastic resource. I also encourage Rideau Parkers to identify their skills and interests into this database. Rideau Park has been fortunate that while our numbers are not what they once were, we have still seen a return to church programs by both adults and youth; this is not the same for other United Church congregations in Ottawa.

Over the next while, we will need to continue to be flexible and adapt to the changes presented to us. We must reflect on what we want out of Rideau Park and understand that we may also need to change and evolve. Technology has certainly become more prevalent and vital during this time, and we should better understand what that means and look at all the changes that come with it. Brian and Doreen Hamilton should be commended for their dedication to Rideau Park webcasting.

Financially, we qualified for government Covid subsidies, and the continued support of the congregation allowed us to stay in the black for 2020 and 2021. However, those subsidies no longer apply for 2022 and we must be vigilant on how we spend church funds to ensure that every dollar is used appropriately. We should also mimic the UCW's adaptability in their fund-raising efforts over the last few years, which incorporated a number of online initiatives.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work and flexibility throughout the year. Rev. Elizabeth, Rev. Steve, and Rev. Georgina thank you for your wisdom, dedication, and counselling. Debi, thank you for all your administration, bookkeeping and organization, keeping a complex organization like ours functioning. Geoff, thank you for taking care of our building. Ian and Andrew, thank you for the gift of music. And to the congregation, thank you for your ongoing support of Rideau Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Tong, Chair

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for ensuring a consistent level of faithful stewardship at Rideau Park, so that the resource potential of the congregation may be realized for our ongoing ministry. A major part of our work to achieve this is our annual Stewardship Campaign in the Fall. This year Cathy Hollands took on the role of Chair of the 2023 Campaign and we thank her for providing excellent leadership. Thanks also to Brian and Doreen Hamilton and Debi Brown for preparing the materials and sending them out and for collating the results.

This Stewardship Campaign seeks financial pledges and pledges of Time and Talents. The financial results are summarized below. With regard to Time and Talents, the Time and Talents database is now an active document and we continue to add to the names we collected during previous Stewardship Campaigns. We now have some 64 names of individuals who have offered to volunteer for various activities. As the church continues to re-open, we recognize that there will be an increasing need for volunteers and we are encouraging committees and coordinators to use the database as a possible source of resources. The list has been distributed to committees and those in leadership roles, and it was also handed out to those organizing work on coffee hour, Christmas projects, duty officer and bazaar activities. In addition to seeking pledges of Time and Talents during the Stewardship Campaign, we also plan to encourage the congregation to add their names to the database from time to time during the year. I would like to thank Karen Humphries and Lisa Sadler for the work they have done in continuing to develop the database and encouraging its use by different groups within the church.

For 2023 there were 207 pledges from 276 households for \$483,257 which is \$1,157 or .24% less than last year.

Program	2023 Pledges	2022 Pledges	+/- 2022 Pledges	+/- % 2022
Ministries and Programs Fund	169,912	165,062	4,850	2.94%
Mission and Service Fund	38,742	40,619	- 1,877	-4.62%
Property Renewal Fund	40,096	36,112	3,984	11.06%
Area of Greatest Need	235,107	242,621	-7,514	-3.10%
Total Pledges	483,257	484,414	-1,157	0.24%

Combining the Ministries and Programs Fund and Area of Greatest Need yields \$405,019 for Ministries and Programs in 2023 which is \$2,664 (0.65%) less than 2022.

Of these 207 pledges, 179 (86%) are honoured through preauthorized remittances (PAR) via their banking institutions. We receive \$437,462 of our pledged contributions by PAR. Each week \$8,413 is donated to the church by PAR contributions. These contributions have ensured our cash flow throughout these difficult and challenging pandemic times. The regularity of our contributions allows us to meet our obligations and keep our monthly Mission and Service contributions to the United Church of Canada current.

I would like to thank the members of the committee – Brian Hamilton, Karen Humphries, Michael Presley, Lisa Sadler and Merina Shulist – and our ministers, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton, and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald, for their support during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Gavin Currie, Chair

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees hold title to the deed of the church property on behalf of the congregation 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 Trustees administer a number of funds established at Rideau Park under the direction of the Rideau Park Council and/or its committees.

The Trustees use the services of Doherty and Associates who act as a financial advisor and manager of approximately half of the Trustees managed funds. Up to 60 percent of these funds may be allocated in equities and 40 percent in fixed income instruments. In 2022, the net value of all funds invested in equities has risen by 1 percent after locking in a 2021 gain of 40 percent (\$54,307).

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

1. **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 that are allocated to the Trustees by Council (all of the \$10,261 in 2021 and \$810 in 2022). The total of these funds received and retained that is under the administration of the Trustees now amounts to \$313,174. The investment earnings from this fund and the principal, if necessary, are available for Council to deploy as circumstances warrant.
2. **The Rideau Park Foundation Fund** was established to serve as a permanent source of supplementary funding for special needs at the church. This was the twelfth year that money from this fund has been eligible for disbursement. In 2023, there remains \$23,716 eligible for disbursement including half of the 2022 donations (\$13,552), the 2022 Foundation revenue (\$3,732), and the net unused disbursement prior to year-end (\$13,208).
3. **The Karl Rasmussen Fund** is used to assist people undertaking studies directed toward future service in the Christian Church. Only the annual income is available for this purpose. The annual income becomes part of capital if not used.
4. **The Douglas Brown Memorial Fund** is used to support social activities for the physically and intellectually challenged.
5. **The Dora Helmkey Legacy Fund** investment earnings are turned over to Council for use at its discretion.

Members of the Board of Trustees: Lynda Becker, Catherine Ennis, Sheila Faure, Diane Keevil Harrold, Steve Cole, Ron Little (Treasurer), Michael Presley (Chair), and Rev. Elizabeth Bryce (ex-officio).

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Little, Treasurer
Michael Presley, Chair

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

We invite you to learn more about the Rideau Park United Church Women on the Rideau Park Website. On those pages, you will find information about the UCW: its purpose, executive, units and membership, as well as UCW activities and contact information. (<https://www.rideaupark.ca/programs/united-church-women/>)

Position descriptions, including responsibilities of the UCW Executive and the Convenors of various activities, are now available by contacting the President or Recording Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR 2021

Total Active Membership 56	Life Memberships* 49
Circle Group 6	Member at Large 28
E-buddies 19	Not Active 14
Units 50	

*New Life Memberships: Gaveen Cadotte and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald

In Memoriam: Dianne Ferguson, Mary Harris, Marg Sturley

2022 Executive: President, Nancy McPherson; Past President, Nancy Begg-Durkee; Vice President, vacant; Recording Secretary, Judy Paré; Treasurer, Elaine Robertson (until June 30), Karen Humphries; Finance and Stewardship Rep, Lisa Sadler; Flowers, vacant; Membership, Judy Paré; Mission, Mabel Bannerman; Literature and Archives, vacant; Correspondence Secretary, Grace Shaver (until September), Lynda Coombe; Community Friendship, Karin Ott/ Heather Ingrams; Supply and Welfare, Peggy Rader; Quilting, Doreen Hamilton; UCW Representative to Council of Women: Marg Nelson (until August), Vacant.

Report of the President:

In 2022, challenges caused by Covid continued to affect the UCW, as it did everyone. We became adept with Zoom for our Executive and unit meetings, held our UCW Installation service, Annual Meeting, Annual General Meeting, and Finance Meeting on Zoom. We held several successful fundraisers throughout the year (Meat Pies in January, Frozen Soup and Bake sales in March, Merry Dairy Ice Cream sale in June). The traditional Easter Memorial flower project was modified and an Easter Memorial card project, initially planned for 2020, took place in the spring. We held a hybrid Bazaar, with one event live outdoors at the church in September, and a second event online the first week of November. We were able to hold our Candlelight Service live in the sanctuary in December.

We raised sufficient funds from our activities to maintain, add and increase our charitable donations to many local organizations, including indigenous charities, one international charity, and the Rideau Park Benevolent Fund. We were in the enviable position of being able to donate to BC disaster relief, as unexpected need arose towards year-end.

Above all, we gained more confidence in our ability to pivot to new ways of doing some of our customary events and trying out new activities with success. We owe much of this success to our responsive and enthusiastic congregation.

In my second year as President, I have been blessed with support from an experienced and patient Executive. The UCW would also like to express its appreciation to Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald for their support, and our sincere gratitude to the support staff for their assistance and flexibility.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy McPherson, President
Judy Paré, Recording Secretary

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

The Ministry and Personnel Committee has continued to support all of our staff members as they successfully navigated another year of challenges related to Covid and the gradual return to in-person worship and other regular church activities.

We were asked to look at the portion of the 2023 budget relating to salary for church staff and the committee has proposed that the 3.4% increase recommended by the United Church of Canada be adopted. We also recommended that the contract for the Pastoral Care Minister be renewed under the existing terms.

Debi Brown, our church administrator, has submitted her retirement notice. She will be leaving in June 2023 after many years of devoted service to our congregation and she will be missed. Plans for a farewell gathering in her honour will be announced at a later date. A search, selection and hiring process has been initiated for a new church administrator.

Jeff Allo resigned as Chair in June 2022. We wish to extend our thanks to Jeff for his contribution to the work of the M&P Committee. The Nominations Committee will be confirming the new M&P Committee Chair at the ACM.

Alyce Dunnewold retired from the committee in the fall and we were happy to welcome Gretchen Conrad as liaison for Rev. Elizabeth Bryce. Anne Blades, Christy Harris and Cameron Jeffrey are retiring now from the committee as M&P liaisons for Debi Brown, Iain MacPherson and Andrew Ager, and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald, respectively. We thank all of them for their many years of service. The current M&P members along with church staff are now looking for new M&P liaisons for the Committee.

From June to September inclusive in 2022, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce took a sabbatical from her regular duties at Rideau Park as a time for reading, meeting with colleagues, keeping current with new practices, reflecting on her faith experiences, and returning rejuvenated to her church activities. In a like manner, Rev. Steve Clifton will be undertaking a sabbatical from June to September 2023 as a break from his regular church life with a time for study, meditation, searching out new ideas and returning to Rideau Park refreshed and ready-to-go.

United Church Ministers are encouraged to pursue a sabbatical after 5 continuous years of service to a pastoral charge and may request a subsequent sabbatical after an additional 5 years of service at the same church.

We thank all staff members for their work and support of the undertakings of Rideau Park United Church this past year. Their dedication and guidance are very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

The Ministry and Personnel Committee

PROGRAMS

Worship and Music

Members: Karen Lamb (Co-chair), Sharon Sanderson (Co-chair), Rev. Steve Clifton, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Andrew Ager, Nancy Begg-Durkee, Gord Dewis, Heather Ingrams, Marilyn Law and Iain Macpherson. Steven Neal is our liaison with Council. Barry Dewis resigned from the committee during the year and we thank him for his many contributions.

The Committee met via Zoom for most of 2022. We met once in-person in October.

Special Sunday services included shared services with Emmanuel and Kitchissippi; UCW installation; I Have a Dream Sunday/Black History with guest speaker Peter Flegel, Executive Director Heritage Canada; Orange Shirt Sunday with guest speaker Katie Jourdeuil; Indigenous Prayer Sunday with guest speaker Rev. Nancy Arthur Best; Affirming Sunday with guest speaker B. Eastwood; and Anniversary Sunday. The 2020 Confirmation class was confirmed on Sept 25.

We held Lenten Reflections on the Lord's Prayer via Zoom and continued holding Forest Church. Mid-week Advent services were held in-person. The pageant, under the leadership of Andrea Laliberté, was an in-person event in 2022.

Rev. Elizabeth and Rev. Steve continued using a 4-year cycle narrative lectionary. We continue to do a land acknowledgement and welcome to all including LGBTQ2S+ at the beginning of services. Coffee time has resumed after Sunday services organized by Lynne MacMurtery-Schnare.

During the year, worship services have been held in-person in the sanctuary. Attendance for the first few months of the year was about 20; from March to the end of August it increased to around 40. From September to the end of the year, not including Pageant Sunday, it was about 85. We continue live streaming and have started posting services to our YouTube channel. People tune in on Sunday from not only Rideau Park but from elsewhere in Ontario and internationally. The average number of households viewing online on Sunday mornings was 159. Others access the archived services.

Communion was celebrated with participants using elements in their homes, or while participating in-person in the sanctuary.

The Chancel choir, three adult bell choirs and a youth bell choir have starting practicing in the sanctuary. The Chancel choir has started singing during services. Carmen Harris and Adam Sperry have also provided several solos. Heather is teaching drumming after service on Sunday. For the first time since 2019, a live Christmas concert was held including the Chancel choir and bell choirs.

Thanks to Rev. Steve and Rev. Elizabeth for inspiring worship leadership and adapting under extraordinary circumstances. Thanks also to Iain Macpherson and Andrew Ager for their music leadership. Rev. Elizabeth was on sabbatical from June 1 to Sept 30 and Iain was away from June to August.

Many thanks to Brian and Doreen Hamilton for their technical skills in filming the live portions of the services and organizing the many different submissions that have made up the excellent webcasts.

We would like to thank all of the other staff and volunteers that make our faith community the vibrant one it is.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Lamb and Sharon Sanderson, Co-chairs

Handbells

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the handbell choirs at Rideau Park. The choirs were able to practice in the spring leading up to Easter and recorded a few pieces for the Easter Sunday service. Practices for the handbell choirs resumed in September. The first live Christmas concert since 2019 was held on December 4th in conjunction with the Chancel Choir with Andrew on the piano and organ. A freewill offering raised more than \$1800, which was divided between the Heron Road Emergency Food Bank and the Christmas Cheer program.

Jeanette and Gord would like to thank the congregation, staff and ministers of Rideau Park for their on-going support. It is truly appreciated.

If you are interested in joining any of these talented groups and becoming a handbell ringer or chimes ringer, please contact the church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Gord Dewis & Jeanette Caton

Grace Notes Teen Bells

After a 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic, ringing for children and teens restarted in late September. Grace Notes Teen Bells resumed practices on Thursdays from 6:45 - 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary under the direction of Andrea Laliberté. Andrea has two youth helpers assisting this year—Anna Kurz & Rebecca Doherty.

There are 14 ringers ranging from grade 5 to grade 12+. The group worked hard to prepare two pieces of music for the Christmas season. They shared their music at the Christmas concert, the Christmas Pageant and at the 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Andrea is very proud of all her ringers.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Laliberté

Social Action and Outreach

Purpose of Committee:

- 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.

Social Action and Outreach Committee now has 7 members. Each member takes the lead on designated projects, as well as supporting other committee members. We became increasingly active in 2022 as we continued to regroup after the pandemic lockdowns. We continue to meet bi-monthly on Zoom and to expand the number of projects which can be accomplished within the context of pandemic protocols. We planned several speaking events to be held either virtually or in-person and remained involved in ongoing outreach initiatives.

Banff Avenue Community House; Blair Court Community House; Russell Heights Community House, Confederation Court Community House: SAOC continued to provide financial support to four community houses. We also continued to collect personal care items donated by church members, which were delivered to one of these community houses on the last Monday of each month between April and October. All committee members collaborated in this effort, for which Shailja Verma acts as liaison.

Winter Clothing Drive: We sponsored a very successful drive to collect good quality winter clothing for donation to the House To Home program which distributes household items and clothing to Afghan refugees. This initiative was coordinated by Wanda Raymond.

Clothing for Ottawa General Hospital Emergency Department: We are supporting the emergency department at the Ottawa General Hospital which has a need for warm clothing for patients, many of whom are homeless and do not have adequate clothing. We provided some clothing from the Winter Clothing Drive and have secured a budget of \$500 from the UCW to provide additional clothing as needed. This will be administered by Lorraine Busby.

Christmas Cheer Program: Rideau Park provided grocery vouchers for 175 families in place of food hampers for the second consecutive year. This initiative was headed up by Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, with the valued support of Debi Brown and a number of volunteers.

Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC): SAOC continues to support the HEFC financially and to represent Rideau Park on their board of directors. Lynn Sherwood assumed the position of Chair of the Board of HEFC in November.

Fitness Groups, Harmony Club, Euchre Club: These groups have been re activated under the guidance of Sandra Weedmark. The fitness groups (50+ Fitness and Yoga) are no longer under the umbrella of SAOC and are provided by a private contractor. The Harmony Club and Euchre Club are meeting regularly.

Refugees: Marilyn Law continues to manage the refugee programs.

The Third-Party Refugee Sponsorship Initiative is the program through which Marilyn, on behalf of the United Church, administers funds submitted by refugee applicants to bring family members into Canada. We are not accepting any new applicants until the current backlog of applications has cleared through processing at Immigration, as directed by Council.

Four families have arrived in Ottawa since the end of September. Our first refugee, a young man, has a bachelor apartment, has found work and will begin ESL classes in February. Two families arrived at the end of October; their families have helped them settle in and have found housing for them. A fourth family arrived in December, has been assisted by their families with housing, and is in the process of getting furniture etc. Hopefully more families will arrive throughout 2023.

In November several members of SAOC attended an EOORC refugee network luncheon and information session at Barrhaven United Church with a speaker, Alan Rock (former federal Minister and ambassador to the U.N.) from *Lamp Lifeboat Ladder*, a public private partnership for resettling refugees.

- **Speakers:** SAOC organized speakers for several Sunday services: Peter Flegel spoke for the “I Have a Dream” Sunday in January; Joe Woznow spoke about the “Women Warriors Healing Garden” regarding women in the Canadian Forces, and Katie Jourdeuil, who grew up at Rideau Park, spoke on “Orange Shirt Sunday” in October.
- **Little Free Library:** The Little Free Library continues to be a success and is well used by the local community. Our library was featured in an article on Little Free Libraries in the January 2022 edition

of the *Vistas* newspaper.

- **Basic Income:** Guaranteed basic income has been endorsed by the United Church of Canada. On May 11, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce hosted a Zoom webinar, in partnership with the Ottawa Basic Income Group at which several panelists provided information about basic income. Lynn Sherwood was a presenter at this event, which was also promoted by congregations participating in the Cluster Initiative. Lorraine Busby, a member of SAOC is currently liaison for Rideau Park on the executive of the Ottawa Basic Income Group.
- **Multi Faith Housing:** Rideau Park continues to be a member of this initiative. Many boxes of household goods were donated to them after the outdoors bazaar in September.
- **Cluster Initiative:** The SAOC continues to represent Rideau Park in discussions between five United Churches in Ottawa South: Emmanuel, Riverside, Southminster, Glebe St James, and Rideau Park. The Cluster Initiative is being spearheaded by Phyllis MacRae of Emmanuel. We met regularly throughout the first 6 months of 2022 and held two workshops at which ongoing interchurch interest groups were established. A Potluck supper is planned for January at Emmanuel to review our post pandemic congregational activity.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Sherwood, Chair

Christian Development

Members: Meg Steele (Chair), Tara Lockhart (past Chair), Gary Seymour (Scout Liaison, Secretary), Sarah Charron, Kim Allo, Diane Lagace, Rev. Steve Clifton

We are grateful that 2022 has been a year of recovery and a return to a new normal in programming. The Christian Development (CD) committee is so proud of the work done by volunteers to enrich life at Rideau Park. We are grateful for the work done by past Chairs Andrea Laliberté and Tara Lockhart. We are particularly fortunate to have the support and resources provided by Rev. Steve Clifton.

Camp Awesome resumed in-person, after having been online for the last few years. Krist Drost was hired as camp director.

Sunday School and childcare also returned in-person. Thank you to Nessa Hopkin, Grace Lockhart, Jessica Roebuck and Hailey Laliberté for providing childcare. Meg Steele is teaching SK-grade 3, Allison Hopkin is teaching grades 4-6 and Peter Osudar is teaching youth grades 7 and up. Thank you for your time and gifts.

Eight people were confirmed in September, and another confirmation class will begin in January 2023. Advent Happening took place after a two-year hiatus and families joined together to decorate 32 gingerbread houses and eat a lovely potluck buffet on November 27. Tara Lockhart and Meg Steele coordinated this event.

Laura Presley took over the Shoebox program from the Hopkin family and approximately 140 boxes were sought to help the Banff Avenue Community House in the Ledbury community.

The Christmas pageant returned in-person this year, much to the delight of the children and the congregation. Many thanks to Andrea Laliberté and her team of dedicated volunteers for coordinating

this labour of love, which was presented live in sanctuary on December 11.

Stephanie Bailey led the reinstatement of HearSay and families have been able to gather for a family meal before the Cherubs, Youth Choir, Drumming and Youth Bells on Thursday nights. Volunteers are always welcome.

Christian Development continued its partnership with the Scouts. The scouting group remains robust. We continue to look for opportunities to join together for environmental programming.

We would like to thank all committee members for their hard work this past year. Looking forward to what 2023 brings!

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Steele, Chair

Youth and Young Adults

For our young people, the pandemic has been hard. Many of the things that brought them joy—sports, music, dance, community—were interrupted. Rites of passage and the celebration of milestones were postponed, sometimes indefinitely. Rideau Park took much of its YAYA work online for more than two years.

This fall brings a welcome change as we are able to be together again. In September our confirmation class, which had only met online, shared pizza in-person in the Church Parlour. On September 25 we celebrated Confirmation as part of our Sunday Service.

Our youth Sunday School drop-in that had met on Zoom, began to meet in-person. A huge thank you to Peter Osudar for making this connective space for our young people.

Our young people have been contributing to our collective life: as readers and liturgists, as teachers and childcare providers in our Sunday School, as participants in our amazing Christmas Pageant, this year in-person after two years of being online, and as bell ringers, now practicing in the sanctuary again—thank you to Andrea Laliberté for leading both pageant and teen bells.

It is good to be able to be together again.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Steve Clifton

Spirituality

One definition of spirituality is "the art of making connections." Spiritual work connects us to the Holy and to one another.

As the global pandemic endured, we learned to connect in new ways. We met on Zoom for meditation every Thursday morning. In September, this online group marked 2 years of sharing in sacred stillness together. On Wednesday evenings in Lent, we met on Zoom to share in a 6-week exploration of the Lord's Prayer.

The meditation group has chosen to continue to meet online indefinitely. During Advent, we held in-person events to replace the pandemic Zoom gatherings of Advent and Lent: a labyrinth walk, Encarna

and a Blue Christmas service.

Since outdoor gatherings are safe, people gathered in God's Creation to reflect and pray together. Rev. Elizabeth started "Forest Church" in the fall of 2021 and this gathering continues on each month.

We have continued in our shared communal spiritual practice of worship, at times exclusively online (we reopened to in-person worship on March 6, 2022), and at times in a hybrid model with people online and in-person together. Our webcast has become pivotal in connecting us and will continue to be an important place of connection even as in-person attendance returns.

We have learned new ways to be together. As we move forward, we will no doubt continue to meet online and in-person as we choose. May our holy connections continue to be a source of blessing.

*As you, Spirit, with the Father and the Son are one God.
Grant that all may be one; grant unity to the human family.
Sole breath of every living thing, may all be one who, in you,
live and move and have their being. Amen*

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Steve Clifton

Environment

The Environment Committee prepared a grant application for Foundation Funds in 2021 to help fund the installation of an Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station, which was approved by Council in November 2021. A matching grant was secured from Hydro Ottawa. In April 2022, Council accepted the joint recommendation of the Environment and Property Committees to approve the Lightenco quote for the project. The chargers were ordered in the spring. They arrived in November and are scheduled to be installed over the winter.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Elizabeth Bryce

PEOPLE

Congregational Life

Congregational Life's mandate is focused on helping us to maintain our connection to one another here at Rideau Park. A committee of 14 maintains regular communication with 47 members of the congregation who do not have easy access to the internet. In addition to telephone calls, these people receive *Church Post* and a summary of the Annual Congregational Meeting by mail. Other committees such as Pastoral Care and many individuals also provide an ongoing link to Rideau Park's members.

Grateful thanks to all who contribute to the ministry of connecting with members of Rideau Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Paré, Chair

Nominations

2022 was an interesting year in many respects, not the least of which was the ongoing impact of Covid. We received several resignations mid-year and luckily were able to make arrangements so that the work of the church could continue with minimal negative effects. These positions were then added to our list of vacancies to fill. Many people whose terms were coming to an end were interested in extending their terms. Thank you for helping us out! To fill the remaining positions, we found that we were working with a reduced set of congregants interested in joining committees at this time and as a result we still have some vacant positions we were unable to fill. Our search continues!

The Nominating Committee worked hard to fill the vacancies and we thank everyone who has agreed to accept a position or extend their existing term. If anyone is interested in learning more about Council or the remaining vacant positions, please give me a call!

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Whitridge, Chair

COUNCIL

Council Executive (7)

Chair	Heather Ingrams	(2025)
Past Chair	Ken Tong	(2024)
Secretary	Barbara Jensen	(2026)
Treasurer	Bob Roden	(2024)
Order of Ministry		

Permanent Committee Representatives

Chair of Stewardship	Gavin Currie	(2024)
Regional Representatives (EOORC)	Alyce Dunnewold, Nancy McPherson	
Chair of Ministry Personnel	Gaveen Cadotte	(2026)
Chair of Trustees	Michael Presley	(2024)
UCW Representative	Nancy McPherson	

Members at large (7)

Heather Boyd (Glen)		(2024)
Stephanie Bailey (Michael)		(2024)
Neil McGraw		(2025)
Shanti Inman		(2025)
Cathy Hollands		(2025)
Margaret Hart		(2025)
Merina Shulist		(2026)

Liaisons (3)**People Liaison**

	Drew Presley	(2024)
Chair of Congregational Life	Judy Paré	(2025)
Chair of Nominations	Patricia Whitridge	(2025)
Chair of Pastoral Care	Brian Neal	(2024)
Chair of Congregational Development	Vacant	(2026)

Program Liaison

Co-Chairs of Worship & Music	Steve Neal	(2024)
	Sharon Sanderson	(2024)
	Karen Lamb	(2024)
Chair of Social Action & Outreach	Lynn Sherwood	(2024)
Chair of Christian Development	Meg Steele	(2025)
Chair of Environment	Kristina Inrig	(2024)

Resources Liaison

	Ron MacPherson	(2024)
Chair of Finance	Bob Roden	(2024)
Chair of Property	Brian Hamilton	(2024)
Chair of Administration & Communications	Kristie Marr	(2025)

TRUSTEES

Chair	Michael Presley	(2024)
Members	Lynda Becker	
	Catherine Ennis	
	Diane Keevil Harrold	
	Ron Little	
	Steve Cole	
	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce (<i>ex officio</i>)	

Pastoral Care

We are happy to report that, for the most part, pastoral care visits are back to being in-person. Unfortunately, the ongoing public health situation prevented us from hosting our regular annual events in 2022: the "Seniors Service and Tea," usually held in the spring, and the "Our Hearts Remember Service," usually held in the fall. We would love to restart both events, but only when it is safe to do so.

Our pastoral care team shares a commitment to those members of our faith community who can no longer attend services with us and who would otherwise feel cut off. They are very appreciative of the time we spend with them and that makes this a particularly rewarding type of volunteering.

We are very grateful for Rev. Georgina's leadership and all the visiting she does on her own. The volunteers mostly visit people who still live in our neighbourhood. Rev. Georgina takes on the longer commutes to visit with those who have gone farther afield, in addition to making hospital visits and conducting services in local retirement homes.

Our Healing Pathway ministry has returned to normal, taking in-person appointments on Thursday afternoons once again and more recently offering healing prayer in the chapel after Sunday services. Healing Pathway practitioners also participated in a worship service dedicated to healing on December 4, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Neal, Chair

Congregational Development

2022 proved to be a challenging year for congregational development with the pandemic rising in late 2021, bringing a halt to the gradual re-opening of church activities. While online worship and programs are good and even optimal in many situations, the absence of in-person and in-building opportunities left a gap in our ability to attract new church participants.

And so, we began 2022 much as we began 2021, focusing our *Vistas* ads on extending the invitation to connect with us via our social media and online platforms. March saw the gradual return to in-person worship and throughout the fall, more and more in-building programs and activities re-emerged and were highlighted in our monthly ads. Throughout the year Rideau Park's social media and online platforms called attention to the good works of the church and a number of articles submitted by church members were printed in the *Vistas* newspaper.

We begin 2023 with a much broader array of options than we started with in 2022, but the challenges facing congregational development are considerable. Statistics Canada data indicates that between 1985 and 2019 the indicators for religious affiliation, the frequency of participation in group religious activities, the frequency of engaging in religious or spiritual activities on one's own, and the importance placed on religious and spiritual beliefs in one's life, have all been in decline.

But in the face of the weariness, uncertainty and formidable challenges over time and during the past three years in particular, Rideau Parkers have proven themselves to be resilient, resourceful and faithful. And those attributes will continue to serve us well in 2023. The challenge lies in sharing our good news stories throughout the community in ways that inspire others to participate in our journey. A challenge that each of us can play a part in.

Thanks are extended to committee members Wayne Bond, Rev. Steve Clifton, Mary Lynne Holton, Drew Presley, Michael Presley, Lisa Sadler and Ken Tong.

Respectfully submitted,
Greig Scott, Chair

RESOURCES

Finance

During the year the Finance Committee met eight times via Zoom, to oversee the Church's financial needs, while the Church continued to deal with the impact of Covid. Work primarily centered on:

- monthly financial status monitoring and communication;
- assessing how other churches handle their internal and external financial and regulatory requirements with a view to finding ways to reduce the cost of Annual Financial Reviews;
- managing refugee sponsorship funds; and
- preparing a draft 2023 budget.

In 2022, the government ended its Covid subsidy program. As a result, we returned to our normal funding model, which is primarily dependent on congregational givings. Givings are subsidized by secondary sources of revenue, such as rental income and the Church Bazaar. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a high level of revenue from these secondary sources. In addition, there is significant pressure on costs due to inflation. As a result, we ended the year with a deficit in the Ministries and Programs Fund. While we do have sufficient reserves to absorb some operating deficits at the present time, it is very important that the proposed strategic planning exercise be undertaken soon.

As Chair, I would like to thank Brenda, Joann and Debi for their help and support during what turned out to be another challenging year. As a group, we would like to thank the following individuals, who have contributed, when called upon during the year, to do the financial work of the Church:

- Barbara Jeffery, Envelope Secretary;
- Ron MacPherson, the Committee's Liaison Officer; and
- John Durkee, counter.

As we turn our attention to 2023, we look forward to a continued return to more normal operations and activities.

Respectfully submitted from your Finance Committee,

Brenda Bethune
Debi Brown
Bob Roden, Chair
Joann Roebuck

Property Committee

The Rideau Park Property Committee is responsible for the management of the temporal, non-financial, affairs of Rideau Park United Church.

Committee Members are Brian Hamilton, Chair, Rod Hagglund, Mark Inman, Ron MacPherson (Council Liaison), Geoff Scollick (Custodian, *ex officio*) and Debi Brown (Administrator, Committee Secretary, *ex officio*). The Committee is highly appreciative of John Scollick's expertise and support for property project leadership and work in 2022.

The Committee met four times in 2022. With the Fall reopening, the use of our facilities started to recover from the past impacts of the Covid pandemic. By year-end a sense of normalcy was returning to our worship services and church programs. Rental uses of the facilities were picking up and an understanding of the way ahead is more apparent.

The 2022 operational property expenses were higher by \$21,000 at \$71,000 total. Approximately \$10,000 can be attributed to the reopening of the church as utilities (light, heat and water) and supply expenses edged back to pre-pandemic levels. However, material cost increases were incurred for Snow Removal (new contractor) \$4,000 and Property Insurance (new insurer) \$7,000 which look to carry over into 2023.

It was decided at the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting to set aside within the Property Renewal Fund an annual \$10,000 contingency to distribute the future funding for replacement of the sanctuary roofing in 2030 (est.) and replacement of the furnaces in the next decade (est.). The furnaces were installed 34 years ago in 1987. An initial \$10,000 was set aside in 2021 and a further \$10,000 in 2022.

Modest Property Renewal Fund disbursements in 2022 allowed us to maintain a positive year-end balance with a carry forward of \$43,000 for projects in 2023. Within this context, some of the 2022 Property Renewal accomplishments include:

- Supply chain difficulties have delayed the installation of the electric car charging station in the parking lot beside Beecroft Hall;
- The Beecroft entrance camera project was completed;
- Storage space was constructed on the south side of the Sanctuary balcony;
- The Beecroft dishwasher rinse booster heater was sourced and installed. The Beecroft dishwasher is fully functional and can be used as it was before the pandemic;
- The Library and the Minister of Pastoral Care computers have been upgraded;
- The house owner behind Beecroft Hall has installed a fence on the west side of the rear parking lot and along the back laneway;
- The flat roof over the Music Office was repaired by the contractor;
- A memorial tree in memory of Steve Shipley was planted and dedicated in early October;
- The new contractor for snow clearing was approved.

The 2023 Property Renewal Plan identifies several projects, including continued funding of a contingency for a future sanctuary roof and furnace replacements, installation of the Ottawa city mandated water backflow valve, resurfacing the asphalt sidewalks (contingent on a reasonable price),

and sourcing and installation of a commercial church generator to mitigate power interruptions particularly during the winter months. (See the statements on pages XX and XX of this report.)

Work on the 2023 Property Plan will continue to consider the stewardship of resources. The Committee will adapt as the times warrant. Your ongoing and future support for this work is appreciated and welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Hamilton, Chair

Administrative and Communications

The Administration and Communications Committee continued to work and meet virtually for 2022. Please find a summary of the work the committee did this year to help run the church and keep the congregation updated with all that is going on.

Weekly e-bulletins

We continue to send weekly email bulletins. Lynda Becker handed off the weekly task to Debi Brown, the RPUC Administrator.

The weekly emails include a link to the **RP News** page on the RPUC website with a link to download the upcoming Sunday bulletin. The email list, managed through the Administrator's email application, is used for all other communications from Rideau Park.

We offer a big thank you to Lynda Becker who had started the weekly email and continues to support our website.

Community Papers

Wayne Bond continues to support the *Vistas* papers/online site and the *Riverview Park Review*.

For *Vistas*, the Community Events section has decreased in size and the content we share is related specifically to community events held at the church. There is still a section for Rideau Park United Church information and church specific activities in a different part of the paper and Greig Scott updates that information. The papers are distributed around the community and are available online.

Wayne submitted over 100 items for the *Vistas* Upcoming Events section for 2022. For the *Riverview Park Review*, Community Bulletin Board (published less frequently), he submitted around 20 items for 2022.

Information about church activities submitted to the Community Events section is regarded as content (not advertising) for the newspapers and is therefore published free of charge.

RPUC ChurchPost

Nancy McPherson continues to produce and publish *ChurchPost* with assistance from others in the congregation. There are four issues per year.

Office Administration

Lynda continues to volunteer her support for our website, supporting Debi and designing the creative

content for the banners and other pages on the RPUC website. Don Ford still oversees the network and keeps email running smoothly. Ron MacPherson is our liaison to Council. Rev. Steve Clifton continues to promote RPUC online activities on social media, including our Facebook page and Instagram account.

New projects and opportunities for the committee

Our committee has been asked to start a project to search for a new online document storage solution to help manage Council's communications. We have had some discussions and plan to create a sub-committee to start the research. We will reach out to potential new volunteers from the Time and Talents report delivered earlier this year and/or the new report to be delivered soon. If you are interested in participating in this project or other communication activities, please contact the office.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristie Marr, Chair

Rideau Park United Church

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, February 27, 2022, 11:30 am

On ZOOM

Our Mission is to joyfully proclaim a loving God as revealed in Jesus Christ

The Community Gathers before God

Present: Ken Tong, Lynn Sherwood, Bob Roden, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Ron MacPherson, Debi Brown (non-voting), Sheila Faure, Thierry Faure, Jennifer MacKinnon, Michael Presley, Karen Lamb, Shirley Roberts, Gaveen Cadotte, Marg Hart, Amy Bloom, Patricia Whitridge, Joan Dewis, Gordon Dewis, Jeff Allo, Mabel Bannerman, Judith Srna, Lisa Sadler, Drew Presley, Shanti Inman, Nancy Begg-Durkee, John Durkee, Sandra Weedmark, Heather Ingrams, Lynda Coombe, Lynda Becker, Rod Hagglund, Beverly-Anne Bayne, Judy Paré, Alyce Dunnewold, Brian Hamilton, Doreen Hamilton, Marilyn Law, Wayne Bond, Cathy Hollands, Carolyn Scollick, Garry Lindberg, Gavin Currie, Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald, Bas Groeneweg, Kristie Marr, Bob Nelson, Elizabeth Acquaah

Regrets: Nancy McPherson, Rev. Steve Clifton

1. Words of Welcome and Opening Motions

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce welcomed everyone.

Motion: Ken Tong shall chair the meeting and Lynn Sherwood will be recording secretary.

Moved by Gordon Dewis, seconded by Heather Ingrams Carried

Ken Tong welcomed everyone and reviewed the ground rules for a Zoom meeting.

Patricia Whitridge, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, and Debi Brown are acting as Zoom hosts. Everyone needs to mute microphones unless speaking and use raise hand zoom feature.

2. Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce lit the Christ Candle.

3. Prayer of Approach

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce led the prayer of approach.

4. Motion re: Adherents

Motion to permit all adherents of RPUC to participate and vote. Moved by Gordon Dewis, seconded by Nancy Begg-Durkee. Carried

5. Approval of the Agenda

Ken Tong presented an amendment to the agenda: Move the Budget to item # 9 and add a new item #10 Cluster Initiative Motion. Item #11 will be the Report from Council

Motion to amend the agenda: Moved by Shanti Inman, Seconded by Patricia Whitridge. Carried

Life and Work of the Congregation

6. Receiving the 2021 Annual Report and Congregation Meeting Minutes

Ken Tong confirmed that everyone has a copy of the Annual Report and thanked Sheila Faure and

Patricia Whitridge for their work in preparing the report.

Motion: to accept 2021 Annual Report and Minutes of 2021 meeting, approved as presented. Moved by Joan Dewis, seconded by Heather Ingrams. Carried

7. Review Engagement/Audit Report

Bob Roden reports that ordinarily the audit report should be completed by now by Baker Tilley our auditors. While we have received a draft report, the person doing the report took an unexpected leave of absence for personal reasons. Baker Tilley is rescheduling the work, but the audit will not be complete until March or April. Therefore, Bob does not have a final report.

Motion: As the report has not been finalized, I move and Patricia Whitridge seconds that Council be authorized to receive, accept and action as appropriate the final financial report for 2020 on behalf of the congregation subject to the acceptance of the report at the next congregational meeting. Moved by Bob Roden, seconded by Patricia Whitridge. Carried

Discussion:

- The Financial Committee will consider retaining a different auditor and will review the situation but wants to keep our current auditor until we receive the report and clarify the situation. The Financial Committee will review options, determine who could be our new auditor and present those options to the congregation.
- This situation does not affect income tax filing but does affect the Charities Return which is due at the end of June.
- In reviewing our options to ensure that finances are being managed properly the Finance Committee will look at other means of accomplishing accountability, including an internal review or a review by somebody from another congregation.

Motion: The congregation authorizes the Finance Committee to explore other options of ensuring that the 2021 financial statements are reviewed by third parties. Moved by Bob Roden and seconded by Gordon Dewis. Carried

8. Receiving the Financial Statements for 2021

Bob Roden reviewed the 2021 financial statement.

Highlights:

- We have an overall surplus of \$47,000

Revenues:

- M&P envelope givings are down \$24,000 from 2020
- M&S givings are down \$3,000 from 2020
- PAR support continues to be strong
- We received Government subsidies of \$47,995
- Britt Funds are down 40% from last year - \$10,261 vs \$17,535
- All Britt Fund income of \$10,261 has been transferred to the Reserve Fund
- Foster's Farm revenues of \$14,653 are down from \$19,128 in 2020
- For the second consecutive year we didn't require UCW assistance
- The Christmas Cheer and Shoe Box programs are continued

Expenses:

- We have once again kept our staff on salary for the entire year
- Because we were under pandemic restrictions for much of the year property expenses were reduced, primarily in the areas of repairs and cleaning
- Administration & Communications expenses were lower mainly due to reduced office supplies and postage

- Given the times we are in our Social Action ministry continued to provide needed support
- We met all national church obligations

Balance Sheet

- Our cash position is good
- We have a surplus of \$6,700 for 2022 Christmas Cheer program

Motion: That the Financial Statements found on pages 25 to 28, the Fund Account Reconciliation Statement found on page 29, and the summary of the Property Renewal Fund found on page 32 of the Rideau Park United Church 2021 Annual Report be accepted subject to a Review Engagement to be conducted in 2022. Moved by Bob Roden and seconded by Judy Paré. Carried

Discussion:

- Government CEBA loan: We applied for and received a loan. Now we repay the loan and the church benefits from the grant portion of \$20,000
- Refugee Sponsorship Fund: The fund is very large, requiring a significant amount of management. Debi Brown, Bob Roden, and Marilyn Law feel that the amount of work involved is manageable. All accounts are documented, and we are waiting for the government to start processing refugee applications. We decided not to accept any more applications or deposits until the current applications were processed. Marilyn Law confirmed that she is not accepting any new files although it is difficult to refuse these requests since people are quite desperate.
- \$298,000 in GIC's are in a cash deposit. This is in part a government loan and the rest is earmarked for various funds –Memorial Fund, Benevolent Fund etc. Since the interest rate has been so low it is not worth investing it. This will be detailed in the Trustees Report.

9. Budget 2022**2022 budget highlights:**

- We are forecasting a deficit position for 2022 assuming an April opening for returning to the sanctuary. Most revenue categories are at risk depending on when and how long we are open.
- We are assuming a 3% increase for M&P.
- Risks are that BRITT funding may not return to previous levels; givings may not return to previous levels; government pandemic funding is finished; inflation is an unknown factor.

Motion: Rideau Park United Church budget for 2022 For the Ministries and Programs Fund and the Mission and Service Fund, as presented separately in the 2022 Annual Report, be approved with the amendment for the Cluster Fund and correction of payroll costs. Moved by Bob Roden and seconded by Alyce Dunnewold. Carried

Questions:

- An allowance for M&P new communications has been introduced by regional council for ministry personnel. This has been discussed over the years and is now policy at the region.
- The Administrator has the motion from EOORC. This is a 2020 policy establishing a minimal communication allowance of \$1,000 annually.

10. Cluster Initiative: Lynn Sherwood

Lynn Sherwood reports that the Cluster initiative, comprising Rideau Park, Riverside, Emmanuel, Southminster, and Glebe St James United Churches, has been meeting regularly and has engaged a facilitator, Stephanie Coward Yaskiw, to lead us in developing two workshops to be held at Emmanuel

United Church. The churches are sharing the cost of hiring Stephanie. Expenses to date have been coming from the SAOC budget. Lynn is requesting that Rideau Park authorise an amount of \$500 to defray further expenses for the Cluster Initiative.

Motion: I move that the Cluster Initiative project be given separate funding in the amount of \$500 for expenses associated with paying for a facilitator. Moved by Lynn Sherwood and seconded by Joan Dewis. Carried

11. Report from Council

Ken Tong spoke on Council activities this past year. We have been through a number of openings and closings throughout this pandemic year and have made decisions in a very cautious fashion respecting public health guidelines and provincial recommendations, especially with respect to masking and social distancing. Because we have a streamlined executive model, we have been able to pivot quickly as the situation changes. Beginning on March 1 we allowed between 75-90 people in the sanctuary, maintaining current regulations about masking and social distancing. There was no singing for the congregation at that time, only for the musicians. These decisions were reviewed at the following Council meeting in April.

Council only works based on everyone's participation and cooperation and we thank you all for your support.

Council has decided to delay strategic planning and community of faith profiles until church life has returned to mostly normal and people are able to focus on the future.

11a. Financial Policy; Ken Tong

A new finance policy was drafted by the Finance Committee and approved by Council. All new committee chairs have been advised of the finance policy.

11b. Congregational Life Proposal: Ken Tong

We have received a proposal that we adjust Congregational Life Committee which would require a change to our governance model. The new chair of Congregational Life will review the recommendation of the past chair and any suggested changes will be brought to the congregation to consider, review and accept if we decide to proceed with these recommendations.

12. Nominations: Marilyn Law. Marilyn Law presented the slate of nominations for Council and here are the changes.

Vice Chair of Council: Heather Ingrams

Members-at-large: Neil McGraw, Shanti Inman, Cathy Hollands and Margaret Hart

Motion: to Adopt Nominations Committee Report: Moved by Marilyn Law and seconded by Shanti Inman. Carried

13. Recognition of Leadership that is concluding: Rev. Elizabeth Bryce

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce thanks everyone who has served and is moving on. Concluding Leadership are:

- Brian Irving is leaving Council as representative to EOORC
- Patricia Whitridge is leaving Council as past Chair of Council
- Heather Ingrams is leaving Council as Member at Large and is now Vice Chair of Council
- Laura Presley and Jeremy Geelen are leaving Council as Members at Large
- Meg Steele is leaving Council and moving to chair Christian Development

- Andrea Laliberté and Tara Lockhart are leaving Christian Development
- Sheila Faure and Susan Vaughn are leaving Trustees
- Alyce Dunnewold is leaving Congregational Life and Ministry and Personnel
- Marilyn Law is leaving Nominations.

14. Property Report and Plan: Brian Hamilton

- The Property Committee has met 4 times in 2021 and undertook several major initiatives.
- The doors on Cunningham Avenue were replaced and now look more welcoming and inviting.
- A new entrance camera and audio system for the Cunningham entrance as well as the back and side parking lots was installed.
- New glass doors were installed in the hallway to enhance security.
- Sidewalk and parking lot surfaces have been patched.
- Computers have been upgraded and are much faster.
- A second defibrillator has been purchased for the sanctuary.
- Carolyn and John Scollick were able to document the electrical system so that circuits will not have to be traced all the time.
- The balance sheet on page 31 of our report shows expenditure details.
- Long range plans are detailed on page 32 of the report.
- We need to raise \$42,000 which will mean a total of \$76,000 for projects; a project list has been created:
 - resurface the sidewalks,
 - continue to upgrade the office technology,
 - change the organ and choir microphones
 - establish a sanctuary roof and furnace replacement contingency fund as the roof will need to be replaced within next 5- 8 years, and the furnace will need to be replaced at some time.
- It is recommended that we retain \$10,000 a year for the contingency fund.

Motion: Brian Hamilton moves that the Property Renewal Plan be approved. Seconded by Ron Hagglund. Carried

Discussion:

- There is an ongoing issue in the music office with water leaking from the roof where handbells and their music are stored. Much of the handbell music was damaged. This has been an intermittent problem for many years due to the structure of the roof. Patching will be undertaken in the spring. The handbells will need to be stored in an alternative area.
- The church is currently insured for ten million dollars and was appraised in 2018. We are considering another appraisal at the end of 2022.
- We are not currently considering installing solar panels on the roof. While this is a good idea, it will need to wait until the E.V. Charging Stations are installed.
- Brian thanks everyone for their kind support regarding his weekly webcasting and states that, since we have been doing this since 2013, we have been well positioned to manage the pandemic.

15. Trustees Report: Michael Presley A report has been submitted.

The Trustees' effort is focused on financial matters over \$500,000, which the trustees administer, while the Property Committee has been handling matters relating to the church building.

- The trustees have changed the investment policy to a 60 % equity- 40 % G.I.C. mix because the current return on investment of G.I.C.'s is below annual inflation rates.
- We have changed our investment firm to Doherty Investments.

- We are moving towards ethical investments and organized an excellent briefing on
- ethical investments in January.
- Sheila Faure and Susan Vaughan are leaving Trustees and we thank them for their many years of service.
- We are looking for more members for this committee.

16. Stewardship Report: Gavin Currie Report submitted the committee report.

- There were no questions.

17. Recognition of Staff: Ken Tong, on behalf of the congregation and Council:

- Thank you to the ministerial staff for all their work. We sometimes forget that they are people also and have been facing the same issues as the rest of us during the pandemic.
- Thank you to Andrew and Iain for their live music.
- Thank you and welcome back to Debi Brown for her hard work as Administrator.
- Thank you to Geoff Scollick for maintaining and improving the building.

18. Other Business / Questions

A concern has been expressed by some people that community (as opposed to RP sponsored) events taking place at Rideau Park are not being posted on the website. It was noted that the electronic calendar is not for community events.

19. Closing Remarks

Ken Tong thanked everyone for their participation and for all the volunteer work people do for Rideau Park. This is our second meeting by Zoom and we are hoping that it will be our last. Our next congregational meeting will take place in the fall.

20. Commissioning and Benediction

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce led the benediction.

Motion to close meeting: Carried

Meeting finished at 1:42 PM.

Chair of Council

Secretary of Council



Date