

# Rideau Park United Church Annual Report 2023



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## LEADERSHIP AT RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH

<b>STAFF</b>	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 (until June 2023)	Administrator
	Clara Kennedy-Shirley (from June 2023)	Administrator
	Geoff Scollick	Custodian
<b>COUNCIL</b>	Ken Tong	Past-chair / Acting Chair
	Vacant	Secretary
	Bob Roden	Treasurer
	Gavin Currie	Chair of Stewardship
	Alyce Dunnewold, Nancy McPherson	Regional Representatives (EOORC)
	Michael Presley	Chair of Board of Trustees
	Nancy Begg Durkee	United Church Women representative
	Wayne Bond (until March 2023)	Acting chair of Ministry and Personnel
	Patricia Whitridge (from March 2023)	Chair of Ministry and Personnel
	Stephanie Bailey (Michael)	Member at Large
	Glen Boyd	Member at Large
	Margaret Hart	Member at Large
	Cathy Hollands	Member at Large
	Shanti Inman	Member at Large
	Neil McGraw	Member at Large
	Merina Shulist	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 / Clara Kennedy-Shirley	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	Vacant
Pastoral Care	Brian Neal, Chair

**Resources**

Finance	Bob Roden, Chair and Treasurer
Property	Brian Hamilton, Chair
Administration and Communications	Kristie Marr, Chair
Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Representatives	Alyce Dunnewold Nancy McPherson
Envelope Secretary	Barbara Jeffrey

**JOURNEY OF FAITH**

Baptisms	Child	Alice Anne Charron Amalie Mileyah Cruz Austin Jacob Beriault Anna Jane Bourgeois Benjamin William Seeley Violett Tina Rochon
Confirmation		0
Transfer to Rideau Park		Lynn Hampton Jim Hampton
Transfer from Rideau Park		Jacqueline Newton Joan Gold

**IN MEMORIAM**

*Members, Adherents and Friends of Rideau Park*

Iva Beryl Bayne

Isabel Bennett

Barbara Campbell

Bruce Dixon

Sharon Gwynne-Vaughan

Llewellyn Gwynne-Vaughan

Sherri Lynn Howes

Jon Herbert Felix Jennekens

Carole LePage

Joan Marshall

Della May Moodie

Elaine Margaret Palmer

Lilian Mona Anne Pearce

Harold Vincent Perry

Jim Pickard

Roberta Raubach

Judith Robertson

Hope Ross-Papezik

Ruth Elizabeth Sutherland

Gordon Weedmark

Margaret Hope Wilson

***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**

Iva Beryl Bayne

Isabel Bennett

Family of Janine Ewing-Dolbec

Brian Irvine

Marguerite McNally

Colin and Marjorie Ogden

Stan Parkhouse

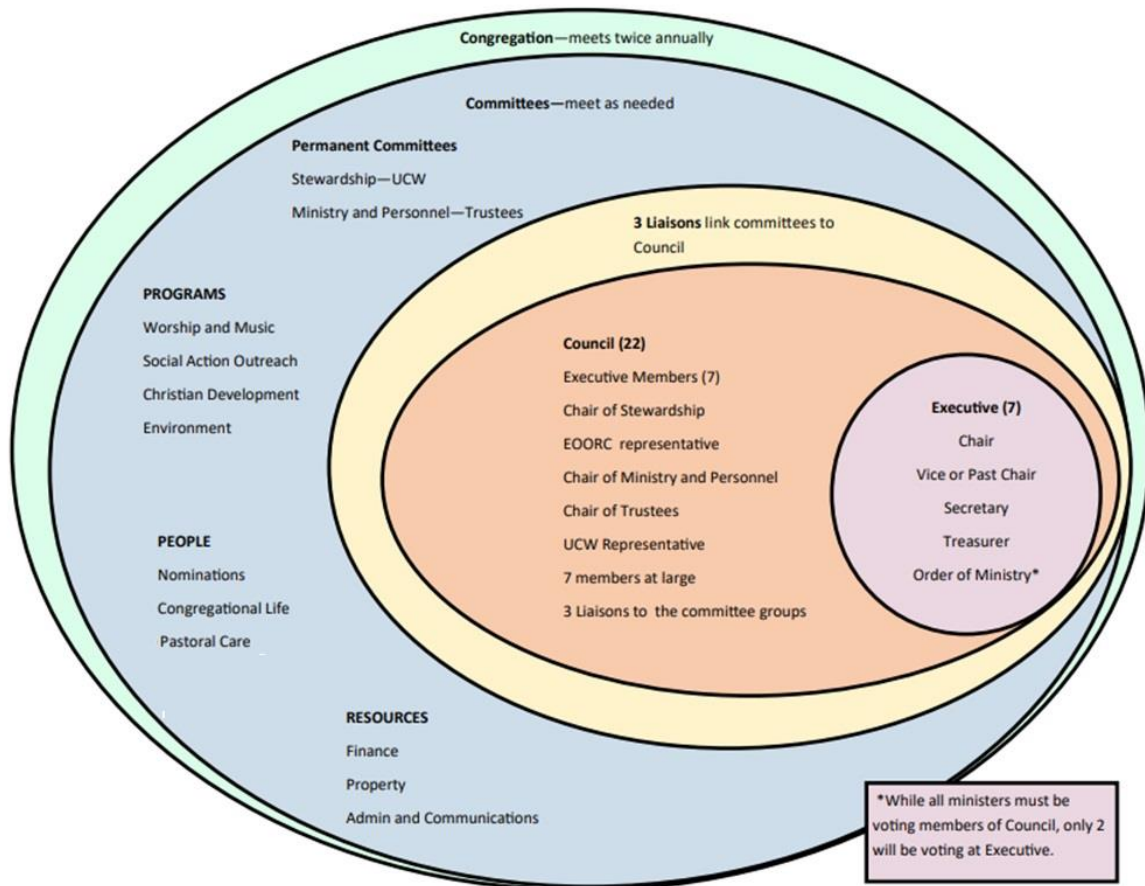
Dennis Punter

## 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 2023**

Number of households as of December 31, 2023 .....	372
Total number of persons as of December 31, 2023 .....	935
Members received through Transfer of Certificate .....	2
Members removed through Transfer of Certificate .....	2
Persons removed by death .....	16
Number of weddings.....	1
Number of funerals.....	14

## COUNCIL

2023 was indeed an interesting year as we seem to be at the tail-end of the pandemic. While Covid may not be at the top of the headlines, we are living in a world marred by two years of war in the Ukraine and renewed conflict between Israel and Palestine. It seems like we have replaced one form of turmoil and uncertainty with another.

Another challenge that we faced in 2023 is the high cost of common everyday items due to inflation. This has put a large amount of stress on businesses and families alike. Rideau Park United Church (RPUC) is not immune to these increased costs and we are facing amplified pressure and difficulties with balancing the books amidst a smaller congregation and reduced givings. It also should be noted that we are losing more congregants than we are gaining on a year over year basis.

To meet these challenges, we will need to do a lot of soul searching and reflection to see what we can do to stem the tide so that we do not continually need to rely on contingency funds to balance the books. We will need to define and enumerate our priorities and put the necessary resources to support them. In some cases, we will need to let lower priority items slide as we don't have the resources to properly attend to them.

We are also facing additional challenges with finding volunteers to fill a large number of vacancies within the various committees that make Rideau Park work. We need to review and right-size our governance structure to reduce overlap and either collapse or merge committees. This should help mitigate our volunteer shortage and make better use of the volunteers that are already donating their time and talents to Rideau Park.

The biggest catalyst for change in the coming year is how we will deal with the wholesale change in our clergy with the retirement of Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald and the upcoming retirements of Rev. Elizabeth Bryce and Rev. Steve Clifton. They have been such vital, caring, and dedicated members of Rideau Park for so long that it may seem impossible to chart our future without their spiritual guidance. While we should be happy that they are moving on to retirement, there will undoubtedly be some nervousness and anxiety with their departure.

I personally have no doubt that Rideau Parkers are ready to overcome any obstacles in our way, so long as we do so thoughtfully, prayerfully and with the best of intentions for the future.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. Thank you, Rev. Georgina, Rev. Elizabeth and Rev. Steve, for your leadership and guidance. Thank you to Debi. Thank you to Ian and Andrew for your gifts of song and music. Thank you, Geoff, for taking care of our building. Most of all I would like to thank the congregation for your ongoing support of Rideau Park and your patience as we plot our course together.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Tong, Acting 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 Merina Shulist took on the role of chair of the 2024 Campaign and we thank her for providing excellent leadership. Thanks also to Brian and Doreen Hamilton 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. 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 70 names of individuals who have offered to volunteer for various activities. As the church re-opens, 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 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 2024 there were 183 pledges for \$471,117 which is \$12,740 or 2.6% less than last year.

Of these 183 pledges, 167 (89%) are honoured through preauthorized remittances (PAR) via their banking institutions. We receive \$434,561 of our pledged contributions by PAR. Each week \$8,357 is donated to the church by PAR contributions. These contributions ensure our cash flow throughout the year. 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 and are responsible for management of its assets on behalf of the congregation. Trustees ensure assets are adequately invested, maintained and used in accordance with the objectives of the United Church of Canada and the RPUC Council. More specifically, the Trustees administer a number of funds established at Rideau Park United Church and are entrusted with ensuring these are managed and available for distribution at the discretion of Council and its committees.

The Trustees use the services of Doherty and Associates who act as a financial advisor and manager of the Trustees managed funds. As of December 31, 2023, the net value of the Trustees funds invested was \$650,421 as compared to \$610,305 at year-end 2022. The source of these funds were largely from donations made by members, adherents, or friends of the Church over the years. Trustees sought and received approval from the congregation in 2022 to an investment policy that allowed a ratio of investments in equities (up to 60%) and fixed instruments (no less than 40%) in order to optimize investment returns while also managing risk appropriately. That investment policy also recognized the advantage of consolidating the three smaller bequeathed funds into the Foundation Fund in order to increase their returns and simplify record keeping. All five funds have been separately allocated in these year-end statements, however, moving forward, only the Reserve and the Foundation Funds will be shown.

The Reserve Fund was established in 2010. It was created from 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. The total asset value of investments in the Reserve Fund is \$327,421. The investment earnings from this Fund are available for Council to deploy as circumstances warrant. As its title suggests, it provides the congregation with funds in reserve and is not intended as a funding source of first consideration for projects that are better fits for other sources within RPUC.

The Rideau Park Foundation Fund was established to serve as a permanent source of supplementary funding for special needs at the Church. All total asset value of investments in the Foundation Fund is \$252,382. All interest earned and one half of any unrestricted gifts donated to the Fund each year are available for disbursement in the following year. In 2023, \$20,000 was disbursed for projects approved by Council and in 2024, funds eligible for disbursement include half of the 2023 donations (\$9,401), the 2023 Foundation revenue (\$7,224) and any unused disbursement prior to the 2023 year-end.

The three bequeathed funds to be consolidated into the Foundation Fund in 2024 include the Karl Rasmussen Fund (\$31,545) which was created to assist people undertaking studies directed towards future service in the Christian Church. The second is the Douglas Brown Memorial Fund (\$26,985) which was created to support social activities for the physically and intellectually challenged. The third is the Dora Helmkey Legacy Fund (\$12,080). Its investment earnings are turned over to Council for use at its discretion. Each of these funds was created before the Rideau Park Foundation Fund was established in 1994 and their intended purposes align well with its mandate. Once consolidated, the original purposes of these three funds will continue to be served.

Funds bequeathed to the Church in the future will be allocated to either the Reserve Fund or the Rideau Park Foundation Fund depending on the wishes of the donor.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Presley, Chair  
Ron Little, Treasurer

## **UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

We invite you to learn more about and contact the Rideau Park United Church Women on the Rideau Park website [www.rideaupark.ca/programs/unity-church-women](http://www.rideaupark.ca/programs/unity-church-women). Position descriptions, including responsibilities of the RPUC UCW Executive and the Convenors of various activities, are available by contacting [ucw@rideaupark.ca](mailto:ucw@rideaupark.ca).

### **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR RPUC UCW 2023**

Total active membership in 3 units 52  
Life memberships 36  
Member at large 20  
E-buddies 40  
Not active 11

2023 in Memoriam: Hope Ross-Papezik, Elaine Margaret Palmer, Margaret Hope Wilson, Isabel Bennett, Carole LePage, Joan Marshall, Christine Johnson, Sherri Howes, Roberta Atchison, Ruth Elizabeth Sutherland, Iva Beryl Bayne, Roberta Raubach, Sharon Gwynn-Vaughan.

UCW report: 2023 saw the UCW return to pre-Covid levels of events and activities. We ended the year with a very successful Christmas Bazaar with Rideau Park's building filled with shoppers and tea drinkers on the first Saturday of November. We thank Christel Kurz and Peggy Rader for their Bazaar leadership—we hope you found this a fun and fulfilling opportunity.

Our traditional fundraisers were successful. The UCW distributed more than \$40,000 to various charities, including the Benevolent Fund, Christmas Cheer and Ministry and Programs Fund (supporting the activities of our own congregation) and putting some aside for future RPUC projects. Our most exciting and satisfying experience, with thanks to Judy Paré for her leadership, was a new Community Building initiative. Our goal was to hold fun, affordable events, not to raise funds. We invited not only Rideau Parkers but also the community surrounding the church into our building to see what we are all about and hopefully to rebuild community connections that we lost because of the pandemic years. The success of the events surprised even us. A chili supper, participation in the Alta Vista Community garage sale, September Welcome Lunch and Open House, and a fajita supper featuring the swing music of the pocket version of the Stan Clark Orchestra (thank you Charlotte and Don) had people asking for more. We do have plans for more such events in 2024.

The UCW executive realized the need for promotion of these events to be done right at our own four-way stop in an easier more accessible fashion. We are grateful to Brian Hamilton for the hundreds of signs he has made for the UCW over the years. So began our project to renew the church sign with an electronic reader board that can be easily programmed. We successfully applied to the Rideau Park Foundation for Ministry Fund for a share of the funds available in 2023 and a small group of the Executive, with the help of a sign designer began the process of designing a sign and getting permits from the city.

The confidence we gained in pivoting to new ways of doing things during the pandemic has invigorated the UCW. We are pleased to take on new initiatives such as signs and parlour refurbishing with faith in the continued support of our responsive and enthusiastic congregation to whom we owe a great deal of thanks.

We extend our thanks to Nancy McPherson for leading us through lockdowns and other pandemic challenges and into 2023. The Executive is working together sharing tasks and supporting each other as the UCW at Rideau Park continues to evolve. The key roles of Spokesperson, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Finance are filled by Nancy Begg-Durkee, Judy Paré, Karen Humphries and Lisa Sadler. Other members of the executive are Mabel Bannerman, Lynda Coombe, Karin Ott, Peggy Rader, Sandra Weedmark and Doreen Hamilton. Thank you all!

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our beloved ministers, Rev. Steve, Rev. Elizabeth and Rev. Georgina for their encouragement and support of the UCW. We feel especially blessed to be able to continue to amaze them with all that we do. Thanks also to Rideau Park administrators: Debi Brown to whom we said goodbye in June by hosting a farewell luncheon and to Clara Kennedy-Shirley who joined us this summer. To Geoff Scollick, our custodian, our appreciation and thanks for setting up and taking down for the many UCW events over the year.

It is a pleasure to work with all UC women. You are a delightful group of ladies. We invite you to join us anytime.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Begg-Durkee, Judy Paré

## MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

The Ministry and Personnel Committee has continued to support all of our staff members as they successfully navigated another year of challenge and change.

We said goodbye to our administrator Debi Brown in June after many years of devoted service at Rideau Park. We celebrated with lots of cake and a women's lunch. We definitely miss the depth of her knowledge and her willingness to jump in and help. In June, we welcomed Clara Kennedy-Shirley as our new administrator.

We celebrated Rev. Georgina's career and retirement in December, then again with a soup lunch in January. Her gentle touch and caring approach are definitely missed, especially by the people she visited in hospitals and retirement homes, and the monthly services she offered in several of the local retirement homes. Fortunately, she continues to worship in our midst and support her UCW unit.

We continue to face new challenges, as both Rev. Elizabeth and Rev. Steve have announced that they will be retiring in 2024. We have a wonderful opportunity to examine our priorities, where we spend our time and talents and our money, and what we want Rideau Park to look like in the future.

Patricia Whitridge stepped in as the new Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee in March. Wayne Bond stepped down from his role as M&P liaison for Rev. Steve in the summer. His experience and contribution to M&P are sorely missed. The only long-standing liaison left on the committee is John Durkee, M&P liaison for our custodian Geoff. We are so grateful that he continues to serve on our committee and share his organization, advice, corporate memory, and previous documents. Gretchen Conrad continued in her role as liaison for Rev. Elizabeth. Rod Hagglund accepted to be the M&P liaison

for the musicians, both Iain and Andrew. In late spring, we had Cathy Hollands join us as the liaison for the Administrator, in time to say thank you to Debi and welcome to Clara. In October, Randolph Harrold came onto the committee as the liaison for Rev. Steve. In November, we decided that the musicians should really have their own liaisons, so Rod became the liaison for Andrew and Helen Beck joined as liaison for Iain. Hopefully, now that we have a complete committee, we are past this season of turmoil as our work must continue.

Several of our newer committee members took advantage of a Zoom seminar about M&P offered by the Region in March. It provided a solid background on the various activities and responsibilities of the committee.

Rev. Steve took a sabbatical from May until September in 2023. He spent the time studying, meditating, searching out new ideas, travelling, and returned re-energized for his church activities. United Church Ministers are encouraged to pursue a sabbatical after 5 five continuous years of service to in a pastoral charge and may request a subsequent sabbatical after an additional 5 five 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,  
Patricia Whitridge, Chair

## 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.

The Committee met six times via Zoom in 2023.

We continue to do a land acknowledgement and welcome to all including LGBTQ2S+ at the beginning of services. Worship services have been in-person in the sanctuary. We continue live streaming and have started posting services to our YouTube channel.

We held Lenten Mid-week Reflections via Zoom, the topic was "Journeys."

We continued holding Forest Church. A tree fell on the power lines that go into the church, so our Holy Thursday service was cancelled. We were able to hold Good Friday and Easter Sunday services in-person. A mid-week Bible Study on "The Questions Jesus Asked" was held via Zoom, just prior to Advent. Advent Encarna and Labyrinth were held in-person; The Longest Night Service was held via Zoom. The pageant was under the capable leadership of Erin Brunet-DeCaire and Merina Shulist in 2023.

Special Sunday services included:

- Shared services with the Cluster (Rideau Park, Riverside, Southminster, Emmanuel and Glebe St James)
- UCW Sunday
- I Have a Dream Sunday with guest speaker Ken Tong of Rideau Park
- Orange Shirt Sunday

- Indigenous Prayer Sunday
- Pride Sunday with guest speaker King Julez
- Anniversary Sunday with guest speaker Peter Bartlett
- Affirm-aversary with guest speaker Day Hayward

The Chancel choir and three bell choirs continued to practice in the sanctuary. The Chancel choir sang during services. Carmen Harris and Adam Sperry have provided several solos. Drumming has continued. The Bells in Spring concert was held May 7, 2023. It included the four Rideau Park bell choirs and some from other churches. A group of ringers from the bell choirs attended OGEHR (Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers) in Kingston. Cherubs have a new leader working with Heather Ingrams, Ashley Roy and her son. The Youth Handbells have a new leader, Neysa Carlson, working with Iain Macpherson.

Rev. Steve was on sabbatical during 2023. Rev. Georgina assisted during his absence. Our two Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Jeremy Geelen and Sharon Sanderson, lead some services during the late spring and summer.

The average number of people tuning in on Sunday was about 75. This included not only viewers from Rideau Park but also visitors elsewhere in Ontario and internationally. The average number of views of our taped services on You Tube was 18. The average number of in person attendees on Sundays was about 75 to 90.

The committee submitted a request for Foundation funds to study long range plans for music at Rideau Park. There were several opportunities for the congregation and committees to participate in the discussions or to fill out a questionnaire. The W&M committee participated in a survey interview as a group. The study was conducted by Stephanie Coward-Yaskiw. She will be reporting in 2024.

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

Respectfully submitted

Karen Lamb and Sharon Sanderson, Co-chairs Worship and Music

### **Handbells**

Rideau Park is blessed with four handbell choirs, of which three are adults and one is for youth.

A Touch of Brass has nine dedicated adult members and plays regularly in church Sundays. Gord Dewis directs this group.

Ringing Praise is directed by Jeanette Caton has nine dedicated adult members who are enthusiastic and enjoy learning different bell techniques and sharing their talents at the joint bell concerts, with no pressure!

La Bell Ensemble is the third adult group and is directed by Jeanette Caton. It has eleven ringers who share their love of bells and their talents in the broader community. In 2023, they brought joy to Kitchissippi UC, Music in Greenboro, Oakpark Retirement Residence and Landmark Court Retirement Residence.

All of the adult groups participated actively in the Bells in Spring Concert which also included three handbell choirs from other churches.

In June, a combined choir was created to participate in the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers festival in Kingston, Ont. In July, Rideau Park welcomed a guest teen handbell choir from Charlotte, NC, who performed a wonderful concert on a Saturday night then joined in the Sunday morning service before heading out on a Canadian tour.

In December, all of our handbell choirs joined the Chancel Choir for the Ringing and Singing in Christmas concert which raised money for Christmas Cheer and the Heron Emergency Food Centre. While not a choir, a handbell was included in Andrew Ager's Scrooge's Christmas.

It has been a busy year for all and the ringers continue to bring joy to all who hear them. Thank you to all the dedicated ringers and the congregation who continue to support them!

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Gord Dewis & Jeanette Caton

## Social Action & Outreach

Purpose of the Social Action & Outreach (SOAC) 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
- Put into action educational and advocacy initiatives which 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; Confederation Court Community House:** SAOC supports these organizations through donations of \$500.00 twice yearly to each community house, as well as by the collection of personal care items and school supplies once a year.
- **Tiny Free Library:** SAOC stocks and manages the tiny free library located at the Cunningham entrance to the church.
- **Christmas Cheer Program:** Rideau Park's out-pouring of generosity provides Christmas hampers and food vouchers to 175 families in our extended neighbourhood.
- **Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC):** SAOC supported the HEFC financially, through ongoing food collection, participation in the annual Step Up and Step Out Walkathon and representation on the board of directors.
- **Guaranteed Basic Income:** A SAOC member is on the executive of Basic Income Ottawa (BIO). SAOC liaised with BIO and sponsored public education information, workshops, and lobbying support with respect to a proposed guaranteed livable income program as endorsed by the United Church.
- **Multi Faith Housing Initiative:** SAOC is a member of the Ottawa Multifaith Housing organization, providing information, advocacy and financial support for their subsidized housing initiatives.
- **Refugee Program:** At Rideau Park United, we benefit from the Sponsorship Agreement held by the United Church of Canada, which helps congregations across Canada make applications to receive

refugees. This allows us to assist family sponsorships as well as our own refugee projects. On December 11, Uba's mother and sister arrived in Ottawa and two more family members will be arriving in February 2024. They have been separated for 30 years. We are currently organizing the rental of an apartment, as well as getting furniture for them.

- **South East Ottawa Cluster Initiative:** SAOC represented Rideau Park in the group of five churches in the South East Ottawa Cluster Initiative which co-ordinates initiatives and shares information regarding issues of mutual concern in this area of the city. In 2023 we participated in two successful potluck suppers, several workshops and the annual cluster service.
- **55+ Adults Club (Harmony Club):** SAOC organizes this group. These events are open to everyone over the age of 55 and are not limited to church members. This fall we sponsored a monthly coffee hour in September and October. Two very successful luncheons were also held in May and November.
- **Euchre Club:** This group met weekly except for the summer. The door is always open for new members and guests.
- **Speakers and Workshops:** In November, SAOC sponsored a lunch with speaker Bill Chambre about the current conflict in Gaza and the Palestinian situation.

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

The Christian Development (CD) committee is so proud of the work done by volunteers to enrich life at Rideau Park. We are particularly fortunate to have the support and resources provided by Rev. Steve Clifton.

Camp Awesome took place the week of August 14, and by all accounts it went well.

For Sunday School programming, Nessa Hopkin, Grace Lockhart, Jessica Roebuck and Haliey Laliberte are 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, although we are in need of a replacement. Thank you for your time and gifts.

The Seasons Online Sunday School curriculum has ceased business operations, and so for 2024 we will explore Dig In: The Heart of God.

Bibles were presented to the children in Grade 3 and up on November 19, after a hiatus during the pandemic.

Also on November 19, the Carol Gardiner Award was presented to the Hopkin family and Ben Presley. We thank them for the commitment to volunteering at Rideau Park.

Confirmation classes are being offered once again. Thank you, Rev. Steve.

Advent Happening saw families joining together to decorate around 30 gingerbread houses and enjoy a potluck buffet on December 3. Meg Steele coordinated this event with generous help from volunteers.



The Shoebox program donated 147 boxes to support the Banff Avenue Community House in the Ledbury community. Thank you, Laura Presley, for coordinating.

Andrea Laliberté was unable to direct the Christmas Pageant for the first time in over two decades. Thank you Erin Brunet-Decaire and Merina Shulist for stepping up to help. We appreciate the support that Rev. Steve Clifton, Tara Lockhart, Sarah Charron, Meg Steele and others offered this year. The pageant was a great success.

Sunday school has been linking environmental stewardship to God's grace. The children are fascinated by the vermicomposter that forms part of the weekly lesson. Sarrah Charron led some students in planting a pollinator garden outside the Beecroft entrance to the church.

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

We would like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work this past year. Looking forward to what 2024 brings!

Respectfully submitted,  
Meg Steele

## **Environment**

The Environment Committee oversaw the installation of 2 Flo EV Chargers at Rideau Park in April and they have been online since then through the Flo system. This was an important partnership funding through the Hydro Ottawa Zevip program with additional support from the Faithfully Green Fund, Rideau Park Foundation, and the United Church Foundation. Rideau Park is one of two churches in Ottawa that took part in this pilot program in partnership with Greening Sacred Spaces and the Sustainable Capacity Foundation. We look forward to tracking and monitoring the community usage of these chargers which will also bring in a revenue stream to the church in the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristina Inrig, Chair



## 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 11 maintains regular communication with 43 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

2023 was a challenging year with a large number of key positions remaining vacant. The challenges of recruiting seem to be exacerbated in this post-pandemic period with many staunch volunteers looking to take a step back after many long and dedicated years of service. With that being said, there are several people who have extended their terms on committees which helps mitigate some of the difficulties with finding new people to fill a variety of committee and chair positions.

I am very optimistic that our new Co-Chairs of the Nominations Committee will meet these challenges with renewed vigour and energy. If anyone is interested in learning how their talents and skills could be put to use at Council or filling any vacant positions, please contact any member of Council for more information.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Tong, Acting Chair

#### Council Executive (7)

Chair	Ken Tong	(2026)
Vice Chair	Stephanie Bailey	(2028)
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	Bob Roden	(2025)
Order of Ministry		

#### Permanent Committee Representatives

Chair of Stewardship	Vacant	
Regional Representatives (EOORC)	Alyce Dunnewold, Nancy McPherson	
Chair of Ministry Personnel	Patricia Whitridge	(2026)
Chair of Trustees	Michael Presley	(2025)
UCW Representative	Nancy Begg-Durkee	

**Members at large (7)**

Neil McGraw	(2025)
Shanti Inman	(2025)
Cathy Hollands	(2025)
Margaret Hart	(2025)
Merina Shulist	(2026)
Vacant	
Vacant	

**Liaisons (3)****People Liaison**

Drew Presley	(2025)
Chair of Congregational Life	Judy Paré (2025)
Co-Chairs of Nominations	Carolyn Scollick (2027)
	Sarah Charron (2027)
Chair of Pastoral Care	Brian Neal (2025)

**Program Liaison**

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

**Resources Liaison**

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

**Trustees**

Chair	Michael Presley (2025)
Members	Lynda Becker
	Catherine Ennis
	Diane Keevil Harrold
	Ron Little
	Steve Cole
	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce ( <i>ex officio</i> )

**Pastoral Care**

There are currently ten people on the pastoral care visit team. The number of people we visit regularly has ranged from 25 to 34 over the past year. In a large congregation like ours, one of the challenges for the Pastoral Care Committee is to identify those who would appreciate a visit, whether they have recently moved into a retirement or nursing home or are housebound in their own home. Help with identifying people who are in need of pastoral care is always appreciated.

On November 12th, the Pastoral Care Committee was very happy to have once again been able to host the "Our Hearts Remember Service." These services are specifically designed to support those who have

recently lost a loved one, and they are greatly appreciated by all who attend. This service was an annual event before the pandemic, so it was unfortunate that we had to cancel them three years in a row.

Rev. Georgina retired at the end of 2023 from her position as the Pastoral Care Minister. She touched many lives and hearts on pastoral visits throughout the city and with the services she conducted regularly at retirement homes in the neighbourhood. Her passion for pastoral care has been an inspiration to the Pastoral Care Committee, which has benefited greatly from her guidance and support over the years. We wish her all the best in retirement.

The Healing Pathway ministry at Rideau Park offers Christian-centred, energy-based healing sessions on Thursdays, by appointment. Appointments can last anywhere from 15 to 45 minutes. Shorter chair sessions that last 2-3 minutes are offered in the chapel immediately following the worship service most Sundays.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Neal, Chair

## RESOURCES

### Finance

During the year the Finance Committee met several times via Zoom and twice in-person to continue its oversight of the church's financial needs. While the church returned to more normal operations, 2023 still presented many challenges. Work primarily centered on:

- monthly financial status monitoring and communication
- finalizing the Baker Tilley financial reviews covering the period 2017 to 2022
- converting the Desk Top version of QuickBooks to the online version
- managing refugee sponsorship funds
- preparing a draft 2024 budget

Significant issues, such as timeliness of financial status reporting, arose during the second half of the year as a result of employee transition combined with implementing a new version of QuickBooks. As a result, our previous administrator, Debi was brought back in early 2024 to help sort out the 2023 financial records. This work was primarily completed by the end of February. We ended the 2023 year with a deficit in the Ministries & Programs Fund of approximately \$46,000. This amount was approximately \$12,000 over budget, with both revenues being lower and costs being higher than anticipated. With the retirement of our ministers later in 2024, we have an opportunity to reassess our long-term goals as a church community and to get on a more sustainable financial footing moving forward.

It should be noted that while we had some financial challenges, there were some bright spots. Both the Christmas Cheer and Shoe Box programs did very well, so much so, that they are in an excellent financial position for Christmas 2024.

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, Council Liaison
- John Durkee

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Bethune                      Bob Roden, Chair

Debi Brown                              Joann Roebuck

### Property Committee

The 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), and Debi Brown/Clara Kennedy-Shirley (Administrator, Committee Secretary, ex officio). Bill Ott and Michael Inrig joined the committee in the fall.

Operational property expenses in 2023 were higher by \$9,000 at \$80,000 total. Material cost increases were incurred for heating \$5,000 and snow removal (new contractor) \$4,000, but were offset by property insurance that eased by \$4,000. Remediation of a plugged sewer line that flooded the basement by Brackenridge Hall cost \$6,000 and increased maintenance and repair costs by \$2,500.

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 37 years ago in 1987. To date \$30,000 has been set aside and a further \$10,000 is planned for 2024.

Property Renewal Fund disbursements in 2023 allowed the completion of four significant projects. Within this context, some of the 2023 Property Renewal accomplishments included:

- The two electric car charging stations in the parking lot beside Beecroft Hall were installed in February 2023 with grants from Hydro Ottawa, The United Church and the Rideau Park Foundation. The efforts of Kristina Inrig, Chair of the Environment Committee are greatly appreciated for successfully shepherding this initiative. (\$16,343 – \$11,343 in 2023 and \$4,477 in 2022)
- The church asphalt sidewalks were replaced. This upgrade has been well received by the congregation and the community. (\$24,917)
- Installing the City of Ottawa mandated potable water backflow valve. (\$6,522)
- Installing a Generac Generator to provide emergency electric power backup in the event of Ottawa Hydro power interruptions. This will ensure the furnaces will always be powered in winter; the sump pump works; there will be hot water; and the freezers will freeze. (\$24,878)
- Upgrading the exterior lights with LED fixtures and photocells thereby significantly improving the light levels at the church entrances and parking areas; and reducing electricity costs. (\$5,280)
- Replacing exterior brick, mortar repairs, foundation parging and exterior/interior painting. (\$9,514)
- Renewed the Beecroft dishwasher to full functionality and eliminated the garburator as per bylaw
- Sourcing and approving a new contractor for winter snow clearing

In 2023 we were able to maintain a positive Property Renewal Fund year-end balance with a carry forward of \$8,596 for future projects. The 2024 Property Renewal Plan identifies several projects, including continued funding of the contingency for future sanctuary roof and furnace replacements; upgrading three stairwell railings for safety; upgrading the Beecroft lights to LEDs for improved lighting levels and energy savings; and winterization of the sanctuary, chapel and chancel windows for energy conservation and protection of investment. (See the statements on the following page.)

Work on the 2024 Property Plan, while considering the stewardship of resources, will adapt as the times warrant. Your ongoing and future support for this work is needed, welcomed, and appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Hamilton, Chair

## Administration and Communications

The Administration and Communications Committee continued to work and meet virtually for 2023. This presents a summary of the work the committee did this year to help the church and keep the congregation updated.

We said goodbye to Debi Brown who retired mid-year and welcomed Clara Kennedy-Shirley as the new office administrator.

### Weekly emails

Weekly emails continued to be sent during the year. Debi was responsible January-June, then Clara took responsibility until November, when Patricia Whitridge took them on. In November, we tested the Envoke platform, where we could create templates and have a subscriber list that was easy to use and maintain. Envoke was chosen because the data is stored in Canada, where MailChimp data is stored in the U.S. Envoke, managed by Lynda Becker, is also used to mail out *ChurchPost*. We offer a big thank you to Lynda Becker who started the weekly email and continues to support our website and the Envoke platform.

### Community Papers

Wayne Bond continued to support the VISTAS papers throughout the year. He has announced that he will no longer be able to do this after June 2024. We are looking for a new volunteer to coordinate the collection of monthly news items and collaborate with the community newspapers to keep the community updated on events at Rideau Park.

For VISTAS, we submitted to the Community Events section and the content we shared was related specifically to community events held at the church. Church services appeared in a different part of the paper and Greig Scott updated that information. VISTAS are published 10 times a year and are distributed around the community and are available online.

### *ChurchPost*

Nancy McPherson retired from the committee this year and submitted her final *ChurchPost* in November 2023. Lynda Becker will take over as publisher in 2024. There are 4 issues produced each year.

### Office Administration

This year, we suffered through several technical issues with hardware, software, email support and the website. We feel that they have been resolved, although it took some time. We introduced two new software packages this year—Envoke for mass emailing and a new online version of QuickBooks. Don Ford will be stepping back from providing our primary technical support and is looking for a volunteer to help. Lynda continued to support our website and design the creative content for the banners and other pages. Rev. Steve Clifton promoted RPUC online activities on social media, including our RPUC Facebook page and Instagram account.



**New Projects and Grant Applications**

A grant request was successfully submitted to the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Vision and Transformation Fund and RPUC received \$6,000 for the use of QR codes to allow easier online donations and to examine equipment, both physical and software, to support online and hybrid meetings.

**Opportunities on the Committee**

We are actively looking for volunteers to take over as primary liaison with VISTAS, to help backfill as primary technical support, and to work on the use of QR codes. We are interested in talking to anyone who is considering volunteering with the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristie Marr, Chair

## 2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, February 26, 2023, 11:45 am

Hybrid: In-Person and Zoom

Webcast of Meeting can be viewed at <https://www.rideaupark.ca/>

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

**Present:** Gordon Dewis, Michael Presley, Brian Hamilton, Doreen Hamilton, Ken Tong, Lynn Sherwood, Patricia Whitridge, Joanne Rodgers, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Merina Shulist, Mark Shulist, Gretchen Conrad, Stephanie Bailey, Jennifer MacKinnon, Drew Presley, Diane Keevil Harrold, Randolph Harrold, Nancy Begg-Durkee, John Durkee, Karen Humphries, Rob Blake, Shanti Inman, Marlene Hutchison, Bob Roden, Karen Lamb, Nadia Senyk, Carolyn Scollick, John Scollick, Mabel Bannerman, Brian Neal, Judy Paré, Bas Groeneweg, Judith Srna, Heather Ingrams, Margaret Hart, Ron MacPherson, Rev. Steve Clifton, Cathy Hollands, Mary Lynne Holton, Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald

**Present Online:** Sandra Weedmark, Peggy Radar, Wayne Bond, Joan Dewis, Barry Dewis, Shirley Roberts, Murray Ferguson, Gavin Currie, Garry Lindberg, Kristie Marr, Sheila Faure, Thierry Faure, Nancy McPherson, Barbara Jensen

### **The Community Gathers before God**

Meeting began at 11:55 AM

#### **1. Words of Welcome and Opening Motions**

Rev. Elizabeth welcomed the congregation and asked for the following motions.

**Motion:** Heather Ingrams moved and John Scollick seconded the motion that the meeting be chaired by Ken Tong, Chair of Council. Carried

**Motion:** Patricia Whitridge moved and Shanti Inman seconded the motion that Lynn Sherwood be the Recording Secretary for the meeting. Carried.

#### **2. Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Ken Tong welcomed everybody and shared information about participation in the hybrid meeting.

#### **3. Prayer of Approach**

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce led the prayer of approach.

#### **4. Admitting adherents**

**Motion:** Judy Paré moved and Gord Dewis seconded the motion permitting all adherents of Rideau Park United Church to participate and vote at this year's Annual General Congregational Meeting. Carried.

## 5. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion:** Patricia Whitridge moved and Gretchen Conrad seconded the motion to accept the agenda as printed. Carried

## Life and Work of the Congregation

### 6. Receiving the 2022 Annual Report and Congregation Meeting Minutes

**Motion:** Jennifer MacKinnon moved, and Gord Dewis seconded the motion that the 2022 Annual Report and the Minutes of the February 28, 2022, Annual Congregational Meeting be received as printed. Carried

### 7. Receiving review/Engagement reports for the years 2017 through 2020 and proceeding with the Review Engagements for 2021 and 2022

Bob Roden thanked everyone who has helped to finance Rideau Park during the past year. He also thanked the Trustees, the UCW, budget holders and the congregation.

Normally our accounts are reviewed on a five-year cycle: years one to four are review engagements and year five is an audit. However, this year because of the pandemic and some internal issues at the accounting firm, Baker Tilley is behind in its work. It is reviewing, at no cost to RPUC, the reports from 2017 to 2020 and, with the treasurer's agreement, the 2020 audit will be converted to a Review Engagement. In the future, the Trustee accounts will be incorporated into the review.

As a result, at this point:

- Draft 2017 reports have been produced
- Draft 2018 to and 2020 reports are in process
- Baker Tilley has reserved time in April/May 2023 to complete the 2021 and 2022 reviews

The treasurer recommends retaining Baker Tilley as our auditor. It is familiar with our operations and changing auditor now would take time and we have a number of issues to address (e.g. preparing for the departure of our administrator, integrating the trustee accounts).

**Motion:** Bob Roden moved and Patricia Whitridge seconded that Council be authorized to receive, accept, and action, as appropriate, the reports for years 2017 through 2020 on behalf of the congregation subject to a full report to the congregation at the next Annual Congregational meeting. Carried

**Motion:** Bob Roden moved and Heather Ingrams seconded that Council be authorized to engage Baker Tilley to conduct a review engagement with respect to 2021 and 2022 financial statements. Carried

### 8. Receiving the Financial Statements for 2022

Details are in the 2022 Annual Report pages 24 -26. We will have an overall deficit of \$17,571. Key observations on revenues and expenditures:

## Revenues:

- Ministry and Personnel envelope givings are similar to 2021, consistent with the 2022 year-end appeal
- Mission and Services givings are similar to 2021
- PAR support continues to be strong
- We will no longer be receiving Government pandemic subsidies
- 90% of the Britt Funds (\$7,288) were used for Ministry and Personnel In 2021 all (\$102 K) went to our Reserve Fund
- Foster's Farm revenues of \$15,070 were up from \$14,653 in 2021
- For the first time in two years, we required assistance of \$10,000 from the United Church Women
- The Christmas Cheer Program is in good shape for next year with a reserve of \$6,725

## Expenses:

- We again kept staff on salary for the entire year
- Property expenses are up 22.7%, mainly due to an increase in insurance, utilities (because of increased use of the building), and snow removal
- Our cash position is good

Motion: Bob Roden moved and Shanti Inman seconded the motion that the Financial Statements found on pages 24 to 26, the Fund Account Reconciliation Statement found on page 28, and the summary of the Property Renewal Fund found on page 31 of the Rideau Park United Church 2022 Annual Report be accepted subject to the findings of the Review Engagement currently being conducted by Baker Tilley up to and including the 2022 year-end, which are to be completed in 2023. Carried.

In response to questions, Bob noted that:

- Payroll costs Ministry and Personnel benefits are lower than forecasted in the budget because Iain was away for a while and travel and education expenses were lower.
- In addition to having a new and more costly snow plow contractor this year, we have had more snow.
- Our property insurance is now managed under a plan through the United Church rather than an independent contract, which has resulted in lower premiums.

## 9. Report from Council: Ken Tong, Chair of Council

This has been a challenging year. We returned to in-person programming as the pandemic wanes, but attendance is lower than it was pre-pandemic as many people continue to participate online. This is particularly the case for young families and children's programs.

As a consequence of the social changes resulting from the pandemic our existing strategic planning process is no longer relevant. We are currently in a period of uncertainty. We must remain good stewards of your money and, as has been thoroughly discussed by Council, we want to ensure that we have good programs to offer as people return to church. We are presenting a deficit budget this year, realizing we have issues to address:

- We do not know how long, if ever, it will be before we return to pre-Covid membership levels, especially with the children and young families.
- We have difficult questions and decisions ahead of us: either we increase revenues or decrease costs.

- Will we need to move to a more hybrid model with meetings like this on an ongoing basis?
- The strategic planning process needs to be resumed when we can begin to assess future needs.
- We need to review the music program, possible using Foundation funds to facilitate a review.
- We face challenges finding people to sit on committees; many volunteers have served for a long time. We need new volunteers.
- Change is not always a bad thing; it can present opportunities for improvement, new models of service delivery.

Ken was thanked for his leadership during this challenging time.

#### **10. Budget 2023: Bob Roden, Treasurer**

Report is on page 27 – 29 of Annual Report. We have proposed a budget deficit of \$31,133 as well as an additional request from Worship and Music for \$2,640 which will result in a revised deficit of \$33,973.

Key observations included:

##### Revenue highlights

- Forecasting a 5% increase in envelope givings for the year
- Assuming a 90% of Britt revenue will go to Ministry and Programs and that investment returns will be less than in the previous year
- Assuming continued normal operations throughout the year
- Planning on having three special appeals (Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas)
- Decreased expected support from the UCW for 2023 to \$5,000
- Assuming a return to regular use of premises revenue for the year
- The Mission and Services revenue is based on pledges

##### Expense highlights

- Assuming a return to regular operations throughout the year
- Planning to keep existing staff on the payroll for the entire year
- Ministry and Personnel costs are based on a 3.4% Cost of Living Allowance for staff; the mileage rate is also increased
- Assuming printing and insurance savings will be realized
- Challenge of foreseeing snowfalls and snow removal cost
- Music costs based on having soloists, not lead singers, for the year
- An increase of \$2,640 in the payroll budget, requested by the Music and Worship Committee, to cover additional costs for soloists.

We are still trying to feel our way through the new normal, so we decided to forecast a deficit for 2023. We want to keep programs in anticipation that the congregation returns.

**Motion:** Bob Roden moved and Heather Ingrams seconded a motion to increase the payroll budget by \$2,640 for additional soloist costs. Carried

In response to a question, Bob noted that the Worship and Music committee requested increased funding to allow them to hire section leads. It was reviewed by Council which approved an increased total budget of \$7,600 for soloists.

The intent of the original budget was to have one soloist for each service (excluding the summer services). The proposed increase allows flexibility for the Worship and Music Committee to have additional soloists during the program year.

**Motion:** Bob Roden moved and Gretchen Conrad seconded the motion that the Rideau Park United Church 2023 Budgets for the Ministries and Programs Fund and the Mission and Service Fund, as presented on page 27 of the 2022 Annual Report, be approved. Carried.

#### **11. Nominations: Patricia Whitridge**

Report is on pages 20-21 of the Annual Report. There is one change from this report. The positions of Chair of Ministry and Personnel and Congregational Development are now vacant.

**Motion:** Patricia Whitridge moved and Jennifer MacKinnon seconded the motion that the nominations for new appointments and renewal and extension of terms, as set out in the Nominations Report on pages 20 to 21 of the 2022 Annual Report, as amended, be approved. Carried

#### **12. Recognition of Leadership that is Concluding: Rev. Steve Clifton and Rev. Elizabeth Bryce**

Rev. Steve and Rev. Elizabeth commented on challenges and stresses of this past year through the pandemic. Thanks were extended to: Ken Tong, leaving as Chair, becoming Past Chair; Heather Ingrams, leaving as Vice Chair, becoming Chair of Council; Lynn Sherwood, leaving as secretary; Jeff Allo, leaving as Chair of Ministry and Personnel; Nancy McPherson, leaving as President of the UCW; and Gaveen Cadotte, leaving as Member at Large. Ken Tong thanked volunteers: Brian and Doreen Hamilton, operating the webcasting every Sunday; Lynda Becker, webmaster and support to the UCW for online orders; Lynn MacMurtery-Schnare, for reinstating and organizing coffee time; and the people who replaced Debi while she was on leave.

#### **13. Property Report and Plan: Brian Hamilton. Report is on page 29 of Annual Report**

The federal, provincial and municipal governments are the biggest supporters of our church since supporters receive a tax deduction on donations and the church does not pay municipal property taxes.

We need to recognise the importance of the Sustainability Office which makes a key contribution through rent to our revenue.

The Property Committee has four members. Brian Hamilton, Chair, Ron MacPherson, Mark Inman, and Ron Hagglund and is supported by *ex officio* members Geoff Scollick and Debi Brown and met four times this year.

##### Highlights

- The snowplowing is costing more because the previous company went bankrupt and we have much had more snow this year
- Revenues were good last year but disbursements were down
- We were unable to pave the sidewalks
- End-of-year balance of \$43,000
- We have contingency plan for roof and furnace replacement—the furnace is 35 years old
- We planted a tree in memory of Steve Shipley
- We repaired the dishwasher, which was installed in 1964, by replacing the heater, but we will need a new dishwasher in the future
- We put in storage on the balcony

This year's plan:

- We had difficulty installing the EV chargers, but this has finally been accomplished. This is a break-even operation. We will put out a sign at the front at some point.
- We still have to install a backflow valve at a cost of \$7,000.
- We need to resurface the sidewalks at an estimated cost of \$17,500.
- It is becoming clear that we need to explore getting a generator and the committee will be researching this.
- We will need more set aside for the contingency fund as we will be down by \$4,000 this year.

**Motion:** Brian Hamilton moved and John Scollick seconded the motion that that the Property Renewal Plan for 2023, as found on pages 31- 32 of the 2022 Annual Report, be approved. Carried

In response to questions, Brian noted that:

- There is no emergency plan in the event of a power failure, but the committee will look into this
- The roof above the music closet has been repaired, at no cost to the church.

#### **14. Trustees Report: Michael Presley, Chair of Trustees**

Report on page 8 of the Annual Report.

The Board of Trustees collaborates closely with the Stewardship committee. The Trustees administer and invest a number of different funds and have the duty to ensure a good return on investment. We have changed to a ratio of 60% equities to 40% fixed income and have hired an investment company, Doherty and Associates. We have, at this point, \$600,000 invested. Last year we had a 1% return on our investments. Ethical investments are a priority and we are focussing on social, environmental and governmental ethical investments.

#### **15. Stewardship Report: Gavin Currie**

Report submitted on page 6 of the Annual Report. Gavin presented the report online. Since the congregation had difficulty hearing him Ken repeated the essence of the report. We are down by 2% from last year for pledges submitted. Gavin will continue as chair for another year.

#### **16. Recognition of Staff: Ken Tong**

Ken thanked Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald for all their committed work and service during this very challenging time. He also thanked Andrew Ager and Iain Macpherson for their work providing our music. Thank you to Debi Brown, who has been at Rideau Park for 12 years and will be retiring in June, for her work as administrator. Thank you to Geoff Scollick for his work as custodian.

#### **17. Other Business / Questions**

Those participating through the webcast and/or Zoom are asked to email their names to Council.

#### **18. Closing Remarks: Ken Tong**

Ken thanked everyone for attending this ACM.

**Motion:** Gord Dewis moved and Gretchen Conrad seconded the motion to end the meeting. Carried  
Rev. Steve Clifton led the closing prayer. The meeting finished at 1:55 pm.