



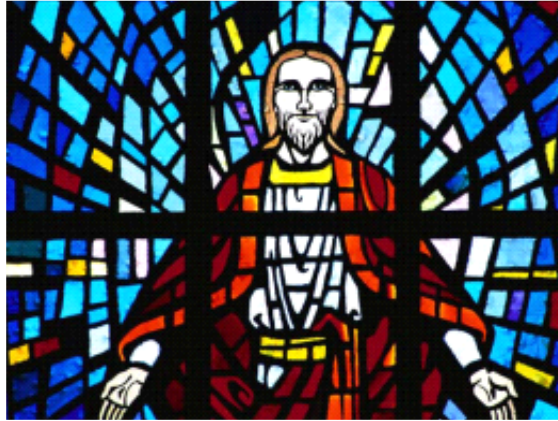
Rideau Park United Church Annual Report 2016

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Ottawa, Ontario
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613-733-3156
rideaupark.ca

"All Creatures Great and Small"
To the Glory of God and in loving memory
of Ed and Martha Becker

In Memoriam



Members, Adherents and Friends of Rideau Park

Harold Frederick Arthur	John Bannerman
Lois Bowman	Joseph Nelson Brintnell
James Elliott Campbell	Mary Fenton Dudgeon
Janet Louise Dundas	Daisy Margaret Gordon
Shirley Anne Jones	Alfred Kilbank
William (Bill) Lavrench	Ellen Louise Law
Dorothy Martin	Violet Mary McDuffee
Robert (Bob) McMichael	Reta Margaret McVey
John Graham Moreira	Frances Caroline Ochitwa
Ferne Marguerite Ramsay	Karen Lorraine Robb
Barbara Robinson	Helen "Audrey" Roden
Betty Letitia Scrivens	James Kenneth Shields
Robert Findlay Stevenson	Ruth Elizabeth Stockley
Alice Violet Swinwood	Marilyn Sylvester
Elizabeth Priscilla Taylor	Margaret Verma
James Pope Whitridge	

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

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STAFF	Rev. Steve Clifton Rev. Elizabeth Bryce Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald Iain Macpherson Andrew Ager Debi Brown Debby Gerro Paul Sorg	Minister of Christian Family and Worship Minister of Community and Worship Minister of Pastoral Care Music Ministry Coordinator Organist Administrator Administrative Assistant Caretaker
COUNCIL	Alyce Dunnewold Michael Presley Marcia Gosse Brian Neal Bob Nelson Dianne Keevil Harrold Maureen Stark John Scollick Bob Roden Steve Shipley Brian Hamilton Marilyn Law Doug Robinson Sheila Faure Heather Ingrams Nancy McPherson Wayne Bond Cathy Hollands Michael Inrig Rev. Steve Clifton Rev. Elizabeth Bryce Debi Brown	Chair Vice-chair (Resigned early Spring) Vice-chair (Appointed June 2016) Secretary Chair of Session Session Representative Session Representative Chair of Stewards Treasurer, Stewards' Representative Stewards' Representative Stewardship Coordinator Chair of Ministry and Personnel Ottawa Presbytery Representative Chair of Board of Trustees President of United Church Women Chair of Administrative and Communications Chair of Nominations Member at Large Member at Large Minister of Christian Family and Worship Minister of Community and Worship Administrator (non voting)
	COMMITTEES	
SESSION	Bob Nelson Shanti Inman	Chair Clerk
Sub-committees of Session		
Christian Development	Tara Lynne Holton, Andrea Laliberté	Co-chairs
Worship and Music	Nancy Begg-Durkee, Kate Whitridge	Co-chairs
Social Action and Outreach	Sandra Weedmark	Chair
Pastoral Care	Peggy Rader	Chair
COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS	John Scollick	Chair
Sub functions of Stewards		
Treasurer	Bob Roden	
Stewardship Coordinator	Brian Hamilton	
Property	Rod Hagglund	
Property Renewal	Brian Hamilton	
MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	Marilyn Law	Chair
ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMM.	Nancy McPherson	Chair
NOMINATIONS	Wayne Bond	Chair
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Sheila Faure	Chair
UNITED CHURCH WOMEN	Heather Ingrams	President
PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES	Brian Irvine	Don Melick
	Doug Robinson	Maureen Stark
ENVELOPE SECRETARY	Barbara Jeffrey	

Baptisms

Forrest Bruce Milligan Agar
James Raymond Charron
Alexandra Jade Gillis
Amelia Vi Harman
Oliver Donald Gerald Hicks
Joshua Walter Inrig
Jennifer Marie Kilicaslan
Malcolm Ronald Steele McGraw
Fabian Ashoka Prakash
Freya Nellie Taylor

Evelyn Anne Barbour
Clark William Devooght
Piper Michelle Green
Martin Douglas Graeme Hicks
Jasmine Elizabeth Inrig
Samuel David John Kelly
Nathaniel Edward McDonald
Eleanor Sonali Prakash
Avery Abigail Pye

Transfers to Rideau Park

Beth Campbell-Keays
David McGlashan
Iain Macpherson
Elly and Renier Scholten
Audrey Stewart

Transfers from Rideau Park

Harold Black
Alfred Crawley and Catherine Hanson
Tony and Mabel Goldsmith

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

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

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

John Bannerman

Elliott Campbell

Mary Dudgeon

Janet Dundas

Daisy Gordon

Isabell Irvine

Ayliffe Kettles

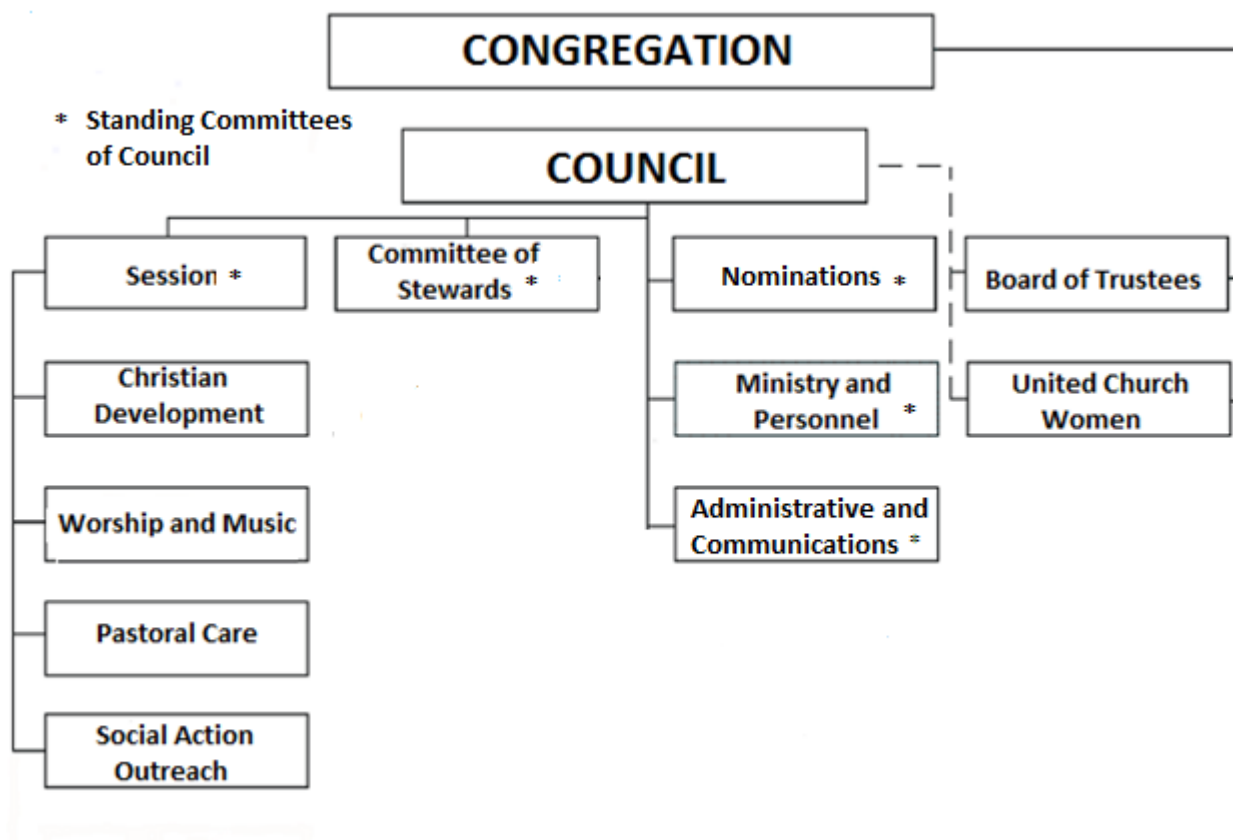
Harris and Mary Mossman

Barbara Robinson

Betty Scrivens

Ruth Stockley

Marilyn Sylvester



Number of households as of December 31, 2016.....	482
Total number of persons as of December 31, 2016.....	1,202
Members received through Transfer of Certificate	6
Members removed through Transfer of Certificate	5
Persons removed by death.....	22
Number of weddings.....	10
Number of funerals	30

There has been a lot of publicity lately about a study which found that evangelical conservative churches are better poised for growth than traditional liberal churches. Initially, it felt like another nail being driven into the coffin of mainline denominations. You've heard it all before: attendance is dropping, not enough people in the pews, young people heading to churches with rapping preachers and contemporary music.

But...

On further analysis, there are certain factors that made that research project's results turn out the way they did. Conservative evangelical churches are more likely to be reaching out and growing because of strong messages that their theology is the only true theology, that other faiths are not true paths to God, and that they are mandated to reach out to other people in order to bring other people to the same special status they enjoy with God. If you believe those things about your church, then proclamation is the next logical step.

Liberal churches are less likely to actively "evangelize" because we respect other people's faith traditions, we enjoy a diversity of faith journeys and we tend to believe that God is already at work in creation to bring us into right relationship. We tend to be very private about our faith story, or about witnessing to the positive impact our faith and our faith community have on us. We tend to put more emphasis on the depth of our faith and strings free service in the community than the growth of our congregation. Some of us even prefer smaller congregations, smaller gatherings, where we know people better.

But...

Growth is important if we do not want our faith community to fizzle out. Are we growing at Rideau Park? In 2016 we can look at the long list of faithful regulars who died and we can compare it to the list of baptisms or transferred memberships or confirmations. We can examine attendance records and wonder if the change to one service at 10:00 am is a sign of shrinkage. We can do lots of things by the numbers.

Or...

We can do something about it. We could tell friends and family about the positive impact church has had on our lives. We could be bold in telling our faith story – not in any way disrespecting other faith journeys – but still sharing the good news (which is what evangelizing actually means). We can welcome newcomers who come in through the doors, we can "witness" to our faith story at Rideau Park – and then ask them what we could do better!

"The only way that we can live, is if we grow. The only way that we can grow is if we change. The only way that we can change is if we learn. The only way we can learn is if we are exposed. And the only way that we can become exposed is if we throw ourselves out into the open. Do it. Throw yourself." When I returned from my sabbatical in the summer of 2016, I couldn't believe the number of new faces at Rideau Park! Clearly, new people are throwing themselves in our path. We need to learn something from their courage and risk, and do new things too.

On behalf of the staff, best wishes for life and ministry in 2017!

Georgina

Steve

Andrew

Elizabeth

Debi

Paul

Iain

Debby

The Rideau Park United Church Council membership is as follows:

Chair	Alyce Dunnewold
Vice-chair	Michael Presley (Resigned early Spring) Marcia Gosse (Appointed June 2016)
Secretary	Brian Neal
Chair of Session	Bob Nelson
Session Representatives	Dianne Keevil Harrold Maureen Stark
Chair of Stewards	John Scollick
Stewards' Representatives	Bob Roden (Treasurer) Steve Shipley
Stewardship Coordinator	Brian Hamilton
Chair of Ministry and Personnel	Marilyn Law
Chair of Nominations	Wayne Bond
Chair of Administrative and Communications	Nancy McPherson
Members at Large	Cathy Hollands Michael Inrig
Ottawa Presbytery Representative	Doug Robinson
Chair of Trustees	Sheila Faure
President of UCW	Heather Ingrams
Minister of Christian Family and Worship	Rev. Steve Clifton
Minister of Community and Worship	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce
Administrator	Debi Brown (non-voting)

Council normally meets five to six times in the year with additional meetings occurring as required. Highlights of Council actions and decisions in 2016 include:

- Consideration of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #48, as part of a broad effort within RPUC to consider how we respond to this particular call to action and, more generally, to the call for reconciliation. Council understands reconciliation to be an ongoing endeavour, involving specific actions, such as extending hospitality at Rideau Park to indigenous people; developing relationships with Indigenous peoples, especially members of the Algonquin nation whose traditional territory includes the Ottawa area; and learning activities, of which a variety have been and continue to be offered.
- Approval of the nomination of Marcia Gosse as Vice-chair of Council to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Michael Presley. (Marcia Gosse is now standing for nomination as Chair of Council).
- Approval of funding from the RPUC Foundation for Ministry for the following projects/activities:
 - ◆ \$1,200 for the 28th Scouts (the RPUC Scouting group) to help defray costs of a high desert adventure trip to Arizona
 - ◆ \$2,000 for the MultiFaith Housing Initiative in support of The Haven, construction of a large housing unit complex in Barrhaven
 - ◆ \$3,867 for continuing refugee support
- Allocation of the balance of the Speakman Fund, \$220, to defray a portion of the costs of Rebekah Dillman's Experience Canada trip. Experience Canada is a United Church initiative involving exchanges between United Church and Indigenous youth in Canada.
- Approval of the engagement of Andrew Ager as Organist/Pianist, and Iain Macpherson as Music Ministry Coordinator, at RPUC on an ongoing basis.
- Approval of the designation of the Reverend David Sherwin as Voluntary Associate Minister at RPUC

- Receipt and consideration of United Church Remits (proposals) for organizational change to a three-council model; a new funding model to support United Church governance and support services; and designation of, governance structure and policies related to clergy. Council, with Session, hosted a congregational meeting in November to provide the congregation with an opportunity to learn more about and provide their views on the Remits;
- Supporting, on behalf of the congregation, an application for a grant to set up, on a pilot project basis, an office of environmental sustainability at RPUC, which would involve activities within Rideau Park and also in the broader community in partnership with other organizations and people. The project would be led by Kristina Inrig of the Environment sub-committee of Social Action and Outreach.

Following up on actions taken in 2015, work continued on updating and improving the RPUC website, under the leadership of the Administrative and Communications committee, and through the much appreciated efforts of other volunteers. The Stewards-led working group on the Long Range Financial Plan has been undertaking exploratory discussions and consultations with various groups and leaders within Rideau Park United Church.

Looking ahead, Council will hear presentations by Session committees on their life and work. It has already heard from the Worship and Music Committee on the opportunities and challenges it faces, what works well and what may not be working as well as it should, and what its hopes and dreams are. These presentations are intended to assist Council in meeting its general responsibilities of identifying long-range plans which define the congregation's priorities, and providing strategic guidance for the volunteers, bodies, committees and church staff responsible for church activities. Council also anticipates approving an updated Personnel Manual for RPUC. Work will also continue on the Long Range Financial Plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyce Dunnewold, Chair

The monastic mystic Thomas Merton wrote:

“If one is to live, they must be all alive, body, soul, mind, heart, spirit.”

Developing spiritually, becoming fully alive as people and as a community is at the heart of all we do as a congregation. In 2016 there were many events and activities that were particularly directed at deepening the spiritual life that we share.

Silence

God is the friend of silence. See how nature – trees, flowers, grass - grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence.... Mother Teresa

- A meditation group meets in a dedicated space in the lower hallway, from 9:10 am every Sunday morning. We practice silent meditation together weekly and the group is open to anyone who would like to give meditation a try.
- Through the year Sharon Sanderson offers the gift of quiet days, a chance to retreat on a Saturday in our own church.
- Sharon, with Elizabeth's help, has also begun offering monthly Contemplative Eucharist services on Sunday afternoons; these services have been very well received.
- We offer a yearly retreat opportunity.

Study and prayer

- Our weekly lectionary study, held every Wednesday morning, is a small gathering but the time is rich. You are always welcome to join in.
- Annually in the season of Lent we try to place a special emphasis on spiritual growth. Meetings are cancelled in order to make room in our agendas for God. This year we met on Sundays after the church service to view and discuss how to live in faith, using the *Animate: Practices* video series. Topics included: Hospitality, Prayer, Food, Worship, Sacraments, Money and Service.
- Advent this year included three evenings of quiet contemplation, opportunities for stillness in a hectic season. Nancy De Kemp led us in a retreat which included time for silence and stillness. The Encarna worship installation filled the sanctuary with candlelight, prayer and creativity. Maureen Stark and Elizabeth led a longest night retreat, an interweaving of Indigenous and Celtic spirituality; on this special evening we were honoured by the leadership of Indigenous friends: Sue Martin and Delia Southwind.
- One Wednesday night in Advent and in Lent was set aside for a worship installation, Encarna, which helped people to explore spiritual practices. What is Encarna? During Encarna the sanctuary is filled with candle light, sacred music fills the air and each person at their own pace is invited to explore the space. There are stations for prayer and reflection. One participant described the Encarna in this way:

The Encarna experience last evening was enchanting. There were very personal exercises like anointing yourself with oil, taking communion, engaging in a breath meditation and sitting with images of Mary and child. There were opportunities to write letters and read Christmas stories. These activities and more were enveloped within beautiful music. I was told I was loved and precious. What a gift.

- A further expression of our spiritual life is our prayer chain. The prayer chain is a place to bring prayers and concerns in confidence so that others in our faith community can pray for us and those we love. If you would like to join the chain, please speak to our coordinator, Doreen Hamilton.
- We now have an Healing Pathways ministry. Healing Pathway is a long standing UCC practice of healing prayer, new to RPUC but already established in 6 Ottawa UCC congregations. We have five trained practitioners who offer prayer in the gospel tradition of Jesus, now on Thursday afternoons each week between noon and 3 pm. People can book a 45 minute visit through healingpathway@rideaupark.ca. If you would like to join in this ministry of prayer, new practitioners are welcome and local training is available. Speak to Brian Neal or to Rev. Steve to learn more.

We look forward to another year of growing in the Spirit in 2017.

“We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent and the divine is shining through it all the time. This is not just a nice story or a fable, it is true. ” – Thomas Merton

Blessings,
Reverend Steve Clifton

Congregational Development is a committee of Council. We began seven years ago, when concerns over declining attendance prompted Council to form a task force or working group to study the issue. Under the leadership of Greig Scott, the task force studied such things as the changing demographics of the city. And over the years, our group has tried a number of initiatives to help raise the profile of the church.

In the past we have tried bookmarks, post cards, and even a slide show to try and spread the word about Rideau Park. We continue to advertise in the local VISTAS newspaper. And once again, with a big thank you to the Christian Development Committee, we hosted another Open House/Welcome Back brunch this past fall.

One of the difficulties with these programs is measuring their success, and in that regard we would welcome any feedback from anyone in the congregation and beyond.

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

We continue to live in challenging and ever changing times, and I am grateful that Rideau Park continues to provide so many programs and activities to help us cope with the stress of these changes. We will continue to look for ways to help the church get out its message, and we would welcome anyone wanting to join us in this undertaking.

Respectfully submitted,
Drew Presley, Chair

Rideau Park's Presbytery representatives and their committee involvement in 2016 are as follows: Elizabeth Bryce (Ministry in French (MIF)), Steve Clifton (Presbytery Executive Committee), Georgina Fitzgerald (Pastoral Care and Oversight), Brian Irvine (Finance), Don Melick (Finance and Joint Office User Committees), Doug Robinson (Chaplaincy Committee) and Maureen Stark (Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Ministry Team).

Don Melick retired from Presbytery this year. His work on the Finance and Joint Office User Committees over the years is very much appreciated. He will be replaced on Presbytery by Alyce Dunnewold.

Many issues were discussed and decisions taken during a very busy year for Ottawa Presbytery. Highlights from the ten meetings held in 2016 are listed below.

Rev. David Sherwin was originally appointed Presbytery Minister from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. His appointment was extended to June 30, 2017, with a review of the position in September 2016 in light of proposed structural changes to the United Church.

The March meeting at Stittsville United was a program meeting. The special guest was Chief Wilton Littlechild, Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner, who spoke on Reconciliation: what can we do now? The TRC's call to action #48 is a call to churches and social justice groups on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The aim is for a framework of Reconciliation. Chief Littlechild's lecture was excellent. A few motions were proposed after his talk.

At the Munster meeting in April, Phyllis MacRae spoke about the MultiFaith Housing Initiative capital campaign to raise \$1,000,000 in support of its newest project: the Haven. Ottawa Presbytery is being asked to support MHI with its own campaign.

Norma McCord provided an update on Refugee sponsorship. There have been 400 Syrian applications. The aim for processing is 12-18 months. Norma shared the names of the churches involved and statistics regarding refugee sponsorship.

The May meeting was at Parkdale United. Due to illness, the Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell, our Moderator, was unable to make a planned presentation. Hilary Merritt and Exchange participants described their experiences at the Zeballos Youth Exchange in British Columbia. Zeballos is a village located on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island. A number of the participants enthusiastically described their experiences. Kimberley Lavoie presented an introduction to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, (UNDRIP). There was an interesting Jazz Worship presented by a trio led by Rev. Peter Woods.

The June meeting at Riverside United considered Remits 5, 7 and 8 sent from General Council for Presbytery consideration by January 2017. Presbytery approved the three remits by secret ballot.

- **Remit 5 concerned ministry partners.** Presbytery agreed that ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements, while under appointment or call, are full members of the presbytery, and equivalent to ordained ministers of the United Church in respect to membership and responsibilities in all courts of the church.
- **Remit 7 concerned Candidacy Pathway policy** that was approved by the 42nd General Council 2015.

- **Remit 8 concerned a step towards a new model of membership.** Presbytery agreed that the full members of a local ministry unit may consent to allow adherents to vote on all matters that come before meetings. Currently the local ministry unit may only consent to allow adherents to vote on temporal (financial and administrative matters) but not spiritual matters.

The September meeting was at Emmanuel United. Phyllis MacRae became the Chair of Presbytery for the coming year. Next year Rev. Steve Clifton will be Chair of Presbytery.

Presbytery met at Rideau Park United in October and Centretown United in November. The Presbytery theme for 2016 - 2017 is "Regeneration of Communities of Faith". At the November meeting a panel of four speakers discussed regeneration and their experiences when faith communities regenerate their mission. Presbytery broke into small groups to discuss the ideas that were brought forward.

The December Presbytery meeting at Britannia United approved the 2017 Presbytery Budget presented by the Finance Ministry Team. Remits 1 (three Council Model) and 2 (Elimination of Transfer and Settlement) were also approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Robinson, Presbytery Representative

The church community at Rideau Park is an extremely active one and women and men who are Elders are involved in a leadership role in almost every activity. The details will be described in individual reports from standing committees and other groups. This report will give only an overview of matters in which the Session was specifically involved.

Session, as a whole, meets four times a year but the real work of Session is carried out by the standing committees: Christian Development, Pastoral Care, Social Action and Outreach and Worship and Music. These committees are, to a large extent, the face of Rideau Park in the larger community of Alta Vista and beyond. The chairs of these committees deserve special mention and we are indebted to them for their energy, dedication and willingness to contribute countless hours to the many different areas in which they are engaged. The titles of these committees give only a general hint at what they actually do and one will find that most of the work at Rideau Park can be attributed to them. Christian Development has been chaired by Andrea Laliberté and Tara Lockhart; Pastoral care by Judy Paré; Social Action and Outreach by Sandra Weedmark; Worship and Music by Nancy Begg-Durkee and Kate Whitridge.

The single Sunday service at 10:00 am is now well established and seems to be working with no great change in overall attendance. The broadcasts of services are also working well and an estimated 20 -30 people have been participating in the services from home via internet. This has been a great boon to people who are disabled or for other reasons are unable to attend the Sunday service on a regular basis, particularly in inclement weather. We are indebted to Brian and Doreen Hamilton for their tireless work in making this service possible.

The United Church of Canada has been undergoing organizational restructuring and input is being sought from all the congregations across the country. The process is designated as a series of Remits, or proposals for changes in the organization. The four Remits which were discussed were; 1. Three Council Model, 2. Elimination of Transfer and Settlement, 3. Office of Vocation, 4. Funding Model. Session has been involved in the process and after a number of presentations to members of the congregation, organized by Council, as well as to meetings of session, the four Remits were voted on and given approval by Session. The process then involves referral to Council for voting and approval on behalf of the congregation of Rideau Park.

Session has begun exploration of two important issues in which the United Church is engaged. These are consideration of Rideau Park becoming an Affirming Congregation and a further response to recommendations to the Truth and Reconciliation Council report. A number of presentations directed toward education in both these areas have been given during the past year. We have had one same-sex marriage performed in our church but much more needs to be done to make Rideau Park a safe and welcoming church community. We have had a close and supportive relationship with our aboriginal sisters and brothers but we need to further our understanding, and more educational sessions are planned. This spring Session will form small focus groups to explore how Rideau Park can become engaged in the process of moving on these important issues. Our church has always been a forward-looking and welcoming community and I anticipate that this will continue.

Session included 40 elders in the past year. Five will be stepping down after years of service: Helen Cutts, Alyce Dunnewold, Don Melick, Jacqueline Newton and Marg Stinnett. We thank them for their dedication and service. I would particularly like to thank Shanti Inman, who has been Clerk of Session for the past three years and kept remarkably detailed records of our proceedings. Her role will be taken on by Jeff Allo and I look forward to working with Jeff in the coming year. We welcome new elders, Sandra Graham Korjus, Susan Klimowicz, Lynn Sherwood, David Moreira and Mary Lynne Holton.

I wish to thank Christy Harris, who preceded me as Chair of Session, for her support and advice. Our wonderful clergy, Rev. Steve and Rev. Elizabeth, attended our meetings regularly and provided a guiding hand and advice when matters needed clarification. I am indebted to them personally as their help made my role much easier.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Nelson, Chair

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

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

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

The **Rideau Park Foundation Fund** has been established to serve as a permanent source of supplementary funding for special needs at the church. This was the ninth year that money from this fund has been eligible for disbursement. Half the donations to the fund in 2016 combined with investment earnings make \$6,637 eligible for disbursement in 2017.

Investment earnings from the **Dora Helmkey Legacy Fund** are turned over to the Committee of Stewards for use at its discretion.

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

The **Reserve Fund** was established in 2010. It was established with funds received from the Hancock Estate and a small portion of the annual receipts from the Britt Estate. This year \$1,500 of the Britt Estate funds were made available for the Reserve Fund. The total investment and cash in this fund under the administration of the Trustees now amounts to \$137,015. The investment earnings from this fund and the principal, if necessary, are available for Council to deploy as circumstances warrant.

Income from the Britt Estate is used as Council deems appropriate. This year \$15,000 was received and Council decided that 10 percent (\$1,500) of this income from the estate was added to the Reserve Fund.

The Committee of Trustees has invested some Rideau Park funds in mutual funds managed by Fiera Capital, an independent investment firm and fund manager for the United Church of Canada Foundation.

Members of the Board: Sheila Faure (Chair), Ed Boothe, Norm Edwards, Bob Elliott, Murray Ferguson, Bas Groeneweg, Daryl Lindberg, Jacqueline Newton, Susan Vaughan (Treasurer), Keith Harris and Rev. Elizabeth Bryce (ex-officio).

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Vaughan

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

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

In 2016, the Committee of Stewards met monthly, except for March, July and August. Members engaged in discussions regarding the ongoing financial status of the church, issues of fundraising, ongoing property maintenance, the Stewardship Campaign and property renewal projects. Consultation meetings and briefings were held with Rideau Park's governing and organizational groups to gain their perspectives and impressions of the Rideau Park Long Range Financial Plan.

As well as the usual items that are handled by the Stewards the following items may be of interest:

- Changes to the City Bylaws permitted the return of the Foster's Fruit and Vegetable Stand last summer. It was very well received and supported by the local community.
- In mid year two of the rooms in the former apartment were rented. They had been previously refurbished as part of Property Renewal.
- Due to the reconstruction on the streets adjacent to the church a portion of the back parking lot was rented to the construction company to allow the workers a place to park their vehicles.
- A credit card facility was arranged for the church. This will allow users to pay for rental space by credit card.
- An energy audit was performed by Presbytery. The goal is to reduce the carbon footprint of the church's property by 25%. We are still awaiting the results of this audit.

Property Renewal at Rideau Park Having spent ahead completing property projects in 2015, a number of smaller projects were undertaken in 2016 helping to balance our expenditures with the resources available for property renewal:

- an improved exhaust system for the two downstairs west washrooms was completed;
- the Beecroft washroom was made fully accessible thanks to an in memoriam contribution from the family of Ayliffe Kettles to install the automatic door opener;
- LED lighting was installed in the Beecroft entrance to replace the original poor performing fixtures, improve light levels and save energy;
- with good church storage space at a premium, a 100 square foot storage room was opened up in the sanctuary balcony (*a wonderful discovery after 60 some years*);
- the pew refinishing continued and necessary plaster and painting in various areas of the church was completed;
- in addition, we acquired a new backpack vacuum and institutional leaf and grass blower as well as replacing two computers and the projector.

With the UCW prioritization of the **parlour kitchen** refurbishment, it was agreed to start the project this summer using the funds they set aside for this initiative. Good progress was made with completion of the new separate storage room and cabinets for groups such as Quilting, Harmony Club and Euchre; replacement of the electrical panel for the kitchen and adjacent areas; upgrading of the electrical outlets as well as modifying the ceiling and adding LED lighting; widening the doorways; and installing a steel door with appropriate exit hardware for safety and security requirements. As agreed and planned we intend to complete the kitchen in the new year when additional resources are available.

Property Renewal Funding: All of this work has been funded by Property Renewal Fund pledges and givings and the Rideau Park UCW. The fund also received a year-end apportionment of \$11,500 from the monies pledged to Area of Greatest Need. Fundraising projects in support of the fund included two church dinners, the Amazing Alta Vista Garage Sale, the Rideau Park Café and the Lobster Supper and Fall Roast Beef Dinner. Your ongoing support and encouragement for the work of Property Renewal is always welcomed. Thank you for your past support and future consideration.

Sunday Worship Service Webcasts: For the past three years Rideau Park United Church has video webcast (200 sessions) its weekly worship services, pageants, bell and choir concerts, weddings and funerals. We have successfully extended the reach of our church services beyond the limits of the church's physical facilities. The webcasts are available through the church website for on-demand viewing and to establish an historical record. (rideaupark.canwebcast.net/archives/)

The webcasts can be seen on iPhones, iPads, android devices, other internet equipped devices, home and office computers and Apple TV. Access through the internet of the video webcasting service has been from a diverse population. Services have been watched from as far away as India, Argentina, Hawaii, California, Florida, Bermuda, Europe, Vancouver, Halifax, PEI, Toronto and Hamilton. Here in Ottawa, they have been watched from literally across the street, in senior citizens homes and in local coffee shops equipped with Wi-Fi.

Those using the service are highly appreciative and have been vocal in their feedback and enjoyment of its availability. Webcast usage is averaging 27 sessions per week which is about 15% of our weekly attendance. With 100 viewing sessions for the Christmas Pageant (up from 68 last year, and 44 the year before) there were approximately 125 viewers watching the annual event.

Rideau Park United Church is seeking support to expand weekly worship service webcasts to high quality (HD) webcasts improving the standard of our offerings to our church communities. The ready availability and easy access of these services can be promoted across the Presbytery helping to maintain the faith and expanding the reach of the United Church in Ottawa.

Each week we are effectively inviting others to hear our message and discover what we are all about. Regular webcasting has enhanced Rideau Park's ability to welcome newcomers. It is an open invitation for all to join our community in worship, prayer, music and service.

Acknowledgments: This year two long standing members of the Stewards are retiring. On behalf of myself and the Committee of Stewards I wish to thank them for their outstanding service. **John Durkee** has served Stewards faithfully for 17 years as the Secretary of Stewards and **Don Ford** was a member of Stewards for 14 years. He looked after Rideau Park's office computers, computer network, Wi-Fi and telephone systems. Their contribution was very important for the functioning of the work of the Stewards and they will be missed.

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

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

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

- **Paul Sorg**, who as custodian, maintains the property, making Rideau Park's physical facilities one of our greatest assets for our members and the local community.
- **Debi Brown**, our Administrator, who maintains the financial records making our job as Stewards much easier. Debi acts as staff liaison to Stewards and co-ordinates rental activities as well as the weekly counting.
- **Debby Gerro** as Administrative Assistant who assists with facilities rentals and other needs of Stewards, and is a valued member of the Rideau Park team.

Respectfully submitted,
John Scollick, Chair

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

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	62	Life Memberships*	39
Circle Group	8	Member at Large	14
E-buddies	18	Not Active	18

*New Life Memberships: Karin Ott and Janet Dundas (posthumously).

In Memoriam: Mary Dudgeon, Janet Dundas, Daisy Gordon, Ellen Law, Vi McDuffee, Reta McVey. Frances Ochitwa, Ferne Ramsay, Barbara Robinson, Betty Scrivens, Ruth Stockley, Alice Swinwood

2016 EXECUTIVE:

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

Unit leaders:

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

Executive Happenings and Responsibilities:

President: Chaired 8 Executive meetings and 2 General Meetings; organized the UCW Sunday on January 10th, helped serve at the Valentine Coffee party, attended the World Day of Prayer with Nancy Begg-Durkee held in March at Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church, proudly noted the success of the spring Nearly New and Book Sale in April, presented two Life Memberships at the June pot-luck, appreciated the start of the renovations of the Parlour kitchen, enjoyed the fall Nearly New

Sale, thoroughly enjoyed the very successful Rideau Park Bazaar, attended Council meetings and reported on the work of the UCW. In addition, Rideau Park hosted the fall November Presbyterian Meeting along with Centretown United.

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

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

Convener Reports:

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

Bazaar: This year's bazaar ran very smoothly. To date, we have been blessed to receive over \$25,000 which will enable our church to participate in a number of outreach projects over the coming months.

Community/Friendship: This committee offers friendship in the name of the church. It involves recording the Baptisms and Transfers of Membership that occur at Rideau Park. Additionally, parents of babies who have been baptised are greeted, welcomed, and given a booklet on baptism as well as a pamphlet about the UCW. During 2016 there were 19 baptisms.

Finance: The UCW supports many charities and community services, as well as contributing a percentage of its year end funds to Rideau Park's Ministry and Programs Fund and also to the Mission and Service Fund. It should be noted that the RPUC UCW is the largest contributor to the Mission and Service Fund in all of Canada! Many thanks to Marcia Gosse and Lisa Sadler who most efficiently look after our finances.

Mission: The principal function of the Mission and Service Coordinator is to keep the Executive and members of the UCW aware of the importance of the Mission and Service Fund to which we contribute each year. The Mandate magazine is often used as a resource for short presentations to the Executive meetings.

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

Nominations: The position of Archives and Literature has been filled by Marlene Hutchison. The Council of Women's representative from Rideau Park is Marg Nelson. Nancy Begg-Durkee has postponed taking over as President for one year. Heather Ingrams has agreed to remain in this position.

Quilting: The Rideau Park Quilters meet every Thursday morning from 9:30 until noon in the Parlour. Creativity abounds from baby quilts to queen size quilts, tied or hand quilted, appliquéd or patch. Everyone is welcome, from beginners to advanced quilters.

Supply and Welfare: Tabs from soft drink cans are picked up by Barry Dewis and delivered to Clifford Bowey Community Centre. Eye glasses are taken to Venzia Opticians where they are picked up and used in third world countries. Used stamps are taken to Oxfam by Marcia Gosse to be used for their projects around the world. Marcia also takes Campbell soup labels to her granddaughter's school for their fundraising. The knitters of the congregation provide hats, mitts, scarves and they are delivered by Harold Black to Better Beginnings at Heatherington or to the Banff Centre.

Collected this year were 38 touques, 2 helmets, 1 headband, 35 pairs of mitts, 13 scarves, and 1 pair of children's sippers. The Sunday School class of Linda Hagglund contributed several bags of hats, mitts, and scarves that Harold Black also delivered.

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

Stewards Representative: Lisa Sadler represented the UCW at the Stewards meetings and reported back to the Executive meetings.

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

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

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

Unit 7 - Holds a Bake Sale at Easter. The Unit also is very helpful to assist other units in their projects and has been especially supportive to Unit 2.

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

Circle Group - Holds a monthly book study. In 2016 we studied *Discernment—Reading the Signs of Daily Life* by Henri Nouwen. We held a successful Book Sale in conjunction with the Fall Nearly New Sale.

Samples of Programs: Travelogues on Israel, Newfoundland, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

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

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

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

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

The UCW would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald for their support, and thank you to the support staff for their assistance in so many ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Paré, Recording Secretary

The annual Fall Stewardship Campaign secures Rideau Park's financial needs for the year ahead. The campaign's 2017 financial objectives were identified from the 2016 Budget established at last year's Annual Congregational Meeting as well as discussions at Stewards.

This year John Scollick, our Rideau Park Chair of Stewards, graciously accepted the challenge to Chair the 2017 Stewardship Campaign. John fits the old maxim "If you want something done ask a busy person". The congregation is in your debt for all your efforts to make Rideau Park a great community of faith.

Each year we respond to God's generous Spirit and many blessings with our sustaining financial support. With our commitments we can all experience God's grace and do God's work together for our families, friends, neighbours and others who we may reach out to. Stewardship is the means by which we live out our mission statement. We individually and collectively accept responsibility for supporting our staff, church community and programs, locally, nationally and internationally.

This year John asked you to think about the Stewardship campaign theme, "Live Simply". In his stewardship letter to the congregation John wrote:

In today's world it can be considered difficult to achieve this kind of a lifestyle. When I think of examples of "Live Simply", my thoughts wander to the Amish communities which seem to be able to keep their lives simple. Most live without electricity, and without churches, they worship in their homes. Their lives seem to move at a much slower pace.

"Live Simply" can be experienced by living in a way that brings contentment, regardless of the cost, time, or effort. As the apostle Paul said, "I have learned to be content with whatever I have." Philippians 4:11

The fall campaign provided a time to reflect how rich we already are, and increasingly can be, in service, generosity, and in being ready to share. God gives us the grace to live free, encouraging us to trust, let go of our fears for the future and to recognize our strengths and personal wealth.

Our thanks again this year to Christine Inrig, Doreen Hamilton, Steve Shipley, Lise Gauvin, Barbara Jeffrey and Debi Brown who provided the hands-on and administrative support for the campaign.

Stewardship Analysis: For 2017 we received 282 pledges from 473 households for a total of \$516,985 which is 1.8 % < last year. Of these, 216 (77%) honour their pledges through preauthorized remittances (PAR) via their banking institutions. We receive \$433,244 (85%) of our pledged contributions by PAR. Each week when the collection plates are passed, they are weighed down with \$8,332 of PAR contributions. This strong support for PAR givings ensures our cash flow throughout the year and enables us to keep our monthly Mission and Service contributions to the United Church of Canada current.

The Ministries and Programs Fund received pledges for \$206,488 (2% or \$4,317 > 2016) Mission and Service \$71,613 (6% or \$4,307 > 2016); Property Renewal Fund \$36,221 (4% or \$1,583 < 2016) and Area of Greatest Need \$203,262 (9% or \$20,057 < 2016).

The distribution of 2017 stewardship pledges indicates that:

- 8% or 22 pledges provide 33% of the dollars pledged;
- the next 42% of pledges provide 50% of the dollars pledged; and
- the remaining 50% of pledges provide 17% of the dollars pledged.

In 2016 pledging to the “Area of Greatest Need” augmented the Ministries and Programs Fund which was identified in need of priority funding. In addition, \$6,000 was allocated to Mission and Service to realize our objective of \$78,073. \$11,500 was allocated to the Property Renewal Fund to help bring it into balance. It was not necessary to access the Trustees’ Reserve Fund capital in 2016. The Ministries and Programs positive balance of \$3,190 or .6% of revenues was retained in prior years’ fund equity.

Overall Rideau Park has experienced a decline in total amount pledged for the past 5 years. Pledges have decreased from \$572,415 in 2012 to \$516,985 in 2017. The amount that comes from other revenues to meet our budget objectives has increased from 18.3% to a projected 27.3% in 2017.

While many contributors increased their pledges for 2017, a different mix of pledges, and pledges lost to the passing away of members, resulted in total pledges decreasing year over year by \$13,615.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Hamilton, Coordinator

Once again the Ministry and Personnel Committee had a busy year.

In January the Search Committee began its work to find a Music Director. After conducting an exhaustive search, the Committee suggested to the Ministry and Personnel Committee that it might be appropriate if they interviewed Andrew Ager and Iain Macpherson with a view towards them continuing in their interim positions on a permanent basis. Andrew and Iain were delighted to be considered and after being interviewed by the Search Committee, Ministry and Personnel offered them permanent positions which they happily accepted and Council concurred with our recommendation. They each work fifteen hours a week. Andrew and Iain work very well together and they work very well with the staff and volunteers in the music program. The result of all this has been a considerable increase in participation in all our music programs and a true feeling of energy on Sunday morning.

Elizabeth went on sabbatical on June 1st and returned at the beginning of October. Georgina agreed to fill in for Elizabeth and she and Steve worked out a schedule regarding the Sunday services. They also worked together to do several funerals and weddings.

By mutual agreement, and after discussions with Georgina, Elizabeth and Steve, Ministry and Personnel recommended to Council that Georgina's hours be reduced to 14 hours a week effective January 1, 2017. She will continue to do some weddings and funerals but will concentrate on visiting the various homes where our members are living. Georgina loves her job and Ministry and Personnel will have to ensure that she only works fourteen hours a week.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee members are Marilyn Law, Marcia Gosse, Marjorie Melick, Judy Paré, Jim Holton, Bas Groeneweg, and Wayne Bond. They are a wonderful group to work with and I very much appreciate all they have done over the last year.

Rideau Park is extremely blessed with the staff that we have. They work tirelessly to ensure that the church works smoothly and that anyone who enters the building is received in a kind and friendly manner. They all go the extra mile and their support of this committee is much appreciated. God is definitely in this building at all times.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Law, Chair

During 2016, the Administrative and Communications Committee continued to publicize Rideau Park's activities and events to the broader community in Alta Vista, south Ottawa and beyond through community newspapers, including VISTAS and Riverview Park Review, the weekly Ottawa South News, the Our Town section in the Ottawa Citizen each Thursday, and the Events Calendar of our Rideau Park website.

Over the course of 2016, 35 Rideau Park events and activities were publicized with 164 notices in the four newspapers. These same events and activities were also listed with descriptions in the Events Calendar and sometimes in the News section on the Rideau Park website. In addition, three Rideau Park musical events were also submitted and listed in the Ottawa Citizen's Annual Cultural Events listing in early September 2016 (The New Season), in both print and online. This is thanks to the meticulous attention of Wayne Bond.

The Committee continued to publicize Rideau Park's Sunday services, events and news through the weekly Sunday Services ad in the Ottawa South News to the end of June 2016, as well as producing regular issues of Churchpost, ably edited by Marcia Gosse, the monthly congregational email from Rev. Elizabeth, the annual Activities Booklet and various church brochures, coordinated by Debby Gerro and Debi Brown. The Rideau Park Facebook page, helmed by Rev. Steve, continues to update members online.

The Sunday Service webcasts continue to be extremely popular. The video webcasts have come to provide such a good quality of sound and picture that, as a result, archiving of the audio webcast files was no longer necessary, and ended in April 2016. Don Ford continued to keep the committee well informed on developments in this area, and also on the condition of all business equipment used at Rideau Park.

Review of the RP website is on-going. In spring and summer 2016, the Website Review Team, consisting of Marjorie Melick, Doug Robertson and Nancy McPherson, met several times to develop a fresh look and a more streamlined and contemporary way to present Rideau Park's website content. (This was as a follow-up to feedback from the congregation in the October 2015 survey.) Implementation of the new look has not yet taken place; however, our goal, when funds and manpower are available, is for this fresh approach to be given a trial. In the meantime, our busy website is still maintained regularly by Debby Gerro, with assistance from Marjorie Melick and Lynda Becker.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy McPherson, Chair

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

The Nominations Committee consulted both the ministerial staff and the Council Chair concerning the church's needs for 2017. As of January 6, 2017, the Committee has been able to fill all of the vacant positions for which they are responsible, except the Vice-chair of Council.

Summary of Nominations

Vacancies on Council for 2017 included the Vice-chair, the Secretary, the Presbytery representative and one Member at Large. In addition, the Vice-chair of Council (now to become the Chair of Council) was replaced in May 2016 following the resignation of the incumbent in the early spring, 2016. This nomination was approved by Council at its June 2016 meeting, and ratification of this nomination is requested at this Annual Congregational Meeting.

Vacant positions for Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees for 2017 included the Clerk of Session, Treasurer, Stewardship Coordinator, Chair of Administrative and Communications, and the two Co-chairs of Worship and Music.

This year, four Elder positions became vacant during 2016 because of three departures and a death, while the terms of another eighteen Elders on the Session were due to finish in February 2017. Of these, fifteen agreed to renew their terms and five new people have agreed to serve as Elders. Their names can be found in the attached table under the title, Members of Session. Three members of Session have chosen to complete their terms. Session will have 41 members in 2017. Many Rideau Parkers have chosen to be contacted via email for informational purposes. This has resulted in smaller district lists for most Elders.

Eight members of the Committee of Stewards completed their term in 2016, but five have agreed to renew their terms for periods of 1-3 years; and three new people have agreed to serve, bringing the total number of Stewards to 15. Three Stewards who finished their terms in 2016 have chosen to retire. The attached table includes the Members of the Stewards.

Recommendations:

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

1. the appointments to Council, including ratification of the Vice chair appointment by Council in June 2016;
2. the extension of terms of office for some Chairs of Committees;
3. the appointment of a Trustee;
4. the ratification of Council's appointment of a lay Presbyter in November 2016;
5. the extension of terms of office for some Elders and Stewards for 1-3 years; and
6. the slate of new Elders and Stewards.

The Committee would like to thank all those who are finishing their terms this year for their dedication and service to the church. The Committee would also like to express its appreciation to all those who have agreed to contribute their time and talents to the life and work of Rideau Park United Church in 2017 and beyond.

The Nominations Committee organized Volunteer Appreciation Sunday at Rideau Park on April 17th 2016. In a celebration complete with cake and balloons at Coffee Hour, the efforts of all Rideau Park volunteers were acknowledged, while a special tribute was given to the commitment and service to our church life of the volunteers for the Harmony Club of 60+ Seniors.

A new responsibility of the Nominations Committee is the review and development of an approach for creating, maintaining and ensuring the use of a new inventory of volunteer resources. Towards this end, the committee has been looking at a major re-work of the volunteer resources survey to give more emphasis to capabilities and interests, and a little less focus on committee structure. The timing and frequency of the survey are also under review.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Bond, Chair

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

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

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

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

COUNCIL CHAIR	Marcia Gosse*	(2019)
COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR	Vacant	(2019)
COUNCIL SECRETARY	Cathy Hollands*	(2020)
CHAIR OF SESSION	Bob Nelson	(2019)
SESSION REPRESENTATIVES	Dianne Keevil Harrold	(2019)
	Maureen Stark	(2018)
CHAIR OF STEWARDS	John Scollick	(2018)
TREASURER	Bob Roden**	(2018)
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	Brian Hamilton**	(2020)
STEWARD REPRESENTATIVE	Steve Shipley	(2018)
CHAIR OF MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	Marilyn Law	(2018)
OTTAWA PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE	Doug Robinson**	(2018)
CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Sheila Faure	(2019)
PRESIDENT OF UNITED CHURCH WOMEN	Heather Ingrams**	(2018)
CHAIR OF ADMINISTRATIVE and COMMUNICATIONS	Nancy McPherson**	(2018)
CHAIR OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	Wayne Bond	(2018)

MEMBERS AT LARGE	Shanti Inman	(2020)
	Michael Inrig	(2019)

Members retiring: Alyce Dunnewold (Chair of Council), Brian Neal (Secretary of Council), Cathy Hollands (Member At Large, Council) **Member resigning:** Michael Presley (Vice Chair of Council)

STANDING COMMITTEES

CHAIR OF SESSION	Bob Nelson	(2019)
CLERK OF SESSION	Jeff Allo*	(2020)

ELDERS See *Members of Session* section

CHAIR OF STEWARDS	John Scollick	(2018)
TREASURER	Bob Roden**	(2018)
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	Brian Hamilton**	(2020)

STEWARDS See *Members of Stewards* section

CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	Marilyn Law	(2018)
ADMINISTRATIVE and COMMUNICATIONS	Nancy McPherson**	(2018)
CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Drew Presley	(2018)
NOMINATIONS	Wayne Bond	(2018)
SOCIAL ACTION AND OUTREACH	Sandra Weedmark	(2019)
WORSHIP AND MUSIC	Co-chairs Kate Whitridge**	(2018)
	Nancy Begg-Durkee**	(2018)
PASTORAL CARE	Peggy Rader	(2018)
CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT	Co-chairs Tara Lynne Holton	(2018)
	Andrea Laliberté	(2018)

Clerk retiring: Shanti Inman (Clerk of Session)

TRUSTEES

CHAIR	Sheila Faure	(2019)	
SECRETARY	Norm Edwards		
MEMBERS	Ed Boothe	Bob Elliott	Murray Ferguson
	Bas Groeneweg	Keith Harris	Daryl Lindberg
	Jacqueline Newton	Michael Presley*	Susan Vaughan

PRESBYTERY LAY REPRESENTATIVES

Alyce Dunnewold*	Brian Irvine	Doug Robinson
Maureen Stark		

Representative retiring: Don Melick

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS

Brenda Bethune*	(2020)	Rod Hagglund**	(2020)
Brian Hamilton**	(2020)	Karen Humphries	(2018)
Mark Inman	(2018)	Adam Kurz	(2019)
Marc Laliberté*	(2020)	Ron MacPherson	(2019)
Peter Osudar	(2018)	Bill Ott**	(2019)
Bob Roden**	(2018)	Lisa Sadler**	(2018)
John Scollick	(2018)	Nadia Senyk*	(2020)
Steve Shipley	(2018)		

Stewards retiring: John Durkee, Don Ford, Andrew Jeffrey

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Elizabeth Acquaah	(2019)	Jennifer MacKinnon	(2019)
Jeff Allo**	(2020)	Lorna McCrea	(2019)
Nancy Begg-Durkee**	(2018)	Anne Moore	(2019)
Myrna Belo	(2019)	David Moreira*	(2020)
Wayne Bond**	(2018)	Bob Nelson	(2019)
Janet Buske-Wichser**	(2020)	Peter Osudar	(2019)
Gavin Currie**	(2020)	Judy Paré	(2018)
Sandra Graham Korjus*	(2020)	Drew Presley**	(2020)
Bas Groeneweg**	(2020)	Marilou Reeve	(2019)
Janette Hamilton-Silcoff**	(2020)	Bob Rennie	(2019)
Don Harper**	(2018)	Doug Robertson**	(2020)
Lois Harper**	(2018)	Elaine Robertson**	(2020)
Christy Harris	(2019)	Doug Robinson	(2019)
Dianne Keevil Harrold**	(2019)	Gary Seymour	(2018)
Mary Lynne Holton*	(2020)	Lynn Sherwood*	(2020)
Marlene Hutchison**	(2018)	Steve Shipley**	(2020)
Heather Ingrams	(2019)	Maureen Stark**	(2018)
Shanti Inman**	(2020)	Sandra Weedmark	(2018)
Susan Klimowicz*	(2020)	Jessie Weldon	(2018)
Karen Lamb	(2019)	Kate Whitridge**	(2019)
Marilyn Law	(2018)		

Elders retiring: Helen Cutts, Alyce Dunnewold, Don Melick, Jacqueline Newton, Marg Stinnett

Elders deceased: Janet Dundas, Barbara Robinson **Elder resigning:** Michael Presley

Rideau Park hosted many inspiring worship events over the course of 2016. In January we shared a service with sister churches, then celebrated *I Have a Dream* Sunday, and February saw the return of over 100 youth for the annual Worshiplude weekend.

The Encarna prayer and reflection experience was offered during Lent and Advent, and several special mid-week retreats were held for Advent. Meditative services were held one Sunday afternoon a month. The meditation group meets Sunday before service, and two Healing Pathway healing sessions are held by appointment Sunday after service. A series of reflections on practices of faith called “Animate” was provided during the Sunday *Second Hour* during Lent. A *Day to Encounter God* and a series exploring Oprah Winfrey’s documentaries on spiritual journeys were also offered.

In January, the Committee reviewed the responses to the “64th anniversary survey”, seeking creative worship ideas, and interest in attending or leading after-service worship activities. For the Committee’s February meeting, interested members of the congregation joined the committee for a workshop activity on ideas for worship at Rideau Park.

To evaluate the effect of the move to one Sunday service at 10:00 am, the Committee held a survey in April. Based on the strong positive response to the survey, the Committee confirmed that we would continue with one service.

The Committee met in January, February, April, May, September and November, and continues its exploration of “Think Big” about worship at Rideau Park. The Committee asks members of the congregation to think about current and potential worship activities, share your thoughts with us, and participate in our worship program. The Committee email address is worshipmusic@rideaupark.ca.

Worship and Music, in response to Call to Action 48, is exploring indigenous spirituality and relationship building with our local indigenous community. At our November meeting we welcomed local indigenous leaders Margaret Anne Mabe Boyle Eagle Woman who flies outside the Universe, Sue Martin Mugwaw Thunderwoman She’s a Warrior and Gaetan Lefebvre Two Bears One who walks alone, who led us in a smudging ceremony and in a conversation about how we might come together in an understanding of each other and slowly begin building a meaningful spiritual relationship. At our Advent Longest Night/Winter Solstice retreat we again welcomed members of the local indigenous community. We plan to continue to welcome members of the indigenous community to various events. These events have been a moving and emotional experience for the whole committee, and we felt honoured to experience these beginnings.

The Committee, at the invitation from Council, made a presentation about the challenges and opportunities the Committee faces currently and in the foreseeable future in doing our work; what we feel is working well or not so well with respect to activities, events and groups that the Committee supports; as well as things we would like to change and our dream for the future. It was an opportunity to think about what we do and how we do it.

During the year the Wedding Fee Schedule and Guidelines were reviewed and updated. A large print NRSV Bible was received as a gift and is available for use at the lectern. The Committee thanked choir volunteer and children's music assistant Katie Jourdeuil and wished her all the best in her study year abroad.

The Worship and Music Committee supported the revised Position Description for the Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator, and welcomed Andrew Ager and Iain Macpherson to their new roles.

The chancel choir and the bell choirs offered concerts during Advent and in the spring, and children and youth participated in the fabulous Christmas pageant in December.

Our sincere appreciation to:

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

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

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

The members of the Worship and Music Committee are: Kate Whitridge and Nancy Begg-Durkee Co-chairs, Judy Paré, Secretary, Andrew Ager, Barry Dewis, Marcia Gosse, Bas Groeneweg, Dianne Keevil Harrold, Karen Lamb, Marilyn Law, Iain Macpherson, Sharon Sanderson and Maureen Stark. In particular the Committee, on behalf of the Rideau Park Congregation, would like to thank Bas Groeneweg, on his retirement, for his many years of dedicated service on the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Begg-Durkee and Kate Whitridge, Co-chairs.

In 2016, there were once again two ringing choirs for young people at Rideau Park United Church. Note-Able Sound Chimes ensemble, for ringers in grades 2-5, met in the Sanctuary every Thursday evening from 6:15-6:45 p.m. The group was directed by Andrea Laliberté with assistance from Erin Brunet, Merina Shulist and members of our teen bell choir. Grace Notes Teen Bells, for ringers in grades 6+, also met in the Sanctuary every Thursday evening and rehearsed from 6:45-7:30 p.m. The group was also directed by Andrea Laliberté with the capable aid of Erin Brunet, Merina Shulist and Kaitie Jourdeuil. Kaitie is studying abroad in 2016-2017 and is taking a well-earned leave from assisting during her time in Wales.

Grace Notes once again had the special opportunity in February 2016 to participate and share music at Worshiplude, a gathering of over 500 youth from all over Ontario. This weekend-long event coincides annually with Ottawa's Winterlude celebrations. Grace Notes shared in the Saturday evening Worshiplude service at Parkdale United Church.

In the Spring of 2016, both Note-Able Sound and Grace Notes shared their music in Sunday worship services at Rideau Park on several occasions. The teens presented one piece accompanied by the younger singers in Joyful Noise. Both groups also had the opportunity to participate in the annual Bells in Spring concert.

In the fall of 2016, both groups enjoyed some of our largest ever enrolments (23 in chimes and 18 in teen bells) and continued under the direction of Andrea Laliberté. Assisting Andrea were Erin Brunet, Merina Shulist, Devon Shulist and Rigel Shulist; many members of Grace Notes continued to serve as mentor ringers for our youngest chimers and we are grateful for their support. Note-Able Sound shared their music as part of the Christmas Bell concert and the Christmas Eve family service. Grace Notes shared their music at the Christmas Bell Concert, the annual Christmas Pageant and the Christmas Eve family service. The Grace Notes Teen Bells also participated in Youth and Young Adult Sunday in November.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Laliberté

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Gosse

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

In 2016, Tara Lockhart and Andrea Laliberté continued in their roles as co-chairs of the Christian Development Committee. In 2016, membership of the committee included: Dev Balkissoon, Rev. Steve Clifton, Bas Groeneweg, Anne Marie Tessier, Dieudonné Detchou, Andrea Laliberté (co-chair), Tara Lockhart (Secretary, co-chair), Amy Neal and Gary Seymour.

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

Programs	Events
Sunday School	Welcome Back Brunch
Sunday Evening Bible Study	Carol Gardner Award
Adult Bible Study Groups	Carleton University Pause Table
Lenten Book Studies	Advent Happening
Adult Retreats	
Confirmation Classes	
Vacation Bible School	
Hear Say Supper Group	
Scouting	
Shoe Boxes for charity	

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

With the help of fabulous volunteers, we continue to provide a vibrant Sunday School program. We were privileged to have dedicated Sunday School teachers providing weekly activities for ages 3,4,5 (Susan Kilborn and Candice Presley), grades 1-3 (Linda Hagglund) and grades 4-7 (Andrea Laliberté). In the fall of 2016, we were fortunate enough to add a grades 7-9 class (led by Michael & Ben Presley). There were many parents who supported these classes as helpers. Our toddler room (ages 0-3) continued to be staffed by paid youth - Bronwyn Clifton, Lianne Presley and Rebekah Dillman. Drew Presley continued to coordinate 3 youth (Jareese Kane, Selorm Agbenyoh and Justin Presley) who are serving as Sunday School duty officers.

We would like to thank Paul Sorg who ensures that Sunday School rooms are ready on Sunday mornings and takes care of special arrangements and room changes as requested.

Vacation Bible School offered a full day Camp Awesome program led by the youth of Ottawa Presbytery and supported by youth volunteers from Rideau Park. Camp Awesome was attended by 45 participants. Thank you to all who helped at Camp Awesome 2016. Youth Volunteers: Bronwyn and Alex Wade, Selorm Abgenyoh, Caitlin Allo, Mackenzie Currier, and Jessie Porter-McLennan. RPUC staffers: Coordinator Julien Quesnel, Ruth Bryce, Rebekah Dillman, Katherine and Bronwyn Clifton and Congregational Coordinator: Caitlin Tabbenor. A special thank you to Line Detchou for helping in the kitchen every day. The full day camp model continues to appeal to working families and the Presbytery program – Camp Awesome continues to be successful as it meets our needs as a congregation and, most importantly, the needs of the participants.

In February, the Christian Development Committee hosted 65 young people and leaders from the London Conference who attended Worshiplude in Ottawa. The Committee provided breakfast for our guests on the Saturday and Sunday mornings during the Worshiplude program.

Rebekah Dillman, one of our young people, took part in an exchange with the Zeballos community in British Columbia. We were all very proud of this achievement and enjoyed her presentation at Youth and Young Adult Sunday.

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

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

In May, we recognized the long-term commitment to our Sunday School made by Linda Hagglund. She supported Sunday School throughout the times her own daughters attended and has continued now into the time when her grand-daughters are attending. She was given the Carol Gardner Award in recognition for her inspirational leadership with our Sunday School each year.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Laliberté and Tara Lockhart, Co-chairs

In 2016 our ministry with youth and young adults took many forms.

In the spring 13 young people were confirmed into membership through a profession of faith. The group met for 8 months in preparation for this happy event. Thank you to Alyce Dunnewold for co-leading the confirmation program this year.

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

In the fall we have a tradition of organizing a YAYA Sunday. Our young people take the lead on Sunday morning. Our youth bell choir provided music. Our oldest Sunday School students led the prayers. Our speakers were Rebekah Dillman and Jessica Nichols. They shared their experience of an exchange trip with the First Nations community in Zeballos BC.

Hospitality is part of mission to young people. Our congregation has hosted youth and leaders for Worshiplude for many years. In the summer we welcomed First Nations youth from Toronto Conference as they attended a reconciliation event at Carleton. We also welcomed young people from Jubilee United in Toronto as they travelled on pilgrimage to the East Coast in August.

Thanks to the Presbytery Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) Ministries program, there are opportunities for our young people to be involved in Presbytery YAYA events.

- The February Worshiplude service brings 600 youth from all over Quebec and Ontario. They all come to Ottawa for Winterlude, are hosted by local churches and join in with the Point worship gathering. RPUC hosted 110 awesome young people from London Conference last year during Worshiplude weekend and more are coming to be with us again in February 2017. Our youth bell group Grace Notes played at the service as well.
- Our young people have opportunity to participate in exchange trips with First Nations communities. In 2017 the trip will be to the First Nations community in Fort Resolution, NWT.
- Our Presbytery also runs the **Camp Awesome** VBS program over 6 weeks in July and August and several of our young people are involved in leading the program.

Looking ahead to 2017 there will be an opportunity for our youth and young adults to gather at a national UCC YAYA gathering in Montreal in August. Stay tuned for more information.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Reverend Steve Clifton

Pastoral Care continued to have a rewarding year, visiting seniors in their retirement homes, providing prayer shawls, where appropriate, and welcoming new guests at Sunday's coffee hour, as well as hosting two senior services and teas. We have approached Congregational Development to share in our Welcome Duty at coffee hour.

April was a particularly busy month as we sent out invitations, and hosted about 62 seniors at our annual Communion Service and Tea. Dianne Ferguson kindly agreed to play for us. We also had a special guest singer, Stuart Mackinnon, whom the participants especially enjoyed. There is no doubt, our seniors really enjoy seeing their old friends again.

Also in April, Pastoral Care hosted a luncheon for newcomers, which drew a good crowd of about 20 guests. Committee chairs were invited. Daryl Lindberg arranged for name labels, and Christel Kurtz picked up the food at Farm Boy. We decided to serve finger food, so we could circulate and get to know our guests better. Music and worship shared in the cost of this event.

At the September Open House, we had two visitors drop by, and one expressed a strong interest in Pastoral Care. As it turns out, Renee is involved in Healing Pathways, along with Brian Neal. They offered to share a presentation about Healing Pathways, which happened in November. Both have since joined our group, along with Marg Sturley, Hedwidge Charles, and Heather Martin.

In November we hosted the "Our Hearts Remember " Service and Tea. Everyone who has lost a loved one in the past year receives an invitation, but all are welcome, and some come year after year. Daryl Lindberg bought new candles on behalf of the committee. There were about 35 guests in attendance. The names of the deceased loved ones are read quietly, as participants are invited to light a candle in their memory.

Our pastoral Care committee is healthy in numbers and in spirit.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Rader, Chair

Committee Purpose:

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

Addressing the needs of people in the broader community, at home and abroad:

Banff Avenue Community House; Blair Court Community House; Russell Heights Community House: SAOC supports the community houses both financially and with volunteers who help with Homework Clubs.

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

Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC): SAOC supports the HEFC financially, through the First Sunday of the Month Food Collection and with volunteers who shop and pack up food at HEFC.

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

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

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

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

Peace and Development: In January we organized I have a Dream Sunday with our guest speaker Carl Nicholson from Catholic Immigration. As the Syrian refugees had just begun to arrive in Canada his talk was very interesting and timely. We also continued to bring other matters of interest to the congregation including indigenous issues, poverty and the food bank.

Environment: This is the first year for the sub-committee so it has been a time of planning. There is an opportunity to test out some different environmental events at Rideau Park in 2017 so planning is underway. Application was made to Faith & the Common Good for the Green Certification program and to Tucker House for the Country Fun Nature camp, a Christian eco-camp in our community. Stay tuned for information regarding upcoming events in 2017.

Refugee Committee: On February 8, 2016 we welcomed to Canada and Ottawa the Awad family from Syria. They are Ali, Safaa, Ahmad, Mohammad and Osama. They had been in Jordan for four years and were delighted to be here and even more delighted when they found out they were not going to have to stay at a hotel because we had an apartment ready for them. They settled in quickly and didn't seem to mind the cold or the major snow storm that arrived one week after they did.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Weedmark, Chair

**Rideau Park United Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 14, 2016**

PRESENT: Alyce Dunnewold (Chair), Karen Lamb (Recording Secretary), Michael Presley, Judy Paré, Georgina Fitzgerald, Nancy Begg-Durkee, John Durkee, Marcia Gosse, Barbara Jeffrey, Cameron Jeffrey, Roger Soderling, Doreen Hamilton, Brian Hamilton, Jacqueline Newton, Devon Shulist, Gretchen Conrad, Merina Shulist, Doug Robinson, Sharon Gwynne-Vaughan, Heather Ingrams, Maureen Stark, Marlene Hutchison, Nancy McPherson, Gaveen Cadotte, Serena Cadotte, Bob Roden, Ada McEwen, Morley Craig, Norm Edwards, Rita Edwards, Jessie Weldon, Nadia Senyk, Margaret Stinnett, Marg Nelson, Sheila Black, Norm Black, Sharon Sanderson, Bob Rennie, Bernice Rennie, Beverley-Anne Bayne, Audrey Henry, Steve Shipley, Lisa Sadler, Marilyn Law, Gavin Currie, Pat Currie, Daryl Lindberg, Sheila Faure, Thierry Faure, Mary Harris, Christy Harris, Keith Harris, Carmen Small, Bas Groeneweg, Helen Groeneweg, Bruce Moore, Anne Moore, Audrey Stewart, Mary Lynne Holton, Jim Holton, Wayne Bond, Drew Presley, Candice Presley, Sandra Weedmark, Rod Hagglund, Kate Whitridge, Jim Whitridge, Elmer Janzen, Beulah Tullock, Patricia Whitridge, Sharon Bernard, Tony Bernard, Jennifer MacKinnon, Lorna McCrea, Elizabeth Bryce, Steve Clifton, J. W. Scollick, Carolyn Scollick, Ron MacPherson, Beryl Bayne, Janet Dundas, Ed Boothe, Hope Wilson, Louise Mundle, Bob Nelson. (86 in attendance)

The Community Gathers Before God

1. Words of Welcome and Opening Motion: The Reverend Steve Clifton welcomed the gathering and asked for nominations for a Recording Secretary and Chair for the meeting.

Moved by Heather Ingrams, **seconded by** Gretchen Conrad, that the meeting be chaired by Alyce Dunnewold (Chair of Council) and that Karen Lamb be the Recording Secretary for the meeting.

CARRIED

2. Lighting the Christ Candle: Alyce lit the Christ Candle and called the meeting to order.

3. Prayer of Approach: The Rev. Steve Clifton then opened the meeting with the Prayer of Approach.

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

Moved by Jim Holton, **seconded by** Nancy Begg-Durkee, that all adherents of Rideau Park United Church be permitted to participate and vote at this year's Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

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

Moved by Jacqueline Newton, **seconded by** Nancy McPherson, that the Agenda be accepted as printed.

CARRIED

Life and Work of the Congregation

6. Receiving the 2015 Annual Reports and Congregational Meeting Minutes of 2015: Alyce called for a motion to receive the 2015 Annual Report and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes from February 15, 2015.

Moved by Jessie Weldon, **seconded by** Tony Bernard, that the 2015 Annual Report and the Minutes of the February 15, 2015 AGM be accepted as printed.

CARRIED

7. Receiving the Review Engagement/Audit Report: Alyce called upon Bob Roden, Treasurer to present the Audit Report and financial statements for 2015. He indicated that there were no

problems with the Audit and that copies were available from him or the office if anyone wished to study them.

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** John Scollick, that the 2014 Review Engagement Report prepared by Collins Barrow be accepted. **CARRIED**

At a previous Congregational Meeting, approval was given to have review engagements performed by Collins Barrow every four years with an audit being conducted every fifth year. The most recent audit was in 2010. As 2015 is the fifth year in the current cycle, Bob Roden then requested that the Committee of Stewards be authorized to engage Collins Barrow to conduct an audit of the 2015 Financial Statements.

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** Bob Rennie, that Collins Barrow be engaged to conduct an audit of the 2015 financial statements. **CARRIED**

8. Receiving the Financial Statements for 2015 Bob gave an overview of the revenues and expenses for 2015. Income was slightly less, due in part by the loss of the income of \$8-10K from the Foster's vegetable stand. Personnel expenses were slightly less due to pension/benefit savings. Income was about \$577K while expenses were about \$578K. Overall it was a good year. A deficit of \$18K had been predicted but was essentially zero due to generous year end support. He also noted the \$12.7K contribution from the UCW. Despite personnel issues, costs were under by 1.4%, property operating costs under by 2.8% and envelope givings up by 1.3% over the budget. The Treasurer also noted there was a correction in the Annual Report for 2015 on page 24. The Net Change in M&P Fund Actual should read -1074, not -1614 and the variance to budget \$17,801, not \$17,261.

He thanked Debi Brown for all her work as Administrator, Debby Gerrow and Merina Shulist for preparing bulletins and all the office work, Barbara Jeffrey for recording donations and preparing tax receipts, the counters for their work and the UCW and Trustees for their support.

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** Steve Shipley, that the Financial Statements on pp. 22 to 24, the Fund Account Reconciliation Statement found on page 27, and the summary of the Property Renewal Fund found on page 28 of the Rideau Park United Church 2015 Annual Report be accepted subject to an audit for 2015. **CARRIED**

9. Property Report and Plan: Brian Hamilton highlighted some of the property changes noted in the property renewal report on pages 28-29. The sound system in Beecroft Hall was upgraded. The flood in early 2015 resulted in costly repairs but insurance covered much of the cost after the \$5K deductible was paid. The accessible washrooms were completed and Brian noted the 60 year old plumbing was certainly in need of replacing. The third bedroom in the apartment was rented for \$3K this year. The year started with a deficit but a gift given to the church that allowed changing the lights to LED ones will result in electrical savings of about \$1800 in 2016, and will continue to result in savings in future.

Moved by Brian Hamilton, **seconded by** Rod Hagglund, that the Property Renewal Plan for 2015, as found on page 29 of the 2015 Annual Report, be approved. **CARRIED**

10. Trustees Report: Gavin Currie, Chair of Trustees presented the Trustees report found on pages 17-19. He noted there will be about \$7K available from the Foundation in 2016. The time of call and decision for applications for Foundation funds will be earlier in the year to allow funded projects to be completed earlier. Gavin indicated he will be stepping down as Chair and thanked all the Trustees for their support during his term.

Offering Our Services

11. Staff Recognition: Nancy McPherson, Chair of Administrative and Communications came forward to recognize our wonderful staff. She thanked them for all the meetings they attended, the hands held, the inquiries answered, the tables and chairs put up and down, the music rehearsals lead and all the other myriad of tasks completed. She indicated all churches face financial challenges but we still have a vibrant church and much credit needs to be given to all our wonderful staff.

12. Nominations: Wayne Bond, Chair of Nominations presented the Nominations Report on pages 38 to 41 that lists all the Committee changes. He thanked the members of the team, Mabel Bannerman, Drew Presley, Jessie Weldon, Michael Presley and Elizabeth Bryce and Steve Clifton. He indicated that all vacancies are filled and thanked all the new and continuing volunteers. Volunteer Appreciation Day will be Sunday April 17th when we will have the opportunity to thank all our volunteers. There will be a volunteer resources survey distributed later in the year.

Moved by Wayne Bond, **seconded by** Nancy McPherson, that the nominations to fill vacant positions and renew or extend terms, as set out in the Nominations Report on pages 38 to 41 the 2015 Annual Report, be adopted. **CARRIED**

13. Recognition of the Leadership that is concluding: The Reverends Elizabeth and Steve came forward to present certificates to persons whose terms had completed. They included: Gavin Currie (Chair of Trustees), Christy Harris (Chair of Session), Frances Dawson (Chair of Social Action and Outreach), Adam Kurz (Council, member at large), Judy Paré (Council Session rep) and elders- Lynda Becker, Doreen Hamilton, Nancy McPherson, Dieudonné Detchou, Graham Beattie and Ron Little.

A delicious lunch was served and the organizers were thanked.

14. Gratitude at Rideau Park: Drew Presley introduced the presentation on the Gratitude Project. People were asked to submit reasons why they were grateful for Rideau Park. He thanked Steve Clifton for collecting the submissions and Grieg Scott for selecting the key words for collating. A slide was shown with many reasons that gratitude was felt. He indicated that they received ideas that represented a cross section of the congregation-young and old, new members and ones of long standing and on a wide range of topics-music, people, the building, grounds and programs. About 25% were indicating gratitude for the welcoming and inclusiveness of Rideau Park. Drew indicated that he will be including a report in the February Churchpost.

15. 2016 Budget: Bob Roden, the Treasurer presented the budget for 2016. He referred to the budget on page 25 of the Annual Report. Revenue is predicted to be \$568,500 for Ministries and Programs and \$72K for Mission and Service. Expenses are predicted to be \$578,570 for Ministries and Programs and \$72K for M&S. This leaves a deficit of \$10K. Givings are expected to be flat. Additional support will be needed from the congregation at year end to cover the deficit. The M&S forecasted revenue and expenses are based on a decline in pledges. Bob noted the continued strong support from the UCW. Operating costs are expected to benefit from the LED light installation and lower heating and snow removal costs due to the mild winter. The administration budget takes into account that we will have a full audit for 2016 rather than a review engagement (about \$3K more). There was some discussion about the music position and it was tabled to other business.

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** Drew Presley, that the Rideau Park United Church 2016 Budgets for the Ministries & Programs Fund and the Mission & Service Fund, as presented on page 25 of the 2015 Annual Report be approved. **CARRIED**

Moved by Jennifer MacKinnon, **seconded by** Gretchen Conrad, that the Committee of Stewards be authorized to borrow up to \$40,000 to cover any shortfalls in the Ministries and Programs Fund (formerly the General Fund) should they occur in 2016. **CARRIED as amended**

Moved by Bob Roden, **seconded by** Rod Hagglund that the amount be changed from \$40K to \$20K, further to a suggestion by Brian Hamilton. It was noted that this is an annual motion and the Stewards have never needed to cover shortfalls but if they should it would save calling a congregational meeting to approve borrowing to cover a temporary shortfall. **CARRIED**

16. Long Term Financial Plan: presentation and discussion: Bob Roden thanked the other members of the Committee for their work: Gaveen Cadotte, Brian Hamilton, Peter Osudar, Lisa Saddler and John Scollick with input from Council members Wayne Bond and Michael Presley. Bob referred to the attached handout (Long Range Financial Plan, A Preliminary Review). See appendix A. Some items were highlighted. Envelope givings represent the largest portion of our revenues. Money requests to members are greater at year end when we are trying to balance the budget (Christmas Cheer, Shoe Box Program, other charities, and this year refugees). Page 5 of the handout outlines the current status of financial strategies. Pages 6 and 7 outline some of plans. The timeline for this work is 2016 to 2020. Some of the plans are to meet with Session to get feedback and to hold workshops for Council members and Committee Chairs. Some areas to study include becoming aware of what other groups and churches are doing to stop duplication, partnerships will strengthen us all. Look outside the congregation to pool resources and to reduce funds needed and add volunteer and staff resources. A suggestion was to change the name from financial to sustainability report. Congregational approval will be sought for changes. This report is to be a guideline and support for the future. It is for planning not voting on. Discussions will follow. The congregation will be informed as time goes on. Bob asked people with comments to contact him or anyone on the committee.

17. Other Business: Questions and comments were raised about the Music Search Committee and Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator position. Alyce Dunnewold and Rod Hagglund (Chair of Search Committee) outlined the membership and mandate of the Search Committee and progress made to date, including a revised position description. It was noted the search committee process is consistent with that used for staff positions other than those involving members of the order of ministry and that the congregation had been informed about it. The position description is available on the RPUC website. Applications will close March 11.

18. Closing Remarks: Alyce thanked all those who attended the meeting.

Sending Forth

20. Commissioning and Benediction: The Rev. Elizabeth Bryce closed the meeting with a benediction.

21. Adjournment: Alyce declared the meeting closed.

Alyce Dunnewold, Chair

Karen Lamb, Recording Secretary

Date

**Rideau Park United Church
Fall Congregational Meeting
Wednesday, November 13, 2016**

PRESENT: Alyce Dunnewold (Chair), Brian Neal (Recording Secretary), Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton, Lois Harper, Don Harper, Karin Ott, Nancy McPherson, Heather Ingrams, Carolyn Scollick, John Scollick, Lorna McCrear, Bas Groeneweg, Helen Groeneweg, Nadia Senyk, Joan Pettit, Joan Findlay, Cathy Hollands, Susan Klimowicz, Isabel Bennett, Jessie Weldon, Heather Sherman, Barry Dewis, Karen Lamb, Ron McPherson, Maureen Stark, Peggy Rader, Gaveen Cadotte, Lisa Sadler, Bob Roden, Thierry Faure, Sheila Faure, Wayne Bond, Bernice Rennie, Bob Rennie, Mary Harris, Keith Harris, Christy Harris, Bob Nelson, Beulah Tulloch/Janzen, Elmer Janzen, Beverley-Anne Bayne, Kathy Mayes, Doug Robinson, Heather Moon Martin, Rod Hagglund, and Marcia Gosse.

1. Introduction: Alyce welcomed everyone and invited them to help themselves to the light lunch that had been prepared. She explained that the purpose of this meeting was to provide some insight into the major changes proposed for the United Church of Canada by looking at the specific remits that need to be voted on. At the end of the presentation and discussion on the remits, the floor will be open for any other questions or comments that members would like to raise. The meeting began at 11:30 am.

Presentation and Discussion of UCC Remits

2. Presentation: Alyce provided a slide presentation to explain the proposed changes that if approved, will impact our organizational structure, our funding model, and the policies, qualifications and processes related to clergy. These changes are being driven by church demographics and the changing circumstances in which we live. There is also a recognized need to free up resources for spiritual renewal and service. Some components of the proposed changes have already been approved, including dedicating 10% of the Mission and Service Fund for new ministries, as well as some specific commitments to Aboriginal Ministries.

A remit provides a record of decisions made among the courts of the church. Some remits only require voting by presbyteries. However, five of the remits require voting by both presbyteries and congregations. These five remits were addressed in the following order:

- Remit #1 – Three Council Model
- Remit #4 – Funding a New Model
- Remit #3 – Office of Vocation
- Remit #6 – One Order of Ministry, and
- Remit #2 – Elimination of Transfer and Settlement

3. Questions and Discussion: Time for questions and discussions was provided for each remit.

3.a. Remit #1 – Three Council Model: *How will the new “communities of faith” be funded and how will we find them?* Funding of new communities of faith will likely come from the 10% of the Mission and Service Fund that is being allocated to new ministries. The new communities of faith will have to be recognized and covenant with the local Regional Council before they can be associated with the UCC. In addition, all communities of faith will have to subscribe to a common mission statement: ***Joining our collective hearts, voices, and resources to witness to the gospel and vision of Jesus for a compassionate and just society, both in Canada and around the world.***

There was some concern expressed that the common mission statement is too focused on social

action and outreach. However, it was pointed out that “witness to the gospel” comes first in the statement, and also that each community of faith will have its own unique mission statement, in addition to the common mission statement that we all have to agree on.

How many regional councils will there be? In the three court model, conferences and presbyteries would be collapsed into a single court called Regional Council. The expected number of Regional Councils is no more than the current number of conferences. As is also the case for the changes proposed in the other remits, many of the details are still to be worked out.

3.b. Remit #4 – Funding a New Model: *Why was 4.5% chosen to be the assessment amount in the new funding model?* This is just a ceiling to put some boundaries on the impact of this remit, and is based on the average of what congregations are currently paying across Canada. Rideau Park is currently paying 4.2%.

Does the new funding model encourage more giving? It’s hard to say how people will respond, but the fact that the Mission and Service will now be used solely for mission and service work may encourage more giving (the M&S fund has previously had a portion taken to fund conference work).

3.c. Remit #3 – Office of Vocation: *Where did this name come from?* The Office of Vocation was originally called the College of Ministers, but it was felt that implied they would be an independent body outside the hierarchy of the church. The name “Office of Vocation” is more meaningful to ministers, who often use the term “vocation”.

3.d. Remit #6 – One Order of Ministry: *What is a Diaconal Minister?* This grew out of the Diaconess role, which provided women an opportunity to serve before the church allowed female ministers. A Diaconal Minister focuses on education, pastoral care or other service, but is not normally allowed to perform the sacraments.

What will the process look like for new ministers before they are ordained in any of the four streams? Once they complete the requirements of their particular stream, they all have to go through an internship and receive a call to a congregation (community of faith) before they can be ordained.

The current order of ministry called “Designated Lay Ministry”, which is only intended to fill in for time-limited periods at specific locations, will be replaced by the “Pastoral Theology” stream. Designated Lay Ministers are distinct from certified Lay Worship Leaders, so the changes proposed will have no effect on Lay Worship Leaders.

Will there be a consistent common core of training for the four streams? Yes, for example they will have to study United Church of Canada history, take Old and New Testament courses, and develop preaching and pastoral care skills through courses and practicums. The training streams requirements do vary in content, but will take three to five years to complete.

3.e. Remit #2 - Elimination of Transfer and Settlement: No questions.

3.f. General: *Who gets to vote on the remits?* Each congregation and each presbytery gets a vote on the remits discussed above, and an absolute majority is required. An abstention is considered a “no” vote. Within Rideau Park, Council and Session will vote to determine a “yes” or “no” for the Rideau Park congregation on each of the five remits.

What are the current barriers to new types of communities of faith versus a traditional congregation? We are not aware of any specific barriers. The proposals intend to provide the flexibility for new types of communities of faith to develop as appropriate to the needs of different communities. In any case, they will have to be approved and covenant with the local Regional Council before they can become part of the UCC. The Regional Council will ensure that they meet all necessary requirements of the UCC and agree to common core policies and values like the common mission statement.

Bob Nelson thanked Alyce for an excellent presentation and noted that she had done a beautiful job helping us to understand what these rather complex remit proposals are all about. Maureen Stark echoed this comment and remarked on the clarity that Alyce had provided. A show of hands was suggested, and there was general agreement that a “yes” vote was appropriate for all five remits.

Open Discussion

4. Sheila Faure asked about the status of the Long Range Financial Plan. Bob Roden reported that it was in a consultation phase as the Working Group was meeting with different groups within the church to solicit their input.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Alyce Dunnewold, Chair

Brian Neal, Recording Secretary

Date