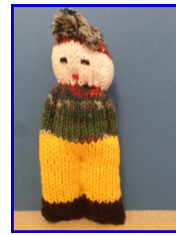


# RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



*Rideau Park knits hundreds of Izzy Dolls for ICROSS Canada.*

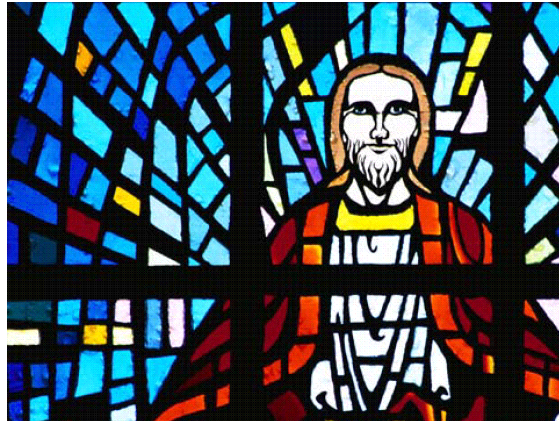


2203 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 7L9

613-733-3156

[rideaupark.ca](http://rideaupark.ca)

*In Memoriam*



*Members, Adherents and Friends of Rideau Park*

Franklin James Burt	John George Christison
Bruce Frederick Ennis	Margaret Forsey
Robert Honeywell	Charles (Chuck) Holdway
Earl Frank Johnson	Beverly Laroque
Mildred Eliza Lemoine	Winnifred MacNab MacLauchlan
Shawn Makela	Beryl Jean McLaughlin
Muriel McMichael	Doreen Anne O'Hearn
France Phidd	Joan Hope Sharp
Mary Enid Shields	Donald Earl Stanley
Thomas Graham Stone	Dorothy E. Stratton
Kenneth Malcom Sturley	Shirley Marguerite Traill
Edna Betty Hope Warner	

*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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<b>STAFF</b>	Rev. Steve Clifton	Minister of Christian Family and Worship
	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce	Minister of Community and Worship
	Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald	Minister of Pastoral Care (June - on leave)
	Rev. Ted Colwell	Interim Minister of Pastoral Care (Sept - )
	Ian Bevell	Director of Music
	Debi Brown	Administrator
	Kay Saunders	Administrative Assistant (Jan - May)
	Debby Gerro	Administrative Assistant (April - )
<b>COUNCIL</b>	Paul Sorg	Caretaker
	Mary Lynne Holton	Chair
	Alyce Dunnewold	Vice-chair
	Brian Neal	Secretary
	Christy Harris	Chair of Session
	Judy Paré	Session Representative
	Maureen Stark	Session Representative
	Gaveen Cadotte	Chair of Stewards
	Bob Roden	Treasurer, Stewards' Representative
	Bob Rennie	Stewards' Representative
	Brian Hamilton	Chair of Stewardship
	Marilyn Law	Chair of Ministry and Personnel
	Doug Robinson	Ottawa Presbytery Representative
	Gavin Currie	Chair of Board of Trustees
	Barbara Robinson	President of United Church Women
	Nancy McPherson	Chair of Administrative Committee
	Adam Kurz	Member at Large
	Drew Presley	Member at Large
<b>COMMITTEES</b>		
<b>SESSION</b>	Christy Harris	Chair
	Shanti Inman	Clerk
<b>Sub-committees of Session</b>		
Christian Development	Elizabeth Acquaah	Chair
Worship and Music	Nancy Begg-Durkee, Kate Whitridge	Co-chairs
Social Action and Outreach	Frances Dawson	Chair
Pastoral Care	Christel Kurz	Chair
<b>STEWARDS</b>	Gaveen Cadotte	Chair
<b>Sub-committees of Stewards</b>		
Treasurer	Bob Roden	
Property	Rod Hagglund	
Counting Teams	Andrew Jeffrey	
Property Renewal	Brian Hamilton	
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	Brian Hamilton	Chair
<b>NOMINATIONS</b>	Judy Paré	Chair
<b>MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL</b>	Marilyn Law	Chair
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	Nancy McPherson	Chair
<b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>	Gavin Currie	Chair
<b>UNITED CHURCH WOMEN</b>	Barbara Robinson	President
<b>PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES</b>	Brian Irvine	Don Melick
	Doug Robinson	Maureen Stark
	Chris Inrig (Presbytery Member at Large June 2014 -)	
<b>ENVELOPE SECRETARY</b>	Barbara Jeffrey	

### Baptisms

Benjamin Liam Burke	Lexi Ivy Desormeaux
Landon Robert James Haldane	Audrey Grace Harman
Emma Anne Hatson	Nicholas Gabriel Lynds
Brooke Avery Milo	Julien John Marier
Sullivan Kenneth McDonald	Emma Shirley Rochon
Billy Dipty Tong	Mikayla Dipty Tong
John Alford Wakefield	Charlotte Laurin Anne Walker
Grayson Lucas Alexander Walker	Christopher Ian Wilson
Kaelan Ian Leo Wilson	Brenna Elizabeth Yetts

### Transfers to Rideau Park

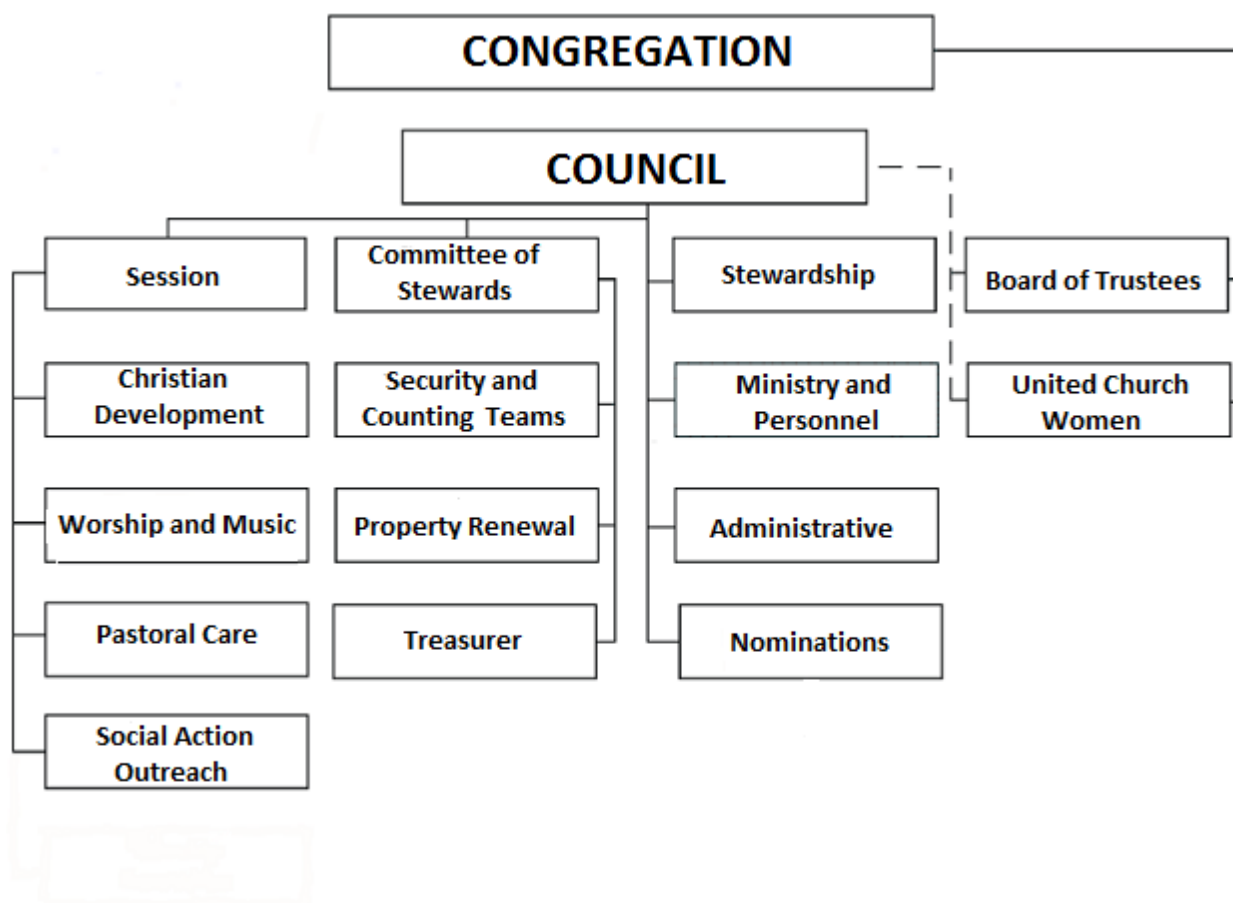
Ilene Hanson  
Steve Lacelle  
Margaret and Doyle Stinnett

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

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

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

Melvin and Willa Black  
Bruce Ennis  
Brian Evans  
Dolores Gilmore  
Melvin Hagglund  
Harry and Arras Holdham  
Mildred Lemoine  
Win MacLauchlan  
Harris and Mary Mossman  
James Rader  
Freeda "Freddie" Short  
Doug Shouldice  
Kenneth Sturley



Number of households as of December 31, 2014.....	495
Total number of persons as of December 31, 2014.....	1,213
Members received through Transfer of Certificate .....	4
Members removed through Transfer of Certificate .....	0
Persons removed by death.....	14
Number of weddings.....	14
Number of funerals .....	22

This year, our Annual Meeting Sunday falls on the day that the Christian calendar calls "Transfiguration Sunday". It's a day when the followers of Jesus climbed up a mountain and opened their hearts to the experience of the Holy. It's a day when the followers of Jesus also climbed down from that mountain-top experience to find Jesus very much the same as he always was, but themselves transformed in their understanding.

The one constant in our life together at Rideau Park United has been change and transformation. You might not always see it on the outside, but in our hearts we are constantly being transformed by the Holy in our midst.

On staff, we have experienced change as well. In 2014 we said good-bye to Kay in the front office, and welcomed another child to her family, a baby boy Kase, who was born on June 6, 2014. While we miss Kay's quick smile and hard work in the office, the birth of a baby is a great reason to make a transition!

Just before Easter we welcomed Debby Gerro to the administrative assistant role. While starting with one of the busiest weeks of the church year would be intimidating for any new employee, Debby has brought a lot of grace and extra effort to the office.

Also in May 2014, Steve and Georgina led a trip of Rideau Park pilgrims and others to the Holy Land. We have all been enriched and informed by their deepened understanding of biblical places and stories.

Unfortunately, Georgina needed to take a time of medical leave starting in the summer of 2014, but her workload has been taken up by Ted Colwell. We have enjoyed his company and anticipate Georgina back in the new year.

Ian, Paul and Elizabeth have continued to grow in their jobs, along with the rest of the staff team. The written words on our position descriptions may not change, but our roles at Rideau Park are always evolving to fit the needs of the congregation and the world around us.

Most of all we have grown in our appreciation for a congregation that is loving, committed, supportive and faithful. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the richness and diversity of our workplace.

*Ian*

*Steve*

*Elizabeth*

*Debi*

*Georgina*

*Paul*

*Debby*



Council has met six times since the last report. The Council membership is as follows:

Chair	Mary Lynne Holton
Vice-chair	Alyce Dunnewold
Secretary	Brian Neal
Chair of Session	Christy Harris
Session Representatives	Judy Paré
	Maureen Stark
Chair of Stewards	Gaveen Cadotte
Stewards Representatives	Bob Roden (Treasurer)
	Bob Rennie
Chair of Stewardship	Brian Hamilton
Chair of Ministry and Personnel	Marilyn Law
Ottawa Presbytery Representative	Doug Robinson
Chair of Trustees	Gavin Currie
President of UCW	Barbara Robinson
Chair of Administrative Committee	Nancy McPherson
Members at Large	Adam Kurz
	Drew Presley

*The ministers and the church administrator are ex-officio, non-voting members.*

According to our Constitution, Council is responsible for exercising leadership and management at a strategic level. The leadership function encompasses long range planning and defining congregational priorities, while the management function provides strategic guidance for the volunteer bodies, committees and church staff responsible for church ministries, programs and activities.

To emphasize the importance of the strategic overview function of Council, Council had general discussion on the following matters:

- The UCC Comprehensive Review which was initiated in 2012 by a General Council motion. This review is effectively recognition of the need for structural change in light of declining membership and levels of resources as well as an organizational structure and processes which may be better suited to the past. Consultations have taken place with Presbyteries and Conferences. A final proposal is expected to be available for consideration by congregations in the spring, and recommendations are expected to be brought forward to the General Council in 2015. Our own congregation had a preliminary discussion on the proposal in April, facilitated by Reverend Elizabeth and Sheila Faure.
- “Courageous Conversations,” a term used by the Moderator in his blog to denote instances where we take an in-depth look at our values and positions on particular matters. Council covered topics such as:
  - are religion and science ultimately compatible?
  - how do we and ought we to engage with those of other faith traditions
  - should we re-imagine parts of the Christian narrative to make it more relevant/applicable to today’s culture and circumstances
  - how current programs and activities can be changed to better meet our needs and aspirations.Elizabeth led Council through this discussion using the well-attended Followers’ Feast and Fellowship as an example of an inspired evolution of the summer weekday services.
- “Living Ministry Profile”, which is a Montreal-Ottawa Conference pilot project of annual reviews of plans, priorities, budgeting and key administrative matters in order to facilitate more efficient and effective joint needs assessments when this is required.

Council continued to oversee implementation of plans under existing priorities: Budget Stability (new approaches to stewardship of resources), Effective Communications (promoting a broader and more systemic approach to communications) and Enhanced Efforts to Promote Congregational Development. In relation to the communications priority, we anticipate a review and update of the pilot video webcasting, the RPUC website and other electronic means of communication in 2015. Council has recently received feedback from the congregation on stewardship of resources which will be factored into longer term planning. Council expects that the UCC Comprehensive review may prompt RPUC to re-examine or establish new priorities for the future. In this regard, Council engaged the congregation at the fall meeting in a discussion on goals, which will feed into Council and further congregational discussions on priorities.

Council established a working group to review the RPUC Committee structure and terms of reference for all committees as it had been some years since this was last done and practices and committee work has evolved, in some cases significantly. The Working Group reported to Council with recommendations in September 2014, which were accepted by Council at its November meeting. Because the recommendations involve amalgamation and disbanding of some committees reporting to Council and some adjustments to terms of reference for Council and some of its committees, amendments would need to be made to RPUC's Constitution in order for these changes to take effect. As any amendments to the Constitution require congregational approval, Council will be presenting them at the Annual General Meeting in February 2015.

Thanks to the working group members for their many hours of work: Wayne Bond, Nancy Begg-Durkee and Rod Hagglund. Council members, Alyce Dunnewold and Gavin Currie were asked to participate in a liaison and advisory capacity. Reverend Steve Clifton served as the Ministry and staff advisor to the working group.

In 2014, approximately \$40,000 was available from the Rideau Park Foundation Fund for projects within the congregation as well as outreach projects. Council approved the following:

- Disbursement of the remaining \$3,627 of a \$5,000 Foundation Fund grant for the purchase of video webcasting equipment for live streaming of the Sunday services on a pilot basis for one year. A project evaluation is anticipated in January 2015;
- In January, \$1,500 for RPUC Library Renewal Project;
- In April, \$2,000 for the Goat Pass on Project in Uganda in association with Veterinarians Without Borders; and
- In June, \$6,000 for sponsorship of a refugee family; \$9,000 for Blair Court Homework Club to hire a qualified teacher; \$16,040 for RPUC Accessibility Phase 3 (accessibility retrofits for downstairs washrooms); \$500 to support a young member of RPUC to participate in Operation Groundswell. The program is designed to increase young people's understanding and sensitivity of the ongoing struggles, challenges and triumphs of communities in Kenya and Uganda while at the same time providing concrete benefits and support for people in the developing world.

Other actions taken by Council in 2014 included:

Approval of the UCW proposal to have Beecroft kitchen named, "Bea's Kitchen," in memory of Bea Christie.

Approval of \$600 from the Speakman Fund to provide assistance to three RPUC youth to participate in the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC) reciprocal program. The youths joined 28 other Presbytery youths aged 12 to 17 to visit Haida Gwaii while 32 Aboriginal youths came to Ottawa.

Approval of hiring Debby Gerro, as recommended by the Ministry and Personnel Committee, for the Administrative Assistant position.

Hosting the Ottawa Presbytery Meeting and dinner at Rideau Park in April and again in November. Thanks to Marilyn Law for organizing the dinners and to Lisa Sadler, Unit 7 members, Council members and other volunteers for their help.

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday on April 13 with the theme "Behind the Scenes." Council on behalf of the congregation recognized Norine Wolfe, Mabel Bannerman, Jessie Weldon-Gibb, Marjorie Melick and Paul Faure. Thanks to Nancy McPherson for all of her efforts to organize such a special occasion.

Approval for RPUC to be home to its own Healing Pathways Ministry, a ministry of prayer and laying on of hands.

On behalf of Council, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our church staff for their dedication and all they do to make this congregation such a busy, caring, vibrant and spiritual place and to the Council members for their patience, offers of assistance, faithful service and hard work. I would also like to recognize those members who are leaving Council: Bob Rennie, Barbara Robinson, Gaveen Cadotte and Drew Presley for their participation and work on Council. We are truly fortunate to have such a committed group of people.

Thank you to the congregation for giving me the chance to serve for the past four years as Vice-Chair and as Chair of Council. I have learned a great deal. It has been a real pleasure to have the support and expertise of Wayne Bond, Lisa Sadler, Alyce Dunnewold, Brian Neal and the ministers during my four years on Council.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lynne Holton, Chair

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

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

Spirituality is a strong and vibrant thread that is woven through all that we do at Rideau Park. From Youth Bible Study to our outreach work, from choir practice to committee meetings, we are always seeking to be in communion with the Holy One and to help others to find that which will satisfy their souls and nourish their spirits.

In 2014 there were many events and activities that were particularly directed at deepening the spiritual life that we share.

- Elizabeth led a number of book studies. She also runs a monthly book discussion group on Sunday mornings.
- Through the year Sharon Sanderson offered 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.
- Our weekly lectionary study, held every Wednesday morning, is a small gathering but the time is rich. You are always welcome to join in.
- Through the summer we tried something new: Followers' Feast and Fellowship. In place of the summer evening chapel services we moved our Wednesday night gatherings to the Parlour where we shared a potluck supper which was followed by a time of discussion. The discussions were focused on a Bible passage and each week the passage was chosen by and the conversation was led by a different participant. The discussion was incredibly rich, the topics diverse and the food was always good.

Annually in the season of Lent we try to place a special emphasis on spiritual growth. Meetings are cancelled in order to make room for God. This year our theme was “Spirit Practice” and we explored some of the ways in which members of our congregation nourished their spirits.

In Lent a group gathers on Saturday morning to share food, fellowship and study; this year's book was *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer* by Richard Rohr. Rohr encourages us to see spirituality as a way of opening our eyes to the presence of the Holy in everything: “I think Christianity has created a great problem in the Western world by repeatedly presenting itself, not as a way of seeing all things, but as one competing ideology among many. Instead of leading us to see God in new and surprising places, it too often has led us to confine God inside our place.

- Fr. Richard Rohr”

On Wednesday evenings we were incredibly blessed to have members of our congregation share something of their own spiritual path:

- An eclectic experience of prayer: stillness and movement, silence and sound, art and meditation, drumming meditation... led by Nadine Dawson
- Christian Meditation and Centering Prayer. Prayer as silence; resting in the presence of God led by Sharon Sanderson

- Faith, spirit and wholeness; Reiki, Healing Touch, Yoga and Rosicrucian Meditation led by Brian Neal
- Spirit and movement: the 108 Taoist movements; Tai Chi movement and meditation led by Marlene Hutchison

We are grateful for our Lenten leaders and for their willingness to share their wisdom with us. It was all excellent.

One Wednesday night in Lent was set aside for a worship installation, Encarna, which helped people to explore spiritual practices. Encarna is set up for an evening in Advent too.

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. It is an opportunity to experience the sacred in your own way.

One participant described the Advent 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 have plans for some new initiatives in 2015. In particular we will be initiating a Healing Pathways ministry, a long standing UCC practice of healing prayer, new to Rideau Park United Church but already established in six Ottawa United Church congregations.

And we hope to build on Follower's Feast and Fellowship. There will be more food and conversation in our future!

We look forward to another year of growing in the spirit in 2015.

Blessings,  
Reverend Steve Clifton

The Communications team is a group of individuals (not a formal committee) who perform, support or facilitate a broad communication role in RPUC. Through the efforts and commitment of Communications Team members, a monthly e-mail continues to be sent out to the congregation informing of upcoming events or developments; Church Post published four times a year; RPUC brochures are kept up to date; the annual activity booklet is reviewed; content on programs, activities and events is provided for our website; and advertisements, and sometimes stories, about RPUC events placed in local/community newspapers. We have anecdotal evidence that our advertisements in local media helps to draw in visitors and participants in our activities, programs and events, e.g. increased attendance at Harmony Club.

Originally intended to take place in 2013, the evaluation of the RPUC website was postponed in order to allow the new Administrative Assistant, Debby Gerro, to become familiar with it. This year, discussions were held on whether the Communications Team should continue as a separate group as the initiatives developed by the Team to enhance communications within and outside of RPUC have been fully implemented and become part of the church's routine operations. Council approved a recommendation to merge the Communications Team with the Administrative Committee which will now take on additional roles related to communications. (This recommendation is one of a number related to RPUC's committee structure and terms of reference that will be brought forward to the congregation at the Annual General Meeting in February 2015.)

Many thanks to Wayne Bond, Barry Dewis, Elizabeth Bryce, Nancy McPherson, Marcia Gosse, Debi Brown and Debby Gerro for all of their work on communication activities. A big thank you also to Marjorie Melick and Paul Faure who continue to serve as special consultants on website matters, and to Lynda Becker who volunteered this year to assist with the same.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyce Dunnewold, Chair

Throughout 2014 Congregational Development continued its focus on extending an invitation to the individuals and families in our neighbourhood to join us at Rideau Park United Church.

The main approach we used to extend this invitation was half-page ads in Vistas, the local community newspaper. Research shows us that location is a significant influence in determining church attendance and Vistas offered a cost effective means to reach out to our most immediate neighbours. Ads were intended to catch the readers' attention and encourage them to find out more about us by attending a service (in person or online), or by checking out our web page. In recent months, space constraints in Vistas have necessitated the use of smaller ads and in the new year, it is likely that we will have to combine these recruitment-focused ads with our more informational communications ads.

In September, we again joined forces with Christian Development to hold an Open House/Welcome Back brunch which was well attended and offered visitors and veterans alike an opportunity to find out more about the many programs and services that Rideau Park has to offer.

Our thanks to Glenn Rivard for sifting through hundreds of photos and putting together "Rideau Park – The Slide Show". The slide show comes complete with background music and features many of the faces, activities and functions that take place at Rideau Park. The slide show can be used both internally and externally to paint a striking picture of what church life is all about.

Thanks also to Wayne Bond, Steve Clifton, Brian Hamilton, Mary Lynne Holton, Marilyn Law, Drew Presley and Lisa Sadler for their support and participation in congregational development.

Each and every one of us can contribute to congregational development by being welcoming/inclusive with visitors to the church and with those who we may not know very well. We can also extend a personal invitation to friends, neighbours and family to come with us to a service or take part in an event.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greig Scott, Chair



Rideau Park's Presbytery representatives are as follows: Elizabeth Bryce (Ministry in French (MIF) and chosen Ottawa Presbytery representative to the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council (GC 42), 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). During the year Maureen Stark replaced Chris Inrig on Presbytery. Chris Inrig joined Presbytery again in June and is the Secretary of the Education and Students Committee

Many issues were discussed and decisions taken during a very busy year for Ottawa Presbytery. Highlights from the ten meetings held in 2014 are listed below.

A new structure for the Executive of Ottawa Presbytery was approved and put into place for the beginning of the new pastoral year July 1, 2014.

Rev. Blair Paterson from the Rideau Hill Camp Board spoke of the ministry of the camp and particularly of its need for people to serve as chaplains during the camping season. Information about the camp and the video Blair shared are available on the camp's website at [rideauhillcamp.com](http://rideauhillcamp.com) Malcolm Collins, Chair of the Scrivens and Baillie Funds, shared how the funds support and help youth and young adults participate in activities, both through individual support and through support to programs. Additional information is available from the Presbytery office and on the website.

The March program meeting focused on the resources of Edge, a United Church Network for Ministry. Rev. Rob Dalglish, Executive Director of Edge, was the plenary speaker. The presentation is available from the presbytery office. Presbytery Chair, Tricia Elliott introduced thirty-one people who were named by their congregations in Ottawa Presbytery for their initiative in leadership roles.

The April meeting of Presbytery was hosted by Rideau Park. The majority of the agenda was given over to discussion of the General Council Comprehensive Review Working Group's discussion paper "Fishing on the other side". Presbytery met in four sessional groups to discuss the report. The overall opinion was that the ideas offered in this package should be developed further as a basis for recommendations to GC 42. Ottawa Presbytery nominated four people to be considered by the Montreal and Ottawa Conference as commissioners to GC 42. One of them was our Rev. Elizabeth Bryce who at Conference was elected a Commissioner for the 2015 meeting in Newfoundland.

Rev. Lillian Roberts led in worship at the October meeting as it was her last meeting with Ottawa Presbytery before moving to Manitou Conference in North Bay to assume the position of Conference Personnel Minister. Four speakers thanked Lillian for her many contributions to Ottawa Presbytery and presented her with gifts.

A search was undertaken for a short-term contract Presbytery Secretary to fill the vacancy of presbytery minister from November 1, 2014 until a presbytery minister is selected. Mr. Bruce Peterkin was chosen for this short-term position and he worked from November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31, 2014.

Rideau Park hosted Presbytery in November for the second time in 2014. At that meeting Rev. Hilary Merritt, Presbytery YAYA minister, spoke about the Haida Gwaii Exchange that took place this past spring and a number of the young people who took part in the exchange spoke about how much they enjoyed and learned from their experience.

The final meeting of 2014 was at Britannia United. It was a program meeting with six workshop choices dealing with spiritual practices. At this meeting Rev. David Sherwin was elected as the Provisional Presbytery Minister, beginning on January 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Robinson, Presbytery Representative



The year 2014 held for Session many conversations about change and action as the United Church of Canada experiences times of change. Several of the discussions held during the 4 meetings of Session were about leadership and action towards change based on contemporary issues.

Following the death of Nelson Mandela in December 2013 for example, the Elders of Session in January read many of Mandela's memorable quotes as inspiration for themselves in strengthening their own leadership. The evening followed with a reflection of "How the Spirit Moves Us" in review of the past five years and then ahead at how we as a congregation can move forward. A common theme of welcome emerged in Rideau Park's outreach, followed by discussion on how we could continue to build on the many successful activities we offer including an increase in communications and the use of technology.

In April, Session held discussion and gave its first impressions on the United Church paper "Fishing on the Other Side" which proposes a significant re-structure of the United Church to adapt to declining populations. This fall, Elders also reviewed and passed a motion to make minor changes to the Session Terms of Reference as part of the greater review by the Working Group of the Rideau Park Committees and Constitution.

After a difficult summer of international crises including Isis, Ebola and the Israel-Palestine war, the September meeting of Session focused discussions on how RPUC could present itself as a variety of communities to better connect with those struggling to find a community that would fulfill their own needs. Then in November, after the terrorist shooting in Ottawa, the Elders of Session were challenged to find more ways to reach out with acts of good will to counter the terrible tragedy in our own city.

Specific proposals to offer further outreach and new initiatives were made this fall including a Twinning Project with Trinity United Church in Kazabazua that is suffering a serious congregational decline and plans for the "Healing Pathway" presented by Rev. Steve Clifton and Brian Neal offering healing hands within the Christian tradition.

Despite its own decline of congregants, Rideau Park is a vibrant community of faith that needs to continue during these times of change with new initiatives, to avoid complacency and to adopt new ways of thinking with the guidance and love of God.

Thank you to the four Committees of Session for the amazing amount of good work they all do. Thank you to those who have taken on leadership roles: Shanti Inman, Clerk of Session; Frances Dawson, Chair of Social Action and Outreach and Nancy Begg-Durkee, Co-Chair of Music and Worship. Welcome to our new elders who have joined Session in 2014. Thanks also to Rev. Elizabeth Bryce and Rev. Steve Clifton for their guidance and leadership of us all. Respectfully submitted,

Christy Harris  
Chair of Session

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 seventh year that money from this fund has been eligible for disbursement. Half the donations to the fund in 2014 combined with investment earnings plus a carryover of \$2,745 make \$10,708. eligible for disbursement in 2015.

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 \$1,000 of the Britt Estate funds were made available for the Reserve Fund. The total investment in this fund now amounts to \$150,278. 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 \$10,000 was received and Council decided that 10% of this income from this estate will be added to the Reserve Fund.

Members of the Board: Gavin Currie (chair), Ed Boothe, Norm Edwards, Bob Elliott, Murray Ferguson, Bas Groeneweg, Daryl Lindberg, Les MacLauchlan, Jacqueline Newton, Susan Vaughan, Keith Harris and Rev. Elizabeth Bryce ex-officio.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith Harris

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

Chair	Gaveen Cadotte ( <i>returned from leave Feb. 2014</i> )	
Interim Chair	Rod Hagglund ( <i>Jan. 2014</i> )	
Secretary	John Durkee	
Treasurer	Bob Roden	
Administrative Technical Support	Don Ford	
Counting Teams	Andrew Jeffrey	
Property	Rod Hagglund	
Representative on Council	Bob Rennie	
Security	Robert Blake ( <i>past Member of Stewards</i> )	
Stewardship Liaison/Property	Brian Hamilton	
Renewal Fund		
UCW Representative	Mary Harris	
Members at Large	Tony Bernard	Bill Ott
	John Blackmore	Steve Shipley
	Mark Inman	
Staff Liaison	Debi Brown ( <i>ex officio</i> )	

**The Committee of Stewards:** In 2014, the Committee met monthly, except for February, July and August. At the Committee's meetings over the past year members engaged in discussions on ongoing financial status of the church, issues of fundraising, ongoing property maintenance including a request for proposals and new contract for snow removal, the Stewardship campaign, and property renewal projects.

In addition to ongoing business the Committee of Stewards also spent considerable time on strategic discussions to position the church towards long-term financial stability. In April, the Committee discussed the United Church of Canada's Comprehensive Review Report and "Fishing on the Other Side" to consider the potential implications and opportunities of the proposals and findings as they will form an important piece of a backdrop for a Long-Term Financial Plan.

In June, the Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference as part of Council's special project and updated it to reflect current practices and some minor evolutions in its role. Further, at the June meeting, the Committee discussed the need and framework for a Long-Term Financial Plan, akin to that of the Long-Term Property Renewal Plan. As part of this discussion the Committee undertook an environmental scan and discussed potential goals and strategies. This discussion underlined the importance for a Long-Term Financial Plan to be aligned to the broader longer-term vision and plan for Rideau Park. The Committee's discussions as well as similar discussions by other Rideau Park Committees were the catalyst behind Council's decision to hold a facilitated "visioning/goal-setting" discussion at the Fall Congregational Meeting.

With work underway by Council to articulate the long-term goals for Rideau Park, the Committee of Stewards is well-positioned to finalize a Long-Term Financial Plan for consideration by Council and the congregation in 2015.

### **Rideau Park Property Renewal Fund**

**A number of property renewal initiatives were completed in 2014:**

- Early in the spring the remaining three flat roofs we're reroofed;
- The exterior painting of the church was completed;
- By adapting the plumbing we eliminated the need for the electric hot water tank in the Custodian's room, significantly reducing our electricity consumption;
- The controls for the water heater element on our 1964 Hobart dishwasher were successfully replaced. This was much needed and it is now as good as or better than new;
- The sanctuary lighting relays in the electrical room were refurbished by building a rack, distributing and securing the wires, situating the relays and adding a stainless cover. They will be ever so much easier to change/troubleshoot in the future;
- Paul painted the furnace and electrical room walls and floors;
- Two new front lawn advertising signs were built as were smaller signs for parking that were also based on the new design. The tri-part sign for Bazaar was completely rebuilt;
- 950 LED low energy Christmas lights were hung on the front spruce tree without a hoist!

**Successful fundraising for the roof.** The response of the congregation to the fundraising letter for reroofing the flat roofs was positive and very encouraging. The Property Renewal Fund at the beginning of 2014 had a \$29,500 deficit from the 2013 initial reroofing of the first two of five flat roofs. The June fundraising letter raised \$31,375 and supplemented by an additional \$20,000 from the 2014 Property Renewal Fund budget we were able to pay down the initial deficit and completely pay for the reroofing of three roofs in the spring (approximately \$20,000). Together we have accomplished much. Thank you for being such a great and generous congregation.

**Rideau Park receives an accessibility grant.** In February we heard the good news officially from the Government of Canada HRSD Enabling Accessibility Fund that our Grant Application was successful. We have received \$48,118 to renovate and make accessible the downstairs washrooms. In an application to the Rideau Park Foundation \$16,000 was approved to provide the church's 25% commitment to this project. At the end of the year two washrooms have been finished and work on the remaining two is planned for February. Very few can say that the last time they renovated their washroom was more than half a century ago. It is envisaged that the new washrooms will last for another 65 years.

**Video webcasting at Rideau Park** - since the spring of 2013 the Sunday services at Rideau Park have been webcast over the internet. The Rideau Park Foundation grant of \$5,000 for video equipment helped to establish this capacity. Wherever there is an internet connection members, friends and others can watch our services weekly at 9:30 and 11:15 am. The URL for the webcasts is <http://rideaupark.canwebcast.net/live> The video quality is very good as is the quality of the sound, particularly for the spoken word. A video switch is now allowing us to seamlessly share video presentations during the services with viewers. For this year's Christmas Pageant there were 65 households/sites watching with approximately 90 to 100 viewers. In early 2015 Sunday services will be available for viewing on demand.

**Acknowledgments:** 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**, property repairs and technical assistance;  
**Hyacinthe Wade-Howard**, the Stewardship Campaign Chair, and all those who worked to make the Stewardship campaign such a success;  
**All the Duty Officers**, who are coordinated by **Robert Blake**;  
The many volunteers who assist Debi with the **weekly count**; and  
**The UCW**, which again contributed generously to M&S 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 and assists with setup and take down for so many church activities, making the physical facilities one of our greatest assets for our members and our local community. Debi Brown, our Administrator, who maintains the financial records and looks after the day to day financial transactions making our job as Stewards much easier. Debi also acts as staff liaison to Stewards, assists with counting and helps co-ordinate and supervise rental activities. Finally, I would like to thank Kay Saunders for her work as Administrative Assistant during her time at Rideau Park, and welcome Debby Gerro as the new Administrative Assistant, effective April 2014. Debby assists with preparation of notices and appeals, facilities rentals and other needs of Stewards, and is a valued member of the Rideau Park team.

Lastly, I would like to **thank all the members of the congregation** who have given joyously and generously of their time, talents and financial resources to support the life and work of Rideau Park and in so doing, living out Rideau Park's mission to "joyfully proclaim a loving God as revealed in Jesus Christ."

Respectfully submitted,  
Gaveen Cadotte, 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 MEMBERSHIP** 71

**Life Memberships\*** 40

**Circle Group** 7

\*New Life Memberships: Nancy McPherson and Lisa Sadler

**In Memoriam:** Dolores Gilmore, Mildred Lemoine, Win MacLauchlan, Muriel McMichael, Anne Longstreet, France Phidd, Dorothy Stratton.

#### 2014 EXECUTIVE:

Honorary Presidents

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald  
and Keva McKennirey

Past President

Bev Lee

President

Barbara Robinson

Vice President

Heather Ingrams

Recording Secretary

Judy Paré

Assistant Recording Secretary

Jessie Weldon Gibb

Corresponding Secretary

Mary Harris and Grace Shaver

Treasurer

Marcia Gosse\*\*

Archives, Literature, Communication

Vacant

Bazaar Convenor

Carolyn Scollick

Community, Friendship, Visiting

Karin Ott

Finance

Lisa Sadler

Mission

Mabel Bannerman

Flowers

Marcia Gosse

Membership

Marg Sturley

Nominations

Lynda Coombe

Quilting

Ruth Ebertz

Social Functions

Vacant

Supply and Welfare

Lynda Coombe

Steward Representative

Mary Harris and Lisa Sadler

Council of Women Representative

Joyce Ireland\*\*

Presbyterial Representative

Ruth Stockley

\*\*Non members of UCW

#### Unit leaders:

Unit 1 Vacant

Unit 7 Sandra Weedmark and Janet Dundas

Unit 2 Mabel Bannerman

Unit 10 Jessie Weldon Gibb

Unit 3 Heather Ingrams

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 5, attended the planning meeting for the World Day of Prayer and participated in the service held in March at the Salvation Army Citadel, presented two Life Membership at the June pot-luck, introduced a proposal to name the Beecroft kitchen in memory of Bea Christie and helped organize the dedication on June 15, attended Council meetings and reported on the UCW work.

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

**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.

**Convener Reports:**

**Archives/Literature/Communication:** No report

**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. Job descriptions were created for all positions. Carolyn Scollick is pleased to convene the 2015 bazaar which will be on November 7, 2015.

**Community/Friendship:** This committee offers friendship in the name of the church. It involves recording the Baptisms and Transfers of Membership that occur at Rideau Park. Additionally, parents of babies who have been baptized are greeted, welcomed, and given a copy of "Our Baby's Being Baptized" as well as a pamphlet about the UCW. During 2014 there were 18 Baptisms, 4 new members through Transfer of Membership.

**Finance:** The UCW supports a total of 30 charities and community services. 40% of year end funds go to Mission and Service and 60% goes to Rideau Park Ministries and Programs Fund. There were no major purchases. Several small items were purchased for the kitchen as well as some new cups. Many thanks to our Treasurer, Marcia Gosse, who most efficiently looks after our finances.

**Mission:** Rideau Park UCW has always been a strong supporter of The Mission and Service Fund. Quarterly donations are made in March, June and September and a final donation at year end. The amount, at that time, will be determined according to the balance of funds to be distributed. It should also be noted that other year end donations and some made during the year also qualify as "Mission" i.e. Camps, Women's Shelters, Benevolent Fund, Christmas Cheer, Food Bank.

**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 for Archives and Literature remains vacant.

**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:** Items knitted this year include 45 pairs of mitts, 14 toques, 1 helmet, 2 scarves and 10 head bands. These items were delivered to Better Beginnings Better Futures and to the Banff Centre. Eye glasses were taken to Venzia Opticians where they are picked up and used in third world countries. Campbell Soup labels are taken to Adrienne Clarkson School. They are counted and when they reach a certain number, the school is given money by Campbell for computers. The used stamps go to the Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. They are sorted, trimmed, and put into categories by a group of volunteer ladies. They are then sold to a stamp collector as a fund raiser. Tabs from soft drinks are picked up by Barry Dewis and taken to Clifford



Bowey Community Centre where they are directed into a program that purchases wheelchairs.

**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:** Mary Harris & 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 1** – The ladies get together for a social time when possible.

**Unit 2** - Hosts the Valentine Coffee Party and Bake Table. Holds the spring Book Sale, manages the Deli table for the Bazaar which entails six 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, 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. Unsold clothes, in good condition, left from the sales are given to the Salvation Army or to "Dress for Success". They also held a Fashion Show.

**Unit 7** - Prepares baskets for the Bazaar and has a Spring Bake Sale. They helped with the Fashion Show and catered for the Curling Banquet.

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

**Circle Group** – Holds a monthly book study.

**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.

**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 staff, Ian, Debi, Debby, Paul and Lorraine Sorg, for their support and for helping 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 2015 financial objectives were identified from the 2014 Budget established at last year's Annual Congregational Meeting as well as discussions at Stewards and Council.

The 2015 Stewardship Campaign Chair was Hyacinthe Wade-Howard. We are very appreciative of her willingness to accept this important leadership role. With her encouragement and well delivered message the congregational response has been generous and supportive.

The stewardship campaign theme "**Joyful Generosity**" was found in Scripture -

***"You will be enriched in every way so that you may be generous  
on every occasion which is producing through us thanksgiving to God"***

2 Corinthians 9:11.

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. Each year we respond to God's generous Spirit and many blessings with our sustaining financial support.

In Hyacinthe's congregational letter she asked us to:

*"Reflect for a moment on what our communal church life has meant to you, your family and friends .... seeking and finding spiritual guidance, receiving support through sickness and sorrow, experiencing friendship, laughter and a sense of community as you respond to challenges within the walls of this place. Our church offers meaningful worship, beautiful music for all ages, Christian training for the young and not so young, various groups working with their minds, hands and hearts for useful and creative endeavours.*

With this reflection and thoughtful consideration the congregation was asked to support our church with "**Joyful Generosity**". The request to strengthen and sustain this wonderful place was well received by the congregation. We are grateful for Hyacinthe's commitment to ensuring this year's campaign success.

The administration of the campaign again drew on Debi Brown's expertise on the campaign data requirements and the tracking of its progress; Marilyn Law, Doreen Hamilton, Hyacinthe and friends for making up the stewardship packages; the wonderful cake servers; and Barbara Jeffrey for recording the new pledges in the system.

**Stewardship Analysis:** For 2015 we received 284 pledges from 538 households for a total of \$549,447 which is .5 % more than last year. Of these, 229 (81%) honour their pledges through preauthorized remittances (PAR) via their banking institutions. We receive \$458,829 (84%) of our pledged contributions by PAR. Each week when the collection plates are passed they are weighed down with \$8,800 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 \$219,839; Mission and Service \$72,614; Property Renewal Fund \$30,018 and Area of greatest need \$227,256.

The distribution of 2015 stewardship pledges indicates that:

- 8% or 22 pledges provide 31% of the dollars pledged.
- 34% or 73 pledges provide 70% of the dollars pledged
- 66% or 189 pledges provide 30% of the dollars pledged

In 2014 pledging to the “Area of Greatest Need” augmented the Ministries and Programs Fund which was identified in need of priority funding. There were no allocations at year end by the Committee of Stewards to Mission and Service and the Property Renewal Fund. It was not necessary to access the Trustees’ Reserve Fund capital in 2014. The Ministries and Programs deficit of \$2,943 or .5% of revenues was covered by prior years’ fund equity.

By supporting our spiritual growth Rideau Park enriches our community. Our generous support and participation as members of the Rideau Park 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. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Hamilton, Chair

The members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee are Bas Groeneweg, Jim Holton, Michael Presley, Marjorie Melick, Hyacinthe Wade-Howard and Judy Paré. It is a pleasure working with them. Again the Ministry and Personnel Committee had a busy year.

We began the year with the announcement of the resignation of our Administrative Assistant, Kay Saunders effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. A search committee was formed, the job description was reviewed and up-dated and an appropriate advertisement was placed in our bulletin as well as on the Presbytery website. Several applications were received and after all the interviews the committee decided that Debby Gerro was the best candidate. I think everyone would agree with their decision. Debby started work on April 14<sup>th</sup> while Kay was still here. This start date gave Debby time to work with Kay to learn all that is done around here. She has fit in wonderfully and we look forward to a long-term relationship with her.

In June Georgina advised us that she would be taking several months medical leave. Georgina has appreciated all of the support she has received from the congregation while she has been away. She is looking forward to her return.

In the meantime, Rev. Ted Colwell agreed to 15 hours a week to continue the pastoral care work. He started on September 1<sup>st</sup> and agreed to continue the work until Georgina was able to come back. He has worked with the pastoral care committee, prepared for weekly services at the various retirement homes, helped plan the remembrance service on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and undertaken some funeral services. We are most grateful for all the work that he has done while Georgina has been away and sincerely thank him for taking on this task.

Rev. Steve Clifton was elected to the Executive of Presbytery in June and is busy with all the work that is involved. Rev. Elizabeth Bryce was selected by Presbytery and confirmed at Conference as a Commissioner to the upcoming General Council in August which will take place in Newfoundland. This is a very important meeting as it could very well result in a new governance model for the United Church. We look forward to hearing her report when the meeting is concluded.

The General Council has revamped the way ministers are paid. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, ministers will no longer get a salary and housing allowance but a salary and a cost of living allowance. General Council has worked out the cost of living for each city and town in the country and from that the minimum salary and cost of living allowance that a congregation is required to pay their minister. The cost of living allowance will be reviewed periodically by General Council.

As well, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 all staff will be entitled to Restorative Care for short term care and long term disability. Ministers have been eligible for short term, with salary continuance, and long term disability and the restorative care plan for some time. Lay staff had access to short term after a two week waiting period, where salary continuance was the pastoral charge decision, and long term disability. Now all staff will have the same benefits.

Rideau Park is a blessed congregation. We have a wonderful staff who willingly go the extra mile to ensure that this place works in a compassionate and faithful way, always mindful of the needs not only of our congregation but also the needs of the many members of the community who are here on a regular basis. You can always feel God's spirit at work in this place.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Law, Chair

The purpose of the Administrative Committee is to develop policy and provide support for efficient administrative systems at Rideau Park.

This year we welcomed Debby Gerro to our staff as the Administrative Assistant. Working together with Debi Brown, our Administrator, they are the heart of our administrative team that provides the day to day office and financial support for the work and programs of Rideau Park throughout the year.

The roles of the Administrative Assistant and Administrator have evolved into new areas over the past two years to include helping with the maintenance of the Rideau Park website, preparing the initial weekly PowerPoint slides projected during the Sunday worship services, managing the increased rental of the building to outside organizations and individuals, leading the weekly counting of the offering and providing administrative support for the annual Christmas Cheer program.

Some of these changes have been implemented with the support of the Communications Team, especially Marjorie Melick who has acted as trainer, technical advisor and overseer of the website.

Rideau Park office technology would not run as smoothly as it does without the extensive technical knowledge, dedication and commitment of Don Ford. He oversees the implementation and maintenance of new, and not so new computers, software Wi-Fi equipment and the audio webcasting system, not to mention being the "go to person" when the systems act up from time to time.

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

The Nominating Committee consulted both the ministerial staff and the Council Chair concerning the church's needs for 2015. As of November 26, 2014, the Committee has been able to fill all the vacant positions for which they are responsible.

### **Summary of Nominations**

Vacancies on Council for 2015 included Vice Chair of Council, one representative from Stewards, one Session representative as well as one Member at Large.

Other vacant positions for 2015 were Treasurer, Chair of Trustees, Chair of the newly combined Committee of Administration and Communications, Chair of Stewards, Chair of Congregational Development, Chair of Nominations and Chair of Christian Development. The Chair of Pastoral Care was also replaced based on a request from the incumbent.

This year, nineteen Elders were due to finish serving their terms as members of Session. Fourteen agreed to extend their terms and three new people have agreed to serve as Elders. Their names can be found in the attached table under the title Members of Session. Five members have decided not to renew their terms. Session currently has 45 members covering 43 districts. Many Rideau Parkers continue to embrace new technologies and have chosen to be contacted via email for informational purposes. This has resulted in smaller district lists in many cases.

Eight members of the Committee of Stewards finished their terms in 2015; four have agreed to extend their term, one Steward submitted his resignation prior to the end of his term. The attached table includes the Members of the Committee of Stewards.

**Recommendations:** As indicated in the attached table, the congregation's approval is requested for:

1. the appointments to Council;
2. the extension of terms of office for Elders and Stewards;
3. the slate of new Elders and Stewards; and
4. the appointment of new chairs of committees as well as an extension of terms for some chairs of committees.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who are finishing their terms this year for their tireless dedication and service to the church. The committee would also like to sincerely thank all those who have agreed to contribute their time and talents to the life and work of Rideau Park United Church.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the Nominating Sub-committee: Mabel Bannerman, Wayne Bond, Mary Lynne Holton, Alyce Dunnewold, Marilyn Law, Drew Presley, Jessie Weldon-Gibb, and Ministers, Steve Clifton and Elizabeth Bryce for their support and dedication to achieving our objectives.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Paré, Chair

The following pages list the appointments (both proposed 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 proposed revisions by the Constitution Working Group, which are recommended by Council and Session for congregational approval at the Annual General Meeting in February 2015.

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 and Church Administrator are ex-officio, non voting members.

COUNCIL CHAIR	Alyce Dunnewold*	(2017)
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR	Michael Presley*	(2017)
COUNCIL SECRETARY	Brian Neal	(2017)
CHAIR OF SESSION	Christy Harris	(2017)
SESSION REPRESENTATIVES	Judy Paré	(2016)
	Maureen Stark**	(2018)
CHAIR OF STEWARDS	John Scollick*	(2018)
STEWARD REPRESENTATIVES	Bob Roden**	(2016)
	Steve Shipley *	(2018)
CHAIR OF STEWARDSHIP	Brian Hamilton	(2017)
CHAIR OF MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	Marilyn Law	(2016)
OTTAWA PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE	Doug Robinson	(2016)
CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Gavin Currie**	(2016)
PRESIDENT OF UNITED CHURCH WOMEN	Heather Ingrams*	(2017)
CHAIR OF ADMINISTRATIVE and COMMUNICATIONS	Nancy McPherson*	(2016)
CHAIR OF NOMINATIONS	Wayne Bond*	(2018)
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Cathy Hollands*	(2018)
	Adam Kurz	(2016)

**Members retiring:** Mary Lynne Holton (Chair), Gaveen Cadotte (Chair of Stewards), Drew Presley (Member at Large), Barbara Robinson (UCW Representative), Bob Rennie (Stewards Representative on Council).

### STANDING COMMITTEES

CHAIR OF SESSION	Christy Harris	(2017)
CLERK OF SESSION	Shanti Inman	(2017)
ELDERS	<i>See Members of Session section</i>	

CHAIR OF STEWARDS	John Scollick*	(2018)
TREASURER	Bob Roden**	(2016)
STEWARDS	<i>See Members of Stewards section</i>	

### CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	Marilyn Law	(2016)
ADMINISTRATIVE and COMMUNICATIONS	Nancy McPherson*	(2016)
CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Drew Presley*	(2018)
STEWARDSHIP	Brian Hamilton	(2017)

**NOMINATIONS****SOCIAL ACTION AND OUTREACH****WORSHIP AND MUSIC****PASTORAL CARE****CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT**

Chairs retiring: Greig Scott (Congregational Development), Christel Kurz (Pastoral Care), Judy Paré (Nominations), Alyce Dunnewold (Communications).

**TRUSTEES****CHAIR**

Gavin Currie\*\* (2016)

**SECRETARY**

Norm Edwards

**MEMBERS**

Ed Boothe

Murray Ferguson

Daryl Lindberg

Susan Vaughan

Bob Elliott

Bas Groeneweg

Les MacLauchlan

Sheila Faure\*

Keith Harris

Jacqueline Newton

**PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES**

Brian Irvine

Doug Robinson

Don Melick

Maureen Stark

**MEMBERS OF STEWARDS**

John Durkee (2017)

Rod Hagglund (2017)

Karen Humphries\* (2018)

Andrew Jeffrey\*\* (2018)

Bill Ott (2017)

Lisa Sadler\* (2017)

Steve Shipley\*\* (2018)

Donald Ford\*\* (2017)

Brian Hamilton (2017)

Mark Inman \*\* (2018)

Peter Osuder\* (2018)

Bob Roden\*\* (2016)

John Scollick\* (2018)

Stewards retiring Tony Bernard, John Blackmore, Gaveen Cadotte, Mary Harris, Bob Rennie

**MEMBERS OF SESSION**

Elizabeth Acquaah (2016)

Malcolm Bayne\*\* (2016)

Graeme Beattie (2016)

Lynda Becker (2016)

Nancy Begg-Durkee\*\* (2017)

Myrna Belo (2016)

Wayne Bond (2017)

Janet Buske-Wichser\*\* (2017)

Gavin Currie (2017)

Helen Cutts (2017)

Dieudonné Detchou\*\* (2016)

Janet Dundas\*\* (2018)

Alyce Dunnewold\* (2017)

Bas Groeneweg (2017)

Doreen Hamilton\*\* (2016)

Janette Hamilton-Silcoff (2017)

Don Harper (2017)

Lois Harper (2016)

Christy Harris (2017)

Diane Harrold\* (2018)

Karen Humphries (2016)

Marlene Hutchison (2017)

Heather Ingrams\*\* (2016)

Shanti Inman (2017)

Karen Lamb (2016)

Marilyn Law\*\* (2018)

Ron Little (2016)

Nancy McPherson (2016)

Don Melick (2017)

Bob Nelson\* (2018)

Jacqueline Newton (2017)

Judy Paré\*\* (2018)

Drew Presley (2017)

Doug Robertson (2017)

Elaine Robertson (2017)

Barbara Robinson\*\* (2018)

Doug Robinson (2016)

Gary Seymour\*\* (2018)

Steve Shipley (2017)

Maureen Stark (2017)

Margaret Stinnett (2017)

Hyacinthe Wade-Howard\*\* (2018)

Sandra Weedmark\*\* (2018)

Jessie Weldon-Gibb\*\* (2018)

Kate Whitridge (2016)

Elders retiring Jim Holton, Mary Lynne Holton, Joyce Ireland, Anne MacMillan, Bill Totten.



The case of the Christmas Conundrum – the talent of our Christmas Pageant team from the Awesome Andrea to the littlest lamb, the strongest stage hand, the make-up and costume gurus and the parents — wasn't that pageant awesome! They are a real inspiration.

Rideau Park hosted many wonderful worship events over the course of 2014. In January we celebrated Martin Luther King Sunday, February saw the return of over 100 youth for the annual Worshiplude experience. In May we hosted, billeted and provided numerous meals for 50 plus boys, young men and their leaders from the Cambridge Kiwanis Boys Choir. Their Saturday night concert and their contribution to the Sunday morning service were enjoyed by all. Unisong returned to Rideau Park in June with choirs from across Canada participating. Then there were the spring and fall/Christmas bell concerts, youth talent nights and of course the Chancel Choir Christmas Concert.

Midweek services including Encarna were offered during Lent and Advent. The summer midweek services took the form of a *feast and followers* experience and were very popular. A potluck supper was followed by a short informal worship experience led by someone in the group. It was much like being in a university tutorial class where everyone could contribute and learn. Thank you to all who led these inspiring events.

Luncheons were offered after the 11:15 service several times during the year. The meal and the fellowship are much appreciated by those who attend the second service.

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. To Marcia Gosse, “thank you” for your wonderful dedication in leading the handbell choirs, providing first class concerts, and sharing your bell music ministry at Rideau Park and the broader community.

Our Music Director, Ian Bevell provides memorable music at Rideau Park, including the occasional Happy Birthday; thank you Ian for your energy and enthusiasm. Ian is the force behind the Talent Shows which are gaining popularity with the under 18 youth. Ian is also the energetic leader of the 22 member Joyful Noise Choir who often sing during the service.

Thank you to our Chancel Choir; who under Ian's leadership continues to grow and provides wonderful leadership in music during our worship time. Our appreciation to the Section leads, many of whom are students, for providing music leadership at various times in 2014: Soprano, Mabel Wonnacott; Tenor, Jad Hammoud; Bass, Gabriel Sanchez Ortega all who have gone on to further studies in music. Alto, Julia Brown continues with us and was joined this fall by Soprano, Caitlin Tabbenor; Tenor: Iain MacPherson and Bass: Ryan Hoffman.

To the leadership of the Cherubs, Kinderpraise and Seraphs: Heather Ingrams, Becky Kurz, and Nadine Dawson respectively and to the many volunteers who make our children's choirs so very popular, we say thank you. Three choirs with 20 children; no one can grow choirs like you.

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 gratitude to Rev. Steve and Rev. Elizabeth for their leadership and guidance to the Committee during the year.



The Committee met in January, February, April, June, September and November. At a special meeting in October we tried to “Think Big” as to what worship **might be** at Rideau Park.

To kick start the discussion we asked the group to consider the following.

- What is a favourite moment from your time in worship in RPUC?
- Reflect on a time when you have connected to God/the Holy/Something Bigger... in worship? Felt joy, sorrow, connection....?
- If you were to share with someone, who does not worship with us, what you most value about your worship life at Rideau Park United Church, what would it be?
- What has changed in our worship life in your time at RPUC that you value as a positive change?

We would ask you to also to think about these things in the year going forward. How can the worship experience we **have** become the worship experience that **might be**? How do we share what we **have** and what we **might be**? Please share your thoughts with us. The Committee will be considering these questions during the next year. We will keep you posted and you may notice changes.

The Worship and Music Committee is: Kate Whitridge and Nancy Begg-Durkee, Co-chairs; Ann Ketcheson Secretary; Bas Groeneweg, Doreen Hamilton, Karen Lamb, Marilyn Law, Jacqueline Newton, Steve Shipley and Maureen Stark.

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

In 2014, there were two ringing choirs for young people at Rideau Park United Church. Note-Able Sound Chimes ensemble, for ringers in grades 2-6, 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 7-12, 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 Pat Whitridge.

Grace Notes once again had the special opportunity in February 2014 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 two pieces at the Saturday evening Worshiplude service at Dominion Chalmers Church.

In the Spring of 2014, both Note-Able Sound and Grace Notes shared their music in worship at Rideau Park on several occasions as part of Sunday worship. Both groups also had the opportunity to participate in the annual Bells in Spring concert. Grace Notes shared a special piece called "Abominations on Row, Row, Row Your Boat" which featured the favourite melody as if written by favourite composers. The Chimers shared a medley of movie music including Harry Potter, Annie and the main theme from the new movie "Frozen". At the end of the season, we held wildly popular movie parties for the ringers and families that featured a viewing of the film "Frozen".

In the fall of 2014, both groups once again enjoyed a large enrolment and continued under the direction of Andrea Laliberté. Assisting Andrea were Kaitlin Jourdeuil and Merina Shulist; many members of Grace Notes continue 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.

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](mailto:marcandrea@rogers.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Laliberté

It has been a busy year for of the Rideau Park Handbell adult groups.

A Touch of Brass is one of three adult handbell groups with 11 dedicated members and several volunteer substitutes, all of whom play for the glory of God at Rideau Park United on a monthly basis as well as sharing their talents at the United Nations 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Interfaith Harmony at Rideau Park, Rehabilitation Centre, UCW Candlelight Service, Parkway Pentecostal with the Greely Players, Rideau Park Choir Concert, etc.

La Bell Ensemble is the second adult handbell group with 11 dedicated members who love to take the bells and share their talents at United Nations 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Interfaith Harmony at Rideau Park, Embassy West Senior Living, Parkdale United Church, Montreal/Ottawa Presbytery, Trinity-Kanata Presbyterian Church, Portobello Manor, Ottawa Mennonite Church, Parkway Pentecostal with the Greely Players, St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church in the community.

Ringin' Praise is the third adult handbell group with 12 wonderful members with a desire to learn. They are an enthusiastic group who enjoy learning the various bell techniques and sharing their talents with the joint bell concerts.

All of the groups were active participants in the "Bells In Spring" Concert – a massed concert which incorporated 3 other handbell choirs from neighbouring churches in the community. Rideau Park's share of the freewill offering (\$1,100) from the *Bells In Spring* Bell Concert was donated to the Organ Fund for new pipes.

This year we started the Christmas season with our annual "Ringin' In Christmas" Bell Concert in December for Rideau Park Bell choirs. A blessing of the season, this concert meant that \$905 was donated to the Heron Road Emergency Food Centre, and approximately \$905 was donated to Rideau Park's Christmas Cheer program.

This year, a Summer Bells group was formed to play at Rideau Park for one of the summer services. It was comprised of ringers, new and old, who didn't want to let the heat of the summer interfere with playing bells.

The duet presented several selections at Poplar Bluff, a women's Christmas Party and Maplewood Retirement Home.

Thank you to all the dedicated ringers – new and long-standing ringers alike! They are a fantastic group of people who love bells and music, and the joy that it brings to the community.

If you are interested in learning or joining any of these talented groups and becoming a handbell ringer or chimes ringer, please call Marcia Gosse at 613-731-2281.

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. Membership: Elizabeth Acquaaah, Rev. Steve Clifton, Bas Groeneweg, Anne Marie Tessier, Dieudonné Detchou, Andrea Laliberté, Gary Seymour, Tara Lynne Lockhart, Amy Neal, Dev Balkissoon. The following is a list of ongoing programs and annual events that the committee oversees:

**Programs**

Sunday School  
Sunday Evening Bible Study  
Adult Bible Study Groups  
Lenten Book Study  
Adult Retreats  
Confirmation Classes  
Vacation Bible School  
Hear Say Supper Group  
Scouting  
Shoe Boxes for Harmony House Campaign  
Sunday School Children's Cards for Charity

**Events**

Congregational Picnic/Welcome Back Brunch  
Carol Gardner Awards  
Carleton University Pause Table  
Advent Happening  
Pageant Reception

The CD Committee is responsible for a number of programs and events. Fortunately, we have dedicated volunteers who make it easy to accomplish the wide range of activities. We also have our staff person, Rev. Steve Clifton, who ensures that we have resources to accomplish our activities.

With the help of the volunteers, we continue to provide a vibrant Sunday school program. We were privileged to have dedicated teachers and students ranging from age 3 to 13, who participated in Sunday School. Rideau Park is blessed to have many talented people contribute to our Sunday school program which continues to be an attractive feature of our church. We welcomed Katherine Clifton and Emma Presley as the new Sunday school teachers for Grade 7, 8, 9 students. We also have 3 young Rideau Parkers - Ruth Bryce, Ashley Detchou and Zoe Sherwin - who staff the Toddler Room while parents attend morning services.

Eleven candidates were confirmed on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to thank Paul Sorg who ensured that Sunday school rooms were ready on Sunday mornings and also took care of all the changes that we requested.

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) offered a full day program that was led by the youth of Ottawa Presbytery and supported by youth volunteers from Rideau Park. This year, there were 14 counsellors and Leaders in Training (LITs) and 6 Rideau Park volunteers. The full day camp continues to appeal to working families. About 35 children attended VBS this year. The program continues to be successful as it meets the needs of attendees.

In February, CD Committee hosted 85 young people and leaders from the London Conference that attended Worshiplude in Ottawa. CD provided breakfast for our guests on the Saturday and Sunday mornings during Worshiplude. Ruth Bryce attended Rendezvous 2014 in Winnipeg in September.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Scouts Group is very active and comprises 86 youths and 31 adult leaders.

The CD Committee sponsored three successful Foundation funding applications, including requests for the Rideau Park Library Renewal Project, contributions to enable 3 young Rideau Parkers (Kevin

Nesdoly, Sophie Blackmore and Zoe Sherwin) to travel to Haidi Gwaii to participate in the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC) program; and Ben Presley to travel to Kenya to participate in Operation Groundswell. In addition, Sierra Darby was assisted to raise funds through a spaghetti supper to allow her to participate in a *Me to We* trip to Kenya at March break.

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

We are grateful to *Event Shepherds* who helped to make our Advent programs possible: Tara Lynne Lockhart and Ann Marie Tessier for Advent Happening; Mark Shulist and Gretchen Conrad for the Harmony House and Banff Avenue Community House Shoebox program; and Andrea Laliberté for directing the Christmas Pageant and Line Detchou for organizing cake after the event.

We would like to thank Anne Marie Tessier, who was also *Event Shepherd* for the Welcome Back Brunch. The brunch was organized in collaboration with the Congregational Development team that hosted an Open House. We would also like to thank Ann Ketcheson, Frances Dawson and Flora Patterson for their diligence on the Library Renewal Project.

We would like to highlight the sustained contributions of Janine Ewing Dolbec who was in her ninth and last year of running the Children's Cards for Charity Project. The proceeds of this year's project, an amount of \$615, were presented to Major General Lewis Mackenzie on March 30<sup>th</sup> to support Icross' post-typhoon Haiyan relief efforts in the Philippines.

Through the Carol Gardner Awards, we honour outstanding contributions to our Sunday School. The 2014 recipient was Andrea Laliberté, who was recognized for her exemplary service to Sunday School and the music program at Rideau Park.

Sunday school teachers can download their Sunday school curricula and lessons while in class. This helps to reduce the cost of purchasing hard copies of the Sunday school curricula.

The CD Committee comprises dedicated members who generously give of their time and talents. I would like to thank all the Committee members for their hard work this past year, and I would like more of you to join us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Acquaah, Chair

In May of this year a group from Rideau Park, along with some friends from other places, travelled to the Holy Land, to Israel and Jordan. It was an amazing experience.

Our trip took us to the places of the Biblical narrative. We went to Jaffa from which Jonah set sail. We visited Mt.Carmel, the refuge of Elijah. We stood on the peak of Mt Nebo, from which Moses looked into the Promised Land. We spent a night in Jericho and stood under the sycamore tree that Zacchaeus climbed. We journeyed to Galilee and swam in, sailed upon and stood beside the Sea of Galilee. We saw the views from the Mount of Transfiguration, ate shawarma in a town that traced its roots to the Biblical Deborah, journeyed to Bethlehem, and saw the holy sites of the Old City in Jerusalem. We visited the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth and went to nearby Sippchoris, a town Jesus may well have helped to build. We splashed in the waters of the Jordan in the place where Christ was baptised. We saw the modern cities of Amman, Tel Aviv, Netanya, Haifa and Jerusalem. We wandered through the ancient cities of Jaresh, and Petra, a city carved out of stone. We floated effortlessly in the Dead Sea, drove through the vast deserts of Jordan, rode camels and climbed ancient Crusader ruins.

And we met amazing people. Our guide Nabil, a Palestinian Christian from Bethlehem, showed us Israel and the West Bank. Our Jordanian guide, Zaid, showed us his country and shared his incredible knowledge with us. The people of the Holy Land made a real impression on us as we were privileged to get a glimpse of daily life: Israeli students on a class trip gathered for a photo by the Western Wall; a Bedouin man in traditional garb taking his child to a Christian school in Madaba Jordan; twin girls in matching hijabs navigating their way to school through the streets of Amman, hand in hand; produce vendors selling watermelon and grape leaves in the streets of Nazareth; reckless boys playing soccer in the busy roads of Jerusalem.

There were the people of Jordan, a generous people, warm and hospitable, taking in millions of refugees from neighboring countries: Palestinians, Iraqis and now Syrians escaping Syria's civil war.

There were the good people of Israel: members of the Arab Orthodox community in Jerusalem who showed us a reclamation project that they were proud of; a young Canadian from Toronto, a recent Jewish immigrant to Israel who saw our Canadian flags and wanted to connect to people from his former home; Orthodox Jewish men almost running through the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem trying to get to where they needed to go before the sunset on the Sabbath...

There were those who live in the West Bank in Palestinian communities like Jericho and Bethlehem. In some West Bank communities there is a significant Palestinian Christian population. We visited the Holy Sites that they have stewarded for centuries.

Our trip to the Holy Land was incredible, edifying and inspiring. We are grateful for the opportunity to experience it all.

Rev. Steve Clifton and  
Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald

This year our Youth and Young Adults brought the world to us.

In the spring we had four young people participate in a SEVEC (the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada) experience, spending a week in Haida Gwaii exploring the culture and landscape of the Haida Nation, then hosting Haida Gwaii youth, accompanying them as they explored the capital city that we call home. Ruth Bryce, Kevin Nesdoly, Sophie Blackmore and Zoe Sherwin participated in the exchange with other young people from Ottawa Presbytery and enthusiastically shared something of their experience on a Sunday morning in May.

Also in May, a couple of our young people participated in a *Me to We* trip to Kenya. Sierra Darby organized a fundraising spaghetti supper for her group from Canterbury High School. David Taylor Claxton shared the experience of being in Kenya with the Canterbury group at RPUC on a Sunday morning. It was a very inspirational presentation.

In November, Ben Presley shared his summer experience in West Africa on YAYA Sunday. Ben was in Kenya with Operation Groundswell. It was a pleasure to have Ben share his experience with us.

Closer to home, our ministry with youth and young adults took many forms.

Youth Bible Study continued to meet on Sunday evenings through the year.

In 2014 we had a great confirmation group. In June we celebrated as Connor Adsett, Ruth Bryce, Ashley Detchou, Laura Hill, Michelle Hill, Alanna McLelland, Julien Quesnel, Zoe Sherwin and Claire Smith joined the congregation through a profession of faith. Thank you to Alyce Dunnewold for co-leading the confirmation program this year. We anticipate another class forming in the fall of 2015.

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. We combined with Riverside UC and Church of Resurrection Anglican to serve 1,000 students at exams in December this year. The generosity of those who give food or time is really appreciated by the students. 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.

It is worth mentioning that the Ecumenical Chaplaincy is in a time of transition at Carleton. There are plans to transition to an Interfaith Chaplaincy which may be up and running in fall of 2015.

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.

- Young Adults are invited to gather on the last Sunday evening of each month for a meal at an event called the **Open Table** ([www.theopentable.ca](http://www.theopentable.ca)) at All Saints church in Sandy Hill; this is a joint Anglican/ Lutheran/ Presbyterian/ United Church venture. In the fall the program changed locations and now meets at St. Alban's Anglican in Sandy Hill.
- Twice each year, youth are invited to gather for **the Point**, a worship event for teenagers in the Ottawa Presbytery. The fall event was at Kitchissippi UC. More than 600 young people attended the service in winter this year. Our youth bell group, Grace Notes, played at the service as well. You don't have to be young to attend the Point; why not come out to the Worshiplude service in 2015? It will be at Dominion Chalmers United on the evening of January 31<sup>st</sup>. It's an amazing experience to be in a congregation with 600 youth and young adults.

- The February Point is huge because it is part of **Worshiplude**; youth from all over Quebec and Ontario 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 at the end of January 2015.
- 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.

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,  
Rev. Steve Clifton

**Scouts Canada** provides co-ed programs for Sponsors to offer in their outreach to youth. Rideau Park United Church is the sponsor for the 28<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Scouting Group under the auspices of the Christian Development Committee. We have had another successful year.

In the fall session we had 128 registrants, down from 136 last year; the decline was almost totally due to a large group of Venturers who "aged out" of the program. We have 86 youth – 67 boys and 19 girls, 31 adult volunteers -10 women and 21 men. We run four sections – Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. The youngest three sections are at capacity. We run an active program of camping (from "car camping" to overnight canoe trips and hikes) and activities from crafts to educational visits to swimming and rock climbing. And, as usual, we conduct two fund raisers; Apple Day and Scout Trees. We are starting up again another fundraising group to allow the Scouts to once again engage in another international trip – destination unknown at this time. The adventure continues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Seymour, 28<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Scouts



The Pastoral Care Committee (PCC) strives to strengthen the spiritual well being of the entire congregation by fostering a sense of “church family” and fellowship. The focus of the Pastoral Care Committee is largely on seniors, but not exclusively. We also have a responsibility to make the entire congregation feel welcome!

PCC members continued with visiting those in our church community who are no longer able to attend services and other events. With the help of the Pastoral Care Minister (Ted Colwell, as interim), we maintain a list of people whom we visit on a regular basis (usually 45-55 names are on this list). Doug Robinson maintains this list meticulously.

On behalf of the congregation, PCC sent condolences to recently bereaved members of the church community, as well as best wishes for other significant life events. PCC also helped support the prayer shawl ministry and distribution of regular Sunday flowers, as well as the annual Easter lilies, which go to those on our PCC list and others in need of a little cheer. Our role of welcoming both regular church attendees and newcomers is enhanced by organizing the Sunday coffee-time greeters and a person who circulates the room on “Welcome Duty”. This year, we abandoned the use of the heavy wooden cabinet so we now circulate, instead of standing in the corner!

During Lent, PCC hosted a mid-week chapel service, which was a first-time rewarding experience for us. Also in April, PCC organized a Sunday afternoon communion service followed by a tea party, especially for seniors on our PCC list and others who are not able to get out to church regularly. We mailed personal invitations and provided the transportation to and from the event, as required. This turned into a sought-after outing for about 25 people.

In the fall, PCC helped with the Hearts Remember Service followed by a reception. Again, invitations are sent to all who have lost a loved one in the current year, but others are welcome to attend.

Although most of the Pastoral Care Committee has been doing this important work on behalf of the congregation for many years, we are actively recruiting, specifically some male volunteers to join our team! Since we have many men on our visiting list, we feel more male visitors would be a welcome addition too.

In spring, 2015, my 3-year term as chair is over and we have already arranged to switch the hats around. We are happy to welcome Peggy Rader as Chair. Judy Paré will continue as secretary and I will take on a new role as computer resource person. On behalf of the congregation, I thank all PCC members for the vital role they perform in keeping our church community bonds strong.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christel Kurz, Chair

**Purpose:**

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

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

- Banff Avenue Community House
- Blair Court Community House
- Russell Heights Community House
- Christmas Cheer Program
- Food, Fun and Facts (Heatherington Family Centre)
- Group for Friends
- Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC)
- Multi-Faith Housing
- Black History service in January (Peace and Development)
- Reconciliation/Aboriginal Affairs

**and abroad:**

- **Peace and Development** – bring issues of local, national and international concern to the congregation and provide programming opportunities to educate the Congregation
- **Refugee Committee** – see report below
- Supported Jaimee Gardner, **Goats Pass-On Project in Mbarara, Uganda**, Veterinarians Without Borders project ('The Foundation' grant)

**The following groups, while self-sufficient financially, report to or come under the 'support to community' mandate of SAOC:**

Alcoholics Anonymous 50+ Fitness Group for Friends Harmony Club	Thursday Euchre Club Playgroup Rideau Park Curling Club
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**Volunteers:**

The programs and organizations listed above are either totally or heavily dependent on volunteers. Rideau Park members volunteer on various boards, shop for and pack up food for HEFC, run programs at Blair Court Community House, help with Homework at Banff and in an out-pouring of generosity, provide Christmas dinners, plus to 150 families in our extended neighborhood.

This year, Maureen Stark initiated a new sub-committee, Reconciliation/Aboriginal Affairs. The various Senior groups are lively, interesting and fun spaces to spend time. Environment alas has been without leadership for a number of years. This year though we would like to, in particular, acknowledge the more than twenty-five years of generous hospitality that Bill and Anne MacMillan have extended to physically or mentally challenged people aged 18 to 40 through Group for Friends. Participants in the programs they have organized have come from as far away as Gatineau. They will continue to be involved but will no longer be able to continue in the same leadership role. They have made a difference in many people's lives.

**Funding:** The SAOC budget for 2014 was \$4,500. It was distributed as follows:

Operations/Programs	Expenditure
Multi-faith Housing Initiative membership	\$ 100
Black History Sunday	510
Blair Court Community House	1,000
Banff Avenue Community House	1,000
Russell Heights Community House	300
Heron Emergency Food Centre	1,500

**Fundraising/appeals** – As a result of various dinners, \$3,900 for the Refugee committee; an appeal went out to the congregation for \$12,000 for Christmas Cheer. Rideau Park members directly gave approximately \$1700 to HEFC.

**Foundation funds for SAO sponsored programs/projects** –

Project/Program	Grant
Jaimee Gardner, Goats Pass-On Project in Mbarara, Uganda, Veterinarians Without Borders project	\$ 2,000
BVOR Refugee Initiative	6,000
Blair Court Community House Homework Club	9,000

**The following sub-committees report significant decisions made in 2014:**

#### **Multi-faith Housing (MHI) Initiative**

After two years of intensive work MHI is in the process of going public with the details on two homeless housing projects. The first is for a mixed housing development of 98 units in the Barrhaven district for completion by the end of 2016. The second is the development of a team of sponsors to build a homeless facility for veterans on the old Rockcliffe airport land. Details are currently being negotiated and the planned completion date is 2017. These two projects will require an estimated \$25,000,000 dollars. - Don Melick, RPUC Representative

#### **Refugee Committee**

Social Action/Outreach decided this year to reconstitute the Refugee Committee and work to bring in a refugee under a new program set up at Immigration Canada called the Blended Visa Office Review (BVOR) whereby refugees who have applied to come to Canada, have passed all the various requirements and are just waiting for a sponsor, are fast tracked when a sponsor is identified. We have selected a young woman from Somalia who is now in a refugee camp in Kenya. We submitted our application in September and hope that she will be arriving soon.

We started a refugee fund last December and so far, as a result of various dinners, we have raised approximately \$3,900 plus an additional \$6,000, which we received from the Foundation. We will continue to raise funds as we will be responsible for all the refugee's expenses for approximately six months, plus a top up following receipt of funds from the government for six months.

A Syrian family in Ottawa also contacted us regarding family members who escaped Syria and are now in Cairo, Egypt. Although there constituted a group of five willing to make the application, the government also wanted a church involved. The group of five agreed to provide us with \$25,000, which we are holding in trust for the family and the application has been completed and accepted by Immigration Canada. The documents have been sent to Cairo so the process is now in place. Unfortunately we do not expect that the family will arrive in Canada for at least a year and maybe longer. - Marilyn Law, Chair

Respectfully submitted,  
Frances Dawson, Chair

**RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH  
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Mary Lynne Holton (Chair), Lisa Sadler (Recording Secretary), Mark Inman, Audrey Stewart, Jim Holton, Ted Lee, Bev Lee, Kathy Mayes, Hope Wilson, Ed Boothe, Margaret Stinnett, Beryl McLaughlin, Janet Dundas, Mildred Lemoine, Audrey Henry, Barbara Jeffrey, Malcolm Bayne, Beryl Bayne, Karen Humphries, Jessie Weldon-Gibb, Barry Dewis, Marilyn Bailey, Shanti Inman, Chris Jones, Bas Groeneweg, Helen Groeneweg, Elizabeth Acquah, Karin Ott, Karen Lamb, Helen Gardiner, Steve Shipley, Drew Presley, Rod Hagglund, Brian Dundas, Brian Hamilton, Allan Hamilton, Doreen Hamilton, Marilyn Law, Beulah Janzen, Elmer Janzen, Nadia Senyk, Marg Nelson, Bob Nelson, Chris Inrig, Graeme Kemkes, Sharon Bernard, Doug Robinson, Barbara Robinson, Greig Scott, Doug Robertson, Wendy Mather, Chuck Spicer, Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald, Jacqueline Newton, Harold Black, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Joanne Rodgers, Sandra Weedmark, Joyce Ireland, Ron MacPherson, Carmen Small, Gavin Currie, Sheila Faure, Thierry Faure, Garry Lindberg, Christy Harris, Hyacinthe Wade, Flora Patterson, Marlene Hutchison, Janet Buske-Wichser, Mary Harris, Keith Harris, Bernice Rennie, Bob Rennie, Bruce Scrivens, Gaveen Cadotte, Diane Keevil Harrold, Randolph Harrold, Rev. Steve Clifton, Bob Roden, Lynda Becker, Marcia Gosse, Heather Ingrams, Nancy McPherson, Judy Paré, Alyce Dunnewold, Marg Hart, Ian Bevell (attendance 88)

**The Community Gathers Before God**

1. **Words of Welcome and Opening Motions:** Rev. Elizabeth Bryce welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. Those present were then asked for motions to elect a Chair and Recording Secretary for the meeting. **Brian Hamilton moved and Karen Lamb seconded the Motion that the meeting be chaired by Mary Lynne Holton (Chair of Council).**  

**CARRIED**

Rod Hagglund moved and Marcia Gosse seconded the Motion that Lisa Sadler (Secretary of Council) be the Recording Secretary for the meeting. **CARRIED**
2. **Lighting the Christ Candle and a Call to Worship and Work:** Mary Lynne Holton lit the Christ Candle and led the meeting in the Call to Worship and Work.
3. **Prayer of Approach:** Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald led the Prayer of Approach.
4. **Call to Order, Motion re Active Non-Members:** Mary Lynne Holton welcomed everyone to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting and called the meeting to order. **Heather Ingrams moved and Steve Shipley seconded the Motion permitting all active non-members of Rideau Park United Church to participate and vote at this year's Annual General Meeting.** **CARRIED**
5. **Approval of the Agenda:** Jim Holton moved and Jessie Weldon-Gibb seconded the Motion that the Agenda be accepted as printed. **CARRIED**

**Life and Work of the Congregation**

6. **Receiving the 2013 Annual Reports and Annual Meeting Minutes (February and November) of 2013:** Shanti Inman moved and Barbara Robinson seconded the Motion that the 2013 Annual Report be accepted as printed, and the Minutes of the February 10, 2013 AGM, and the Minutes of the November 6, 2013 Fall Congregational Meeting be accepted as printed.  

**CARRIED**

7. **Receiving the Review Engagement Report of 2012:** Bob Roden thanked his fellow Stewards, Councillors, Andrew Jeffrey and the counting teams, Barbara Jeffrey (envelope secretary), staff, the congregation and the UCW for their continued support and assistance. Bob has confirmed with both Collins Barrow Chartered Accountants and the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) Charities Directorate that a Review Engagement meets requirements, and that an Audit is not required for 2013. Full copies of the Review for 2012 are available from Debi Brown or Bob Roden. **Bob Roden moved and Mark Inman seconded the Motion that the 2012 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 each year for four years with an audit being conducted every fifth year (most recent audit 2010). As 2013 is year three in this cycle the Committee of Stewards request that they be authorized to engage Collins Barrow to conduct a review engagement of the 2013 Financial Statements. **Bob Roden moved and Jacqueline Newton seconded the Motion that the Stewards be so authorized.** **CARRIED**

8. **Receiving the Financial Statements for 2013:** Bob Roden reviewed the 2013 year. There was a small surplus of \$6,543 – the second year in the last five without a deficit. Revenue was up about 3% due to the hard work of the congregation. The 2013 year was the second to use the Area of Greatest Need category in the Stewardship Campaign. This resulted in about \$26,000 of surplus in the Ministry and Programs Fund, of which \$12,890 was redistributed to Mission and Service and \$7,000 to the Property Fund. The church was, once again, strongly supported by contributions from the UCW. Use of Premises revenue was up (music school, Foster Farms Fruit and Vegetable Stand, fundraising dinners etc.) and funds raised from the community dinners were able to be directed to Property Renewal, instead of Ministry and Programs. Ministry and Personnel had challenges this past year with meeting staffing needs and keeping to budget – they did well in meeting the challenges. Repairs to the roof and fence were unanticipated and some Reserve Fund money had to be used (which is to be paid back). There was also work required on the hot water system. Some money from the Hancock Fund (\$31,310) has been kept back by the Stewards and remains in the cash account in order not to incur monthly bank fees (as interest rates are so low at this time, it is more advantageous to leave the money in the cash account and avoid banking fees – a minimum of \$35K is required - rather than have Trustees invest it in low interest, longer-term vehicles). However, Stewards will re-think this policy in view of feedback from the AGM. A question was raised as to whether Area of Greatest Need pledged amounts could also appear on the Statement of Operations (page 25 of the 2013 Annual Report) in the future (i.e., In the Summary of Rideau Park Contributions to the UCC Mission and Service Fund chart on page 36 of the 2013 Annual Report, the re-distributed amount of \$12,890 from Area of Greatest Need, not needed by the Ministry and Programs Fund, is shown.) Stewards will consider this for next year's Annual Report.

Bob Roden explained the Foundation Fund for Ministry procedures. Expenditures from the fund (for various approved projects) accrue throughout the year and are paid out by the Ministry and Programs chequing account. Trustees pay the account back with one payment at year end. This makes it easier for the Trustees to invest in the longer term and wait until GIC's mature.

A question arose about the difference between the Mission and Service pledged amount of \$90,000 and the total given of \$109,000. Bob explained that the difference was the UCW contribution. Another question arose as to whether Rideau Park has to give a specified amount to Mission and Service. Rideau Park tries very hard to ensure that the church gives whatever amount is pledged. Although we are not required to give that amount if we don't raise it, we make every effort to do so. Bob encouraged anyone to contact either himself, or Debi Brown, with any questions.

Bob Roden moved and Gaveen Cadotte seconded the Motion that the Financial Statements found on pages 23 to 25, 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 2013 Annual Report be accepted subject to a review engagement for 2013. **CARRIED**

Mary Lynne thanked Bob for his work.

9. **Highlights from Each of the Ministers:** Rev. Elizabeth reviewed the 2013 Christmas Cheer program, under the direction of the Christmas Cheer Committee (Chair Frances Dawson, coordinators Elizabeth Bryce and Debi Brown, Publicity and Delivery Jim Holton, Grocery Steve Shipley, Bagging and Packing Carolyn Scollick). The program delivered 73 Christmas Hampers and 77 Grocery Cards to families, singles and seniors in the community. The committee's aim is to provide a week's worth of food, including Christmas dinner. Food was supplied by Wilson's Independent Grocery Store and Glebe Meat Market. The Committee works hand in hand with the Ottawa Caring and Sharing Christmas Exchange, which ensures there are no duplicate requests. Rideau Park members can help by volunteering, donating, passing the word around, referrals and prayers. Mary Lynne thanked Elizabeth for her presentation.

Rev. Georgina talked about the Pastoral Care worship services at Seniors' retirement homes. She conducts five services each month, alternating between Oak Park Retirement Community, Hunt Club Manor, Billings Lodge, Lanark Court and Clementine Towers. She also conducts periodic services and is on call at the Perley Rideau Veterans Home and has been doing so for the last 25 years. An important component of the services is music – which is also very rewarding for those with dementia. Georgina is very grateful for those who accompany her – Ann Ketcheson, Lois Presley and Marcia Gosse. These services mean so much for the seniors in our community. Georgina thanked everyone for their support of the Pastoral Care program. Mary Lynne thanked Georgina for her report.

Rev. Steve talked about three events in Youth Ministry. During March Break, four youth from Rideau Park will participate in a SEVEC (Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada) Exchange program with Haida Gwaii students. This is a government-sponsored program that promotes inter-cultural/inter-regional student exchanges, often with First Nation students. There are 34 youth from Ottawa Presbytery participating, and they will be living in a Long House together during their week in Haida Gwaii. Then the Haida Gwaii students will come to Ottawa later in the same month, billeting with host families and enjoying the City. The program is government subsidized, and three of the Rideau Park participants have received funding assistance through the Christian Development Committee's Speakman Fund. The second event was Worshiplude when Rideau Park hosted 115 Southwestern Ontario youth. The youth sleep over on Friday and Saturday evenings and breakfast at the church, then enjoy Ottawa and Winterlude, attend a Saturday night service at Dominion-Chalmers United Church (where Rideau Park's Grace Notes choir plays, sometimes sings and the drama group performs), and then participate in Rideau Park's Sunday morning service. The third youth activity is the 2014 Confirmation Class. There are 12 participants with leadership given by Steve and Alyce Dunnewold. Participation is a key component of the class and participants will be having intentional conversations with members of the church about their faith. June 8, 2014 is Confirmation Sunday. Mary Lynne thanked Steve for his report.

10. **Staff Recognition:** Bob Rennie thanked the staff at Rideau Park, and began by describing the ministers as "approachable" and "accessible", making the church feel like a second family to many. We were very fortunate to find Ian Bevell as our new and very talented Music Director. Debi Brown, Administrator and "the fastest walking woman in Rideau Park", looks after the



books, the words, the communication, the records, the files and serves after hours as an event host as well. Kay Saunders, Administrative Assistant, is the welcoming face we all see first, and helps Debi ably. We wish her well when she leaves us in May, as she moves to the west end, and welcomes a new addition to her young family. Judy Pare was a wonderful help to all of us when she filled in for Kay, and when she helped from time to time throughout the year. Paul Sorg and Steve Spidell always meet the challenges of cleaning, clearing snow, meeting set-up and all the expected and unexpected demands a busy church creates. We are lucky to have such dedicated people.

- 11. Recognition of the Leadership that is Concluding:** Reverends Steve Clifton and Elizabeth Bryce presented Certificates of Appreciation to those members retiring from Council, Committee Chairs, Session and Presbytery and thanked them for their devotion and service to our church. The meeting then broke for lunch and a slide show of Rideau Park's Many Ministries – "A Week in the Life". Mary Lynne thanked everyone for their service.
- 12. Nominations Report for 2014:** Judy Paré reported on the activities of the Nominating Committee (Rev. Steve Clifton, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Mabel Bannerman, Wayne Bond, Mary Lynne Holton, Marilyn Law, Drew Presley, and Jessie Weldon-Gibb). Vacancies on Council, Stewards, and Session were all filled and we are grateful to those who have agreed to either continue in their position or accept the challenge of a new one. We were especially encouraged to have people come forward to accept appointments who had not previously been involved with the governance of the church. A detailed report of this committee can be found on pages 39-41 of the Annual Report. In that report it is stated that Sheila Faure accepted a mid-year appointment to Presbytery. However, a scheduling problem prohibited Sheila from fulfilling that position. Maureen Stark has now agreed to become a representative on Presbytery for Rideau Park. In addition, Frances Dawson will be an elder but will not have a district, allowing her to attend Session meetings and report on the activities of the Social Action and Outreach Committee. **Judy Paré moved and Sharon Bernard seconded the Motion that the report of the Nominating Committee as printed in the Annual Report, and with the changes identified in this report, be adopted.** **CARRIED**  
Mary Lynne thanked Judy and the Nominations Committee for their work.
- 13. Rideau Park Trustees' Report: Foundation Fund, Other:** Gavin Currie referred to the Trustees' Report on pages 18-19 of the Annual Report. He thanked Keith Harris and Bob Roden for their assistance. He highlighted that the Foundation Fund for Ministry, through two large donations in 2013, has an amount of \$39,646.00 eligible for disbursement in 2014. Mary Lynne thanked Gavin and the Trustees for their work.
- 14. Stewardship Campaign Report:** Brian Hamilton reported that the Stewardship Campaign, with its theme of "Stewards of God's Grace" was very successful, under the leadership of Candice and Michael Presley. The full report can be seen on pages 35-36 of the Annual Report. It was suggested that in the future the Area of Greatest Need pledged amounts could be specifically shown (rather than just included in the Ministry and Programs pledges). This would be useful in helping us to know how much flexibility we have. Mary Lynne thanked Brian for his report.
- 15. 2014 Budget and Motions:** Bob Roden gave an overview of the Budget, outlining challenges and forecasting a slight surplus. Forecasting is always difficult – expenses are easier to predict than revenues. We will continue to rely on UCW and Britt Estate financial support. Payroll has a budgeted increase of 4% (half of that 4% is due to pension cost increase). Committee budgets will remain about the same as they were for 2013. Organ maintenance costs have been moved

from the Worship and Music Committee to Property Operations. There is no major change expected to the Presbytery Assessment. There has been about \$78,000 pledged to Mission and Service and this amount is reflected in the 2014 Budget. Once again, as in 2013, we hope we are able to exceed that amount by year end. Discussion arose regarding the reduction in the budget commitment to Mission and Service. Comments included wondering why we were giving more to “ourselves” and less to the community; keeping our church “healthy” enables us to offer our resources and space to community groups; there is limited flexibility with respect to our expense structures which is something the whole church could look into; caring and nurturing is not a budget line but it is occurring daily in our church through many groups (Ministry and Programs, UCW, Social Action and Outreach, etc.); our church is not setting the bar high enough for Mission and Service; Rideau Park is the third largest contributor to Mission and Service in Canada. Bob reminded the meeting that a budget is only a guide that allows us to plan – it is not set in stone. A question arose as to whether there would be a special appeal to raise money for the roof. There are plans to do this.

**Bob Roden moved and Jacqueline Newton seconded the Motion that the Rideau Park United Church 2014 Budgets for the Ministries and Programs Fund and the Mission and Service Fund, as presented on page 26 of the 2013 Annual Report, be approved. CARRIED**

**Bob Roden moved and Harold Black seconded the Motion 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 during 2014. CARRIED**

Mary Lynne thanked Bob and the Stewards.

- 16. Property Renewal Report and Plan:** Brian Hamilton began with thanking Joanne Rodgers, Paul Sorg, Steve Spidell, Marilyn Law, Steve Shipley, John Durkee, Debi Brown, Georgina Fitzgerald, John Scollick, Chris Inrig, Doreen Hamilton and Ian Bevell for their hard work, talent, and patience in either completing or tolerating the many property projects undertaken in 2013. He reviewed the reports on pages 28 and 29 of the 2013 Annual Report. The webcasting pilot project is going well. The roof repair and replacement had to be undertaken at a more rapid pace than expected. Total cost will be \$56,000. A special appeal letter is expected to be sent out in February 2014 for the roof fund, in expectation of raising \$20,000. As well, an application for \$16,000 will be made to the Rideau Park Foundation Fund for Ministry. With these initiatives it is hoped that we can clear the cost of roof replacement this year, with a small shortfall of \$2,000. We are hoping to receive funding from the Federal Government to assist in refurbishing the downstairs washrooms to make them accessible. Discussion arose regarding the long range plan. Comments included wondering why we have to have a special roof appeal when the long range plan included roof repair/replacement; why other items in the long range plan can't be deferred until there is funding in place for them; timing of the roof repair has created the challenge; the appeal is looking for a modest contribution of \$150 or one month's giving – whichever is greater. **Brian Hamilton moved and Barry Dewis seconded the Motion that the 2014 Property Renewal Plan (Year 3 of the 2012-2019 Long Range Property Renewal Plan) be approved as presented on page 29 of the 2013 Annual Report. CARRIED, 2 contrary** Mary Lynne thanked Brian for his report.

- 17. Working Committee Report to date on the Service of Alcohol at Selected Events at RPUC:** Steve Shipley reviewed Year One of the Service of Alcohol two year trial period. In the period since that meeting, seven people have obtained their Smart Serve Certification. This was the first step required to serve alcohol in an Ontario establishment. Since September 2013, there have been nine events where alcohol was served – a private family event, three church dinners, three

birthday parties, an outside fundraising dinner with silent auction, and one wedding. Most of the events held at the church served wine and only a couple had both wine and beer. Between \$700 and \$750 has been raised from the direct sale of alcohol, but use of premises revenue has increased as a result of the initiative. People are enjoying having a glass of wine with their meal. To continue with the project, we need more people to become Smart Serve Certified to serve alcohol at the various events throughout the year. We also need volunteers to become Event Hosts and helpers at the events too. Please see Steve Shipley or Debi Brown for further information on Smart Serve Certification or Event Hosting. Mary Lynne thanked Steve for his report.

**18. Other Business:** Harold Black addressed the meeting regarding the Heron Emergency Food Centre and its need for more help. Donations in the form of cash and/or food are much needed – especially pasta sauce, cereal, rice, tomatoes and peanut butter. Another designated Food Donation Sunday would be wonderful.

**19. Chair's Closing Remarks:** Mary Lynne thanked Brian Hamilton, Doreen Hamilton, Debi Brown and Chris Inrig for their work on the Annual Report. She then thanked the staff, presenters at the ACM, everyone who helped with the lunch and in the kitchen, and all those who attended the meeting.

#### **Sending Forth**

**20. Commissioning and Benediction:** Steve Clifton thanked Mary Lynne and Lisa, and then gave the Benediction.

**21. Adjournment:** Marcia Gosse moved and Barry Dewis seconded the Motion to adjourn the meeting.

**CARRIED**

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Mary Lynne Holton, Chair

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Lisa Sadler, Recording Secretary

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Date

**RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH  
FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Mary Lynne Holton (Chair), Brian Neal (Recording Secretary), Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton, Heather Ingrams, Maureen Stark, Joanne Rodgers, Ron MacPherson, Andrew Presley, Christy Harris, Brian Hamilton, Bas Groeneweg, Helen Groeneweg, Wayne Bond, Nancy Begg-Durkee, Bob Roden, Karen Ott, Karen Lamb, Bob Nelson, Alyce Dunnewold, Lois Presley, Barry Dewis, Doug Robinson, Gavin Currie, Pat Currie, Garry Lindberg, Daryl Lindberg, Judy Paré, Shanti Inman, Greig Scott, Adam Kurz, Gaveen Cadotte, Nancy McPherson, Carolyn Scollick, Elmer Janzen, Beulah Janzen, Tony Bernard, Sharon Bernard, Marilyn Law, Marlene Hutichison, and Nadia Senyk.

1. **Opening Prayer:** Rev. Bryce welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. **Nomination of Chair and Secretary:** Rev. Bryce asked for nominations for Chair and Recording Secretary. It was moved by Wayne Bond that Mary Lynne Holton be the Chair of the Fall Congregational Meeting and that Brian Neal be the Recording Secretary. **CARRIED**
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** It was moved by Nancy McPherson and seconded by Judy Pare that the agenda be approved as printed. **CARRIED**
4. **Chair's Remarks:** Mary Lynne Holton thanked everyone for coming and explained that the Council meeting would start immediately following the Congregational Meeting.

**LIFE AND WORK OF THE CONGREGATION**

- 5a. **Goal Setting – Alyce Dunnewold:** Alyce provided an initial presentation to explain the purpose and background for this goal setting exercise. There is a lot of activity now at all levels of the church looking into how we do things and how we are structured, in large part due to declining membership and revenues which all churches are experiencing to some extent. The UCC Comprehensive Review is well underway and will soon need our input. Council is working on setting priorities for the coming year; Session sometimes does their own review and strategic planning; and the Worship and Music Committee has their own review ongoing. It is within this context that we are seeking input and wisdom from the congregation.

Following the presentation, six table groups were formed to tackle the problem of figuring out where we want to be in five years as a congregation. A series of questions were offered to focus the discussion. After the inputs from each table were collected, Alyce thanked everyone for their participation and explained the next steps. Basically, Council will look at all the suggestions and ideas and report back at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February. Please see the attached report for the results of the goal setting exercise.

- 5b. **Refugee Sponsorship Program – Marilyn Law:** Marilyn explained that there were two sponsorship activities happening. Our application has been submitted and funding is in place to sponsor a Somali woman. In addition, we are holding money in trust to sponsor a separate family whose application is pending Immigration approval. In this case, the money has already been put up by local family members. We will release the money as it is needed, after the family arrives. There is no other involvement for Rideau Park.

**OFFERING OF OUR SERVICES AND RESOURCES****6a. Budget Results 2014, Budget 2015 Congregational Consultation – Bob Roden:**

This year's budget results were reported by Bob Roden. He noted that the surplus in 2013 was partly explained by a one-time gift of \$20K that was used to top up the Mission Service Fund and the Property Fund. A small deficit is projected for 2014 and 2015 of approximately 3% of the budget. He noted that the income generated by the Britt Fund this year was down a bit to \$10K, and looking forward we may lose the income from the Foster family Fruit and Vegetable Stand because of bylaw issues.

There were several comments and questions related to the projected deficits. One question was how much we will be looking for in the year-end appeal because last year it seemed excessive at an extra one month's givings. Bob indicated it will probably be for about the same amount this year. However there was a strong feeling that people are tired of getting asked for extra money every year and wondered why we can't live within our budget. These special appeals give the impression that we are in trouble. Bob explained that we don't have much flexibility on expenses, and there can be variations in the Casual Labour expenses and the Ministers' Travel and Training budget. Then Brian Hamilton explained that the appeal for one month's givings does not really translate into a shortfall of approximately 10% as it might imply. The shortfall is really only about \$20 per person, but the appeal is framed in terms of one-month's givings because that seems to generate the right level of response on average.

There was some further debate on the deficit issues and the need for a special year-end appeal, especially given the time frame in that we are already looking for donations to the Christmas Cheer and Christmas Shoebox appeals. The consensus seemed to be that future budgets should be drawn up based on realistic estimates of annual revenue with the expenses adjusted accordingly, i.e. without relying on a special year-end appeal. That should cover all our operating expenses, including normal property expenses as well as the M&S givings. If any year-end appeal is made, it should only be to remind people to make up any shortfalls in their pledges before year-end. However it was also recognized that dedicated appeals can be made at other times of the year for special fundraising efforts, such as the Organ Pipes, Accessibility Projects, and the Christmas appeals already mentioned. People respond better to a specific need, especially when it is over and above what is considered our normal operating expenses.

**6b. Stewardship Campaign, Fall 2014 – Brian Hamilton:** Pledges to date total to over \$450K, and most people were able to increase their pledges by the amount requested. Brian said he was very pleased with how the campaign was going and expressed appreciation for the excellent and well organized effort that Hyacinthe Wade Howard had given as the Campaign Chair.

**7. Adjournment:** It was moved by Karen Lamb and seconded by Nancy Begg-Durkee that the meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED**

**8. Benediction:** Rev. Clifton gave the Benediction.

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Mary Lynne Holton, Chair

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Brian Neal, Recording Secretary

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Date

**A REPORT ON THE CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION  
ON GOALS FOR RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH,  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

The discussion tended to be focused on aspects of the life of Rideau Park United Church which participants saw as very important to carry into the future and/or to be given additional attention. There were no suggestions for radical changes in direction. While there were a number of comments that suggested we needed to change some things or do them differently, these were more about how we achieve our goals.

***What do we consider to be of high importance? Two broad themes emerged from the comments, concerns, and suggestions made:***

Embracing Diversity

- High importance is placed on participation of all age groups in the life and work of the church. It was suggested that special attention be given to participation of seniors, children and youth. Someone suggested pairing experienced volunteers at Rideau Park with children and youth and their families. It is recognized that some programs/activities/events help to draw people in, i.e. they attract participation of people who are not already part or may at one time have been part of the RPUC community, and suggested that we might build upon these. Harmony Club and Euchre were given as examples of drawing in seniors while the pageant was held up as an event that drew in young families.
- The importance of actions to ensure safe spaces for LGBT persons was emphasized.
- It was recognized that video broadcasting can help keep people connected who may otherwise not be able or inclined to attend services/events. On the other hand, this creates new challenges or questions: how do we nurture these connections and what does it mean in terms of participation in the RPUC community?
- We want to continue to be open to involving those of other denominational or faith traditions as well as those who have no particular faith traditions. While we are a Christian church, we do not insist on conformity in beliefs and are open to different perspectives on God.
- Need to factor in that participants in Rideau Park United Church include people who live beyond the Alta Vista and Ottawa south neighbourhoods. We shouldn't necessarily limit outreach to immediate neighbourhoods.

Being primarily a faith-based, worship-centered community

- While we may function as community centre in a number of respects, especially during the week, we are primarily a faith-based organization; the example and teachings of Jesus remain at our core.
- We recognize that we can attract people to come into our doors as a community centre but we do not want this to define us.
- We accept that some will find spiritual and community nourishment primarily outside of Sunday worship but Sunday worship still provides a very important anchor for most of us.
- Sunday gathering and worship inspire and shape our interactions and engagement of others through the week. We ought to focus on how we keep this meaningful into the future.
- Our mission statement still speaks to us – our objectives should be to give it concrete expression in a way that makes sense for our time and place.
- Worship has traditionally been participatory so we need to think about how we can connect with those who may not be able to attend or feel uncomfortable coming to church.



- Nurture Sunday activities that complement the worship service; consider going to one worship service to make space for other Sunday activities/events.
- We think it is important to continue being flexible, creative and experimental in worship, and to continue to include active participation of all generations in leading and planning aspects of worship.

***How do we achieve our goals? Here are the observations and suggestions which were made in this regard:***

Stewardship of our resources

- Concern was expressed about overloading our volunteers or spreading our volunteer resources too thinly. We need to ensure we focus on what is most important.
- We should pay close attention to nurturing next generation of volunteers and leaders. This means we need to be open to doing things differently, e.g. use meetings to discuss creative ideas, big picture matters rather than routine business which can be done through electronic communications.
- We ought to examine how to engage volunteers, especially in relation to how we reach out beyond the current active pool. Some examples were given: making more effective use of Time and Talent offers and actively engaging children and youth in volunteer opportunities such as Christmas Cheer.
- We must ensure that we live within our means, that we have the resources to support our activities and programs, that we not overextend ourselves. We should avoid relying on special appeals to fund day to day operating expenses, especially at year-end. If our revenue from givings is declining over time, we ought to consider a longer-term financial plan to deal with this circumstance.

Openness to creativity and change

- Allow for flexibility in structure and process to support and attract volunteers
- Could we explore more partnership arrangements with other churches and organizations?
- Could we examine emerging church/alternative church at one end of faith expression spectrum and evangelicals such as The Met on the other end to see if there are lessons for us?
- Importance of having a variety of worship experiences and formats and of involving all age groups in planning and leading worship
- Take advantage of opportunities (such as the Comprehensive Review) to define ourselves in a way that is relevant to our circumstances. Be open to ideas/styles of new generation of leaders. Be open to ideas and aspirations of newcomers.