



"THE BAPTISM"

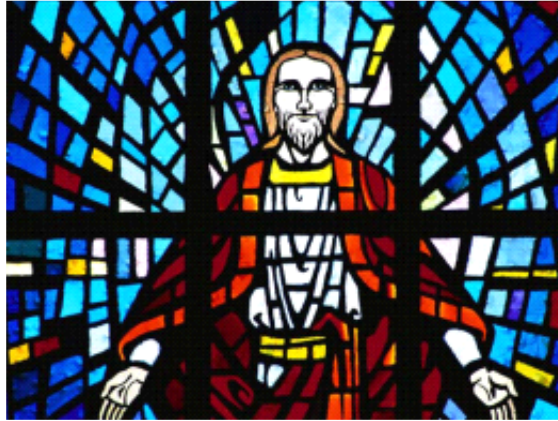
To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory  
of Robbie Short, Cpl. Kevin John Rodgers  
and Rachel Waugh MacPherson (1993)

# Rideau Park United Church Annual Report 2018

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*

Michael Anthony Bernard  
Dorothy Edith Brown  
Francis Allan Dosdall  
Raeanne Bethel Godding  
Marcia Diane Gosse  
Sarah Margaret Hoover  
Esther Elizabeth Lorimer  
William Carson McVey  
Stan Phillips  
Collis Ricardo Small  
Lorraine Frances Stevenson  
Dorothy Valliant

Edward James Boothe  
John Addington Dawson  
Kenneth Edwards  
Lorne Gold  
Roger Bently Hillier  
Gladys Mary Hunter  
Alice Marguerite Lowther  
Peter Ochitwa  
Stanley Ross Seaman  
Jean Sprules  
John A. Sutherland  
Paul Woolner

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

*John 11: 25, 26*

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**STAFF**

Rev. Steve Clifton  
 Rev. Elizabeth Bryce  
 Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald  
 Iain Macpherson  
 Andrew Ager  
 Debi Brown  
 Debby Gerro  
 Paul Sorg  
 Marcia Gosse  
 Patricia Whitridge

Minister of Christian Family and Worship  
 Minister of Community and Worship  
 Minister of Pastoral Care  
 Music Ministry Coordinator  
 Organist  
 Administrator  
 Administrative Assistant  
 Caretaker

**COUNCIL**

Vacant  
 Cathy Hollands  
 Bob Nelson  
 Diane Keevil Harrold  
 David Moreira  
 John Scollick  
 Bob Roden  
 Steve Shipley  
 Brian Hamilton  
 Carolyn Scollick  
 Doug Robinson  
 Sheila Faure  
 Nancy Begg-Durkee  
 Nancy McPherson

Chair - to September 2018  
 Vice Chair to September 2018  
 Chair - from October 2018  
 Vice Chair - from October 2018  
 Secretary  
 Chair of Session  
 Session Representative  
 Session Representative  
 Chair of Stewards  
 Treasurer, Stewards' Representative  
 Stewards' Representative  
 Stewardship Coordinator  
 Chair of Ministry and Personnel  
 Ottawa Presbytery Representative  
 Chair of Board of Trustees  
 President of United Church Women  
 Chair of Administrative and Communications  
 Chair of Nominations  
 Member at Large  
 Member at Large  
 Minister of Christian Family and Worship  
 Minister of Community and Worship  
 Administrator (non voting)

**COMMITTEES****SESSION**

Bob Nelson  
 Jeff Allo

Chair  
 Clerk

**Sub-committees of Session**

Christian Development  
 Worship and Music  
 Social Action and Outreach  
 Pastoral Care

Tara Lynne Holton, Andrea Laliberté  
 Karen Lamb, Kate Whitridge  
 Sandra Weedmark  
 Brian Neal

Co-chairs  
 Co-chairs  
 Chair  
 Chair

**COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS****Sub functions of Stewards**

John Scollick  
 Bob Roden  
 Brian Hamilton  
 Rod Hagglund  
 Brian Hamilton  
 Carolyn Scollick  
 Nancy McPherson  
 Marilyn Law  
 Sheila Faure  
 Nancy Begg-Durkee  
 Alyce Dunnewold  
 Doug Robinson  
 Barbara Jeffrey

Chair  
 Treasurer  
 Stewardship Coordinator  
 Property  
 Property Renewal  
 Chair  
 Chair  
 Chair  
 Chair  
 President  
 Brian Irvine  
 Maureen Stark

**MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMM.**  
**NOMINATIONS**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**  
**PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES**

**ENVELOPE SECRETARY**

### **Baptisms**

Zackary Black  
Akira Aaliyah Campbell  
William James Currie  
Samuel Vincent Donat Decaire  
Dante Joshua Ethier  
Kaya Jordan Funk  
Hazel Grace Long  
Cameron Anthony Milo  
Shyera Grace Rahaman  
Jonathan Michael Sabeau  
Bridget Louise Sabeau  
Lev Roy Sinitski  
James William Todd  
William Mark Laurence Hamilton Toivanen  
Naomi Xie

### **Transfers from Rideau Park**

Christine Inrig

*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.*

Anthony (Tony) Bernard

Edward Boothe

Dorothy Brown

John Dawson

Marcia Gosse

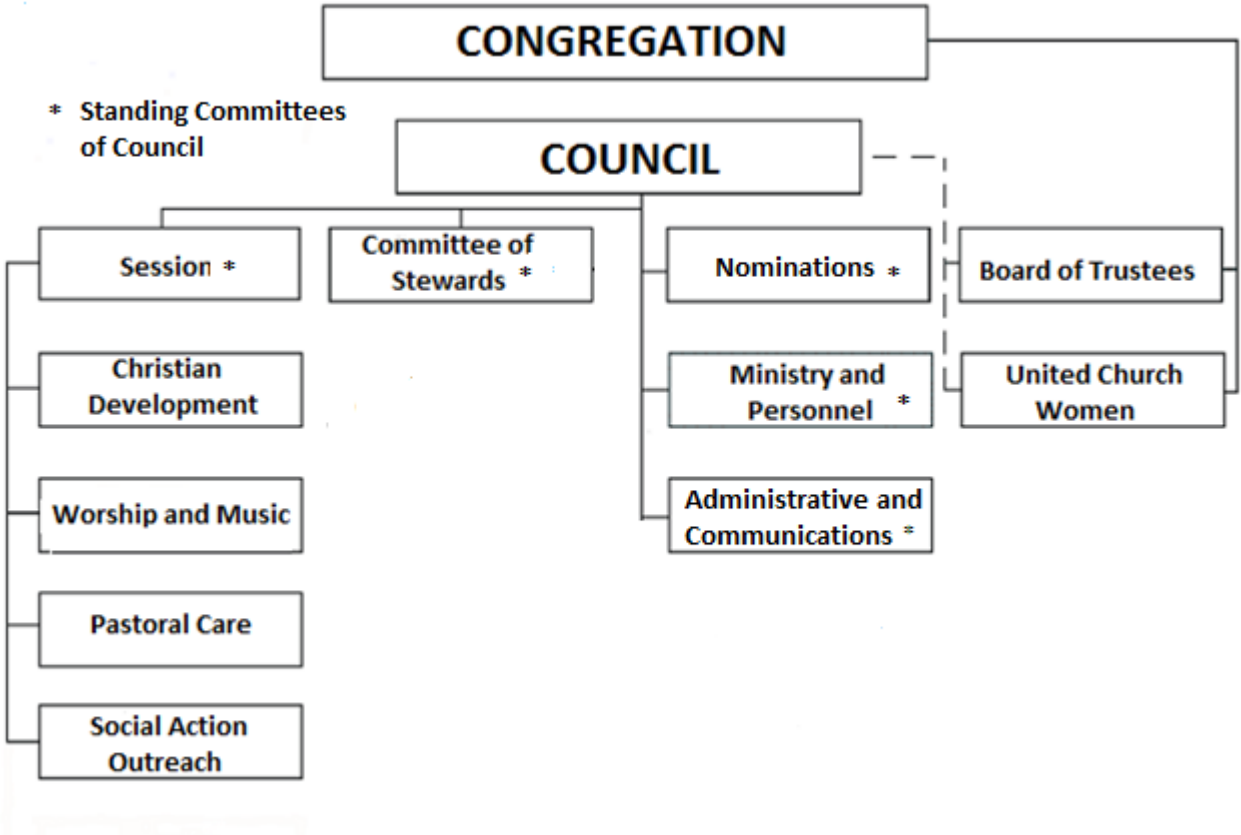
Colin and Marjorie Ogden

Lee and Ford Oldford

R. Allan Robertson

Jean Sprules

Dorothy Valliant



Number of households as of December 31, 2018.....	447
Total number of persons as of December 31, 2018.....	1,093
Members received through Transfer of Certificate .....	0
Members removed through Transfer of Certificate .....	1
Persons removed by death.....	14
Number of weddings.....	7
Number of funerals .....	24

Across the hall, the Euchre club is having a good time. I can hear laughter, trash talk, and whoops of victory (or maybe defeat?). I also hear the ticking of decks being shuffled, hands dealt and cards hitting the table with glee (or was that surrender?).

One of the things I love about card players is their resilience. Had a great game last week? This week you are sure to get the prize for low points. Think you are a Euchre expert? Sorry, there's not much you can do with a hand full of 9's and 10's.

This year our staff has demonstrated that we are pretty adept at playing the hand we have been given. Lucky for us in 2018 our hand did not include major illnesses or staff changes. We have enjoyed a certain amount of stability, lots of helpful volunteers and some very creative work opportunities. We have played a hand that has included some difficult times of grief and crisis. We have celebrated at the end of each game won, or taken a break after a big task completed, and breathed a sigh of relief for every Sunday service shared. Then we turn the page on our calendars and start again.

All of us were affected personally with the loss of Marcia Gosse in September – but we played on with the hand that was dealt to us. Marcia earned the love and respect of each staff member. Over and over we heard each other say: “That’s the way that Marcia would have wanted it.” We inherited financial statements and minute books and binders of her notes. But most of all we inherited her dreams and compassion for the Rideau Park congregation. I think that is what gave us the courage to come to work the next week and to carry on being the church she loved.

All our losses have something to teach us, and all of our blessings have somewhere to lead us. Hopefully to another full year of ministry and compassion and creativity together.

*Each player must accept the cards life deals him or her; but once they are in hand,  
he or she alone must decide how to play the cards in order to win the game.*

*Voltaire (1694 – 1778)*

*Georgina*

*Elizabeth*

*Steve*

*Iain*

*Paul*

*Debby*

*Andrew*

*Debi*

The Rideau Park United Church Council membership is as follows:

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

Council had 5 meetings in 2018 and was responsible for running the Annual Congregational Meeting in February and the Fall Congregational Meeting in October. Highlights of Council actions and decisions in 2018 include:

- approval of the Request for Proposal for the new Rideau Park website using funds from the Rideau Park Foundation for Ministry. It was accepted and the new site was active by the targeted date of September 2018.
- approval for the Structural Review Committee to proceed with the evaluation of the structure and functioning of current church committees. 29 interviews were held with members of Rideau Park, as well 6 other local United churches were interviewed as to their current structure and how it works. Observations from these interviews were presented to the Fall Congregational Meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Committee then brought their first proposal for a new structure to Council, Session, and Stewards in November. The final proposed organizational structure was presented to Council on January 16.
- Remit #6 which was supported by the Congregation was sent to the United Church of Canada. It was subsequently defeated nationally and will be set aside for now.
- the 2018 Rideau Park Photo Directory was completed and distributed.
- approval that Committee Chairs, Elders and Stewards whose positions end February 2019 be asked to extend their term for one year until any new structure is put in place.
- approval of the draft Vision Statement and the Action Plan developed by the Affirming Ministries Committee which were accepted by Affirming Ministries United Church. They will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February 2019.

On behalf of all Council members, it is with profound sadness that we learned of the sudden death in September of our Chair, Marcia Gosse's. Fortunately for Council, Patricia Whitridge kindly agreed to step into the position of Chair earlier than expected.

It has been a busy year for Council, and as with any tragedy, former Council members have rallied with the current members to address the projects already begun and ongoing.

We thank all members of Council for their help and support over this difficult year. It takes efforts, both large and small, from many, many people to keep Rideau Park running so smoothly. I think we are all a bit more appreciative of those helping hands this year. Without our dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to run anywhere near the number of programs that we offer now. We are blessed!

Thanks to all who have contributed their time and energy in 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Whitridge, Chair and Cathy Hollands, Secretary

***“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”***

*Augustine of Hippo 354-430CE*

Urban Holmes defines spirituality as a longing or emptiness that we feel within. Our own spiritual path is shaped by the ways in which we work to meet our longing. Our own spiritual work is found in what we do to connect to God.

Over recent years we continue together in the ongoing endeavor that is spiritual growth. We engage in this in many ways: book studies, interfaith speakers, Lenten studies, quiet days, contemplative Eucharist services, labyrinth walks, meditation groups, in church retreats, off site retreats, worship installations, summer projects, summer study groups, Bible studies from Genesis to Revelation ...

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

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

In 2018 there were many events and activities that were particularly directed at deepening the spiritual life that we share.

- A meditation group meets in a dedicated space in the lower hallway, from 9:10am every Sunday morning. We practice silent meditation together weekly and the group is open to anyone who would like to give meditation a try.
- Week day morning gatherings: In spring and fall we invited people to share coffee and conversation in the Church Parlour on a weekday morning. Conversation, hospitality and community may be very spiritual things. We also gathered for reflection around the APTN video series First Contact which documents the encounter between six average Canadians, and a variety of Canadian Indigenous communities.
- Advent this year included three evenings of quiet contemplation, opportunities for stillness in a hectic season. Nancy DeKemp led us in a retreat which included time for silence and stillness. The Encarna worship installation filled the sanctuary with candlelight, prayer and creativity. We had an evening of labyrinth meditation too.
- Our Lenten Spirituality Program was based on the book by Brian McLaren, *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian*.  
These Wednesday evening reflections are led by our ministers on the theme “Moving from a set of beliefs to a way of life”.
- 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 a vital Healing Pathways ministry. Healing Pathway is a long standing UCC practice of healing prayer. We have five trained practitioners who offer prayer in the Gospel tradition of Jesus, on Thursday afternoons each week and on the third Sunday night of each month.

People can book a visit through [healingpathway@rideaupark.ca](mailto:healingpathway@rideaupark.ca). Healing prayer is also available in the chapel every Sunday after the 10am service and with each communion service.

We are open to new ideas and to new avenues of spiritual exploration. If you have thoughts or ideas, please share them with us.

We look forward to another year of growing in the Spirit in 2019.

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

Blessings,  
Rev. Steve Clifton

2018 has been a year of transition for the Congregational Development Steering Committee at Rideau Park United Church. With the addition of three new members: Gaveen Cadotte, Michael Presley and Ken Tong, it was an ideal opportunity to reflect upon where we were today and where we might want to take the committee in the future.

Our current approach towards Congregational Development has been to encourage people to attend Rideau Park either in person or remotely primarily via monthly ads in the Vistas newspaper and through our annual open house in September. While this approach has met with some success, more effort is needed.

We acknowledge that to become more successful, Congregational Development will have to broaden its reach to engage other committees and the congregation as a whole. If we hope to offset the losses due to an aging population and other factors, then we will all have to play a part in encouraging others to attend Rideau Park. And why not? We'd be doing them a favour.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greig Scott, Chair

Rideau Park's Presbytery representatives and their involvement in 2018 are as follows: Rev. Elizabeth Bryce - Ministry in French; Rev. Steve Clifton – Chair of Presbytery and Presbytery Executive Committee; Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald - Chair Education and Students, Chair Lay Worship Leaders, and Nominations; Brian Irvine – Finance; Doug Robinson - Chaplaincy Committee; and Maureen Stark - Licensed Lay Worship Leaders Ministry Team.

Since 2018 will be the final year for presbyteries in the United Church, a lot of the meetings dealt with the changes that would occur in the church.

Meetings of Presbytery were held at various churches in the Presbytery. The January meeting was held at Kitchissippi United and was a program meeting. There was a discussion of developments at three Ottawa churches-St. Paul's Eastern, Dominion-Chalmers, and Southminster.

The February meeting was held at Glebe-St. James United. At this meeting, Rev. Steve Clifton mentioned that Ottawa Presbytery Executive is working on a plan for transitioning the work of Presbytery to Region 13, such as connecting with new partners in Region 13 and considering regional staffing models.

Glen Cairn United hosted the March meeting. Brian Hamilton presented an overview of Rideau Park's Worship Service Webcasting. He gave an outline of who watches the webcasts, the personnel required and the costs of webcasting. He concluded his presentation by identifying some of the opportunities and challenges of webcasting.

The Presbytery Minister noted that there will be a Transition Implementation Team to consider and track the work of Ottawa Presbytery and how it should continue in the new region.

The April meeting at Bells Corners United included a presentation on the Haven Development by two representatives from the Haven Multi-faith Housing Initiative. The United Church was thanked for its contribution to this successful project.

Rev. Rosemary Lambie spoke about some of the issues and plans surrounding the transition to the three Council model. Rosemary is the Executive Secretary of Montreal and Ottawa Conference and was recently appointed regional Executive Minister for Regions 11, 12 and 13. She mentioned that there will be sixteen regions as well as six executive ministers across Canada. An interesting and informative discussion followed her talk.

The May meeting was hosted by First United Church which recently celebrated ten years of fellowship with All Saints Anglican Church. James Nininger, Co-Chair of Compassionate Ottawa, spoke about its community-led approach to improve the quality of life for the frail, elderly and those who face life threatening illness at any age. It is an approach that works outside of, but in collaboration with, the health care sector.

Rev. Steve Clifton reflected on his year as Chair of Ottawa Presbytery. Under milestones, Rev. Ted Colwell, who was Pastoral Care Minister at Rideau Park for a few years, was celebrating fifty-five years as a United Church minister.

The September meeting was at Barrhaven United. Barrhaven's Minister, Rev. Carla Van Delen became the new Chair of Ottawa Presbytery.

The October meeting was held at Glen Cairn United and Stittsville United Church hosted the November meeting. The agenda dealt with issues involving the transition to the new region. The Finance Ministry Team brought forward motions concerning the transition to a Region and answered questions about financial matters.

There was a motion to support Indigenous Ministries through the disposition of assets from the sale of church property. This motion was postponed as more information was needed.

Information was given by Carla Van Delen and Phyllis MacRae, Ottawa Presbytery representatives on the Regional Commission implementing the transition to the new Region.

The final meeting of Ottawa Presbytery held at Rideau Park United Church in December was well attended. After transacting final motions, the regular meeting concluded with a closing church service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Robinson, Presbytery Representative

In the United Church of Canada, “Session is responsible for assisting the minister with the spiritual welfare of the congregation.” At Rideau Park, Session consists of some forty Elders. Long-serving retiring elders, Myrna Belo, Marlene Hutchison, Gary Seymour and Jessie Weldon were replaced by Beth Campbell-Keays, Julien Quesnel, Merina Shulist and Patricia Whitridge. Jeff Allo, Clerk of Session, in addition to keeping minutes of meetings, keeps track of the Nominal Roll of the congregation including baptisms, marriages, transfers and funerals, participates in Baptisms and other pulpit assistant duties.

Session met four times in 2018 but most of the work of Session is carried out between meetings by the Standing Committees: **Christian Development** - Co-Chaired by Andrea Laliberté and Tara Lynne Lockhart; **Pastoral Care** - Chaired by Brian Neal; **Social Action and Outreach** - Chaired by Sandra Weedmark; and **Worship and Music** - Co-Chaired by Kate Whitridge and Karen Lamb. These committees are very active in promoting the Christian message in practical ways within the Rideau Park congregation and to the extended community around us.

In addition, members of Session were active in ad hoc groups, especially the **Session Task Group on Becoming an Affirming Congregation**, made up of Alyce Dunnewold, Lorna McCrea, Diane Keevil Harrold, Marilou Reeve and Nadia Senyk. In association with this process a Vision Statement for Rideau Park was developed. These activities were encouraged and energetically assisted by Rev. Steve Clifton and Rev. Elizabeth Bryce. Rideau Park is blessed in having clergy who are so devoted. The Vision Statement has been presented to various groups and approved by Council as well as Session. It was also presented and discussed at the Fall Congregational Meeting.

The United Church has shown concern for wrongs that have been committed on the Indigenous peoples in the name of Christianity, wrongs that in part arose out of ignorance. We are obligated to right these wrongs and to dispel this ignorance. In May, a “**Blanket Exercise**” highlighting the extent to which our Aboriginal peoples have been deprived of their lands, was performed by an Indigenous group from Kairos and attended by about two dozen members of the congregation. In November, with the aim of promoting further understanding of our Indigenous peoples, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce showed a video series: **First Contact: Six (non-indigenous) Canadians Take an Extraordinary Journey Through Indigenous Canada**, produced by Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. This series will continue in the New Year.

Structural Review of Rideau Park has been underway and Session, as now constituted, may not be part of the proposed new structure, although the individual committees will continue with their major contribution to the life of Rideau Park. However, approval of proposed changes will require input from the entire congregation and will be discussed at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February.

I would like to thank our Clergy for their guidance during the past three years.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Nelson, Chair, Session

For the past year and a half, a task group has been shepherding our congregation through a step-by-step process towards becoming an Affirming Ministry, as defined by the United Church of Canada. Several workshops, information sessions and opportunities for discernment have been held.

We now have an approved Vision Statement and a draft Action Plan for how we will proceed should the congregation vote in favour of welcoming everyone, including those of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. There is a need for us to explicitly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirited (LGBTQ2) people, as they have been (and still are being) shunned by many other faith communities.

We anticipate holding a congregational meeting in the spring, to bring this process to a successful completion. In the meantime, we continue to welcome comments, perspectives and feedback from committees, groups and individuals of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorna McCrea, Session Task Group

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

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

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

The **Rideau Park Foundation Fund** has been established to serve as a permanent source of supplementary funding for special needs at the church. This was the ninth year that money from this fund has been eligible for disbursement. Half the donations to the fund in 2018 combined with investment earnings make \$3,149 eligible for disbursement in 2019.

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 (\$925 in 2018) from the Britt Estate. The total investment and cash in this fund under the administration of the Trustees now amounts to \$144,235. 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 \$9,225 was received and council approved that ten percent (\$925) of this estate income be added to the Reserve Fund.

In this past year, Ed Boothe passed away and Trustees Murray Ferguson, Bob Elliott and Bas Groeneweg resigned. We are very grateful for their many years of faithful service to the Board. To follow in their exemplary footsteps, Ron Little and Catherine Ennis were approved by the congregation to serve on the Board. We welcome them and look forward to their leadership.

Members of the Board of Trustees: Norm Edwards, Catherine Ennis, Sheila Faure (Chair), Keith Harris, Daryl Lindberg, Ron Little, Jacqueline Newton, Susan Vaughan (Treasurer) and Rev. Elizabeth Bryce (ex-officio).

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Vaughan, Treasurer and Sheila Faure, Chairperson

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

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

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;
- Kristina and Michael Inrig, the Stewardship Campaign Chairs, and all those who worked with them.
- The many evening Duty Officers, who are coordinated by Robert Blake.
- The many volunteers who assist Debi with the weekly count.
- The UCW, which again contributed generously to the Mission and Service Fund and the financial health of the congregation.
- I would also like to convey the Stewards' ongoing gratitude and appreciation to our church staff.
- Paul Sorg, who as custodian, maintains the property and assists with setup and take down for so many church activities, making the physical facilities one of our greatest assets for our members and our local community.
- Debi Brown, our Administrator, who maintains the financial records and looks after the day to day financial transactions making our job as Stewards much easier. Debi also acts as staff liaison to Stewards and helps co-ordinate and supervise the rental activities.
- Debby Gerro for her work as Administrative Assistant. Debby assists with preparation of notices and appeals, facilities rentals and other needs of Stewards, and is a valued member of the Rideau Park team.

The Committee of Stewards: In 2018, the Committee met monthly, except for the months of March, July and Aug. At the Committee's monthly meetings over the past year, members engaged in discussions regarding the ongoing financial status of the church, issues of fundraising, ongoing property maintenance, the Stewardship Campaign and property renewal projects.

**Fire Safety General Discussion**

In February of 2018 the church had an unsolicited visit from an Ottawa Fire Services Inspector. He identified a number of deficiencies and issued two Fire Orders which gave the church 30 days to fix the problems. The cost of the work to address the deficiencies has amounted to approximately \$10,000.

The following items, included in the first Fire Order, were addressed by Stewards and cleared within the 30-day time limit. They included:

**Beecroft Hall Curtains:** The stage curtains and the window curtains had to be treated with fire retardant to meet the standard. The main stage curtains and some of the black stage curtains were processed through this treatment. However, two of the four black-out curtains and all of the hall window curtains were sun damaged to such an extent that they could not be treated. Funds available - they will be replaced in the coming year.

**Exit Sign:** An exit sign damaged in the past was repaired.

**Smoke Detectors:** Smoke detectors were added where required.

**Kitchen Exhaust Vent:** The exhaust vent in the Beecroft kitchen had to be cleaned by a certified company. This exhaust system has been maintained by our sexton regularly throughout the years but never certified. The company engaged to provide certified vent cleaning stated that it had seen new systems that were dirtier than this 50 plus year-old exhaust system.

**Emergency Lighting:** The church is equipped with emergency lighting located in strategic areas. These systems were checked, repaired and certified as required.

**Building Fire Plan:** The building was required to have a Fire Plan. Using a template provided by the Ottawa Fire Services, a fire plan was developed and provided to the Fire Department. Copies were provided to our administrative staff.

**Firefighter Copy of Safety Plan:** A copy of this plan was available; however, the Fire Services had no record of it in their files. This plan was updated, and a copy was provided to Ottawa Fire Services and also placed in the Duty Officer's Desk.

The second Fire Order dealt with the requirement for a **Fire Alarm System**. This Order took much longer to resolve with many twists and turns along the way.

For decades, the church has had an effective security system which provides alarms on certain doors in the church, motion sensors, smoke and heat detectors to detect a possible fire and a gas detector that can identify a problem in the natural gas supply. This alarm system automatically notifies the alarm monitoring service that can initiate emergency responders when required.

Fire Services was requesting a Fire Alarm System that met the 1986 Building Code. The price for this system was estimated to be in the order of \$50,000 to \$100,000. We argued that this alarm system was not required and that our present system fit our needs. Initially, the Fire Department Inspector prevailed and the Stewards were required to enter into discussions with various certified companies which could install this alarm system. A certified engineering company was also required to design the system to be installed. It was a steep learning curve and we were heading toward the submission of bids by these companies. At that moment the fire department changed their position and stated that if we limited the number of people in various rooms by posting signs, we would not need a fire alarm. Now we had to reset and, based on advice by the Fire Inspector, we investigated various false paths until we located an engineering company in Ottawa that could establish the load capacity for the church facilities,

In December 2018, we finally were able to provide a plan that met the needs of the church and was accepted by the Fire Services. As a result, the larger rooms will have signs indicating a maximum number of people occupying the space.

Many hands were involved to get this work done. I would like to thank Brian Hamilton, Ron MacPherson, Paul Sorg, Debi Brown and Debby Gerro for the advice and assistance they provided.

As well as the usual items that are handled by the Stewards, the phone service was reviewed and changes were made with the result that our monthly costs were reduced from \$300 to \$190 reducing our expenses \$1320 annually. Our efforts to control our hydro costs have been very rewarding with annual charges dropping \$2,109 (26%) from 2017 to 2018.

### **Property Renewal at Rideau Park**

***The maintenance of Rideau Park's church properties is our generation's investment in the future. We have been blessed with the inheritance of this church, built and paid for by our parents' generation. Our trust is to fully maintain these facilities and ensure they are responsive to the needs of the future.***

Entering the final year of Rideau Park's 2012-19 Long Range Property (LRP) Renewal Plan, the Committee of Stewards has identified the need to bring forth a Draft Rideau Park United Church LRP Renewal Plan for 2020-28. As with past LRPs, this draft plan is intended to provide guidance to the Committee of Stewards in anticipating major repairs, needed upgrades and required preventive maintenance. Following consultations soliciting your input, ideas and observations on the draft LRP, the congregation will be asked to approve the 2020-28 LRP Renewal Plan.

Accessibility investments, the Cunningham entrance, the glass walkway, the new lift, and upgraded accessible washrooms are good examples of our wish to make our space work for everybody. The upgrading and renewal of Bea's Kitchen and the Parlour Kitchen honour all those who have worked so faithfully in these spaces over the years and highlight the importance we place on hospitality and sharing good food in our church community. Additionally, the balcony, apartment and kitchen are generating material annual revenues.

### **Some of 2018 Property Renewal accomplishments include:**

- in the spring we readied the apartment for rental. It is now generating \$12,000 annually.
- various interior areas were painted;
- the security system was upgraded;
- the church was appraised for insurance purposes. It was last done in 2009;
- the Property Renewal Fund returned to a positive balance including funds for the Beecroft roof. Last done in 1997, it will be resingled this spring. The devastating September tornado created roofing priorities that necessitated shifting our planned work from last fall.

The changes and improvements to our facilities that have been made over the years allow us to remain responsive to the needs of the present and the future. We all benefit from property renewal. Your direct financial support is necessary to continue our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Scollick, Chair

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

<b>TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP</b>	64	<b>Life Memberships*</b>	41
<b>Circle Group</b>	7	<b>Members at Large</b>	21
<b>E-buddies</b>	18	<b>Not Active</b>	20

\*New Life Membership: Karen Humphries.

**In Memoriam:** Muriel Spratt, Dorothy Valliant, Doris Farrell, Gladys Hunter, Gloria McCarthy, Jean Sprules, Marcia Gosse.

#### 2018 EXECUTIVE:

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

\*Position held through September 2018

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

#### Executive Happenings and Responsibilities:

**President:** The President represents the UCW on Church Council.

It is an honour and a privilege to serve as the President of Rideau Park UCW. 2018 was a busy and eventful year for the UCW. Working together and supporting each other with prayer, we faced the challenges that came our way.

In 2018 we worked together in so many ways: raising funds to support the United Church Mission and Service Fund; the Rideau Park Ministry and Programs Fund and the individual charities that our

UCW contributes to directly with year-end donations. Events such the Deli Pie making, Valentine's Coffee Party, Nearly New Sales, Bake Sales, Book Sales, and of course of "The Night before Christmas" Bazaar all contributed financially allowing us to make these contributions. We all have fun organizing and working these events. Sometimes we moan, groan, and even complain about the work and effort these events take but by the time the next event rolls around we are all ready and willing to do it again. It is in our DNA.

Everyone enjoyed our annual June dinner, catered by Mandy's Café a local business and part of our Rideau Park community. We had fun, fellowship, and good food. Our Australian visitor, Pat Bagshaw, was impressed with the vitality of Rideau Park and the wonderful friendships we enjoy here. Her stories of life in Australia and her faith community there certainly entertained us. We also honoured a member, Karen Humphries, with a Life Membership.

In September, with plans for the Nearly New Sale and the Bazaar well underway, we lost of our dear friend, tireless worker, supporter, and Bell Choir leader Marcia Gosse. Marcia was UCW Treasurer, Membership, and Flower Convenor, she was also the editor of Churchpost, Chair of our Council, and of course she rang bells. Marcia's passing will continue to reverberate through our Rideau Park family and our lives. She is missed so very much.

God works in mysterious ways; others have stepped forward to pick up the threads that Marcia and others were sewing. The fabric changes but we know that the ladies that were the UCW remain with us in memory and spirit. The behind the scenes work that so many Rideau Parkers do quietly continues. We especially thank Lisa, Judy, Mabel, Elaine, Nancy (s), Debi, Janette, Patricia, Gord, and John. We are so grateful for your leadership through these times. We are blessed.

And yes, the Nearly New Sales, Bake Sales and the Bazaar were successful — those famous Deli meat and turkey pies sold out in 15 minutes. Thank you everyone who contributed to making the Bazaar a huge success once again.

As the year ends, we remember, we celebrate, we shed a few tears, we share a few hugs and we pray for strength to continue our journey with grace, humility, and thankful hearts for what we have and what we will be. I look forward to next year; excited about what we can do together as a community of faith to respond to the changes that come our way.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Begg-Durkee, President

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

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

**Corresponding Secretary:** Sends and receives cards to and from people concerning sympathy, get well, congratulations and thank you for flowers, lilies and cards etc. This year eleven sympathy cards, eight birthday cards and twenty-three Thinking of You cards were sent.

**Treasurer:** Thank you, Elaine, for taking over this position after the sudden death of Marcia Gosse.

**Convenor Reports:**

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

**Bazaar:** This year's bazaar ran very smoothly. To date, we have been blessed to receive over \$24,000 which will enable our church to participate in several outreach projects.

**Community/Friendship:** This committee offers friendship and welcome in the name of the church. It involves recording the Baptisms and Transfers of Membership that occur at Rideau Park. Additionally, parents of babies who have been baptized are greeted, welcomed, and given a booklet on baptism as well as a pamphlet about the UCW. During 2018 there was a total of 15 Baptisms. There were 13 confirmands who joined Rideau Park.

**Finance:** The UCW supports many charities and community services, as well as contributing a percentage of its year end funds to Rideau Park's Ministry and Programs and to Mission and Service.

**Mission:** Our UCW has always been a strong supporter of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. The amount of our donation 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 and Food Bank. The UCW has arranged to have a slide show available to be shown before regular services, probably once a month, to keep the congregation aware of what the UCC Mission and Service does with our contribution.

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

**Nominations:** In addition to a new Treasurer, new Flower Convenors were recruited.

**Quilting:** The Rideau Park Quilters meet every Thursday morning from 9:30 until noon in the Parlour. In 2018 a variety of small tied flannelette baby quilts, small hand-quilted quilt panels and large hand quilted pieced quilts were produced. During the year, the following quilts were sold: 7 tied flannelette baby blankets, 3 hand-quilted baby quilts and 1 single bed size pieced quilt for a total of \$755.

**Supply and Welfare:** Thank you once again to the congregation for their support to the UCW supply and welfare program. We encourage you to keep saving soft drink tabs, eye glasses, stamps, and to continue to knit. Soft drink tabs are delivered to Clifford Bowey Community Centre by Barry Dewis. Eye glasses go to Venzia Opticians to be used in third world countries. Used stamps are taken to Oxfam. Three large bags of wool were donated to the West Carleton County Knitters for their outreach program. Early ON Child and Family Centre, Ottawa South received six toques and mitts sets plus another toque and three pair of small mitts following a request by Heidi Hopkin, the Program Facilitator. Harold Black also very kindly delivers knit items to Better Beginnings at Heatherington and to Ledbury Community Centre and home work club. Knit items this year: 2 children's helmets, 40 touques, 18 pairs of mitts, 9 scarves, 11 neck warmers. The UCW is no longer collecting Campbell soup labels as Campbell's have discontinued their school program.

**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.

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

**Unit Reports:** There are five units that hold monthly meetings. Their programs involve films, videos, guest speakers or a topic for discussion. A time of devotion is also important part of the meeting.

**Unit 2** - Hosts the Valentine Coffee Party and Bake Table. Holds the Book Sale in the spring. Manages the Deli table for the Bazaar which entails six work parties making turkey and meat pies. Thank you to those from the congregation who have helped; in particular, Lisa Sadler, Kathy Hannam and Alyce Dunnewold. Also, thanks to Steve Shipley and Jim Ebertz who man the pastry press. At total of 699 pies were made.

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

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

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

**Circle Group** - Holds a monthly book study. In 2018 we read and discussed "Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God" by Lauren Winner. Again this year we held a successful book sale in conjunction with the Fall Nearly New Sale.

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

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

**Community Involvement:** Hospital Auxiliaries, teaching crafts at Abbotsford House, National Art Gallery, PEO, Canvassing, May Court, Alta Vista garage sale, volunteer with young developmentally disabled adults, Margaret Morris exercises, St. Vincent Hospital. We are blessed with outstanding people who contribute so generously of their time, energy, and talents, to enrich the lives of those of our congregation, staff and community.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Paré, Recording Secretary

Stewardship is the means by which we live out our mission statement. We individually and collectively accept responsibility for supporting our staff, church community and programs, locally, nationally and internationally.

Each year the annual Fall Stewardship Campaign works to ensure Rideau Park remains a vital and active community of faith. This year Kristina and Michael Inrig graciously agreed to Co-chair the 2019 Stewardship Campaign.

The theme for the campaign **Live Courageously** is found in the Scriptures. It is the fourth in a four-year series based on I Timothy 6:18-19: "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." "Live Courageously" also focuses on Psalm 31:24: "Be strong and take courage, all you who wait for the Lord."

The congregation's time, talents and financial support are crucial to maintaining our presence and continuing our capacity as a centre for spirituality, community and service in the areas of Alta Vista, Ottawa South and beyond.

We are called to respond to God's generous Spirit and many blessings with our sustaining financial support. With our commitments we can all experience God's grace and do God's work together for our families, friends, neighbours and others that we may reach out to.

In their letter to the congregation, they spoke of Michael's lifetime association with Rideau Park, Kristina and Mike's high school friendship, their Youth Bible Study group, marriage at Rideau Park and their children's baptisms. They live only four doors from the church and Kristina has her new office in the Apartment.

Their wonderful family picture from their 10 month sailing adventure last year demonstrated their commitment to living courageously. From a faith perspective "Live Courageously" means giving of our Christian selves in every way we can. Kristina and Michael invited us to think how we can all live courageously and give courageously.

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

Our thanks again to Kristina and Michael for their leadership. It is refreshing to see the younger members of our congregation accepting the challenge of leadership. The campaign was the beneficiary of their well-crafted message and participation in Stewardship 2019.

**Stewardship Analysis:** For 2019 we received 221 pledges from 337 households for a total of \$477,680 which is .5% more than last year. Of these, 190 (87%) honour their pledges through preauthorized remittances (PAR) via their banking institutions. We receive \$403,458 (85.7%) of our pledged contributions by PAR. Each week when the collection plates are passed we receive \$7,759 of PAR contributions. PAR givings ensures our cash flow throughout the year and enables us to keep our monthly Mission and Service contributions to the United Church of Canada current.

The Ministries and Programs Fund received pledges for \$194,598 (3.2% or 6,211 more than 2018); Mission and Service Fund \$46,324 (-4% or \$1,913 less than 2018); Property Renewal Fund \$37,944 (+9% or \$3,400 more than 2018) and Area of greatest need \$200,788 (-2.7% or \$5,374 less than last year). Combining Ministries and Programs and Area of greatest need yields .5% or \$837 more pledged for 2019 than 2018.

In 2018 pledging to the “Area of greatest need” augmented the Ministries and Programs Fund which was identified in need of priority funding. It was not necessary to access the Trustees’ Reserve Fund capital in 2018. The Ministries and Programs negative balance of \$14,054 or 2.5% of Ministries and Program revenues was charged against fund equity retained in prior years. While total revenues for Ministries and Programs were up in 2018 by \$12,542 or 2.3%, total expenses increased by \$25,789 or 4.8%. Salaries and Benefits expenses increased from \$414,751 to \$432,393.

While a number of contributors chose to increase their pledges for 2019 lost contributions from cancelled pledges and pledges reduced due to life circumstances and the passing away of members largely offset these increases.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Hamilton, Stewardship Coordinator

Ministry and Personnel began the New Year with a festive get together for Rideau Park's staff at Mary Lynne and Jim Holton's home. Eating, chatting, and laughing together was a great way to mingle with our church personnel and their spouses in an easy going, friendly fashion.

There have been many changes within our committee members this year. First of all, Marilyn Law completed her term as Chair and then Marjorie Melick, Bas Groeneweg, and Jim Holton retired after numerous years of being faithful members. Another great loss to this committee – as well as to many other positions within Rideau Park – was the death of Marcia Gosse. All of these people are deeply missed.

To fill these spaces, new faces and new liaisons appeared to join the team:

- Alyce Dunnewold is liaison for Rev. Elizabeth Bryce
- Cameron Jeffrey is liaison for Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald
- John Durkee is liaison for Paul Sorg
- Anne Blades is liaison for Debi Brown
- Christy Harris is liaison for Andrew Ager and Iain Macpherson
- Judy Paré continues as liaison for Debby Gerro
- Wayne Bond continues as liaison for Rev. Steve Clifton.

This hard-working group has been diligently updating job descriptions for each staff member and evaluation forms to be used during the upcoming staff reviews. Previously, these reviews took place every year, but beginning in 2019, a two-year cycle will be undertaken.

During the summer, Steve was absent from his duties at the church taking a well-deserved sabbatical. He read oodles of books on a great variety of topics and I am sure you will hear portions of them poking themselves into surprising corners over the coming months. Last year found him heavily immersed in Presbytery work, so this time of retreat, along with a week at Weston Priory in Vermont, was immensely refreshing for him. Of course, not only did we miss Steve, our minister, but also Steve, our friend. It's great to have you back.

I want to share two pieces of "advance news" with you. For some time now, we have been hearing rumours of our treasured Sexton, Paul Sorg, retiring. Well, it is now official.... we think! Paul will be celebrating a special birthday on October 31<sup>st</sup> so has chosen this as his final day of work. He'll be present to work alongside his replacement for the 2019 bazaar setup, but then he'll be off to retirement and babysitting a favourite grandson. Of course, there will be a fantastic send off for him, but those details are still being determined.

The second piece of news concerns our Administrator, Debi Brown. Debi is going to undergo some knee surgery early in the new year, but she will be capably replaced during her 6-week absence by Lisa Sadler. Our thanks are extended to Lisa and our best wishes for a speedy and successful recovery to Debi.

Rideau Park's congregation is fortunate to be able to enjoy the many different kinds of skills that are being shared by each member of our staff. We feel welcomed when we enter our doors, we learn about unfamiliar facts, we are proud of our sparkling facilities, we are challenged to consider new ways to look at issues, we revel in so many kinds of musical expertise, we are amazed that a building so large with so many things happening, can function in such an organized manner. We are truly blessed.

Ministry and Personnel has a number of functions to consider as it carries out its mandate, but the most important one is to give support - in any and all ways – to our staff members. We are also here to act as a go-between for you, Rideau Park's congregation. Should you have any concerns, please speak directly to the person involved, but feel free to come to us as well. We are one big, happy family and our goal is always to move through each day in that manner.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee consists of a group of people about whom our congregation hears very little. For me, though, our working relationship is one that has abundant support, sage advice, much collaboration, and above all, harmonious team work. I could not ask for a better group of dedicated members; they work together on your behalf for the best kind of staff support that can be provided. I feel honoured to work with each of them.

Respectively submitted,  
Carolyn Scollick, Chair

Over the course of 2018, forty-four Rideau Park events and activities were publicized with 142 notices in three community newspapers, including Vistas, Riverview Park Review, the weekly Our Town section in the Ottawa Citizen each Thursday, and the annual New Season list, also in the Ottawa Citizen in early September. These same events and activities were also listed with descriptions in the Events Calendar and occasionally in the News section on the Rideau Park website. The extremely well-organized Wayne Bond, yet again, accomplished this task.

Rideau Park congregational events and activities continue to be advertised in Churchpost and the congregational emails, the annual activity booklet and various church brochures (jointly accomplished by the administrative staff and ministers, as well as members of the Administrative and Communications Committee).

We were blessed with some new members for the committee: Kristie Marr, Ron MacPherson, Lynda Becker and Ken Tong. Don Ford continued to handle our wifi network and connectivity issues.

This year, the Administrative-Communications committee was delighted to receive funding from the Rideau Park Foundation for a new Rideau Park website. A sub-committee worked for several months on the new site, with the site going live at the end of August. Team members were Kristie Marr, Lynda Becker, Greig Scott, Patricia Whitridge, Elizabeth Bryce, Debby Gerro and Nancy McPherson. Adam MacLean, CEO of APM Solutions, created the new website, with massive input from the sub-committee and members of the Administrative and Communications Committee. We hope that the new site will serve the congregation well for many, many years, and attract new members to Rideau Park.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy McPherson, Chair

The Committee's first very pleasant task of the year was to arrange the Volunteer Appreciation Sunday which took place on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Stewards were selected to receive the congregation's appreciation. Each member of the Stewards was called to the front of the Sanctuary during the service and presented with a rose. Cake was served in Beecroft Hall and there was time for tea, coffee and friendship.

At the Annual Congregational Meeting in February, 2018, a motion was made and approved by the congregation that a Structural Review of programs and services at Rideau Park be undertaken. This review was to take place during 2018 and a final report was to be presented to the congregation at the Congregational meeting in February 2019. A Structural Review Committee was formed and they have been working to complete their mandate by February, 2019

Normally the Nominations Committee would meet early in the fall to review the positions that would become vacant in 2019 and begin the process of recruiting suitable replacements. There were several vacancies coming up; however, because of the Structural Review that was taking place, the Committee was of the view that it would be difficult to fill vacancies that may not exist after February, 2019. As Chair of the Nominating Committee, I discussed the matter with the ministers and it was felt that under the circumstances, a motion should be brought to Council asking for permission to ask everyone whose position becomes vacant in 2019 to remain for one more year thus giving the Committee an opportunity to work with the Structural Review Committee in implementing the proposed new governance regime. At the September meeting of Council, the motion was brought and Council approved. The Committee then contacted all members who were to retire in 2019 and, with two exceptions, everyone agreed to continue until February 2020.

The attached table includes the listing for members of Council, Session, the Committee of Stewards, Board of Trustees, Presbytery Representatives and Chairs of all Committees with terms of offices they have agreed to serve.

The Committee would like to thank all those who agreed to continue in their positions for one more year. Their commitment to this congregation is exemplary.

This coming year, the Committee will begin working on a new inventory of volunteer resources. The Committee will look at a major re-work of the volunteer resources survey and the process for using the assembled information.

As the new Chair of the Nominations Committee, it has been a pleasure working with the committee members this year. They have been very helpful in assisting me in this new position. The Committee members are Mabel Bannerman, Judy Paré, Drew Presley and Patricia Whitridge as well as the Ministers, Steve Clifton and Elizabeth Bryce.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Law, Chair

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

<b>COUNCIL CHAIR</b>	Pat Whitridge	(2021)
<b>VICE-CHAIR</b>	Ken Tong	(2021)
<b>COUNCIL SECRETARY</b>	Cathy Hollands	(2020)
<b>CHAIR OF SESSION</b>	Bob Nelson	(2020)
<b>SESSION REPRESENTATIVE</b>	David Moreira	(2021)
<b>CHAIR OF STEWARDS</b>	John Scollick	(2020)

TREASURER	Bob Roden	(2020)
STEWARDS REPRESENTATIVE	Steve Shipley	(2021)
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	Brian Hamilton	(2020)
CHAIR OF MINISTRY & PERSONNEL	Carolyn Scollick	(2021)
OTTAWA PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVE	Doug Robinson	(2020)
CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Sheila Faure	(2020)
PRESIDENT UNITED CHURCH WOMEN	Nancy Begg-Durkee	(Dec. 2019)
CHAIR ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMUNICATIONS	Nancy McPherson	(2020)
CHAIR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	Marilyn Law	(2021)
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Shanti Inman	(2020)
	Michael Inrig	(2020)

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

CHAIR OF SESSION	Bob Nelson	(2020)
CLERK OF SESSION	Jeff Allo	(2020)
CHAIR OF STEWARDS	John Scollick	(2020)
TREASURER	Bob Roden	(2020)
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR	Brian Hamilton	(2020)

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL	Carolyn Scollick	(2021)
ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMUNICATIONS	Nancy McPherson	(2020)
CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Greig Scott	(2020)
NOMINATIONS	Marilyn Law	(2021)
SOCIAL ACTION/OUTREACH	Sandra Weedmark	(2020)
WORSHIP & MUSIC	Karen Lamb	(2021)
PASTORAL CARE	Brian Neal	(2021)
CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT	Tara Lynne Holton	(2020)
	Andrea Laliberté	(2020)

**TRUSTEES**

CHAIR	Sheila Faure	(2020)	
SECRETARY	Norm Edwards		
MEMBERS	Catherine Ennis	Keith Harris	Daryl Lindberg
	Ron Little	Jacqueline Newton	Michael Presley
	Susan Vaughan		

**PRESBYTERY LAY REPRESENTATIVES**

Alyce Dunnewold	Brian Irvine	Doug Robinson
Maureen Stark		

**MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE OF STEWARDS**

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

**MEMBERS OF SESSION**

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

Rideau Park hosted many inspiring worship events over the course of 2018. In January we celebrated I Have a Dream Sunday, and we celebrated with youth on Worshiplude weekend. The Encarna prayer and reflection experience was offered during Lent and Advent, and mid-week retreats were held for Advent. Shared services included the summer service exchange with Emmanuel United, and the December 30<sup>th</sup> service with local United Churches.

The Meditation group meets Sunday before service, and Healing Pathway healing sessions are held by appointment on Thursdays and Sundays, during communion by intinction, and Sunday after the service. The Lenten spirituality program featured the book, *The Great Spiritual Migration* by Brian McLaren, and reflections were held on Sunday mornings.

The Worship and Music Committee met in January, February, April, June, September, October and November. The Committee welcomes participation in our worship and music programs, and thoughts on current and potential worship activities.

The Worship and Music Committee supported the initiatives of the Working Group on Becoming an Affirming Congregation, and in March welcomed Aaron Miechkota from Iridesce: The Living Apology Project. The Committee, in response to Call to Action 48, continues to explore indigenous spirituality and relationship building with our local Indigenous Community.

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

The Committee recognized the exceptional contributions of the late Marcia Gosse in developing and leading the handbell program.

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
- The late Marcia Gosse for her wonderful dedication in leading the handbell choirs, providing first class concerts, and sharing the bell music ministry at Rideau Park and in the broader community
- Gordon Dewis (A Touch of Brass) and Jeanette Caton (Ringin' Praise and La Bell Ensemble) for stepping forward to provide excellent leadership for their bell choirs at a very challenging time
- Andrew Ager and Iain Macpherson for providing music leadership, Andrew for the beautiful organ and piano music, and Iain for his great choral leadership
- Heather Ingrams, Becky Kurz, Linda Hagglund, Iain Macpherson, and the many volunteers who make our children's choirs so very popular, for cheering our hearts and leading the children in Cherubs, Kinderpraise and Joyful Noise.

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

Thanks also to the organizers of coffee hour, communion support, ushering, decorating, advertising, hosts and coordinators of special events, music leaders, and the staff of Rideau Park United Church.

We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratefulness to the two ministers of worship, the Rev. Steve Clifton and the Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, for their worship leadership and their guidance to the

Committee during the year, and also to the Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald and Sharon Sanderson for their contribution to worship.

The members of the Worship and Music Committee for 2018 were: Karen Lamb and Kate Whitridge Co-chairs; Judy Paré Secretary; Andrew Ager, Nancy Begg-Durkee, Barry Dewis, Marcia Gosse, Christy Harris, Diane Keevil Harrold, Heather Ingrams, Marilyn Law, Iain Macpherson, and Sharon Sanderson.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Lamb and Kate Whitridge, Co-chairs

After several years of successfully leading their respective sections, June of 2018 was the final month of work for three long-time singers –soprano Caitlin Tabbenor, alto Leigha Robinson, and tenor Yanik Gosselin. We wish them the best in their future endeavours, and are grateful for their years of leadership, dedication and sharing of their gifts.

After an interesting audition process, where several sopranos were heard and interviewed, Jessyca Morgan was hired as soprano lead in July, Carmen Harris, a soprano, agreed to lead the alto section shortly after, and tenor, Noah Bragança, thankfully took on the tenor lead position in September. James Coole-Stevenson continues as bass lead for a second season, along with Iain Macpherson and Andrew Ager in their roles as Music Ministry Coordinator and organist, respectively.

The Chancel Choir and Section Leads worked hard to bring some beautiful music to the services and concerts at Rideau Park, spanning across a range of styles including Gregorian Chant; traditional and classical favourites; gospel and spiritual songs; worship and praise music; Taizé Community excerpts; and then finishing in December with a concert of carols, beloved hymns and a presentation, complete with harp and string orchestra, of Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio.

Joyful Noise children's choirs continued to grow this year, with many new members joining the younger choir; unfortunately, with lower participation numbers than usual in the older choir, where no more than 2 participants have been regularly present, the grade 6+ choir is struggling. In an attempt to address this, I put forward the idea of presenting a small-scale musical by 2019. This idea was well received by the younger students, but not so with the older kids. Nevertheless, the musical *Oh Jonah!* is scheduled to be presented on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019, during the Sunday morning service. Andrea Laliberté has agreed to jump on board and assist in the preparations for this event.

As a new initiative, I offered an African (Ghanaian) drumming class at 11:30 am on Sundays, starting in October. The class has been well attended, with a total group of around a dozen participants, and will continue in 2019.

Thank you to the RPUC staff, Debi Brown, Debby Gerro, Elizabeth Bryce, Steve Clifton, Andrew Ager, Paul and Brian, members of the Music and Worship Committee, and to Christy Harris and Carolyn Scollick for all your support and assistance this past year. Thank you also to all the talented people of Rideau Park, who continually surprise me with their musical gifts and hard work. All the best!

Respectfully submitted,  
Iain Macpherson, Music Ministry Coordinator

In 2018, there were once again two ringing choirs for young people at Rideau Park United Church. Note-Able Sound Chimes ensemble, for ringers in grades 2-5, met in the Sanctuary every Thursday evening from 6:15-6:45 p.m. The group was directed by Andrea Laliberté with assistance from Erin Brunet-Decaire, Kaitie Jourdeuil until May 2018, Merina Shulist and members of our teen bell choir.

Grace Notes Teen Bells, for ringers in grades 6+, also met in the Sanctuary every Thursday evening and rehearsed from 6:45-7:30 p.m. The group was also directed by Andrea Laliberté with the capable aid of Erin Brunet-Decaire, Merina Shulist and Kaitie Jourdeuil until May 2018.

Grace Notes once again had the special opportunity in February 2018 to participate and share music at Worshiplude, a gathering of over 500 youth from all over Ontario. This weekend long annual event coincides with Ottawa's Winterlude celebrations. Grace Notes shared in the Saturday evening Worshiplude service at Parkdale United Church.

In the Spring of 2018, both Note-Able Sound and Grace Notes shared their music in worship at Rideau Park on several occasions as part of Sunday worship. Both groups also had the opportunity to participate in the annual Bells in Spring Concert.

In the Fall, both groups enjoyed some of our largest ever enrolments. The Fall was a time of great challenge and sorrow as we mourned the loss of Marcia Gosse, our long-time director of the adult Handbell programs here at Rideau Park. While we were struck with great sadness, we decided to honour Marcia's memory, keeping her ministry of music alive and well by ensuring the music did not stop.

Many members of Grace Notes continued to serve as mentor ringers for our youngest chimers and we are grateful for their support. Note-Able Sound shared their music as part of the Christmas Bell Concert and the Christmas Eve Family Service. Grace Notes shared their music at the Christmas Bell Concert, the annual Christmas Pageant and the Christmas Eve Family Service. The Teen Bells also participated in Youth and Young Adult Sunday in November.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Laliberté

It has been a year of ups and downs for the Rideau Park Handbell groups. The loss of our beloved leader, Marcia Gosse, in September was felt throughout the church and particularly by her three handbell choirs.

*A Touch of Brass*, directed by Gord Dewis, is one of three adult handbell choirs with 13 dedicated members and several volunteer substitutes. Their love of music is reflected in the faces of all who listen as they play for the glory of God at Rideau Park United on a regular basis.

*La Bell Ensemble*, directed by Jeanette Caton, is the second adult handbell choir with 10 dedicated members who love to take the bells and share their talents within the community. They played at Kitchissippi United Church in the spring and returned to start off the Christmas season at the end of November. *La Bell Ensemble* joined *A Touch of Brass* for their annual performance at the Ottawa Rehabilitation Centre.

*Ringin' Praise*, directed by Jeanette Caton, is the third adult handbell choir with 10 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 at the beginning of May. It featured Rideau Park's handbells and chimes playing with three other handbell choirs from neighbouring churches in the community.

This year we started the Christmas season with our annual "Ringin' In Christmas" Bell Concert in early December for Rideau Park Bell & Chimes choirs. The goodwill offering raised over \$1,650, which was shared evenly between the Heron Road Emergency Food Bank and the Christmas Cheer Program at Rideau Park. Then it was on to ringing endlessly but joyously until midnight on Christmas Eve.

The duet played 2 services at Rideau Park and a service at St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church.

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.

Thank you also to Iain Macpherson and Andrew Ager who have enhanced the bell music with the sounds of the violin and the organ and piano over the last year.

Finally, we are very grateful for the support of the church and the congregation of Rideau Park that we have received since Marcia's passing. It has made this difficult transition much easier.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Gord Dewis and Jeanette Caton

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

In 2018, Tara Lockhart and Andrea Laliberté continued in their roles as co-chairs of the Christian Development Committee. In early 2018, membership of the committee included: Rev. Steve Clifton, Anne Marie Tessier, Andrea Laliberté (co-chair), Tara Lockhart (Secretary, co-chair), and Gary Seymour.

In the fall of 2018, a concerted effort to invite new members to join the committee was made and it resulted in 11 new members joining, including: Kim LeClair, Kim Allo, Diane Lagace, Glen Boyd, Joann Roebuck, Sarah Charron, Meg Steele, Allison Van Diepen, Stephanie Bailey, Heidi Hopkin and Merina Shulist.

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

#### **Programs**

Sunday School  
Confirmation Classes  
Vacation Bible School  
Hear Say Supper Group  
Scouting

#### **Events**

Welcome Back Brunch  
Carol Gardner Award  
Carleton University Pause Table  
Advent Happening  
Shoe Boxes for charity

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

With the help of fabulous volunteers, we continue to provide a vibrant Sunday School program. We were privileged to have dedicated Sunday School teachers providing weekly activities for ages 3,4,5 (Susan Kilborn, Candice Presley & Heidi Hopkin), grades 1-3 (Linda Hagglund), grades 4-6 (Andrea Laliberté) and grades 7-9 (Ben Presley). There were also many parents who supported these classes as helpers and supply teachers, including Marc Laliberté, Diane Lagace and Allison Van Diepen. Our toddler room up to three years continued to be staffed by paid youth - Bronwyn Clifton (early 2018), Hailey Laliberté (fall 2018), Lianne Presley and Rebekah Dillman.

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

Vacation Bible School offered a full day Camp Awesome program led by the youth of the Ottawa Presbytery and was supported by youth volunteers from Rideau Park. Camp Awesome was attended by 60 participants. Thank you to all who helped at Camp Awesome 2018. Vacation Bible School Staff: Ruth Bryce, Rebekah Dillman, Bronwyn Clifton, Allyson Hopkin and Meado Adlard; and volunteers: Dzifa Agbenyoh, Caitlin Allo, Kieran Allo, and Mohammed Iwad. The full day camp model continues to appeal to working families and the Presbytery program – Camp Awesome - continues to be successful as it meets our needs as a congregation and, most importantly, the needs of the participants.

In February, the Christian Development Committee hosted 110 young people and leaders from the London Conference who attended Worshiplude in Ottawa. Christian Development provided

breakfast for our guests on the Saturday and Sunday mornings during the Worshiplude program.

In November we hosted the 50 members of the Ontario Youth Parliament Cabinet for a weekend and they participated in worship on YAYA Sunday.

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

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

In the spring, we recognized the long-term commitment to our children and young people by Heather Ingrams. She was given the Carol Gardner Award in recognition for her inspirational leadership with our Cherub choir and for her dedication to involving our young people in the Bazaar and Nearly New Sale through initiatives such as the Princess Boutique.

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

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

In 2018 our ministry with youth and young adults took many forms.

In the spring ,12 young people were confirmed into membership through a profession of faith. The group met for 8 months in preparation for this happy event. Thank you to Alyce Dunnewold for co-leading the confirmation program this year.

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

In the fall we have a tradition of organizing a Youth and Young Adults (YAYA) Sunday. Our young people take the lead on Sunday morning. Our youth bell choir provided music. Sunday School students shared a creative presentation. We were joined by the Cabinet of the Ontario Youth Parliament (OYP) who shared the OYP experience with us.

Hospitality is part of mission to young people. Our congregation has hosted youth and leaders for Worshiplude for many years and welcomed our friends from London Conference for the eighth consecutive year.

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

- The February Worshiplude service brings 600 youth from all over Quebec and Ontario. They all come to Ottawa for Winterlude, are hosted by local churches and join in with a worship gathering. RPUC hosted 110 awesome young people from London Conference during Worshiplude Our youth bell group Grace Notes played at the service as well.
- Our Presbytery also runs the **Camp Awesome** Vacation Bible School (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 their 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

The Pastoral Care Team, which includes 14 volunteers and our Pastoral Care Minister, Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald, visits about 40 people on a regular basis. These visits are greatly appreciated because the seniors receiving them are no longer able to attend regular worship services and miss the community connections. In addition, we often visit those recently bereaved or recovering from major surgery or an illness. We would like to formally thank those who knit the prayer shawls which provide much needed ongoing physical and spiritual comfort, long after the visit.

The Pastoral Care Committee has ten regular members who meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month six times a year. The meetings coordinate the pastoral care visiting and planning for special events. Most pastoral care visitors are committee members, but you do not have to be a committee member to be a visitor.

Our mandate is “to strengthen the spiritual well-being of the entire congregation by fostering a sense of ‘church family’ and of fellowship and belonging”. However, many of the people who we visit are vulnerable, and we also have an obligation to ensure their safety. This year, the Pastoral Care Committee spent some time reflecting on the potential risks associated with pastoral care visits, both for the visitors and those visited. We recognized that there is an ongoing duty to protect those who receive our services by following official church policy for risk management and protecting the vulnerable. In our case, that means putting a renewed emphasis on screening and training our volunteers. Our guide for the review was the Handbook: *“Faithful Footsteps, Screening Procedures for Positions of Trust and Authority in The United Church of Canada”*.

The Pastoral Care Committee also reviewed its Terms of Reference and recommended changes to Session for approval. Several clarifications were proposed to:

- address the safety and security of visitors and those visited,
- add a section on the responsibilities of the pastoral care visitors, and
- recognize that Healing Pathway now reports to Session through the Pastoral Care Committee.

As we continue to fill the pastoral care needs of our church community, we look forward to having new volunteers who would like to share in our commitment to those members of our faith community who can no longer attend services with us. It is very rewarding volunteer work that does not actually seem like work.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Neal, Chair

**Purpose:**

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

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

**Banff Avenue Community House; Blair Court Community House; Russell Heights Community House:** Rideau Park's Social Action and Outreach Committee supports the community houses financially.

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

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

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

**Harmony Club:** This is a group of seniors 60+ that meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm from September to May. Cards and conversation precede a lunch, followed by a speaker.

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

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

**Peace and Development:** We started the year with I Have a Dream Sunday. Unfortunately, our guest speaker Imam Mohamad Jebara took ill and Rev. Bryce very capably filled in at the last minute. We were able to reschedule Imam Mohamad Jebara on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He gave a very inspiring talk and brought his children along. They went to Sunday School and had a wonderful time. Following the service we had a lunch with Imam Mohamad Jebara and his children and other members of the congregation. It was a wonderful day for everyone concerned. In April we invited Dr. Gubbay Helfer to speak following our service on April 15<sup>th</sup> on the subject "Compassionate Listening Project." She was a very good speaker and we learned a lot about the project. In December we again sold Olive Oil from Palestine as well as some soap and their cookbook.

**Environment:** The Environmental Action Committee supported a new initiative in 2018 to bring multiple local environmental groups to Rideau Park to form a new Sustainability Office located in the apartment. This has been a great connection with a number of key local organizations that have had the chance to present at a September Sustainability Lunch as well as at Harmony Club and at UCW.

We have also started co-hosting the National Capital Environmental Non-Profit Network at Rideau Park which regularly brings 20-30 local environmental groups through our doors. We hope this will lead to new partnerships and collaborations in the future.

**Refugee Committee:** It was a busy year as Ubah moved to another apartment, married and had a baby boy in September. The baby is growing and is delightful. We are no longer supporting her financially; however, she wants to bring her mother, brother and two half-sisters to Canada. The documents have been completed and we have agreed to provide financial help so we will be having various events over the next two or three years to raise the necessary funds. We do not expect that they will come to Canada for three or four years. Our Syrian Family, the Awads, are doing well. Ali is now working at Loblaws at the Elmvale Shopping Centre across from where they now live. He really likes it there and is hoping to become permanent. Safaa is also working part-time at a daycare on Bank Street. Ubah has applied for Canadian Citizenship and Ali and Safaa plan to apply this winter as they will have been in Canada for three years on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Weedmark, Chair

**Rideau Park United Church  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, February 11, 2018**

PRESENT: Marcia Gosse, (Chair), Cathy Hollands, (Recording Secretary), Bob Roden, Mary Harris, Keith Harris, Wayne Bond, Christy Harris, Sandra Graham Korjus, Gretchen Conrad, Merina Shulist, Kristie Marr, Rod Hagglund, Bob Rennie, Sheila Faure, Thierry Faure, Garry Lindberg, Gavin Currie, Christel Kurz, Lynn Sherwood, Sharon Bernard, Tony Bernard, Patricia Whitridge, Sandra Weedmark, Kate Whitridge, Mabel Bannerman, Marilyn Bailey, Kathy Mayes, Nancy McPherson, Drew Presley, Graeme Kemkes, Steve Clifton, Alyce Dunnewold, Andrew Ager, Suzanne Bassett, Heather Ingrams, Joann Roebuck, Audrey Stewart, Mary Lynne Holton, Jim Holton, Jennifer MacKinnon, Steve Shipley, Carmen Small, Marlene Hutchison, Brian Neal, Sharon Sanderson, Doug Robinson, Carolyn Scollick, John Scollick, Elizabeth Bryce, Ron MacPherson, Greig Scott, Gerri Scott, Brian Hamilton, Doreen Hamilton, Doug Robertson, Elaine Robertson, Suzanne Beausejour, Norm Black, Sheila Black, Karen Lamb, Karen Humphries, Jessie Weldon, Judy Paré, Beth Campbell-Keays, Georgina Fitzgerald, Nadia Senyk, Nancy Begg-Durkee and Peggy Rader. (68 in attendance) REGRETS: Bob Nelson

**The Community Gathers Before God**

1. **Words of Welcome and Opening Motions** Rev. Steve Clifton welcomed everyone and asked for nominations for a Recording Secretary and Chair for the meeting. Heather Ingrams moved, and Karen Lamb seconded the Motion that the meeting be chaired by Marcia Gosse (Chair of Council) and that Cathy Hollands be the Recording Secretary for this meeting.

**CARRIED**

2. **Lighting of the Christ Candle** Marcia lit the Christ Candle and called the meeting to order.
3. **Prayer of Approach** Rev. Steve Clifton opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. **Motion re Adherents** Marcia called for a motion to permit adherents to participate and vote in this year's Annual Congregational Meeting. Alyce Dunnewold moved, and Tony Bernard seconded the Motion permitting all adherents of Rideau Park United Church to participate and vote at this year's Annual Congregational Meeting.

**CARRIED**

5. **Approval of the Agenda** Marcia requested a motion to approve the Agenda as modified to read Annual Congregational Meeting. Gretchen Conrad moved, and Tony Bernard seconded the Motion that the Agenda be accepted as modified.

**CARRIED**

**Life and Work of the Congregation**

6. **Receiving the 2017 Annual Reports and Congregational Meeting Minutes** Marcia requested a motion to receive the 2017 Annual Report, the Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2017. These minutes are printed in the Annual Report, pages 51-55. Pat Whitridge moved, and Sharon Bernard seconded the Motion that the 2017 Annual Report, and Minutes be received as printed.

**CARRIED**

7. **Receiving the Review Engagement Report and proceeding with Review Engagement for 2017** Marcia called upon Bob Roden, Treasurer, to present the 2016 Review Engagement Report. Bob thanked all who had worked with him, staff and volunteers, and the UCW for their financial support. Collins Barrow reviewed the 2016 financial statements and found no problem. Peggy Rader moved, and John Scollick seconded the Motion that the Report on the Review Engagement of the financial statements for 2016, 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 2015). As 2017 is the second year following an audit, Keith Harris moved, and Gretchen Conrad seconded that the Committee of Stewards be authorized to engage Collins Barrow to conduct a review engagement with respect to 2017 Financial Statements.

**CARRIED**

8. **Receiving the Financial Statements for 2017** Bob Roden provided a summary of our financial results for 2017. Envelope givings are down. The income from the Britt fund is also down. However, the offsets were: support from UCW was higher than predicted; travel expenses were lower than expected; and the salary for Georgina Fitzgerald was lower than proposed because she had cut down her hours of work. Karen Humphries moved, and Kate Whitridge seconded the Motion that the Financial Statements found on pages 21-23, the Fund Account Reconciliation Statement found on page 26, and the summary of the Property Renewal Fund found on page 27 of the Rideau Park United Church 2017 Annual Report be accepted subject to a review engagement for 2017.

**CARRIED**

9. **Property Report and Plan** Brian Hamilton reviewed the property report on Page 27 of the Annual Report. He extended special thanks to the UCW for their financial support in the Parlour Kitchen renovations. He also wanted to thank the Ottawa Presbytery for the grant to upgrade the webcasting to high definition. For example, Sarah Thoppil's funeral was able to be seen by family and friends in India and Europe because of that upgrade. He noted there is increasing difficulty in raising money. He also reported that the transition to LED lights and other efficiencies have resulted in the hydro bill increasing by only \$150 compared to 10 years ago. Heather Ingrams asked if the property committee is aware that some tiles are lifting in the sanctuary. Brian replied that yes, the committee is aware and have not put that repair in the future budget yet as the most pressing repair is the re-roofing of Beecroft Hall (many shingles lifted during a wind storm in the Fall). Brian Hamilton moved, and Gretchen Conrad seconded the Motion that the Property Renewal Plan for 2018, as found on page 28 of the 2017 Annual Report, be approved.

**CARRIED**

Marcia thanked Brian for all his hard work throughout the year re property repair and renewal.

10. **Trustees Report** Sheila Faure thanked Murray Ferguson and Bob Elliott, retiring members of the Board of Trustees for their service over the years. She also thanked Susan Vaughan who, as treasurer for the Trustees, maintains the books and prepared the report on pages 16-18. Sheila reported that \$6,109 will be available this year for disbursement from the Rideau Park Foundation Fund. She also confirmed that the loan has been renewed to Multi-Faith Housing project, and that more money has been invested in the Fiera Capital Fund.
11. **Stewardship Report** Brian Hamilton thanked Peggy Rader for being Campaign Chair during the 2017 Stewardship Campaign. The projected pledge goal was higher than the actual pledges which came in. He speculated that it is partly due to fewer members. Also, he reported that M&S Contributions will be decreasing by \$20,000 in the coming year because one member has had a change in lifestyle and will be contributing far less as a result.
12. **Recognition of Leadership that is concluding** Rev. Elizabeth Bryce thanked the following who have volunteered on various committees and are retiring: Heather Ingrams, Marilyn Law, Wayne Bond, Drew Presley, Nancy Begg-Durkee, Peggy Rader, Maureen Stark, Bob Elliott, Murray Ferguson, Karen Humphries, Peter Osudar, Myrna Bello, Marlene Hutchison, Gary Seymour, and Jessie Weldon.

**13. Recognition of Staff** At this time Marcia recognized the essential contribution to the life of the church made by our ministers Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Rev. Steve Clifton, and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald; the Administrative Staff - Debi Brown and Debby Gerro; our Sexton Paul Sorg; and our music leaders - Iain Macpherson and Andrew Ager.

**14. Nominations** Wayne Bond, Chair of Nominations thanked his committee members and the advisors for their help. He also thanked all who have extended their positions. Corrections to his committee report Pages 38-41 are: add one new Steward, Joann Roebuck whose term will end in 2021; Marilyn Law's end date as Nomination Committee Chair is 2021; and Ron Little should have an asterisk after his name as he is a new member on the Board of Trustees. Wayne also notified everyone that Volunteer Appreciation Sunday will be April 28, 2018. Wayne Bond moved, and Karen Lamb seconded the Motion that the nominations for new appointments and renewal and extension of terms, as set out in the Nominations Report on pages 38-41 of the 2017 Annual Report be adopted as modified above. **CARRIED**

**15. 2018 Budget** Bob Roden outlined that the 2018 budget reflects a shortfall of \$20,000. Pledges are down 14.5% and contributions to M&S will be significantly down as reported under item 11. The following discussion resulted as the budget shows \$20,000 more in disbursements than what Revenues were received in 2017:

- Brian Hamilton suggested Stewards need to challenge the Congregation
- Gretchen Conrad suggested that we need something to cue people to give when the collection plate is passed. Nancy Begg-Durkee felt that something should be in the plate right from the beginning of the collection.
- Christel Kurz suggested a notice could be put in the bulletin to show how much is contributed by PAR vs. what the needs are in any particular week.
- Thierry Faure suggested we should start the discussion on how to decrease expenses. There was a suggestion that it should be an item for Council to address.
- Garry Lindberg suggested that we should invite suggestions from the congregation as to how to cut costs.

Jim Holton moved, and Tony Bernard seconded the Motion that the Rideau Park United Church 2018 Budgets for the Ministries and Programs Fund and the Mission and Service Fund, as presented on pages 24 and 25 of the 2017 Annual Report, be approved.

**CARRIED with 1 abstention**

Alyce Dunnewold moved and John Scollick 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 should they occur during 2018.

**16 Long Range Financial Plan Update** Brian Hamilton stated that some of the big expenses are coming to an end, e.g. Parlour Kitchen Renovation. The Stewards will look toward formulating a new Long-Range Plan as the current one finishes in 2019. **CARRIED**

**17 Affirming Presentation** Alyce Dunnewold invited everyone to look at the Definition of an Affirming Congregation drawn up by the Session Task Group on becoming an Affirming Congregation. She attempted to show a video of a church which has already gone through this process, but unfortunately technology was not cooperative, and it was suggested that it be shown instead during a future Service.

**18. Other Business.**

- a. Mission Statement** Rev. Elizabeth Bryce spoke about the Regeneration Workshop which was held at RPUC on March 25, 2017. Evaluation surveys were done by all the attendees of the Ottawa Presbytery present. The lion image Elizabeth showed is symbolic of goals

available with a Vision Statement. The water buffalo image she showed is symbolic of our need for a Mission Statement. Elizabeth invited those present to use post-it notes to describe what they feel about our church and/or the vision they see for it in the future. Marcia invited a Motion for Council to look at forming a Mission Statement as well as a new Vision Statement. Heather Ingrams made the Motion that Council be authorized to conduct a review of the Mission Statement and form a new Vision Statement and it was seconded by Mary Lynne Holton.

**CARRIED**

- b. Update on Regional Boundaries and Remits** Rev. Steve Clifton updated the state of the current Remits. Remit 1 is currently in the process of being implemented. There are to be 17 new regions across Canada. Rideau Park United Church is in region 13, which basically is an increase of the former Ottawa Presbytery. It will likely go forward as proposed even though other regions are not happy e.g. BC, NS, PEI. The following questions were answered by Steve.

Q. What about staffing in the new Region?

A. They are not sure about staffing yet.

Q. Why so many regions in Ontario?

A. The regions are organized according to population. Also, Quebec asked to be on its own.

Q. What happens to funds tied specifically to the Ottawa Presbytery?

A. Work still needs to be done on this issue.

Q. What happens to current committees in the Ottawa Presbytery?

A. They will be merged with other committees within the new borders. In the past, there was already consultation with neighbouring committees.

- c. Structural Review** Pat Whitridge explained that Council is forming a committee to carry out a re-evaluation of all the current church committees: their functioning ability, their relevance, and the ongoing need/purpose for each individual committee. There was a suggestion to create a Central List which is current for active members and adherents. Pat plans on putting a notice in the bulletin asking for input. The results of this structural review will be relevant to the formation of a new Mission Statement. Rod Hagglund moved that Council be authorized to form a committee to conduct a Structural Review of programs and services at Rideau Park and the motion was seconded by Peggy Rader.

**CARRIED**

- d. Remit #6 - Order of Ministry** Marcia Gosse updated the congregation on Remit #6 which was voted upon favourably by both Session and Council. The vote results have been sent in.

- 19 Closing Remarks** Marcia noted that it is now 65 years since the formation of Rideau Park United Church and during this time, we have been blessed by those who walked before us and had the dream to plan for the future.

### **Sending Forth**

- 20 Commissioning and Benediction** Rev. Elizabeth Bryce closed the meeting with a benediction.

- 21 Closing** Karen Lamb moved, and Steve Shipley seconded the Motion to adjourn.

**CARRIED**

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Marcia Gosse, Chair

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Cathy Hollands, Recording Secretary

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Date