

# **Rideau Park United Church Annual Report 2021**



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## LEADERSHIP AT RIDEAU PARK

<b>STAFF</b>	Rev. Steve Clifton	Minister of Christian Family and Worship
	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce	Minister of Community and Worship
	Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald	Minister of Pastoral Care
	Iain Macpherson	Music Ministry Coordinator
	Andrew Ager	Organist
	Debi Brown	Administrator
	Geoff Scollick	Custodian
<b>COUNCIL</b>	Ken Tong	Chair
	Patricia Whitridge	Past Chair
	Lynn Sherwood	Secretary
	Bob Roden	Treasurer
	Gavin Currie	Chair of Stewardship
	Doug Robinson	Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Representative
	Michael Presley	Chair of Board of Trustees
	Nancy McPherson	President of United Church Women
	Jeff Allo	Chair of Ministry and Personnel
	Gaveen Cadotte	Member at Large
	Jeremy Geelen	Member at Large
	Heather Boyd	Member at Large
	Heather Ingrams	Member at Large
	Stephanie Bailey	Member at Large
	Laura Presley	Member at Large
	Meg Steele/Neil McGraw	Member at Large
	Steven Neal	Programs Liaison
	Drew Presley	People Liaison
	Ron MacPherson	Resources Liaison
	Rev. Steve Clifton	Minister of Christian Family and Worship
	Rev. Elizabeth Bryce	Minister of Community and Worship
	Debi Brown	Administrator (non-voting)

## COMMITTEES

### Programs

Worship and Music	Karen Lamb and Sharon Sanderson, Co-Chairs
Social Action and Outreach	Lynn Sherwood, Chair
Christian Development	Tara Lockhart and Andrea Laliberté, Co-Chairs
Environmental Action	Kristina Inrig, Chair

## People

Congregational Life	Alyce Dunnewold, Chair
Nominations	Marilyn Law, Chair
Pastoral Care	Brian Neal, Chair
Congregational Development	Greig Scott, Chair

## Resources

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

Eastern Ontario Outaouais	Alyce Dunnewold
Regional Council Representatives	Brian Irvine
	Doug Robinson
Envelope Secretary	Barbara Jeffrey

## JOURNEY OF FAITH

### Baptisms

Child	Sofia Helen Bourgeois
	Madeline Joan Boyd
	Natalie Isabel Boyd
	Nathaniel Arthur Xuanni Boyd
	Braden James Flack
	Arizona Robyn Jordyn Nickerson
	Jack Stephen Young Seeley
Adult	Glen Arthur Boyd

Transfer to Rideau Park	nil
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## IN MEMORIAM

### *Members, Adherents and Friends of Rideau Park*

Doug Barber	Mardie McLaughlin-Green
Norm Edwards	Kenneth Nicoll
Jack Ellacott	Margo Osudar
Dorothy MacLeod Forsyth	Ferguson Short
Audrey Henry	Dorothy Treasure
Joyce Ireland	Bill Totten
Eleanor Jones	

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

*John 11: 25, 26*

## RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH IN MEMORIAM DONATIONS

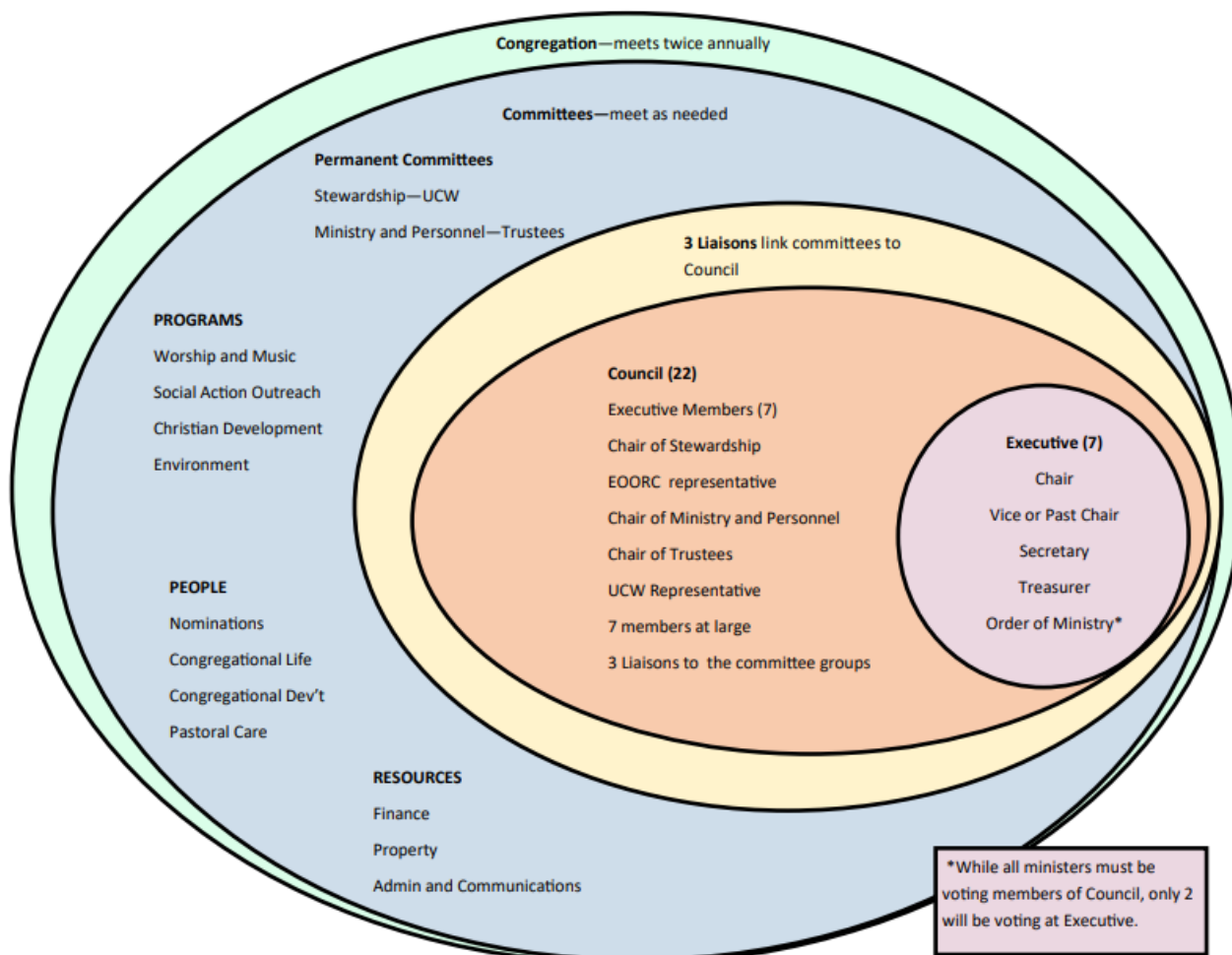
Mary Anderson	Howard LeConte
Evalyn Collins	Marguerite McNally
Norm Edwards	Leah and Ford Oldford
Allan W Hamilton	Margo Osudar
Mary and Joseph Hiscock	Bill Totten

## CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

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

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

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



**STATISTICS 2021**

Number of households as of December 31, 2021 .....	413
Total number of persons as of December 31, 2021 .....	985
Members received through Transfer of Certificate .....	0
Members removed through Transfer of Certificate .....	0
Persons removed by death .....	11
Number of weddings.....	5
Number of funerals.....	9

## **COUNCIL**

2021 continued the unfortunate trend of being another challenging year. The global pandemic continues, although strides have been made with respect to vaccines, the unpredictable nature of the variants has forced all of us to continue to pivot and adapt to ever changing circumstances and public health guidance. This holds true for church life at Rideau Park as well, where virtual worship continues to be our primary means of safely coming together to practice our faith. Through it all, our staff have remained steadfast in their dedication to the congregation and trying to maintain some form of normalcy (albeit virtual) in a turbulent world. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Brian and Doreen Hamilton who continue to be our ever-reliable webcasters during this interesting time.

While our church premises remain mostly vacant, the business of Rideau Park marches on with full Council having convened four times and the Executive Committee of Council meeting several additional times since March. Having a small and nimble Executive allowed us to quickly react to the 'on the bus, off the bus' changing conditions with respect to in-person worship and use of church premises. This was by no means a simple task to co-ordinate and our guiding principle in this regard has been, and will continue to be, to exercise an abundance of caution to protect our staff, congregation, and the wider Rideau Park community.

Our Covid protocols established in 2020 were further refined in 2021 and any group or organization that wanted to make use of our premises was mandated to provide us with their Covid protocols as well.

Highlights of Council and Council Executive actions and decisions in 2021 include:

- Providing a summary of Strategic Planning work to date and purposely postponing the next phase of congregation consultations until such time as to not be tainted by pandemic concerns.
- Several rounds of closing and opening the church to in-person worship based on the advice from Public Health. Throughout it all this webcast services continued to be a mainstay in keeping the congregation connected.
- Approving a full vaccination policy for in-person worship.
- Approving Foundation Funds requests from the Environmental Committee for the "Wild Wonder Camp" and to install an electric vehicle pay per use charging station at Rideau Park and from Social Action and Outreach Committee for the sponsorship of Uba's refugee family.

We continue to pay close attention to the budget and financial situation monthly. We received some funding from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy programs that helped us continue to meet our financial goals.

I would like to thank all members of Council and Council Executive for their guidance and support in 2021. Our church staff have also helped us to move forward with purpose and conviction, in difficult times which sometimes seem like an ever-repeating ground hog day. Special thanks are also extended to Lisa Sadler, Alyce Dunnewold, Bob Roden and Patricia Whitridge who helped to fill Debi Brown's shoes while she was on medical leave.

Council and Council Executive cannot achieve our goals in isolation – we rely on the continuing support and dedication from the congregation and all the church committees. Rideau Park continues to find ways to meet, and fundraise in ways that were unheard of in past years, which further exemplifies that Rideau Park is more than just a building but a living, evolving community of faith. Financial support throughout 2021 has also been fantastic; thank you for your continuing support of Rideau Park.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Tong, Chair



## STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for ensuring a consistent level of faithful stewardship at Rideau Park, so that the resource potential of the congregation may be realized for our ongoing ministry. A major part of our work to achieve this is our annual Stewardship Campaign in the fall.

This year Andrea Laliberté took on the role of Chair of the 2022 Campaign and we thank her for providing excellent leadership with an effective presentation on the importance of our church to herself and her family. Thanks also to Brian Hamilton and Debi Brown for preparing the materials and sending them out and Alyce Dunnewold and Lisa Sadler, who replaced Debi in the office during her leave, for collating the results.

This campaign seeks financial pledges and pledges of Time and Talents. The financial results are summarized below. With regard to Time and Talents pledges, we received 53 responses. Last year, we received 52 responses, but interestingly, we had responses this year from 30 people who did not pledge Time and Talents last year. We are pleased to see different people offering their service. We hope that, as we return to more normal operations, we will be able to encourage more members of the congregation to offer pledges of Time and Talents. I would like to thank Karen Humphries and Lisa Sadler for the work they have done in redesigning the pledge form this year and for collating the results. We will shortly be deciding how best to distribute the information that we have.

For 2022 there were 206 pledges from 320 households for \$484,414 which is \$2,704 or 0.56% more than last year.

Program	2022 Pledges	2021 Pledges	+/- 2021 Pledges	+/- % 2021
<b>Ministries and Programs Fund</b>	165,062	164,511	551	0.33%
<b>Mission and Service Fund</b>	40,619	43,160	- 2,541	-5.89%
<b>Property Renewal Fund</b>	36,112	35,393	719	2.03%
<b>Area of Greatest Need</b>	242,621	238,646	3,975	1.67%
<b>Total Pledges</b>	<b>484,414</b>	<b>481,710</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>0.56%</b>

Combining the Ministries and Programs Fund and Area of Greatest Need yields \$407,683 for Ministries and Programs in 2022 which is \$4,526 (1.12%) more than 2021.

Of these 206 pledges, 185 (90%) are supported through preauthorized remittances (PAR) via their banking institutions. We receive \$437,219 of our pledged contributions by PAR. Each week \$8,408 is donated to the church through PAR contributions. These contributions have ensured our cash flow throughout these difficult and challenging pandemic times. The regularity of our contributions allows us to meet our obligations and keep our monthly Mission and Service contributions to the United Church of Canada current.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Gavin Currie, Chair

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees hold title to the deed of the church property on behalf of the congregation and are responsible for ensuring such property is adequately maintained and used in accordance with the objectives of the United Church of Canada. In addition, the Trustees manage and administer a number of funds established at Rideau Park that are used by the Rideau Park Council at their discretion and any preconditions established for each fund.

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

- **The Reserve Fund** was established in 2010. It was established with funds received from the Hancock Estate and a small portion of the annual receipts from the Britt Estate (\$10,261 in 2021 as allocated by Council). The total of these funds received and retained that is under the administration of the Trustees now amounts to \$267,823. The investment earnings from this fund and the principal, if necessary, are available for Council to deploy as circumstances warrant.
- **The Foundation Fund** has been established to serve as a permanent source of supplementary funding for special needs at the church. This was the eleventh year that money from this fund has been eligible for disbursement. Of the \$13,306 available, Council approved an allocation of \$3,000 to the planned Rideau Park Refugee Sponsorship, \$2,500 to the Wild Wilderness Camp and \$5,000 (conditional on matching funds) towards for an EV charging station. In 2022, there remains \$13,208 eligible for disbursement; including half of the 2021 donations (\$789), the 2021 Foundation revenue (\$9,613), a reduction for a 2021 project (-\$5,000) with final approval still pending, and the net unused disbursement prior to year-end 2021 (\$7,806).
- **The Karl Rasmussen Fund** is used to assist people undertaking studies directed towards future service in the Christian Church. Only the annual income is available for this purpose. The annual Income becomes part of capital if not used. During 2020, \$1,000 was approved to a student who is a member of our congregation.
- **The Douglas Brown Memorial Fund** is used to support social activities for the physically and mentally challenged.
- **The Dora Helmkey Legacy Fund** investment earnings are turned over to Council for use at its discretion

Trustees are grateful to Sheila Faure for her service as chairperson over the last several years and for her dedicated oversight during her term in this role. She is succeeded by Michael Presley as Chairperson. In addition, Trustees thank Susan Vaughan for her service as the previous Trustees' treasurer and whose term is coming to an end in 2022.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Little, Treasurer and Michael Presley, Chair

## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

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

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

### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR 2021

Total Active Membership 56

Circle Group 6

E-buddies 19

Units 50

Life Memberships\* 47

Member at Large 28\*\*

Not Active 14

\*New Life Memberships: Christy Harris, Margaret Hart, Elaine Robertson and Patricia Whitridge

\*\*Includes members from now defunct Unit 10

In Memoriam: Dorothy Treasure, Joyce Ireland, Jean McDuffee Corbin, Irene Myers, Margo Osudar and Audrey Henry

**2021 Executive:** President, Nancy McPherson; Past President, Nancy Begg-Durkee; Vice President, vacant; Recording Secretary, Judy Paré; Treasurer, Elaine Robertson; Finance and Stewardship Rep, Lisa Sadler; Flowers, vacant; Membership, Judy Paré; Mission, Mabel Bannerman; Literature and Archives, vacant; Correspondence Secretary, Grace Shaver; Community Friendship, Karin Ott / Heather Ingrams; Supply and Welfare, Peggy Rader; Quilting, Doreen Hamilton; UCW Representative to Council of Women, Marg Nelson.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Paré, Recording Secretary

### President's Report

In 2021, challenges caused by Covid continued to affect the UCW, as it did everyone. We became adept with Zoom for our Executive and unit meetings, held our UCW Installation service, Annual Meeting, Annual General Meeting, and Finance Meeting on Zoom. We held several successful fundraisers throughout the year (meat pies in January, frozen soup and bake sales in March, Merry Dairy ice cream sale in June). The traditional Easter memorial flower project was modified and an Easter memorial card project, initially planned for 2020, took place in the spring. We held a hybrid bazaar, with one event live outdoors at the church in September and a second event online the first week of November. We were able to hold our Candlelight Service live in the sanctuary in December.

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

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

responsive and enthusiastic congregation.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy McPherson, President

### **2021 Bazaar Report**

The 2021 hybrid version of the Christmas Bazaar was very successful. A hybrid approach was taken by the co-convenors, who began planning in late June for the fall. It was decided that a limited outdoor in-person sale would be held in late September and an on-line (mostly) food sale the first week of November.

The September sale consisted of the Chic Boutique (newly named to be more inclusive than the Ladies' Boutique), selling china, linens, glassware and silver; a subsidiary of the Chic Boutique was the Jewellery table; paperback Books; Crafts; and General Store items. The weather was kind, and we benefitted greatly from using shelter tents for shade. Area convenors were Sue Davidson, Heather Ingrams, Bob Roden, Ruth Scobie and John Durkee. There were many who felt comfortable volunteering outside and masked; social distancing and use of hand sanitizer and masks were practised throughout the day. Cash was accepted and Square readers were used to accept payments by debit and credit card. On the day, we received two generous donations which, combined with the proceeds, gave us \$5,836.73 after expenses. This event was also facilitated by the assistance of Wayne Bennett, Judy Paré, and Elaine Robertson.

The November on-line sale was planned by co-convenors Heather Bennett, Cathy Hollands and Christel Kurz, with help from Sue Davidson, Nancy Begg-Durkee, John Durkee, Lisa Sadler and Mabel Bannerman. There was excellent support from many volunteers who made sandwiches for the tea and assembled 120 take-out boxes; 30 members of the congregation who donated baking; 10 who donated jam, marmalade, pickles, relish, chutney and salsa; and 15 to 20 who donated frozen soup, tourtières, and a variety of meals. All told, 815 items were sold on the detailed on-line website through 135 purchases. The website was set up by John Durkee using a free Square app and was updated automatically with every purchase. John also maintained the website throughout the week, adding new food donations and printing orders. Purchases required a valid credit card. Tremendous support was provided by Lynda Becker, Karen Humphries, Sandra Weedmark, Elaine Robertson and Geoff Scollick. After expenses, the on-line sale netted \$6,538.15, which included additional donations.

We were gratified with the net result of \$12,374.88. Some socializing was possible on the pick-up day but, in most instances, people cooked or baked from home, often tight for storage, and with less than optimal communication. Overall, it was felt that a lot was learned, there were no complaints about pricing or selection, and that we could build on the lessons learned to do even better another time. It was agreed unanimously that the website so capably operated by John Durkee made all the difference.

As overall Bazaar Convenor, my most sincere gratitude goes to my co-convenors on both events, and to those who donated goods in September and food in November. It was great to work with enthusiastic and inventive people, especially during the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy McPherson, President

## **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee continued to support our staff members through some very unusual and often stressful times during 2021.

Highlights from 2021:

- We have learned to be adaptive as we support staff through health challenges through this year. It takes many hands working together to support our organization. The staff continued to provide many offerings online and in-person. It is through these challenges that the church learns to be appreciative of the staff.
- National Holiday for Truth and Reconciliation: Rideau Park has made this day a paid day of leave. It has been given with no expectation. Staff may use this day to explore a supportive role in related activities.
- Professional Development: there are resources that have been used and are available to staff to assist in their development. In 2021, these were used to purchase books, equipment, attend courses and workshops. The committee will continue to encourage staff to use these resources for their development.
- It is the dedicated volunteers in our community that are vital to our church. We see this in many of the contributions detailed in this Annual Report. The Ministry and Personnel Committee in particular appreciates considerably the contributions of Lisa Sadler, Alyce Dunnewold, Patricia Whitridge and Bob Roden to supporting church activities and the webcast services maintained by Brian and Doreen Hamilton.

Staff members are adapting to some extremely variable circumstances. These have been very unusual times imposed by the pandemic. We very much appreciate their commitment to our church community and we will continue to explore and learn to adapt with them at Rideau Park.

Donations from our congregation and subsidies from the government allowed us to continue our work. We are grateful.

It has been an exciting role to learn this term. I have been fortunate to have had the sage and valued input and committed support of the members of this committee: Anne Blades, Wayne Bond, Alyce Dunnewold, John Durkee, Christy Harris, and Cam Jeffrey.

I am thankful to be able to take on this role in our supportive organisation in these challenging circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey Allo, Chair

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Worship and Music**

Members: Karen Lamb (Co-chair), Sharon Sanderson (Co-chair), Rev. Steve Clifton, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Andrew Ager, Nancy Begg-Durkee, Barry Dewis, Gord Dewis, Sue Geffken-Graham, Heather Ingrams, Marilyn Law and Iain Macpherson. Steven Neal is our liaison with Council.

The Committee met via zoom for most of 2021. We met once in-person in October.

Special Sunday services included shared services at Emmanuel, UCW recognition, I Have a Dream Sunday/Black History with guest speaker Adele Halliday, Multi-faith Housing, Orange Shirt Sunday with guest speaker Albert Dumont, Affirming Sunday with guest speaker Julian Munro/King Julez and Anniversary Sunday with guest speaker Wendy Tarry.

We dedicated the rainbow/dove window in the chapel, held Lenten Reflections – Conversations with Jesus – via Zoom, continued with the Healing Pathway/ Healing Circle at 11:15 am on Sundays and started holding Forest Church.

Mid-week Advent services were held via Zoom. The pageant, under the leadership of Andrea Laliberté, was a virtual event in 2021. Jean Cloutier's creche display was set up in the chapel.

Elizabeth and Steve are now using a 4-year cycle narrative lectionary instead of the 3-year cycle Revised Common Lectionary. We continue to do a land acknowledgement and welcome to all including LGBTQ2S at the beginning of services.

During the year, worship services have been recorded from home, live streamed from the sanctuary with only worship leaders present and we resumed limited attendance in the sanctuary in September. We continue live streaming and have started posting services to our YouTube channel.

Virtual communion was celebrated a few times with participants using elements in their homes or bringing them to the sanctuary.

Rev. Jenni Leslie (until May 1), Rev. Diane Cardin (May to Aug), Gavan Quinn and the congregation of Kitchissippi United continued to worship with us until the end of August.

The choir and three bell choirs have starting practicing in the sanctuary, but archived hymns and anthems have been inserted into the webcasts. Carmen Harris has also provided several solos.

Thanks to Steve, Elizabeth, Jenni and Diane for inspiring worship leadership and adapting under extraordinary circumstances. Thanks also to Iain Macpherson, Andrew Ager, Gavan Quinn and James McGowan for their music leadership. Many thanks also to the numerous people who have recorded scriptures, music, stories and announcements that have helped us feel connected as a congregation.

Many thanks to Brian and Doreen Hamilton for technical skills in filming the live portions of the services and organizing the many different submissions that have made up the excellent webcasts. Training has started so that there will be a couple of other people who can support Brian and Doreen in this ministry.

The average number of people tuning in on Sunday is about 302 (about the same as 2020). This includes not only Rideau Park and Kitchissippi members but visitors elsewhere in Ontario and internationally.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Lamb and Sharon Sanderson, Co-chairs

### Handbells

The handbell choirs were able to resume practicing at the end of October, but suspended practices in early-December. However, the choirs were able to record several pieces for inclusion in Sunday services during the Christmas season. In lieu of the annual “Ringing in Christmas” concert at the beginning of Advent, the 2019 concert was re-run on Rideau Park’s webcast.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Gord Dewis and Jeanette Caton

## Social Action and Outreach

### Purpose of Committee:

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

Social Action and Outreach currently has five members. We have been more active in 2021 as we began to regroup. We met bimonthly by Zoom and initiated a number of projects which could be accomplished within the current context. We began planning for speaking events to be held in 2022, either virtually or in-person. We remained involved in ongoing outreach initiatives. A number of the RP group programs which generally meet at the church have not been active during this pandemic year. Our projects are detailed below.

- **Banff Avenue Community House; Blair Court Community House; Russell Heights Community House, Confederation Court Community House:** SAOC financially supported four community houses this year, with the addition of Confederation Court. We also held much appreciated collections of personal care items donated by church members, which were delivered to these community houses on the last Monday of each month between June and October. We also provided baked goods for a pop-up vaccination clinic at Banff Ledbury Community House, at their request. Many thanks to the congregation for its wonderful support for these initiatives.
- **Cornerstone Emergency Shelter for Women:** SAOC held a collection of personal care items for 109 women who were housed on an emergency basis at the Heron Road Community Centre.
- **Christmas Cheer Program:** Rideau Park provided grocery vouchers for 154 families.
- **Heron Emergency Food Centre (HEFC):** SAOC continues to support the HEFC financially and to represent Rideau Park on the board of directors of HEFC.
- **50+ Fitness, Harmony Club, Group for Friends, Euchre Club:** These groups hope to meet in 2022.
- **Refugees:** Marilyn Law continues to manage the refugee programs. The Third Party Refugee Sponsorship Initiative through which Marilyn, on behalf of the United Church, administers funds submitted by refugee applicants to bring family members into Canada, is not accepting any new applicants until the current backlog of applications has cleared through processing at Immigration,

as directed by Council. The RPUC Refugee Committee, with the approval of the SAOC, has received \$3,000 from the Rideau Park Foundation for funding to provide support to the refugee family Rideau Park has currently undertaken to sponsor. We have not had any information about when this family's application will be processed or when they will arrive. Our previously sponsored families are both doing well in Canada.

- **National Indigenous Day:** Albert Dumont, an Algonquin Elder and the Poet Laureate for Ottawa, spoke to the congregation by video on September 26; National Indigenous Day was acknowledged on June 20.

**Tiny Library:** We started a new community outreach initiative this September with a Tiny Library, which is located at the Cunningham Ave. entrance to the church. The library was constructed by custodian Geoff Scollick and painted by Xia Sherwood. Donated books focus on social action and social justice issues, although we also have a wide assortment of thrillers, detective novels, do-it-yourself and travel books, children's books and some DVDs. The library has been well used by the local community and is featured in the January edition of Vistas.

- **Basic Income:** Guaranteed basic income has been endorsed by the United Church of Canada. We have purchased several lawn signs saying "Basic Income Now" in English and French, which have been distributed to other United Churches in Ottawa. We have placed one near the Alta Vista entrance to RPUC.
- **Multi Faith Housing:** Rideau Park continues to support this initiative.
- **Cluster Initiative:** The SAOC has been asked to represent Rideau Park in discussions between four United Churches in Ottawa South: Emmanuel, Riverside, Southminster, and Rideau Park. The Cluster Initiative is being spearheaded by Phyllis MacRae of Emmanuel United. We are exploring ways of working together on social action and other initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Sherwood, Chair

## Christian Development

2021 was once again a year full of change and challenge for everyone. Throughout the year, the Christian Development (CD) committee worked together to find ways to allow some of our normal programming to continue, just in new and creative ways. 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 continued to provide a vibrant Sunday School program which took place online in 2021. In the winter/spring of 2021, we were privileged to have dedicated Sunday School teachers providing weekly activities for ages 3,4,5 (Meg Steele), grades 1-3 (Heidi Hopkin), grades 4-6 (Allison Hopkin) and grades 7+ (Ben Presley). In the fall of 2021, our classes were led by Meg Steele (Ages 3,4,5 & Grades 1-3); Allison Hopkin (Grades 4-6) and Ruth Bryce (grades 7+).

Our confirmation class met on Zoom. There were 13 teenagers in the group, four of whom were from Kitchissippi. Alyce Dunnewold and Rev. Steve co-lead this group which met monthly in the winter and spring of 2021.

As we approached Christmas, several traditions "pivoted" and took place in new ways. Heidi Hopkin and her family, for the seventh year, shepherded our ShoeBox program which supported Banff House and Minwaashin Lodge. Rideau Park was incredibly generous and both programs' donations exceeded their



goals. One hundred and fifteen Christmas boxes were filled.

Our Annual Christmas Pageant moved online again this year and welcomed over 60 participants from both Rideau Park and Kitchissippi congregations. Andrea and her family hosted a costume and prop pick up day and then all participants recorded their performances safely at home. Andrea then digitally “stitched” together the performances into a full-length dramatic presentation (80 minutes) that was viewed “live” on Sunday, December 17th in the Sanctuary, on the Rideau Park Webcast and on YouTube. Andrea is incredibly proud of all of the participants involved.

In 2021, Tara Lockhart and Andrea Laliberté continued in their roles as co-chairs of the CD Committee. Rev. Steve is the ministerial advisor for CD. Committee members included Kim Allo, Diane Lagace, Glen Boyd, Joann Roebuck, Sarah Charron, Meg Steele, Gary Seymour, and Stephanie Bailey. Both Andrea and Tara will be stepping down as Co-Chairs at the end of their terms in early 2022. We would like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work this past year in particular and we would like to welcome anyone who wishes to join in!

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

### **Youth and Young Adults**

For our young people, the pandemic has been hard. Many of the things that bring them joy—sports, music, dance, community—have been interrupted. School is different and strange and demanding. Rites of passage have been postponed. When you are a young person two years is a very long time.

In this strange time, we might all offer whatever encouragement, support and community we can to our young people.

In this strange and difficult year, Rideau Park took much of its YAYA work online.

- Our youth Sunday School drop-in continued on Zoom. Ben Presley led the group in winter and spring. Ruth Bryce gathered the group again in September. Peter Osudar is taking the lead with this group in the New Year. A huge “thank you” to Ben, Ruth and Peter for making this connective space for our young people.
- Our confirmation class met on Zoom from September 2020 through May 2021. We had 13 teenagers in our group; four from Kitchissippi. Thank you to Alyce Dunnewold for co-leading this group with me. When we are able to, we will meet in-person for food and fellowship and we look forward to celebrating their confirmation in the sanctuary.
- Camp Awesome engages a number of our young people every summer and for the second year it was held online, creatively using all kinds of online and digital tools to connect.
- Our young people have been contributing to our collective life: as readers and liturgists on our webcasts; as teachers on our online Sunday School and as participants in our amazing online Christmas Pageant—thank you to Andrea Laliberté for this gift.

Some of our regular YAYA activities cannot safely happen in a pandemic, but we can hope things will be able to resume sometime in 2022. In the meantime, we will continue to do what we can online.

May we all know God’s presence, and be God’s presence to each other, in this difficult time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Steve Clifton

## **Spirituality**

One definition of spirituality is "the art of making connections." Spiritual work connects us to the Holy and to one another. As the global pandemic stays with us, we have learned to connect in new ways.

We meet on Zoom for meditation every Thursday morning. In September this online group marked a year of sharing in sacred stillness together.

We connected in learning together. In Lent, we met on Zoom and reflected on "Conversations with Jesus," Biblical conversation between Jesus and others in the Gospel story. In spring we looked at "Imposter Epistles," writings in the Pauline tradition not written by the Apostle Paul himself. Our Advent gatherings focused on the prophetic voices that prepare the way for Jesus coming.

Elizabeth started "Forest Church" in the Fall. Since outdoor gatherings are safe, people gathered in God's Creation to reflect and pray together.

Social media has also been a place of connection with prayers and reflections shared on Facebook and Instagram.

We have continued in our shared communal spiritual practice of worship, now exclusively online. Our webcast has become pivotal in connecting us in this strange time.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Steve Clifton

## **Environment**

The Environment Committee at Rideau Park was able to host two events in 2021 even with the pandemic in full swing. The first was a networking event on October 6th in partnership with Greening Sacred Spaces where local churches joined with retrofit contractors to talk about energy efficiency and green buildings. Rideau Park is part of the Energy Benchmarking Program and continues to receive updates on our energy performance. We have reviewed two reports in 2021. Our second event was a celebration of local sustainability groups on November 22nd in partnership with Sustainable Eastern Ontario (SEO). This was also a chance to celebrate the 10th anniversary of SEO and the amazing work they are doing in the community.

The biggest news from the Environment Committee was the approval of our Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station pilot project! We have now secured funding from the Rideau Park Foundation and Hydro Ottawa to install two EV charging stations at the church in 2022. We are looking forward to setting this up and sharing some photos and news. Another funded project of the Foundation was the Wild Wonder Camp that involved Camp Awesome, Tucker House, and Greening Sacred Spaces. Some great tools, materials, and virtual events were shared with groups at the church as part of this program.

Finally, we continue to actively support the many organizations that are housed in the Apartment: Sustainability Office. Despite the pandemic, there were seasons of very busy activity at the office, including some outdoor socially distanced events in the back parking lot. The Peace and Peace &

Environment Resource Centre Environment News continues to be created right here at Rideau Park and is available quarterly to our church members thanks to our friends at the Peace and Environment Resource Centre.

Stay tuned on how we can start to build on our great programs in the coming year! If you are interested in volunteering with the Environment Committee, please contact Kristina Inrig at [greenrpuc@gmail.com](mailto:greenrpuc@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristina Inrig, Chair

## **PEOPLE**

### **Congregational Life**

Our core mandate is focused on helping us to maintain our connection to one another here at Rideau Park. This mandate is, in reality, shared by many in the congregation. Many thanks to the efforts of those on the Administration and Communications Committee, and to Reverends Elizabeth Bryce, Steve Clifton and Georgina Fitzgerald for the tremendous work they have been doing in supporting online communications. Lynda Becker deserves a special thank you for administering our website and providing support for the regular congregational emails. Congregational Life Committee members and associates have been supplementing this by telephoning those who may not have or may not be able to maintain a virtual connection through the internet, as well as some others. Many people participate in this effort on behalf of Congregational Life. There are yet others in the congregation who reach out to, and check in with, others at Rideau Park, whether as part of a committee, such as Pastoral Care, a group, activity circle, or simply as a friend. To all who participated in helping us keep up our connection with one another, please know that your service to our community is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyce Dunnewold, Chair

### **Nominations**

This has certainly been a difficult year with lockdowns, Omicron, vaccinations, boosters etc. It has also been a difficult year for the church. We miss seeing everyone on Sunday morning and taking part in all the various activities that go on at the church. Hopefully once this winter is over we might be able to go back to where we were and gather in-person again.

The Nominating Committee has been able to fill all of the vacancies and we thank everyone who has agreed to take on a position.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Law, Chair

## **COUNCIL**

### **Council Executive (7)**

Chair	Ken Tong	(2023)
Vice-Chair	Heather Ingrams	(2023)
Secretary	Lynn Sherwood	(2023)
Treasurer	Bob Roden	
Order of Ministry		

### Permanent Committee Representatives

Chair of Stewardship	Gavin Currie	(2023)
Regional Representatives (EOORC)	Alyce Dunnewold, Nancy McPherson	
Chair of Ministry Personnel	Jeff Allo	(2024)
Chair of Trustees	Michael Presley	(2024)
UCW Representative	Nancy McPherson	

### Members at large (7)

Gaveen Cadotte		(2023)
Heather Boyd (Glen)		(2024)
Stephanie Bailey (Michael)		(2024)
Neil McGraw		(2025)
Shanti Inman		(2025)
Cathy Hollands		(2025)
Margaret Hart		(2025)

### Liaisons (3)

#### People Liaison

	Drew Presley	(2023)
Chair of Congregational Life	Judy Paré	(2025)
Chair of Nominations	Patricia Whitridge	(2025)
Chair of Pastoral Care	Brian Neal	(2023)
Chair of Congregational Development	Greig Scott	(2023)

#### Program Liaison

	Steve Neal	(2023)
Co-Chairs of Worship & Music	Sharon Sanderson	(2023)
	Karen Lamb	(2023)
Chair of Social Action & Outreach	Lynn Sherwood	(2024)
Chair of Christian Development	Meg Steele	(2025)
Chair of Environment	Kristina Inrig	(2023)

#### Resources Liaison

	Ron MacPherson	(2023)
Chair of Finance	Bob Roden	(2023)
Chair of Property	Brian Hamilton	(2023)
Chair of Administration & Communications	Kristie Marr	(2025)

### TRUSTEES

Chair	Michael Presley	(2024)
Members	Linda Becker	
	Catherine Ennis	
	Diane Keevil Harrold	
	Ron Little	

### **Pastoral Care**

There are currently 16 volunteers working, with Rev. Georgina's guidance and assistance, to provide pastoral care to the people on our regular visit list. In addition, we send bereavement cards to families who have recently lost a loved one. Again this year, our pastoral care "visits" have been primarily made over the telephone and relied on a more frequent use of greeting cards than in a normal year. We are looking forward to the day when we can return to visiting people in their homes and offering in-person services for seniors at the church, hopefully in 2022.

Healing Pathway has not been able to offer in-person healing since March 2020 and continues to rely on distance healing. A distance Healing Circle was launched on March 14th, and it has been offered every Sunday since then at 11:15 am. This has been very popular, seeing that the linked videos on the Rideau Park YouTube channel have been getting hundreds of views. The videos begin with a prayerful introduction that prepares the listener for a 10-minute healing session accompanied by meditative music and imagery. It is wonderful to be able to reach people this way while we are still unable to meet in-person to offer healing prayer. You do not need to belong to our congregation to participate, you don't even need to be in the same city. Technically, you don't even need an internet connection, although it is helpful to have the YouTube video playing in the background to hear the introduction and the music and to let you know when the healing circle time is finished.

#### **Pastoral Care Minister**

In-person visits and services restarted at retirement homes in August, with five services monthly: Oakpark, Maplewood, Hunt Club Manor, Waterford, and Billings Lodge, and Perley Health every two months. The Hymn Sing With Treats program has not yet restarted at Clementine Towers. Much appreciation is due to the musicians who accompany me at these services: Ann Ketcheson, Mi-Kyong Lee, Bill MacMillan, Lois Presley, Patricia Whitridge and soloist, Pierre Quesnel.

Home visits have continued for people who are comfortable with them.

The Cyber Chats I hold over zoom give women of the congregation a chance to connect socially online. Being in each other's company is something we all miss.

The Pastoral Care Committee is a dedicated group of men and women. Each one is assigned one to three people whom they visit on a regular basis when in-person visiting is allowed. As Brian said, in 2021, phoning and sending cards has been the main form of interaction. We hope that 2022 will bring a return to in-person retirement home services and home visits. Whatever happens though, be assured the Pastoral Care Committee will do its best to keep in touch with the seniors of Rideau Park United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Neal (Chair) and Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald

### **Congregational Development**

We ended 2020 with an invitation to our *Vistas* readers to "Celebrate Christmas From Home." As we entered 2021, our invitations continued to lift up our online options for the community to keep connected, renew their faith and participate from home. Thanks to the contribution of some very talented and dedicated people over the years, Rideau Park United Church was well positioned to do so.

While remote connections are good and even optimal in many situations, the absence of in-person and in-building opportunities still left a void for many existing and would be participants. Beginning in September we were able to advertise the gradual re-opening of church activities but, unfortunately, the

rise of the Omicron variant put a hold on that as of mid-December.

And so, we begin 2022 much as we began 2021 and the question becomes, “What should we do next?” It would seem that a hybrid model of online and in-person church is here to stay and will place an ever-increasing reliance on the role of technology. Is the church sufficiently resourced to meet this challenge and what are the ramifications for Congregational Development? In addition, we are looking at a two-year plus break in the continuity of many in-person and in-building programs, which will give rise to a host of other implications.

We will start 2022 by delving into some of these unknowns and preparing an update to the Congregational Development Steering Committee’s mission, vision, and strategy paper for Council’s consideration. In the interim, we will continue with our monthly Vistas ads, inviting the local community to participate in the life and work of the church as it evolves. We invite you to extend invitations to individuals in your personal communities as well.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Greig Scott, Chair

## **RESOURCES**

### **Finance**

During the year the Finance Committee met seven times via Zoom, to oversee the Church’s financial needs, while the Church navigated these uncertain times. Work primarily centered on:

- development and issuance of Financial Policy for the control of expenditures;
- monthly financial status monitoring and communication;
- assessing qualification for government subsidies, and applying for subsidies where appropriate;
- defining a process for managing refugee sponsorship funds;
- preparing and making regular bank deposits during the lockdowns; and
- preparing a draft 2022 budget.

In year two of the pandemic, we again benefited from subsidies that supported salaries and operations. A substantial surplus allowed us to build upon our reserves. We are in a good financial position while we await the start of the proposed strategic planning exercise.

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

- Barbara Jeffery, Envelope Secretary
- Ron MacPherson, the Committee’s Liaison Officer; and
- Lisa Sadler, Patricia Whitridge, and Alyce Dunnewold, who filled in during Debi’s absence.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee: Bethune, Debi Brown and Joann Roebuck.

As we turn our attention to 2022, we look forward to a return to more normal operations and activities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Roden, Chair

### **Property**

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

Committee Members are Brian Hamilton, Chair, Rod Hagglund, Mark Inman, Ron MacPherson (Council Liaison), Geoff Scollick (Custodian, ex officio) and Debi Brown (Administrator, Committee Secretary, ex officio). The Committee is highly appreciative of John Scollick's expertise and support for property project leadership and work in 2021.

The Committee met four times in 2021. Covid-19 and uncertainty from the pandemic continued to impact the use of Rideau Park's church facilities. The Committee again decided to restrain its work cautiously and steward its resources until a clearer understanding of the way ahead for our church community is apparent.

Due to the closing of the church because of the pandemic and its limited openings, the operational property expenses were materially lower in 2021 and helped to mitigate the financial strain on church finances.

**Property Renewal** - disbursements in 2021 allowed us to maintain a positive yearend Property Renewal Fund balance. Within this context, some of the 2021 Property Renewal accomplishments include:

- Cunningham entrance doors replaced with metal and glass entry system;
- at the Cunningham entrance, exterior security cameras and an audio communications system for off-hours users and visitors were installed;
- office hallway and Beecroft Hall metal and glass double doors were installed;
- walkway and parking lot asphalt was patched and repaired;
- four office computers were upgraded;
- a second defibrillator for the sanctuary and an upgraded webcast production switcher were acquired;
- the documentation of Rideau Park's electrical system by identifying breakers and their corresponding outlets was completed.

The 2022 Property Renewal Plan identifies several projects including establishment of a contingency for future sanctuary roof and furnace replacements, resurfacing the asphalt sidewalks, replacing additional office computers, installation of exterior LED lighting, chancel organ and choir microphones, storm windows for the chancel and storage space on the south side of the sanctuary balcony (See the statements on pages 32 and 33 of this report.)

Work on the 2022 plan will continue to take into account the impact of the pandemic and the stewardship of resources. The Committee will adapt as the times warrant. Your ongoing support for this work is appreciated and welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Hamilton, Chair

### **Administrative and Communications**

The Administration and Communications committee continued to work virtually for 2021. The chair was handed from Nancy McPherson to Kristie Marr when Nancy became the president for the RPUC United Church Women's group.

We continued to publish our events list in *Vistas* and *Riverview Park Review* local papers even when they were only online, supported by Wayne Bond. For *Vistas* issues, Wayne Bond submitted around 65 items for the Upcoming Events section for 2021. For the *Riverview Park Review* Community Bulletin Board, which is published less frequently, he submitted around 22 items for 2021. Information about church activities submitted to the Community Events section is regarded as content for the newspapers, not advertising, and is therefore published free of charge.

New for 2021! Our committee acted on a recommendation from Council and the Worship and Music Committee to create a new weekly email (e-blast) to provide information for the Sunday Service and upcoming activities for the congregation – like a virtual bulletin. The weekly email was designed by Lynda Becker and supported by Kristie Marr. The email goes out on Fridays. We started with the email list for the monthly newsletters. Recipients can easily unregister, and new names are added as needed. For the most recent e-blast, there were 392 deliveries with 64% open rate and a 15% click rate (when the recipient clicks on a link in the email).

We produced and delivered an online version of *Churchpost* in September using the same email service.

We purchased four new computers for the offices and updated the suite of Microsoft Office applications for all systems this year.

Don Ford still oversees the RP network and keeps our technology running smoothly. Ron MacPherson is our liaison to Council. Lynda Becker supports the RP website. Rev. Steve continues to promote RP online activities on our RP Facebook page, and Rev. Elizabeth continues to run the RP Facebook book and film club started last year during lockdown. Rev. Georgina has been hosting weekly Zoom sessions on a variety of topics.

I wish to thank Alyce Dunnewold, Lisa Sadler, and Patricia Whitridge for volunteering in the Administration office while Debi Brown was off this past autumn. Debi is back in the office, and we are grateful for all the effort they and other volunteers contribute to the administration and communication work of the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristie Marr, Chair



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Rideau Park United Church

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 2020

Sunday, February 28, 2021, 11:30 am

On Zoom – opened at 11:15

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

The Rideau Park United Church Annual Congregational Meeting for 2020 was held by Zoom on February 28, 2021. Notice of the meeting was given by verbal announcement in worship on February 14, 21 and 28 and by congregational email on February 5 and 15. The annual report, agenda and proposed motions were included in the February 15 email and were posted on the RPUC website. A number of paper copies were mailed to members who did not have access to internet or who requested them.

### **Present:**

Patricia Whitridge (Chair), Lynn Sherwood (Recording Secretary), Ken Tong, Karin Ott, Rod Hagglund, Barry and Joan Dewis, Bob and Marg Nelson, Sharon Sanderson, Rev. Steve Clifton, Drew Presley, Michael Presley, Catherine Hollands, Yvonne and Franz Freundl, Gordon Dewis, Wayne Bond, Nancy McPherson, Garry Lindberg, Sandra Weedmark, Ron MacPherson, Bob Roden, Mike and Kristina Inrig, Christy Harris, Alyce Dunnewold, Rev. Elizabeth Bryce, Donna Brunet, Gavin and Pat Currie, Nancy Begg-Durkee and John Durkee, Jeffrey Allo, Judy Paré, Kristie Marr, Diane Keevil Harrold and Randolph Harrold, Lorna McCrea, Gaveen Cadotte, Lynda Becker, Karen Lamb, Neal McGraw, Brian and Doreen Hamilton, Jennifer MacKinnon, Ron Little, Thierry and Sheila Faure, Carolyn and John Scollick, Brian Neal, Stephanie Brooks, Shanti Inman, Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald and Debi Brown (Administrator, non-voting).

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

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

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce welcomed those gathered and asked for nominations for a Recording Secretary and Chair for the meeting.

MOTION: Ken Tong moved and Caroline Scollick seconded that the meeting be chaired by Patricia Whitridge (Chair of Council) and that Lynn Sherwood be the Recording Secretary for the meeting.

CARRIED

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

Rev. Steve Clifton lit the Christ Candle.

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

Elizabeth led the opening prayer.

Patricia Whitridge explained the rules for our Zoom meeting.

- Everybody is muted and must unmute to ask a question.
- Steve Clifton, Debi Brown, Ken Tong and Sheila Faure are co-hosts and will handle questions sent to them on the chat function.
- Our meeting will be recorded.
- Speak slowly and clearly, be brief.

- There will be no PowerPoint slides. We have sent copies of everything online, if you have questions, please use chat.
- Two ways to vote, by Zoom or by putting your hand up. When there is more than one person in a household, each one needs to put their hand up.
- Keep your hand up until we have finished counting and ask everyone to put them down.
- In a conflict-of-interest situation, please leave the Zoom meeting, but you may return for the rest of the meeting.
- Please abstain from voting in a conflict-of-interest situation.
- We are asking for patience and kindness.
- Patricia and Debi confirmed the identities and numbers of congregants participating from each household.
- One person was terminated because he did not identify himself.

**4. Motion re: Adherents**

MOTION: Caroline Scollick moved and Nancy Begg-Durkee 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**

MOTION: Ken Tong moved and John Durkee seconded the Motion that the Agenda be accepted as printed. CARRIED

**Life and Work of the Congregation****6. Receiving the 2020 Annual Reports and Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes of 2020**

MOTION: Nancy Begg-Durkee moved and Lynn Sherwood seconded the Motion that the 2020 Annual Report and the Minutes of the February 9, 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting be received as printed. CARRIED

**7. Review Engagement/Audit Report**

MOTION: moved by Bob Roden and seconded by Ron MacPherson that the Report on the Review Engagement of Financial Statements for 2019, prepared by Baker-Tilley, be accepted. CARRIED

Bob Roden reviewed the engagement of 2019 and proceeded with the audit report for 2020.

Bob reported that Baker-Tilly Accountants conducted a review of financial statements and reported that the RPUC met the financial standard of The United Church of Canada. At a previous Congregational Meeting, approval was given to have review engagements performed by Baker-Tilley every four years with an audit being conducted every fifth year (most recent audit 2015). 2020 is the fifth year since the last audit.

MOTION: Bob Roden moved and Lynn Sherwood seconded the Motion that the Finance Committee be authorized to engage Baker-Tilley to conduct an audit with respect to the 2020 Financial Statements. CARRIED

Bob thanked Debi Brown, the Finance Committee, and members of other committees and congregation for their work this past year.

**8. Receiving the Financial Statements for 2020**

MOTION: Bob Roden moved and Sheila Faure seconded the Motion that the Financial Statements found on pages 26 to 28, the Fund Account Reconciliation Statement found on page 31, and the summary of the Property Renewal Fund found on page 32 of the Rideau Park United Church 2020 Annual Report be accepted subject to an audit for 2020. CARRIED

Bob Roden reviewed the financial statements which are on pages 26 -28 of the Annual Report. Bob asked that people direct any questions through the Zoom chat to the co-hosts.

We had an overall surplus of more than \$54,000 for the 2020 year. In addition to revenues from envelopes, we received a pandemic wage subsidy of \$41,000 from the federal government, Britt income of \$15,700 and \$19,000 from the Foster Farm vegetable stand. Fees from Use of Premises and weddings/funerals were down significantly as the church was closed most of the year.

In terms of expenses, those relating to property as well as program and administrative expenses were lower since the church was closed most of the year.

We were able to meet all of our obligations for the year, including keeping our staff on strength and maintaining our obligations to the central United Church and the Mission and Services Fund.

Several questions were asked with respect to our investments. The congregation was assured that RPUC invests in ethical funds. Our mutual funds are managed through the United Church of Canada which supports ecological and climate sustainability. The focus of the fund is to preserve capital so half of the fund is fixed income and half equity.

Patricia thanked Bob Roden and the Finance Committee for their efforts in such a challenging year.

**9. Budget 2021**

MOTION: Moved by Bob Roden and seconded by Sheila Faure, that the Rideau Park United Church Budgets for the Ministries and Programs Fund and the Mission and Service Fund, as presented on pages 29 and 30 of the Annual Report, be approved.

Bob reviewed the proposed budget, high level. We ended 2020 with a surplus and Bob is predicting a small deficit for 2021.

Bob is expecting about \$520,000 in revenue, excluding government assistance. We received Canada Emergency Business Assistance (CEBA) and Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) funding for 2020, but are unsure if and to what extent these programs will be continued in 2021. Bob is expecting many of our other revenue streams to be similar to 2020 actual amounts.

In terms of expenses, Bob is expecting many of our expenses to be similar to those we budgeted for in 2020, assuming the church will be open much of the year. Ministry and Personnel salary levels assume a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 1.35% for all staff, as recommended by Council at their January meeting. As in past years, expenses related to Ministry and Personnel account for about 75% of our total expenses. We have budgeted for an additional 5 hours/week for the Administrator as the Administrative Assistant position has been eliminated.

*Questions and Discussion:*

All members of staff left the meeting for this discussion.

The United Church recommendation for COLA this year is 2.2%. It was noted that staff received 0.0% increase in 2019. After much discussion, the motion was amended as follows.

MOTION: Alyce Dunnewold moved, seconded by Christy Harris, that the original budget motion be amended to reflect a COLA of 2.2% to be applied to 2021 salaries for all Rideau Park United Church staff. CARRIED

#### **10. Nominations**

MOTION: Wayne Bond moved and Drew Presley seconded the Motion that the nominations for new appointments and renewal and extension of terms, as set out in the Nominations Report on pages 22 to 23 of the 2020 Annual Report, be adopted. CARRIED

It was noted that the position of Chair of the Administration and Communications Committee is still vacant.

#### **11. Recognition of Leadership that is Concluding**

Elizabeth thanked Patricia Whitridge for her time as Vice Chair and Chair of Council. She continues as Chair of Strategic Planning. We are in debt to her leadership and wisdom.

Steve thanked Carolyn Scollick for her work as chair of Ministry and Personnel; she is attentive to the details and has been dutiful in making sure staff feel safe and secure.

Elizabeth thanked the Trustees and in particular Sheila Faure, who has been wonderful as Chair and has agreed to stay on the committee one more year. Keith Harris, Treasurer and Norm Edwards, Secretary, are retiring this year.

Steve thanked Nancy Macpherson who is retiring this year as Chair of Administration and Communications Committee.

Elizabeth thanked Sandra Weedmark for chairing the Social Action and Outreach Committee for many years and agreeing to stay on the committee.

Steve thanked David Moreira, Adam Kurz and Sandra Graham for their work on Council.

Elizabeth thanked Nancy Begg-Durkee for her work as UCW president.

Patricia Whitridge thanked Carolyn Scollick and Nancy Begg-Durkee for their contributions to Council Executive for the first nine months of the pandemic.

#### **12. Property Report and Property Renewal Plan (one year only)**

MOTION: Brian Hamilton moved and Ron MacPherson seconded that the Property Renewal Plan for 2021, as found on page 33 of the 2020 Annual Report, be approved. CARRIED

Brian Hamilton reviewed the Property Report which is on page 31 of the Annual Report. The Property Committee was cautious in its choice of projects pending a clearer understanding of the way forward. Projects that were carried out include installing hand sanitizing stations, upgrading the security system for remote control, updating the replacement costs for insurance purposes and replacing heating system pumps and a radiator. A stained-glass window was installed in the chapel.

The Property Renewal plan, found on pages 32 and 33 lays out the work carried out under the Property Renewal Fund. They were also cautious about spending resources, leading to an increased end of year balance. Projects that were carried out include the installation of new metal and glass doors in all offices, purchase of an industrial vacuum cleaner, research into an entrance camera/audio communications system for the Cunningham entrance, a site survey for the City Backflow Prevention Program and work documenting our electrical system.

The Property Renewal fund received about \$38,000 in pledges and envelope giving and an additional amount of \$750 from Kitchissippi United Church for webcasting. That meant over \$58,000 was available for projects, of which \$21,000 was actually spent. No fundraising activities were carried out in 2020, leaving a balance of almost \$37,000 for 2021.

Brian confirmed that RPUC is using LED lighting to reduce light pollution. He mentioned that we are researching the relationship between improvement of microphones in the chancel and enhancing the quality of webcasting. Patricia Whitridge confirmed that Property Renewal priorities reflect concerns for safety and security of staff while the church does not have many people on site during the pandemic.

### **13. Report from Council**

Patricia Whitridge presented a report on behalf of Council, summarizing key aspects of the work in 2020. *Personnel* – In the face of a large projected deficit for 2020, we began the year with a proposal to eliminate the position of Administrative Assistant. Debby Gerro's position was therefore terminated as of Dec. 2020. A small celebration was held to wish her well in her future endeavours. Her cheerful and helpful presence will be missed. It was a difficult decision to make that was ultimately based on what we need and what we can afford. In addition, the Pastoral Care Minister's hours were somewhat reduced.

*Strategic Plan:* We initiated the Strategic Planning exercise in May 2019 and by March 2020 many documents had been prepared and were ready for the launch of a wide-based consultation with Council and the congregation. In April 2020, we suspended work on strategic planning because of the pandemic. We felt that it is impossible to assess what changes we are facing in our society and our ongoing lives at this time. The request was made for a summary report to be prepared and presented to Council in the new year.

*Community of Faith Profile:* We also planned to undertake a Community of Faith profile in tandem with the Strategic Plan, to help determine our needs for ministerial staff. The Community of Faith exercise would be done with the help and support of the Region. This activity was also placed on hold.

*Structural Organization:* The new organizational structure for committees at RP was implemented in April 2020 with plans to run for one year, then carry out an evaluation and adjust as needed. The new structure, which allowed for the creation of a Council Executive to make decisions quickly, has been highly effective during this chaotic year. It is not possible to evaluate the effectiveness of the new structure at this time and we may need to continue on the current basis until the situation stabilizes.

### **14. Recognition of Staff**

Patricia Whitridge acknowledged the difficult work accomplished by staff this year.

We need to thank Brian and Doreen Hamilton for managing the live streaming because without their help we would not have been able to carry on and provide services on Sunday mornings, both to our

congregation and to the broader community. We welcomed Kitchissippi United Church, both their minister and their musicians, to join us for our Sunday services.

We thank our Ministers, Steve Clifton, Elizabeth Bryce and Georgina Fitzpatrick, who creatively found ways to maintain pastoral work while managing the closing/opening/closing of our church. We were able to continue with Sunday worship, Zoom Advent and Lenten events, online meditation, online Sunday School, Georgina's zoom chats, and spent many hours on the phone with the vulnerable.

We thank our musical staff. Andrew Ager provided organ and piano support through the year. Iain Macpherson provided live music, both singing when allowed and violin, many more times than he could have imagined. He encouraged members of the congregation and the choir to record music to be included in our Sunday services.

We thank Debi Brown who worked really hard to keep things organized and on track. She stayed current with governmental programs providing relief measures for non-profit organizations and brought in money to help our financial situation.

We thank Geoff Scollick who kept the building in good condition and went in regularly throughout year to check for insurance purposes.

In addition, all staff spent hundreds of hours in Zoom meetings and reading about all of the public health protocols needed to keep us safe. Thank you all. We are blessed to have such hard working and faithful staff members who look after us in so many different ways.

#### **15. Other Business / Questions**

Patricia Whitridge asked for questions and invited the congregation to send any to the Chair of Council at any time.

#### **16. Closing Remarks**

Patricia Whitridge thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting.

#### **17. Commissioning and Benediction**

Steve Clifton led the closing prayer.

CLOSING MOTION: John Scollick moved, and Nancy McPherson seconded the Motion to end the meeting. CARRIED

Meeting finished at 1:48 pm.

Chair of Council

Secretary of Council



Date