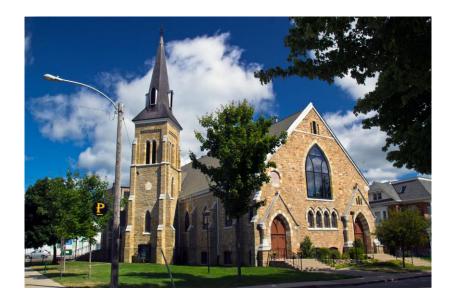
Grace United Church Gananoque 2022 Ministries & Financial Report



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In Remembrance

Sharon Ann Ubdegrove **Robert Frank Allen** Lucille Jenny Smith Jeroy Grant John Wissler Cecile"HAIGO"Ishkarian Chamlain **Douglass Ross Hall** Albert Charles Painter **Constance June Painter Clara Josephine Mills** David Frank Logan Michael Franklin Lesage Rev. John Hendry (Harry) Seeley Wallace "Wally" George Niles Phillip "Phil" John Litchfield Carol Ann Thorburn Gloria Jean MacMillian Cecil George Simpson Gloria Vilda Chapman **Ruth Eleanor Hughes** Lea Joy Carswell Graham Alexander Mowatt Margaret Bernice Wright Spence

Grace United Church - Gananoque Minister's Annual Report 2022 – AGM 2023

"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends..."

First Corinthians 13:4-8a (NRSV)

Dearly Beloved, the above verses are usually read at weddings. Last year, I had the privilege to officiate nine weddings. However, I also had the honour of presiding at twenty-two different funerals. I have learned, and now, I say it confidently, our existence has two sides – Life and Death – and we can escape neither one nor the other.

Today, I do not intend to make this a dreary report, but I want to share what has taken place in the year 2022, as much as possible. It would be incredible to fit all in this report, but let me share the highlights that are all full of God's Love and Grace.

For the first time since the beginning of our Covenant of Call together (Nov.1, 2020), we had had many firsts at Grace United Church. I have been able to offer Chapel time at Carveth and Fox Run once a month. This was a ministry of Grace United before my time, however since COVID this was possible. I am grateful to Harding and not Paul Tammy Fergusson for accompanying me and sharing their musical gifts in this important ministry – I am forever grateful. In December, we started hosting LGBTQ+ Youth Gatherings, a ministry of Grace United Church, that God sent to us, with the leadership of Ms. Sam Crosby from Gananogue Secondary School. Another first in December, Blue Christmas Service was held December 20, 2022, where half of the attendees were brand new attendees to Grace. At this service we remembered all our loved ones we have lost. Since September, once a month, we did, "Hi Tea with Rev. T.", where 6-8 of us gathered and shared tea with Armenian cookies and Armenian Cheese - the invitation was open to everyone. This took place on appointed Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3 p.m. I am so grateful, as I have learned so much from attendees and they have heard about my life journey this far. At times, others such as Cheryl O'Leary made our table flow with homemade scones and more goodies - Thank God for All the Gifted individuals who are in this Community of Faith.

Today, I share with you the chapter of Love from Apostle Paul because this is the foundation of our lives. With many ways of keeping connected, I continue to do pastoral care, by telephone calls, Facebook Messenger, e-mails and even texting. God reminds us to love one another and care for one another, in any shape possible. If COVID taught us anything, it taught us that relationships matter.

We have lived through COVID, celebrated three Advents and Christmases already, even though they have been virtual, but God's Love has reached us and reminded us that we matter. I have been a witness and continue to be a witness where Love lives within Grace United Church, in the work of the Church for the Mission of God and how wonderful this experience of Love is. **Thank YOU** from the bottom of my heart to those who volunteer their time, share their gifts and talents with all – and moreover, a special thank you to all who lead worship services, while I needed to be away for the work of the wider church, study leave, much-needed vacation with my family, or even while I got COVID in August. What a whirlwind that was. I wish no one to ever experience COVID.

Throughout 2022, we have officially welcomed members to Grace United Church Family: **Chuck Galway, Veronica Shepherd, Tom Marlor** and **Janet King.** We celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism twice: **Zoey Evelyn Widdes the daughter of** Crystal and Douglas Widdes (July 3); and **Ann Shayne Smith, the daughter of Breanna & Christopher Smith** (Dec. 11). I had the privilege to officiate nine weddings at different venues, however one wedding took place in the beautiful Grace United Church Sanctuary: **Diane Elizabeth Kirkby** and **Thomas Richard Marlor**. Sadly, I also accompanied twenty families walk through the valley of death, as they bid goodbye to their loved ones. One of the Celebrations of Life was for our beloved **Rev. H. Seeley**, whose funeral took place at Elgin United Church on Aug. 5, 2022, and his burial was at Halladay Burial Place in Elgin. It was a serendipitous moment that Rev. Seeley's family asked me to preside at this service, because Rev. Seeley and I have travelled the same journey of Call in similar ways.

Beloved, being a minister is truly a balancing act. This past February (25), a third sibling of mine, Silva Atolikian, my eldest sister, in North Hollywood, passed away, but I was unable to attend the funeral. Just to give you firsthand information, my brother Jacob, who lived in Pasadena, died March 29, 2019. My sister Perouz (Ruby), who lived in Lebanon, died Nov. 17, 2021. So, when I tell people that I understand their pain of losing their loved one, I truly mean it. I lost my father when I was seventeen and my mother when I was twenty-seven – in 2022, I turned fifty-five.

Again, I do not share these personal details for sympathy, but to encourage you, that I know the sting of pain, but I also know how God's Love carries us through. The joys and sorrows of life are always upon us, but no matter what opportunities come our way, we are in this together, we trust the Creator of the Universe, who loves you and me, and has brought us together for the purpose of Love and Care.

On **June 12, 2022**, we celebrated our Covenanting Worship Celebration, where **Rev. Rosemary Lambie** was our guest speaker. Rev. Lambie retired on Oct. 31, 2022. She served for twenty-plus years as Executive Minister of Montreal/Ottawa Conference and since January 2019, in our Regional Council, and is a long-time friend, and colleague (since 1999), from my time in Quebec.

My term as president of E.O.O.R.C. ended on May 28, 2022 (the eleventh anniversary of my ordination), after serving nineteen months. However, I was automatically elected as a commissioner for the **General Council 44**, as president of the regional council, which I was already elected before my arrival to Grace United Church. **GC44** took place virtually

from **February–August**, making this the longest GC gathering in the history of the United Church of Canada. For the first time, The United Church of Canada has elected an Indigenous woman as our Moderator, the amazing **Carmen Lansdowne** from the Pacific Region. I hope we will be able to invite **The Rev. Dr. Lansdowne** to our Community of Faith and invite all nearby churches for a weekend of meet, greet and a learning opportunity from her. GC44 was to take place in person, Calgary, 2021, but COVID restrictions changed plans. The theme for GC44 was: **"Who do you say I am?"** The Question Jesus asked his followers, which is also a viable question for us as followers of Jesus. I am grateful to You, Grace United for becoming partners with me, and supporting this role as the president of EOORC and an elected commissioner for GC44.

September 25 – **Truth and Reconciliation Walk** took place in Gananoque and it was a Blessing to take part. The drumming at the Royal Theatre was a wonderful experience. At the walk-through on Stone Street, Grace United Church was the **only** church who had a minister and a lay leader present. We shared the United Church's 1986 Apology, and The Prayer of Acknowledgement was read by **Tammy Fergusson**. Thanks to **Liz Church**, we had a display of children's shoes as a remembrance of the unmarked graves of the residential children.

Through the year, a group of "pilgrims" met on Wednesday evenings via Zoom to explore our faith. This group is called **V.I.B.E.** (Venturing in Biblical Education) and we read together the following books: 1) *"Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*" by Gregory Boyle; 2) During the Lenten Season we studied, *"Lesser Evils: Daily Reflections on Seeking Wisdom"* A United Church of Canada Publishing, edited by Alydia Smith; 3) *"An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith" by* Barbara Brown Taylor; 4) Another book from the same author, *"Learning to Walk in the Dark"*

We had an average of 6-10 individuals join from the comfort of their home. This gathering has become a cornerstone of "being there for one another" more than just reading and discussing a book – we build respectful and deeper relationships by checking in together and sharing our joys and concerns, and we pray for one another. I urge you to pick any of the books mentioned above, or all of them, and read them, I know they will help you strengthen your Faith Journey as well.

Some of you have heard me say that a minister needs to grow spiritually and feed her soul as well, so that she can feed others. That comes through **Lifelong Learning** — **an important part of a minister's life to sustain her spirit. This helps the minister in her personal and communal life as well**. I have participated in a few virtual lifelong learning opportunities: **Sister Joan Chittister**, who is one of my theological/spiritual "mothers" and **Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis**, who has become a colleague and friend through the last nine years. Moreover, I was able to go to the **30**th gathering of **The Festival of Homiletics** (May 16-22, Denver, Colo.), as a staff/helper, and this assisted with my expenses and made this learning opportunity more affordable. I have been blessed with the Bread of Heaven, which has given me the Strength and Wisdom to carry on this ministry with you.

Many of you already know that my husband Gary and I dedicate our "weekends" to prepare "**Bread for the Journey**" episodes, which are broadcast on my personal Facebook and YouTube channels on Sundays at 9 a.m., and also are broadcast on Cogeco TV in Smiths Falls, Perth and the surrounding area. This connection from 2020, because of COVID, helped Gary to connect Grace United Church with the Cogeco TV in Kingston. Now, our weekly worship celebrations are broadcast as well, in Kingston, Gananoque and Napanee. Many individuals and nursing homes are glad to have this gift to them weekly. Beloved, we know COVID has been difficult and restricting, but God has brought forth new ways of ministry and I am so grateful to **Paul Harding** and **Christina Kaya**, who work tirelessly to make these broadcasts possible. We are praying for God to send others to help in this important ministry of Grace United Church.

Beloved, this report is already long, but trust me when I say, I can fill up ten more pages and share how God has done wonderful things in our midst – through **God's Amazing and Unfailing Love**. But I will conclude my note to you and say, "**Stay firm in Love**, even if life seems uncertain and unpredictable, **remember that God Loves you** with an everlasting and unchanging love. God's Love is unwavering and holds you from eternity to eternity. Therefore, don't just keep that Love for yourself, share it with ALL who come your way. May the Source of All Love be evident to and through you. **Amen.**

Your Servant Leader, *Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro* Incumbent Minister since, Nov. 1, 2020





Grace United Church Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday February 27, 2022 Immediately following morning worship service

Present: Margaret Worth, Vicki Leakey, Rhea Roantree, Faye Trimble, Gord Trimble, Murray Roantree, Chuck Galway, Diane Kirkby, Thomas Marlor, Elaine Davidson, Anthony Maroni, Eileen Thomson, Paul Harding, Rev. Takouhi D. Petro, Susan Barwell, Catherine Mills, Cheryl O'Leary, Marilyn Belbin, Joan MacKinnon, David Charles, Denise Wood, Shirley Clark, Linda Brooks, Donna Norman, Cliff Edwards, Tammy Fergusson, Angus Fergusson, Colleen Harding, Barb Jenkins, Julie Price, Merna Price, Christina Gordon, Joan Shaw, Dianna Grier, Christina Kaya, Brian Brooks, Diane Nuttall **Opening prayer** was led by Rev. Takouhi.

The meeting was called to order by Margaret Worth.

Motion by Margaret Worth to appoint Brian Brooks as acting chair and Diane Nuttall as acting secretary for the meeting.

Opening remarks: Brian Brooks welcomed all to the meeting.

He noted that because of Covid restrictions, this is the first annual meeting since February 2020.

Minutes of previous Annual Congregational Meeting: February 2, 2020 Shirley Clark moved that these minutes be accepted. Seconded by Denise Wood. Carried.

Trustees Report: Investments did exceptionally well in 2021, increasing by 10.5%. Opening balance on January 1, 2021 was \$1,026,000. Even with \$100,000 transferred to the operating budget, the closing balance on December 31, 2021 was \$1,030,000. With the insurance premium increasing, a survey was done to make sure the rate was competitive. It was determined that the current policy with the United Church of Canada is the best for Grace United.

David Charles moved that this report be accepted. Seconded by Linda Brooks. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: The earnings for 2021 were comparative to previous years. Trustee funds were used, as expected. Hopefully, fund raising will be able to resume in 2022, \$14,000 has been allocated to the AV team. Book balance as of December 31, 2021 was \$38,182.

Budget: It is a balanced budget where total revenue equals total expenses. The budget represents a modest increase, relying on transfers from the Trustees.

Rhea Roantree moved to accept the Financial Report and the 2022 budget. Seconded by Faye Trimble. Carried.

Covid Reopening Update: Restrictions are changing rapidly. There are no capacity limits now. As of March 1, proof of vaccination will no longer be required. Although businesses and groups can decide if they want to require them for their purposes. Vicki Leakey moved that Grace United Church no longer require proof of vaccination to enter the church as of Tuesday March 1, 2022.

Seconded by Margaret Worth. Carried.

Since no date has been set when masks will no longer be required, anyone entering the church must wear a mask. There will be no capacity limits on other groups that meet in the church, but masks are required.

Election of Officers: The members of the Nominating Committee were: Linda Brooks, Tammy Fergusson, Diane Kirkby and Denise Wood.

The nominations were as follows:

Official Board (1 year term) returning members are: Chair: Brian Brooks, Vice-chair: Bruce Wilson, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

Session (3 year term) returning members are David Charles, Raymond Shea, Cheryl O'Leary, Diane Kirkby, Barb Jenkins and Tammy Fergusson. Nominated new members are Susan Barwell, Colleen Harding, Marg Worth and Julie Price.

Members whose terms have ended are Paul Scott, Joan Shaw, Charlie Donevan, Bill Lussier, Donna Norman, Doreen Wilson and Rhea Roantree.

<u>Maintenance Committee</u> returning members are Brian Brooks and Murray Roantree. Nominated new member is Angus Fergusson.

EOORC Representative returning member is David Charles.

Nominated new member is Denise Wood.

<u>Ministry and Personnel</u> members are all returning: David Charles, Nancy Abrams, Elaine Davidson and Pam Shea.

<u>Stewards</u> returning members are Vicki Leakey, Eileen Thomson, Linda Brooks, Denise Wood, Christina Gordon and Diane Nuttall.

Nominated new member is Shirley Clark.

Members whose terms have ended are Carolyn Scott, Mary Haussler and Tony Maroni. <u>**Trustees**</u> members are all returning: Angus Fergusson, Vicki Leakey, Marilyn Belbin,

Brian Brooks, Margaret Worth, Joan MacKinnon and Shirley Clark.

All members whose terms ended were thanked for their service to the Church.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Joan MacKinnon moved to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Seconded by Eileen Thomson. Carried.

New Business:

Marriage Policy Amendment was presented by Session and approved by the Official Board at the November 25, 2021 Official Board meeting. This amendment would remove the reference that a marriage is between "a man and a woman" and replace it with a marriage is "between_two people".

Linda Brooks moved to accept this amendment.

Seconded by Eileen Thomson. Carried.

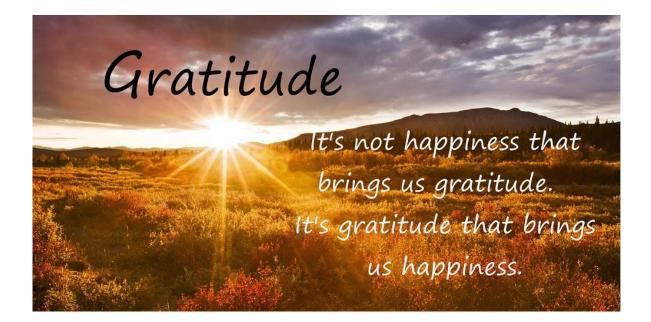
Baptism Policy Amendment was presented by Session and approved by the Official Board at the November 25, 2021 Official Board meeting. This amendment would make the wording of the policy more invitational to all parties.

Vicki Leakey moved to accept this amendment.

Seconded by Angus Fergusson. Carried.

Closing Benediction: was led by Rev. Takouhi.

Motion to Adjourn: Barb Jenkins



2022 Members of Grace United Church

Official Board

(The Official Board is comprised of all members of the Board of Stewards, Session and appointees from the other boards.)

Official Board Chair: Brian Brooks

Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson Clerk: Diane Nuttall

Committees of the Official Board

<u>Session</u>

Chair: Barb Jenkins Clerk: Susan Barwell Vice Chair: Marg Worth Colleen Harding Julie Price Tammy Fergusson Raymond Shea Cheryl O'Leary Diane Kirkby

Board of StewardsChair: Denise WoodClerk: Diane NuttallTreasurer: Vicki LeakeyVice Chair: Shirley ClarkChristina GordonMeEileen ThomsonWLinda BrooksPrCliff EdwardsTr

Official Board Appointees

od U.C.W. – Linda Brooks tall Adult Group - Vacant eakey Men's Fellowship – Vacant y Clark Maintenance: M. Roantree Memorial Fund: Carolyn Scott Ways & Means – Vacant Presbytery Rep: Dave Charles Trustees: Angus Fergusson Treasurer: Vicki Leakey M&S Treasurer: Dave Charles Ministry & Personnel – Dave Charles

<u>Trustees</u>

Angus Fergusson Marg Worth Vicki Leakey Brian Brooks Joan MacKinnon Shirley Clark Marilyn Belbin

Ministry & Personnel

Chair – Dave Charles Pam Shea Nancy Abrams Elaine Davidson

Memorial Committee

Carolyn Scott Vicki Leakey

Handbook Committee: Julie Price, Marg Worth, Nancy Abrams

Other Committees

Maintenance Committee

Chair: Murray Roantree Brian Brooks Angu Fergusson

Ways & Means Committee

Chair - Vacant Paul & Carolyn Scott Dianna Grier, Diane Kirkby Tom & Carol Currie, Merna Price, Betty Matthews, Elaine Davidson **(Anyone who would like to contribute)

(Note: To be on Session, Stewards, Official Board, Trustees or Personnel, you must be a full member of Grace United Church. To be on other committees, such as Ways & Means, Maintenance Committee member ship is not required.)

OFFICIAL BOARD REPORT - 2022

There have been a number of changes at Grace since I last wrote the Official Board Report for 2021. We are back in the sanctuary enjoying Sunday services. Wearing of the mask is now optional. Committees can now meet in person, as can the Official Board and the Annual General Meeting. Even if members are not in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, Grace continues to reach out to all via live broadcast, utube and Cogeco TV. Thanks again to Paul Harding and Christina Kaya for all the work they do to make this possible.

Thanks to the persistence of Murray Roantree we have a brand new electric boiler and hot water tank. The new boiler replaces one that has been in use since the fire of 1989. An old gas unit which at times gave off some very scary sounds (just ask Laurie). The Pine Street door has an acessible open and close button.

The Pies group have a brand-new freezer thanks to the generosity of a member of our Church. Also, a new accessible sink will be soon installed in the upstairs washroom. Again, this is due to the generosity of a member of the Grace family.

I cannot say enough about the committees and their chairs that make Grace the great Church that it is today. Sure we could use more people in the pews and on some of our committees, but that will come. The use of our hall continues to grow as more and more outside groups inquire about the availability. This is a good source of revenue for us.

Grace is not unlike many individuals and businesses in our community. Financial challenges continue, but I do believe with the caliber of people at Grace we will persevere and continue as a vital part of the Gananoque community.

Thanks to the continued presence of Covid and now the new Kraken virus my closing comments for the past couple of years remain relevant once more.

To all – stay safe and remember you are not alone. We are a family!

Brian Brooks – Board Chair

2022 Stewards Report

The Board of Stewards meet 5 times during the year. We welcomed a new member to Stewards Cliff Edwards.

Our fundraising efforts resumed after the Covid 19 restrictions eased. In September Mary's Merry Minstrels performed a concert to support the Ukrainian Refugee Group in Gananoque. All proceeds were donated to this cause. The group performed for no cost and we thank them for their generosity. Mary's Merry Minstrels would like to hold a Gospel Themed Concert in the Spring next year.

In October Paul Harding, Cliff Edwards and Sheri Shenton performed "Sing a Song" as a fundraiser for the Church. It was very successful and provided an opportunity for outreach to our community,

November saw our very own Christina Kaya present "Nunny Bag" a magic and musical show for the young and young at heart. Stewards wanted to give back once more to the Gananoque Community. It was a delightful afternoon enjoyed by young and old alike.

December 3rd was our Christmas Market which was a resounding success. Many hands make light work and volunteers manned the Bake Table, Pies for God's Sake and Grace's Café. So many of our congregation volunteered time and supplies for the Café and our expenses for the day were very minimal. We thank everyone who donated items for our Silent Auction Baskets and food items for the Café.

After expenses we raised approximately \$5,500. Over 200 folks attended the Market and was again another way to spotlight Grace United.

Fundscrip continues to raise funds for the Church. We submitted a group order for December and many order individually which supports the Church.

'Pies for God's Sake" continues to provide substantial financial support for the Church. The dedicated volunteers love working making our delicious pies.

The Stewards continues to work with the committee revising the Handbook for Grace. Requests for support from several organizations including the Gananoque Food Bank, T.R Leger Alternative School and Breakfast Clubs were supported.

This coming year will continue to present challenges for fundraising and outreach but this group will continue to work together to make great things happen at Grace.

I would be remise if I didn't express our sincere thanks to our Church Administrator Laure Cadue for her support during the past year. I also want to thank our Minister Reverend Takoui for her spiritual leadership.

Respectfully Submitted

Denise Wood, Chair of Stewards

2022 Session Report

Although we are still under the restraints from Covid 19, we have gradually relaxed the protocols and returned to in person worship. January 8th we had 48 attending. Of course our ministry by YouTube and Cogeco has continued to reach others wherever they might be worldwide. Thank you to the ongoing expertise and commitment by our Music Director, Paul Harding, and Christina Kaya. Christina has formally been engaged to provide the video recordings and Paul the oversight of converting it to the services required.

Our Handbook committee is almost finished and the latest version will include the revised marriage and baptism guidelines. This year we have enjoyed several baptisms and a wedding. We have also welcomed 4 new members to the congregation. Our Clerk of Session, Susan Barwell, has done a great job but has to step down and will be replaced next month by Tammy Fergusson.

We continue to search for additional ushers.

Our overall focus this year has been to reinvent Grace United Church as a centre in Gananoque for activities, promoting community, health, spirituality, and music. In an effort to increase use of the space available, we are still in the process of fine tuning our rental guidelines. Issues being addressed include things like 3rd party liability, safe operation of our kitchen, clarity of responsibility of users (guidelines are laid out in a document). We realize that rentals are not a solution to financial sustainability, but we hope that it will help generate some income and interest in others to join the family!

Some of the events of the past year include: Fundraiser for Ukraine

Food Bank Board Meeting

Armenian Association Conference

Festival Walk for 1st Nations

Community Kitchen Cooking Classes x 2

Sing a Good Song

Nunny Bag Magic Show

Choral Society Christmas Concert

Cadue family get together

Cornerstone Pentecostal Church soup making outreach for the Needy

Potential EOORC council meeting in May

We are attempting to fill the hall space throughout the week. So far, we have in place:

Thomas from "Yoga1000 Islands" on Mondays 630, Wednesdays 330, occasional Saturdays 10am.

NEW!!

Gananoque Seniors Association Grant Funded Program for Feb and Mar. FREE on Thursday 1-3 Gloria Laux, "Essentrics", The Melting Method for relief and prevention of Chronic Pain. Nicole Tyo on Fridays 10-12, Conversational French. We hope to continue these with fees

CPHC is looking at 2 programs per week. Times being finalized.

Quilters Tuesday 9-12

LGBTQ+ on Sundays 1 x per month

Pie Making for Gods Sake

We have ordered pins for all church members. These will be available at the back of the church by donation.

Worship Committee have reached out to Carveth and Fox Run by doing bimonthly services for them,

Sharing and Caring Committee continues to send cards, distribute prayer shawls as needed. WE sent Christmas Cards to all residents of the above homes. Rev Takouhi prepared cards for all GUC members. As well as recording a message about the true meaning of Christmas which was broadcast during the season on MYFM. We will be reaching out by email/phone to all members in February in an effort to update records and stay in touch.

We have identified Visioning for the Future. New Uses for our Building Spaces. As a way to ensure that GUC remains viable financially. We are meeting with Rev Peter Bartlett in January to initiate the discussion. We will have a report for the Congregational Meeting to promote a Q and A, exchange of ideas. This pertains to the CE wing of the building and may be looked at for monthly rental for office space, a 1 or 2 bedroom residential apartment, theatre space, emergency temporary housing for an outside agency. Grant money is available to make changes.



<u>Weddings</u>

Henry Vandusen & Mary Gray Alexander Stewart & Lacey Bemister Kristopher Murray & Rebecca Ridge Kyle Maitland & Alexander McDougall Colin Tracy & Mallory Day Anthony Nield & Veronique Desjardins Thomas Malor & Diane Kirkby ** John Lesage & Dorinda Earl Christopher Schueler & Holly Wright

<u>New Members</u> Chuck Galway, Veronica Shepherd, Tom Marlor and Janet King

Baptisms Shayne Ann Smith & Zoey Widdes

Grace United Church Ministry and Personnel Committee Annual Report 2022

During 2022 the Ministry and Personnel Committee worked with the staff to "get back to normal" as more activities are happening in person as the Covid 19 restrictions were being rolled back. We implemented a more rigorous vacation planning system and reviewed job descriptions and employment contracts to ensure they reflected the evolving changes in Church related tasks such as support for our AV system and broadcasts and internet presence. We also added another well-earned extra week to Laurie Cadue vacation leave for 2023 and provided flexibility to Paul Harding's time off needs as he and Colleen want to pursue more leisure and travel activities. Compensation adjustments of roughly 3.4% for 2023 were recommended and accepted by the Official Board.

Many thanks to Nancy Abrams who will be leaving the committee after 5 years of dedicated service during a period of extensive change to our staff and challenges such as Covid 19 restrictions. Her expertise on all the United Church of Canada procedures was greatly appreciated. As for myself, I have decided to move on to be part of the Stewardship Committee that better aligns with my passion for Mission and Service.

Blessings, Dave Charles, Ministry and Personnel Chairperson

Submitted January 6, 2023

2022 Maintenance Report

The Maintenance Team was kept busy with various projects taking place throughout the year. Most items had been accounted for in the 2022 Budget, while others were necessary items that needed to be repaired.

- 1. New Boiler for downstairs heat requirements installed by G.L.A.D Plumbing.
- 2. New Automatic Main Door installed by Reliance Security.
- 3. New Security exit lighting installed by Jet Electrical.
- 4. Annual fire inspection completed by Georgian Bay Fire and Safety.
- 5. Ongoing replacement of original safety lights (42 yrs old) by Jet Electrical.
- 6. Eavestroughs inspected and repairs made by 1000 Islands Seamless.

<u>2023 Project</u> – Revamp of the accessible washroom, located by the Choir Room. A generous donation has been received to specifically cover this cost.

Items of Concern 2023:

Downspouts for eavestroughs may be causing water to back up as they go in wells located underneath the lawn on both east and west side of the church. These may be plugged and will need to be investigated in the spring. They were installed back in1981 when the church reopened

Wall in the electrical room, north side of building, has been damaged by water seeping in the wall. Need to look at some way of sealing the wall to prevent water from getting in.

A decision needs to be made on the cleanup of the **Upper Room** (Old Office Space). A number of items need to be cleaned out as they have been there since the church reopened after the fire.

Murray Roantree



Grace United Church EOORC Representatives Annual Report 2022

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council met in May and November 2022 with our own Rev Takouhi completing her term as the Regional Council President and as the Regional Council Rep to General Council 44 where Rev Dr Carmen Lansdowne was elected Moderator for the next 3 years. Thank you Takouhi! We held the Regional Annual General meeting in person at Bells Corners United Church in Nepean. The new President of EOORC is Sue Hutton from Spencerville UC and the new Regional Council Executive Minister is Rev Eric Hebert-Daily replacing Rev Rosemary Lambie. Rev Lambie presided over Rev Takouhi's covenanting service in June.

The focus areas of the Regional Council in 2022 were on promoting social justice as racism is on the rise, providing for our struggling communities during Covid restriction and difficult economic times, and reimagining our Communities of Faith as communities of fellowship for all the people in the towns and cities we live in.

The EOORC Church Extension Committee provided Grace United Church \$20,000 to help pay for half of the church heating and lighting systems completed in 2022. Dave Charles became a member of the EOORC Stewardship Committee. This has been very helpful to exchange ideas for strengthening Grace UC's membership and community financial support and commitment to Mission and Service activities. This synergy has been great as Denise and Dave are very active with Grace's Stewardship Committee and Mission and Service activities (e.g., Ukraine support, Food Bank, Community Kitchen, Seniors needs).

In 2023 we plan to use resources from the EDGE group in the United Church to re-visit our vision for Grace United Church and evaluate alternative uses for our physical facilities and Community of Faith programs and initiatives.

Blessings, Dave Charles and Denise Wood EOORC Representatives Submitted January 5, 2023



2022 Year End Report from Grace United Church Women



Our year started a bit late due to a return of Covid cases in our local community. We finally resumed our in-person meetings on March 14/22 We have a bit larger group this year and remain at 15 members.

Two of our members were able to attend the Quin-Mo-Lac camping weekend in September which sounded like a very enjoyable weekend. Our president and vicepresident attended several area meetings in Lyn and 7 of us attended the Four Rivers Area/Presbyterial UCW Fall Rally in Lyn, as well in October, and all enjoyed the day.

On October 16th our group was privileged to conduct the 60th Anniversary service of UCW in Canada. With the assistance of Rev. Takhouhi Demirijan-Petro, we were able to recall past members and dedicate this service to those who were the founding members of UCW in our church.

In November, we were once again happy to have the direction of Cheryl O'Leary to make 40 Christmas Cards to be delivered to members of our congregation, who no longer are living in their homes or are not able to come to church. These are always well received.

We ended our year with a lovely luncheon and gift exchange for women of the United Church, at the Curling Club. We all enjoyed the fellowship and were thankful for the blessings we receive by our membership in UCW.

Linda Brooks, President.

UCW FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022			
Receipts		Disbursements	
Offerings	\$ 381.70	UCW Dues	\$ 98.00
Lenten Offerings	\$ 433.00	Bank Charges	\$ 8.40
Bank Interest	\$ 0.17	Mileage	\$ 115.00
		Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 230.25
		Donations	\$ 290.00
		Calendars	\$ 60.00
Total	\$ 844.87	Total	\$ 801.75
		Balance as of 12/31/21	\$ 126.69
		Receipts	\$ 844.87
		Withdrawals	\$ 801.75
		Balance as of 12/31/22	\$ 169.81
		Submitted by M. Worth	
		UCW Treasurer	





Grace United Church Choir Report

Following a hiatus of two years, choir rehearsals recommenced in March of 2022. Relying on familiar anthems, we gradually got back into the swing of things and before we knew it, we felt like we'd never been away. We even celebrated Spring with a potluck supper, graciously hosted by Julie and Brian Price. This past year we have been saddened by the retirement and yet celebrate the faithful service of Richard Abrams and Joan Shaw. Dick was in the choir for over 50 years, always a good-natured stalwart member of the tenor section. And when sopranos needed inspiration to go for that high note, Joan was always there to lead the charge.

We are blessed to have a bass member who also plays the organ, and I wish to thank local musician Doug Gifford for supplying for me during my holidays and other absences.

Special thanks to faithful chorister Christina Kaya, who not only fills a 'swing' position in the choir but has been videographer for our YouTube live stream for every single service since October 10th, 2021 (59 services).

Singing in the choir is a labour of love; not only do we provide musical leadership in Grace United's weekly worship services, but our Thursday 'therapy sessions' provide uplifting support to us all. Collectively, the thirteen of us represent over 400 years of service *to Grace United Church Choir*. We would be delighted to welcome new members at any time. There is no audition; all you have to do is come out and join us.

Paul Harding

Director of Music

GRACE UNITED CHURCH CHOIR REPORT DECEMBER 31, 2021

Funds carried forward January 1, 2022\$ 2397.15Funds on hand December 31, 2022\$ 2347.15Prepared by: Dianna Grier\$ 2347.15

2022 Ways & Means Summary

In 2022 we were finally allowed to gather again in person and hold fund raising events. Many were eager to get back at it and our events were all well supported and attended.

FundScrip is proving to be a popular and easy way to raise funds. As people become more familiar with FundScrip, more orders are being placed and more funds raised for Grace United. This year we raised \$1,175.52.

Our Pies for God's Sake Team is still going strong and their pies are a hot commodity. They gather together once per month and make 60 or more pies at a time. This is a group that loves to get together, not only to make pies, but support and encourage each other. They are always looking for some new helpers and encourage anyone who would like to help out. This year the Pie Bakers cleared \$4693.13 for Grace United.

After 3 years, our Christmas Market returned and was a wonderful success. There were many compliments about how well organized the Market was. We are grateful for Denise Wood and team. The Market raised \$4872.57. Plans are already underway for our 2023 Market.

In October, Cliff Edwards, Paul Harding and Sherri Shenton held a concert, "Sing a Good Song.' It was a lovely event and well attended. The concert raised \$1258.30.

Nunny Bag – by Christina Kaya, was a family friendly event. Christina preformed some magic tricks, entertained us with music and had crafts as well. The money from this event, \$150.00 was donated to Clothes for Kids.

In early October, Ruth DD held a Tupperware party as a fundraiser for Grace United. The party was well attended. It was a wonderful afternoon and we are grateful to Ruth DD for her generosity. The Tupperware party raised \$350.00.

Plans are already underway for our 2023 Fundraisers. There will be a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, A Mother's Day High Tea is being planned, The Christmas Market and Pies will continue. Do you have an idea for an event or want to help out? Speak to one of the Steward members or anyone of our Board Members.

Thank you again to all who have helped with our fundraising. We are grateful and fortunate to have you.

Event	Proceeds	Expenses	Net		
FundScrip	\$ 1,175.52		\$ 1,175.52		
Pies	\$8,633.53	\$ 3940.40	\$ 4693.13		
Christmas Market	\$ 5008.00	\$ 135.43	\$ 4,872.57		
Concert	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 101.70	\$ 1258.30		
Nunny Bags	\$ 150.00		\$ 150.00		
Tupperware	\$ 350.00		\$ 350.00		
Sub-totals	\$ 16,667.025	\$ 4,177.53	\$ 12,499.52		
	Proceeds fro	Proceeds from Fundraising			

Mission & Service

Receipts:	DEP	
Jan	1654.50	
Feb	1171.50	
Mar	1392.00	
April	1284.00	
Мау	1806.00	
June	1294.00	
July	1521.00	
Aug	1177.00	
Sept	1424.00	
Oct	1594.00	
Νον	1559.00	Mission and
Dec	1947.00	
Total Donations	\$ 17,824.00	

Grace United 2021 Donations to Mission & Service

Grace United Church – Local Mission

Balance, December 31, 2021,

Deposits 2022 Disbursements Bank fees \$ 1,537.50 (\$ 500.00) (5.00)

Balance, December 31, 2022

<u>\$ 6,254.37</u>

\$ 5,221.87

In 2022 Grace United contributed to the following organizations or causes through your generous donation to the Local Mission fund, White Gift and direct calls for donations.

Ukraine (GRSG)	\$2,981.30
Christmas for Kids (toy drive)	\$ 100.00
Breakfast Club	\$ 100.00
TR Ledger School	\$ 200.00
Clothes for Kids	\$ 100.00
White Gift (Gananoque Food Bank)	<u>\$ 1,725.00</u>
	<u>\$ 5,206.30</u>

Thank you for your generousity.

Grace United Church Trustee's report for 2022

<u>Investments</u>

The financial markets tumbled throughout 2022. Our TD Trust Fund lost about \$240,000 in market value, dropping from \$1,036,000 to \$796,639. Part of this loss was due to the withdrawal of \$120,000 to support the operating costs of the church. Although the value of stocks and bonds did decrease in value, they did provide a dividend income of \$26,668. The Trust Fund is comprised of money from the sale of the old manse (\$300k) and a donation from the Conner's family of about \$570K. The Conner's money is protected with only the interest from the trust fund being able to support operating expenses of the church. With the Church requiring about \$120K per year support from the trust fund, the trust fund will only be able to provide this support for 2-3 years until \$570K ceiling is reached. After which an avenue will be needed to obtained to access the Conner's estate money. Presently the market is forecast to show significant volatility for the next two years with a recovery thereafter. The changing financial situation was the focus of the trustee's meetings. It was felt that a strategy has to be developed to reduce costs and increase income through building rentals, fund raising or donations. In addition, the Trustee's are looking into the possibility of removing the limits on the Conner Estate donation to make funds available to the church operating budget. The Trustees are looking to the congregation to generate ideas on how to reduce spending and increase income.

Insurance

In September 2022, our insurance broker informed us that an appraisal of the church property was required to renew our insurance plan for 2023. After much searching, Andrew Grace of Rayners and Associates in Kingston, was hired to do an appraisal of the church in October and deliver a report in the beginning of November. Meanwhile the United Church of Canada informed us that it was launching a self insurance program which would provide a significant reduction in insurance costs of 15-30% for all participating churches. The new program was launched in December with our renewal costs for 2023 dropping to \$12,648 per year, a significant reduction as we were expecting costs to be near \$15,000.

Inventory

The Rayner appraisal determined the resale value of the church property of just over \$1million dollars, with a replacement cost value of just over seven million.

Meetings

Two meetings were held at the Church in 2022: June 28th and Nov 9th. Attendees: Angus Fergusson (Chair), Vicki Leakey, Brian Brooks, Marg Worth, Marilyn Belbin, Joan Mackinnon and Shirley Clark.

Angus Fergusson, Chair Trustees

GRACE UNITED CHURCH BANK OPERATING ACCOUNT BOARD OF TRUSTEES FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER 31, 2022

RECEIPTS			
Opening bank and investment baland	ce, January 1, 202	2	<u>\$ 1,030,871</u>
Annual income from investments	\$26,669		
Unrealized gain(loss)	(\$140,901)		
Total receipts		(\$ 114,232)	
DISBURSEMENTS			
Transfer of funds to operating		(\$120,000)	
Closing investment balance, December	31, 2022		5 796,639
Closing balance of investments			
INVESTMENTS	Book Value	Market Valu	е
Cash and Money Market Mutual Funds	\$ 9,413	\$ 9,413	
Canadian Preferred Shares	\$ 215,000	\$ 164,060	
Canadian Bond Funds	\$ 216,802	\$ 194,041	
Foreign Bond Funds	\$ 234,536	\$ 229,152	
Asset Allocation/Balanced Funds	\$ 34,494	\$ 37,656	
Canadian Equity Mutual Funds	\$ 87,242	\$ 111,301	
Foreign Equity Mutual Funds	<u>\$ 41,171</u>	<u>\$ 51,016</u>	
Total portfolio	\$ 838,658	\$ 796,639	
(full copy of the investment statemen	nt is available)		

An estate donation restricting expending to income earned on the endowed funds of \$567,228 and Sunday School funds of \$2,769. These restricted funds total \$569,997, representing funds held for specific purpose. The Trustees will monitor appropriate disbursement of funds held without restriction which totals \$226,642, as future needs occur.

Prepared by: VICKI LEAKEY, TREASURER

GRACE UNITED CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER 31, 2022

RECEIPTSOpening balance, January 1, 2022Donations\$ 450Interest - Bank0	\$ <u>32,810</u>
	<u>450</u> \$ 33,260
DISBURSEMENTS Admin	48
Closing balance December 31, 2022	<u>\$ 33,212</u>
INVESTMENTS BMO Variable GIC, 2.05% due January 2022 - \$2	4,102

BMO Variable GIC, 2.05% due January 2022 - \$ 24,102 BMO Bank Account - <u>\$ 9,110</u> \$ 33,212

Prepared by: Vicki Leakey, Treasurer



Grace United Church - Financial Statement December 31, 2022

December 31, 2022								
		2022				2022		2021
OPERATING RECEIPTS	ANNU	AL BUDGET	De	cember		TYD		YTD
Offerings	\$	88,473	\$	11,376	\$	80,661	\$	79,757
Weddings	\$	-						
Outside Groups	\$	400	\$	375	\$	1,125	\$	310
Session Fundraisers						·		
Fund Raisers	\$	14,900	\$	6,973	\$	16,677	\$	7,490
Tax Rebates	\$	2,500					\$	1,196
Gov Rebates (CEWS)		·					\$	8,983
Receptions	\$	400						·
Transferred from Trustees	\$	90,000			\$	120,000	\$	100,000
Messy Church	\$	500			•			·
Community Kitchen					\$	2,618		
Broadview	\$	-	\$	125	\$	125	\$	175
Estate	\$	5,000			\$	15,076		
Misc **		•	\$	1,183	\$	21,515	\$	15,043
Total Operating Receipts	\$	202,173	\$	20,032	\$	257,798	\$	177,911
MISSION RECEIPTS	ANNU	AL BUDGET	De	cember				YTD
Mission & Service Fund	\$	12,000	\$	1,997	\$	17,824	\$	14,723
Special Grace Missions	\$	2,500	\$	336	\$	1,538	\$	1,795
White Gift/ Ukrain etc		•	\$	1,725	\$	4,706	\$	2,105
Total Mission Receipts	\$	14,500	\$	4,058	\$	24,068	\$	18,623
Total Receipts	\$	216,673	\$	24,089	\$	281,866	\$	196,534
OPERATING EXPENSES	ANNU	AL BUDGET	De	cember				YTD
Personnel	\$	141,673	\$	11,793	\$	145,951	\$	136,884
Office	\$	11,000	\$	1,091	\$	11,718	\$	11,104
Maintenance	\$	52,800	\$	4,347	\$	54,822	\$	41,302
Capital Projects	\$	-	\$	1,400	\$	37,583		/
Congregation Expenses	\$	6,200	\$	1,530	\$	6,346	\$	5,841
Community Kitchen		,	\$	391	\$	2,079	\$	-
Session	\$	4,850	\$	851	\$	4,364	\$	1,767
Messy Church	\$	-				y = -		, -
Stewardship	\$	5,650	\$	111	\$	18,171	\$	11,742
Total Mission Expense	\$	14,500	\$	4,785	\$	22,452	\$	18,683
MISC (UCW Lent)		,	\$	55	\$	55		- /
Total Expenses	\$	236,673	\$	26,355	\$	303,540	\$	227,324
	Operat	ing Receipts to	Date	-	<u> </u>	-	\$	281,866
	•	ing Expenses t					\$	303,540
		s less Expense					-\$	21,674
Misc Income **	•	Balance Dece		r 31, 2021			\$	37,909
\$ 1,000.00 EOORC Coverage	Bank Balance				\$	16,235		
\$19,292.00 UC Capital Grant	Overdraft (Limit \$20,000)				T			
\$ 40.00 Sale of Furniture	Book Balance, December 31, 2022				*	16 225		
\$ 933.17 Enbridge Grant	BOOK	balance, Dece	embe	er 31, 2022			\$	16,235
\$ 250.00 Pride Youth Group								
<u>\$ 21, 515.17</u>	Raph	balance to						
7 CT 71 71 (1		ate in 2021					\$	37,909
	uns u						Ψ	57,505

2023 Church Budget

			as of Oct 31	
		2022	2022	2023
RECEIPTS		Budget		Budget
Offerings (4010, 4012, 4015, 4016)		88473	61567	86470
Weddings	4020			
Outside Groups	4030	400	670	1000
Broadview	4050			
Mission & Service Fund	4300	12000	14318	14000
White Gift				
Benevolent Fund	4350	2500	4036	2500
Fund Raising Events	4060	14900	8874	15000
Tax Rebate	4070	2500		2500
CEWS subsidy for wages				
Receptions	4045	400		
Transfer from Trustees	4080	90000	80000	88000
Investment Proceeds	4081	20000	20000	20000
Messy Church	4035	500		
Misc revenue for tech equipment		14000		
Outreach missions	4040		2618	2000
Estate/Trustees	4900		16676	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		245673	208759	231470
PERSONNEL				
Travel Allowance	5606	2500	2222	2500
Education and Pastoral Care Co-ordinator	5630	1000		
Salaries		111823	93186	115520
C.P.P. & U.I.	5680	7500	8121	8000
United Church Pension Fund	5690	12000	11041	12000
Worker's Compensation	5700	900	689	800
Book Allowance & Study	5720	2750	1829	1750
Vacation Pay	5730			
Casual Supply	5710	3000	5500	3000
Supply Travel	5705	200	350	200
Minister (urgent care)	5715			
TOTAL PERSONNEL		141673	122938	143770
OFFICE		110,5	122550	1-3770
Telephone	5010	1800	1490	1800
Office Supplies	5020	5000	5354	5500
Advertising	5025	1500	1262	1450
Bank Charges	5030	1500	1202	1430
Internet	5015	1300	762	1400
TOTAL OFFICE	5015	11000	10158	11150

MAINTENANCE				
Repairs & Maintenance	5040	6000	9608	7000
Heat	5050	8000	7074	7500
Water	5060	1500	1480	1500
Electricity	5070	6000	4132	5000
Service contracts	5080	14000	9645	11000
Insurance	5090	14500	14060	13000
Prior Year Capital-Trustees			I	
Organ		2800		
Capital Projects	5045		12735	
TOTAL MAINTENANCE		52800	58734	45000
CONGREGATION EXPENSES				
UCC Annual Assessments	5200	6000	4590	5000
Broadview	5210	200	225	250
Receptions	5220			
TOTAL CONGREGATION		6200	4815	5250
SESSION				
Choir & Music	5300	1200	575	1200
Special Events	5310	500		500
Worship Supplies	5320	500	620	500
Special Bulletins	5325			
Christian Development	5330	300	8	300
Children's Ministry	5400	200	194	200
C.E. Special Events	5410	200		200
C.E. Training	5420	50		50
Decorating		100		100
Outreach		1250	1040	1250
Pastoral Care		100	0	100
Community kitchen			1687	
Messy Church	5331	450		450
TOTAL SESSION		4850	4124	4850
STEWARDSHIP				
Program Expenses	5510	150		100
Fundraising	5515	5000	4976	5000
Envelopes	5520	500	320	350
Search Committee	5525	L		
Approved Expenses	5530	9000	11354	
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP		14650	16650	5450
TOTAL				
OPERATING EXPENSES		\$ 231,173	\$ 217,419	\$ 215,470
		6		

MISSIONS				
Mission & Service Fund	5910	12000	14318	14000
Benevolent Fund	5920	2500	597	1000
Outreach Mission	5930		1115	1000
United Church Mission Appeal	5925			
TOTAL MISSION EXPENSE		14500	16030	16000
TOTAL EXPENSES		245673	233449	231470

Thank You, Jesus

When I fall, He lifts me up! When I fail, He forgives! When I am aweak, He is strong! When I am lost, He is the way! When I am afraid, He is my courage! When I stumble, He steadies me! When I am hurt, He heals me! When I am broken, He mends me! When I am blind, He leads me! When I am hungry, He feeds me! When I face trials, He is with me! When I face persecution, He shields me! When I face problems, He comforts me! When I face loss, He provides for me! When I face Death, He carries me Home! He is everything for everybody, everywhere, every time, and every way. He is God, He is faithful. I am His, and He is mine!

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