

Grace United Church Session Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

Present: Barb Jenkins, Susan Barrwell, Tammy Fergusson, Raymond Shea, Colleen Harding, Paul Harding, Dave Charles, Marg Worth, Cheryl O'Leary, Julie Price, Reverend Takouhi

Regrets: Diane Kirkby

Opening Prayer Barb Jenkins opened the meeting with a prayer.

Opening Remarks Barb Jenkins welcomed members to the meeting.

Featured Biography

Session learned more about Marg Worth.

Next meeting's Biography is about Julie Price.

Minutes

MOTION: To Accept November 22, 2022 Minutes as written and circulated.

Moved - Barb Jenkins

Seconded - Dave Charles

Carried

ACTION: Previous Meeting Minutes will be added to the Agenda for review.

Business Arising From Minutes

Ushers and Readers

Dave Charles will find Readers and Ushers for January and February.

Marg Worth will find Readers and Ushers for March.

ACTION: To advertise in the Bulletin for more Reader and Usher volunteers.

Alter Cloth and Candles

Raymond Shea and Colleen Harding are responsible for changing the Alter Cloth.

Reports

M&S/EOORC (attached) Dave Charles

Sharing and Caring Barb Jenkins

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.

ACTION: To inform Faith Community about the dates of the Picture Directory in May.

Director of Music/AV (attached) Paul Harding

ACTION: To contact Gary Petro for editing the Service video on the Sundays that Paul Harding and Christina Kaya are away.

If Gary Petro is not available, Julie Price will volunteer.
Paul Harding welcomes anyone who wishes to learn AV roles.

Worship Planning Committee (attached) Reverend Takouhi

Minister's Musings (attached) Reverend Takouhi

Church at Work

Rental Agreement

The Church Insurance Policy states that a Member of the Church must be present when there are Community Groups within the Church. There are people employed by Grace United who are not Members of the Church and who are responsible for Community Groups that use the facilities.

ACTION: Barb Jenkins will take this issue to the next Official Board Meeting and suggest that the wording of the Rental Agreement be changed to "A Representative of the Church must be present when there are Community Groups within the Church."

ACTION: Due to the high volume of Community Groups using the Church Building, the Church is in need of a Rental Coordinator. Laurie Cadue and Barb Jenkins will write out a job description and advertise for a Rental Coordinator in the Bulletin.

Privacy and Security

Barb Jenkins reminded Session to ask permission first before mentioning names or places of travel when speaking publicly in Church Services. Our services are recorded over the internet and on TV. The Church cannot be open to the public at all times due to insurance risks.

Correspondence

Susan Barrwell sent out cards to Connie and Steve Thompson for the loss of her mother and Rosemary Smallman for the loss of her husband.

Transfer of Membership

Gord and Faye Trimble transferred their membership to Edith Rankin United Church, Kingston Ontario.

MOTION to Accept the reports as presented.

Moved - Ray Shea **Seconded** - Marg Worth

Carried

New Clerk of Session

With Regret, Susan Barrwell has decided to step down from Clerk of Session. A huge thank you for all of her contributions.

We welcome Tammy Fergusson as new Clerk of Session.

Susan Barrwell will continue to make cards for us.

ACTION: Minutes will be prepared before the following Official Board Meeting in order to present an updated Session Report.

New Business

New United Church Crest Pins

ACTION: An announcement will be made in the bulletin stating that there are fifty United Church Crest Pins available to everyone by donation. The Pins are available at the back of the church.

Partnering with 1000 Island Playhouse

There was a discussion about Grace United Church forming community partnerships.

Visioning for the Future of Grace

There is a Meet and Greet Meeting with Peter Bartlett to discuss the future of Grace United Church on Thursday, January 26th at 1 pm in the Church. All Members of Session are welcome.

ACTION: Barb Jenkins will bring all Visioning Ideas to the next Official Board in preparation for the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 12th after Church.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Sunday, February 26th after Church. It will be an In-Person Meeting. The meeting in March will be Sunday, March 19th after Church.

Opening and Closing Prayers

Dave Charles will lead the Opening Prayer and Susan Barrwell will lead the Closing Prayer for next time.

Closing Prayer

Reverend Takouhi led the Closing Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Julie Price

January 18, 2023

Mission and Service:

On December 12, Eileen Thomson and I met with police chief Scott Gee, his assistant Rhonda Robeson (Eileen's daughter), and Sara Garcia a social worker from Brockville assigned to the Gananoque community. Eileen provided Sara with grocery store gift cards to give to folks needing assistance. We discussed our desire to have a resource pamphlet that we could give to folks who approach our church with needs for food, clothing, shelter, medical assistance, employment, etc. Sara is working with a task group in the Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health Services to develop this resource. Eileen and I offered to help them with this from a Gan perspective. Sara mentioned that housing is a large challenge as the county is short of financial resources to staff supervision and administration of homeless shelters and low-cost housing.

With the participation and coordination of Rev Takouhi the Gananoque Pride Alliance Youth Hangout is holding get together sessions one Sunday per month in the Grace UC auditorium. They received excellent publicity in the January 12 edition of the Gananoque Reporter. More on this in Rev Takouhi's Minister's Musings.

Under the umbrella of the Gananoque Seniors Association, Cliff Edwards, Brian Brooks, Barb Jenkins, and others are organizing activities such as language lessons, exercise classes, games, crafts, sewing, and cooking at Grace United Church. Funding for instructors and facilities is available from The Town of Gananoque.

The Community Kitchen group will be holding a public information session in the near future to provide awareness of the program and seek community input for future activities.

EOORC:

The Spring Meeting of EOORC will be held on May 26 and 27. Grace UC is under consideration to be host of this meeting in Gananoque.

Guidance on confidentiality of church staff salary information under the Ontario Privacy Act is currently under review by Whit Strong (Regional Minister for Pastoral Relations) and the Executive Committee. Whit contacted me on January 16 and said he needed to investigate further after originally issuing direction not to publish any specific salary amounts. I had expressed concern about the need for transparency to our Community of Faith stakeholders as compensation represents 62% of our annual expenditures.

Peter Bartlett, Minister for Visioning with Community of Faiths will be meeting with Church leadership on January 26 at 1:30 pm for a meet and greet to discuss plans to look at the Future of Grace. Attached is a photo of Peter and a copy of the "Fishing Tips" Visioning the Grace leadership did with Donna Norman in November 2019.

Submitted by Dave Charles

Audio-Visual Team Report – Paul Harding

February – March 2023

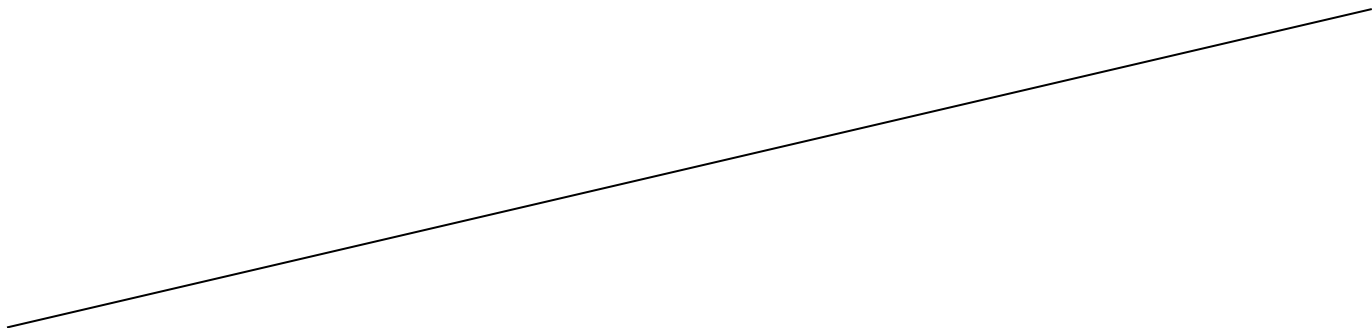
I will be on vacation from February 22nd to March 10th 2023. I have just learned that overlapping this time period, Christina Kaya will be absent for 5 Sundays, February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19. I am easy to replace; Christina not so easily.

During the time Christina is away, we need someone to operate the live-stream to YouTube and record the service on the portable HDD. When we are both away (Feb. 26 and Mar. 5), we need not only a live-stream operator, but we also need someone to upload the PowerPoint from Laurie to the A/V laptop (Julie Price can do this), edit the recorded service to 57 minutes for Cogeco, and share that service with our Cogeco contact, David Yateman.

I have approached Cliff Edwards about running the live-stream, and Colleen can probably *help* on February 19, March 12 and 19. Cliff is available ONLY March 5th

I would suggest that the church hire Gary Petro, if available, to do the editing and sharing of the Feb. 26 and Mar. 5 services for Cogeco. He is very familiar with these processes. Christina and Laurie did this in my absence last fall, but this time Christina will be away too.

Date	Power Point to Laptop	Livestream and Record	Edit and Share with Cogeco
Feb. 19	Paul H	Paul & Colleen	Paul H
Feb. 26	Julie Price	Dave Charles	Gary Petro Julie Price
Mar. 5	Julie Price	Cliff Edwards	Gary Petro Julie Price
Mar. 12	Paul H	Paul & Colleen	Paul H
Mar. 19	Paul H	Paul & Colleen	Paul H



**Grace United Church
Worship Planning Team
Thursday, January 12, 2023 - NOTES**


1. Attendees:
Donna Norman, Tammy Fergusson,
Paul & Colleen Harding, & Rev. T.
2. Checking in
3. Opening Prayer – Donna Norman
4. Re-visit: Do we continue to print lyrics in the bulletin?
 - a. Printing lyrics, scripture and prayers offers accessibility to all.
 - b. Inclusive and more hospitable.
WPT recommends that we continue to do so.
5. New Topic:
 - a. To move the sermon to the later part of the worship.
Tammy Fergusson is bringing this from person/people?
Rev. Takouhi will prepare a series on "Worship"
 - b. Screens/TV in the Sanctuary for the use of Worship
6. Upcoming Sundays & Other Gatherings:

Epiphany 2023- Lent Year A

January 2023

- Friday, January 13, 2023 – Fox Run Chapel - 2:00 p.m.
Musician: **Tammy Fergusson**
- January 15, 2023 – Second Sunday after Epiphany - **GOLD**
- Wednesday, January 18, 2023 – Session Meeting on Zoom at 7
- Thursday, January, 19, 2023 – Carveth Chapel – 11:00 a.m.
Musician: **Tammy Fergusson**
- January 22, 2023 – Third Sunday after Epiphany - **GOLD**
OB Meeting after Church
- January 29, 2023 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – **GOLD**

February 2023

- February 5, 2023 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - **GOLD**
- Wednesday, February 8, 2023 – VIBE Meeting #1
- Friday, February 10, 2023 – Fox Run Chapel - 2:00 p.m.
Musician: **Tammy Fergusson**
- February 12, 2023 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany - **GOLD**
 **LGBTQ+ Youth Gathering 2-4 p.m. downstairs hall.**

- **Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – NO VIBE**
- **February 19, 2023 – Transfiguration Sunday - GOLD**
 - ✚ **Rev. Takouhi Away – Vacation**
 - **Tammy Fergusson** will lead worship.
- **Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – VIBE Meeting #2**
- **Thursday, February 23, 2023 – Carveth Chapel – 11:00 a.m.**
Musician: **Tammy Fergusson**
- **February 26, 2023 – First Sunday of Lent - Purple**
 - ✚ **Communion-** to mark the beginning of this journey – with COVID Protocols

March 2023

- **Wednesday March 1, 2023 – VIBE Meeting #3**
 - **Friday, March 3, 2023 – World Day of Prayer**
 - ✚ The Prayers are prepared by the **Women of Taiwan**
 - ✚ I have asked the UCW Chair if the UCW would like to plan this gathering – at 11:00 a.m. – Early Afternoon...
 - **Saturday, March 4, 2023 – EOORC is planning an online Educational Event.**
 - **March 5, 2023 – Second Sunday of Lent – Purple**
 - **Wednesday March 8, 2023 – VIBE Meeting #4**
 - **March 12, 2023 – Third Sunday of Lent – Purple**
 - 7. **Next Meeting – March 9, 2023 – Thursday @ 7 p.m. via Zoom Changed to March 16, 2023** As we will report to Session on March 19th, Sunday after church meeting
 - 8. **Closing Prayer – Rev. Takouhi**
-

Minister's Musings – January 18, 2023 Session Meeting #1

Happy and Blessed New Year, Session... May 2023 truly be a year of spiritual growth and expansion of our horizons. Just a quick summary of what has taken place since we last met.

Worship:

Blue Christmas on December 20, 2022, was a success, out of the twelve attendees, six were newcomers – Our Guest Speaker, Eleanor Glenn, donated all the sales of her book to the Missions (Benevolent Fund) of Grace United.

Paul Harding, Laurie Cadue and I would tell you without any doubt that this past Advent and Christmas felt so full and demanding than ever before, we just can't thank God that it is ALL Done. Moreover, I am Grateful to Paul Harding in getting the last-minute Christmas Eve service prepared for YouTube, because of the storm. And Thanks to my husband Gary Petro for taking the time and filming, editing and preparing the January 1, 2023, virtual service for Grace United. We prepared an extended service of Bread for the Journey, to give people a chance to offer their financial gifts to Grace United and added extra music too.



I have not forgotten about the Oil Candles for the Communion Table – the distributor is still having issues of supply because of COVID. I will keep this on my report so that I will follow up... Mr. James McLean is the supplier from Toronto who will bring samples to see what size candles will fit best for our sanctuary. We are inquiring - Christ Candle, 2 Candles on each side of the Christ Candle and Advent Wreath...)

V.I.B.E. – Venturing in Biblical Education

We will resume VIBE on February 8, 2023 – we have thirteen individuals registered so far out of which, three are from the greater Regional Council – EOORC. The Book we will study is - **“The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus’s Final Week in Jerusalem” Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan**

Pastoral Care:

In December, I signed 288 Christmas Cards and sent them to our extended Grace United Church Family, even though I was unable to send any personal cards to



my family and friends, but they all understand the demands of a minister's vocation and I am so grateful to have such friends and family. The cards we sent out, includes the families of the twenty funerals I have presided and nine weddings I have officiated. This is truly a good way to build bridges with different people.

I continue to offer pastoral care in person, by e-mail and Facebook and at the church office. Even on my weekends, I offer pastoral care to those who find me through Messenger or Text. This New Year, I have started to send out Birthday and Anniversary cards again. I hope time will allow me to continue this ministry as well.

Membership:

Nothing to Report – But I am considering to start to promote and invite people to officially join Grace United Church – Looking at Palm Sunday.

Weddings – Which are reserved at Grace Sanctuary:

June 24, 2023 – Brianna & Matthew – 3:00 P.M. September 23, 2023 – Raphaelle & Sean – 3:00 P.M.

Baptisms: None for 2023 – yet.

Funerals:

I have officiated four funerals since our last meeting. Two were in the first two weeks of January 2023:

**Lea Joy Carswell 28-Nov-22 Ruth Eleanor Hughes 02-Dec-22 Karen Roxanne Capper 11-Jan-23
Glenna Ann George 16-Jan-23**

And there are two who are in palliative care this week and I am going to see them tomorrow.

Wider Community:

Here are the dates for Carveth and Fox Run Chapel Service for the next six months:

Dates for Carveth Chapel Musician

January 19, 2023 Tammy



February 23, 2023 March 23, 2023 April 27, 2023 May 25, 2023 June 22, 2023

Tammy, Tammy, Tammy, Tammy, Paul ?

Dates for Fox Run Chapel

February 10, 2023 March 17, 2023 April 28, 2023 May 12, 2023 June 16, 2023

Tammy, Tammy, Tammy, Pau,l Paul ?



“Hi ‘Tea with Rev. T.” – We still have to determine day and time for 2023, as there are many events taking place in the Church Hall – This is a GOOD Problem to have.

I am also considering other opportunities to have people come and **use quiet time at the church sanctuary during Lent.** But we will need one volunteer to accompany the minister, as funerals come up and the minister might have to bow out.

Wider Church:

o My Supervision Ministry continues with student Minister, **Bailey Eastwood** we have not been able to meet since November, as we both have been extremely busy.

The Wider World:

I am establishing new bridges between Grace United and the Wider Community. I attended the Legion Brunch on the 8th of January, because of the funeral I did on January 7th And one of the persons I met at the brunch, attended the worship celebration last week (January 15).

The LGBTQ+ Youth have met twice (December and January) and we have had wonderful conversations and building relationships with these youth who live just a walking distance away from Grace United. Ms. Sam Crosby is an amazing, energetic force to be around, and I am so glad we are in this ministry together.



Our next meeting date is February 12, 2023 – at 2 p.m. These youth meet every second Sunday of the month 2-4 p.m.

Lifelong Learning:

I am planning to be going to Minneapolis for the **Festival of Homiletics** in May, by God’s Grace. This year the theme of the preaching conference is: **“Preaching Hope for a Weary World”** (May 15-18, 2023) Minneapolis, MN.

Miscellaneous:

Whenever I meet people, in the middle of a medical center or Costco, even on my day off, I invite them to get to know Grace United Church and offer them my contact card. I simply share this with you, **so that you are aware that whenever I am "away", you are still with me in my heart and mind.**

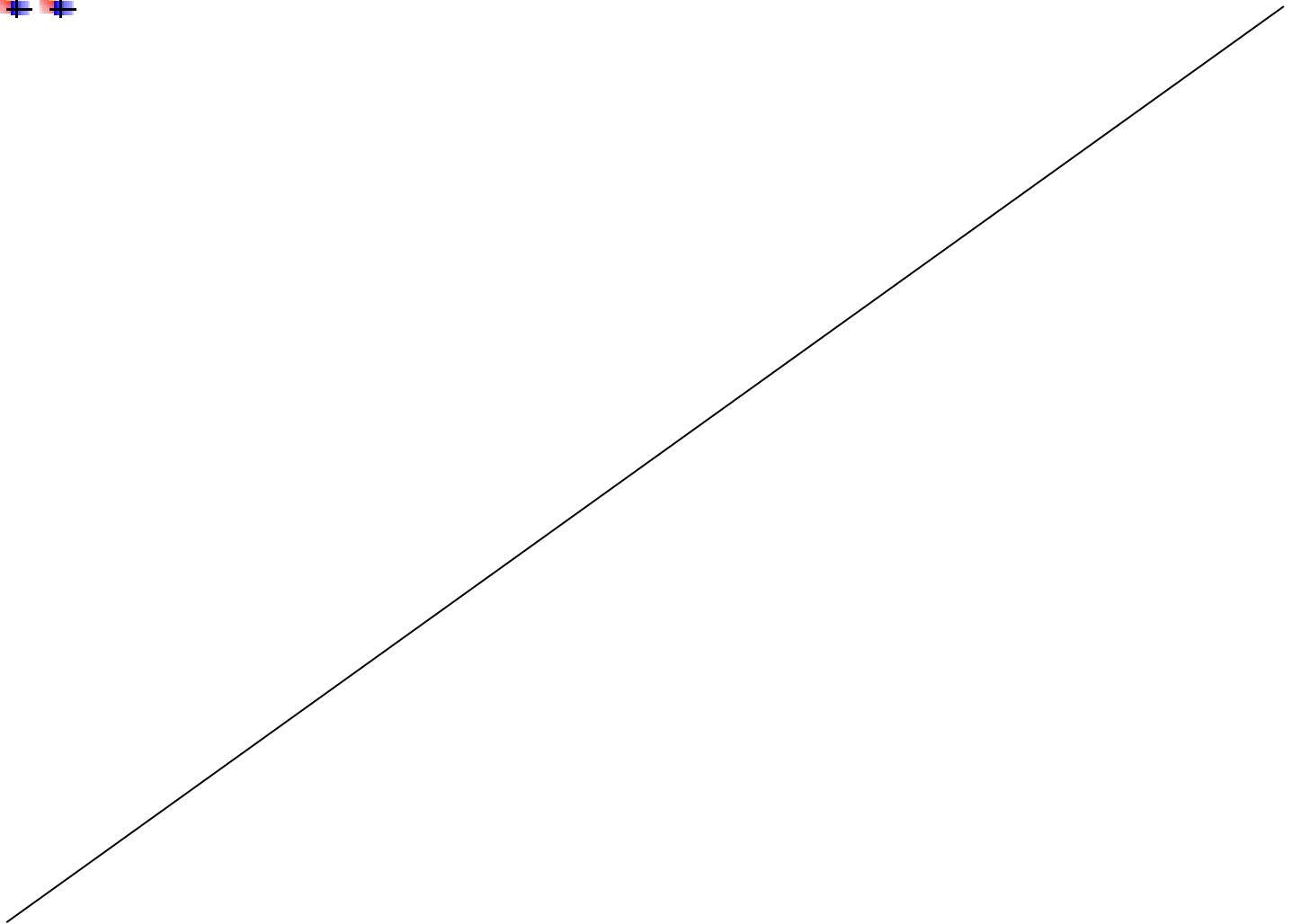
Rev. Takouhi – Sunday/Time Away - February 13-20 – Away on Vacation Sunday, February 19, worship will be led by **Tammy Fergusson**. I am taking this time off to spread my vacation all through the year, as per M & P's request, and offer my undivided attention to my family, especially, Gary as we will celebrate his 59th birthday (February 16). **Rev. Lynne Gardiner** will be the minister on call for pastoral care. **Rev. Lynne Gardiner at: (613) 267-3855 by e-mail: pastor@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca**

I am grateful for all that you do for the glory of God. I Remain Humbly Your Spiritual Leader,

Rev. Takouhi



(Behind the scenes, Laurie and I are trying to work together with our webmaster, Simon Labbett, in updating our church website and we hope to have new content added and launched this year). In the meantime, Laurie keeps on updating things with Simon, as we all strive to find enough time to do things.



Grace United Church, Session Minutes
Sunday, February 26, 2023, 7:00 pm
In Person

Present: Barb Jenkins, Tammy Fergusson, Dave Charles, Marg Worth, Cheryl O'Leary, Julie Price, Reverend Takouhi, Veronica Shepherd

Regrets: Susan Barwell, Colleen Harding, Paul Harding, Liz Denison, Diane Kirkby

Opening Prayer Dave Charles opened the meeting with a prayer.

Opening Remarks Barb Jenkins welcomed members and new members (Liz Denison and Veronica Shepherd) to the meeting.

MOTION: To nominate Barb Jenkins as Session Chair for 2023.

Moved - Marg Worth **Seconded** - Cheryl O'Leary **Carried**

MOTION: To nominate Tammy Fergusson as Clerk of Session for 2023.

Moved - Barb Jenkins **Seconded** - Cheryl O'Leary_____ **Carried**

Featured Biography

Session learned more about Julie Price.

The Next Biography will be about Tammy Fergusson

Minutes

MOTION: To accept Minutes of January 18, 2023 as written and circulated.

Moved - Cheryl O'Leary **Seconded** - Marg Worth **Carried**

Business Arising From Minutes

Ushers and Readers

Cheryl O'Leary will find Readers and Ushers for April.

Barb Jenkins will find Readers and Ushers for May.

ACTION: To invite more volunteers to usher and read.

Altar Cloth and Candles

ACTION: Marg Worth and Julie Price will change the Altar Cloth to Purple on Thursday, March 2nd.

United Church Pins

The pins are now available for everyone to wear. Donations are accepted.

ACTION: Barb Jenkins will contact Laurie Cadue to ensure that the pins are at the back of the Church Sanctuary.

The Way Forward

The Way Forward was discussed at the Annual Congregational Meeting and an open invitation was extended to participate in a Visioning Meeting with Rev Bartlett, held on Wednesday, February 22nd at 1 PM. Three participants attended the meeting along with Reverend Takouhi and Reverend Peter Bartlett.

ACTION: The Way Forward Visioning Committee will report monthly to Session.

There was discussion about what is the purpose for asking who we are as a Church. This question comes up whenever the Church is looking for a new Minister and when the Church is renewing its Mission Statement. This time, we are asking who we are as a Church to discover how we want to move forward in the future.

ACTION: To reflect on the Visioning Questions found in the weekly bulletin, to attend the April 30th Potluck Lunch and to join in the discussion about the future of Grace United Church.

Reports

M & S / EOORC

The Community Kitchen group will be holding a planning meeting on February 28 via Zoom. Group is also looking at getting a Community Garden plot that could be used to provide vegetables for future sessions.

AV Team looking at getting mobile stand for donated 55-inch TV monitor. Monitor would be used to announce upcoming Church activities. Perhaps place at bottom of stairs to Sanctuary.

Anyone is welcome to attend the EOORC Winter Meeting on Saturday, March 4th at 9 AM on Zoom.

Sharing and Caring: Barb Jenkins

The Committee met on Feb 3rd. A questionnaire was developed, and a platform was found by Laurie. A sample was sent out by her and she is assessing how to handle the results. Still need a few alterations to the questions but that could be finalized at next meeting.

Laurie and Marg are going to give us the list for contact.

We will be doing some phone work in combination with the survey. Do you want to hear the questions?? Tentative next meeting: Wed March 8 at 10am

Director of Music / AV (Attached)

Worship Planning Committee

Minister Musings (Attached)

Veronica Shepherd has offered to act as Grace United Church's Liaison for the LGBTQ+ Youth Group on April 16th at 1:30 PM.

ACTION: To find a volunteer to lock up after the LGBTQ+ Youth Group Meeting.

Church at Work

Rentals.

Barb Jenkins clarified that representatives who are approved by the church can oversee any rental group. It does not have to be a church member.

ACTION: To change the Rental Agreement Form.

Barb Jenkins says that the Church is waiting for CPHC to agree to do Chair yoga. The Fall Prevention Program starts this Monday and runs for 12 weeks. The rental fees are waived as CPHC is a non profit.

The Seniors Association classes are going really well. Another grant is in the works. The Association is requesting to permanently occupying the Community Living Centre on Mill St.

The Gananoque Choral Society has a Concert booked here in April.

Rental coordinator.

Veronica Shepherd has offered to take on the position of Rental Coordinator.

ACTION: Tammy Fergusson will notify Laurie Cadue to pass along Veronica Shepherd's contact information.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence received or sent this month.

New Business

Membership

Marg Worth and Laurie Cadue went through the List of Members and took off 56 names. Marg Worth read all 56 names and said that they either requested to be struck off the List or were consistently not available when attempts were made to contact them.

Here are the names of the people who were struck off the List:

Douglas & Marion Abbott, Susan Amo, Margaret Bailey, Paul, Leanne, Bradley, Laralea Breckenridge,, Cheryl Brosso, Sandra Burns, Sisan, Aaron, Kelvin Chumbly, Marilyn Clifford, Gary, Susan, Penny Curtis, Erica Demchuk,, Mary Dickson, Katrina Elder, Anthony Ferguson, Amy Ferguson, Ted & Jennifer Glover, Wilda Goddard, Janette Marie Gray, Tanya Garofalo, Mark & Keith Hill, Troy Maxwell, Brenda & Trudy Millious, Frank & Norma Mitchell, Carole Morey, Cathy Phillips, Laurie Piasetzki, Kim, Mathieu, Mikaela Piaazzi, John & Marie Poldervarrt, Lawrence & Yvonne Porter, Edwin & Jerrilyn Robertson, Mark & Barbara Robertson, Robert Seidl, Anneliese Seitz, Sandra Sly, Tanya Sparks, Karen Symons, Rod & Pat Welch, Colleen Wood

There are still 200 names on the List.

Other Business

Directory Correction

ACTION: To move the Maintenance Committee under Stewards in the Directory.

Communion

ACTION: To advertise in the Bulletin that the bread for Communion is gluten free.

Next Meeting

The next Session meeting will be held in person after Church on March 19, 2023.

Opening and Closing Prayer

Barb Jenkins will lead the Opening Prayer and Reverend Takouhi will lead the Closing Prayer for the next meeting.

Closing Prayer

Tammy Fergusson led the Closing Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1 PM

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting

First: Julie Price

February 26, 2023

EOORC:

The Winter Meeting of EOORC will be held on Saturday March 4 9 am to 1 pm via Zoom. Agenda attached.

I attended a two-hour workshop on Bequests and Estate Giving on February 9. Last workshop will be on March 2 via Zoom.

Submitted by Dave Charles



**CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
DE L'OUTAOUAIS ET DE L'EST DE L'ONTARIO
EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

EOORC Online Winter Meeting, March 4, 2023 Draft Agenda (as of February 3, 2023)

Building Stronger Communities Through Deeper Connection

How we build deep relationships with one another and welcome those who reach out for the first time

9 a.m.

Welcome (Pastor Susan Hutton, EOORC President) Introductions ([Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett](#))

Land acknowledgement – ([Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole](#)) Theme scripture: 1 Corinthians 12

9:15 a.m.

Theological reflection on the day ([Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly](#))

9:30 a.m.

The Stranger: The friend we don't know yet ([Rev. Dr. Frank Emanuel](#))

10:30 a.m. - Break

10:40 a.m.

The Power of Diversity: Being ready for transformation in the encounter with the 'other' (speaker to be announced soon)

11:40am - Break

11:50 a.m.

Our Faith: Going deeper than talking about the weather (Rev. Kimberly Heath, Wall Street United Church - Brockville)

12:50 p.m.

Closing words/wrap up/closing prayer (Pastor Susan Hutton)

Director of Music A/V Report

Plans are finalized for the streaming to continue in the absence of both Christina Kaya and the Hardings. The following chart outlines the arrangements:

One February 26 and March 5, Doug Gifford and/or Paul Scott please make sure church PA (choir room) is on and off.				
	Before service	Videographer	Following service	Editor
Service Date	Copy PowerPoint from OneDrive to AV Laptop	Live Stream and Record Service	Copy service from Sandisk HDD to thumb drive and give to editor	Edit and share with Cogeco (upload to OneDrive and share line via email with David Yateman at Cogeco)
Feb. 19	Paul H	Colleen Harding	Paul Harding	Paul Harding <i>completed</i>
Feb. 26	Julie Price	Dave Charles	Dave Charles / Julie Price	Julie Price
Mar 5	Julie Price	Cliff Edwards	Julie Price	Julie Price
Mar. 12	Paul H	Colleen Harding	Paul Harding	Paul Harding
Mar. 19	Paul H	Colleen Harding	Paul Harding	Paul Harding
Mar. 26	Paul H	Christina Kaya	Christina	Paul Harding

Paul Harding B.Mus., B.Ed.

Director of Music, Grace United Church
 15 Windsor Drive, Gananoque, ON K7G 2C9
 613-382-2405

Minister's Musings – February 26, 2023 Session Meeting #2

We continue to do our best with the help of the Worship Planning Team to make our worship celebrations as nourishing as possible for our spiritual journey.

I am privileged to be working with the UCW, and preparing for the World Day of Prayer (WDP) which will take place on **March 3, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** in our sanctuary (**I Hope You can All Come and Experience this beautiful Service**). It has been wonderful to get to know the women of the other churches who are participating in the service, as well.

V.I.B.E. – Venturing in Biblical Education

As of February 8, we started reading our new book study - **“The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus’s Final Week in Jerusalem” Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan.** This book contains many historical and scholarly background, however as we discuss each chapter in the group we are discovering new insights. The last two gatherings we have had, eleven and eight participants.

Pastoral Care:

I continue to offer pastoral care in person, by telephone, e-mail, Facebook, lunch or coffee, and seldom at the church office.

This New Year, I have started to send out Birthday and Anniversary cards again. I hope time will allow me to continue this ministry as well.

Membership:

Looking at Palm Sunday to receive full members to this Community of Faith. There is already one who has put her name forward.

Weddings – Which are reserved at Grace Sanctuary:

June 24, 2023 – Brianna & Matthew – 3:00 P.M. September 23, 2023 – Raphaelle & Sean – 3:00 P.M.

Baptisms: None for 2023 – yet.

Funerals:

William Harry Skelton 21-Jan-23 Edna Marie McCuaig 25-Jan-23

The Wider Community:

The LGBTQ+ Youth continue to meet once a month on the second Sunday of the month from 2-4 p.m. last month, on February 12, I am grateful to Vicki Leakey to attend this gathering after 3 p.m. so that I can go home a little earlier than 4:30. My Sundays begin very early and with the AGM, right after church, I had no time to energize. There is NO MARCH gathering, it is March Break. The next gathering date is **April 16th** which I will be away – the Week after Easter. **Would someone from Session like to commit to be the Grace United Church Liaison for that Sunday afternoon? All the person needs to do is open the Bell Tower Door at 1:30 and enjoy the activity they have planned, which is led by Ms. Sam Crosby. And, at the end lock up the building and leave. It is as simple as that...**

Grace United Church has received two donations of \$250.00 each specifically to be given to any students that Ms. Crosby knows who can use it for the use of furthering their education.

The donor is not a member of Grace nor they live near here. They actually live more than an hour away from here, however when they heard about the youth gatherings at Grace, they wanted to encourage further education and extend a helping hand.

We are still doing chapel services as weather and COVID permits. Carveth is in lockdown again, so we are waiting to find out when it will be safe for us to go back.

On February 10, after the chapel service was concluded, someone came and asked if I can go so their relative, whose room was very close by and say a prayer. They informed me when they heard the singing, they opened up the door so that they can hear better, as the Fox Run Client cannot get out of bed. There was a new connection with this incident, and I informed them that we are on YouTube and Cogeco, and they were very glad to hear this information. This just proves to me once again that God is at work...



I am so grateful to Paul and Tammy who are always there for this important ministry. If one is not able to join me the other jumps in with all their heart. **Thank you to Tammy & Paul!**

Here are the dates for Carveth and Fox Run Chapel Service Dates for Carveth Chapel Musician

March 30 2023 (Not Confirmed)

Tammy

April 27, 2023 May 25, 2023 June 22, 2023

Tammy Tammy Paul ?

Dates for Fox Run Chapel

March 17, 2023 April 28, 2023 May 12, 2023 June 16, 2023

Wider Church:

Tammy Tammy Paul Paul ?



My Supervision Ministry continues with student Minister, **Bailey Eastwood**. The plan is to finalize her required training by November 2023.

My term on the EOORC Executive comes to an end May 28, 2023. I have been asked to put my name forward to serve on an Interfaith Committee with the General Council. I have not made up my mind yet, but it is not a demanding position, so I am considering it prayerfully. Many people will be applying for this volunteer position, which is: **National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee (1 United Church representative)** The National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee fosters open dialogue, mutual respect and builds long-lasting friendships and cooperation between Christians and Muslims.

The Wider World:

I received an e-mail from Mr. John Miller the Executor of Rev. & Mrs. Seeley's will. There has been two scholarship funds set up at Rideau High in Elgin, one in Harry's name and one in Marion's name. The fund is set up with an initial amount of \$25,000.00 with a scholarship of \$500 for each award yearly which means it will last at least 25 years and with interest and further donations hopefully much longer. I have had several people ask if they can donate and the answer is YES. Anyone wishing to donate can do so to: Donations can be sent to: **Paul Thompson, 56 Stoneridge Lane, Godfrey, On. K0H 1T0 : Cheques to be made out to "Simpson Masonic Lodge Scholarship Committee"** administered by the Masons and anyone donating can get a tax receipt.

1. Reverend Harry Seeley Memorial Award

Awarded to a deserving graduate who will be continuing his/her education at the post-secondary level in Theological Studies and/or in recognition of his/her involvement in Rideau athletics.

2. Marion Seeley Music Award

Awarded to a deserving graduate who will be continuing his/her education at the post-secondary level in the Arts, with a preference of music education and/or in recognition of his/her involvement in Rideau's music program and who shares Marion Seeley's love for music.

Lifelong Learning:

I am planning to be going to Minneapolis for the **Festival of Homiletics** in May, by God's Grace. This year the theme of the preaching conference is: "**Preaching Hope for a Weary World**" (May 15-18, 2023) Minneapolis, MN.

Miscellaneous:

The Candles for the sanctuary, still on my radar - pursuing.

Rev. Takouhi – Sunday/Time Away –

April 10-19 – Low Week – After Easter.

Worship Leader on April 16th is Tammy Fergusson. *(Thanks, Tammy)*

I am grateful for all that you do for the glory of God. I Remain Humbly Your Spiritual Leader,

Rev. Takouhi



**Grace United Church, Session Minutes
11:30 AM Sunday, March 19, 2023
In Person at Grace United Church**

Present: Barb Jenkins, Susan Barwell, Tammy Fergusson, Colleen Harding, Marg Worth, Cheryl O'Leary, Veronica Shepherd, Reverend Takouhi

Regrets: Dave Charles, Julie Price, Liz Denison, Paul Harding, Diane Kirkby

A Quorum was present.

Opening Prayer

Barb Jenkins led the Opening Prayer.

Opening Remarks

Barb Jenkins welcomed members to the meeting.

Featured Biography

Session learned more about Tammy Fergusson.

The next featured Biography will be about Cheryl O'Leary.

Minutes:

ACTION: The Meeting Minutes from the previous month will be added to the Agenda for review.

MOTION: To accept the Minutes of February 26, 2023 as written and circulated.

Moved - Cheryl O'Leary Seconded - Veronica Shepherd

Carried

Business Arising From Minutes:

Altar cloths

The Altar cloths for April and May will be looked after by Colleen Harding.

Reports

M&S/EOORC (attached) Sent by Dave Charles.

Some members of the congregation came forward and suggested that the Worship Planning Team move Generosity Matters to the Announcements in the Sunday services. Both the Worship Planning Committee and Session recommend that Generosity Matters remain where it is in the service as it is an important part of to the Offering.

Session thanks Dave Charles for his courageous and consistent efforts to promote Church projects funded by Mission and Services. Generosity Matters is well received by the Faith Community as we are getting a lot of donations for Mission and Services.

ACTION: To expand the Generosity Matters Team so that they can explore the variety of topics found on the General Council's website.

ACTION: The Generosity Matters Team will create short and relevant messages that connect with our faith community and with the events happening now in the wider world.

ACTION: Session will create a list of Generosity Matters Readers for volunteers to read on Sunday including Reverend Takouhi and the Choir.

ACTION: Barb Jenkins will contact the Bass Family to see if they would like to Usher, Read Scripture or Read Generosity Matters.

Sharing and Caring Barb Jenkins

There is no report.

IPC Canada Photo Services is coming to Grace United to update the Church Photo Directory on May 24, 25, 26 at 2:30 PM - 8:30 PM and May 27 at 9:30 AM - 3 PM.

Reverend Takouhi explained the importance of our faith community developing a Church Picture Directory.

ACTION: The Caring and Sharing Team will assist the Photo Directory Conveners by calling the people of Grace United who have no email addresses. They will let them know about the event, remind them to bring their pets and inform them that the photos that go into the Directory are free of charge.

Director of Music/AV Paul Harding

There is no report.

Colleen Harding explained that tomorrow after school, Claire Bass will be trained to operate the cameras and to record the Sunday Services for Youtube and Cogeco.

Worship Committee (attached) Reverend Takouhi

ACTION: Session plans to hold a regular Communion Celebration for Easter Sunday. There will be two servers on one side of the Sanctuary and Reverend Takouhi with another server on the other side. Servers will wear masks to prevent airborne contaminants of Covid-19. Participants will line up on either side of the Sanctuary to partake in the elements and set their empty glasses in the extra empty tray beside each serving group. The Choir will come down first and at the end, Reverend Takouhi and her partner will serve those who wish to remain in the pews.

ACTION: It will be announced in the Bulletin and during the Service that the Communion Bread is Gluten-free.

ACTION: Colleen Harding will buy the grape juice, organize the Communion elements and recruit 3 volunteers to help serve the Communion on Easter Sunday.

ACTION: Veronica Shepherd will act as the Church Representative on April 16th for the Youth Group from 1:30 - 4 PM. Veronica Shepherd will get a Church Key from the office.

The Way Forward

ACTION: Session will reflect on the Visioning Questions found in the weekly bulletin, attend the April 30th Potluck Lunch and participate in the discussion about the future of Grace United Church.

ACTION: Session will remind the Official Board to organize the Way Forward Meeting with Rev Dr Peter Bartlett and the Potluck Lunch on April 30th. Session will offer their help with this event.

Resurrection of Messy Church

ACTION: Session will continue to investigate the return of Messy Church. If anyone is interested, please contact Colleen Harding or Cheryl O'Leary.

Other Way Forward Ideas

Session continues to think about other ideas for Grace United to move forward into the future. Some suggestions are Social Hour Drop-Ins, Gardens for Healing, for Peace or as a venue for Weddings, Fundraisers or Special Outreach to build what we need.

Rental Coordinator

Veronica Shepherd, Laurie Cadue and Barb Jenkins have met to plan role of Rental Coordinator. Veronica Shepherd will be the Rental Coordinator and she is just getting up to speed. The new role was discussed with the Ministry and Personnel Committee and it is under review.

The Serving of Alcohol at Funerals and Weddings

The serving of alcohol at funerals and weddings was discussed. Session decided to think about this issue and to table it for the next Session meeting.

Minister's Office available to rent.

Reverend Takouhi explained that she seldom uses the church office and wondered if the office could be rented out to someone on a monthly basis.

ACTION: Session will report to the Official Board that the Minister's Office is available to rent.

Minister's Musings (attached) Reverend Takouhi

Church at Work

Correspondence

There is no correspondence to report.

New Business

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee requests that Session nominate a Representative to help fill the required number of participants in each Church Committee.

MOTION: To accept Susan Barwell as Session's Nominations Representative.

Moved - Marg Worth **Seconded** - Barb Jenkins **Carried**

ACTION: To find one new member of Session

MOTION: To accept Marg Worth as Session Vice-Chair.

Moved - Barb Jenkins **Seconded** - Tammy Fergusson **Carried**

MOTION: To accept Veronica Shepherd as a new Member of Session.

Moved - Susan Barwell **Second** - Tammy Fergusson **Carried**

Decorating for Easter

Paul and Carolyn Scott will decorate the Church along with their volunteers.

My FM Easter Message

MOTION: To approve Reverend Takouhi's Easter Message for My FM Radio and the use of the Gold Plan.

Moved - Marg Worth

Seconded - Susan Barwell

Carried

List of Adherents

Marg Worth and Laurie Cadue drew up a list of Adherents for Grace United Church. The names on the list are:

Bridgett Bachman, Reta Berry, Ronald Cavanaugh, Debbie Clark, Margaret Copeland, Michelle Denis Tom & Sharon Fleming, Ryan & Taralyn Goff, Rob & Sue Goff, Christina Kaya, Catherine Leizour Garth & Dianna Malcolm, Marilyn McDougal, Marilyn Melvin, Julie Price

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting is Sunday, May 7th at 11:30 AM.

ACTION: Session will meet on the first Sunday of each month.

ACTION: Marg Worth will bring snacks for the next meeting.

Opening prayer and closing prayer:

Susan Barwell will lead the opening prayer and Reverend Takouhi will lead the closing prayer for next meeting.

Closing Prayer:

Rev Takouhi led the closing prayer.

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting ended at 1:40 PM.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting

Moved by: Tammy Fergusson

Mission and Service:

As a member of both Stewards and Session I am working with Stewards on procedures and policies for providing financial support to the wider community. We currently supply \$25 grocery gift cards to a social services worker Sara Garcia who works for Leeds and Grenville in conjunction with the Gananoque Police Department. Rev Takouhi also has discretion to supply grocery cards to those in need as she deems appropriate. Session may wish to discuss "what should members of Grace UC Community of Faith do when they are approached by the individual or an acquaintance to help a person in need of help?"

EOORC:

We have been advised per attached email from Eric Hebert -Daley EOORC Executive Minister that it is fully within the decision making of who an Adherent is and what role they may play in the Grace UC Community of Faith. I suggest that Session should provide guidance on defining what are the criteria to be an Adherent and how will Grace identify and manage who is an Adherent, i.e. Similar to managing roll of Members at Grace UC. Also, I see from a recent email to Eric from Rev Takouhi that there may be further discussion at EOORC Executive of Adherents functioning on Community of Faith committees.

Submitted by Dave Charles

Hello David,

Thanks for reaching out about this issue. Your question was a good one to ask. My recollection of the polity around this question was dated, so I am glad your request prompted me to check and confirm.

The ability for adherents to vote is only decided at the congregational level. The Regional Council has no authority in determining who may vote at congregational meetings.

There was a time when adherents could only vote on 'temporal matters 'and not spiritual ones, but this changed a number of years ago. Grace United can make the decision about who is entitled to vote on ANY matter. You can also choose to limit which things cannot be decided by adherents. All these decisions rest at the congregational level and do not require Regional Council involvement.

Having said that, there are two clarifications that I should bring to the attention of your congregation. Firstly, a decision to permit adherents to vote cannot be permanent. Such a decision needs to be renewed at every annual meeting, and any conditions to that permission need to be clearly stated at the beginning of the meeting itself. Only members are able to vote on the motion that allows adherents to vote. If that motion is successful, then all votes that follow will be decided by members and adherents as a group. Secondly, it is important to determine the criteria of an adherent. There is a significant governance challenge if adherents are deemed to be anyone in the room. Is the expectation that they attend church services a certain number of times? Is a financial contribution

sufficient? It is good practice to keep a list of adherents to ensure that the criteria are transparent, clear and applied fairly to those gathered.

I hope this helps Grace United in navigating this question and making the decisions you need to make in the life of your community of faith.

Many blessings to you and your ministry.

Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly, pasteur

Regional Executive Minister / Ministre exécutif régional

East-Central Ontario, Eastern Ontario/Outaouais, Nakonha:ka Regional Councils Conseils régionaux

East-Central Ontario, Est-ontarien/Outaouais, Nakonha:ka 1-800-268-3781, ext. 2776

819-593-7479 (cell)



**CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
DE L'OUTAOUAIS ET DE L'EST DE L'ONTARIO
EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

EOORC Online Winter Meeting, March 4, 2023 Draft Agenda (as of February 3, 2023)

Building Stronger Communities Through Deeper Connection

How we build deep relationships with one another and welcome those who reach out for the first time

9 a.m.

Welcome (Pastor Susan Hutton, EOORC President) Introductions ([Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett](#)) Land acknowledgement – ([Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole](#)) Theme scripture: 1 Corinthians 12

9:15 a.m.

Theological reflection on the day ([Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly](#))

9:30 a.m.

The Stranger: The friend we don't know yet ([Rev. Dr. Frank Emanuel](#))

10:30 a.m. - Break

10:40 a.m.

The Power of Diversity: Being ready for transformation in the encounter with the 'other' (speaker to be announced soon)

11:40am - Break

11:50 a.m.

Our Faith: Going deeper than talking about the weather (Rev. Kimberly Heath, Wall Street United Church - Brockville)

12:50 p.m.

Closing words/wrap up/closing prayer (Pastor Susan Hutton)

Grace United Church Worship Planning Team Thursday, March 16, 2023

1. Checking in – Donna Norman, Tammy Fergusson, Paul & Colleen Harding, & Rev. Takouhi

2. Opening Prayer – Rev. T.

3. New Items – Requests from members of GUC: a. Bible Study that studies the Bible.

- The WPT discussed this at length, with care and realized that all the book studies that are done through VIBE are based on Christian Faith and the Bible. Especially the current book, "The Last Week" is a study of the Gospel of Mark starting from Chapter 11 forward.
- It is important to ask the question - What is the true meaning of Bible Study for these individuals. We are grateful to Tammy for bringing this to the WPT's attention and she will advise these individuals to approach Rev. T. to have a conversation with their concerns with her.

b. Have Your Generosity Matters during announcements – Beginning of Worship.

- YGM is connected to the Offertory – Therefore it is in the order of worship that does the connection with the offertory.
- However, we would like to suggest to have the YGM more relatable with the current news. It is a fact that YGM is prepared a year in advance.
- Rev. T. is planning to have a Sunday series – explaining worship sections... She is trying to find the right month, where there are no "away" time for Rev. T. and the series is continual.

c. Land Acknowledgement? – LLWL

- We need to reflect on this more and come up with a communal decision.
- Add the acknowledgement to the weekly bulletin, again. It is on the PowerPoint online, however the people in the pews do not get them in the bulletin. We understand the bulletin has many items, however this written is the least we can do for our Indigenous Sisters and Brothers.
- WPT recommends that we find a short, succinct Land Acknowledgment and have that read right at the very beginning of the Sunday morning worship just like they do at Township meetings, etc. **Rev. Takouhi will contact MyFM to get theirs, as she has heard it a few times and it is very short but concise. And Paul Harding will contact the local Indigenous Leaders to have their input.**

4. Upcoming Sundays & Other Gatherings: Lent Year A

March 2023

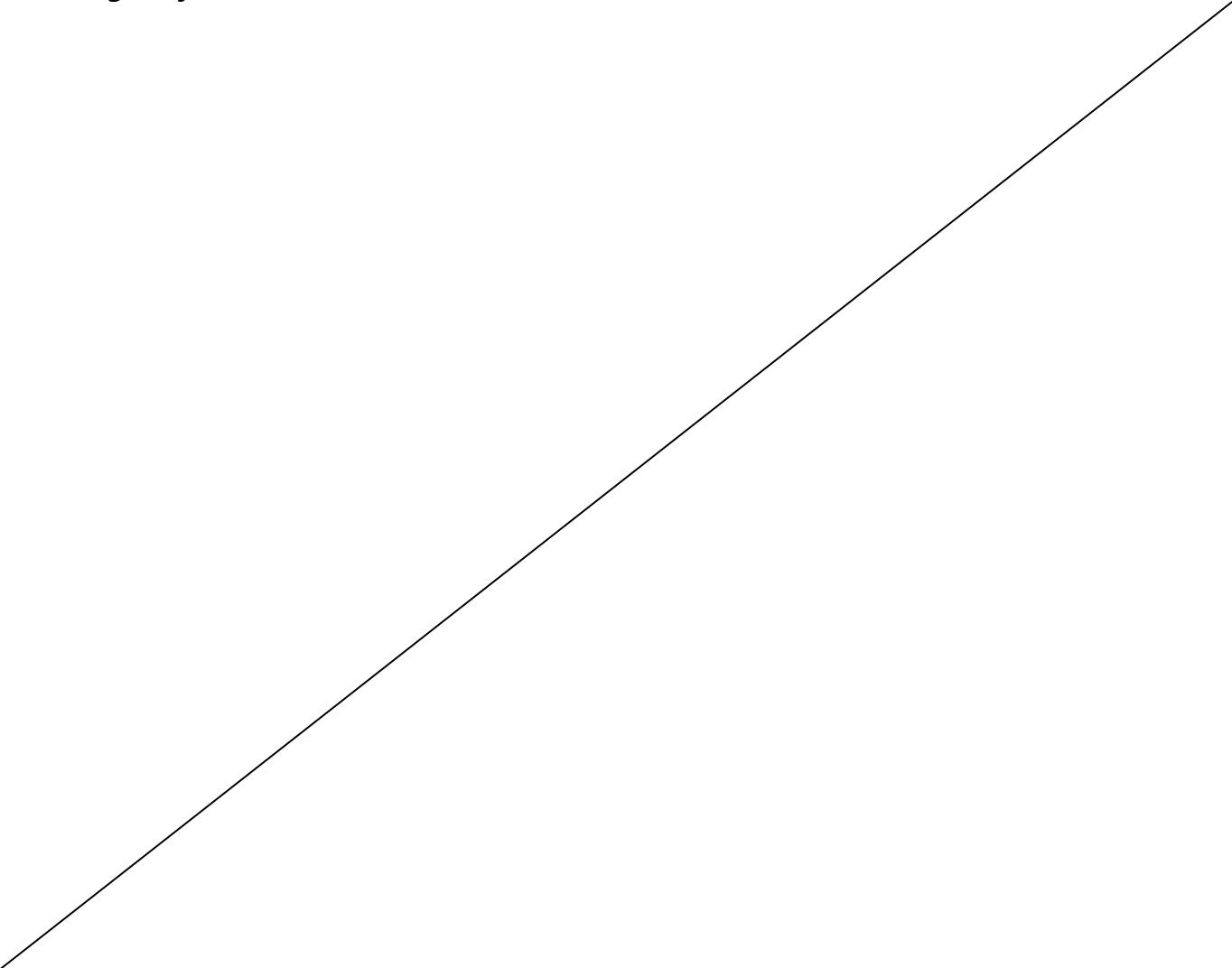
- **Friday March 17, 2023 – FOX RUN Chapel @2:00 p.m. Musician: Tammy Fergusson (Cancelled by FoxRun)**
- **March 19, 2023 – Fourth Sunday in Lent – PURPLE Session Meets after Worship.**
- **Wednesday, March 22, 2023 – VIBE #6**
- **Friday March 24, 2023 – FOX RUN Chapel @2:00 p.m. Musician: Paul Harding**
- **March 26, 2023 – Fifth Sunday of Lent OB Meets after Church (Cancelled)**
- **Wednesday, March 29, 2023 – VIBE #7**

- **Thursday, March 30, 2023 – CARVETH Chapel @11:00**
Musician: Tammy Fergusson April 2023
- **April 2, 2023 – PALM/PASSION Sunday – PURPLE**
Palm Branches – Parade in from the main entrance...
Lay the branches on the steps – Colleen Harding
March in to the sanctuary with Voices United #122 –
All Glory, Laud and Honour”
Sheri Shenton – Guest Soloist “ –In the Name of the Lord” Officially Welcoming Members
- Michele Bellavance Denis will join- by Profession of Faith from the Catholic Church.
- **Maundy Thursday – April 6, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. Gathering Ceremony of washing of hands**
– Rev. T. will help each participant instead of each person washing each other’s hands,
to help minimize COVID and other virus transmissions.
- **Good Friday – April 7, 2023 –**
Walk of the Cross – Begins at 10:00 – Christ Church and ends at Grace United. So far the Anglicans and the United have confirmed. We have NOT heard from the Presbyterians or the Catholic Church. (Paul Harding will contact Robyn & Doug Gifford)
- **Eleanor Glenn – A one person Play “ –The Servant at the Supper” - Eleanor’s original one woman show that was performed for sixteen years to countless audiences of all backgrounds. – 3:00 P.M. -**
- If possible, to Live Stream will be wonderful and sent to Cogeco. Many homebound people will appreciate this for certain. **(Paul Harding will take care of Tech in every aspect... THANKS!)**
- We also need someone to dim the lights and make sure the mics are working well. We just need the lapel mic and a handheld one. **(Thanks to Paul Harding for offering his technological gifts. THANKS!)**
- **April 9, 2023 – Easter Sunday - GOLD**
Communion – We request Session to decide on HOW to serve – COVID way or serve the elements through the Communion Trays. Gillian MacDonald Trumpeter – Guest Musician
- **April 16, 2023 – Second Sunday of Easter – Rev. T. Away – Low Week**
 Tammy Fergusson to lead worship
 Pride Alliance Youth – 2:00 p.m. **(NEED A GUC REP – Open the side door 1:30 by 4:00 the program concludes)**
- **April 23, 2023 – Third Sunday of Easter**
Service to be dedicated to the 108 Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – on April 24, 2015, the Canadian Parliament passed Motion M-587 and declared the month of April as Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month and mark April 24 of each year as Armenian Genocide Memorial Day Choughik & Rev. T. will offer the Lord’s Prayer in Armenian.
- **Thursday, April 27, 2023 – CARVETH chapel at 11:00 a.m.**
Musician: Tammy Fergusson
- **Friday, April 28, 2023 – FOX Run Chapel at 2:00 p.m.**
Musician: Tammy Fergusson

- **April 30, 2023 – Fourth Sunday of Easter – GOLD**
May 2023
- **May 7, 2023 – Fifth Sunday Easter – GOLD Pride Alliance Youth – 2:00 p.m.**
- **Friday, May 12, 2023 – FOX Run – Chapel @ 2:00 p.m.**
- **May 14, 2023 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – GOLD**
Mother's Day – All ladies to receive Carnations – children handing them out. Thanks to Colleen H. to take care of details...
- **May 21, 2023 – Ascension Sunday - GOLD Rev. T. Away – Study Leave**
Rev. Walton (Worship & Pastoral Emergencies)
- **Thursday, May 25, 2023 – Carveth Chapel @11:00 a.m.**
- **Friday 26-Saturday 27, 2023 – EOORC AGM in Brockville**
- **May 28, 2023 – Pentecost Sunday - RED**
Rev. T. Away – EOORC Annual Meeting
Rev. Walton (Worship & Pastoral Emergencies)

5. Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – Thursday @ 7 p.m. via Zoom

6. Closing Prayer – Donna Norman



Minister's Musings – March 19, 2023 Session Meeting #3

Worship:

With the help of the Worship Planning Team, we continue to do our best to get the most spiritual nourishment and experience within our weekly worship celebrations. I am ever grateful to the WPT for attending to the comments of the congregation and thoughtfully working through the questions and requests. Details are found in the WPT report from March 16, 2023.

V.I.B.E. – Venturing in Biblical Education

Our current book study - **“The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus’s Final Week in Jerusalem” Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan;** will conclude on April 5th I am so glad to report that we have an average of 8-10 participants each week. And last week, someone commented that this book has been **one of the best books to discuss and learn from.**

Pastoral Care:

Pastoral Care within Grace United and beyond our walls is carried out. There has been times that people who are NOT from the immediate community have contacted me, and with Vicki Leakey's help, we have attempted to extend a helping hand to those who accept our help. I am grateful to have such support and guidance from Vicki. Ministry requires partnership.

I continue to offer pastoral care in person, by telephone, e-mail, Facebook, lunch or coffee, and seldom at the church office.

Membership:

Michele Bellavance Denis will join this Community of Faith- by Profession of Faith from the Roman Catholic Church – She wants to be involved with the UCW and the Pie Makers.

Gordon and Faye Trimble – Their minister at Edith Rankin Memorial, Rev. Michelle Down, asked me to send a blessing as they are joining that Community of Faith. My blessing was written and sent on behalf of me and Grace United Church.

Weddings – Which are reserved at Grace Sanctuary:

June 24, 2023 – Brianna & Matthew – 3:00 P.M. **September 23, 2023 – Raphaelle & Sean** – 3:00 P.M.

Baptisms: None for 2023 – yet.

Funerals:

Manfred (Fred) Marchel, 16-Mar-23 Graveside Funeral at Gananoque Cemetery.

The Wider Community:

On March 2, 2023, Ecumenical Ministers of our area met for the first time since June 2022. Out of seven ministers, only three were able to meet. However, we have decided that we will do the Walk of the Cross on Good Friday – gathering at 10:00 a.m. at Christ Anglican Church and concluding at Grace, similar to last year. It is quite difficult to gather with ecumenical colleagues in this area, as most of us live out of town; mostly work from home and more over, the day to day schedule of a minister changes unexpectedly.

On March 3, 2023 – we had a wonderful Word Day of Prayer gathering at GUC – there where about 45 men and women present. It was so lovely to be able to work with the women of our neighbouring churches but most of all, with our UCW. Thanks to Dave Charles for setting up the TV in the hall downstairs so that people can watch the short video; and to Linda Brooks and Marilyn Belbin for taking the lead. This year's prayer service was prepared by the women of Taiwan.

GPA (Gananoque Pride Alliance) Youth still meet at the basement hall of GUC once a month. Next dates are: **April 16** (need a GUC Rep. as I am away), **May 7, & June 11**

Dates for Carveth Chapel

March 30 2023 April 27, 2023 May 25, 2023 June 22, 2023

Paul? Tammy Tammy Paul ?

Dates for Fox Run Chapel

April 28, 2023 May 12, 2023 June 16, 2023

Tammy Paul Paul ?

Wider Church:

On February 28, 2023, I attended the funeral of Rev. Dave Timpson, in Belleville. I knew Dave and his wife Brenda who is also a minister, since 2009, when I first arrived in Elgin-Portland, Dave was the minister at Delta-Toledo and Brenda at Princess St. United Church in Kingston.

It was a true celebration of Life for someone who demonstrated Joy in Serving God and a Deep Awe towards the Creator. Dave will be missed immensely. Dave was only six months older than me. I shared words from my heart at the celebration of Life and also shared greetings of comfort and peace from our Community of Faith.

As the past president of our regional council, I still participate in the once-a-month executive meetings which take place on Zoom.

The AGM for Regional Council will take place in Brockville – May 26- 28, 2023

My Supervision Ministry continues with the student minister, at Beaconsfield United Church, in Quebec, via Zoom. **Bailey Eastwood** is expecting to finalize her required training by November 2023 – she is on track with the requirements of General Council.

Prayerfully, I have considered and put my name forward to serve on the Interfaith Committee with the General Council. The deadline is March 26th therefore I expect to hear a decision soon after that date.

As I have mentioned last month, I am certain many people will be applying for this volunteer position, **National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee (1 United Church representative is required)**. The National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee fosters open dialogue, mutual respect and builds long-lasting friendships and cooperation between Christians and Muslims. All meetings (total of six per year) are conducted by Zoom in the evenings.

The Wider World:

There's a possibility that a Mission trip to El Salvador be planned by both EOORC and ECORC for March 2024. Of course, this will only take place if the ministry leadership, Pastor Miguel can assure that it is safe for us to travel there, based on Covid and political situations.

Lifelong Learning:

I am registered to attend the **Festival of Homiletics** in May, by God's Grace. This year the theme is: **"Preaching Hope for a Weary World"** (May 15-18, 2023) Minneapolis, MN.

Miscellaneous:

The Candles for the sanctuary, still on my radar - pursuing. (I have sent him another e-mail) COVID has slowed down receipt of stock, etc.

Rev. Takouhi – Sunday/Time Away – April 10-19 – Low Week – After Easter ,Worship Leader on April 16th is Tammy Fergusson. (Thanks, Tammy)

I am grateful for all that you do for the glory of God. I Remain Humbly Your Spiritual Leader,

Rev. Takouhi