

FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

In Memoriam	1
Membership Statistics	1
Minutes of 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting, February 23, 2020	2-6
Council Membership & Committees	7
Reports:	
Minister	8
Council Chair	9
<u>Ministry Committees:</u>	
Worship & Membership	10
Pastoral Care	11
<u>Administrative Committees:</u>	
Finance	11
Property	12
Ministry & Personnel	13
<u>Other Reports:</u>	
Trustees	14
Town Square Manor	15
Friendship Group	15
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council	15
Choir & Financial Statement	16
United Church Women & Financial Statement	16
Christmas House Tour	17
Cave Springs Camp	17
Scouting Groups	18
Financial Statement for 2020	21
Proposed Budget for 2021	21
Fund Balances Report	22
Balance Sheet	23

In Memoriam

*Those of our Fonthill United Church family
whose lives we celebrated in 2020*

Robert Reeves	January 29
Beverley Robinson	April 14
Carl Edwards	July 1
Bruce Stayzer	July 4
Don Pickersgill	July 31
Muriel Steed	October 30

*In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.*

Membership Statistics

	<u>December 31, 2019</u>	<u>December 31, 2020</u>
Total Membership, Resident & Non-resident	181	178
Non-resident Membership	6	9
Resident Membership	175	169
Activity in the year:	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Received by Profession of Faith	9	0
Received by Certificate or otherwise	3	2
Removed by Death	7	5
Removed by Certificate or otherwise	0	0

FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH
2019 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2020

Page 1

1.0 Opening:

Pastor Robert Lawson opened in prayer and then observed the “In Memoriam” to remember those of the church family who died in the past year.

Moved by Bill Laing and seconded by Nancy Curran that Gail DeKoning be the recording secretary.

Carried

Moved by Betty Garner and seconded by Sharon Middleton that supporting adherents be given voting privileges.

Carried

2.0 Minutes of the 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting:

Moved by Marian McDonald and seconded by Alvin Penner that the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried

Minutes of September 29, 2019 Congregational Meeting:

Moved by Janet Hamilton and seconded by Marleene Kretchman that the Congregational Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Carried

Minutes of October 6, 2019 Congregational Meeting:

Moved by Bob Laing and seconded by Keith Rae that the Congregational Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2019 be adopted as presented.

Carried

3.0 Committee & Church Group Annual Reports:

Minister’s Report: Garry van Bruchem has retired. Pastor Robert Lawson is our new minister and has no report because he just recently started with Fonthill United.

Council Chairperson Report: Brian McDonald welcomed Pastor Robert to Fonthill United Church.

Pastoral Care Committee: Marleene Kretchman paraphrased comments from Dr. Dorothy Ley, a pioneer palliative care physician. Much of what she says applies to Pastoral Care such as “Care is rooted in love and concern, a thread that goes back to a dusty road in Galilee and the story of the Good Samaritan. It is founded on the principle that we are our brother’s keeper.” Marleene said there is the general concern and care that is demonstrated by so many in this congregation who visit and support on a regular basis. The committee has been in place now for about five years and she feels they simply try to open the door to listening to the needs of others; by sharing their concerns and making sure that they are heard and supported. Their meetings also provide an opportunity to communicate any needs that we are aware of and to inform the pastor especially if there seems to be a need for a pastoral visit. Often the fellowship time after church has been a time when someone has expressed a need for a visit or call. The committee appreciates the trust shown to them and the issues that have been shared. Marleene welcomed Pastor Robert and assured him of our unqualified support, especially at this time when everything is so new and we are getting to know each other. She gave her heartfelt thanks to the committee: Sheila Laundry who sends out cards to continue the kind ministry of Jack Gray; Joan Rigg who brings such helpful and kind support; and to Trudy Pickersgill who provides eyes and ears to Lookout Ridge, keeping us connected there. The committee continues to meet on the first Wednesday of each month and they look forward to their first meeting with Pastor Robert on March 4.

3.0 Committee & Church Group Annual Reports (Cont'd):

Church Renovations: Janet Hamilton

Due to leaks in the roof, church renovations were delayed for four years but they were finally started. The church family had input into what should be done. A committee was formed consisting of Janet Hamilton, Marian McDonald, Diane Rawsthorn and Joan Rigg with the help of Brian McDonald, Jim Bradley, Dick Hamilton, Rich Miller and Mike Russell. The smell from the washroom has gone, wooden chairs (some folding) and tables were sold and the money was used toward purchasing new tables and chairs. Many thanks to the UCW for paying the difference. Curtains in the upper hall were washed and repaired but still should be replaced, and PCS Niagara cleaned the carpets in the Sanctuary and lower hall. Hydro One installed new LED light bulbs in the Narthex, lower hall, friendship room, kitchen and some in the office. They paid \$2,000 for electricians to do the work and supplied the bulbs all at no cost to the church. These lights have not been changed in years because of the high ceilings but a hydraulic lift was used in the Narthex. Hydro One is quoting an energy savings of approximately \$4,000 a year. The church applied to the Extension Council for a grant to help with the costs of upgrades and repairs which was approved, but work was not started until early 2020. Two quotes were received to paint the Narthex; Fonthill Paint and Wallpaper was awarded the contract. Due to the water damage, it was decided the ceiling in the stairwell to the offices and the ceiling in the upper Narthex would be sanded, sealed and skimmed. There were many areas in the Narthex where the plaster was cracked or crumbling so the repairs were more extensive than originally thought. It was also discovered that the ceiling in the Narthex had never been sealed so an additional step had to be taken to seal it before it could be painted. Fonthill Electric installed a new fan and LED lights in the upper Narthex and the stairwell to the offices, and there is a dimmer for the lights in the Narthex. Fonthill Electric and Fonthill Paint and Wallpaper coordinated installation so there was no additional cost for the hydraulic lift. Furniture was replaced in the Narthex with useful, long wearing, comfortable and easy on the eye furniture and stayed on budget. Paintings, stained glass, the old bell and the stone engraving in the wall shined with new framing and cleaning, and were made more visible. We recycled by painting tables and furniture being used in other areas of the church. While the lift was here, the windows were cleaned by one of the men who came in early to clean them. We offered to pay him but he wouldn't take anything and said it was his contribution to the Church.

Fonthill Paint and Wallpaper sent men in on Saturday to wash floors and help clean the Narthex so it would look nice for Sunday. They did additional repairs, shared the hydraulic lift and put additional sealer on the ceiling at no additional charge.

When Nine Lives was asked for a quote on the tables we painted, he would not charge us. He only asked to let people know of his new company in Fonthill. They painted the kitchen cabinets and furniture.

PCS Niagara has returned three times to remove stubborn stains at no additional charge.

Please support these companies.

Janet thanked the committee and said how well they worked together.

Moved by Nancy Curran and seconded by George Rooke that all reports, except the Financial Report, be adopted as presented. **Carried**

4.0 Financial Report:

Jim Bradley said this is the 18th time he has presented the Financial Report at Annual Meetings. He thanked Janet Hamilton, Marian McDonald, Diane Rawsthorn and Joan Rigg for a great job in the church renovations. He reported an operating shortfall for 2019 of \$13,374 compared to \$14,780 in 2018. Envelope givings have declined as well as overall givings. The solar panel generation has declined slightly and the panels need cleaning. Rentals are also down \$1,500 due to some renters moving to the Community Center. Revenue is maximized, there is more income, and expenses are controlled. Jim reported that as of December 31, 2019, the Balance Sheet is down \$9,000 to \$10,000 from 2018, there is \$30,000 in cash but the church is in good shape. The Flea Market and House Tour raised \$16,000 and Jim thanked those committees. Jim thanked his committee consisting of Ron Kretchman, Keith Rae, Ralph Watters, Ken Brydon, and Rich Miller. He said it was a privilege to work with them.

Moved by Jim Bradley and seconded by Ralph Watters to adopt the Financial Operating Statement for 2019. **Carried**

2020 Budget:

Jim presented the 2020 Budget with \$226,615 in disbursements and a net shortfall of \$15,055. Envelope givings are lowered from \$175,000 to \$172,500; compensation costs are reduced; there is an increase in pulpit supply because of not sharing services with Fenwick United Church now; and our church expenses are up.

Moved by Jim Bradley and seconded by Ron Kretchman to adopt the budget for 2020 with expenditures of \$226,615.00. **Carried**

Jim said a quote of \$6,000 was received from Bob Robinson to check and fix the parking lot. It was asked if heavy equipment from road work had caused the damage. Jim called the city and a supervisor came out and checked but found nothing. He showed his appreciation to Patrice Walker for all that she does and to Leslie Hoffman for keeping the church clean.

5.0 Election of Officers:

Gail DeKoning presented the following list of nominations for 2020:

5.1 Nominations for Church Council

Jim Bradley (Treasurer)

Nancy Curran

Gail DeKoning (Secretary)

Ron Dowd

Betty Garner (UCW rep.)

Janet Hamilton (Worship Chair)

Heather Jesik

Marleene Kretchman (Pastoral Care Chair)

Sheila Laundry (Council Vice-Chair & Presbytery rep.)

Brian McDonald (Chair)

Marian McDonald (M&P Chair)

Maxine McPhail

Richard Miller

Alvin Penner

5.0 Election of Officers (cont'd):

5.1 Nominations for Church Council (cont'd)

Keith Rae (Trustee rep.)
Joan Rigg
Pat Tooley
Pastor Robert Lawson (Minister)

There were no new nominations.

Moved by Bill Laing and seconded by Trudy Pickersgill to elect those nominated. **Carried**

5.2 Nominations for Ministry & Personnel

Moved by Bob Laing and seconded by Sharron Bradley that the names listed be elected to the Ministry and Personnel Committee:

Marian McDonald (Chair), Alvin Penner, Diane Rawsthorn, Nancy Curran and Jim Molkoski.

Carried

5.3 Board of Trustees

Moved by Marian McDonald and seconded by Joan Rigg that those named be elected to the Board of Trustees:

Bob Laing (Chair), Lyn Taylor (Secretary), Wilton Boyd, Keith Rae, Marvin Myhre, Diane Rawsthorn.

Carried

5.4 Other Appointments

Joan Rigg moved and Helen Wismer seconded that those named be elected as the Fonhill United Church representatives to the following:

5.4.1 Nominations for Regional Council Representatives

Sheila Laundry, Pat Tooley

5.4.2 Nominations for Extension Council Representatives

Jim Bradley, Sheila Laundry (Potentials Fund)

5.4.3 Nominations for Cave Springs Camp Representative

Alvin Penner

5.4.4 Nominations for Town Square Manor Representatives

Alvin Penner, Janet Hamilton

Carried

Brian McDonald thanked all for serving.

FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH
2019 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2020

Page 5

6.0 Other Business:

1. Keith Rae thanked George Rooke for being the longest serving member since 1953.

7.0 Expressions of Thanks:

Harland Young thanked us all for attending the annual meeting and thanked those who decorate the church. He presented flowers (in memory of his mother) to:

Pat Cook – who worked in the Toronto Church office and is a long-time member.

Leslie Hoffman – custodian who does a lot of extra work and is a joy to talk to. She provides candies in the Narthex, Kleenex in the pews and works with the funeral homes to help prepare for funerals.

Louise Stayzer – long-time member.

Harland gave a little history for Robert Lawson of those who have passed with family members still attending.

8.0 Adjournment of Annual Meeting:

Jim Bradley moved and Ralph Laundry seconded that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried**

Janet Hamilton presented Pastor Robert with a Birthday card with a commemorative coin.

Robert Lawson closed in prayer.

Brian McDonald,
Chair of Council

Gail DeKoning,
Secretary of Council

Church Council Membership 2020

Jim Bradley (Treasurer)	Brian McDonald (Chair)
Nancy Curran	Marian McDonald
Gail DeKoning (Secretary)	Maxine McPhail
Ron Dowd	Richard Miller
Betty Garner	Alvin Penner
Janet Hamilton	Keith Rae
Heather Jesik	Joan Rigg
Marleene Kretchman	Pat Tooley
Sheila Laundry (Vice-Chair)	Garry van Bruchem (Minister) – January 1-31
	Robert Lawson (Minister) – February 1-December 31

Church Committees 2020

Ministry Committees:

Worship & Membership: Janet Hamilton (Chair), Helen Wismer, Beryl West, Joan Wells, Heather Jesik, Bill Outred (ex-officio)

Pastoral Care: Marleene Kretchman (Chair), Sheila Laundry, Joan Rigg, Trudy Pickersgill

Administrative Support Committees:

Finance & Property: Jim Bradley (Chair, Treasurer), Ken Brydon, Ralph Watters, Keith Rae, Ron Kretchman, Richard Miller

Ministry & Personnel: Marian McDonald (Chair), Diane Rawsthorn, Alvin Penner, Nancy Curran, Jim Molkoski

Board of Trustees:

Bob Laing (Chair), Lyn Taylor (Secretary), Keith Rae, Marvin Myhre, Wilton Boyd, Diane Rawsthorn

Other Group Representatives

Regional Council: Sheila Laundry, Pat Tooley

UCW: Maxine McPhail (President)

Dora Drennan (Treasurer)

Town Square Manor: Alvin Penner, Janet Hamilton

Cave Springs Camp: Alvin Penner

Extension Council: Jim Bradley, Sheila Laundry

Pastor's Report

When a Pastor arrives at a new church, there is usually a formal 'honeymoon' period. I certainly had one when I arrived at Fonthill United. I remember the great big gift basket that was left in my apartment to welcome me to my new home. Attending a choir rehearsal and the way that certain choir members kept peeping over their music to examine me. Garry kindly coming to the office to talk to me, and then surrendering his keys to the church gravely to Patrice. Being taken out for lunch at the Young Thai restaurant by the members of the Search Committee. And having a delightful breakfast with Council Chair, Brian McDonald at the Canboro Grill. I remember the wonderful Meet and Greet thrown for me in the newly appointed Narthex. Some in-person meetings of the Worship and Membership Committee, and the Pastoral Care Committee. Our first Council Meeting together and how one of you during that meeting stared at me bug-eyed with a huge smile on their face. I remember our annual meeting, and a beautiful cake decorated with frosting that looked like cherry blossoms. And, I remember that we were able to worship together in the sanctuary a total of five times before everything changed and suddenly church as we knew it was no longer possible.

A honeymoon is the period following the start of a new relationship characterized by so much love and happiness and goodwill -- when the joy is flowing so abundantly -- that it is hard to let the difficulties intrude.

As I sit here at my desk one year later, I am wondering about this honeymoon. I am looking at the snapshots that people took and gave me of that Meet and Greet in the Narthex. We are all smiling. We all seem happy. Everything seems possible.

In these snapshots I catch a glimpse of a church community frozen in a happy instant before a cataclysmic sea-change. I see a church community blithely sure of what lays ahead, confident and secure.

This year, one year later, I find myself wondering about our honeymoon together.

I find myself asking whether it is truly over.

This has been a difficult year. Bill Outred and I have had to learn new technologies to keep everyone connected on Sunday morning. You, as a congregation, have had to become more computer and technologically savvy. We have had to phone each other more. We have had to be creative. As I pointed out during a recent sermon, we have had to stop fishing the way we have usually fished, and instead focused our attention on fishing for each other, to keep the heart and mind and spirits of our brothers and sisters in Christ healthy. To truly be fishers of men and women. We have had to embrace the unknown and have faith that God is with us.

There is a part of me that thinks that our honeymoon was too short. But there is also a part of me that knows that it never really ended. God's love has never abandoned us over the past year. Your ability as a faith community to see this has meant that, despite the great difficulties we are experiencing as a community at the feet of the cross that is COVID, we have not for one moment given up our certain hope of life everlasting that lies beyond.

Every Sunday when we join together, I look at each of you in your little square on Zoom. I hear you talk to each other. I hear you laugh. I hear your love and concern for each other. And, I see your smiles.

They are no different than the smiles you wore at that first Meet and Greet a year ago. And when I see you all smiling, there is a part of me that is sure that the honeymoon has not ended.

*Your pastor,
Robert Lawson*

Report from the Chair of Council

Against the backdrop of Covid your Members of Council have fared quite favourably this year, 2020. Indeed, I am proud to have collaborated with them to provide direction in church matters in a community landscape that continues to evolve. Within our own Congregation there has been significant change as we have welcomed a new Minister, Pastor Robert Lawson.

Before I continue, here are your Members of Council: Jim Bradley, Nancy Curran, Dr. Ron Dowd, Gail DeKoning, Betty Garner, Janet Hamilton, Heather Jesik, Marleene Kretchman, Sheila Laundry, Pastor Robert Lawson, Brian McDonald, Marian McDonald, Maxine McPhail, Rich Miller, Alvin Penner, Keith Rae, Joan Rigg, and Pat Tooley.

One new beginning that Pastor Robert manages so well is our use of *Zoom* for Sunday morning services. This extends to our Council meetings and Coffee Hour on Friday mornings. While all of us are still finding our way with video conferencing, the rewards are already considerable—just witness Sunday morning attendance! *Zoom* captured well the outstanding Christmas service led by our Director of Music and our Pastor, a service rich in its content and varied musical fabric.

You will be happy to note how engaged your Members of Council have been. Let me list some examples. One ongoing initiative within Council and led so capably by Marleene Kretchman has been Calls Out to Members of Congregation by Members of Council. Read her report! Another initiative is the exploration of a Fonthill United Facebook page. Sheila Laundry has embraced and leads this venture enthusiastically as it may provide great opportunities for our church to reach out to the community. Council has spent a great deal of time on a safe “Return to Church.” An enlightened and vigorous subgroup of five led the way there: Janet Hamilton, Jim Bradley, Pastor Robert, and Trudy Pickersgill assisted by our Director of Music, Bill Outred. As I write this piece, under Janet’s far-seeing leadership alongside Pastor Robert and Bill, tweaking of “Return to Church” takes place every week to encompass changing regional and provincial guidelines.

Along the way Council has supported two meaningful fund-raising activities, the first the brain child of Pastor Robert and the second offered by Marian McDonald: Chili at the Church and the baking of Scones. The chefs and bakers of our church warm heartedly supported these ventures whose intent was probably as much camaraderie as it was fund raising. The most meaningful activity, I would argue, has been the October 9 Food Drive for *Pelham Cares* led by our Minister and an outcome of the Friday morning *Zoom* Coffee Hour. A small, socially distanced period of fellowship followed in the parking lot.

There are many drivers of a successful Council and I make note of several of them here. Decisions taken are often led by the Chairs of committees. Marleene Kretchman, Chair of Pastoral Care, oversees the essential work of a caring and meaningful outreach to our Members, especially our shut-ins. Her work has been outstanding and consistent with the work encouraged by Jesus. The extraordinary efforts of our Chair of Finance and Property, Jim Bradley, and his Team to keep our Congregation on the straight and narrow fiscally are acknowledged by all. Unsung hero Janet Hamilton, Chair of Worship and Membership, and Team have worked indefatigably to establish and maintain our safe Return to Church. Marian McDonald, Chair of Ministry and Personnel, and Team continue to work closely with our paid employees to ensure their safety and job satisfaction in these treacherous times.

Along the way, Betty Garner and Maxine McPhail have represented the UCW very capably at the table. Pat Tooley and Sheila Laundry continue to keep our Congregation abreast of developments within our Region, Horseshoe Falls. The mature and reflective voices and counsel of Dr. Dowd, Nancy Curran, Heather Jesik, Rich Miller, Alvin Penner, and Joan Rigg have lit our way.

Secretary, Gail DeKoning, amazes me each Council meeting in that she captures so well the essential detail of decisions taken and sets out those developments in the clear and helpful prose of her Minutes. Thank you, Gail! While not a Member of Council, Patrice Walker, Office Administrator, works quietly and competently behind the scenes, year after year, to ensure that essential clerical and financial pieces are in place to make managing a Congregation possible. With her mastery of detail, knowledge of reports required by the Region, and careful attention to record keeping, Patrice has helped me to be a better Chair. Thank you, Patrice!

With sadness we say farewell to two of our Council Members next year, Maxine McPhail, and Keith Rae. To her distinct credit Maxine took charge of our United Church Women's group at a very challenging time. While Maxine presents as a very quiet person, she has shown that she is always ready to dig in and help others. She has demonstrated her capacity to organize luncheons for the Congregation and has participated in every opportunity afforded her to be engaged with her church. Witness her baking of scones. Don't let her quiet demeanor fool you: she has a wonderfully dry sense of humour. Maxine, you will be missed! Thank you for your contributions to Council and to your Congregation.

Keith Rae has served Council intermittently since 1988! For a number of years Keith moved back and forth between a number of important roles including fundraising for the church (1991-1996), leadership of the Bruce Trail Association, and serving on Council. At the time he and others "turned the church around" his fund-raising achievements each year ranged between \$11,000 and \$15,000. These last 10 years Keith has also served faithfully on our board of Trustees. No one knows the history of our church better than Keith Rae. Just ask him about the parking lot to the West and the house that once stood there. Keith's satisfactions include keeping projects on track and "getting the job done." His guidance for Council going forward is "Keep it simple." Keith is impressed by fellow congregants' resilience and openness to change. Thank you, Keith! You have served us extraordinarily well and we will miss your presence on Council.

In closing, I look forward to supporting your new Chair, Sheila Laundry. She has already proven herself to be competent, caring, and ready to make a difference. Members of Congregation, I am happy to have travelled with you a while as your Chair; fellow Members of Council, thank you for allowing me to lead.

*Respectfully submitted,
Brian McDonald*

Worship and Membership Committee Report

Worship and Membership Committee: Janet Hamilton (Chair), Heather Jesik, Joan Wells, Beryl West, and Helen Wismer.

2020 will not go forgotten and has challenged the Church committees in a way that they have never been challenged before.

It seems like a very long time ago that we welcomed Pastor Robert to our Church Family. He has been faced with an abnormal year and never once did he defer from his responsibilities. In spite of all the hurdles, he has become connected with his congregation. We have been blessed to have him as our minister.

The Worship and Membership Committee has worked closely with the Council members and Pastoral Care, keeping people connected. Our minister has been able to make Zoom available for services and social interfacing, and Bill Outred has been outstanding with his music. Patrice Walker has been in the office, and available online or by telephone to answer questions.

We were able to re-unite in the Church for a short period of time in the months of October and November. It was rewarding to see the efforts that everyone put forth. The Sanctuary was decorated for Christmas and all of us who were Zooming could see the efforts to introduce joy and happiness over the season.

Many of the new ideas that the committee was working on before the pandemic have been put on hold until a new normal is established.

This committee has tried to abide to their mandate and will continue to be faithful to the needs of the church.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Hamilton

Pastoral Care Committee

“IT IS ONLY WITH THE HEART THAT ONE CAN SEE RIGHTLY; WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS INVISIBLE TO THE EYE.” - *The Little Prince Antoine de Saint Exupery*

And here we are. This pandemic has caused us to appreciate life; the small things that we miss when we are distracted by the noise and busyness of every day as we knew it. So, we turn to each other and value our need for each other.

The importance of contact has never been so vital. We see it in the phone calls that are ongoing with the help of Council, and in the virtual hugs that we share.

Cards have been sent and calls made to all church members living at Lookout Ridge as they cope with the isolation of being locked down.

Many of us have been impacted personally by Covid-19; the loss of a dear one, the uncertainty of a complete recovery, and all of us by the stark changes in our daily routines.

We have learned to fill our days with helpful distractions; Netflix, books, games and walks. Some kind of daily routine helps.

But most of all we are there for each other. That is clear. That is what we see with our hearts.

We continue to reach out to you as best we can and are only a call away.

Blessings, from Marleene Kretchman and the Pastoral Care Committee

Finance Committee Report

Detailed statements covering all accounts and the various church funds are included at the end of the annual report.

2020 has probably been one of the most interesting but disruptive years we have experienced in some time and at this point, there is no firm end in sight. It seems a new challenge arose every day and it was only through the leadership, dedication and hard work of Pastor Robert, Bill Outred and Patrice Walker that solutions were reached and we were able to push forward. Once the building was partially opened, Leslie Hoffman worked hard to ensure sanitation protocols were met. A sincere THANK YOU is extended to our staff.

Early last year, two transfers were made from the Enduring Gifts Fund as follows:

- Building Fund - \$9,400 to cover our portion of the costs to renovate the Narthex and Kitchen. The balance was covered by a grant from the Extension Council.
- Operating Fund - \$15,852 to cover last year's deficit and ensure adequate funding was available to meet unforeseen expenses which might arise during the shutdown.

We are pleased to report, and through the wonderful generosity of our members, we were in a position to reverse both of these transfers at year end. Some key financial highlights permitting this to happen include:

- Member givings to the Operating Fund exceeded budget by \$1,750 which was a pleasant surprise knowing we had lost some givers.
- Payments under the wage subsidy program amounted to \$19,609 which exceeded fundraising receipts of \$16,640 in 2019.
- Operating expenses were down \$20,000 from 2019 and \$14,218 below budget. While there were some minor increases due to Covid related expenses, there were significant savings in other areas.
- A one time grant of \$2,500 to assist with operating expenses was received from the Extension Council in December.
- At year end, there was \$3,370 in undesignated funds in the Outreach and Memoriam Funds. There was also \$3,628 in the Building Fund of which \$2,700 is designated to purchase audio/visual equipment. These surplus funds again reflect the generosity of our members.

Despite the difficulties and challenges last year, we can report the financial position of our church is very stable. Of year end total assets of \$309,802, \$305,000 is in cash!

There are still many unknowns as we enter 2021. When will the lockdown be lifted, will the wage subsidy continue, will we be able to hold fundraising events like the House Tour, when will we be able to have our tenants back? etc. Based on what we know, and the strong response to the fall Stewardship Letter, we project Member Givings will be slightly lower than 2020 but we are most optimistic. Based on projected expenses of \$225,480 we are forecasting a year end deficit of \$23,175. This is fairly consistent with the past few years. Regular updates will be provided throughout the year.

Not only is it my privilege to serve as Treasurer but it is an honour to work with Ralph Watters, Keith Rae, Rich Miller, Ron Kretchman and Ken Brydon who serve on the Finance and Property Committee. These individuals are totally focused to ensure the financial stability of Fonhill United. Patrice Walker's work ethic and commitment to our church simply makes it easier for all of us.

In closing, THANKS to each of you for your continuing commitment to and support of Fonhill United.

Jim Bradley,

Chair of Finance and Property Committee

Property Committee Report

At the outset we would like to thank Janet Hamilton and her committee who oversaw the approximately \$15,000 upgrade which took place in the Narthex in late 2019 and early 2020. This work resulted in a significant improvement in the area. Two other major projects were completed shortly after we closed down and these include:

- upgrades to the fire hood and electrical panel in the kitchen.
- repairs in the parking lot to re-grade the area around the 4 catch basins.

We closed the building to all renters in April and while two returned in November, there is no one in the building under current lock down protocols. We are hoping this will change by mid-year but there are no guarantees. It is because of this uncertainty that we have no formal plans at this time. We do however continue to monitor the roof and some of the bricks in the wall at the front of the church. Recent repairs in these areas seem to have stopped persistent leaks.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to all of you who continue to do odd jobs around the building. These contributions go a long way to lower our costs. Special THANKS to Rich Miller who, alone, undertook 17 small repairs and upgrades during the shut down.

Once the current lock down is complete, all needs will be assessed and we will provide an update at that time. In the meantime, Thanks again for your help and support over 2020.

*Jim Bradley,
Chair of Finance and Property Committee*

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 23, 2020 the M&P Committee was appointed. The committee consists of the Chair, Marian McDonald, Nancy Curran, Jim Molkoski, Alvin Penner, and Diane Rawsthorn.

Rev Garry van Bruchem retired at the end of January 2020 and the Profile and Search Committee announced the call of our new Minister, Pastor Robert Lawson, beginning February 1, 2020.

The M&P Committee began introducing our new Minister by hosting three “Meet and Greet” receptions at the end of February.

And then, Covid-19 struck! Very quickly we knew it was important to focus our support on the Fonthill United Church staff as they found their way around new restrictions and came to grips with what attending church was going to look like going forward.

In-sanctuary church services ended. Time was spent supporting staff members as each learned to work from home. Office space was adjusted and some physical barriers were created. Bottles of disinfectant, sanitizer, masks and packages of wipes were distributed throughout the building and, housekeeper, Leslie Hoffman, stepped up to use her skills to keep the building clean. The church building closed to all congregants, guests, and renters.

In April, Pastor Lawson and Bill Outred worked diligently to master and implement church services via *Zoom*. This new mode of worship required countless hours of practice to get the sound, pictures, back drop and music just right. Their energy and skills have continued to bring us memorable services and worship celebrations to the end of 2020.

The “Return to Church Committee” worked closely with staff to develop a plan to allow a controlled number of congregants to return to the church. In-church services started on October 11, 2020, and *Zoom* services continued for those not ready to return to the building.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee met formally and informally, through the use of technology, throughout the balance of 2020.

In preparation for the 2021 budget submission to Council, the Committee met with Patrice Walker in October, and with Bill Outred and Pastor Lawson in November.

At the November Council meeting, M&P recommended to increase the Office Administrator's and Music Director's remuneration by a 2.2% cost of living adjustment as recommended by The United Church of Canada. The Minister's salary grew by 5% because of a Category and Grid change supported by The United Church of Canada plus a 2.2% cost of living. Because of the considerable efforts of the three staff and 1 contract worker through this unusual year, they were recognized with Christmas gifts amounting to a total of \$1,250.00.

In January 2021, we say a sad farewell to Diane Rawsthorn after 5 years of dedicated support. She has contributed significantly in a wide variety of tasks to benefit the staff and the work of the committee. At this time, we welcome back Sandra Harding who joined the committee in 2008, took a two-year furlough, and whose employment acumen will broaden our workplace perspective.

Jim Molkoski will also be leaving the committee. Jim has been a strong yet gentle presence on our team for the past two years. He asks thoughtful and sensitive questions at the same time as he shares his business acumen with the team. Jim can also be credited with getting our team out of the church basement and into a lovely lounge at Lookout Village during his term and before Covid. The lounge was cozy, inviting, and provided an excellent opportunity for us to meet in a private setting. Jim, we will miss your and Sherrill's warm welcome at each meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marian McDonald, Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

Board of Trustees Report

Board of Trustees Membership: Bob Laing (chair), Wilton Boyd, Marvin Myhre, Keith Rae, Diane Rawsthorn, Lyn Taylor (Secretary)

The pandemic has altered our lives significantly over the past year and this includes our church operations. During the shutdown we contacted our Insurance Agent to determine if there were any actions necessary to ensure our coverage was not in jeopardy. We learned we were covered as usual during these trying and very unpredictable times. Bob Laing and Keith Rae were among other Council Members who performed a regular walk through the building to ensure no risks had developed while vacant. On the limited reopening, Bob Laing obtained information for a checklist from the Insurance Company, which he shared with the Return-to-Church Committee.

In April 2020, the Board of Trustees voted to support the application for a loan in the amount of \$4,365.50 from the Niagara Extension Council. This loan was to cover 50% of the cost of repairs to the parking lot and kitchen stove. The loan is without interest, without a repayment schedule, and will be renewed in five years time.

In June 2020, we renewed our Ecclesiastical Faith Protect Insurance Policy #0045987FA01.V13 for a further year through Brokerlink. Our deductible increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 this year which is the insurance company's new minimum. We learned this has become the standard in the industry for this type of building. The cost of the renewal was \$7,590.00 plus PST for a total of \$8,197.20. This represents a 15% increase in the cost of insuring the building and a 3% increase in the cost of the liability coverage. We pushed back on the increase and asked for consideration of our excellent long-term status as a claims-free client. Ecclesiastical acknowledged the church is an excellent client but at the same time stated they have implemented minimum rates for various types of construction. In our case, the expiring rates were below their minimum. In discussions with our broker, we learned this has happened industry wide so we decided to stay with Ecclesiastical.

Respectfully submitted by

Lyn Taylor, Secretary

Town Square Manor

Town Square Manor is a life lease apartment building located at 55 Pelham Town Square in Fonthill, consisting of spacious one and two-bedroom units. The nine-member Board is made up of three residents and two from each of Fonthill United, Holy Trinity Anglican and Fonthill Baptist churches. This Board operates as a non-profit. In consultation with Cannon Greco Management Limited, the Board manages the finances, sets policy and procedures, and oversees a part-time staff.

In 2020, Alvin Penner completed the second year of a first two-year term as a Board member, and Janet Hamilton completed the first year of a first two-year term as a Board member.

Town Square Manor is an excellent facility which offers much for the seniors of Fonthill. Anyone wishing further information might check out the website: www.townsquaremanor.ca or contact Peter Greco - Life Lease Transfers at 905 687-6933.

Thanks to the many members of Fonthill United Church who have served on the Board of Directors since 1996. They, too, have demonstrated our congregation's dedication to community stewardship.

Friendship Group Report

The Friendship Group met only once in 2020:

March – 24 friends attended the Sunday matinee performance of “Mamma Mia” performed by the Port Colborne Operatic Society on March 8, 2020. 23 joined together for the evening meal at Swiss Chalet in Welland. Our new Minister, Robert Lawson, was invited and attended both the musical play and the meal.

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) arrived later that same week in March, bringing restrictions which made any further gatherings of the Friendship Club impossible for the remainder of the year 2020.

Anyone wishing to be on the calling list for the Friendship Group is asked to please contact Virginia Haun.

Pat Laing, Secretary

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Report

The activities of the Horseshoe Falls Region were disrupted this year by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, a successful Regional Conference was held over Zoom from November 12 to 15. Bill Outred, Pat Tooley, and Sheila Laundry assisted Rev. Robert Lawson with the Saturday worship services.

Our pastor Robert Lawson was elected President of the Executive. Pat Tooley is the new chair of Human Resources. Both Pat and Robert have an excellent understanding of the courts of the church and have been very helpful as Fonthill United Church navigates its way through worship during the pandemic. Pat and Robert have made themselves available as resources for other congregations experiencing a change in pastoral relations.

The Region regularly communicates with individual churches and important information is shared with council and the congregation.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pat Tooley and Sheila Laundry*

Choir Report

After March 8, 2020 there were no in-church services so therefore no Choir. When *Zoom* services started, Bill Outred carried the music load. He played and sang all the hymns, and did a great job. On a few occasions he had help from Bruce Morrith [cello], Rhonda Baker [trumpet], and John Donald sang a solo twice. It has been a sad year for the Choir.

Judy Gaudier, Choir President

Choir Financial Statement

Fund Balance at January 1, 2020:	\$1,220.40
No fund activity in 2020	0.00
Fund Balance at December 31, 2020:	<u>\$1,220.40</u>

United Church Women - Treasurer's Report 2020		
Balance at January 1, 2020:		1,951.98
Receipts:		
Offerings for 2020	2,708.00	
In Memoriam	80.00	
HST Refund	196.36	
Total:		2,984.36
		4,936.34
Disbursements:		
Mission & Outreach *	1,900.00	
In Memoriam	80.00	
Hamilton Conference Assessment	75.00	
Memorial donation to Fenwick United Church (for Sylvia Walker)	100.00	
		2,155.00
Balance at December 31, 2020:		2,781.34
* Mission & Outreach disbursements:		
Hope Centre	1,200.00	
Open Arms Mission	300.00	
W.D. & Relief Fund	400.00	
	1,900.00	
<i>Respectfully submitted by Dora Drennan, Treasurer</i>		

United Church Women's Report

In February we met to plan the coming year. The World Day of Prayer was held on March 6 at Fenwick United Church with good participation. While the Fonthill church was closed, Marian McDonald gathered women to make chili and bake scones. Others have made masks and sewing items.

Hopefully we will soon gather in the Friendship Room for more companionship and worship.

Maxine McPhail, UCW President

"Homes for the Holidays" Christmas House Tour Report



The Fonthill United Church's *"Homes for the Holidays" Christmas House Tour* was cancelled for 2020 because of Covid-19. The good news is that we hope, all going well, that we will be able to invite you to join us again on November 13, 2021.

We thank everyone who has helped make our previous 16 years of tours so successful; attendees, sponsors, homeowners, decorators and volunteers!

The plan is that the proceeds from the *"Homes for the Holidays" Christmas House Tour, 2021* will be used to support church initiatives and local charitable programs.

Marian McDonald

Cave Springs Camp

For Cave Springs Camp, 2020 was a quiet year. Rarely did we hear the cries of excited children echoing around the camp. The playgrounds and forest paths went largely unused.

Yet 2020 was also an eventful year, thanks to Covid-19. New ways of "doing" camp were developed such as Camp-in-a-Box. Board and staff sought out donors on one hand and church and government support programs on the other. This provided opportunities to hire a handful of young people to work on programs and maintenance. As a result, we were able to host 2 private schools in the fall and hold a small day camp just prior to Christmas. We also offered the Servant Leadership Program for a reduced number of 15-year-old leaders. Although we were unable to reach the hundreds of children and youths of a normal year, we kept busy ... working to survive.

2020 saw the new Legacy Hall building reach completion just in time to welcome the pandemic shutdown in March. Instead of a bustling new facility, we found ourselves with a new set of expenses and an unused asset with great potential, but standing silent as it received finishing touches. Only in July did we get final approval to use it at all. It has seen some use, but now as 2021 begins, we are in total lockdown.

The Board of Directors and its committees are working very hard to weather the storm. Financially, challenge after challenge has been met, to date, but more are imminent. Now as we move forward, we ask for your help.

As always, we ask that each congregation name 2 representatives to be members of our corporation, to attend 2 or more corporation meetings and to represent Cave Springs to your congregations and, possibly, to serve on a committee and volunteer to help with various camp projects.

Our other need is financial. We do not, at this time, know the extent of government income support programs. We do know that we need tens of thousands of dollars just to begin to cover expenses. We know that it is unlikely that we will be able to offer more than Day Camp this coming summer and that that does not generate enough income to more than cover its cost. We are working hard to market our new facility and make it known. This is difficult at a time in which, because of Covid, we are unable to know when we will be able to run any educational programs or rent our space for any events. Our Virtual Race fundraiser in October exceeded our expectations, but we would need one of those a month to really meet the need.

We understand that 2020 has been tough for all of us, but we ask that, if at all possible, you set something aside in your budget for Cave Springs Camp and that our need be put out to your congregation.

It is our hope that soon, the joyful sound of youthful voices will again resound at our camp as our ... no, your ... youth may learn to give praise to God here in this beautiful natural setting.

*Rev. David Reid,
President, Cave Springs Camp Inc.*

Fonthill Community Scouting Report

Fonthill Scouting remains strong despite the challenges COVID has introduced. Starting in 2021, Scouts Canada changed the timing of the membership year to match the calendar year. Prior to 2021 it tracked the school year.

We have 11 Beavers, 22 Cubs, 12 Scouts, 4 Ventures and 1 Rover. All these youth are accompanied by 18 Scouters, who in some cases cover more than one section. We now have participation in all sections available in scouting.

Colony (Beavers) Section Scouters: Natalie Repchull, Julie Seppala, Matt Jones, Darren Keay, Jeanette Ngo

Pack (Cubs) Section Scouters: Greg Davidson, David Brochu, Mike Flikkema, James Leigh, Krystle Vanderzanden, Andrew Weltz, Leah Letford, Cam McLaren

Troop (Scouts) Section Scouters: Kent Ratcliffe, Euan McKendrick, Cheryl Fityk, Cam McLaren, Kevin Violette, Shawn Ratcliffe

Company (Venturers) Section Scouters: Euan McKendrick, Cam McLaren

Crew (Rovers) - A New section this year - Section Scouters: Cam McLaren, Euan McKendrick

As with most everyone, we stopped in-person meetings March 2020 and started virtual meetings on Zoom. We have all learned to have a greater appreciation for those things we take for granted. In September, and within certain guidelines, the scout and venturer sections were able to start outdoor in-person meetings, which lasted until the latest lockdown. The beavers and cubs continued with Zoom meetings.

Some other highlights where youth and leaders participated from all sections (in appropriate bubbles):

- 3rd Fonthill Mulch Fundraiser spring 2020
- We won the Pelham Community Garden competition summer 2020
- Reverse Santa Claus Parade 2020
- Toilet paper ornament fundraiser winter 2020 – \$3,500 raised for Pelham Cares, and \$3,500 raised for the group which replaced what we normally raise through Apple Day.

Beavers 2019/20

Before March/20 we started the 2019/20 year with in-person meetings, some highlights being:

- Caber-eh youth theatre with Miss Jenny, a winter night hike while working on our OAS badge
- a visit with Niagara Region Water/Wastewater Management team to learn about water conservation and the water cycle
- our colony participated in a regional winter Beaverree
- beaver buggies, an annual event, were built and raced at the Seaway Mall
- we went as a group to bowl at Kingsway Lanes
- a visit with Reptile Kingdom

Unfortunately, the pandemic caused us to pivot our programming - we have been meeting virtually since May, straight through the summer remainder of 2020. We learned to identify poison ivy, started our knot tying education, played games, made puppets, had a live hands-on cooking class where we all made apple crisp!! We also had a special guest, Firefighter Jason to teach us about fire prevention and safety.

Two of the 3rd year Beavers worked together and raised \$1,000 for Pelham Cares as their capstone project.

Cubs 2019/20

Due to the COVID outbreak, the 3rd Fonthill Cub Pack took a break over the summer of 2020 and returned to an online meeting format in September of 2020. While not ideal, the Scouters were able to pivot effectively to this new format and have run a successful program for the last five months. The Cub pack has seen only minor shrinkage in its membership and currently stands at 26 youth enrolled for the 2021 Scouting Year. The Cubs have learned and reviewed the basics of outdoor survival and what to do if lost, had very successful and fun virtual Halloween and Christmas parties and have worked in smaller groups online to further foster a sense of camaraderie and teamwork. 2021 will bring guest speakers from the Jordan Owl foundation and hopefully online meetings with other Cub packs across the country.

Scouts 2019/20

Our numbers are growing again in the scout section as youth move up from cubs. We are proud to have a solid co-ed structure with 7 boys and 5 girls in the troop.

Before March/20 they improved their knot and compass skills which allowed them to lead knot and compass workshops with the Cubs. They participated in a fencing workshop and joined the rest of the group in the International Jambowlree.

Through the virtual portion of the year (March to Sept) we continued to meet weekly on Zoom. Much of the scouting work was done independently and great progress was made in improving their outdoor skills, from back yard camps to family hikes, our scouts kept active. Indoors they made up their own Iron Chef challenge and created some inspiring culinary delights.

Once we could get back together for outdoor meetings, we did a clean-up at Marlene Stewart Streit Park, worked through knife, fire as well as stove & lantern permits, improved their compass skills, learned to set up light weight shelters, tree identification, hikes, understanding topographical maps, built their own light weight stoves and cooked with them, enhancing their leadership skills.

Venturers/Rovers 2019/20

This section also has a strong co-ed membership.

They attended Genesis Ventmoot in November 2019 and camped with 1st Simcoe and 1st Port Dover Venturer companies. Competed together at the camp as the Tree Amigos. They won a small Dutch oven and the makings for a Chocolate Dutch oven Dump cake. That prompted them to organize a camp at the North Pelham Youth Centre, for the Tree Amigos, to learn how to use Dutch ovens, and show potential recruits, what Venturering can be about. Our own Scouter Kent was able to host a knot tying workshop that was very wildly successful. This happened in early January 2020 and was well received.

In December 2019, they were able to install a new "raised walkway" on the nature trail through the North Pelham Youth Centre property, to make for a safer crossing of a small swampy area. They made it out of reclaimed donated lumber.

In February of 2020, they attended Snow Moot at Mount Nemo, where they shared a group cabin with Port Dover and a company from Toronto. The highlight of this camp is a Polar Bear Dip in Bronte creek; they are planning to join 'the dip' next year.

They had over four Spring camps planned to begin with the Lama Moot during March Break 2020. As with everything else, all these camps were postponed, starting the last weekend of March Break 2020, until group camping is allowed again.

Since the shutdown, they have invested four members, worked through their knife, stove & lantern as well as fire permits. Met to stay in touch, when allowed in person, and virtually when not. They are planning a resume writing workshop, with our Scouter Greg, and are really looking forward to camping again, when it is safe to do so. One started University, taking Accounting at Brock in the Fall 2020, and joining the Cub pack as a new scouter.

Just like everyone else, beavers, cubs, scouts, venturers and rover are looking forward to the day we can return to "normal" and once again resume in-person meetings and camps without having to think about COVID.

Submitted by Kent Ratcliffe, Fonthill Scouting