

# FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2021



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Fonthill United Church acknowledges that the land we call our own is the traditional territory of the Mississauga, Mississaugas of the Credit, Attiwonderonk, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabewaki First Nations.

We acknowledge the Between the Lakes Treaty of 1792 in which much of this traditional territory was redistributed.

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# *In Memoriam*

*Those of our Fonthill United Church family  
whose lives we celebrated in 2021*

Pat Gardner	January 3
Pat Cook	January 4
Elsa Pearson	February 16
Geraldine Newell	March 15
Don Hughes	April 15
Bill Laing	May 25
Ronald Dowd	May 27
Jean Gray	September 8
Steven Logan	September 22
Lloyd Beamer	October 14
Margaret Morgan	October 17
Marion Empey	November 27

*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, 2020</u>	<u>December 31, 2021</u>
Total Membership, Resident & Non-resident	178	168
Non-resident Membership	9	9
Resident Membership	169	159
Activity in the year:	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Received by Profession of Faith	0	0
Received by Certificate or otherwise	2	0
Removed by Death	5	8
Removed by Certificate or otherwise	0	2

**1.0 Opening:**

Brian McDonald explained how our Zoom meeting will work. 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 Bob Laing and seconded by Sheila Laundry that Gail DeKoning be the recording secretary. **Carried**

Moved by Trudy Pickersgill and seconded by Pat Tooley that supporting adherents be given voting privileges. **Carried**

**2.0 Minutes of the 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting:**

Brian made a correction in the date of the Annual Meeting saying it should be dated 2020.

Moved by Marvin Myhre and seconded by Sharron Bradley that the Annual Meeting Minutes be adopted as presented. **Carried**

**3.0 Committee & Church Group Presentations:**

*Minister’s Report:* Pastor Robert Lawson said that during these Covid times there is concern for continuity and growth and development but he said we were doing well with this even though there are changes, and that we have stayed connected. Therefore there is continuity because God is with us and we are with each other. He suggested that we call someone we haven’t talked to in a while and to let him know if there is anyone who may need a call from him. He thanked everyone for continuing to support the church.

*Council Chairperson Report:* Brian McDonald complimented all members who have agreed to stay on Council or Committees and thanked them for their outstanding commitment. He recognized two members of Council who are retiring, Maxine McPhail and Keith Rae, and he welcomed two new members, Lyn Taylor as the Board of Trustees representative and Trudy Pickersgill as the U.C.W. representative. Janet Hamilton will be leaving the position of Chair of Worship and Membership and Heather Jesik will take her place as Chair. Brian welcomed Sheila Laundry as the new Council chair.

Moved by Marian McDonald and seconded by Marvin Myhre that all reports, except the Financial Report, be adopted as presented. **Carried**

**4.0 Election of Officers:**

Gail DeKoning presented the following list of nominations for 2021:

**4.1 Nominations for Church Council**

- Jim Bradley (Treasurer)
- Nancy Curran
- Gail DeKoning (Secretary)
- Ron Dowd
- Betty Garner
- Janet Hamilton
- Heather Jesik (Worship Chair)
- Marleene Kretchman (Pastoral Care Chair)
- Sheila Laundry (Chair)
- Brian McDonald (Past Chair)

**4.0 Election of Officers (cont'd.):**

**4.1 Nominations for Church Council (cont'd.)**

Marian McDonald (M&P Chair)  
Richard Miller  
Alvin Penner  
Trudy Pickersgill (UCW Rep.)  
Joan Rigg  
Lyn Taylor (Trustee Rep.)  
Pat Tooley (Regional Council Rep.)  
Pastor Robert Lawson (Minister)  
Vacant (Vice-Chair)

There were no new nominations.

Moved by Sharron Bradley and seconded by Marilyn Richardson that the names listed be elected to Council. **Carried**

**4.2 Gail DeKoning presented the following list of nominations for 2021:**

**Nominations for Ministry & Personnel:**

Marian McDonald (Chair)	Nancy Curran
Alvin Penner	Sandra Harding

**Nominations for Worship & Membership:**

Heather Jesik (Chair)	Helen Wismer	Bill Outred (ex-officio)
Beryl West	Joan Wells	

**Nominations for Pastoral Care:**

Marleene Kretchman (chair)	Sheila Laundry
Trudy Pickersgill	Joan Rigg

**Nominations for Finance & Property:**

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

Moved by Larry Bousfield and seconded by Marilyn Richardson that the names listed be elected to the various committees. **Carried**

**4.3 Board of Trustees:**

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

Moved by Bill Laing and seconded by Marian McDonald that the names listed be elected to the Board of Trustees. **Carried**

**4.0 Election of Officers (cont'd.):**

Gail DeKoning presented the following list of nominations for 2021:

**4.4 Other Appointments:**

George Dauphney moved and Carol Cant seconded that those named be elected as the Fonthill United Church representatives to the following:

**4.4.1 Nominations for Regional Council Representatives:**

Sheila Laundry, Pat Tooley

**4.4.2 Nominations for Extension Council Representatives:**

Jim Bradley, Sheila Laundry

**4.4.3 Nominations for Cave Springs Camp Representative:**

Alvin Penner

**4.4.4 Nominations for Town Square Manor Representatives:**

Alvin Penner, Janet Hamilton

**Carried**

Brian McDonald thanked everyone for staying committed to the faith community outside our church community such as Cave Springs Camp, and he welcomed Sheila Laundry as Council's new Chair.

**5.0 Interim Adjournment:**

Sheila Laundry thanked Brian McDonald for the well prepared council meetings held in a timely manner and that he encouraged all members to give their opinion and be involved.

Keith Rae thanked Pastor Robert for his sermons and also thanked Robert, Council and the congregation for handling Covid well. Keith closed in prayer.

Moved by Jim Bradley and seconded by Heather Jesik to adjourn the meeting. **Carried**

Sheila Laundry declared the meeting adjourned.

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Brian McDonald,  
Chair of Council

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Gail DeKoning,  
Secretary of Council

**1.0 Opening:**

Sheila Laundry opened in prayer.

It was moved by Marleene Kretchman and seconded by Bill Laing to approve the agenda.

**Carried**

It was moved by Nancy Curran and seconded by Margot Fraser to appoint Gail DeKoning as recording secretary.

**Carried**

Sheila thanked the church secretary and Gail DeKoning for the Minutes of meetings.

**2.0 Minutes of 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting amendment:**

Brian made a correction in the date of the Annual Meeting saying it should be dated 2020. This motion was passed but the date should have stayed as 2019.

Therefore it was moved by Bob Laing and seconded by Marian McDonald to amend the motion of February 21, 2021 to read the 2019 Annual Congregational meeting date should be 2019 and not 2020.

**Carried**

**3.0 Financial Report:**

Jim Bradley said it was all very good news for 2020 finances as it was a very destructive year with Covid, but the church is doing well. For their leadership and dedication he thanked Pastor Robert, Bill Outred and Patrice Walker and for their continuing push forward to keep the church going. He also thanked Leslie Hoffman, who worked hard to keep the church sanitized, the Council, and Janet Hamilton along with her Return to Church committee to make sure things were safe. We were \$8,000 over budget but members contributed more than budgeted which is significant. The church received government wage subsidies of \$19,610 and a \$2,500 United Church of Canada grant because of Covid. 2020 actual expenses were \$212,398 (compared to \$232,328 in 2019) which left a surplus of \$6,679 in the Operating Fund. \$9,400 was transferred from the Enduring Gifts Fund to the Building Fund to help with the Narthex repairs, however the money was able to be transferred back to the Enduring Gifts Fund at year-end. The church received United Church Extension Council loans of \$14,482.55 for the Narthex, parking lot repair and kitchen repairs which are repayable only at the sale of the building. Jim thanked Janet Hamilton for organizing the Narthex repairs, Rich Miller for the kitchen repairs and John Rigg for the parking lot repairs. \$3,000 was transferred from the Memorial Fund to the Building Fund at year-end. There is \$275,000 in reserve funds which is the same as last year.

Jim thanked Trudy Pickersgill for her memorial donation to the Building Fund of \$3,000 to help improve communications on Zoom.

Jim said as of December 31, 2020 we have \$29,637.90 in the bank with no liabilities. Of the \$309,802.61 in assets, approximately \$305,000 is in liquid investments or cash, and we are in a stable situation going forward. Judy Gaudier asked where the revenue comes from. Jim replied that, outside of the revenue previously reported on, \$8,897 came from the hydro generation of the solar panels and they are still working well.

Moved by Jim Bradley and seconded by George Dewar to adopt the Financial Operating Statement for 2020.

**Carried**

Trudy Pickersgill thanked Jim Bradley for his report.

### **3.0 Financial Report (cont'd.):**

#### **3.1 2021 Budget:**

Jim reported that in 2020, the Finance Committee was worried about our income stream and how much of a shortfall there would be, such as if rentals were to dry up completely, but we persevered. He said that those who support the church, continued to give to the church, despite the building being closed which limited access to staff and programs. He said a steady stream of members dropped off their donations and even some on PAR gave extra. He thought this was remarkable and memorable and he thanked all for making the finance job easier.

As for the 2021 Budget, he said there were lots of unknowns. Members pledged \$174,355 for 2020 and \$172,500 for 2021. \$3,400 budgeted for rentals is half of our usual rental income. Wage subsidy is budgeted for \$5,000 but not sure for how long it will continue from the government. We had Chili and Scones fundraisers for 2020. The Flea Market is not budgeted for in 2021, but hopefully we can have the House Tour, therefore \$5,000 was budgeted for fundraising. \$141,212 is budgeted for salaries and benefits, following United Church of Canada salary recommendations. Property and Administration expenses are consistent with last year. Total disbursements are budgeted for \$225,480 for 2021.

It was moved by Jim Bradley and seconded by Trudy Pickersgill to adopt the 2021 Budget with total expenditures of \$225,480.

**Carried**

Russell Jesik thanked Jim for all his hard work. Jim thanked Patrice Walker for all she does. He also thanked his great team on Finance whose advice he said is priceless.

#### **4.0 Presentations of Flowers:**

Robert Lawson thanked the congregation for really stepping up to the wider community during Covid. He then presented flowers, on behalf of Harland Young, to the following:

Judy and Lou Gaudier for continuing to prepare and cook meals for the Legion.

Peggy Palmer for cooking and delivering Legion meals and for being our eyes and ears in long-term facilities.

Marleene Kretchman for continuing to call people during Covid even if some are hours long and said she cares about everyone's souls.

Trudy Pickersgill for taking all the residents' temperatures at Lookout Ridge.

Tove Bowman for making thousands of masks and teaching her partner how to crochet the strings going on the masks.

#### **Special Presentation:**

Sheila Laundry thanked Brian McDonald for being our Council Chair and said he worked very hard the past two years and made it easy for her to step into the job. She also thanked Marian McDonald and presented them with a Vermeer's Garden Centre certificate. Brian thanked Sheila for taking over as Chair of Council.

#### **5.0 Discussion:**

The recipients of the flowers all thanked Harland and Council for them.

Trudy Pickersgill asked if it was possible to have an outside parking lot rummage sale as a fundraiser.



**6.0 Adjournment of Annual Meeting:**

Marleene Kretchman moved and George Dewar seconded that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried**

Pastor Robert Lawson closed in prayer.

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Sheila Laundry,  
Chair of Council

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Gail DeKoning,  
Secretary of Council

## Church Council Membership 2021

Jim Bradley (Treasurer)	Brian McDonald (Past Chair)
Nancy Curran	Marian McDonald
Gail DeKoning (Secretary)	Richard Miller
Ron Dowd (to March 2021)	Alvin Penner
Betty Garner	Trudy Pickersgill (to May 2021)
Janet Hamilton	Joan Rigg
Heather Jesik	Lyn Taylor
Marleene Kretchman	Pat Tooley
Sheila Laundry (Chair)	Robert Lawson (Minister)
	Vacant (Vice-Chair)

## Church Committees 2021

### Ministry Committees:

Worship & Membership: Heather Jesik (Chair), Helen Wismer, Beryl West, Joan Wells, George Dewar (from August 2021), Bill Outred (ex-officio)

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

Outreach (from April 2021): Janet Hamilton (Chair), Gail DeKoning, Nancy Curran, Lyn Taylor, Margot Fraser, Sharron Bradley, Sharon Middleton

Strategic Planning Committee (from September 2021): Lyn Taylor (Facilitator), Sheila Laundry (Secretary), Ron Kretchman, Keith Rae, Jim Bradley, Ken Brydon, Rich Miller, Janet Hamilton, Marian McDonald, Harland Young, Larry Bousfield, Ralph Watters

### Administrative Support Committees:

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

Ministry & Personnel: Marian McDonald (Chair), Alvin Penner, Nancy Curran, Sandra Harding

### Board of Trustees:

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

*(The minister is an ex-officio member of all committees except Ministry & Personnel.)*

*(The Chairperson of Council is an ex-officio member of all committees.)*

## Other Group Representatives

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council: Sheila Laundry, Pat Tooley

UCW: Trudy Pickersgill (President)

Dora Drennan (Treasurer)

Town Square Manor: Alvin Penner, Janet Hamilton

Cave Springs Camp: Alvin Penner

Extension Council: Jim Bradley, Sheila Laundry

# Minister's Report

## He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ~Matthew 16:15

Questions of identity are extremely important. Without a healthy and robust individual and collective identity we can easily become evasive and wishy-washy, weak and susceptible to manipulation – what Jesus would call lukewarm.

This is certainly one of the reasons that in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus asks his followers an important question of identity. He asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

I have long believed that it is this question of Jesus to his disciples upon which our faith rests. It is a question that each disciple must ask -- not just because the answer is so important -- but also because the process is. When we ask who Jesus is to us, we end up asking so much more: who we are as individuals, who our neighbour is, and who we are as a community of faith. When Jesus asks us, "Who do you say that I am?" we come to the deeply spiritual questions that lie at the heart of our being – the mystery of what we were meant to do and to be as we follow and love Jesus.

Think about how important questions of identity are right now in our lives.

As we move into a third year living with COVID, we are all asking, "How has this experience changed us?" As we confront an anxious and frankly scary political landscape, we are all asking, "Who exactly are we as Canadians?"

As a community of faith with a relatively new minister, you are asking yourselves: "Who is this guy?" And, as a relatively new minister in a congregation, I am asking myself: "Who are these people?" Indeed, as time goes on, we ask ourselves this type of question again and again, comparing and contrasting our answers. As we do so, we discover strengths and weaknesses, areas of growth, and areas for growth. We may even discover that what once disturbed us or challenged us is no longer an issue, and that we have other more important rivers to cross.

I cannot begin to tell you how important and courageous I think your work as a church to ask important questions of identity has been over the past year. The work of the Strategic Planning Committee under the direction of Lyn Taylor has been extremely fulsome. In asking the big questions, and, in submitting to this time-consuming process of "Who do we say that we are?" we are drawing together as a church, understanding each other, and our call.

It is no surprise to me that your draft mission statement starts with two short sentences: Words inspires us. Music uplifts us. You are a faith community that is fed by worship and the music that the choir and Bill Outred lift up every Sunday.

But that is not all that you are coming to understanding yourselves to be. As you understand yourselves better, other shared values are being lifted up. At Christmas, those who lit the Advent candles knew themselves and this church so well that they were able to clearly and confidently articulate how they understood peace, hope, joy and love operating at Fonthill United Church.

In committees I am hearing people speak up and defend their positions using value statements. In the work of the Worship Committee, I am hearing people consider what might most inspire people. In the work of the Pastoral Care Committee, I am hearing about the importance of caring. And, in the Outreach Committee, I am hearing about how we seek to support our community and make connections. At Council, I have seen a great desire to understand and learn more about some challenging issues such as diversity. Always our Finance and Property Committee encourages our value of generosity. In our Trustees, and the many years that many of the members have served, I see the values of service and commitment. And in the UCW I see a place where people meet and enjoy meaningful relationships and connections, some new, some decades old.



You will notice that when Jesus asks his question, “Who do you say that I am?” that he prefaces it with the word “But.” He asks us, “But who do you say that I am?”

When Jesus does this, he gives those he is questioning permission to answer the question in a way that makes sense to them. Jesus accepts and welcomes not a cookie cutter, absolutely correct answer, but the answer that works for each of his followers.

Identity and understanding who we are, is all about understanding this key nuance: that we are like, and unlike others individually; that we are like and unlike other churches.

After two years of ministry with you here at Fonthill United, I want to thank all of you for the courageous way you have allowed me to see who you are, and for the gracious ways you have seen me and understood who I am. The process of who we say that we are, who we say that Jesus is, and who we hope to become is just beginning. We are being Church. And we are becoming Church.

*Your pastor, Robert Lawson*

## **Chair of Council's Report**

It has been a year, and what a year it has been! There have been many humbling lessons this year, but also some wonderful opportunities to get to know many of the people at Fonthill United Church. We are truly blessed with Pastor Robert, Bill Outred and Patrice Walker. Their combined expertise and passion for their work makes Fonthill United Church a wonderful place to be. We celebrate and support their ministry.

I am most grateful to Brian McDonald, our past chair, for his support and encouragement. Brian ran his meetings very effectively and I have tried to do the same with varying degrees of success. Brian and Marian McDonald are leaving Council this year, and we will miss their participation in Council meetings. Marian has been a very effective chair of Ministry & Personnel.

Over the past year, in spite of Covid, I have learned many new things about Fonthill United Church.

- We are a generous congregation, both with our time and our money. We have given back to our wider community through Pelham Cares, Nightlight and the Hope Centre. We continue to support our church financially even though most of us are not worshipping in the church building. We have communicated with each other through phone calls, letters, Zoom meetings and limited gatherings.
- We are able to work together. All of our committees function very well, with dedicated people who attend meetings, listen reflectively and move forward in a creative way to make things work. I have the highest regard for the chairs of each committee and their hardworking members.
- We can look forward during this time. In spite of limited gatherings, we have had food drops for Pelham Cares, renewed contact with our folks at Lookout Ridge through cards, daffodils at Easter and weekly services led by Pastor Robert, new and proposed rentals of our church building, a happy reunion of UCW members, guest musicians, a Facebook page and a proposal for a new website, a Zoom coffee group, special services, a walking group, the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee, a land acknowledgement, a winter coat drive, the list goes on...

I look forward to another year as Council Chair. I am most happy to nominate Sandra Harding as our new chair of Ministry and Personnel. The following people have indicated that they will continue to serve as Council members in 2022: Jim Bradley, Richard Miller, Lyn Taylor, Alvin Penner, Joan Rigg, Nancy Curran, Gail DeKoning, Betty Garner, Pat Tooley, Heather Jesik, and myself. Marleene Kretchman is stepping down but will continue in her role as Chair of Pastoral Care; Joan Rigg will report for Pastoral Care at Council meetings. Janet Hamilton is also leaving Council but will continue to lead our Mission and Outreach Committee, with Nancy Curran reporting on the work of Mission and Outreach. Brian, Marian, Marleene, and Janet have served Council well and we are grateful for their participation. We are still actively looking for a Vice-chair. Nominations are welcome.

I close by sharing a prayer Pastor Robert shared with us at our May meeting. It seems especially appropriate at this time.

*May a good vision catch us*

*May a benevolent vision take hold of us, and move us*

*May a deep and full vision come over us and burst open around us...*

*May we awaken into the story that surrounds,*

*May we awaken into the beautiful story.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Laundry, Chair of Council

## **Worship and Membership Committee Report**

As we look back on another challenging year at Fonthill United Church, where we dealt with yet another year of COVID, my courageous committee stepped up. We ensured the safety of everyone entering the church for Sunday service by following protocols required. We record the names of people attending each Sunday. Everyone is masked, hands are sanitized and people are spaced appropriately in the sanctuary. We thank everyone for their cooperation at this most difficult time.

Working together with all the other committees, we were able to keep our church opened during the past year when the government allowed.

The Worship and Membership Committee, together with Pastor Robert and Bill Outred, tried to make “Special Services” throughout the year “extra special” while living in such difficult times: Keeping the church alive, from extra special decorating for each season to special instrumental guests. Keeping the church alive by hosting four food/cash drives for Pelham Cares over the last year with the generosity of the congregation. Making use of individual Communion Sets and individual Votive Candles for the Christmas Eve Service were just a couple of changes we needed to do. We also hosted a few funerals safely with resilient helpers.

I am so proud and thankful for the great committee I have. They are dedicated to the safety and needs of our congregation.

I asked each committee member “what it meant to them to be part of the Worship and Membership Committee during this past year.” Here is what they had to say ...

George Dewar wrote: It is a blessing to be able to offer my time and God-given talents to the activities that occur within the sanctuary of Fonthill United Church.

Joan Wells wrote: It is very important to have this committee. Everyone has done very well keeping things going during this past year.

Beryl West wrote: It was great to be back in church and to have the readers in church. Many thanks to the readers.

Helen Wismer wrote: It was important to me to be in church because I cannot do Zoom. I was willing to help my committee out where I could to have in-person church services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Jesik, Chair of Worship and Membership Committee

## Outreach Committee Report

This committee was formed in the spring of 2021 and has been growing in strength and numbers ever since. The response from the members of the Church has been outstanding.

The committee consists of Janet Hamilton (Chairperson), Lyn Taylor (Secretary), Pastor Robert Lawson (ex-officio), Sharron Bradley, Nancy Curran, Gail DeKoning, Margot Fraser and Sharon Middleton.

Our goal is to recommend and initiate projects that will promote well-being in the community. This can be achieved in more than one way. We give assistance and support to programs that agree with our Church goal. This can be through the giving of monetary funds, helping with their fundraising programs, or the giving of products. We also want to reach out in our community in a way that will give us exposure. We want to show acceptance and that we are part of the community.

We have achieved some of these goals by giving to the Hope Centre for a new mural (see picture below); the food and money drives that have supported Pelham Cares; and the personal care items, hats, mittens and single serving dinners given to Nightlight Youth Services.



We also support the United Church of Canada through the support of its Mission and Service Fund, the United Church World Development and Relief and other special projects as are promoted by the United Church of Canada.

It has been my honour to work with this committee and look forward to the plans we have for next year.

We hope to support the Huntington Society of Canada with their sale of Amaryllis. This is one of their big fundraisers and by us being involved, we hope to expand their sales, income and exposure. We hope to show our support to the nurses and care givers of our community by doing something special for them.

We want to continue to support the programs that are currently on our agenda.

We would like to do some fundraisers for the Outreach Program that would also benefit the community and create an awareness of our presence.

The generosity of the members of this church is outstanding, but please don't let it stop there. We would like your input on potential projects.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet N Hamilton, Chair of Outreach Committee

## **Pastoral Care Committee Report**

It has been a challenging year for everyone. Our close connections to each other have helped to cope with the often inability to visit in person on a regular basis.

Hopefully we can look forward to a better year, and to being able to be more present for everyone.

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to meet each month to offer our support, and to lend an ear whenever needed.

Blessings,

Marleene Kretchman, Chair, Pastoral Care Committee

## **Finance Committee Report**

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

At the end of last year, we remarked, “hopefully the end of Covid is in sight.” Well, hasn’t that turned out to be an “understatement?” While we have been able to have partial attendance in church for a portion of the year, and while some tenants have returned, the various changes in government protocols and regulations have simply led to additional challenges. Thanks to the continued leadership of our staff including Pastor Robert, Bill Outred and Patrice Walker, we have made progress and continue to move forward. The wonderful generosity of all congregants continues, and thanks to this, we view the results, as reported, extremely positive when we consider all circumstances which prevailed over the past year.

At December 31, 2021 we reported a shortfall of \$15,212 in the Operating Fund which was covered by a transfer of \$5,000 in undesignated funds from the Memoriam Fund and \$10,212 from the Enduring Gifts Fund. Similar transfers have been made in the past to covering operating shortfalls.

Significant events in the financial affairs over the past 12 months include:

- Congregational givings in 2021 were \$5,805 lower than 2020, and \$3,053 below budget. This is partially due to the fact that some congregants passed away and there is no further family connection with the church.
- All other income in 2021 amounted to \$36,508 vs \$43,825 in 2020. The bulk of this decline was due to lower wage subsidies received from the Federal Government. This program has now ended.
- A total of \$5,527 was received in Memorial donations.
- Our M&S contributions in 2021 amounted to \$16,000 which is very high considering our lower income. An additional \$2,000 was spent locally for outreach, in addition to which we held three appeals for Pelham Cares.
- Excluding one purchase directly offset by a donation, actual 2021 expenses amounted to \$218,596 which was \$6,884 below budget. Considering all the extras we have faced, we view lower expenses as a plus. A portion of these savings can be attributed to the close attention paid by all, in the areas of expense, and the high level of volunteer support from congregants.
- At year end, there was \$3,850 available in the Building Fund which will be used to cover repairs now underway in the quiet room.
- Following the transfer of \$10,212 to the Operating Fund, total reserves will amount to \$265,040, all of which is currently invested in Term Deposits with staggered maturity dates over the next 3 years.

We maintain Fonthill United continues to enjoy a stable financial position with the bulk of our assets being in cash.

As we enter 2022, we continue to face many unknowns as to how, and how long, Covid will impact our return to what we might call, “normal routines and activities.” Until there is more certainty in some areas, the unknowns clearly cloud any budgeting process. Be that as it may, based on all known facts, we have proceeded through the budget process and as the report included illustrates, we are projecting an Operating Fund deficit of \$38,652 based on total expenditures of \$228,027.

Some key highlights include:

- Congregational Givings are projected at \$163,250. This amount is \$6,196 lower than the actual givings in 2021 due to congregants who have passed away where there is no further family connection.
- In 2020 and 2021 we received a total of \$31,476 under Government Wage Subsidy Programs. This amount basically offset lost income we used to generate from fundraising activities. These programs have now ended.

Roughly 15-17 years ago, Fonthill United introduced a one line envelope for givings, versus the 4 line envelope used to that point. That envelope included a separate line for M&S contributions. To ensure continual support to General Council for M&S programs, it was agreed at the time we would donate 10% of congregational givings to M&S. Last year we remitted a total of \$16,000 to General Council for M&S, in addition to which we covered another approximately \$2,000 on local outreach programs. Our General Council assessment fee was an additional \$6,063.

At the time the 10% rate was introduced, congregational givings averaged roughly \$180,000 to \$190,000 annually. Other income from rentals, interest, fundraising, etc. was in the \$40-\$50,000 range annually, bringing total income to \$220,000-\$240,000 annually.

For 2022 we are projecting congregational givings at \$163,250 and other revenue at \$26,125 for a total of \$189,375. We are also projecting a deficit in the Operating Fund of \$38,652.

In discussions surrounding the budget process, it became clear we could no longer afford a 10% pledge of givings to M&S along with our commitment to local outreach. Therefore, Council has approved that the amount of total contribution to M&S and local outreach be set at 6% of total congregational givings, which amounts to \$9,795 (6% of \$163,250) for 2022. Council also approved that 35% of this amount be directed to the Fonthill United Outreach Fund (\$3,400 for 2022) and the balance (\$6,395 for 2022) be remitted to the General Council M&S Fund.

We will ensure any funds received from congregants designated for M&S will be forwarded accordingly. Any special appeals will proceed as in the past. Finally, and through feedback from the Strategic Planning Committee, there appears to be support for more community involvement and this adjustment will ensure there is a sustainable source of funds to support this involvement.

We are continuing to review all revenue and expenses and we will keep you informed of any changes or plans which could impact our financial position.

In conclusion, the role of Treasurer and Finance Chair at Fonthill United is really quite straight forward, simply because of the wonderful support that position receives from committee members, Ralph Watters, Keith Rae, Rich Miller, Ken Brydon and Ron Kretchman. Patrice Walker’s ability to maintain very detailed records and generate factual and timely reports really provides all of us with the information to assess the next steps. To each of the above, my sincere Thanks.

In closing, the generosity of all congregants of Fonthill United is absolutely wonderful and to all, Thank You for your support.

Jim Bradley,  
Chair of Finance and Property



## **Property Committee Report**

In late September, we engaged Paul Davis to complete repairs to the ceiling of the quiet room which have occurred over the past years due to leaks in the roof. Work to date has been minimal in that, very early in the project, the contractor thought some additional material removal might be necessary. While waiting for a revised quote, Rich Miller undertook some of the minor portions of the work and is making good progress. This work includes removal and replacement of the bathroom counter and other similar tasks. Unfortunately, with the wet weather several weeks ago, we noticed some very minor leaking but we feel this can be overcome by inserting a new collection area. We continue to monitor closely and while completion will be forthcoming, it is not a priority, and hopefully we can reduce the original projected cost of \$4,600. Thank you to those who made a one-time donation towards this work.

The building was closed for the first six months and some tenants did return in September. Currently, rental income is roughly \$350 per month and at this point we have no additional enquiries on the horizon. All tenants are following government protocols and are fully vaccinated.

We can report that we received an enquiry in October looking to establish a Day Care Centre in the church. A special committee was established to review the request and 3 meetings were held with the applicant. There is no question a day care could result in our reviewing many procedures and processes in numerous activities. There is still the question as to whether or not the appropriate Government Ministry would even issue a permit. The matter was reviewed at Council and the applicant was requested to determine what physical changes might be required in order to meet all regulations. We have not heard back but a full update will be provided if necessary.

Overall, the building remains in a good state of repair and we endeavour to address all matters as they arise.

A special Thanks again this year to Rich Miller who acts as our “handyman” and completes numerous jobs/repairs as required.

We all look forward to when we can be back in the building on a full time regular basis. Thanks again to all volunteers who complete jobs and provide advice as the need arises.

Jim Bradley,  
Chair of Finance and Property

## **Ministry and Personnel Committee Report**

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 21, 2021 the M&P Committee was elected. The committee consists of Marian McDonald (Chair), Nancy Curran, Sandra Harding, and Alvin Penner.

As required in *Resources for Ministry and Personnel*, members of the team signed confidentiality agreements which are on file with the Chair.

Throughout 2021, Pastor Lawson and Bill Outred worked diligently to continue church services via *Zoom* and to invite congregants to attend in-person and online in June. At the beginning of the year, Katelyn Jesik began to assist Pastor Lawson and Bill Outred and has developed an expertise in assisting congregants to link into the service. With Bill Outred, Katelyn has worked to improve camera placement and sound quality. Their energy and skills brought us memorable services and worship celebrations to the end of 2021.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee met on several occasions throughout 2021.

In June, M&P forwarded a letter to Pastor Lawson congratulating him on his new role as President of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council.

In preparation for the 2022 budget submission to Council, the Committee met in November with Patrice Walker, Bill Outred, and Pastor Lawson.

At the November Council meeting, M&P recommended that Council increase the Pastor's, Office Administrator's, and Music Director's remuneration by a 1.5% cost of living adjustment. Because of the considerable efforts of the three staff and two contracted workers, Leslie Hoffman and Katelyn Jesik, all were recognized with Christmas gifts amounting to a total of \$1,750.00.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee has arranged for a workshop to be given by members of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council to the Fonthill M&P and Church Council members on January 26, 2022 via *Zoom*. They will share resources and experiences that will help us to be better equipped to handle 2SLGBTQIA issues. The workshop will be entitled, "Right Relations and Social Justice."

Respectfully submitted by,  
Marian McDonald, Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

### **Board of Trustees Report**

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

There is not much to report this year. Things have been quiet largely due to the pandemic restrictions.

There was some water damage in the Quiet Room off the sanctuary but no insurance claim was filed because the cost of the repair was less than the deductible.

We have been concerned by the insurance rate increases over the past number of years. In the past three years, our premiums have increased by 13.6%, 14.2% and 29% respectively. Since June of 2018 our premiums have increased by a total of \$3,946.00. We have checked with other churches in the Region and every church has experienced the same. The Horseshoe Falls representative informed us that insurance rates among United Churches increased by roughly 1/3 this year which is a bit above our 29% figure. Fenwick United Church is also in the same ballpark as our rate. We looked at increasing our deductible to offset the increase however the savings were not significant enough to outweigh the risks.

While we understand the premium increases are shocking, we believe it is the result of changing weather patterns, growing natural disasters, etc. Having said this, we will continue to do our best to keep our rates as reasonable as possible. While Ecclesiastical is considered a good insurance company, we feel it is important to obtain quotes from several companies and will compare not only the premiums but also the coverage, terms, conditions and deductibles. The review is scheduled for 60 days prior to the expiry of our policy on June 4, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Lyn Taylor, Secretary

## **Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Report** **“Supports, Connects, Empowers Communities of Faith”**

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (HFRC) began 2021 the same way it ended 2020. The same way that we at Fonthill United Church began 2021: “ZOOM”ing. As I write this report, I do not know if our meeting will be held at the church or on ZOOM.

Despite the almost two years of online meetings, HFRC has managed to carry out the mandates of the Executive and the three Commissions. The specific responsibilities of the Executive and Commissions are outlined in the Governance Handbook that can be found on the website. The three Commissions established by the Regional Council replaced the various Presbytery Committees; the Covenanting Commission, The Human Resources Commission, and the Mission & Discipleship Commission.

Each Community of Faith (CoF) elects representatives to the Regional Council based on their membership. This is the same process that was used to elect representatives to the Presbytery. According to the size of our congregation, we elect two representatives. Since the inception of the Regional Council in 2019, Sheila Laundry and Pat Tooley have been the representatives. Members are encouraged to participate in the Regional Council by being part of Resource Pools for the Commissions, and both Sheila and Pat are working with the Human Resources Commission.

In addition to monthly meetings, the HFRC held full membership meetings in May and October. Both of these meetings were held online and reports of these meetings can be found in the newsletters that are on the website. Although not a part of the Regional Council, a virtual session was held in May with The Honourable Mr. Murray Sinclair, a recently retired member of the Canadian Senate and a First Nations lawyer as well as the chair of the Indian Residential School Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 2009 to 2015, who spoke to us on the Calls to Action from the TRC.

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council enters 2022 as an Affirming Council following a virtual service that was held on June 6, 2021. General Council 44 will be held in 2022 beginning with an orientation for Commissioners. The decision was made to hold the Council virtually which has necessitated some changes from the usual format. There will be a series of Learning Sessions leading up to the Decision Sessions which will be held from July 22 – 25, 2022. The election of the Moderator will take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the closing worship and installation of the Moderator will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Laundry, Pat Tooley

### **Choir Report**

The choir members have had a long unwanted break from singing.

Bill Outred, our choir director, has very ably carried the load, playing and singing. What a great job he did!

Some of our choir members sang solos; John Donald, Bev Eldridge and George Dewar all sang beautiful solos. We all enjoyed singing at the few practices we had, along with the Christmas service. We all hope we can get back to singing soon.

Submitted by Judy Gaudier, Choir President

## Choir Financial Statement

Fund Balance at January 1, 2021:		\$1,220.40
Donations received:	670.00	
Disbursements (flowers):	<u>56.11</u>	
Fund Balance at December 31, 2021:		<u>\$1,834.29</u>

### From the Organ Bench

Well, here we are, another year has passed as we say goodbye to 2021, and I would love to say things are “normal” but if memory serves me, “normal” is a setting on a dryer. That may be a strange way to look at things, but let’s face it, the challenges and changes to keep music in worship has definitely not been normal. Galatians 6:9 says, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

I would like to thank all those who supported our music at Fonthill, by singing, playing, and of course, listening each Sunday, either in person or on Zoom. As always, it’s a pleasure to work with fellow musicians to enhance our services. We have the pleasure not only of our own choir members who have come to sing when things were safe to be present, but also Bruce Morritt on cello, Cathy Sturt on piano, Rhonda Baker on trumpet, and Debra Kingsley, our guest soprano.

I am pleased over this past year to have Katelyn Jesik as our Zoom techie. Special thanks for all she does to make sure you all can join us each week on Zoom. Her willingness and commitment to her work has been greatly appreciated by all, and a load off my mind, allowing me to concentrate on the music during our Sunday morning gathering. Thanks Katelyn!

It was a highlight of this year to gather the choir back together, at least to sing a few anthems for Christmas. My heart was gladdened to see this dedicated group eager to come together after nearly two years and not only sing, but to gather together as friends with a common love for singing. From my side of the bench, I was brought to tears to hear this fine group of singers join together and sing like no time had passed. You truly are a gift to your Fonthill United Church family and to me. I look forward to joining together when we all feel safe to do so.

Our music department was gifted a new digital Yamaha keyboard, to add to our fine collection of instruments. I have enjoyed finding out all the things it can do. A versatile and portable piano we can move to meet the needs anywhere in the building.

In closing, let the music sound, in PRAYER, PRAISE, and JOY! Our ability to adapt and find new ways to carry on despite the circumstances we face around us, speaks volumes for the commitment and support this church family has to the music of Fonthill United Church. It is my pleasure to be your director of music, so let our hearts sing and raise our voices in body, mind and spirit.

**Never let us go silent!**

Yours in song,  
William Outred



## United Church Women's Report

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the UCW had three meetings this year. We were **Thankful** to meet in October for our **Thanksgiving Meeting**, our first time to get together for so long due to the restrictions. The special bond that the women hold for each other was so evident in the way the room felt when we gathered; the smiles, the chatting and the camaraderie made the atmosphere electric in the room.

In November, for our Remembrance Day meeting, each person brought something from their past to share with the group.

Following the December meeting, where the theme was "Lessons, Carols & Cookies," everyone went home with a box of homemade cookies from a well-organized cookie exchange. This brought back many good memories of our Christmas church services from previous years.

We sat spaced apart and after the meetings, the chatter at tea time got louder and louder as we got caught up with what was going on in our lives.

UCW members meet not just to have worship, to learn something, and to have fun, but we also engage in outreach. Our offerings provide financial support to our church, the Hope Centre, Pelham Cares, Women's Place, and this year we are enabling five third world girls to attend school through Children Believe.

Submitted by Trudy Pickersgill, UCW President

### United Church Women - Treasurer's Report 2021

Balance at January 1, 2021: 2,781.34

#### Receipts:

Offerings for 2021	2,642.00	
Total:		<u>2,642.00</u>
		5,423.34

#### Disbursements:

Mission & Outreach *	1,950.00	
Church - repairs to Quiet Room	500.00	
Conference Assessment	75.00	
Miscellaneous (kitchen expenses)	81.00	
		<u>2,606.00</u>

Balance at December 31, 2021: 2,817.34

#### \* Mission & Outreach disbursements:

Hope Centre	1,200.00	
Pelham Cares	100.00	
Women's Place	150.00	
Children Believe	500.00	
	<u>1,950.00</u>	

Respectfully submitted by Dora Drennan, Treasurer

## **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 congregants 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 2021, Alvin Penner completed the first year of a second two-year term as a Board member, and Janet Hamilton completed the second 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](http://www.townsquaremanor.ca) or contact Peter Greco - Life Lease Transfers at 905 687-6933.

## **Cave Springs Camp Report**

We welcomed children back to summer camp for 2021. We had the biggest registration ever for day camp (416). We have plans for both day camp and overnight camp in 2022. We also offered the Servant Leadership Program for a small number of 15-year-old leaders. Check out our website, Facebook groups, YouTube, Instagram, or TikTok. And finally, we had a grand opening of our new Legacy Hall in October 2021. We kept busy.

Our revised bylaws state that congregations in Niagara, Hamilton and Halton may each name two members to our corporation. These churches have often sent campers and counsellors to Cave Springs. Our Corporation Annual Meeting is in April. Another 1 to 2 corporation meetings throughout the year help share news and generate excitement. The Corporation has met virtually by Zoom recently but hopes to have everyone visit our new hall soon. The corporation elects 20 members to the Board. Board members meet all through the year. You are invited to offer to be a Board member or you could also choose to serve on a Board committee.

Although public school boards have not allowed field trips, we had rentals from two private schools, a youth leadership rental, and various weddings and business and family gatherings. We are marketing our new year-round facility and making it known to our neighbours.

We have accumulated debt to complete the building and the best way to reduce the debt is through small monthly donations of many interested parties. You can arrange monthly support by emailing [donations@cavespringscamp.on.ca](mailto:donations@cavespringscamp.on.ca) or make a single donation easily from our website by clicking on Donate Now.

The Board of Directors and committees are working very hard. We received federal and provincial loans and grants for operational costs including staff costs. We have a new Executive Director, Krystyn Keir and a new Program Camp Director, Tim Watson.

2021 has been tough for all of us, but we ask you to set something aside in your personal budget for Cave Springs Camp and hope that your congregation is able to respond to our need.

It is our hope that soon the joyful sound of youthful voices will again resound at our camp as our youth learn to give praise to God here in this beautiful natural setting.

Your servant,  
David Duffus, President of the Board

## Fonthill Community Scouting Report

Fonthill Scouting remains strong despite the persistent COVID challenges.

We have 6 Beavers, 22 Cubs, 30 (27 active) Scouts, 4 Venturers and 1 Rover. All these youth are accompanied by 19 Scouters, who in some cases cover more than one section. We now have participation in all sections available in scouting.

**Colony (Beavers) Section Scouters (new):** Erica McLaren, Danielle Weltz, Marina McLaren (venturer helper)

**Pack (Cubs) Section Scouters:** Greg Davidson, Krystle Vanderzanden, Leah Letford, Cam McLaren, Julie Seppala, Matt Jones, Darren Keay, Jeanette Ngo

**Troop (Scouts) Section Scouters:** Kent Ratcliffe, Euan McKendrick, Cheryl Fityk, Cam McLaren, Kevin Violette, Shawn Ratcliffe, David Brochu, Mike Flikkema, James Leigh, Andrew Weltz

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

**Crew (Rovers) Section Scouters:** Cam McLaren, Euan McKendrick

Despite not being able to participate in camps and the associated cost that go with them, we had to spend money in other ways. Because COVID has kept us from sharing gear we have had to buy extra tarps, ropes, etc. Fundraising through the pandemic has been challenging. In 2021, we were not able to sell mulch and again no apple day. Fortunately, with help from friends of Fonthill Scouting, aka MaryAnn Ratcliffe and all the people who pitch in, we were able to raise some money selling boxes. This provided a few thousand dollars to the group as well as Pelham Cares.

### Colony (Beavers)

Our Beaver colony is made up of 6 beavers, 1 venturer helper, and 2 brand new leaders. We started out in September, meeting with the cubs to familiarize ourselves with the program. We learned the STOP (stop, think, observe, plan) method in case we get lost in the woods, parking lot... and participated in a formal campfire. During October we prepared individual apple crisp, got to know each other better and had a paper airplane challenge. In November we had a meeting on the strength of shapes and built structures with toothpicks and mini marshmallows; we discovered an oval is a very strong shape when we walked on eggs to see if we could, even the leaders didn't break them. We also had a guest speaker come in to talk to us about the history of the poppy and made our own plaster poppy pin to wear. The Beavers have worked on learning basic first aid and have put together their own first aid kit, making bird feeders and identifying birds in our area, played a lot of games, done a few crafts, and upheld our motto of sharing, sharing, sharing; this age group always has a story to share. We are looking forward to more fun filled adventures in 2022 provided COVID allows.

### Pack (Cubs)

In September of 2021, we were able to successfully relaunch the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fonthill Cub Pack with a total of 22 Cubs. Building from our previous year working online, the pack moved outdoors as much as possible. Many of the youth had not experienced an outdoor program before and we wanted to provide them with the best experience possible. This year's focus was on team building, as well as outdoor skills including what to do if lost, building shelters and navigating outdoors. The latest COVID issues have put a temporary halt to in-person meetings.

### Troop (Scouts)

Our numbers are growing again in the Scout section with a dozen youth moving up from Cubs. We had some friends join and a couple new out of the blue. We are up to 5 patrols and the youth are getting an opportunity to try on their leadership and co-operation skills.

In the fall, the Scouts received individual tarp kits and practiced using the knots and hitches they learned, to make individual tarp shelters. The current record for a lean-to design is just under 2 minutes.

The primary focus is to be outdoors and until the weather started to get cold and wet, and dark at 5:00, we met at various places around town, Centennial Park in Fenwick being the main one. Hikes are a mainstay and the youth rate them as one of their favourite activities. We have done permits for knife, fire, stove and lantern and had a number of open fire cooking adventures.

Add to that, learning/reviewing the STOP method in case one gets lost, how to judge heights and distances without regular measuring devices, how to figure out Cardinal directions without a compass or GPS, tree planting with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the local chapter of Trout Unlimited and some great free time in the woods at the North Pelham Hall. It has been a great start to the year despite the COVID menace. If COVID and the rules allow, we are looking forward to more of the same as well as the chance to get into the water in canoes in the spring and summer and learn some paddling skills as well as learn and refresh our first aid and water safety skills. We had to put a couple of service projects (repairing the stairs on the John Nemy trail and invasive plant removal in Lathrop Nature Preserve) on the back burner but hope we can move forward on them in 2022. With luck we will have mulch to sell again this year.

### **Company (Venturers) and Crew (Rovers)**

This year has been a challenge for the older sections, as many of the major landmark moots and other camps have been postponed again this year with the continued gathering restrictions.

This hasn't prevented them from participating in the virtual Scouting options, including the 8 week challenge in the spring of 2021. This included everything from survival cooking an omelet by boiling it in a freezer bag, to cooking eggs on toast in improvised aluminum foil cookware, to building survival shelters, gathering when the rules allowed. They did service projects, maintaining the walkway at North Pelham with a fresh coat of linseed oil, went tree planting on two occasions with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the local chapter of Trout Unlimited. One member has continued to work as a Scouter with the Cubs (when her University schedule allows) and another has stepped up to help with the Beavers. We had two members graduate from EL Crossley. The company/crew have run a number of formal campfires for the younger sections, and had a member move to the East Coast with his family. The joy of modern communications is that they have stayed in touch throughout the year.

Looking to next year:

Snow Moot is Family Day weekend, and if the rules allow, there is lots of interest in camping during the snow at Mount Nemo.

We are in communication with the organizers of other events and have expressed our interest in attending as safety and the rules allow.

The group campfires continue and we look forward to a return to normal Venturing and Rovering in 2022.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kent Ratcliffe, Fonthill Scouting