

FONTHILL UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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 2022*

Grace Kupper	January 16
Betty Dixon	January 30
Carol Cant	February 10
Sybil Freeman	February 10
Louise Stayzer	February 20
Karen McIntee	March 31
Glenn Freeman	May 4
Doreen Smith	May 9
June McCombs	June 17
Mike Bronn	July 25
Patricia Laing	August 30
Stanley West	December 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, 2021</u>	<u>December 31, 2022</u>
Total Membership, Resident & Non-resident	168	158
Non-resident Membership	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>
Resident Membership	159	146
Activity in the year:	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Received by Profession of Faith	0	0
Received by Certificate or otherwise	0	0
Removed by Death	8	10
Removed by Certificate or otherwise	2	0

1.0 Opening:

Sheila Laundry opened in prayer and thanked those who are here every week to get the church ready for Sundays. She then read the "In Memoriam" to remember those of the church family who died in the past year.

2.0 Consent Docket:

Moved by Marian McDonald and seconded by Pat Tooley that Fonthill United Church approve the following:

- 2.1 Accepts the agenda as amended with changes to 4.0 Election of Officers,
- 2.2 Receives the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes as written,
- 2.3 Appoints Gail DeKoning as corresponding secretary,
- 2.4 Approves voting privileges for supporting adherents, and
- 2.5 Accepts all of the written reports as printed except for the Financial Report. **Carried**

3.0 Financial Report:

3.1 Jim Bradley thanked Ron Kretchman for preparing the report and he also thanked the Finance Committee. Jim reported that the 2021 finances are extremely positive and he appreciates the generosity of the congregants. Jim went over the Operating Financial statement with us. He said there was \$5,800 lower in givings due to deaths of donors. Disbursements in 2021 were \$221,168. The deficit was \$15,212 and subsequently \$5,000 was transferred from the Memorial Fund to the Operating Fund; \$10,212.22 was transferred from Enduring Gifts to the Operating Fund.

It was moved by Jim Bradley and seconded by Steve Bronn to adopt the Financial Operating Statement for 2021 as presented. **Carried**

3.2 Jim Bradley presented the 2022 Budget. He is working on the Stewardship letter. He said there is a slight increase in givings and rentals are up because the music teacher is back full time now. Fundraising is still uncertain as to what will happen and government subsidies are down for now but they may still happen again.

Wages and Benefits are budgeted for 3-1/2% increase for 2022, \$3,400 for Outreach, and snow removal will be higher. Denomination support is reduced approximately \$19,000 because of the change to Outreach and M&S transfers. Council approved the changes, but it still needs to be investigated to make sure our cash inflow is sufficient.

Jim Bradley moved and Ralph Watters seconded, to adopt the 2022 Budget with total expenditures of \$228,027. **Carried**

Property:

Jim thanked Rich Miller for projects he has done over the past year. He also thanked all those people who have worked around the church during the year doing flowers, tree trimming, grass cutting. He said the rentals are 60-70% less but there have been inquiries to have a Day Care in the church.

There was a committee formed to look into this but no decision has been made yet. This would bring in \$15,000 to \$16,000 a year in income and could be raised if it goes ahead, but we may have to make changes to the lower hall.

4.0 Election of Officers:

Gail DeKoning presented the following list of nominations for 2022:

4.1 Nominations for Church Council

Jim Bradley (Treasurer)
Nancy Curran (Outreach representative) Amended from M&P representative
Gail DeKoning (Secretary)
Betty Garner (UCW representative)
Sandra Harding (M&P Chair) Amended – Sandra was added to the list
Heather Jesik (Worship Chair)
Sheila Laundry (Council Chair)
Richard Miller
Alvin Penner
Joan Rigg (Pastoral Care representative)
Lyn Taylor (Vice-Chair/Trustee representative)
Pat Tooley (Regional Council Representative)
Pastor Robert Lawson (Minister)

There were no new nominations.

Moved by Keith Rae and seconded by Sharon Middleton to elect those nominated as amended. **Carried**

4.2 Nominations for Committees:

Moved by Marian McDonald and seconded by Bob Laing that the names listed to the various Committees be elected. **Carried**

Ministry & Personnel:

Sandra Harding (Chair) (2008-2018, 2021) Nancy Curran (2019) Alvin Penner (2018)
Carried

Worship & Membership:

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

Pastoral Care:

Marleene Kretchman (Chair)	Joan Rigg	Sheila Laundry
Trudy Pickersgill		

Finance & Property:

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

Outreach:

Janet Hamilton (Chair)	Gail DeKoning	Margot Fraser
Sharron Bradley	Lyn Taylor	Sharon Middleton
Nancy Curran		

(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)

4.0 Election of Officers: (cont'd)

Gail DeKoning presented the following list of nominations for 2022:

4.3 Nominations for Board of Trustees

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

Moved by Rich Miller and seconded by Bob Laing to approve the names listed be elected to the Board of Trustees. **Carried**

4.4 Other Appointments:

Moved by Brian McDonald and seconded by Ralph Laundry that those named be elected as the Fonthill United Church representatives to the following:

Nominations for Regional Council Representatives

Sheila Laundry, Pat Tooley

Nominations for Extension Council Representatives

Jim Bradley, Sheila Laundry

Nominations for Cave Springs Camp Representative

Alvin Penner

Nominations for Town Square Manor Representatives

Alvin Penner	(second year of a second 2-year term)
Janet Hamilton	(first year of a second 2-year term)

Carried

U.C.W. (NOT FOR ELECTION)

Trudy Pickersgill (President)	Dora Drennan (Treasurer)
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Sheila thanked the Nominating Committee:

Sheila Laundry (Chair of Council)

Marian McDonald (Chair of M&P)

Jim Bradley (Chair of Finance & Property)

Marleene Kretchman (Chair of Pastoral Care)

Heather Jesik (Chair of Worship & Membership)

5.0 Strategic Planning Committee:

Lyn Taylor presented her report on Strategic Planning.

6.0 Expressions of Thanks:

Harland Young explained he presents these flowers in memory of his mother, Ruth Young. He said that so many people have helped for years in the church with various things and this is one way to say thank you. He has one dozen carnations and gift certificates from Vermeer's. Pastor Robert will take carnations to Jack & Doreen Smith at Lookout Ridge.

Harland presented Lyn Taylor for being a long serving member and on so many committees. He presented to Brian and Marian McDonald for being so active in the church and the community. Harland also presented to Heather Jesik for her continued work with Worship & Membership.

7.0 Adjournment of Annual Meeting:

George Dewar moved and Jim Bradley seconded that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried**

Pastor Robert Lawson closed in prayer.

Sheila Laundry,
Chair of Council

Gail DeKoning,
Secretary of Council

Church Council Membership 2022

Jim Bradley (Treasurer)	Sheila Laundry (Chair)
Nancy Curran	Richard Miller
Gail DeKoning (Secretary)	Alvin Penner
Betty Garner	Joan Rigg
Janet Hamilton (as of Sept. 20/22)	Lyn Taylor
Sandra Harding	Pat Tooley
Heather Jesik	Rev. Robert Lawson (Minister)

Church Committees 2022

Ministry Committees:

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

Pastoral Care: Marleene Kretchman (Chair until Sept. 2), Sheila Laundry, Joan Rigg, Trudy Pickersgill, Annie Mazmanian

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

Strategic Planning Committee (to May 2022): 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: Sandra Harding (Chair), Gaye Meloche (as of June 29), Alvin Penner, Nancy Curran

Board of Trustees:

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

(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

To be what we are and to become what we are capable of becoming, is life's great purpose.

~Robert Louis Stephenson

Sometimes church work seems slow. Meeting succeeds meeting. We treasure past successes, and wish to repeat them. We realize that conditions have changed. We struggle to adapt and come up with new ideas. Plans slowly come together. It can be a slow, painstaking process.

And yet, when we take stock of what we have achieved here at Fonthill United Church over the past year, the amount of work that we have accomplished as a result of all our meetings and planning sessions is truly astounding.

We have opened and closed our doors for worship and reopened them. We have gotten better at Zooming. We have held a successful peace vigil for Ukraine. We have collected food for Pelham Cares. We have held a giant flea market. We have sponsored an evening of 1960s music in Peace Park. We accepted a new Strategic Plan in May. We have welcomed a Montessori School into our lower hall. We have said goodbye and grieved for members who have passed away. We have walked in person, and met for coffee over Zoom. We have met for Faith Discussions and started a Book Club. We have served dinners to the hungry at Central United in Welland. Our choir came back and filled our church with music again. Our UCW has once again hosted the popular Lessons, Carols & Cookies service. Our church hosted a well-received Good Friday service with Central, Fenwick and Wesley United Churches' participation. We have prayed. We have sung our hearts out, and listened to the choir and Bill sing their hearts out, always to our delight. We have started an Outreach committee. We have visited and comforted each other. We have started to meet to develop a plan for our property. And, we have welcomed some new adherents.

We have been busy!

Emerging from the shadow of COVID and embracing the changed world we now find ourselves living in, has been a challenge. We have had to work hard to keep doing many of the traditional things that we love, but often in slightly different ways. It took us a while, but we now know how to open up those tiny sealed communion cups with the wafer on top! Some things, however, are just simply new.

I know that some of this newness is troubling to people.

Our Strategic Plan has done a magnificent job of articulating who Fonthill United Church is, and will always continue to be. Our Mission Statement emphasizes this. Word and music is central to who we are. Community and learning, mutual support and inclusivity, and compassion for ourselves and others have always been who Fonthill United Church is, and who Fonthill United Church will always be.

And yet, while who we are will not change, Fonthill United is committed to a process of becoming. We also have a vision. We want to be more confident. We seek to understand what it is not to be just inclusive, but accepting of diversity. We want to work more closely with other churches and community groups to make our part of the world a better place.

We live in a time of great anxiety and change. We can give thanks that at Fonthill United Church, some things will never change. We know who we are. But we also know where we are going, and can give thanks that we have a road map and a vision forward.

We have challenges at Fonthill, as many churches do at this time. And yet, together with faith, hope and love, anything is possible. We can be who we always have been, as we become who God is calling us to be.

Your pastor, Robert Lawson

Chair of Council's Report

Christopher White writing in the January/February 2023 issue of Broadview magazine described United Church congregations as experiencing a time of existential crisis in meaning and purpose. In other words, who are we? He goes on to say that people are energized when they have a clear sense of mission and direction.

I believe we do have a clear sense of mission and direction from our Outreach committee and our Strategic Planning Committee. We have a vision for the future and we are actively working to achieve that vision.

We are blessed at Fonthill with a strong working Council. The sustainers, finance, property, ministry and personnel, and worship committee are made up of individuals who know their jobs and do them well. Pastoral Care cares for us as individuals experiencing all of the ups and downs of an aging congregation. This congregation really supports others in their church family.

Outreach and our Strategic Planning Committee help us accomplish our vision of *A confident, vibrant congregation honouring God, encouraging diversity and partnering with our community and others for social justice.*

So what gives us energy in spite of Covid restrictions, snowstorms, sickness, a shrinking congregation, and quite frequently a longing for the church of the past?

Speaking for myself, I have been energized by the people in this church. I have gotten to know and admire many of you on a deeper level and over and over I am struck by your commitment and willingness to give time to the activities that are meaningful to you.

I have also been blessed by my attendance at Church in our beautiful sanctuary. It's not always the sermon, sometimes it's a word, a familiar hymn, the smiling faces of the choir, or a chance conversation with someone I admire.

I have learned a lot in my two years as Chair of Council and I am most grateful for the expertise of our staff, Pastor Robert Lawson, Bill Outred, Patrice Walker and Leslie Hoffman.

I welcome Lyn Taylor as our new Chair of Council. Lyn ably led us through the Strategic Planning Committee. I know our meetings will be well-organized and thought-filled.

I am grateful to the following people who serve our Church Council well; Jim Bradley, Richard Miller, Lyn Taylor, Alvin Penner, Joan Rigg, Nancy Curran, Gail DeKoning, Betty Garner, Pat Tooley, Janet Hamilton, and Heather Jesik. Nancy Curran is leaving Council this year, but I am pleased to report that Diane Rawsthorn will be joining us as Chair of Trustees. At this time, we still need a chair of Pastoral Care. Nominations for committees are welcome.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Laundry, Chair of Council*

Worship and Membership Committee Report

I am so thankful to be working with such a dedicated, resilient committee who is there early on Sunday to make sure the sanctuary is ready for Sunday Service. Glimmering candles, a greeter to welcome you with a bulletin, the sanctuary always dressed appropriately for the season, and the carillon programmed with songs for the season. Memorial daffodils and poinsettias filled the front of the sanctuary for Easter and Christmas.

I am happy to welcome Judith Crysler to our committee. I feel she has already been a “silent” member for a while now. Thank you Judith.

The Worship and Membership Committee, together with Pastor Robert and Bill Outred, provided special services throughout the year. We were able to host the Good Friday Service at our church, welcoming 3 other churches with each Minister having a part in it. We also enjoyed the talents of Cathy Sturt and Bruce Morrith at this service. The Christmas season was met with some Covid challenges, however we were able to “pivot.” The traditional Christmas Cantata was cancelled, however with Bill’s hard work and creativity, we were able to have a Mini Cantata with Bruce Morrith as our musical guest. We were also very fortunate to host a combined choir Christmas Carol Sing at our church with the 3 churches joining us again. The Lessons, Carols & Cookies service returned this year as well, with Carol Glanfield providing beautiful accompaniment on the piano. On behalf of this Committee, we would like to thank Bill for all his hard work, dedication and talent in making each special service happen!!

We are a generous congregation. We have given back to our own community by having Food Drives throughout the year and a Toy Fundraiser at Christmas, all for Pelham Cares.

The individual Communion Sets will continue to be used indefinitely for Communion Services. Coffee time was started up in October but, sadly, was soon stopped due to the challenges of COVID. We will continue to monitor the situation in hopes of starting it up again.

A new Photo Directory is being produced. This was a big project entailing updating our Church Directory, taking individual and family photos, including photos of the church throughout the year. By now everyone should have received their photos. I suspect we should have a new Church Directory book by March.

As members of the Worship and Membership Committee, we have enjoyed decorating for each season with Virginia Haun, knowing how much the congregation appreciates it, as well as finding appropriate hymns to play on the carillon for each season.

Working together with all the committees, we strived to keep our congregation safe and our church opened. I would like to thank the congregation for their support and understanding.

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

Outreach Committee Report

Our Committee members in 2022: Janet Hamilton-Chair, Lyn Taylor-secretary, Gail DeKoning-liaison to Huntington Society, Margot Fraser, Nancy Curran, Sharon Middleton-liaison to Nightlight, Sharron Bradley, and Robert Lawson-ex-officio.

The Outreach Committee meets once a month to update the progress of programs in place and to discuss new ideas.

During the year our Church met many challenges and as a result, changes are taking place to meet the needs of our congregation and the community.

The Strategic Planning Committee has set out goals and a roadmap for how we wish to move forward. All the committees are trying to work on the goals set out and consider the objectives we are looking for.

This Committee is working hard to:

1. **Promote and foster a diverse and inclusive church culture.**
2. **Strengthen our community ties so that we can proactively meet and address community issues and needs.**
3. **Drive progress toward environmental sustainability and social justice.**

In the last year we have provided four harvest dinners at Central United Church in Welland. This was a program that had lapsed and we have re-committed to it. We are providing an average of 80 meals a month. Thank you to Richard Miller, Gail DeKoning, and Dick Hamilton for their monthly support.

Throughout the year we have contributed to the youth program provided by Nightlight Youth Services: 25 back-packs were given to young new arrivals in need of guidance, education and a home. We provided 4 welcome gift bags to Nightlight persons who have been able to progress to independent living. We also supplied gloves, socks, etc. as contributed by the congregation.

We were able to support The Huntington Society's Amaryllis campaign. The proceeds from the sales make it possible to fund research, accelerate clinical trials and support families and youth.

We have established a liaison with mental health educators and are working to bring speakers to our area to provide an understanding of the mental health problems and where help is available. We have also invited the other United Churches in the area to join us in this endeavour.

In the Narthex there are petitions with regards to different issues. These issues may be toward environmental sustainability or a social injustice.

Our Worship and Membership Committee has worked tirelessly to contribute to Pelham Cares. This outreach touches us all.

Nancy Curran has left our committee and we will deeply miss her input and her personally.

I am honoured to be the Chair of this committee and am very proud of the work and programs we have established. The opportunity to work with our church family and contribute to our community through the Church is extremely rewarding.

New committee members are always welcome. We need you!!

*Respectfully submitted,
Janet Hamilton, Chair of Outreach Committee*

Pastoral Care Committee Report

This has been another challenging year for pastoral care. Our chair, Marleene Kretchman has resigned, and we have yet to find a new chairperson. The committee and the congregation were very grateful for Marleene and the excellent work she did in guiding our group. We have had a few meetings with Pastor Robert and individual members have kept in touch with those who needed support in times of illness or bereavement. We are actively searching for a way to support this important committee of Council and welcome members who are willing to be trained in pastoral care.

Submitted by Sheila Laundry, on behalf of Marleene Kretchman, Joan Rigg, Trudy Pickersgill

Friendship Group Report

Due to the pandemic and shut-downs, the Friendship Group didn't schedule any events in 2022 but look forward to doing things in 2023. It was also a year when we lost our long time secretary, Pat Laing at the end of August. She will be missed by all but especially by me as I write this for her.

I have faith that the year 2023 will be an improvement on 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Laing

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee Members include: Nancy Curran, Gaye Meloche, Alvin Penner and Sandra Harding (Chair).

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

The M&P Committee meets in person on a regular basis. Areas of discussion include daily operations, emerging issues, job descriptions, as well as annual goals for the upcoming year. Several members have also taken additional training to assist in the roles and responsibilities of the committee.

Throughout 2022, Pastor Lawson along with Bill Outred, Music Director, continued to work diligently to provide meaningful church services offered in person and, at the same time, through Zoom. Patrice Walker, Administrator, continued to provide support for both as well as complete the many tasks and duties required by the church. Leslie Hoffman ensured that our church was clean and sparkling. Katelyn Jesik made sure Zoom services ran smoothly in the earlier part of the year while Aiden Stock picked up the baton in the latter part of the year and continues to attend to this task every Sunday. Many thanks are extended to these people, those who cover during vacation time and other absences of our Pastor and staff, as well as our many member volunteers who keep the church running each and every day.

For the 2023 year, we look forward to another successful year.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Sandra Harding, Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee*

Board of Trustees Report

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

Early in 2022, Bob Laing resigned from his position as chair of the Board of Trustees after 25 years of dedicated leadership. Bob was honoured by an appreciative congregation at a church service in the fall. He remains on the board and we are grateful for his continued involvement in our work.

Renewing the insurance on the church was the major focus of the Trustees. Insurance rates have risen dramatically in recent years, as much as 29%. The Trustees committed to securing quotes from other insurance companies to compare premiums, coverage, terms, conditions and deductibles. We are deeply appreciative for the efforts of Keith Rae who took the lead in pursuing this work. Our broker requested quotes from four insurance companies. We are learning that there are few companies interested in insuring older churches these days.

We have renewed once again with Ecclesiastical at \$9800 plus tax, an increase from \$9789 in 2021. This followed an informative meeting with our broker, Tyler Hartin.

The United Church of Canada is launching a self insurance program aimed at a significant reduction of insurance costs for congregations. The program began implementation on December 1, 2022. General Council 44 approved the proposal which is aimed at saving United churches over \$1.5 million per year.

The Trustees will be seeking more information about this initiative and exploring its feasibility for us prior to the insurance renewal in June 2023.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Diane Rawsthorn, Chair*

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 2022, Alvin Penner completed the second year of a second two-year term as a Board member, and Janet Hamilton completed the first year of a second 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.

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

Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (HFRC) began to experience a slow return to normal in 2022 as we continued to hold some meetings online while greeting each other in person at others. The biggest event was the seven months long GC44 meeting held online that was normally held over seven days in person. General feedback seems to be that there are advantages and disadvantages to both.

The Executive and three commissions, Covenanting, Resources and Mission & Discipleship, conducted their regular meetings and the Minutes of each can be found on the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council website. In addition to the monthly Executive meetings, two regional meetings were held, one each in May and October. Highlights of these meetings included the use of the word “mission” in the church as it relates to our Indigenous brothers and sisters. This will be an ongoing discussion in our region. Reports of the work of the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) and a Stewardship Report were also presented.

HFRC continues to offer many workshops such as Deficit Dilemma, Ministry & Personnel, as well as numerous Right Relations Events. If I were to list all of the seminars, workshops and reports I may not be finished by the date of this meeting. The staff of the Regional Council work diligently to keep their website information current and along with the United Church YouTube channel, provide in-depth reports of meetings. For almost any question one may have, a trip to the HFRC website provides a wealth of information. I recommend looking at the heading “Toolkits” particularly for the Covenanting and Human Resources Commissions.

Prepared by: Pat Tooley, on behalf of your representatives, Sheila Laundry and Pat Tooley

Choir Report

Another year of uncertainty has passed, Covid continued to interfere. A few services at the beginning of 2022 were cancelled, except for online. Bill and Robert kept things going.

Bill is a Master at singing and playing the piano and organ. Sometimes we wore masks in church, making singing difficult.

We are thankful for Rhonda Baker playing her trumpet for Remembrance Day, also for Cathy Stuart filling in for Bill for the month of August to give Bill a well deserved break. Carol Glanfield played piano for Lessons, Carols & Cookies along with Bill.

We did not have our usual Christmas Cantata because so many choir members were sick or away; we sang three songs and Bruce Morrith accompanied with his cello.

We are very thankful for our talented Bill who leads and entertains us every Thursday at choir practice.

Submitted by Judy Gaudier, Choir President

Choir Financial Statement

Fund Balance at January 1, 2022:		\$1,834.29
Donations received:	250.00	
Disbursements (flowers):	<u>36.36</u>	
Fund Balance at December 31, 2022:		<u>\$2,047.93</u>

Strategic Planning Committee

Participants: Jim Bradley, Ken Brydon, Janet Hamilton, Ron Kretchman, Marian McDonald, Keith Rae, Richard Miller, Ralph Watters, Harland Young, Sheila Laundry, Diane Rawsthorn, Pastor Robert Lawson and Lyn Taylor.

The Strategic Planning Committee completed their work and presented a three-year plan to the congregation on May 10, 2022. This was an arduous task that took many months to complete.

It is important to remember that this is a living document, and not just a one and done exercise. The real work and effort to breathe life into the plan has begun. The Council and various Committees are working toward achieving our goals and as you can see from the various reports, we have already made some progress. It is also worth noting that as we work the plan, there will be adjustments and amendments to the goals but not to our mission, values, vision, priorities, and strategic objectives.

The following is a summary of our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan:

Our Mission which can also be called our purpose or reason for being:

“Words inspire us. Music uplifts us. United in God’s love, we strive to be an inclusive community, learning together and supporting others with compassion.”

Our Values are what is important to us and how we work together:

“Learning, Diversity, Service, Caring, Generosity, Inspiration, Community.”

Our Vision which states what we want to be/look like in 3 years’ time:

“A confident, vibrant community, honouring God, encouraging diversity, and partnering with our community and others for social justice.”

Our Five Key Priorities are where we want our focus to be:

“Building Confidence, Diversity, Partnering with others, Social Justice issues and Community involvement.”

Our Strategic Goals are what we want to strive to achieve over the next three years. By focusing our efforts on these goals, we believe we will advance our Mission and realize our Vision. These are only the broad goals, and the Council and each Committee are building and working on more specific tasks to help us reach the broader goals.:

1. Achieve long term Financial Stability within 3-5 years.
2. To promote and foster a diverse and inclusive church culture.
3. Strengthen our community ties so that we can proactively meet, and address community issues and needs.
4. Drive progress toward environmental sustainability and social justice.
5. To realize the potential of our church property to meet the long-term needs of our congregation and in the community.

It will take our collective efforts and commitment to achieve our plan. “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead

Together with God’s help we can make this happen.

Lyn Taylor, on behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee

United Church Women's Report

In March 2022 the UCW resumed their meetings and the room was abuzz with conversation. Yes, we wore masks and sat six feet apart as we followed the COVID-19 recommendations. The UCW ladies were so happy to be together again.

For the next six months the programs we had were: A speaker from Wellspring Centre, our annual auction, Wellness and Nutrition, a tour of Cave Springs Camp, planning for the Christmas Lessons, Carols & Cookies service, and planning for December's Christmas UCW luncheon at the home of Janet Hamilton.

The Lessons, Carols & Cookies service at the church was difficult to plan for as it had been suspended for two years due to COVID-19. We could only guess how many from our community would attend, but with support from our wonderful choir and organist, there were over 60 in attendance. It was a wonderful way to start off the Christmas Season for our church and community.

The UCW members look forward to another spiritual, educational and social year as Fonthill United Church hosts the World Day of Prayer service on March 3, 2023.

Submitted by Trudy Pickersgill, UCW President

United Church Women - Treasurer's Report 2022

Balance at January 1, 2022: 2,817.34

Receipts:

Offerings for 2022	1,214.38
Flea Market	4,226.35
Bake Sale	170.00
Lessons, Carols & Cookies	260.00
Auction	100.00
Total:	<u>5,970.73</u>
	8,788.07

Disbursements:

Mission & Outreach *	2,660.00
Church - from Flea Market	4,226.00
Conference Assessment	66.00
Lessons, Carols & Cookies expenses (2021)	109.88
Lessons, Carols & Cookies expenses (2022)	200.00
Coinage Fee	7.26
	<u>7,269.14</u>
Balance at December 31, 2022:	<u><u>1,518.93</u></u>

* Mission & Outreach disbursements:

Wellspring Niagara	100.00
HOPE Centre	1,200.00
Pathstone Foundation	400.00
Cave Springs Camp	200.00
World Vision (from L, C & Cookies)	260.00
World Development & Relief Fund	500.00
	<u>2,660.00</u>

Respectfully submitted by Dora Drennan, Treasurer

Cave Springs Camp Report

Greetings from all of us who love Cave Springs Camp and its enduring ministry. We welcomed children back to summer camp for 2022. We offered both day camp and overnight camp with a resultant waiting list for day camp. We thank Tim Watson, Program Director for his leadership. We also had school rentals with over 2000 students, exceeding our plans for May and June.

Our staff is busy planning for 2023, with many church, youth, and community groups renting our year round building. I want to commend Ryan Anderson, who became our property manager with the retirement of Jim Dohn after many years of dedicated service. Krystyn Keir is our Executive Director. If you want to hold an event at camp, please contact Krystyn Keir at 289 501-3743 or venues@cavespringscentre.ca.

There are several ways your congregation can support Cave Springs Camp:

- You can sponsor campers up to age 15, for a week at camp. There is a bursary fund.
- You can encourage youth 15 and older to apply as counsellors for a summer of teamwork, fun and growth. We also offer the Servant Leadership Program for a small number of 15 year old leaders who might be counsellors next year.
- Your congregation can name two members to our Corporation. Our Corporation AGM is in April along with 1-2 other corporation meetings to share news and generate excitement. The corporation elects up to 20 volunteer board members who meet all through the year.
- You could apply to be a board member or you could also choose to serve on a committee without being a board member.
- You may book a family or community event, any month except July and August.
- You could help us build a new Water Management and maintenance building. We can arrange monthly donations from your bank account or credit card. Many people donating \$20 monthly can make a big difference.
- You could arrange monthly donations by emailing donations@cavespringscamp.on.ca.

If you would like to have a Camping Sunday with leadership from the camp, please contact us. We would also be willing to speak to your groups or board to share the news and needs of the camp.

We ask that, if at all possible, you set something aside in your personal budget for Cave Springs and in your congregation's donations. In this time of growth for CSC, our financial needs are great. We thank you for your support, as Camp cannot happen without you.

Soon, the joyful sound of youthful voices will again resound at our camp as your youth learn and grow in this beautiful natural setting.

*Your servant,
David Duffus, President of the Board*



Finance Committee Report

Detailed statements for all accounts are included at the end of the annual report.

It is safe to say operations did return to a new normal during 2022 however there is no question we continue to experience the longer term effects of Covid with the uncertainty which continues in many areas. We feel however some progress is being made and with the continued leadership of Robert, Bill and Patrice, challenges which arrive will be addressed. We continue to be blessed with a very generous membership which is extremely helpful as we chart the path forward.

For fiscal 2022, we incurred a shortfall in the Operating Fund of \$38,400.08 which was slightly less than the projected \$38,652. A deficit of \$15,212 was incurred in 2021. It should be noted that in 2021, we did receive a total of \$11,867 under a government wage subsidy program, not available in 2022. The operating deficit is being covered by the following transfers:

- \$ 9,399.62 – from undesignated funds in the Memoriam Fund.
- \$29,000.46 – from the Enduring Gifts Fund.

Some specific financial highlights over 2022 include:

- Member givings declined by \$6,155. It should be noted, while a decline, increases in givings from existing members actually helped reduce the givings we lost from members who passed away or left the church due to relocations, etc.
- Total revenue for the Operating Fund amounted to \$197,804, an increase of \$6,286 over 2021 after allowing for year-end adjustments and government grants last year. Please note the increase in rental income.
- A total of \$ 9,060 was received in memorial donations.
- Outreach expenditures from the Operating Fund amounted to \$9,795 of which \$3,400 was spent locally and \$6,395 was sent to General Council for Mission & Service. The total M&S remittance was down from \$16,000 in 2021 by design. In this regard our focus moving forward is to focus more on local projects and this will occur again in 2023.
- Property Expenses increased from \$41,988 in 2021 to \$60,168. For full details of the individual variances please refer to the Property Committee Report.
- Total expenses amounted to \$236,204 vs \$221,168 in 2021. We consider \$4,220 of this increase as one-time costs and another \$9,000 covers higher year over year costs as we were back in the building full time.
- There is a balance of \$2,678 in the Building Fund which will be used to cover capital costs this year.

Following the transfer of \$29,000.46 to the Operating Fund, total reserves reduced to \$236,040. These funds are all invested in term deposits with varying maturity dates. \$135,650 mature in 2023 and we are confident higher rates will be obtained on renewal. It is also understood we will have to reduce the amount further during the year to ensure adequate cash is available to cover costs.

There is no question with the shortfall in 2022 of \$29,000 plus projected shortfall in 2023 of \$55,032, total \$84,032, some changes are needed. During its review last spring, the Strategic Planning Committee discussed some options to increase revenue/reduce expenses and we are/will be exploring these as we move forward. One such move was to rent to the Montessori School and as you will note, the higher rental income goes a long way to offset lower member givings.

In many areas we are back to pre-Covid routines but the fact is there are still several unknowns and challenges to be considered when completing the budget for 2023. Unfortunately, when all is said and done, we are looking at a budget which includes total expenditures of \$245,607 and an operating shortfall of \$55,032.

Some highlights include:

- Member givings projected at \$145,000 vs an actual of \$162,938 in 2022. Based on the response to the stewardship letter, our projection may be conservative but at the same time we are obligated, in the budgeting process, to recognize some relative statistical data.
- Rental income is projected at \$24,500, an increase of \$11,245 over 2022 actuals. Based on some recent enquiries, this could increase as well.
- Salaries and benefits at \$154,939 are up \$11,194 over 2022. The bulk of this is due to:
 - A) 3.4% salary increase recommended by General Council.
 - B) Based on market surveys completed by General Council, the cost of living group level for Fonthill was elevated and to recognize this fact, salaries have to be adjusted in July.
- Other expenses are based on past costs plus known increases.

We continue to review all revenue and expenses and will keep you informed of any major changes or plans which could impact our overall position. As always, we are open to any ideas which can increase revenue or cut expenses.

Again this year, my role as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Property Committee has been eased by the tremendous support we receive from all members of the committee including Keith Rae, Rich Miller, Ken Brydon, Ron Kretchman and Ralph Watters. Patrice complements this committee by maintaining detailed records and generates timely and accurate reports which assist in the decision making process. To each of you, my sincere THANKS.

Finally, to all members of Fonthill United, THANK YOU for your continuing generosity and commitment to our Church.

*Jim Bradley,
Chair of Finance and Property*

Property Committee Report

During 2022, activities in the building pretty much returned to pre-Covid levels with the resumption of church services, on-site committee meetings, return of existing tenants, etc. We also welcomed the Montessori School in the lower hall on a five day a week basis. While there were a few “hiccups” at the outset, we feel the transition and acceptance of change to some of our traditional processes has gone well. There is no doubt the additional revenue generated from the school outweighs the minor changes we have had to consider.

You will note from the finance report, property operating costs amounted to \$60,168, an increase of \$18,180 from 2021 and \$10,818 over budget.

Some year over year increases are as follows:

- Custodial Services - \$6,521 – The building was closed for a good part of 2021 which reduced cleaning costs. Current housekeeping time allocations are roughly 90% of pre-Covid levels after adjusting for the additional time required for the Montessori School. These were considered when determining the monthly rental fee.
- General Maintenance - \$5,615 – A portion of this increase is due to the higher usage of the building. In addition we did incur some one-time costs as follows:
 - \$ 1,300 – expansion of WiFi services throughout the building.
 - \$ 400 – new phones for the Minister’s office and kitchen.
 - \$ 520 – asbestos and electrical testing by Paul Davis in the quiet room.
 - \$ 570 – roof repairs.

- \$1,000 – tree removal at the front of the church.
- \$ 600 – quiet room repairs from previous roof leaks.
- \$ 700 – new lightbulbs for gym area.
- \$ 600 – annual supply of ice melt for sidewalks.
- Snow removal - \$1,989 – For the past few years we have seen an increase of 10% or more in our snow removal costs due to higher costs for fuel and salt. You will recall we had several major storms in the spring of 2022 which impacted our costs. As an FYI, and with new pricing this year, snow removal costs in December 2022, for the storm in early December and at Christmas, amounted to \$680.
- Utilities - \$2,612 – While there were some slight rate increases, the year over year increase is due to the higher usage of the property.

Last June, we entered a lease agreement with the Pelham Garden Club wherein they will hold approximately 7 meetings a year in the church. As part of the arrangement they will look after all flowers beds. The initial work undertaken by them has enhanced the appearance of the property.

We continue to receive a variety of rental requests, all of which are reviewed in detail to ensure they are a good fit.

While we feel the building is in good condition, some repairs are costly as the existing systems are older and in many cases obsolete which makes it hard to get new parts.

As a part of the Strategic Planning Process undertaken in 2022, it was agreed a detailed examination of our property should occur and a committee has been created to complete this review. All findings will be communicated in due course.

A special Thanks to Rich Miller who still acts as our “handyman,” and over the year completed many repairs and small jobs. His work alone in 2022 saved us several thousand dollars.

Thanks also to those who volunteer around the property as the need arises. Your participation and support is very much appreciated.

Jim Bradley,
Chair of Finance and Property