

2024

Waverley Pastoral Charge Annual Report

At St. John's United Church

March 2nd 12:00pm

www.sjucfr.ca

**Proposed Agenda, Annual General Meeting
Waverley Pastoral Charge
March 2, 2025**

1. Opening the meeting
2. Election of officers for this meeting
3. Extension of voting privileges to adherents
4. Adoption of agenda
5. Waverley Pastoral Charge, meeting minutes and reports, 2024
6. St. John's United Church, meeting minutes and reports, 2024
7. Wellington United Church, meeting minutes and reports, 2024
8. Task groups and teams: Updates from Team to Implement Amalgamation,
Community of Faith Profile Team, Beacon House
9. Nominations
10. Proposed Budget
11. Closing the meeting

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Milestone Reports

Wellington United Church Milestones

Baptisms

No recordings for 2024

Confirmations

No recordings for 2024

Marriages

No recordings for 2024

Burial

No recordings for 2024

Membership Changes

Jennifer Ardley – Removed at their request
John Ardley – Removed at their request
Ruth Ardley – Removed at their request
Crystal Butler – Removed at their request
Faye Coulstring – Removed at their request
Tabitha Cox – Removed at their request
Donna Huestis – Removed at their request
Sherry Rockwell – Removed at their request
Tracey Wilson – Removed at their request

Membership transfers as a result of the amalgamation with St. John's United Church will be recorded in the 2025 Annual Report.

St. John's United Church Milestones

Baptisms

Sophie Cameron
Connor Hagar
Evalyn Murphy
Liam Murphy
Logan Murphy
Madelyn Moore
Kaeley Simpson

Confirmations

Aidan James Buchanan
Sophie Cameron
Connor Hagar
Emily Harnish
Natasha Harnish
Logan Murphy
Cameron Parks

Marriages

No recordings for 2024

Burial

Holly Campbell
Mark Dodge
Nelson Miller
Julia (Parnell) Milligan

Membership Changes

Diane Arseneault – Transferred to Parkdale United Church,
Calgary, AB

WPC Annual Meeting Minutes – 2024

Monday, March 18th at 7 pm on Zoom

Attendance:

Lois Miller, Iain Macdonald, Sherry Rockwell, Joyce Patriquin Jr., Shelley Richard, Wendall Brown, Sheila Keizer, Heidi Carr, Dawn Myer, Marie McCulloch, Jen Mallette, Carl Yates, Linda Yates, Fisher McKay, Jenny Eisener, Sandy Kane, Anna Taylor, Susan Cobanli, Kris Legere, Matt Legere, Louise Loughhead, Sandra Carr, Tanya Matthews, Sally Shaw and Janice Mitchell.

Regrets:

John Ardley, Jennifer Ardley, Elaine Gray, Gail Place and Joe Sharpe.

Chair: Linda Yates

Minute Taker: Jenny Eisener

1. Opening Prayer and Constitution of meeting opening at 7:12pm by Sally.
Sally led the meeting in prayer. .

2. Election of Officers (meeting chair, Linda, and secretary, Jenny)
Moved by: Tanya Rafter, Seconded by: Jennifer Mallette. Motion carried.

3. Extension of Voting Privileges to Adherents
Moved by: Carl Yates Seconded by: Kris Legere Motion carried.

4. Adoption of Agenda – Dawn Myer added the commitment of M&S to the bottom on the agenda.
Moved by: Iain MacDonald Seconded by: Heidi Carr Motion carried.

5. Review and Approval of Minutes from March 1, 2023 Annual Meeting of the Pastoral Charge (p 6-9 of the Annual Report)
Moved by: Sandy Kane Seconded by: Janice Mitchell Motion carried.

6. Acceptance of 2023 Annual Reports (Minister, Official Board, Ministry and Personnel, Funeral Ministry, Central Treasurer, Regional Representative)
Moved by: Heidi Carr Seconded by: Tanya Matthews Motion carried.
Tanya Matthews noted they are looking for more members for M&P.
Wendall Brown spoke about regional representation -they just getting going with the new governance outline. He would like to step down and pass along this role. Wendall also suggested that a rep from Wellington be added the Beacon House committee.

7. M & P Report- plans for Rev Sally's sabbatical (Apr 8 - July 7, 2024) Tanya referenced draft document of the sabbatical plan and coverage.
Moved acceptance by: Dawn Myer Seconded by: Sandy Kane Motion carried.

8. Acceptance of Pastoral Charge Financial Statements and 2024 Budget (p 16-17) - noted changes because of employment change. Changes on photocopying, more coloured paper rather than coloured copy. Lois Miller noted that Wellington UC didn't pass a budget. They passed a list of expenditures. Only passed \$768 less than what is listed. Dawn Myer indicated this couldn't be corrected because the meeting happened after it was already printed. Adjustments will be made as the year goes on. It is an estimate.

Acceptance of 2023 actual income statement and balance sheet
Moved by: Carl Yates Seconded by: Heidi Carr Motion carried

Proposed budget for 2024
Moved by: Matt Legere Seconded by: Carl Yates Motion carried.

9. Joint Summer Worship
(Proposed: June 30 – July 28 at Wellington, 9:30 am, Wellington hosting
Aug 4 – 25 at Wellington, 9:30 am, SJUC hosting Sept 1 at SJUC, 11 am, SJUC hosting)
Discussion: to change that September long weekend to Wellington at 9:30pm. Amended to be at Wellington at 9:30am.
Moved by: Tanya Rafter Seconded by: Sandy Kane Motion carried.
Opposed: Fisher McKay. Abstentions: Anna Taylor and Louise Loughhead

10. New Business – addition of M&S. Dawn Myer: A number is needed from Wellington to add to the M&S number. Sally Shaw stated there is not a goal of M&S from the Wellington church. We have a St. John's goal and will discuss a Wellington goal at a future meeting. Wellington has a goal of \$3100 which will be added.

11. Nominations – need Chair, Secretary, M&P member/chair, Representative to Region. Lois Miller volunteered to be chair of the Waverley pastoral charge Official Board

Moved by: Jennifer Mallette Seconded by: Janice Mitchell Motion carried.

12. Acknowledgements – thank you to Linda and Jenny

13. Power to the Executive

Moved by: Carl Yates Seconded by: Jennifer Mallette Motion carried.

14. Adjournment – 8:27pm

Motion by: Sandy Kane

Amalgamation Summary and Timeline

Submitted by: Lois Miller

Background

2023: Wellington United Church (WUC) conducts an Every Household Visitation/Contact, reaching 47 of 54 households (87%) in the church directory. People report they are very pleased with WUC, especially the warm and friendly congregation and the music. Improving the building's accessibility heads the list of suggested changes. The visitation shows there is little room for growth within the existing church community.

February 25, 2024: WUC Annual General Meeting. The congregation discusses its future, and sets up a Visioning Team, later re-named the Future Directions Team: Lois Miller, Cindy Patriquin, Joyce L. Patriquin, Vera Mills and Bob Mills. The Team is authorized to present possible opportunities to the congregation after exploring three options: address concerns of the congregation and move forward, merge with St. John's United Church (SJUC), and share or rent other facilities. In conducting its research, the team holds three meetings, including one meeting with Sandra Blair and Gail Place, representatives from SJUC.

May 26, 2024: WUC Congregation Meeting. The congregation receives the report of the Future Directions Team. In groups, meeting participants discuss each option and report back to the meeting. Using the "dot-mocracy" process, participants show a clear preference for Option 2: closing the church and merging with SJUC. The congregation authorizes the Future Directions Team to explore this option further and to ask SJUC to be part of a Joint Futuring Team to create a report to be delivered in September, 2024.

Summer, 2024

Both the Wellington Session and SJUC Council appoint members to the Joint Futuring Team, later to be renamed the Joint Amalgamation Team. Members from Wellington are Lois Miller, Tanya Matthews, Cindy Patriquin and Joyce L. Patriquin; and from St. John's, Dawn Myer, Carl Yates and Sheila Keizer. Lois and Dawn are co-chairs. Rev. Linda Yates provides support to the team during Rev. Sally Shaw's sabbatical leave, April to July. The team drafts an Amalgamation Plan and prepares for congregational meetings and special worship services. The Joint Trustees prepare for the eventual sale of the Wellington property.

September 22, 2024: Each congregation holds an information meeting to review and ask questions about the draft Amalgamation Plan. At Wellington on this evening there is an orientation session about Affirming Congregations as SJUC is in the process of becoming an Affirming Congregation.

October 6, 2024: separate congregational meetings at both churches with a representative of Bermuda-NS Region, United Church of Canada in attendance. Both congregations approve the Amalgamation Plan. The plan includes the closing and sale of WUC. Wherever possible, mementos and elements of worship from WUC will be moved to SJUC. The Chapel at SJUC will be renamed the Wellington Chapel. The Amalgamation Plan is submitted to Bermuda-NS Region for approval.

October 20, 2024: Service of Closure and Celebration of the Legacy of WUC with guest preacher Rev. Matthew Fillier.

October 22, 2024: Official Board formally thanks and disbands the Amalgamation Team and sets up an Implementation Team; that team's members are Carl Yates, Dawn Myer, Lois Miller, Joyce L. Patriquin, Rev. Sally Shaw.

October 27, 2024: First joint service of the amalgamated congregation at SJUC with guest preacher Rev. Valerie Kingsbury. Some elements of worship from Wellington are carried into the sanctuary at St. John's.

Minister's Report

Once when I was a child, our neighbour cut back her 7-foot high hedge. It was very full, and very healthy. When she was done cutting, it was just two feet of bare branches sticking out of the ground. I thought that it was a goner. But it wasn't long before it was a beautiful, lush hedge again. It was not the same hedge, but equally wonderful (and a lot easier to see over when backing a car out of our drive!)

The pandemic was like that for churches, cutting them right back almost to the roots. And that was true for our pastoral charge too. By the end of 2024, our two churches have been amalgamated into one and the Wellington church building has been put up for sale. But at the end of 2024, we also see some amazing new growth. The choir has grown so much they had to add chairs to the chapel for choir practice! And their ministry of music is so powerful. Their anthems regularly give me goosebumps! And isn't it amazing to have the children's choir back, thanks to Sandra and John Blair?! Fewer and fewer churches have any children in their midst these days, and even fewer have

youth groups. We have both! We don't take either for granted. 27 children and youth participated in the Christmas pageant this December! Every child and youth (and their families) is so precious and wonderful to have in our midst. Let's keep welcoming and making room for them.

On a personal note, this year was filled with many meaningful moments, including offering Confirmation classes and celebrating Easter with the baptism and confirmation of 7 youth; participating in Affirm Lunch and Learns, and celebrating St. John's becoming an Affirming congregation. I enjoyed visiting members of our church in home and hospital; learning together in the Gospel of John study group with Rev Rob; meeting with the UCW and enjoying both the Chowder Luncheon and Turkey a la King Luncheon and Bazaar.

From April to July, I received an incredible blessing in the form of a Sabbatical. That time was rich with learning, resting, visiting Ontario family, and spiritual nurture at Seton Spirituality Centre in Terrance Bay and Sequoia National Park in California. Thank you to the pastoral charge, Rev Linda Yates, Rev Jenny Eisener, Rev Iain Macdonald, Grant Kerr, and the area ministers who stood "on call" for that immense gift.

When I returned from Sabbatical, Wellington United had already made the difficult decision to close in October and request amalgamation talks with SJUC. And just like that we were on a whole new adventure! In October we voted to amalgamate, we celebrated a very poignant and very meaningful service of appreciation for the legacy of Wellington United and the decommissioning of the church building. The following week we held a special service to celebrate the coming together of our two congregations into one. Please see my Session report for more about Wellington's remarkable journey through 2024.

In November, we introduced the Green Team, our newest Ministry Team, which has vital work before it. Ecological care and healing is one of the most pressing issues of our time. December highlights for me were planning and hosting Walk Through Bethlehem with Michelle Scheerer and Amy Murphy; taking a trip around the world in our Advent worship services; introducing cherished Wellington Christmas decorations and traditions; and of course, welcoming the Baby Jesus at our truly special Christmas Eve services, despite some inhospitable weather.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. I haven't yet mentioned our congregations' generous support of the Christmas Families Project, Beacon House and Beacon House Shelter, and KOGA's monthly practice of doing service projects that range from baking cookies for Out of the Cold to hosting a Seniors' Epiphany Café!

My time with you as your minister will come to an end January 31, 2025. As you know, I am taking early retirement so that I will be able to travel to Ontario more often to support my aging mother. Although I hesitated to introduce more change into the life of our church, I know that it is the right time for the congregation to discern and plan the future ministry staff configuration for our newly amalgamated congregation. I leave you with a heart filled with affection, sadness, anticipation, but mostly gratitude, for the time we have spent together. Warm thanks to all the staff and lay volunteers who have co-laboured with me, laughed with me, inspired me, and befriended me these past six and a half years. I remain immensely grateful for the entire staff team, for the

active involvement of lay leaders on committees and behind the scenes, and the congregation's commitment to creating community, following Christ, and serving the world. I wish you the very best in the years ahead! God's plans and love for you will continue to flow in wonderful ways. The old children's song is true. "The church is not a building, the church is a people." You are the church, we are the church together! Thank you for all the time and hard work and resources and commitment that you dedicate to your church. We recognize that it isn't always easy. But it **is** beautiful and rewarding to be part of God's good work in the world and part of something larger than ourselves. Thank you! You are much appreciated!

Like my childhood next-door neighbour's hedge, our new amalgamated congregation won't be the same as before the pandemic. Is there more we could do as a church? Always. It is important to keep on listening to the needs of the community and discerning where Jesus is calling us next to be his hands and feet in our world. But although it will be different, our church will be vibrant and wonderful, nonetheless. How do I know this? Because our church is strengthened by the tenacious root of Jesus Christ, is nourished by the Holy Spirit who shows up in the most unexpected ways and places, and is guided by our Gracious God who never, ever leaves us or forsakes us. Thanks be to God!

Wishing God's richest blessings on the future life, mission and ministry of SJUC,
Rev Sally

Official Board

As chair of the Official Board of Waverley Pastoral Charge in 2024, I present this final report from the Board.

Until December 31, 2024, Official Board was the governing body of the Waverley Pastoral Charge with its two congregations: Wellington United Church (WUC) and St. John's United Church (SJUC) in Fall River. The Board was responsible for overseeing the pastoral charge's shared worship life, personnel, finances and educational opportunities.

During the past year, two issues have featured prominently in the work of the Board: amalgamation of the two congregations in the pastoral charge and the retirement of our minister, Rev. Dr. Sally Shaw.

The Board met in person on October 22 and December 17, 2024. At the October 22 meeting, the Board received reports on the approval of the Amalgamation Plan by both congregations; authorized the Joint Trustees of the pastoral charge to prepare to sell the Wellington property; disbanded the Amalgamation Team with thanks; and set up a second team to implement the Amalgamation Plan. The executive summary of the Amalgamation Plan and the Amalgamation Timeline are included in this Annual Report.

At its December 17 meeting, the Board appointed Rev. David Hann as part-time supply minister from February through June, 2025. These were all significant decisions, vital to the ongoing

strength of the newly- amalgamated congregation, now St. John's United Church, Fall River in the Waverley Pastoral Charge.

The new congregation will follow the Council model of governance. Council reports to the congregation, is accountable to the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region of The United Church and follows the United Church *Manual*. Council is responsible for long-term planning, developing policy, co-ordinating day-to-day activities and programs, and overseeing finances and administration.

Please consider carefully, prayerfully, volunteering to serve on Council, or on a committee or team. You will find this work stimulating and rewarding. You will be making an important contribution to your church and community while enhancing your own leadership skills. All experience is welcome and helpful--from family life through work and volunteer activities. We can help you get started.

For more information on volunteering for committees or Council, please get in touch with me by phone (902-404-4422) or email (loisemiller45@gmail.com).

In closing, let me thank the many persons who have supported the work of the 2024 Official Board:

- members of the Board and the other members of executive--secretary Janice Mitchell, treasurer Dawn Myer and Rev. Sally Shaw--Tanya Matthews, chair of Ministry and Personnel, and Wendall Brown, representative to Regional Council. These persons all made faithful and diligent contributions during this busy final year.
- outgoing members of the Wellington Session and Board of Stewards whose positions have come to an end with amalgamation, and Joyce L. Patriquin who, as a Wellington Steward, co-ordinated two events in 2024: the Fun Fair and the Lobster Supper in June. These events both raised funds and energized our church community. "Best lobster I've ever eaten," said one of our family friends who accompanied us to the supper.
- Rev. Jenny Eisener who as Administrative Assistant reported to the pastoral charge Official Board and as Children and Youth Program Leader reported to St. John's Council; Jenny has proven to be an invaluable member of personnel--well-organized, welcoming and innovative.
- Rev. Dr. Linda Yates who was supply minister during Rev. Sally's sabbatical and who supported the early steps of the amalgamation process, providing us with the benefit of her extensive experience with congregational amalgamation.
- Rev. Dr. Sally Shaw, now retired after faithfully serving our pastoral charge for 6 1/2 years with grace, creativity, compassion, joy and love. We will miss you Rev. Sally. We rejoice in your ministry with us and wish a delightful new chapter for you and your family.

This 2025 church year will bring fresh challenges and rewards, including supply ministry with Rev. David Hann and the search for and call of a minister, all while we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this United Church of Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Miller
Chair, Official Board, 2024

Ministry and Personnel Committee (M & P)

The M and P committee currently has two active members- Sheila Keizer and Tanya Matthews. Laura Jayne Hambley was a member until the Spring of 2024 and we thank her for her service. Tanya is in her third year and Sheila in her first- joining in April 2024. Committee size · Decided by the community of faith · Ideally 3-5 people.

It was a busy year for the team with the closing of Wellington United in October 2024 and the amalgamation of the two congregations and the announcement of Rev. Sally Shaw's retirement for the end of January 2025.

The M and P committee supports the members of the Waverley Pastoral charge: Rev Sally Shaw, Rev Jenny Eisner as the Youth Leader and Administrator for the church and SJUC Music Director Peter Thamer. The new supply minister will be here after February 2nd, Rev. David Hann, and we look forward to him joining the Ministry. The annual 2024 review was completed for Jenny by Sheila and Tanya on January 9th, 2025. Rev Sally Shaw is completing an exit interview and writing it up as well. Peter Thamer is happy with his current situation and enjoys what he is doing with the music ministry at SJUC.

The need for a new computer will be required by the Fall of 2025 at the latest for the new minister. Ongoing search for an ASL interpreter for St. John's is something that is still required. The work of the Ministry and Personnel is one that is very important in the life and work of the church, and I hope we can continue to grow the committee to support our Church Team.

Some of the items we feel that are required to do a better job supporting the Ministry and Personnel would be a tracking system for their holidays, vacation days and continuing education. Knowing what they have used and what's left is imperative to making decisions and payroll for the finance person.

We can set up an excel sheet for this year and have us and the team fill it in accordingly. Discussions regarding work in stormy weather, Public Holidays and time off for appointments would be great additions to add to new contracts when the time rolls around. Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committees in pastoral charges are responsible for supporting, overseeing, and supervising ministry personnel and lay staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Matthews and Sheila Keizer

Ministry and Personnel

Funeral Ministry

Looking back on the history of St. John's United Church here in Fall River brought back memories of the beginning of setting up this service within our churches (St. John's and Wellington) as part of the Waverley charge. Way back to 2012 – 12 years ago, we have come a long way and hopefully provide a beneficial service to members of our churches and our community. At that time, we

consisted of 12 members and half of them were from Wellington. The original plan had been to have 3 teams of 4 members each. Since that time, we are down to 1 team of 3 members (myself, Louise Clark and Sandra Blair). We welcome any new members who feel inclined to offer their services. It does not entail any number of meetings, just your help with the funerals as they occur. This past year, we have had only two funerals: Mark Dodge in May and Julie Milligan in September. Both were large events and required the assistance of many church and community members.

This is a service that as funeral ministry members we offer free. Our task is to set up the church and main entrance for the funeral c/w guest book, basket for sympathy cards, funeral bulletins and greet visitors as they enter the church as well as offer directions as needed. We do not handle any financial arrangements; these are administered by the minister(s), and UCW executive. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sandra Carr

Central Treasurer Comments

The Central Treasurer of Waverley Pastoral Charge (WPC) is responsible for the oversight of the shared expenses for St. John's & Wellington such as office expenses and the payroll costs for our staff.

The various duties for the WPC Treasurer are carried out by Dawn Myer and Marie McCulloch ensuring that all expenses are paid and the payroll is administered monthly.

Due to the amalgamation of Wellington with St. John's, effective Jan. 1 2025, most of the monthly expenses will be paid directly by the treasurer of St. John's. As Waverley Pastoral Charge is the registered charity and the employer, the payroll will continue to be administered in WPC.

In 2024 we revised the balance sheet to include the GIC investment of \$116,961 which matures in 2027. This GIC represents the net proceeds of the sale of the manse which happened 20 + years ago. We are permitted to invest these funds and to use the interest earned. If we want to access a portion of the principal we can apply to our Regional Council.

Please refer to the 2024 financial statements and the 2025 budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Myer (Central Treasurer)
Marie McCulloch

WPC Income Statement & Budget

	Budget 2024	Actual 2024	Budget 2025
REVENUE			
Interest (Term Deposit - ECC)	5,365	5,395	5,395
Contributions - SJUC (Minister & Admin & expenses)	123,926	120,679	98,319
Contributions - SJUC (C & Y & Music salary /benefits)	-	-	31,300
Contributions - WUC	21,868	21,287	-
Total Income	151,159	147,361	135,014
EXPENSE			
General & Administration Expenses			
Office - general supplies	800	479	
Office - photocopying/lease(2025 lease only)	2,600	2,328	1,264
Office - telephone and internet	1,700	1,747	
Office - internet	348	485	
Total Administrative expenses	5,448	5,039	1,264
Region 15 Assessment	9,642	9,642	
Liturgical Support	750	653	
Miscellaneous expense	300	15	
Total General Expenses	10,692	10,310	-
Total General & Admin Expenses	16,140	15,349	1,264
Payroll expenses			
Salary- Minister & Admin (includes benefits in 2025 budget)	97,851	97,763	102,000
UCC pension and benefits	17,706	17,621	-
CRA - EI and CPP	7,062	6,925	-
Travel & Continuing Education	2,450	1,240	
C & Y Leader & Music salary /benefits	-	-	31,300
Sabbatical Supply	7,500	6,741	-
Supply	2,000	1,268	
ADP Payroll Service fees	450	454	450
Total Payroll costs	135,019	132,012	133,750
Total expense	151,159	147,361	135,014
Net Income	0	0	0

expenses will be paid directly by St. John's

WPC Balance Sheet

	At Dec 31, 2023	At Dec 31, 2024
ASSET		
Assets - Current		
Bank - Chequing Account	4,943.23	1,551.48
Accounts Receivable - HST	210.79	158.67
GIC	0.00	116,961.16
Total Assets - Current	5,154.02	118,671.31
Assets - Fixed		
Land	0.00	5,710.24
Total Assets - Fixed	0.00	5,710.24
TOTAL ASSET	5,154.02	124,381.55
LIABILITY		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00
Accounts Payable - Inter-Church	2,198.30	5,710.24
Accounts Payable - Other	1,245.57	0.00
Total Liabilities	3,443.87	5,710.24
TOTAL LIABILITY	3,443.87	5,710.24
EQUITY		
Equity - GIC - Manse	0.00	116,961.16
Current Earnings	0.00	0.00
Retained Earnings	1,710.15	1,710.15
Total Equity	1,710.15	118,671.31
TOTAL EQUITY	1,710.15	118,671.31
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	5,154.02	124,381.55

Mission & Service

As we have seen during our services, our Mission & Service (M&S) donations support Canadian outreach programs, international relief and development, new church development as well as training and supporting ministers.

Your donations to M & S are collected by St. John's and Wellington and are remitted to the United Church of Canada quarterly.

St. John's congregation and the UCW exceeded our 2024 goal of \$21,000 for the M & S work of the United Church of Canada. Due to the closure of Wellington that goal was not met but in hind sight the goal was overstated.

Thank you for supporting the valuable ministries and programs of the Mission & Service fund.
Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Myer, M & S Treasurer

	<u>2023</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Goal</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Actual</u>	%	<u>2025</u> <u>Goal</u>
St. John's					
Congregation	21131	20000	20548	102.7 %	19000
UCW	1000	1000	1000	100.0%	1000
Total- St. John's	<u>22131</u>	<u>21000</u>	<u>21548</u>	102.6%	<u>20000</u>
Wellington (amalgamated Jan 1, 2025)	3636	3000	1893	-37.0 %	0
Total Pastoral Charge	<u>25557</u>	<u>24000</u>	<u>23441</u>	97.7 %	<u>20000</u>

Regional Council Representative

I am your only lay representative to the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region 15 Council. This situation is not advantageous to the St John's congregation. A congregation of St. John's size is entitled to two representatives to the Regional Council. The election of two representatives, knowledgeable of the congregation's life and aspirations, and willing to become involved with the activities of Regional Council would pay great dividends to the congregation. The Regional Council is struggling with the future of the United Church in this region. All the various committees of the Council are in some respect working toward enhancing the future of the church.

The Council has developed a strategic plan based on three pillars, discipleship, mission, and leadership, and from these pillars identified priorities to focus the work of the Region over the next five years.

The 2024 Annual Meeting was held at Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus in Truro, May 10-12, 2024. The theme was **“Rooted in Faith-Growing in Leadership”**

Our Regional Executive Minister, Rev Faith March-MacCuish discussing struggling congregations with no clear concept of the way ahead, used an analogy from her Newfoundland wisdom, that the church was wont to be like a person rowing a boat “looking where they have been, rather than where they are going. The Region is focusing on developing strategies and resources to assist congregations in being a vital Christian influence in their community now, and into the future.

The Theme speaker was The Rev. Dr. Ross Bartlett. Dr. Bartlett has spent 35 years and counting in congregational ministry, the training of clergy and lay leaders, the concerns of faith communities and the well-being of their leaders. He has published several books on these topics. His current book, “It Works for Us”, is probably the most relevant for St. John’s congregation at this time in our journey following the amalgamation with the Wellington congregation.

Dr. Bartlett led a study of the health and stability of Canadian United Churches. He crossed the nation visiting failing, struggling, healthy, and flourishing congregations in an attempt to discern the factors that led to their success or lack of success, particularly how the flourishing congregations do so in the current environment. Such a “navel gazing” exercise, when the amalgamation dust settles, probably in the fall or winter could well benefit St. John’s as it plans the path into the future. The Region could provide assistance and resources, and Dr. Bartlett would be willing to discuss his insights with the congregation.

Rev. Jenny Eisener, Children and Youth Program Leader, attended the Annual Meeting with seven of her youth group. Five of the group attended in 2023. These youth, interacting with their peers in the fifty-one-person youth contingent, gained insight into the issues, theology, and governance of the church. Many friendships developed and we must remember that this group represents the future of the church. St. John’s should place emphasis and support for youth attendance at regional gatherings. The youth report, “We enjoyed the connections we made and the insight we gained from other people about their beliefs. We learned about our own faith in a fun and interactive way.”

The Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council is working to assist congregations to deepen their faith and develop leaders rooted in that faith. Regional Councils were established following the demise of the Conference and Presbytery system. They had to develop their roles and “modus operandi” largely on their own wisdom and resources. Bermuda-Nova Scotia Region is now surveying all the communities of faith within the region to determine if their leadership and support is addressing the needs of the congregations. The four survey questionnaires will be filled out by our Ministry Personnel, Council and representative to Regional Council, on behalf of St John’s congregation. The 2025 Bermuda-Nova Scotia annual meeting will be held in two parts. The business meeting will be held on Zoom in the evenings of May 14 and 15. The Regional Council will gather in person together with Fundy-St Lawrence Dawning-Waters at Sackville NB Friday May 30-Sunday June 1, primarily to celebrate the Centennial of the United Church of Canada.

Respectfully submitted

Wendall Brown

St. John’s United Church Representative to Bermuda-Nova Scotia

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024, at 12:30pm

1. Opening Prayer

Rev. Sally Shaw opened the meeting with prayer.

PRESENT: John Blair, Sandra Blair, Wendall Brown, Maria Burgess, Ericka Campbell, Keith Campbell, Heidi Carr, Sandra Carr, Louise Clark, Susan Cobanli, Norma Craib, Madison Deschamp, Charlie Eisener, Jenny Eisener, Helen Garneau, Elaine Gray (via zoom), Betty Gunn, Jim Gunn, Emily Harnish, Natasha Harnish, Darlene Harris, Zelda Hartlen, C. Hayes, Sarah Jones, Bill Kane, Sandy Kane, K. Grant Kerr, Paul Keizer, Sheila Keizer, Kris Legere, Matt Legere, Louise Loughhead, Jennifer Mallette, Bill McBurney, Carilyn McBurney, Marie McCulloch, Brian McEachern, Fisher McKay, Janet McKay, Anne Murray, Dawn Myer, Gail Place, Megan Rolle, Rev. Sally Shaw, Barb Stewart, Anna Taylor, Colleen Wilson, Carl Yates (via zoom) and Linda Yates (via zoom).

2. Call to Order and Election of Officers

Rev. Sally Shaw called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

MOTION by Dawn Myer/ SECONDED by Sandy Kane that the members of St. John's Church:

- a. elect Jennifer Mallette as chair and Helen Garneau as secretary of this annual meeting
- b. adopt the agenda of the March 3, 2024, Annual Meeting, as circulated
- c. approve the minutes of the congregational meeting of the annual meeting of March 5, 2023, as printed in the Annual Report (pages 22-27)
- d. extend voting privileges at this meeting to the adherents of St. John's United Church

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

- Jennifer thanked those present for attending the meeting and called the attendees to remember that the land we work, play and worship on is the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaw people. She asked that we pause for a moment of personal reflection before moving forward in our business today, being mindful that each of us is called to honour future generations of Indigenous peoples by taking actions of reconciliation.

4. Thank You to Jennifer Mallette

Dawn Myer, on behalf of the congregation, thanked Jennifer Mallette for her many years of service to St. John's serving as Chair of Council, Music Director, Chair of Fundraising and in many other capacities.

5. Acceptance of Reports

MOTION by Colleen Wilson/SECONDED by Zelda Hartlen that the members of St. John's Church accept the committee reports (listed below) for information.

- a. Council (page 29-30)
- b. Spiritual Oversight (page 30-31)
- c. Church in Action (page 31-33)
- d. Property and Grounds Committee (page 33)
- e. Trustees (page 34)
- f. United Voices Choir (page 35)
- g. Christian Life and Growth (CLG) (page 35-36)
- h. Children & Youth Program Leader (page 37)
- i. Beacon House Representative (page 38-39)
- j. United Church Women (UCW) (page 39-43)
- k. Stewardship Committee (page 44)
- l. Memorials (page 49)
- m. Envelope Secretary/PAR Report (page 50)

Errors noted were:

- Rev. Sally reported she misspelled Janet McKay's name under the list of members of the Affirming Team on page 31.
- Marie McCulloch noted under Council Committees she is down as Chair of Finance – page 28.
- Jennifer Mallette noted on page 14 under Ministry and Personnel Committee – member of committee is noted as Laura Jayne Hubley – should read Laura Jayne Hambly-Fournier.
- Marie McCulloch noted on page 34 under Glengarry Fund report – first column should be 2022 and not 2023.

MOTION CARRIED WITH CORRECTIONS.

6. Financial Statements (pages 44-48)

MOTION by Dawn Myer/ SECONDED by Heidi Carr that the congregation of St. John's United Church approve the Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2023 as presented in the Annual Report, pages 44-48. MOTION CARRIED.

Dawn Myer, Treasurer of St. John's United Church, spoke about the continuing situation of working at a deficit each year. We are not bringing in enough revenue to meet our needs and are depleting our investments. She stressed that this is the year we must make decisions around our finances.

MOTION by Dawn Myer/ SECONDED by Fisher McKay that the congregation of St. John's United Church approve the contracting of Terry Carter for preparation of our reviewed financial statements for 2023. MOTION CARRIED.

7. M & P Salary Recommendations for Peter Thamer

MOTION by Dawn Myer/SECONDED by Jim Gunn that the congregation of St. John's United Church approve the increase of the hourly rate of pay for Peter Thamer to \$25/hour retroactive to January 1, 2024. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Approval of Fund Transfer from Glengarry Investment

MOTION by Dawn Myer/ SECONDED by Bill McBurney that the congregation of St. John's United Church approve the Glengarry Grant application submitted by the Finance Committee for \$30,000 to cover operation funding. MOTION CARRIED.

9. SJUC Budget for 2024

MOTION by Dawn Myer/ SECONDED by Darlene Harris that the congregation of St. John's United Church approve the 2024 Proposed Budget (page 51-53).

Dawn Myer, Treasurer, reported the local givings in the 2024 budget are down. This is based on the numbers from January and February. All other items in the budget are based on historical amounts. The cost of salaries are known costs. She noted some savings on insurance, and we are expecting a rebate cheque on insurance. She noted we need \$56,150.00 more than we are bringing in and with the \$30,000 from the Glengarry Fund we still need \$26,150.00. MOTION CARRIED.

Dawn advised she will set up dates and be calling for volunteers to come together to discuss the financial future of our church.

Jennifer Mallette thanked Dawn Myer for her work as Treasurer of St. John's. This is a huge job! She also expressed thanks to Marie McCulloch and Darlene Harris for their work on the Finance Committee.

MOTION by Dawn Myer/ SECONDED by Marie McCulloch that the congregation of St. John's United Church approve the M&S goal of \$21 400 for 2024 (page 18). MOTION CARRIED.

10. Chair of Council's Year in Review and Updates on Upcoming Projects

Jennifer Mallette reported there are lots of reasons for optimism and excitement about the future of SJUC.

- New website. Thank you, Amy Murphy!
- Affirming process coming to its conclusion. Thanks to the team for bringing opportunities for conversation and learning. We will hear from Matt Legere shortly with motions that will determine our next steps in this work.

- Thanks to the Visioning Team, Sarah Jones, Paul Keizer, Rev Sally for concluding their work. Council adopted six priorities for the mission and ministry of our church. Some are long-term goals for SJUC and others are new ideas to explore. Many folks for SJUC are actively volunteering at Beacon House Food Bank and Retail Store or at the shelter. This organization is providing essential support and services to more people in our community now than ever before. They too are always grateful for assistance, and we look forward to finding new ways to strengthen the connection in the year ahead.
- Newcomers Supper in November hosted by the Spiritual Oversight Committee and our staff. There is another coming this spring. Wonderful to welcome many new families and families with young children.
- As a result of the strong Leadership of Rev Jenny, there is presently a full slate of volunteers for Sunday School and KOGA. Thanks to Sandra and John Blair we have all enjoyed the return of the children's choir! And we are thrilled to see that the Winter/Spring Youth baptism and confirmation classes are bursting at the seams with a record eight participants.

11. **Affirming Ministry Team Update**

a. Vision statement (page 32)

MOTION by Matt Legere/SECONDED by Fisher McKay that the congregation of St. John's United Church adopt the following vision statement to accompany our current mission statement.

Draft Vision Statement (who we are and how we do things)

St. John's United Church, Fall River, is a community of faith that seeks to welcome all people, including but not limited to, people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ancestry, race, age, cultural background, economic status, language and ability, to participate fully in all aspects of our life and work. We are all about creating community, following Christ and serving the world!

Current Mission Statement (what we do) - unchanged.

At St. John's United Church, we are a welcoming Christian family, nurturing and inspiring people of all ages to continue the ministry of Jesus.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Motion to Join Affirm United (page 33)

MOTION by Kris Legere/ SECONDED by Janet McKay that the congregation of St. John's United Church become an Affirming Ministry and seek membership in Affirm United.

A vote by secret ballot was taken. Ballots were counted by Rev. Sally Shaw and scrutinized by Sheila Keizer. The vote was unanimously in favour of St. John's United Church

becoming an Affirming Ministry and seek membership in Affirm United. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jennifer Mallette thanked the members of the Affirm Team for their work on this committee. All members have agreed to continue for another year, and we welcome Anne Murray as a new member of the Affirm Team.

12. Retirements, Committee Changes and Nominations

SJUC Council & Committee Members for 2024

Council

Chair	VACANT
Treasurer	Dawn Myer
Secretary	Janice Mitchell
Chair, Church in Action	VACANT
Chair, Finance	VACANT
Chair, M & P	VACANT
UCW Representative	Janice Mitchell
Chair, Property & Grounds	John Blair & Fisher McKay
Chair, Spiritual Oversight	Heidi Carr
Chair, CLG	VACANT
Chair, Trustees	Carl Yates
Clergy	Rev. Sally Shaw
Child & Youth Leader	Rev. Jenny Eisener

Church in Action (Affirm Team)

Co-Chairs:	Matt and Krista Legere
Members:	Janet McKay
	Megan Rolle
	Anne Murray
	Sally Shaw

Stewardship

Chair:	VACANT
Members:	Dawn Myer
	Wendall Brown
	Darlene Harris

Finance Committee

Treasurer:	Dawn Myer
Members:	Marie McCulloch
	Darlene Harris

Property and Grounds Committee

Co-chairs:	John Blair & Fisher McKay
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Members: Richard Joudrey
Marguerite Joudrey

Spiritual Oversight

Chair: Heidi Carr
Members: Susan Cobanli
Joe Sharpe
Sally Shaw

Trustees

Chair: Carl Yates
Members: Gordon Gillis
Anna Taylor
Bill McBurney
Norma Craib
Bill Kane
Sally Shaw

Christian Life & Growth (CLG):

Chair: VACANT
Members: Jenny Eisener
Carolyn Haverstock
Sarah Jones (secretary)
Sheila Keizer
Dawn Parks
Erin Brien
Sally Shaw
Stacey Smith

Beacon House Representative: Wendall Brown

There are a growing number of leadership roles that remain unfilled. This puts our staff in the position of having to work without as much support and guidance as they should have but also leaves them struggling at times to find folks to make even simple decisions. Without people stepping up to fill roles of chair of council, chair of Ministry & Personnel and Chair of the official board, we leave our staff overburdened and are not meeting the requirements of the United Church of Canada. Even if folks are only able to serve for a short term, we are called to be the church and committee chairs and members are essential roles. As Rev Sally begins her Sabbatical in April, the need for consistent leadership is even greater.

MOTION by Matt Legere / SECONDED by Fisher McKay that the congregation of St. John's United Church elect the slate as amended to SJUC Council effective Machr 4, 2024, including the change of Dawn Myer to be Treasurer rather than Interim Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED.

Jim Gunn spoke about the urgency of look at the vacancies and leadership at St. John's. He suggested the Past Chairs including Jim Gunn, Jennifer Mallette and Elaine Gray along with Dawn Myer and Janice Mitchell get together to discuss the structure, vacancies and how we move forward.

13. Request from Wellington United to Begin Exploratory Conversations re: Potential Merger with SJUC

MOTION by Colleen Wilson/SECONDED by Barb Stewart that SJUC council be given permission to appoint individuals to this task group. MOTION CARRIED.

14. New Business

Date for Pastoral Charge Annual Meeting - No date has been set yet.

15. Words of Thanks

Jennifer expressed thanks to Helen Garneau for taking on the responsibility as secretary today and sincere appreciation to our staff team of Rev Sally Shaw, Rev Jenny Eisener and Peter Thamer for their dedication and continued leadership. She also expressed thanks to Dawn Myer, Marie McCullough for their continued commitment to keeping the books in order; John and Sandra Blair, Fisher McKay, Richard and Marguerite Joudrey, for keeping our building and grounds in good repair.

16. Adjournment

MOTION by Kris Legere that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned by 1:50 p.m.

Jennifer Mallette, Chair

Helen Garneau, Recording Secretary

St. John's United Church - Congregational Meeting Minutes Sunday, October 6, 2024, 7:00 pm

St. John's United Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, October 6, 2024 at 7pm, chaired by Rev. Sally Shaw. Rev. Sally called the meeting to order. Quorum was met. Rev. Jenny Eisener led the meeting in prayer.

Attendees: Rev. Sally Shaw, Janice Mitchell (Recording Secretary), Richard Beirsto, Anna Taylor, Sandy Kane, Carl Yates, Linda Yates, Janya Matthews, Sheila Keizer, Paul Keizer, Gordon Gillis, Janet Carter, Helen Garneau, Dawn Myer, Zelda Hartlen, Fisher McKay, Bill McBurney, Elaine Gray, Kevin Cullen, Betty Gunn, Jim Gunn, Colleen Wilson, Norma Craib, Karen Lewis, Betty Ricketts, Marguerite Joudrey, Richard Joudrey, Linda Stay, Matt Legere, Kris Legere, Jenny Eisener.

Regrets: Sandra Blair, John Blair, Vera Gillis, Gail Place

Guest: David Hewitt, Regional Minister

Call to Order and Election of Officers

Moved by Elaine Gray, seconded by Sandy Kare that Rev. Shaw chair the meeting with Janice Mitchell to record the minutes. **Motion Carried.**

Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Carl Yates, seconded by Bill McBurney, the adoption of the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report – Dawn

Moved by Colleen Wilson, seconded by Kris Legere the adoption of the Treasurer's Report. **Motion carried.**

Amalgamation Plan

Moved by Carl Yates, seconded by Jim Gunn, that the congregation accept the Amalgamation Plan, dated September 30, 2024, from the Amalgamation Team effective December 31, 2024. **Motion Carried.**

Moved by Carl Yates, seconded by, Elaine Gray, that the congregation formally agree to amalgamate with Wellington United Church under the name of St. John's United Church, Fall River, in the Waverley Pastoral Charge, as of **Dec 31, 2024**. Vote by ballot. **Motion Carried.**

Moved by Fisher McKay, second Bill McBurney, to destroy voting ballots. **Motion carried.**

Finance Committee Request for Glengarry Funds

Moved by Dawn Myer, seconded by Elaine Gray, that 30k from the unrestricted gains in the Glengarry investment be transferred to the St. Johns bank account when requested by the Treasurer, with the first installment to be made available in January 2025. **Motion carried.**

Sally's Retirement

Community profile needs to be done. Members will be asked to participate.

Reappointment for Jenny Eisener

Moved by Sheila Keizer, seconded by Linda Yates, that SJUC request Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council to reappoint Jenny Eisener as ordained supply, effective November 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, salary category C (5 – 7 years of service) and Cost of Living group 4, 20 hours per week. **Motion carried.**

Adjournment

Moved by Sandy Kane that the meeting be adjourned.

SJUC Council & Committee Members for 2025

Council

*Chair:	Lois Miller
*Vice Chair:	VACANT
*Secretary:	Janice Mitchell
*Treasurer:	Dawn Myer
*Ministry Personnel:	Rev. David Hann and Rev. Jenny Eisener
*Stewardship & Fundraising:	VACANT
UCW Rep:	Janice Mitchell
Rep to Region:	Wendall Brown
Chair, Trustee:	Carl Yates
Chair, Finance:	Marie McCulloch
Chair, M and P:	Linda Yates
Chair, Property Mgmt:	John Blair & Fisher McKay
Chair, Spiritual Oversight:	Heidi Carr
Chair, CLG:	Jennifer Mallette
Church in Action Rep:	Matt Legere
*indicates Executive Members	

Finance Committee

Treasurer:	Dawn Myer
Members:	Marie McCulloch Darlene Harris

Ministry and Personnel

Chair:	Linda Yates
Members:	Tanya Mathews Sheila Keizer

Church Property Management

Co-chair:	John Blair
Co-chair:	Fisher McKay
Members:	Marguerite Joudrey Richard Joudrey

Spiritual Oversight

Chair:	Heidi Carr
Members:	Joe Sharpe Susan Cobanli Rev. David Hann

Trustees

Chair: Carl Yates
Members: Gordon Gillis
Bill McBurney
Norma Craib
Cindy Patriquin, Secretary
Newman Gould
Danny Cox
Rev. David Hann

Christian Life & Growth (CLG)

Chair: Jennifer Mallette
Members: Carolyn Haverstock
Stacey Smith
Sarah Jones
Rev. Jenny Eisener

Church in Action

Rep to Council: Matt Legere
Affirm Team: Kris and Matt Legere, Janet McKay and Rev. David Hann
Funeral Ministry: Sandra Carr, Louise Clark and Sandra Blair
Pastoral Care Team: Sandy Kane, Gail Place, Susan Dekker-Inkpen, Sarah Sullivan and Rev. David Hann
Beacon House Rep: Wendall Brown and VACANT
Green Team: Amanda Simpson (Team Caption), Gail Place, Elaine Gray, Wendall Brown, Sandra Blair, Sheila and Paul Keizer

Council

The SJUC Council met 4 times in 2024, in addition to the annual meeting in March, and a congregational meeting on October 6 to vote on the amalgamation plan. With March's Annual Meeting, Jen Mallette concluded her term as chair of Council. Many thanks to Jen for her wonderful, wonderful leadership! With the Chair vacant for the rest of the year, Rev Linda and I stepped in as needed. Big thanks to Lois Miller who agreed to make the move from Chair of Official Board to Chair of the new SJUC Council on January 1, 2025.

In November 2023, Jen Mallette and I introduced in a special worship service the six mission priorities that were adopted by the Council. At the November 2024 meeting of Council, we did a review of our progress over the year. Here is a short summary:

- Priority 1: That Council continue to prioritize the excellent work that is underway in Youth & Children's programming
- Excellent work is ongoing in this portfolio. We are delighted at the numbers of youth and children building again in Sunday School, heartened by the

number of new families coming to our church, and grateful for our talented and dedicated ministry staff and volunteer teachers and leaders

- Priority 2: That Council continue to move ahead with the Affirming process
- In 2024 we completed the series of Lunch and Learns that were the backbone of our Affirming process, we prepared our congregation's Affirm Plan, and our congregation voted to become an Affirming congregation. Then we celebrated this milestone with a special worship service and BBQ in September
 - Thanks so much to the members of the Affirm Team for their leadership in this important work!
- Priority 3: That Council prioritize *strengthening connections* by encouraging us to know and care for each other better, through social events, celebrations, etc.
- This priority has been front of mind in our amalgamation process
 - We intentionally provided opportunities for our congregation to gather for more informal times, including newcomer suppers, Lunch and Learns, an Affirm Celebration BBQ, our Amalgamation Celebration Service and potluck lunch, Walk Through Bethlehem, in addition to our ongoing, wonderful UCW and Family Ministry Events
 - The Lay Pastoral Care Team sent Christmas cards to our shut-ins and continued to visit in home and by phone
- Priority 4: That Council continue to prioritize *community care* by facilitating our work with partners such as Beacon House to be active in areas such as food and housing security for those who are in need
- Ongoing support continues for Beacon House and Beacon House Shelter through donations and volunteers who work in the Retail Store and Food Bank, and serve on the Boards
 - The Christmas Families project was generously supported by the congregation. Thank you Sue and Catherine Van Oosten for coordinating that big project!
- Priority 5: That Council prioritize offering or hosting programs that champion and value mental health (e.g. the Mental Health First Aid Course), including for younger and older people (*Healthy Minds*)
- Hosting recovery groups, as well as our ongoing Guiding groups, community physical activity groups, Bridge groups, Community Health programs, Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group, and more, help to combat the epidemic of loneliness, foster community, and strengthen mental health
- Priority 6: That Council prioritize *greening our church* by encouraging efforts to work together to reduce our personal, household, and congregational carbon footprint, valuing ecojustice and mitigating climate change

- Amanda Simpson, our church's Green Enthusiast, and I held an orientation meeting for this work in November. Amanda has arranged for an energy audit of our building to be conducted at the end of January as our next step for this important work

Thank you to Rev Jenny Eisener, Peter Thamer, and our dedicated volunteers, those leaders whose terms are coming to an end, those who are continuing on in their roles, and to the new folks who have already volunteered to join a committee in 2025. A special shout out to Dawn Myer and Marie McCulloch for the many, many hours they spend working with all things financial in the church office. We are grateful for your dedicated and capable service. It has been an honour and a blessing to serve alongside you all.

With the New Year we will have a new structure for our Church Council. Some committees will continue their work with few changes to their portfolios. However, there are some committees that will need to be recruited for, including the new Stewardship and Fundraising Committee. If you aren't involved already, please consider volunteering for one of our Council Committees or Ministry Teams. They are wonderful ways to make supportive connections, do meaningful work, and learn and grow as a follower of Jesus.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the SJUC Council,
Rev Sally

Spiritual Oversight

The Spiritual Oversight Committee is concerned with the spiritual development and wellbeing of the congregation. The committee is responsible for activities held in the sanctuary (marriages, baptisms, funerals, and special events).

This committee is also responsible for preparing and serving communion, tidying the pews, and attending to some of the seasonal decorations in the sanctuary.

Currently our members are:

- Heidi Carr – Chair
- Joe Sharpe
- Susan Cobanli

The committee met three times in 2024

Interpretive services- we have not been able to secure a replacement in this role.

Projects included:

- Hosted a Newcomers dinner in April
- Baptisms/Confirmations: 11
- Reviewed Winter Cancellation Policy
- Hosted Potluck Lunch in October

Respectfully submitted:
Heidi Carr

Affirm Ministry Team Report

Last year our congregation became an affirming ministry. We amended our vision statement to include:

St. John's United Church, Fall River, is a community of faith that seeks to welcome all people, including but not limited to, people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ancestry, race, age, cultural background, economic status, language and ability, to participate fully in all aspects of our life and work. We are all about creating community, following Christ and serving the world!

We celebrated Pride Sunday on June 2 by watching the moderator's Pride Message for 2024. Rev Linda Yates preached a Pride themed sermon and blessed our new Pride Progress flag which is now hanging just outside Blair Hall.

Our official celebration took place on September 29, completing the final step in the affirming process. Rev Rick Gunn preached, and our affirming certificate was presented by two members of Riverside United Church. Rainbow cake and a barbeque were enjoyed by all who attended.

Other related business:

- Our certificate has been hung in the Narthex.
- Washroom signage has been changed to be more inclusive, and individual locks have been installed on the washroom doors.
- The Affirm logo has been added to St. John's website, the Facebook page, and the roadside digital sign.
- We continue to build our Rainbow Library of related resources, which can be borrowed at any time.

We look forward to recognizing PIE Day (March 14) with another Lunch and Learn led by youth as we continue to recognize and support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community by being **P**ublic, **I**ntentional, and **E**xplicit. The Lunch and Learn will take place on March 23.

The committee consists of Matt and Kris Legere and Janet McKay. If anyone would like to join us, please contact the office.

Property and Grounds Committee

1. Grounds Work

- a. Work on the grounds has consisted of regular grass cutting and leaf raking as needed.

2. Building Maintenance

- a. A faulty zone valve in the foyer area has been replaced, eliminating a loud banging noise that has been noticed for a while.
- b. The floor of Blair Hall has been commercially stripped and rewaxed.

- c. As part of the new Affirm Policy, our downstairs bathroom door locks have been changed to facilitate the switch to non-gender bathrooms.
- d. Safe needle disposal containers have been installed in each bathroom.
- e. New support rods have been added to the boiler chimney to replace those damaged in an earlier wind storm.
- f. The two steel oil tanks that supplied oil to the church boilers have been removed and replaced with one fiberglass oil tank.

3. Parking Lot

- a. Snow Clearing: The Snow Plowing contract for this year remains the same as last year.

4. Looking Ahead

- a. It remains our intent to continue to change out old interior fluorescent tubes and exterior parking fixtures to new LED style, in the interest of consumption savings. To that end a meeting was held recently to investigate possible government grants for green initiatives

Respectfully submitted;

Fisher McKay

Co-Chair, Property and Grounds

Trustees

The Trustees carried out their usual duties for St. John's United Church [SJUC] in relation to property matters and stewardship of the Glengarry funds invested with the Eastport Financial Group. On behalf of SJUC we continue to take advantage of the United Church facilitation of insurance coverage for congregations. On December 1, 2024 we renewed our insurance at a modest increase for: property, contents, boiler and machinery [equipment breakdown], crime, commercial general liability, and abuse indemnity.

The Trustees continued to monitor the Glengarry funds placed with Eastport to optimize returns and 2024 showed positive performance with a return of 10.75 % for the calendar year. Over the last five years, the fund, on an annual average basis, has realized a return of 5.23 % which is significantly above the established benchmark of 4%. As noted in the attached summary report, the market value of the Glengarry portfolio stood at \$316,338.56 as of December 31, 2024. A total of \$30,000 was withdrawn from the Funds in 2024 to support the Operating budget with the approval of the congregation at the annual general meeting in March. An application from the Finance Committee for \$30,000 was approved at the October 6, 2024 congregational meeting for support of the 2025 Operating budget and to purchase a strip of land adjacent to the Wellington Church property to improve its marketability. Consistent with the congregational directive, \$15,000 was transferred to SJUC from the Glengarry funds in early January 2025.

In addition to the above noted activities the Trustees were heavily involved with the amalgamation of Wellington United Church [WUC] and SJUC with two Trustee members serving on the Amalgamation Team. This effort led to the approval of the Amalgamation Plan at congregational meetings held on October 6, 2024 for an effective amalgamation date of

January 1, 2025. In anticipation of the amalgamation, the Trustees of SJUC and WUC formed a Joint Committee to ensure property matters were dealt with in an efficient and effective manner for the benefit of both congregations. Through this collective approach, and direction of the Waverley Pastoral Charge, the Trustees approved the purchase of a small strip of property, as noted above, and the listing of the Wellington Church and the strip for sale. All of these activities were reviewed and approved by the Property Committee of the Nova Scotia/Bermuda Region. Efforts to sell the property continue and it is hoped a buyer will be found in early 2025.

This report is submitted with thanks to fellow Joint Trustees [Reverend Sally Shaw, Bill McBurney, Anna Taylor, Norma Craib, Gordon Gillis, Cindy Patriquin, Danny Cox and Newman Gould].

Respectfully submitted,
 Carl Yates, Chair
 SJUC Trustees

Glengarry Funds Summary Report

Glengarry Fund (Restricted Fund)		
	2023	2024
Market Value , January 1	302,561.95	314,558.74
Change in market value	24,901.33	20,841.72
Reinvested distributions	10,446.11	14,484.65
Withdrawal	-20,000.00	-30,000.00
Less: fee based charges	-3,350.65	-3,545.55
Market Value , December 31	<u>\$314,558.74</u>	<u>\$316,339.56</u>

United Voices Choir

2024 has been a year of some transition and growth for our choir with the amalgamation of Wellington United Church, and St. John's United Church. Choir rehearsals occurred on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 and were held in the chapel at SJUC (now renamed The Wellington Chapel).

On December 8th, SJUC held its fourth "Walk Through Bethlehem" for the community. This year the event was held mostly inside with the exception of the animals. The choir gathered around the piano in the sanctuary and sang a collection of choral pieces and some well known carols. The choir alternated singing with Vladimir's classical guitar instrumental playing to create a festive atmosphere during the event. New music was purchased for the advent and Christmas season from our annual choir funds.

With the amalgamation of Wellington United and St. John's United in the Fall of 2024, we welcomed a few new members to our choir. We are grateful to have the voices of Louise and Gary Loughhead, Lois Miller and Iain Macdonald, and Karen Shah. We also welcomed Heather MacLean to our choir and are thrilled to have her and her musical gifts. Thanks to Charlene Cable-Lloy, Katherine Fournier, and Ella Hanson for filling in for Peter at the piano during trips to sea, and the summer months. And special thanks to Jennifer Mallette, Sheila Keizer, and Brenda Medynski for generously providing extra support behind the scenes on countless occasions; providing leadership, communications, and sorting/filing/photocopying of sheet music. I appreciate you all very much!!

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Thamer
Music Director

Christian Life and Growth (CLG)

The 2024 year welcomed a number of young families with growing numbers in our Sunday school and KOGA programs. We are delighted to reach more community members and join them on their journey of faith.

In Sunday School we averaged about 7-10 children a week, even up to 17 one Sunday! After those in pre-primary to grade 6 are dismissed from the service they head upstairs with Rev. Jenny or volunteer teachers. We have a very dedicated team of youth and parent teachers, thank you! We can't run Sunday school without you. We used different curriculums by Illustrated Ministry, The Go Project and God's Paintbrush. From time to time we will use Godly Play stories. Our children like to serve where they can. This year they helped to bake pies for the Dalhousie Affirming PIE day and they restocked the toonie plate fundraiser. We are grateful for the children's choir under the direction of John and Sandra Blair. Our children's choir has about 12 kids and will sing in worship and Thursday nights and have really bonded as a group, especially around the closing potluck dinner in the spring. It's wonderful to see our young families leading in worship like lighting the advent wreath and sharing about their family traditions.

Our youth program, KOGA, runs from Sept- June meeting in the evening about twice a month and during worship on the other Sundays. It is for those in grades 7-12. When we meet during worship we have about 4-5 youth, and at night, about 12-15. Some highlights over the year were the youth fundraiser for Coldest Night of the Year collecting over \$800 for Souls Harbour Mission. Our youth love service projects such as serving dinner at St. Andrew's Supper in downtown Halifax, baking goodies for Out of the Cold or Beacon House, a community clean up or sorting hangers at Beacon House Thrift Shop. When we meet we often start with sharing our apples and onions of the week and build community, prayer and support. We often look at relevant topics to the news or church calendar for and how our faith is impacted. During lent we used our Easter egg fundraiser to raise money towards upcoming United Church Youth events. A huge thank you to all who supported the youth financially, especially the UCW. This year 7 of our youth joined a total of 51 youth from the Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional meetings in Truro for Youth@Region. Two youth, two young adults and Rev. Jenny joined the bus to Niagara Falls in July to attend Rendezvous, the national Youth and Youth adult conference with the theme of Audacious Hope. Our youth loved making

these connections with other UCC youth so much that we hosted our own Regional Youth Event in the fall as an excuse to see our friends again. We were grateful to Rev. Catherine Stuart (the Regional Minister to Youth and Young Adults) for leading us in Ukulele church and to parents who prepared tacos for 30 that night. More regional youth events to come! Our youth also have social nights like cosmic bowling, movie night at Cineplex and glow-in-the-dark mini golf. Our KOGA program would not be possible without our youth assistants Bea Wolno and James O'Connell, a huge thank you to both of them!

CLG has tried to reach a broader age for faith formation. We continued to host a monthly parent and tot program in the winter and spring, but found with low attendance it wasn't meeting a need in the greater community. We were glad to host another newcomers dinner in the spring welcoming our new SJUC families. CLG also hosted the closing BBQ and grad celebration in June and Sunday school opening "Sundae Sunday" in the fall. In the summer, Rev. Jenny held a potluck and stories series using the Godly Plays stories in the desert. Our church really embraced the Christmas Families Giving Project this year at all different ages. Our Sunday school and KOGA groups made ornaments for the tree listing the gifts requested for the families. Our family faith advent workshop heard the story of Advent and made cards to go along with these gifts. And the Van Oosten family who championed this project (thank you!) joined KOGA to share more about the recipients of the gift. We are also grateful to support so many youth and families that participated in Walk Through Bethelhem behind the scenes, as costumed actors or travelling through.

CLG is glad to support worship for all ages at St. John's. During the all ages time we have dedicated fish for the banner, prayer shawls, and blessed backpacks. We learned different spiritual practices during the weeks of lent. We celebrated 4 baptisms and 7 confirmations! We engaged in all ages worship on Pentecost. A big highlight was our Christmas Pageant which had 27 children and youth involved! (and a big thank you to Kelly Isenor who helped direct). Thank you to the children, youth and families who participated in our Christmas Eve service as well.

The work of CLG is exciting and hopeful as we empower young leaders to create community, follow Christ and serve the world. Thank you to all those who have supported by jumping in and helping with one off events, teaching Sunday school, donating supplies or encouraging our youth and kids.

Submitted with gratitude,
Rev. Jenny Eisener, Acting Chair, CLG

Children & Youth Program Leader

2024 brought a lot of changes for our church, many of which we are still navigating the waters on. With these changes, I am very grateful to those who help guide our way with many lay leaders, Sunday school teachers, KOGA support, CLG members and parents who raise the occasion to help plan and lead programming for our congregation. I'm blessed to have wonderful colleagues in Peter and Sally to work with as we serve the congregation of St. John's.

Since so much of my ministry has been to support, guide and lead the programming of the Christian Life and Growth committee, to see where I spend the majority of my time, I suggest you see that report.

In 2024, with the support of the Ministry and Personnel Committee, I completed the course I began the previous year in becoming a Godly Play trainer. (Godly Play is a method of faith formation based on experiential learning of children using Montessori principles). This course consisted of online sessions and a 4 day intense in person gathering in the spring. With this training completed, I was able to help guide a 30 hour training session in the fall along with other trained leaders at the Regional Office of the United Church of Canada in Sackville, NB.

With my continued connection to Godly Play Maritimes and Godly Play Canada two United Churches in Nova Scotia reached out to me to donate unused curriculum and materials to the congregation of St. John's. I gladly accepted this gracious offer, Caledonia United Church and St. Andrew's United Church in Truro passed along more than \$800 worth of materials for our use.

Rev. Sally Shaw had a sabbatical in the spring, and I was delighted to have a chance to work with Rev. Linda Yates as the sabbatical supply minister for 10 of those weeks. In the early summertime once the Sunday school and KOGA programs ended, I filled in preaching for three of the weeks Sally was on sabbatical. It was wonderful to be back in the pulpit (both at St. John's and Wellington) during that time.

The biggest highlight of the year for me was jumping on the maritime bus along with two of our youth and two of our young adults to attend the national United Church youth event in Niagara Falls, ON. Our group connected well with the others on the bus that we picked up on the way at various United Churches. The theme of the conference was "Audacious Hope", and let me tell you, having 450 youth, young adults and their leaders in a room, the energy is phenomenal. These are folks who took close to a week out of their summer to connect with other like-minded people of faith with the vision for hope. For me, the highlight of my week was during our closing worship when we broke up into small groups and shared what brought us hope. Groups were then given the opportunity to come to an open mic and share what they discussed with the full gathering. To sit in that space and watch youth, as young as 15 stand up and say in front of the crowd that they have hope for God to move, they have hope that the world will be a better place, that was powerful. But I was brought to tears when one young adult shared their experience of finding hope in their congregation. A congregation who nurtured and loved them, who showed God's care through justice. That they knew God loved them because they were loved by a whole community of faith. That stayed with me. And it reminded me that what we do in our church really matters. How we show up in each other's lives and walk with people on their journey of faith makes a difference. How our congregation invests financial and volunteer resources matters. So thank you church. 2025 is yet another year of change for our church. We pray for God's guidance and leadership, strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jenny Eisener

Beacon House Representative

Beacon House has had a very successful year. The organization now consists of the thrift store which supports the food bank, the food bank, and the various initiatives to support the homeless. I conclude that it has been a very successful year because of the achievements on a wide front of criteria.

The food bank was severely challenged with rising prices and reduced food donations. The challenge was met by strong community support to the thrift store and food bank, sponsor contributions, and Provincial contribution to the administrative overhead for the Beacon House operation.

It is only 3 years since the Chair of the Board, Cheryl Newcombe, approached the Board with information that Sackville warming centre was faltering and that Beacon House, within its mandate, was morally obliged to take all feasible steps to address the developing problem.

The Beacon House Annual Meeting on February 5, 2025 was informed that by December 2024 the Beacon House operation had expanded from the thrift store and food bank to include:
A 24 bed shelter in the former Elizabeth Seton Church facilities. The shelter operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It offers hot meals, showers, laundry, a staff Social Worker, and a housing support assistant. The shelter is also designated an emergency shelter to be activated in emergencies such as fire, flood, or severe weather.

In addition to the 24 beds inside the former church, Beacon house operates 8 micro shelters with access to the church facilities, and 19 single units in a shelter village within the church property. The Beacon House facility is “home” to 51 individuals who would otherwise be sleeping rough. They take great pride in their community and have done landscaping, gardening (which supplied significant food to the shelter) and maintenance to beautify and maintain the facilities.

The achievements attained by Beacon House are directly attributable to the initiative, commitment, empathy and a lifetime of interaction with government and community leaders of the Chair of the Board, Cheryl Newcombe; and, Board member, HR and Fund Raising Committee Chair, and leader of all aspects of the acquisition of the 27 individual shelters, Jim Gunn from St. John’s congregation. They presented many challenges to the various government agencies involved; but, always with the solution.

Their initiative and stewardship of government funds allocated led to generous government support to provide the essentials necessary to create this beacon of light to the most needy in the community.

Board leadership is supported by a strong volunteer Board of diverse talents that in addition to their governance duties can and do assist within the Beacon House operation, including mentoring staff and volunteers as well as working on the floor. Holy Trinity Parish was a most critical factor in the achievement of the entire Beacon House shelter initiative. The Elizabeth Seton church facility

had been closed; but, was retained by the Diocese. The Diocese strongly supported the Beacon House initiative and negotiated a rent free lease on the facility for three years. This lease has recently been renegotiated for a further two years. The Parish Priest, Father Tim Devine, and the Holy Trinity Parish have been extremely supportive in approving required facility changes to meet code requirements for the Shelter, and in ongoing support for the homeless initiative.

Beacon house is viewed within Government circles as setting the standard for Government supported food and shelter operations. Beacon House provides far more to their clients than a shelter from the elements and food to survive. The Beacon House Social Worker, Rachael Smith, and her two associates inform clients on the multitude of resources available to people in their situation, assist in finding and acquiring permanent accommodation, and assist them to acquire the skills necessary to function within a community. Not for Profit charities registered under Provincial authority are recently subject to close scrutiny because of various mismanagement activities in some operations. One of the corrective measures will be ensuring that charities have a senior position succession plan. Cheryl Newcombe, Chair of Beacon House Board, who has been Chair for approximately six years has voluntarily resigned as Chair at the Feb. 5th 2025 Annual Meeting and has been replaced by Jim Gunn from St. John's congregation as Chair of the Board. Cheryl has been appointed to the important position as Beacon House Treasurer, thus retaining her talents, commitment and corporate knowledge.

Respectfully submitted
Wendall Brown, St. John's Congregation Representative

United Church Women (UCW)

Secretary Report:

St. John's United Church UCW continues to be a vibrant group striving to fulfil our purpose as UCW members. We have twenty-two active members who regularly attend meetings and provide support for our fundraising activities, but we continue to have the full support of the congregation of St. John's when we reach out for assistance for receptions and fundraising events. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those who step forward to help when asked.

The UCW holds meetings on the third Monday of each month during the fall and spring and the third Saturday morning for the months of January – March. A warm welcome is extended to all ladies of the congregation who would like to join us.

The UCW Executive positions are held by Janet Carter and Janice Mitchell as Co-Presidents; Janice Mitchell as Treasurer and Helen Garneau as Secretary. Zelda Hartlen, Sandy Kane, and Colleen Wilson are the members of our telephone calling team; Louise Loughhead serves as our Friendship Secretary and Janice Mitchell is our representative on Council. Janice Mitchell continues in the leadership role of organizing the St. George's Soup Kitchen and finding workers for our major fund-raising projects throughout the year. We would also like to recognize the ongoing work and talent of our Decorating Committee.

Our annual fundraising events included: a chowder luncheon on March 23rd, 71st annual Strawberry Festival on July 6th and Turkey-a-la-King Luncheon and Christmas Bazaar on November 23rd. Other special events included: the annual potluck supper at the home of Barbara Graves in January, hosting the Halifax District UCW annual general meeting in March, we provided a meal to St. George's Soup Kitchen in May, our UCW closing dinner was held at the Turtleback in June, we had afternoon tea with a dear friend and former UCW member, Sandra Chard, at the home of Janice Mitchell in July and thirty-two members of UCW and the congregation attended our annual potluck supper and candlelight service in December. We held our May and November UCW meetings at Melville Heights at the home of Phyllis Fullerton.

During the year we catered receptions for three funerals – Mark Dodge in June, Julie Milligan in September and Rodney Smith in October.

The UCW made donations during 2024 to: St. John's M&S Fund, \$300 for period products given to Beacon House, St. John's Tree of Lights, the Lion's Club Christmas drive, the Least Coin offering for Women's Inter-Church Council, Christmas gifts for staff in support of Beacon House, Gold Easter egg in support of KOGA, donation to KOGA in support of Coldest Night of the Year, and a donation to KOGA for several youth to attend Rendez-vous 2024: Audacious Hope Conference in Ontario. We made several donations during the year to St. John's General Fund totaling \$17,000. We also collected winter hats, scarves and socks for the Beacon House Shelter, provided cranberry sauce for Beacon House Christmas hampers, bibles for the new confirmands, treats for St. John's Walk Thru Bethlehem and Remembrance Day wreath for St. John's service of remembrance.

Halifax District UCW was responsible for the Cookie Cottage at Berwick Camp this year. St. John's UCW was responsible for forty dozen cookies and Louise Loughhead and Zelda Hartlen who attended the week-long camp were busy working at the Cottage. Five members of our UCW attended UCW Day on July 31st where the Moderator was the guest speaker.

As we end 2024, we look forward to another exciting year ahead. Thank you to everyone who supports the work of the UCW at St. John's.

Helen Garneau, UCW Secretary

Decorating Committee – UCW

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements Year Ended December 31, 2024

Cash Receipts

Christmas Bazaar	\$1,121.75	
Chowder Luncheon	\$148.50	
Interest	3.18	\$1,273.43

Cash Disbursements

Service charge	0.25	
Booster seat	8.00	
Decorating supplies for church hall	269.30	
Supplies for apple cider	154.20	
Supplies for strawberry jam	215.25	647.00

Net excess of receipts over disbursements 626.43

Bank Balance, January 1, 2024 1305.36

Bank Balance, December 31, 2024 \$1,931.79

Submitted by: Janet Carter

UCW Treasurers Report

Bank Balance Forward	December 31, 2024	16,877.40
Outstanding Cheques from	December 31, 2024	(250.00)
Opening Fund Balance	December 31, 2024	16,627.40

Revenues

January 11, 2024	December Offering	155.00
January 17, 2024	Donation P Zwicker	50.00
January 17, 2024	January Offering	89.00
March 28, 2024	Chowder Luncheon	2,998.25
April 15, 2024	Cookie Sales - Bridge and concert, Offering Feb/Mar Meeting	319.25
May 17, 2024	April Offering	78.55
	May Offering	45.00
	Donation to St. George	10.00
	Strawberry Supper Including Donations from Barb Stewart, Karen	
July 9, 2024	Lewis, Ruth Oulton	6,186.00
September 4, 2024	Funeral - Mark Dodge	875.00
September 27, 2024	Funeral - J Milligan	1,400.00
	September Offering	141.00
November 5, 2024	October Offering	57.00
November 5, 2024	Funeral - Rodney Smith	350.00
December 2, 2024	Christmas Bazaar	4,674.50
		<hr/>
		17,428.55

Continued on next page

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Chq #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	
	667	January 3, 2024	SJUC - General Fund	10,000.00
	668	January 9, 2024	J Carter - Christmas Bazaar	47.50
	669	January 9, 2024	J Mitchell - Christmas Bazaar	173.60
	670	January 9, 2024	J Mitchell - Period Products	337.00
	671	January 19, 2024	N Craib - Kitchen Supplies	52.85
	672	January 19, 2024	Alice House - Donation for Roof Replacement	500.00
	673		VOID	-
	674	January 20, 2024	Halifax District UCW	92.00
	675	February 12, 2024	SJUC - Coldest Night	100.00
	676	March 16, 2024	L Loughead - Chowder Luncheon	331.35
	677		VOID	
	678	March 17, 2024	Donation to KOGA (Easter Egg Tree)	100.00
	679	April 14, 2024	SJUC - Mission Service	1,000.00
	680	April 14, 2024	Just Us Coffee	250.00
	681	April 14, 2024	J Mitchell - Chowder Luncheon	73.07
	682	June 4, 2024	N Craib - Kitchen Supplies	28.72
	683	July 6, 2024	L Loughead - Butter	65.72
	684	July 9, 2024	The Vegetorium - Strawberries	955.00
	685	July 11, 2024	J Mitchell - Take Out containers	119.40
	686	July 13, 2023	J Carter - Strawberry Supper Food Various	484.74
	687	July 13, 2024	N Stobo - Rolls Strawberry Supper	132.81
	688	July 15, 2024	St Georges/Funeral Expense	190.30
	689	September 8, 2024	Sally Shaw - Gift Bibles Confirmation	330.75
	690	2024-09-26	St John's United Church	7,000.00
	691	October 6, 2024	J Carter - Beacon House Chistmas Dodge Funeral	90.49
	692	2024-10-24	H Garneau Remeberance Day Wreath	65.00
	693	November 5, 2024	J Carter Cookie Tins and Burner Plate	202.67
	694	November 8, 2024	J Mitchell Turkeys for Bazaar	192.55
	695	November 24, 2024	L Loughead - Beacon House	195.50
	696	November 24, 2024	J Mitchell - Supplies Christmas Bazaar	97.96
	697	December 3, 2024	Abby Hanson - Piano Celebration of Lights	50.00
	698	December 3, 2024	St John's United - Celbration of Lights	100.00
	699	December 3, 2024	Lions Club - Christmas Drive	100.00
	700	December 16, 2024	Beacon House - Staff Christmas	150.00
				<hr/> 23,608.98
Fund Balance		December 31, 2024		10,446.97
<u>Outstanding Cheques</u>				
	<u>Chq #</u>			
	696	November 24, 2024	J Mitchell - Supplies Christmas Bazaar	97.96
	699	December 3, 2024	Lions Club - Christmas Drive	100.00
				<hr/> 197.96
Bank Balance		December 31, 2024		10,644.93
Per Bank statement		December 31, 2024		10,644.93

Stewardship Committee – No Report

SJUC Finance and Treasurer Comments

The finance team of Marie McCulloch, Dawn Myer and Darlene Harris continue to complete the required accounting functions in a timely manner which allows for regular and accurate financial reporting to Council and the congregation.

These accounting functions include deposits, payments of expenses, monitoring of cash, bank reconciliations, GST refund claims and the creation of income statements and balance sheets.

2024 Financial Results

The income from envelope and PAR offerings was very close to the 2024 budget. Unfortunately the 2024 budget for these donations was reduced by \$6000 to represent the known changes as we entered 2024.

The loose donations and online donations increased slightly over 2023 and the budget. The participation in the Celebration of Lights campaign continues to be consistent. All donations are gratefully received.

While we have regular renters for our church hall we have lost a significant contributor to this income source. Fall River Chapel discontinued using our sanctuary at the end of June, resulting in a reduction of \$8000 for rental income. Fortunately during 2024 the UCW was able to donate an additional \$7000 which was not included in our budget. Overall the total revenue was as presented in the budget.

Similar to the revenue, most of the 2024 actual expenses were accurately represented in the budget. We had some reduced shared expenses, such as continuing education and supply ministry and copier costs which resulted in a reduction of \$2600 for the “Shared Pastoral Charge” expense item. The per litre cost of heating fuel declined for most of 2024 resulting in a \$2900 savings compared to the prior year.

The operating deficit (loss) for 2024 was \$46,130 which is slightly better than our budget but it is \$7200 higher than 2023.

As approved by the congregation in March of 2024, a withdrawal of \$30,016 was made from the investment gains in the Glengarry investment fund. This withdrawal was \$10,016 higher than the previous withdrawal. These funds were used to increase the operating cash needed to meet our financial commitments.

The draw of \$30,016 resulted in a final deficit (loss) for 2024 of \$16,114.

As stated in prior annual reports, these deficits have significantly reduced our cash position. Unless we find another source of revenue or a reduction in our costs we will need continual and regular withdrawals from our investments.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie McCulloch, Darlene Harris & Dawn Myer (Treasurer)

SJUC Comparative Income Statement

	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2023	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2024
REVENUE		
Offering - Local	121,437.38	115,913.88
Offering - Initial	95.00	80.00
Offering - Loose	2,424.75	2,719.27
Offering- online (members)	1,134.00	1,409.76
Offering - Sunday School	150.00	20.00
Offering - Miscellaneous	25.00	0.00
Total Local Offering	125,266.13	120,142.91
Funeral ministry	5,838.00	2,469.00
Church & Hall Usage Fees	25,493.15	19,218.88
Donations made by UCW	5,000.00	17,000.00
Donations - Memorials	340.00	115.00
Donations - Miscellaneous	1,425.00	1,503.00
Fundraising revenues	3,782.41	796.74
Celebration of Lights	3,900.00	4,005.00
Toonie Plate	24.00	120.00
Use of Capital Improvements Fund	400.00	0.00
Advertising/Sponsorship revenue	900.00	2,400.00
Investment income	858.17	439.72
TOTAL REVENUE	173,226.86	168,210.25
EXPENSES		
Shared Pastoral Charge costs	114,825.79	114,946.31
Music team costs	8,645.75	8,680.67
C & Y Leader costs	40,592.66	45,244.00
Sabbatical	3,600.00	0.00
Total Pastoral Charge costs	167,664.20	168,870.98
Heating fuel	14,034.00	10,609.42
Electric power	3,166.75	3,579.38
Halifax Water & HRM Fire Prot. Tax	721.29	750.25
Snow removal	7,504.00	6,772.50
Janitorial labour	4,588.20	4,836.84
Cleaning & general supplies	899.91	790.14
Sunday School curriculum	200.24	36.75
Sunday School expense	164.49	88.01
KOGA	341.09	770.45
CLG/Support	1,345.50	2,080.42
Total CLG Costs	1,686.59	2,850.87
Church office supplies/maintenance	503.65	602.85
Church In Action	448.84	923.42
PAR remittance costs	615.00	605.50
Choir costs	131.04	86.97
Grounds maintenance	0.00	115.86
Fundraising expenses	167.83	0.00
Christmas -Walk to Bethlehem	334.81	1,857.37
Miscellaneous	859.75	950.49
Sign upgrade	0.00	0.00
Insurance - church	6,038.05	7,087.34
Church building maintenance	2,110.07	2,816.59
Bank charges	12.50	7.50
Spiritual Oversight	60.00	0.00
Stewardship campaign expenses	197.80	102.02
TOTAL EXPENSE	212,109.01	214,341.05
NET OPERATING LOSS	-38,882.15	-46,130.80
DRAWDOWN FROM INVESTMENT	20,000.00	30,016.03
NET LOSS	-18,882.15	-16,114.77

SJUC Comparative Balance Sheet

	<u>As at Dec 31, 2023</u>		<u>As at Dec 31, 2024</u>
ASSET			
CURRENT ASSETS			
General Account, #83533-102	20,315.77		20,452.45
MarketWatch Acct #83533-282	38,611.40		0.00
MarketWatch Acct #83533-292	<u>0.26</u>		<u>12,029.94</u>
Total Cash on Deposit		58,927.43	32,482.39
Accounts receivable	5,363.06		8,146.87
Accts Rec - The Square	0.11		0.11
HST Receivable	<u>911.74</u>		<u>1,283.56</u>
Receivables - Net		6,274.91	9,430.54
Inventory - Office supplies	<u>200.00</u>		<u>200.00</u>
Inventory Total		200.00	200.00
Prepaid expense		280.04	0.00
Investments		<u>314,558.74</u>	<u>316,338.56</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>380,241.12</u>	<u>358,451.49</u>
Fixed Assets			
Land - Fall River	103,351.03		103,351.03
Building - Fall River	<u>857,107.10</u>		<u>857,107.10</u>
Net: Property - Fall River		960,458.13	960,458.13
Furniture & fixtures	<u>12,090.44</u>		<u>16,544.03</u>
Net: Furniture/fixtures		12,090.44	16,544.03
Computers & office equipment	<u>7,326.80</u>		<u>7,326.80</u>
Net: Computers & office equipment		7,326.80	7,326.80
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		<u>979,875.37</u>	<u>984,328.96</u>
TOTAL ASSET		<u>1,360,116.49</u>	<u>1,342,780.45</u>

LIABILITY**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

M&S Fund - Collected	27,969.55	25,942.55
M&S Fund - Remitted	<u>-22,575.04</u>	<u>-20,129.54</u>
M&S Fund - Payable	5,394.51	5,813.01
Misc. Accounts Payable	0.00	85.00
Accounts Payable	<u>17,339.28</u>	<u>15,554.18</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>22,733.79</u>	<u>21,452.19</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITY	 <u>22,733.79</u>	 <u>21,452.19</u>

EQUITY**EQUITY**

Retained earnings	59,973.53	41,091.38
Equity - Youth Account (KOGA)	1,719.49	0.00
Equity - Investment (Eastport)	314,558.74	316,338.56
Equity - Capital Improvements Fund	998.52	998.52
Investment in Capital Assets	979,014.57	979,014.57
Current Earnings	<u>-18,882.15</u>	<u>-16,114.77</u>
TOTAL RETAINED EARNINGS	<u>1,337,382.70</u>	<u>1,321,328.26</u>
 TOTAL EQUITY	 <u>1,337,382.70</u>	 <u>1,321,328.26</u>
 LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	 <u><u>1,360,116.49</u></u>	 <u><u>1,342,780.45</u></u>

Memorials

Donated in 2024 \$115.00

Role responsibilities include:

- Purchasing postage and cards to thank donors and notify families of donations – donated by me in kind – not required this year as minimal donations
- Sending thank you cards to donors – done by Treasurer this year as sends with receipt
- Sending notification of donation cards to families – done by Treasurer this year
- Finance tracks donation amounts and provides receipts

There were 3 memorial donations made to the fund in 2024 in memory of:

- Julie Milligan
- Sandy Hutton
- Rodney Smith

Respectfully submitted:

Heidi Carr

Envelope Secretary/PAR Report

At Dec 2024 we had 37 active envelope holders and 89 participants in PAR

Compares total dollar contributions per Envelope/PAR holder ending 2024:

Range	# Env/PAR 2022	# Env/PAR 2023	# Env/PAR 2024	Total Amount 2022	Total Amount 2023	Total Amount 2024
\$.01- \$50	2	2	4	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$115.00
\$50.01-\$100.00	1	2	5	\$80.00	\$180.00	\$405.00
\$100.01-\$200.00	6	4	12	\$910.00	\$590.00	\$2,003.00
\$200.01-\$500.00	37	35	28	\$12,477.98	\$11,201.00	\$9,466.00
\$500.01-1000.00	42	39	37	\$31,536.00	\$28,386.00	\$26,635.00
\$1000.01-\$5000.00	44	46	44	\$89,755.23	\$85,430.92	\$86,972.92
Over \$5000.00	3	4	3	\$15,918.00	\$22,940.00	\$16,200.00
TOTALS	135	132	133	\$150,722.21	\$148,772.92	\$141,796.92

Compares Envelope/PAR contributions for Local and M & S ending 2024:

Fund Name	2022	2023	2024
Local ***	\$117,771.90	\$121,437.38	\$115,913.88
M & S	\$21,777.04	\$21,131.54	\$20,548.04
* Other	\$11,173.27	\$6,204.00	\$5,335.00
Totals	\$150,722.21	\$148,772.92	\$141,796.92

* Other incl: Sign (2022), Initial, Memorial, UCW, Toonie, Easter Egg, Sunday School, Cel Lights, Bulletin Ded., etc.

**Donations made in 2024 by members through online donation services
for local givings (not included in chart , receipts issued by online service)**

\$1,409.76

Respectfully submitted,
Marie McCulloch
Envelope/PAR Steward
St. John's United Church, Fall River

WELLINGTON UNITED CHURCH

Annual Meeting Minutes Sunday, February 25, 2024 12pm in Wellington Church Hall

Present: Rev. Sally Shaw, Susan Dekker-Inkpen, Jan Conley, Joyce Patriquin (Jr), Ian Van Oosten, Sue Van Oosten, Gloria MacMichael, Lois Miller, Rev. Iain Macdonald, Danny Cox, Mona Cox, Marty Moxon, Laurie Hingley, Carol Hingley, Louise Loughhead, Gary Loughhead, John Ardley, Jennifer Ardley, Grant Kerr, Janette Ewer, Philip Ewer, Shirley Crowell, Cindy Patriquin, Shelley Richard, Dale MacDonald, Bob Mills, Vera Mills, Brenda Penner, Newman Gould (29)

1. Call to Order and Election of Officers

Rev. Iain Macdonald moved that Rev. Sally Shaw chair the meeting and Susan Dekker-Inkpen record the minutes for the meeting. Seconded by John Ardley. Motion carried.

Rev. Sally reviewed things to remember in our meeting conversations.

- *We are all feeling feelings*
- *Honesty is good*
- *Respect, humility, open-mindedness and courage are good*
- *Prayer and silent reflection are good*
- *Imagination and creative thinking are good*
- *An appreciative stance is good*
- *God is good! We invite the Holy Spirit into our conversations. God is love.*

2. Motion to Extend Voting Privileges to Adherents

Jan Conley moved that voting be extended to adherents of Wellington United Church. Seconded by Newman Gould. Motion carried.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Lois Miller requested the addition of "4A Business Arising from the Minutes". John Ardley moved that the agenda with the addition of this item be approved. Seconded by Laurie Hingley. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Annual Meeting minutes of Sunday, March 5, 2023 (pg 54 -56)

Lois Miller moved that the minutes of Sunday, March 5, 2023 be approved as written. Seconded by John Ardley. Motion carried.

4A. Business Arising from the Minutes

Lois asked about the development of a website for Wellington United Church as discussed in last year's annual meeting. Rev. Sally explained that a website creator has been recruited who has agreed to develop it, but this project has been put on hold.

5. Committee Reports for Information

- a. Session (pg 57-58)
- b. Stewards (pg 59)
- c. Trustees (pg 59)

- d. Wellington Choir (pg 59-60)
- e. Sunday School (pg 60-61)
- f. Envelope Secretary (pg 61)
- g. Memorial Fund (pg 63)

John Ardley moved that these reports be received for information. Seconded by Jan Conley. Motion carried.

6. **WUC Financial Report** (pg 62)

A revised Financial Report was distributed at the meeting with the *Donation Other* category broken down with further explanation. It was noted that the propane cost was higher than expected for heating.

John Ardley moved that the Financial report be received for information. Seconded by Ian Van Oosten. Motion carried.

7. **Visioning**

a. **Naming our strengths and challenges**

A list of Wellington United Church's strengths was outlined:

- *Weekly worship in a community with no other church*
- *Choir of 12*
- *Caring community – “the little church with a big heart”*
- *Great involvement of children*
- *28 years of meaningful ministry with volunteer musicians and leaders, Sunday School teachers, 6 hr/wk minister and 2 hr/wk administrator. A great accomplishment!*
- *Active congregation and willing volunteers*
- *Outstanding minister*
- *No debt*
- *New road and future housing development in 6 years*

A list of Wellington United Church's challenges was outlined:

- *The church building is aging and needs ongoing maintenance, and ongoing expenditures (for example, the leak in the bell tower, a few boards in the ramp need replacement)*
- *The washroom is downstairs and is deemed inaccessible*
- *The church needs renewed music leadership with the passing of Bobby McLean and soon retirement of Louise and Gary after many years of dedicated service.*
- *Wellington needs a new Treasurer with the resignation of Joyce Patriquin*
- *John and Jen Ardley expressed their desire to move on as Sunday School leaders and their intention to find a church community with more children*
- *There are fewer people in the pews and less children for the past several years*
- *Closure of Wellington Women and loss of associated fundraising*

b. **Outlining options for future (pros, cons, needs)**

OPTION 1: Address concerns of the congregation and move forward (+ and -)

- (+) This option would mean continuation of church identity with worship in our church building and continuation of our caring faith community
- (-) We would need significant resources to maintain/repair the building (grant proposals, fundraising), concerted efforts to attract new families (communications), and leadership

renewal (a student musician would add approx \$4000 - \$4800 to expenses + travel to Wellington if the person is not local)

OPTION 2: Merge with St. John's United Church (+ and -)

- (+) Resources stay in the faith community (eg. Stained glass windows can be moved)
- (+) Membership roles merge, ensuring pastoral care continues
- (+) Merged congregation deals with finances, property, etc
- (+) More opportunities for ministry and mission because of a larger group
- If Wellington chooses this option, we would request talks with SJUC about merging. Representatives from both congregations would form a planning group. The Region would be notified and we would receive detailed resources on how to merge.
- (-) Loss of Wellington church building and loss of connection to ancestors in the faith
- (-) The sound system at SJUC is a concern for some who have difficulty hearing
- (-) There are theological differences between the two congregations

OPTION 3: Sharing Facilities (+ and -)

- This option would mean the sale of the church property and renting an alternative space to hold worship and other events for our faith community
- (+) The congregational identity would remain without the cost of maintaining a building
- (+) The proceeds from the sale of the church property may be used for the congregation's mission and ministry
- (-) Loss of the building may impact the congregational identity
- (-) Renewed leadership would still be needed

c. Next Steps

It was decided that a "Visioning Team" would be established to explore each of these options further and present possible opportunities to the congregation.

Cindy Patriquin moved that the Visioning Team be authorized to explore these options on behalf of Wellington congregation. Seconded by Iain Macdonald. Motion carried.

(Cindy Patriquin and Joyce Patriquin Jr. offered to serve on the Visioning Team. 2 other members will be recruited.)

Lois Miller moved that the Visioning Team request a conversation with SJUC to start talks about a possible merge. Seconded by Ian Van Oosten. Motion carried.

8. Nominations

Lois Miller moved that the slate of committee members be accepted. Seconded by Iain Macdonald. Motion carried.

WUC Session & Committee Members for 2024

Session

Chair:

Secretary: Sherry Rockwell

Members: Jennifer Ardley
John Ardley
Jan Conley
Newman Gould
Lois Miller
Rev. Sally Shaw

Stewards

Chair: *(Jan Conley resigned as Chair)*

Envelope Secretary: Jan Conley

Treasurer: *(Joyce Patriquin resigned as Treasurer)*

Members: John Ardley
Danny Cox
Joyce Patriquin Jr.
Sherry Rockwell
Mac MacDonald

Trustees

Members: Danny Cox
Newman Gould
Cindy Patriquin
Rev. Sally Shaw

Sunday School

Superintendent: John Ardley

Coordinator: Jennifer Ardley

7. New Business

New Business will hold off until the Visioning Team has a chance to do their work.

8. Proposed Budget (pg 62)

Discussion: It was suggested that we eliminate the phone line to the church as it is not being used. The Stewards committee agreed to look into this matter and proceed.

Lois Miller expressed that we again do not have a projected revenue statement on which to base the acceptance of the proposed budget for 2024.

Lois moved to authorize the Stewards committee to create a projected revenue statement for 2024. Seconded by Mona. Motion carried.

Lois moved that the proposed “list of expenditures” be accepted as presented. Seconded by Mona. Motion carried.

9. Words of thanks

Rev. Sally again extended sincere thanks to the many people who serve Wellington United Church; a comprehensive list of names and committees was celebrated by way of a heart - shaped puzzle during worship this morning. Appreciation was given to Rev. Sally for chairing this meeting.

10. Adjournment

Chair, Rev. Sally Shaw

Recording Secretary, Susan Dekker-Inkpen

Wellington United Church Congregational Meeting Minutes May 26, 2024

Present: Rev. Linda Yates (chair), Vera & Bob Mills, Jan Conley, Mac MacDonald, Lois Miller, Rev. Iain Macdonald, Susan Dekker-Inkpen, Mona & Danny Cox, Laurie & Carol Hingley, Joyce L Patriquin, Sue VanOosten, John & Jennifer Ardley (Josiah, Jonah, Jocelyn), Louise & Gary Loughhead, Philip Ewer, Shirley Crowell, Shelley Richardson, Louise Clark

1. Opening Worship

2. Constitution of the Congregational Meeting

3. Appointment of Recording Secretary for Congregational Meeting

Iain Macdonald moved that Susan Dekker-Inkpen be appointed as the recording secretary for the meeting. Seconded by John Ardley. Motion carried.

4. Confirmation of Chair of Board of Stewards

Sue VanOosten moved that Joyce L. Patriquin be named as the Chair of the Board of Stewards. Seconded by John Ardley. Motion carried.

5. Treasurer Report – Mona Cox

Mona reviewed the financial position of Wellington United Church (see the full Financial Report in appendix). Up to May 15, the church has disbursed all of the money in its starting balance in January and all of the monthly revenue, plus a small portion of a GIC that was unlocked and deposited into the account. There is one other GIC valued at approximately \$5,000 that may be broken early but the interest will be lost. It is common that the church’s monthly expenses exceed the monthly revenue. Wellington will be having two fundraisers in June - the Fun Fair and Lobster Supper, which are expected to bring in additional revenue to pay the bills over the summer months.

6. Presentation of the Future Directions Team Report

The report is recorded in the minutes in summary form only. For a copy of the full report, please contact team chair Lois E. Miller, loisemiller45@gmail.com.

Background

At its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Feb. 25, 2024, the congregation of Wellington United Church set up a "Visioning Team", later re-named the Future Directions Team ("the Team"). Members of the Team are Lois E. Miller, chair; Cindy Patriquin, secretary; Joyce L. Patriquin, Vera Mills and Bob Mills.

The Team has met three times, including one meeting with Sandra Blair and Gail Place, representatives of St. John's United Church. In addition to attending the in-person meetings, Team members undertook research on the options they were asked to explore.

The AGM authorized the Team to "present possible opportunities to the congregation" after exploring these three options:

- **Option 1:** Address concerns of the congregation and move forward; for the building to stay open the congregation must find new and energetic leadership and raise more funds.
- **Option 2:** Merge with St. John's United Church; the church building will close and the congregation disband, or move as a group, according to the procedures laid down by the United Church of Canada (UCC).
- **Option 3:** Share or rent other facilities; the church building would close, but the congregation would continue in another location.

7. Option 1 - discussion in groups, report back

Comments from the groups about the option of addressing the concerns of Wellington and moving forward:

- Not feasible
- Not in favour
- Not enough money coming in as opposed to going out
- We lack funds to pay the bills for any more than a few months
- Rev. Linda talked briefly about the life cycle of a church and that there are external factors that affect it beyond its control.

8. Option 2 – discussion in groups, report back

Comments from the groups about the option of closing the Wellington church and merging with St. John's:

- Some people would choose to attend St. John's, while others would explore other church options
- The memorial stained-glass windows would need to be removed and become part of our new worship space
- It is uncertain if time would allow for a merger process to take place, as it takes many meetings and volunteers, although the Future Directions Team has moved quickly
- A merger process must be approached with consideration of the traditions and history of Wellington

9. Option 3 – discussion in groups, report back

Comments from the groups about sharing or renting other facilities to hold our worship services:

- With the loss of the building, it was uncertain how many would attend worship as the Wellington congregation
- Just prolonging the situation; the proceeds from the sale of the building would be used up in a couple years
- We would still have leadership and music costs and the need for insurance
- Rental of space requires a lot of set up and storage
- We would need to pay per use of the space (ie. fundraising events or special services)

10. Dot-mocracy – testing the will of the congregation (note: this is not a “vote”)

The congregation was asked to take a moment and think about where they feel God is leading. Each person was given 3 little “dot” stickers and asked to come forward and place the dots on the sheets entitled Option 1, Option 2, Option 3, to indicate the options they were leaning toward. Participants were able to stick all three of their dots on a single option if they so chose - or two, or one, or none. The outcome of the exercise indicated that Option 2: Close the Wellington church building and merge with St. John’s United Church was a clear preference.

Option 1 had 6 dots. Option 2 had 47 dots. Option 3 had 1 dot.

*(Note that not every person present in the meeting participated in the dot-mocracy)

11. Determining next steps

As a result of the work that was performed today, the following motions were presented:

Motion: Mona Cox moved that the Future Directions Team further explore the option of closing the Wellington church building and merging with St. John's United in Fall River, with a report to be delivered in September. Seconded by Rev. Iain Macdonald. Motion carried. The congregation members agreed that the Future Directions Team would be given the power to add additional members as required.

Motion: John Ardley moved that the Future Directions Team send a letter to inform St. John's council of the interest of Wellington United to explore a merge with St. John's United, and to request the creation of a St. John's task force which will work with the Wellington Future Directions Team to help create a report delivered in September. Seconded by Bob Mills. Motion carried.

12. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Wellington congregation will be planned in September (date tbd) to hear the next report.

13. Closing Worship

Rev. Linda Yates, chair
secretary

Susan Dekker-Inkpen, recording

APPENDIX

Wellington United Church Financial Report 2024 to May 15

Starting balance January 1, 2024	7,325.43
Receipts before GIC	<u>9,619.55</u>
Total	16,944.98
Disbursements	17,143.04
Negative	- 198.06
GIC Deposit	5,444.00
Present Balance	5,245.94
(includes \$327.00 M&S contributions held in account and paid out quarterly)	
ACTUAL BALANCE	4,918.94
Regular Monthly Payments:	
SJUC Central Treasurer	1,772.00
Insurance	596.37
Phone	31.01
Cleaner	<u>50.00</u>
Total	2,449.38

Balance Owing for Sabbatical 900.00 June 30th
And of course there are other bills as well, though they are not monthly nor for a set amount.

Wellington United Church - Congregational Meeting Minutes Sunday, October 6, 2024, 6:00 pm

Acting Chair: Rev. Sally Shaw

Secretary: Susan Dekker-Inkpen

Guest: David Hewitt, Regional Minister

Attendees: Sherry Rockwell, Joyce L. Patriquin, Lois Miller, Iain Macdonald, Vera & Gordon Mills, Marty Moxon, Jan Conley, Gloria MacMichael, Cindy Patriquin, Sue Van Oosten, Tanya Matthews, Newman Gould (quorum reached)

Regrets: Mona & Danny Cox

Call to Order and Election of Officers

Iain Macdonald moved that Rev. Sally Shaw chair the meeting and Susan Dekker-Inkpen be appointed as the recording secretary. Seconded by Tanya Matthews. Motion carried.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Adoption of Agenda

Tanya Matthews moved that the agenda be approved as written. Seconded by Jan Conley. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Minutes of last Congregational Meeting: May 26, 2024

Lois Miller moved that the minutes of the last Congregational Meeting be approved as written. Lois confirmed that the actions requested in the Motions were fulfilled by the Future Directions Team. Seconded by Iain Macdonald. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – from Mona (for information): I have been in contact with the SJUC treasurer and I know what is expected of us. WUC will be paying our 15% until the end of the year. Insurance is under investigation by the Trustees. Phone service stops on October 21, 2024. The remaining GIC will be transferred into WUC General Fund on October 31, 2024. The balance of the building fund account will be moved at the same time as the GIC and closed.

1. Amalgamation Plan

- a. Lois Miller moved that the congregation accept the Amalgamation Plan from the Amalgamation Team. Sally noted that an Executive Summary of the Amalgamation Plan had been mailed out to all members and adherents of Wellington who could be reached. Seconded by Tanya Matthews. Motion carried.
- b. Lois Miller moved that the congregation formally agree to amalgamate with St. John's United Church under the name of St. John's United Church, Fall River, in the Waverley Pastoral Charge, as of **Dec 31, 2024**. (Note date change – to ease the process for the treasurers. The Regional meeting is on December 5th where the amalgamation request will be presented). Seconded by Cindy Patriquin.

A vote by secret ballot took place. David Hewitt collected and counted the ballots, witnessed by Susan Dekker-Inkpen. David declared that the majority voted YES. **The motion to formally agree to amalgamate with St. John's United Church, Fall River, is CARRIED.**

Iain Macdonald moved that the ballots be destroyed. Seconded by Bob Mills. Motion carried.

Sally spoke about the major decision that the Wellington congregation had just made and recognized the multitude of emotions that accompany it. She reviewed important dates for special services of celebration. The final service of Wellington United Church will be 9:30am on October 20th. A service to recognize the newly amalgamated congregation will take place at 11am at St. John's United Church on October 27th, and joint worship services will commence going forward.

David Hewitt confirmed that the legal entity of Wellington United Church and its governance will continue until Dec 31. The Official Board continues until then.

2. Sally's upcoming retirement on January 31, 2025 and what needs to happen next

David Hewitt invited congregation members to start thinking about serving on the committee to prepare a profile to search for a new minister. The Region will assign a delegate to work with the profile group. This group would complete a fairly significant amount of work over a short period of time. A great deal of work has already been completed with the work of amalgamation. Once the profile is approved by the congregation, a search team will be appointed.

Words of Thanks

Rev. Sally extended heartfelt thanks to...

The Amalgamation Team members from Wellington (Lois, Cindy, Joyce & Tanya)

David Hewitt, Region representative

Mona for taking care of the Wellington finances

Mona & Danny for completing an inventory of items in the church

Everyone who attended the meeting this evening and participated in the vote

Adjournment

Session

The Wellington Session met twice in 2024 in addition to the Oct 6 congregational meeting to vote on the amalgamation plan. We celebrated communion on Epiphany Sunday, Lent 1, Easter Sunday, and Worldwide Communion Sunday. Much of our work for the year was focused on recognizing and thanking key leaders in our church's worship life, preparing for the amalgamation of our congregation with SJUC, and celebrating the legacy of the congregation. At every step we tried to say goodbye well, so that we would be prepared to say hello well to our future amalgamated congregation and worship life. Thank you to this year's members of Session: John and Jennifer Ardley, Jan Conley, Newman Gould, Lois Miller, and Secretary, Sherry Rockwell. You are the best!

On February 25, we held our Annual Meeting after a delicious breakfast provided by Mona and Danny Cox. At that meeting the congregation decided to strike a Future Directions Committee to consider options for the future of the congregation.

In April, we held our Easter sunrise service and continental breakfast provided by the members of Session and friends.

In June, Louise and Gary Loughhead retired from their longtime volunteer music leadership at Wellington Church. Even when there were 9 worshippers in the pews, there were still 11 people in the choir and that is due to Louise, Gary, and the late Bobby McLean's many wonderful years of leadership. Words simply cannot express the profound gratitude the people of Wellington have for the amazing music and friendship Louise and Gary have shared with us. We celebrated their

ministry with a special Gospel Music Service and reception on June 9, 2024. Special thanks to Gary and Philip for providing our musical accompaniment during the month of July.

At our annual Sunday School closing and Grad recognition, warm thank yous and heartfelt goodbyes were said to the Ardley family. John, Jen, Josiah, Jonah, and Jocelyn contributed to our church in so many, many ways! They have our sincere thanks and our blessings for their future faith journeys.

At separate congregational meetings on October 6th, our Pastoral Charge's two congregations voted to become one. And so on October 20th we celebrated a very well attended final worship service of closure and celebration of the legacy of "our little white church in the wildwood", with special music by Louise, Gary, Philip, and the choir, and guest preacher and former minister, Rev Matthew Fillier.

Wellington United Church remained as vibrant as it was for as long as it was because of the dedicated service of its people. Thank you one and all. I do hope that the new amalgamated St John's has or will become a warm, welcoming, wonderful church home for you all.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Wellington Session,
Rev Sally Shaw, with assistance from Rev Linda Yates and Rev Jenny Eisener. Thank you!

Trustees

The Wellington United Church Trustees met April 3rd to address concerns regarding the leaky bell tower which was repaired, ramp repairs – two quotes for repairs or replacement of ramp – minimal repairs were done to make the ramp safe to use. Discussion regarding propane heat cost to a new heat pump which funding is available from Faithful Footprints, plus disconnect the land line which costs \$300 per year. We have been working diligently with the Amalgamation Team to provide an inventory list from the Wellington United Church and assist in the sale of the church property.

February 25th Annual Meeting, our congregational began a period of discernment regarding the future of the Wellington United Church. A team was made up of members from the congregation called Future Direction Team to assess and present the three options for the Wellington United Church.

August 6th, our Wellington United Trustees partnered with St. John's United Trustees to form the Wellington & SJUC Trustee Amalgamation Team which would work with the Future Direction Team in regards to property. In October, the decision was made by both congregations to amalgamate to one congregation at the St. John's United Church in Fall River. Since the amalgamation, the Joint Trustees have been working hard to secure the items from the Wellington United Church to be distributed appropriately as per the Amalgamation Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Patriquin, secretary
Wellington United Church Trustees, Wellington & SJUC Trustee Amalgamation Team

Stewards – No Report

Wellington Choir

Many thanks to Louise and Gary Loughhead for keeping the music playing each Sunday. Although the choir didn't sing on a regular basis last year, we did sing our hearts out on the last Sunday that Wellington was open on October 20, 2024. One last time the saintly members of this choir came together to make melodious music that filled the sanctuary with heavenly hymns and anthems. Words cannot express how blessed Wellington United Church has been over the decades to have such dedicated and talented individuals as Gary and Louise, in leading us in music ministry each Sunday. There are many other members of this holy choir who deserve recognition and thankfulness for cheerfully sharing their time and talent by providing harmonious music for the worship over the years. Although small in number, the voices in this choir helped fill the church with hymns of praise and songs of exaltation. A special 'Thank You' is also in order for Philip Ewer and Mark McLean who generously gave of their time and talents towards our special services.

We are so grateful and indebted to everyone who has provided us with melodious music over the years.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Ardley (choir representative)

Sunday School

Ecclesiastes 3 says,
"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance..." Sadly, this past year was Wellington's last year of being open. That said, the children enjoyed their final Sundays at Wellington United learning about the character of God, the immeasurable love of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit. The children reciprocated their love for God and Jesus through prayers and songs.

The Sunday School closing was held on Sunday, June 23, 2024; there was delicious cake and a barbecue that followed the service. Many thanks go out to those saintly individuals who helped make this day come to fruition. A special thank you to Joyce Patriquin Jr. for not only donating all of the food, but also for barbecuing the hamburgers.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone at Wellington United Church and within the Waverley Pastoral Charge for being such a blessing to my family over the past fifteen years. It is our sincere prayer that God will continue to bless you all.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Ardleys

Envelope Secretary – No Report

Memorial Fund

Opening Balance 2024:	3863.59
Transfer between Accounts (to keep account active)	136.41
Closing Balance 2024	4000.00

Respectfully Submitted,
Mona M Cox
Treasurer

WUC Financial

WUC Financial Report 2024

Operating Account

Opening Balance 2024: 7,264.73

Income

Envelopes/PAR: 13,890.00

Cash: 474.25

Donation: 25.00

Fun Fair: 1427.00

Lobster Supper: 4713.00

Bank Correction: 1.00

WPC Treasurer: 1025.45

Balance from Building Fund: 910.00

Mature GIC's: 10,889.08

M & S Fund: 1893.00

Total Income: 35,247.78

Expenses

WPC Treasurer 21,264.00

Sabbatical: 1008.63

Music: 600.00

Cleaner: 350.00

Phone: 376.03

Nova Scotia Power: 1177.77

Heating: 3754.05

Insurance: 4770.96

Lobster Supper: 1575.00

Snow Removal: 948.75

Water Softener Salt 20.68

The Laker: 150.00

WUC Closing: 330.13

Transfer Between Accounts: 171.41

Bank Charges: 54.00

M & S Fund: 1893.00

Total Expenses: 38,444.41

Balance at WUC Closing: 4068.10

Building Account

Opening Balance 2024: 740.00

Income

Envelopes: 170.00

(includes transfer between accounts)

Closing Balance October 2024 910.00