



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

Vision of our Congregation	2
Mission of our Congregation	2
Statement of Affirmation	2
From the Board Chair	3
Ministerial & Staff Reports	4
The Rev. Dr. Catherine Faith MacLean Senior Minister	4
Denise Davis Taylor, Diaconal Minister Minister of Faith Formation.....	13
Rondy Kyle, Children's Ministry Coordinator	18
Susan Farrell, Music Director	19
Committee and Team Reports.....	21
Ministry and Personnel Committee	21
Stewardship Committee	23
Worship Committee	24
Spiritual Nurture	25
Membership and Congregational Care Committee	26
Finance Committee.....	27
Property Committee	28
Legacy Project.....	30
Social Justice Committee	30
Racecourse Community School Fundraising Initiative	32
Church Group Reports	34
Paulettes (United Church Women of St. Paul's United Church)	34
The Quilting Group	34
The Flower Group	35
2020-2021 Congregational Meetings - Minutes.....	36
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting February 16, 2020	36
Minutes of the Annual Review held in lieu of Congregational Meeting March 9, 2021.....	39
Membership.....	42
Baptisms	42
Marriages	42
In Memoriam	42

St. Paul's Vision & Mission Statement

Vision of our Congregation

We will be a spiritual home where:
God and Jesus Christ are celebrated;
diversity is embraced;
and people are nurtured so that we can serve others.

Mission of our Congregation

We will provide services, programs, and opportunities to build, to strengthen and to enrich our faith so that we can better serve our families, our communities, and our world.

Statement of Affirmation

St. Paul's United Church is an Affirming Congregation within the United Church of Canada. As such we reach out with love and acceptance to all those who come through our doors regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, racial or ethnic background, differing abilities, economic or cultural background. As a community of faith, we strive to make St. Paul's United Church a safe place for all and a voice for social justice.

From the Board Chair

When I assumed the Board Chair in October 2021, I soon realized how strong the Board was with Chris Peet at the helm and a solid group of committee chairs. I also realized it had not been easy for your Board to try and ensure a strong ongoing community of faith while realizing and confronting a world pandemic.

The Board and the committees have been busy creating a strong sense of togetherness while ensuring the church building and our financial obligations continue to be maintained. You will find a wealth of information on our 2021 mission as you read through this annual report.

Worship via Zoom has evolved beautifully over the last two years and the creativity and togetherness provided by these services has helped keep our sense of connection with each other. Zoom coffee and other small group events, both in the church and out in the yard, have also allowed people to connect and share their lives with each other and dare I say, provide some momentary sense of normalcy.

Our in person worship for Advent saw a good number of our congregation take advantage of this opportunity to worship with other in the Sanctuary. Unfortunately the in person opportunity was suspended by the Board for safety concerns and protecting the health of the congregation was upmost in our decision. The Reentry Task Force will continue to monitor the situation and advise the Board on when we can again safely worship in the Sanctuary.

This year we will see Denise Davis Taylor retire at the end of June. Denise is an integral part of ministry team and she will be difficult to replace. As a result of this change in pastoral relations, the Board has formed a small sub committee whose role will be to develop a Community of Faith Profile showing who St Paul's is and where our visioning may take us in the future. The sub committee will likely engage the congregation in a review of their results and will look for your guidance and wisdom to complete our Living Faith Story.

Our newly renovated building as been underused throughout the last two years and the Rental Committee have been working thoughtfully to developed guidelines, for Board consideration and the committees continued monitoring of the situation will allow the Board to consider a number of rental requests in 2022.

Thank you for the personal time and energy you have put into the St Paul's family and for your financial contributions to ensure the church can continue to be sustainable.

Bob Miller
Board Chair

Ministerial & Staff Reports

The Rev. Dr. Catherine Faith MacLean

Senior Minister

Names are what I notice as I review my daybook to write this report. Names are what I notice as I sift through minutes. Names are in my mind as I recall writing prayers through the year. Names are the faces on what we do as church, and who we are.

Paul, for whom the congregation is named, had been called Saul earlier in his life: when he became a pioneer for Christ his name was changed. Some of us change our names when we transition into another identity; some of us change names when we become a new family; some of us change names when we shed old ways.

In all of this we are cherished, just as we are. St. Paul's United Church is a standing witness to the cherishing of each human being, community relationships, and our care of creation.

Right off the top I would like to acknowledge the commitment and diligence brought to your church from members of the Board, Executive, committees, and the Re-entry Task Group. Chris Peet extended his term as Board Chair for most of this year, and Bob Miller stepped in as Interim Chair in the late autumn. Questions of when and how building re-entry will happen were ably handled by Audrey Groeneveld, Dean Rombough, Coleen Falk, Amy Kaler, Lorene Everett-Turner, and Marian Carmichael. I served with this group. Members of the Worship and Rental committees who have been part of these deliberations are Hugh Stacey, Lori Stewart, Allan Scott, Marianne Scott, Heather Peden, and Sheila Brown. Decisions were made thoughtfully and quickly, both to return to Sunday morning in the sanctuary on November 28, and then to revert to video-only after Advent.

The church of course has never been closed: several committees have been very hard at work, people have been reaching out and connecting with one another virtually and by phone and cards, children's programs continued, pastoral care has been robust, and our worship videos were available on youtube. Yet we are progressively more aware of the meaning of the building: for gathering, for meeting people we would not encounter in our daily rounds, as a refuge, as a party place, as a house for moving through the emotions and changes in human life, and as a witness through art and architecture of God's enduring love and our Affirming commitments.

Worship

Worship leadership is the primary part of my covenant with you. Pastoral care, community life, administration and governance, connection to the wider church, presence as an officer of the church, denominational ethos and local expression, encouragement and general support of your souls all connect through worship. Hence the bulk of this report concerns worship. The time I dedicate without a pandemic to research, worship themes, expression, and collaboration is similar to the volume of time I spend preparing and leading worship during pandemic; the difference is days of the

week. Rather than worship absorbing most of Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays this year it has been largely Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Sundays have been available for zoom coffee, modeled after coffee in the Friendship Room, and further time for pastoral care.

Our ability to reach people with weekly worship is vital. We bring order when many are seeing chaos, and uplifting messages when many are despondent. We recognize that bringing hope and lifting spirits is a significant part of worship. We bring sorrow and prayers of lament. We bring the realities of our daily round. We can actually do some of that in video format. What we miss, of course, is the movement between us in the room, the liveliness of voices united, and one another's beloved companionship to address the realities of the present moment. I have learned that among the merits of video recorded worship is the flexibility of time, not limited to a 10 AM start. You have told me about different worship experiences: during family gatherings in the kitchen, a large screen TV, the ability to rewind (Did she really say that? I love that anthem!), forwarding the worship event to a grieving uncle or a questioning neighbour, watching from a safe distance when a person is not sure church is safe, visiting St. Paul's from geographic distance or on holiday, the intimacy of a phone; and of course pyjamas. It is not the same as in-sanctuary in-person worship. It is not supposed to be. We are supposed to be missing the experience of gathered worship. And we have learned much about who we can be as a community of faith.

Planning, consulting, preparing, recording

Together with the worship committee I select overarching themes and we evaluate worship experiences as the season concludes. We look for what else might expand the human spirit ethically, biblically, theologically, personally, and essentially with regard to life in community formed with Christian faithful intention. It is a pleasure to work with Susan and Tyson each week as they not only edit and stitch together music with the videos I send, but as they bring their understandings of the congregation, senses of humour, and attentiveness to the subject at hand. We select music that suits the theme; this year I have done most of the choosing because the production that Susan and Tyson do requires a different kind of time and attention than practicing and choir rehearsal.

You will have noticed on our StPaulsUCYEG YouTube channel that Susan and Tyson create a thumbnail for each video. It draws people in, giving not only the theme but some key images from worship. The themes come from pastoral care, conversations with congregational members and members of staff, scripture, global concerns, and both the tone and content of local and civic events. Titles such as Living with Grief, Troubled Souls, Return to Joy, and Relinquish are more engaging in a video index than simply Lent 1 or John 15: 9-17.

Themes

Some themes you absorbed in worship in 2021 were: Congregational Life; Reconciliation; National Indigenous Peoples Day; National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also called Orange Shirt Day, with R-W Hoekstra offering a Three Sisters teaching that we are Intertwined as Treaty people; Pride; RaricaNow; PIE Day; Place and Property; Garneau Food Security; Morning; Wilderness; an All Hallows' Eve Candle Lighting for Our Dearly Departed; Blessing the Animals; Weeds and Justice; Tumultuous Times; Remembrance Day; Balcony People, Eutychus Falls out a Window; Gates and Wisdom; and of course often Covid: with prayers for support, strength, and courage; with compassion for health professionals, schools, families, decision-makers, and care homes; and our acknowledgment of death

and loss. Sometimes I asked you to prepare candles at home. The first Sunday of Advent we reflected on being one in Christ in our concern for ecology through a shared service with a congregation in Scotland; Grace Tessier was part of it as well as, in Aberfeldy, Georgia Brockness and the Reverend Neil Glover. Remember the Atmospheric River?

Epiphany is a time of fresh sight and insight, and I invited members of the congregation to submit videos and photos. The purpose was a spiritual practice of sharing what you are discovering. During Lent we heard “We’re Waiting” by Susan Lukey and David Robertson each week, with a waiting activity such as building a model of the Temple and preparing a doll house for “guests”. Jim Stewart, Daniel Greenways, Justin Wheler, Annet Atuhurire, and 박 성순 Sungsoon Park each brought a message about what was inspiring them. We observed National Affirming Day; PIE Day (Public Intentional Explicit) on rainbow crosswalks and in the Scott Family Kitchen at the church. Susan incorporated the choir anthem from Sunday March 15 2020, Psalm 23 arranged by Howard Goodall. And do you remember Tyson singing Poor Wayfaring Stranger in nine parts! Good Friday and Easter videos were uploaded with timed releases. Denise prepared the sunrise video with Katharine Moore and Rev. Blaine Gregg of Spirit of Hope and put it on our youtube channel. We were very happy to have participation by families and choir members for Easter and Palm Sunday. The early autumn is a season of Creation and our titles included Sky (the aurora borealis happened to be magnificent that week), Water, Trees, Harvest, and Nasturtiums Connecting our Community. Late fall was a time for challenging topics such as Divides, Forgiveness, and What You Can’t Un-See.

A land acknowledgment was spoken each week. The permissions and licenses for music were included in the YouTube channel. A stewardship opportunity was written in the “credits” at the close of the video; they read variously: “Financial contributions make this work & St. Paul’s outreach fly. Thanks!” “Financial contributions to St. Paul’s help some listen, and others find listeners.” “The easiest way to support this work and St. Paul’s outreach is e-transfer reminder to stpaulsaccountant@telus.net”. Susan occasionally included bloopers at the end of the video when the tone of the service allowed it.

Places

You notice that I drive to places all over the city for images to enhance the worshipful points we are making. Each of these places or art installations accentuate or symbolize a worship theme. The imagery in the videos always expresses and amplifies the message; it is not gratuitous. I am grateful when you make suggestions. These locations are meaningful especially to people who are not able to get outside. Some of the images in places that have brought meaning to our worship scenes this year are: Open Sea by Robin Bell (yes, the whale – think Jonah!) in West Edmonton Mall, Dr. Wilbert McIntyre Park at Strathcona Market, Grant Notley Park, Alberta Avenue and the “Walking Figures” by Polish artist Magdalena Abakanowicz (at 9 feet tall and a ton each, a powerful and curious image for the magi at Christmas), Alberta Legislature, the cemetery next to the Poundmaker Residential School grounds, North Saskatchewan River lookouts at Keillor Point, Riverbend, Terwilliger and St. George’s Crescent, Smith Crossing off 23rd Avenue, Edmonton and Mount Pleasant cemeteries, the Bob and Doug MacKenzie statues in the Ice District, Naomi and Lee’s garden, Helen Nolan Park, The Promenade, Blackmud Creek, the rainbow crosswalks on White and 104th avenues, Government House grounds, Hawrelak Park, Talus Dome, Manchester Square, the 97th Street Chinatown Gate of Happy Arrival, Buena Vista Park trails, the traffic circle and LRT station in Belgravia, Amiskwaskahegan

Park, Whitemud Park, Groat Bridge, Edmonton Valley Zoo, Ramsay Heights park, Aspen Gardens, the Jasper Avenue animal statues: The Migrants by Lionel A.J. Thomas, Western Dancer and Royal Sweet Diamond by Joe Fafard, City Hall, Blatchford, the Francis Winspear Centre for Music, cenotaphs, Peace Garden Park, the University of Alberta HUB Mall, Forest Heights, the rivers Tey and North Saskatchewan including the iconic Aberfeldy bridge & an Edmonton bridge, and of course Susan's and Tyson's home studios.

I offered prayers, reflections, and scripture in places you miss within the church building too: the kitchen, your pew in the sanctuary, my study, the labyrinth, the Memorial Garden, our new front door benches, the Prayer Wall, the Friendship Room - and who knew the best lighting is in the mezzanine, that spot with the bird's eye view?

People

When we are not in the sanctuary together it can take a grand gesture to make a point. So it was that my dining table got set and pancakes served; I opened storm chips in the Friendship Room; I read Margaret Atwood from my Juliet porch. Isabel Becking joined me to point out a good spot to record on trees and wisdom in Blackmud Creek; Pat Greenways and Dawn Macdonald showed us pictures of the progress of their Easter nasturtiums; Jaycen Morin read from a lawn chair. Gwyn Bailey told me a story about a hermit who lived in a dugout in the side of the hill where the Groat Bridge is now. In those days the river water was safe for fishing. I went there, retold the story and wondered about eco-theology. We make these points differently in-sanctuary in-person worship, don't we?

Denise and Rondy have been diligent ministering with young families and involving them in worship videos. How marvellous it has been to see Zoë Nichols, Alexander Nichols, Shona Webster Nichols, Heather, Gordon and Arlene Nikolaichuk, Grace MacKenzie Wheler, Esther Vanderwel, Phil Chan and Miriam, Cheyenne Razaghi, Charley, Cole, Ellis and Blake Boyd, Violet Taylor, James Rott, Amelia Razaghi, and others who participated several times including Easter and the Christmas pageant.

Others whom you have seen in worship videos are Lori Stewart, John Chalmers, Darlene Pranke; occasionally people coming in and out of the church building – Anna Benowicz, and people at the Thursday Talks: Helen Madill, Joyce Halferdahl, Sheila Brown, Jane Ngarambe, and Joseph Ntale. I bring you these names to remind you about beloved church friends, for names are the faces to what we do and who we are as church. Music has come from Sherry Steele, Grace MacKenzie Wheler, Lynn Sutankayo, Senja & Hue Smale, Alex Charlton, Cheyenne and Amelia Razaghi, Toscha Turner and McKinley Sharek, Lorene Everett-Turner, Jasper Woodard and Ellen Buckie, Colin Ryan, John Tessier, Shannon Hiebert, Darren Nichols, Dawn Macdonald. There have been various cats.

Organizing participation though videos is marvelous and time-consuming. We have involved many people in worship as they respond to requests for videos and photos. This year you have seen gratitude to these names: Gerry Farrell, Earl Reaburn, Courtney Wutzke, Andrew Reaburn, Katie Robinson, Michel Figeat, Ross Wein, Heather Razaghi, Frank Florian, Jun-Hyok Chon, Jill Kwasniewski, Valary Howard, Dave MacLean, Colin Peart, Jun-Hyok Chon, Pat Greenways, Karen Holmes, Rondy Kyle, Teresa Bellinger, Paul Preston, Jim Stewart, George MacLean, and Daniel Greenways.

Integrated Worship

The work Susan and Tyson do has made the care and worshipping life of this congregation sing through the pandemic. Our outreach has expanded well beyond the walls of our building. We receive accolades from far and wide. Our videos have been re-broadcast by congregations in rural Alberta, Toronto, and internationally. Thank you.

The worship videos have different purposes from a synchronous televising of the live service. We have been asked to carry them on when we are in-person in-sanctuary. We did it: during Advent when we were in-person in-sanctuary Sunday mornings we offered two recorded worship events. I offer you the word “integrated”. The word “integrated” speaks more about community than the business and botanical term “hybrid”.

When we have celebrated communion it has been by zoom, live, which is to say we are present together in time if not in space. This distinction is a theological and spiritual value. The current direction from the United Church of Canada is that sacraments are to be in real time, not asynchronous time.

We yearn to be together. We will be, soon. In bringing you all these names, I wish to point out that despite the separation, we are not lost to one another. We are called back by name by the One who first named the light, the One to whom we return again, and again.

Pastoral Care

Telephone, email, zoom, facebook, messenger, text, and good old-fashioned post: this year pastoral visiting has also happened on porches, in driveways, gardens, lawns, parks, and apartment-front-doors, in our large airy sanctuary - and there has been some slow return back to coffee shops and living rooms and my study.

Independent spiritual practices have increased importance during a time of isolation. I offer to place prayers in our Prayer Wall; it has been a godsend during the pandemic. Lance Love makes crosses out of a soft wood; they fit nicely in the hand. I am grateful to Lance that I can give them away for personal spiritual practice, particularly in a time of difficult transition when it's helpful to have a prayer felt or blessing felt in one's grip.

Incidentally, I have two email addresses and they come into one inbox. The transition away from telus has meant my email has more than one name.

Some of the issues that have been brought to my spiritual care are loneliness, grief, shock, vocational direction, changes in relationships, financial advice for resources, illness and surgeries, neurodegenerative diseases, and letters of reference.

All of our baptism requests are waiting until we can be together in the sanctuary.

I officiated at a wedding in the summer. It took place at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club and the club looked after all the pandemic protocols.

Many memorial services have been postponed. I have led many graveside services and Memorial Garden interments. Some memorials will be held when it is reliably safe for people to gather. I would like you to know about this meaningful and new experience: As I officiated at the memorial service for Betty Arlette, I was the only person in the church. Through my computer in the chancel I linked her family from nine other places across the globe. I moved my camera over the stained-glass windows and the painting by Elva Frederking. St. Paul's meant a great deal to Betty, and between the images in the sanctuary and reading greetings from church friends I was able to make this church real to her family.

Congregational Life, Study Groups, Outreach

Each Tuesday and Friday, except through the summer, I sent an email to the congregation and friends. The Friday letter was for events and news as well as a synopsis of the weekend worship theme. The Tuesday letter was intended as one-item-only, an opportunity for prayer, study resources, or to highlight an element of our common life. Occasionally I asked a congregational member to write it as a way of keeping the congregation more broadly connected; for instance, Ross Wein gave an update on Coyote Lake Lodge and Karin Stewart wrote about our Margaret Parsons Library.

I wrote several letters and cards to the congregation, sometimes with Board Chair Chris Peet and later Bob Miller. I regularly took screen shots of committee, Board, and staff meetings so Anna could put the photos in the St. Paul's Page.

For Day5 I presented a few times. I shared an evening with Gordon Oaks and Garnet Thomas on our stained-glass windows. I presented the United Church Adoption Apology, acknowledging our denomination's role in separating mothers and their babies in maternity homes from the end of World War II to 1980. Together with Sherry Steele I led Maundy Thursday communion. Susan, Tyson, and I brought "Behind the Scenes" about our worship video preparation. I presented on Divides, focusing on the political and personal things-we-can't-unsee during pandemic and ways we might heal those divides.

Thursdays during Lent a group gathered with me on zoom to discuss the 2021 Lenten devotional book, *Faith on the Move*. In the autumn when it became apparent the pandemic would keep us from in-person labyrinth walks, I led series on Rob Fennell's *31 Short Spiritual Practices*.

For Holy Week I have a practice of producing a devotional booklet. This year we decided to send it to everyone, and I suggested we include a seed that would flower and be a symbol for Easter. Denise purchased soil and nasturtium seeds, and she and Anna bagged nasturtium seeds, soil, and palm fronds. A dozen drivers delivered them to 280 addresses. That personal touch was exceptional and there has been a great deal of gratitude expressed across the congregation. In the autumn I prepared a worship service based on the nasturtiums and the sense of community we grew with the flowers.

Zoom coffee carries on in Sunday coffee-hour. Thank you to Pat Greenways for hosting these many months and, before Pat, Coleen Falk and Chris Peet. Coleen has hosted Thursday Talks which have alternately been outdoors on the benches near the front door, in the Friendship Room, and re-zoomed online when weather and pandemic got in the way.

Murray Pruden, the United Church Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministry and Justice, Oliver Rossier, and began a conversation about connecting the Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archeology at the University of Alberta, our congregation, and the Indigenous Church.

We try to keep spirits up and help people be and feel connected. With the equipment that we have purchased for worship videos, Susan Farrell collected material for Good News Videos and she has released six! Anna and I made We Are Not Alone masks available from the church. Board members called everyone who is not on our email list in December.

Staff meetings continued Wednesday mornings. It's been very helpful that Anna was in the building during business hours. I was there at least once or twice every week, and relied on Anna, my phone, and my computer.

Governance

The infrastructure of the church community as well as communication about the life and work we are about together is the responsibility of the Board, Executive, and our various committees. Your leaders have been very gracious about video conferences. The commitment and love they show for this community and our purposes is outstanding. The photos you saw in the St. Paul's Page came with names attached, and you can see the integrity in their faces. Staff meetings also carried on every Wednesday and we were able to sort through both evaluations of what we had recently accomplished and plans for the immediate and distant future. As part of my work with the Re-entry Task Group I kept in touch with colleagues locally and globally about other church's responses to covid protocols, congregational life, and building opening plans.

As the Legacy Project began to wind up we started visioning work, which now has a new name: Path Forward. We have opportunity to consider what is most important to our congregation as we miss one another and the building. Jim Stewart, Helen Lightfoot, Marianne Scott, and Donna Stickland reviewed the free writing material from the Building Reopening Survey and carried on into a three-part plan:

- 1) Survey to gather broad ideas on the future vision of St. Paul's
- 2) Discussion groups for priority setting
- 3) Plenary meeting for final review and approval

The gatherings would have been outdoors last spring but were sidelined by pandemic restrictions.

As it turns out, the work of that group will inform our Living Faith Story for the Community of Faith Profile required by the denomination and essential in a pastoral search. To wit: through her sabbatical Denise came to the discernment that she would retire from active ministry and from St. Paul's congregation. I will miss her deeply. I value her imagination, creativity, friendship, and the amazing ability that she has to pull together a study group, a social justice witness, and a meal for 40 people! Now as the congregation begins this transition the Reverend Stuart Jackson has been appointed Regional Liaison to help determine a realistic and mission-oriented future in professional ministry at St. Paul's. Creating the Living Faith Story is part of that work.

We have two congregational members enrolled in theological discernment. 박 성순 Sungsoon Park is studying for ministry at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon and he currently serves First United Church in Fort McMurray. R-W Hoekstra is part of the Learning Circles at Sandy-Saulteaux Centre.

The General Council Executive extended the term of the emergency policies for approval of change of pastoral relationships, annual meetings and the adoption of a church budget to June 30 2021 and subsequently to June 30 2022. I offered this guidance to the Board for consideration. So it is that our Board suspended the Congregational Annual Meeting in the winter of 2021, made decisions on the 2021 annual draft budget, and has begun the pastoral relations work since receiving Denise's retirement.

Wider Church and Neighbourhood

The outdoor nativity scene Denise set up was a picture of a thousand words bringing hope, peace, joy, and love to neighbours and commuters along 76 Avenue. Frequently people out for a walk stop to chat as I am recording at our church front door, the bus stop, and our beautiful sign. People inquire about the solar panels, about what Affirming means, and our general fix on ethical living. Our building continues to bear witness through externals while you are elsewhere.

With regard to Northern Spirit Regional Council, I attended the Annual Meeting at which I made several happy nominations to General Council 44 including Amy Kaler. The Region hosts regular zoom gatherings for active ministers; among the presenting guests was Amy. For six months I served on an Office of Vocation Effectiveness Committee for a colleague. This was my last year chairing the Property and New Church Development Council (PNCDC). Clare Irwin is a member of this Council. PNCDC now has two properties in the Alberta Land Trust, and we are proud of having funded the staff position in which Shylo Rosborough animated Regional Affirming Ministries.

You may remember reVITALize in our newly-renovated building in 2019; the Halifax event was postponed. The First Dawn Regional Council (Newfoundland and Labrador) Symposium for Clergy was postponed. The World Council of Churches 11th Assembly was postponed. Online events carried on: I spoke at both "The Church Has Left the Building: how will we combine online and in-person church?" a national event sponsored by the Toronto United Church Council, and "Preaching for the Future Church", a follow-up conversation through the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) to the Festival of Homiletics.

Then Let Us Sing! is the name we chose for the new hymn resource that the United Church is preparing for our centennial in 2025. There will be a print resource, and the online format is built to continually absorb new music. I chair the Education, Justice, and Ethos subcommittee; the huge volume of work we prepared in the summer of 2020 for the Theo-Ethical Framework has become the foundation of the Calls for Submissions and copyright practices which other committees are putting into action. In 2022 my group begins further work on ethical principles and preparatory resources for congregations.

The Covenant Health Palliative Institute hosted a focus group to consider Death Cafés as a model for increasing public awareness of palliative care in Alberta. I was happy to participate. I declined a further invitation to be part of a working group to advise on the creation, promotion and implementation of a Death Café toolkit for the province.

Writing

As promotion for the upcoming hymn resource I wrote “Theology of Hymn Selection” for *Gathering*, the United Church worship planning magazine. I wrote a foreword to Ross Bartlett’s *Gathered for Preaching* and prepared a video (at -30 looking over the river valley) for the national book launch. I prepared a backcover endorsement for the 2022 Lenten devotional, *Lesser Evils: Daily Reflections on Seeking Wisdom* and was a beta-reader for Rob Fennell’s *31 Short Spiritual Practices*. Together with John Young I researched and presented webinars on *Divides* and *Forgiveness* for United-In-Learning.

Annual study leave and reading

Adaptations of Ministry was hosted by Harvard Divinity School, my alma mater. It was helpful to spend time in a breakout group with a Jewish chaplain, the leader of an ashram, and a hospital administrator. *Field Notes: Ministry Innovations in the Midst of a Pandemic* was hosted by AST at lunchtime over several spring weeks and I attended some of them. The Canadian Theological Society met for lectures and meetings during the Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences online through the University of Alberta; my term as CTS past-president, extended by a pandemic year, is now finished. The Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta hosted “*Acculturation*” and *Erasure: Colonial Violence in the Archaeology of the Métis* as part of the Fringe Friday Lecture series. I also attended “A John the Baptist Christmas” with Diane Strickland, and “A Virtual Advent Poetry Retreat” with Pádraig Ó Tuama about politics and the birth narrative from Luke. Through the winter I was part of a monthly global Soirée of music, art and prayer on the Beatitudes, hosted by Neil Glover in Scotland.

From my reading I’ll note in particular *How to Heal Our Divides* with ideas by a number of international church leaders, *A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Wilda Gafney, *31 Short Spiritual Practices* by Rob Fennell, *Adventures in Faith and Family* by Susan Lukey, and *Honouring the Declaration*, edited by Paul Gareau of the University of Alberta and Don Schweitzer of St. Andrew’s College in Saskatoon, a series of essays about church commitments to Reconciliation and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As always, I invite you to borrow my books.

Conclusion

I am grateful to the members of the Ministry and Personnel Committee who are attentive to energies and congregational life, and especially to my liaison, Barbara Ward.

Together you and I have absorbed two year of pandemic illness, deaths, fears, threats, fatigue, restrictions, divisions, and concerns. Together we have brought hope, comfort, ingenuity, and imagination. Your trust in me is profound and I am grateful. I am grateful too that trusting you I am able to offer leadership, ask questions, and be confident that you pray, you act, and you love.

Thank you for reading this report.

Many blessings to you all.
Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Faith MacLean (Rev. Dr.)

Denise Davis Taylor, Diaconal Minister

Minister of Faith Formation

Denise's Sabbatical Report, April 16 – August 31, 2021

First of all, I want to say thank you for this time of rest and renewal. The years 2020 and 2021 were very difficult as I learned to pivot both campus ministry and the ministry at St Paul's to online delivery. The continual adjusting of programs and decisions about when and how to visit with people in my care was draining, AND I want you to know that all of that was made easier by the wonderful support of colleagues, the Ministry and Personnel Committee, and members of the congregation who made it possible for me to accomplish what I have done this year.

Another goal of the sabbatical was to take time to consider what I wish to do with St Paul's and Faith Lift in the final year or two I have prior to retirement. Both goals were accomplished in the context of hiking the river valley (nearly from Henday west to Henday east), camping, canoeing, reading and spending time with family and a few friends.

I had intended to organise the many online faith-based resources for youth and young adults, children and families, we have collected during the pandemic and to make them accessible on the St Paul's website. This was to serve not only families connected to St Paul's but also to reach out to those people who might not otherwise be connected with St Paul's. While this project was not completed, it is hoped that I will be able to get some of the materials up onto the website by the time I retire in June of 2022.

Faith Formation

The offerings to support the spiritual growth of the people of St Paul's has been robust this year. Much credit needs to be given to Rondy with whom I have worked closely on many of the initiatives and the Spiritual Nurture Committee for their work.

Throughout 2021 there were four families that have participated regularly in the online Godly Play program. In the fall Lucie Gamache took over as the door person and has been thoroughly enjoying her time with the children and the faith stories. In March we delivered Godly Play resources to church families, and again in November we delivered the book *Adventures In Faith and Family* by Susan Lukey. This is an excellent resource for nurturing faith at home. While I was on sabbatical, I crocheted 30 Wise Ones and a star for the Epiphany story January 2022 to add to the sets of Mary Joseph, Jesus, sheep and shepherds that were in the Advent boxes given to the families in 2020.

In order to connect and support families at home, Rondy (and I as backup) have been offering a Story Time Tuesdays since October. See Rondy's report for the myriad of online resources she shares in the Family emails and on the St. Paul's Facebook pages that also give families resources to help them nurture their faith and spirituality at home and out of doors.

In September two "feely" blankets made by Lorene Turner with four foundational Bible stories in them were given to our two youngest members of St Paul's - Kehlan Pettersen and Miriam

Vanderwel Chan. These blankets tell four basic Christian stories in pictures and textures with interactive features. Rondy wrote the stories into a booklet to go with the blankets.

All of these activities have enabled us to stay in contact with families and concretely share God's love for them throughout year two of the pandemic.

Throughout 2021 and into 2022, there were weekly youth gatherings online (with a maximum of 4-8 youth participating in any given week), twice weekly in the first half of the year. In the spring discussion themes focussed on stories and conversation about racism. Several attempts to gather youth for outdoor events in the fall attracted only one youth each time and as the Delta wave hit we moved entirely online. In September grades 7-12 met separately, but by January the numbers participating were low enough that we began to invite grades 4- 6 youth to join us online to enrich what we could do together.

In October I approached children in grades 4-7 to create the pageant "Count on It" for Advent IV. It was recorded on zoom and presented December 19th in worship. Participants were enthusiastic and did very fine work. The presentation was well received by the congregation. Rondy and I also created a Christmas Eve video that included the participation of the Boyd family in Camrose, and several youth. We were grateful that it was prepared and ready to go when the church went back online on very short notice December 21.

In the fall I began a video project with a young adult interested in getting into film. Logan Smarch is putting together a documentary on the stained-glass windows at St Paul's. The working title is "Reflections of a Community of Faith". We had lots of fun in the fall interviewing Rev. Gordon Oaks and the artist Garnett Thomas for this project.

The St Paul's New Comers group has been meeting weekly since Christmas on Sundays along with regular devotions being posted on their WhatsApp group. Attempts were made to have leaders from the group take over these gatherings twice monthly after Easter but this wasn't successful. An in-person gathering happened in September before the fourth wave. Periodic messages have been shared on WhatsApp and worship service links as well as contact with families with children as noted above.

Annet Atuhurire died December 2021. December 19. I officiated at a Celebration of Life that was arranged in her honour by Betty and Tom Fritze, her Canadian parents, at a local community hall. This was very sudden and sad event for the New Comers and all who had come to know Annet in her life here in Canada.

Regular pastoral care phone calls to families and individuals happened most weeks. The focus was staying in touch with those who are not otherwise engaged with groups and committees or watching the weekly worship videos.

As staff resource to the Spiritual Nurture Committee, this group has focussed on providing a mix of topics and presenters for Day 5 on zoom throughout the year to the end of April. See that report for

details. As well, I have delighted in being staff resource for the Social Justice Committee who have continued their work throughout the year.

Continuing Education and Wider Church Commitments

I was finally able to complete the Godly Play training in January, February 2021 online.

The Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean offered an online series called “Mondays in May DOTAC 2021”. This featured speakers talking about their work and research and writing on Diakonia from Cuba, Brazil, the United States and Canada.

2021 was another good year to read many books related to the ministries I am part of on campus and at St Paul’s.

I sit on the Masters of Theological Studies Committee of St Stephen’s College and a subcommittee which has been updating the different Masters Degrees in Theology specializations that students can choose from. Three streams were presented to the Board of Governors in the spring and fall: Faith and Culture for students who wish to deepen their appreciation of the diverse expressions of human spiritual awareness in our society, Spiritual Care which equips students for a variety of spiritual care or chaplaincy contexts, and Contemplation the Arts and Social Engagement. The fourth specialisation is the Masters in Diaconal Ministry which will be updated in 2022.

I continued my tenure as secretary of Diakonia of the United Church of Canada Coordinating Committee. I also am part of the Theme Planning Committee for the biennial gathering of DUCC in October 2022 and the committee that disperses grants from the Barb Elliot Trust Fund for Innovative Ministries. This group gets to see some of the fine creative work that congregations, outreach ministries and Diaconal Ministers are initiating to live in to TRC commitments, care for their neighbourhoods, and that support people who need help to stabilize their lives.

I announced my intention to retire in June 2022 to the Official Board October 2021. To help be in touch with as many people as possible, I created a short video that is also available online. It can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzHHLJEwf0E>. See the Board reports to see the steps the congregation is taking as it moves forward beyond the pandemic and my retirement. Dreaming and planning for the future will be energising and hopeful.

Faith Lift Campus Ministry

As of January 2021 the University had decided to remain online for all programming and services until the end of the winter term in mid April. This included Chaplain services. By then it had become clear the pandemic was NOT going to require a short term change in direction but required a flexible program that could change from in-person to online rapidly according to what was needed to keep everyone safe and well. This was a huge challenge to which many student services at UAlberta arose. I worked mostly from home and was able to go to campus one ½ a week through the fall of 2021 and meet with some students in person.

Throughout the year the Weavings: body mind and spirit program met on the discord platform where the Landing Drop In Center had set up an interactive service. It enables people to attend who are not

students and makes it easier for students who are still studying from home to attend. I continue to find it difficult to have discussions with people online, especially when they chose to protect their privacy and not have their videos on. AND Being able to give people a sense of anonymity is also important.

It is also very difficult to get the word out about the program, and with few attending weekly discussions can be stilted.

The Landing Discord made it possible for a lot more participation and people dropping in to the service as a result. In the winter term until my sabbatical, I spend three hours a week in the drop part of the server. Here again I never really got comfortable with the online chatting. No videos, just a name.

Connecting with students continued to be best done by phone and email. It is most difficult to connect with new students to UofA and MacEwan. It was a delight to re-connect face to face with several students from St Paul's and give them their COVID GRAD key chains from St Paul's UC for 2020 and 2021. These were very much appreciated.

I regularly made posts to the Faith Lift Instagram and Facebook sites to offer spiritual practises and reflections on a variety of topics. The number of followers increased over time including UofA, NAIT and MacEwan grads and people from other places. In January 2022 when classes went online again, I created a series of short videos called Short Breaks for Mind, Body and Spirit that were posted to St Paul's YouTube and shared with residence advisors, and the community wellness team members on campus.

In the fall I was able to be in touch with donors through Faith Lift Footnotes and the annual letter to thank people for their donations.

It was a pleasure to work with friends and colleagues at Spirit of Hope United Church to create an Easter Sunrise video in Emily Murphy Park again in April. This offering was appreciated by all who saw it.

I Completed my tenure as Chair of IFCA April 2021. The Festival of Lessons and Carols, which this group co-sponsors with the University Mixed Chorus and Education Handbell ringers, was offered in person to a very appreciative audience who sang the carols (masked) heartily. This group began an Interfaith club that met in person and online simultaneously in the fall of 2021.

In the spring (before the regional council meeting) a letter was sent to the Northern Spirit Regional Council Executive to ask that the promised Advisory Committee for Campus Ministry be set up and to ask the council to address the issue of future funding for Faith Lift Campus Ministry beyond 2021. In the fall I wrote two grant applications for Faith Lift: one to the Northern Spirit Region asking for an increase in the grant, and an application to Spruce Grove Thrift Shop which has given this ministry a modest grant annually in the past. The Spruce Grove application was not granted as they felt that this ministry no longer met their criteria for grants.

Everyone who has been involved with Faith Lift Campus Ministry over the past twenty-one years is very grateful for the support of faithful donors and St Paul's United Church which has given \$8,200 from the annual budget (in addition to individual donors and other congregations) and considerable administrative support for two plus decades. St Paul's can be proud of its contribution to Young Adult Ministry in this form. Personally, I have been thrilled to be able to live out my calling to Diaconal Ministry as a University Chaplain on your behalf.

Rondy Kyle, Children's Ministry Coordinator

As we complete our second year of being a faith filled community apart, I've been grateful for the opportunities to connect with families in different ways. Over the last year, we've continued a hybrid ministry of offering time together through zoom and sending resources and material home for families. While we have missed being in person, we have delighted in the opportunities that zoom church has brought us, such as Godly Play in our pajamas, and being able to join children in their homes.

We meet every Sunday morning for Godly Play on zoom, where we continue to tell stories and build relationships. In addition, I send home resources each week for families to use at home. These include video links to both the Godly Play story each week and read-aloud's of great children's books exploring biblical stories, faith and following the way Jesus taught, including the themes of justice, inclusion, the nature of God, prayer and living one's faith. Church in the Woods at Home is another weekly resource with ideas for experiencing the sacred outdoors. We added Tuesday evening storytelling this last fall. Once a week, either Denise or I gather with families to read storybooks to children. Beyond reading stories, it offers a chance to check in with children and to intentionally build a sense of community that is missing when we are not meeting in person.

Denise and I continue to offer youth group on Friday evenings, with the older children joining the youth for zoom meetings. These are a mix of fun activities and deeper reflections, with both building community over zoom. We have been able to do some in-person activities but youth group has mostly occurred via zoom.

We offered resources for Church in the Woods at Home, as a summer activity for families. These included stories and activities to discover God in this Place through the senses of sight, touch, taste, smell, hearing and the extra senses of balance, proprioception, and interoception, as well as ideas for rainy days and finding God in the night time. This was original programming created by Denise and I in 2020. I expanded on this during the summer of 2021 to offer something each week for families.

Pastoral care continues by having regular communication with families, sending out periodic cards and care packages (such as the deliveries in the fall and at Christmas) and by touching base with parents and children. We gifted families the book "Adventures in Faith and Family" by Susan Lukey. It's a book of reflections on living faithfully, full of wisdom and practical ways to grow faith in families.

I meet weekly with the other staff, where we do worship planning, discuss the themes to carry into other programs, share ways to connect with the congregation, and share information from committees and the Board. I shared Deep Talk storytelling with Day 5, led the Christmas Eve worship with Denise and shared a Godly Play story for worship in the spring.

Being virtual has offered access to some great further education opportunities. Over the last year, I completed training on Deep Talk Storytelling (out of the UK), and attended the virtual Godly Play North America Conference and the Wisdom of Trauma Webinar with Dr. Gabor Mate.

I look forward to continuing in ministry with the children and families at St. Paul's and in growing together in God's love.

Rondy Kyle, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Susan Farrell, Music Director

Our music leadership continued to expand in 2021. Tyson Kerr and I developed our music recording and video editing skills, and relished in seeing many of you in person as things opened up briefly at the end of the year. Let's review a bit of the year, shall we?

In early 2021, we produced videos in an Epiphany series and enjoyed having Rosie Kerr as a guest for 'Hush! Somebody's Calling My Name'. Around Valentine's Day, you may remember a tribute to the church choir members, who we were sorely missing in the church building. I put my craft supplies (including my laminator!) to work and made individual hearts for each choir member and lovingly posted them in the choir loft near each member's usual spot. These hearts remain a part of the choir loft today and cheer me up every time I'm there! We made other videos during this time, such as 'A Return to Joy', 'Morning', 'Wilderness', and 'Relinquish'.

During Lent, we thoroughly enjoyed singing a piece by Susan Lukey and David Robertson of High River, called 'We're Waiting'. We used it for all the weeks of Lent and staged the video in a few different ways - first with my watercolour painting, then a dollhouse scene, a table setting, some wooden block building, and finally Catherine and Earl setting up an outdoor chair for a visit from an expected guest. We had fun with it.

For our Easter services, Tyson and I were able to meet in person and make some music and videos on his front porch! That was such a treat and it reminded us both how rewarding it is to be in the same place at the same time.

I continued with my Good News videos (four, five, and six!) for the congregation - compilations of folks' photo and video submissions. These videos were a hit and helped us all to feel connected and able to celebrate each other even while apart.

During the summer, we were able to invite guests from all over the place to be part of our videos. I was fortunate enough to have worked with Rev. Mary Beth Moriarity from my hometown Pictou, Nova Scotia. It was a great opportunity to highlight some of my father's drone photography from the area.

Fortunately, we had some amazing musical guests in our worship videos in 2021. Sherry Steele played a beautiful hymn compilation for Thanksgiving and Rosie Kerr made a few notable appearances!

This Fall, it was a huge pleasure to reconnect with many members of the St. Paul's Choir in person! We began rehearsing in early November and sang at all four advent services that took place in the building. While I obviously still wish we could be singing together now, this time together filled my cup and is keeping me going during the long winter. I am always impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of this fine group of people. We managed to record several anthems, including a beautiful advent piece called 'Listen!' by Joel Raney.

Throughout this year, I have been incredibly appreciative of getting to work with Tyson Kerr. We have managed to create 61 new hymn recordings in 2021 and we reached 100 videos, with Rev. Catherine

MacLean, by the end of the year! Also, Tyson and his team got the livestream up and running for in person services, which was no small feat.

Of course, I need to mention how much I love working with the staff at St. Paul's. There is never a lack of inspiration or energy at our staff meetings!

And finally, I extend my gratitude to the St. Paul's congregation for trusting our leadership and cheering us on as we continue to venture into new worship territories.

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain."

– Vivian Greene

Yours truly,
Susan

Also - one of my favourite parts of making a Sunday video is one of the very last steps – creating a thumbnail, or a small image, that will be used as the cover photo when you see it first on our YouTube page. I scan through my favourite moments of the video, make some screenshots, and combine them with text and other graphics in a program called Canva. It is so satisfying! I've included a collage of just *a few* of the thumbnails we've made this year.



Committee and Team Reports

Ministry and Personnel Committee

A year ago we were excited about the possibility of returning to a more “normal” church year. We were grateful for our wonderful, creative and resilient staff who carried on and adapted throughout 2020, acknowledging that some new ways of reaching out to our faith community and beyond would be valuable to continue in the future.

Early into Covid we were able to inform all of our staff “...that we had no intention of making any changes to current salaries.” While job descriptions and responsibilities have changed, we continue to support our current staff. Staff appreciated the stability and have enabled St. Paul’s to successfully remain a spiritual centre in our community.

Throughout this past year, while we have had limited times to meet in person with our faith community, there have been many opportunities for spiritual nurturing; connecting virtually with Catherine, Susan and Tyson in the wonderful Sunday videos, Sunday after church chats hosted by Pat Greenways, Sunday streamed Godly Play with Denise and Rondy as well as Storytime on Tuesdays, thought provoking presentations on Thursdays’ Day 5. Coleen Falk and the Membership Committee have reached out both online and through Thursday afternoon in-person gatherings. Denise and Rondy have explored a variety of ways to engage with our youth and young families. There have been mailed out letters and information sent by Catherine and Denise to members not on internet.

Anna continues to facilitate the many activities, often gracing letters and St. Paul’s Page with her beautiful photos. By having Anna in the office for regular hours each day has enabled folks to quickly access people and information. Dija’s willingness to adjust, adapt and keep our building well cared for is much appreciated.

The United Church of Canada mandates that all ministerial staff are eligible for “a three-month sabbatical leave after they have completed five years of continuous service in the same pastoral relationship”. This time for renewal grew out of the practice of Jesus taking time to pray, reflect, and meditate in silence away from his followers.

A sabbatical had been approved for Catherine in 2020 and one for Denise in 2021.

While Catherine’s original plan was to be away in the spring and summer of 2020, this was a critical time for St. Paul’s to benefit from her exemplary leadership. “She graciously modified her sabbatical to be taken over 2020, 2021, 2022 so she was able to work with staff and board committees to establish smoothly running procedures under difficult times. During April and May she worked closely with Susan and Tyson to provide Sunday Services online with thought provoking messages and beautiful music.” [From last year’s report. In 2022 she will be completing her sabbatical with a highlight being able to attend The World Council in the Black Forest August 31 - September 8.

Denise's sabbatical was taken in the spring and summer of 2021 where she focused on continuing to explore, gather, organize and produce online, faith-based resources for children and youth and to explore ways to engage a range of people and families at St Paul's. The *Short Breaks for Mind & Body* series is one example. She also took time for well-earned rest and renewal and returned to us with new energy to engage in children and youth programming at St Paul's and through Faith Lift at the University of Alberta.

Denise's position is half time as Minister of Faith Formation with St. Paul's Church and half time as Chaplain for Faith Lift Campus Ministry at the University of Alberta. Financial support for Faith Lift comes from a variety of sources; M&S, Northern Spirit Regional Council (NSPC), private and church donations. Each year much time is spent 'fund raising' so the budget commitments can be met. When the new United Church Organization took place in 2018 a request was sent to the region to consider developing guidelines for policy and ongoing financial support so young people attending postsecondary institutions could continue to have spiritual guidance and support. There has been no response from (NSRC). While St. Paul's still feels this is an important role to maintain, without ongoing regional commitment we must carefully consider how feasible it is for us to be the host church.

As of June 30, 2022 Denise will be retiring from St. Paul's. She has provided leadership and spiritual nurturing to our Faith Community since 1997. After twenty-five years it is hard to imagine St. Paul's without Denise being an integral part of our community. Her enthusiasm, sensitivity to peoples' concerns and needs, and her ability to work with people to help them solve problems in satisfactory ways, are just a few of the ways so many of us have benefited by having her part of our lives. You have blessed us in so many ways that we appreciate Denise. In turn, we send you love and blessings for the coming years as you move into this new phase of your life.

The role of The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee is to support and consult with the staff at St. Paul's, with each member having a liaison person from our committee. During this past year Barbara Ward liaised with Catherine, Helen Madill with Denise, Helen Lightfoot with Susan and Tyson, and Lorene Turner with Rondy, Anna and Dija. After seven years as Chair, Lorene Turner will be stepping down from the M&P committee and we will need new members to liaise with Rondy, Anna and Dija.

Serving on the M&P committee is a meaningful way to get to know staff better and support these wonderful people that ensure St. Paul's continues to be a rich, spiritual place for all. If you are interested in joining M&P, call Anna in the office and one of us will get back to you.

We are delighted to have Jim Mullins back on our committee and he will be taking over as Chair of Ministry and Personnel March 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorene Turner, Chair
Ministry and Personnel Committee

Stewardship Committee

As has happened several times in the past few years, St. Paul's was facing a significant deficit in the church's operational budget as we approached year-end. Once again, Finance and Stewardship committees organized a call to the congregation to provide extra donations and to increase their regular givings for 2022. Using the concept of donating for a "13th Month", we reduced the projected deficit by about ~\$25K. This was a great response, especially given the difficult circumstances of living through a pandemic. Many thanks to all those who responded so generously.

Our joy is somewhat tempered as the church once again is facing a deficit budget this year. Deficit budgeting limits our ability to respond to unexpected expenses and, over time, erodes our ability to carry the ministries that we value and have built up over the years. We cannot continue to depend upon a "Christmas Miracle" to keep us "in the black" at the end of every year. We need to find a way to have a balanced budget from the beginning of the year.

We undertook a financial review over the past decade, looking at trends in operating expenses and the donations that support them. Results from this analysis were shared with the Board to inform its long-term planning. As expected, expenses increased steadily. Key trends in donations over the past decade were:

- St. Paul's is largely supported by committed regular donors who use PAR or some other regular payment method
- The total number of donors increased up to 2015, and has been slowly decreasing every year since
- The total amount donated has more or less stagnated since 2014
- Annual increases per donor have been minimal for a large number of donors; the average has been \$60/year, but most of this increase has come from a relatively small number of donors, who also tend to be the largest donors

We worked with Anna Benowicz and Michael Nistor (our IT guy) to complete the re-design of our church website to replace the previous non-functional hacked version. The newly designed website looks more up-to-date and better represents our values and activities. Especially important to this committee was the clear path and instructions for submitting donations via different methods, and representing the broad range of ministries undertaken by St. Paul's.

Stewardship continued to be a one-person committee, with some occasional input from Lydia Stewart on website design. This has been my last year as Chair of the committee and its representative on the Official Board. The Stewardship Committee plays a key role in maintaining the vigour of the congregation. At least three people are needed to fulfill the mandate of the committee, including communicating the needs and opportunities of the church to the congregants, organizing funding campaigns for the Operating Budget and Mission & Service, providing strategic analysis and input to the Board on financial and human resource issues, and helping maintain and develop the communication and co-working tools to support the life and work of the church. Please contact the Chair if you are interested in learning more about the work of the Stewardship Committee.

Jim Stewart,
outgoing Chair, Stewardship Committee

Worship Committee

My first priority, on behalf of the Worship Committee, is to offer deep gratitude for the energy, creativity, hard work, thoughtfulness, and good humour of Rev. Dr Catherine MacLean, Choir Director Susan Farrell, and Musician Tyson Kerr. Not only have these three dedicated people offered us consistently high-quality worship experiences, mostly via YouTube videos but occasionally livestream worship, and when we were really fortunate in-person worship, they have created a valuable archive of St Paul's worship experiences and music throughout the pandemic.

Public health concerns resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic kept our church services online via YouTube for most of the year. Technology was upgraded to accommodate some live streaming of services when small gatherings were allowed and deemed sufficiently safe. Communion services were only possible via livestream in order to conform to United Church protocols. The four Advent services occurred in person in the sanctuary with strict public health protocols in place to keep people safe from Covid. Unfortunately, the brief opportunity to safely conduct in-person worship came to an end as Christmas approached. The highly transmissible Omicron variant heightened public health concerns to the point that the Re-entry Task Group of St Paul's recommended that in-person worship again be paused and the Board agreed. While it was disappointing to have the Christmas Eve service return to YouTube on short notice, the speed with which Omicron travelled through the province by Christmas Eve made many of us very relieved that we had not provided the variant with yet another location for transmission.

Deep appreciation goes to those people who offered pulpit supply and found other service participants during the summer when Catherine had sabbatical and holiday time: Sungsoon Park (Heeyun Park, Heerin Park); Suzanne Béland, Paul Preston, Karin and Jim Stewart; R-W Hoekstra (Deborah Hoekstra); Amy Kaler (Heather MacKenzie, Shona Webster Nichols); Rev. Dr. Karen Medland; Rev. Mary-Beth Moriarity; Rev. Scott Reynolds; Rev. Andrew Kimmett. Other services when Catherine was away were offered by Denise Davis Taylor and Rev. Mary Annan which we deeply appreciated as well. Rev. Neil Glover and Catherine prepared a joint service, shared in Scotland. Thanks also go to Gerry Farrell who has contributed many beautiful photos from Nova Scotia, which were used so effectively in many worship videos. Technology and the enthusiastic engagement of all the worship leaders allowed us the delight of worship from around Edmonton (Catherine visible in community in all kinds of weather and the community visible in worship) as well as from other parts of the province (Scott in Irma), the country (Mary-Beth in Pictou, Nova Scotia), and the world (Andrew in Aberlour, Scotland; Neil in Aberfeldy, Scotland).

The thoughtful wisdom of the committee members has made my term as Worship Committee Chair a delightful experience. I am moving to the role of Committee Secretary after the Congregational Meeting when Paul Preston takes over the Chair. Until now, the secretary role has revolved through the Committee members and it seems more efficient to have that role now reside in the consistency of one person. For previous years and much of this year, the Committee was fortunate to have Hugh Stacey as a member and Hugh also attended the Board meetings on behalf of the Committee. Hugh retired from the Committee in the fall and we express our gratitude to him for his valuable participation and contributions. I also thank Committee members Darlene Pranke, Karin Stewart, and Susan Farrell for their work, and Catherine MacLean for her energy, creativity, and wisdom in Committee meetings and her support for my role as Chair.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Stewart, Chair

Spiritual Nurture

The Spiritual Nurture Committee strives to offer St. Paul's congregation information on various topics related to theology, social justice and self improvement. The Committee organizes Day 5 presentations each Thursday night between October 1 and April 30 except for two weeks around Christmas. The Committee also supports the church library, the Godly Play "Sunday School" for our young children, and occasional spiritual projects and presentations for St. Paul's attendees.

Day 5: This program strives to present a wide variety of spiritually related or personal development topics that may appeal to the varied interests of our church family. Special emphasis has been placed this year on understanding racism especially as related to our Indigenous friends and neighbours. Although speakers with special expertise have sometimes come from outside the church, many of our speakers continue to come from within our congregation.

In the past year some examples of Day 5 topics have included: "Homelessness in Edmonton" with Brian Mwaka; "Eco-commoning" with Rev. Ted Reeve; "Kichi Aski Education Centre" with Lewis Cardinal; "Christmas Books for the Whole Family" with Karin Stewart and Lucie Gamache; "Eco Spirituality" with Chris Peet; "Covid and Our Community" with Amy Kaler; "Faith and the Family" with Rev. Susan Lukey, just to name a few. The numbers of attendees to Day 5 varies from week to week depending on the topic, but attendance has ranged from 5 to 25 participants. All of our attendees and presenters have appeared on Zoom during the pandemic and our participants seem to feel comfortable with this technology.

Godly Play: Led by Rondy Kyle, this program for children aged 3 to 12 incorporates innovative ways of teaching with active play to support learning about Bible stories and making connections with modern life. Godly Play is normally located in "A Space Apart" in the basement but has been on Zoom during the pandemic. On an average week during the pandemic 3-5 children attended online. Over the past year Rondy has taken a course on "Deep Talk" for older children and adults, and Kayleigh Cline has taken some "Godly Play" training so she can assist Rondy as needed. Thanks to Rondy for all of her efforts to make Zoom work for our children.

The Church Library: Our librarians, Karin Stewart and Lucie Gamache have not been able to get into the library much during another pandemic year but continue to support the library and keep it in good working order. Many thanks to Lucie and Karin for keeping our library in good working order.

Other Spiritual Nurture projects: During the summer there was a "Church in the Woods" day camp week held for children. Some of the related material was moved onto Facebook and sent to families at home over the summer. It was called "Church in the Woods at Home." (See Rondy's report for more details.) Catherine MacLean has recently been leading an online Lenten series using a book from the United Church titled "Lesser Evils -Daily Reflections."

In closing: Because of the pandemic, our committee meetings have had to be held on Zoom this past year. Committee members are Lucie Gamache, Denise Davis Taylor and myself, Jack Jervis.

A special thanks to Denise as she heads into retirement for her great ideas and her ability to manipulate our Zoom account. We will miss her great contributions to our committee.

Jack Jervis

Membership and Congregational Care Committee

Our Prayer Shawl ministry is active and over the year we have given fourteen shawls. One recipient wrote "she felt that her friends were beside her." We thank all those who have shared their knitting and crochet talents and those who have donated yarn.

Last winter we enjoyed the Two O'clock Talk on zoom. We had a usual attendance of six to eight.

In the spring we started the Lawn Conversations meeting on Thursday afternoons at the benches at front of the church. When the weather became cooler we moved into the Friendship Room. Then the ice and snow and wind and -30 and the covid situation pushed us onto zoom. Wherever we meet we enjoy the conversations. To date we have had sixteen individuals take part.

Thank you for staying in touch with other members and friends of the congregation with letters and phone calls and visits. It is truly a web of connection.

Respectfully submitted
Coleen Falk

Finance Committee

Committee members: Heather Peden, Linda Breitzkreitz, Roy Townend, Kyle Townend, Marian Carmichael, Justin Wheler (Chair)

We are again without a treasurer or bookkeeper, and have been very fortunate to have Heather Peden continue to fill these positions in an excellent manner. The Committee has assisted, when possible, but Heather has borne the bulk of the work. On behalf of the church, we thank her for the extraordinary generosity of her ongoing volunteerism.

As with most aspects of life within and outside of the church, the ongoing pandemic made 2021 challenging for church finances with reductions in income from regular giving, weddings, funeral services, and church rentals. We were most thankful for our wonderful church members who honoured their PAR commitments, and for those who supported the December special appeal. We must also thank all the committees who kept their expenses at a minimum. We managed to reduce the forecasted deficit significantly from the budget.

Looking forward, the Finance Committee is not able to forecast when our church life will return to “normal”, but we are financially able to proceed at present. Since we have been unsuccessful in recruiting a new volunteer treasurer we are exploring contracted bookkeeping and accounting services to ensure we maintain high quality financial management and hopefully make the treasurer role easier to recruit to.

As a new Committee member and Chair, I am especially grateful for the wisdom and service of our excellent Committee. I hope that all members of the congregation find the information they need in the attached financial statements. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like more information or would like to get involved.

Sincerely,

Justin Wheler

Property Committee

The Property Committee was active this past year as you will see below.

	PROJECTS & ACTIONS	STATUS
1	Landscaping- contract with Highlands Landscaping – modest cost alternative	Done
2	10-year capital projects - cost & timing estimates; completed a preliminary 10-year Capital Fund requirements projection for St. Paul's UC and presented to St. Paul's Board	Done
3	Library heating upgrade project - installed new electric fireplace and new air circulation fan - Paragon Mechanical Ltd.	Done
4	Security upgrades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o installed light to illuminate the staff parking lot - Electri-Can Installations Ltd o installed 2 wireless cameras facing rear parking lots - Bob. Miller & son o replaced burnt out bulbs with LED bulbs at two south facing doors near Memorial Garden - keep these lights on permanently - Dave Carr 	Done
5	Replaced burnt out lights in sanctuary - Dawn Macdonald, Lawrence Taylor, John Porter, Dave Carr	Done
6	Scrapped and painted window frames on south side of church - Bob Miller, Shona Nichols	Done
7	Cleaned materials dropped from trees on flat Friendship Room roof to clear drains - Dave Carr	Done
8	Installed screen to prevent blockage of drainpipe under the front entrance ramp - Dave Carr, John Porter	Done
9	Hired a neighboring university student to clear snow from sidewalks and parking lots - Dawn Macdonald	Done
10	Hired Joseph (newcomer) to cut lawn and trim edges this past summer - Dave Carr	Done
11	Recruit new Property Committee members to replace Jack Francis who retired from the Committee late in 2021. Thanks for your many years on Property, Jack!	Ongoing
12	Investigate improvements to balcony required to meet current building codes - ACI architects, Dave Carr, Marianne Scott, Catherine MacLean	Ongoing
13	Cleaned leaves and unplugged drains on flat roof above Friendship Room and inspected south flat roof and drains of McAlister Hall – Dave Carr, Bob Miller	Done
14	Replaced burnt out furnace motor in main furnace room - Paragon Mechanical, Marianne Scott	Done

	PROJECTS & ACTIONS	STATUS
15	Watered lawn, shrubs, and flowers (excluding Memorial Garden - Flower Committee); this was an increase in tasks in 2021 for the Property Committee (which was previously done by Lance Love and Flower Committee) - Bob Miller, Jack Francis, Shona Nichols, and Anna. Edmonton's heat dome period and drought conditions all summer added to the amount of water used.	Done
16	Replaced burnt out incandescent light in office with LED light – Dave Carr, Dawn Macdonald	Done
17	Dealt with homeless person who squatted on church property during some of the past summer - Dave Carr, Anna	Done
18	Safely collected and disposed of drug paraphernalia left on Memorial Garden grounds - Dave Carr	Done
19	Raked and took leaves from grounds in the fall - Dave Carr, Zoë Nichols with Denise Davis Taylor and Youth Group, Samantha Engler	Done
20	Hired Local Waste Ltd. to provide waste bin (as City of Edmonton no longer provides waste removal for commercial landowners effective early Dec 2020) - Dave Carr with assistance from the Board in selecting the contractor	Done
21	Dave Carr will take recycled items in the small green bin via his truck to the Eco Station for disposal of them on an as required basis.	Done
22	Provided input for the 2021 Property Committee portion of the Operating Plan to Heather Peden to add to the 2022 Preliminary Budget she had prepared – Dave Carr	Done

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Carr, Chair

Legacy Project

2021 was a year of monitoring the building and supervising maintenance and inspections of the elevator, furnaces, kitchen fan and hood etc.

The elevator was maintained on a scheduled basis by TK and was inspected by AEDARSA in late summer. The elevator passed inspection. Throughout the spring and summer, the elevator pit was monitored remotely on a daily basis for any water issues and every few days the rest of the year. The furnaces, hot water heater, back flow valve and range hood were all inspected and maintained on a quarterly basis. It was necessary to replace a motor on one of the Engineered Air furnaces in the fall.

Questions regarding the building were addressed as needed and contacts made with Legacy contractors and ACI Architects as required.

Full use of the building in 2022 is looked forward to with anticipation following the downturn of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Scott

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee worked hard to maintain its commitments during 2021, although many of our traditional outreach activities still weren't safe to perform. The five core areas that we feel most neatly fall under our purview are reconciliation, refugees, Garneau Strathcona Food Security, LGBTQ and Affirming Church, and Racecourse School. We believe that Racecourse will be covered in a separate report.

We are fortunate to be a part of a congregation who cares about their relationship with reconciliation and Indigenous knowledge. This commitment continues to feel the absence of Tammy Irwin, who we missed immensely during 2021. As the Social Justice Committee, we organized a vigil on the steps of St. Paul's for the first annual Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We hope to learn things for holding such an event in years ahead, and we believe it was received very positively not only by members of St. Paul's, but also by other residents of Belgravia and McKernan. We also want to highlight other events in the church, including the visit of Lewis Cardinal speaking at Day 5, and R-W Hoekstra, who began Indigenous Ministry training early in the year. R-W has been a wonderful resource for the Social Justice Committee and will help to inspire our path forward now.

Refugee outreach has long been a big part of what we do as a committee, made possible by the generous financial support of the St. Paul's congregation. This certainly remained true in 2021. Food was given, where needed, donated items were distributed, and warm winter wear was provided. This

year we focused our efforts on assisting those who had arrived in Edmonton before borders closed. With this group the terms "refugee" or "refugee claimant" are misnomers as many have moved past their refugee hearings and towards becoming permanent residents in Canada. The St. Paul's Newcomers group (or SPAN) continued to communicate virtually and on occasion met in Denise's lovely backyard around the fire pit. Don and Barbara Gardner generously donated a vehicle, which was happily and graciously accepted. We also have received computers, a printer, a television and a sewing machine as well as bedding, clothing and household items. Any donations not needed by our current group of newcomers were forwarded to the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN) and Bissell Centre and put to good use. Since the Canadian borders have reopened we are seeing a new arrival of refugees and asylum seekers and we anticipate that demand for donated items and basic food staples will again increase. The ongoing commitment of the congregation to this outreach work is making a positive difference.

Garneau Strathcona Food Security is our long-time commitment to food distribution for Edmontonians facing poverty. It takes place on Saturdays, co-sponsored by St. Paul's, Garneau, and Spirit of Hope United Church. GSFS began the year with distribution being done at Spirit of Hope but was relocated to the Moravian Church in the summer due to renovations at Spirit of Hope (and returning some semblance of veracity to the "Garneau-Strathcona" part of the name). St. Paul's has shifted towards only doing preparation and distribution on the third Saturday of each month. The increased visibility that comes with doing food distribution outside has meant that many neighbours near the distribution points have very graciously come on as volunteers since the Covid-19 pandemic began, but St. Paul's still welcomes those who can help out on either Friday or Saturday mornings.

The main event that our committee tried to organize around an LGBTQ+ positive theme was a bike ride in the summer. This would have served as a fundraiser for our refugee outreach, which of course is supportive of LGBTQ+ rights as well. And we were hoping to draw a link with the event to Pride. Unfortunately, the timing of an in-person event during the pandemic seemed to be a mixture of too early for some, and in the middle of busy summers for others, so we were not able to go ahead. We look forward to the opportunity for regular get-togethers around similar themes again, but who can say when that will be?

On a general note, the committee has played with the use of short videos to educate the congregation about some of our outreach projects. To date this has included an update from Heather Razaghi at GSFS. Jasper Woodard stepped down as chair at the end of 2021, and as of December 31, 2021, we are still looking for a volunteer to fill that role. We look forward to the many opportunities that 2022 will provide.

Respectfully submitted,
Jasper Woodard

Racecourse Community School Fundraising Initiative

The Racecourse Community School was founded in 1999 by local leaders in the Racecourse Community of Kitwe, Zambia. The local Zambian teachers and administrators started the school primarily because so many children they knew were left orphaned by AIDS and could no longer afford to attend government schools. The school is still considered a community school for vulnerable children and orphans; however, in recent years the Government of Zambia has taken over the administration and teaching. 2021 marked St. Paul's United Church's 18th year of partnership with this school.

Here are some highlights from the year:

In Zambia



As with schools around the world, the Racecourse School continued to work hard throughout 2021 to manage the impacts of Covid-19. Zambian schools were once again closed on and off in 2021 as the country dealt with significant waves of illness from January - March of 2021, then again in June - August 2021, and reaching their highest number of cases yet between December 2021 - January 2022.

Due to global vaccine inequalities, only approximately 10% of Zambia's population is currently fully vaccinated.

While the pandemic raged, the Racecourse School did manage to invest in constructing new learning spaces and repairing old ones. These were significant local accomplishments.

At the national level, it was also declared that all secondary schools would become free in 2022. This will mean that the Racecourse Community School finances will stretch further, as they will not need to continue allocating donor contributions to the secondary school fees of Racecourse Primary School graduates to continue their studies elsewhere. Instead, they will be able to use those financial supports for teaching and learning supplies directly within the school site.

In Canada

In 2021 St. Paul's United Church was only able to transfer \$20,000CAD to the school. This was a decrease of \$7,000 from the previous year.

Funds were put towards:

- The annual financial audit of the school books and record keeping
- Monthly allowances for 9 local teachers & 4 security guards
- Staff development/training and volunteer teacher licensing
- Maintenance & cleaning (including measures for covid health inspections)
- School fees for some Racecourse School graduates completing higher grades

In addition to the concrete benefits of our financial contribution, predictability and reliability of funding have had a very positive impact on the school.

In 2021, we raised over \$23,000 which is about \$3,000 more than last year but \$8,000 shy of our all time fundraising high from 2017. As with the covid-related giving decline in 2020, this relatively low amount raised was in large part because we were once again unable to host our annual fundraising dinner and auction. We did manage, however, to raise more than in 2020 in large part because of the renewal of the *Just One World* sale. We were extremely fortunate to have a very dedicated team of volunteers preparing products by hand throughout the pandemic as well as displaying donated items, and then staffing a booth throughout the sale. In particular, the efforts of our dearly departed fellow congregant, Annet Atuhurire, must be acknowledged:



Despite suffering from late stage cancer, Annet worked steadily beside her parents, Tom & Bette Fritz, as well as a number of other dedicated volunteers, to hand craft and subsequently sell many beautiful items for the Racecourse School right up until the month before her death. Annet was a hard working and dedicated volunteer for the Racecourse School. Her contributions will never be forgotten. Because of Annet's hard work, that of her family and fellow volunteers, as well as the generous contributions of others who realized we were \$10,000 shy of our fundraising target in Nov 2021, we have not only met our fundraising goal for 2021, but will be able to increase the amount that St. Paul's gives to the Racecourse School in 2022 as compared to last year.

We are very fortunate to have St. Paul's staff and volunteers manage the finances, administrative tasks, and fundraising efforts of this outreach project. This allows us to direct 100% of donations to the ground in Zambia.

Thank you very much for the care and consideration that so many of you give to the children and staff at the Racecourse Community School. By giving to the Racecourse Community School you are ensuring that thousands of Zambian children receive their human right to an education. Additionally, you are ensuring they receive a high quality education by supporting the professional development of their teachers. I look forward to continuing our work together on this important outreach activity in 2022!

Respectfully submitted,
Heather MacKenzie
Project Manager

Church Group Reports

Paulettes (United Church Women of St. Paul's United Church)

Paulettes held no meetings in 2021 due to Covid. We gave donations from our pre-pandemic earnings to two charities: Garneau Strathcona Food Security (\$500) and Alberta Abilities Lodges Society (\$500). We sent Christmas cards to twenty St. Paul's members in need of extra cheer.

Respectfully submitted
Eleanor Wein, Chair

The Quilting Group

In November 2021, the Quilting Group met for the first time since March of 2020. We have been meeting regularly since then on Monday mornings in the southwest corner of Foote Auditorium. We are part of St. Paul's Outreach Ministry.

In February, with the completed quilts already in our inventory and several more that members of the Quilting Group had made at home, we donated 24 quilts to Catholic Social Services Step By Step Ministry. They welcome quilts of all sizes. We hear back that the quilts are greatly appreciated by the recipients and often become a very important and loved possession. We attach a label to each quilt which states: Made for YOU with God's love.

We welcome anyone who has an interest in putting together quilts. Quilts are tied as a group on Monday mornings. Sewing skills are not required. Individuals who would like to create pieced tops at home are provided with donated fabric. We hope to find an individual who enjoys sewing and could sew the edging around the tied quilts either in the group setting or at home.

Due to Covid concerns and health issues, regular attendance has been difficult for several members of our group, but we forge on with Diana Bacon, Lois Benson, Jean Korte, Sheryl Lynn, Betty Mullen, Heather Peden, Eva Penzes-Wright (a founding member), Donna Ross, Eleanor Wein, and Claudia Wiens-Loranger. Betty Simmonds is an honorary member.

Our motto is *Service and Fellowship*.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Ross

The Flower Group

Even during the months when we had no Sunday services much of the work of our committee continued as per normal.

As every year in June we purchased and planted flowers in the urns in the Memorial Garden and in the front of the church and, as usual, our members each took a turn watering and deadheading the flowers in the urns to ensure they remained beautiful right through till October. We provided a lily for Easter and decorated the chancel for Thanksgiving to provide some background for Catherine's services.

It was exciting when we learned that services would resume November 28th which meant we could add our usual festive Christmas decorations and lights in and outside the church. It was wonderful to be able to adorn the chancel with the 28 poinsettias which were placed in memory or honour of someone special.

We held our usual Spring and Fall group meetings and were able to conduct the rest of our planning by email which meant the work of our group ran smoothly—most of it behind the scenes. We look forward to when Sunday services will resume. We will once again provide flowers for the chancel each Sunday and hydrangeas and mums for Easter.

Our current membership includes, Jane Alton, Gwyn Bailey, Marion Brooker, Marian Carmichael, Ruth Glancy, Pat Greenways, Pat McGeachy, Evelyn Henderson, Sheryl Lynn, Heather Peden, Anne Miller-Royds, Betty Mullen, Lorene Turner, Margaret Russell, Marianne Scott, Dawna Wiebe and Dale Wilke. We would be very pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join the group. There is work to share.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Mullen, Chair

2020-2021 Congregational Meetings -

Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting February 16, 2020

PRESENT: A total of 69 attendees (members, adherents, and ministers) signed the attendance sheet.

GATHERING AND CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Christopher Peet, called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

CHURCH YEAR HIGHLIGHTS: A slideshow, produced by Anna Benowicz, provided an overview of the many activities of the church in the last year.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS: Through a show of hands, **it was agreed to:**

- Nominate Chris Peet as Chair of this Annual Congregational Meeting
- Nominate Donna Stickland as Recording Secretary of this meeting
- Extend voting privileges to adherents present at the meeting.

OPENING PRAYER and MEMORIALS: Catherine MacLean led the opening prayer including remembering those named in the 2019 Annual Report who died during the past year.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2019

Through a show of hands, **it was agreed** to adopt the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 3, 2019.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2019

Through a show of hands, **it was agreed** to adopt the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of June 2, 2019.

MINISTER, STAFF, COMMITTEE REPORTS PRINTED IN ANNUAL REPORT: Through a show of hands, **it was agreed** to receive the reports as presented in the Annual Report.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS

Jim Smythe expressed thanks to Marianne Scott and Sheila Brown for their leadership on the Legacy Project and Fundraising Teams. Marianne Scott took on the leadership of the Legacy Project Team and led the congregation from visioning, planning, designing, re-planning, and overseeing the work dealing with concerns of all stakeholders. Led by Sheila Brown, Jim noted the Fundraising Team had raised over \$2M to complete the project.

Sheila Brown expressed thanks to Heather Peden for the extensive work she has done over the last year. Serving in the absence of a church treasurer and bookkeeper, Heather has handled all the financial transactions for the church.

Jasper Woodard, chair of Social Justice, spoke to the need to obtain congregational approval to spend funds from the Outreach Fund to allow the Social Justice Committee to provide support to a number of refugees.

MOTION: That \$10,000 from the Outreach Fund be made available for immediate refugee needs between March 1st 2020 and February 28th 2021, to be allocated at the discretion of the Social Justice Committee.

Moved: Jasper Woodard; Seconded: Jim Stewart

CARRIED

TREASURERS REPORT and 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

In the absence of a Treasurer, Marian Carmichael, Chair of the Finance Committee presented the Financial Statements for 2019. Marian noted total expenses were \$368,352 with income of \$392,569 for a surplus of \$24,217. The Board has allocated the surplus to the Capital Fund and Mission and Service Fund. Marian noted, due to vacations, the statements had not yet been reviewed.

MOTION: To accept the 2019 Financial Statements as presented subject to review.

Moved: Marian Carmichael; Seconded: Shirley Gifford

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF REVIEWERS:

MOTION: To appoint Eleanor Wein and Shona Nichols to review the 2020 Financial Records.

Moved: Marion Carmichael; Seconded: Loreen Turner

CARRIED

2020 BUDGET:

Heather Peden, Member of the Finance Committee, presented the Narrative Budget for 2020 and the graph outlining the operational costs and planned operational budget.

Ninety two percent of revenue comes from donations; rental income is planned at \$20,000 and it is hoped this amount will be higher. Other revenue is from interest and fundraising. Heather noted revenue is based on PAR pledges and best guestimates of donations. Expected revenue is \$365,500 which is a \$11,500 increase over last year's budget. The anticipated expenses are based on the committee budgets submitted. The anticipated deficit is \$14,935 for 2020.

Heather noted directed giving donations are allocated to the specific item. Other donations go to the operational budget of the church

MOTION: To accept the 2020 Budget as presented.

Moved: Heather Peden; Seconded: Betty Mullen

CARRIED

RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION

Chris Peet expressed appreciation to the staff and ministers for their leadership and care. Jim Stewart expressed appreciation to Dawn Macdonald for her contribution to the maintenance of the property as she leaves her role as Chair of the Property Committee.

ELECTIONS: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Coleen Falk provided the slate of nominees and delegates:

MOTION: To elect the following slate for the Official Board:

OFFICIAL BOARD:

Chair: Chris Peet
Vice Chair: Dean Rombough
Secretary: Donna Stickland
Treasurer: vacant
Finance: Marian Carmichael
Legacy Project: Marianne Scott
Membership and Congregational Care: Jumana Joury
Ministry and Personnel: Lorene Everett-Turner
Property: David Carr
Social Justice: Jasper Woodard
Spiritual Nurture: Jack Jervis
Stewardship: Jim Stewart
Worship: Hugh Stacey (Lori Stewart is Chair)

Moved: Coleen Falk; Seconded: Isabel Becking

CARRIED

APPOINTMENTS:

MOTION: To accept the following appointments as presented.

NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL DELEGATES:

Heather MacKenzie, Helen Madill, Amy Kaler

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Clare Irwin, Don Gardner, Gweth Purdy, Allan Scott, Shona Nichols

Moved: Coleen Falk; Seconded: Dale Wilkie

CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: Chris Peet expressed thanks to all the Board members this year and noted appreciation for the dedication brought to their roles.

CLOSING PRAYER: Denise Davis Taylor closed the meeting at 12:35 p.m. with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Stickland, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Annual Review held in lieu of Congregational Meeting March 9, 2021

PRESENT: Chris Peet (Chair), Dean Rombough, Catherine MacLean, Dave Carr, Denise Davis Taylor, Hugh Stacey, Jack Jervis, Jasper Woodard, Jim Stewart, Lorene Turner, Marian Carmichael, Marianne Scott, and Donna Stickland.

- 1.0 Gathering and Call to Order** – Chris Peet called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- 2.0 Procedural Matters** – Due to the pandemic, the Sub-Executive of the General Council temporarily suspended the requirement for congregations to hold an Annual Meeting. The Board of St. Paul's United Church accepted the subsequent invitation to fulfil this responsibility, with an eye to setting an interim budget. At the request of Northern Spirit Regional Council, the Board will fill and submit a slate of officers. With that guidance, this meeting is held in lieu of our Annual Congregational Meeting for those purposes and to receive 2020 Annual Reports from Committees and Teams, Church Groups, Staff, and Ministers.

At an upcoming Congregational Meeting, possibly in the autumn, Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting and the Reports noted above will be brought forward for approval. Memorials will be noted at this upcoming meeting as well.

- 3.0 Adoption of Agenda:** It was agreed the agenda was approved as circulated.
- 4.0 Opening Prayer and Memorials:** Catherine MacLean, accompanied by Tyson Kerr on the piano, offered an opening prayer that included the names of all members and adherents of St. Paul's who had passed away in 2020.
- 5.0 Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting February 16, 2020 for information** (to be adopted at a future Congregational Meeting).
- It was agreed** to accept the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of February 16, 2020.
- 6.0 Appreciation for Reports from Ministers, Staff, Board and Committees** (to be received formally at a future Congregational Meeting). Chris Peet noted how valuable the reports were in reviewing the year and informing on the activities of the church. Catherine noted people have appreciated receiving the report. Print copies are available for those who request one. Lorene Turner reported an error in the Property Report (Item 7 under action items) noting the Landscaping and Visual Identity Committee remains in place and, while it was not their mandate to do routine maintenance of the lawns, the committee will continue to operate to implement the Landscaping Plan. Compliments were forwarded to the Chair, Catherine, and Denise for their comprehensive reports.
- It was agreed** to receive the reports as presented in the Annual Report.
- 7.0 Year End Financial Report and 2020 Statements** – While the financial statements are normally reviewed in advance of the Annual Congregational Meeting, due to COVID complications the

review has not yet been done, and approval of the financial statements “subject to review” is requested.

MOTION: To accept the 2020 Financial Statements as presented subject to review; with the review letter being forwarded to the 2021 Board of Directors for approval.

Moved: Marian Carmichael; Seconded: Jim Stewart

CARRIED

Due to the church building being officially closed, the following motion was put forward:

MOTION: To request that the reviewers, Eleanor Wein and Shona Nichols (as appointed at the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting) have access to the Friendship Room for one day to review the 2020 Financial Records.

Moved: Marion Carmichael; Seconded: Lorene Turner

CARRIED

It was requested that the financial documents be reviewed by the reviewers prior to the next Annual Congregational Meeting.

8.0 Appointment of Financial Reviewers for 2021 – Marianne Carmichael recommended the appointment of the reviewers for 2021.

MOTION: To appoint Jennifer McKercher Rott and Don Purdie to complete the review of the 2021 Financial Records.

Moved: Marianne Carmichael; Seconded: Jasper Woodard

CARRIED

9.0 2021 Interim Budget - Marian Carmichael presented the detailed budget noting a planned deficit for the year. The final budget will be reviewed by the Board in June 2021 when it is hoped we will have a better understanding of the opening of the church and the potential for increased income. Once the Budget is finalized in June, a copy will be forwarded to Region.

MOTION: To approve the 2021 Interim Budget as presented.

Moved: Marian Carmichael; Seconded: Dave Carr

CARRIED

10.0 Recognition and Appreciation of Board Members finishing their term – Chris Peet noted that Marian Carmichael has served diligently on the board for 6 years, the last three years as Finance Chair. Donna Stickland has completed three years as Secretary. Appreciation was expressed to Heather Peden for the tremendous work she has done on the bookkeeping and work in the absence of a Treasurer.

11.0 Elections

MOTION: To confirm the following slate:

Northern Spirit Region Delegates: Amy Kaler, Heather MacKenzie, Helen Madill

Board of Trustees: Clare Irwin, Don Gardner, Gweth Purdy, Allan Scott, Shona Nichols

Official Board:

Chair: Chris Peet

Vice Chair: Dean Rombough

Secretary:
Treasurer:
Finance:
Legacy: Marianne Scott
Membership and Congregational Care:
Ministry and Personnel: Lorene Everett-Turner
Property: David Carr
Social Justice: Jasper Woodard
Spiritual Nurture: Jack Jervis
Stewardship: Jim Stewart
Worship: Hugh Stacey (Lori Stewart is Chair)

Moved: Lorene Turner; Seconded Jack Jervis

CARRIED

12.0 Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- 12.1 Executive Meeting – April 13, 2021
- 12.2 Board Meeting – May 11, 2021
- 12.3 Congregational Meeting – to be determined

13.0 Closing Remarks – Chris Peet declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Stickland, Recording Secretary

Membership

Baptisms

All postponed

Marriages

Kassia Kaur Grewal and Williams John Shaw

In Memoriam

† member

- † Betty Elizabeth (Wickett) Arlette
Annet Atuhurire Kembundu
- † Bill William Miros Eli Boytzun
- † Kiran Evelyn Cahoon
Dorcas Aldyth (Wagner) Dunn-Berry
Donna Vivian Evans
Liam Johannes Hoekstra
- † Diane Alice (Cload) Kuzyk
- † Anne Gertrude (McEachern) Lightfoot
Jean (Koziel) MacLean
Douglas James Martin
- † Harold Ben Benjamin McEwen
- † Helen Jean (MacRae) McEwen
- † Carl John Osadetz
Gail Gay Helen (Dowling) Young
- † Heather Ann Waldie
- † Lyle Wiebe