

# BETHANY UNITED CHURCH

7171 Clinton Avenue

Phone (902) 455-0521 Fax (902) 455-0306

Email: [office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@bethanyunitedchurch.ca)

Website: [www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca](http://www.bethanyunitedchurch.ca)

## OFFICE (MAILING) ADDRESS:

2669 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS, B3L 4G5



## Annual Report

-2022-

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda .....	II
Message from Rev. Kevin Little .....	III
In Memoriam .....	IV
Minutes of Congregational Meeting .....	V
Appendix to the Minutes: Nominating Report 2021 .....	VIII
Executive Board .....	1
Ministry and Personnel.....	4
Board of Managers .....	5
Treasurer’s Report .....	7
Contributions to Mission and Service Fund .....	9
Contribution Breakdown.....	9
In Tribute & In Memory Donations .....	9
Volunteers.....	10
Benevolent Fund.....	10
Brookfield Fund.....	11
The Janet and Earle Reid Scholarship Fund.....	12
Board of Trustees .....	13
Session.....	14
Worship .....	17
Local Outreach /Financial.....	19
Children and Family Care Ministry.....	21
Community Engagement Ministry.....	22
Ministry of Music Report .....	25
Memorial Music Fund.....	26
Rackham Fund & Lillian Piercey Scholarship Fund	
Audio & Vision (AV) Ministry .....	27
United Church Women /Financial.....	29
Flower Fund Committee Report.....	30
Financial Statement .....	31
Coffee Hour Ministry.....	32
Men’s Club.....	32



**BETHANY UNITED CHURCH**  
**2022 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Sunday March 26, 2023 - AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
  2. Prayer and In Memoriam
  3. Welcome and Remarks re Meeting Chair and Recording Secretary
  4. Motion regarding Voting Privileges
  5. Motion appointing AGM Chair
  6. Correspondence
  7. Approval of the Agenda
  8. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting held March 21, 2022
  9. Business arising from these minutes
    - a) Bethany Representative to Regional Council #15
    - b) Update on Option 1 Renovations
  10. Printed Reports – All reports are printed in the annual report except the Treasurer’s Report and the Auditor’s Report.

Motion to accept all the reports as printed in the Annual Report except the Treasurer’s Report and the Auditor’s Report.
  11. Financial Report
    - a) Treasurer’s Report
    - b) Auditor’s Report
    - c) Proposed Budget for 2023

Motion to accept Financial Reports.
  9. Nominating Committee Report  
Election to fill vacancies
  10. New Business
    - a) Review of Affirming Working Group Initiative
  11. Adjournment and Benediction.
-

## MINISTER'S REPORT

*Jesus began to proclaim, "the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 4:17*

I spent much of 2022 pondering the moments when I felt deeply connected to the Spirit. Obviously, as a disciple of Jesus, a believer in God, someone who tries to remain open to the Spirit, I know God is present, everywhere, all the time. But there are these sacred sensations, when I feel that presence in a most profound way. I am not nostalgic by nature, I tend to look forward in life, for better or worse. But those sacred sensations do give me something to savour, to build on, to be reminded, "I am not alone...I live in God's world." In 2022 I felt such moments. I share them with you.

- 1) In the midst of lockdown, opening up, limited lockdown, limited opening up, and so on...the offering of community was challenging. ZOOM gave many of us a chance to be together, albeit virtually. Phone calls and emails helped. But it took something as simple and sustaining as a multi-week series of ukulele lessons to bring 25+ people together for community connection. I was not part of that group, but I kept hearing about it, from new people, familiar people, who looked forward to those Wednesday nights with eager anticipation. The invitation was to leave behind the anxiety, the stress, the fear, and enter into the kin-dom of God, present, enduring, joyful, hopeful. And they did, we did.
- 2) Through the lockdowns and re-openings and lockdowns, people were reluctant to "drop-in". There wasn't much walk-in traffic here at the church Mon-Fri. That meant it was mostly staff, volunteers like the treasurer, chair of the Boards, etc... Then...in the summer several young staff showed up, thanks to the hard work of Dana. Dana also supervised these students. You read about these students in many of my daily blogs. But what I will always remember was the laughter of Daniel and Sydney. In the midst of this deadly virus and the anxiety it produced laughter was in short supply, everywhere. But for two months the walls of Bethany vibrated with infectious belly laughs. What a special gift.
- 3) When hurricane Fiona hit us power went out across the province. We had a wedding scheduled on a Saturday. People had traveled from Ontario, BC and the US to attend this celebration. They did not want to cancel! Louisa was shepherding them through their wedding plans. She suggested we have the service on Sunday. All went perfectly. BUT the park where the photos were to be taken was inaccessible. Quick thinking Louisa suggested the photos be taken in our sheltered Piercey Peace Garden. The wedding photos were amazing. The bride wrote me to say she was so impressed with the care she received, should she be blessed one day with a daughter, the child would be named Bethany.

During our Living Nativity service in December Karen Finley captured this photo of young Mason winning the jellybean contest. *"The kin-dom of God has come near."* Indeed, it has. Indeed, it will. I look forward to witnessing these blessings with you. Peace, Kevin



# *IN MEMORIAM*

*Norman MacNeil*

*Marion Baxter*

*Jessie McCurdy*

*Melvin Bona*

*John Moore*

*Irene Chapman*

*Doug Roy*

*Charlotte Charlton*

*Janet White*

*Rev. Randy Crozman*

*Joyce Whynot*

*Patrick Farmer*

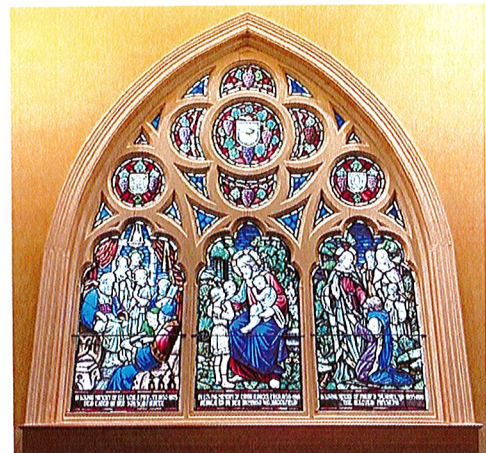
*Anna Marie  
Zurawski*

*John Fiske*

*Lois Lynds*

*Jane Jeffrey*

*Truman Layton*



## **MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

MARCH 20, 2022, at 1:30 P.M. via ZOOM

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

David Rackham, Chair, called meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. March 20, 2022

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

Rev. Kevin Little named each church member who had passed away during the year: Reuben Action, Patricia Baker, Paul Campbell, Mary Weir Doane, Patricia Fiske, Celesta Flight, Kathleen Fraser, Carolyn Graham, William Harris, Allan MacDonald, Errol MacDonald, Rev. Elroy McKillop, Rev. Arlene Riches and Ada Tozer. Following the names he said the St Francis' prayer, explaining that this prayer seemed to be the most appropriate for the time.

### **VOTING PRIVILEGES:**

The Chair asked Dana Mills to review the protocol and privileges regarding the voting process; motion to accept the privileges, seconded and carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** none

### **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Addition to agenda – official election to Council #15 to represent Bethany United church; Motion made to approve agenda with this addition, seconded and carried.

### **MINUTES APPROVED:**

Motion made to approve the AGM minutes of March 21, 2021, seconded and carried.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** none

### **PRINTED COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS:**

Motion made to accept all the printed annual committee reports which were circulated prior to the meeting in the published Annual Report, EXCEPT the Treasurer's and Auditor's reports, seconded and carried.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Rob Steeves, the Treasurer gave an in-person report during this meeting using slides as he presented the report. First, Rob acknowledged the prior treasurer, Linda Knechtel for her years as Treasurer and thanked her and Tina for their enormous support in the transition.

- A) **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The expenditures of the previous year were reviewed which spoke to such items as wages of the staff, Option1 renovations

and routine maintenance followed by the revenue. The Treasurer's report is attached to these minutes.

- B) AUDITOR'S REPORT: At the time of the meeting the Auditor's Report was unavailable.
- C) PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2022: Report attached to these minutes.

The projection of a budget plan for 2022 was difficult because of the unpredictable expenditures and income for 2021 due to the uncertainties caused by the covid pandemic. Other items which would have an impact on the budget is the rise in the cost of fuel, insurance and maintenance which are all 'fixed' expenditures. Also, at this point to make a prediction on income/revenue is most difficult for various reasons; number of members who have regular monthly envelopes, rentals, fund-raising events such as Fall Fair & Gallia Night have not been planned.

A Motion was made to accept the Annual Treasurer's Report with the exception of the Auditor's report, seconded and carried. The Auditor's Report will be brought forward at a future meeting for approval.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

Full Nominating Report is attached to these minutes from the Chair, Jim Musgrave. Jim thanked the committee member, Heather Brophy for her contribution in finding folks to fill the various vacancies of the many committees within Bethany church. Jim and Heather have both agreed to maintain their positions on the nominating committee for the term 22/23.

Motion that all persons nominated to fill vacancies on the various committees within Bethany church, seconded and carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) BETHANY REPRESENTATIVE TO REGIONAL COUNCIL #15

Bethany United church can have four representatives to the Regional Council #15 and Glen Knapp has offered. Grant MacKenzie has been a representative for many years and has agreed to remain. Rev Kevin Little is automatically a representative.

Moved to have Glen and Grant to represent Bethany on the Regional Council #15, seconded and carried.

They both were recognized and acknowledged by the Chair for their commitment to this charge.

- b) UPDATE ON OPTION1 RENOVATIONS



As previous chair of the Board of Managers, Glenn Knapp gave a brief update on the renovations completed to date and a rough outline as to possible priorities moving forward. He also indicated that he would be available to offer any assistance to the incoming Chair on the Board of Managers, Mary MacKay.

Glenn was acknowledged by the Board for his hours & hours spent at the church dealing with the amazing accomplishments for the many completed renovations for Option 1.

**ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION:**

Before the meeting was adjourned, David Rackham, finishing his term as chair of the Executive Bard thanked the members for their support during the six years that he served his term as the chair. David continued to give a brief history of his time and commitment to many activities and committees within Bethany United church.

David was congratulated and acknowledged for his valued support over these many years and he was wished good health for the future and his continuing membership at Bethany United church.

Moved to adjourn, seconded and carried at 2:40 PM.

Benediction given by Rev. Kevin Little. He read a prayer from 'Voices United', page 915.

Gloria Stephens, Recording Secretary

## **APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES**

### **Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee consists of Heather Brophy and Jim Musgrave (Chair). What follows is the Committee' report for the upcoming year, 2022-23:

#### **Session**

For clarity of the record, John Geske's term on Session came to an end in 2017, and, while late in coming, we now officially thank John for his service.

Nancy Ardene and Charlotte Charlton have retired from Session, and we thank each of them for their service.

Don Grant has also retired from Session after many years of faithful service, and we thank Don for his long and unselfish service.

The following Elders have completed their first five-year terms and are willing to serve another five-year term each, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Mabel Davis
- Ruth DeVenne
- Randy Tyler
- Bonnie Boyd-Read

The following members of the Bethany church family have agreed to serve new five-year terms on Session, if elected, and we hereby nominate them now. They are:

- Rick Anningson
- Elizabeth Carter
- Heather Fitzpatrick
- Kathy Ross

For the record, Elizabeth Carter has already been a faithful servant on Session, but is now eligible to be formally nominated, and we are delighted to present her name to the congregation officially.

#### **Board of Trustees**

Gordon Lawley and Brian Wentzell have each completed a three-year term on the Board of Trustees and are willing to serve further three-year terms, if elected, and we hereby nominate them.

## **Board of Managers**

David Briers and Greg Rice retire from the Board of Managers today, and we thank them for their service.

Glendon Knapp retires from the Board of Managers today, after many years of faithful stewardship of our premises, including but not limited to his daily oversight of our capital improvements, and we thank him for his diligent and invaluable service. There are no words to describe the legacy Glen leaves behind, but when we cast our eyes around the many upgrades to our physical plant, we can only begin to assess his legacy as a careful steward of every aspect of the capital project.

The following members of the Board of Managers completed their second (and otherwise last) three-year terms in 2021, were then extended for another year, and are willing to serve further one-year terms into 2023, if elected, and we hereby nominate them to ensure continuity through the last of our capital improvements. They are:

- Penny Allen
- Phil Reardon

Kevin Nettle, Jeff Mills and Bob Younker have agreed to serve a new three-year term on the Board of Managers, if elected, and we hereby nominate them.

## **Executive Board**

Heather Brophy and Gerald Slaunwhite have completed the second of their three-year terms on the Executive Board, and we thank them for their faithful service as well.

Cheri Wilson has also retired from the Executive Board, where she served faithfully as the Community Connections Group representative, and we thank Cheri for her faithful service.

David Rackham's term was extended a number of times to ensure continuity of leadership during the pandemic, and we thank David for his faithful and trusted service to Bethany as he completes his tenure on the Executive Board and a more-than-well-deserved retirement as Chair today.

Pam Carter has completed one term as a member-at-large on the Executive Board and is willing to serve another three-year term, if elected, and we hereby nominate Pam.

The following members-at-large of the Executive Board have completed their terms and are willing to serve another one-year term each, if elected, and we hereby nominate them. They are:

- Julie Johnson
- Les Russell
- Gloria Stephens

As a brief aside, our report last year was apparently incorrect when it indicated that Julie Johnson retired from the Executive Board. In fact, Julie renewed for another year then, which is wonderful, and we thank her for renewing again this year. My apologies to Julie for getting this wrong last year. The record of Julie's service to the Executive Board now stands corrected.

The following members of the Bethany church family have agreed to serve new three-year terms on the Executive Board, if elected, and we hereby nominate them now. They are:

- Barb Allen
- Tom Black
- Nancy Dearn
- Glendon Knapp

Gloria Stephens is also prepared to serve as Recording Secretary for another year, and we hereby nominate Gloria to this important role.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I now invite the Chairs or Secretaries of each of these Boards and Committees – Session, the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, and the Executive Board – to reach out to the new members of your committees to provide them with minutes from your last meeting and to provide your new members with notice of the next meeting and any helpful orientation.

The Nominating Committee would like to thank all those volunteers who complete their service on these Boards and Committees, all those who have agreed to renew their mandates, and all those who have agreed to serve under new mandates on behalf of our congregation. Their efforts help lead us as Bethany builds the New Jerusalem. We are blessed by their countless hours of dedicated service to the life and mission of Bethany in the world.

I would like to thank Heather Brophy for her support on the Nominating Committee this year.

Special thanks to Rev. Kevin Little for his invaluable assistance, as always.

Special thanks as well to the Chairs, Lisa Harrison (Clerk of Session), David Rackham (Chair of the Executive Board), Bill Piercey (Chair of the Board of Trustees), and Glendon Knapp (retiring Chair of the Board of Managers), for their incredible support of our work.

Thanks as well to Dana Mills, who is always professional and helpful.

But most of all, thank you to all the volunteers who said, “Yes”, to service!

You will note that there have been some extensions requested this year at the Board of Managers beyond the usual term limits. These extensions are requested to allow for continuity of leadership at the Board of Managers as it carries out the last of the capital improvements the congregation approved.

A year dominated again by COVID-19 and challenging public health directives delayed succession planning for Chair David Rackham at the Executive Board level, who graciously stayed on the job for all of us to help steer the congregation through yet another of its most challenging years in living memory. Thank you, David.

And another year of renovations delayed succession planning for Chair Glendon Knapp at the Board of Managers, who graciously stayed on the job for all of us to help steer our physical plant into the future. Thank you, Glen.

All of the extensions noted in this year’s report, and all of the nominations to the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Board and Session for 2022-23 are respectfully submitted, and I move approval of the extensions and appointments for the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Musgrave,

Chair

## Executive Board Report

The Bethany United Church 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting held on March 20, 2022 marked the retirement of Dr. David Rackham as Chair of the Executive Board. It was a time to acknowledge the congregation's heartfelt thanks for David's many years of exemplary service particularly as he extended his term to successfully help guide the congregation through the challenges of the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic which markedly impacted our congregation and all of society, starting in March 2020. Following that Annual Meeting, an Executive Board meeting was held on March 24, 2022 at which time we (Glen Knapp and Chuck Maxner) were selected as co-chairs of the Executive Board to succeed David.

At this time, it is appropriate to restate some details about the present governance at Bethany United Church. This was eloquently reviewed by David Rackham in his report from the last Annual Meeting as follows: "Each governance board and committee of Bethany United Church has its specific mandate and area of jurisdiction, and the Executive Board (EB) is no exception in this regard. Generally speaking, the EB is responsible for exercising *overall* leadership in the care and oversight of the spiritual life, activities and the work of the congregation, the care and maintenance of church property and facilities, and acts as a liaison between our local Community of Faith and Regional Council 15 of the United Church of Canada. Various specific boards and committees such as the Board of Managers, the Board of Trustees, the Session, and the Outreach Committee, among many others, take care of the day-by-day management and governance of the activities of Bethany United Church. Their reports may be found elsewhere in this Annual Report but all have representation on the EB."

We are most thankful for the commitment and hard work of all of these committees and boards. It is to be noted that each year membership and, at times, chair positions change and we are so grateful for the generosity of time and energy offered by retiring members and chairs of these committees and boards but also, we owe our thanks to those who answered the call to become new members and chairs. We do recognize the learning curve required when taking on new duties and responsibilities. Thus, on behalf of the congregation we acknowledge and thank all who work so diligently and successfully in their volunteer positions to ensure the success of the community of faith of Bethany United Church.

Specifically, with regard to the Executive Board membership, at the March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Executive Board meeting, Tom Black, Nancy Dearn, Barb Allen and Glen Knapp were welcomed. At the March 2022 Annual meeting, Heather Brophy, Gerald Slaunwhite, and Cheri Wilson along with David Rackham retired from the Executive Board and were thanked for their service.

The Executive Board met in June and November 2022 at which time reports from all of the Committees and Boards were reviewed. In particular the Board of Managers kept us updated regarding the status of completion of the Option 1 Renovations and what was on the agenda for upcoming projects. We have also initiated an update on the status of governance within Bethany and also are exploring increased church utilization and interaction with the United Church of Canada's online Church Hub.

One group which has helped guide our successful reopening of activities has been the In Person Implementation Team (**IPIT**). We thank Elizabeth Carter, Louisa Duck, Glen Knapp, Dana Mills, Pam Carter, Bev Grant, Shawn Whynot, and Chuck Maxner for their efforts on your behalf. Their diligence in monitoring issues surrounding the still ongoing COVID pandemic and awareness of the Nova Scotia Public Health Guidelines, has led to a gradual reactivating of virtually all of the Bethany activities that went on hold in March 2020. You are well aware of the numerous communications emailed to you from this group to keep you informed of the ongoing decisions.

Through 2022, we were able to have in-person worship services with increasing attendance as the year progressed. Supplementing the in-person services was the tremendously successful and valuable live streaming/You-Tube presence offered by the Audio-Visual ministry team of Barry Paton, Glen Knapp, Rob Steeves, Penny Allen, and Stephen Morley. We thank them for their diligent work in this ministry which has helped provide the Bethany Faith message to those not able to attend in-person.

We were most pleased to have a successful Advent and Christmas season with a full slate of worship services and also special events such as the Living Nativity evening and the Christmas Eve children's service.

Associated with the worship services, we were able to successfully restart the Coffee Hour with thanks to Julia Jewett and her team of organizers. Many other social events such as Men's Club, JOY Luncheon and Walk and Talk, along with other activities, were again active. There was a return of the activities of the Rental Groups who were able to again utilize our facilities.

On the financial front, we express our deep gratitude to Rob Steeves for his dedicated leadership as Treasurer through these difficult times given the impact of the COVID pandemic on Church activities. With his guidance and the blessed generosity and commitment of Bethany parishioners, we leave 2022 in a stable financial state.

The staff members (Shawn Whynot, Ann Bradley, Dana Mills, Louisa Duck, Jimmy Sweet, and Tina Gascon) are to be thanked for their tremendous commitment to Bethany and in particular their ability to continue to offer their leadership and support in an everchanging COVID landscape. This required vigilance to details as well as the flexibility to change in the delivery of their services. This was successfully accomplished with always a positive spirit. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated individuals as our Bethany Team!

Reverend Kevin Little continues to amaze us with his spiritual leadership and his commitment to keeping the Bethany community together. His daily communications are always anticipated for encouragement and thought-provoking enrichment by members of the Bethany Faith Community. He has boundless energy and works to ensure the pastoral needs of Bethany are met even while being an example to us all of the possibilities of further outreach in the wider community. We are truly blessed to be the beneficiary of his Faith leadership.

As we enter 2023, we look forward to further completion of facility upgrades guided by the Board of Managers, analysis of best governance practices of our Bethany committees and Boards, and continued attention to the stewardship initiatives to ensure our ongoing ability to provide a faith home for the Bethany family and local community.

In closing it seems appropriate to revisit a portion of our Closing Prayer which concludes each worship services:

*May the peace of God the Father, and the love of Christ His Son,  
Guide us in the days ahead and shelter us each one,  
May the blessings of the Spirit, fill us from within.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Glen Knapp & Chuck Maxner, Co-Chairs



## **Ministry and Personnel Committee Report**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) is comprised of congregation members of Bethany United Church. These volunteers are;

- Dan Jackson
- Julie Johnson
- Ian Parker
- Lynn Steeves
- Herb Steeves

The present committee since its inception in the spring of 2022 has met twice .

The M&P Committee acts under the guidelines of the Manual of The United Church of Canada. The committee has three primary roles:

- o consultation and support in a relational manner with all Pastoral Charge staff, including ministry and lay personnel
- o fostering healthy relationships between Pastoral Charge staff and with the congregational community,
- o overarching supervision of appropriate human resource functions

The Committee believes that supporting the Pastoral Charge Staff in the performance of their duties is paramount. The good work that has occurred in keeping Bethany United Church functioning, particularly over the course of the pandemic, has directly been related to their efforts.

The Committee has begun, and will continue in 2023, to review both past and the best practices for Bethany United Church regarding ministry and personnel . Its efforts will be focused towards ensuring the proper procedures and policies related to staff members are in place.

Members of the community of faith who wish to discuss matters regarding the M&P Committee or Pastoral Charge Staff should please direct these, confidentially in writing, to the Chair or any member of the Committee.

We would like to thank past M&P Committee members and volunteers for their on-going support.

Respectfully submitted,

Herb Steeves, Chair

## **Board of Managers (BOM) Report**

This year was focused on a safe reopening of the church. Thank you to the In-Person Implementation Team for its guidance and assistance.

The Board of Manager's role is to oversee the financial operation and maintenance of the church, including revenue, expenditures, budgeting and financial planning.

In 2022 the Board met 6 times, both by Zoom and in person. The hybrid format offers challenges, but we made the best of it!

A Board cannot be effective without an active membership. I would like to acknowledge our 2022 members: Penny Allen, Bob Carter, Jackie Clairmont Mitchell, Mary Farmer, Brian Jay, Grant MacKenzie, Jason Merry, Jeff Mills, Kevin Nettle, Phil Reardon, Doug Shields, Carol Simmons, Robert Younker, Susan Zurawski, and Betty Tozer. Robert Steeves, the Treasurer, attends our meetings.

A special thank you and good bye to Penny, Mary, Phil, Doug, Carol, Jason and Kevin who are leaving the Board.

We know that not everyone can commit to being a member of a board or committee. If you have suggestions or may like to assist with a short-term project, please let me know. Throughout the year, the BOM was busy managing routine maintenance, ongoing renovations and repairs. Volunteers helped to paint and brighten up the small rooms off the gymnasium; the parlour was renewed thanks to the generous contribution of Glen and Carol Knapp; the parking lot underwent some repaving and repainting of lines and accessible spaces; gutters were cleaned; and a tree removed at the entrance to the sanctuary. Fundraising efforts and donations allowed several new round dining tables to be purchased for the Fellowship Hall.

The church welcomed back several renters: YMCA Forever Fit – Gymnasium; Aeolian Singers – Fellowship Hall; Bethany Art Group – Ladies Parlour; Girl Guides – Fellowship Hall ;Welcome Group – Ladies Parlour; Live Music & Yoga – Fellowship Hall ; and North Music Therapy – Ladies Parlour. Glen Knapp and the BOM carried out a review and update of Bethany's rental package, particularly as it relates to the kitchen.

The Board established two sub-committees. The Option 1 Team report provided a recommendation for completing outstanding projects. This work is funded from contributions received through a capital campaign. One of the outstanding projects is re shingling of the sanctuary roof. A request to the Hunter Fund resulted in a grant of \$25,000 to support the roof replacement.

The report also provided information and suggestions on how to address additional items and initiatives that have been identified over the past several years as requiring repairs, renovation or replacement. The BOM began working on a plan that will prioritize these projects over the next several years.

The very knowledgeable Boiler Team started its work to provide a recommendation as to how to address issues with Bethany's heating system. Our current license expires in 2024 and Bethany must have a plan ready to replace the boiler.

Dana Mills, on behalf of Bethany, submitted a Canada Summer Works program application. As a result, Sydney Anningson, Facility Assistant and Daniel Carter, Ministry Resource Assistant joined us for the Summer. These positions provide support and cover vacation periods.

The Board would like to acknowledge the support received from church staff and volunteers throughout 2022.

We had a very productive year and are looking forward to a busy 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary MacKay, Chair

## Treasurer Report

2022 began much like 2021, with an air of uncertainty as to where Covid would take us next. Having been essentially shut down again over Christmas, we began 2022 slowing working our way back towards a “new normal”, not knowing exactly what that would look like. For your rookie treasurer, this was both a blessing and a curse as I grappled with my first budget exercise. On one hand, it was a bit like having a blank sheet to start from, which does come with its own advantages. On the other hand, for someone who likes to look at historical data and study trends (me) it’s frightening. All that said, it was an exciting exercise as I readied a budget for presentation to the congregation at the AGM. It was a busy first quarter: For those unfamiliar with the cycle, in the first quarter there is the business of wrapping up the previous year, working with accountants to review/close the books, preparation of congregant tax receipts, finalizing a budget for the new year, and submitting detailed statistical reports to the National Church. After catching our breath for a week or two in April, this all culminates in the preparation of our tax return for CRA. Stir in to that a deep dive into all aspects of our Option 1 Renovation work over the previous 4-5 years, and it was a whirlwind time. For me, it was all an incredibly worthwhile exercise, as I gained not only a greater appreciation of the financial rhythm of a church, but learned a great deal about what we have and who is responsible. That learning journey is far from over and continues in 2023!!

The summer was financially fairly quiet. Things seemed to purr along. Building repair expenditures were fairly low: Our major infrastructure expense for the year was parking lot repair and some line painting. This turned out to be a blessing as, overall, revenues were down slightly. Givings were below what I had aggressively budgeted for, and rentals were off slightly as we slowly tried to come out of the pandemic. Thankfully expenses were down as well. For someone who likes to compare trends it was a difficult time as the previous three years had all been very different for different reasons depending on circumstances dictated by the pandemic, so it was a little difficult to identify if there were issues looming in the first 8 months of the year.

Still, as we approached fall, it seemed that things would be OK. At the end of August, I began doing projections for the fall months based on 2021 monthly actuals. No issues were apparent at that time. The modest deficit of about \$1,300 I had budgeted for seemed still attainable. However, as more “real” data became available as fall rolled along, I became alarmed that we were going to have a significant deficit. At one point, it seemed entirely possible we could see a deficit in excess of \$60,000! But the Bethany Community of faith came through!!! For that, I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their generosity this past year, particularly in December. I’m hoping to learn from the 2022 experience and improve on my trend analysis in 2023.

As I write this in February, the final number for the year is yet to be determined. The accountants that do our annual review are working away at finalizing our year end books and December 2022 financial position. Unless they identify a serious mistake in our operating and revenue record keeping, I believe our operating account will show a

surplus for the year in the range of \$12,000.00 - \$13,000.00. The final bottom line will depend on how well our investment portfolio did for the year. As our investment portfolio moved this year, I am relying on the accountant to confirm how we did.

Going forward in to 2023 and beyond, we still face challenging times: First, inflation is still a cause for concern, and while it seems to be easing, I don't think we've seen the full effect it will have on our operating budget. Second, while we look at closing off the Capital Campaign we started some 3-5 years ago, there is still more infrastructure work that needs to be done throughout the complex. For example, the heating system is going to need to be replaced, likely within the next two years. And it is likely to be an expensive replacement. One thing the various boards and I are exploring is identifying ways to plan and execute major betterment projects on a continuous basis, rather than collect them all for 20 years and then embark on a major renovation.

I want to conclude this report by thanking several people who have been a blessing to me in my rookie year as your treasurer:

- First, and foremost, Tina Gascon, for professionally and methodically doing the heavy lifting associated with day-to-day church finances and for always finding the time and patience to deal with my endless questions and requests for data.
- Second, Dana Mills for looking for historical information, reminding me when things are due and putting up with last minute insertions in the bulletin.
- Third, Linda Knechtel for always being there to calmly answer a rookie's questions.
- Fourth, a special thank you to Don MacKay for taking time in December to share his wisdom and experience, and calming my nerves in what was a stressful financial month.

Finally, one more time a massive "THANK YOU" to the congregation for your continuing financial support of this wonderful community of faith. I urge you to prayerfully keep Bethany in your thoughts when planning your donations for the coming year.

Thank you for the privilege of being your treasurer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Steeves, Treasurer

## Contributions to Mission & Service (M & S) Fund in 2022

The total amounts of contributions made to the M & S Fund are:

Mission and Service Contributions/Envelopes:	\$24,405.42
M & S UCW	\$ 0.00
M & S World Development	\$ 189.00

Total: \$24,594.42

## Contribution Breakdown – 2022

Total envelopes issued for 2022: 276 (this includes 99 families on PAR)  
Total numbers with Zero balance: 0

### Contributions between:

\$1.00 - \$100:	36
\$101 - \$500:	45
\$501 - \$1000:	57
\$1001 - \$2500:	61
\$2501 - \$5000:	27
Over \$5000:	29

## Memorial Donations Received In 2022

\$3,845.00

*Bethany United Church expresses thanks to all in our community of faith who contributed to the memorial bulletin donations for 2021 “in memory” and all charitable donations made to honor loved ones and friends.*

## Volunteers

*Bethany is blessed with a dedicated community of volunteers.  
Our sincerest gratitude is extended to all for the gifts you share.*

## Bethany Benevolent Fund

The Bethany Benevolent Fund is a Session Fund for goodwill purposes that is used to help people in difficult circumstances. Our sincere thanks to the congregation of Bethany for their many generous donations throughout the year. This Fund is administered at the discretion of our Minister, Kevin Little.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

	<b>Debit</b>	<b>Credit</b>
<b>Opening balance as of January 1, 2022</b>		<b>\$1878.16</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Individual donations		\$3039.00
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Amount disbursed		\$2021.17
Other expenses		\$ 00.00
<b>Closing balance as of December 31, 2022</b>		<b>\$2895.99</b>

*\*4 Year Financial Comparison Report will follow as an erratum notice.*

*\*Investment Report will follow as an erratum notice.*

**Brookfield Fund**  
**(Originally named the “Brookfield Calendar Fund”)**

Once again, we are thankful to those who supported the Brookfield Fund in 2022. This auxiliary fund began nearly 100 years ago! Over the years it has provided financial assistance for minor unforeseen expenditures not covered in the operating budget of the church. Examples of such expenditures have included things such as postage for an unforeseen mass mailing to the congregation, minor ancillaries for the nursery, covering the per diems for a student delegate to a church conference, a new piano lamp for the chapel, or flowers for a staff illness.

Balance January 1, 2022 .....	\$1,358.98
New funds in 2022 .....	\$ 50.00
Expenditures in 2022 .....	\$ 0.00
Balance December 31, 2022 .....	\$1,408.98

If any congregants have more details on the origins of this fund and the name I would be most interested in hearing from you. This fund has not seen much activity in the past few years and it has been suggested that it may have run its course. Before any decision on its future is taken I would like to explore its history for a more fuller understanding of its origins and purpose.

In the meantime, we welcome any and all donations. Usual donations are modest but very much appreciated. Annual contributions to the fund are included in the year - end statement you receive for income tax purposes for your regular envelope receipt. If you think that you would be able to contribute to the Brookfield Fund, we will welcome hearing from you (telephone 902-455-0521, 225) to make arrangements to receive your donation.

I would like to conclude this report by offering sincerest thanks on behalf of the congregation to George Russell for his faithful stewardship of this fund for over 20 years.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Steeves, Treasurer



## **The Earle and Janet Reid Scholarship Fund (“The Fund”)**

Under the provisions of his Last Will and Testament, Dr. Earle Reid generously donated to Bethany United Church the sum of \$100,000.00 to fund the Earle and Janet Reid Scholarship Fund (“the Fund”). Under the provisions of his Will, Dr. Reid provided that the net annual income of the Fund be distributed annually by Bethany by awarding annual scholarships to recipients attending a secondary or post-secondary educational institution who are active participants in church activities.

The funds were transferred to the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia to invest on Bethany’s behalf. CFNS is a public charitable foundation established by Nova Scotians for Nova Scotians which works with private donors to build the financial and social capital of our community by establishing permanent endowment funds and providing the expertise to maximize the benefit to each of these funds. Since all the funds of the CFNS are pooled and invested together, the CFNS is able to keep investment costs low in order to maximize the benefit of each endowment fund. The monies in the Fund are invested in a balanced fund comprised of 60% equities and 40% fixed income. The CFNS charges an annual management fee of 1.77% for each fund and provides annual and quarterly reports.

Under the terms of Bethany’s agreement with the CFNS, an Adjudication Committee consisting of three members of the congregation and a representative of the CFNS has been established to review all applications for the two annual scholarships and to recommend the two annual recipients of the scholarships as set out in Dr. Reid’s Will and then to forward their recommendations to the CFNS’s Board of Directors for final approval. In 2022, the members from Bethany who sat on the Adjudication Committee were Greg McConnell, Stephanie Rice and Tonya Brennan. The CFNS is responsible for promoting the Fund.

This past year (2022), the annual scholarship awards were granted to (1) Morgan Dearn the full amount of \$2000 as a first-time applicant and (2) Elizabeth Carter / Thomas Duck / Kyla Mills as repeat recipients split equally the amount of \$2000.

Greg McConnell

## **Board of Trustees Report**

The role of the Board of Trustees is to hold all real property occupied by the Congregation of Bethany United Church in trust for the United Church of Canada and to ensure that all the congregational property is used for a purpose not contrary to the provision of the Trusts of Model Deed.

The Board met virtually on one occasion in 2022.

At the Board's virtual meeting held on November 29, 2022, the Trustees discussed the following matters: -

1. The Trustees received confirmation that the Chair had retained the services of Crowther & Brayley Ltd., a well-known local auctioneer and appraisal company to determine the value of the church's furnishings and decorative items to facilitate the purchase of replacement property insurance coverage on the church's contents.

It is anticipated that the appraisal will be completed early in 2023.

2. The Trustees reviewed the latest report from Kim Reardon of CIBC Wood Gundy to review the church's investment portfolio over the past fiscal year.

Ms. Reardon's report stated that the dividend yield in the portfolio was up by about \$4,000 since the establishment of the managed portfolio a year ago.

The Trustees agreed to recommend to the Executive Board that the church continue using CIBC Wood Gundy for another year to oversee the management of its investment portfolio.

3. After being briefed on Bethany's proposed application to the United Church of Canada for up to \$50,000.00 in funding to complete the capital work to be done on the church building as stipulated as part of Option 1, the Trustees passed a resolution approving the application for this additional funding to the Region 15 Property Committee.

The members of the Board of Trustees for 2022 consisted of: -

- |                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| - Bill Piercey, Chair     | - Gordon Lawley   |
| - Jim Musgrave, Secretary | - Lynn Legge      |
| - Heather Brophy          | - Don MacKay      |
| - Brenda Duplisea         | - Brian Wentzell  |
| - Brian Jay               | - Alfred Woodward |

I wish to thank the members for their dedication to the Board over the past year with a special thank-you to Heather Brophy for completing her term with the Board at the 2023 AGM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Piercey, Chair

## **Session Report**

Rev. Kevin Little – (2015 - )

Lisa Harrison - Clerk of Session - (2021 - )

Louisa Duck - Children and Family Care Ministry – (2010 - )

Ann Bradley – Community Engagement Facilitator – (2016 - )

### **EMERITUS MEMBERS OF SESSION**

Rev. Vincent Ihasz (2015)

Don Grant (2022)

### **LIFE MEMBERS OF SESSION**

Charles McCurdy (1966) **D**

#### **(2023)**

Bill Piercey  
Bob Cummings  
David Rackham  
Glenn Tozer  
Lisa Harrison  
Louisa Duck  
Pam Carter  
Sharon Wentzell  
Scott Grant  
Zenora Rackham  
Dana Mills **R**  
Crystal Wentzell **R**

#### **(2024)**

Carolyn Kunz  
Elizabeth Carter  
Gordon Lawley  
Janet Sponagle Hopper  
Joan MacVicar  
Kathy Brown

#### **(2025)**

Diane Plumridge-Reid  
Laura King  
Lori Cormier  
Rick MacFarland

#### **(2026)**

Andy Williams  
Aundrea Michell  
Judy MacLean  
Karen Harrigan  
Marion Jay  
Maryth Maxner  
Yvonne Macor

#### **(2027)**

Bonnie Boyd-Read  
Nancy Ardenne  
Mabel Davis  
Randy Tyler  
Ruth DeVenne  
Heather Fitzpatrick  
Kathy Ross  
Rick Anningson

## MINISTRIES OF SESSION - 2022

### **Local Outreach**

Ann Bradley, Chair  
Gary Gallant\*, Treasurer  
Ann Pugh\*  
Carol Knapp **R**\*  
Cathy MacDonald\*  
George Russell\*  
Don Grant **R**\*  
Sharon Wentzell  
Margie Guy \*  
Glen Knapp\*  
Tim Cormier\*  
Zenora Rackham  
Steve Morley\*

### **Worship Ministry**

Elizabeth Carter, Chair  
Kathy Brown  
Bev. Grant\*  
Carolyn Kunz  
Rev. Kevin Little  
Shawn Whynot\*  
Louisa Duck

### **AV Ministry**

Barry Paton\*, Rob Steeves\*, Glen Knapp\* and Steve Morley\*

### **Communion**

Don Grant **R**\*

### **Head Usher**

Pam Carter

### **Transportation**

Heather Gillis\*  
Harriet King\*

\* Member at Large

**R**

Retired

**D**

Deceased

## 2022 MARRIAGES

Lisa Kasunich & Trudy MacMillan-Power

Caroline Tremaine & Matthew Power

Xue Bai & Hachen Wong

## BETHANY SESSION REPORT

	2020	2021	2022
Number of Elders December 31 (Incl Emeritus member)	33	34	35
Total number of families under Pastoral Charge	337	319	314
Total number of persons under Pastoral Charge	977	861	722
Number Baptized	1	4	0
Number of Marriages	0	2	3
Number of Funerals	3	13	5
Received by Profession of Faith*	0	6	0
Received by Certificate of Transfer**	0	19	0

*\*We did not receive anyone formally into the community of faith in 2022.*

*\*\*There are 11 transfers waiting to be received in the Spring of 2023.*

## **Worship Committee Report**

This is now the second report that I have written through my role as Chair of the Worship Committee, and the end of my first complete year in this capacity. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in this role, and I would like to thank all the people who have supported me throughout this year.

The purpose of the Worship Committee is as follows:

*“To oversee the worship services at Bethany United Church, endeavouring to plan and provide “an awesome and transforming” worship experience for all”*

Like much of the world, much of our year consisted of dealing with COVID-19, and its ever-changing impact on our lives. In January 2022, the In-Person Implementation Team (IPIT) was created. Its primary role is to help Bethany in navigating these changes, and their impact on how we offered services. We would frequently meet to discuss the COVID-19 Guidelines in Bethany. One such topic that we discussed was Communion. At the beginning of 2022, Communion was offered online, but in November, we were able to offer Communion in person. We thank all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it happen.

At the start of 2022, everything was online. As the year progressed, we have been able to return to in-person services, and have been able to reignite many old traditions, such as Coffee Hour. Throughout all these changes, we have been able to remain online with both live streaming and pre-recorded services. We thank the AV Ministry for their hard work in ensuring that Bethany is connected and allowing the services to be more accessible to all. I know that as I am currently in Spain, it has been a blessing to be able to watch the services and stay connected. Worship Committee also started the year online, but on November 28th, 2022, we offered an in-person meeting for the first time since 2020. It followed a hybrid format, so some of the group met in the Boardroom at 6:30, whereas others were able to join through a Zoom call. We appreciate the ways that technology has advanced in allowing us to accommodate everyone's needs.

Anniversary Sunday was on October 23rd, and we were able to welcome Rev. Matthew Fillier into our church to talk with us. Matthew joined us from Bedford United Church and spoke to us about the church as a place of acceptance and inclusivity. We thank Matthew for joining us and discussing such an important issue.

I wish to end this report by thanking all the volunteers who ensure our services are possible. Many thanks to the ushers, who provide a welcoming face every Sunday morning. Additionally, a special thanks to those who work to make our services available online. This year marked a return to many of our in-person activities. However, throughout this, we continue to honour the way that technology has allowed us to become more accessible. I am grateful for the way that our services have evolved at Bethany and am excited to see what 2023 brings.

Members of the Worship Committee for 2022 were as follows:

Non-Staff

Elizabeth Carter  
Kathy Brown  
Bev. Grant  
Carolyn Kunz

Staff

Rev. Kevin Little  
Shawn Whynot  
Louisa Duck

~ Elizabeth Carter, Chair

## **Local Outreach Ministry Report**

*Jesus said, "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. (Matthew 25:35-36)"*

Local Outreach is a ministry of session and is directly supported by the congregation through designated contributions in the weekly offering envelopes. On behalf of Bethany Church, this money is used to serve persons in need of food and clothing items in the Metro area. A list of community agencies supported during the past year may be found in the Committee's financial report.

This past year continued to be challenging for so many people in need of food and shelter as the cost of food rises and the lack of affordable housing proves to be a crisis in our city. The volunteers at St. Andrew's Sunday Suppers continue to go above and beyond, making certain every person who arrives for a hot meal on Sunday receives one. With the continued support of local churches and organizations the supper team also provides personal hygiene items, warm winter clothing, tents, and snack foods. Bethany has continued to be very generous with their support to this growing need. We provided casseroles in March and September as well as fresh fruit and other needed items throughout the year.

The Brunswick Street Mission continues to provide much needed outreach services with a team of volunteers and staff. The Mission relies on donated funds and would not be able to offer services to those in need without the support from various community organizations and local churches such as Bethany. We would like to thank all those Bethany folk who supported the Mission's Annual Fundraiser Breakfast in October. Your support for this event and throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

During the late fall, the Committee sponsored a number of projects to support programs during the Christmas season. Through our clothing box, the Brunswick Street Mission, Phoenix Programs for Youth, Fairview Family Resource Centre and other agencies, received many articles of warm clothing. Special thanks to those of you who take the time to knit warm hats, mittens, and scarves, your time and care is greatly appreciated. Many of you generously donated non-perishable food items and funds to the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank to provide meals and Christmas dinners. We also continue to collect feminine hygiene products as well. More than 100 gifts were donated to the Angel Tree and were forwarded to the Salvation Army for distribution. Each year the Bethany Youth Group hosts An Old-Fashioned Christmas in support of Phoenix Youth. Many Christmas stockings have been filled thanks to your support!

The committee wishes to thank the congregation for their warm and generous support, both financially and in other ways over the past year. I would like to thank the committee members for their dedication and efforts in the work that they do to serve others in our community. Thanks also to Dana Mills and Tina Gascon for their administrative assistance and support and as well to Louisa Duck, the Bethany Sunday School, and the Bethany Youth Group for their continued support of Bethany's Local Outreach projects. It is greatly appreciated and a wonderful way to involve the youth of our community.

Respectfully submitted: Ann Bradley, Chair



**Financial Statements 2022**  
**Local Outreach Committee**

**Revenue**

Balance forwarded from 2021	\$ 1810.00
Envelope contributions designated Local Outreach	\$ 19326.95
Interest	\$ 0.74
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 21144.35</b>

Disbursements and Expenses

Adsum House	\$ 775.00
Brunswick Street Mission	\$ 2035.00
Bryony House	\$ 525.00
Camp Kidston	\$ 500.00
Club Inclusion	\$ 550.00
Fairview United Family Resource Centre	\$ 1275.00
Halifax West Food Bank	\$ 5700.00
Hope Cottage	\$ 800.00
Laing House	\$ 775.00
Metro Turning Point	\$ 1050.00
Phoenix	\$ 1575.00
St. Andrews Suppers	\$ 825.00
MikMaq Native Friendship Centre	\$ 525.00
Gift Card Ministry	\$ 875.00
Bank Charges	\$ 0.00
Postage	\$ 42.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 17827.32</b>

<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$ 21136.95</b>
<b>Funds dispersed</b>	<b>\$ 17827.32</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3309.63</b>

**Bank Statement** **\$5510.41**

Respectively submitted.  
Gary Gallant, Treasurer

**Outstanding Cheques:**

*There are 3 cheques not cashed total of \$2200.00*

*Halifax Food Bank #0887 \$1700.00*

*Fairview Resource Centre #0906 \$ 250.00*

*Metro Turning Point #0906 \$ 250.00*

## **Children and Family Care Ministry Report**

Our Sunday School was held throughout 2022, whether on Zoom or in person and with the unstinting help of Elizabeth Carter and Daniel Carter. We began the year online, and resumed in-person Sunday School, using the gym rather than the classrooms. This proved to be a good change and opened up new possibilities for programming, which we began exploring as our meetings went on. Our numbers were lower than they had been, but by the time we came to Advent, we had 6-8 children attending regularly. When our program began again in the fall, we continued to have the children meet with us in the gym at 10:30. Having the full hour with the children gave us more time to learn and explore together. The Sunday School began participating in worship once a month, offering readings, prayers, and a presentation about our learning. We shared our learning about prayer in October and talked about the Brunswick Street Mission Food Bank in November. On Christmas Eve, we presented the Family Service at 4 PM, with the kind support of Dan Isner, who brought Rosie the donkey to us once again. He also generously provided Rosie and the goats for our use at the Living Nativity on December 4.

We held Vacation Bible School the week of July 4-8 and it was a great success. We offered the program in conjunction with Calvin Presbyterian Church and had 22 children attend from a number of churches in the area. Chelsey Joudrey, from Calvin, and I worked together to create a programme around the themes of Peace and Friendship, and we had the great help of our four summer students: Sydney Anningson, Daniel Carter, Kyla Mills and Ian Monchesky. Over the course of the week, the children took part in games, crafts, stories, and time outdoors, including trips to Flynn Park. We plan to continue this collaborative offering going forward.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continued to grow and be active in 2022. We had two blessing services, where we blessed not only a large number of shawls and blankets, but hats and mitts to be donated to our local shelters, and baby hats for the IWK. We have new crafters taking part and great support from the congregation. Many people donated money and supplies, both of which are greatly appreciated, especially as the cost of materials continued to rise in 2022. We distributed 19 shawls and blankets over the course of the year, and more hats than I can count!

I have also become more involved in the planning of funerals and weddings at Bethany. I help families organize and plan the logistical side of things, and this year we had three weddings and four funerals which I was privileged to support.

I am blessed to be part of this dynamic and supportive church family. I thank you all for your continuous and generous offerings of time, talent, and treasure for our children and families. I look forward to continuing this work in 2023. Thank you and God bless.

Respectfully submitted,

Louisa Duck

## Community Engagement Ministry Report

In the past year there have been moments where the Bethany Community felt like we had almost returned to “normal”, that being the way things happened pre-pandemic. We continue to find creative and safe ways to be together as we journey into a new “normal”. We have returned to in person programs and events where food can be safely served, and it is wonderful to see full pews at our Sunday morning worship services. Phone calls, emails and live streaming continue to connect us all as well. No matter how we find community, it is privilege for me to minister with each of you in my role as Community Engagement facilitator.

**The Bethany Youth Group** began the year virtually on Zoom thanks to the Omicron variant. By now we had been used to online gatherings and enjoyed one another’s company by playing games, baking cookies and sharing stories virtually. We were able to return to in-person gatherings late February. In April, on Palm Sunday, the youth participated in worship and organized a fundraiser walk called *Paces for Peace* in support of the people of Ukraine. Members of the Bethany community walked with us to the Dingle Park and back. We raised just over \$6,000 for the United Church Mission and Service fund “Ukrainian Crisis”. In May we made muffins for a breakfast program at a local school and the youth volunteered at the St. Andrew’s Sunday Supper. We celebrated our year end with a paint night and ice cream sundaes. We had a welcome back gathering in September. Some highlights of the fall; Chlista Hawco joined us to recognize Truth and Reconciliation Day sharing her Indigenous heritage and the making of Ribbon Skirts; we made snack bags and food items for the youth at Phoenix House; we went bowling; in December the youth hosted our treasured Living Nativity and Old-Fashioned Christmas, which was held outdoors again this year and as always included a visit from Santa. A special thank you to Michael MacDonald and his Elf! As always, the Bethany congregation generously donated stocking stuffers for the youth at Phoenix House. Special thanks to Dana Mills for her continued support as a volunteer youth leader. Many of our youth also took part in the Family Christmas Eve service. Louisa was away this year for Christmas, so I had the privilege of presiding at this service. It was wonderful to be back in person for this worship service with our children, youth and Rosie the donkey!

**Zoom Virtual Coffee Hour** – every Monday morning from January to the end of April Kevin and I hosted a virtual coffee gathering. Since we still could not gather safely in person for our usual Sunday morning coffee hour this virtual platform offered a safe place for Bethany folk to gather for friendly conversation. We had a consistent group of people who enjoyed seeing one another each week to share stories and enjoy one another’s company. In the spring we were able to offer in-person coffee hour!

**The Walk and Talk/Drop- In** program was able to resume mid –February until the end of April. This program offers a place where folks can walk indoors and enjoy conversation. In the spring we were once again able to enjoy coffee and tea, following all safety protocols. Kevin joined us once a month with an engaging question for us to discuss. Our musician friends, pianist Murray Brown, percussionist Huntley Blair and violinist Susan Zurawski joined us initially but their music making moved to a Thursday morning gathering in the spring called *Music with Murray and Friends*, where a group of musicians gathered weekly for a jam session in the Sanctuary. Walk and Talk resumed in November.

**Guided Meditation** led by Yvonne Macor, took place weekly on Zoom and returned to in person in the MacKinnon Chapel mid-February until early June. We met again in October to early December in the Chapel. These sessions were well attended by Bethany folk and the surrounding community. We are very grateful to Yvonne for continuing to volunteer her time and talent as we form community meditating together.

**Picnic and Prayer** was a program offered for five Tuesdays in the spring. We met at the Dingle where we endured cold temperatures, wind, fog, and yes even some sunshine. A typical NS spring! Folks brought their lunch and a lawn chair. We began with a social time and then while folks ate their lunch, I shared a scripture reading and Kevin offered a short reflection. This program was offered again in September, but attendance was low and the weather did not cooperate. This program was a much-welcomed ministry in pandemic times when we could not gather safely indoors.

**ISANS (Immigration Services Association of Nova Scotia) Conversation Circle-** We were very excited in April – early June, to welcome back instructor Julie MacDonald and her class from ISANS. We had not been able to meet with Julie and her class for two years during the pandemic. Once a week 8 Bethany volunteers host Julie and her students at Bethany, in a conversation circle where newcomers practice their English language skills. Our fall Session from October – December was very busy with many new students and some new Bethany volunteers as well. We are blessed to have this community outreach opportunity at Bethany.

**NS Community Health Team-** before the pandemic the NS Community Health team would offer health and wellness programs at our walk and talk program. We are happy to once again host this team of health and wellness professionals at Bethany who offer free programs to the community. In the fall we hosted their Ready Set, Move Program and Your Heart Matters. More programs will be offered at Bethany in 2023. Stay tuned!

**JOY Lunch-** our treasured senior's luncheon finally returned in November. We last met in March of 2020! 50 people gathered in the Fellowship Hall for Tim Cormier's delicious soup and biscuits. Our guest speaker was Armdale MLA Ali Duale, who shared with us his heartfelt story of coming to Canada and the life he has made here with his family. In December we gathered to hear Christmas stories and carols with Rev. Kevin Little and Linda Grady, piano. A festive time was had by our 45 guests. Special thanks to Tim Cormier and the many volunteers who assist with this monthly luncheon.

**The Congregational Care Team** of Bethany consists of volunteer lay persons offering care and support to our congregation (phone calls, visits, emails and transportation to medical appointments). This ministry supplements the visitation ministry of our lead minister. The care team volunteers delivered the UCW Christmas Gift Bags to parishioners in December. A much-appreciated gesture. Many thanks to all our volunteers who make this ministry possible.

As staff liaison to the **Community Connections Working Group**, we met in October to plan how we move forward in connecting our Bethany community and the greater community. For more information, please see that separate report.

I would like to express my thanks to Kevin for asking me to preside for two Sundays during his vacation. I truly enjoy this opportunity. I also express my gratitude to the Audio/Visual team for their continued efforts to record and live stream our worship services, and to the staff as well as Board and Session members for their continued support of the Community Engagement Ministry at Bethany. It is truly a blessing to be a part of this congregation, where a strong sense of community and unwavering faith are ever present. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully Submitted: Ann Bradley

## **Director of Music Report**

As I write this report, I reflect upon a most rewarding year of serving as your Director of Music. And as I pen these words, I realize, like many of you, the challenges that we have faced over 2022 and as we continue to deal with the global pandemic. We have arrived at a juncture where 'taking for granted' is no longer a common mindset. Many questions are asked of me weekly regarding participation in worship, questions that would never have been asked prior to March 2020. Questions such as, am I allowed to sing, do we still need a mask to sing, can we all sit together in the same choir loft, can we share a handbell during the same music selection, I don't have Covid, but my friend does, can I still come to church? The rewarding part is that we as a community of faith have supported each other in amazing ways and we continue to strive together. Challenges and overcoming said challenges builds a stronger community and I have witnessed this at Bethany Church many times over the last 12 months.

The Senior Choir has been, what I call, an adapting organism of grand proportions. The choir has rehearsed outdoors, indoors, they have sung from the balcony, masked, and with 6 feet of spacing, and then they have moved back to the choir lofts with masks and spacing, and then no spacing, and then no masks, and with no moving to the chancel steps, and then moving to the chancel steps, and all with absolutely no complaining. Change is constant and going with the flow is the mantra. All of this has been carried while maintaining a weekly schedule of providing liturgical music to our worship services. Thank you, Choir!

The Senior Choir, after not wearing robes for a period of 2 years due to covid, decided to participate in a survey as to whether they would return to wearing robes. After the results were tabled, 75% of the choir indicated that they would prefer not to wear robes in church and 84% indicated that they would prefer to wear something less cumbersome such as a stole. So that is the direction that the attire for the choir has moved towards for the time being.

The Handbell Choir also had to adapt to new ways of doing things with tables spread out, new stand partners, tables reconfigured as protocols changed and again, go with the flow was the mantra. Likewise, all of this was carried out and still they were able to compliment our weekly worship services with providing beautiful liturgical music.

I am always so impressed by individuals that approach me and offer to share their artistic talents with the Bethany community. During this past December, this happened on two occasions. New to Bethany, Karen Williams asked if she could share a solo rendition of 'Mary Did You Know?' and what a meaningful moment this was for us during Advent. The following Sunday, also new to Bethany, Peggy MacLean shared her liturgical dance artistry accompanied by Bev Johnson singing a solo rendition of 'When Love was Born.' Again, a second and meaningful moment during the Advent season. Thank you to you three for your talents and your willingness to share them with us.

In this report I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Norman Graham who has assisted me for over 20 years in maintaining the Paul Rackham Memorial Music Fund and the Lilian Piercey Music Scholarship Music Fund. Due to Norman's expertise in accounting and money management these two accounts functioned smoothly and

efficiently. Thank you, Norman. Furthermore, I would like to extend a sincere thanks to all those individuals that have made donations to these two funds in support of the music ministries at Bethany Church.

During 2022, live music was slowly returning to normal and this past June I was able to host the Chester Brass Band along with Ann Bradley and myself to offer another Canada Day Celebration concert. This past October I was able to host yet another silent movie event with an excellent audience and along with the Great assistance of Barry Paton, this event resulted in raising just over \$2000.00 for Bethany United Church.

In August I attended the NS Choral Federation Choral Symposium at Berwick Camp and had the privilege of studying conducting with Dr. Mark Sirett. I also continue my membership with the RCCO Halifax Centre and serve as their Planning and Programs Chair. As a break from music, I continue to volunteer weekly at St. Andrew's United Church Sunday Suppers and I have just learned that in 2022 we served over 10,000 meals, an impressive, but also a poignant statistic.

In closing, I would like to thank all the people that have participated in or supported the music programs here at Bethany Church. I would also like to thank the great staff that I have the pleasure of working with. I look forward to all the opportunities that await us in 2023!

Respectfully Submitted, Shawn Whynot

*Soli Deo Gloria*

## **Memorial Music Fund**

### **Paul Rackham Fund & Lilian Piercey Fund**

The Fund consists of the Paul Rackham Fund and the Lilian Piercey Fund

The Memorial Music Fund bank balance as of December 31, 2021: \$8488.49

#### **Revenue:**

Donations Received in 2022	\$1015.00
Canada Day Concert	\$1445.00

#### **Expenses:**

Bank Charges	\$48.00
Musician – Mother's Day	\$250.00
Musicians – Canada Day Concert	\$1300.00

The Memorial Music Fund bank balance as of December 31, 2022: \$9350.49

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shawn Whynot, Director of Music

## Audio Visual (AV) Ministry Report

Technology continued to be a valuable tool in staying connected as a community of faith in 2022.

As you may remember, in late 2021, we combined the energies and talents of three groups within Bethany (AV Committee, Vision Ministry, and IT/Web Support) to leverage technology to help keep Bethany connected. As a result, the **AV Ministry** was created and subsequently approved by session.

The scope of the services provided by the AV Ministry continued to evolve in 2022 as technology changed and as we emerge from the pandemic. For example, what began as livestream of Sunday Services expanded in 2022 to include livestream of weddings and funerals. (Interesting fact: we have over 160 subscribers to our YouTube channel! On any given Sunday morning, between 25-45 “connections” view our Sunday service live! Over the course of the week, the number of connections viewing that service swells to 100-150!)

As well, what were once exclusively virtual Zoom meetings are now offered as hybrid meetings where participants unable to attend in person can join an in person meeting virtually. (Kevin began offering faith studies via this method in the fall.) Your AV ministry team collectively constantly looks for ways to try to improve the quality of the services we deliver.

In early 2022, we appealed to the congregation for funds to help grow and make our services more robust. Donations were **more** than generous. Because of that generosity, we were able to purchase:

- A new iPad Pro for the video operations,
- A new audio mixer which can handle up to 16 microphones.
- Pay for our annual licensing fees for our livestream and Zoom software.
- Provide necessary accessories to outfit a new cabinet that was built for the security of our equipment.
- Provide backup equipment in case of failure of key pieces.

In addition, a new, larger, more versatile screen was ordered some time ago for the fellowship hall. We became a victim of supply chain issues, and, consequently, as of the end of December we were still waiting on delivery. Happily, we can report the new screen arrived early in 2023 and will soon be installed!

Your AV Ministry team currently consists of the following individuals: Barry Paton, Glenn Knapp, Stephen Morley, Penny Allen, and Rob Steeves, with invaluable assistance from Dana Mills. (While not an “official” member of the team, Dana manages booking of Zoom meetings, provides us advance copies of bulletins, and between her and Penny, keeps things up to date on our website.)



We were fortunate to have a VERY capable student join our team last summer: Kyla Mills joined the team in late spring and not only helped us organize storage spaces, complete our inventory, stream Sunday Services, and write user manuals...she also showed us a thing or two about the technology we were using!!

We are all on our own individual journeys of learning as we cross train on the various technologies we employ. If you enjoy technology, and like playing with it, why not consider joining our team?! We'd love to have you!

**AV Ministry Financial Statement 2022**

Opening Balance January 1, 2022	\$ 6,381.89
Donations:	\$ 9,450.00
Expenditures:	\$ (5,613.85)
Closing Balance December 31, 2022	\$ 10,218.04

As we wrap up 2022, we would be remiss if we didn't convey our **sincerest** thanks for your overwhelming generosity in helping us deliver virtual services to our community of faith ...and abroad! **THANK YOU!!!**

Finally, a special word of thanks to Les Russell for his help in building cabinetry, desktop accessories, cable management devices and so on!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the AV Ministry Team

Rob Steeves

## United Church Women (UCW) Report

### MacKinnon Unit

MacKinnon Unit of the United Church Women is the women's group that meets monthly. Our meetings were sporadic during the COVID 19 lock downs and membership went down. In 2022 we were able to meet more regularly. We met in April, May, October, November and December. We welcomed at least one new member to each meeting. Our membership now numbers seventeen and number at each meeting about 14. Meetings consist of worship, business, and a programme offered by a member or sometimes an outside speaker. Our yearly fee is dispersed in donations to service groups in the community. All women in the congregation are invited to attend.

~ Kathy Brown

### Wilson Unit

Our group has not officially disbanded but has not been active for the past couple of years. Several of our members have been participating in the MacKinnon unit's activities. The Wilson unit has continued to take over the organization of a small Christmas gifts that are distributed by Congregational Care Ministry team members just prior to Christmas.

~ Ruth Bona

### UCW Financial Report

Submitted by Lynn Steeves

MacKinnon Unit	475.00
Donations	490.00
Bank Interest	6.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,557.13</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Bethany United Church	1,000.00
Brunswick Street Mission	400.00
	1,400.00
<b>Bank Balance 21 Dec. 2022</b>	<b>1,157.13</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,557.13</b>

## **Flower Fund Committee Report**

The Flower Committee has a mandate to enhance and contribute to the beauty of Bethany throughout the year by supplying seasonal decorations in the sanctuary, narthex, chapel and fellowship hall. This includes both fresh and artificial arrangements as occasions arise. The Flower Committee has been active since provincial Covid restrictions have eased and Bethany has again opened its doors to our welcoming Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. We enjoyed meeting in person bi-monthly. In February we cleaned and reorganized our storage spaces, which was long overdue. To celebrate the liturgical seasons of our Christian calendar, special decorations and displays were created by our members. Much thought and attention to detail goes into our work. In addition to a weekly rotation of arrangements throughout the year, we decorated for Bethany's reopening, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. As our committee enjoys fellowship, we met socially twice this year. We also make time for coffee and snacks as part of our decorating activities and planning meetings. We are funded by a bequest from the Nan Geizer Memorial Fund and memorial donations (Poinsettias) by Bethany members at Christmas.

Members of the committee are Barbara McCurdy, Evelyn Smith, Carolyn Kunz, Julie Johnson, Janice MacDonald, Zenora Rackham, Karen Hatcher and assisted at Christmas time by Karen Finley, Maryth & Erin Maxner, Marilyn Montgomery & Ralph Hiscock, and Lynne & Rob Legg.

We offer special thanks to Jim Sweet who is always on hand to help out with the many chores involved with the setting up and putting away of our decorations.

We welcome any members of Bethany who would like to lend a hand (or ideas) to join us at any time by contacting a current member.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara McCurdy.

## Memorial Flower Fund Financial Statement 2022

**Opening Balance January 1, 2022** **\$1951.37**

### Revenue

Donations for memorial poinsettias 2021	\$ 671.63
Credit when GIC's Renewed	\$ 9.67
Interest for 2020	\$ 20.92

### Expenses

Christmas Gift 2021 (J. Sweet)	\$ 50.00
Easter Decorating (Hydrangeas & Christ Candle)	\$ 324.74
Miscellaneous Items (Replacement/Restock)	\$ 36.74
Thanksgiving	\$ 78.62
Christmas Poinsettias/Outdoor Arrangements	\$ 454.63

**Balance December 31, 2022** **\$1708.88**

### Investments

GIC	\$1834.97
GIC	\$1586.18
GIC	\$2397.14
GIC Interest	\$0.00

**Total of Investments** **\$5818.29**

### Notes to Financial Statement

- Once again, the interest from the GICs had not been deposited into bank account as directed December 7, 2019.
- Renewal GIC's were issued in March 2022 with interest deposited into account.
- Credit of \$9.67 was deposited into account when new GIC's were issued.
- Another GIC which had not had interest deposited into account was renewed for 14 months.
- Will need to call in April 2023 to have the interest deposited into account. That should end this issue. Follow up appointment in February 2023.

## **Coffee Hour Ministry**

I am thankful to continue to have an opportunity to support the Coffee Time Ministry at Bethany.

This ministry along with every other aspect of our church life was put on hold in March 2020 as COVID-19 arrived in Nova Scotia.

We have been fortunate that under the guidance of the In-Person Implementation Team (IPIT), in April, we were able to carefully return to this warm, engaging time of fellowship after our morning service.

Once again, on Sunday morning, our kitchen and Fellowship Hall are a busy spot as the volunteers prepare & serve warm beverages and individually packaged snacks. The addition of new round banquet tables has supported a safer gathering for members to sit together.

Most weeks we are blessed to have at least 4 volunteers in the kitchen sharing this work and enjoying each others company at the same time.

A special thank you, to all the amazing volunteers who participate in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julia Jewett-Whitney

## **Bethany Mens' Club**

In the 1920's, during the pastorate of Reverend Harry Burns a men's prayer group was formed. Over the years it evolved into the Bethany Men's Club which provides an opportunity for men of the congregation to meet informally, enjoy a meal, a speaker and a time of fellowship. This tradition still carries on today.

In December we restarted the Bethany's Men's Club after a number of years of inactivity because of Covid. There were 38 in attendance and a great reunion was had by all and we welcomed several new guests. We want to do the same this coming year. A special word of thanks to Tim, Dave, Lori and Molly for a very delicious turkey dinner.

For people unfamiliar with Bethany's Men Club, we meet on the first Wednesday of November, December, February, March and April. Men of the congregation who have not paid the annual fee are encouraged to attend at a cost of \$18 per meeting.

We will keep the members and other interested parties informed by e-mail or with a message in the Community Spirit. If you wish to be added to the email list, you can send us a message at [bethanyunitedmensclub@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyunitedmensclub@gmail.com).

The willingness of everyone to lend a hand has made this group a great blessing. Looking forward to seeing everyone when we meet again.

Ian Parker & Randy Tyler, Co-Chairs