

Edith Rankin Memorial United Church Annual Report 2023



"As we serve others, we are working on ourselves; every act, every word, every gesture of genuine compassion naturally nourishes our own hearts as well."

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Edith Rankin Memorial United Church Staff

Rev. Michelle Down, Minister and Team Leader
 Kim Barney, Music Director
 Elizabeth Amirault, Pastoral Care
 Stephanie Van Der Pryt, Office Administrator
 Barry Van Hooser, Custodian
 Ruth Judd, Sunday School Coordinator
 Rev. George Lavery, Minister Emeritus (15 December 1934 – 27 June 2023)
 Rev. Dr. Paul Currie, Volunteer Associate







MINISTER

Friends and Church Family at Edith Rankin. It has been my blessing and privilege to continue to serve you as your Minister and Team Leader for the year 2023. And what a year it was.

God continues to offer our humble family the blessings of new growth and opportunity. I am deeply committed to collaborating with other churches and community partners so that both our facility and our programming can be well utilized, and a blessing for all.

I can see our church family changing. With the many, many funerals that I conducted this past year, and with the largest growing sector of our congregation being the Classics, I am initiating a new ministry at Edith Rankin. I want to share with you the birth of Oak Grove Ministries.



I am going to be planting Oak Trees, and I invite you to plant them along with me. Those who plant Oak Trees do not sit under the shade of that same tree. Instead, this is a ministry of today, for future generations. This is a chance for you to be able to share your hopes and dreams, a place of peace and grace with your children's children's children. This is about a family legacy, and a way that you can continue to share the blessings of love that have been so richly shared with you.

Oak Grove Ministries is about believing beyond our own horizon, and planning for a long-term future for a place of Empathy, Compassion, Grace, Mercy, Peace and Love. These are the teaching of Jesus, and I for one want them to grow in the strength of an oak tree, here on the shores of Collins Bay, and in our hearts, wherever we and all the generations to come, find ourselves.

You will hear lots about Oak Grove Ministries in the coming months and years, but I wanted to introduce to you today my call forward for a long-term strategic vision for Edith Rankin.

In order to look forward, we also look back to see where we have been, and what we have learned from our journey thus far. As we explore where our ancestors have brought us, we are being called to determine what kind of elders we want to be. And what kind of legacy we want to leave for the future generations of God's people.

This past year we have been intentional about caring for one another in so many ways. Through the Affirming Ministry team, we have heard inspiring family stories, and we want to make a commitment to say that ALL will be loved and cared for within the Edith Rankin family.

It is not what we DO as a church family that makes us; instead, it is WHO WE ARE. It is who we are: as children of God; as Collaborators; as Reconcilers; as Visionaries; as Affirmers; as Forgivers; as Planters; as Disciples of Grace. This is where our identity comes from. This is where our ministry comes from. This is who we are.

As you read these reports of highlights of the past year at Edith Rankin, I invite you to be prayerful and intentional. Prayerful to lift up all the volunteers who have made this past year what it has been. Intentional to offer gratitude for all of the ways this church family has been a blessing in your life throughout 2023 and beyond. I personally want to take this opportunity to THANK all of the many volunteers and staff, who share time and talents. I want to thank you all for contributing to a church family, and to share in a ministry of praise and thanksgiving. I lift you up in prayer, and I celebrate the blessings that you are to this church and community. I see your gifts. I hear your celebrations. I hold your pain. I enfold your hearts. Know that you are valued, loved and appreciated for all that you do with and for Edith Rankin.

We are being called to things big and small. As your Minister and Team Leader, I consider myself blessed to steer our ship through these waters of life, and death, and life beyond death, planting trees to create an Oak Grove of Faith, Hope and Love along the way. My prayer is that you might see tremendous life amongst these pages that follow, and that you might also hear the call of the Spirit, to share your gifts with your church family throughout this coming year.

May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace as you trust in God, so that you may overflow with Love by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15: 13
May you be blessed, for surely you are a blessing.

In Faithful Service,
Rev. Michelle Down



MUSIC DIRECTOR

I am pleased to report that the music department had another very successful and fulfilling year here at Edith Rankin Memorial United Church. Though post pandemic numbers may have been a bit under pre pandemic numbers in our congregation, the Chancel Choir, Limestone Ringers, Soloists and Instrumentalist all continued their dedicated ministry of music. The tech team continues to be a vital element in the success of the music ministry, providing expertise at the sound board as well as on the cameras and computers, feeding services to those unable to attend in person. We thank them for their dedication and service.

The Limestone Ringers, under the expert direction of Janet McDonald, performed regularly on many Sunday morning worship services. They also performed in the Ontario Guild English Handbell Festival entitled "It's About Time" in June at St. Lawrence College, featuring Handbell Choirs from all over Ontario. The massed group of bell ringers was a sight (and sound) to see.



The Chancel Choir grew in numbers once again, as several new members joined, plus a few members returning who had been out or away. The Choir performed an encore performance of the Cantata "Behold The Star" on December 10th, narrated by our own Rev. Michelle Down and Joyce Payne. The Men's Chorus got a chance to shine in a special Men's led service in November. Our choir secretaries, Cathy and Carolyn, keep things neat and tidy. Paul supplies us each week with our service outlines, and through his prayers, sends us out ready to serve and sing for our Lord. Our dedicated and ever expanding group of soloists continue to bless us on a regular basis. Our resident Trumpeter, Todd, provided so many wonderful moments of uplifting melody and hymn accompaniment, most notably at our annual Remembrance Day Sunday.

Summer worship was once again held primarily outdoors, stressing our tech team and musicians a bit, but most successfully accomplished for sure. Many individuals took part and faithfully supported the music ministry throughout the summer months. For this I am deeply appreciative.

Blessings to all for 2024 and I look forward to another year of musical blessings and continued faithful ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Barney
Music Director

MINISTER FOR PASTORAL CARE



Continuing throughout the year, our steadfast group met online, Wednesday, for our Virtual Coffee Hour Pastoral Care group. The group regularly consisted of eight members, including the Molsons from Florida. We sadly miss George and Mary Lavery, as we enjoyed updates of what fantastic sweets Mary bought from her trips to Bread and Butter Bakery.

The core group still meets to keep up to date on COVID vaccines, trips, losing doctors and general support as we travelled through loss, joy and everything in between.

Wellness Walking was well attended in the early months of 2023. It was the hope of some members of the Classics that the walks be reinstated in 2024.

Koffee Klatch met on the first Wednesday of every month at Smitty's on Princess St. Our largest group was 12 people but with even as few as three, we enjoyed the time together.

The balance of my time was spent visiting at home and in hospital. It continued to be tricky navigating the COVID challenge, especially in the Retirement Homes and Long Term Care homes. At times the visits were only by telephone, but when things opened up, visits in person could move forward.

I happily continued with the card ministry I had begun during the lockdown period. I mailed birthday cards and Christmas cards to each member of our Classics and sympathy cards, or thinking of you cards as necessary.

It was wonderful to resurrect the Classics' Birthday Party this year. It was lovely to see the Classics' faces after so many years apart. Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who assisted with the set up and provision of the lunch. And of course, the entertainment!

Sadly, we have lost so many of our beloved Classics over the past year. I was happy to join Rev. Michelle in honouring some of them through celebration of life.

I want to thank all who provide visiting and other ways of caring for our Classics. I know that many of you do this ministry on your own and wish to stay behind the scenes, but your work is very important. To those who were part of our Lay Pastoral Care team: Marg Merkley, Glenn Owen, Margaret Baker, Sharon and Paul Van Nest, Annie Dickson and Carolyn McPhee, thank you. If I have left anyone out, I apologize for my oversight, but please know you are a blessing. I want to thank especially, Brenda Moyer, for her assistance with keeping the list of Classics up to date and her investigative work when we had lost track of someone. Couldn't have done it without you.

To Stephanie, Rev Michelle, and all the others who worked to make my ministry a success, THANK YOU.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Amirault

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR



I have been at Edith Rankin Memorial United Church since March 2022. During that time, I have seen many changes, including the return of the wonderful Welcome Centre volunteers, new staff and members, goals reached and unfortunately, too many lives gone.

I enjoy my work and love the congregation (favourite part of my job). I'd like to thank you all for being an integral part of why I come to work everyday.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Van Der Pryt

CUSTODIAN



Barry has worked at Edith Rankin for approximately 8 years. Barry is a great coworker and always friendly to all he comes across. His dedication to the congregation is a top priority. Barry is always willing to lend a hand where needed. We are fortunate to have him at ERMUC.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Van Der Pryt

FAITH AND FORMATION / SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR



2023 overall, was a year of growth for our Sunday School and Youth programming at Edith Rankin. Looking back, one might say that it “came in like a lamb and went out like a lion”, particularly in regard to attendance in Sunday School activities and at children’s events in general. As has been the case ever since I took on the role of Sunday School Coordinator back in 2017, we began the calendar year with only a few children attending Sunday morning activities, in part due to the cold weather and in part due to families’ busy schedules at that time of year. By December, however, with Christmas activities in full swing and the feeling of celebration in the air, our numbers grew to 25 young people at some of our special events, most notably the Christmas Pageant. What was particularly exciting to see in 2023, in addition to the continuing involvement of our regular members, was the number of new families who started coming to our events – for example, young families who had recently moved into the area, grandparents who started bringing their grandchildren to church, and families who had heard about our fun-filled, family-centred events through our church website and/or flyers posted in the building, or simply via word of mouth. Good news travels fast!

A core group of about 10 children, ages 4 to 12, attended Sunday School quite regularly this past year, and by ‘regularly’ I mean at least once or twice a month, and another 14 or so have attended church events on occasion. As has been typical each year (and quite likely at most other churches as well), our Easter and Mother’s Day activities attracted larger numbers of children than most of our regular Sunday morning activities.



It was our Christmas Pageant, however, which was held during our morning worship service on Christmas Eve, that brought out so many people - some familiar faces, as well as a few new ones. I had tremendous support from parents, as well as a few of our young people (Zach, Addy and Evelyn) with things such as costumes, narration and supervision of the children, and Ruth and Craig Pettis, as well as their family, were instrumental in setting up and taking down the Nativity scene and in capturing precious pageant moments on film. Our much-anticipated pageant would not have been possible without the help of these individuals. I would like to add, too, that it was great to be able to “resurrect” our Edith Rankin Christmas Pageant after 3 long years without one; like so many other in-person events at ERMUC, pageants were not an option during the Covid pandemic. Coincidentally, it was because of Covid outbreaks in November and early December of 2023 that we had to postpone the pageant. It had originally been scheduled for the evening of December 3rd immediately following the annual turkey dinner, as has been the tradition for the past decade or so, but at Rev. Michelle’s invitation, it was rescheduled to December 24th during the morning worship service. I, for one, hope that we can continue this new tradition of having the children and youth present the pageant on Christmas Eve or on a day just prior to Christmas Eve instead of holding it earlier in the month.

As for Sunday School programming, our themes in the first half of the year were based largely on the topics that Rev. Michelle chose for her sermons and/or whatever topic she had planned to talk about during her children’s time. While on the topic of children’s time, I would like to say that Michelle’s “up-close and personal” moments with the children have always been fun and memorable and the conversations that she has had with the children have kept many of us in stitches and/or sitting in amazement at the wealth of knowledge and insights that our Edith Rankin children have. We have been blessed to have several natural leaders, as well as gifted thinkers, in our children’s group this year – dare I say future lawyers, scientists or clergy?! The children have certainly kept us on our toes with their wonderful curiosity and boundless energy!

In September, my approach toward Sunday School lesson-planning shifted. Sparked, in part, by comments made by a few parents in the spring, I moved away from trying to incorporate the worship service topics to a more Bible-centred approach to my lessons. Some questions and comments that had come up during our group discussions earlier in the year made me realize that many of the children, in particular those who had never attended Sunday School before, lacked the knowledge and understanding of some of the key building blocks of our Christian faith so my goal has been to introduce the children to some of the things that we who have “grown up in the church” take for granted. I began teaching the children about some of the better-known stories of the Old Testament, about Jesus’ disciples and, of course, about his special birth. I intend to continue this more biblical approach in 2024 but will also include themes related to our weekly worship services. We kicked off our Sunday School time this year, for example, by learning about the books of the Bible and it has been exciting to see how much the children have enjoyed exploring this historical aspect of our faith.

I have been very fortunate to have had the assistance of a couple of parent volunteers on a fairly regular basis this past year. Two young ladies in particular - Cheryl Pettis and Sarah Halleran - have made it possible for me to focus on the “faith formation aspect” of the activities that I plan rather than having to deal with

“housekeeping chores” or trying to be in two places at the same time. Their help with things such as serving the juice (which I should add is a highlight for many of the children!), preparing craft materials, assisting the younger children with their projects, and helping to tidy up at the end of each class, has been greatly appreciated.

Our Sunday School volunteers (e.g., Cheryl, Sarah, Rachael Henry and, on occasion, one of our older students) have also provided support during some of our vigorous activities, such as parachute games, and with the more involved activities, including painting a banner for the Pride Parade, and preparing special treats with and/or for the children. In late October, our resident artist, Florence Niven, along with the help of a “handful” of parent helpers, provided a wonderful enrichment activity for our children and youth: namely, an opportunity to design and create a variety of “heart cards” to sell at the United MarketPlace Tour. The children thoroughly enjoyed this very “hands-on” experience, under Florence’s watchful eye and tutelage, and the finished products were beautiful. I would certainly not have been able to offer any of these special activities without the expertise, hard work and dedication of our volunteers, and I am very grateful for all of the help that the children and I receive from them.

Speaking of helping, I chose to do something that I knew would help me but also everyone else who might occasionally need to access the materials or supplies that are stored in the Sunday School office. The office was a total mess at the end of June after a very busy spring, so I spent many hours this past summer going through the boxes, bins and shelves and was able to organize everything that I found - or at least everything that I decided to keep! - so that most of the materials (e.g., books and craft supplies) are now much easier to find. The job of organizing the office is far from complete, however, so I intend to continue the process this coming summer.

Lastly, I would be extremely remiss if I did not mention two of the most resounding successes of the past year, at least in terms of the numbers of families who took part and the incredible excitement that each of these events generated, specifically our two TGIF events. Both of the “Thank God It’s Family Night” events were very well attended, with 29 children and youth EGGScitedly attending the Easter-themed activities at the end of March and 30 children and youth joyously participating in our Christmas-themed activities on December 8th. 35 adults, including parents, babysitters, grandparents, ERMUC staff and volunteers were also in attendance at both of these events. These Friday evening gatherings were hugely popular, and all of the children left wanting to return again next year. Lorna Thorne, our Faith Formation Team Leader, spearheaded these events and did the bulk of the work required for each, for example by going out and purchasing the craft supplies and the food that was needed, and by organizing and preparing most of the craft activities, in particular her ever-popular cookie decorating activity. Rev. Michelle, Joyce Payne, Jan & Joe D’Agostino (AKA “Chef”), as well as Brenda Moyer and a few parent helpers, spent much of their evening in the kitchen busily preparing the evening meal and/or serving up the kid-friendly food to the 65 people in attendance. My role was primarily to organize the large-group fun-filled activities, such as the scavenger hunts (which were held upstairs in the Sanctuary and Welcome Centre), and the music, dancing, and game portions of the events. Not surprisingly, all of the activities were enjoyed by the participants and the delighted onlookers, and by the young and “old” alike! Buoyed by the huge successes of these events, future TGIFs are already being planned.

Early in the year, Rachael Henry, an involved member of our congregation and the mother of two of our regular Sunday School attendees, generously offered to give of her time and expertise to try to get a program up and running for our youth. In February, she began offering programming and events for our older children: Sunday morning programming, as well as a few extra-curricular activities. Her intention, initially, was to provide an interesting and vibrant program for the youth of our church community, specifically 13 to 18 year olds, but because of the small number of youth who showed up on Sunday mornings, she sometimes ended up providing programming for all of the children in my group, ages 9 and up, who chose to take part in the “big kids” activities rather than staying with me and the younger children. On some occasions, Rachael and I worked collaboratively and combined both groups, thereby offering a range of activities for all of the children and youth in attendance.

Rachael kindly prepared the following report, describing her experiences and perspectives regarding youth programming at Edith Rankin: Over the past year, a variety of initiatives have been offered to young people and their families. Several events have been offered, including a dinner together and bowling, as well as an online survey to gather information. Unfortunately, only one youth expressed an interest and attended the initial event in February 2023. Since then, a number of activities have been offered, including cooking, music, and hiking; however, no response was received. More successful aspects of the youth program at ERMUC have included offering youth volunteer hours to be assistants in TGIF nights, and a regular Sunday School program for youth, though generally with fewer than five young people in attendance each week. An additional resource for young people this fall has been the KULA (Kingston United Lutheran Anglican Partnership) youth group, with monthly events collaboratively organized by clergy and lay leadership in these churches.

On behalf of the Faith Formation Team, I would like to close by saying that, although our Sunday School and Youth programs have not been as well-attended as we would like them to be, I believe that we are definitely heading in the right direction. All of the hard work that we have put into trying to bring young families back to church has not been in vain; what we have been doing has been making a difference. We have planted the seeds and I have faith that the opportunities which we have been providing our children and youth, as well as the personal connections that we have made, will stand Edith Rankin, and the greater church community, in good stead. We are in good hands.

Ruth Judd
Sunday School Coordinator

We cannot forget our ‘Meet and Greet’ Staff:



MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCH COUNCIL, STANDING COMMITTEES, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, TEAMS AND GROUPS: (AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023)

Officers of the Congregation:

Christopher Sproule (Chair)
Rhonda Kerr (Secretary)

Bonnie Hazell
Carolyn May
Gordon Sinclair
Annie Dickson (resigned in Nov 23)

Officers of the Council of Guiding Elders:

Rev. Michelle Down (Minister)
Bill Spencer (Chair)
Vacant (Vice Chair)
Vacant (Past Chair)
Ken Williams (Secretary)
Peter Merkley (Treasurer)
Margaret Merkley (Regional Rep)

Nominating Committee:

Brenda Moyer (Chair)
Sandra Sinclair
Diane Huddle
Betty Jeanne Kippen

Members of the Council of Guiding Elders:

Gordon Sinclair
Ruth Pettis
Andrew Robb (Chair M&P)

Worship Team:

Rev. Michelle Down
Sandra Sinclair (Coordinator)
Patti Speck
Kim Barney
Florence Niven
Lorna Thorne
Penny Steele

Membership Steward:

Brenda Moyer

Envelope Steward:

John Moyer

Media & Communications Team:

Paul Currie (Coordinator)
Paul Carl
Mel Hazell
Heinz Becker
Sara Kerr
Andrew Robb
Patti Speck
Kathy Baer
Paul Van Nest
Craig Pettis
Glenn Owen

Regional Representatives:

Margaret Merkley
Joyce Payne
Marilyn Rodger

Board of Trustees:

Rev. Michelle Down (Minister)
Doug Huddle (Chair)
Jim Leary (20 August 1950 – 07 June 2023)
Sandra Sinclair
John Moyer
Eddie Raymond
Don Mallory
Paul Van Nest
Martin Thomas

Collaboration Team:

(Inactive)
Andrew Robb (Coordinator)
Florence Niven
Gordon Sinclair

Ministry & Personnel Committee:

Andrew Robb (Chair)
Linda Delve

Property Team:

Gord Bell (Coordinator)
Garry O'Neill
Dave Metzler
Craig Pettis
Dean Lain
Tom Kerr
Joe D'Agostino

Mission & Outreach Team:

Barb O'Neill (Co-Coordinator)
Nancy Sproule (Co-Coordinator)
Rev. Michelle Down
Marilyn Rodger
Roberta Waddell
Annie Dickson
Carol Wright
John Moyer (Food Bank Deliverer)

Administration Team:

Brian McCracken (Co-Coordinator)
Marcus Robertson (Co-Coordinator)
Rev. Michelle Down
Stephanie Van Der Pryt
Peter Merkley (Treasurer)
Joyce Payne (resigned in Sep 23)

Faith Formation & TGIF Team:

Lorna Thorne (Coordinator)
Ruth Judd (Sunday School Coordinator)

Reception Team:

Joyce Payne (Co-Coordinator)
Penny Steele (Co-Coordinator)

Sunday Coffee Team:

Ruth Pettis (Coordinator)

Gardening Faith in Action Team:

Jean Barna (Coordinator)
Sandra Sinclair
Diane Huddle
Kathy Lee
Craig Pettis
Glenn Owen
Lorna Thorne

Marg Merkley
Ron & Sheryl Baker
Don Mallory
Sonya Fraser
Brenda Moyer

Sanctuary Enhancement Team:

Lorna Thorne (Coordinator)
Janice D'Agostino
Barb O'Neill
Penny Steele

Catering Team:

Disbanded in Feb 23

Fellowship Breakfast Program Team:

Rev. Michelle Down
Paul Van Nest
Glenn Owen

Classics' Birthday Party Team:

Ruth Pettis (Coordinator)
Rhonda Kerr
Sheryl Baker
Brenda Moyer
Bonnie Hazell
Sharon Van Nest

Photo Directory Team:

Margaret Merkley (Coordinator)
Paul Currie
Brenda Moyer
Ruth Pettis

Discernment Team: (On hiatus)

Rev. Michelle Down
Gordon Sinclair (Coordinator)
Andrew Robb (Secretary)
Marcus Robertson
Patti Speck
Elise Cook

Affirming Team:

Rev. Michelle Down
Joyce Payne

Amy Baker
Rachael Henry
Susan Robertson
Kathy Baer
Barb Taft

Spirit Sisters' Planning Team:
Florence Niven (Coordinator)
Rev. Michelle Down
Patti Speck
Carolyn McPhee

Library Team:
Joan Martin (Coordinator)
Fran Farquhar
Barb O'Neill

Bridge Group:
Brenda Moyer (Contact)

Outdoor Display Crew:
Joyce Payne (Coordinator)
Judie Bryant
Tom Bryant
Craig Pettis
Ruth Pettis

Welcome Centre Volunteers:
Marg Merkley (Coordinator)
Brenda Branscombe
Barbara O'Neill
Patti Speck
Joyce Payne
Barbara Bell
Bonnie Peacock
Ruth Judd
Alma Barney
Joyce Morrison
Betty Jeanne Kippen
Jean Smith
Annie Dickson
Karen Saulnier

Decisive Issues Group:
Barb Taft (Contact)

'Just Men' Groups:
Brian McCracken (Contact)

Women's Groups:
Still #1: Barb O'Neill (Contact)
U2 Forever: Karen Saulnier (Contact)
Crazy 8s: Edie Raymond (Contact)
Mary Marthas: Sheryl Baker (Contact)
Wed AM Craft Group: Cathy Flynn & Carolyn May (Contacts)

Fundraising Team:
Joyce Payne (Co-Coordinator)
Lorna Thorne (Co-Coordinator)
Rev. Michelle Down
Rhonda Kerr
Ruth Pettis
Gordon Sinclair
Sandra Sinclair

Fundscrip: Sharon Van Nest (Contact)

United MarketPlace Tour:
Florence Niven (Contact)

Koffee Klatch:
Elizabeth Amirault (Contact)

Walking Wellness Group: (Jan-Mar)
Elizabeth Amirault (Contact)

Limestone Ringers:
Janet McDonald (Director)
Ruth Pettis
Charmaine Bullett
Marg Merkley
Amy Baker
Charlotte Jones
Linda Delve
Maureen Wilson
Kathryn Watters
Kathy Baer
Bonnie Howse
Brenda Branscombe
Sandra Sinclair
Anne Palmer
Joanna Fleischmann
John Fleischmann

Retired Ringers – 2023

Kathi Jackson
Margaret Moncrieff
Ian Costinak
Carolyn May
Susan Buckingham

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Janice Rubino (Contact)

Chancel Choir:

Kim Barney (Music Director)
Linda Lain

Amy Baker
Lorna Thorne
Bonnie Hazell
Carolyn May
Debbie Currie
Patti Speck
Joyce Morrison

Barb Taft
Janice D'Agostino
Kathy Lee
Helga Mueller
Laura Demers
Sandra Sinclair
Leola Becker
Alma Barney
Brenda Moyer
Cathy Flynn
Betty Jeanne Kippen
Edie Raymond
Marg Beck
Eric Lawson
Keith Notley
Fred Jones
Glenn Owen
Paul Currie
Alwyn Huigens
Christopher Sproule
Gordon Sinclair
John Fleischmann

THE CHAIR'S RANT (his words)



Cut and paste, a common phrase in today's society. Much like our work at ERMUC. Last year I reflected on all the volunteers, committee members, and our valuable ERMUC staff with a well done and thank you. "Cut and Paste"

Our church is famous for Betty Jeanne's pies, Joyce's soup, Brenda's fish fries, Michelle's tourtiere, our 'Just Apples', and all the baking that our members do. There are 2 reasons that they all taste so good. Firstly, they really taste good, and secondly, they were prepared by our Church family. As a Church family there are many things, we do together that is so much better. I personally get more from a Church service when we all worship together.

We are a loving and welcoming congregation to all who wish to worship with us. As we move towards becoming an Affirming Church in the United Church of Canada let us never forget that we all are God's children.

A working group of Craig Pettis, Heinz Becker, Brian McCracken, and Bill Spencer assumed the task of developing specifications, tendering, and raising funds for a new Church sign. This initiative was well received by the Congregation, and it is expected that the new electronic sign with various graphics, letter, and colours, remotely controlled in our Church, will be

installed early in February.

Another working group, led by Marg Merkley, is forging ahead with plans for the kitchen renovations. Concepts, needs, and construction costs will be developed. A fundraiser may be necessary to supplement money we have already raised.

We are excited at ERMUC to be collaborating with other United Churches in Kingston. One such example is working with the Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group (JTRAG) - our Indigenous community in the Kingston area. I personally hope we can build on this to grow a strong and active United Church community in Kingston.

Blessings to all.

Respectfully submitted,

William Spencer

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE



The Manual of the United Church of Canada requires that Ministry & Personnel Committees carry out identified tasks during the year and as required. These tasks are listed below with notes indicating what was done in 2023. Due to the confidential nature of the work of this committee, details are not provided in this report.

- a) being available for consultation and support for matters involving the pastoral charge staff;
 - the committee met nine times during 2022.
 - staff were invited to attend, if they wished, to discuss any job-related items.
- b) overseeing the relationship of the pastoral charge staff to each other and to people in the congregation;
 - two members of the committee participated in an Ad Hoc committee created by Council to consider matters.
- c) regularly reviewing the working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of all pastoral charge staff;
 - this requirement was addressed and is continuing in 2024.
 - the committee prepared and proposed wages and salaries for 2024.
- d) making any recommendations needed as a result of these reviews to the Council;
 - recommendations were made to Council when requested.
- e) revising position descriptions of pastoral charge staff as needed;
 - two members of the committee participated in an Ad Hoc committee created by Council to consider matters.
 - no changes were made during 2023.

- f) conducting annual performance reviews of the pastoral charge staff;
 - performance reviews were conducted for all employees during 2023 and will be finalised in early 2024.
 - this work will continue in 2024.
- g) ensuring pastoral charge staff make use of opportunities for continuing education that they have been given;
 - Rev Michelle Down took some study leave during the year.
- h) maintaining close contact with the regional council Pastoral Relations Committee or equivalent. (*The Manual*, 2019, B.7.8.5)
 - there was no contact during 2023

In late 2023, Alma Barney filled in temporarily for our Office Administrator, Stephanie Van Der Pryt, during her medical leave.

The M&P Committee hosted our staff at an Appreciation Lunch in May in the Lower Hall. We also had a Farewell & Thank You Lunch with Elizabeth Amirault in December. Each staff member was given a Christmas gift.

Members of the committee: Linda Delve, Annie Dickson, Bonnie Hazell, Carolyn May, Gordon Sinclair, Andrew Robb (chair)



WORSHIP



Worship is alive and well at Edith Rankin Memorial United Church. Thanks to the dedicated ministry of Rev. Michelle, we are all well guided and look forward to worshipping together at the church each Sunday. Michelle's sincerity and variety in presentation keeps the services vibrant, interesting and meaningful.

I will highlight below a few of the services from 2023 just to jog your memory. Some of these services Michelle guided, and in others, different church members took the lead with Michelle's blessing.

January 8	Christmas Eve- Take two (due to a storm on Dec. 24 th)
April 6,7,9	Services of collaboration
April 16	Women-led Service under Marg Merkley's leadership
April 30	Clergy in the Family Service
May 28	Spirit Sister Service
June 11	Pride Service
June 18	Indigenous Awareness Service – a collaboration service
July 2, 9,16	Collaboration services
June 25-September 3	Outdoor services with the ERMUC band and Joyce Payne-led barbecues
August 27	Words and Music in the chancel
November 12	Men's Service
December 24 a.m.	Pageant presentation
December 24 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion Service

An extra special thank you and words of commendation goes to Paul Currie and his ever-so-dedicated Tech team. Covid has raised the need for an enhanced tech presentation every Sunday and Paul and his team are at the ready! Where would we be without them??

A special thanks also to Eric Lawson and Paul Currie for leading the services on March 5 and August 6 respectively.



Of course, there are many people who support Michelle in her work.

Thanks to the following people on the worship team for their contributions to our worship experience.

Kim Barney: for his outstanding music leadership with the chancel choir

Janet McDonald: for her dedication to the Limestone ringers

Patti Speck: for a lighthearted but genuine start to the service each Sunday by presenting “the life and work” of Edith Rankin

Florence Niven: for her behind the scenes contribution at communion times and other special occasions including coordinator of all church funerals

Penny Steele: for being our faithful “candle” person who brightens our church each Sunday

Lorna Thorne: for finding scripture readers each Sunday

Jean Barna: for her church décor enhancements that were enjoyed and appreciated over the past year. Upon Jean’s retirement, (she will still oversee the outdoor gardens!) this position was assumed by Lorna Thorne. Lorna is thankful for her many helpers!

As I said, worship is alive and well at Edith Rankin. We are very fortunate to have a strong congregation that contributes time, talent and treasure. Our fearless leader, Michelle, contributes in all these ways and many more to which you can attest.

Enjoy what Edith Rankin and Michelle have to offer in 2024!

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Sinclair

ADMINISTRATION TEAM



Administration Team members are:

- Brian McCracken (Co-Coordinator)
- Marcus Robertson (Co-Coordinator)
- Michelle Down
- Peter Merkley
- Stephanie Van Der Pryt

The Admin Team lost a valued member in 2023 when Joyce Payne stepped down in September, as she has taken on roles in the Regional and National Church and needs to devote time to those roles. We thank Joyce for her significant contributions to the Admin Team over the past few years.

This year (2023) marked the first full year for Stephanie Van Der Pryt (Office Administrator), Bill Galt of Galt Accounting, and Breeze, ERMUC's administration system. While Stephanie retains some finance-related responsibilities, her focus is on office administration, while Bill Galt and Peter Merkley (ERMUC Treasurer) focus on accounting matters.

In 2023, Stephanie continued to work with Welcome Centre volunteers, rental coordination (with Peter Merkley), and on automating some financial inputs (specifically PAR).

In 2023, the Admin Team worked on reworking the financial plan to make it easier to maintain and more user-friendly for Congregation members. Results of that work were evident in the reporting presented to the Congregation in November.

Income from Church rentals and fundraising continued to increase in 2023 and, late in the year, UNIFOR agreed to continue renting space for three years (2024 to 2026). In 2023, ERMUC also welcomed the bridge club as a long-term renter. Income from rentals and fundraising is important to ERMUC as this income supports ongoing operations of the Church.

Bill Galt advised ERMUC that he will retire from bookkeeping at the end of 2024. He has committed to working with ERMUC's external accountant until the December 31, 2024 annual "compilation" statement is completed, but the Admin Team will be investigating options in 2024 to ensure a smooth transition when Bill retires.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcus Robertson

**Thank you to our WONDERFUL STAFF:
Rev Michelle, Kim, Stephanie,
Elizabeth, Barry and Ruth:**



and our MANY Volunteers ❤️

MEMBERSHIP STEWARD



FROM THE REGISTERS – 2023

BAPTISMS

July 30, 2023

Jeremy Gregory Troy Hampton – son of Anthony Hampton and Alexandra Manthorpe
Hudson Hayes Green – son of Cole Green and Elisabeth Hayes

MARRIAGES

Nil

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED BY PROFESSION OF FAITH, REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH, CLEAR ASSURANCE, REINSTATEMENT OR TRANSFER

March 19, 2023

Faye Trimble
Gordon Trimble

May 7, 2023

Alexandra Manthorpe
Anthony Hampton

MEMBERS REMOVED BY COUNCIL MOTION

January 17, 2023

Carolyn Bond	Eric Palmer
Alan Fyke	Linda Palmer
Lorraine Fyke	

TRANSFERS OUT

Nil

DEATHS

(* Denotes a Member of our Congregation)

*John Henry “Jack” Roushorn – February 8, 2017

Randall George Burnette – November 13, 2022

Frederick Andrew Compton – January 14, 2023

Ray Demers – January 20, 2023

Betty Wright – March 13, 2023

*Leslie Thomas George Burgess – March 21, 2023

Gertrude “Anne” Bock – March 21, 2023

*Margaret Jean Ashley – March 23, 2023

Alexander Hughson Ross – March 23, 2023

Beatrice Anne Morton – March 24, 2023

*Peter VanBruinessen – March 30, 2023

*Phyllis Wilma Hannah – April 8, 2023

*David Minnes Sinclair – May 31, 2023

*James Donald Lane – June 2, 2023

*James Edward Leary – June 7, 2023

Donald Bruce McGibbon – June 12, 2023

Carol Wright – June 21, 2023

*George Hamilton Lavery – June 27, 2023

Doreen McGibbon – June 29, 2023

Joseph Straughan – July 15, 2023

*Betty Bernice Roushorn – July 26, 2023

Barbara Ethel Armstrong – August 2, 2023

Diane Mary Carey – August 13, 2023

*Alan Pickering – September 12, 2023

*Annie Enid McRae – September 25, 2023

*Margaret Louise Martin – October 15, 2023

Angela Margaret Cameron – November 7, 2023

*Barbara Ann Reynolds – November 25, 2023

*Keitha Vandaline Sherriff – November 30, 2023

*Freda Ilda Beryl McAllister – December 6, 2023

Wilma Curtie Lovell – December 13, 2023

*Ruth Irene Allum – December 15, 2023

Norma Ruth Mallen – December 15, 2023

*John Ernest Gummo – December 20, 2023

Pasquale “Pat” Galasso – December 21, 2023

*Barbara Sinclair- December 22, 2023

*Hilda Doran – December 26, 2023

Marjorie Elsdon Burrows – December 30, 2023

2023 CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Resident Members	417	429
Total Non-Resident Members	23	28
Total Members	440	457
Approximate Number of Adherents	200	184
Number of Classics	105	
Households in Church Directory	335	362

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Moyer

SPIRIT SISTERS



Spirit Sisters remains a vital presence within the ERMUC community. Our mailing list reaches 50, and we welcome 24-29 women to each gathering.

Our theme for the 2023/24 year is Sacred Spaces. We have been exploring physical sacred spaces, as well as those we carry within.

In the fall we met in-person at the back of the church sanctuary - the perfect location for a Sacred Space inquiry. We were blessed in November when yoga instructor Kathy Kennedy joined our circle to talk about accessing the sacred within. Kathy concluded her time with us by leading us through a Mind/Body/Spirit guided meditation.

From January to March, we will be meeting via Zoom to reconnect with and better accommodate our wider group – some of whom no longer live in Kingston. We hope to resume our in-person gatherings in April.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 2-3:30pm. We offer a wide variety of programming that starts with a short meditation, followed by hands-on activities, and small-group discussions relating to the chosen theme.

Rev. Michelle Down, Carolyn McPhee, Florence Niven and Patti Speck make up this year's planning committee.

Spirit Sisters is open to any woman who seeks to grow in faith, accompanied by a caring network of women and nurtured by the Spirit. For more information about this group, please contact Florence Niven. You are welcome here.

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Niven



UNITED MARKETPLACE TOUR

The **United MarketPlace Tour** is an annual holiday bazaar - with a twist. It's a collaboration, between various area United Churches. This year, host churches Crossroads United, Edith Rankin Memorial United, and Sydenham United, welcomed, into their sacred spaces, Princess Street United, Cooke's-Portsmouth United, and Faith United, respectively.



This collaboration is less about customers travelling from one venue to the next in the allotted time, and more about sharing resources, so that area churches, big and small, can participate in a good-

old-fashioned church bazaar. By combining efforts and resources, we are able to share planning ideas, advertising costs, promotional design, space, and people-power.

Edith Rankin was the only church to host community vendors. Our vendors were very pleased with the welcome they received at ERMUC. Many commented about how friendly the people at ERMUC are, and how delicious the homemade soup lunch was(!), proving once again, that a positive attitude and a friendly smile go a long way. :)

Thank you to all who provided handmade items and baking for sale, helped with set up and take down, and assisted in so many other ways. Thank you especially, to the team leaders.

ERMUC's net profit was \$5096.82, which went directly into the church operating fund. We, on the planning team, couldn't have done this without your support.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Sincerely,

Florence Niven, Joyce Payne, Marg Merkley and Betty Jeanne Kippen

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Your Media and Communications Team has had another very busy year in 2023. We strive to facilitate connections with our church community and beyond, using the Roadside Sign, the Anchor Newsletter, the Broadview Magazine, as well as various IT systems (Information Technology), in the Sanctuary Audio Visual Media Booth, and throughout the building via Wi-Fi, as well as online with Website, Facebook, YouTube, Ring Central, and Zoom. The three major areas where we focused our time this year have been the Website, Worship Tech, and Information Technology (IT) systems used by staff and volunteers in the church.

Website

Our service to our members and our friends around the world through our website continues with almost daily updates. Our church services are posted weekly by Craig Pettis. Our calendar of events is updated almost daily by our Office Administrator, Stephanie Van Der Pryt. Our Tidings are posted every Thursday afternoon by Paul Van Nest. And 'Announcements' on both the welcome page ("the landing page") and under the tab NEWS and the dropdown under the blue menu 'Attachments' are updated several times a week by Paul Van Nest.

But there are many more activities to be found on our web pages. I would encourage team leaders to review their pages and send updates to webmaster@ermuc.ca whenever. I'll be glad to update your pages and show the date of the update, so our site is obviously actively maintained.

I'm considering conducting a couple of weekly hands-on seminars immediately following a few church services for both our online attendees as well as those attending in person. I am concerned that many are not utilizing the website for information on our church's activities, including Tidings, our photo album, minutes of Council meetings, our calendar of events, viewing our services and many more pages. Our webhosting company (ISP) always comments on how many pages we have on our site! Please use them!

Finally, we would be very pleased to receive your feedback and suggestions for easier use of our site (labelling or organization). And of course, corrections and additions: forward to webmaster@ermuc.ca

Submitted by Paul Van Nest, Chair of Website Team.

Worship Tech

Our dedicated Worship Tech Team is comprised of our leader, Paul Currie, along with Heinz Becker, Mel Hazell, Craig Pettis and Andrew Robb who provide audio and visual (AV) services for our worship and special services. Each service provides an opportunity to troubleshoot glitches and learn new procedures. The on-site team is ably assisted by our on-line Zoom hosts Sara Kerr, Kathy Baer and Glenn Owen. Sara also maintains our operators' schedule. Most Sundays we have about 20 Zoom connections and a few on YouTube.

Rev. Michelle provides an outline of the services. From this, Paul prepares a Power Point file, including embedded videos as needed, and a detailed service tech sheet for the operators. Following the service, Craig edits a video of the service, adds some still photos and posts it to our YouTube channel and website. Worship Tech Team members have spent many hours, outside of worship, to practise their skills on the equipment.

In 2023 we included AV coverage for the summer service in the lakeside garden. This presented its own challenges as we were using different equipment and set ups along with the need to devise new procedures. Improvements were made to the Wi-Fi modems both in the lower hall and upstairs to ensure there was a strong broadcast signal for those watching on Zoom or YouTube.

A former leading member of the Tech Team, Alan Pickering, died in 2023. We are grateful to have received his bequest which will be used to continue the improvement of our equipment, both in the sanctuary and on-line. Our memories of Al are full of appreciation for his foresight and inspiration.

Composed by Andrew Robb, Worship Tech Team Member

IT Troubleshooting

It appears that some in our staff and volunteer group have members of the Media and Communications Team on “speed dial” when it comes to assistance with Information Technology. The constant new wave of technology keeps us all on our toes.

We lost some of our Lower Hall storage cupboards to accommodate new renters, so we have moved some material to the locked cupboard on the stage. We advised the Admin Team / Rental Coordinator on the use of our AV and computing equipment by renters and others who have not been trained in their use.

Paul Currie reported on various in-church technology concerns to the Council in the Spring of the year, which resulted in him being asked “to undertake a review, with the inclusion of the Tech Team, of our overall hardware, software and phone requirements of the church and to proceed with the acquisition up to a maximum of \$10,000.” (some of this is already in our approved M&C Team budget). This task has been completed.



Our robust VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) telephone system needed a few tweaks, but otherwise was reported to be the best deal currently available. We engage Bell Canada to provide high speed “Fibe” internet, as well as phone lines for our security and elevator, while Ring Central continues to provide the VOIP system, handsets, and messaging and file transfers for some Teams.

The computers in the Church Office and at the Media Desk were both at the “end of life” stage for both hardware and some software. Recent Admin Team decisions have placed a much greater emphasis on Cloud software programs which require up to date hardware, along with a strong and stable internet connection. So, in consultation with stake holders, both computers and some of their software have been replaced.

To facilitate those higher office internet requirements, as well as those for stronger Wi-Fi in the Lower West (mainly for renters) and South Lawn (for outside summer services) new routers have been installed which can accommodate the higher speed we have had, but not utilized, for some years now. Therefore, we are fortunate to have a church wide internet system offering free access to those in the building. The four access areas (Welcome Centre, Lower West, Upper East and Lower East). The Wi-Fi password is the same throughout the building, and some portable devices seek out the strongest signal as users move about the building.

Other Items

Work on the Anchor Newsletter, the Broadview Magazine, Copyright Licencing, and the Roadside Sign have all quietly continued in one way or another. The Anchor Newsletter has become redundant as we now depend on the Church Office production of weekly news, so Paul Carl and Patti Speck have taken a well-deserved rest after years of dedicated service there. The One License Copyright reporting also quietly continues with Glenn Owen's commitment. The Broadview Magazine subscriptions remain an annual event, though we recommend that more members of the church community subscribe. With the promise of a new electronic roadside sign, after hours of research and expertise by a special committee of Council, as well as a successful fundraising drive, we will have a new way of communicating in 2024 with thousands of individual tiny, coloured lights working together to send computer generated messages to those who drive by.

Sixty years ago, that great Canadian philosopher, Marshall McLuhan, published his seminal work: Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man, in which he coined the phrase that "the medium is the message." Your Media and Communications Team is strongly aware of the extraordinary ways that our church community, and those we serve, are impacted by current communications media that were only dreamt of sixty years ago. The content of our church's communication continues to be driven by the variety of tools which we use.

Respectfully submitted,

the Rev. Dr. Paul Currie, with Kathy Baer, Heinz Becker, Paul Carl, Mel Hazell, Sara Kerr, Glenn Owen, Craig Pettis, Andrew Robb, Patti Speck, Paul Van Nest,
and thanks to the Property Team, the Administration Team, and our Church Staff



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Trustees meet periodically during the year to attend to church financial matters. This requires the reviewing and approving of the Trust Fund Investment Portfolio, the Church Insurance Policy and the liaison with the church financial team.

This year they met as a group in March. Individuals met throughout the year with Scott Miller, our financial advisor for our Trust Fund Investment Portfolio with Scotia Wealth Management. As of Dec 2023, the funds total approximately \$294,000 plus \$50,000 in GIC's with Scotia Bank that secures our operating account line of credit. Dividends from the Trust Fund of approximately \$9,500 were paid into the operating account.

This year we received notice of bequests from the estates of David Sinclair in the amount of \$50,000 and Al Pickering in the amount of \$7,000.

We have not yet received these funds. We also received a donation of shares worth \$15,000 from a couple in our congregation. The congregation was apprised of the Trust Fund and bequests with a short presentation at the November 2023 Budget meeting.

In the fall, Trustees along with other groups, reviewed the Treasurer's Financial Plan for 2024, which was approved by the congregation. The Trustees' concerns relate to the repayment of the remaining loans from UCC for our Capital Project. The UCC loan presently stands around \$185,000 and the old Presbytery loan at \$25,000. These loans are presently managed through our operating account, with periodic lump sum payments with back up from the Trust Fund, if required, as detailed in the 2024 Budget. No funds from Trust Fund were needed in 2023.

In November, we received the Church Insurance policy renewal and individuals met with Scott Lee, our Broker with McDougall Insurance. Once again it was a substantial increase over 2023. The cost for 2024 is \$12,944.88 paid in monthly payments on a replacement value of the church property assessed at \$6,504,608 with \$5,000,000 liability.

In the spring, the Trustees obtained two professional quotes to obtain a more accurate appraisal for Church rebuilding costs. This was a requirement for an application to the UCC self insurance program and has since been revoked.

Jim Leary, as newly appointed chair, agreed to spearhead this application and it was in the process when he unfortunately passed away in the summer. This application has not been finalized or submitted. This is one of the tasks that the 2024 Board needs to address. A person with insurance experience would be a welcome asset to the Trustees.

The Board, with other groups, kept in contact with John Armitage Homes concerning the development of Bayview Farms Estates, across from the church and how it might affect church property.

Thank you to the Trustees who served this year: Jim Leary, Sandra Sinclair, Edie Raymond, Don Mallory, Martin Thomas, John Moyer, Paul Van Nest and Doug Huddle.

Respectfully submitted for the Trustees,
Doug Huddle

PROPERTY TEAM



Upkeep and Maintenance Team

The Team would like to thank the Office Administrator, Stephanie Van Der Pryt and in her absence, Alma Barney, for coordinating the access of building trades, plus providing advice and guidance on Property matters. Similarly, Property Team wishes to acknowledge the patience, support, and flexibility of the Custodian Barry Van Hooser.

Both staff members have been invaluable in achieving our mandates in 2023. Please note: At the request of Council, Gordon Bell, Property Coordinator, is the Custodian's direct Supervisor.

Property Team: - The team was comprised of: Gord Bell, Garry O'Neill, Dave Metzler, Craig Pettis, Dean Lain and Wally Parks and associates: Joe D'Agostino, Ray Kuntz, Steve Squelch, Al Fyke. During 2023 Wally Parks, Ray Kuntz, Steve Squelch and Al Fyke have asked to be removed from the Team. On behalf of the Team and Congregation we would like to express our appreciation for their participation and efforts. The Team would also like to welcome Tom Kerr and anyone else who would like to bring their experiences and skills to the Team. They are more than welcome. Property Team provided replacement custodial duties when the custodian was on vacation, requested time off and was not available due to illness/ bereavement.

Custodial Duties:

Custodian Hours: Barry's hours are 16 hours (half of his pre-Covid 32 hours) which are 4 hours per day Monday to Thursday. Each Monday, Gord provided Barry with a 1 page "Additional Custodial Activities" for that week, a weekly list of Custodial Activities, plus a monthly time sheet to record daily hours and additional activities undertaken. Copies of the weekly Custodial and additional Activities and completed time sheets have been kept on record.

Rental Duties: As the rentals of the church facilities have steadily increased to the point where most of the space has been rented, custodial duties associated with rentals have increased. As part of the rental agreement, the renters have requested that the custodian set up and take down tables and chairs, including moving tables and chairs between the Lower Hall and the Back of the Sanctuary daily. This cuts into his time for other custodial tasks, especially in the winter, with the increased floor cleaning.

The increased rentals have required adjustments to Barry's work schedule. When it came to washing and waxing/application of floor protection, Barry willingly, on his own, did all the work outside his normal weekly hours to not require renters to give up their scheduled times. This has totalled three days (12 hours) but he still was not able to do the Lower Hall, which will require two days to allow for the surface protection to harden. He will be granted time off hour for hour. His flexibility has been greatly appreciated.

He has also willingly provided custodial duties, paid for by renters, outside of his normal weekly times.

Heating – Boiler repairs: After 11 years of maintenance free service, the boiler experienced a series of service calls and maintenance work by Hamilton Smith: Sunday Feb. 12: No heat service call - \$672.35; Tuesday Feb 21: No heat service, burner cleaning and parts ordered - \$1,048.36; Tuesday Feb. 28: No heat service call and the installation of ordered replacement burner module - \$3,932.00 ; Wednesday March 10: Service call to supply and install additional parts for the boiler door - new refractory shield, rope gasket and insulation blanket around the burner - \$1,824.95 This totalled \$7,177.66.

Plumbing - Ubdegrove Plumbing and Heating

– Cross Connection Control (CCC) - Backflow Prevention Valve

- Replace defective 11-year-old CCC for the boiler due to leaking components -\$1,735.68.
- Install a CCC on the main domestic water supply as required by the City of Kingston - \$1,735.68
- Adjust the domestic hot water blending valve back to 120F - \$152.55. It was also discovered that the temperature gauge on the blending valve was defective. Temperature is monitored by handheld temperature probe pending the replacement.

Impact of increased Rental - Actions to aid Rentals

A big thank you to Craig P, Dean L, Gary O and Gord B for figuring out how to move the two old pink wooden pews from the Bayview Room to under the lakeside stairs, and the other garage sale items from the Bayview Room to the Friendship Room. The three 2 m long chesterfields were then moved on their ends, from the Terrace Room and into the Bayview Room. Thank heavens the hallway is tiled which allowed the chesterfields to slide easily.

Another big thank you to Wally P, Craig P, Tom K, Dean L, and Gord B for setting up two tiers, using surplus stacking tables, then moving all of the decorations and sanctuary enhancements from the stage to the West Room.

An additional big thank you to Craig P, Tom K and Joyce P for painting the walls and floor of the stage making it more aesthetically appealing for possible rentals.

A significant thank you goes to the Work Party comprised of Property team, Choir members and others in the effort to place adhesive pads on the Kingston Duplicate Bridge Club (KDBC) chairs. It was found that the KDBC chairs were causing significant marks on the Lower Hall floor tiles as the chairs were slid into and out of the card tables. Concrete particles had become embedded in the plastic feet. The work party sanded the feet to remove the grit, then placed the adhesive pads on the feet. Unfortunately, the pads need constant pressure to ensure they remain attached. Stacking and the shock of stacking has knocked off the pads. However, the removal of the grit has significantly reduced the damage to the floor tiles.

In response to other floor markings, the plastic stacking chair feet were examined and found to have lost the protective feet to at least 75% +/- . Accordingly, vinyl sleeve feet were purchased to slide over the chair legs. Unlike the adhesive pads, they are retained by the friction on the chair legs and as such will not fall off. Clayton Flooring has been very helpful in providing advice and significant price break based on past sales to ERMUC. Considering the significant increased usage of paper hand towels and toilet paper, double toilet holders and paper towel dispensers have been placed in all the washrooms to address increased usage and prevent running out of both in the stalls and rooms. The increased consumption of both is noticeable volume and cost associated with the increased rentals.

Parking lot – Snow Removal

Terry Angel Construction (LCL) is in the second year of the contract for snow plowing of the parking lot and clearing of the sidewalks and steps. Unfortunately, due to exorbitant cost of liability insurance fee, in the range of \$60,000, the contract rose to \$20,114 including HST per year as opposed to \$7,000 where it is suspected the previous firm did not carry liability insurance. It is the liability risk that requires the contractor to apply so much sand and salt in the parking lot and so much salt on the sidewalks, similar to bus stops, banks, doctor's office, etc. As it has been said: "No one has ever sued based on slipping on salt whereas there are many suits based on slipping on ice."

Parking lot - Maintenance Grading - The contracting of LCL for snow removal has provided invaluable access to the necessary grading when needed on short notice.

In the spring, LCL used their 2.5 cu yd front end loader to clear a drainage path for melted water by removing a portion of the lakeside snow pile, creating a berm to divert the runoff from parking lots which was flowing down from the lakeside sidewalk and onto the lawn to an established route over the lakeside bank. In the spring, the plan is to bring in granular A, grade it and pack it to eliminate washouts across the granular parking lot.

After a discussion with Terry regarding the runoff across the parking lot, LCL staff brought in granular A to deal with washouts with grading and packing. In addition, the staff regraded the east side of the granular parking lot to divert runoff from the east entrance toward the east property side as opposed to creating washouts across the parking lot.

Parking lot - Tow Vehicle and Boat Trailer Parking - Major Continuing Problem!

Despite available parking across Bath Road from the church on Railway Street, next to the school. It is easier to launch the boat, drive up onto Bath Road, enter ERMUC via the west entrance, swing around on the granular parking lot and back up to park the vehicle and trailer, then walk across the back lawn to the boat and go boating.

Several windshield notices were tried without success. Property provided the Council with a cost estimate for the placement of signs and possible entrance chains like other private parking lots in Kingston. This solution was not supported by Council. Council hopes that the electronic sign with the appropriate message will discourage the tow vehicle and boat trailer parking on Sundays and other times during the week. It is critical that the message be seen very early before the boaters park vehicle and trailers since many of the boaters are fishermen who arrive at 6:00 am.

Cooling: UNIFOR Rental Office - Installed and removed the portable room sized AC unit with window air intake and exhaust. Air Handler - 3 air filters were replaced every 6 months.

Grass Cutting: In 2022, Zorland Property Inc. was awarded the contract to maintain the grass. However, based on the snow removal contract experience, the contract was not renewed. We were fortunate to be able to hire Bauer Landscape and Snowscapes Inc at \$3,960.20 including HST. This is \$300 more than the Zorland contract. Oliver Bauer was a previous ERMUC member and previous Chair of Property. He has demonstrated a special dedication and concern to ERMUC grounds. He also has an extensive knowledge of ERMUC members!!

Funding Challenges: - Like all ERMUC Teams, there are never enough funds for the planned projects. **However, Property has three types of funding needs. The primary need is the recurring yearly Financial Plan expenditures**, such as the Utilities, with the yearly inflation increases. These are the costs that are contained in the Annual Financial Plan. **The secondary needs are the unexpected ‘surprise’ costs** like the boiler, that are not included in the Annual Financial Plan and are absorbed by deferring expenditures, if they can be deferred, after Council approval. **The tertiary needs are major replacements and improvements** such as chair replacements, sanctuary carpet replacement, parking lot lighting, parking lot paving, etc. that require funding that is not included in the Annual Financial Plan. Since the regular Financial Plan is a ‘bare bones’ approach, funding for the tertiary needs is in competition for special funding along with the other ERMUC Team special funding efforts. As such, the tertiary projects are pushed off each year. **The only long-term solution for these tertiary needs would be a Building Fund, like the Memorial Fund, except there would be projects with Council approved priorities that the congregation can support with donations.**

Estimated Tertiary Needs in 2024 – Donations? Parking lot markings: \$500; permanent parking lot control entrance posts, signposts and signs: \$3,000; replace roadside eavestrough with leaf guard on the Clark Hall to prevent ice build up by the fire escapes: \$900; masonry work on lakeside: \$3,000; lower auto door switches: \$1,000; cut window in Activity Room door: \$500; replace sunshade over picnic table: \$1,500; Canada geese fence: \$500; complete window cleaning: \$600; trim dead branches around parking lot perimeter: \$600.

Respectively submitted on behalf of the Property Team,
Gord Bell, Property Coordinator.

CRAZY 8 GROUP

The Crazy 8’s is a group of women who were formerly members of UCW Unit 8.

We are a group of 19 vibrant members who meet monthly at ERMUC on the second Tuesday of every month.

We begin at 1:00 pm with refreshments in the Welcome Centre and then move to The Upper Room for our meeting. Each member takes a turn organizing/arranging a program/speaker on a wide variety of topics.

We welcome new members!

Please contact Edie Raymond for more information: 613 389 1364.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Pettis

WELCOME CENTRE



The Spring of 2020 caused many programs and activities to be put on hold. That happened at ERMUC with the Welcome Centre Volunteer (WCV) Program Jan D'Agostino introduced in 2016. We thank Jan for the initiative she took to get this program started.

In the Spring of 2023, we were able to restart this program. Many thanks to the volunteers who have taken on this role either weekly or biweekly; or as subs: Brenda Branscombe, Barbara O'Neill, Patti Speck, Joyce Payne, Barbara Bell, Bonnie Peacock, Ruth Judd, Alma Barney, Joyce Morrison, Betty Jeanne Kippen, Jean Smith, Annie Dickson, and Karen Saulnier.

In addition to completing a variety of tasks for our Office Administrator (Stephanie Van Der Pryt) and our Minister (Rev. Michelle Down), this group assists with a number of small weekly duties like checking the pews, watering the plants, and wiping down the nursery tables and chairs. Moreover, they provide a warm and cheery welcome to all who come into the WC between 9:00 and 1:00.



If you are interested in giving of your time to help with the life and work of ERMUC by being a WC volunteer, please contact Marg Merkley at 613 532 8490.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Merkley, WCV Coordinator

TREASURER

Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry of Edith Rankin Memorial United Church. A very special thank you to our newer members.

As a reminder we prepare internal financial statements on a monthly basis and at the end of each year we engage our external accountants to compile annual financial statements. The timing of this process is such that - as of the writing of this Report - neither statement is available. The statements compiled by the external accounts will not be available for several months. However, our internal statements will be available shortly and we should expect a modest Surplus in our Operating results for 2023.

From a financial perspective 2023 was another successful year for Edith Rankin. I want to highlight a few key financial highlights:

- Our internal statements record a small Surplus for the year ended December 31, 2023.
- For the first time in several years, we had an "in person" service on Christmas Eve. This, plus an active Christmas appeal, resulted in a more traditional increase in Revenue in December.
- We made the planned payments on our UCC Mortgage and the loan we have with the Toronto United Church Council
- A high percentage of our members use PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittances). This is very helpful in providing regular monthly cash flow throughout the year. Approximately 67% of our Total Offerings are made by way of PAR.
- Our fundraising and our rental efforts have been very successful. The fundraising activities have resulted in over \$30,000 of Net Revenue. The Rentals have resulted in \$33,000 of Net Revenue - and this number is growing. These sources of income are most welcome as they broaden and diversify our revenue base. Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who do all the work to raise these funds! (Please see the Report of the Rental Coordinator.)

We do face some challenges. The most significant is that our annual surplus is not sufficient to make all our loan payments. I am very pleased that the Budget that was approved by the Congregation does anticipate that we will make all these payments from Operating Revenue in 2024.

During 2023 we received notices from the estates of two individuals who had designated Edith Rankin in their wills. The combined amount of these bequests is \$57,000. When the funds are received, they will be invested by the Trustees and will be placed in the Restricted Funds as designated by the respective estates. These two bequests are examples of the benefits to the church of having an active Planned Giving program. If you are interested in finding out more information about how you can support Edith Rankin in this way, please contact the Treasurer or the Minister.

We have a mortgage with the United Church of Canada. At the end of December 2023, the balance was about \$182,000, Our intention is to repay this loan over the next 8 years. Our other loan was granted by the Four Winds Presbytery Development Corporation and during 2022, this Corporation

was wound down and our loan is now held by the Toronto United Church Council. The balance of this loan is now less than \$28,000 and will be repaid by 2029.

We have a line of credit at the bank that we have not used for several years,

Our December 31, 2022, Financial Statements were compiled by Secker Ross & Perry LLP. These statements are attached to this Annual Report for information and have been attached to the 2022 Annual Report. Likewise, the December 31, 2023, Financial Statements will be compiled over the next few months, and these will be provided with the 2024 Annual Report in due course.

In the December 2023 financial statements, we changed all the "Designated Funds" to be the same as the other "Restricted Funds" so now all these special funds (Such as the Restricted Fund for the Kitchen) have the same meaning. A list of these Restricted Funds is included in the Financial Statements.

Once again, I challenge all of us to "give until it feels good" so that we all can look to achieving our vision for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Merkley, Treasurer
February 2024

ENVELOPE STEWARD



On behalf of the Congregation, a sincere THANK YOU to all the individuals, families and groups who have faithfully supported Edith Rankin Memorial in 2023.

For those of you who might be wondering what the Envelope Steward does I can only report that since the Congregation ceased using 'numbered', boxed envelopes, my principal responsibility is to work with the Office Administrator in the timely production of summary receipts for use during the preparation of your income tax returns.

It is of vital importance that all donors clearly identify themselves at every opportunity. Without current addresses and other contact information, the delivery of accurate IT receipts is exceedingly difficult.

On Dec 31, 2023, ERMUC had approximately 289 (223 in 2022) identifiable donors. Of these, 93 (99 in 2022) were Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR).

Respectfully submitted,
John Moyer, Envelope Steward

FUNDRAISING REPORT



The Fundraising Team was inaugurated in April 2022 with the following purpose:

- To coordinate fundraising events
- Encourage support through promotional activities
- Discuss and conclude where profits will be directed from each fundraiser
- Design and create financial templates for volunteers to keep records consistent and accurate
- Design and create financial “best practices” policies for monies (ie: money is not to be taken home with any individual staff or volunteer for counting, etc)
- Create a fundraising calendar

Members of this team are: Sandra Sinclair, Gordon Sinclair, Rhonda Kerr, Lorna Thorne, Ruth Pettis, Michelle Down, Joyce Payne

As events are decided upon, an “Event Champion” is recruited, who will in turn coordinate the event, find helpers that are needed, etc. Recognizing donor fatigue, the team is particularly cognizant to spread out the timing of events throughout the year, ensuring there is no flood of requests in the last 3 months of the year.





2023 was a very busy year for fundraising. Events during 2023 included:

- Progressive Euchre Tournament in February
- Live and silent Auction in March
- Irish Stew Dinner in March
- Bus Trip to the play 'Hamilton' in April
- Music Night with Mary's Merry Minstrels in April
- Garage Sale in May
- San Salvador outreach and fundraising
- Sunday worship with BBQ lunches
- Just Apples event in September
- Music Night with Martello Alley Cats in September
- Progressive Euchre Tournament in October
- United MarketPlace (formerly the bazaar) in November
 - This event is championed by Florence Niven and is a collaboration between 5 United Churches in Kingston
- Family Christmas Dinner in December

All these initiatives have raised appx \$30,000 for Edith Rankin in 2023.

As we move into 2024, several more initiatives are being planned. Stay tuned and check in Tidings for the latest information.

Many thanks to all who support these events and have **fun** at the same time!!!!

Joyce Payne, Lorna Thorne

Co-Coordinator of the Fundraising Team



RENTAL REPORT



Thank you to the various people who have helped make this initiative a success. In 2023, we have raised about \$33,000 in net rental revenue.

In particular, we owe a debt of gratitude to Stephanie Van Der Pryt (Office Administrator), Barry Van Hooser (Custodian) both of whom have had a lot of extra work keeping our tenants happy. The Admin Team and especially the Property Team have made significant contributions to this whole endeavour. I also want to recognize the work of Joyce Payne who did much of the heavy lifting in the early days.

The rental income is increasing. For the month of February 2024, we invoiced \$5,050 to the regular, monthly tenants. Assuming this keeps up through the year, we will have over \$60,000 in Revenue - with only nominal expenses. We are very close to capacity and our efforts over the next year will be to smooth out some of the bumps we have experienced along the way.

While we are pleased to see this revenue, we are also very pleased to continue our support of various community groups. These groups include Girl Guides, AA and the VON and, as we have done for many years, we offer our space to these groups rent-free.

We have started a pilot project to have a volunteer Rental Coordinator be the main contact for all rental activities for the next few months. This will allow Stephanie more time to focus on her main responsibilities as the Administrator of the church office. In effect, we will have a church office and a separate rental office. We will see how this works... Council will receive a report in a few months and make decisions for the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Merkley, Rental Coordinator
February 2024

FUNDSCRIP SHOPPING/GIFT CARDS



The Covid19 Pandemic changed our lives in many ways and that included the drop in the number of Fundscrip Shopping/Gift Cards purchased on behalf of Edith Rankin. Recently only a few people have purchased them on a regular basis, mostly for groceries.

Each card purchased donates a percentage of its cost to Edith Rankin. It's an easy way to support our church with no money out of pocket. You pay the exact amount of the value of the cards you purchase. They can be ordered online or by calling me. In either case, your cards will be delivered to your door. View our church webpage for more details. Cards are available for almost all of your needs and your gifting: apparel, gas, groceries, electronics, health and beauty, entertainment, home and garden, pets, restaurants, sports, treats and more as listed on this site:

<https://www.fundscrip.com/retailers>

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Van Nest

RECEPTION TEAM



The reception team was created in 2022 to provide a reception service to families who have lost loved ones and are wishing a time of food and fellowship after a celebration of life service.

We have been busy in 2023, with 13 receptions at Edith Rankin serving 1,045 people.

We are grateful to be able to provide this service to those in our faith family who are grieving and in need of support.

Thanks to all who offer their time and effort to make these receptions possible.

Thanks to Penny Steele who recruits all the help, while Joyce Payne procures all the food necessary.

We hope we might not be as busy in 2024, but are ready and willing to serve whenever needed.

Penny Steele and Joyce Payne

Co-Coordinator of the Reception Committee

MISSION AND OUTREACH



The M&O Committee has participated in several endeavours over the past year.

Weekly donations to the Food Bank were a priority.

Socktober was a success providing warmth for those in need.

In From the Cold, Supporting the AIDS Organisation, and the Addiction and Mental Health Group were some of our projects. Our Tree of Warmth is ongoing.

Working with Home Based Housing ensured that the donated items went where they were most needed.

Marilyn Rodger was instrumental in working on gathering items for Friends of the North.

A special thank you to John Moyer for monitoring the Food Barrel and delivering the donated items to the Food Bank.

A big thank you to all who contributed. We recognize that there are many other members of the congregation who are contributing to Outreach.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sproule

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES ‘PARTNER IN LIFE’

No matter
the season,
**the need
for blood
is constant.**

Book now to donate
at blood.ca



Edith Rankin Memorial is proud to have been a ‘Partner in Life’ with **Canadian Blood Services** for several years. Blood is so desperately needed, and we in Canada are very fortunate to be able to receive blood transfusions without charge. You’re never too old and don’t need a doctor’s certificate to see if you’re able to donate blood. Please, go to the clinic at 850 Gardiners Road to see if you are eligible. Register under our church’s team number EDIT009590. You can book a visit by calling 1-888-2DONATE. Each donation can save up to 3 lives.. **If we had 25 regular donors, we could potentially save 225 lives each year.** Sincerely submitted,

Sharon Van Nest

GARDENING FAITH IN ACTION TEAM



The numerous gardens surrounding our church property have been tended to by our Gardening Faith in Action Team over this past season and many years previous. In the spring, a coordinated collaborative effort was made to refresh the garden spaces with a load of enriched soil to support the addition of a few new shrubs, 4 new roses, the transfer of perennials from the roadside bed to the existing flower beds. The sandy soil from the roadside bed was used as the base for the newly constructed raised bed. A wonderful oasis has been created for all of us to enjoy with the seasonal smattering of colour from the variety of specimens that have been added over the years. Walking amongst the gardens and along the memorial walk, we are reminded of those who have shared their time with us. In Memoriam, a dwarf Korean Lilac was planted for Seng Lam, a hydrangea planted for Phyllis Hannah on the shoreline, and a Pagoda Dogwood planted for Don Lane on the east slope. The gardening season ended with a layer of falling leaves creating a safe cover for our winter friends and insulating the new additions to our gardens.

I extend my thanks as Garden Coordinator to: Glenn Owen, Craig Pettis, Sandra Sinclair, Sheryl and Ron Baker, Don Mallory, Sonya Fraser, Diane Huddle, Brenda Moyer, Kathy Lee, Marg Merkley and

Lorna Thorne for sharing their time and talents. The cycle of the garden care can only continue with a few more helping hands so please consider this your invitation to share your time and talents with us.

Supporting our blessed Gardens,
Jean Barna
Coordinator

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Prayer Shawls are given for many reasons: celebrations, births, graduations, as a thank you to guest speakers and in remembrance to grieving family members.

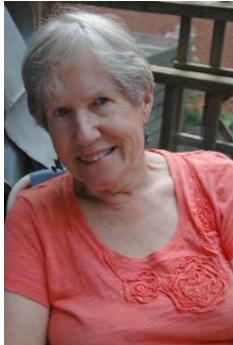
If you wish to give a shawl to someone on behalf of our congregation, you will find them in marked containers in the closet of the vacant study in Upper Clark Hall. Please feel free to choose one of your liking.

Pocket Shawls are also available for anyone. They are in a basket in the Narthex.

Thank you to many who keep our supply of shawls available to our Congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Rubino

DECISIVE ISSUES



We started a new book in September, 'Listen, Love, Repeat' by Karen Ehman.

We have ten members and meet every second Monday. At each meeting we discussed prep questions on the book, concentrating on 'other centred living in a self-centred world'.

Chapter 1-Living Alert

Chapter 2 – Finding your Way

Chapter 3 – It's About Time

Chapter 4 – Who Makes Your Day

Chapter 5 – The Sick at Heart

Chapter 6 – Chipped Crock Pot and Stained Carpets

Chapter 7 – The Lovely and Unloved

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Taft

ERMUC FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST TEAM



The fellowship at these informal gatherings is very obvious to those who attend - between 20 and 40 each month. The breakfast is prepared by a cook, spouse or friend, and two helpers, often another couple. For \$5, all say that it's worth every penny. But then there is more – our speaker. The Program Committee is down to only three: Rev. Michelle, Glenn Owen and Paul Van Nest. We could use input from at least one more; maybe another lady would join us. The committee generally meets twice a year, laying out our ideas and assigning one of us to pursue these ideas. Paul collates the program based on our success. We have a form that contains all the information needed for each program and this is forwarded to Tidings, Announcements, and the Website at the beginning of each month. The program is usually the 4th Sunday of January to May and September to November. Breakfast is served at 8 a.m.; the speaker is introduced at about 8:30 and is thanked about 9:20, after a robust Q&A.

All our programs were in hybrid mode, thanks to the efforts of Craig Pettis and Paul Van Nest, month after month, to bring on board our remote audience. If they had breakfast, we didn't notice! We found the technology in the Lower Hall quite challenging, what with the video and audio challenges for our live and remote audiences. By November, there were only a couple of remote participants left, so Craig and Paul decided to enjoy the fellowship and the speaker and cancelled the online option for 2024.

Our speakers for 2023 were as follows:

Jan: Sam MacLeod on The Spire;

Feb: Tom Mawhinney (Zoomed from Florida) on the Tuskegee Choir which subsequently performed in Kingston;

Mar: ECORC Affirming Forum with several speakers hosted by Rev. Michelle;

Apr: was cancelled at the last minute as speaker contracted Covid;

May: Brian and Marlene McCracken on their visit to the Coronation of Charles III;

Sep: Paul Van Nest on Rotary's Fraud Awareness program;

Oct: Janet McDonald on our Bell Choir;

Nov: Violet Tang on the City's Arts & Culture Services.

And at \$5 per person, we have always contributed to the church's operating fund with the small profits earned each month. We need more cooks, and one or two more on the program committee – we need your ideas. Please speak to Michelle, Glenn, or Paul.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Van Nest

BRIDGE GROUP



ERMUC bridge is up and running after the disruptive Covid years. Seventeen (17) regular players enjoyed getting together 17 times in 2023, in the Upper Room, on alternate Monday afternoons from January to May and September to November. We have welcomed the camaraderie with 4 players from St. Andrew's By The Lake UC who attend regularly.

A voluntary donation of \$2 is given each time to offset social costs. In May we were pleased to donate \$150 to the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief Fund.

Anyone with a basic knowledge of bridge is welcome to join us.

Bridge contact person is Brenda Moyer (613 634-0975).

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Moyer

LIMESTONE RINGERS



2023 was a very good year for the LR's.

We had fifteen ringers and six subs, so important in a festival year. We were able to practise, record, perform and really learn the required festival pieces, and to enjoy them to their and our full potential.

Canadiana Sweet, Laurie Rowbotham's commissioned piece for the LR's to debut at the festival was a success. It was challenging work, and it was received well by the other ringers from all over the province who came to the Festival, June 1-3, at St. Lawrence College. Canadiana Sweet was a special piece for us to perform and hopefully it will be published soon.

We were the hosts in Kingston along with the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) for Festival 2023 - It's About Time. It was a true accomplishment thanks to all the planning and hard work for over four years. The 2021 Festival was postponed two years because of COVID.

We ended 2023 with tributes to the wonderful people who gave ERMUC the bells and chimes.

On December 21st, we played at the funeral for Ruth Allum, whose family donated three octaves of hand chimes. On December 24, Christmas Eve, six ringers played Christmas carols on the bells before the service. Charlotte Jones tolled one bell, several times, during the service for a moment of contemplation. Ruth Pettis performed brilliantly on the bell tree accompanied by Kim Barney on the piano.

It was fortuitous for all the bell ringing that night as the Gummo family was in the congregation. John Gummo had passed away a few days before and the family gave three octaves of hand bells in 1985. That was the incentive to start a hand bell choir with Jane McKay as the first director.

Two octaves of hand bells were given by the Leadbeater family in the 90s and the Delve family also donated some handbells around that time.

I am continually amazed at the performance level of the Limestone Ringers who are very dedicated, very conscientious and fun to direct.

ERMUC is truly blessed with all the hand bells, ringers, subs, and with strong support from Rev. Michelle and the members in the Ministry of Music committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet McDonald, Director of the Limestone Ringers

REPORT OF REGIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES for 2023

East Central Ontario Regional Council held its spring meeting on May 5 and 6 at Trinity United Church in Cobourg.

At the spring meeting newly designed rainbow flags were dedicated. These flags will be given to each community of faith as they complete the Affirming journey. An Affirming Fabric Table runner was also dedicated and will be used at each meeting of the Regional Council. All the names of Affirming Communities of Faith are being added to the runner in calligraphy, by our member, Carolyn May. Thanks, Carolyn, for being part of this important initiative.

The Regional Council voted and retained the same priorities from 2022, are:

- Diversity and Inclusion: supporting the full participation of all with attention to intersectionality (Anti-Racism, Affirming, Interfaith, Intercultural, Respectful Relationships with Indigenous
- Climate and Environment: Living with Respect in Creation
- Economic Justice and Community Development
- Investing in New Church Development and Innovative Ministries



which
people –
Peoples)

These priorities guide the work of the Leadership Teams and Forums. Extensive discussion and presentation of the Remit for Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization was an important part of the meeting. Each community of faith in the region will be personally phoned to provide support and encouragement to ensure they vote on this Remit.



The Fall Meeting of the Regional Council was held on October 28 at Emmanuel United Church in Odessa.

A Strategic Plan for the Region was presented and adopted.

This plan is organized into sections: Growth, Justice, Climate, Leadership, Indigenous Pathways and Common Good. As part of each of these sections, there are Activity streams, with measurable goals so we may evaluate outcomes of new ways of approaching our work.

Much work is done throughout the year through the individual Team and Forums as part of the Region.

Michelle Down and Joyce Payne serve as members of the Affirming Forum. At the October meeting, Joyce Payne was elected to the Assembly of Elders, which serves as the executive council of the region, and continues to serve the National General Council of the United Church of Canada until 2025. Please support the work of our region with your prayers.



on

Respectfully Submitted,

Marg Merkley, Joyce Payne, Marilyn Rodger - Edith Rankin representatives to ECORC Regional Council

JUST MEN



The first Just Men group started around 2008 with a small number of men meeting every two weeks to discuss, in a confidential forum, matters of faith, spirit and relationships. As interest grew, additional groups were added. However, our membership in 2023 has fallen to 18, down from 20 the previous year, as several members have moved out of the area and one of the Just Men groups did not restart following COVID.

The current active Just Men groups are JM1, JM2 and JM3.

The active groups meet twice a month, getting to know one another and becoming good friends. Our meetings start with a 'check in' where we share with the group our struggles or our triumphs since our last meeting. We know what we share is heard by a sympathetic or rejoicing ear. In the second part of the meeting, we discuss a topic of spirituality or conscience. This often leads to a lively discussion which sometimes carries over to the next meeting.

The Just Men groups run a Prayer Circle to receive prayer requests and pass them on to the Just Men membership for their thoughtful prayer.

In the Fall of 2023, a program to enrich Men's Spirituality was organized by Gordon Sinclair. Gordon arranged for Rev Dr Stephen McAllister to lead the Just Men groups in three Men's Spirituality sessions. These sessions highlighted being an active listener, reading Scripture and meditation/silence. The Men's Spirituality sessions culminated in a Men's Service, on 12-Nov-2023, with Dr McAllister delivering the sermon and a Men's Choir providing the music. Thank you, Gordon!

We, of the Just Men groups, would love to welcome more men to join our ranks and experience the

fellowship of a group of like-minded men engaged in spiritual discussion. If you are interested in joining one of our groups, please see the list below for the contact person.

The Just Men groups are:

- Just Men 1 (Just Men) Paul Van Nest Meet at a local restaurant
- Just Men 2 Gordon Sinclair 2nd and 4th Wednesday 10am at ERMUC
- Just Men 3 (More Just Men) Brian McCracken 2nd and 4th Thursday 1:30pm at ERMUC

Respectfully submitted,
Brian McCracken

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR



2022 marked Edith Rankin's second year participating in Coldest Night of the Year, a National Winter fundraiser to support people in need by fundraising for local charitable organisations.

In downtown Kingston, money raised went to support nightlight Kingston, a faith-based adult drop-in centre that operates at St. Luke's Anglican Church in downtown Kingston.

Rankin Ramblers, a group of eight hardy walkers, solicited donations and ventured out in late February to walk 5km in the cold. The team was very successful and again led local teams walking for nightlight Kingston, raising \$6,575 (\$5,850 in 2022).

2023 Rankin Ramblers' team members were:

Michelle Down
Joyce Payne
Elizabeth Amirault
Brenda Moyer
Sandra Sinclair
Gordon Sinclair
Sue Robertson
Marcus Robertson

nightlight Kingston is not participating in CNOY in 2024 and Rankin Ramblers is following suit. We will revisit this decision in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcus Robertson

AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

Work of the Affirming Ministry team for 2023:

This was the second year of work by the Affirming Ministry Team as we explored ERMUC furthering efforts to “welcome and respect people of all gender identities, sexual orientation, marital status, family configuration, health and differing abilities, ages, races, ethnicities, beliefs, and socio-economic circumstances” to quote our newly developed Core Values. This year was a busy one with many initiatives both within the committee and wider congregation. Although we have not yet held a congregational vote to formally decide whether to become an Affirming Church, many things are already happening, including increased integration of inclusive language in worship, church-wide events, and visions to enhance inclusion for the future.

Our year in review:

JANUARY - Tidings Submissions highlighting Affirming Ministry initiatives (by member of the Affirming Ministry Team Amy Baker)

Affirming Ministry contact personnel established to act as contact points for the congregation. Several individuals reached out with questions over the past year. (by members of the Affirming Ministry Team Barb Taft and Kathy Baer)

Affirming children’s time story held (by member of the Affirming Ministry Team Rachael Henry)

FEBRUARY - Valentines Greetings with Affirming Message in Tidings

MARCH - March 12 – PIE Sunday – Visioning meeting held after church to explore what it means to be “Public, Intentional and Explicit” for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals and other marginalised groups. All members of the Affirming Ministry Team participated and offered leadership.

March 26 -Fellowship Breakfast with ECORC Affirming Forum.

APRIL - Sharing Our Stories during service (by committee member Susan Robertson).

JUNE - June 11 – Pride Service, followed by June 17 – Marched in Kingston Pride Parade

OCTOBER - Meeting with the Congregation held to solicit feedback about the Affirming Visioning Statement and Action Plan.

NOVEMBER - feedback compiled from meeting with congregation into a comprehensive document to be submitted for approval to Affirm United. Printed copies of Open Hearts Document available as library resource for congregational members’ access.

DECEMBER – Showcasing World AIDS Day - Interview with Allison Cope, Trellis’ Education and Community Outreach Coordinator, to share the work of Trellis HIV and Community Care in Kingston.

Year round, we have continued our work to develop a relationship with other affirming churches within Kingston.

What's next? We are excited to submit our comprehensive Affirming Vision Statement and Action Plan to Affirm United for approval this January. Upon completion, we hope to offer this to the congregation for consideration and vote for approval in the spring of 2024. This process has brought a rich array of ideas and initiatives. We look forward to implementing them in the days and years ahead.

ERMUC LIBRARY REPORT



The ERMUC “Joan Martin Library” is a very welcoming part of our Church, and it houses quite a varied collection of books to browse, to use as a reference, or to borrow to read.

In 2023, we were able to purchase new books for the library, including “Rebekah – The Valley of Hope” (Women from the Bible, Book 2), by Betty Radford Turcott, to accompany “A Circle of Stones” (Women from the Bible, Book 1).

Another book added was “Aging with Wisdom and Grace”, which was recommended to Stephanie, the Office Administrator, from the Men’s groups at ERMUC.

We are very grateful for the many donations of books to add to the collection, such as the gift of two copies of “Step into this Day” by Florence Niven.

Donations of relevant books are always welcome. Please place them in the wire “Book Returns” basket in the library, so that they can be processed, added to the library records and collection.

The Library display cart is located in the Welcome Centre, and the books are rotated on a regular basis, to provide a sampling of library books for you to browse, or borrow. There are books to aid in Caregiving, and Grief, and there are sections on Parenting and Family Issues, the Affirming Ministry, as well as Devotions and Meditations. Further, there are many shelves with a wide variety of non-fiction books covering many important topics. There are books for young people, children, and shelves of Fiction. Something for everyone.

Respectfully submitted by the Library Team,
Fran Farquhar, Joan Martin, and Barb O’Neill

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO THE CONGREGATION - (February 2024)

- Years in brackets indicate consecutive years of service in the position, beginning and ending in February of the years shown, dating from February 2017 with the adoption of the new Governance Model.
- Individuals standing for election or re-election to a position are indicated by an asterisk.
- Members are elected to serve for a 2-year term. They are eligible for re-election for up to 3 consecutive terms, with the exception of the Treasurer who may serve for 4 terms. (ERMUC Governance Model – February 2019)
- Pending further Council direction, members who have agreed to serve for an extra year are indicated by * (2017-2025).

Council of Guiding Elders (Officers and Members are elected)

Minister	Rev. Michelle Down	
Officers:		
Chair	Bill Spencer *	(2022-2026)
Vice-chair	vacant	
Past Chair	vacant	
Secretary	Ken Williams *	(2017-2025)
Treasurer	Peter Merkley *	(2018-2026)
Regional Rep.	Margaret Merkley	(2023-2025)
Members:		
M&P Rep	Gordon Sinclair *	(2022-2026)
	Christopher Sproule *	(2024-2026)
	Ruth Pettis	(2021-2025)
	Betty Jeanne Kippen *	(2024-2026)
	Joyce Morrison *	(2024-2026)

Standing Committees

Ministry and Personnel (Members are elected)

Gordon Sinclair *	Chair	(2024-2026)
Bonnie Hazell *		(2022-2026)
Carolyn May		(2023-2025)
Marg Beck *		(2024-2026)
Cynthia Simpson *		(2024-2026)
Todd Wright *		(2024-2026)

Nominating (Members are elected)

Brenda Moyer * Chair	(2020-2026)
Diane Huddle *	(2020-2026)
Betty Jeanne Kippen	(2021-2025)
Sandra Sinclair *	(2017-2025)

Ministry Teams (Coordinators are elected)**Administration**

Brian McCracken	(2023-2025)
Marcus Robertson	(2023-2025)

Faith Formation

Lorna Thorne *	(2017-2025)
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Media and Communications

Paul Currie	(2023-2025)
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Mission and Outreach

Barb O'Neill *	(2022-2026)
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Property

Gordon Bell *	(2017-2025)
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Worship

Sandra Sinclair *	(2017-2025)
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Board of Trustees (Members are elected)

Rev. Michelle Down	
Paul Van Nest *	(2017-2025)
Sandra Sinclair *	(2018-2025)
Martin Thomas *	(2022-2026)
Don Mallory *	(2022-2026)
John Moyer	(2023-2025)
Eddie Raymond	(2023-2025)
Cynthia Simpson *	(2024-2026)
Fred Jones *	(2024-2026)

Regional Representatives (Members are elected)

Joyce Payne	(2021-2025)
Marilyn Rodger	(2019-2025)
Margaret Merkley	(2023-2025)

Envelope Steward (elected at the ACM)

John Moyer *

Officers of the Congregation (elected at the ACM)

John Moyer *	Chair
Rhonda Kerr *	Secretary

The Nominating Committee notes the following appointments were made by Council:

Membership Secretary

Brenda Moyer

Ministers in Voluntary Association

Rev. Dr. Paul Currie

On behalf of Church Council and the Congregation, the Nominating Committee recognizes, with thanks, the contributions of those who have retired or who have completed their elected term(s) of service or who have volunteered on committees or teams:

Andrew Robb (Council, M&P), Linda Delve (M&P), Annie Dickson (M&P) and Doug Huddle (Trustees), Christopher Sproule (Congregational Chair).

Sadly, Jim Leary, who had volunteered to be Chair of Trustees, died in June 2023.

The Nominating Committee recommends that the Church Council be granted the authority to elect persons to fill positions as required.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Moyer, Diane Huddle, Betty Jeanne Kippen, Sandra Sinclair

APPENDIX 1**EDITH RANKIN MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH AGENDA FOR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – 25 February 2024**

1. Call to Order/Welcome	Chair
• Welcome	
• Hybrid meeting reminders including recording.	
2. Invocation and Commemoration	
• Lighting of Memorial Candle	
• Gratitude for Slate of Officers and Volunteers for 2023	
3. Approval of the Agenda	Chair
• Quorum (20 members)	
• Vote for adherents	
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting 26 February 2023 .	Chair
5. Business Arising from the ACM 26 February 2023 Minutes	Chair
6. Approval of the Minutes of the Congregational Budget Meeting 19 November 2023.	Chair
7. Business Arising from the Congregational Budget Meeting: 19 November 2023	Chair
8. Treasurer’s Report for 2023	Treasurer
• Motion to Approve	
9. Nominating Committee’s Report	Nominating
• Motion to Approve	
10. 2023 Annual Report	Council
• Motion to Approve all remaining reports as Consent Docket	
11. Blessing of Slate of Officers, Council Members, Team Leaders,	Minister
12. Staff Thank you.	M&P
13. Points from the Floor:	Chair
14. Benediction	TBC
15. Adjournment	Chair



APPENDIX 2
EDITH RANKIN MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL HYBRID MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2023

Those present in person were: Julie Lam, Linda Delve, Gordon and Sandra Sinclair, George and Mary Lavery, Betty Jeanne Kippen, Susan and Marcus Robertson, Jim Leary, Penny Steele, Andrew and Mary Catherine Robb, Annie Dickson, Calvin Connor, Bonnie Peacock, Eric Lawson, Kim and Alma Barney, Cathy Flynn, Ruth Pettis, Don Douglas, Joyce Payne, Christopher and Nancy Sproule, Tom and Rhonda Kerr, Doug and Diane Huddle, Shirley Donovan, John and Brenda Moyer, Mel and Bonnie Hazell, Elizabeth Amirault, Paul Carl, Beth Burgess, Marcus and Sue Robertson, Edie Raymond, Bev Ryan, Gordon and Barb Bell, Lorna Thorne, Bill and Diane Spencer, Peter and Marg Merkley, Michelle Down and Joyce Payne, Brian and Marlene McCracken, Amy Baker, Linda Delve
 Those joining from zoom: Barb Taft, Ivan and Betty Campbell, Bev Ryan, Bill and Diane Molson, Carolyn McPhee, Fred and Charlotte Jones, David and Marlene Metzler, Gail Hanley, Florence Niven, Glenn Owen, Tysie Mitchell, Joan Martin, Lois and Karl Butler, Paul Van Nest, Paul Currie, Heinz Becker, Barb Mallory and Kathy Baer.

Call to order: 11:10 a.m. Christopher Sproule, as Chair of the Congregation, welcomed us to this Hybrid Meeting. Zoom members were reminded that this meeting was being recorded.

1. Invocation and Commemoration

Rev. Michelle Down lit a memorial candle and led us in prayer commemorating those who had passed away in 2022.

Gordon (Gord) Arthur Nicholl
 Janet Burrill
 *Irmgard (Inge) Wells
 Lawrence (Larry) Semenuk
 *Hazel Allen
 *Khuan Seng Lam
 Joan Rombough
 *Frances Downey
 Joseph Sulley
 *Laurence Rowbotham
 *Eric Van Dalen
 Gilbert Ryan
 *Maureen Briscoe

Barbara Hooper
 *Patrick Dickey
 Mary Jane Jefferies
 Duncan Elvidge
 Elizabeth Clark
 Earl Norman
 *Lori Servage
 *Wally Allen
 *Carol Ross
 Margaret (Liz) Jeffrey
 *Ena Decker
 *Jean Longfield

*Denotes a Member of our Congregation

2. Gratitude for Slate of Officers and Volunteers for 2022

Michelle thanked all those who are on our slate of Officers who support our ministry.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Christopher announced that a quorum has been met. Paul Currie gave us some instructions on making this hybrid meeting successful.

Motion: Moved by Rhonda Kerr, seconded by Marlene McCracken to approve the agenda as printed on the screen. Carried

4. Members and Adherents

Motion: Moved by Elizabeth Amirault, seconded by Bonnie Hazell that we extend our voting privileges to adherents.

Carried

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting 21 February 2022

Motion: moved by Rhonda, seconded by Gordon Sinclair to accept the minutes as printed in the Annual Report. Carried - No business arising

Minutes of Nov. 27, 2022

Motion: Moved by Rhonda, seconded by Peter to accept the minutes as printed in the Annual report. . Carried - No business arising

6. Treasurer's Report

Peter Merkley reported that we had a small surplus for 2022. We now have a high percentage of members using PAR. One of our main challenges is the decrease in annual revenues. Doug Huddle, Trustee Chair, announced that we had received a substantial bequest from the estate of Jean Leach who passed away in 2021. Elizabeth Amirault reported that Jean was very thankful for the friendship found in this congregation. Gord Bell questioned whether there was any provision being made to provide additional hours for our Office Administrator and Caretaker.

7. Report of the Nominating Committee to the Congregation - (February 2023)

- Years in brackets indicate consecutive years of service in the position, beginning and ending in February of the years shown, dating from February 2017 with the adoption of the new Governance Model.
- Individuals standing for election or re-election to a position are indicated by an asterisk.
- Members are elected to serve for a 2 year term. They are eligible for re-election for up to 3 consecutive terms.(ERMUC Governance Model – February 2019)
- Pending further Council direction, members who have agreed to serve for a 7th year are indicated by * (2017-2024).

Council of Guiding Elders (Members are elected)

Minister	Rev. Michelle Down	
Chair	Bill Spencer	(2022-2024)
Vice-chair	vacant	
Past Chair	vacant	
Secretary	Ken Williams *	(2017-2024)
Treasurer	Peter Merkley	(2018-2024)
Regional Rep.	Margaret Merkley *	(2023-2025)
M&P Rep.	Andrew Robb	(2022-2024)

Member
 Gordon Sinclair (2022-2024)
 Ruth Pettis * (2021-2025)
vacant

Standing Committees

Ministry and Personnel (Members are elected)

Andrew Robb * Chair (2023-2025)
 Linda Delve (2020-2024)
 Annie Dickson (2022-2024)
 Bonnie Hazell (2022-2024)
vacant
vacant

Nominating (Members are elected)

Brenda Moyer * Chair (2020-2024)
 Diane Huddle (2020-2024)
 Betty Jeanne Kippen * (2021-2025)
 Sandra Sinclair * (2017-2024)

Ministry Teams (Coordinators are elected)

Administration

Brian McCracken * (2023-2025)
 Marcus Robertson * (2023-2025)

Faith Formation

Lorna Thorne * (2017-2024)

Media and Communications

Paul Currie * (2023-2025)

Mission and Outreach

Nancy Sproule (2022-2024)
 Barb O'Neill (2022-2024)

Property

Gordon Bell * (2017-2024)

Worship

Sandra Sinclair * (2017-2024)

Board of Trustees (Members are elected)

Rev. Michelle Down	
Doug Huddle * Chair	(2017-2024)
Paul Van Nest *	(2017-2024)
Sandra Sinclair	(2018-2024)
Martin Thomas	(2022-2024)
Don Mallory	(2022-2024)
Jim Leary *	(2023-2025)
John Moyer *	(2023-2025)
Edie Raymond *	(2023-2025)

Regional Representatives (Members are elected)

Joyce Payne *	(2021-2025)
Marilyn Rodger *	(2019-2025)
Margaret Merkley *	(2023-2025)

Envelope Steward (elected at the ACM)

John Moyer *

Officers of the Congregation (elected at the ACM)

Christopher Sproule *	Chair
Rhonda Kerr *	Secretary

The Nominating Committee notes the following appointments were made by Council:

Membership Secretary

Brenda Moyer

Ministers in Voluntary Association

Rev. Dr. Paul Currie

On behalf of Church Council and the Congregation, the Nominating Committee recognizes, with thanks, the contributions of those who have retired or who have completed their elected term(s) of service or who have volunteered on committees or teams:

Glenn Owen, Carolyn Bond, Bonnie Peacock, Alison Ahara, Tysie Mitchell, Bill Creighton.

The Nominating Committee recommends that the Church Council be granted the authority to elect persons to fill positions as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Huddle, Betty Jeanne Kippen, Sandra Sinclair, Brenda Moyer

Sandra Sinclair reported that Council will extend individual terms beyond six years. We are still in need of a Vice Chair, and a member at large on council.

Motion: Moved by Sandra Sinclair, seconded by Betty Jeanne Kippen that the nominating report as amended, exclusive of the officers of the congregation be approved as presented.

8. Congregation Chair and Secretary

Christopher stepped down as Chair. Betty Jeanne Kippen took over the role of Congregation Chair.

Motion: Moved by Sandra Sinclair, seconded by Diane Huddle that Christopher Sproule and Rhonda Kerr be elected as chair and secretary of the congregation for the year 2023.

Christopher returned as Chair.

9. 2023 Annual Report

Motion: Moved by Bill Spencer, seconded by Mel Hazell to approve all remaining reports in the annual report. Carried.

10. Blessing of Slate of Officers, Council Members, Team Leaders

Michelle Down asked for God's blessing on the continued volunteerism of our congregation.

11. Updates: Affirming Ministry

Amy Baker and Kathy Baer reported on the work of the Ministry team to date: Members of the team are: Barb Taft, Sue Robertson, Rachael Henry, Rev. Michelle Down, Joyce Payne, Kathy Baer. They showed a brief video entitled PIE – Public, Intentional and Explicit

12. Small Capital Projects

Bill Spencer outlined some small projects that Council would like to see undertaken.

1. Continued modifications to church kitchen - \$8,600 raised to date. Volunteers to step up to form a working group to see what needs to be done. All funds will be needed to be raised before beginning any project.
2. Electronic sign - \$15,000
3. Parking lot
4. Lighting in the parking lot.

13. Update of Staffing Discernment for Information

Gordon Sinclair reported that the Discernment Committee is taking a bit of a break due to financial pressures. Gordon expressed the need to increase the number of congregation members to keep us solvent well into the future.

14. Staff Appreciation

On behalf of M&P and the congregation, Andrew Robb thanked all of the staff. Elizabeth Amirault, Barry Van Hooser, Stephanie Van Der Pryt, Kim Barney, Ruth Judd and Rev. Michelle Down

15. Points from the Floor

Christopher thanked those who submitted the reports including all the pictures. Thanks to Stephanie for gathering and printing the reports as well as Brenda and John Moyer for proof reading. A special thank you to the Tech Team as well.

16. Benediction: As Rev. George Lavery was unwell he presented a benediction by video.

17. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Amy Baker and Linda Delve to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Christopher Sproule, Chair

Rhonda Kerr, Secretary

Appendix 3

EDITH RANKIN MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH MINUTES OF CONGREGATIONAL HYBRID BUDGET MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Call to Order: Lorna Thorne welcomed everyone, declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m. Those present in person were: Don Douglas, Kathryn Watters, Craig and Ruth Pettis, Isaac Brandao, Joyce Morrison, Annie Dickson, Bonnie Peacock, Joe and Janice D'Agostino, Karl and Lois Butler, Mary Lavery, Cynthia Simpson, Linda Delve, Gordon and Sandra Sinclair, Julie Lam, Mel and Bonnie Hazell, Betty Jeanne Kippen, Edie Raymond, Fred and Charlotte Jones, Beth Burgess, Andrew and Mary Catherine Robb, Joyce Payne and Michelle Down, Peter and Marg Merkley, Lorna Thorne, Tom and Rhonda Kerr, Kim and Alma Barney, Heinz Becker, Todd and Carol Wright, Gord and Barb Bell, Bill Hartling, Frank and Wanda Burke, Norm and Beatsie McLean, Brian and Marlene McCracken, Joan Martin, Barb Taft, Doug and Diane Huddle, Brenda Moyer.

Those joining us from zoom: Kathy Baer, Bill and Diane Molson, Bob and Fran Farquhar, Ivan and Betty Campbell, Dave and Marlene Metzler, Barb Mallory, John Moyer, Paul and Sharon Van Nest.

1. **Invocation:** Rev. Michelle Down led us in a time of prayer.
2. **Acting Chairperson:**

Motion: Moved by Sandra Sinclair, seconded by Doug Huddle that Lorna Thorne, past Council Chair, will be acting Chair for this meeting. Carried.

3. **Motion for method of Voting/Extending vote to adherents**

Motion: Moved by Glenn Owen, seconded by Joyce Morrison to extend voting to all adherents. Carried.

4. Motion for approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Bonnie Hazell, seconded by Edie Raymond to accept the agenda. Carried.

5. **2024 Financial plan:** Peter Merkley provided some background information on how the Financial Plan came together. It is a very conservative plan with requested operating revenues of \$420,800. The expenses are projected at \$420,452. The Financial Plan was recommended to the Admin Team, then to Council and now to the congregation for approval.

Motion: Moved by Peter Merkley, seconded by Gordon Sinclair to accept the 2024 budget, which was recommended by Council. be approved. Carried.

6. Points from the Floor:

Karl Butler asked who should review the caretaker salary. Peter pointed out that a cost of living is only mandatory for ministry staff. All staff will receive 6.3 percent. Questions on staffing concerns need to be brought to Council and M&P.

Janice D'Agostino brought forth a suggestion that all renters need to be aware that at times the church reserves the right to cancel their space for congregational purposes ie. funeral receptions.

7. Mission and Service Goal for 2024

Motion: moved by Peter Merkley, seconded by Rhonda Kerr that the Mission and Service goal of \$24,000 as set out in the financial plan and recommended by Council be accepted.

Motion: Moved by Karl Butler, seconded by Glenn Owen that the motion be amended to increase the goal for Mission and Service from \$24,000 to \$30,000. Carried.

Peter clarified that the \$30,000 is a goal, not a pledge. This means that whatever amount we raise for M&S, we transfer to UCC.

8. Report of Trustees: Doug Huddle reported the following information:

Church Trust Fund is managed by Trustees. There is presently \$280,000 in the fund. Council can transfer 10 percent of the trust fund annually to the operating account to help balance the budget.

Bequests and donations – this past year 3 bequests from former members. Jean Leach - \$10,118.22 for the mission and ministry of ERMUC; Alan Pickering - \$7,500 for the sole purpose of upgrading or maintaining audio visual equipment; David Sinclair - \$50,000 for the use of Capital projects only.

Doug asked for all of us to think about Planned Giving.

9. Closing Remarks: Lorna thanked Peter Merkley, Council, and the congregation for approving the 2024 Financial Plan.

10. Benediction: Michelle thanked all for coming, invited everyone to stay for lunch and offered up grace.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:59.

Acting Chair
Lorna Thorne
Attachment:

Secretary
Rhonda Kerr

The approved 2024 Financial Plan

**EDITH RANKIN MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

Compilation Engagement Report
Statement of Financial Position
Statement of Operations
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Notes to Financial Information
Schedule of Externally Restricted Funds



Chartered professional accountants
tax and business advisors

The Woolen Mill
Suite 300
4 Cataract Street
Kingston ON K7K 1Z7

T 613.544.1517
F 613.544.8870
www.seckerrssperry.com

COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Edith Rankin Memorial United Church

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position of Edith Rankin Memorial United Church as at December 31, 2022, the statements of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and notes to the financial information including Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information.

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, Compilation Engagements, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Secker Ross & Perry LLP".

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants
Kingston, Ontario
DATE