

Aurora United Church Annual Report 2019

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IN MEMORIAM

Those hearts that we have treasured, those lives that we have shared,
those loves that walked beside us, those friends for whom we've cared,
their blessings rests upon us, their life is memory,
their spirits are set free. *(Sylvia Dunstan)*

- William Graham Clarke
- Sandra Joan Holdgate
- Donna Marilyn Keffer
 - Sheila Devereux
 - David Krofchak
 - Marion Jean Smith
- Christina Lynn McKey
 - Shirley "Ann" Giles
 - Larry Wayne Keffer
 - Rae Barker
- Hudson Hollett Davis
- Jean Sophronia McMurchy
- Burton "Bud" Doane Gilbert

MINISTERS MESSAGE

Dear AUC Friends,

The seasons are turning once again, leaving us hopeful and forward-looking. Much has been accomplished across our ministries and groups in this year; worship continues to uphold us as we look forward to our rebuild and development project coming to fruition in the near future.

Our Annual Report serves always as a snapshot of a particular moment in time; it declares who we are as a United Church congregation, active in all our parts, endeavouring to continue to be a thriving faith community in a time of great challenge. And we have.

Two highlights of our church community life have become a reality over the year 2019 and now into this new year: we are within a hair's breadth of becoming an Affirming Congregation within our United Church of Canada—an historic moment and significant step forward in our evolution as a church. Also, we have welcomed to Canada, with the excellent leadership of our Interfaith Refugee Resettlers committee, a second family happily finding their footing in the Aurora community with tremendous help from members of the congregation.

The United Church of Canada itself has undergone a significant change in 2019, eliminating Presbyteries and Conferences, and creating Regional Councils which will provide oversight for our pastoral charges. AUC is part of the Shining Waters Regional Council area and we are encouraged to name four representatives who will represent us at one or more meetings of the Regional Council year to year.

Remarkably, AUC has been able to maintain and support our many ministries ongoing which make up our life in community. Our collective dream, however remains focused on a return to 15186 Yonge St, and there is much at work in this time to make this dream a reality.

In the meantime we press on together, each in our own way to keep the work and mission of AUC before us, 'uniting hearts and hands on the journey.'

And so we express our gratitude to all who are contributing to the life of AUC. We offer deep respect and thanks to our Council Chair, Bill Newman whose dedication and fine leadership keeps us moving forward with a clarity of purpose. We appreciate Bill's support for our ministry, offering wise counsel and a kind heart.

The members of our AUC Council have kept on in their commitment in serving the congregation in this time and we bless each one of them for the ministry they provide by their presence on Council.

Brian North (Chair EDGE Property Committee) continues to spend countless hours overseeing the work and direction of the committee as we seek to rebuild our church and develop our land. The members of the EDGE Committee are to be commended for their commitment of time and energy and we thank them.

We are blessed in our staff and give thanks for them, each in their particular area of expertise: thank you to Cathy Hiltz, Carmen Harany, Margaret Heney and Lisa Kyriakides, for your creativity, your friendship and your obvious commitment to our congregation.

God goes before us, walks alongside us, and holds us steady when we doubt the way ahead; in all we do, in all we imagine and dream and plan for, it is in God we find our direction and our strength. We do well to remind each other of this truth.

In the Way of Jesus we journey on together, thankful for yet another year in community, thankful for each other and for the opportunity to share our faith wherever God calls us to be.

We are thankful for the unity we have seen and felt expressed throughout our ten years of ministry with you. It is and has been a wonderful, challenging and faith-affirming adventure! God goes with us as we venture on!

*Deep blessings,
Lorraine & Andy*

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

2019 AUC Council



Back Row (L-R): Bill Newman, Peter Drost, John Barkla, Rev. Andy Comar, Rob Gulbranson, Jeff Clark, Brian Walter

Front Row (L-R): Paula Hanna, Frank Pulumbarit, Laurie Bentolila, Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Nancy Kerswill, Jennifer Kenwell, Alison Backer, John Kuropatwa

Council's work over the course of 2019 focused largely on three priorities:

1. Supporting the EDGE Property Committee in its planning and design of the new AUC;
2. Identifying and assigning the tasks that will need to be completed in advance of the opening of our new church home; and
3. Making changes to AUC's policies, processes and governance necessitated by the reorganization of the United Church of Canada which took effect January 1, 2019.

Council greatly appreciated the regular briefings provided at its meetings by Brian North, Chair of the EDGE Property Committee. The briefings not only kept Council informed of the status of the rebuilding project but also made it easier for

Council to make decisions when issues related to the project were brought before it. In support of the Committee's work, Council passed motions approving an order-of-magnitude budget for the construction of the new church and providing direction on planning and design assumptions for the building. Council's focus was to keep the project moving ahead while making decisions in the best overall interests of the Congregation.

In addition to supporting the EDGE Property Committee, Council started to think ahead about the work that needs to be done to prepare for the opening and occupancy of our new church home. Frank Pulumbarit led a working group of Council in the development of a communications plan for the new building. The plan outlines the audiences we wish to communicate with and the messages we wish to communicate to them about the opening of our new home and ongoing programming and activities. Council will also be reviewing our governance structure for the purpose of determining if changes are required to the current structure to match the requirements of the new building. Individual committees are being asked to participate in this advance planning work, too, by thinking through how their programs and activities will be conducted in the new church and what can be done to prepare in advance of its opening.

For AUC, the main impact of the reorganization of the United Church of Canada was the abolition of the Living Waters Presbytery, Toronto Conference and the creation of the new Shining Waters Region. The inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council was held at Georgian College in Barrie from the 24th to the 26th of May, 2019. AUC was represented at the meeting by Kathie Blackman, Brigitta Gamm, Ivor Roberts, Brian Walter and Rev. Andy. The Church's reorganization also had a financial impact for AUC. Presbytery Dues, which were calculated on a combination of congregational membership, revenues and expenses, were replaced by a new UCC Assessment based on congregational revenues. The new formula resulted in a higher annual payment for AUC which is being phased in over a three-year period.

Apart from these three priorities, Council considered a number of matters during 2019 and adopted corresponding motions to reflect its decisions. A summary of the motions passed by Council is appended to this report. One of the highlights occurred on November 11 with the passing of the motion to approve the Affirming Vision Statement prepared by the Affirming Congregation Committee.

Congregational Meetings were held on February 3, April 7 and November 24. The February 3 meeting was convened to accept Roy Eveleigh's resignation as Chair of the AUC Board of Trustees. Roy faithfully and capably served in the role of Chair for two decades and played a key role in resolving insurance-related issues in the wake of the 2014 fire and preparing the property for redevelopment. The Congregation expressed its deep appreciation to Roy for his service. The April 7 meeting was called to elect AUC's four lay representatives to the Shining Waters Regional Council AGM. The November 24 meeting was called to vote on the Affirming Vision Statement proposed by the Affirming Congregation Committee. The vote was deferred, however, to early in the new year to allow an opportunity for more members of the Congregation to be present and to participate.

Formal updates on the rebuilding project, AUC's claim for fire-related damages and our financial position were provided to the Congregation following worship on February 3 and October 27. The purpose of the updates was not only to keep the Congregation informed of the latest developments but also to ensure the transparency of decision-making by Council, the Trustees and the EDGE Property Committee. Similar sessions will continue to be held on a periodic basis to communicate information and to provide an opportunity to ask questions.

With each year there are changes to the membership of Council. In March, we bade farewell to Debra Hilliard as she finished her term on Council. Thank you, Debra, for your contribution to the deliberations of Council and for your service as Ministry Advocate for Proclamation. In turn, we welcomed Nancy Kerswill to the Council table as the new Ministry Advocate for Proclamation. Thank you, Nancy, for stepping forward to serve.

For 2020, Council's work will be guided by three priorities:

1. Supporting the EDGE Property Committee as we progress to the start of actual construction on the new AUC;
2. Reviewing AUC's governance structure to reflect the reorganization of the United Church of Canada and the organizational needs of our new church building; and
3. Continuing with the development of communications plans for the new church.

On a closing note, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the members of Council for their support, teamwork and commitment over the past year. Words of thanks are also extended to Paula Hanna and Jennifer Kenwell for preparing the minutes of Council and Congregational Meetings. Finally, thank you to Revs. Andy and Lorraine for your leadership, encouragement and spiritual guidance. It is a personal honour to be Chair of Council. I will continue to serve the Congregation to the best of my abilities in the time ahead.

Respectfully submitted:
Bill Newman, Chair AUC Council

Motions Passed by AUC Council in 2019

January 14

New Church Construction Budget

That Council directs the Board of Trustees to move ahead with the order-of-magnitude budget for the construction of the Aurora United Church building.

EDGE Property Committee

That the EDGE Property Committee be congratulated for their hard work to date.

2019 Operating Budget

That, subject to the addition of \$1,000.00 for the Affirming Committee, the proposed 2019 operating budget be recommended for approval by the Congregation at the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

M&P Committee Membership

That Hank Gosar be appointed to the M&P Committee effective immediately.

February 11

Payment of Rebuilding Invoices

That Council authorizes the Trustees to pay rebuilding invoices and insurance claims for 2019.

April 8

Confirmands

That we approve the following members of the Teen Confirmation Class for Full Membership in Aurora United Church: Isaac William Boate, Colin Robert Sinclair, Aidan James Graham, Byron Hank Graham, Catherine Grace Graham, Joshua William Mackenzie Lyon and Julia Elizabeth Rusin.

Solidarity with Muslim Neighbours

That Council approves the procurement of a banner at an approximate cost of \$100.00 to be cost shared with Trinity Anglican as a public demonstration of our congregations' support for our Muslim neighbours in the aftermath of the tragic shootings in two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Pastoral Care Team Membership

That Council approves the appointment of Brenda North, Kathie Blackman and Nettie Damstra to the Pastoral Care Team, effective immediately.

Lay Representatives to Shining Waters Regional Council AGM

That we fully fund our four lay representatives attending the AGM of the Shining Waters Regional Council.

May 13

Inclusive Marriage Policy

That the new, inclusive marriage policy be accepted, on the recommendation of the Affirming Congregation Group of Aurora United Church.

June 10

EDGE Property Committee

That the EDGE Property Committee continues, on plan, with the design work and the conclusion of the lease agreement, leading to the start of construction. That the EDGE Property Committee consider and prioritize the potential budget savings identified by the architect, and others to be identified by the Committee itself, to reduce financial risk and ensure the design reflects realistic requirements essential to the future mission of Aurora United Church.

That the AUC Council direct the Trustees to further investigate the terms and conditions of bridge loan financing, available through the Toronto United Church Council.

That the AUC Council direct the EDGE Property Committee to base the building design and budget on a fully digital organ, complemented and supported by a quality sound system.

September 9

Claim for Fire-Related Damages

That Council directs the Board of Trustees to accept the Formal Offer to Settle of \$7 million from Service Master.

License Agreement with Trinity Anglican

That the Council recommends to the Board of Trustees that the licence agreement between Trinity Anglican Church and AUC covering the period September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 be approved.

November 11

Communications Planning for New Church Building

To accept the report for Council titled AUC Communications Planning for the New Church Building.

To implement the proposed next steps from the report.

Affirming Vision Statement

That the AUC Affirming Vision Statement, as proposed by the Affirming Congregation Committee and pre-approved by Affirm United, be approved.

December 9**2020 Operating Budget**

That the 2020 Operating Budget be recommended for approval at the upcoming AGM.

New AUC Representatives to Interfaith Refugee Resettlers

That Joyce Hagarty, Ivor and Helen Roberts and David Pilkey, be appointed to the Interfaith Refugee Resettlers Committee

Aurora United Church Annual General Meeting Sunday, March 17, 2019**Trinity Anglican Church- Binons Hall
Minutes**

Presiding: Bill Newman (Chair), Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Rev. Andy Comar, Jennifer Kenwell (Secretary)

Present: Susan Eaton, Pat Innes, Lisa Kyriakides, Bob Kyriakides, Crawford Heritage, Margaret Heney, David Pilkey, Shannon Clark, Jeff Clark, Paula Hanna, David Hanna, Rob Gulbranson, Caroline Gulbranson, Brian Walter, Brigitta Gamm, Joshua Lyon, Matthew Lyon, Tracey Keffer-Lyon, Rick Lyon, Marilyn Zsebik, Peter Zsebik, Bruce Miller, Brian North, Jean Spinney, Dawn Horstead, Laurie Bentolila, Sophie Zsebik, Charles Truax, Myrtle Truax, Jackie Somerville, Bruce Somerville, Nina Whalen, Doreen Hiltz, Allyson Mitchell, Susan Sue-Ling, Fanny Andersen, Dave Sommerfeldt, Lori North, Brian Ross, L.B. Ross, Don Stevenson, Joan Stevenson, John Kuropatwa, Joan Kuropatwa, Alison Backer, Sue Miller, Rod Johnson, Linda McNally, Jackie Catto, Joyce Jones, Elizabeth Ramsell, Anne Ella-Arnold, Craig Arnold, Mary Munro, Charlotte Munro, Linda Hodgins, Vic Hodgins, Ep Damstra, Nettie Damstra, Debbie Schieck, Penny Elliot, Lesley Simon, Barbara Toivanen, Ivor Roberts, Helen Roberts, Carolyn Stafford,

Ruth McBride, Peter Drost, Nicholas Drost, Veronica Drost, Andrea Drost, Carmen Harany, Nelly Lopez, Nancy Newman, Stephen Crawley, Nancy Kerswill, Emma Kerswill, Lloyd Kerswill, Marjorie Kersey, Ken Kersey, Ken Smith, Mary Smith, Alison Heffer

Welcome and Call to Order: Bill Newman

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm.

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Bill Newman

Prayer: Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar

Meeting Agenda

Motion: That the agenda be accepted as circulated

Moved by: Jackie Catto

Seconded by: Brigitta Gamm

Disposition: motion carried

Meeting Secretary

Motion: That Jennifer Kenwell be appointed as secretary for this AGM.

Moved by: Brian Walter

Seconded by: Paula Hanna

Disposition: motion carried

In Memoriam: Paula Hanna, Chair Pastoral Care Committee

Reading of the names and remembrance of those members who have passed in the last year.

Voting by Adherents

Motion: That Adherents of AUC may vote.

Moved by: Nancy Kerswill

Seconded by: Lisa Kyriakides

Disposition: motion carried

Minutes of 2018 AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the AGM of February 25, 2018 be approved as circulated.

Moved by: Ivor Roberts

Seconded by: Rod Johnson

Disposition: motion carried

Minutes of Congregational Meeting – February 3, 2019

Motion: That the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of February 3, 2019 be approved as circulated.

Moved by: Crawford Heritage

Seconded by: Laurie Bentolila

Disposition: motion carried

2018 Annual Report

Motion: That the printed 2018 Annual Report be accepted as circulated and amended (excluding 2018 Income/Expense statement and 2019 Budget).

Moved by: Charles Truax

Seconded by: Brian North

Disposition: motion carried

Finance Committee Presentation: Stephen Crawley, Chair Finance Committee
Stephen provided a summary of the 2018 operating budget results and an overview of the 2019 operating budget. During 2018, total offerings and operating expenses were both down slightly. There has been zero rental income since the demolition of the rental houses. Overall in 2018, we had an operating deficit of \$205,000 which was covered by drawing on the interest income from the insurance proceeds from the fire. Expenses in 2018 were \$545,000, including our 200th anniversary costs. All committees were either on or below budget. For 2019, the projected operating deficit of \$247,500 will again be covered by interest income. Operating expenses are projected to remain essentially the same for 2019 as in 2018 with slight reductions in some cases. The largest non-staff cost is the rental of our space at Trinity Anglican Church.

Question: It was asked if AUC will be paying the same amount to Trinity this year for the rental of space.

Response: By the terms of our license agreement with Trinity Anglican, the annual rent increases by the rate of inflation (currently, approximately 2%) each year.

Motion: That the 2018 Income/Expense statement be accepted as presented.

Moved by: Stephen Crawley

Seconded by: Susan Sue-Ling

Disposition: motion carried

Motion: That the 2019 Budget be accepted as presented.

Moved by: Stephen Crawley

Seconded by: Susan Sue-Ling

Disposition: motion carried

Motion: That Van Nostrand & Partners CGA provide our accounting services for 2019.

Moved by: Stephen Crawley

Seconded by: Susan Sue-Ling

Disposition: motion carried

Thank you to Stephen and the Finance Committee for their thorough and detailed work on our behalf.

Nominating Committee Report:

Thank you to Doreen Hiltz and Jackie Catto for serving as the Nominating Committee again this year.

Motion: That the Congregation elect the following individual to the incoming Council of Aurora United Church: Nancy Kerswill – Ministry Advocate for the Proclamation Ministry.

Moved by: Jackie Catto

Seconded by: Doreen Hiltz

Disposition: motion carried

Motion: That the Congregation authorizes Council to appoint further members to Council Committees in-year as warranted.

Moved by: Doreen Hiltz

Seconded by: Jackie Catto

Disposition: motion carried

Motion: That the Congregation authorize Council to elect members to the Nominating Committee, which will report to the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Moved by: Jackie Catto

Seconded by: Doreen Hiltz

Disposition: motion carried

Motion: That the Congregation receives the report of the Nominating Committee (including appendices A & B).

Moved by: Doreen Hiltz

Seconded by: Jackie Catto

Disposition: motion carried

Shining Waters Regional Council: Rev. Andy Comar

As a result of the restructuring of the United Church of Canada, AUC is now a local congregation in the new Shining Waters Regional Council which replaces the Living Waters Presbytery, Toronto Conference. We can elect up to four lay representatives to the Regional Council. They must be available to attend the Shining Waters AGM in Barrie on May 24-26th. If you are interested in serving, let either Doreen Hiltz or Jackie Catto know. Our lay representatives will be elected at a Congregational Meeting on April 7.

EDGE Property Committee Update: Brian North, Chair EDGE Property Committee

Removal of the old Methodist burial ground will resume when the weather improves. A total of 134 remains have been removed to date with 25 potential sites still to be investigated. The plan is to have the archaeologists on site in April. Bell is currently completing the testing of the new fibre optics cable and the cutover of the connections following which it will remove the old cable. Bell's work should be completed by April. Our development partners – Succession and Amica – have reiterated that they are committed 100% to the project.

They are now proposing the inclusion of an enclosed atrium between the Church and the retirement home for the benefit of both buildings. The Committee is interviewing interior designers to round out the design team. Brian thanked the members of the EDGE Property Committee for the continued dedication of their time and efforts to ensure the success of the project.

Staff Appreciation: John Kuropatwa, Chair M&P Committee

John commended the staff for working in tight spaces and under challenging circumstances in someone else's building. They have shown enthusiasm and performed their duties as if everything is normal. Cathy Hiltz (our Secretary), Carmen Harany (our Treasurer), Lisa Kyriakides (our Handbell Choir Director), Margaret Heney (our Music Coordinator) and our Ministers Rev. Andy and Rev. Lorraine. All were thanked for their professionalism, loyalty and hard work.

Message from Council: Bill Newman, Chair Church Council

Rod Johnson was thanked for his dedication and outstanding efforts over his term as Chair of Council and for his encouragement and advice in the handover of the role. Nancy Kerswill, Laurie Bentolila, Jennifer Kenwell, Frank Pulumbarit and Brian Walter were welcomed as new members of Council. Ivor Roberts was commended for his service on Council as AUC's representative to Living Waters Presbytery, Toronto Conference. Appreciation was expressed to Debra Hilliard for her service on Council and her contributions as Ministry Advocate, Proclamation. Thank you to Paula Hanna and Jennifer Kenwell for jointly undertaking the Secretary's position on Council and, as well, to Rev. Andy and Rev. Lorraine for their support and encouragement.

Council's focus for 2019 will centre on 3 main priorities:

1. Working with the EDGE Property Committee;
2. Preparing for the transition to our new church home; and
3. Making adjustments to AUC's governance structure necessitated by the United Church of Canada's reorganization

The Congregation was thanked for placing its continued trust and support in Council.

Message from the Ministers: Rev. Lorraine & Rev. Andy

Revs. Lorraine and Andy noted that 2018 was a memorable year for several reasons. AUC not only celebrated its 200th Anniversary and moved forward with plans for the construction of the new church but also continued on its journey together while overcoming challenges along the way. 2018, moreover, marked their 10th year of service at AUC! They expressed their appreciation to a number of people for making today's meeting and the past year a successful one:

- Jennifer Kenwell for acting as secretary for today's meeting;
- Roy Eveleigh for two decades of service on the Board of Trustees;
- Brian North for leading the EDGE Property Committee;
- Bill Newman for being Chair of Council;
- Council members for their work, and also to Chair group leaders and volunteers; and
- Our staff for your work and support of our ministerial work.

To all of you, however you serve, you are blessings for this place.

Closing prayer: Rev. Andy Comar

Adjournment: 1:50 pm

Aurora United Church Congregational Meeting April 7, 2019

12:15

Trinity Anglican Church-Sanctuary

Minutes

1. Call to Order – Peter Drost, Vice Chair AUC Council
2. Purpose of Meeting
3. Appointment of Secretary

***Motion:* that Paula Hanna be appointed as Secretary for this
Congregational Meeting.**

***Moved by:* Lisa Kyriakides**

***Seconded by:* Laurie Bentolila**

***Disposal:* carried**

4. Permission for Adherents to Vote

Motion: that adherents of AUC may vote on temporal matters.

Moved by: Nancy Kerswill

Seconded by: Ivor Roberts

Disposal: carried

5. The following full members of AUC have agreed to let their name stand to be elected as lay representatives to the Shining Waters Regional Council:

- Kathie Blackman
- Ivor Roberts
- Brian Walter
- Brigitta Gamm

The Chair called for any further nominations. There were no further nominations.

Motion: that Kathie Blackman, Ivor Roberts, Brian Walter and Brigitta Gamm be elected as lay representatives to the Shining Waters Regional Council.

Moved by: Debra Hilliard

Seconded by: Pat Innes

Disposal: carried

6. Update on AUC's Claim for Fire-Related Damages

On April 2, 2019, Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar and Rev. Andrew Comar and our lawyers from Thomas,Gold, Pettingill attended a mediation hearing that went from 10 am to 6 pm. They were close to a settlement, but time forced an end to the talks. The lawyers will continue talking and will, hopefully, have an agreement for the Trustees to consider within the next two weeks.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Andrew Comar

Adjournment: 12:29

Peter Drost
(Vice-Chair)

Paula Hanna
(Secretary)

CHURCH COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

<p style="text-align: center;">AUC CHURCH COUNCIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Advocates (5) • UCW Rep (1) • Ministry Personnel (2) • Elders at Large (6) • M & P Rep (1) • Trustee Rep (1) 	
<p style="text-align: center;">SERVING MINISTRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Care • Outreach • Health & Wellness • Mission & Service Fund 	<p style="text-align: center;">CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES MINISTRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance • Property • Rental Property Management • Archives • I.T.
<p style="text-align: center;">PROCLAMATION MINISTRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship • Music • Audiovisual • Sanctuary Decorating 	<p style="text-align: center;">CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership • Stewardship • Communications
<p style="text-align: center;">FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacation Bible Camp • 3rd Aurora Scouts • Children & Youth Programs • Adult Faith Formation 	

COUNCIL STATISTICS 2019

Baptisms	3
Weddings	4
Funeral/Memorial Services	14
New Members by Transfer	nil
New Members by Profession of Faith	7
Members Removed by Death	12
Members Removed by Transfer	3
Members Removed by Personal Request	nil
Members Moved to Non-Resident List	nil
Resident Members 12/31/2018	559
Resident Members 12/31/2019	551
Households under Pastoral Care	456

AFFIRMING CONGREGATION COMMITTEE

The Affirming Congregation Committee was formed by action of the AUC Council at a meeting June 24th, 2018. The Rev. George Moore of the former Living Waters Presbytery, Toronto Conference, met with the group to provide guidance for the Affirming process and to encourage us on our journey.

Since that time, the congregation has followed the Affirming process which has included: Affirm worship; Lunch & Learn with the Rev. Warren Macdougall; presentations in worship by members of the Affirm Committee; information sharing with the development of an Affirming Resource table and web page; creating a presence at the annual Aurora Street Festival; developing an Affirming Vision Statement and Action Plan.

Since 2018, our ***Inclusive Marriage Policy*** has been approved by Affirm United (March 18/2019) and confirmed by our AUC Council, (May 13/19)

‘All persons who are legally able to be married in the Province of Ontario may be married at Aurora United Church, at the discretion of the minister/s and the blessing of the congregation.’

The Affirming Vision Statement, was approved by Affirm United, October 31/19, and by the AUC congregation, January 26/20.

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples;
if you have love for one another. (Jn 13:34-35)*

***In the spirit of welcome and inclusion,
we, the members of Aurora United Church
declare our ongoing commitment to being
an Affirming community.***

*We will celebrate in welcoming all people,
inclusive of all ages, genders, gender identities,
sexual orientations, races, differing abilities,
ethnic and cultural backgrounds, or
economic circumstances.*

*We invite into membership, leadership, mission,
life passages and marriage, all who would
seek to participate in the life of
Aurora United Church.*

*In responding to the love of God,
and to Jesus' instruction that we
'love one another',
we offer a safe space in which all persons
are welcome into the fullness of community.*

The Affirming Action Plan, which outlines the ways in which the committee and congregation will endeavor to remain Affirming has been developed by the Affirming Committee and approved by Affirm United, February 24/20 and by action of the AUC Council, March 9/20.

AUC ACTION PLAN

- * Further develop our Affirming Committee as part of the scope of AUC ministries currently in place, and add members as our presence expands.
- * Keep our website's Affirming page up to date.
- * Display the Affirm logo on all print materials, including Sunday bulletins/announcement pages, and eventually, our building.
- * Keep our presence at the Aurora Street Festival a priority year to year.
- * Participate in our local PRIDE events and annual parade (York/Newmarket).
- * Hold annual Affirming worship, celebrating our anniversary as an Affirming Congregation.
- * Broaden our resources to include community groups related to those identified in our Vision Statement, highlighting supports and other related groups such as, PFLAG/York PRIDE/York Housing, etc.

- * Financially support and encourage members of AUC to attend the Affirm/S'affirmer Ensemble Annual Conference held each year in summer; supporting also, interested members to attend intercultural conferences, Reconciliation events and those related to homelessness in our area as offered.
- * Explore how we can offer support and/or be further involved in our Outreach ministries: Welcoming Arms, Rise & Shine Breakfast, Aurora Community Café, in which our congregation either leads or is a partner congregation.
- * Plan for and attend Lunch & Learn events related to our Affirm mandate throughout the year.
- * Develop Affirming Youth Access programming opportunities (new church building) open to community: for social gathering/for fun events/for information sharing/for worship.

The final stage of the Affirming process is the ***congregational vote***, (March 22/20) to become an Affirming Congregation within the United Church of Canada.

As well, the congregation must vote to become a ***member of Affirm United*** to retain our status and to support their work across the church.

Affirming Congregation Committee Members

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Brian Walter, Mary Munro, Victoria Kyriakides, Ivor Roberts, Noah Comar, Debby Schieck.

The AUC Affirming Congregation Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month, September to June at 7 pm in the ministers' office.

Submitted by:
Rev. Lorraine

EDGE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Building Our Future

The EDGE Property Committee consists of Rev. Andy Comar, Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Brian North (Chair), Holly Todd Williamson, Pat Innis, Scott Sinclair, Doug Gilpin, Crawford Heritage, John Clement and David Snelgrove. Bill Newman, Bill Newman, as Chair of AUC Council, continues to be an invaluable addition to our team.

We understand that many people perceived that things seemed to be moving along at a snail's pace this year. We would all like to be farther along in our process and we understand the concerns conveyed and discussed but we continue to meet objectives and continue to move forward making huge strides on a daily basis. We've accomplished many of our goals in 2019 and can confidently say we have less time ahead of us to meet our end result than what we have behind us.

Although the timeline is proving to be longer than originally envisioned, we will bring this project to a successful conclusion through hard work and patience.

In January 2019, we presented to council an order of magnitude, setting a budget to allow us to continue to move forward with our planning. We engaged an interior designer to work with the EDGE Property Committee and have architect Bob Murphy of Murphy Partners moving forward with design plans. We also met with our Mechanical and Electrical engineers to discuss plans and ideas. Regardless of our setback with the insurance claim, we continue to be optimistic and move forward with our planning.

The Board of Trustees were required to extend our contract options with Succession to comply with our agreement. Amica along with Succession proposed a change to the site by adding an Atrium between the buildings rather than an alleyway. This continues to be a work in progress with our committee unanimously agreeing that this change is a positive move for the site. As well, we were presented with some unexpected costs regarding the infrastructure and underground parking which we are continually negotiating. After many meetings with experts in the field, the EDGE Property committee is pleased to say that we have decided to move forward with Geothermal Technology which not only meets the mandate of the United Church of Canada, but also the Town of Aurora's plan for the environment.

Due to weather, the archaeologists were once again not able to return to the site until June but completed their work on July 15th. Both studies have been submitted to the government with phase 3 already approved and phase 4 being fast tracked and still in their hands. Once approved, we will then deal with the reinternment of the remains. We removed 186 and found 86 to have been empty, removed in the 1800's.

Bell Canada completed the relocation of their equipment and the easement has been released and signed back to our Trustees. Land titles have been cleared and our property is now treated as one parcel.

Succession continues to assure us that they are 100% committed and look forward to completing this development. We have met with our neighbour to the north and received approval in principal so we may start in the very near future, loading the lands. Our last Site plan approval has been submitted to the Town of Aurora and we await their reply. Legal documentation is in its final stages and with all going well should be signed very soon.

Respectfully submitted:

Brian North,

Chair, of EDGE Property Committee

OAKWIL SENIOR NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION

Board Members:

- Ivor Roberts (*Chair*)
- Bill Newman (vice-Chair)
- Ken Graham (treasurer)
- Dave Hanna(secretary)
- Bernie Meagher (*tenant representative*)
- Christine Zarebski

The Oakwil Non-Profit Housing Corporation manages a 28 unit seniors' complex located at 220 Sunset Beach Road in Oakridges. It was founded by members of

St. Paul's United Church in 1988 and is managed by a Board of Directors. Upon the amalgamation of St. Paul's with Aurora United in 2008, the AUC Council formed the membership of the Oakwil Corporation as per the Oakwil constitution.

In 2019 the Oakwil Board approved a two-year extension of Richmond Community Management Services' contract to manage Oakwil based on the Company's capable and competent management of the complex.

An update to Oakwil's Bylaws was approved at the Annual General Meeting on June 10, 2019. As a result of the reorganization of the United Church of Canada, Oakwil is no longer required to meet a number of reporting requirements to the UCC as an Incorporated Ministry. The updated Bylaws reflect the discontinuation of these reporting obligations.

Various improvements to the complex were made during the past year including new LED lighting and upgraded insulation in all units. The non-profit is now applying for various projects through the OPHI funding from York Region.

In the past year, Oakwil Non-Profit Homes provided safe, comfortable housing for low income seniors in coordination with York Region Housing and our Property Management Company. The Oakwil property was well maintained and improvements in some areas were made using government incentives and grants. All this was achieved while staying on budget and meeting debt obligations. The Corporation is stable and financially healthy.

If you would like more information about this AUC partnership please contact Chair Ivor Roberts. Board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month in the morning. Oakwil's Annual General Meeting will be held in May 2020.

Respectfully submitted:
Ivor Roberts,
Chair Oakwil Board

MINISTRY REPORTS

Ministry of Faith Formation

The Faith Formation Ministry meets every second month with Rev. Andy to review the activities of the groups under the Ministry and to plan the schedule for Funday Sunday; including its volunteers who help each week.

Our Funday Sunday morning children's program continued under the leadership of a dedicated group of volunteers: Shannon Clark, Don Keel, Tracey Keffer-Lyon, Jennifer North, Lori North, Lesley Brock, Debby Schieck and Mary Smith.

We currently have the Nursery with an ECE staff person, Anita Johnson, with the help of volunteers including Veronica Drost (for infant-5 years), Binions Hall for our Funday Sunday Program (Grades 1- 4), and finally the Rectory for Junior Youth Program (Grade 5-6) and Youth Program (Grades 7-12). Margaret spent time each Sunday teaching the children songs which they then performed in worship.

We started the year with several weeks doing 'Kids of Integrity' workshops which included the themes of Acceptance, Compassion, Generosity, Respect and Kindness. We then spent the first five weeks of Lent doing "Journey to Easter" workshops. On Palm Sunday the children donned palm branches they created waving them proudly as they paraded through the sanctuary, followed by an Easter party. The children made book covers, and book marks for the confirmands at the end of April. We had three wonderful Mystery Workshops which led us to Nature Sunday in June, when the church gardens were brightened up with a variety of flowers planted by the children. They then returned to Binions Hall where they devoured ice cream sundaes before the start of summer.

September began with a few of weeks of "Getting to know you" games and activities followed by a series called Advent Adventures. In November the children started rehearsing for our Advent Pageant service, which took place on Sunday December 8. It was a wonderful service led by children and youth. Our year wrapped up with our Funday Sunday Christmas party celebration enjoying snacks and crafts on Sunday December 15.

On behalf of the Faith Formation Ministry, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all our volunteers who faithfully continue to share their time and energy with our youth and to Rev. Andy for his dedication and leadership to this ministry. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted:

*Alison Backer,
Advocate Elder, Faith Formation*

Adult Faith Formation

iWonder, led by Rev. Andy, came to a natural end in the spring of 2019. It was time for something new and so *Real to Reel* began in the fall of 2019. *Real to Reel* screens documentaries, resulting in stimulating conversation regarding issues of life and faith. In 2019 we watched *Crazywater* and *Alive Inside*.

AUC Movie Night meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the auditorium at Chartwell Park Place. Many thanks to the staff at Chartwell Park Place for providing refreshments every month to those who come out to Movie Night. Thank you to Rev. Lorraine, Brian and Penny Elliot for their leadership in this group. In 2019 we screened: *Maudie*, *Green Book*, *On The Basis of Sex*, *Vice*, *Christopher Robin*, *The Grizzlies*, *They Shall Not Grow Old* and *Little Women*.

Woman Spirit is a monthly group that Rev. Lorraine leads for women. Please see their report on page

We are thankful for these opportunities that offer theological and faith-filled reflections and discussions. Please continue to watch the weekly email, website and announcement sheet to see if there is an adult faith formation group you might be interested in joining.

*Submitted by:
Rev. Andy*

Book Club

Rev. Lorraine provides leadership to the AUC Book Club, meeting the fourth Tuesday of the month, September to June at 7 pm in the Ministers' office.

Book titles are selected at the June meeting by our group members who then present them throughout the year. There is always a great selection of genres, including best sellers and old favourites.

Book Club is a wonderful way to meet new people-to share a mutual interest with friends, and, after all, what's better than reading a book and then talking about it with friends old and new! Come for the books, the friendship, and the treats!

Book Selections 2019/2020

- The Wake (*Linden MacIntyres*)
- Where the Crawdads Sing (*Delia Owens*)
- The Art of Racing in the Rain (*Garth Stein*)
- Yours, For Probably Always (*Janet Somerville*)
- The Tattooist of Auschwitz (*Heather Morris*)
- The Weather Machine (*Andrew Blum*)
- Beartown (*Fredrik Backman*)
- Erebus: The Story of a Ship (*Michael Palin*)

Submitted by:
Rev. Lorraine

Woman Spirit

Women of the congregation are invited to gather to further explore faith and life issues related to spirituality.

Each meeting offers an opportunity for sharing-both personally and creatively; often we do have a ‘hot topic’ which can arise from items in the news.

Together, the group offers support and a listening ear for women who wish to spend time with other women, talking about the things that matter most and how our faith informs our lives.

Woman Spirit meets the third Monday of the month, September to June at 7pm in the Ministers’ office

“Come for sharing. Come for friendship. Come for community.”

*Submitted by:
Rev. Lorraine*

Youth Group

AUC Youth and their friends in grades 6 and up met sporadically in 2019. In January, 2020 a survey was sent to all Youth Group members to assess how often we would meet. We look forward to receiving the responses from the youth as we plan for the rest of the year.

Members of the Youth Group, once again, assumed leadership in the Advent service on the Second Sunday of Advent with the children of AUC and the 5 pm Christmas Eve service at the Aurora High School.

The highlight of the year was our annual weekend at Kettleby Valley Camp in September. We had an incredible time together! This was our 10th annual outing to Kettleby. The one change we made this year was to shift from a Friday to Sunday event to a Friday through to Saturday evening event which seemed to work well. To celebrate – the youth were given a Kettleby Valley Camp t-shirt to personalize. Given this was a special anniversary, the staff at the camp led the youth in a few

other activities including the climbing wall and archery. With new procedures in place at the camp, this was the first year that we did not make our own meals. This change enabled our leaders to give their full attention to the youth. Thanks again to the leadership of Corry Goncalves, Rick Lyon & Tracey Keffer-Lyon and Leila Safari who volunteered their time over the weekend to share their gifts and talents with our youth. You are amazing! We are looking forward to our 11th anniversary weekend in September.

Our AUC youth are awesome!!! Everyone has a great time being together. In 2019, after many years of service, Carmen Harany stepped down as one of the leaders for Youthful Spirits. We thank Carmen for all the energy and enthusiasm she gave to this ministry. Thank you to Steve Falk, Brian Pastoor and Mackenzie Johnston for their leadership with Youthful Spirits (see separate report) - for your guidance and energy in connecting with the youth and their families. Thank you to our parents for their incredible support of all of our activities and events this year. The biggest thank you to the youth – for their wonderful energy and enthusiasm – it is always great fun being with you on this journey!

*Blessings,
Rev. Andy Comar*

Youthful Spirits

Youthful Spirits is a music group that meets weekly before church. You can often find us in the Rectory across the parking lot. We sing and play instruments at Christmas, Easter and various other times throughout the year. It is a fun way to socialize with others and learn music with others at varying levels. The group invites anyone in grade 6-12 to join and have fun and practice and show their talents and love for music. This year my brother joined too! It's been fun doing something like this together.

*Respectfully submitted:
Skylar Verschelden,
Youthful Spirits 2019-2020*

Teen Confirmation Class (TCC)

The Teen Confirmation Class (TCC) met on the last two Monday evenings of the month from September to April to talk about issues of faith, life, the bible and the church. The class was open to all youth who have not been confirmed and who are in grade 8 and up. The full year program is wonderful opportunity in helping build open conversation and community with one another. Our main resource is *Jesus 24/7 – Youth* by David Bruce (based on the New Creed of the United Church of Canada). Together we discover what it means to be part of the body of Christ in this place and in this time.

During Holy Week, on Maundy Thursday, the TCC held a Passover Seder, which also included a pot-luck supper. Members of the congregation joined us for this annual event hosted by the TCC. In the spring, seven of our youth, were welcomed into Full Membership at AUC. Each confirmand received a bible, cross, prayer shawl or blanket. Book marks and bible covers were created by the children in the Funday Sunday program. It was a wonderful celebration!

In September we had two youth who were interested in the program. The youth will be taking part in a Teen Confirmation weekend in the spring of 2020 hosted by Shining Waters Regional Council.

On November 7, we once again hosted a speaker as part of the 39th Annual Holocaust Education week to which the public was invited. The theme of HEW was *The Holocaust and Now*. Holocaust survivor, Andy Reti shared his family's story with us. His words resonated with everyone who attended. It was an incredible evening for everyone who was there. We look forward to taking part in the 40th Annual Holocaust Education Week in 2020 - a valued tradition here at AUC.

It was an amazing year for the Confirmation Class at AUC and we look forward to continuing this important journey of faith with our youth in 2020! Thank you to the congregation for your ongoing support of this Youth Ministry program.

Blessings,
Rev. Andy Comar

Aurora United Church - 2019 - 3rd Aurora Scouting Report

3rd Aurora Scouting Reports

Now in its 61st year of sponsorship, Aurora United Church is proud to continue its support of the 3rd Aurora Scouting Group as an integral part of AUC's youth education and community outreach programs. The values of Scouting are much in line with those of the United Church, imparting to youth the value of service to others, spirituality, life skills and respect for the environment.

As detailed in Scouter Kyle Munro's report below, 2019 continued to be a year of change for the 3rd Aurora Scouting Group. Efforts were made to expand the number of youth members and the range of programs but in order to do so, additional leaders were required to maintain the required youth to leader ratios. Kyle and his leadership team are to be highly commended for the extensive time and hard work which they put into the provision of scouting activities for the youth of the community.

It was a delight to have members of the Beaver Colony at worship on Apple Day. Appreciation also goes to the Beavers for supporting the Christmas stocking program again this year.

We are looking forward to the time when 3rd Aurora will resume its meetings in our new church building.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bill Newman,
AUC Liaison to 3rd Aurora Scouting Group*



2019 was a year of continued change and modest growth for the 3rd Aurora Scouting Group.

2018/2019 Scouting Year

Participants

Due to a reduction of volunteer participation 3rd Aurora did not operate a Cub Pack, Scout Troop or Venturer Crew in 2018/2019. Some former youth members of these sections did continue in Scouting, but as members of other local groups. The 2018/2019 year ended with a youth complement of 14 Beavers (ages 5 to 7), 3 Scouters: Kyle Munro (Contact Scouter/Commissioner/Registrar), Dan Vink (Scouter/Quarter Master) and Greg Scott (Scouter) and the addition of Kelsie Vink as the Group's new Treasurer in February 2019.

The 3rd Aurora Beavers continued to share facilities with the 5th Aurora group, with meetings on Monday nights out of Regency Acres Public School in Aurora.

Program highlights for 2018/2019 include:

- Beavers attending a train day at Richmond Hill Live Steamers outdoor scale model railway.
- Beavers participating in the 2018 Apple Day and Popcorn fundraisers.
- Beavers attending Aurora United Church's Scouting Service, September 2018
- Beavers attending a sleep over in October at the Ripley's Aquarium in Toronto.
- Beavers participating in the Aurora United Church Christmas Stocking Campaign for children of comparable age to the Beavers
- Participating in the Aurora Remembrance Day and Santa Claus Parade events
- A return visit to the local Firestation 3-4
- Hosting a Winter Camp with participants from 2nd Aurora and 1st Ballantrae groups at the Woodland Trails Scout Camp in Stouffville in March 2019.
- Participating in the Aurora Remembrance Day and Santa Claus Parade events in November 2018
- 3rd Aurora Beavers hosting 2nd Aurora Beavers for a Beaver Buggy race night in February 2019.
- 3rd Aurora Beavers and 2nd Aurora Beavers attended Shinning Waters Council Camp together in Cookstown, in June 2019.

2019/2020 Scouting Year

For the 2019/2020 Scouting year, 3rd Aurora has moved to meeting on Thursday nights at St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School, directly adjacent to our previous location in Aurora. The Beaver Colony grew in population to 16 Beavers, with 10 youth members returning from the previous year and 6 new additions, including the first female participant since the re-establishment of the Colony. In addition, Jason Corazza joined the group as a new Colony Scouter, bringing the total to 4.

3rd Aurora Scouting Group appreciated the opportunity to have Beaver's be able to bring Apple Day back to the congregation of Aurora United Church this past October and thank all who attended for their generous contributions. We look forward to exploring more opportunities to strengthen our relationship and connection to the congregation. We hope to be able to arrange to have Reverend and Group Chaplain, Andy Comar come to one of our remaining meetings in 2019/2020 to assist us with running "Spirit"-related programming in accordance with Scouts Canada's Canadian Path and Beaver Spirit Personal Achievement badge.

Program highlights for 2019/2020 so far include:

- Beavers attending a train day at Richmond Hill Live Steamers outdoor scale model railway.
- Beavers participating in the 2019 Apple Day (off site on the Saturday and at the Church on the Sunday) and Popcorn fundraisers.
- Beavers participating in the Aurora United Church Christmas Stocking Campaign for children of comparable age to the Beavers
- Beavers participating in the Aurora Remembrance Day and Santa Claus Parade events
- Beavers visiting to the local 4-4 Fire station.
- Hosting a Winter Camp with 2nd Aurora Beavers at Woodland Trails Scout Camp in Stouffville in Nov-Dec 2019.
- Beavers visiting the David Dunlap Observatory in Richmond Hill January 2020.

Scouting groups in Aurora have currently put on hold the idea of adopting a shared Group Committee approach to administering the multiple groups in Town (2nd, 3rd and 5th Aurora). This method has worked successfully in Newmarket for the last 3 years and may be revisited in the future.

In order to consider such an organizational change it is the opinion of current volunteers that 3rd Aurora's individual relationship with our sponsor, group identity and group finances be maintained.

With the majority of current 3rd Aurora Beavers (10 of 16) aging out of the program this spring, steps are currently underway for re-establishing a 3rd Aurora Cub Pack for the 2020/2021 Scout Year.

It remains a goal of the group to recruit additional Scouters and Group Committee representatives in order to move forward with expanding the size and programming capabilities of 3rd Aurora Scout Group for years to come. The continuing physical and spiritual support of Aurora United Church for 3rd Aurora Scouting Group remains very much appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in providing equipment storage to the group. We look forward to the opportunity to return "home" from our temporary meeting location at St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School when the opportunity allows for it.

*Yours in Scouting,
Kyle Munro, Beaver Scouter and Commissioner,
3rd Aurora Scouting Group*

MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

Finance Committee

The Mission Statement of the Finance Committee is to effectively manage the General Funds of Aurora United Church and to assist Council in making informed financial decisions. In 2019, the AUC Finance Committee consisted of Stephen Crawley (Chair), Carmen Harany (Treasurer), John Barkla (Ministry Advocate), Lloyd Kerswill, Susan Sue-Ling, Ken Graham and Rev. Andy Comar. Bill Newman, Chair of Council, is also a valuable regular attendee at the Finance team meetings. The Finance Committee meets every month (except July & August) to ensure that AUC's finances are being managed and monitored in the most effective way possible, and does significant work outside of these monthly meetings to ensure smooth management and planning of AUC's resources.

2019 continued the trend of challenging financial years for AUC. Our amazing congregation continued its tradition of remarkable generosity throughout the year, and **Total Offerings** from the congregation were actually 5% ahead of budget. We should all be proud of the financial commitment our congregation continues to make to the ongoing operation of AUC. That said, AUC's general operating fund continues to be heavily dependent on interest from the insurance capital to balance our budget. While our revenues from **Total Offerings** exceeded budget by \$12,966, they were down slightly versus 2018 by -\$5,087 or -1.8%. This decline versus 2018 was driven by minor declines in a few revenue categories, likely driven by ongoing congregational attrition. Our **Total Revenue** (revenue from all sources) in 2019 of \$558,951 was slightly ahead of budget, and actually exceeded our 2018 total revenues by \$17,176. This was driven by the higher insurance interest received in 2019 (+\$42,500 vs 2018) that was required to balance our budget. This \$42,500 increase in 2019 continues a trend over the past few years of increasing dependence on the insurance interest.

2019 saw the Operating budget draw 44% of its total revenue from the interest generated from the invested capital AUC received from the insurance payout, 50% from Total Offering and 6% from all other sources. We are blessed to have the insurance interest at our disposal to cover our short term requirements as we go through this period of transition in our history. We anticipate a slight increase of insurance interest requirements again in 2020 as our other projected revenues decline slightly due to a variety of factors, however we do not intend to use any of the principal capital we have received from the insurance payout. We are currently drawing only from the investment income generated by the principal to cover our operating revenue shortfalls. As we start to draw on the principal to pay for the start of construction costs in the near future, we will need to be vigilant in ensuring no short term funding gaps appear. Finance will continue to watch revenue requirements carefully and pre-emptively work with Council and Trustees to ensure no issues arise in 2020 and throughout the building process.

Our only long term liability as a church is the \$400,000 long term loan from the Trustees. (This longer term loan from Trustees was to pay off an external \$200,000 loan AUC had for operating costs during a previous difficult financial period, and the rest was an existing loan from the purchase of one of the previous housing properties). All AUC's financial obligations were met in 2019, including The United Church of Canada dues, Mission & Service, Welcoming Arms and many others. Other than our M & P expenses, our required rent with Trinity (plus

external storage) is our biggest expense, at \$91,308. Over the course of the year, despite the inevitable unbudgeted expenses arising, we managed to keep our total expenses in 2019 under the 2019 budget by \$14,692 (or 2.7% below budget). Cost containment is a key responsibility and emphasis for Finance, and we successfully achieved that in 2019 with the support of the many Ministries and Committees at AUC. Our thanks go out everyone helping to keep our costs below budget!

Donations for the rebuild have largely been reinvested by Trustees until the time comes that we require them. We currently have three separate accounts for this purpose:

- first, our Future Fund, which on December 31, 2019 held \$3,914 in the bank plus \$125,000 that has been invested for us by Trustees;
- our Earmarked donations account (donations made for specifically designated purchases) with \$9,733 in the bank and \$15,000 invested by Trustees;
- our Insurance Claim bank account that we have been paying any remaining claims from, using the initial early payout from our insurance company, with \$4,363 in the bank and \$22,108 invested by Trustees.

The Finance Committee is also charged with creating the Annual Budget of AUC for input and approval from the Church Council, as well as input from the many committees that run programs at AUC. This year we have been able to complete the task and approval process in time for the 2020 Budget to be included in this Annual Report, subject to the congregation's approval at the Annual General Meeting. AUC's Treasurer Carmen Harany works closely with Finance and provides the necessary reports for informed decision making. Carmen deserves our gratitude for her dedication to and unwavering support of AUC's financial health.

The Finance team monitors the revenue and spending of the General Operating Fund on an ongoing basis. Our goal is to ensure the financial continuity and strong financial foundation of the church be maintained during this unique period in AUC's history. This will allow us to do our best in fulfilling our Ministry and Mission statement and build a strong future for AUC.

Respectfully submitted:
Stephen Crawley,
Chair Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report

And here we are... in 2020!

Last year, new financial controls and procedures were implemented to ensure safe handling of all church funds.

Aligning with the guidelines of the United Church of Canada Financial Handbook for Congregations, the following procedures are now followed:

- Each Sunday, the offering is placed in a locked bag by two congregation members and placed in the church safe
- Counting is always done by at least 2 congregation members other than the Treasurer
- Proceeds from concerts and other fundraising events are counted by two people involved in the event and placed in the church safe in a locked bag. It is then counted and deposited by the Monday morning counters.
- Two people take the offering to the bank when deemed necessary.
- Designated members of the Finance Committee review all bank statements and reconciliation reports quarterly.

As previously established, I submit various ongoing reports for Council, Finance Committee, Committee Chairs and Ministry Advocates. This ensures systematic monitoring and assessment of the financial health of the church, and allows for fairly accurate end of year projections and annual budgets.

Cash-flow is a constant challenge for AUC with February and August being the poorest months and December the strongest; and so we strongly encourage PAR enrollment.

PAR provides a predictable and fairly steady flow of revenue throughout the year, especially in the summer months when many people are away and cash flow becomes a challenge.

Please consider enrolling on PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance); allowing your contributions to be withdrawn directly from your bank accounts on a monthly basis.

If you are interested in PAR, please give me a call at 905-727-1935 ex 24 or email me at carmen@auroraunitedchurch.ca

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated team of Volunteers: Ed Griffith who inputs the offering into the system, Lloyd Kerswill, Nancy and Bill Newman who count the offering every Monday morning, as well as Susan Sue-Ling and Ken Graham for filling in as counters as needed!

Please be sure to contact me regarding any financial concerns this coming year!

Respectfully submitted:
Carmen Harany, AUC Treasurer

Bequests & Memorials

We are thankful that people continue to support the work of our church through their Wills and Memorials.

This past year we have received donations in memory of:

• Ann Giles	• Anthony White
• Barbara Houston	• Donna Keffer
• Dorothy Pearson	• Jean McMurchy
• Jean Smith	• Joan Hughes
• June Yates	• Lois York
• Margaret Florence	• Mary Rumble
• Clifford (Sonny) Newton	• Rae Barker
• Shirley Navarre	

2019 Financials & 2020 Budget

	Budget 2019	Actuals 2019	Proposed 2020
REVENUES			
Offerings:			
Identifiable Givers	\$ 243,000.00	\$ 251,442.72	\$ 240,000.00
Loose	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,294.39	\$ 3,500.00
Initial Offering	\$ 185.00	\$ 163.00	\$ 163.00
M&S Givings over and above	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,200.00
Online Donations	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,930.00	\$ 1,000.00
Other Givings (United Way, etc.)	\$ 500.00	\$ 939.52	\$ 500.00
Appeals: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Gift with vision	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 14,881.90	\$ 11,000.00
Total Offering	\$ 264,185.00	\$ 277,151.53	\$ 260,363.00
Fundraising:			
Musical Special Events Revenue	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,526.50	\$ 2,500.00
AVGEN	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,000.00
Total Fundraising	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,676.50	\$ 4,500.00
Program Revenue:			
Poinsettias	\$ 400.00	\$ 579.00	\$ 500.00
200th Anniversary book (as approved by Council)	\$ -	\$ 190.00	\$ -
Faith Formation(Confirmation, Adult Ed, VBC, Youth Events)	\$ 450.00	\$ 389.50	\$ 450.00
Broadview subscription	\$ 735.00	\$ 625.00	\$ 625.00
Total Program Revenue	\$ 1,585.00	\$ 1,783.50	\$ 1,575.00
Investments:			
Interest/Capital Gains from Endowment & Flower Fund	\$ 25,112.00	\$ 15,315.55	\$ 15,315.00
Interest on Insurance Capital	\$ 247,500.00	\$ 247,500.00	\$ 268,000.00
Total Investments	\$ 272,612.00	\$ 262,815.55	\$ 283,315.00

Other:			
Copies made payments	\$ 160.00		\$ 100.00
UCW Donation	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
HST Rebate (2018 July - Dec.+ 2019 Jan. - June)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,746.32	\$ 4,000.00
Memorials, Bequests and Planned Giving	\$ 250.00	\$ 515.00	\$ 250.00
Rise & Shine Donations	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,401.75	\$ 3,000.00
Printing	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,861.48	\$ 1,800.00
Total Other Revenue	\$ 9,110.00	\$ 11,524.55	\$ 9,150.00
TOTAL ALL REVENUE	\$ 551,492.00	\$ 558,951.63	\$ 558,903.00
EXPENSES			
CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRY			
Communications			
Web Site/IT (plus email hosting and support)	\$ 487.00	\$ 486.44	\$ 487.00
Total Communications	\$ 487.00	\$ 486.44	\$ 487.00
Membership			
Soup Lunches	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Coffee and Juice	\$ 50.00	\$ 208.61	\$ 50.00
Total Membership	\$ 350.00	\$ 208.61	\$ 350.00
CHURCH COUNCIL			
Committee Expense, Joint Service	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 461.84	\$ 1,000.00
Affirming Committee	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 628.41	\$ 1,000.00
Shining Waters AGM Expenses		\$ 672.00	\$ 700.00
Rental Expenses (includes Trinity, Storage, YRDSB)	\$ 91,505.00	\$ 91,308.41	\$ 94,117.00
Total Church Council	\$ 93,505.00	\$ 93,070.66	\$ 96,817.00

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES MINISTRY			
Archives	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Finance Committee			
Committee Expense (offering envelopes, etc.)	\$ 350.00	\$ 336.03	\$ 350.00
Banking Service Fees	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 1,154.44	\$ 1,140.00
Loan Interest Charges	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,200.00
Insurance	\$ 2,468.00	\$ 1,961.92	\$ 2,350.00
Church Land Taxes	\$ 6,606.00	\$ 6,811.57	\$ 6,940.00
Accountant Service and Support	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,677.28	\$ 5,000.00
UCC Assessment	\$ 23,271.00	\$ 23,271.36	\$ 23,271.00
Total Finance	\$ 46,035.00	\$ 45,412.60	\$ 46,251.00
Property Committee			
Office Expense	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,989.39	\$ 3,700.00
Office Expenses - Annual Report printing	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,712.23	\$ 1,700.00
Contracts	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,859.37	\$ 9,000.00
Utilities	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,940.90	\$ 3,900.00
Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 700.00	\$ 166.30	\$ 500.00
IT- Computer Hardware/AUC File Share	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,665.70	\$ 5,000.00
Total Property	\$ 23,800.00	\$ 25,333.89	\$ 23,800.00
Rental Properties			
Property Taxes	\$ 15,032.00	\$ 10,354.57	\$ 10,551.00
Utilities	\$ 187.00	\$ 259.20	\$ 187.00
Loan Interest charges	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00
Total Rental Properties	\$ 20,019.00	\$ 15,413.77	\$ 15,538.00
FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY			
Adult Education	\$ 450.00	\$ 227.23	\$ 250.00
Committee Expense	\$ -		\$ 100.00
Nursery Coordinator (44 weeks)	\$ 1,217.00	\$ 1,063.74	\$ 1,212.00
Broadview Subscription	\$ 735.00	\$ 574.89	\$ 735.00
Teen Confirmation	\$ 600.00	\$ 199.78	\$ 400.00
Youth Events (Camp, meetings)	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 1,575.60	\$ 2,250.00
Vacation Bible Camp	\$ 600.00	\$ 372.85	\$ 600.00
Sunday School + Children's Education	\$ 400.00	\$ 156.22	\$ 400.00
Total Faith Formation	\$ 6,252.00	\$ 4,170.31	\$ 5,947.00

M&P (Ministry & Personnel)			
Committee Expense + ADP costs	\$ 700.00	\$ 622.67	\$ 700.00
Salaries (Fulltime and Casual)	\$ 254,417.00	\$ 247,063.88	\$ 259,251.00
Benefits/WSIB	\$ 50,300.00	\$ 50,239.93	\$ 52,000.00
Travel	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 2,336.62	\$ 3,885.00
Continuing Education	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 2,342.68	\$ 3,600.00
Other	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,243.99	\$ 1,800.00
Total M&P	\$ 313,017.00	\$ 303,849.77	\$ 321,236.00
PROCLAMATION MINISTRY			
Audiovisual	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Music	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,055.42	\$ 2,000.00
Music- Handbell Ensembles	\$ 1,090.00	\$ 987.32	\$ 1,090.00
Sanctuary Decorating Committee	\$ 500.00	\$ 185.06	\$ 500.00
Poinsettias	\$ 400.00	\$ 426.15	\$ 600.00
Worship Committee	\$ 1,895.00	\$ 2,400.95	\$ 2,000.00
Total Proclamation	\$ 6,885.00	\$ 6,054.90	\$ 7,190.00
SERVING MINISTRY			
Mission and Service			
M & S Remittances (Church)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,300.00	\$ 15,000.00
M&S over and above (PAR, etc.)	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
Total M&S	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 19,200.00
Outreach			
Special Appeals (Gifts with Vision, Food for the North)	\$ -	\$ 2,915.00	\$ -
Welcoming Arms	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,200.00
Community Café	\$ -		\$ -
Rise and Shine Breakfast	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,220.79	\$ 7,000.00
Total Outreach	\$ 20,200.00	\$ 22,335.79	\$ 20,200.00
Pastoral Care			
Seniors' Lunch/Advent Service	\$ 225.00	\$ 186.09	\$ 150.00
Committee Expenses	\$ 50.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 50.00
Correspondence postage and cards	\$ 300.00	\$ 179.12	\$ 250.00
Prayer Shawl	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 507.84	\$ 800.00
Total Pastoral Care	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 897.05	\$ 1,250.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 551,425.00	\$ 536,733.79	\$ 558,366.00
Difference	\$ 67.00	\$ 22,217.84	\$ 537.00

Please note: all expense amounts do not include the full HST paid at the time of purchase. They only include the portion that is actually paid to the government and not refunded to us. The difference is the amount refunded through the HST rebate. To bring an expense to its original amount with the full tax included multiply the amount by 1.0871

Monies still owed:			
Trustees Loan	\$ 400,000.00		
<u>Other Bank Account Balances</u>			
As of Dec. 31, 2019			
AUC Future Bank Account	\$ 3,914.37		
(Additional \$125,000.00 invested by Trustees)			
Includes \$25,000 added in Dec. 2019)			
Earmarked Donations Bank Account	\$ 9,733.57		
(Additional \$15,000.00 invested by Trustees)			
Insurance Claim Bank Account	\$ 4,363.37		

Cash Cards Committee

The Cash Card program at AUC continued to thrive in 2019, raising \$2,150 for the General Operating Fund.

When you purchase gift cards for everyday items you are buying anyway - like groceries, gas, restaurants, coffee, the cinema, etc. - the church benefits because the retailers offer the cards to us at a discount. For example, if you purchase a \$100 Sobey's gift card, AUC makes \$4.

Orders for cards were typically taken on the 2nd Sunday of each month, for delivery the following Sunday. In the months of November and December, extra Sunday orders were taken.

A core group of regulars ordered cards every month - some providing us with standing monthly orders and postdated cheques for their card purchases. In addition, Welcoming Arms purchased cards to be used as part of their community outreach; sharing the savings offered by the vendor in partnership with AUC.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this effective way to raise funds to assist the life and work of AUC. It is our hope that you will consider to do so again in 2020.

2019 Cash Card Financials

Collected	106,572.55
Paid to vendor	-104,408.49
Balance	2,164.06
Bank fees	-30.00
Opening balance	36.99
Total	2,171.05
Transfer out	-2,150.00
Closing balance	21.05

Respectfully submitted:
Lloyd and Nancy Kerswill,
Cash Cards Committee

Archives

2019 proved to be a time of repacking and reorganizing the archives following the excitement of our 200th anniversary year.

Several documents for the files (newspaper clippings, bulletins etc.) were donated by members of the congregation and we received a unique item from the estate of Rae Barker; a cup & saucer and small plate decorated in the old blue & white pattern used in the church kitchen many years ago. Rae had been saving the dishes for many years and had packaged them carefully in a box directed to the AUC archives.

Currently the collection of artifacts is being kept in storage awaiting our new home while the files are still accessible for information and research.

Respectfully submitted:
Helen Roberts,
Chair Archives Committee

Property Committee

Members:

Roy Eveleigh Lloyd Kerswill Ivor Roberts Mark Nolan Alvan Sutton	Debra Hilliard Joyce Hagarty Bob Kyriakides Gerry Kenwell John Barkla	Dave Snelgrove Rev. Andy Comar Crawford Heritage (<i>Chair</i>)
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The following outlines the components for each AUC Property budget line for 2019.

Utilities:

- Bell Canada

Office Supplies:

- Postage
- Copies for photocopier machine
- Miscellaneous

Maintenance/Repair:

- Power lawnmower/power weed whacker

Contracts:

- Xerox Canada -- office copy machine lease
- Information Technology (IT):
- Computers and related equipment

Many thanks to David Hanna for storing AUC grass/weed equipment and ladders on his property.

Bob Kyriakides, our hard working Property IT member continued his strong support for AUC in 2019.

In 2019, the firmware for the two servers was updated to provide the latest security patches. Rev. Lorraine's Parallels, Carmen's Parallels, and Cathy's Windows versions were upgraded from Windows 7 to 10 to maintain that security of those computers ahead of the decommissioning of Windows 7 by Microsoft.

Two new Windows 10 desktop computers with new monitors were purchased while taking advantage of Cyber Monday sales. That allowed three old computers to be replaced. Carmen, and Cathy received the two newest desktop computers with Cathy's iMac, that's running Windows 10, replacing Ed's old desktop computer used to record givings. Carmen's iMac is AUC's only spare computer at the moment – a dramatic increase in our spares inventory from zero.

In 2020, the plan is to replace Rev. Lorraine's Apple MacBook with a Windows laptop. Then Rev. Andy's MacBook will be replaced with Rev. Lorraine's MacBook since he would prefer to continue on with Apple, and hers appears to be in good working condition. Finally, Rev. Andy's MacBook will need to be assessed for repairs, and any associated costs to determine whether they are fiscally logical.

Bob provides his professional IT services free of charge to AUC. His invoices are for equipment/material costs only.

Thanks Bob for your valuable time and effort for AUC on an ongoing basis.

As outlined in the 2016 Annual Report there is a summary of furniture etc. recovered following the fire on page 55. These items as well as the five stained glass windows from the Narthex are in storage on Industry street Aurora. If you need/wish a copy please call me.

*Respectfully submitted:
Crawford Heritage,
Chair Property Committee*

MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION

Worship Committee

The Proclamation Ministry is comprised of four main areas, the representatives of which are all considered to be part of the "*Worship Committee*". In 2019, the members working to ensure that the congregation of Aurora United Church is engaged in worship that is inspiring, uplifting and inclusive were:

- representing **Worship** - - Rev. Lorraine, Mary Smith, and Holly Williamson
- representing **Music** - - Margaret Heeney and Lisa Kyriakides
- representing **Decorating** - - Debra Hilliard and Lori North
- representing **Audio Visual** - Ivor Roberts

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to them - our committee would not be able to offer the enriched worship experience we have all come to expect at AUC without their continued hard work. I would also like to thank to our Communion Coordinator, Janice Nolan, and our Church Secretary, Cathy Hiltz, for all their hard work behind the scenes.

Working under the guidance and leadership of Rev. Lorraine, our committee meets on the last Monday of each month from September to June to reflect on past services and plan for upcoming services through:

- developing themes for the liturgical seasons such as Lent, Advent, and Pentecost
- overseeing the planning for and serving of Communion
- planning for and executing the decorating of the worship space whether it be in the sanctuary at Trinity Anglican or off site at Aurora High School
- supplying hearing assist devices and worship materials that ensure full participation
- crafting giveaways for the children at Easter and Christmas

Rev. Andy also provides worship once a month at Chartwell Aurora, Chartwell Hollandview, Chartwell Park Place and Sunrise of Aurora.

Our 2019 Lenten theme, "Cultivating and Letting Go", approached Lent as a season of spiritual gardening; of inviting God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge. We contemplated what God is cultivating in us and through us ... what we are making room for or letting go of to make space for something to grow.

'A Candle Lights the Way', our Advent theme, reflected a quote from Leo Tostoy: 'Just as one candle lights another and can light thousands of other candles, so one heart illuminates another heart and can illuminate thousands of other hearts. With our Advent calendars we marked each day of the season by lighting a candle and praying for ministry groups, committees, and particular areas of concern in the world.

Our Christmas Eve story telling at the Family Service, took us to the fields outside Bethlehem where we imagined what the birth of Jesus would mean to three little sheep left alone to fend for themselves. Our 8pm service brought Lessons & Carols and Communion to our quieter service, ending with candle light and the singing of Silent Night.

We are grateful to continue to share worship space with Trinity Anglican Church; and to be able to acquire the use of the Aurora High School auditorium for our Christmas and Easter services.

As we begin to plan for the coming year, I leave you with the prayer we say together at the close of our meetings ...

May we feel God's love like a gentle breeze when we need inspiration ... may our faith remain strong through all of life's challenges ... and may hope be the light that guides our way.

Respectfully submitted:
Nancy Kerswill,
Chair Worship Committee

Chancel Choir

Music is an integral part of our worship at Aurora United Church, and we have been blessed with a variety of music and musicians in 2019.

The AUC Chancel Choir faithfully and ably provides introits and anthems each Sunday between September and June. The Chancel Choir is led by an Executive which holds monthly meetings and consists of Laurie Bentolila (President and Graphic Design), Barb Balfour (Choir Librarian), Kathie Blackman (Secretary), Yvonne Speck (Hearts and Flowers), Sally Carter (Social and Refreshments), Dawn Horstead (Social and Refreshments) and Margaret Heney (Music Coordinator). Thank you to the choir and executive for all of your dedication and diligence this year!

Some of the musical highlights in 2019 included:

- January – The Aurora Choralis , a women’s vocal ensemble debuted .
- Good Friday – The AUC Chancel Choir and the Trinity United Newmarket choir (Vlad Soloviev, conductor) performed the Fauré Requiem. Linda Henshaw (Soprano) and Bob McRoberts (Bass) were the vocal soloists.
- May – Violinist Wesley Bells was featured in concert along with sopranos Ursula Ivonoffski and Margaret Heney, the Aurora United Chancel Choir, and The Aurora Choralis.
- June – The combined choirs of Trinity Anglican Church (John Clements, music director) and AUC performed “We Are Not Alone” by Pepper Choplin as part of our annual joint outdoor service.
On June 30th, Tim Birtch and Margaret Wolf graced us with trumpet duets throughout the service.
- October – The Chancel Choir presented the Thanksgiving anthem “In the Season of Our Plenty” with the Embellished Handbell Ensemble.
- November – The Youthful Spirits (Steve Falk and Brian Pastoor, directors) and the Chancel Choir combined for the anthem “Old Church Choir”.
- December – The Chancel Choir, and Handbell Ensembles (Lisa Kyriakides, director) with The Aldbury Gardens Brass Quintet, trumpets Tim Birtch and Margaret Wolf, and percussionist Jamie Drake presented “Carols by Candlelight – Gloria!”. The choir presented selections from the Vivaldi and

John Rutter Gloria. All of the choir pieces involved handbells, brass, and/or percussion.

Thank you to all who sang vocal solos, duets, and ensembles in worship this year (Linda Henshaw, Colleen Abbott, Bob McRoberts, Frank Pulumbarit, Steve Falk, Brian Pastoor, Janice Nolan, David Pilkey, Ocean Yin, Mackenzie Johnston, Mackenzie Malarczyk, Margaret Heney, George Collins, Lisa Kyriakides, Tim Birtch and Lorraine Newton-Comar).

Many instrumentalists enhanced our worship and Carols by Candlelight services including Tim Birtch, Steve Falk and Margaret Wolf (trumpets), Joanne Banfill, Wesley Bells, Mary Safari and Marina Safari (violins), John Malarczyk (guitar), Peter Zsebik (alto saxophone), Mackenzie Malarczyk (flute), The Aldbury Garden Brass Quintet (Tim Birtch and Margaret Wolf – trumpets; David King – trombone; James MacDonald – French horn; Joel Gorlick – trombone and tuba), Jamie Drake (percussion) and Colin Johnstone (bagpipes). Our three handbell ensembles (Bellissimo, EmBellished, and Faith-a-Peal) add their beautiful tones to many services throughout the year.

We are also fortunate to feature some of our Youth musicians on Sundays throughout the year; their music is featured in our Youth Sunday, Christmas Pageant Sunday, and Christmas Eve Family services. Youth that made music in 2019 included Myles Heney and Jules Pastoor (recorders), Luka Miller (piano), Adam Schellenberg (trumpet), Noah Schellenberg (saxophone), and Nicholas Drost (clarinet). The AUC Childrens' Choir continues to sing a few times each year. Youthful Spirits, led by Steve Falk, Carmen Harany and Brian Pastoor enhances worship with its young instrumentalists and singers.

Thank you to all who contribute to the musical life at AUC, and to the AUC staff for your support, collaboration, and guidance! I look forward to another year of music at AUC.

Respectfully Submitted:
Margaret Heney,
Chancel Choir Coordinator

Handbells

The Bells are ringing loud and proud at Aurora United Church and beyond! In 2019 we were blessed with having 20 talented ringers involved in our three Handbell groups: ***Faith-A-Peal***, ***Bellissimo*** and ***EmBellished***.

The Music Ministry of AUC remained our primary focus in 2019. We offered our gifts of music at many Sunday morning services throughout the year and participated in Carols by Candlelight and the Christmas Eve Services. The Dow Family made a very generous donation to the Handbell Program at AUC in honour of Carolynn Dow. We were blessed with the gift of an additional octave of Malmark Chimes and on March 3 the chimes rang out and were dedicated in memory of Carolynn.

We continue to support the larger Handbell community of Ontario. All our groups are members of the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers, better known as OGEHR, and 11 of us attended the biennial OGEHR conference in London, Ontario where we rang with over 300 ringers. Joanne Banfill, Joyce Hagarty, Pat Innes and Lisa Kyriakides went on a 10-day handbell ringing cruise in January and performed with ringers from all over Canada and the USA.

EmBellished, our handbell quintet, had a busy year ringing in the greater community. We performed at the local Retirement Residences and Long Term Care Facilities (Chartwell Hollandview, Chartwell Park Place, Sunrise of Aurora and Chartwell Aurora), gave concerts at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum, the Retired Women's Teachers' Luncheon, Adrienne Clarkson Public School, Club 55 Christmas Dinner in Stouffville, and the York Region Jingle Bell Walk at the Hollidge Tract.

We were pleased to welcome some new member in 2019 including Sheila Middleton, Laura Wells and John Malarczyk. Brett Hagarty joined us in Faith-A-Peal and Bellissimo when her schooling allowed. They are all such a blessing to the program. 2019 also had its difficult moments. Margaret Torrance, a long-time member of Bellissimo, passed away in March, and we miss her dearly. Several of our members are also battling serious illnesses and are being supported by the ringers. It is in those moments that we are so grateful for how supportive and loving the ringers are with each other. We are not just a musical group, we are a family!

2019 also brought with it some retirements from the Handbell Program – Nancy Jackson (Bellissimo), Lorraine Madigan Farro (Faith-A-Peal) Nancy Kerswill (Bellissimo and Faith-A-Peal). We thank them for sharing their talents with us and enhancing the program.

We would to thank Pat Innes, who is our librarian, historian, and does so much for us! We couldn't do this without you Pat! We are also so grateful for the continued support of the staff at AUC, particularly Margaret, Lorraine and Andy and for the encouragement we receive from the AUC congregation. We are truly blessed!

*Musically Yours,
Lisa Kyriakides,
Handbell Director*

MINISTRY OF SERVING

Pastoral Care Committee

Members:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula Hanna, <i>Chair</i> • Jackie Catto, <i>Past Chair</i> • Bruce Corbett, <i>Transportation Coordinator</i> • Marilyn Patterson, <i>Cards-Special Events</i> • Mary Smith, <i>Cards-Bereavement</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy Smith, <i>Visiting Coordinator</i> • Peter Drost, <i>Ministry Advocate -Serving Ministry</i> • Rev. Andrew Comar • Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar
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Lay Visitors: Kathie Blackman, Jackie Catto, Bruce Corbett, Nettie Damstra, Paula Hanna, Brenda North, Marilyn Patterson, Nels Patterson, and Mary Smith.

Committee Purpose: To provide supportive and caring ministry to specified individuals and families of AUC.

Summary 2019:

- Cards, Notes and Emails:
190 Cards, notes and emails were sent.
- Visitation Ministry:
124 visits were made. 80+ Pastoral phone calls were made.
- Transportation:
Bruce Corbett continued to offer transportation to anyone with a need to get to church services. About 55 rides were given.
- Members of the Pastoral Care Team helped at many funerals throughout 2019.

Events:

- In April, members of the Pastoral Care Team attended the Easter Services at Chartwell Hollandview, Chartwell Park Place, Sunrise of Aurora and Chartwell Aurora (Resthaven) along with Rev. Andrew Comar. EmBellished, our handbell quintet, provided the music. A small, Easter message card was given to each resident to keep in their room for the Easter season. Treats were shared after the service.
- In October, a potluck luncheon was held at the home of Marilyn and Nels Patterson. Committee members, visitors and Advisory Staff were invited.
- In December, donated Memorial Poinsettias were organized and delivered by the Worship and Pastoral Care Committees, with assistance from many members of the congregation. About 80 poinsettias were delivered to members who have experienced bereavement, senior members who are at home, and members in seniors' residences.
- Members of the Pastoral Care Team attended the Advent Services at Chartwell Hollandview, Chartwell Park Place, Sunrise of Aurora and Chartwell Aurora (Resthaven) along with Rev. Andrew Comar. Mary Jean Oliver played piano, Bob McRoberts sang, and Wesley Bells joined us with his violin. Each resident, who attended, was given an angel ornament. We hope to remind them that they are remembered by their friends at Aurora United Church. 106 ornaments were distributed. We also shared squares, cookies and coffee or tea.

Thank you:

- Alvan and Doren Sutton and Don and Joan Stevenson faithfully provided rides to church.
- Mary Smith and Karen Clement created Easter cards for distribution.
- Jackie Catto took all the poinsettia orders.
- Brenda North, Marilyn Patterson, Carol Beaver and Karen Allen wrote notes and addressed all the Christmas cards which were sent out with the poinsettias.
- Peter Drost was our Ministry Advocate. We thank him for his work on behalf of this committee.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula Hanna,

Chair Pastoral Care Committee

Prayer Shawl Ministry**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY—2006 to present**

This vital ministry, a subgroup of the Serving Ministry, has continued to thrive in 2019.

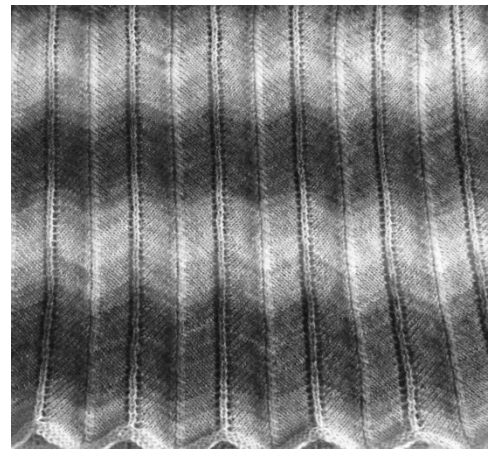
The following are some points of note about our ministry in 2019:

- Anne Ella-Arnold and Elizabeth Ramsell were coordinators.
- Shawls on hand on January 1, 2019 = 50
- Shawls on hand on December 31, 2019 = 31
- Shawls crafted and donated for distribution since January 1, 2019 = 125
- Shawls distributed since January 1, 2019 = 144
- Chemo caps crafted and donated for distribution to Southlake Regional Health Centre since January 1, 2019 = 9
- Distribution of shawls continued almost exclusively on Sunday mornings. A small display was located in church office to facilitate distribution during the week. With the assistance of the ministry coordinators, all members of the congregation were encouraged to participate in the distribution as they saw the need. And many did.

- **Crafters' Circle** continued to meet on all the first Thursday afternoons of each month at Aurora Trinity Anglican Church and on most of the third Tuesday evenings of each month at Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence. And we took our annual August fieldtrip to the Spinrite Factory in Listowel. There were twelve participants in the group during the year. Crafters' Circle gathered 24 times with the average number of attendees at each meeting being 5.
- With the generous budget provided by A.U.C., enough yarn for 60 to 70 shawls was purchased on our fieldtrip to Listowel. Also, many donations of yarn, needles, bags, tissue, and funds were received from the congregation and others. Our ongoing work is very dependent on the support of A.U.C. and the numerous contributions from individuals.
- In November 2019, eight of the crafters participated in providing data about our ministry for a post-graduate student, Mary Elizabeth Piercy, studying at the University of Winnipeg. Her master's thesis is entitled, "Shaping Post-Christendom Spiritual Practice in the United Church of Canada, One Prayer Shawl at a Time". We look forward to reading her publication when it becomes available.

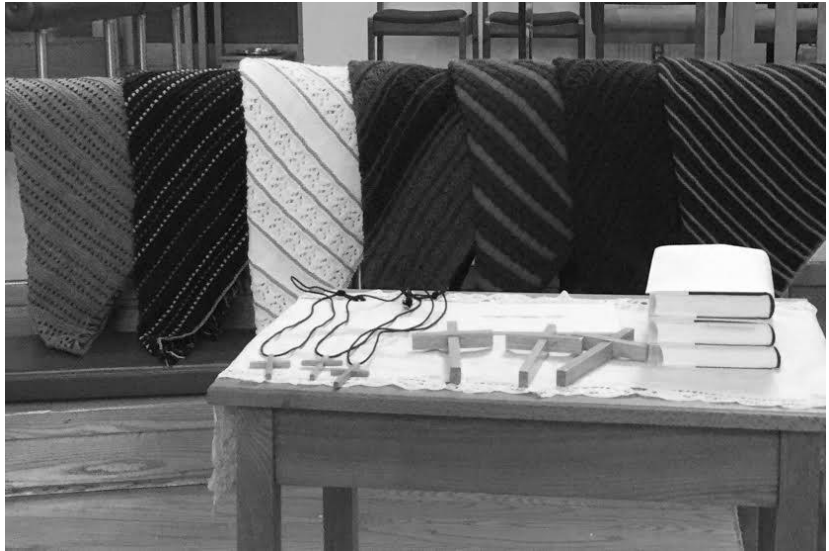


Selection of shawls available for distribution to needy recipients.



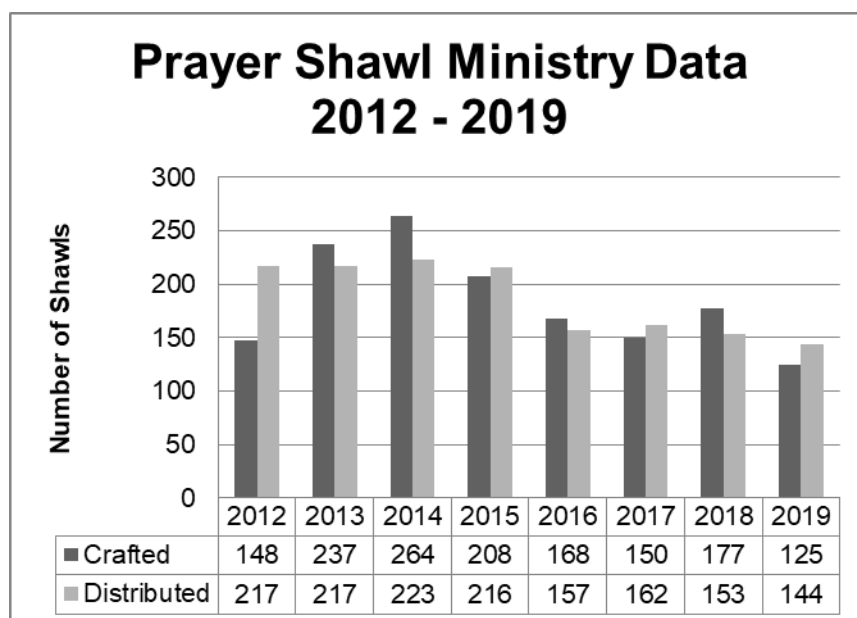
Ridged chevron pattern crafted in Bonfire, from yarn donated to A.U.C. by the Spinrite Factory.

- Each of the seven candidates for confirmation received a prayer blanket.
- Any leftovers, which we could not use were donated to Camp Big Canoe or to the A.U.C.W.'s Christmas Stocking Program.



Prayer blankets for the candidates for confirmation on April 28, 2019.

- Our webpage was updated monthly to keep this resource as current as possible.
- Much appreciation is extended to Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence for offering meeting space at no charge.
- Many thanks to Craig Arnold who assisted with the set up and take down of the prayer shawl display almost every Sunday morning.



Notes:

- Data is not available from September 2006 to February 2012.
- In 2014, five United Churches donated fifty-one shawls to help our ministry continue in the wake of the fire, which destroyed all of the thirty-eight shawls that we had on hand.

Report submitted:

Anne Ella-Arnold, Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator

Outreach Committee

In 2019, Outreach supported four programs. *Rise and Shine Breakfast Program*: thank you to Carol Lever, R&S Coordinator, for her incredible dedication and faithful leadership to the Rise and Shine Breakfast. Please see the Rise and Shine report below.

AUC is one of seven churches in Aurora that partners together as *Welcoming Arms*. Thank you to our Welcoming Arms volunteers, Heather Boorn, Linda Longhurst, Nellie Lopez, Hamid Safari, Denyse Slack and Holly Williamson. This year a new Executive Council was created for Welcoming Arms which includes Rev. Andy as the clergy representative and Denyse Slack as the two from Aurora United Church. In 2019 Welcoming Arms also said goodbye to outgoing Executive

Director, Sarah El-Geries and welcomed Bonnie Thamm Evans as the new Executive Director.

The *Interfaith Refugee Resettlers (IRR)* is comprised of representatives from Aurora United Church, Newmarket Islamic Centre and Trinity Anglican Church. Thank you to our representatives who served on IRR in 2019: John & Irene Clement, George Easey, Joyce Hagarty, Karen Kines, David Pilkey and Helen & Ivor Roberts.

The Aurora Community Café began in 2017 as a partnership of several churches and community organizations: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Aurora United Church, Trinity Anglican Church, Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Church, Welcoming Arms, Commons Coffee and Community Living. The Aurora Community Café is open every Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The café sells Fair Trade coffee, tea and fresh baked goods, offers work experience for adults with differing abilities and a space for the community to come together. Thank you to our volunteer hosts from AUC – Kathie Blackman, Joyce Hagarty and Susan Sue-Ling, Linda Longhurst and Ken Smith. Please speak to Rev. Andy if you would like to volunteer at the café. AUC hosts volunteer on the third Wednesday of the month.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and prayers for these ministries. Please check out the AUC website for details about all of these outreach programs.

This year the Outreach Committee decided that the *Call to Awareness* for Advent 2019 would support two of the United Church of Canada's *Gifts With Vision* projects – one local and one international. The two that we sponsored were *Bicycles for Pastors (Zambia)* and the *Wasauksing Food Bank* (near Parry Sound). Together we raised \$4,115.00!

Throughout 2019, Outreach committed to meet twice in the year and via email for the rest of the year.

Submitted by:
Rev. Andy Comar

Interfaith Refugee Resettlers (IRR)

The Interfaith Refugee Resettlers (IRR) is comprised of members of Trinity Anglican Church, the Newmarket Islamic Centre, Aurora United Church and several non-affiliated volunteers. The committee sponsored their first family in 2016 and that family is now well established in Canada.

The second family (a family of six, –mother, two daughters, son & wife & baby boy) were approved for immigration in 2019. After several delays they arrived on January 30, 2020 and are now in Aurora ready to move into their new homes. As planned, Aurora United Church is taking the lead in working with this new family.

AUC committee members are: George Easey (Chair), Irene & John Clement, Joyce Hagarty, David Pilkey, Helen & Ivor Roberts

*Respectfully submitted:
Helen Roberts,
Secretary, IRR Committee*

Rise & Shine Community Breakfast

Since 2009, AUC has been providing breakfast to our community on Saturday mornings as one of our Outreach Committee initiatives. In 2019 we served an average of 83 guests at each of 32 breakfasts.

Thanks to Carmen Harany, Rosanne Rose, Suzanne Whitehurst and Carol Lever who continue to provide the necessary leadership to our 87 volunteers. It is wonderful to note that 60% (that's 52 people) of our volunteers have been with Rise & Shine for at least five years.

Thanks to the community for their generous donations of over \$3,400 to support the breakfast in 2019, representing 55% of our Rise & Shine costs through intentional giving. This is a trend that we are pleased to see continue.

*Respectfully submitted:
Carol Lever,
Rise n' Shine Coordinator*

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members:

- Kathie Blackman (resigned in June, 2019)
- Heather Collins
- Sylvia Gilpin
- Hank Gosar (joined in January, 2019)
- Karen Kines
- Warren Mc Clure
- John Kuropatwa (Chair)

The United Church of Canada mandates that every congregation will have a Ministry and Personnel Committee. This committee oversees relationships within the pastoral charge ministry, particularly the roles and functions of paid leaders and employees. The M&P Committee may be involved in setting expectations for work carried out by volunteers. Members of the committee are elected by the congregation at the annual meeting and are accountable to the congregation through the Church Council.

The M&P Committee fulfills its mandate by:

- Reviewing working conditions, job descriptions, and remuneration for staff.
- Facilitating, supporting and tracking staff development.
- Making appropriate recommendations to Church Council.
- Overseeing the relationships among different members of staff with respect to their responsibilities and authority.
- Reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of staff annually.
- Partnering members of the committee with individual staff members and meeting with them on an individual basis and serving as their liaison.
- Reviewing church policies and relevant labour legislation to ensure compliance.
- Recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments and the contributions of staff.

This year, our committee has had some changes in our make-up. Kathie Blackman is resigned from our committee and waited until we had a replacement for her. We thank Kathie for her over five years of service, commitment and thoughtful contributions.

We are pleased to report that Hank Gosar joined our committee and has quickly become a valuable contributing member.

The M&P Committee had 8 formal meetings this year and several ad hoc sessions. One major project that we are involved in is the preparation of a staffing model for our new church building. To that end, we are conferring with other committees and reviewing staffing models at other churches, in order to identify best practices and obtain practical advice.

Some of the other activities include:

- Development of a Confidentiality Form
- Implemented Police Check protocol
- Conducted Staff Annual reviews
- Monitored staff working hours, vacations etc.
- Ensured that staff aware of workplace policies
- Developed Staffing budget, remuneration
- Participated in Survey of M&P Committees by Shining Waters
- Early Stage Planning for a staffing model for the new church building

When our church secretary was on personal leave, we worked with the ministerial staff to secure a temporary replacement and provide the necessary training for her. To that end, we thank Carolyn Metcalfe for her assistance, flexibility and enthusiasm.

As a gesture of appreciation to the staff, our committee organized and provided a Christmas pot-luck luncheon.

Our staff does a wonderful job and work in very demanding conditions. They continue to rise to the challenges and are pivotal in helping Aurora United Church maintain its momentum. Throughout the year they have provided us with excellent service and programs. We are truly blessed to have them and we extend our sincere appreciation to Carmen Harany, Margaret Heney, Cathy Hiltz and Lisa Kyriakides.

A church leans heavily on the leadership of its minister. Our two ministers continue to demonstrate an unequaled level of professionalism, humanity, intelligence and genuine affection. Their energy, wisdom and patience are greatly appreciated and they are a major reason why Aurora United continues to be a dynamic, vital and progressive church.

To contact the M&P Committee in order to ask a question, share a comment or express a concern or thanks to your experience with staff at Aurora United Church, you can do so at our confidential email address (mp@auroraunitedchurch.ca) or by writing to any member of our committee. In order for us to respond to your query, please include your name and contact information.

Respectfully submitted:

John Kuropatwa,

Chair Ministry and Personnel Committee

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)



U.C.W. PURPOSE

To unite all the women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

AURORA UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (A.U.C.W.)—1962 to present

2019 EXECUTIVE:

Past-President: Helen Roberts

President: Anne Ella-Arnold

Secretary: Pat Innes

Treasurer: Leslie Stoangi

A.U.C. Council Representative:

Paula Hanna

Unit Leaders: Pat Innes, Nancy Newman, Mary Smith

Executive meetings were held on the last Monday evening of January, March, May, August, October, and on the first Monday evening of November.



*2018 – 2019 executive following installation service on January 28, 2018.
L to R: Pat Innes, Mary Smith, Helen Roberts, Nancy Newman, Paula Hanna, Anne Ella-Arnold, Leslie Stoangi.*

At the end of the year, the members of the executive completed their two-year term. Their leadership was very much appreciated. The following retired from the executive at the end of December: Pat Innes, Nancy Newman, and Helen Roberts.

2019 UNIT ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS:

Seekers Unit:

- leader: Mary Smith
- treasurer: Carolyn Stafford
- monthly meetings from September to June on the first Monday (alternative date when there was a conflict with a statutory holiday)
- 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
- Trinity Anglican Church—Historic Chapel
- 16 members

Grace Unit:

- co-leaders: Pat Innes and Nancy Newman
- treasurer: Laurie Graham
- monthly meetings from September to June on the second Tuesday
- 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
- Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence—Theatre
- 16 members

Monthly unit meetings consisted of worship, programs which included guest presenters and outings, and fellowship. Every woman of A.U.C. was welcome to attend the unit meetings. Much appreciation is extended to Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence for allowing Grace Unit to use their facility at no charge since the autumn of 2014.

2019 Unit Meeting Programs:

Speakers and Presenters: Janet Carpenter, Kim Carter, Michael Crawford, Bonnie Thamm Evans, Reverend Lorraine Newton-Comar, David Pilkey

- **Program Topics:** Loonie Auction, Fun and Games, Tour of Sharon Temple, Me to We in Africa, A Gathering of Friends, Welcoming Arms, Summer Memories, A.U.C.W. Archives, Dinner Outing, Circle of Friendship, Health Tips for Seniors, A.U.C. Reconstruction, Animal Research and Data Tracking, The Travelling Backpack of WWI Artifacts, and Christmas Potluck Dinner and General Meeting



In May, Grace Unit took a guided tour of Sharon Temple in Sharon.

2019 PROJECTS AND FUNDRAISERS:

All members of A.U.C.W. worked on these projects, as they were able. Without the initiative, hard work, and dedication of the leaders and organizers of these endeavours, they would not have existed. A.U.C.W. received much support from the congregation of A.U.C. Without the participation of many in the congregation and the community, the projects would have not succeeded. Thank you to all who helped in a variety of ways.

- **Fourth Annual Spring Book Sale:**

Conveners: Kathie Blackman, Anne Ella-Arnold, Laurie Graham

In April, the successful sale netted us \$962.20, which we used to support local charities.

- **Camp Big Canoe Donations Collected:**

Conveners: Pat Innes, Mary Smith

During the month of May, A.U.C.W. collected donations for Camp Big Canoe to help defray the expenses of running the camp. The items were delivered in June.

- **Grace Unit Loonie Auction:**

Conveners: Nettie Damstra, Anne Ella-Arnold, Helen Roberts,

Kay Snelgrove, Susan Tutt. In June, Grace Unit met for a potluck dinner.

Members of Seekers Unit were guests. There were twenty-six members present. Following dinner there was a loonie auction. We raised \$205.

The recipient of our auction proceeds was Inn From the Cold.

- **Sale of Cobs Bread Discount Cards:**

Convener: Helen Roberts

As the result of the generous donation from Cobs Bread in Aurora, we sold these cards following a few church services just prior to Easter. We made \$220. One hundred percent of the proceeds have been put into the A.U.C. Reconstruction Fund.

- **A Gathering of Friends:**

Conveners: Anne Ella-Arnold, Pat Innes, Helen Roberts, Mary Smith,

Leslie Stoangi. In October, A.U.C.W. held a meeting with a cluster of

U.C.W.s from nine other churches in Shining Waters Region.

Forty-three people attended.

- The event included fellowship, musical entertainment by David Pilkey, worship, and refreshments.
- **Christmas Stocking Program for Clients of the Women's Centre of York Region:**
 Conveners: Karen Allen, Mary Smith, Kay Snelgrove
 We filled eighty-eight stockings with the help of the congregation of A.U.C. They were delivered in mid-December, just in time for Christmas. And donations were also received to help purchase program supplies.
- **Christmas Potluck and General Meeting:**
 Conveners: Anne Ella-Arnold, Nancy Newman, Helen Roberts, Mary Smith
 All women of the congregation were invited to attend this annual gathering. Also invited were our U.C.W. friends from Bradford and Wesley. Forty-five people attended. The guest speaker was Bonnie Thamm Evans, Executive Director of Welcoming Arms. At this meeting, Anne Ella-Arnold was presented with her U.C.W. Life Membership Pin in recognition of her two-year term as president.
- **A.U.C. Reconstruction Fund:**
 In 2019, donations continued to be accepted to put towards some aspect of the reconstruction of our church building. The balance at the end of December was \$18,073.12. A decision as to what will be purchased has been put on hold until we have a clearer vision as to what will be the best way to use the donations.
- **Recipients of Our Donations:**
 Aurora Food Pantry, Aurora United Church, Blue Door Shelters, Camping Opportunities Fund, Gran Aurora, Hope House Community Hospice, Inn from the Cold, L'arche Daybreak, Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers, Sandgate Women's Shelter, United Church of Canada Mission and Service Fund, The Women's Centre of York Region, Women's Inter-church Council—Fellowship of the Least Coin, Yellow Brick House, York Region Street Outreach Crosslinks Housing and Support Services (Loft Community Services)

WEBPAGE:

Our webpage was updated monthly. Information was provided as a current resource for the members of A.U.C.W., members of the congregation of A.U.C., and the wider community. Also posted there was a brief synopsis of our history from 1962 to the present.

SHINING WATERS REGION UNITED CHURCH WOMEN:

In May, at the final A.G.M. of Toronto Conference U.C.W., the inaugural slate of officers of Shining Waters Region U.C.W. was installed as follows:

President: Pat Edmonds, Vice-President: Diane Aikman,

Secretary: Rose Stannell, Treasurer: Anne Ella-Arnold,

Portfolios: Camping: Laurie Cook, Angela Schwarz, and Sue Williams,

Communication: Nancy Waxl, Outreach: Enid Wilson,

Webpage: Joyce MacKinnon, 40th Anniversary Award: Esther Lewis. The executive met three times following the annual meeting in June, September, and October.

In October, one hundred fifty-five women met at Cardinal Golf Club for Togetherness Day. Welcoming remarks were given by David Leyton-Brown, and presentations were given by Beulah Hayley, National U.C.W. President, and Sandra Kirby, L.L.W.L.

The 2019 A.G.M. will take place on Monday, May 4, 2020 at Burton Avenue United Church in Barrie.

Report submitted:

Anne Ella-Arnold,

A.U.C.W. President.

United Church Women-Financial Reports

AURORA UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

2019 INCOME STATEMENT

TREASURER: LESLIE STOANGI

BALANCE: JANUARY 1, 2019

CHEQUABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT	1,999.63	
G.I.C. #41	3,383.28	
G.I.C. #45	8,583.84	
G.I.C. #46	3,075.45	
G.I.C. #47	2,400.00	
BALANCE		19,442.20

REVENUES: JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

COLLECTIONS--IDENTIFIABLE GIVINGS	2,876.00	
COLLECTIONS--FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN	32.16	
COLLECTIONS--UNIDENTIFIABLE GIVINGS	7.00	
A.U.C. RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT	100.00	
CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS	160.00	
FUND RAISING	1,387.20	
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT INTEREST	321.04	
TOTAL REVENUES		4,883.40

TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD	24,325.60
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EXPENDITURES: JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

A.U.C. GENERAL OPERATING FUND	1,000.00	
ADMINISTRATION	81.36	
CHARITABLE DONATIONS	2,937.16	
CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS	122.04	
GIFTS	82.59	
NATIONAL U.C.W. TRAVEL FUND	32.00	
PROGRAMME	177.95	
SOCIAL	132.12	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		4,565.22

BALANCE: DECEMBER 31, 2019

CHEQUABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT	1,787.26
*G.I.C. #45	8,746.93
*G.I.C. #46	3,123.12
*G.I.C. #47	2,437.20
*G.I.C. #51	3,665.87
BALANCE	19,760.38

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND BANK BALANCE	24,325.60
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*These investments are being withheld for an A.U.C. reconstruction project.

*Prepared by:
Leslie Stoangi- UCW Treasurer*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees holds all property and investments in trust on behalf of the congregation and the United Church of Canada. Our assets include the church land, all items in storage retrieved after the fire including the five stained glass windows, insurance payments received for the building and contents, the Endowment Fund and Flower Fund. The AUC congregation elects members of the Board of Trustees. The 2019 Board of Trustees members included: Blair Boyd, Karen Boyd, Reverend Andrew Comar (Chair), Bill Dies, Pat Innes (secretary), Denyse Slack (treasurer), Dave Snelgrove and Jamie Thompson.

Endowment Fund:

Endowment Fund interest (less inflation) is returned to AUC for use in the General Fund. Interest earned in any year is forwarded to the church treasurer early in January of the following year. The Flower Fund generates interest income for the purchase of flowers for worship and special events. In 2011, the Trustees financed the AUC debt using funds from the Endowment Fund. The principal is \$400,000. AUC makes monthly interest only payments to the Endowment Fund. The Trustees set the interest rate in 2019 at 3%. The principal will be paid back to the Endowment Fund when the final Offer to Lease and Development Agreement is signed with our property developers.

Insurance Funds:

After the fire, the Board of Trustees received insurance payments of \$8,575,000. These funds are invested for the preparation (including reports, architectural fees, consulting fees, legal fees etc.) and rebuilding of the new church. In 2019, \$247,500 from the interest on insurance investments was transferred to the General Fund to help offset losses due to the shortfall of income from not having a church building and rental houses.

Legal:

Following the fire, The Trustees engaged Thomas Gold Pettingill LLP(TGP) to work on our behalf in our litigation with those responsible for the fire. The mediation process happened April 2, 2019. Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar

and Rev. Andrew Comar attended the day with our lawyers. We were very close in achieving our goal by the end of the day. The final settlement of \$7,000,000.00 was reached at the end of 2019. These funds were transferred into an interest-bearing account with TGP in January, 2020. They will be held by TGP until the courts make a decision on June 19, 2020. This has happened because Aviva has made an application against the funds.

In 2019 the Board of Trustees...

- a. signed amendment to the Offer to Lease and Development Agreement with Southbound Developments to March 2, 2020
- b. signed Acknowledgement and Direction to our property lawyers to authorize the Application to Consolidate Parcels on the Lands. This now consolidates all five properties under the one title held by the Board of Trustees
- c. received a rebate from Bell Canada (January 2, 2020) in the amount of \$74,661.40 for the removal of the line from the property
- d. signed lease with Trinity Anglican Church which extends from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020.
- e. received a copy of the last will and testament of Robert Simpson, naming Aurora United Church as a beneficiary
- f. signed contract with our architect, Bob Murphy of Murphy Partners, Toronto

Thank you to the members of the Board of Trustees for their support and dedication for everything that we had to do in 2019. We serve the congregation through the Church Council and in response to what is needed for our rebuilding project. We look forward to what 2020 will bring to AUC.

Respectfully submitted:
Rev. Andrew Comar

2019 Trustees Account Statement December 2019

	December 31/18	Additions	General Fund	Withdrawals	Interest and Income Return	December 31/19
Account						
Endowment	\$461,909.09	\$4,937.77	\$4,937.77	\$15,251.14	\$34,138.58	\$480,796.53
In Trust for General Fund -Earmarked Donations	\$16,460.70				\$295.06	\$16,755.76
In Trust for General Fund -Surplus Insurance Proceeds	\$24,985.30				\$447.87	\$25,433.17
Proceeds for Rebuilding	\$7,667,918.32	\$43,916.98		\$1,109,961.01	\$211,255.78	\$6,813,130.07
Flower Fund	\$3,497.51			\$64.41	\$61.54	\$3,494.64
Loan to Church	\$400,000.00					\$400,000.00
Trustees Refugee Resettlement Fund	\$28,424.85				\$509.52	\$28,934.37
Change in Market Value	-\$439,282.29				\$686,002.55	\$246,720.26
Total	\$8,163,913.48					\$8,015,264.80

Account Balances December 31/19

BMO Chequing Account	\$63,590.40
Trustees Endowment Fund	\$568,875.73
Trustees Building Fund	\$6,982,798.67
Loan to General Fund	\$400,000.00
Total	\$8,015,264.80

Building Fund Major Dispersements in 2019

Succession Developments	\$555,662.64
AUC General	\$247,500.00
Robert Murphy	\$164,749.77
TGP	\$47,274.55

Aurora United Church	\$15,176.58
Flower Fund	\$61.54
Resettlement Fund	\$509.52

These amounts will be remitted to the Church general and IRR fund respectively subject to approval.

In December 2019, the year end inflation rate was 2.2% and the endowment fund must retain this amount of funds with any surplus returned to the church. Within the endowment fund, funds are invested for earmarked donations, surplus insurance proceeds, the IRR resettlement fund and the flower fund with these accounts earning interest in proportion to the amount they contribute to the total fund.