

## **Aurora United Church Annual Report 2020**

<b><i>IN MEMORIAM</i></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><i>MINISTERS MESSAGE.....</i></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><i>CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT</i></b>	<b>6</b>
<b><i>2020 AUC Council.....</i></b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Aurora United Church Annual General Meeting November 4, 2020 .....</i></b>	<b>14</b>
<b><i>CHURCH COMMITTEE STRUCTURE</i></b>	<b>22</b>
<b><i>COUNCIL STATISTICS 2020</i></b>	<b>23</b>
<b><i>AFFIRMING CONGREGATION COMMITTEE</i></b>	<b>24</b>
<b><i>EDGE PROPERTY COMMITTEE</i></b>	<b>24</b>
<b><i>OAKWIL SENIOR NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION</i></b>	<b>26</b>
<b><i>MINISTRY REPORTS</i></b>	<b>28</b>
<b><i>Ministry of Faith Formation.....</i></b>	<b>28</b>
<b><i>Adult Faith Formation .....</i></b>	<b>29</b>
<b><i>Book Club.....</i></b>	<b>30</b>
<b><i>Woman Spirit .....</i></b>	<b>31</b>
<b><i>Virtual Coffee Time - morning and evening editions.....</i></b>	<b>31</b>
<b><i>Youth Group.....</i></b>	<b>32</b>
<b><i>3rd Aurora Scouting Reports.....</i></b>	<b>32</b>
<b><i>MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES</i></b>	<b>36</b>
<b><i>Finance Committee.....</i></b>	<b>36</b>
<b><i>Treasurer's Report.....</i></b>	<b>39</b>
<b><i>Bequests &amp; Memorials.....</i></b>	<b>41</b>
<b><i>2020 Financials &amp; 2021 Budget.....</i></b>	<b>42</b>

<i>Cash Cards Committee .....</i>	<i>47</i>	
<i>Archives .....</i>	<i>48</i>	
<i>Property Committee.....</i>	<i>49</i>	
<b><i>MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION</i></b>		<b><i>51</i></b>
<i>Worship Committee.....</i>	<i>51</i>	
<i>Chancel Choir .....</i>	<i>53</i>	
<i>Handbells.....</i>	<i>54</i>	
<b><i>MINISTRY OF SERVING</i></b>		<b><i>55</i></b>
<i>Pastoral Care Committee.....</i>	<i>55</i>	
<i>Prayer Shawl Ministry .....</i>	<i>57</i>	
<i>Outreach Committee .....</i>	<i>60</i>	
<i>Interfaith Refugee Resettlers (IRR) .....</i>	<i>62</i>	
<i>Rise &amp; Shine Community Breakfast .....</i>	<i>65</i>	
<b><i>MINISTRY &amp; PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</i></b>		<b><i>66</i></b>
<b><i>UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)</i></b>		<b><i>70</i></b>
<i>United Church Women-Financial Reports.....</i>	<i>76</i>	
<b><i>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</i></b>		<b><i>79</i></b>
<i>2020 Trustees Account Statement .....</i>	<i>83</i>	

## 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 blessing rests upon us, their life is memory,  
their spirits are set free. *(Sylvia Dunstan)*

November 1, 2020 – April 28, 2021

*Shirley Francis Bryan*

*William Murray Oliver*

*Barbara Grace Oliver*

*Harold Robert Butler*

*Ivor William Roberts*

*Lori Ann Harrison*

*Mary Wostyn*

*John Edward Speck*

*Robert "Buck" Harold Foote*

*Carol Beaver*

## MINISTERS MESSAGE

*Dear AUC Friends,*

*A year has passed and we are still separated out from one another, still keeping to the social protocols and restrictions demanded by COVID-19 and its variants. As a community of faith this has meant that we continue to be an online congregation for the most part, doing what we can to keep worship, administration, ministry groups, outreach and pastoral care functioning as fully as possible.*

*In the early days of the pandemic we acknowledged together, something we had learned from past experience, that the church is not a building, but its people. We have had to remind each other of this now and again; the struggle is real and together we have risen to the challenge once again. We will, no doubt, in time, look back at how we were able to adapt to this changed circumstance—not only for our church but also in our lives more broadly. Many of us have had to shift our work lives and the school lives of our children and youth to home. In truth, everything about our daily lives has changed...and now, with the roll out and delivery of vaccines we are beginning to look to the future when we will be free of the virus which has touched the world.*

*Though we may have wearied in this time waiting for our lives to return to normal, our support for one another has not. And so we offer our gratitude and respect to all who are contributing to the life and mission of our church, which extends to the large group of worship participants who continue to offer word and music for the uplifting of the congregation.*

*The members of our AUC Council continue to serve the congregation, gathering as we have on Zoom in this year; we bless each one of them for the ministry they provide.*

*Bill Newman (AUC Council Chair) has kept our meetings positive and forward-looking, providing the excellent leadership for which he is known. His shared discernment in what is essential for congregational support in a crisis has created a sense of strength and confidence within the Council. We are deeply grateful for his wise council and friendship.*

*Brian North (Chair, EDGE Property Committee) continues to lead the EDGE committee, which has pressed on with design plans and negotiations with our development partners. Progress is now very evident on our church site. Brian's deep commitment and tireless efforts are a blessing to our church.*

*Though our staffing has been somewhat fractured in this time, we have continued with monthly staff visits for mutual support. We thank and bless—Cathy Hiltz, Lisa Kyriakides, Margaret Heney and Carmen Harany for their commitment and look forward to that time when we will be back together again!*

*Our Annual Report contains evidence of an active, vibrant church community, made that way by individuals who offer their devotion, time and skill as an expression of their faith in God. Our logo, 'uniting hearts and hands on the journey' is more relevant than ever, as we acknowledge that we are 'in God' together for whatever may come our way; we will meet it together as we have done in the past.*

*Whilst still in the days of Easter, in the echo of Jesus' rising to new life, loosed into the world and into our lives, we remind one another in this time of great challenge that it is always so...that light comes with the dawn and our hope is renewed in Jesus Christ.*

*God bless each of us, and all whom we love and serve, in this significant time in our history.*

*Deep blessings,  
Lorraine & Andy*



**Starting back row reading left to right:** John Kuropatwa, Rev. Andy Comar, Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Bill Newman, Andrea Drost, Laurie Bentolila, Alison Backer, Brian Walter, Joyce Hagarty, Paula Hanna, , Jennifer Kenwell, Frank Pulumbarit, Rob Gulbranson, Nancy Kerswill, Peter Drost.

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

As we entered 2020, we heard growing reports of the global spread of a virulent new coronavirus. Little did we imagine at the time that our church life and lives in general would be so completely upended as the year progressed. Through January and February, we continued with our normal schedule of worship services, meetings and activities. The Affirming Vision Statement drafted by the Affirming Congregation Committee was approved by the Congregation. We welcomed our second refugee family and through the efforts of the Interfaith Refugee Resettlers, found rental accommodations for them. We celebrated with Revs. Andy and Lorraine as they marked their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ministry at AUC.

In mid-March, however, our familiar routines suddenly and dramatically changed with the arrival of the COVID-19 virus in our community and the implementation of heightened public health measures. Between March 9 and 15, we literally “turned on a dime” to switch from in-person worship services and meetings to online services broadcast from our Ministers’ home and meetings on a new video application called Zoom. Preparations were made to have the staff work from home and measures were taken to protect AUC’s financial position. As March turned into April and Trinity Anglican was closed for access, the painful decision was made to place three staff members on temporary layoff status due to a decrease in workload.

Although we hoped at the time that all of these extraordinary measures would be relatively short lived, the occurrence of the virus’ second wave in September required that they remain in place for the balance of the year and subsequently into the new year.

At the end of September, Council distributed a survey to the congregation to assess how members were feeling about the inability to worship and meet in person and when members would feel comfortable to return. The survey responses indicated that people were missing many aspects of being together but at the same time expressed satisfaction with the online services and gatherings. When asked about a return to worshipping and meeting at Trinity Anglican, the vast majority of respondents stated that they would be willing to do so either when they had been vaccinated or when the COVID-19 virus no longer represented a public health threat. From the survey results, Council decided to place an emphasis upon frequent communications and updates to the congregation and to continue with online worship services and virtual meetings for the foreseeable future.

Another milestone in the rebuilding of our church was achieved at the end of May. In a joint meeting, Council and the Trustees authorized a long-term lease agreement with our development partners covering the construction of the retirement home. A separate agreement was approved at the same time for the construction of the church foundation, basement and underground parking. The conclusion of these agreements cleared the way for the start of preparatory work on

the site and applications for building permits. The members of the EDGE Property Committee are to be commended for the incredible amount of time and effort which they continue to devote to making the new AUC a reality.

In a year of unprecedented events, AUC marked another one with the holding of its first-ever virtual Annual General Meeting in November. Meeting on Zoom, the congregation was able to complete its essential business, including the approval of the annual operating budget and the report of the Nominating Committee. Assuming that public health restrictions will still be in place to one degree or another, the 2021 Annual General Meeting is also being planned as an online meeting.

In March, Jeff Clark and John Barkla completed their terms on Council. Thank you, John and Jeff, for your contributions at the Council table and for volunteering your time and talents in the service of AUC. While Jeff and John departed Council, Joyce Hagarty and Andrea Drost joined the group as Elders-at-Large. Welcome to Council, Andrea and Joyce, and thank you for agreeing to serve.

Finally, some special recognitions are in order. A key task at every Council meeting is the taking of the minutes as the official record of our discussions and decisions. Our appreciation is extended to Paula Hanna and Jennifer Kenwell for performing this important duty. I personally would like to thank all of the members of Council for your support, your advice and your perseverance in what has been a very challenging time involving some difficult decisions. We are also indebted to Revs. Lorraine and Andy for everything that they have done to hold us together and keep us moving forward in faith over the past year. They have worked harder than ever to deliver weekly online worship services and to organize and attend meetings and gatherings. Thank you, Andy and Lorraine, for your spiritual leadership and guidance.

While the events of 2020 will constitute the stuff of memories for years to come, we are looking forward with hope and anticipation to a better 2021. Thank you for your continued support and understanding of Council's efforts.



*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Bill Newman*  
Chair, AUC Council

## **Motions Passed by AUC Council During 2020**

### **February 10**

#### *Rental Accommodations for Refugee Family*

That we provide to IRR a letter of guarantee from AUC Council, for the rent and utilities for a one-year lease, on a property in Aurora.

#### *Reduction in Work Hours*

That the Church Secretary's weekly hours be reduced by 1.5 hours, resulting in the closure of the Church Office at 2:00 PM on Thursdays, effective March 1, 2020.

### **March 9**

#### *Interfaith Refugee Resettlers (IRR) Membership*

That Jane Taylor be appointed to IRR.

#### *Rental Accommodations for Refugee Family*

That the current lease for 45 Aurora Heights Drive be amended to include a cat.

Should AUC be charged for any damages caused by the cat, then Marven Dendo (tenant) will repay the amount in full and that Marven will sign a letter to that effect.

#### *Affirming Congregation Committee*

That Council approve the Affirming Action Plan as presented

### *Payment of Invoices*

That Council authorizes the Trustees to pay rebuilding invoices and insurance claims for 2020.

## **April 6**

### *Measures to Protect AUC's Finances as a Result of COVID-19 Impacts*

That Council directs the Trustees to apply for a bridging loan through Toronto United Church Council.

The proposed decision to request the Board of Trustees to advance insurance interest installments of \$25.0K in both April and May was carried.

The proposed decision to request the Board of Trustees to suspend the monthly loan repayments for the time being was carried.

The proposed decision to instruct all Committees and groups to restrict operating expenditures to non-discretionary and emergency items only for the time being was carried.

The proposed decision to request a reduction in rent from Trinity Anglican until such time as worship, meetings, the Rise and Shine Community Breakfasts and gatherings can be resumed was carried.

The proposed decision to apply to the Town of Aurora for a property tax deferral was carried.

The proposed decision to suspend the monthly UCC assessment payment for the time being in line with guidance confirmed by the General Council Office was carried.

The proposed decision to suspend the Rise and Shine Community Breakfast Program until the Provincial State of Emergency and social distancing rules are lifted was carried.

The proposed decision to direct the weekly budgeted monies for the Rise and Shine Community Breakfast Program to the Bridging the Gap program at Welcoming Arms for extra assistance was carried.

The proposed decision, that Council request our Treasurer to change the terms of our Operating Bank Account with BMO to include the capability to receive e-transfer donations into the account and further, to establish a dedicated email account, e- t@auroraunitedchurch.ca, be created specifically to receive e-transfers and that this account would be monitored by our Treasurer was carried.

That Council directs the Finance Committee to apply for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and if determined ineligible for CEWS, to apply for the 10% temporary wage subsidy for employers.

That Council directs the Trustees to apply for a loan of \$40,000 under the provisions of the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA).

## **May 11**

### *Trinity Anglican Rent Relief*

That the AUC Council accepts the outline of rent relief offered in the May 14/20 letter from Trinity Church Aurora.

### *Deferral of Annual General Meeting*

That the AUC Council postpone the Annual General Meeting until the State of Emergency is lifted by the province.

### *Temporary Layoff of Staff Members*

That due to the business implications of Covid-19, the Secretary, Music Coordinator and Handbell Choir Director be temporarily laid off with their last day of work being May 29, 2020.

## **May 24**

### *Rise and Shine Breakfasts*

That Council approves the resumption of Rise and Shine Breakfast take-out meals in conjunction with the Aurora Cares Committee and the York Region Food Network beginning on Saturday May 30, 2020.

### *AUC Rebuild*

That Council directs the Board of Trustees to enter into a CCDC-2 fixed-price contract for the construction of the church basement, parking and shared parking with Succession Development Corporation.

That Council directs the Board of Trustees to enter into a 99-year lease and reciprocal easement and cost sharing agreement with the Amica (Aurora) General Partnership comprised of Southbound Development (Aurora) Inc. and Amica Aurora Ltd. Partnership.

## **August 29**

### *Provision of Legal Advice*

The decision is that the law firm of Morley Hicks be retained to provide legal advice at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.

## **September 2**

### *Temporary Layoffs*

The decision is that the temporary layoff status of Cathy Hiltz and Margaret Heney be extended by two weeks beyond September 4, 2020.

## **September 14**

### *Return to In-Person Worship*

That Aurora United Church will not be returning to in-person worship for the foreseeable future.

### *Temporary Layoffs*

That the (IDEL) extended leaves of Margaret Heney and Cathy Hiltz be extended to January 2, 2021. And, that they may be recalled sooner if Aurora United Church Council decides to do so.

### *Payment of Health Benefits*

That in the event that the United Church of Canada decides not to pay the health benefit premiums for staff who have been temporarily laid off, then Aurora United Church will pay these same premiums from October 1, 2020 up to January 2, 2021 (or sooner if staff are recalled earlier).

### *Licence Agreement with Trinity Anglican*

That Council recommends to the Board of Trustees that the licence agreement between Trinity Anglican Church and AUC covering the period October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 be approved, subject to clarification by Trinity Anglican of the application of Clause 15, Schedule C of the agreement.

## **December 14**

### *Licence Agreement with Trinity Anglican*

That the Trustees be directed to sign the new licence agreement with Trinity Anglican and that the latest proposal for rent under the license agreement for the period of October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 between Aurora United Church and Trinity Anglican be accepted based upon 100% of the rental for the offices and 85% for the sanctuary.

### *Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation*

The further amended version of Oakwill Non-profit Homes Corporation Bylaw #1 Version 5 dated December 14th, 2020 be approved superceding the version dated June 10th,

### *Pension Service Buyback*

That AUC make the necessary arrangements to pay the employer portion of the identified employee's pension service buyback.

**Aurora United Church  
Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday, November 4, 2020  
7:00 pm  
Zoom Video Conferencing**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Sixty-five members and adherents were present (See the attached Attendance List).

**Welcome and Call to Order:** Bill Newman

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm

An AGM by video conferencing is another first in the history of Aurora United Church.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle-**Rev. Andrew Comar

**Acknowledgement of Territory:**

As we begin our meeting this evening, we acknowledge that we worship and reside on the traditional lands of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation and recognize their stewardship of the land throughout the ages.

**Prayer:** Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar

**Meeting Protocols-**Bill Newman and Rev. Andrew Comar

Motions have been grouped by topic to speed up the voting process which takes longer on video conferencing and phone.

The following protocols were explained:

- how to have a motion pulled from the omnibus motion
- how to vote
- how to ask question

## **Adherent Voting:**

**Motion:** That Adherents of AUC may vote.  
**Moved by:** Peter Drost  
**Seconded by:** Paula Hanna  
**Disposition:** carried

## **Omnibus Motion #1**

**MOTION:** that the AUC congregation take the following actions:

- a. That the agenda be accepted as circulated
- b. That Paula Hanna be appointed as secretary for this AGM.
- c. That the minutes of the AGM of March 17, 2019 be approved as circulated.
- d. That the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of April 7, 2019 be approved as circulated.
- e. That the printed 2019 Annual Report be accepted as circulated and amended (excluding 2019 Income/Expense statement and 2020 Budget).

**Moved by:** Nancy Kerswill  
**Seconded by:** Alison Backer  
**Disposition:** carried

Brian North noted that on p. 26 of the Annual Report 181 (not 186) remains were removed, and 89 (not 86) graves were empty, removed in the 1800s.

**In Memoriam:** Paula Hanna – Chair of Pastoral Care Committee  
The names of members who passed away in 2019 and until November 1st of 2020 were read.

## **Finance Committee Presentation:**

Stephen Crawley, Chair of the Finance Committee provided a summary of the 2019 operating budget results and an overview of the 2020 operating budget. He showed a graph illustrating the steady decrease in total offerings since 2016. In 2019, the total revenue was up, but the total expenses were down. We have maintained a balanced budget because the deficits have been offset by payments from the interest on the insurance payout after the church fire. Interest on the insurance capital for 2019 was \$247 500.

The total revenue from all sources in 2019 was \$558 900, primarily due to Congregational Offerings which were higher than budgeted. Total Operating Expenses were \$536 700. Our Operating Deficit was \$225 000, in 2019, which was covered by the insurance interest payout.

Appreciation was expressed to Stephen and the members of the Finance Committee for guiding us through difficult times.

## **Omnibus Motion #2**

**MOTION:** that the AUC congregation take the following actions:

- a. That the 2019 Income/Expense statement be accepted as presented.
- b. That the 2020 Budget be accepted as presented.
- c. That Roberts & Company Professional Corporation (formerly van Nostrand & Partners CGA) provide our accounting services for 2020.

**Moved by:** Stephen Crawley  
**Seconded by:** Carmen Harany  
**Disposition:** Carried



## **Nominating Committee Report:**

### **Omnibus Motion #3**

**MOTION:** that the AUC congregation take the following actions:

a. That the Congregation elect the following individuals to the incoming Council of Aurora United Church:

Andrea Drost – Elder at Large

Joyce Hagarty – Elder at Large

Brian Walter – Ministry Advocate for Congregational Resources

b. That the Congregation re-elect the following individuals to the incoming Council of Aurora United Church:

Alison Backer – Ministry Advocate for Faith Formation

Peter Drost – Ministry Advocate for Serving and Vice-Chair

Rob Gulbranson – Elder at Large

c. That the Congregation elect the following full members as lay representatives to the Shining Waters Regional Council:

Bill Newman, Ivor Roberts, Debby Schieck and Brian Walter

d. That The Congregation authorizes Council to appoint further members to Council Committees in-year as warranted.

e. That the Congregation authorize Council to elect members to the Nominating Committee, which will report to the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

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

**Moved by:** Peter Drost  
**Seconded by:** Jackie Catto  
**Disposition:** Carried

In discussion of this motion, it was explained that the lay representatives to the Shining Waters Regional Council were chosen for the 2020 meetings, but because the Congregation hadn't approved these nominees, the 2019 representatives were asked to attend the on-line meetings.

Peter Drost and Jackie Catto were thanked for their work on the Nominating Committee.

**EDGE Property Committee:** Brian North

Challenges completed in 2019:

- Bell Canada completed their relocation of the main hub.
- The excavation and removal of the remains from the historic Methodist cemetery was completed in July.
- An order of magnitude was presented to Council, setting a budget to allow us to continue to move forward with our planning and also to allow us to engage the various trades.
- We were pleased to move forward with Geothermal Technology.
- Both the lease and reciprocal agreement were signed in May by Succession and Amica firming up our partnerships.

The kitchen layout was shared, and photos of the dishwasher and stove were shown.

Appreciation was expressed to the EDGE Property Committee members.

**Staff Appreciation:** M&P Committee – John Kuropatwa

Comments were mostly about the challenges faced in 2020. Three of our staff are on extended leave and we miss them. Lisa Kyriakides, Cathy Hiltz and Margaret Heney have so many talents, and we look forward to having them lead us again in the near future. Carmen Harany, our Treasurer, has worked tirelessly and capably to keep our finances in order.

Rev. Lorraine and Rev. Andy have risen to the challenge to create thought-provoking, interesting, on-line services, involving many members of the Congregation. They have tried to maintain connections through phone calls, emails, virtual coffee times and announcements. Most committees and groups have continued to meet via Zoom video conferences.

### **Message from Bill Newman, Chair of Council**

Covid-19 has caused a total shift of Congregational activities. Bill thanked the Congregation for their patience and forbearance. Zoom video conferencing has been the next best thing to being together. We hold the staff in our thoughts and prayers and hope they will all be back with us soon.

We received 92 responses to our survey. That represents about 33% of the possible responses. Council will look at the survey results and will distribute the results to the Congregation. These results will guide our decision making.

Jeff Clark and John Barkla were thanked for their time on Council, and the current Council was thanked for their continued commitment.

### **Message from Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar**

**Rev. Lorraine:** We are missing our relational aspect of the church but embracing the new virtual life. Aurora United Church has prevailed for 200 years and will keep moving forward to our dream of a new church building. The Congregational vote on becoming an Affirming Congregation will wait until we can be together again in person. God goes with us. Zoom is another memory to add to our history.

**Rev. Andy:** Appreciation was expressed to many people for making today's meeting, and the past year successful:

- Our Staff-we're looking forward to being together again.
- Bill Newman-Chair of council.
- John Kuropatwa and the M & P Committee.
- Brian North and the EDGE Property Committee.
- Paula Hanna for acting as secretary for today's meeting.
- Carol Lever and the volunteers for the Rise and Shine Breakfast Program.

- Welcoming Arms and the volunteers for Martha's Table, Welcome Table and Fill-the-Gap.
- Pastoral Care Team for trying to keep in touch with the Congregation.
- Congregation members for making calls to others.
- Stephen Crawley, Carmen Harany, Denyse Slack and members of the Finance Committee and Trustees for keeping our finances under control.
- All of the Chairs and group members of committees for their work.

**Closing prayer:** Rev. Andy Comar

**Adjournment: 9:18 pm**

---

Bill Newman (Chair)

---

Paula Hanna (Secretary)

**Aurora United Church**  
2020 AGM  
Attendance

Rev. Andy Comar

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar

**Full Members (59):**

Colleen Abbott, Craig Arnold, Anne Ella-Arnold, Alison Backer, Martha Bailkowski, Laurie Bentolila, Kathie Blackman, Blair Boyd, Karen Boyd, David Brownlow, Joan Brownlow, Jackie Catto, Irene Clement, John Clement, Bruce Corbett, Sharon Corbett, Stephen Crawley, Ep Damstra, Nettie Damstra, Andrea Drost, Peter Drost, Brian Elliot, Penny Elliot, Steve Falk, Laurie Graham, Caroline Gulbranson, Rob Gulbranson, Joyce Hagarty, Paula Hanna, Jennifer Hanna, Carmen Harany, Alison Heffer, Crawford Heritage, Doreen Hiltz, Pat Innes, Lloyd Kerswill, Nancy Kerswill, Joan Kuropatwa, John Kuropatwa, Bob Kyriakides, Lisa Kyriakides, Susan Linley, Nelly Lopez, Bill Newman, Janice Nolan, Brian North, Frank Pulumbarit, Helen Roberts, Ivor Roberts, Denyse Slack, Ken Smith, Mary Smith, Dave Snelgrove, John Speck, Yvonne Speck, Susan Sue-Ling, Charles Truax, Myrtle Truax, Skyler Verschelden

**Adherents (6):**

David Hanna, Margaret Heney, Cathy Hiltz, Dawn Horstead, David Pilkey, Nancy Newman

## CHURCH COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

### AUC CHURCH COUNCIL

- Ministry Advocates (5)
- UCW Rep (1)
- Ministry Personnel (2)
- Elders at Large (6)
- M & P Rep (1)
- Trustee Rep (1)

### SERVING MINISTRY

- Pastoral Care
- Outreach
- Health & Wellness
- Mission & Service Fund

### CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES MINISTRY

- Finance
- Property
- Rental Property Management
- Archives
- I.T.

### PROCLAMATION MINISTRY

- Worship
- Music
- Audiovisual
- Sanctuary Decorating

### CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRY

- Membership
- Stewardship
- Communications

### FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

- Vacation Bible Camp
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora Scouts
- Children & Youth Programs
- Adult Faith Formation

## COUNCIL STATISTICS 2020

Baptisms	nil
Weddings	2
Funeral/Memorial Services	4
New Members by Transfer	nil
New Members by Profession of Faith	nil
Members Removed by Death	1
Members Removed by Transfer	1
Members Removed by Personal Request	nil
Members Moved to Non-Resident List	1
Resident Members 12/31/2019	552
Resident Members 12/31/2020	550
Households under Pastoral Care	240

## **AFFIRMING CONGREGATION COMMITTEE**

The Affirming Committee has continued to meet online in this year of pandemic, mostly for mutual support and to reflect on the changed circumstances which has led to a pause for the Affirming process.

On the precipice of the final vote in 2020, we were thwarted by pandemic lockdowns which led our group to the decision that we will wait until we are all back together again to take that vote.

We were all deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend, ally and committee member, Ivor Roberts—his commitment to the pathway towards inclusion and acceptance for LGBTQ2+ members was unwavering. We miss him terribly and bless his memory.

In this time of waiting, we encourage one another in keeping God's unconditional love and acceptance alive in our hearts-in our church community, and beyond.

Affirm Members: Brian Walter, Debby Schieck, Noah Comar, Mary Munro, Victoria Kyriakides, Rev. Lorraine, Rev. George Moore (Shining Waters, Affirm)

*Submitted by Rev. Lorraine*

## **EDGE PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Committee Members:

Brian North (Chair), Rev. Andy Comar, Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Holly Todd Williamson, Pat Innis, Scott Sinclair, David Snelgrove, John Clement, Crawford Heritage, Doug Gilpin.

Bill Newman (Chair of Council) attends our meetings and is an invaluable member of our team.



Starting our year off in 2020, we were required to extend our contract options with Succession to comply with our agreement. This extended our timing for completion of the contract and we are pleased that both the lease and reciprocal agreement were signed in May firming up our partnerships. At the same time, we were given the remaining balance of the \$3,000,000.00 as per our agreement. Covid19 became another setback adding to the many we have already endured. Nevertheless, we continued to forge ahead with our planning and applications with the help of Zoom and conference calls. Although this slowed down the process somewhat, we have continued to make great strides.

We engaged the services of a professional kitchen planning company, experts in industrial kitchen planning. We reviewed and scrutinized their initial layout with some changes and required explanations and were pleased with the final outcome. We unanimously agreed that this meets our needs and will be a fully functional space that we will all enjoy working in. We then have since shared these with many of our church groups for their feedback and were pleased with their input and approval.

After many hours and long meetings, we advised the congregation that we are moving ahead with Geothermal heating but regrettably at the tail end of the year were hit with unfortunate news from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA). New measures were added making this option unreasonably expensive with no guarantee of a positive outcome. Therefore we had to abandon geothermal and go back to standard mechanical options.

Once our partnership contracts were signed in May, the process of Site Plan Approval started and permits for various stages were submitted. By year end we received approval for the loading of the land to equalize the pressure over the whole site and our building permit application was submitted. Early in 2021 the temporary retaining walls were installed and about 500 truckloads of soil were brought in to meet the requirements. Special measuring devices have been installed and once the engineers deem it fit, we will then see all the retaining walls and that same soil along with more removed as the excavation process begins, hopefully by

the end of summer. At that time the foundation of the whole complex, retirement home and church will begin.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Brian North (Chair of EDGE Property Committee)*

## **OAKWIL SENIOR NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION**

Oakwil Non-Profit Homes Corporation, a non-profit Ontario corporation and an incorporated ministry of Aurora United Church, is an extension of AUC's community outreach and partnership programmes. Oakwil owns and operates a twenty-eight unit townhouse complex in Oakridges with a mandate to provide rent-to-income housing for seniors. Originally founded in 1988 by the members of St. Paul's United Church, oversight responsibility for Oakwil was transferred to AUC when the two churches amalgamated in 2008.

By the provisions of Oakwil's corporate bylaws, the members of AUC Council constitute the "membership" of the corporation. Council appoints a Board of Directors to oversee the operations of the corporation. The Board of Directors in turn contracts with a professional property management firm, currently Richmond Community Management Services (RCMS), to manage and maintain the complex on a day-to-day basis, including tenant relations.

Oakwil has entered into a housing services agreement with York Region by which the latter provides an annual operating subsidy and capital funding to maintain and improve the complex. During the past year, for instance, funding was approved by York Region to refurbish the lighting in the community centre, replace some of the washers and dryers in the laundry room and procure an emergency generator to provide heat and light in the community centre in the event the residents need to shelter there in an emergency situation. The rents received from the residents combined with the operating subsidy from York Region are applied to the maintenance of the housing units and the grounds, the repayment of debt

(mortgage and loan) and the building of a reserve fund. Oakwil continues to be in stable financial condition.

The COVID-19 pandemic curtailed activities at Oakwil during 2020 in the same way as elsewhere. The community centre was closed to group gatherings. Precautionary measures were put in place for the performance of repair and maintenance tasks around the complex. RCMS and York Region provided information on public health measures to the residents and checked on their well being. Because of the restrictions on gatherings, the periodic general meetings with the residents and the annual Christmas get-together had to be cancelled.

Prior to the pandemic, the Board of Directors met on site for bimonthly Board meetings. During 2020, however, the Board conducted its business meetings via Zoom. Similarly, the Oakwil Annual General Meeting was held virtually on June 8. The Board of Directors for 2020 was comprised as follows:

- President – Ivor Roberts
- Vice President – Bill Newman
- Secretary – David Hanna
- Treasurer – Ken Graham
- Director – Christine Zarebski
- Resident Representative – Bernie Meagher

The Board expresses its appreciation to York Region for its ongoing financial support of Oakwil, to AUC for its continuing sponsorship and to RCMS for its capable management of the complex.

Sadly, Ivor Roberts, who devoted many years of voluntary service to the Oakwil Board of Directors and the betterment of Oakwil, passed away on January 25, 2021. This report is dedicated to his memory.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Newman, on behalf of the Oakwil Board of Directors.*

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### *Faith Formation*

Our Faith Formation Ministry group 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 at the beginning of 2020 under the leadership of a dedicated group of volunteers. The year started with several weeks of Epiphany and Transfiguration Sunday before our Journey to Easter workshops were interrupted by Covid. The pandemic did not stop us from celebrating Easter, and the children and youth created Easter cards at home to mail to those in long term care or retirement homes.

The Shining Waters Regional Council offered virtual Sunday school from March until the summer. We started our own virtual Sunday School in September with a variety of different themes leading up until Christmas, and have several families attend each week. Many children, youth and their families recorded different scenes to compile a wonderful, virtual, Christmas Pageant.

Several children and families from our congregation participated in our weekly Call to Worship readings as well as lighting of the Advent Candle.

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!

We all look forward to seeing the children and youth again in person sometime soon when it is safe to do so.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Alison Backer*  
*Ministry Advocate*  
*Faith Formation*

### ***Adult Faith Formation***

*Real to Reel* screens documentaries, resulting in stimulating conversation regarding issues of life and faith. In 2020 we were able to meet in January and February and watched *Crazywater* and *Alive Inside* respectively.

*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 2020 we screened *Downton Abbey: The Movie* in January and *Harriet* in February in the sanctuary of Trinity Anglican due to an influenza flu outbreak at Chartwell Aurora.

Unfortunately due to copyright restrictions we were not able to continue with *Real to Reel* and *AUC Movie Night* for the rest of 2020. We look forward to returning to these programs when it is safe to do so in person.

*Woman Spirit* is a monthly group that Rev. Lorraine leads for women. Please see their report on page 32.

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***

It has been noted by some members of Book Club that this year of pandemic has actually improved our attendance! There is something to be said for that statement—Zoom has allowed for participation no matter the weather or our location!

The Book Club meets the third Tuesday of the month (September to June), currently online at 7pm. The book roster is created by the group for the year and individuals present their title for discussion, often sharing audio or video interviews. There is always a great selection of genres, including best sellers and old favourites.

Book Club is not a closed group--all are welcome to participate; it is a great way to connect with others and to discuss interesting and challenging books.

Zoom information for Book Club is available on the AUC website and in the weekly Friday File.

Blessings in books,  
Rev. Lorraine

## ***Book Selections 2020/2021***

- Scarborough (*Catherine Hernandez*)
- Rabbit Foot Bill (*Helen Humphreys*)
- Notre Dame (*Ken Follett*)
- The Dutch House (*Ann Patchett*)
- The Golem and the Jinni (*Helene Wecker*)
- The Splendid and the Vile (*Erik Larson*)
- Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black in Young America (*Catherine Kerrison*)
- Do Not Say We Have Nothing (*Madeleine Thien*)

## ***Woman Spirit***

Though the pandemic has necessitated a change in the way we meet, Woman Spirit has pressed on, gathering on the Zoom platform since last March.

Woman Spirit has proven to be a welcome venue for women to share our lives with one another—to discuss relevant current topics, both personal and communal as they relate to our spirituality; to share creatively, with poetry and narrative; and to pray together. This has all served to deepen our friendships and to care for one another.

If you would like to participate in Woman Spirit, meetings are held the third Monday of the month (September to June) at 7pm; Zoom information appears on the AUC website and in the weekly Friday file.

*‘Come for sharing. Come for friendship. Come for community.’*

For more information, contact Rev. Lorraine ([lorraine@auroraunitedchurch.ca](mailto:lorraine@auroraunitedchurch.ca))

*Submitted by Rev. Lorraine*

## ***Virtual Coffee Time – the morning and evening editions***

When the Ontario government issued the stay-at-home order in March, we wondered how we might be able to connect with one another within the congregation. Virtual Coffee Time came into being. The Wednesday morning group has met every Wednesday during 2020 and the evening group began later in the year. We appreciate seeing and hearing everyone who comes on to both of these groups. We are fortunate that we have Zoom as a way to connect with not only our families and friends – but also members of our church family. Virtual Coffee Time will continue until we are back to in person groups. Please check out the AUC website if you would like more information on Virtual Coffee Time.

*Submitted by Rev. Andy*

## ***Youth Group***

Life changed for the AUC Youth and their friends in 2020. Throughout this year the youth met on zoom, led and participated in a variety of events, including a youth planning meeting hosted by Shining Waters Regional Council.

Members of the Youth Group created an Easter Scavenger Hunt for the members of the congregation. They sent Easter and Christmas cards to our friends in Retirement and Long Term Care residences. They assumed leadership in the online Advent service.

Like everything else we had to cancel our annual trip to Kettleby Valley Camp in September. This would have been our 11<sup>th</sup> annual outing to Kettleby. We look forward to resuming this tradition once it is safe to do so.

The youth are looking forward to a time when we can be together in person. This year we have all had to change and adapt to the online world. It is great that we have the tools that enable us to come together virtually.

Blessings,

Rev. Andy Comar

## ***3rd Aurora Scouting Report***

2020 was a year of significant challenges associated with adapting to Scouting during Covid-19, but also notable for growth with the re-establishment of a Cubs Scouts Section for 3rd Aurora Scouting Group in September, to go along with the existing Beavers Section.



## 2019/2020 Scouting Year

### Participants

For the 2019/20 Scouting year, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora Scout Group only operated as a Beavers Colony section and held meetings Thursdays, from October to February at St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School at 2 Glass Dr. in Aurora. Mid-February 2020 saw the cancelation of the school permits and the stoppage of meeting in-person due to the significant emergence of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Ontario. 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora took a 5-week hiatus while we adapted to new programming options and getting used to living and schooling in a lockdown situation. From mid-April to mid-June 2020, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora Beavers operated "virtually" using online zoom meetings.

With a reorganization of Scouting at the national programming level, Scouts Canada has shifted the Scouting year from a September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> model to a January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> calendar. To address this shift, the 2019/2020 Scouting year was extended from ending August 31, 2020, to December 31, 2020. In an effort maintain consistency with the traditional Scouting/school year cycle, all youth members of 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora who turned 8 in 2020 were offered the opportunity to move up to the new, reestablished Cubs section as of October 2020 rather than January 1<sup>st</sup>, and all new registered Beavers were invited to start in October as well.

Scouts Canada has also dissolved the Area level of administration, bringing an end to the South Lake Simcoe District/Area following 64 years of operation. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora Scout Group now reports directly to the Shinning Waters Council.

3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora offered no summer programming between mid June and October 2020. The annual Scouting year "kick off" event at the Richmond Hill Live Steamers scale railway, was cancelled for September 2020 due to Covid-19, but is tentatively booked for September 2021. In October 2020, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora resumed scouting programming virtually using Zoom, but with an increased group population of 18 youths (9 Beavers, aged 5 to 7 and 9 Cubs, all aged 8), over the previous year's 16 youths (all Beavers). 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora's "new" Cubs section includes

8 of the 10 youths who had turned 8 during 2020 and therefor aged out of Beavers, and the addition of 1 new group member.

To our knowledge 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora has been perhaps the only group in the former South Lake Simcoe Area to see a membership increase since last June. Many local groups and sections halted operation or saw significant reductions in participant registration over the last 12 months.

In the Fall and winter of 2020 the Beavers continued to meet on Thursday nights and the Cubs meet on Wednesday nights, virtually, with the exception of one outdoor weekend meeting in November at the Aurora Cenotaph, in lead up to Remembrance Day. The current intentions and efforts focus on both sections being able to meet at St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School (2 Glass Dr.) restarting in October 2021.

Three Scouters, Dan Vink, Greg Scott and Kyle Munro, moved up to restart the Cubs program, in step with their children who have now aged out of Beavers (Greg and Kyle also continue to operate as Scouters with the Beavers section as they continue to have a child in that program as well). Scouter Jason Corazza and his child decided to leave the group following the onset of covid-19 and Scouter Krista Miller came on board starting in October 2020 to join the Beaver section team.

Kyle Munro continues to act in the roles of Group Commissioner/Contact Scouter (Cubs and Beavers)/ Registrar, Dan Vink continues as Cub Scouter/Quarter Master and Kelsie Vink continues as the Group's new Treasurer.

As in previous years, the availability of adult volunteers offering to train and become members of the Scout group has had a significant impact on 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora's ability to offer programming or expand in size. Any adults wishing to join the group are invited to contact Scouter Kyle Munro to discuss their interests. While both the Beavers and Cubs sections are currently closed to new member enrollment at this time, new Scouters are guaranteed spaces for their youth family members as a result of completing Scouts Canada Training and joining the group.

Program highlights for September 2019 to December 2020 include:

- Beavers attending a train day at Richmond Hill Live Steamers outdoor scale model railway.
- Beavers participating in the 2019 Apple Day in October, which was extended to including youth attending that weekend's Aurora United Church service and fundraising onsite afterwards.
- Participation in the 2019 Popcorn fundraiser.
- Beavers participating in the Aurora United Church 2019 Christmas Stocking Campaign for children of comparable age to the Beavers.
- A visit to the local Firestation 4-4
- Hosting a Winter Camp with participants from 2<sup>nd</sup> Aurora and Silver Birch (Newmarket) Beavers at the Woodland Trails Scout Camp in Stouffville in November 2019.
- Participating in the Aurora Remembrance Day and Santa Claus Parade events in November 2019
- Beavers visiting the David Dunlap Observatory in Richmond Hill January 2020)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora Beavers Participating in the 2020 South Lake Simcoe Beaver Buggy Rally in February 2020.
- Visit to Aurora Cenotaph in November 2020 with a member of the Royal Canadian Legion (Trevor Stephens) for a socially distanced recognition of Remembrance Day.

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 Group Chaplain, Rev. Andy Comar come to one of our remaining meetings in 2020/2021 to assist us with running "Spirit"-related programming in accordance with Scouts Canada's Canadian Path for both Beavers and Cubs Sections.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora Scout Group for years to come. The continuing physical and spiritual support of Aurora United Church for 3<sup>rd</sup> 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” to the New Aurora United Church building when the opportunity allows for it.

*Yours in Scouting,*

*Kyle Munro*

*Beaver Scouter and Commissioner, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2020, the AUC Finance Committee consisted of Stephen Crawley (Chair), Carmen Harany (Treasurer), Brian Walter (Ministry Advocate), Lloyd Kerswill, Susan Sue-Ling, 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 the smooth management and planning of AUC’s resources.

While 2020 was an unprecedented year for AUC as a whole, it was also a very unusual year for us financially. While our **Total Revenue** was down 9.7% versus 2019, that reflected our reduced requirement to draw on funds from the interest on our insurance payout from Trustees. **Total Expenses** in 2020 were at their lowest level in several years due to various cost containment measures undertaken in the early days of the pandemic to protect our financial stability. Chief among these was a renegotiation of the rental fees paid to Trinity once it became clear that the cancelation of regular Sunday services and other events was going to be a longer-term reality. **Total Expenses** dropped by 9.8% versus 2019 and by 12.1% versus 2020 budget. In addition to Trinity rental payments, several other costs were reduced to aid in the belt tightening.

See the full budget in this Annual Report for detailed information. On the revenue side, AUC was blessed by being eligible for two key Federal financial assistance programs, CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) and later in the year, CERS (Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy).

The combination of these two programs delivered a total of \$55,400 to assist in our continuing operations. But the biggest story on the revenue side came from our amazing congregation, which continued its tradition of remarkable generosity throughout the year. Despite the challenges that Covid presented to us individually, **Total Offerings** from the congregation finished 2020 only 5% below our budget (which was created pre-Covid). We should all be proud of the financial commitment our congregation continues to make to the ongoing operation of AUC. AUC's general operating fund does of course continue to depend on interest from the insurance capital to balance our budget. Because of cost reductions and revenue supplementation, the net funding requirement from insurance interest was \$175,000 in 2020, \$93,000 less than the budgeted amount of \$268,000. 2020 saw the Operating budget draw 35% of its Total Revenue from the interest generated from the insurance payout, (significantly less than the 44% it accounted for in 2019), 49% from Total Offerings, 11% from Federal support programs, and 5% 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. In 2021 there will be a slight increase of insurance interest requirements as Federal programs lapse and congregational offerings continue their long-term declining trend. The principal of the insurance payout will continue to not be used to fund the Operating Budget, only 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, project out revenue and expenses over the coming 5 years, and pre-emptively work with Council and Trustees to ensure no financial issues arise in 2021 and beyond.

Our one remaining long-term liability as a church of a \$400,000 loan from the Trustees was paid off in 2020 and no longer requires debt servicing. (This was paid as a result of the final signing and payment in the Succession property agreement). All AUC's financial obligations were met in 2020, including Presbytery Dues, Mission & Service, Welcoming Arms, Rise & Shine and many others. Other than our M & P expenses, our required rent with Trinity (plus external storage) is still our biggest expense, at \$58,544 (down from \$91,308 in 2019). As mentioned, cost containment measures undertaken during Covid meant our Total Expenses dropped by \$52,406 or nearly 10% from the previous year.

Expense management is a key responsibility and emphasis for Finance, and we successfully achieved that goal in 2020 with the support of the many Ministries and Committees at AUC. Our thanks go out to everyone who helped with the careful cost management at AUC!

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, 2020 held \$10,449 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 \$2,518 in the bank and \$22,108 invested by Trustees.

The Finance Committee is charged with creating the Annual Operating Budget of AUC for input and approval from the Church Council, as well as input from the many committees that run programs at AUC, for final approval by the Congregation at the Annual General Meeting. This year we have been able to complete the task and approval process in time for the 2021 Budget to be included in this Annual Report, subject to the congregation's approval at the AGM.

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, especially during the uniquely challenging year of 2020.

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 on behalf of the Finance Committee,*

*Stephen Crawley, Chair*

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Good bye 2020!

Needless to say, last year was an extraordinary, unusual year for everyone in every aspect; and the church finances were not an exception!

As you read the particulars in Stephen Crawley's report, you will see that in spite of the many challenges AUC managed to meet budget and commence 2021 with a reasonable bank balance in our general fund. This was accomplished by implementing saving measures, applying for government subsidies (CEWS, CERS), and of course the steady generosity of our congregation.

The pandemic forced us to make the jump to new aspects of online banking such as e-transfers. We expect that as we move forward there will be more of this type of banking transactions.

With no in-person Sunday services at the church, cash-flow, more than ever, is an ongoing challenge for AUC. PAR donations continue to be our biggest constant

during these uncertain times providing predictable and steady flow of revenue. Some of you have made the switch to PAR in the past year. We strongly encourage others to consider doing the same.

Enrolling on PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance); allows your contribution to be withdrawn directly from your bank account 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](mailto:carmen@auroraunitedchurch.ca)

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to a couple of volunteers who have helped us with some of the challenges we have been facing. Bob Kyriakides set us up to work remotely, assisted us to set up the e-transfer, and continues to offer us IT help as we need it.

Working remotely, Ed Griffith faithfully inputs the offering into the system, mails tax receipts, writes thank you letters, sends memorial notices and completes many other tasks for AUC.

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

*Carmen Harany*  
*Treasurer, Aurora United Church*



## ***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:

Sean McEvoy  
Gary Matson  
Jean Thomas  
George and Kathy Tate  
Ross Arnold  
Kate Revington

## General Fund 2020 and Budget 2021

### GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVENUES

	Budget 2020	Jan. to Dec 2020 Actuals	Proposed 2021
<b>Offerings:</b>			
Identifiable Givers	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 228,969.45	\$ 205,000.00
Loose	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 322.45	\$ 1,600.00
Initial Offering	\$ 163.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
M&S Givings over and above	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,360.00	\$ 3,480.00
Online Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,235.00	\$ 1,000.00
Other Givings (United Way, etc.)	\$ 500.00	\$ 337.18	\$ 500.00
Appeals: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Gift with vision	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 7,540.00	\$ 11,000.00
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>\$ 260,363.00</b>	<b>\$ 246,964.08</b>	<b>\$ 222,780.00</b>
<b>Fundraising:</b>			
Musical Special Events Revenue	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
AVGEN	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,325.00	\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>\$ 4,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,325.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,500.00</b>
<b>Program Revenue:</b>			
Poinsettias	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
200th Anniversary book (as approved by Council)	\$ -	\$ -	
Faith Formation(Confirmation, Adult Ed, VBC, Youth Events)	\$ 450.00	\$ 243.00	\$ 450.00
Broadview subscription	\$ 625.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 600.00
<b>Total Program Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,575.00</b>	<b>\$ 793.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,550.00</b>
<b>Investments:</b>			
Interest/Capital Gains from Endowment & Flower Fund	\$ 15,315.00	\$ 15,238.12	\$ 22,000.00
Interest on Insurance Capital	\$ 268,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 239,000.00
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$ 283,315.00</b>	<b>\$ 190,238.12</b>	<b>\$ 261,000.00</b>
<b>Other:</b>			
CEWS Subsidy		\$ 53,490.75	\$ 26,664.00
CERS		\$ 1,954.54	\$ 9,000.00
Copies made payments	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
UCW Donation	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -
HST Rebate (July to Dec. 2019 + Jan to June 2020)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,215.14	\$ 3,000.00
Memorials, Bequests and Planned Giving	\$ 250.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 250.00
Rise & Shine Donations	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,482.16	\$ 3,000.00
Printing	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,764.19	\$ 1,700.00
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 9,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 65,576.78</b>	<b>\$ 43,614.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 558,903.00</b>	<b>\$ 504,896.98</b>	<b>\$ 532,444.00</b>

**EXPENSES****CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRY****Communications**

Web Site/IT (plus email hosting and support)

\$ 487.00 \$ 81.07 \$ 487.00

**Total Communications**

\$ 487.00 \$ 81.07 \$ 487.00

**Membership**

Soup Lunches

\$ 300.00 \$ - \$ 100.00

Coffee and Juice

\$ 50.00 \$ - \$ 50.00

**Total Membership**

\$ 350.00 \$ - \$ 150.00

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Committee Expense, Joint Service

\$ 1,000.00 \$ 966.12 \$ 300.00

Affirming Committee

\$ 1,000.00 \$ - \$ 500.00

Shining Waters AGM Expenses

\$ 700.00 \$ - \$ 700.00

Rental Expenses (includes Trinity, Storage, YRDSB)

\$ 94,117.00 \$ 58,544.42 \$ 72,796.00

**Total Church Council**

\$ 96,817.00 \$ 59,510.54 \$ 74,296.00

**CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES MINISTRY****Archives**

\$ 100.00 \$ - \$ 100.00

**Finance Committee**

Committee Expense (offering envelopes, etc.)

\$ 350.00 \$ 323.68 \$ 350.00

Banking Service Fees

\$ 1,140.00 \$ 1,220.80 \$ 1,200.00

Loan Interest Charges

\$ 7,200.00 \$ 2,400.00

Insurance

\$ 2,350.00 \$ 2,862.06 \$ 2,863.00

Church Land Taxes

\$ 6,940.00 \$ 6,994.41 \$ 7,179.00

Accountant Service and Support

\$ 5,000.00 \$ 4,677.28 \$ 5,000.00

UCC Assessment

\$ 23,271.00 \$ 23,271.00 \$ 23,271.00

**Total Finance**

\$ 46,251.00 \$ 41,749.23 \$ 39,863.00

<b>Property Committee</b>			
Office Expense	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 2,854.69	\$ 3,700.00
Office Expenses - Annual Report printing	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,622.74	\$ 1,700.00
Contracts	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 7,660.75	\$ 9,000.00
Utilities	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,930.81	\$ 3,900.00
Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 500.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 500.00
IT- Computer Hardware/AUC File Share	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,175.53	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>\$ 23,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,257.52</b>	<b>\$ 23,800.00</b>
<b>Rental Properties</b>			
Property Taxes	\$ 10,551.00	\$ 10,894.41	\$ 10,915.00
Utilities	\$ 187.00	\$ 320.52	\$ 340.00
Loan Interest charges	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 1,600.00	
<b>Total Rental Properties</b>	<b>\$ 15,538.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,814.93</b>	<b>\$ 11,255.00</b>
<b>FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY</b>			
Adult Education	\$ 250.00	\$ 356.15	\$ 450.00
Committee Expense	\$ 100.00	\$ 12.46	\$ -
Nursery Coordinator (44 weeks)	\$ 1,212.00	\$ 248.56	\$ 1,217.00
Broadview Subscription	\$ 735.00	\$ 574.89	\$ 600.00
Teen Confirmation	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -
Youth Events (Camp, meetings)	\$ 2,250.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Vacation Bible Camp	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
Sunday School + Childrens Education	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00
<b>Total Faith Formation</b>	<b>\$ 5,947.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,192.06</b>	<b>\$ 5,267.00</b>
<b>M&amp;P (Ministry &amp; Personnel)</b>			
Committee Expense + ADP costs	\$ 700.00	\$ 685.58	\$ 700.00
Salaries (Fulltime and Casual)	\$ 252,000.00	\$ 220,210.91	\$ 257,544.00
Benefits/WSIB	\$ 53,500.00	\$ 74,136.06	\$ 56,303.00
Travel	\$ 3,885.00	\$ 897.65	\$ 3,793.00
Continuing Education	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 758.40	\$ 3,600.00
Staff Development (All)	\$ 300.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 300.00
<b>Total M&amp;P</b>	<b>\$ 313,985.00</b>	<b>\$ 296,728.60</b>	<b>\$ 322,240.00</b>



**PROCLAMATION MINISTRY**

Audiovisual	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Music	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,352.21	\$ 2,000.00
Music- Handbell Ensembles	\$ 1,090.00	\$ 556.83	\$ 980.00
Sanctuary Decorating Committee	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Poinsettias	\$ 600.00	\$ 161.10	\$ 600.00
Worship Committee	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,628.77	\$ 2,000.00
Online Services		\$ 8,211.26	\$ 7,072.00
<b>Total Proclamation</b>	<b>\$ 7,190.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,910.17</b>	<b>\$ 14,152.00</b>

Jan to Aug 31

**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	\$ 4,060.00	\$ 3,480.00
<b>Total M&amp;S</b>	<b>\$ 19,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,480.00</b>

**Outreach**

Special Appeals (Gifts with Vision, Food for the North)	\$ -	\$ 1,350.00	
Welcoming Arms	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,200.00
Rise and Shine Breakfast	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,848.28	\$ 7,000.00
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 20,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,398.28</b>	<b>\$ 20,200.00</b>

**Pastoral Care**

Seniors' Lunch/Advent Service	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Committee Expenses	\$ 50.00	\$ 161.11	\$ 50.00
Correspondence postage and cards	\$ 250.00	\$ 124.31	\$ 250.00
Prayer Shawl	\$ 800.00	\$ 39.49	\$ 800.00

<b>Total Pastoral Care</b>	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 324.91	\$ 1,250.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	\$ 551,115.00	\$ 484,327.31	\$ 531,540.00
<b>Difference</b>	\$ 7,788.00	\$ 20,569.67	\$ 904.00

Please note: all expenses 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

#### Other Bank Account Balances

As of Dec. 31, 2020

<b>AUC Future Bank Account</b>	\$ 10,449.37
<i>(Additional \$125,000.00 invested by Trustees Includes \$25,000 added in Dec. 2019)</i>	
<b>Earmarked Donations Bank Account</b>	\$ 9,733.57
<i>(Additional \$15,000.00 invested by Trustees)</i>	
<b>Insurance Claim Bank Account</b>	\$ 2,669.40
<i>(Balance of initial \$250,000.00 insurance payment) (Additional \$22,108.16 invested by Trustees)</i>	

## *Cash Cards Committee*

When you purchase gift cards for everyday items you are buying anyway - like groceries, gas, coffee, etc. - the church benefits because the retailers offer the cards to us at a discount. For example, if you purchase a \$100 Loblaws gift card, Aurora United Church makes \$4.00.

The Cash Card program at AUC raised \$1,325 for the General Operating Fund in 2020. Unfortunately, this was a drop of about 40% from 2019 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic necessitating a temporary change in the management of the program.

Typically, cash card orders are taken on the second Sunday of each month, for delivery the following Sunday. A core group of regulars continued to order cards every month - some providing us with standing monthly orders and post dated 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 2021.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lloyd and Nancy Kerswill  
Cash Cards Committee*

## 2020 Cash Card Financials

collected	57759.67
	-
paid to vendor	56398.88
balance	<b>1360.79</b>
bank fees	-30.00
opening	
balance	21.05
total	<b>1351.84</b>
<b>transfer out</b>	<b>-1325.00</b>
closing	
balance	<b>26.84</b>

## *Archives*

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

*Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Roberts,  
Chair, Archives Committee*



## ***Property Committee***

### **Members:**

Lloyd Kerswill	Bob Kyriakides (IT)	Roy Eveleigh
Debra Hilliard	Dave Snelgrove	Alvan Sutton
Mark Nolan	Ivor Roberts	
Joyce Hagarty (Secretary)		
Crawford Heritage (Chair)	Brian Walter (Ministry Advocate)	

The following outlines the components for each AUC Property Budget line for 2020.

### **Utilities:**

Bell Canada

### **Maintenance/Repair:**

Power lawnmower/power weed whacker

### **Office Supplies:**

Postage

Copies for photocopier machine

Miscellaneous

### **Contracts:**

Xerox Canada copy machine lease

Information Technology (IT)

Computers and related equipment

Many thanks to Dave Hanna for storing AUC grass equipment and ladders. Bob Kyriakides, our outstanding IT member, continued his strong support for AUC in 2020 as follows:

### **AUC I.T. - 2020 – The Year in Review**

In 2020 I.T. followed the plan for replacing technology before it started to become an issue as its end of life approached. So, with that Rev. Lorraine's MacBook was replaced after it served her well for the previous six years. Similarly, the UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply) battery for the Envelope Steward's computer was replaced as it was reaching its end of life.

When people were no longer permitted to be in the office as a result of COVID, the ability for Carmen, Cathy, and Ed to remote into their respective AUC computers was added. This allowed them to continue to work from the relative safety of their homes.

After the initial announcement of the lockdown on March 14, 2020 and after consulting with our Ministers, I.T. spun up the infrastructure to produce, and post AUC's Worship From Home videos. The first one was produced on Friday, March 20, 2020, and posted to our church's YouTube Channel on Saturday - in time for Sunday, March 22, 2020. That video received 264 views. Our YouTube Channel has 23 subscribers. It took us only 7 days to pivot from in-person to online worship.

Bob provides his professional IT services free of charge to AUC. His invoices are only for equipment/material costs. 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 and the St Paul's window are in storage on Industry Street in Aurora. Please call me if you need/wish a copy of this information.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of one of our stalwart committee members, Ivor Roberts. Ivor was an extremely active person at AUC involving himself in a large number of committees and activities. He was very active as a Property Committee member volunteering consistently to help complete the many responsibilities of our committee. In addition, Ivor was the co-chair of the AUC rental homes committee and saw to it that appropriate contracts were completed by renters and was the contact for renters' questions and solutions. Ivor was a very caring person making people feel comfortable at AUC. We will greatly miss Ivor's sincerity, smile and special friendship.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Crawford Heritage  
Chair, Property Committee*

## MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION

### *Worship Committee*

For our 2020 Lenten theme, "Wilderness Wanderings: Caring for God's Creation" we attended to our inner landscape and considered the care and keeping of God's good Earth ... to preserving and cherishing the Pale Blue Dot in the cosmos ... the only home we've ever known.

After the second Sunday in Lent, the congregation of Aurora United Church was forced out of our temporary worship space within Trinity Anglican Church to online worship as a result of the Covid-19 global pandemic. Little did we know then of the wilderness we would continue to wander as worship remained online for the rest of the year.

I would like to begin this report by expressing heartfelt thanks to the folks that made that possible - - Reverends Lorraine and Andy, Worship Videographer Noah Comar, Worship Video Editor Bob Kyriakides, and all the people who filmed from home to participate in worship. Whether it was calling us to worship, reading scripture, lighting or extinguishing candles, providing music, or presenting a Christmas pageant our committee would not have been able to offer the enriched worship experience we have all come to expect at AUC without you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Through it all, the members of the Worship Committee continued to meet on the last Monday of every month; working to ensure that the congregation was engaged in worship that was inspiring, uplifting and inclusive. Those members were:

- representing **Worship** - - Rev. Lorraine, Mary Smith, Holly Williamson and Nancy Kerswill
- representing **Decorating** - - Debra Hilliard and Lori North
- representing **Audio Visual** - Ivor Roberts

We are very grateful for Mary Smith who stepped down at the end of 2020. After many years serving on the Worship Committee, we will certainly miss her creative contribution to our team going forward.

We are also very grateful for Ivor Robert's participation on our committee. He was a positive, humorous, spiritual man true to his faith. He will be missed by all those whose lives he touched through years of dedicated service to AUC.

We would like to thank our Communion Coordinator Janice Nolan, our church Secretary Cathy Hiltz, our Music Director Margaret Heney and our Handbell Director Lisa Kyriakides for all their hard work behind the scenes.

Christmas in 2020 was very different from what we've known in past years. So much had changed in our homes and communities; but what had not changed was the story and meaning of Jesus' birth. Our Advent theme was "Hope is a Star" in recognition that our hearts are geared to hope in this time. It could be said, in every year, that our Christmas hope lies in "the" star; the promise of hope twinkling in the night sky of our lives.

As we embark on a new year with hope for an end to the pandemic and a return to in person worship, 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  
Worship Committee Chair*

## *Chancel Choir*

2020 was a year like no other due to the Covid pandemic, and Aurora United Church's music program was changed as a result. AUC held 10 in-person services before the church building closed during the second week of March.

One of the musical highlights within our short in-person time together was AUC's first Jazz Communion service which included jazzy instrumentals by alto saxophonist Peter Zsebik and trumpeter Tim Birtch, a performance of "God Bless the Child" by soprano Linda Henshaw, and a new choral piece performance by the AUC Chancel Choir.

The first few months of 2020 also included Antonio Vivaldi's "Winter" violin concerto played by Wesley Bells, a collaboration between Frank Pulumbarit, the AUC Chancel Choir and Margaret Heney in January; music by the Youthful Spirits, The Aurora Choralis, and all three of AUC's handbell ensembles (Faith-a-Peal, Bellissimo, and EmBellished). Vocal music was sung by Steve Falk, Janice Nolan, David Pilkey, Margaret Heney, and George Collins.

The pandemic arrived swiftly. After a cancelled service on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the AUC services moved to online recorded worship. Hymns, preludes, and postludes were recorded each week from home until my temporary layoff began at the end of May. Online worship has been supplemented by videos of the AUC Chancel Choir, Handbell Ensembles, The Aurora Choralis, Youthful Spirits, Wesley Bells, Linda Henshaw, Mark Ruhnke, the Aldbury Gardens Brass Quintet, Steve Cooke, Brian Pastoor, Steve Falk and Frank Pulumbarit from past AUC services, Carols by Candlelight, and the AUC 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert; previously recorded vocal solos by Bob McRoberts, and newly recorded videos by David Pilkey, Steve and Sally Falk, John and Mackenzie Malarczyk, Myles and Margaret Heney, Mary and Marina Safari, Lisa and Elizabeth Kyriakides, Ocean Yin and Héctor Valls, Mitchell Arnold, and Wesley Bells. Jules, Justine and Brian Pastoor, Frank Pulumbarit and Glenn Marais shared videos of their original compositions.

2021 brings hope and optimism with the news of a Covid vaccine. I hope to return to being your Music Coordinator this year and with it the opportunity of a return of voices, handbells and the joy of musical collaboration that is such an important part of our worship at AUC.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Margaret Heney  
Music Coordinator*

### ***Handbells***

The handbell program was well underway at the start of 2020 with 20 talented ringers. We celebrated the start of the new term with a party at Pat Innes' home! Faith-A-Peal performed the composition "At Peace" in February which was arranged for our AUC ringers by my friend Rob Cairns, and both EmBellished and Bellissimo rang at services in February and early March.

We held our first mass rehearsal for our "Rejoice Exceedingly" Concert due to premiere in May, and we welcomed a new ringer, Janet Thacker, to Faith-A-Peal.

Then everything shut down! So how have we stayed connected when we can't ring together? Well in a word – ZOOM! We have been meeting on Zoom on Wednesday nights (our normal rehearsal night) since the pandemic began. We meet for about 75 minutes each week and there are usually about 11-13 of us in attendance. There is no pressure to join in. Some ringers attend faithfully and some pop in occasionally to check in. We have had several virtual parties and celebrated when exciting things have happened (Grandbabies, Selling homes, etc.).

But mostly, we spend these Zoom sessions talking about our daily lives and how we are feeling about everything that's going on. We have recommended books and Netflix shows, talked about the knitting projects we are working on, laughed a lot and shed some tears. We have also talked about some strange topics over the last year, toilets and hedgehogs to name a few! Our weekly Zooms have been a forum to express our worries about the pandemic and the effect it has had on our lives. It has been a wonderful chance for us all to stay connected and to nurture and support

each other during these difficult days. Ironically, although we cannot meet in person, these weekly sessions have brought us closer together. In many ways, we know each other so much better now!

Pat Innes, Joyce Hagarty, Anne Ella Arnold, Laura Wells, Sue Linley, Nancy Birtch, Jennifer Schafer and I participated in a virtual handbell project in the fall sponsored by the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers. We all taped ourselves ringing at home, uploaded our videos, and along with 22 other ringers from around Ontario, we were part of a virtual performance of Arnold Sherman's "How Can I Keep From Singing". It was a wonderful experience.

We are all anticipating the time when we can rehearse in person again. That is going to be an AMAZING day! Until then we Zoom on!

*Musically Yours,  
Lisa Kyriakides  
Handbell Director*

## **MINISTRY OF SERVING**

### ***Pastoral Care Committee***

#### **Members:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paula Hanna, <i>Chair</i></li><li>• Jackie Catto, <i>Past Chair</i></li><li>• Bruce Corbett, <i>Transportation Coordinator</i></li><li>• Marilyn Patterson, <i>Cards-Special Events</i></li><li>• Mary Smith, <i>Cards-Bereavement</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brenda North, <i>Cards – Christmas and Easter</i></li><li>• Peter Drost, <i>Ministry Advocate -Serving Ministry</i></li><li>• Rev. Andrew Comar</li><li>• Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar</li></ul>
--	--

**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 2020:**

One objective of the Pastoral Care Committee is to connect with those members, who are not able to get out to church. This year, due to the Covid-19 virus, that was everyone. We focused on occasional driveway or porch visits, but mostly phone calls and notes or emails to keep in touch. We tried to make sure people who did not have internet connections, or who lived alone, knew that their church community was supporting them. Cards were sent out for Easter, Seniors' Month in June, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

In December, poinsettias were organized and delivered by the Worship and Pastoral Care Committees, with assistance from members of the Congregation. About **60** poinsettias were delivered to members who have experienced bereavement, some senior members who are at home, and members in seniors' residences. Christmas cards were delivered with the plants, when possible, and dove ornaments were included with cards for seniors.

There were also many cards sent out celebrating births, birthdays and special occasions or achievements, as well as bereavement, Get Well and Thinking of You, cards.

Thank you to all the members of our team, and others from the church community, for their efforts to help everyone feel that, "We are not alone".

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Paula Hanna,*

*Chair, Pastoral Care Committee*



## *Prayer Shawl Ministry*



### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY—2006 to present**

**Ministry Coordinators:** Anne Ella-Arnold and Elizabeth Ramsell

This vital ministry, a subgroup of the Serving Ministry, has continued to thrive in 2020—the fifteenth year of our ministry.

The following are some points of note about our ministry in 2020:

- Number of shawls on hand on January 1, 2020 = 31
- Number of shawls on hand on December 31, 2020 = 41
- Number of shawls crafted and donated for distribution from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 = 126
- Number of shawls distributed from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 = 116
- Distribution of shawls continued almost exclusively on Sunday mornings until March 14, 2020. After that date, COVID-19 forced an alteration to the distribution protocol. Anyone wishing a shawl was directed to contact the ministers or the ministry coordinators.
- Until March 14, 2020, **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. However, after that date, Crafters' Circle moved to having virtual meetings on the first Thursday afternoon of each month. The Tuesday evening meetings were cancelled. The annual August fieldtrip to the Spinrite Factory in Listowel was also cancelled. There were thirteen participants in the group during the year. Crafters' Circle gathered fourteen times with the average number of attendees at each meeting being four.

- Although a generous budget was provided by A.U.C., the yarn purchasing fieldtrip to Listowel did not happen. Only a few 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 spite of the fact that there was not a large injection of materials for the ministry in 2020, it continued to thrive.
- The two candidates for confirmation each have a prayer blanket waiting for presentation at the future confirmation service
- Any leftover yarns, which could not be used, were donated to Camp Big Canoe or to the A.U.C.W.'s Christmas Stocking Programme.
- Our webpage was updated regularly.
- Sincere appreciation is extended to Rev. Andy Comar who assisted Crafters' Circle with conducting our meetings virtually from April to December.



Selection of shawls available for distribution to needy recipients.

Year	Crafted	Distributed
2012	148	217
2013	237	217
2014	264	223
2015	208	216
2016	168	157
2017	150	162
2018	177	153
2019	125	144
2020	126	116

**Notes about Data Table:**

- Data is not available from September 2006 to February 2012. But since then, A.U.C. has distributed over 1,600 shawls.
- 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 by Anne Ella-Arnold,  
Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator.*

## ***Outreach Committee***

In 2020, Outreach supported four programs. Each of the programs had to pivot once we were asked to shut down in March. It is because of the faithfulness and resiliency of the coordinators and volunteers for three of these programs that they were able to maintain and provide these much needed services to our community.

*Rise and Shine Breakfast Program:* Carol Lever continues in her role as R&S Coordinator. I want to thank her for her incredible dedication and faithful leadership to the Rise and Shine Breakfast program, especially in this year when we dramatically changed in how we provided the meals each week. Please see the Rise and Shine report on page 65.

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. Rev. Andy as the clergy representative and Denyse Slack both sit on the Welcoming Arms Executive Council. In 2020 Welcoming Arms also said goodbye to outgoing Executive Director, Bonnie Thamm Evans. We give thanks for her leadership during her time with us. With programs having to switch in March of this year, the Executive Council decided not to replace the Executive Director in 2020.

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 2020: John & Irene Clement, George Easey, Joyce Hagarty, David Pilkey, Helen & Ivor Roberts and Jane Taylor. With the arrival of our two families in January, the committee began to provide what was needed for their welcome into Aurora. Again – Covid-19 changed their plans. The committee was able to connect with the families in a variety of ways and was able to complete their sponsorship with them in 2021. Please read the IRR report on page 62.

*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.

The café closed in March 2020 and will not reopen until we are able to be together in person. Volunteers have continued to meet on zoom for coffee and conversation.

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 2020 would support our Interfaith Refugee Resettlers program. With the funds raised we paid back the costs of the airfare for each family member. Together we raised \$5,915.00!

Throughout 2020, Outreach committed to meet twice in the year and via email for the rest of the year.

*Submitted by:*  
*Rev. Andy Comar*



**Starting back row reading left to right:** David Pilkey, Jane Taylor, Jane Lennox, Helen & Ivor Roberts, Susan Shaw, Barb Allan, John & Irene Clement, Joyce Hagarty, George Easey.

### ***Interfaith Refugee Resettlers (IRR)***

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

Last January, AURA informed us that they were working at getting a second family out of Lebanon.

On January 30, 2020 a very tired family of six arrived in Toronto. As planned, Aurora United Church took the lead in settling this family. We were able to find two separate basement apartments in Aurora.

We started our second sponsorship with \$57,069.13 (Money left over from our 2015 Fund Raising) This money allowed us to support our family in our sponsorship year but there was not enough money to pay the cost of their airfare. To raise funds to help pay for their airfares, we were able to make this AUC'S Advent Awareness for 2020.

We would like to thank everyone for again supporting us. We were able to raise enough money to pay for all their airfares and the additional money was given to the families to help with their moving expenses. Our present committee has decided that we will not do a third sponsorship.

This was a very difficult year to do a sponsorship. We were able to get our families out just before the full impact of COVID 19 hit us and before the terrible explosions in Beirut. We were fortunate to receive a family most of whom could speak English and were highly motivated. Soon after Marven arrived in Canada, he was able to get employment as a mechanic in Newmarket. Sandibelle is completing her grade 12 education at Aurora High School. Danielle is presently working to help support the family but she hopes to soon be able to go to University. In February, the families left their apartments in Aurora. Marven, Imane, and Noah are now renting a house in Newmarket and Hanaa and the two girls are living in an apartment in Richmond Hill close to relatives.

It was a pleasure to work with this wonderful committee all of whom were so dedicated to helping our families. We were deeply saddened in January when we received the news that Ivor Roberts had died. In his own quiet way Ivor worked selflessly and did everything he could to help our families. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Respectfully submitted,  
*George Easey*  
*Chair IRR*

*Thank you all. We are very happy to know you. We thank you for your help.  
You have turned our life from horror to hope.*

*Hanaa Asman*

**Committee Members:** *Aurora United Church:* George Easey (Chair), Irene & John Clement, Joyce Hagarty, David Pilkey, Helen & Ivor Roberts, Jane Taylor, Reverend Andy Comar. *Trinity Anglican Church:* Barb Allan. *Newmarket Islamic Centre:* Mae Khamissa. **Community Members:** Jane Lennox, Susan Shaw.

**Interfaith Refugee Resettlers Committee**  
Financial Report  
January 2020 - March 2021

**Revenue**

Aurora United Church Carried over from first campaign	\$29,234.37
Trinity Anglican Church Carried over from first campaign	\$23,834.76
Islamic Centre Carried over from first campaign	\$ 4,000.00
Advent Awareness Campaign 2020	<u>\$ 6,665.11</u>
Reimbursements	<u>\$ 604.00</u>

<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$64,338.24</b>
-----------------------	--------------------

**Expenses**

Rent	\$31,800.00
Utilities	\$ 3,600.00
Family Allowances	\$20,166.85
Air Fare Repayment	\$ 5,306.65
Apartment Insurance	\$ 892.08
Miscellaneous & Start-up costs	\$ 1,968.66
Charges (Reimbursed)	<u>\$ 604.00</u>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$64,338.24</b>
-----------------------	--------------------

<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
----------------	---------------



## ***Rise & Shine Community Breakfast***

2020 has been a year of flexibility, renewed commitments to outreach, and fresh partnerships. The year started out as usual for our Rise & Shine Community Breakfast. We were successfully serving between 70-90 guests in Binions Hall every Saturday morning. The Hall was full of music, conversation, laughter, and friendship. When the pandemic was declared we were torn between the safety of our volunteers, and meeting the needs of our community. We knew that food security would continue to be an issue, and with growing job loss, the need would grow. Thanks to the Town of Aurora and the York Region Food Network, we were able to enter into a new partnership that would take us through COVID-19, allowing us to provide a morning take-away with the help of a small group of faithful volunteers. Although we are serving many fewer people (approximately 35-50) each Saturday, those who come are happy to be there, and we are grateful for the opportunity to keep in touch with people and serve a need in our community. I'd like to thank Andy Comar, Carmen Harany, Rosanne Rose, and Suzanne Whitehurst who have continued to lead this initiative with me throughout the pandemic period.

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

## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

### Members:

- Heather Collins
- Sylvia Gilpin
- Hank Gosar
- 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. 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 past year has been extremely challenging for our church, staff and members of the M&P Committee. The COVID19 health pandemic led us to face unprecedented issues and constantly re-evaluate what we were doing. Our committee continued to meet on a monthly basis, using the Zoom meeting platform. We set aside some of our long-term planning activities and appropriately, made the pandemic our number one issue. It should be noted that we often found ourselves looking for advice, direction and reviewing constantly changing legislation. We spent much time advocating at many levels, for staff to ensure that they receive the best level of support possible. We did our best to share timely and accurate information with as many people as possible.

In the early Spring, as the impact of the pandemic was becoming even more evident, we tackled our first major task. Working closely with AUC Council, we reviewed staff working conditions and workloads. Under the regulations announced by the Ontario Government, it was determined that we needed to place three of our staff on extended temporary layoffs. This was a very difficult recommendation for M&P to put forward. Council equally found this to be a complex issue but made the necessary decision to implement the staff layoffs. Accordingly, Cathy Hiltz and Margaret Heney were informed that they were being placed on Temporary Extended Leaves. Additionally, Lisa Kyriakides, works under a contract with AUC, was informed that her services were being put on hold. M&P made it a priority to maintain contact and support these three valuable people as much as we could.

This situation continued throughout the year, as deadlines for the end of the state of emergency and subsequent emergency leaves kept being extended by the provincial government. Adding to the complications was that the church building was closed to us. This ongoing situation continues to be a major focus for M&P.

The three staff who continued their work of the church are our two Ministers and our Treasurer. Our treasurer, Carmen Harany, is employed part-time and she fulfilled her duties by working from home. Her workload expanded as, in addition to her regularly assigned tasks, she was now required to manage all the financial issues related to the pandemic, applications for financial relief, payroll adjustments

and many related questions, most of which required extensive research on her part. We are grateful for Carmen's dedication and commitment to the church. We count on her and are thankful for her energy and for her accurate and timely record-keeping.

Rev. Andy and Rev. Lorraine both took on the immense challenges of leading our church through these difficult times. They adjusted and quickly established a working from home approach. They welcomed us into their home every Sunday for virtual service. In doing so, they managed to engage large numbers of our church congregants as participants and enhanced the services with multi-media input from a variety of sources. This takes a phenomenal amount of time and we acknowledge and appreciate what Rev. Andy and Rev. Lorraine have done to maintain our church community.

We recognize that the workloads of our ministers include a variety of other tasks, most of which required major adjustments during these times. Fortunately, they have both been able to maintain contact through many phone calls, all types of mail and through the magic of virtual meetings.

Weddings, funerals, counseling and meetings all required significant changes. Community programs such as nutrition supports and welfare had to be shut down, reformatted and reopened under new guidelines. Church Sunday school, groups and committees were similarly revamped. We recognize that this was accomplished, thanks to the incredible efforts of both ministers.

M&P committee members host a traditional appreciation luncheon for our staff at Christmas. This year, each committee member treated their staff partner to a catered lunch, delivered to the staff person's home. When all the lunches arrived, we got together via Zoom and had a wonderful time enjoying each others' company. We value all of our staff members and thank them for their commitment to our church. While we may be apart in terms of location, we remain together in terms of purpose.

One of our members, Sylvia Gilpin, will be leaving our committee after having been with us for 7 years. We valued her insightful contributions, her enthusiasm and her continued support for the work of the M&P Committee. We will miss working with her and wish her well in her other endeavours.

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](mailto: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

### **2020 EXECUTIVE:**

**President:** Anne Ella-Arnold

**Secretary:** Jean Heys

**Treasurer:** Leslie Stoangi

**A.U.C. Council Representative:** Paula Hanna

**Grace Unit Representative:** Anne Ella-Arnold

**The Seekers' Unit Representative:** 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.

### **2020 UNIT ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS:**

#### **The 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 until March 31, and virtually after that date
- 14 active members



**Starting back row from left to right:** Nettie Damstra, Paula Hanna, Pat Innes, Helen Roberts, Nancy Newman, Kathie Blackman, Mary Smith, Laurie Graham, Susan Tutt, Anne Ella-Arnold, Jean Heys, Linda Hodgins, Susan Eaton, Sharon Corbett, Leslie Zeeman, Sally Carter, Kay Snelgrove.

### **Grace Unit:**

- co-leaders: shared position
- 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 until March 31, and virtually after that date
- 18 active members

Monthly unit meetings consisted of worship, programmes which included guest presenters and outings, and fellowship. Every woman of A.U.C. was welcome to attend the unit meetings.

Unfortunately, Chartwell Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence withdrew its offer for Grace Unit to meet there after the outbreak of the coronavirus.

## **2020 Unit Meeting Programmes:**

- **Speakers and Presenters:**

Carol Rose-Kudelka, Mary Cragg, Lloyd Kerswill, Paula Hanna, Carol Edward

- **Programme Topics:**

Photography, Joy, Emmanuel College History and Purpose, Travel to Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia, Team Building Exercise, Dinner Out, Goodness – Fruits of the Spirit, Issues of the Heart, Summer Memories, A Significant Possession, Photos of Canada Trivia Contest, Margaret Bahen Hospice, Christmas General Meeting

## **2020 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.

Because of the global pandemic, some of our projects had to be cancelled and most of the others had to be adjusted to meet the government requests being made of us. However, we still held a number of very successful fundraisers to support the needy in our community.

- **Grace Unit Collection for Refugee Family:**

**Convenor:** Helen Roberts

At the February meeting of Grace Unit, cash donations of \$400 were accepted for the family, which A.U.C. was sponsoring

- **Fifth Annual Spring Book Sale:**

**Convenors:** Kathie Blackman, Sharon Corbett, Susan Tutt

Although all the plans were in place, the sale had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.



- **Grace Unit Fundraiser:**  
**Convenors:** Anne Ella-Arnold, Laurie Graham, Carolyn Stafford  
 In lieu of its annual Loonie Auction, Grace Unit held a fundraiser for Aurora Food Pantry. The Seekers' Unit participated as well. We were able to raise \$1,600.
  
- **Christmas Stocking Programme for Clients of the Women's Centre of York Region:**  
**Convenors:** Laurie Graham, Mary Smith, Kay Snelgrove, Carolyn Stafford  
 Although we offered to fill 85 stockings, the centre was unwilling to accept them because of COVID-19. So alternately, A.U.C.W. held a fundraiser for the clients of the centre, raising \$4,200.
  
- **Christmas General Meeting:**  
**Convenors:** Mary Cragg, Anne Ella-Arnold, Mary Smith  
 All women of the congregation were invited to attend this annual gathering. Also invited were the staff of A.U.C. Twenty-six people attended. The guest speaker was Carol Edward, Vice-President of Hospice Palliative Care at Margaret Bahen Hospice. Business, and worship prepared by The Seekers' Unit followed.
  
- **A.U.C. Reconstruction Fund:**  
 Donations continued to be accepted to put towards some aspect of the reconstruction of our church building. The balance at the end of December 2020 was \$18,499.24. 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 in 2020:**

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, LOFT Community Services, Margaret Bahen Hospice, 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

**WEBPAGE:**

Our webpage was updated every two to three weeks. 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.

**NOTES OF APPRECIATION:**

The following A.U.C.W. members volunteered in 2020 to take a leadership role in some aspect of our projects and programming. Thanks to each of them.

**Kathie Blackman, Sharon Corbett, Anne Ella-Arnold, Laurie Graham, Paula Hanna, Jean Heys, Helen Roberts, Mary Smith, Kay Snelgrove, Carolyn Stafford, Leslie Stoangi, and Susan Tutt**

The members of A.U.C.W. are indebted to **Reverend Andy Comar** for his frequent assistance in our use of the A.U.C. Zoom account for our unit and executive meetings, and his constant patience as we continue in the process of learning this new way of conducting business.

**SHINING WATERS REGION UNITED CHURCH WOMEN:**

The 2019 Annual General Meeting scheduled for May and Togetherness Day scheduled for October both had to be cancelled due to the viral pandemic. In September, the 2019 annual report was distributed electronically.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting will be a virtual gathering held in May of 2021.

During 2020, this regional organization gave \$5,300 in donations on behalf of the local units to the following organizations: Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada, U.C.W. – Women for Change – Zambia, Massey Centre, Camping Opportunities Fund, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award, and Camp Big Canoe.

*Report submitted by Anne Ella-Arnold,  
A.U.C.W. President.*

**AURORA UNITED CHURCH WOMEN****2020 INCOME STATEMENT-- DECEMBER 31, 2020****TREASURER: LESLIE STOANGI****BALANCE: JANUARY 01, 2020**

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	
<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>19,760.38</b>

**REVENUES: JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020**

COLLECTIONS--IDENTIFIABLE GIVINGS	3,135.00	
COLLECTIONS--FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN	10.25	
COLLECTIONS--UNIDENTIFIABLE GIVINGS	0.00	
A.U.C. RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT	100.00	
CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS	0.00	
FUND RAISING	5,800.00	
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT INTEREST	332.99	
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>9,378.24</b>

<b>TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD</b>	<b>29,138.62</b>
------------------------------	------------------

**EXPENDITURES: JANUARY 1, 2020 - DECEMBER 31, 2020**

CHARITABLE DONATIONS	7,759.75	
AUC GENERAL OPERATING FUND	500.00	
PROGRAMME	50.00	
SHINING WATERS DUES	144.00	
ADMINISTRATION	51.15	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>8,504.90</b>

**BALANCE: DECEMBER 31, 2020**

CHEQUABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT	2,134.48	
*G.I.C. #45	8,934.99	
*G.I.C. #51	3,695.20	
*G.I.C. #54	3,284.19	
*G.I.C. #55	2,584.86	
<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>20,633.72</b>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND BANK BALANCE**

<b>29,138.62</b>
------------------

\*These investments are being withheld for an A.U.C. reconstruction project.

PREPARED BY LESLIE STOANGI

**AURORA UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**  
**2020 INCOME STATEMENT**  
**TREASURER: LESLIE STOANGI**

**CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

AURORA FOOD PANTRY	1,600.00
BLUE DOOR SHELTERS	100.00
CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES FUND	100.00
GRAN AURORA	100.00
HOPE HOUSE COMMUNITY HOSPICE	100.00
INN FROM THE COLD	100.00
L'ARCHE DAYBREAK	100.00
MARGARET BAHEN HOSPICE	50.00
ROSE OF SHARON SERVICES FOR YOUNG MOTHERS	100.00
SANDGATE WOMEN'S SHELTER	100.00
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MISSION AND SERVICE FUND	900.00
WOMEN'S CENTRE OF YORK REGION	4,200.00
WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL-- FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN	9.75
YELLOW BRICK HOUSE	100.00
YORK REGION STREET OUTREACH CROSSLINKS HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES	100.00
TOTAL CHARITABLE DONATIONS	7,759.75

## **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 2020 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 made monthly interest only payments to the Endowment Fund until May 2020.

The reciprocal agreement, 99-year lease agreement as well as the fixed price construction contract for below surface structure with Succession Development were completed and signed by the Board of Trustees on Wednesday May 27, 2020 (see photo above). Part of the contract with Succession was that Aurora United Church would receive a cheque for \$3 million for the construction of the new building, with interest on \$250,0000 that was invested with SR Law since 2016. We received a cheque for \$2,870,749.64. The hold back is for SR Law legal fees.

All outstanding debts to the Board of Trustees are to be paid back when the Trustees lease or sell property. The \$400,000.00 was paid back to the Trustees and that loan was removed from the books of the Aurora United Church General Fund. The balance is invested for the rebuild. The repayment of the \$400,000.00 now brings the Endowment Fund back to \$800,000.00. We know that this fund might have to be used for the rebuild, especially if the funds are needed before a decision is realized in our legal case with Aviva. It is only the congregation that can make a decision regarding the monies invested in the Endowment Fund.

### **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 2020, \$175,000 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 on April 2, 2019. 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 are held by TGP until the courts make a decision. A hearing was to have happened on June 19, 2020. This hearing was cancelled due to the pandemic when the courts were closed.



Materials were prepared over the summer of 2020 which would then have to be sworn and then responded to by Aviva. A day in court would then be arranged to have materials challenged or tested through cross-examinations (date still unknown at the end of 2020). At the end of 2020 Aviva had still not presented their materials to TGP.

In 2020 the Board of Trustees, on direction of Council, made an offer to settle with Aviva in the amount of \$500,000.00 which remains open for acceptance until the commencement of the court hearing. Our lawyers, to date, have not had a response from Aviva.

### **Loan Application - Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) for building:**

At the Board of Trustees meeting in February we had decided not to apply to the Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) for a loan until we knew what would be the outcome of the June hearing. We knew at the end of February there would be time to apply if needed. With the cancellation of the June date for the application, an email from David Spencer (SR Law) needing confirmation of our funds to build (especially needing to know if the loan from TUCC is confirmed), and EDGE Property Committee continuing to work ahead, it seemed like the time had come to apply for the loan.

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday March 31 to discuss the situation and passed a motion to take to the AUC Council on Monday April 6:

*That the Board of Trustees ask Church Council to direct the Trustees to apply for a bridging loan through Toronto United Church Council.*

Council affirmed our request and made the motion directing us to apply to TUCC for a bridging loan. The loan application has been completed and submitted.

### **In 2020 the Board of Trustees...**

- a. 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
- b. signed reciprocal agreement, 99-year lease agreement as well as the fixed price construction contract for below surface structure with Succession Development on May 27, 2020
- c. signed lease with Trinity Anglican Church which extends from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.

Thank you to the members of the Board of Trustees for their support and dedication for everything that we had to do in 2020. We serve the congregation through the Church Council and in response to what is needed for our rebuilding project. It was a year of setbacks but also accomplishments as we continue to move forward in realizing our new church building. We look forward to some movement and hopefully resolution on some outstanding issues in 2021.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Rev. Andrew Comar*



	December 31/19	Additions	General Fund withdrawals	Withdrawals	Interest and Income Return	December 31/20
Aurora United Church Trustees - 2020						
Account						
Endowment	\$480,796.53	\$400,000.00		\$15,176.58	\$51,630.74	\$917,250.69
In Trust for General Fund -Earmarked Donations	\$16,755.76				\$982.19	\$17,737.95
In Trust for General Fund -Surplus Insurance Proceeds	\$25,433.17				\$1,490.85	\$26,924.02
Proceeds for Rebuilding	\$6,811,130.07	\$3,019,077.16	\$175,000.00	\$273,013.98	\$310,126.06	\$9,692,319.31
Flower Fund	\$3,494.64			\$61.54	\$201.24	\$3,634.34
Loan to Church	\$400,000.00					\$0.00
Trustees Refugee Resettlement Fund	\$28,934.37	\$5,915.11		\$35,034.37	\$0.00	-\$184.89
Change in Market Value	-\$151,279.74	\$205,593.65				\$54,313.91
Total	\$7,766,544.54	\$3,630,585.92		\$323,286.47	\$364,431.08	\$10,711,995.33
<b>Account Balances</b>						
<b>BMO Chequing Account</b>	\$48,546.56		Trustees Non-Building Earnings			
<b>Trustees Endowment Fund</b>	\$1,077,024.61		Endowment Fund Return			
<b>Trustees Building Fund</b>	\$9,586,424.16		December Inflation Rate			
<b>Loan to General Fund</b>	\$0.00		Required Return			
<b>Total</b>	\$10,711,995.33		Surplus Return			
			Disbursements to General Fund			
			Endowment Fund Surplus Return			
			Flower Fund			

Last year, of the \$273K in building fund disbursements, approximately \$189K went to our architects.

Of the \$310K in investment return not including market value increases to year end, we returned \$175K to the General Fund of the Church.

There is a small deficit balance in the Inter Faith Refugee Resettlement Fund due to the late deposit (January 2021) of a \$1,000 donation.