

Aurora United Church Annual Report 2022

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In Memoriam

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

Larry Walter Newton

Robert George Ellwood "Bud" Ibbotson

Elizabeth "Betty" Snooks Walsh

David Leslie Johnson

Carole Anne Hant

Phyllis Jean Ibrahim

Robert Ernest York



MINISTERS' MESSAGE

Dear AUC Friends,

It is with a great depth of relief and joy that after three years of coping with the restrictions of world pandemic, life is returning to something resembling normal, or at least normal - adjacent. Have we not prided ourselves on being adept at adapting? And so, we have - adapted to the many restrictions and changes that have come to us in this time of challenge and change.

The work and worship of the church has not faltered in this time; and, with the addition of live streaming capability we have become a hybrid church, not only for worship but for ministries and committees more broadly, allowing for folks to participate in worship and meetings from home or away. Our volunteers have been essential for this ministry to thrive, and we thank them, both audio and video.

We are always grateful for the work of our AUC Council in every year, however this year the role of Welcome Team member was added to their job description - meeting, welcoming and supporting worship goers and participating each week in multiple ways. We offer thanks and blessings to our outgoing chair, Frank Pulumbarit, for his four years of service to council and for this past year as chair.

We have appreciated his particular gifts and skills and much enthusiasm in this time.

As we consider now the year that was, even as we are fully engaged in the new, we consider the changes that have come to our AUC staff. Carmen Harany, our long serving church treasurer of fifteen years has moved on to a new expanded role at the CNE.

While we are sorry to see her go from the office, we will continue to enjoy her friendship as a member of the congregation where she is still heavily involved in Rise and Shine breakfast and in other ministries of the church. Thank you, Carmen!

We welcomed Suzanne Whitehurst to the church office as secretary. Suzanne is a long-time member of the congregation and is currently the new coordinator for the Rise and Shine breakfast. We welcome her among us!

Music coordinator, Margaret Heney continues to provide excellence in direction for our impressive AUC Chancel Choir in planning and coordinating musical guests, special services and concerts. Lisa Kyriakides, hand bell ensemble director has kept three hand bell ensembles ringing through challenge and change bringing much joy to all. Thank you, Margaret, and Lisa, for your gifts in music.

The work of the Ministry & Personnel committee takes place mostly in the background but is essential for the well-being of clergy and staff. Thank you to Peter Drost and his team for their commitment and dedication.

Brian North continues to serve as our EDGE Property committee chair, leading the committee now into a pivotal time of last stages toward the rebuild of our church. We are deeply grateful for his comprehensive leadership and dedication as we move toward our final goal.

This annual report, years from now will serve as a reminder of the time in our church's history when in the midst of great challenge, we pressed on doing ministry together while planning for the future.

Many of us are planning Easter gatherings and dinners now; having ventured down the Lenten pathway towards cross and tomb, we now anticipate the joy which comes with Easter's dawning as Jesus is loosed into the world and into our lives once again.

May God continue to bless us, uniting our hearts and hands on the journey.

Lorraine & Andy

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

During this past year, Council met monthly to discuss a variety of topics including protocols as we moved from an online presence to one that saw us return for in-person and live-streaming Sunday morning worship services. By the time you read this report you will have received the news that our current chair of Council, Frank Pulumbarit, will not be renewing his term on Council. We give thanks to Frank for his service on Council over the past four years, including this past year as Chair. Thank you, Frank for your leadership. Below are decisions Council made in 2022.

January 10, 2022

Approval of budget for 2022

Council approved the operating budget for 2022 which was then forwarded to the AGM in March of the same year.

Status of services of worship and meetings

Council decided that in view of the community spread of the omicron variant, AUC will continue to worship online. In keeping in line with protocols set out by the Anglican Diocese of Toronto it was decided that all AUC clergy, staff, and volunteers entering Trinity Anglican be fully vaccinated - that is, three doses of COVID-19 vaccine - or possess a valid medical/human rights exemption, along

with a negative COVID-19 test result from no more than 48 hours prior into their entry to the building. This protocol is still in effect as of March 7, 2023.

February 14, 2022

Status of services of worship and meetings

Council decided to return to in-person worship, with live-streaming for those who wish to worship from home on Sunday March 27, 2022. People attending worship will be asked to register on Eventbrite. There were a series of protocols established along with Covid screening questions that people would be asked. It was also decided that that all people entering Trinity Anglican Church, for AUC worship, be fully vaccinated (that is, three doses of COVID-19 vaccine for people 18 and over) or possess a valid medical/human rights exemption, along with a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from no more than 48 hours prior to their entry into the building.

March 14, 2022

Thank you to Bill Newman and John Kuropatwa

Council extended their thanks to Bill Newman (Council chair) and to John Kuropatwa (M&P chair) for their years of service to the AUC Council and congregation.

April 11, 2022

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of AUC Council

Frank Pulumbarit was elected as the new chair of the AUC Council along with Joyce Hagarty who was elected as vice-chair.

Status of services of worship and meetings

Council decided to amend the screening questions that people were asked when people came into worship on Sunday morning.

May 9, 2022

New Staff

Suzanne Whitehurst be hired as our temporary part-time secretary effective May 1 to August 31, 2022, Monday to Thursday from 9am to 12pm (noon).

Status of services of worship and meetings

Council decided to discontinue the use of Eventbrite for registering to attend worship services. It was also decided that all AUC groups return to the procedure whereby a single person who is a worship or group meeting leader may remove their mask while they are speaking, with a distance requirement of 4 metres.

June 14, 2021

Status of services of worship and meetings

Council decided the following that:

- a) AUC follow the provincial standard for Covid-19 vaccinations,
- b) that AUC encourages voluntary masking, especially for those who are vulnerable or might feel more comfortable with this level of protection,
- c) that AUC discontinues tracking,
- d) that AUC discontinues the use of screening questions.

September 9, 2022

Status of services of worship and meetings

Council decided that as of September 18, 2022, AUC will no longer require COVID vaccinations to attend worship and as of September 18, 2022, masks will be mandatory for those attending worship.

October 3, 2022

New Members

Council approved the admission of Matthew Robert Lyon and Damien Caiden Frederick Vance Verschelden into full membership of Aurora United Church through Affirmation of Faith (Confirmation).

November 14, 2022

Legal Dispute with Aviva

That Council authorizes the Board of Trustees to make an offer to Aviva of \$1,000,000.00 to settle out of court.

Lease with Trinity Anglican Church

Council recommended to the Board of Trustees that the license agreement between Trinity Anglican Church and Aurora United Church covering the period November 1, 2022, to October 31, 2023 be approved.

December 5, 2022

Status of services of worship and meetings

Council decided that mandatory masking would remain in place for the time being. Volunteers are still needed for the working Sound and Live-Streaming on Sunday morning.

**Aurora United Church
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, March 29, 2022
7 pm
Zoom Video Conference**

MINUTES

Present: Rev. Andrew Comar, Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, 54 members and 6 adherents attended. (See the attached Attendance Sheet)

Welcome and Call to Order: Bill Newman

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Rev. Andrew Comar

Acknowledgment of Territory: Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar

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

Motions have been grouped, by topic, into omnibus motions, to speed up the voting process.

The following protocols were explained:

- how to have a motion pulled from the omnibus motion
- how to vote (on a PC, iPad, phone and when more than one person is on a computer)
- how to ask questions
- Rev. Andy will tabulate the votes

This information was available in writing prior to the meeting.

Motion: That Adherents of AUC may vote.

Moved by: Paula Hanna

Seconded by: Peter Drost

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 April 28, 2021, be approved as circulated.
- d. That the printed/online 2021 Annual Report be accepted as circulated and amended.

(excluding 2021 Income/Expense statement and 2022 Budget).

Moved by: Joyce Hagarty

Seconded by: Laurie Bentolila

Disposition: carried with 1 abstention

In Memoriam: Paula Hanna – Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

The names of members who passed away from May 1, 2021, until December 31, 2021, were read.

Finance Committee Presentation: Stephen Crawley

Stephen gave a slide presentation, on video, outlining the 2021 Financial Statement and the 2022 Budget. Complete statements appear on pages 41-45 of the Annual Report.

2021 Income/Expense Statement Overview:

- 2021 saw significantly reduced expenses due to cost saving measures and other initiatives
- Insurance interest requirements were reduced
- Total Offerings held up well

- Federal Covid support programs delivered \$56 000 in 2021, but will not be available in 2022
- Total revenue, all sources, was \$443 600, down 12.1% from 2021
- Total Offerings came in at \$12 200 (down 5.5% from 2021, but \$10 400 above our 2021 budget
- The interest received from Trustees for the Endowment was \$45 700, about double the budget and triple the amount from 2020
- CERS/CEWS revenue of \$56 000 was a huge help to AUC's liquidity. This program has now ended
- In total, AUC ran an operating deficit of approximately \$83 000 in 2021, \$156 000 less than the budget forecast. All this operating deficit was covered by the interest on the insurance payout.

2022 Budget:

- We are budgeting a further decline in (non-insurance) revenue in 2022 of \$80 000 or
-18%, driven by an anticipated decline in Endowment interest (-\$25 000) and the end of the Federal Support programs in 2022 (-\$56 000)
- This, plus increased Expense spending, will result in our Operating Deficit in 2022 being
\$283 000 versus \$83 000 in 2021
- The deficit is budgeted to be fully funded by the interest from the insurance payout
- All AUC programs have been maintained in 2022
- With the physical return to worship and offices, spending on rent and M&P will increase in 2022
- Total Operating Expenses are projected to increase 29% to \$546 000 from \$423 400
- Rent at Trinity (plus storage) is our largest non-staff cost at \$81 300
- As capital spending on the new building increases, the amount of insurance interest available is reduced. The 5-year financial forecast will be updated continually to ensure AUC's ongoing operational needs are met.

Omnibus Motion #2

MOTION: that the AUC congregation take the following actions:

- a. That the 2021 Income/Expense statement be accepted as presented.
- b. That the 2022 Budget be accepted as presented.
- c. That Roberts & Company Professional Corporation provide our accounting services for 2022.

Moved by: Carmen Harany

Seconded by: Brian Walter

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:

Martha Bailkowski – Elder-at-Large

Helena Barkla – Elder-at-Large

- 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
- Brian Walter – Ministry Advocate for Congregational Resources
- Andrea Drost – Elder-at-Large
- Joyce Hagarty – Elder-at-Large

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

- d. That the Congregation authorizes Council to elect members to the Nominating Committee, which will report to the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

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

Moved by: Peter Drost
Seconded by: Jackie Catto
Disposition: carried

EDGE Property Committee: Brian North

Brian referred to the information in the 2021 Annual Report and added:

- the EDGE Property Committee continues to meet, dealing with anything from legal aspects to interior design approvals
- excavating is getting close to completion and then we should start seeing the raft foundation constructed over the entire property.
- our architect is almost ready for us to go out to tender for the above grade work.
- the Senior Project Manager, who we hired in January, is working hard on our behalf
- sincere thanks to the entire EDGE Property Committee, Bill Newman, Rev. Andy, and Rev. Lorraine

Site photos of the excavation and concept photos of the interior and exterior areas of the church were shared on the screen.

Staff Appreciation: M&P Committee – John Kuropatwa

Carolyn Rusin has joined the M&P Committee. John will be stepping down from the M&P Committee and Jane Taylor will be taking his place as Chair.

John expressed appreciation to Carmen Harany, our part-time treasurer, who has been working from home and has put in many hours completing government applications for grants along with her regular work.

Three members of the staff were on leave throughout 2021. Margaret Heney and Lisa Kyriakides returned in January 2022. Cathy Hiltz was wished well in her retirement.

Rev. Lorraine and Rev. Andy were thanked for facing many challenges while still producing an excellent worship service on-line and helping to maintain the work of church committees and programs.

Message from Bill Newman, Chair of Council

Thank you to:

John Kuropatwa for his work on the M&P Committee
The ministers and those helping to produce on-line worship
Council-Jennifer Kenwell and Rob Gulbranson will be retiring from Council
as their term has ended

Bill will be retiring from his position as Chair of Council and will be stepping down from Council. He expressed gratitude to Rev. Lorraine and Rev. Andy for their encouragement and reinforcement.

Message from Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andy Comar

Rev. Lorraine expressed her happiness to return to in-person and live stream worship. The Annual Report shows all committees, programs and personnel did the best they could to maintain a sense of community and purpose in pandemic times.

Thank you was given to Bill Newman for his four years as Chair of Council and his excellent leadership. Thank you also to his wife, Nancy, for sharing him with us.

Rev. Andy thanked:

Jennifer Kenwell and Paula Hanna for their work as Co-secretaries of Council
Brian North for his commitment and passion to the EDGE Property Committee
Carol Lever and her team for the Rise and Shine Breakfast program
John Kuropatwa for his oversight and support on the M&P Committee

Closing prayer: Rev. Andy Comar

Adjournment: 8:42 pm

Bill Newman (Chair)

Paula Hanna
(Secretary)

Aurora United Church
2022 AGM
Attendance

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar
Rev. Andrew Comar

Members:

Colleen Abbott, Anne Ella-Arnold, Craig Arnold, Martha Bailkowski, Laurie Bentolilia, Kathie Blackman, David Brownlow, Joan Brownlow, Jackie Catto, George Collins, Heather Collins, Heather Cooper, Bruce Corbett, Sharon Corbett, Ep Damstra, Nettie Damstra, Andrea Drost, Peter Drost, Brian Elliot, Penny Elliot, Joyce Hagarty, Jennifer Hanna, Paula Hanna, Carmen Harany, Debra Hilliard, Grant Hilliard, Doreen Hiltz, Dawn Horstead, Pat Innes, Rod Johnson, Jennifer Kenwell, Lloyd Kerswill, Nancy Kerswill, Joan Kuropatwa, John Kuropatwa, Bob Kyriakides, Lisa Kyriakides, Linda McNally, Bill Newman, Janice Nolan, Brian North, Frank Pulumbarit, Helen Roberts, Debbie Schieck, Ken Smith, Mary Smith, Dave Snelgrove, Kay Snelgrove, Denyse Slack, Yvonne Speck, Charles Truax, Myrtle Truax, Brian Walter, Holly Williamson,

Adherents:

Rev. Tim Dayfoot, Damien Hanna, David Hanna, Nancy Newman, David Pilkey, Jo Anne Richardson.

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
- 3rd Aurora Scouts
- Children & Youth Programs
- Adult Faith Formation

COUNCIL STATISTICS 2022

Baptisms	6
Weddings	2
Funeral/Memorial Services	7
New Members by Transfer	nil
New Members by Profession of Faith	2
Members Removed by Death	5
Members Removed by Transfer	nil
Members Removed by Personal Request	nil
Members Moved to Non-Resident List	nil
Resident Members 12/31/2021	543
Resident Members 12/31/2022	540
Households under Pastoral Care	245

AFFIRMING CONGREGATION COMMITTEE

Three years ago, just after the AUC congregation voted unanimously to adopt the Affirming Vision Statement, proposed by the Affirming Committee, we were anticipating the Annual General Meeting where the final vote to become an official Affirming congregation would have been held. As we all know, the pandemic intervened, and all in-person meetings moved online.

Given the importance of this vote for the life and mission of Aurora United Church, the committee has felt it necessary to hold off the presentation of the proposal until we could meet again in person as a congregation, so it is with excitement we look forward to the 2023 AGM where we will do so.

Members of the Committee: Rev. Lorraine, Debby Schieck, Brian Walter, Noah Comar, Mary Munro, Victoria Kyriakides

Submitted by: Rev. Lorraine



**Aurora United Church
Affirming Vision Statement**

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

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

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

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

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



EDGE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

2022 proved to be another challenging year for the EDGE Property Committee. In January we engaged the services of a Project Manager, Chris Hawkins, at the recommendation of our architect, Bob Murphy. With his many years of experience, Chris was hired to handle the day-to-day operations and challenges that derive from a project such as ours. As AUC is still the owner of the entire property, we have responsibilities and it's important that we make sure all details are being followed. His knowledge and expertise ensure that the CCDC2 contract is being adhered to, protecting our best interests.

The year started with a huge hole and by early spring, the raft was soon completed on the entire property. Once completed, this allowed the below grade infrastructure to be installed prior to the final lower parking floor. (Structural bases, drainage pipes etc.) In April, the Town of Aurora issued the building permit for the above grade portion of our church with no changes or concerns to our submission. We watched as the building started. When the signs were erected along Yonge Street with only Amica being advertised, our committee and many citizens were concerned that we, as Aurora United Church were not on the sign boards. We took it upon ourselves to rectify the problem and installed both our name and renderings of our new church.

By summer, we continued to see the development progress. Unfortunately, we have been continually asked for increased costs to the below grade contract. A development lawyer (Fogler Rubinoff) was engaged to deal with the contract. This process continues into 2023 with a legal team working on our behalf. Because of some of these issues, the EDGE Property Committee recommend that we seek another developer for the above grade build.

At our November meeting we were given a timeline of about 18 months before the below grade would be completed and turned over to us only to be told in December that they expect it to be completed by May of 2023.

We went through the process of securing a current quantity survey now that we are ready to move forward and were surprised at the increase in costs throughout the Covid pandemic. We are working on a tender package that we hope to have distributed by the spring of 2023.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee, both past and present members for their dedication to this project, it is a pleasure working with them and huge commitment on their part.

Respectfully submitted.

Brian North (Chair of EDGE Property Committee)

Committee Members: Brian North (Chair), Rev. Andy Comar, Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Holly Todd-Williamson, Pat Innes, Scott Sinclair, David Snelgrove, Crawford Heritage, and Doug Gilpin.

OAKWIL NON-PROFIT HOMES CORPORATION

Background

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. Operating as Oakwil Seniors Homes, the non-profit 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 assumed by AUC when the two church congregations amalgamated in 2008.

Governance

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 exercise direction and fiduciary responsibility over 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.

The members of the Oakwil Board of Directors are:

- President – Bill Newman
- Vice President – Christine Zarebski
- Secretary – David Hanna
- Treasurer – Ken Graham
- Director – Heather Collins
- Director – Suzanne Whitehurst (officially joined January 2023)
- Resident Representative – Bernie Meagher

Financial Structure

Oakwil has entered into a housing services agreement with York Region by which the latter provides an annual operating subsidy and capital funding to upgrade and improve the complex. The rents charged to Oakwil tenants are based on a “rent geared-to-income” formula determined by York Region. The income from rents, combined with the operating subsidy from York Region, are applied to the ongoing maintenance of the complex, the funding of capital replacements, the repayment of debt and the building of a capital reserve fund. Oakwil currently has a mortgage with a balance of \$57,738.52 which will be paid in full by June, 2023 plus a non-interest-bearing loan from York Region with a balance of \$171,573.00 which is being repaid on a graduated basis. The Board is grateful to York Region for its funding support of ongoing operations and capital improvements at Oakwil.

2022 Financial Results

Operating & Maintenance – The Oakwil Board is required to submit an annual budget to York Region covering the operation and maintenance of the complex. For

2022, the budget was based on total forecasted income of \$329,452.00 and total forecasted expenses of \$328,921.00 resulting in a forecasted operating surplus of \$531.00. Actual year-end income totaled \$330,456.79 (above budget) and expenses \$325,140.83 (under budget) producing a surplus of \$5,315.96 (above budget). The operating surplus was allocated to the capital reserve and repayment of the York Region loan.

Capital – Through its community housing Innovation Fund, York Region approved funding totaling \$33,844.00 for several capital projects relating to accessibility and recreation and leisure space:

- Modification of the bathrooms in 3 units to improve accessibility
- Construction of a community garden
- Purchase of a barbeque, portable canopies, and outdoor chairs for community functions

A building condition assessment of the Oakwil complex was conducted under the auspices of York Region during 2022. The assessment rated the condition and life expectancy of various building components. The results of the assessment will be used to formulate annual capital plans and budgets.

2022 Highlights

- **Board Meetings** – The Board met on January 27, April 6, May 26, July 21, October 13, and November 24. With the subsidence of the pandemic, the Board has been meeting variously in-person and via Zoom.
- **Annual General Meeting** – The Oakwil Annual General Meeting was held on June 13 on Zoom. The members approved the appointment of Heather Collins to the Board of Directors, the 2021 audited financial statements and the reappointment of Grant Thornton LLP as Oakwil’s auditors.
- **Property Management Agreement** – Following a competitive request for proposals, a new 3-year agreement commencing July 1, 2022, was awarded to Richmond Community Management Services (RCMS) for the daily management of Oakwil. The Board is pleased to continue its mutually beneficial business relationship with RCMS for a further three years.

- **Summer Event** – To foster community togetherness after two years of COVID, a barbeque and social gathering were held for the residents on August 28.
- **Oakwil Bylaw Number 1 (version 5)** – On September 14, the updated bylaws for Oakwil were approved by the Shining Waters Regional Council Executive and the General Council of the United Church of Canada.
- **Mortgage Renewal** – Oakwil’s mortgage agreement was renewed for a seven-month term from November 1, 2022 to June 1, 2023 at which time the remaining balance will be fully paid and the mortgage will be discharged.
- **Christmas Luncheon** – On November 24, a Christmas luncheon was held for the residents to celebrate the coming holiday season.
- **New Director** – At the end of the year, Suzanne Whitehurst agreed to join the Oakwil Board. Suzanne’s experience in the non-profit community services sector will make her a valued addition to the Board. Her appointment was approved at the Board’s January 2023 meeting and will be ratified by the membership at the Annual General Meeting in June 2023.

Looking Ahead to 2023

With the discharge of Oakwil’s mortgage in June 2023, the current housing services agreement between Oakwil and York Region will come to an end. A principal focus for the Oakwil Board in 2023 will be the negotiation of a new housing services agreement and subsidy arrangement with York Region.

The Board expresses its appreciation to AUC for its continuing sponsorship of Oakwil. We also thank RCMS for its capable management of the complex and in particular, Maninder Kalirai, Senior Property Manager, Sandra Izurieta, Junior Administration Manager and Amanda Fanjoy, Housing Co-ordinator. Together, we are working to maintain Oakwil as a desirable place for seniors to live.



Summer BBQ



Christmas Luncheon

*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.

We continued our own virtual Sunday School throughout the first part of 2022 which ended with an in-person get together with the children in June where they enjoyed parachute games. At Easter the youth once again created cards that were sent to local retirement homes. In the fall, Funday Sunday started back in person. There were a variety of themes, and we had several families attending each week. Many youth participated in a wonderful and Christmas pageant; and the youth celebrated Christmas with a party which their parents also participated in.

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

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Alison Backer
Ministry Advocate
Faith Formation*

Adult Faith Formation

Real to Reel and *AUC Movie Night* were suspended in 2022 due to pandemic restrictions. As more things are opening gain, we will look forward to returning to these programs later in 2023.

Woman Spirit is a monthly group that Rev. Lorraine leads for women. Please see their report on page 28.

The United Church of Canada's Lenten book, *Lesser Evils: Daily Reflections on Seeking Wisdom*, provided the guide for an online journey through Lent. This weekly Zoom study group was led by Rev. Lorraine and Rev. Andy.

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

Book Club has remained online in this year, continuing to gather on the Zoom platform. Attendance has been very good, no doubt having to do with member's ability to participate from wherever they found themselves - home, cottage, or vacation. As has been the case in this time of pandemic, we look forward to resuming our in-person gatherings before too long.

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

Book Club is an open group, which means that all are welcome to participate; it is a great way to connect with others and to discuss interesting and challenging books. Sometimes, the books we would never have chosen on our own, often prove to be the ones that provide the most energetic discussion!

Zoom information for the meetings is available on the AUC website (www.auroraunitedchurch.ca) and in the weekly Friday File.

*Blessings in books,
Rev. Lorraine*

Book Selections 2021/2022

The Midnight Library (*Matt Haig*)
The Burgess Shale: The Canadian Writing Landscape of the 1960's (*M. Atwood*)
Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race (*W. Isaacson*)
The Diamond Eye (*Kate Quinn*)
Five Little Indians (*Michelle Good*)
Freezing Order: The True Story of Money Laundering, Murder and Surviving Vladimir Putin's Wrath (*Bill Browder*)
Looking For Jane (*Heather Marshall*)
The Secret Life of Sunflowers (*Marta Molnar*)

Woman Spirit

Woman Spirit has remained on the Zoom platform in this year while pandemic protocols and personal concerns about safety remained in place. In this new year, as those protocols and concerns are easing, we look forward to that time when we can return to our in-person gatherings.

Woman Spirit invites women of the congregation to gather to share our lives with one another - to discuss relevant current topics (at times with audio or video presentations) as they relate to our sense of spirituality; to share creatively and to pray together.

Sharing in the Quaker practice of holding persons 'in the light' before God has added richly to our monthly gatherings - ending our meetings by simply offering silent prayer for each other, for others and for the world.

Woman Spirit meets the third Monday of the month (September to June) at 7pm. Zoom information is available on the AUC website at www.auroraunitedchurch.ca and in the weekly Friday File.

'Come for sharing. Come for friendship. Come for community.'

Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Lorraine

3rd Aurora Scouting Report

2022 was a year of that saw both a reduction in the operating restrictions of Scouting programs during Covid-19 protocols, and a continued increase in number of youth and Scouter participants across both the Beaver and Cub sections of 3rd Aurora Scout Group, across both.

2021/2022 Scouting Year

Scouts Canada continued to operate member registration on a January to December calendar year (2022). Operation wise, the 3rd Aurora Scout Group has chosen to maintain the traditional “school year” programming schedule of September (2021) to May (2022), with children who age out of Beavers in the Spring of the year they turn 8, being provided the opportunity to join Cubs that Fall. Active Scouting youths who had been registered for 2021 were provided a 2 week “early bird” window to register starting mid-August to either retain their existing place or join the group, ahead of those who had not participated in 2021. The registration window for the 2022 calendar year opened in September for new members, on a first come first serve basis. Those children who do not register for 2022 retained their place with the Group until the end of December 2021.

Those children who register to start with the Group in January 2022 were provided the opportunity to start early in the Fall where space availability permitted. As part of Scouts Canada’s Covid-19 protocols each section could register no more than 16 youth participants.

The 3rd Aurora Scout Group continues to report directly to the Shinning Waters Council, following Scouts Canada dissolution of the Area level of administration.

Programming

With local schools remaining closed to community rentals, 3rd Aurora secured the rental use of the Auditorium at the Aurora Community Centre for back-to-back Beavers and Cubs meetings on Thursday evenings. 2 out of every 3 Beavers and Cubs meetings are being held at this location from October 2021 to Mid-May 2022.

In November 2021 the Beavers and Cub participated in the Remembrance Day and Aurora Santa Under the Stars Parades. In Fall 2021 a selection of 3rd Aurora Scouting Youth were happy to be able to assist and provide yard waste clean-up for members of Aurora United Church congregation. In April 2022 3rd Aurora

hosted an Area Rally for Beaver Buggy, Cub Car, Scout Trucks and Adult Racers approximately 85 participants took part. In May 2022 the Group held an all-sections camp, staying in cabin accommodation at the Woodland Trails Scout Camp. A small number of Group members participated in the June 2022 White Pine Cuboree, tent camping at Camp Samac in Oshawa and in the September 2022 Fort George Camp in Niagara-On-the-Lake.

3rd Aurora offered no summer programming between June and mid-September 2022. The 2022/2023 Scouting program started with the annual “kick off” event at the Richmond Hill Live Steamers scale railway.

The gymnasium at St. Joseph’s Catholic Elementary School in Aurora was booked for back-to-back section meetings on Thursday evenings, for October 2022- May 2023.

2022 ended with 3rd Aurora’s group population increasing to 11 youths in the Beaver Section (boys, aged 5 to 7, including 4 new members) and 12 Cubs, (boys and girls, aged 8 to 10, including 1 new member and 3 “moved up” member from Beavers).

Volunteers

In 2022 Three Scouters, Dank Vink, Greg Scott and Kyle Munro, continued with the Cubs program. 4 new Scouters, including Dan Johnson (contact Scouter), Janice Chong, Ken Kosowan and Kevin Krille took over operation as Scouters with the Beavers section since September 2023.

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

Following Spring 2022, Scouters Greg and Kyle will be moving up to run Cubs exclusively as their youngest children age out of the Beavers Program.

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.

It remains a goal of the group to recruit additional Scouters and Group Committee representatives in order to move forward with expanding the size and programming capabilities of 3rd Aurora Scout Group for years to come. The continuing physical and spiritual support of Aurora United Church for 3rd Aurora Scouting Group remains very much appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in providing equipment storage to the group.

Program Highlights for January to December 2022 include:

- Participation in the 2021 Scout Seeds fundraiser (February – March 2022).
- 3rd Aurora Beavers hosting the 2022 South Lake Simcoe Beaver Buggy, Cub Car, and Scout Truck Rally (April 2022), with the assistance of Alumni Scouter Trevor Stevens and Scouter Bart Munro from 2nd Innisfil.
- Group Scout Camp (May 2022)
- White Pines Cuboree (June 2022)
- Fort George Scout Camp (September 2022)
- Beavers and Cubs attending a train day at Richmond Hill Live Steamers outdoor scale model railway (September 2022)
- Remembrance Day Parade (November 2022)
- Participating in the Aurora Santa Claus Parade (November 2022)
- 3rd Aurora Beavers and Cubs volunteered to rake up and bag leaves for 2 members of the AUC congregation who required assistance with the task.

We look forward to exploring more opportunities to strengthen our relationship and connection to the congregation. 3rd Aurora Beavers and Cubs were glad to assist with leaf clean-up for members of the AUC congregation in the Fall 2022 and look forward to similar opportunities to “do a good turn” in future.

Due to the group size, the age of participants and their physical abilities, single-day, weekend-based volunteer opportunities appear best suited for our youth members at this time.

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/Cub Scouter and Commissioner,
3rd Aurora Scouting Group*

MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

Finance Committee

In 2022, the AUC Finance Committee consisted of Stephen Crawley (Chair), Carmen Harany (Treasurer), Brian Walters (Advocate Elder), Lloyd Kerswill, Susan Sue-Ling, and Rev. Andy Comar. Frank Pulumbarit, 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 the team does significant work outside of these monthly meetings to ensure the smooth management and planning of AUC’s resources. This includes 5-year projections to identify any issues for the Operating budget due to spending on the rebuild of our church.

Our congregation began meeting in person again in 2022, which is a positive event not only for our congregation, but also for our financial performance. While our **Total Revenue in 2022** was up 6.9% versus 2021, that reflected our increased requirement to draw on funds from the interest on our insurance payout from Trustees.

In 2022 we required \$175,000 from insurance interest, and in 2021 we required only \$100,000. If you remove this variable revenue source of insurance interest, our Total Revenue was actually down -13.9% versus 2021 (approx. \$42K). This was due primarily to revenue from Federal subsidy programs in 2021 that were not available in 2022 (approx. \$56K). 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 we face as a congregation, **Total Offerings** from the congregation finished 2022 up 2.9% (approx. \$6.7K) versus 2021 and above our budget by 3.8%. We should all be proud of the financial commitment our congregation continues to make to the ongoing operation of AUC. We are making a difference!

Total Expenses in 2022 rose as expected versus 2021, when they were at their lowest level in years due to reduced spending during Covid. Spending in 2022 was up 11% versus 2021, driven by increased staff wages as our team returned to normal working conditions, and also by increased costs in rent with Trinity. Total Expenses were actually lower versus 2022 budget by 13.2% (or approx. \$72K) due to a number of areas coming in below budget, notably M&P and our property taxes. See the full budget in this Annual Report for detailed information.

AUC's General Operating Fund continues to rely on interest from the insurance capital to balance our budget. However, because of cost containment and revenue strength, the net funding requirement from insurance interest was only \$175,000 in 2021, \$108,000 less than the budgeted amount of \$283,000. Insurance interest continues to be a significant percentage of our overall revenue. In 2021, 22.6% of our Total Revenue was insurance interest, in 2022 it was 36.8% and in our 2023 budget calls for over 50% of our revenue to come from there. Aside from this 36.8% interest revenue in 2021, 51% came from Total (congregational) Offerings, and 12% from all other sources. We are blessed to have the insurance interest at our disposal to cover our short-term requirements as we go through this period of transition in our history. We do not intend to use any of the principal capital we have received from the insurance payout. We only draw from the investment income generated by the principal to cover our operating revenue shortfalls.

As we are now starting to draw on the principal to pay for construction costs, we will need to be vigilant in ensuring no short-term funding gaps appear that could impact our Operating Fund. The AUC Finance committee will continue to watch revenue requirements carefully, project out 5 years, and pre-emptively work with Council and Trustees to ensure no financial issues arise in 2023 and beyond.

All of AUC's financial obligations were met in 2022, 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 \$77,326 in 2022. Expense management is a key area of responsibility and emphasis for Finance, and we successfully achieved that goal in 2022 with the support of the many Ministries and Committees at AUC. Our thanks go out 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 separate accounts for this purpose:

- first, our Future Fund, which on December 31, 2022, held \$9,352.87 in the bank plus \$132,700 that has been invested for us by Trustees;
- our Earmarked donations account (donations made for specifically designated purchases) with \$22,224.33 invested by Trustees;
- our Insurance Claim bank account (the initial early payout from our insurance company), with a minimal amount remaining, was closed, folded into the Future Fund account, and invested by Trustees.

The Finance Committee is also 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. This year we have again been able to complete the task and approval process in time for the 2023 Budget to be included in this Annual Report, subject to the congregation's approval at the Annual General Meeting. AUC's Treasurer Carmen Harany worked 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 2022.

Carmen recently departed the Treasurer role at AUC, and our sincere thanks go out to her for 15 years of unwavering, professional management of the day-to-day financial affairs of the church.

The Finance team monitors the revenue and spending of the General Operating Fund on an ongoing basis. Our goal is to ensure that 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

As you all know, by the time you read this report I will no longer be the Treasurer at AUC. So, I will leave all the Finance reporting to Stephen Crawley, Chair of the Finance Committee. Instead, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thank you to AUC for giving me the job 15 years ago.

It has been a journey of learning, growing, and adapting into the position which changed over the years.

I had a lot of guidance and support from many members of the congregation along the way, for which I am grateful.

A special thank you to Andy and Lorraine as well as the the Finance Committee for their ongoing support, and finally, Ed Griffith who has been my sidekick since the beginning.

I will cherish the memories I have of working with you all as a team!
It's not goodbye, it's see you at church!!

Carmen Harany

Bequests and 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:

Cathy Brown
Mrs. Baigent
Patricia Findley
Bonnie Goode
Carole Hant
John Houston
Steven Hudak
Phyllis Ibrahim
Dora Newton
Lundy O'Donnell
Robert Russell
Bob Stenson
Barbara Suddard
Lynda Thompson
Sharon Toulouse
Mrs. Wellington

General Fund 2021 and Budget 2022

GENERAL FUND BUDGET		Budget	Jan to Dec Actuals	Budget
REVENUES		2022	2022	2023
Offerings:				
Identifiable Givers		\$ 215,000.00	\$ 221,971.30	\$ 215,000.00
Loose		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 878.85	\$ 2,500.00
Initial Offering		\$ 50.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 50.00
M&S Givings over and above		\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,300.00
Online Donations		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,870.00	\$ 1,500.00
Other Givings (United Way, etc.)		\$ 500.00	\$ 273.10	\$ 500.00
Appeals: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Gift with vision		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,589.70	\$ 10,000.00
Total Offering		\$ 232,350.00	\$ 241,122.95	\$ 232,850.00
Fundraising:				
Musical Special Events Revenue		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,477.75	\$ 2,000.00
AVGEN		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,475.00	\$ 1,200.00
Total Fundraising		\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,952.75	\$ 3,200.00
Program Revenue:				
Poinsettias		\$ 600.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 600.00
200th Anniversary book (as approved by Council)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Faith Formation(Confirmation, Adult Ed, VBC, Youth Events)		\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ 450.00
Broadview subscription		\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 600.00
Total Program Revenue		\$ 1,650.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 1,650.00
Investments:				
Interest/Capital Gains from Endowment & Flower Fund		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 49,136.44	\$ 5,000.00
Interest on Insurance Capital		\$ 283,000.00	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 262,000.00
Total Investments		\$ 303,000.00	\$ 224,136.44	\$ 267,000.00
Other:				
CEWS Subsidy		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CERS		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
UCW Donation		\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
HST Rebate (July to Dec. previous year + Jan to June current)		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,975.22	\$ 3,500.00
Memorials, Bequests and Planned Giving		\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 250.00
Rise & Shine Donations		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,628.10	\$ 1,000.00
Printing		\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Revenue		\$ 5,950.00	\$ 7,603.32	\$ 4,750.00
TOTAL ALL REVENUE		\$ 546,450.00	\$ 476,640.46	\$ 509,450.00

EXPENSES				
CHURCH COMMUNITY MINISTRY				
Communications				
Web Site/IT (plus email hosting and support)	\$ 534.00	\$ 486.44	\$ 534.00	
Total Communications	\$ 534.00	\$ 486.44	\$ 534.00	
Membership				
Soup Lunches	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	
Coffee and Juice	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	
Total Membership	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	
CHURCH COUNCIL				
Committee Expense,Joint Service	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 576.85	\$ 1,000.00	
Affirming Committee	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Shining Waters AGM Expenses	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00	
Rental Expenses (includes Trinity, Storage, YRDSB)	\$ 81,300.00	\$ 77,326.63	\$ 84,846.00	
Total Church Council	\$ 83,500.00	\$ 77,903.48	\$ 87,046.00	
CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES MINISTRY				
Archives	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	
Finance Committee				
Committee Expense (offering envelopes, etc.)	\$ 350.00	\$ 380.57	\$ 380.00	
Banking Service Fees	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,187.51	\$ 1,200.00	
Insurance	\$ 3,353.00	\$ 3,162.86	\$ 6,165.00	
Church Land Taxes				
Accountant Service and Support	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,677.28	\$ 5,000.00	
UCC Assessment	\$ 12,363.00	\$ 12,363.00	\$ 11,857.00	
Total Finance	\$ 22,266.00	\$ 21,771.22	\$ 24,602.00	
Property Committee				
Office Expense	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 2,784.77	\$ 3,700.00	
Office Expenses - Annual Report printing	\$ 1,700.00	\$ -		
Contracts	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,358.27	\$ 9,000.00	
Utilities	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 4,031.84	\$ 3,900.00	
Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
IT- Computer Hardware/AUC File Share	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,000.57	\$ 5,000.00	
Total Property	\$ 23,800.00	\$ 19,175.45	\$ 22,100.00	

Church Property				
Property Taxes	\$ 18,472.00	\$ 7,519.89	\$ 7,708.00	
Utilities (Storm Sewage)	\$ 340.00	\$ 567.80	\$ 568.00	
Total Church Property	\$ 18,812.00	\$ 8,087.69	\$ 8,276.00	
FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY				
Adult Education	\$ 450.00	\$ -		
Committee Expense	\$ 100.00	\$ 11.13	\$ 100.00	
Broadview Subscription	\$ 600.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 600.00	
Teen Confirmation	\$ 400.00	\$ 49.70	\$ 400.00	
Youth Events (Camp, meetings)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Vacation Bible Camp	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	
Sunday School + Childrens Education	\$ 400.00	\$ 20.81	\$ 400.00	
Total Faith Formation	\$ 4,550.00	\$ 631.64	\$ 2,600.00	
M&P (Ministry & Personnel)				
Committee Expense + ADP costs	\$ 700.00	\$ 2,143.60	\$ 1,715.00	
Salaries (Fulltime and Casual)	\$ 260,892.00	\$ 235,094.71	\$ 240,417.00	
Benefits/WSIB	\$ 66,892.00	\$ 56,250.20	\$ 62,154.00	
Travel	\$ 3,885.00	\$ 1,596.17	\$ 3,000.00	
Continuing Education	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 717.50	\$ 3,600.00	
Staff Development (All)/Recognition	\$ 800.00	\$ -		
Other	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -		
Total M&P	\$ 338,269.00	\$ 295,802.18	\$ 310,886.00	
PROCLAMATION MINISTRY				
Audiovisual	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,913.27	\$ 1,000.00	
Music	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,729.36	\$ 2,500.00	
Music- Handbell Ensembles	\$ 1,140.00	\$ 859.00	\$ 1,050.00	
Sanctuary Decorating -Poinsettias on this line for 2022	\$ 500.00	\$ 194.89	\$ 750.00	
Worship Committee	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,893.39	\$ 2,000.00	
Online Services	\$ 7,072.00	\$ 2,494.56	\$ 5,000.00	
Total Proclamation	\$ 13,712.00	\$ 9,084.47	\$ 12,300.00	
SERVING MINISTRY				
Mission and Service				
M & S Remittances (Church)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,100.00	\$ 15,000.00	
M&S over and above (PAR, etc.)	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00	
Total M&S	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 18,400.00	\$ 18,300.00	

Outreach				
Special Appeals (Gifts with Vision, Food for the North)			\$ -	
Welcoming Arms	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,550.00	\$ 13,200.00	
Rise and Shine Breakfast	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 8,015.94	\$ 7,000.00	
Total Outreach	\$ 20,200.00	\$ 21,565.94	\$ 20,200.00	
Pastoral Care				
Seniors' Lunch/Advent Service	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	
Committee Expenses	\$ 100.00	\$ 194.88	\$ 100.00	
Poinsettias	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	
Correspondence postage and cards	\$ 200.00	\$ 114.35	\$ 250.00	
Prayer Shawl	\$ 800.00	\$ 526.18	\$ 800.00	
Total Pastoral Care	\$ 1,850.00	\$ 835.41	\$ 1,900.00	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 546,043.00	\$ 473,743.92	\$ 508,994.00	
Difference	\$ 407.00	\$ 2,896.54	\$ 456.00	
<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>				
Other Bank Balances As of December 31, 2022				
Operating Account	\$ 65,754.84			
AUC Future Bank Account	\$ 9,352.87			
<i>(Additional \$132,700.00 invested by Trustees</i>				
<i>Includes \$7,700 added in May 2021)</i>				
Earmarked Donations Account (as of Sept. 2022)				
<i>(\$22,224.33 invested by Trustees)</i>				
Insurance Claim Account (as of Feb 2022)				
<i>(Balance of initial \$250,000.00 insurance payment)</i>				
<i>(\$220,944.84 remains invested by Trustees)</i>				

Cash Card Committee

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

The Cash Card program at AUC raised \$1,475 for the General Operating Fund in 2022 against a budget of \$1300. Our return to in person worship helped to boost sales that had lagged significantly during Covid closures.

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 postdated cheques for their card purchases. In addition, Welcoming Arms purchases 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 doing so again in 2023.

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

2022 Cash Card Financials

collected	76253.75
	-
paid to vendor	74752.92
balance	1500.83
bank fees	-31.50
opening balance	38.48
total	1507.81
transfer out	-1475.00
closing balance	32.81

Archives

In 2022 United Church Women celebrated its 60th anniversary. To commemorate the many contributions that the Aurora United Church Women have made to the congregation, snippets of information were posted weekly along with photos, activities, and members' memories.

Much of this information was gathered from the AUC Annual Reports dating back to the 1970s and currently in storage with the AUC Archives. These Annual Reports provide an invaluable record of the ongoing activities and committees of Aurora United Church and provide much information for future congregations.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Roberts, chair Archives Committee

Property Committee

Members:

Alvan Sutton, Dave Snelgrove, Brian Walters (Ministry Advocate), Lloyd Kerswill, Bob Kyriakides (IT), Joyce Hagarty (Secretary), Debra Hilliard, Roy Eveleigh, Crawford Heritage (Chair), Mark Nolan, Rev. Andy Comar

The following outlines each AUC Property budget line for 2022.

Utilities:

Bell Canada

Maintenance/Repair:

Power lawnmower/power weeder

Office Supplies:

Postage

Photocopier machine copies

Miscellaneous

Contracts:

Xerox Canada copy machine lease

Information Technology (IT)

Computers and related equipment

Many thanks once again to Dave Hanna for storing AUC grass equipment/ladders.

Bob Kyriakides, our outstanding IT expert, continued his strong support for AUC in 2022 as follows:

- The batteries of the two UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) units in the church office replaced. These provide battery power to critical equipment in the office in the event of a power failure.
- Margaret's AUC laptop was replaced.

Bob provides his professional IT services free of charge to AUC. Many, many thanks Bob for your valuable time and effort for AUC!

The following is a review of AUC Property items, related to the fire, presently in a storage facility on Industry St. in Aurora. Replacement costs and the location of same before the fire are indicated for easier recognition.

All are found, as well as all contents totally destroyed, to the best of our knowledge, in the Missing Contents Report from the E-juster dated December 8th, 2014. The total value of this report is \$1.5 million.

Line 258 Boardroom table \$18,000 (boardroom)
Line 1685 Red velvet chairs 2 \$2180 (offices)
Line 1271 Plant stand marble/granite top \$225 (narthex)
Line 1278 Baptismal Font \$500 (narthex)
*Line 1686 Rocking chair \$480
Line 1690 "Sign In" stand with light \$660 (narthex)
Line 1684 Tub chair red velvet \$1325 (office)
Line 1692 Table - heavy oak \$1500 (narthex)
*Line 384 Rack for shawls \$78 (narthex)
Line 383 Tall corner display cabinets (Yonge St. entrances) 2 \$3200 total
*Line 1689 Table (maybe narthex stairwell) \$229

All of the above items need to be refinished/repaired except those marked with * if needed for continued use.

Additional info:

Lectern stand for Bible in hall 2nd floor \$200 in Nolan home.

Six pews/five single exterior doors at Elliot home.

Approximately 800 AUC postfire bricks on three skids stored inside Priestly Demolition Co. building.

All of the above items are the responsibility of AUC Board of Trustees and AUC Property Committee.

As well :

Line 1326 St. Paul's framed stained glass with LED display lights \$3,000 partially repaired. Five stained glass windows from AUC Narthex require major repairs and stored as the above. Responsibility of Board of Trustees.

*Respectfully submitted,
Crawford Heritage (Property Committee Chair)*

MINISTRY OF PROCLAMATION

Worship Committee

The congregation of Aurora United Church began the 2022 worship year online; as we had been since March 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 global pandemic. Worship returned to "in-person" at the end of March 2022, with services continuing to be recorded and live streamed for viewing by our members at home.

I would like to express, once again, heartfelt thanks to the folks that made our online services possible - - Worship Videographer Noah Comar, Worship Video Editor Bob Kyriakides, and all the people who filmed from home to participate in worship. Without you, our committee would not have been able to offer an enriched worship experience over the two long years we spent apart from one another.

And thanks too, to the Audio-Visual team members - old and new - who have brought your skills back to the sanctuary on Sunday mornings!

Also working hard behind the scenes - *and in front of the camera* - are our Music Director Margaret Heeney, our Handbell Director Lisa Kyriakides, and our Church Secretary Suzanne Whitehurst.

And where would we be without the wonderful leadership of Reverends Lorraine and Andy? We are so grateful for them, and for the supply clergy who filled in while Lorraine was on medical leave. Thank you to you all!

As has been our long-standing practice, the members of the Worship Committee met on the last Monday of every month; working to ensure that the congregation is provided with worship that is inspiring, uplifting, and inclusive. Those members were:

- representing **Worship** - - Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar, Holly Williamson and Nancy Kerswill; and
- representing **Decorating** - - Debra Hilliard and Lori North

Throughout Lent 2022, we observed a rolling theme in relation to the lectionary that examined the things we look for at Easter:

- Practice of Gratitude
- Ritual of Promise
- Open Invitation
- Welcoming Grace
- Gracious Ministries
- Palm Sunday
- Resurrection Joy

For Advent in 2022, our theme was Comfort & Joy – The Carols of Our Lives. We began each service with a carol sing. And each week a carol was featured tying into the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love with its origin and history. We took this time to reflect on the fact that, for many, there are deep memories linked to Christmas carols.

Unfortunately, bad weather derailed our plans to be in the sanctuary for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services for the first time since the fire. Here's looking forward to 2023 ...

As we embark on a new year, I leave you with the prayer we say together at the close of our meetings ...

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Kerswill
Worship Committee Chair*

Chancel Choir

2022 marked the post-pandemic return to in-person church services, and the return of the choir and live musicians. I returned to work at the beginning of January and resumed recording preludes and postludes from home beginning with the January 23rd service. Pandemic restrictions allowed for groups of up to 10 people to work together. I began making recordings for worship outside of home thanks to the newly purchased AUC tripod, first with violinist Wesley Bells, then trumpeter Tim Birtch at his church in Stouffville, and then with small groups of choir members, culminating in a performance of a new piece with The Aurora Chorealis.

The AUC Chancel Choir returned to weekly rehearsals on March 17th in preparation for the return to in-person worship on March 27th. We purchased singer's masks for all interested choristers and ensured that they were able to be physically distanced if that was their preference. The return to in-person choir after two years apart felt a bit strange initially, but we resumed singing comfortably quite quickly, and the choir was eager to reconnect face-to-(masked) face after two years of Zoom visits! By mid-March we were already halfway through Lent, so we quickly got ready for Palm Sunday, and our first-ever Good Friday and Easter services at Trinity Anglican.

We were thrilled about the return of Carols by Candlelight on December 11th. We had new and returning singers join us for the Carols by Candlelight choir rehearsals beginning in November. Our anthems included many collaborations with members of the EmBellished Handbell ensemble, and an a Capella piece performed from memory with a soaring descant by Soprano Mackenzie Malarczyk. We were joined by the Cathedral Brass Quartet including trumpet soloist Tim Birtch.

Our final piece of the program was an arrangement of Hark! the Herald Angels Sing performed by choir, members of all three handbell ensembles, brass quartet, piano duet accompaniment by myself and Joy Gannicott conducted by Lisa Kyriakides – exciting!

March 27th also marked the return of in-person handbells at AUC. Handbell Program Director Lisa Kyriakides and the three handbell ensembles, Faith-a-Peal, Bellissimo, and EmBellished all resumed their performances at worship services in March and April. We also heard from the Jubiloso Handbell quartet at the April 3rd service. Thank you to Lisa and the handbells for the beautiful music you bring to our worship services!

Several singers and musicians also returned to making music at AUC in 2022. Steve Falk and David Pilkey who recorded many innovative videos for online worship returned to singing and playing in-person on April 3rd along with Laurie Bentolila. We also heard lovely songs sung by Yvonne Speck, Bob McRoberts, Lisa Kyriakides, Frank and Sophie Pulumbarit, Mackenzie Malarczyk with guitarist John Malarczyk, Colleen Abbott, George Collins, Janice Nolan, and myself.

We were fortunate to be joined by many talented instrumentalists such as violinists Wesley Bells, Marina and Mehraeen Safari, trumpeters Tim Birtch and Susan Guido, trombonist Elizabeth Kyriakides who beautifully performed the premiere of her own composition, alto saxophonist Peter Zsebik, guitarist John Malarczyk, bagpiper Colin Johnstone, flautist Mackenzie Malarczyk, and the Cathedral Brass Quartet (Tim Birtch and Margaret Wolf, trumpets, Susan Dustan, trombone and Ron Parker, tuba).

Thank you to Lisa Kyriakides, Joy Gannicott, and Donna Corbett who all ably led and accompanied worship music during my summer vacation, and to the ongoing support from AUC staff Reverends Lorraine and Andy, Lisa, Carmen, and

Suzanne. A huge thank you to all who contribute to our music program at Aurora United Church – your music enhances and energizes worship each week!

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Heney, AUC Music Coordinator

Handbells

On February 9, 2022, 18 handbell ringers gathered to attend in-person rehearsals. With social distancing rules, each ringer had to have her own table and the music had to be chosen very carefully as the normal bell-sharing could not occur. But even the masks and social distancing could not curtail the joy each ringer felt to be together again making music! EmBellished (our handbell quartet) started off the season by performing in church on March 27 and the congregation was thrilled to hear them ring. Another quartet was formed, and Sue Linley, Jennifer Schafer, Laura Wells and Joyce Hagarty played two pieces at the service on April 3. Then our two larger ensembles took over and played for a variety of services from April-June.

In early August, 5 of our ringers attended the International Handbell Symposium in Nashville, Tennessee for a week of ringing and fun. We rang with people from around the world and under the baton of 9 different conductors. Lisa Kyriakides was on the podium as the Canadian conductor. We all had a fantastic time, made new friends, and learned so much.

In September we began rehearsals again, this time without social distancing. All three groups, Bellissimo, EmBellished and Faith-A-Peal rang out in church many times from September to December and participated in the very successful Carols by Candlelight concert on December 11.

We gained 2 new ringers this season, both members of our congregation, Martha Bailkowski and Lisa Jones. We are thrilled that they have joined us and are sharing their talents with us. Sue Linley, a long-time member of the Handbell program at AUC has taken a step back from Handbells due to her travel schedule.

However, she often subs in when someone is absent, so we still get to see her from time to time. Several of our members haven't returned due to Covid restrictions but we hope to have them back soon.

We look forward to many more seasons of ringing and friendship!

*Musically Yours,
Lisa Kyriakides
Handbell Director*

MINISTRY OF SERVING

Pastoral Care Committee

Members:

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

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

Summary 2022:

Although Covid restrictions continued during 2022, the Pastoral Care Team was able to resume some visiting at retirement and long-term care homes, as well as individual homes. Rev. Andy conducted monthly services, and the Pastoral Care Team was able to help for the Christmas Communion services.

For Easter, about fifty cards were sent out to members of the Congregation. At Christmas, sixty poinsettias and cards were delivered, along with another thirteen cards for people who lived too far away or didn't want to have a poinsettia delivered. Ornaments were included in the cards for retirement and long-term care residents. About seventy-five sympathy, congratulations, thinking of you and get-well cards were also sent on behalf of the Pastoral Care Team.

Individual members of the Pastoral Care Team sent many personal notes, emails, and phone calls to keep in touch with members of the Congregation. Some in-person visiting was also done. It is our hope that the visiting will resume on a more regular basis in the coming year.

Thank you to all the members of our team for their efforts to stay in touch with the Congregation, and to the Congregation who kept us informed of special concerns during the year.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula Hanna,

Chair Pastoral Care Committee

Prayer Shawl Ministry

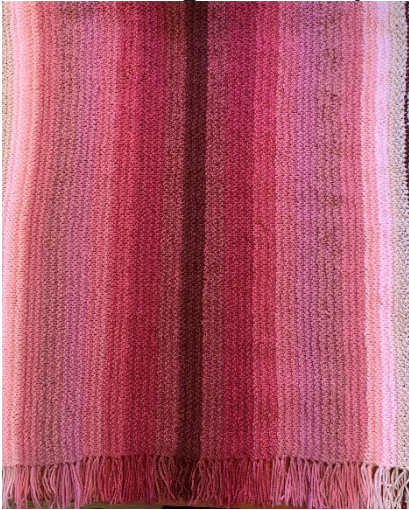


PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY—2006 to present

Ministry Coordinators: Anne Ella-Arnold and Elizabeth Ramsell

This vital ministry, a subgroup of the Serving Ministry, has continued to thrive in 2022—the seventeenth year of our ministry.

The following are some points of note about our ministry in 2022:



One of the shawls that was sent to the congregation of Uxbridge U.C. following the tornado which severely damaged its building in May 2022.

- COVID-19 forced an alteration to the distribution protocol. Therefore, distribution did not happen at our regular Sunday rental location. Anyone wishing a shawl was directed to contact the ministers or the ministry coordinators.

- Number of shawls on hand on January 1, 2022 = 40
- Number of shawls on hand on December 31, 2022 = 34
- Number of shawls crafted and donated for distribution from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 = 86
- Number of shawls distributed from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 = 92
- Number of chemo caps crafted and distributed from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 = 3
- Number of toques for infants crafted and distributed from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 = 30



This shawl was presented to new grandparents.



This shawl was presented to newlyweds.

- Our ongoing work is very dependent on the support of A.U.C. and contributions from individuals. A generous budget was provided by A.U.C. And a limited number of donations of yarn, needles, bags, tissue, and funds were received from the congregation and others. In spite of the fact that there was not a large injection of materials for the ministry in 2022, it continued to thrive.

- **Crafters' Circle** continued to meet on all of the first Thursday afternoons of each month. We met virtually for the first six months. Then we gratefully resumed in-person gatherings for the last six months, half of them on the lawn near the rectory and the other half in the Historic Chapel.
- Since COVID-19 began, our Tuesday evening meetings have been suspended. Consideration for the restart of these meetings is ongoing.
- There were eleven participants in the group during the year.
- Crafters' Circle gathered twelve times with the average number of attendees at each meeting being four to five.



Shawls ready for presentation to the confirmands in October 2022.

- Following a devastating tornado, which severely damaged Uxbridge United Church, the Prayer Shawl Ministry sent twelve shawls to the congregation of U.U.C.
- The two confirmands were presented with shawls at the confirmation service in October.
- 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.
- We are very grateful for the assistance that Rev. Andy Comar gave us to proceed with our virtual meetings in the first half of 2022.

Report submitted by Anne Ella-Arnold, Prayer Shawl Ministry Coordinator.

Outreach Committee

In 2022, Outreach supported four programs. Each of the programs continued to shift again as we found ourselves still in pandemic but opening up in other areas. I give thanks for the faithfulness and resiliency of our coordinators and volunteers for three of these programs that they were able to maintain and provide these needed services to our community.

Rise and Shine Breakfast Program: Carol Lever retired in in her role as R&S Coordinator. Thank you, Carol for your faithful dedication and leadership to the Rise and Shine Breakfast program for all these many years, especially as we persevered through another pandemic year.

Thank you to Suzanne Whitehurst who stepped up to volunteer as our new coordinator for the program. Please see Suzanne's first report on page 57.

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, and Denyse Slack. Rev. Andy and Denyse Slack are members of the Welcoming Arms Executive Council. Throughout 2022 the three main programs provided by Welcoming Arms – Welcome Table (WT), Martha’s Table (MT) and Bridging the Gap continued to serve the community with restrictions still in place. WT continues to provide a take-out meal throughout 2022, with approximately 160 meals being served at WT every Wednesday night in the parking lot at Trinity Anglican. In the spring, Martha’s Table came back inside for their weekly lunch. Take-out meals were provided to all with the option to eat inside with others. About 40 meals are served at MT every Thursday from St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church.

The Aurora Community Café reopened in the fall of 2022. We were very happy to return to this community-based program which offers a place for many to gather. We have several school and community groups that attend the café on a regular basis. We are still in need of volunteers for this program, both in the kitchen and serving at the drink table. Please speak to Rev. Andy if you are interested in serving at the café. We are glad that we are once again providing a welcoming place for all.

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

This year the Outreach Committee decided that the *Call to Awareness* for Advent 2022 would support Food For The North, an outreach ministry program based in northern Manitoba. Together we raised \$1,430!

Throughout 2022, Outreach Committee met via Zoom.

Submitted by:
Rev. Andy Comar

Rise & Shine Community Breakfast

Our Rise & Shine Community Breakfast has continued faithfully throughout 2022, as COVID protocols continued. The program is still a “take-away” meal, handed out in the Trinity parking lot. The breakfast items are prepared by York Region Food Network, and included a protein breakfast, a vegetarian breakfast, and an addition protein element in the protein breakfast to replace the soup, for those that could not have the soup. We have benefitted greatly from our partnership with Kate Greavette and the York Region Food Network, who prepares and delivers the meals to us weekly. When they have received grant funding for “food security” they have passed that savings on to this program, charging nothing for some items, or greatly reducing the cost of other items. This allowed the program to be extended into June and July and to start up again a month earlier, in September. The full cost of 50 meals is \$175.00/wk.

We started the year out handing out about 30 meals Saturday morning, and over the course of the year the number of meals prepared increased to 50, with an average of 45 going out to guests each breakfast. Any meals left at the end of the breakfast were dropped off at the Inn From the Cold. Every Saturday 10 to 15 meals were delivered by volunteers from the not-for-profit organization Routes Connecting Communities to guest who cannot get out to get them. We have deeply appreciated this support from Routes. Breakfast was offered all but 6 Saturdays in the summer, and it was mostly because of the availability of volunteers that it was decided not to do these Saturdays. A group of dedicated volunteers handed out the breakfast on Christmas Eve, with gift packages received from the Canadian Federation of University Women’s Aurora/Newmarket. There was not a breakfast offered on December 31st, as York Region Food Network was not available that week to prepare the food. The team on December 24th handed out Tim Horton cards to the guests for use in place of the Dec 31st breakfast.

Thank you to our team leaders (Carmen Harany, Carol Lever, Rosanne Rose, Suzanne Whitehurst), and the additional 13 volunteers who make this outreach ministry a success.

*Respectfully submitted:
Suzanne Whitehurst
Rise & Shine Coordinator*

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AUC Annual Report 2022*

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members:

- Heather Collins
- Hank Gosar
- Karen Kines (retired – June 2022)
- Warren McClure
- Carolyn Rusin
- John Kuropatwa (Chair) (retired – April 2022)
- Jane Taylor (Chair for April-June 2022)
- Peter Drost (Interim 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.

2022 remained a challenging year for our church, staff, and members of the M&P Committee although as the COVID19 health pandemic was more of a rear-view mirror matter, things showed improvement. Our committee stayed with our monthly meeting schedule, using the Zoom meeting platform although in person meetings are being considered.

With the retirement of John, Karen, and Jane the committee is in need of additional members and the search is on.

With the resignation of Jane our Chair after three months, Peter Drost was appointed as Interim Chair.

Suzanne Whitehurst took over as Office Secretary May 1st in a temporary role. She has proven to be a great and enthusiastic addition to the team. This position will be temporary for the foreseeable future until a new staffing model can be implemented in terms of the new church building.

At time of this writing our treasurer, Carmen Harany, has resigned effective January 27, 2023. We are grateful for Carmen's dedication and commitment to the church over the past 15 years. She will be sorely missed. A search for her replacement is underway.

With the Church now fully open Lorraine and Andy are back preaching from the pulpit. Although masking is still required it is beginning to feel a little more like church of the past. We continue to 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 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 were 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.

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

Respectfully submitted
Peter Drost, Interim Chair
Ministry and Personnel Committee

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)



U.C.W. Purpose

To unite women of the Community of Faith for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

On January 1st, 1962, two women's organizations of the United Church of Canada, the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) and the Woman's Association (WA) combined to form United Church Women. The initial National membership of 300,000 made it the largest women's movement in Canada at that time. A.U.C.'s two units (The Seekers and Grace) celebrated the U.C.W. 60th Anniversary throughout 2022 following the theme 'Continuing in Hope'. Many women celebrated the anniversary in a personal way by purchasing official 60th Anniversary pins.

In Memoriam:

We celebrate the women – our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends, sisters all, who paved the way for us and at this time we especially remember our dear UCW friends whom we lost in 2022: **Carole Hant, Margaret Keeler, Betty Walsh**

Special thanks to **Helen Roberts**, who gathered snippets of UCW information both from the 1977-2020 annual reports that she has been storing at her home and from photos and memories donated by our members. These were posted in the Friday file for much of our 60th Anniversary Year. Thanks also to **Nancy Newman** who refreshed our UCW page [Aurora UCW](#) on the AUC website and to **Mary Smith**, who investigated possible in-person meeting venues for both units.

Our members were also front and centre, planning interesting meetings with thought-provoking openings and worship, fueling each of us for the weeks ahead. What cannot be easily articulated is the value of the friendships and attachments that we have. We stand by each other, always ready to commiserate or help.

2022 EXECUTIVE:

President: Rotational Leadership Past President: Anne Ella-Arnold Quarters 1 & 4: Paula Hanna Quarters 2 & 3: Jean Heys Secretary: Jean Heys Treasurer: Leslie Stoangi Assistant Treasurer: Anne Ella-Arnold A.U.C. Council Representative: Paula Hanna	Grace Unit Representative: Paula Hanna The Seekers' Unit Representative: January to February: Mary Smith March to December: Doreen Hiltz Shining Waters Region U.C.W. Contact Person: Anne Ella-Arnold
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Executive meetings were held on the last Monday evenings of March and May. Meetings shifted to the second Tuesday evenings of July, October, and November. All meetings were virtual except for July and October which were held in person. The model of rotational leadership for the U.C.W. Executive will continue for 2023.

2022 UNIT ORGANIZATION AND MEETINGS:

The Seekers' Unit: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

- **Leader:** Mary Smith
- **Treasurer:** Carolyn Stafford
- **Executive Representative:**
January to February: **Mary Smith** and March to December: **Doreen Hiltz**

- Monthly meetings: September to June on the first Monday (alternative date when there was a conflict with a statutory holiday)
- Virtual meetings: January to May
- In-person meetings: September to November, informally, June, July, and August
- 11 active members plus 6 additional members who are unable to get to meetings



Grace Unit: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

- Leader: shared position
- Treasurer: **Laurie Graham**
- Friendship: **Sharon Corbett**
- Executive Representative: **Paula Hanna**
- Communications: **Helen Roberts**
- Monthly meetings, 18 active members

- Virtual meetings: January to April
- In-person meetings outdoors: May and June, and indoors: September and November
- Dinner at a local restaurant in October, social get-togethers on the Rectory lawn in July and August

Grace Unit, David Tomlinson Park, May 2022

The Seekers and Grace Units joined each other for a Potluck Dinner in December organized by **Kay Snelgrove**, **Leslie Stoangi**, **Susan Tutt** and **Leslie Zeeman**, with help from **Mary Smith**, meeting in Binion's Hall for the first time since 2019. Our speaker was **Donna Lewis**, gardener at Adena Springs, who manages the large trumpeter swan population living on the property.

Unit meetings: All women of the United Church of Canada have an open invitation to join any of our meetings. Worship and programmes, guest presenters, outings and fellowship are all eagerly attended by our regular participants. Fundraising, for local and international causes, a major facet of U.C.W. in the past has had to take a back seat during the pandemic, but we are always thinking about it, and we still managed to donate \$200 to the Aurora Food Pantry in June after our Grace Unit Loonie Auction and during this Anniversary Year we raised \$400 for the National U.C.W.'s 60th Anniversary project, Women for Change – Zambia.

2022 Programmes:

- 60th Anniversary: History of A.U.C.W.: videos and photos with **Paula Hanna**
- Book Study: Book of Longings, Sue Monk Kidd
- Thoughts about Mothers' Day and Mothering with shared pictures, poems, and stories
- Walk in My Shoes: Memories recalled from a pair of shoes
- Guests, **Mitchell Arnold**, and **Ambika Opal**: Experiences of living in Igloolik, Nunavut
- Aurora Public Library: **Claudia Olguin**: activities and possibilities with a library card
- Guest, **Martha Bailkowski**: volunteer work with medical professionals in Ghana
- Reflect and Connect – with friends over a pizza lunch, memories about Remembrance Day
- Camping items were collected and delivered to Shining Waters Camping representative.



*Grace Unit members, 60th Anniversary Picnic, June 14, 2022
(Photos courtesy of Nancy Newman)*

Christmas Stocking Programme

Convenors: Anne Ella-Arnold, Laurie Graham, Jean Heys, Carolyn Stafford, and Leslie Stoangi.

In the past, UCW members, plus many kind and thoughtful members of A.U.C., purchased age-appropriate items to fill the stockings. Since 2020, with our usual ways upended by a pandemic, we have asked, instead, for monetary donations and have been super excited when everyone's generosity made possible a very substantial donation to the Women's Centre of York Region who, in turn, passed along this bounty to women in York Region who were then able to choose/buy for themselves the items they desired for their children in their Christmas Stockings.



2022 was another year of caring for families in our community. On Dec. 5, Anne Ella-Arnold and Jean Heys delivered \$4780 and 80 unfilled stockings to the Women's Centre, all thanks to the generosity of our AUC family. Over the last three years, since we started this new way of helping the Women's Centre, a total of \$13,585 has been raised and donated.

Thanks to **Suzanne Whitehurst** and **Carmen Harany** who were helpful in directing donations to our U.C.W. treasurer.

A.U.C. Reconstruction Fund:

This fund continues to grow, thanks to donations and investment interest. The balance at the end of December 2022 was \$19,337.64. A decision on what will be purchased has been put on hold until we have a clearer vision as to the best way to use the donations in our new church home.

Recipients of Our Donations in 2022

We are especially grateful that, through the generosity of our members and others, we were able to share with others in our community and the world at a time when fundraising events haven't been possible. Details may be found in the UCW Financial Statement elsewhere in this annual report.

2022 A.U.C.W. Charitable Donations

Aurora Food Pantry	LOFT Community Services
Blue Door Shelters	Margaret Bahen Hospice
Camping Opportunities Fund	Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers
Hope House Community Hospice	Sandgate Women's Shelter
Inn from the Cold	Yellow Brick House
L'Arche Daybreak	M and S Fund: United Church of Canada
Women's Interchurch Council: Fellowship of the Least Coin	M and S Fund: Women for Change, Zambia
Women's Centre of York Region	Aurora United Church

All UCW members contribute to our meetings, projects, and programming. Their generosity and creativity are much appreciated. As well, we are truly and firmly supported by the ministers, office staff and congregation of AUC with their interest and participation in our fundraising and outreach activities. Thank-you to all!



Shining Waters Region United Church Women

- **Anne Ella-Arnold** serves as Treasurer on the S.W.R.U.C.W. Executive.
- The **2021 Annual General Meeting**, “Continuing in Hope”, May 2, 2022, was a virtual gathering.
- A **National UCW 60th Anniversary Celebration** was held in Sydney, N.S. July 11 – 15. A.U.C.W. was not represented.
- **Togetherness Day 2022**: An in-person meeting, also live-streamed, was held in Brampton at Emmanuel United Church on October 5. Ninety-two women attended, five from A.U.C.W. The theme of the meeting, “60 years of Faithful Service”, was celebrated by remembering those significant women who have helped build UCW but who have passed away, by honouring still-living Charter Members (members since 1962) and by asking local units to nominate members for Leadership Awards. The speaker for the day was **Ann Harbridge** from Rosemont. Her theme was "Gratitude for the Past and Hope for the Future".

A.U.C. Charter Member: **Carolyn Stafford**

A.U.C. Leadership Awards: **Muriel Graham** (deceased), **Paula Hanna**, **Pat Innes**, **Helen Roberts**, **Mary Smith**

Charitable Donations:

The S.W.R.U.C.W. made charitable donations to the following organizations during 2022: Camp Big Canoe, Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada—Ukraine Relief, and Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada - Women for Change - Zambia.

Report presented by the 2022 U.C.W. Executive Members:

Anne Ella-Arnold, Paula Hanna, Jean Heys, Doreen Hiltz, Leslie Stoangi

AURORA UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

2022 INCOME STATEMENT

BALANCE: JANUARY 01, 2022

CHEQUABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT	1,876.24	
*G.I.C. #45	9,149.43	
*G.I.C. #55	2,584.86	
*G.I.C. #58	3,355.54	
*G.I.C. #59	3,769.10	
BALANCE		20,735.17

REVENUES: JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

COLLECTIONS--IDENTIFIABLE GIVINGS	3,175.00	
COLLECTIONS--FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN	19.33	
A.U.C. RECONSTRUCTION FUND	200.00	
CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS	4,780.00	
FUND RAISING	200.00	
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT INTEREST	278.71	
WOMEN FOR CHANGE--ZAMBIA	400.00	
TOTAL REVENUES		9,053.04

TOTAL BALANCE FORWARD	29,788.21
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EXPENDITURES: JANUARY 1, 2022 -DECEMBER 31, 2022

A.U.C. GENERAL OPERATING FUND	1,000.00
ADMINISTRATION	72.77
CHARITABLE DONATIONS	7,499.33
NATIONAL U.C.W. DUES	26.00
PROGRAMME	150.00
SHINING WATERS REGIONAL U.C.W. DUES	65.00
SOCIAL	30.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,843.10
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BALANCE: DECEMBER 31, 2022

CHEQUABLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT	1,607.47	
*G.I.C. #45	9,382.74	
*G.I.C. #60	2,701.66	
*G.I.C. #61	3,469.01	
*G.I.C. #62	3,784.23	
BALANCE	20,945.11	

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND BANK BALANCE	29,788.21
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*These investments are being withheld for an A.U.C. reconstruction project.

\$19,337.64

Prepared by Leslie Stoangi.

AURORA UNITED CHURCH WOMEN 2022 INCOME STATEMENT CHARITABLE DONATIONS

AURORA FOOD PANTRY	300.00
BLUE DOOR SHELTERS	100.00
CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES FUND	100.00
HOPE HOUSE COMMUNITY HOSPICE	100.00
INN FROM THE COLD	100.00
L'ARCHE DAYBREAK	100.00
LOFT COMMUNITY SERVICES	100.00
MARGARET BAHEN HOSPICE	100.00
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	4780.00

WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL--FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN	19.33
WOMEN FOR CHANGE - ZAMBIA	500.00
YELLOW BRICK HOUSE	100.00
TOTAL CHARITABLE DONATIONS	7,499.33

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. 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 2022, \$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.

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 or a settlement out of court is arrived at with Aviva. In 2022, the Board of Trustees on direction of Council, asked TGP to make an offer of \$1,000,000.00 to settle our dispute out of court. At the beginning of 2023, we are awaiting a counter-offer from Aviva.

In 2022 the Board of Trustees...

- a. signed lease with Trinity Anglican Church which extends from November 1, 2022, to October 31, 2023.

Thank you to the members of the Board of Trustees for their support and dedication for everything that we had to do in 2022. 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 and accomplishments as we continue to move forward in realizing our new church building. We look forward to all that 2023 will bring for our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Andrew Comar

Aurora United Church Trustees
Accounts 2022
Year End Report

	December 31/21	Additions	General Fund Withdrawals	Withdrawals	Investment Income	December 31/22
Account						
Endowment	\$924,636.79			\$48,942.52	\$55,168.74	\$930,863.01
In Trust -Earmarked Donations	\$27,152.87			\$1,244.13	\$1,632.25	\$27,540.99
In Trust- Insurance Proceeds	\$28,360.63			\$1,951.56	\$1,663.77	\$28,072.84
Future Fund	\$8,110.86				\$510.98	\$8,621.84
Proceeds for Rebuilding	\$9,115,567.45	\$54,312.37	\$175,000.00	\$914,685.29	\$404,295.67	\$8,484,490.20
Flower Fund	\$3,627.02			\$193.92	\$216.29	\$3,649.39
Trustees Refugee Resettlement Fund	\$50.00				\$3.15	\$53.15
Change in Market Value	\$855,735.86			\$1,131,894.15		-\$276,158.29
Total	\$10,963,241.48					\$9,207,133.13

Account Balances

BMO Chequing Account	\$187,192.48	Endowment Fund Required Return	\$59,195.18	December inflation
Trustees Endowment Fund	\$1,163,766.39	Actual Return	\$60,306.17	is 6.3%
Trustees Building Fund	\$7,856,174.26	Excess of Actual over Required	\$1,110.99	To the General Fund
Total	\$9,207,133.13	Cheques to General Fund		
		Endowment Fund	\$1,110.99	
		Flower Fund	\$216.29	

This year the endowment fund earned \$60,196 from dividends and \$110 in interest payments for a combined yield of yielding 4.8% . The CPI account inflation was 6.3% as at year end requiring a return of \$59,195 to be retained in the account with the balance to go to the General Fund. The remaining cash flow was distributed based on the various accounts percentage contribution to the total.

In 2023, we will merge the insurance proceeds with the Future Fund as these accounts are specifically pledged to the Church rebuilding and the only payment through the insurance proceed account relates to storage fees that will disappear once we are in the new church building. Seventeen percent of the assets are in cash and fixed income instruments with the remaining funds in equity and equity and income based mutual funds. Of the equity funds, 54% are invested in Canadian stocks.

Unfortunately, the market turmoil particularly in December resulted in unrealized capital losses of \$124K carried forward generating a negative return of 5.2%. The Building Fund earned an annual cash flow of \$404K in dividends and mutual funds distribution resulting in a yield of 3.98%. Equities represent 47% of investment of which over 87% are in Canadian companies.

At year end there were \$89K in unrealized capital losses resulting in a negative yield of 6.6% overall. Last year the fund returned \$175K to the general fund to fund Church operations. This compares with \$100K in 2021.