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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Attendance is taken.

- Lighting of the Christ Candle/ meeting called to order
- Rev. Micol Cottrell to lead the worship part of the meeting/ hymn singing
- Pat Blackmore to read the 'In Memoriam" names
- Holy Manners
- Motion to name Pat Blackmore as Chair and Larry Howes as Secretary of the meeting
- Motion to grant voting privileges for this meeting to adherents
- Motion to accept the agenda as printed
- Motion that the minutes of the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting be adopted as printed
- Motion that the printed reports of the Action Teams be received for information, including any amendments
- Names to add to/delete from committees as printed in report

Finances

- Review of the 2021 financial reports presented by George Blanchard
– motion to accept the 2021 financial report as printed
- Review of the 2022 Budget presented by George Blanchard – Motion to adopt the 2022 budget
- Motion to accept the 2022 Mission and Service objective
- Motion to accept the appointment of the officers and committee members
- Motion to appoint reviewers of the financial records of Grace United Church organizations

Other Courtesies – appreciation to many and all

- Motion to adjourn

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**Grace United Annual Congregational Board Meeting****February 21, 2021 via Zoom**

ATTENDANCE: Doris Kobe, Bert Badger, Marion Badger, Colleen Price, Kathryn Dankel, Robert Newbigging, Marilyn Newbigging, Ian McDougall, Bernice McDougall, Larry Howes, Sally Kormann, Cathy Caicco, Jenn Olivero, Adam Olivero, Lynne McDougall, Pat Blackmore, Bob Blackmore, Beth Cruickshank, Paul Cruickshank, Rev. Micol Cottrell, Cathy McCartney, Jerry Asling, Lynne Heffernan, Dawn Blanchard, George Blanchard, Heather Saumer, Sandra Schreinert, Robert Schreinert, Leona Hutton, Doug Kaufman, Jean Kaufman, Barb Lansink, Janet Sturman, Laura-Lee Hicks, Lois Jackson, Jim Jackson, Lynn Boulianne, Patricia Hayes, Sylvia Stewart, Willie Wilson, Bill Wilson.

Rev. Micol Cottrell gave instruction regarding procedure for the virtual meeting.

Pat Blackmore called the meeting to order.

Rev. Micol Cottrell led the worship portion of the meeting beginning with singing. He lit the virtual Christ candle and recognized that we were meeting on Traditional Territory. Prayer followed asking for guidance and direction.

Pat Blackmore welcomed everyone and began the meeting by reading the "In Memoriam" names followed by a minute silence.

To begin the business of the meeting:

Motion to name Pat Blackmore as chair and Larry Howes as secretary of the meeting

Moved by Paul Cruickshank. **Seconded** by Jerry Asling. **Carried**.

Motion that voting privileges for this meeting be extended to adherents.

Moved by George Blanchard. **Seconded** by Adam Olivero. **Carried**.

Motion that we accept the agenda as printed.

Moved by Sylvia Stewart. **Seconded** by Doris Kobe. **Carried**.

Motion that the minutes of the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting be adopted as printed.

Moved by Kathryn Dankel. **Seconded** by Bob Blackmore. **Carried**.

Motion that the printed reports of the action teams be received for information, including amendments.

Moved by Dawn Blanchard. **Seconded** by Cathy McCartney. **Carried**.

Amendments to the reports are as follows:

- add Cathy McCartney to Official Board
- add Heather Saumer to Youth Trust
- remove Lynn Heffernan from Worship & Music Team

Review of the 2020 Financial Reports *George Blanchard*

Motion that we accept the 2020 financial report as printed.

Moved by George Blanchard. **Seconded** by Adam Olivero. **Carried**. One abstention.

Review of the 2021 Budget *George Blanchard*

Motion that we adopt the 2021 budget as printed.

Moved by George Blanchard. **Seconded** by Doris Kobe. **Carried**. One abstention.

Motion that we accept the Mission & Service objective as printed.

Moved by Jerry Asling. **Seconded** by Cathy McCartney. **Carried**.

Motion that we accept the appointment of officers and committee members and those appointed by the Official Board.

Moved by Paul Cruickshank. **Seconded** by Jerry Asling, **Carried**.

Motion that we accept the appointment of Sylvia Stewart as reviewer of the financial records of Grace United Church and its organizations.

Moved by Kathryn Dankel. **Seconded** by Bob Blackmore. **Carried**.

New Business:

Update to our constitution with ongoing work to be done.

Courtesies:

Board chair, Pat Blackmore, issued THANKS to Rev. Micol Cottrell and Adam Olivero for operating the technical equipment to allow our virtual meeting; to Beth Cruickshank and Rev. Micol Cottrell for providing music and message; to Willie Wilson on retiring after years of service; to Bert Badger for years of service to the Board; and to all the church staff, committee chairs and Board members for their continued commitment.

The congregation expresses THANKS to Pat Blackmore for leading us as Chair of the Board and giving us direction.

Motion to adjourn made by Paul Cruickshank.

We closed the meeting with the attendees singing, at home.

Rev. Micol Cottrell closed with prayer.

Once again, we ask God to continue to give us support in 2021!

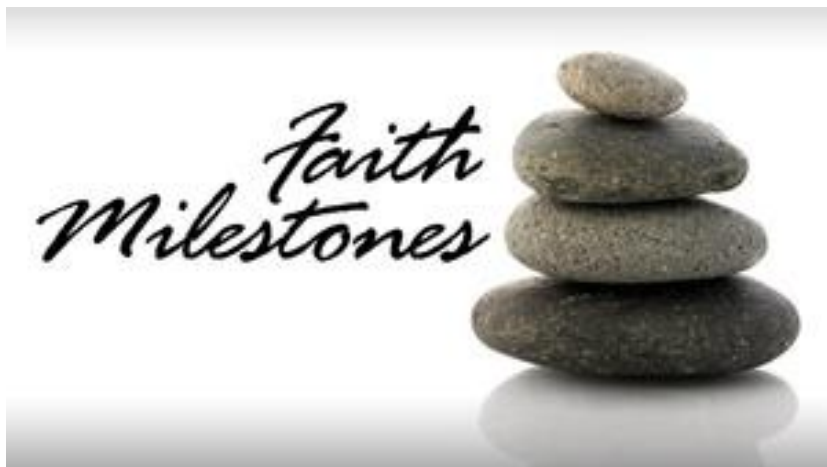
NOMINATION REPORT

OFFICIAL BOARD

Chair:	Pat Blackmore	Board Secretary:	Larry Howes
Past Chair:	Paul Cruickshank	Vice Chair:	Jerry Asling
Treasurer:	George Blanchard	Finance:	Pat Hayes
Property:	Paul Cruickshank	Ministry & Personnel:	Adam Olivero
Stewardship:	Kathryn Dankel	Spiritual Care & Membership:	Doris Kobe
Worship & Music:	Bob Blackmore	Christian Development:	Sylvia Stewart
Crafts Plus:	Cathy McCartney	Social Action & Global Concerns:	Jerry Asling
Regional Council Representatives:		Heather Saumer, Dawn Blanchard	

OTHER LEADERSHIP

Minister:	Rev. Micol Cottrell	Youth Support:	Heather Saumer
Senior Support:	Sally Kormann	Church Administrator:	Laurel Douma
Senior Organist:	Yuki Okumoto Stocovaz	Alternate Music:	Beth Cruickshank
Custodian:	Randy Pegelo		



Baptisms

Chloe Louisa Drajewicz
daughter of Michael & Laisha Drajewicz

In Memoriam

Jean Thibaudeau
 John Frederick
 Paul Runge
 Verna Whaling
 Jurgen Dankel
 Coralie Corlett
 Frances (Wallie) McCurdy
 Joe Lamont

HOLY MANNERS

We will:

- Keep God at the centre of everythign we do;
- Each speak for ourselves;
- Speak for a purpose;
- Separate people from problems;
- Allow for full and equitable participation;
- Attend to others carefully without interruption;
- Welcome the conflict of ideas;
- Take a future orientation;
- Demonstrate appreciation;
- Honour the decisions of the body;
- Commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners;
- Keep the discussion on the table;
- Be mindful of our body language;
- Check in about good use of time;
- Allow the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak; and
- Sincerely say what we really feel.

GRACE UNITED CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Grace United Church strives to be a place where all people of every age, race, culture, differing ability, economic circumstance, family configuration, ethnic background, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation are welcome to seek fellowship and participate in all aspects of the life and work of our ministry. We celebrate the richness of the diverse Christian community called by God, to live out the message of love shown by Jesus Christ. We believe that diversity makes us stronger and better equipped to do God's work in the world.



Chairpersons' names are in bold

AFFIRMING

Cathy Caicco
Kathryn Dankel
Doug Kaufman
Sue Krueger
Lynne McDougall
Adam Olivero

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Laura-Lee Hicks
Steph Martin
Youth Rep: Sage Martin
Heather Saumer
Sylvia Stewart
Pat Wilkin

FINANCE

Nathan Bell
George Blanchard
Cathy Caicco
Patricia Hayes
Ian McDougall
Robert Newbigging

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Dawn Blanchard
Donna Gaasenbeek
Kathi Maskell
Ron Motz
Adam Olivero

PROPERTY

Paul Cruickshank
Larry Howes
Jim Jackson
Lynne McDougall
Faye Moore
Ron Motz
Randy Pegelo
Bill Wilson

SOCIAL ACTION & GLOBAL

CONCERNS

Jerry Asling
Bob Blackmore
Gertie Blake
Kathryn Dankel

SPIRITUAL CARE &

MEMBERSHIP

Judy Boylan
Doris Kobe
Sally Kormann
Susan Krueger

STEWARDSHIP

Bob Bell
Marilyn Bentley
Dawn Blanchard
Kathryn Dankel
Lynne McDougall
Marilyn Newbigging

TRUSTEES

Jerry Asling
George Blanchard
Paul Cruickshank
Rev. Micol Cottrell
Bruce McDonald
Jenn Olivero

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Marion Badger
Bob Blackmore
Rev. Micol Cottrell
Lynne Heffernan
Sally Kormann
Jenn Olivero
Heather Saumer
Willie Wilson

YOUTH TRUST

Jerry Asling
Paul Cruickshank
Larry Howes
Laura-Lee Hicks

BALANCE SHEET - Year Ending - December 31, 2021**ASSETS****CURRENT**

General Account	8,846	
Savings Account	38,116	
Capital & Building Funds in Trust	5,000	
Account Receivable – HST	2,696	
Legacy Gifts Funds in Trust	1,600	
Mission Fund	2,672	
Youth Trust Fund	754	
Discretionary Fund	1,001	
		<u>\$60,685</u>

OTHER

Petty Cash		<u>100</u>
	Subtotal	<u>\$60,785</u>

INVESTMENTS

Youth Trust Fund		136,010
Original Manse Property Sale Fund Sale	160,686	
Accumulated Market Value Change	780	<u>161,466</u>
	Subtotal	<u>\$297,476</u>

FIXED

Church Property & Equipment @ 310 – 12th Street	1, 000, 000	<u>1, 000, 000</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$1,358,261</u>

LIABILITIES**CURRENT**

Accounts Payable - Designated Funds Accrual	4,231	
	Subtotal	<u>\$4,231</u>

LONG TERM DEBT**Total Liabilities**

<u>0</u>
<u>\$4,231</u>

CONGREGATIONAL EQUITY

Balance Forward		1,389,341
Youth Trust Fund Market Adjustment	(1,704)	
Manse Fund Market Adjustment	780	
Operational Income/(Deficit)		
General Account	19,738	
CEBA Loan Forgiven	(20,000)	
Spec. Gift Fund Inv. Purch.	(30,000)	
Youth Trust	(535)	
Discretionary Fund	(55)	
Accounts Receivable	(4,304)	
Accounts Payable	769	
		<u>(35,311)</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity		<u>1,354,030</u>
		<u>\$1,358,261</u>

Prepared by and certified to fairly reflect the financial position of Grace United Church, Hanover
George Blanchard, Treasurer

“

INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT - Year Ending – December 31, 2021

	Budget 2021	Current Year 2021	Prior Year 2020	Budget 2022
INCOME				
Local Fund	151,450	129,421	151,713	166,884
Local Outreach Mission	9,200	10,306	7,104	11,200
Building & Capital	8,000	25,335	12,903	7,000
Mission & Service Fund Receipts	25,550	17,714	19,267	20,550
Other Income	11,100	65,124	45,436	16,100
Fundraising Income	0	0	12,111	13,000
Investment Income	120	397	1,336	120
Special Gifts Fund	581	3,358	8,757	2,581
Supra Gifts	0	3,535	1,031	0
	206,000	255,190	259,658	237,435
EXPENSES				
Salaries/Wages, Educ. & Trav., etc	146,028	146,645	156,326	153,130
Office Services	6,922	4,288	4,830	5,900
Church Property	29,789	21,904	29,527	30,374
Christian Education	2,300	566	333	2,150
Worship & Music	3,935	1,986	2,253	2,650
Social Action & Global Concerns	8,925	8,030	8,241	7,950
Spiritual Care & Membership	346	0	290	0
Stewardship	500	115	290	400
Ministry & Personnel	150	0	0	100
Congregational Concerns	1,924	82	1,068	0
Other Expense	581	581	581	581
Fundraising Expenses	20,196	0	10,666	0
Transfer Payments	34,000	28,088	31,340	29,200
Capital & Building	7,000	18,423	208	5,000
Special Gifts Fund Projects	0	4,466	625	0
	262,797	235,175	246,578	237,435
EXCESS INCOME / (EXPENSES)	\$0	\$20,015	\$13,080	\$0
DESIGNATED FUNDS ACCRUAL				
Outstanding Supra Gifts		120		
Accounts Payable		52		
Vacation Bible School		233	233	
Crafts Plus		2,083	2,083	
Spiritual Care & Membership		960	1,202	
Graceful Nature Camp		361	361	
Senior Choir		422		
		\$4,231	\$3,879	
ACTUAL EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)		\$15,507	\$9,201	

STATEMENT of CHARLES & OLIVE WRIGHT MEMORIAL YOUTH TRUST FUND

Opening Bank Bal. Dec. 31/20 \$1,288.85

RECEIPTS

Investment Income	\$5,794.37	
	<u>\$7,083.22</u>	

DISBURSEMENTS

Donations of Fund	\$6,329.43
	<u>\$7,083.22</u>
Bank Balance Dec. 31/21	<u>\$ 753.79</u>

In 2021, donations were made towards: youth support; Silver Lake Camp; ornaments for children; education support for 3 youths; use of church facilities.

Total Market Value of Fund as of December 31, 2021: \$136,009.54

Paul Cruickshank, Treasurer

STATEMENT of GRACE UNITED DISCRETIONARY FUND

Opening Fund Bal. Dec. 31/20 \$1,055.64

RECEIPTS

Interest 2021	\$ 1.41	
Interest Correction 2020	\$ 0.20	
Donations	\$ 45.00	\$ 46.61
	<u>\$1,102.25</u>	

DISBURSEMENTS

Outreach Correction 2020	\$ 100.00
Service Charge Correction 2020	\$ 1.25
	\$ 101.25
Bank Balance Dec. 31/21	<u>\$1,001.00</u>

STATEMENT of SPECIAL GIFTS FUND

Opening Balance Dec. 31/20 \$13,926.63

RECEIPTS

Memorial Fund	\$2,070.39	
Estate Gifts	\$1,081.00	
Other Gifts	\$ 25.00	
Svgs Acct Int. Income	\$ 181.52	
Transfer from Savings	\$3,903.82	\$ 7,261.73
	<u>\$21,188.36</u>	

DISBURSEMENTS

Media Equipment	\$ 3,394.57
Balcony Flooring	\$ 509.25
Advent Wreath Stand	\$ 562.58
Transfer to Local Fund	\$ 1,677.20
Transfer to Savings	\$13,444.76
	\$19,588.36
Balance Dec. 31/21	<u>\$ 1,600.00</u>

Memorial Gifts of \$2,070.39 were received in memory of Jurgen Dankel, Martha Armstrong, Betty Casemore, Coralie Corlett, Alan Gates, Gilbert Macphail, and Lance Weidner. Other gifts were made in honour of Kathryn Dankel's birthday. An estate gift was received from the Estate of Wilfred Bender.

STATEMENT of GENERAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Opening Bank Bal. Dec. 31/20 \$40,000.00

RECEIPTS

CEBA Loan	\$20,000.00
GIC Redeemed	\$58,575.55
Transfer from Special Gifts	\$13,444.76
Account Interest	\$ 181.52
	<u>\$92,201.83</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

GIC Purchased	\$30,000.00
CEBA Loan Repaid	\$40,000.00
Transfer to Special Gifts	\$ 4,085.34
	<u>\$74,085.34</u>
Bank Balance Dec. 31/21	<u>\$58,116.49</u>

GRACE UNITED SENIOR CHOIR ACCOUNT

Bank Bal. January 1/20 \$573.28

RECEIPTS

Collections 2020	\$762.68
Bank Rounding to close account	\$ 0.02
	<u>\$1,335.98</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Dinner - 2020	\$752.35
Gifts - 2020	\$159.33
Bank Service Charge - 2020	\$ 2.00
Donation to GUC - 2021	\$ 422.30
	<u>\$1,335.98</u>
Bank Balance – Dec. 31/21	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

“I perused the financial statements of Grace United Church.”



 Sylvia Stewart, Congregant

STATEMENT of SUPRA GIFTS FUND

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>
Canadian Foodgrains Bank	\$2, 265.50	\$2, 265.50
Stella’s Circle	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Silver Lake Camp	\$ 95.00	\$ 95.00
Gifts with Vision - Vaccines	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Special Music	\$ 100.00	\$
Haiti	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
Willie’s Retirement	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
	<u>\$2, 860.50</u>	<u>\$2, 760.50</u>



CONTRIBUTION RANGE REPORT

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

<u>Contribution Range</u>	<u># of Contributors</u>	<u>Total Given</u>	<u>Average/Contributor</u>
0.01 -100	12	834.61	69.55
100.01 -200	5	910.00	182.00
200.01 - 300	9	2,365.00	262.78
300.01 - 400	6	2,400.00	400.00
400.01 - 500	7	3,310.00	472.86
500.01 - 750	11	7,258.00	659.82
750.01 - 1, 000	13	11,957.75	919.83
1, 000.01 – 1, 500	13	16,213.92	1,247.22
1, 500.01- 2, 500	19	37,273.20	1,961.75
2, 500.01 – 5, 000	14	49,637.00	3,545.50
5, 000.01 +	5	50,145.00	10,029.00
TOTAL	114	\$182,304.48	\$1,599.16

Total Envelope Contributors in 2020:	139	Percent Change	
Total Given in Envelopes in 2020:	\$180,191.12	/Total Given:	1.17%
Average/Giver in 2020:	\$ 1,299.73	/# of Givers:	-18%

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR of the BOARD

Writing this end-of year report has become a bit of a tradition, a time to reflect on the report's purpose, and on the purpose of the Annual Meeting. It is a time to reflect on the past year, take stock of where we are, and to look forward to a new year and the challenges ahead.

It is no surprise when we look back on 2021, we acknowledge that 2021 was a year like no other. It has indeed been discouraging to be ending the 2021 year feeling no further ahead. I have read that 2021 has been described as "a year to forget". We have more tools to fight the virus - vaccines, social distancing, masks and more - but we don't seem to be moving forward yet, as the world continues to fight this virus.

In 2021, it has been necessary for us to continue to recreate ourselves in response to this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. Our Congregational Board, thanks to the ability to meet on-line, had a huge number of issues to respond to - physically closing the church; re-organizing the roles and responsibilities of staff so they could continue to work remotely; making on-line services a reality; and finding ways to communicate with the congregation when they could not meet in person, among others. As well, the Board and the Re-opening Committee, has spent considerable time reviewing requests by groups to use the church facilities and how to do it safely. One major concern has been how to manage our finances with the continued loss of some of our fundraising opportunities. Our Congregational Board with Rev. Micol's guidance and support, showed flexibility, willingness to adapt, and teamwork as we pulled together in our response to continued changing issues and demands as the virus numbers moved up and down.

One of the lessons we learned in the last several months is something, I think, we knew all along. We continue to be blessed with so many active, caring and involved church members. Together we have risen to the challenge. We have continued, with Micol's leadership, to provide meaningful services both on-line and in-person. Our staff found creative ways to finesse their roles and come up with new programs that fit with new health guidelines. Many of our committees and some of our activities have been able to continue with the aid of technology. A few, like the Property and Ministry & Personnel teams, in fact, have had expanded roles and increased responsibilities as we implemented new Public Health guidelines. A special mention goes to Adam Olivero, whose technical expertise was invaluable at every turn, as we tried to deal with these new restrictions and guidelines, and to Treasurer George Blanchard, who has spent a great deal of time keeping our church finances organized.

Now, as I write this report, at the end of 2021, our world appears to be tilting again. This summer and fall, COVID numbers were down. We perhaps felt we were in the home stretch and yet now, we are experiencing another setback. Once again though, working together, we will rise to the challenge.

The coming year, 2022 will be another year of the unknown. The pandemic has changed and constrained our lives and the way our church operates. Yet we remember that, as a church family, we still have many blessings. What the pandemic has re-enforced for us is the worth of each other and the support we give each other as members of this church family. In 2022, we will continue to work thorough these challenges together. Our gratitude and blessings to everyone who is a part of this church for your continued sharing of your gifts, talents and caring for each other.

May God's spirit continue to sustain and bless us as we continue our journey in 2022. Blessings,
Pat Blackmore, Chair

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

While preparing this report, I reflected back on my time as Treasurer for Grace United Church.

When I prepared the budget in 2019 for fiscal year 2020 (just after becoming Treasurer), I was still trying to learn everything about the job of Treasurer for our church. We all know what happened once we got into 2020 and all of the planning that I did was basically thrown out the window. In addition to trying to keep us financially viable, I had to deal with financial returns to the WOW Region as well as various federal government agencies. In the end, we came out of 2020 with a profit of \$13,080 thanks to receiving funds from the Federal Government under the Wage Subsidy Program.

When I prepared the budget for 2021, there was potential for a large deficit. At that time there were still unknowns about the wage subsidy program, but the government did extend the program. As the year went along, financially we were in a better place, thanks again to the wage subsidy program as well as your support. In the end, as you can see in the financial statement, we had a profit of \$19,738.

As we look forward to fiscal 2022, there are still many unknowns. The current COVID variant is still a cause for concern, and I feel we should continue to follow the Ontario Government Re-opening Plan regarding capacity limits and the re-opening of our building. Hopefully we can soon reach the point of having our building open for regular services as well as rental and fundraising activities. No further Government support will be available in 2022. The 2022 budget shows a break-even position, but it will take a combined effort from staff, the board, as well as all of you, to ensure we operate in a break-even or profitable position. The average income we need to operate our church per month is \$17,192 and the only guaranteed amount we receive is \$4,497 for a difference of \$12,695.

Several committees are already planning fundraising activities with the proceeds to be used for various causes. A portion of the funds will go towards projects such as Mission and Service, etc. We will be looking at other projects we can use to raise funds for the operation of the church. As we get further into 2022, you will be provided with details and timing of these fundraisers.

My job will be to monitor our financial position and make recommendations to the church board as to course of action to take to keep us financially viable. I will be providing quarterly financial updates throughout the year, and these will be presented during a Sunday service. The goal is to keep you up-to-date regarding our financial position. By working together, we can achieve our goals.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your time, talent and treasures to support our church in the past and your ongoing support for 2022. Your help and financial support for our church will allow us to continue to operate efficiently as well as provide the same high quality ministerial and administrative service you have enjoyed in the past.

George Blanchard, Treasurer

REPORT FROM THE MINISTER

Last spring as I helped put together our church statistics, one piece of information from our national church kept ringing through my mind – beside the year 2020 would be an * and notation that it was an unusual year due to the pandemic. While we hoped 2021 was going to be different, many things remained the same. We spent more than half the year unable to worship in the sanctuary, groups and committees continued to meet by Zoom, and our choir has not yet been able to lead us in singing. I continued to do pastoral care by phone and bring your condolences when I officiated at funerals. I lead a Lenten study on Zoom and Facebook. I have continued to work with our Board and Reopening Committee as we make decisions to protect our members. By September things improved slightly and we were able to return to in-person worship and groups began meeting at the church again. Then in December we had to make more changes due to the Omicron variant of Covid-19. Once again 2021 will have an asterisk marking it as an unusual year in the statistics.

From August 1st until November 1st, I was granted a leave in order to serve the wider church as Acting Minister, Pastoral Relations. During those three months the Rev. Sarah Bruer ministered alongside of you while I assisted communities of faith in Western Ontario Waterways, Horseshoe Falls, and Antler River Watershed Regional Councils who were searching for new ministers, M&P committees that were looking for guidance, and clarifying United Church policy and practice, to name just part of the work. It was a new experience for all of us with many lessons learned. While doing this work, one of the lessons that I kept being reminded of was how God blesses us through community.

This report will be filled with the story of how many things were different for us as a church because of the pandemic. Yet, at the same time, we name how God has continued to bless us in community. 2021 saw us face many challenges while still continuing to live out the truth that our community of faith is bigger and broader than our physical building. We worshiped alongside each other from our various homes, reached out to one another for mutual support, and joined in groups and met online. We continued to nurture our relationships with others by worshipping alongside Harriston United Church, sharing an online study with Trinity United in Listowel and Atwood United Churches led by the Rev. Sarah Bruer and the Rev. Beth Kerr, and welcoming community service groups into our building. We continued to share God's love by supporting the Mission and Service Fund, local mission projects, and collecting food, household goods, and toys for the food bank. We have explored God's love and justice through the education moments from our Affirm committee and during our recognition of traditional territory.

Each one of us has been a blessing from God to the other members of this church, our community, and our world. Each one of us has been blessed by God through community during a year that at times was difficult, frightening, and lonely. We have felt God's holy presence as we continued to share in community, as we have adapted to protect ourselves and one another during this pandemic. This is something to celebrate.

Blessings, Rev. Micol Cottrell

SENIOR SUPPORT MINISTRY

Who knew, that another year later, we would find ourselves not too far from where we were at this same time last year.... still COVID - still masked - still social distanced - Zoom still very much a part of our social interactions.

Looking back at 2021:

- People have continued to be in touch with their Phone Buddies... almost two years later! Bless you!
- Monday morning Zoom Chair Yoga has been a great get together. It's a time to breathe, stretch and focus on just "being".
- Book Club continued in the Zoom format. The one advantage of Zoom is having an opportunity for the authors to join us. We were gifted with visits from authors Adrienne Chinn, Christina Baker Kline, Genevieve Graham, Janet Skeslien Charles and Lesley Crewe this past year. What a lot of fun we had!
- Although, our Winter and Spring Walk 'n' Talk was cancelled due to the pandemic, in its place, we walked virtually - people sending in their kms/steps walked each week. Collectively, we walked the Bruce Trail, then across Canada as far as Banff. People could check in and see our detailed walk, including pictures and detailed descriptions of where our walk took us. By the Fall, things had opened up enough for us to resume walking in person again. How appreciative we were of something so simple!
- Zoom exercise led by fitness instructors, physiotherapists, or instructors specialized in working with seniors, helped keep us active and keeping up our balance, flexibility and strength.
- Won't You Be My Valentine was once again an opportunity to demonstrate love and caring. 23 people in our congregation received little Valentine gifts/cards from another caring member.
- Easter - always a time of hope and rebirth. 45 Seniors were recipients to Easter messages, treats and cards, again delivered by many hands, all wishing to spread joy to others.
- Our Seniors took an opportunity to show support for our young families trying to deal with the fallout of COVID. Ten families were supported with care packages, treats, cards and messages of hope. We all need to stick together.
- Messages of Hope was a group effort, in which I tried to involve the entire church community. Cards with images depicting hope were distributed amongst the congregation. COVID times are



difficult and sometimes it's hard to stay positive - to stay hopeful. The cards were a reminder for all of us, that Christ is still here, and through Him, there is Hope.

- The Kindness Cookies was another group effort. Thankfully, things were opening up a bit, and a small group of us were allowed to gather together to make and decorate Smile cookies in the church kitchen. Cookies were delivered to 70 people, who in

turn, were to pass on one of the cookies to another, to “Spread the Love.”

- Although, once again we couldn’t deliver Cheer Dinners, we did deliver 29 calendars with a card and wreath decoration to our shut ins.
- Susan Schlorff provided some fun entertainment one afternoon as she led us in a Christmas Card-making workshop. Masks and social distancing didn’t hinder our creative juices from flowing or our faces from smiling.
- We changed up our Christmas activity this year and did Stocking Surprises. People delivered a pair of stockings, filled with some treats or surprises to 20 of our seniors. Santa does exist!
- Thankfully, we were once again able to do some outdoor caroling to 12 different individuals/families/groups. How wonderful to be able to sing and spread some joy - and the masks kept our faces warm!

We have had to dig deeper within, to find the resources to continue to cope and find hope in an uncertain world. Thank you, Grace, for your continued care - for supporting each other, for finding faith, strength, compassion, and kindness and sharing it with others - this is what it’s all about.

Peace and Love, Sally Kormann

CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY

Hello Grace United!

The constants through the year have been:

- every Saturday, I put out a Grace email of the upcoming events of the week
- Kids’ Connection/Ukulele Ensemble meets Sunday mornings
- and I host Coffee Time at noon and sometimes Beth graciously hosts when I am unable - thank-you Beth!



The Kids’ Ukulele Ensemble has been a complete joy and treasure – we have made so much progress. We put a small performance of 4 songs on in the fall when we were able to meet in person, which felt very special. We also recorded *Away in a Manger* and *Go Tell it on the Mountain* for Christmas.

It was also a joy to meet with the adult ukulele ensemble in the first half of the year as well, with two members; we learned the chords to *This Little*

Light of Mine, and *Amazing Grace*.

I also love seeing everyone for our coffee time meetings, when we can find out what’s new with each other, support each other, and talk about what is on our minds.

In January of 2021 I held a weekly movement and meditation hour on Monday afternoons

In the early part of the year I was also on call assisting people with Zoom who needed technical support in order to connect with loved ones online.

I found dance to be a big help in getting me through the winter lock-down blues, so I hosted family dance parties over Zoom in the winter and into the spring. It was a great way to connect online and shake some sillies out!

Easter was warm enough outside that we were able to meet in the church yard for an Easter egg hunt – it was the first time we met in person in quite some time, and it was so great to be together. I also held a Good Friday meditation and made Easter Messy Church activity bags for kids to do at home.

I held a Messy Church activity afternoon outdoors in August; it was great to gather outdoors together to sing, play games, and create together. The end of August I also held a day of mindfulness to close out the summer.

We were blessed with good weather in October for our costume party; I loved seeing everyone in costume, some new friends joined in, and it was a fun day with activities and games, pumpkin painting, and warm apple cider. Special thanks to Sada and Dmitri for helping out!

December, I paired up with Sally to co-organize a choir meetup to go caroling through Hanover. It was a bit chilly, and also lovely to be together sharing our song, spreading cheer. Messy Church activity stockings went out to families for Christmas as well. Due to the busy nature of the season, I had planned to put together our pageant for the week between Christmas and New Year – as an activity week for kids out of school, to prepare for an Epiphany pageant this year. As we had to adjust to lockdown measures, we ended up each reading a portion of a story and stitching together a video project creation. Thanks, Adam, for your video editing skills!

I am grateful for this opportunity to be an active part of the Grace community, growing in faith and love-in-action with you all. There have been many unknowns and changes through the year, and I continue to try to serve the congregation by being adaptable and “going with the flow.”

Heather Saumer

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AFFIRM COMMITTEE

Hello from the Affirm Committee. This year we held a very successful virtual PIE Day on March 14th, 2021. If you would like to view the video, follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3HWWRg-tV8>

At this time, we are also delaying our Affirming vote into 2022. Our committee is looking at different ways we could have a vote if we are unable to have the entire congregation in our sanctuary. We have also started showing monthly videos on Affirm topics in church and on the church's YouTube channel. We will be continuing these videos in 2022 as well.

Donna Gaasenbeek has stepped down from our Affirm Committee in 2021. Donna, thank you for your service to our committee and your input.

We would like to take this spot to encourage any questions or opinions on becoming an Affirming Church. Our members of the committee are happy to answer any questions you may have or discuss the meaning behind what an Affirming Church is. If you would like to know more about Affirm United, please visit their webpage: <http://ause.ca>. They are also running bi-weekly Zoom meet-ups to talk about different aspects of Affirm United. More information is available on the website.

Adam Olivero, Chair

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Christian Development Committee along with Micol met 6 times in 2021 by Zoom.

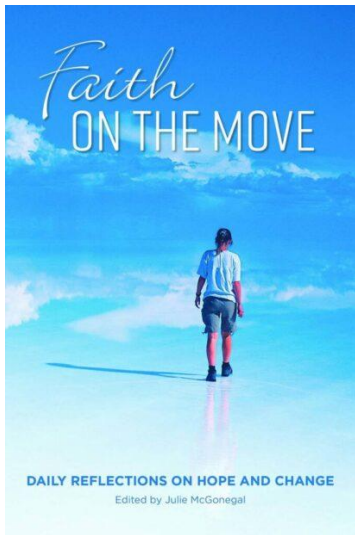
In 2021, we were optimistic about holding Sunday School and ordered the fall curriculum of the *One Room Sunday School* program. A decision was made to not hold Sunday School when in-church worship resumed in the fall. With children returning to school, we wanted to observe how the return of back to in-school learning went with COVID-19 and the Delta variant. Heather Saumer offered to do up *One Room Sunday School* packets to deliver to families that wanted them. There were also packets available in church for children attending. More packets were given out after the Children's Ukulele time.

New and creative ways continue to be used to join in activities while COVID-19 marches along. I am sure in the future when COVID is gone, some of these methods will be used when our wintery weather hampers our plans.

Heather has offered different opportunities, using Zoom, to keep in contact with our families, youth, and children. Zoom Chat & Ukulele sessions continue with the children on Sundays. In the fall, Ukulele time moved to outdoor sessions. This group has presented three concerts during the year. Once in person and two recordings - one in the summer and one for Christmas Eve.

We are so fortunate to have had Heather offer to organize the following programs via Zoom: Travel the world dance & music parties; Mindful Movement & Meditation; and Coffee break time after Sunday worship.

Although, we haven't been able to do in-person Messy Church, we have continued by handing out Messy Church at-home activity bags. Heather coordinated themed Messy Church activity bags; a socially distanced outdoor Easter egg hunt; two outdoor craft events; a Halloween costume party and a Christmas story/craft time. Sada Bell volunteered her assistance when she was available.



Micol led a Lenten study "Faith on the Move" via a private Facebook group. The book offered readings and met by Zoom on Tuesday evenings during Lent to discuss.

Rev. Sarah Bruer, with Rev. Beth Kerr, led a three-part Truth & Reconciliation video study by Zoom called "First Contact" developed by TVO. Twenty-two members from Grace United, Hanover; Trinity United, Listowel; and Atwood United Church participated in the study in the fall.

We are very blessed and thankful to have Heather and Micol as part of our ministry team providing leadership in the development of our Christian faith with our youth, families, and adults. Stay tuned for our programs in 2022.

We welcome more people to join our committee. If you feel you have an interest in serving on the Christian Development team, please contact any of our members.

Thank you to all who have helped support the ongoing work of Christian Education in our congregation.

Sylvia Stewart, Board Representative

CRAFTS PLUS

It has been another year of not being able to indulge in our normal activities, but we did manage to keep in contact with each other and share what we have been working on. We met the challenge of staying connected as a group in 2021.

We met in the Hanover Park every other week. We brought our own chairs and were appropriately spaced apart so we could meet safely. One week when the weather, and the park itself, was rather wet, we met in Cathy McCartney's carport. Again, we were spaced two metres apart.

Once the church opened for some activities, we were able to meet in the Friendship Room.

Johanna Hardy, Secretary

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Continuing the trend of unprecedented times, 2021 was another interesting year. Adam and Dawn continued to participate in the Re-Opening Ad hoc Committee to both open the church and keep our staff and congregation safe. M&P over the year continued to meet virtually via email. We also want to applaud our church staff for their flexibility and commitment to also keep our congregation and community safe and adapting to changing COVID-19 protocols.



With heavy hearts, we accepted the retirement of Choir Director Willie Wilson. Willie has served Grace United Church well over many decades since the 1960s. Willie, you will be missed, and we are glad to hear that you and Bill will continue to attend and participate at Grace United. Willie Wilson officially retired on December 31st, 2020. A special retirement video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J80XRP5JCB0>

We have room on our committee if you would like to participate in the life of our church and have an interest in employee relations.

Adam Olivero, Chair

PROPERTY TEAM

As we have completed a very challenging year at Grace, I would like to thank the Property Team members for stepping up to complete the many tasks presented to us this past year. Also, I am grateful for those many 'associate' members who volunteered to help whenever jobs needed doing.

I would like to thank Randy, our custodian, for being flexible whenever situations changed at the church building – and they frequently did in 2021! The church building and grounds have been kept up very well this past year, despite the challenges.

The following represent some of the projects and upkeep that were tackled in 2021 by your Property Team:

- Clearing of snow around the entrances in winter
- Trips to the dump with blue box, most weeks
- Lawn maintained – cut and fertilized throughout the season
- Masks, sanitizer, and wipes supplied to all stations, as needed
- New screen installed in the pulpit
- Lawn tractor serviced
- Friendship Room window frames repaired
- Balcony landing floor replaced

- Outside benches sanded and finished
- Parking lot repaired
- Sidewalk repaired next to parking lot
- Systems around the building were checked
 - clocks, dishwasher, fire extinguishers, lighting, elevator

Special thanks go to Joerg Weller and Cedarwell Excavating who not only did such a wonderful job with the parking lot repair, but also donated their work to the church. We cannot express how truly grateful we are for their generosity.



There are several projects to consider for the new year, including inside and outside painting, repointing of brickwork, vine cutting to name a few. Church members are always welcome to join us on any projects you may be able to help complete.

The Property Team members are a true blessing to the church, without whom the building would soon fall into great disrepair. Consider joining us as you are able, once or even more often. Blessings,
Paul Cruickshank, Chair

SOCIAL ACTION & GLOBAL CONCERNS

The committee met twice on Zoom during the year. We continue to oversee the M&S Fund and the Local Mission Fund. This year we fell a bit short on our M&S budget, raising \$17,713.50 (budget was \$25,000). The Local Mission projects raised \$10,305.88 (budget was \$9,200). The extra money was divided equally between the CFGB and the Women's House of Grey/Bruce. A "Minute for Mission" is read or a video shown every Sunday to keep the congregation informed of the work that the M&S fund provides.

We, also, actively support the Hanover Food Bank with our "grocery cart" donations, as well as a donation of \$1,250.00 from the Local Mission Fund. The spring and fall reverse offering, organized by the Stewardship Team, brought in 2,970 lb. of food and \$1,282.65 in cash. Thanks to those who contributed so generously and thanks to the Stewardship Team for their hard work.

The Alzheimer Coffee Break brought in \$250. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank project received \$1,250.00 from the Local Mission Fund. We were unable to have a special service this year due to the pandemic.

We continue to support YFC Hanover and the "The Deck" youth centre. The virtual Auction netted over \$12,000. The fish dinner was done by take-out and netted \$3,125. Tour for Teens bike rally raised another \$2,400 and Golf Day \$4,000. We give them \$1,000 from our local mission fund. Indoor activities were cancelled for part of the year, but some outdoor activities were scheduled. Paul Neuman is doing a great job as the Director under difficult times this year.

We continue to support the JDDS Mental Health for Youth Program with a \$2,000 donation. Thanks to the congregation for their generous support during this difficult year. My thanks to Kathryn, Gertie and Bob for their support throughout the year.

Jerry Asling, Chair

LOCAL MISSION PROJECTS OF GRACE UNITED CHURCH

RECEIPTS

Envelopes	\$ 8,802.53
Trunk Sale	\$ 1,503.35
	\$10,305.88

DISBURSEMENTS

Canadian Food Grains Bank	\$ 1,802.94
Hanover Food Bank	\$ 1,250.00
Youth for Christ	\$ 1,000.00
Women's House	\$ 1,552.94
Saugeen Mobility & Regional Transport	\$ 1,000.00
Camp McGovern	\$ 700.00
JDSS Mental Health Program	\$ 2,000.00
GB Healthcare Chaplaincy	\$ 1,000.00
	\$10,305.88

MISSION PROJECT BUDGET 2022

Women's House	\$1,000.00
Camp McGovern	\$ 700.00
Canadian Food Grains Bank	\$1,250.00
Hanover Food Bank	\$1,250.00
S.M.A.R.T.	\$1,000.00
JDSS Mental Health Program	\$2,000.00
Youth for Christ	\$1,000.00
Grey Bruce Chaplaincy	\$1 000.00
	\$9, 200.00



Women's House
Serving Bruce & Grey

In the 2020/21 fiscal period:



541

individual women
were served



7,336

crisis, support, and
advocacy calls were
managed on the phone lines



118

individual children
were served

SPIRITUAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Due to the pandemic, no Senior Connection Luncheons were held.

The Spiritual Care Team donated 29 United Church calendars that were given to seniors at Christmas.

Sally Kormann plans many interesting activities for our seniors such as Walk & Book Club, and Christmas Gift Stockings.

The ladies of the Knitting Circle continue to make prayer shawls for members of the congregation. There were only 2 recorded shawls given out this year.

The Spiritual Care Team hopes that 2022 will be a healthier year and they can resume more activities.

Doris Kobe, Board Representative

COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIP REPORT

Through 2021, cards were sent as follows: 30 Valentines; 30 Easter cards; 33 Thanksgiving cards; 37 Christmas cards; 4 Get Well cards; 15 Sympathy cards; 1 Anniversary card; 16 Birthday cards; and 3 Thinking of You cards - making a total of 169 cards for the year.

No Christmas Cheer Dinners were given out this year due to the pandemic. At Christmas, there were 5 seniors remembered with calendars at Sprucewood Court and McVean Lodge, 3 at the nursing homes, and 21 in their homes.

A 60th Anniversary plant was delivered to Henk & Donna Gaasenbeek.

Doris Kobe, Board Representative



STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee has continued to be busy through 2021. We were able to hold several meetings throughout the year to make plans and keep in touch with each other. We held our Spring/Mother's Day Food Drive in April and collected 378.4 lbs of food and \$190 in cash donations. Our fall Memorial Food Drive in memory of Sandra Howes held in November collected 439.9 lbs. of food, etc. and \$250 in cash donations. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this very needed service in our community.

Fortunately, we were able to hold our yearly Trunk/Yard Sale in June. This was a tremendous success and we raised a total of just over \$1,500 for the Local Missions of Grace United Church.

Our collecting of Grant's Grocery Tapes is now ended. We have received \$498.00 from this project to date and there will be approximately another \$400 coming after the end of December. Thank you to Kathryn Dankel who has spent countless hours adding up these grocery tapes and for all those that religiously saved their grocery tapes for Grace.

Thanks to the Special Gift Fund we were able to update the camcorder and video equipment used each Sunday for worship. We were also able to purchase new flooring for an area in the balcony.

Thank you to our fantastic church family for all their financial support, etc. during this very stressful and uncertain year for everyone. Your continued ongoing support of donations to the Food Bank, Angel Tree, Yard Sale, etc. is just overwhelming. Thank you all so much.

Lynne McDougall, Secretary

TRUSTEES

Trustees hold the property of Grace United for the benefit of the congregation as part of the United Church of Canada. Trustees ensure that property in the church is used for a purpose consistent with those outlined in the Trusts of Model Deed, ensure the congregation has adequate property and liability insurance, that appropriate investment policies are in place, that the congregation has a definite procedure for maintenance and repair, and oversees other duties as outlined in the Congregational Board of Trustees Handbook.

Over the last several years we have been working to recruit and train new trustees. 2021 brought new energy to the trustees as we met online for training and to gain a deeper understanding of our work. As much of the work of the trustees is completed by the property committee and finance committee, when recruiting trustees in 2020-2021 we focused on including two individuals from these committees to serve as Trustees (George from the Finance Committee and Paul from the Property Committee). George provided an update on our insurance, and the work of the finance committee concerning the church's investments. Paul updated us on the work of the property committee and the insurance requirements for outside groups using space at Grace. We are thankful for the work of our committees in caring for our property, investments, and insurance so that they may continue to serve the ministry of our church. As we look towards future work we are planning on updating the inventory of our property for insurance purposes and looking at ways to back up important digital files.

Rev. Micol Cottrell, Chair

WESTERN ONTARIO WATERWAYS REGIONAL COUNCIL

WOW Region continued to meet online during 2021. Our work continues as we serve and support the Communities of Faith in our Region according to the United Church of Canada's 2021 Governance Handbook. There is extensive support and resources available. An alphabetical listing can be found on the WOW website at [A to Z Resources - Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council \(wowcucc.ca\)](https://www.wowcucc.ca).

I have been elected by the Regional Council to be a Commissioner at General Council 44. GC44 opens February 13, 2022. We will meet entirely online and there several sessions scheduled until late July 2022. This is a 3-year term and there will annual meetings until General Council 45 opens in 2025. During the next several months proposals that have been submitted by Regional Councils across Canada will be discussed and voted on as well as the next Moderator elected.

I am very humbled to be given the chance to attend and quite excited to experience the United Church of Canada and Bermuda at this level. I'm also looking forward to meeting as many people as possible and hearing their stories.

Dawn Blanchard, Council Representative

WORSHIP & MUSIC

As we did in 2020, our Worship and Music team met on zoom due to COVID concerns. Our thanks to Lynn Boulianne who has retired from our committee and a welcome back to Lynne Heffernan.

The Worship and Music team has oversight of the audio, video and overhead projections each Sunday morning for in person worship. Our thanks to Adam Olivero for providing us with the ability to create hybrid services for those worshipping in person and at home. Volunteers for in-person worship included Bert Badger, Larry Howes, Ian McDougall, Todd Martin, Bill Wilson, Robert Newbigging, Adam Olivero, Paul Cruickshank and Nathan Bell. Bill was provided with a new camera for video which he is enjoying. The Board approved up to \$200 to purchase a box to eliminate the hum in the sound system.

Once again, our church experienced shutdowns due to COVID. We reopened on March 21 and again on September 5. Our traditional communion elements were replaced with individual disposable cups.

Our Worship & Music Team, with Micol's input, continues to organize ushers, readers and gifts of music for in-person and virtual worship services. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to act as ushers, greeters and those reading scripture each week. Gift of Music is now organized by our music team. Thank you to Yuki Stocovaz and Beth Cruickshank for providing our excellent music leadership in 2021.



Our team has oversight of baptisms, confirmation and membership transfers. If you require any of these services, please contact the church office. We had one virtual baptism this year, Chloe Drajewicz, great granddaughter of Betty Duncan, a long-time member of Grace.

A new Advent candle holder was purchased. Audrey Weidner graciously offered to pay for this purchase in memory of her husband Lance whose wonderful woodworking skills are evident in many areas of the church.

The Affirm committee held a special PIE Day service on zoom in March as well as service videos for the month of June and occasionally on other Sundays. These informational videos are well received. Others contributing to our services were Heather and the youth group, Food Grains representative Henry Reinder. Heather also provided a pop-up ukulele concert following worship one Sunday.

Micol stated his intention to be on leave from August 1 to November 1 to take an interim position at Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. Rev. Sarah Bruer was hired on an interim basis during this period.

Heather inquired about looking into the cost of hand chimes for use at church. Outdoor carolling was organized this year by Heather and Sally.

The Christmas Eve service from 2020 was re-aired on Wightman TV this year. Live in-person worship was also held with enhanced protocols in place.

2021 was another challenging year and hopefully by the end of 2022 we will be able to relax some of the measures we have been forced to make due to the pandemic.



Wilda Wilson, Secretary