

Bells Corners United Church 2020 Annual Report



Bells Corners United Church

REJOICE, RENEW, RESPOND, REACH OUT

2020 Annual Report

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Office Information Bells Corners United Church

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Minister	Rev. Kim Vidal	kim.vidal@gmail.com revkim@bcuc.org	820-8103
Diaconal Minister	Rev. Lorrie Lowes	Lorrielowes12@gmail.com lorrie@bcuc.org	820-8103
Music Director	Abe TeGrotenhuis	music@bcuc.org	820-8103
Office Administrators	Ellen Boynton Ruth Timms	office@bcuc.org	820-8103

2020 CHURCH BOARD

Minister	Rev. Kim Vidal
Chair	John MacFarlane
Past Chair	Jordan Berard
Chair Elect	
Secretary	Will Wightman
Ministry & Personnel	Lyn Hall (to Sept) David Stafford
Financial Management	Bill Johnson
Members at Large	Norm Pound Ellen Boynton
EOORC	Nicole Beaudry Desna Sulway Vernon Sulway
Youth Consultation	

Sunday Worship Services

Worship Service at 10:00 am with Youth Group, Sunday school programs and Crib Nursery.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Crib Nursery:	0, 2 year olds
Preschool:	3, 4 year olds
Beginners:	5, 6 year olds
Primary:	Grades 2, 3
Junior/Intermediate:	Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Youth Group:	Grade 9 & higher; confirmation & post-confirmation

Sacraments and Other Special Services

Communion: 4 to 5 times per year.

Baptism: Held during Sunday service. The Minister meets with the families involved and an orientation session is held.

Joining the Church: Joining the Church family is accomplished by the following methods: Transfer of Membership on profession of faith, after attendance at confirmation classes or discussion with the Minister or, in the case of inactive membership, by Profession of faith.

Weddings: Couples will meet with the Minister twice during the period of preparation and may attend Marriage Preparation Course offered by the Presbytery.

Celebration of Life: Families may have funerals or memorial services in the church or the Minister will conduct the service in the Funeral Home.

Pastoral & Spiritual Care: Visitation of members and friends of the church, in hospital, retirement homes and long-term care facilities or home by the Ministers and Friendly Visitors.

Pastoral Counseling: The Ministers may offer pastoral counseling as required.

Youth Confirmation: One of the high points in the worship life of our congregation is Confirmation Sunday, when the new members publicly confess their faith and are welcomed to the fellowship of our church. Confirmands meet to explore issues of faith and church life as background to their decision. For more info please speak to the Ministers.

Church Groups

Choirs:

- **Christian Generation Singers (CGS):** Kindergarten - Grade 5, Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm
- **Bell Canto:** Grade 6 and up, Thursday - 6:40 pm
- **Choir:** Thursday - 7:15 pm
- **Grace Notes:** Wednesday - 9:30 am
- **Men's Chorus:** Sunday mornings

United Church Women (UCW)

- **Unit 1:** Leader - Rotational; Meet from time to time.
- **Unit 2:** Leader - Ellen Boynton (828-3820); Meet the second Monday of each month, 2:00 pm in the homes of members.
- **Unit 3:** Leader - Jean Watson (829-3463); Meet the second Monday of each month, 7:30 pm in the homes of members.
- **Unit 4:** Leader - Joan Hicks (820-3276); Meet the second Monday of each month, evenings in the homes of members.

Adult Learning: A variety of groups announced throughout the year which meet to develop fellowship and biblical awareness and social concerns. This includes a weekly lectionary group, adult membership class, advent & lent studies.

Adult Dancing Spirit: Liturgical dance group meets monthly on Sunday evenings at the church.

Friendship Club: A gathering for seniors. Meets every Monday for lunch at noon and an afternoon program.

Coffee & Friends: Thursdays 9:15 - 11:15 am. Fall & Winter sessions are held, each eight weeks long. It offers a varied program to help you meet some new friends, learn some new skills, resolve some problems, belong to a group of caring people.

Men's Club: Meets once a month for coffee mornings and from time to time for an evening meal and guest speaker.

Book Club: Meets on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month.

Victoria's Quilts: Meet on the last Wednesday of the month in the evening and every second Monday of the month in the afternoon.

Minister's Message

Dear friends at BCUC,

2020 has been a year of "new normal" at Bells Corners United Church due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic threw a massive curve and we all had to readjust to new realities. We also acknowledged that new ways of doing things, particularly how we offer our weekly worship service drastically changed. On March 15th, 2020, we suspended full worship service and other activities in the building until end of December. Thanks go to the gift of technology and the able technical know-how of our music director, Abe TeGrotenhuis and our webmaster Connie Davidson. Audio and video recordings of the weekly worship services were posted on YouTube, Facebook and the church website. Text format of the service and announcements were also emailed to the congregation. In the summer, we were able to upload the audio format of the worship service onto the telephone system allowing people to listen to it via telephone. Thanks to Neil Lowes who helped set this up. In September until December 20th, the Worship/CE Committee, with the approval of the Church Board, offered a modified in-person worship service with a maximum number of 28 people who pre-registered before the service. With the help of volunteer ushers and the worship team, the in-person Sunday services were held in an orderly, safe fashion.

In the midst of a stressful time, people are still supportive in many ways. Prayers are still being lifted. People have been encouraged, loved, supported and prayed for in this time of uncertainty. Faith formation through learning events, church board and committee meetings and weekly fellowships were held via Zoom. Social action, mission work and interfaith bridge-building continued to be on our top priority list. We supported the SOSA Lent & Advent fundraising projects including the Veteran's House. Summer fundraising through David's flowers was a huge success. It was held outdoors for a number of weeks and raised more than \$3,000 that went to upgrading the sanctuary technology. And add to that,

the fundraising initiatives of the Two Men and a Stove as well as the October Outdoor Market helped add income to our operating fund. I am indeed grateful that despite the ongoing COVID-19 challenges, lives are still being transformed and God is still on the move through the concerted efforts of the BCUC folks.

In early January, we gratefully welcomed Ruth Timms as our new office administrator who replaced Nancy Meyers for the Monday-Tuesday schedule. Ruth was a wonderful addition to the team, particularly to Ellen, who shares the bulk of office work with Ruth.

In late April, our ministry candidate, Lorrie Lowes, successfully completed and graduated from her diaconal ministry program at the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg. She was commissioned as a Diaconal Minister on October 3rd by the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) held at Rideau Park United Church. We offered our heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Lorrie Lowes for a job well done!

Another highlight of 2020 was the hiring of a summer student, funded by the Federal Government, in the person of Victoria Ogden, from mid-May until mid-August. Through her excellent research and organizing skills, Victoria played a crucial part in putting together a COVID-19 guideline document that helped shape BCUC's policy on safety measures during the pandemic time. She sat with the members of a Building Re-Opening Sub-Committee composed of Ross Brown, Neville Reed, Rick Morrison, Connie Davidson, John MacFarlane, Rev. Lorrie Lowes and Rev. Kim Vidal, who put the document together. With the first draft of the document, we were able to offer a safe weekly in-person worship service and Celebration of Life services in the sanctuary. Victoria also helped reach out to young families, particularly those with Sunday School age children and youth. After Victoria's term was completed and the Sub-Committee disbanded, the Worship/CE Committee was tasked to include any new health regulations and revise the document on a regular basis. This task force, headed by Sue Morrison, reported to the Church Board.

In addition to the Lectionary group that continued to meet every Tuesday morning to discuss the biblical text for the Sunday sermon, the Seekers Group studied and discussed the book of John Dominic Crossan, *How To Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian* in early Spring. The study was attended by 14 participants enriched by the discussions and who delved into difficult theological issues and questions.

In early September, I was diagnosed with a medical condition called hyperthyroidism that barred me from functioning and doing my work effectively. I was on a six-week medical leave from Sept 4 until October 18. During my absence, the life and ministry of BCUC were under the able hands of Rev. Lorrie Lowes. Thank you, Lorrie, for your leadership and for your presence.

Another joy we celebrated last year were the new members of the Church Board, particularly John MacFarlane, who stepped up for the Chair position. Will Wightman also accepted to be the recording secretary while past recording secretary Norm Pound, accepted the task of being a Member-at-Large. Jordan Berard continued to sit on the Board as Past Chair. New members and chairs/co-chairs of the various committees also stepped up and volunteered their time, talents and treasures along with the incumbents. We are grateful to all of you!

If we have joys to celebrate, we also have sorrows to remember and uphold, particularly the passing of some of our beloved members and adherents. In 2020, we remember and give thanks for the life of: Connie Londong, Reta Stinson, Allan Reid, Cathy Durst, Arthur Buss, Doris Stephenson, Gail Harmer-Mutton, Bev Cromb, Bill Cromb and Doreen Pope.

Finally, I would not have been able to accomplish what I achieved in 2020 without the support, love, care, prayers and friendship of Lorrie, Ruth, Ellen and Abe. I also wish to extend my gratitude to the members of the church board, the different committees and every member and adherent, young and old, who continued to work hard and nurture each other. Please be reminded that we are the body of Jesus Christ with lots of work still to do. To this date, we remain unsure as to when our doors will be fully open again. However, while the building was not fully opened to the public, the life and ministry of BCUC continued. Indeed, we can say that “the church” had left the building and was out in the world doing its work.

I am blessed to be your minister and I can’t thank you enough for all your support, your love and friendship that you extend to me and my family: Ken, Justin and Jacob. I look forward to our ministry together in 2021 and beyond as we seek new adventures and explore creative ways of being faithful to our mission as a Christian community. May God’s blessings continue be with us as we journey together in faith.

Sincerely yours,
Rev. Kim

Diaconal Minister

This is a year that will certainly go down in history! Who would have ever expected, as we began 2020, that our lives would be so turned upside down by a virus? It has been a year of disappointments and chaos, to be sure, but it has also been a year of accomplishments and blessings.

Last January, I traveled to Saskatoon to attend the final theology course required to complete my studies toward Diaconal Ministry. After that came a flurry of finishing assignments, core courses through the Centre for Christian Studies, gathering transcripts, and attending interviews, in the final sprint toward Commissioning. My final studies at CCS wrapped up in April and by then we were all confined to home. It was disappointing to have my last weeks of Circle online rather than with my colleagues in Winnipeg. It was disappointing to have our graduation festivities reduced to clicking a button on my computer screen to “Leave Meeting” on Friday. There was no graduation dinner on Saturday and no Service of Celebration on Sunday. There was, however, the satisfaction of a milestone reached and a new journey ahead. In October, after many delays, I was Commissioned as a Diaconal Minister in the United Church of Canada. I was blessed with congratulation calls and cards from near and far - so many from folks at BCUC. I can’t express to you much I have appreciated your support through these past five years. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

In March, in the midst of all that rush to the finish line of school, I traveled to Chipembi, Zambia, along with my husband Neil and a group of folks from Emmanuel United Church here in Ottawa. This was a return visit for me, with the exciting job of creating a covenant agreement amongst our three communities to enable us to strengthen our relationships locally and globally. As many of you know, this is a project that has been in the making since I first traveled there with some Young Adults from our congregation and Ottawa Presbytery. Covid-19 came into our awareness just before we left for Zambia. Canada was cautious but everything seemed under control and we were able to proceed with our plans. We set out with Lysol wipes and hand sanitizer to keep us safe in the airports and planes but no one was terribly worried. That all changed in the first few days after we arrived. Although we were not able to get an earlier flight home, we knew that we were safe in the small village of Chipembi and we were able to have productive meetings with the committee there. This pandemic has made progress slow since

that visit because technology is not as available to our partners there and they have been restricted, as we have, from meeting together. We do now have an agreement, however and we look forward to the opportunity to make this relationship grow.

Upon our return to Canada, life changed for all of us. As a staff, we began exploring ways of keeping in contact with our faith family and offering worship. What began slowly with audio recordings has grown exponentially over the months to services offered in text, audio, and video formats online, to modified in-person services in the sanctuary, and even to services available by telephone! With the amazing help and energy of Erin Berard, we have kept our young people and families engaged through Sunday School and Youth resources on our website, virtual gatherings of the CGS and Bell Canto, and we were able to deliver Advent packages to our young families! The whole congregation has embraced technology that has made it possible for people young and old to take part in the production of our worship services through readings and music. What a delight it has been to see familiar faces on our screens each Sunday morning! We have meetings of the various committees and groups by Zoom. We have continued with book studies and Lectionary group, and even offered an online learning event about Basic Income. We have virtual social gatherings on Fridays and Sundays, and we keep connected through phone calls, prayer circles, Facebook, and email. We have found ways to continue to gather from the safety of our homes and ways to meet in person safely when we could, through Saturday morning sales of David's Flowers, barbecues by Two Men and a Stove, and an outdoor Fall Market. We have supported one another in times of illness and grief. This is a community – a true faith family – whose members are drawn together outside the bounds of Sunday worship and committee meetings.

We have learned a lot this year – about technology, about the importance of human connections, and about the love of God that stays with us when life seems to be out of our control. We have suffered disappointments and loss, but we have also shared joys and celebrations. Our hopes that troubles would end when we turned our calendar pages to 2021 have been delayed, it seems, but our love for each other and our faith in God will help us continue to move forward in hope for better days ahead.

I am so impressed by the strength of this BCUC family, and I am grateful to be journeying with you as your minister.

Wishing you God's Shalom,
Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Church Board

The board in 2020 focused on adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic at Bells Corners United Church.

At the 2020 AGM in March the Church Board and committees had plans for a “normal” year and entered each month with flexible plans while waiting for a return to normal. While much had to be done differently, the year end outcome ended up looking remarkably similar. The financial statements for 2020 will demonstrate the tremendous generosity of the congregation, and appropriate reply by committees to the unexpected situation: modified projects provided welcome aid to many.

The Church Board met on a monthly basis throughout 2020 (including July and August). Here is a brief overview of some of the more notable adjustments that we focused on. For a more complete list of decisions and motions made by the Board, please consult the monthly minutes from this year's meetings which are always available in the narthex and the Church Office.

- **On-line services:** Beginning immediately in March, and continuing all year, Abe, Rev Kim and Rev Lorrie organized fantastic services assisted by many cameo appearances (including a Christmas Elvis sighting). In-person services with limitations began in September.
- The Board began accepting **e-transfers** as a form of donations and payment in early 2020.
- With the help and guidance of a **building reopening subcommittee** plans were established for safe procedures indoors to conform with public health guidelines. This committee included Rev Kim, Rev Lorrie, Ross and Neville of our Property Committee, our terrific summer student Victoria Ogden, the Chair and Connie Davidson who provided valuable service updating the web site.

These are just a few of the many adaptations that the Board was involved with this year as we all found new ways to keep in touch and to worship. Some things do not change, and I will close by quoting Jordan from last year's report, an accurate summary of the past and future, as it turned out. "As we all know, BCUC is blessed with an excellent staff and ministry team, a long history of serving in Bells Corners, and with many active members and adherents who willingly provide resources of volunteer time and financial support to all aspects of our ministry. Again, sincere thanks to you all for another excellent year! Our church will continue to be faced with financial and membership-related challenges – these are, indeed, realities that exist and persist for congregations across the country [... But] the congregation of BCUC has the generosity, spirit, and sense of community required to tackle any challenges that are thrown our way!"

John MacFarlane
Chair, BCUC Board

Family Ministry

The Family Ministry initiative was introduced to guide our vision and decision-making at BCUC as we all strive to make this church a welcome and loving 'family'. Not being able to gather freely in 2020 due to the pandemic restricted many of the usual activities we enjoy and some of the plans we were making. However many groups in the church shifted their groups online and found other ways to connect with all our different families!

The Family Ministry Team met once in January 2020. The following specific initiatives were undertaken:

- The Secret Pal project matching 14 children to adults in the congregation continued with hand-delivered messages at church until March. A Secret Pal reveal party for April was cancelled, but pals were revealed via e-mail, and some partners continued to write back and forth throughout the rest of the year!

- The team initiated a drama group under the leadership of Brian Lipsett to provide opportunities for mixed-age groups to dramatize the scripture reading for worship service. A small group rehearsed and shared at the Transfiguration service.

- Research was underway in early 2020 regarding an anti-bullying workshop for parents/caregivers, but this was put on hold.

- Family Advent resources were purchased from Illustrated Ministry and delivered to families at the end of November.

As the pandemic continues, we are encouraged to seek ways to connect with the church family in new ways, recognizing and celebrating the ways we support, work, and worship together, and to ensure that Family Ministry is embedded in all that we do at BCUC.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Berard
on behalf of the Family Ministry Team

Worship/Christian Education Committee

What a year 2020 turned out to be! As we began the year many events plans were unfolding, but when mid March came along all that changed and adaptations had to be made. The year began with David Donaldson as Chair, but by March Sue Morrison agreed to become Co-Chair and that has worked very well. No meetings were held in April, May or June but we adapted to Zoom and have met monthly since then.

As usual, Kim prepared plans for Sunday worship services with the liturgical year's themes in mind. She and Lorrie worked together with Lorrie preparing one service each month. Lorrie took responsibility for Children's time and she and Erin Berard worked together to prepare Sunday School curriculum for use at home to follow worship themes. This has continued to work well through the year as adaptations had to be made for online worship services.

In February an experiment in projecting worship services was tried and a survey conducted to see how it was accepted. Little did anyone know that every Sunday from mid March on would be a projected service, viewed from the comfort of people's homes via the BCUC website. Summer student, Victoria Ogden, put all her work time into helping create protocols for safe re-opening of the church and onsite worship services. Her skills were much appreciated. By September we were able to offer onsite services for a limited number of pre-registered people who attended using safe protocols. In November, the Church Board appointed the Worship/CE Committee to be a Commission (as defined in the UCC Manual) while the pandemic continues, with responsibility to monitor changes to the local situation and the public health rules, adapting our onsite services as needed to ensure they are safe and in conformity with good public health practices. And for those without computers the Voice2Net phone service enabled the service to be uploaded and for people to dial the second church telephone number and listen to it, a welcome option for those needing it!

Much credit goes to Abe TeGrotenhuis for his skills with creatively preparing music for services week by week, putting all the pieces together and working with Connie Davidson, BCUC's webmaster, to have every week's service on the BCUC website to view any time people wish to visit or revisit a service. Abe has upgraded the technology to even enable livestreaming which has been tried and will certainly be a future means of providing online services when the pandemic is under control. Thanks to David Donaldson's summer flower sales, more than \$3,000 was raised to specifically fund needed technology for online services and a bonus to recognize Abe's skilled support work.

Over the shutdown months three celebration of life services were successfully held so that families could gather safely to say goodbye to their loved ones.

Other musical contributors to thank in particular include Leslie Wade with her violin, and Erin Berard with children's stories, songs and CGS/Bell Canto offerings from time to time. Erin continues to meet weekly online with her children's choir members. She distributed music bags to each home to help the children participate. At times Abe used the Band for music offerings throughout the year as well. He invited choir members singly or more numerous to safely record music over the year. Choir members yearn for a time when they can sing together once again. Abe hosts regular Zoom gatherings to keep choir members in touch.

Early in the year Christian Education plans included the UP Group preparing for an August trip to Calgary for Rendez-Vous 2020. Fundraising events, coordinated by Kim & Alex Culley, were held. A Paint Night in January, a Bake Sale and a Potluck and Board Games Night in February were well attended, but the reality that no trip to Calgary was going to happen left the group disappointed. Vicky attended the online version of Rendez-Vous. Alex & Kim resigned from their leadership of UP over the summer. A big thank you goes to them for their enthusiastic, capable leadership of the Youth for several years. Thankfully, Victoria Ogden and Angela Starchuk have agreed to be the new UP leaders.

There was also no Camp Awesome in July, much to the disappointment of Tamara and the children who love to attend. A Secret Pal program was held in the winter, organized by Erin and Camille Lipsett as a Family Ministry initiative. Plans were for an April lunch to disclose the 'secret pals', but that did not happen.

Confirmation class plans were also postponed, as was the Progressive Learning Circle's spring weekend plan. Some things did continue as people were able. Wendy Morrell's Sacred Dancers provided a dance on the newly renovated labyrinth in the early fall. The outdoor labyrinth was cleaned and repainted over the summer. Future plans include some landscaping and a bench to create a beautiful place to meditate. As well, the Main Hall labyrinth got a fresh coat of paint. The Shalom Room upgrade has continued to create a chapel setting. These spaces are ready and waiting for the return of the people to enjoy them. One Sunday Nite Lite program was held in February on the topic of the 'Power of DNA'. A Drama Group was initiated and it provided one animation of scripture early in the year for a Sunday service. With no onsite Sunday School, it was challenging to engage the children, but Lorrie and Erin have done their best with online resources for families. An Advent package delivered to households with children was warmly welcomed.

A Photo Directory was planned for 2020, but by year end only a small number of families had photos done for Christmas gift giving and the hope is that a full directory can be done as soon as possible in the new year. Another initiative, the Book of Memories 2020, was initiated by Bob Ferguson and that did get published. Many copies, both print and digital, have been purchased by the congregation and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Bob for his perseverance in getting this second record of our church life (the first was in 2000) published.

Plans for building the Portico are proceeding thanks to resources from Directed and the Stinson Fund and the leadership of Ron Chuchryk who agreed to oversee the planning and building by Rory Gardiner. Through the year, Lorrie Lowes continued her studies towards fall graduation as a Diaconal Minister. Congratulations to Rev. Lorrie Lowes! Her graduation was marked very quietly and the hope is for a proper celebration with our congregation when it can be allowed.

In March, Lorrie and Neil Lowes travelled to Chipembi, Zambia to represent BCUC and to begin the process of creating a covenant agreement amongst the Chipembi Mission, Emmanuel United Church in Ottawa, and Bells Corners United Church. This project arose after some of our young adults and Lorrie visited the mission site. This is an opportunity for all three communities to build relationship and support each other in living out the gospel message to care for our neighbours, near and far.

Thank you to all who enable BCUC to have a rich, engaging worship community, to Kim and Lorrie who provide meaningful worship week by week, to Abe who gives us amazing inspirational music, to David and Sue who guide the work of the Worship/CE Committee and to the members of the committee who provide ideas and energy to see plans materialize.

Ellen Boynton, Secretary Worship/CE

Music Director

What a weird and new opportunities year in music 2020 was!

- Choirs and band participated in Sunday services as usual until...



all gatherings came to an abrupt halt in mid-March

- Memorial Hymn request service was on Feb 16th
- The Grace Notes did sing for the Friendship group on Feb 24 and for our last fully attended service on Sunday, March 7th.
- About half of the Choir sang “**Lost in the Stars**” on Sunday March 15th, to a small congregation (something we had put a lot of practice into), before officially closing.

Weekly additions to our home worship experience lined up very nicely with Lent going into Easter. With skillful assistance from our website administrator Connie Davidson:

- March 22nd, was DIY (do it yourself) with worship text and activities provided on the website
- March 29th, we provided audio recordings of the text and a couple songs on our website

THEN on April 1st (not a joke), the “**Bells Corners United Church Music**” YouTube channel was born!

- Our first worship service video came together for Palm Sunday April 5th
- Maundy Thursday & Good Friday were text and audio recordings only on the church website
- Then we pulled out all the stops for the Easter Sunday video with the Wade-Parker string trio, the band leading the songs, Wendy’s sacred dance and an Agape meal. An Easter video celebration!
- On Saturday April 25th a video production of the complete “Story Tellin’ Man” musical was offered in place of a live spring concert. This marked the one-year anniversary of that successful event and it was worth seeing again, especially for the actors as they hadn’t had the chance.

In the Easter newsletter I'm quoted as saying;

"Due to popular demand we will keep doing this for the next couple of months at least".

Well, we've been making videos for almost a year and they may be a permanent feature now!

- Every week, the ministers have bravely faced the camera and dealt with technology, while also creating the (powerpoint) slides we use for lyrics and backgrounds.
- The Band, (Will Wightman, Erin Berard, Kim Vidal, Dave Barclay & Angela Starchuk) began making recordings regularly at home to be mixed by me into the performances in the videos
- I also recorded soloists at the church and sometimes mixed them into duets or four part harmony to bring variety to the hymns (so you didn't have to listen to me doing all four parts!).
- The choir began regular bi-weekly "ZOOM" video gatherings in May and continue today
- In June and July the choir came to the church, three at a time, to record hymns in the entranceway while distanced and the resulting mix would include up to 12 voices. After four long months...
- The choir finally returned in time for the Advent season. Microphones were setup in the far corners of the sanctuary, narthex, balcony and entranceway. With the piano in the middle of the sanctuary we could now sing together and I could record hymns with the choir in one take!

We did three, 2 ½ hour sessions in Advent to cover all the Christmas music and we loved it 😊

- The extra music in the December services alleviated the fact that there was no Christmas concert.
- Thanks to the Boyntons, who were able to host our only choir party way back in January 2020!

It's been an interesting year, but I'm very blessed to work with a super talented and dedicated team. Particular thanks to Erin, for all your work around the children's music, for making recordings whenever we need them (even if it's last minute) and for being the face of our action songs!

Musically submitted, Abe TeGrotenhuis, Bells Corners United Music

Music for Children and Youth

This was certainly a different year for our youth and children's choirs!

The Christian Generation Singers (CGS) for JK-Gr.4 and the Bell Canto Singers for Gr. 5 rehearsed Thursday evenings from 6:00-6:40 (CGS) and 6:00-7:20 (Bell Canto) from January through to March Break when the province went into lockdown. Free-will donation family dinners were provided over that time as well, thanks to Monica Peck and other volunteers.

From time to time over the Spring and Summer of 2020, Abe invited some families, including some of our choir members, to participate in recording their voices for the online worship services.

After taking several workshops on virtual music and choir programs, and the use of Google Apps over the summer, I was inspired to get our young people singing again in the Fall.

Nine choristers (ranging in age from Gr. 2-University) were interested in continuing virtually, and were delivered rhythm instruments, a borrowed copy of More Voices, and other resources to their homes. A Google 'Classroom' was created to post audio and visual music materials and allow the singers to upload recordings they made. We rehearsed via Google Meet Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:15, and have enjoyed being able to see each other and socialize a bit as part of the get-together.

Once or twice a month, the singers were encouraged to record their voice or an action video for Abe mix together for the online services. This included independent anthems for Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve which featured artwork by other young people in the congregation.

I am thankful for the dedicated young people that make up our choirs, those who provide financial donations and encouragement, and Abe's magical music mixing skills, making our combined voices sound heavenly!

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Berard

Grace Notes

Our group of 15 singers have had very little chance to use our voices this year, so the "Notes" part of our group has changed. Now we send notes to each other via email and try to laugh and encourage each other.

Before the pandemic we would practice with Abe, Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Afterwards, many of us would get together at the local McDonalds, drink coffee and catch up on each other's news. Of course this past year we've missed seeing the dear faces of our friends in actuality.

Our adored Doris Stephenson left us. She passed away on September 16th, 2020, a year after her husband Jim. We miss her chuckles and her generosity. Doris lived on the sunny side of life. I suspect all who knew her benefitted by her. I'm personally grateful for the many acts of "grace" my fellow members have offered -- encouraging emails, phone calls and unexpected cards.

I think we all feel that our choir master, Abe, is doing a truly amazing duty, delivering lovely virtual worship services. He also joins in the encouragement and sends lovely photos via email. Even in the long days of isolation we can see grace and hope everywhere. We look forward to the day when we get back to the business of raising our voices together!

Sheryll Highstead

The BCUC Choir

Another year of providing support for congregational singing and special music three Sundays/month has come and gone; that is, until mid March when the pandemic forced full closure of the church and no onsite choir for the rest of the year. Thanks to Abe's ingenuity we were able to have individuals come in for recording hymns, safely distanced, over the year. Finding ways of providing vocal hymn support required a great deal of extra effort on Abe's part, but he was determined to include our voices each week for the hymns. We missed singing together so much, so were pleased any time we received an invitation to participate in preparing a recording. Preparing Christmas music was especially taxing since Abe had to set up individual microphones and wiring around the Sanctuary/Narthex/Entryway to enable several choir members to record carols and hymns.

As well, Abe initiated bi-weekly Thursday evening Zoom choir gatherings to keep us in touch with one another when we could not meet face to face. We learned early on that trying to sing together over Zoom did NOT work, so we did not ask again.

We enjoyed our usual January party when we gathered along with our spouses at Boynton's home to dine and sing and enjoy a social time together. Little did we know that that party would have to do us for the year!

We also provide choir support for funeral/memorial services, when requested, and are pleased to do it, the last one which was March 13 for the memorial service of Alan Reid.

We continue to enjoy Abe's talented and capable musical direction. Now in his sixth year, we are always eager to participate in whatever new idea he has come up with. Thanks also to Leslie Wade and Erin Berard who share their talents by playing violin and flute to enhance our musical offerings. Abe coordinates a 'band', now recording their contributions individually for Abe to mix, as musical support for some services. Guitars and drumming with Abe on the keyboard provide variety and extra sound during some Sunday services. BCUC is blessed with a wealth of musical talent for which we are most grateful.

Ellen Boynton

Service, Outreach and Social Action Committee (SOSA)

Purpose

To promote the work and needs of the Mission and Service Fund; to coordinate and participate in programs that proclaim the mission of the Church through service and outreach; and to inform and recommend action to the congregation on issues of human rights, social justice and care of God's creation occurring locally, nationally and internationally.

In support of this purpose, the SOSA committee:

- . Publicizes the work of the Mission and Service Fund on a regular basis and takes action on any appeals issued by the national church either for money or action;
- . Keeps informed on local community needs and plans, coordinates and participates in local outreach programs through designated resource people on the committee;
- . Publicizes and supports human rights, social justice and care of God's creation events and workshops held in the community;

. Presents all three aspects of Service, Outreach and Social Action to the congregation through regular Minutes for Mission, Minutes for Action, the Bell Ringer, the SOSA noticeboard, on the TV at church and announcements of meetings in the Sunday bulletin.

SOSA provides support, financial and otherwise, to various outreach and service ministries including FAMSAC, Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC), Refuge NOW, Interfaith Bridge Building (IFBB), Mission and Service (M&S), Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI).

Projects carrying over from 2020 include:

Family Services Association Bells Corners Food Bank (FAMSAC)

FAMSAC, in collaboration with Ottawa Food Bank network, supplies emergency food orders to residents in this neighbourhood.

What an eventful year this has been! As in most businesses., FAMSAC has had to change its operating procedures, due to the pandemic. Formerly, clients were able to enter the storefront and choose their food items; now, all food orders must be packed and ready for pickup at the door. However, thanks to the dedication of the volunteers, FAMSAC was able to provide 1184 orders to needy families within our community.

In the midst of this chaos, FAMSAC was obligated to find a new location. During the last week of November, FAMSAC moved to 2194 Robertson Road, Unit 21, in the Village Mews Plaza. Unfortunately, the rent has increased considerably for this storefront.

Due to the pandemic, FAMSAC was not able to prepare food hampers this year, so it was decided to provide the clients with gift cards for groceries. Small families received a gift card in the amount of \$100 and the larger families received \$150. A total of \$30,000 was spent on 245 less-fortunate families to help them enjoy Christmas. This expense was covered by the generosity of individuals, businesses, organizations etc. in our community.

Food drives, organized by many agencies, also contributed a tremendous amount of food supplies.

In spite of the pandemic, FAMSAC has been able to meet the needs of those who called. Many thanks to the thoughtful, kind and generous people in our community and to the volunteers who spend countless hours working behind the scenes that enable FAMSAC to continue to carry on this important local mission.

BCUC financial support to FAMSAC is through SOSA budget and private donations.

The SOSA Resource/Contact is Glenna Jackson.

Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC)

It would be a gross understatement to say that 2020 has not been a very challenging year for OWECC due to COVID 19. Some programs, like the martial arts program for the youth, had to be put on hold and the much-anticipated weekend at Camp Otterdale was cancelled. However individual and pastoral counselling has continued, largely by phone, and support group at Regina Towers has seen different formats with a degree of success. Currently they are meeting via Zoom.

The Reverend Steve Zink, our part-time chaplain, has been up-dating the website and has developed a blog: <https://owecc.blogspot.com> which he hopes will reach more people in the social housing neighbourhoods.

The Board of OWECC would like to thank BCUC for their very generous support of the Chaplaincy during 2020.

BCUC financial support to OWECC is through SOSA budget.
The SOSA Resource/Contact is Peggy Aitchison

Nepean Ottawa West Refugee Committee (Refuge NOW)

Refuge NOW is supporting a number of families from Columbia, Eritrea, Yemen and Syria.

Columbia Family

The official sponsorship has ended but there is still some follow-up and support. The husband is working and he and his wife are studying ESL on-line. Their young children are being followed up at CHEO because of speech delays.

Eritrean Family

Mary and her young daughter have moved to be closer to her cousin and family. She hopes that her partner, Daniel, who is currently in Addis Ababa, will be able to join her in Canada. There is a one-year window for him to do so. Mary is expecting to start a PSW program in February, 2021.

Yemeni Family

This is a co-sponsorship supported by St. Stephen's Anglican Church and Refuge NOW. The family consists of a husband, wife and daughter. They arrived in Canada on December 9, 2020 and will be moving into a townhouse with their family member who is sponsoring them.

Syrian Family

An application for sponsorship of a Syrian family will be made in January 2021. This is a family of five, consisting of a husband, wife and three young children. They are currently in Jordan. This will be a joint sponsorship with Refuge NOW and their relatives who live in Ottawa.

Thank you to all at BCUC for your continued support.

BCUC Financial support to Refuge NOW is through SOSA budget and donations.
The SOSA Resource/Contact is Bridget McNeill

Interfaith Bridge Building with the Jami Omar Mosque (IFBB)

The IFBB Committee continues to offer educational programmes and learning opportunities about the Christian and Islamic faiths. Proposed educational themes include: 'Jerusalem and its importance to the three Abrahamic faiths'; 'The Golden Rule - the ethical treatment of others'; and 'Love as a central teaching in religion,' among others.

To date, there have been three interfaith dinners. The last one, in September 2019, was held at the Jami Omar Mosque. A fourth meal was planned, though instead COVID prevented it.

Each institution informs the other of their upcoming events. Plans are being made for “interfaith” charity project.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, plans are on hold.

And as always, the committee is open for new members.

BCUC funding support to IFBB is through SOSA budget and private donations.

The SOSA Resource/Contacts: Alison Bridgewater and Bridget McNeill

Mission and Service (M&S)

Bells Corners United Church (BCUC) has been a strong supporter of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada (UCC), both from the general Operating Fund and through special fund-raising projects.

For the 2020 Advent Project, the SOSA Committee chose to support Emergency Response COVID-19 of the UCC. This was a special fund set up by the M&S Fund as a direct response to the COVID-19 crisis, to help those affected by the Pandemic. Working closely with Mission & Service partners, the UCC helped to provide food and other essential services to many communities in crisis in the global South.

During the year, various M&S projects have been highlighted on the M&S bulletin board and with the notices that donations can be made directly to M&S through the flow-through fund for M&S at BCUC.

The BCUC congregation has been very supportive of the M&S projects both with individual donations and through the SOSA budget.

The SOSA Resource/Contact is Ellie Topp

Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)

The focus for MHI, in 2020, was the completion of Veterans’ House on the site of the former Rockliffe Air Base. The opening of the facility was delayed due to the pandemic; however, it is now set to open in January, 2021.

BCUC is participating in the “United We Stand” fundraising initiative sponsored by EOORC. Along with the \$8,000 that was raised through the 2020 Lenten Appeal, and the donations that continue to come through, BCUC has raised over \$19,500 to date.

A group of women from Lynwood Retirement Residence have knitted afghans and scarves for the 40 Veterans who will reside at Veterans’ House. The knitted items are being stored and will be delivered on behalf of the ladies at Lynwood Retirement Residence as required.

This year’s Tulipathon was virtual due to the pandemic. A record total of \$68,665 was raised. Members of BCUC participated by walking in Andrew Haydon Park, or in their own neighbourhoods.

Four members of our SOSA committee attended the MHI AGM, which was held at Vincent Massey Park in the rain! Masks and rain gear were the order of the day!

The National Housing Day Event, usually held at City Hall, was also affected by the pandemic. An excellent video was produced which those interested could view on YouTube.

The playground at The Haven was completed and the children are making good use of it.

This year, in lieu of an indoor Christmas Party, trays of cookies were delivered to each household at the Haven. SOSA, with support of members of the congregation, delivered 12 dozen cookies to The Haven for this initiative.

Multifaith Housing Initiative continues to promote its mission to help people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by providing and promoting well maintained, affordable, rental housing in a safe and neighbourly environment. Currently, MHI owns and provides affordable and supportive housing for 41 low-income families in Blake House, Kent House, Somerset Gardens as well as full capacity in the 98 units at The Haven, which houses over 350 tenants.

BCUC financial support to MHI is through SOSA budget and private donations.
The SOSA resource/contact is Barbara Bole Stafford

Zambia Chipembi Project

BCUC is negotiating a three-way partnership with the United Church of Zambia Mission Station at Chipembi, Zambia and with Emmanuel United Church for the purpose of aiding in the spiritual and educational development of children and young people. This year, Rev. Lorrie Lowes and Neil Lowes traveled safely to Munenga Zambia to set up and undertake preparations of the final agreement which will be formalized in early 2021.

SOSA Social Action Ministry

SOSA provides support, financial and otherwise, to various outreach and service ministries including FAMSAC, Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC), Refuge NOW, Interfaith Bridge Building (IFBB), Mission and Service (M&S), Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI).

These are excellent initiatives lead by dedicated people. However, attempts toward poverty reduction have been on-going for many years, and poverty continues to remain a big problem. And although charity works should and must continue, additional strategies are required to help in identifying and addressing the root cause of poverty. SOSA thinks it is wise to explore different approaches to finding long-term solutions and establishing specific goals.

In 2020, SOSA initiated opportunities for BCUC congregants to learn more about social actions which hopefully will lead to new and improved government social policies and services. For several years some BCUC members have been involved in promoting a Basic Income Guarantee which has shown a high probability of finally bringing about the elimination of deep poverty in Canada. Using the “in-house” knowledge and experience of BCUC, SOSA planned for learning events regarding Basic Income at BCUC and also at St Basil’s RC Parish. Although the shutdown in March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, caused cancellation of planned “in-person” events, a “Zoom” event took place in July with the video and references later posted at “<https://www.bcuc.org/news/2020/7/12/basic-income-for-social-justice-resources-from-sosa-event>”. The discussion and the comments received indicate that this kind of social action is worthwhile for BCUC.

Any upcoming government action to alleviate poverty and decrease income spread will continue to be followed in the coming year.

The SOSA Resource/Contact is Clarke Topp

2020 SOSA Budget & Donations

<i>Item</i>	<i>Budget 2020</i>	<i>Flo-thru & Appeals 2020</i>
UCC M&S	\$39,000	\$4,370
FAMSAC	\$5,000	\$5,785
MHI	\$3,100	\$6,088
OWECC	\$8,500	\$100
Refuge NOW	\$5,100	\$500
Soc Action	\$300	
Misc	\$100	
Totals	\$61,100	\$16,843

Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team

At BCUC, we are blessed to have a Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team of dedicated volunteers who work in partnership with our ministers, Rev. Kim Vidal and Rev. Lorrie Lowes. In 2020, the following members volunteered their time and talents to support Pastoral and Spiritual Care: Ronalie Abbey, Barbara Bole, Lynn Letcher, Suzanne Ogden, Lola Ryan, Beth Sharp, Lyn Williams and Susan Young. We owe our gratitude to many other volunteers, including members of the Men's Club and the UCW, who have generously assisted the Team by telephoning friends and sending cards, notes and emails.

Visiting

From January until mid-March, the ministers and volunteer members of the Team continued to visit people at home, in retirement homes, long-term care facilities and hospitals. Sadly, it has not been possible for us to visit in person since pandemic restrictions came into effect. During this time, we have been connecting with members and adherents through phone calls and emails.

Worship in Retirement Homes

From January to March, worship services were offered by the ministers at the following retirement homes: Stillwater Creek, Bridlewood Trails, Harmer House and Lynwood Park Lodge. A written text of the Sunday service and announcements is sent to these homes each week.

Celebration of Life Services and Memorial Services

Celebration of life and memorial services were offered during the pandemic time, in the church and at off-site locations as well as through funeral homes. Ministers and members attended the annual joint memorial service at the Bells Corners Union Cemetery.

Prayers

Since March, use of the prayer box in the hall has been suspended. Instead, prayer requests have been received by the office staff and ministers. As usual, prayers have been lifted during Sunday worship services. At in-person services this fall, congregants were invited to request prayers and pray together according to the requests. Every Wednesday evening, members of the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team have offered prayers during an at-home prayer circle. Everyone is welcome to join in from the comfort of their own home.

Flowers

We gratefully acknowledge David Donaldson's generous donations of flowers to individuals and retirement homes. Many people were able to enjoy their beauty during the spring through fall.

Cards

We are thankful for the efforts of Ronalie Abbey, Judy Mann and Pat Stoate who have sent out many cards this year to express empathetic thoughts, sympathies, well-wishes and congratulations on behalf of the congregation.

Events

A Death Café, originally planned for May, and our annual fall learning event have been postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Dec. 16, an online Blue Christmas Service of Healing and Renewal was offered by Rev. Kim, Rev. Lorrie and music director, Abe. The audio format was complemented by a written text posted on the BCUC website.

We are a Caring Community

The Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team encourages everyone to contact the church office, one of the ministers or any member of the Team when there is a need for Pastoral Care. Your request will be treated confidentially and promptly relayed to the appropriate person for follow up. Thank you to everyone who helps make BCUC such a caring and supportive community.

Susan Young, Pastoral and Spiritual Care Coordinator

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC)

EOORC stands for Eastern Ontario, Outaouais Regional Council, our region, one among sixteen in the United Church of Canada. Our region consists of 133 pastoral charges and more than 200 communities of faith. It stretches north of the Ottawa Valley and south to the St. Lawrence River, east to Hawkesbury and across the Outaouais River to Chelsea in Quebec. The president of the region is Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro and Rosemary Lambie is the Executive Minister.

The year 2020 began “normally” with a General Meeting held in Glen Cairn U.C. on February 22. All were looking forward to the large Annual General Meeting planned for May 2020 at the Nav Can Centre in Cornwall. Unfortunately, the arrival of COVID-19 necessitated the postponement of this meeting. With no indication of when we might be able to hold an in-person meeting for a group of our size, the decision was made to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting October 16-17, 2020 via Zoom.

The 2020 Celebration of Ministry took place on October 2, 2020 at Rideau Park United Church in Ottawa. The pandemic made it necessary to reduce the number of people who could attend in person. The service was livestreamed and many people signed on to watch the proceedings. Lorrie Lowes was commissioned to the Diaconal Ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care, and Éric Hébert-Daly was ordained into the United Church of Canada, to the Ministry of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care.

I invite you to visit the EOORC web site to take a look at what is happening in our region and also to see photos of Lorrie's commissioning. In the "About Us" tab, under "Governance" you will find meeting minutes and decisions and also the 2020 EOORC Report Book which gives an account of all the work of the region in 2020.

WEB SITE: <https://eoorc.ca/>

REPORT BOOK: <https://eoorc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-EOORC-Report-Book.pdf>

Submitted by Nicole Beaudry
and on behalf of Desna Sulway

Property Management Committee

Due to the pandemic, 2020 was a very unusual year for the Property Management Committee. With the exception of the nursery school, all rental activities ceased in April and only two of our regular users were allowed to return for a few weeks in the fall. As of the end of the year, all activities other than the Nursery School are shut down.

In an effort to reduce costs, the cleaning contract was cancelled and the tasks have been done by the nursery school and volunteers from the congregation. Savings from our utility bills have also been achieved because of the reduced occupancy.

Property Management worked closely with the Board's pandemic reopening committee to establish and implement policies to allow limited operations to continue in accordance with federal, provincial and city requirements.

The main accomplishment in 2020 was the replacement of the gym floor. After frequently regluing parquet tiles for many years, the problem became acute and we decided we had to proceed with replacement. A commercial grade vinyl was chosen and we have every reason to believe that the new floor should last for many years.

In conjunction with the Lectionary Group, we completed the upgrades to the Shalom Room. A wall unit was installed, the ceiling tiles were replaced and the lighting was upgraded.

A problem arose with the Reznor furnace that heats the CE Wing which was discovered during the annual inspection. Although it is only four years old, a crack was found that resulted in the furnace being red tagged for repairs. There was no immediate health or safety hazard but we were given about six weeks to get it fixed. As of the end of 2020, we have not been able to get it fixed so the gas supply to this furnace was cut off. We have been able to keep the area reasonably warm with the existing baseboard electric heaters and fans, but due to the cost, this is not a long term solution. We continue to investigate our options.

The internal and external labyrinths were in bad shape. Property Management prepared the areas so that they could be repainted by members of the congregation.

Ross Brown, Neville Reed, Co-chairs

Communications

The Communications Committee facilitates how BCUC makes its presence and programs known.

During this exceptional pandemic year, the Weekly BCUC Happenings email messages, BCUC website, and Facebook page have become very important methods of communication both within our Church community and outside our church family. Staff have been diligent and competent in keeping everyone informed in these ways. Our thanks also to Connie Davidson for her professional skills with the website, and Hazel Smith's work with Facebook.

Adding the ability to give money to the church through e-transfer has been a welcome process this year, and timely with the current pandemic closures. Communications Committee also covers the expense of office supplies for staff.

Olly Chuchryk, Contact

Men's Club

BCUC Men's Club was organized to provide an opportunity for men to gather for coffee and conversation with the occasional lunch or dinner and speaker. This has been the pattern for many years. All this was organized through an Executive of people who managed the various functions of planning, executing and ensuring things ran smoothly....

In January, the Club enjoyed a Lasagna dinner with about 25 in attendance.

The Friday morning Coffee drew an average of 15 to 20 men for discussion and a friendly get-together over coffee, Tim bits, and more recently, cookies from Ruth Howes. Following the start of the Pandemic, face to face meetings ended, and slowly other methods were used, such as ZOOM. The Men's Club holds a ZOOM meeting every Friday morning at 10:00 am with an average of 10 - 12 men joining.

Financially, the club made a donation of \$1000 to the General Fund for COVID relief, leaving a balance of ~\$600. Until further notice, Club activities are restricted to Friday morning ZOOM meetings to stay in touch. Join us!. Download the ZOOM App from Google Play or another Zoom source. Use this link:

<https://algonquincollege.zoom.us/j/7852899427?pwd=clhsWjZtRUoxanRaS21SVXZhNVd2QT09>

We look forward to seeing you!

David Stafford, President

Two Men & A Stove

Two Men & A Stove consists of Neil Lowes and David Stafford, who, with friends and local resources, put on congregation meals and events in support of the General Fund and Committee activities.

2020 was a bit of a bust. We held a Pancake Supper in support of Multi-faith Housing Veterans House before the Pandemic hit. Two summer hot dog & burger Saturday events helped save the morale of those who attended. Both were held during David's flower sales. Now we wait until the Pandemic allows us to hold large gatherings again.

Neil Lowes & David Stafford

Membership

2020 Statistics	Marriages
Baptisms – 0 Marriages – 2 Funerals/Memorial Services – 10 Membership Transfers In – 1 Membership Transfers Out – 0 Adult Confirmation - 0	Kristie Mastin & Jonathan Ritchie – October 2020 Christy Trew & Matthew Hauraney – November 2020

Funerals/Memorial Services in 2020 BCUC Members	Funerals/Memorial Services 2020 – BCUC Adherents		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy Durst • Gail Mutton • Arthur Buss • Doris Stephenson • Bev Cromb • Bill Cromb • Connie Londong <p>Deaths of BCUC Congregants Frank Mosienko Keith Mills Reta Stinson Don Nesbitt Doreen Pope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Reid <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Coombs (March 9, 2020) • Annette Ayliffe Grimsdale (Nov.12,2020) • Maurice Prevost (Nov. 13, 2020) </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Coombs (March 9, 2020) • Annette Ayliffe Grimsdale (Nov.12,2020) • Maurice Prevost (Nov. 13, 2020)
BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Coombs (March 9, 2020) • Annette Ayliffe Grimsdale (Nov.12,2020) • Maurice Prevost (Nov. 13, 2020) 			

Memorial Gift Donations

Nancy & Cliff Clarke James Coombs Allan Reid Catherine Anaka Ian Webster Dana Watson Connie Londong Frank Mosienko Guida Thwaites Cathy Durst	Arthur Buss Richard Tingley Jim & Doris Stephenson Eric Fox Phil Butler Fred Topp Reta Stinson Keith Mills Shirley Maynes Jean Burgess Doreen Pope
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*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.
 Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14.27*

Board of Trustees

TRUSTEES: Jan Pound, Denis Watson, Ross Mutton, Ruth Howes, Vernon Sulway

BOARD OF TRUSTEES holds BCUC property in trust for the United Church of Canada. (UCC)

During 2020 the Trustees:

- (a) Provided oversight to the Memorial Endowment Fund,
- (b) Monitored investment performance of the Fiera Capital Funds we hold,
- (c) Consulted with our insurance broker, as required, and reviewed the various provisions of our insurance coverage,
- (d) Negotiated annual insurance, currently with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company,
- (e) Confirmed insurance for the Union Cemetery, (provided by Christ Church Anglican),
- (f) Mitigated risk through the ongoing application of the BCUC Risk Management Plan, and the Covenant of Care form,
- (g) Updated the inventory of BCUC property for insurance purposes,
- (h) Submitted a Budget to the BCUC Board,
- (i) Lost a member of the Board to death, Bev Cromb, and recruited a new member, Keith Bailey.

Resources needed in 2021:

Liability and Abuse Insurance for renewal of Policy November 29, 2021 of approximately \$13,000 + Ontario Sales Tax

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Purpose: The Ministry and Personnel Committee functions around three roles: the consultative and supportive role; the healthy relationship role; and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for the staff and the congregation with respect to any issue affecting staff of Bells Corners United Church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between the staff and the members and adherents of the congregation.

Members of the Committee during periods of 2020 were Lyn Hall (Chair), Rick Morrison, Jennifer Leeder, Dave Jones, and David Stafford (Interim Chair). Johanna Burrows joined in September. The Committee started the year with a complement of five members. However, resignations between January and mid-March reduced membership to three, one of who became unreachable. David Stafford undertook the role of Interim Chair for the remainder of the Year.

The Committee applied to the Federal Government and received a Summer Student Grant. Lyn Hall and Jennifer Leeder interviewed candidates and chose Victoria Ogden, who began work on June 22. A number of projects were planned but due to the COVID situation, Victoria's role quickly changed to virtual encouragement with children and youth and close contact with Admin Staff to cover the office during the summer recess hours. As well, Victoria did an excellent job of taking a role on the Church Reopening Committee, in researching and preparing safety measures, and writing the final reports and policies to govern the church during the first reopening phase.

Of the projects planned, due to the COVID situation most were undertaken by volunteers. Many thanks to the team of Sue Morrison, Arcadie Gagné, Christina Fowler and sons, and Neil Lowes for cleaning and

staining the outdoor Labyrinth; to Sue Morrison, Arcadie Gagné and David Stafford for repainting the Main Hall Labyrinth; Ellen and Ruth for undertaking to sort and prepare old minutes for Archiving, and preparing unneeded documents, financial statements, and sundry papers for shedding; and to Ruth Timms for updating the Inventory of church assets.

In March, the Rev. Lorrie Lowes graduated from the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg, Manitoba with a Diploma in Diaconal Ministries, whereupon the Congregation applied to the Region to have Lorrie Lowes Called to BCUC as part of the Commissioning process. Due to COVID, the graduation ceremony was virtual, and the Commissioning was delayed until October. Nevertheless, Lorrie has been a fully-fledged Diaconal Minister since March 2020 and she is ours!

During the COVID emergency, BCUC undertook to implement the UCC rules and regulations to maintain the salaries of all staff, even when not actually working. Due to mitigating efforts of the United Church of Canada and ADP, the UCC payroll agency, BCUC saved approximately \$8400 through the Canada Emergency Programs. In addition, Rev. Kim was on sick leave for two months and Restorative Care reimbursements of \$7311, as well as no expenses for travel and Continuing Education realized a total savings of ~\$16,000 during 2020.

The worship team consisted of our two clergy ministers, Rev. Kim and Rev. Lorrie, our Music Director Abe, and our two Administrators, Ellen and Ruth, as well as BCUC members on the Worship/CE Committee, the Lectionary Team, and a group of volunteers who served as Ushers.

All the staff worked well during the Pandemic and its varying levels of restrictions. Our ministers work closely to coordinate virtual worship services, create PowerPoints, and share in the preaching duties. During the sick leave of Rev. Kim, Rev. Lorry covered worship coordination and preaching. Under the guidance of the BCUC Board, the Reopening Committee and the government regulations, the church was reopened during the summer to restricted numbers for Sunday worship, and to some small activity groups. In September the Nursery School reopened.

Abe te Grotenhuis, our wonderful Music Director and organist/pianist demonstrated his true calling as a music technician, organising virtual Sunday worship through YouTube, pulling together the various components into a seamless visual extravaganza for every Sunday morning. In the pre-Christmas weeks, he organized the Sanctuary Choir to sing and record suitable music, each person safely distanced, with their own microphone. He continues to organize an array of singers, mixing voices and instruments to achieve the BCUC “sound”!

Additionally, worship services were made available in print form through the web site and audio form through the telephone service for those unable to access the virtual worship services.

Our Rev. Kim has coordinated the overall seasons of worship, coordinated Pastoral Care with Members and adherents through phone calls and emails, and the weekly simultaneous virtual Prayer Circle, and maintained contact with the local Retirement homes. Rev. Kim and Rev Lorrie have officiated at Celebrations of Life services and rendered care and support to the bereaved.

In summation, despite the shadow of the Pandemic and personal concerns, the isolation and changing restrictions, personal and public situations, all staff have faithfully served our congregation well and in a good way during the past year.

David Stafford
Interim Chair

Finance

The Financial Management Committee (FMC) is responsible for the management of the Church's finances on behalf of the Church Board in accordance with the overall objectives of the Congregation.

Managing the ongoing financial responsibilities in 2020 included the following activities with the need to adapt to the changes required by the COVID 19 pandemic:

- managing the annual financial planning cycle by preparing an annual general budget including operating, directed and capital funds for approval by the Board and the Congregation;
- managing banking and bookkeeping services to meet church financial requirements including adding a new e-transfer service and use of Canada Helps as a way to donate to BCUC during the pandemic;
- tracking, recording and safeguarding the financial transactions (income and expenses) throughout the year for the operating, directed and capital funds;
- organizing and presenting regular reports to the Church Board;
- issuing tax receipts for eligible donations; initiating the annual financial audit; preparing the annual charity tax return, oversight of invested funds and coordinating with stewardship campaigns.

Tracking and recording the multitude of BCUC financial transactions involves many volunteers backed up by a professional bookkeeper (Carolyn Whitley) who keeps a computerized record in the Sage 50 system that is vital to an effective year-end audit review. The volunteers include the Sunday tellers (organized by office staff); the event treasurers (example Pierre Dugas), the Directed Fund Coordinator (Bob Boynton), the envelope secretary (Griz Morrison) who keeps track of all donations for tax receipt purposes using Church Watch, the PAR Coordinator (Ross Mutton), the Securities Coordinator (Brian Durno), the Gift Certificate Program Coordinators (office staff) and member at large (Bill McGee).

The overall 2020 financial results for BCUC remained strong despite this being the year of COVID-19. This table gives a brief summary of the actual revenues and expenses by major fund categories compared to the budget plan for 2020:

(Unaudited as of Jan 22)	<u>Summary Actual 2020</u>		<u>Budget Plan 2020</u>	
	<u>Revenues (est)</u>	<u>Expenses (est)</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Operating Fund (*) (**)	\$ 399,593	\$ 386,658	\$ 441,000	\$ 441,670
Committee Directed Funds (#)	\$ 46,144	\$ 32,749	n/a	n/a
Capital Directed Funds (#)	\$ 249	\$ 1,906	n/a	n/a

(*) Operating expenses include \$39,000 for M&S and \$14,948 for EOOD (replaces Presbytery).

(#) For details of Directed Funds, see report "Status of Directed Funds as of 2020/12/31".

The BCUC Fund raising events (including the Outdoor Market, Ruth Howes turkey pie sales and the Gift Certificate Program) brought in a total of \$10,447 including \$1,917 by the certificate program.

Rental income and fees amounted to \$26,335 from all sources and \$5,691 came from other sources.

The securities held for the Operating Fund were valued at \$40,261 on Dec 31, 2020. The dividends earned go toward the Moodie Scholarship (\$200) and the Building Mtc & Repair Fund (\$1,847).

The Auditors Report for the year ending December 31, 2020 and the 2021 budget documents will be released to the Congregation one week prior to the AGM.

I thank the volunteer members of the FMC who contributed their time and effort to the committee in 2020, and the members of the Congregation for continuing their strong financial support of BCUC.

Bill Johnson, Chair Financial Management

Fundraising in 2020

So many of the Church fun and fundraising events that happen each year could not happen in 2020, so it seems appropriate to report on the things that did happen and ways that fellowship and funds were able to be raised safely.

Early in the year when we could still meet on site the Celebration Hymn-Sing was held. Then there were several months of nothing being able to happen until spring when David Donaldson graciously prepared bouquets of flowers for people to 'drive by' and purchase on a Saturday morning. Funds raised went to support online service music resources.

One Saturday a BBQ lunch was offered, safely, for pre-registered folks to come and enjoy, courtesy of Two Men and a Stove. Another Saturday Neil Lowes offered a BBQ snack lunch.

Bob Ferguson worked diligently to have *Book of Memories Two* published for distribution electronically and in print. More than 60 copies have been sold to date and much pleasure derived from reading the variety of stories.

In mid-October the Boyntons coordinated a Saturday Outdoor Market with five separated sales areas and all the necessary rules in place for a safe gathering of shoppers. Sales areas included Deli, Gift Baskets, Crafts, Books and Baking. It all worked out well. People so enjoyed seeing one another and about \$5,000 was raised to help with the church Operating Fund. As part of the market and throughout November/December Ruth Howes made turkey pies for sale. By year end she had single handedly made about 900 pies, earning more than \$3,000 for the church.

And lastly, Ross Mutton spearheaded an Advent Memorial Flower fundraiser to honour those we wished to remember, a most welcome seasonal activity. Beautiful poinsettias were on display in the Sanctuary over the Advent/Christmas season.

UCW (United Church Women)

The UCW calendar was vastly different this past year.

The beginning of the year was normal. January, we made turkey pies to sell to the congregation (usually about 700+). Orders were taken Sundays before the three days of pie making. Pies were picked up on the day they were made as they are not frozen. January/February is also kitchen clean-up when inventory is taken, and items replaced. February all the units meet and have a guest speaker.

March brought the COVID 19 virus and shut everything down.

In October, restrictions eased with limited contact and we were able to contribute to the Outdoor Market. Gift baskets were made in memory of Cathy Durst. Jams jellies, pies and 200 turkey pies (Ruth Howes) were made for the Deli Stall, mainly by Unit 2.

Each of the four units has their own activity to raise money at their December meeting and the recipient of these monies is a unit group decision which has nothing to do with UCW as a whole. This year their donation decision was made via email or phone.

For now, executive meetings are via email as required. UCW provides substantial funds for church needs as well as making annual donations to the United Church Mission & Service Fund and a chosen list of charities. This year, with a quick positive response, we gave \$2,000 to support the church's commitment to OWECC (the Chaplaincy). Thanks to Christine Holstead for her steady hand on the finances.

We have had no potluck dinners, no meetings, no funeral receptions for members, no kitchen duty but did provide two funeral receptions for congregation members early in the year. And we did contribute UCW stories to the 2020 Memories Book produced by Bob Ferguson.

In normal times there are two units which meet in the daytime as none of the ladies in those units work outside the home. Two units still meet in the evening, so our availability suits almost all women in the congregation. Please remember that all women in the United Church are technically members of the UCW.

Marion Dugas, UCW President

Bells Corners Union Cemetery Board

The Cemetery, founded in 1853, is a joint responsibility of Christ Church Bells Corners (Anglican) and Bells Corners United Church. It is a heritage property and a registered charitable organisation, operated by the Bells Corners Union Cemetery Board under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act 2002 of Ontario.

The board consists of Vernon Sulway (Chair), Trevor Morrison and Peggy Smyth of the United Church and Cathy Ginn (Co-Chair), Bill Irwin (Treasurer), and Colin Franklin representing the Anglican Church. The Ministers from the two churches (Kathryn Otley of the Anglican Church and Kim Vidal from the United Church) are ex-officio members of the board. Due to COVID-19 the board met only once in 2020. All other business was conducted by e-mail and phone.

Revenue in 2020 (compared to 2019) was \$5,602 (\$5,574) with expenses of \$9,943 (\$4,662). There were two interments of cremated remains.

Revenue		Expenses	
Donations	\$2,330	Grounds	\$2,900
Interment Fees	800	Hedge trim	1050
		Foundation Monument Repair	5,424
Investments	<u>2,472</u>	Administration	<u>569</u>
	<u>\$5,602</u>		<u>\$9,943</u>

The Memorial Service, was held outside in the cemetery this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The original date (Sept 13) was rained out so the service was held on Sept 20. The Venerable Kathryn Otley performed the service with about 25 people attending.

A major expense was the repair of 12 markers whose foundations were tilted. Work was completed in time for the Memorial Service. Numerous people commented on how well maintained the cemetery is. The grounds were well kept by Glen Soubliere, sub-contractor for Kare-Mor Ent. Co. Ltd. Richard Eade's help with work associated with the burials was much appreciated. Thanks to our Treasurer Bill Irwin who prepares our Annual Financial Report and reports to Revenue Canada and the Registrar of Cemeteries in Ontario.

Vernon Sulway, Catherine Ginn Email: bellscorners.unioncemetery@gmail.com

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee concentrated its activities on the annual Stewardship Campaign, which takes place in the last two weeks of January. In early December, the printed material for the campaign is reviewed for changes. Most changes occur in the Time and Talent listing, but the coloured brochure also needs an annual update. The church database CHURCHWATCH is accessed for member and adherent mailing information, and current activities. We do not use and do not have access to financial information.

Individualized mailing envelopes, return envelopes, financial pledge (blue) forms and Time and Talent (pink) forms are printed, and as well as the listing of activities on the Time and Talent form. The folks in the Church Office print the coloured brochure. Then the material is assembled for delivery by Circuit Messengers and mailing in mid-January.

This kicks off the Stewardship campaign, and, two weeks later, we host a Soup and Sandwiches event after the morning service. This involves the preparation of 25 litres of soup and 360 sandwich quarters.

The Committee, mainly Bob Boynton and Bob Noyes, also prepare for a Committee Fair to launch the Stewardship Campaign. This Fair familiarizes members and adherents with the many possibilities for personal growth and service available in the Church family. Unlike 2019, in 2020 we did not have to repeat the Fair because of weather.

The Stewardship returns are tabulated by Ron Prince and used by the Financial Management people for budgeting, and the Time and Talent forms are used to update the church database.

This year we prepared about 340 Stewardship packages, and about half will be returned. If a member or adherent does not return a package we assume that there is no change to their financial intentions or participation in church activities.

In 2021 we hope to send a large fraction of our material electronically; we had a trial run with four vacationing members in 2020. This will include all the material except a return envelope.

Committee members are Bob Boynton, Bob and Barb Noyes, Ron Prince, with help from minister Rev Kim Vidal and Bill Johnson of Financial Management, as well as the capable office administrators Ruth and Ellen.

Bill McGee

Here is a summary of the campaigns of this and some previous years, as prepared by Ron Prince.	Campaign Returns	Returns
Year	Time & Talent	Financial Pledges
2015	180	193
2016	113	267
2017	98	194
2018	105	167
2019	93	159
2020 (projected)	77	168

