

# **Bells Corners United Church 2022 Annual Report**



**Bells Corners United Church**

**REJOICE, RENEW, RESPOND, REACH OUT**

# 2022 Annual Report

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## Office Information Bells Corners United Church

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Office Administrators	Ellen Boynton Ruth Timms	<a href="mailto:office@bcuc.org">office@bcuc.org</a>	820-8103

### 2022 CHURCH BOARD

Minister	Rev. Kim Vidal
Minister	Rev. Lorrie Lowes
Chair	(Rotating)
Past Chair	Jordan Berard
Chair Elect	Mark McDonald
Secretary	Will Wightman
Ministry & Personnel	David Stafford
Financial Management	Bill McGee
Members at Large	Norm Pound Ellen Boynton Susan Young
EOORC	Nicole Beaudry Desna Sulway
Youth Consultation	Raven Miller
Young Adult Consultation	Rev. Lorrie Lowes

## 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
- **Men's Chorus:** Sunday mornings

### United Church Women (UCW)

- **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 – Desna Sulway (828-7628)/Alison Bridgewater (726-9099) 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.

**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 week 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

In the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council of the United Church of Canada held in 2021, approved for its call and vision three important tenets of our faith: *Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice*, inspired by Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 3:12: "Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness." Expanded into a vision statement, these words reflect what the church aspires to be over a five - ten year span: "***Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.***" This UCC Call and Vision is strongly recommended to communities of faith like BCUC, for engagement and discernment for their ministry. Here at BCUC, I am pleased to share with deep sincerity that we are not far beyond this call and vision. It certainly reflects who we are as God's faithful people guided by our four-word mission statement: *Rejoice, Renew, Respond, Reach Out.*

The year 2022 marked our second year of ministry in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which helped us realize that we cannot go back to where we were in the pre-pandemic years. Faced with many challenges, we moved forward positively with new hopes and new beginnings. We certainly continued carrying the life and ministry of the congregation through this time of new adaptation and ways of being a church. I am so proud of our members, adherents, volunteers, staff, supporters, friends and neighbours for their resilience and perseverance, their relentless efforts in not giving up, while making things possible for us to move on as a faith community.

So, how have we lived this Call and Vision in 2022? Allow me to highlight some points where we made extraordinary efforts to make them happen:

### Deep Spirituality

The much awaited "return" to our sanctuary for hybrid worship-in-person with livestreaming happened on Easter Sunday. Prior to that, Rev. Lorrie Lowes and I, with the technical support and assistance of our

music director, Abe TeGrotenhuis, offered an onsite weekly service with recordings uploaded on YouTube for online viewing. Our hardworking office administrators, Ruth Timms and Ellen Boynton, prepared printed materials for those in the retirement homes as well as those who attended in-person. With only 15 people from the start of the in-person worship service, the number grew to almost a hundred by the end of December. Now that we have continued worshipping in the sanctuary, we see how much work has been put into each service – from preparing the worship liturgy and slides to the technical aspects. And yes, music ministry was at its best, I would say. A full-capacity BCUC choir, directed by Abe, offered their beautiful anthems every Sunday, along with the Bell Canto and the Christian Generation Singers (CGS) led by Erin Berard. I would also like to mention the Grace Notes and the BCUC Band, who offer music in some of our worship services. The “physical and mental” preparations were much needed to prepare our congregation – spiritually and emotionally.

Several special services were also put in place in 2022, such as the Lenten services: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; The Healing Tea and Service of Hope and Renewal in Advent, and a Memorial Service in June for all those we lost in the two years of pandemic. And for the very first time, we held an outdoor Pentecost service followed by lunch which was attended by over 60 people!

The midweek Prayer Circle continued, thanks to the members of the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team who prayed simultaneously at 8 pm on Wednesdays in their homes. In addition to this spiritual exercise, I resumed offering in-person worship services at Stillwater Creek, Lynwood Park Lodge and Harmer House as of September. The team also offered visits through phone calls, emails, short personal friendly visits and by sending cards.

Our sacramental life was made evident with the baptism of Felicity Davis (June 12), and Lawrence Alfred Chuchryk Roloff (October 23). We also welcomed with excitement our new BCUC members: Rev. George and Marilyn James, Vicki Martin, Linda Miller, Rev. Camille Lipsett and Gretchen O’Brien.

Despite the joyful moments in our congregation life, we were saddened by the passing of some of our beloved members and adherents at BCUC: Lynne Barnes, Marion Routledge, Marjorie Stone, Harold Blackwell, June Paskell, Robert Goudey, Bill Dormer, Jack McLean, Jan Mitchell and Gerry Okolowsky.

### **Bold Discipleship**

Learning and growing together were important aspects of our faith-formation life. The resumption of our Sunday School program paved the way for some of our children to be in church on Sunday mornings, thanks to the able leadership of Rev. Lorrie, Erin Berard and Sue Morrison. However, the need for more teachers has been a constant challenge until now. On top of that reality, we have lost our active young people who were regulars in the UP Group. In order to revive this group, Rev. Lorrie submitted a proposal to the Board to hire a part-time Youth Leader, which was unanimously approved. As I write this report, the process is ongoing and we hope that a youth leader will be in place sooner rather than later.

In terms of adult learning groups, the weekly Lectionary Group continued to meet every Tuesday morning through Zoom and later on, in-person. I co-facilitated the discussions with Rev. Lorrie. We have gained some new members and lost a few but the discussions were rich, inspirational and meaningful, which helped Rev. Lorrie and I craft our sermons each Sunday.

I organized and facilitated two Seekers Learning Events. In Spring, we discussed Bart Ehrman’s book, *Jesus Before the Gospels*, and in late Fall, we discussed the late John Shelby Spong’s book, *Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy*. Both events were attended by 12 participants.

I don't want to miss Camp Awesome which offered a one-week summer program for children ages 4-12. Thanks to our committed coordinator, Tamara Glanville, for her hard work and the many volunteers who help her.

Part of our discipleship was the promotion of stewardship. Two campaigns were put in place – one in the winter and the other in the fall. The hard work of the Stewardship Team composed of Bill McGee, Bob Boynton, Bob & Barb Noyes, Ron Prince and Larry Ryan helped us achieve our goals, not only in terms of financial support, but also in terms of time and talent.

We gathered the community at our Spring Garage Sale in May and the Christmas Bazaar in November. These two events not only raised funds for our church but were also a wonderful way of welcoming the community in our building. The Wrap it Up Vendors Market in December, was another community gatherer that helped raise funds for the Zambia Partnership program. All of these events were successful, thanks to the many volunteers who made them happen.

On a personal level, I have successfully completed the 10-month Backstory Preaching Mentorship Program which equipped me for sermon preparation, spiritual development and Christian education. The program developed further how I interpret biblical passages that were made relevant to our modern listening and lived experience. I am grateful for support I received from BCUC towards the completion of this program.

### **Daring Justice**

BCUC promoted and dared justice in many forms. The Service, Outreach and Social Action (SOSA) Committee continued to advocate for the poor, the homeless and the marginalized by supporting the Mission and Service Fund, Refuge N.O.W, the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative, OWECC, the FAMSAC Food Bank and the Inter-Faith Bridge Building program with the Jami Omar Mosque. We also supported the Happiness Project in raising awareness around Mental Health Issues. This program involves Christ Church Anglican, St. Martin de Porres RC, BCUC and Jami Omar Mosque.

BCUC continued to advocate for the indigenous community in their fight for truth and reconciliation, the LGBTQ2S, and many racial justice initiatives. We are proud of Ellie & Clarke Topp as they indefatigably lobby and work for implementation of a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) for Canadians.

### **Rev. Lorrie's Covenanting Service**

I cannot leave 2022 without mentioning the much-awaited covenanting service of Rev. Lorrie which was held November 13 at 2:30 pm. It was well-attended with over 80 people, including the Ottawa Carleton Choristers, the BCUC Choir and the BCUC Band who provided special music. The Rev. Janet Nield, also a Diaconal Minister, was the guest preacher. Lorrie was presented for covenanting by Beth Sweetnam, who acted as the EOORC Liaison, and David Stafford, Chair of our M&P Committee. Several people presented symbols to Lorrie. I acted as the Presider in the service. A reception offered by Neil & Lorrie was held after the service with a congratulatory cake from BCUC.

### **Closing Notes:**

2022 was my 9<sup>th</sup> year as your minister. As we continue to dream dreams and work together towards our call and vision, it is my wish that we root ourselves in love, trust and commitment. I am tremendously grateful to the staff - Rev. Lorrie, Abe, Ellen, Ruth and to our summer student, Arcadie Gagne, and the

members of the Board and the different committees and the congregation for their assistance, support, friendship and prayers for me and my family.

Finally, I give thanks to God who is always with us in our joys and in our challenges. As the psalmist declares, God will journey with us in our coming and going. We surely are not alone.

The blessings of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit be with you.

Rev. Kim

## **Diaconal Minister**

What a busy year we have had as the pandemic restrictions begin to ease and the world cautiously begins to open up! It has been wonderful to see people making their way back to in-person worship. That wonderful sense of community at Bells Corners United Church is still going strong.

Writing an annual report is an interesting process. As I leafed back through my calendar for 2022, I was reminded of just how vibrant and busy this faith family has been, even in the face of COVID and all that entailed. Let me tell you about some of the things I was involved in personally...

### **Worship**

I shared worship leadership with Rev. Kim, offering parts of the service, including the “Time for the Young at Heart” most Sundays and led worship 14 times. I also was called to lead worship in two other places this year – at a United Church and a Baptist Church in the Ottawa area. I officiated five weddings and officiated or took part in several Celebrations of Life.

We were even able to celebrate communion together again – albeit in a whole new way. A self-serve process with condiment cups and gluten-free crackers certainly made this a different experience, but it was wonderful to be truly in communion with each other once more.

We were also able to take our service outdoors for Pentecost Sunday and the Sunday School picnic. I think the Bells Corners community knows we are back!

Probably the highlight for me this year was that we were finally able to celebrate my graduation from theology studies, my Commissioning as a Diaconal Minister in the UCC, and my Covenanting with you in this new relationship. It was a moving celebration and kept me smiling for weeks!

### **Christian Education**

With help from Erin Berard and Sue Morrison, I created Sunday School resources for the time we were all online and lessons for the children who have started returning on Sunday mornings. I have been teaching one class most Sundays and am grateful for the loving commitment of Sue Morrison, as well as Erin and Jordan Berard that have enabled us to continue to offer programming for our kids that is relevant to the life of BCUC and engaging for all involved.

We were able to have a wonderful Christmas Eve service, complete with a pageant and candle lighting, at last! I want to thank Cathy Dowsett and Wendy Morrell for all their work in bringing the pageant to life. Despite last minute cast changes – lots of them! – it was a meaningful and beautiful way to celebrate this special night.



Camp Awesome brought happy voices to the church again this past summer! It was my pleasure to be the staff contact and chaplain for the week.

Some other Christian Ed programs I was pleased to be part of this year were the weekly Lectionary Study and the Seekers Book Study. It is always great to work on our understanding of scripture and the life of a Christian in today's world – and even greater when you do it with people who are eager to offer new insights and to grapple with the big questions of our faith.

### **Outreach**

Outreach is an important mission of this congregation and for me personally. I am honoured to be part of this work through my involvement with SOSA and the Interfaith Bridge Building Committee locally, and with our Zambia Partnership on a global level. We have had great success this year in all of our outreach projects. We have grown our circle of friends to include ecumenical partnerships with Christ Church Bells Corners and St. Martin de Porres Roman Catholic church through the Happiness Project, and the Bridge Building Committee.

### **Congregational Work**

This year, I was able to take part in several projects to enhance our life as a faith family. As in the past, I worked as a member of our Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team who do great work in meeting the needs of our congregation through phone calls, emails, visits, and prayers.

I completed two courses of study through the organization Plan to Protect© which offers education and accreditation for abuse protection for our vulnerable members, both children and adults, for our staff, and for our volunteers. As an "Administrator/Leader" I am now working on updating BCUC's Abuse Prevention and Duty of Care policies. I am now also an approved trainer for the courses that our staff and volunteers are required to complete. These are important policies to not only comply with the requirements of our insurance providers but to ensure that we continue to be a safe, healthy, and trusted part of the community.

After three years of isolation and masking, we are finally seeing each other in person again – and some of us have changed! I am happy to tell you that we are in the final phase of producing a new Photo Directory. It was an interesting process while things were opening and closing and photo shoots were started and then shut down again – but it will soon be in your hands!

### **Other Involvement**

I have had so many wonderful experiences this year!

- I served as the Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Pakenham Pastoral Charge while they were searching for a new minister.
- As a member of DUCC (the Diaconate of the United Church of Canada) I have been involved with other Diaconal Ministers in our region and attended a national gathering in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia in October.
- I am part of a study group that uses the Jewish tradition of Midrash to unlock the wisdom of our ancient scriptures. We study together bi-weekly. I was also able to take part in a Midrash study over the Advent season with a group in Montreal at Cedar Park United Church. Oh, the opportunities technology has given us, especially the Zoom platform these past few years!

- I was able to renew my spiritual self in a retreat at the Galilee Centre under the leadership of Judith Campbell in the fall.
- I continue my involvement with the Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy (OWECC) serving on the Board and also as a part-time Chaplain in the social housing communities of west Ottawa.

It has been a busy year! And I can tell you, without hesitation, that my energy comes from the remarkable family of faith that I serve at Bells Corners United Church. I am grateful for each and every one of you and the way you enrich my life. As we head into this new year as a congregation, I wish you every blessing.

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

## Church Board

In 2022, the BCUC Board focused on helping committees and the congregation bounce back after the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to close our doors to in-person worship services, rentals, and social events for most of 2020 and 2021. As you can imagine, it has (understandably) taken a while for people to feel comfortable returning to ‘normal’ social activities, including Sunday worship, but we’ve been heartened to see a steady increase in the number of people in the church on evenings and on the weekends over the past few months! While it has certainly been spiritually-uplifting to be worshipping together again, and to see our rental levels return to normal, it has also greatly helped our finances, and this year’s financial reports reflect that.

As we celebrate a return to pre-pandemic levels of busy-ness at BCUC, we are also mindful of those who are not yet able to return to in-person activities. We celebrate with gratitude the ongoing work of our ministry team, the CE/Worship and Pastoral Care committees, and our Music Director / YouTube-tech guru, Abe TeGrotenhuis, for finding innovative ways to keep our physically-distant members engaged with the congregation and life of BCUC. Many committee meetings and church activities, including our Board meetings, continue to be held in a virtual or hybrid (both virtual and in-person) modality so that they remain as accessible as possible to those who feel comfortable meeting in-person and to those who would rather just meet from the comfort and safety of their homes. Because it allows for greater participation from everyone, regardless of their ability or willingness to travel to the church for worship or for meetings, this kind of accessibility is crucial to the life and work of our congregation moving forward, and the Board will continue to promote and find ways of enriching it.

In December, various members of the Board, Trustees, and our ministry team took part in “Plan to Protect” training. This training discusses vulnerable sector abuse prevention and protection, and is part of our commitment to protecting children, youth, and vulnerable adults at BCUC. Our Diaconal Minister, Rev. Lorrie Lowes, has been certified to offer the “Plan to Protect” training program to other groups and we expect to be able to offer multiple training sessions for committee members and volunteers throughout 2023.

Huge thanks go to Bill McGee and Ross Mutton for their cooperation and leadership as Chair of the Financial Management Committee and Treasurer, respectively, this year. Together, they have very capably filled the shoes of Bill Johnson, who devoted decades of service to the congregation in these roles.

As continues to be evident during the most difficult of times, 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. Please accept our sincere thanks to you all for another excellent year!

Since the Board was without a Chair this past year, and while Chair-elect Mark McDonald learned more about Board function, members shared the duty of chairing meetings month by month. It worked well. We look forward to supporting Mark as Chair in 2023.

Our 2023 AGM will focus on plans for a “normal” year, while also understanding the need to continue to be flexible. Our financial statements continue to demonstrate the tremendous generosity of the congregation, and necessary levels of flexibility by committees as we continue to recover from 2020-2022.

We’ve finally returned to pre-pandemic activity levels, and our 2023 Activity Plans demonstrate our congregation has the generosity, flexibility, spirit, and sense of community required to tackle any challenges that are thrown our way!

Jordan Berard  
On behalf of the BCUC Board

## **Worship/Christian Education Committee**

Although the year began with lockdown it got better. By mid-February worship onsite was allowed with attendance restrictions, masking, distanced seating, which was gradually relaxed as the months went by. Masking was always recommended but not required. Sue Morrison headed the Worship Commission which reported public health requirements month by month to the Church Board. By September the nearly two year long Commission was dissolved. A debt of gratitude for helping keep our congregation safe is owed to Sue!

Offering plates continued to be on the narthex table and a variety of ways to give were shared by clergy during the service. Communion with small cups and a cracker, to be picked up as people entered the Sanctuary, was also used for safety.

Choir met socially by Zoom early in the year but onsite practice began by spring with members seated in the Sanctuary distanced and singing masks provided. For anthems choir would go forward from front pews and sing distanced across the chancel. Gradually they began to sit in the loft and by November gowns were being worn and all sat together in the loft.

Gradually worship events were returned. Hymn Sing fundraiser for the Pentecost Welcome Back Sunday School service/picnic in early June was offered beginning on March 6. By using Open Source Software, livestreaming of services began by Easter with services uploaded to YouTube for later viewing. A weekly link was e-mailed to the congregation group e-mail list. Telephone recordings of services on the church second line were provided for those without computers. Later announcements were recorded and added. By year end this was dropped since it was not being used. Average weekly views of livestream services are about 20. Refining livestream continued through the year. People to run the slides and the camera up in the balcony are needed week by week. Various youth and others helped over the year but the main responsibility for setting up and recording has fallen to Abe who has so capably shared his AV talents.

There were special services through the year. On Sunday afternoon June 12 a Memorial Service to honour those who died over the time of pandemic was held with UCW providing light refreshments to follow. At least 37 people were recognized and family members were invited to attend the service which was gratefully received.

Sunday May 1 David Donaldson was specially honoured during the service for all his dedication to Worship and Christian Education over these many years.

On November 6 a Covenanting Service to welcome Rev. Lorrie Lowes was finally held. The Ottawa Carleton Choristers (of which Lorrie had been a member), the BCUC Choir and the Band supplied music and seven presenters provided specific meaningful gifts to her during the service.

On Sunday June 5 Pentecost was celebrated with the service out on the labyrinth, Abe playing the piano just inside the doors in the Entryway, lots of balloons, singing, things to do together to mark the return to Sunday School with a family picnic BBQ after the service. The sun shone and it was a celebratory day!

Advent Carol-singing for 15 minutes before the service with Sandra Dean on piano and Brian Lipsett as MC was revived this year and well received. And services on Christmas Eve with a pageant called Cosmic Christmas led by Wendy Morrell and Cathy Dowsett, Christmas morning and New Year's Day were held. Clergy had a Sunday off January 1 and the service was led by lay worship leader, Jessica Knoyle. Abe provided music and tech support for all services.

The Sunday service is added to the website homepage each week, as well as announcements. The following Monday the sermon is added. Efforts to update the web calendar are being made now that events are happening again.

The church gratefully received a donation of Susan TeGrotenhuis' conga drums and stand as well as a 50" plasma TV and 100W Polk speaker from the Meyers family for use in the Sanctuary. Efforts continue to acquire new white antependia as a memorial to Anne Walker's mother.

Abe worked through the year to put services from 2015 forward on a Google Drive to extract anthems and hymns. With music available to the world it became fascinating to track views of hymns and anthems and to receive requests for permission to use our music elsewhere in Canada and even a request from the UK! Tracking views led to being advised that Erin and Noah's 'It Only Takes a Spark' had received more than 12,000 views!

No choir concert was offered in December but 'new to us' anthems borrowed from Wall St. United in Brockville provided lots of resources for the choir to sing, often twice, in Sunday services. There was much joy in returning to choral singing and in welcoming new members. Sadly Grace Notes was not able to return in sufficient numbers to keep going. After gathering several times in the early fall, by November it was agreed that the group would go on hiatus. Abe has been holding 'Band' practices on Saturdays in recent months. Their music is welcomed at services from time to time.

Erin worked with the children's choirs over the internet and was able to keep a core group going all year. She welcomed some new members to CGS in the fall when practice resumed at the church and has the children singing in the service on a regular basis.

The Committee met monthly over Zoom throughout the year. A decision was made to increase fees for clergy and the organist for funerals. Lectionary weekly gatherings met over Zoom with onsite starting in

September. New members were welcomed at a fall service. Stewardship Campaign was moved to fall for better integration with budget planning for the new year.

Kim returned to services at three local retirement residences in the fall. Sunday service and announcement printouts are provided to BCUC members who are residents of Stillwater Creek Retirement Home.

Christian Education was challenging for the year as we tried to resume the activities, especially with children, when there had been such a gap. Family packages for Lent and Advent were copied and distributed to congregation members with children. Camp Awesome was offered July 11-15 with Tamara's capable guidance. Offsite registration meant that she had less direct contact with families over the rest of the year. Camp Awesome was only offered at limited churches, but even with that there was not the attendance of former years.

Children's time was restarted once some children began to attend Sunday worship. Sunday school for the children resumed on a weekly basis in the fall, initially with a one-room schoolhouse format, and by year-end with the children divided into two groups by age. The clergy person not in charge of the service became the second teacher to support Sue Morrison who has continued to be a loyal teacher. Efforts to recruit teachers have been frustrating with very little interest in helping out. Youth leadership has also been lacking, so an initiative to hire a Youth Program Director for up to five hours per week has been initiated. Keeping our Youth involved is critical.

The well attended Seekers Group convened for five weeks in the fall studying John Shelby Spong's book, "Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy".

Lorrie took training for 'Plan to Protect' so that vulnerable groups could be safely led. This training is an insurance requirement as well. Lorrie also facilitated the long awaited production of a Photo Directory by getting photos taken in late fall.

Once required funds for the main building at Chipembi were raised, further fundraising to support Camp Chipembi next summer and a Vendor's Market in mid December to support fundraising to enable young people to travel to Zambia to help with the camp could be done.

By year end there was a feeling that some degree of normalcy had returned and that 2023 would be a better year. Many thanks go to our capable and adaptable clergy team, as well as Abe, our amazing music director.

Ellen Boynton,  
Secretary

## Music Director

### Bells Corners United Music - 2022

**Our YouTube Channel has been active nearly three years** (since Apr 1 2020)

We started live service broadcasting on Palm Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Our most viewed hymn video is “It Only Takes a Spark”, sung by the Berards.



It has rocketed to over 15,000 views, a gain of 10,000 from last year!!

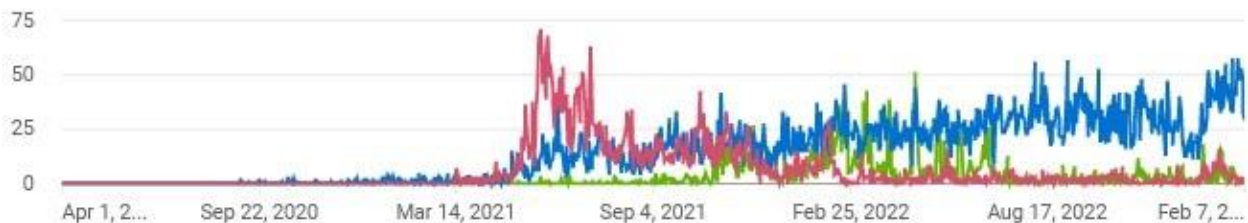
Last year’s leader, “Lord of Sea and Sky”, slowed to a crawl after passing


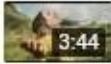





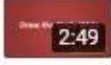

6,000 and “Make Me a Channel” is still in 3rd at 3,100. Total channel views

nearly doubled to 71,000 from 38,000 last year and the number of

subscribers has risen to 274 from 190.

### TOP YouTube VIDEOS over channel lifetime as of Feb 7, 2023:



Content	Views ↓	Watch time (hours)	Subscribers ▲
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Total</b>	<b>70,998</b>	<b>5,962.1</b>	<b>274</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  2:23 BCUC: It Only Takes a S...	15,153 21.3%	320.1 5.4%	52 19.0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  3:44 BCUC: I the Lord of Sea ...	6,211 8.8%	127.1 2.1%	30 11.0%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  2:41 BCUC: Make Me a Chan...	3,163 4.5%	68.5 1.2%	12 4.4%
<input type="checkbox"/>  3:23 BCUC: Jesus Tempted i...	1,675 2.4%	37.5 0.6%	3 1.1%
<input type="checkbox"/>  2:05 BCUC: In the Bulb There...	1,649 2.3%	30.7 0.5%	0 0.0%
<input type="checkbox"/>  1:36 BCUC: May the God of ...	1,647 2.3%	27.3 0.5%	5 1.8%
<input type="checkbox"/>  3:05 BCUC: We Shall Go Out ...	1,533 2.2%	43.8 0.7%	4 1.5%
<input type="checkbox"/>  2:49 BCUC: Come Let Us Sin...	1,518 2.1%	31.7 0.5%	2 0.7%
<input type="checkbox"/>  2:49 BCUC: Draw the Circle ...	1,475 2.1%	29.7 0.5%	2 0.7%
<input type="checkbox"/>  2:50 BCUC: This is God's Wo...	1,419 2.0%	31.0 0.5%	2 0.7%

\* Note that a view/click is counted by YouTube regardless if the video was watched in whole or in part. Only some of our Lent and Easter Hymn videos were added to the YouTube collection in 2022. The A/V broadcast station (using leftover laptop and free Open Broadcaster Software) was setup by the sound booth. Thanks to the young volunteers who operated this and the projection station downstairs.

In other news:

- The gradual return of full congregational singing, choirs and band this year!
- We did not, however, manage a Spring or Christmas concert.
- The Grace Notes were small in number in the fall, so the group went on hiatus in December, but not before singing at Stillwater Creek Retirement Residence remembrance service with Rev. Kim.
- Much thanks to Sandra, Erin and musical guests for returning to cover my summer vacation time

2022 was definitely a year of hope and promise. A strange sensation trying to get back on our feet again. I'm very blessed to work with this talented and dedicated ministry team. Particular thanks to Erin, for all her work around the children's music+! I'm also very grateful for an incredibly supportive Church community and M&P. Blessings to you all.

Musically submitted, Abe TeGrotenhuis, Bells Corners United Music

## Music for Children and Youth

We began the year 2022 still in pandemic mode, continuing our virtual choir rehearsals. The Christian Generation Singers (CGS) for JK-Gr.4 and the Bell Canto Singers for Gr. 5 and up rehearsed together on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:15 using Google Meet and Google Classroom applications. Each singer had a copy of More Voices, a rhythm instrument, and other music resources to support musical learning at a distance. Seven dedicated singers joined in regularly, and most recorded their voices individually at their own homes, uploading these recordings to be mixed together for choir anthems or hymns for the online worship service. Our anthems presented in the service video sometimes featured artwork by young people of the congregation, photos of the choristers, or other animated slideshow images. At the 2022 Pentecost Worship Service and Picnic, we were excited to be able to sing live as a group outdoors, to eat and play games together, and to see how much everyone had grown!!

After a break for the summer, it was wonderful to be able to gather in-person again in the Fall of 2022! The CGS gathered from 6-6:45pm on Thursdays, and the Bell Canto joined them for the last 15 minutes to rehearse children's hymns and combined anthems. The Bell Canto continued on until 7:15pm each Thursday. With very high pediatric respiratory illness rates in the Fall, masking was strongly encouraged at rehearsals. Four new choristers joined our CGS group, including three youngsters from outside of our church family, and several former CGS 'graduated' into the Bell Canto Singers. From October-December, the choirs performed nearly every week, sometimes with the groups alternating and other times performing as a combined group, particularly at All-Ages services. While we did wear costumes, we did not revive our Halloween feast this year. There was no Christmas Concert in 2022.

I am thankful for the dedicated young people that make up our choirs, faithfully coming rehearsals and to worship services when they are scheduled to sing. Many thanks, too, to those who provide financial donations and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Berard

## The BCUC Choir

The year began as the previous year, but gradually things opened up and we were able to gather to prepare music for Easter. We rehearsed only in the Sanctuary with purchased specially made singing masks which, as the year went on, became our choice whether to wear or not. By mid-April we sat in front pews for Sunday services, then went forward to sing distanced across the chancel. Gradually over the months we moved to all sitting in the choir loft to create a much better sound and by year end no one had fallen ill as a result of sitting together.

Music borrowed from Wall Street United in Brockville provided a new set of anthems to prepare and present, often two for each Sunday service.

We also provided special anthem support for Lorrie's November Covenanting service, the Memorial Service in June and Christmas services. Unfortunately we did not have a December concert, but will look forward to a more normal year in 2023.

Our choir numbers grew by fall 2022 which was a matter of great celebration. We welcomed Vicki Martin and Linda Miller to the soprano section, Jeremy Gollain to bass, Sally Lujetic to Alto and the promise of husband Victor in the new year when he became available. Ruth Mackenzie had to move to Montreal so we said a sad farewell to her in November.

We are so grateful to Abe for his musical talent and the inspirational music he brings to us week by week. With two baby grand pianos 'nestled' in the Sanctuary we never know which one we will find him at to direct our anthems on a Sunday morning. We are also grateful to Sandra Dean who provides musical support at other times, sometimes on the organ, sometimes together with Abe for a real musical treat! Erin shares her flute talent and Leslie Wade her violin when possible for even more special musical offerings. Thanks to all our talented musicians!

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 BCUC and the wider 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 2021 include:

### ***Family Services Association Bells Corners Food Bank (FAMSAC)***

During the past year, FAMSAC Food Cupboard continued to respond to the emergency food needs of our community, welcoming a return to more normal operations and preparing for a major transition in 2023 with a move to a new location and formal collaboration with the Ottawa Food Bank (the transition to a new way of operating and the relationship is expected to formally begin in early 2023).

The rising cost of living caused many challenges within our community, leading to a spike in demand for emergency food support. In 2022, we provided 1,588 emergency food orders to 411 different households, 144 of which were first-time clients. This represented an incredible 27.3% increase over last year's record high of 1,247 orders. Registrations for our Christmas program also increased by 16.1% to 303 from last year's record high of 261. Not only do these totals represent the highest number of clients ever served, a phenomenon that seems to repeat each year, but they mark the sharpest increase in year-over-year demand ever.

The sharp increase in food prices over the past year brought about a marked decrease in the quantity of non-perishable items donated in local grocery stores, particularly during the summer months. This meant having to purchase a far greater number of non-perishables than would typically be the case, with both additional costs and volunteer effort.

As many pandemic restrictions were lifted, in the late spring, FAMSAC returned to allowing clients to select their own items from the storefront. While FAMSAC had hoped to move into its new permanent home at Hollyer House in the fall, construction delays have pushed that date back to sometime in 2023. Since it was not possible to extend FAMSAC's lease in Village Mews Plaza beyond January 31, 2023, a move to swing space in the Nepean Creative Arts Centre is planned for that date. The fundraising

campaign continues in partnership with the Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre, Christ Church Bells Corners and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and has already reached about \$1 million its \$1.6 million goal.

While more limited than in a typical year, several churches and schools held food drives to help replenish our shelves during this busy time of year. The OC Transpo food drive at the beginning of December once again brought in a large number of donations, along with bins in all local grocery stores. Our total assets at year-end totaled approximately \$195,000. While a portion of the costs related to the fit-up of our new space were paid this year, the bulk of the balance will come in 2023.

A difficult year and many challenges were met by the dedication of our volunteers and the generous support of many churches, schools, businesses, groups and individuals, allowing FAMSAC to respond to provide essential food assistance to the many families in need within our community.

BCUC financial support to FAMSAC is through SOSA budget and private donations.  
The SOSA Resource/Contact is John MacFarlane.

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### ***Ottawa West End Community Chaplaincy***

OWECC has seen many changes during 2022. In April we sadly said goodbye to our part time chaplain Rev. Steve Zink when he was offered a full- time position with McPhail Baptist Church. Steve had been with us since OWECC rose from the ashes in 2016 and during that time he had developed a trusting relationship with the residents of the social housing neighbourhoods of west Ottawa.

In his place we welcomed two co-chaplains Rev. Lorrie Lowes and Rev. Deacon Tamara Connors. Both were very keen to start their ministry within the neighbourhoods of Pinecrest Queensway but COVID restrictions and being new to the area slowed progress. However, Rev. Lorrie is now welcomed at Morrison Gardens and Rev. Tamara is starting a spiritual discussion group at Regina Towers. Via a new email address and telephone number they are being contacted for individual and pastoral counselling.

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

Financial support: Through SOSA budget line for OWECC  
Contact person - Peggy Aitchison

### ***Nepean Ottawa West Refugee Committee (Refuge NOW )***

#### ***Eritrea Family***

The support for Mary's partner was completed in 2022 and he came and joined her and her daughter who Refuge N.O.W. sponsored in 2019. Unfortunately, this did not work out, and he moved after 2 months. Luckily, he quickly found employment, and is starting English as a foreign language. Meanwhile, Mary and her daughter have moved to an apartment in Vanier, and she continues to work as a PSW.

#### ***Afghan Family***

The sponsored family from Afghanistan arrived in Ottawa January 18, 2023.

### ***Syrian Family***

Refuge N.O.W. has been approved as co-sponsors for a Syrian family of five. They are currently living in Amman, Jordan, waiting for their consular interview. Their move to Canada will be a family reunification, as the wife's parents and siblings came to Canada in 2015.

Refuge N.O.W.'s work has been more difficult this year because of uncertainty about time of arrivals. Normally Refuge N.O.W. plans for one family at a time, but will need extra help if the families arrive close together.

Thanks to all at BCUC for your support.

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

### ***Interfaith Bridge Building with the Jami Omar Mosque (IFBB)***

2022 has been a year of expansion for the IBBC as we now have representation from not only Jami Omar and BCUC but from Christ Church Bells Corners and St Martin De Pores Catholic Church.

In March we met in person for the first time and have discussed our plans as a committee. We did not have an annual dinner due to COVID nor did we have any educational activities. There was a BBQ at Jami Omar in May to which we were invited. In December we had a Winter Gear collection which was a great success. All the clothing was collected by The Shepherds of Good Hope for distribution to men , women and children in need.

In 2023 we plan to have two educational events, and a dinner in September to which members of each faith group will be invited. It will be held at the Jami Omar Mosque. We are planning on what we as faith groups do to prepare for death and the funeral rites of each faith group. We are also going to brainstorm ways to involve our youth. Another proposal is dealing with mental health and faith. Deprescribing has also been suggested. It is defined on the Bruyere's site as 'the planned and supervised process of dose reduction or stopping of medication that might be causing harm, or no longer be of benefit.'

Some of us did attend, via Zoom, an information session on palliative care and learned what it is and what it is not. This was an initiative of Christ Church Bells Corners. Another Zoom information session was on Elder Abuse awareness.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Bridgewater.

Committee Members are: Rev. Lorrie Lowes, Alison Bridgewater (BCUC), Colleen Mayer (CCBC) Ralph Mayer and Michael Hammond (St Martin De Porres) Sr Fariha Shoaib, Br. Ahmed Shafeen, Anwar Ul Haq, Imam Owais (Jami Omar)

### ***Mission and Service (M&S)***

Bells Corners United Church (BCUC) continues to be a strong supporter of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada (UCC). Donations are made both with a designated amount to M&S from the general Operating Fund. This year an additional \$3,785 was given to the M&S fund through

flow-through.

Special flow-through donations have also been made to special fund-raising projects. The 2022 Lenten Project was for food and cash donations to FAMSAC. The Advent project for 2022 was to continue support for the Chipembi building fund.

In addition to Minutes for Mission given during Sunday services, Minutes for Social action were also done with a focus on encouraging support for a Guaranteed Livable Income.

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 SOSA Resource/Contact is Ellie Topp.

### ***Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)***

The mission of the Multifaith Housing Initiative is to provide and promote safe, affordable, and well-maintained housing in inclusive communities, and to mobilize resources for these purposes. Currently, MHI owns a total of 139 units, housing between 300 and 400 people at five different property sites: Blake House, the Haven, Kent House, Somerset Gardens, and Veterans' House: the Andy Carswell Building.

#### ***Veterans' House:***

The Andy Carswell Building is Multifaith Housing Initiative's fifth housing community and first house built exclusively for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Veterans House is now completed, consisting of 40 bachelor units with residents having moved in. All residents have access to support services from a variety of partner agencies. Veterans House is currently owned by MHI, however ownership will be transferred to Veterans House Canada once charitable status is attained. Four more homes are planned across Canada.

#### ***Dream LeBreton Flats:***

On January 20, 2022, the National Capital Commission announced that Dream LeBreton was selected to develop the "Library Parcel" of LeBreton Flats. Of the 601 new residential units, 247 will be affordable. This is a partnership between Dream Asset Management Corporation and Dream Impact Master LP and MHI. MHI will own and operate 130 of the affordable units and the Dream group will own 117.

On **Thursday, November 17, 2022**, at a fundraising gala to celebrate two decades of MHI providing safe, affordable housing in Ottawa, MHI announced the [Dream LeBreton Capital Campaign](#). Currently, MHI is fundraising to reduce the building costs for 30 units for Indigenous households out of the 130 owned and operated by MHI. For more details about this project, visit the MHI website:

[www.multifaithhousing.ca](http://www.multifaithhousing.ca)

#### ***Other Events:***

##### ***MHI Annual Tulipathon***

After having virtual walks for two years due to the pandemic, the MHI annual fundraising walk, the Tulipathon, was held on May 29 at its usual location, Dow's Lake. Ten members of BCUC participated in the walk. This year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tulipathon and it was extra special that a new fundraising record of \$121,374 was raised.

##### ***MHI AGM***

This year the AGM was held in person on Sunday, April 24, 2022 at MacKay United Church. As well as the business portion of the meeting, there were videos showing highlights from the past year and new ventures.

### *The Haven Christmas Party*

Members of BCUC provided cookies and gifts for the Haven Childrens' Christmas Party which was held on site this year.

BCUC Financial support to MHI is through SOSA budget and private donations.  
The SOSA Resource/Contact is Barbara Bole Stafford.

### **Zambia Chipembi Project**



Thanks to the generosity and hard work of our congregation at BCUC and our partners at Emmanuel UC, the new church office and community building in Chipembi is almost complete! Together, the two Ottawa churches were able to send almost \$46,000 (\$24,000 from BCUC and \$21,753 from Emmanuel) over the past two years to fund the construction of this much-needed facility for the community. With the big push in December to wrap up the construction through our Advent Appeal and the Vendor Market, at BCUC we also have a good start on our fundraising for **Camp Chipembi** next August.

Now that the world is opening up again after the pandemic, plans are underway for a delegation from the two Canadian partner churches to visit Chipembi to celebrate the opening of the new facility. Funding for this will come from the travellers themselves, subsidized by our fundraising for the Mission

Exposure Fund. The first event toward this was our successful “Lunch and Trivia” afternoon. Stay tuned for more FUN ways to help us get there!

The small community in Zambia is very grateful for our help in this venture, but this three-way partnership goes way beyond charity. Through partnership visits, we can work together and get to know and love our neighbours near and far.

Respectfully,  
Rev. Lorrie

### ***SOSA Social Action Ministry***

While charity work is essential and those projects supported by BCUC are commendable and effective, social action is essential to bring about the needed political action required to mitigate the high level of poverty that is prevalent in Canada today. In 2020 SOSA embarked on activities with events and projects to promote a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income. This effort continues with SOSA members Ellie and Clarke Topp, participating with the UCC Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) network on behalf of Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC).

In 2022 the UCC GLI focussed on increasing congregational understanding and support for the all party initiative in Prince Edward Island calling on the Federal government to develop the policies and procedure to implement GLI in PEI. To encourage BCUC to support this effort, two Minutes for Social Action were given. BCUC congregants were encouraged to write their MPs and Senators to put their support behind the PEI initiative. When Bill S234 (GLI bill to develop policies and procedure for GLI) was promoted to Second Reading, congregants were again invited to write Senators asking them to support the Bill.

A second initiative is being started with numerous GLI organizations, including UCC, working in selected municipalities to educate municipal councillors and residents on the merits of GLI. The rationale for getting municipalities on board is that while the impacts of poverty, homelessness and food insecurity are experienced most intensely at the municipal level, these local governments generally lack sufficient funds to deal with such problems. As a result, municipal governments would be among the most effective voices to call on the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments to act NOW for a GLI. With the assistance of the GLI proponents, city councillors are being urged to prepare a municipal resolution that would be sent to federal and provincial governments asking them to collaborate on developing a plan to implement a GLI for all residents between 18 and 64 years of age. Several Atlantic cities have presented such resolutions and the GLI proponents will continue working with city councils across Canada to send such resolutions. BCUC congregants are encouraged to participate in the Ottawa campaign.

The SOSA Resource/Contacts: Ellie and Clarke Topp



## **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 2022, the following members volunteered their time and talents to support Pastoral and Spiritual Care: Barbara Bole, Ronald Knox, Nancy Power-Fardy, Beth Sharp and Susan Young. We owe our gratitude to many informal volunteers who have supported the congregation and community by staying in touch with friends and neighbours.

### **Visiting**

During the ongoing pandemic, we have been connecting with members and adherents mainly through phone calls, emails, notes and cards. As health restrictions have eased, it has been possible to visit informally with people during coffee time after worship services and at church events. Rev. Lorrie Lowes and Rev. Kim Vidal have made in-person visits at people's homes on request.

### **Worship in Retirement Homes**

In September, Rev. Kim Vidal resumed offering monthly mid-week worship services at Stillwater Creek Retirement Home, Lynwood Park Lodge and Harmer House. Prior to September, residents of Stillwater Creek, Bridlewood Trails, Harmer House, Lynwood Park Lodge and Valley Stream Manor were encouraged to join the BCUC virtual worship service offered on YouTube. A written text of the Sunday service and announcements was emailed to the retirement homes each week.

### **Celebration of Life and Memorial Services**

Celebration of life and memorial services were offered by the ministers in the church and at off-site locations, as well as through funeral homes. Rev. Kim Vidal led the annual joint memorial service at the Bells Corners Union Cemetery in September.

### **Prayers**

The prayers of the people have been offered during Sunday worship services. We have returned to our usual practice of receiving prayer requests in the prayer chalice on Sundays and in the prayer box during the week. Of course, prayer requests can also be made by contacting the church office or a minister. On Wednesday evenings, members of the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team continue to offer prayers during an at-home prayer circle.

### **Cards**

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

### **Healing Tea & Service of Healing, Hope and Renewal**

On December 14, the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Team hosted a Healing Tea. After refreshments and conversation, a guided meditation was led by Judith Campbell. Following the tea, Rev. Lorrie Lowes and music director, Abe TeGrotenhuis, offered a service of Healing, Hope and Renewal in the Shalom Room. Rev. Kim Vidal, who prepared the service, was not able to attend due to illness. About fifteen people attended the service. Afterwards, a few participants chose to walk the candle-lit labyrinth. Jan Pound was there to offer guidance and information for walkers.

### **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

## Property Management Committee

In addition to the normal activities associated with running and maintaining the church property, the committee addressed the following issues last year:

### **1] Sewer**

The main sewer from the CE Wing was blocked on two occasions. The blockages were removed and a camera was used to investigate the cause. The problem appears to be in the area where the original sewer connection to the septic tank was modified to connect to the city sewer system. If the problem continues, we may have to dig up the area to the east of the CE Wing to replace a section of pipe.

### **2] Extended Power Outage**

BCUC was without power for about a week as a result of a severe storm that also brought down several large tree branches. There was no damage to the building and the main hall continued to be used as an early voting location with the use of ambient light and flashlights. The food in the refrigerators and freezers had to be thrown out.

### **3] Unauthorized Use of Parking lot**

An unauthorized vehicle was parked near the kitchen door and we were told it had broken down and would be removed the next day. The problem was more serious than we were led to believe as they used our electrical outlet to power their lights and tools as they worked on the car around the clock. We were given a series of excuses and promises but after 5 days, we decided that the car had to be moved. City By-law officers were unable to act because the car was occupied on private property but the threat of police action for trespassing followed by towing was enough to convince them to remove the car in the middle of the night.

### **4] Broken sanctuary window**

A young boy used a stone from our flower garden to break the outer pane of one of the Sanctuary windows. Our camera system captured the incident but we had no name. The mother notified us of the actions of her son and we understand he was goaded into throwing the stone by several older indigenous boys who blame churches for many actions in the past. It was agreed that to teach the boy that there are consequences to his actions, he and several members of his family washed some of our windows.

### **5] Labyrinth Lighting**

The light standards near the labyrinth were showing signs of rust and the bulbs were not energy efficient. Therefore, a contractor was engaged to make some repairs to the poles and installed LED lights.

Ross Brown, Chair

## Communications

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

During this third pandemic year, the Weekly BCUC Happenings email messages, BCUC website, and FaceBook page have continued to be 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. Worship Committee's expanding use of digital communication methods has been key to continuing to reach congregants and the broader community during these difficult times.

Our thanks to Connie Davidson who continues to offer her professional skills with the website, and Hazel Smith's great work with FaceBook. Thanks also to Bill McGee who has been diligent in posting messages on the exterior church sign.

Communications Committee continues to cover the expense of office supplies for staff.

## Men's Club

**Purpose:** The Men's Club is a group operating within the bounds of Bells Corners United Church with the intent on promoting fellowship among the men of the church by providing an opportunity to get to know each other on an informal basis. Activities usually consist of either morning coffee time, a dinner with a topical speaker, or a planned outing. The group is managed by an executive, which consists of David Stafford (President), Dale Jarvis (Past-President), Bob Boynton (Technology), Doug Jones (Treasurer), Norm Pound (Communications), Ian Howes (At Large), and Neil Lowes and Ross Mutton (Events). Positions for Program and Meal preparation are vacant with individuals helping on an ad-hoc basis. The group is self-sufficient with no financial encumbrance to BCUC.

**Activities:** For the first months of 2022, the Men's Club met by Zoom then met in person at the church beginning in March, observing COVID regulations on Friday mornings. Ten to twelve regulars gathered to check in and discuss any topic raised. As the warmer months approached, more members started to participate, and some meetings were held outdoors on the Labyrinth.

A club BBQ was held in September with about 24 people participating. The Club raised \$220, which was split 50/50 with the Church. Held on the Labyrinth, it was a good turnout – good food, camaraderie, and fresh air!!

Members raised the question of how to use the Church property to greater benefit of the church and meet the increasing need for affordable housing. Spurred on by recent articles in the Ottawa Citizen of successful projects in Bells Corners (Christ Church Anglican) and a venture in Orleans (Queenswood United), a dinner was organized to hear all about it. The club hosted four speakers from the projects mentioned and 35 members and guests formed the audience. Pork tenderloin dinner was prepared by the cooks from Camp Otterdale, with all the trimmings and apple strudel for dessert. The presentations formed a good basis for continued discussion, which I expect will continue into 2023. The club raised another \$400, which was again shared with the church, \$200 each.

**Finances:** During 2022, the Club raised funds. During the coffee meetings, the regular \$1.00 donation towards coffee/Tim Bits was continued. Funds from the two major events (BBQ and Pork Dinner), were shared with the church in support of BCUC general revenue. At the end of December, the club held \$1,050.04 in the bank account, and another \$95.60 in cash for a total of \$1145.64 in hand. The Tim's card holds an additional \$34.07. Those contributing have been very generous and we thank you! Unfortunately, in December a member, Gerry Okolowsky, contracted COVID while on holiday in Calgary. While not an active member, his passing was a shocking reminder of the tenuous nature of COVID and its variants on people close to us. As far as I am aware, nobody has contracted COVID-19 or any variants through the activities of the BCUC Men's Club.

Appreciation to those who have helped over the year, especially Ian Howes who has made coffee almost every Friday, John Ross and Ross Mutton for cleanup and dishes. If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact David Stafford in person at 613-592-0296 or at [davidstafford@sympatico.ca](mailto:davidstafford@sympatico.ca)

Respectfully submitted,  
David Stafford, President  
[davidstafford@sympatico.ca](mailto:davidstafford@sympatico.ca)  
613-592-0296

## Membership

This past year has been a bit of a transitional year bringing us back to an almost “normal” year of in-person services, events, and activities. Gratefully with this return we are beginning to see many of the faces familiar to us as well as several new to us. Taking on the important role of welcoming new members and the freshly baptized during our worship services has been kindly taken on by Bev Wilcox. She is a strong and steady person who represents our congregation well.

Sadly, there are many who are no longer with us. Whether it be by departure, health, or death we feel the loss of their presence on a personal as well as a congregational level. Although this report concentrates on the numbers; the faces, the names, our personal experiences with those who have past will remain with each of us. Many memorial gift donations have been kindly made for many of those individuals. Thank you.

A new Photo Directory initiative led by Rev. Lorrie Lowes was undertaken this past autumn. Many families and individuals took advantage of this initiative giving us a “snapshot” on the status of the active participants in our congregation. Along with many photos of the staff and congregational life of BCUC a total of 102 family and individual photos and 118 contact listings are included in this edition. For comparison the 2015-2016 photo directory contained 161 family and individual photos and about 385 contact listings. This is not a true apples-to-apples comparison since special permissions were required to publish personal data in the current directory and the numbers do not fully indicate changes in family situations.

Below, Table 1 provides data on several aspects of the congregation’s status for 2022 and 2021. The data does not differentiate between members and adherents unless indicated. More insight into the granularity and trends of this data may be gained with further data entry and analysis using the Churchwatch database.

*Table 1 Membership Statistics*

<b>Statistic</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Baptisms	2	3
Confirmations	0	1
Marriages	1	2
Deaths	13	11
Funerals/Memorial Services <sup>1</sup>	17	8
Member New & Transfer In	6	5
Member Transfer Out	1	0
Households	330	Not Available

1. Performed by clergy but not necessarily at BCUC.

Larry Ryan, Chair of Membership  
Bev Wilcox, New Member Services

## Statistics

2022 Statistics	Marriages
Baptisms - 2	Shawn Murphy & Erin Kelly (January 2022)
Marriages - 6	Gregory Mountenay & Sean O'Meara (May 2022)
Funerals/Memorial Services - 17	Lucan Hudson & Shannon LaValley (June 2022)
Membership Transfers In - 4	Conor Morris & Elizabeth Crow (July 2022)
Membership Transfers Out - 1	Matthew Kemp & Larika Ripley (September 2022)
Adult Confirmation - 2	LeeAnn Gosselin & Brandy Gould (September 2022)

Funerals/Memorial Services in 2022 BCUC Members	Deaths of BCUC Congregants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audrey-Lynne Barnes</li> <li>• Marion Routledge</li> <li>• Harold Blackwell</li> <li>• June Paskell</li> <li>• Robert Goudey</li> <li>• Bill Dormer</li> <li>• Jack McLean</li> </ul>	Sherrill Shaver Ken Davidson Jan Mitchell Gerry Okolowsky Lorence Venance (M) Anita Taggert Marjorie Stone (M) <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th>BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>                     Rachel Hauraney                      Hilda Keyte                      Isobel Bryan                      Sarah Hill                      William Moore                      Susan Richards                      Lila Matthews                      John Matthews Jr.                      Cyril Chapman                 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)	Rachel Hauraney Hilda Keyte Isobel Bryan Sarah Hill William Moore Susan Richards Lila Matthews John Matthews Jr. Cyril Chapman
BCUC Friends (Funerals for non-members)			
Rachel Hauraney Hilda Keyte Isobel Bryan Sarah Hill William Moore Susan Richards Lila Matthews John Matthews Jr. Cyril Chapman			

### Memorial Gift Donations

Marion Routledge	Susan Richards
Joan Corner	Bill Dormer
Harold Blackwell	Stuart Eastman
Marjorie Stone	Jack McLean
June Paskell	Sherrill Shaver
Lynne Barnes	Jan Mitchell
Jacoba Fuijkschot	Robert Goudey
Eunice Brown	Gordon Ferguson
George MacDonald	

*"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, Keith Bailey

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

During 2022 the Trustees:

- (a) Provided oversight to the Memorial Endowment Fund,
- (b) Made a payout from the Endowment Fund to the Board of \$11,597 for 2021 and 2022,
- (c) Monitored investment performance of the Fiera Capital Funds we hold,
- (d) Consulted with our insurance broker, as required, and reviewed the various provisions of our insurance coverage,
- (e) Negotiated annual insurance, currently with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company,
- (f) Confirmed insurance for the Union Cemetery, (provided by Christ Church Anglican),
- (g) Mitigated risk through the ongoing application of the BCUC Risk Management Plan, and the Covenant of Care form,
- (h) Participated in the Plan to Protect training webinar,
- (i) Updated the inventory of BCUC property for insurance purposes,
- (j) Submitted a Budget to the BCUC Board.

Resources needed in 2023:

Liability and Abuse Insurance for renewal of Policy November 29, 2022 of approximately \$ 18,000 + Ontario Sales Tax

## Ministry and Personnel Committee

**Purpose:** The Ministry and Personnel Committee functions around three roles which are the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for the staff and the congregation with respect to any issue affecting staff relationships at Bells Corners United Church, including ministry personnel, lay employees and congregants. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between the staff and the members and adherents of the congregation. During the year, the Committee met both virtually and in person to conduct its work on behalf of BCUC.

The following is a summary of the activities of the Committee for the year in chronological order.

1. **Members of the Committee** during 2022 were David Stafford (Chair) and members Rick Morrison, Johanna Burrows, Daniel Lanoue and Mary Schmieder (Secretary).
2. **Leave & vacation requests:** Requests for study leave and vacation by Rev. Kim and Rev. Lorrie were considered and presented to the Board for approval.
  - 2.1 Rev. Kim completed her Backstreet Preaching course – the results were evident in her preaching style - and she attended the annual Festival of Homiletics in May.

2.2 Rev. Lorrie completed two courses for the Plan to Protect program: Administration Training, and Train the Trainer. This has given her a firm understanding of the roles and requirements for this program and enables her to do the Internal Training that will be required. We now need a lay volunteer to work on the information gathering and maintenance under her direction.

**3. Summer Student:** The Committee applied for and received a Summer Student Grant, interviewed and hired Arcadie Gagne, who began work on May 16, ending August 31. Arcadie was primarily responsible for developing enhanced PowerPoint slides for worship services and copying slides of hymns for PowerPoint presentations. As a streaming service was developed for Sunday worship, Arcadie assisted with the technical work each Sunday morning. When regular staff were away from the office, she answered phones and provided front desk assistance to visitors. A plaque of appreciation provided by the Federal government was received in November. Unfortunately, the full grant was not awarded and somehow, that message was not received in a timely manner. Consequently, an underpayment was received, leaving the church \$3,620 in the red. On review, the Committee recommended to the Church Board that BCUC does not pursue another grant contract.

**4. Annual Staff Interviews:** In June the Committee begin the annual staff interviews. The feedback from our staff suggests that working at BCUC has been a positive experience for all involved. All staff were asked a series of questions to determine any issues in work, cooperation, and execution of their day-to-day tasks; to discuss their plans or needs for training, and to generally have a discussion on how things are going, especially given that this was their fourth year of working with the stress of COVID issues and how they affected the BCUC family.

**5. Support for the worship team:** The Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the following people who, without hesitation, stepped up to volunteer, and through their outstanding contribution have ensured that our Worship streaming services continued seamlessly over the summer. They are:

- Angela Starchuk
- Sue Morrison
- Connie Davidson
- Ken Kim
- Sandra Dean for music accompaniment during Abe's vacation and the Advent hymn sing.
- And of course, our administrative team; Ellen Boynton & Ruth Timms

**6. Covenanting:** Delayed by four years of COVID pandemic and all the various restrictions that evolved, the Covenanting between BCUC, Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region and the Rev. Lorrie Lowes finally took place at BCUC on Sunday November 13 at 2:30 in the afternoon. Members of the congregation and the Region attended and participated in the sharing of promises and gifts, and the Act of Covenanting. A reception followed.

**7. Preparing the 2023 BUDGET:** The budget process began in the summer and continued into the fall and was presented to the Finance Committee in November. M&P drafted a budget for 2023 in the amount of \$290,355. The breakdown is found in the Planning Document for 2023 and the Finance Committee can provide a more detailed breakdown.

**8. The Office Administrative Staff** had a busy year dealing with a large influx of renters, especially for celebrations. Part of the work was to familiarize renters with the building and the particular operational procedure to be followed. Undaunted by this challenge, both Ruth and Ellen were firm with those who were less than diligent in following their advice and it is credit to their endeavors that the rental income exceeded expectations.

**9. Staff appreciation:** On December 22, the Committee held a socially casual Christmas luncheon that respected the restrictions in place at that time. It was held the home of Johanna Burrows in Bells Corners. We enjoyed a Thai lunch ((M&P paid for theirs) and the staff received small gifts of acknowledgement. The reviews seemed “favorable” and while we missed Rev. Kim who was ill, she was present in spirit...

10. A reminder that the **Rev. Kim Vidal will be on Sabbatical and vacation from May 15 to August 31** during which her plan is to attend the Annual Festival of Homiletics and other learning events, do personal readings on spiritual practices and theologically progressive books and other resources to enhance reflection and upgrade her knowledge. She plans to do “church-hopping” to be able to gain different worship experiences and to broaden her view of the universal Church and the meaning of ecumenism. She is also submitting her application to Chautauqua Institute for the Clergy Renewal Week in the summer of 2023. Part of the plan, too, is to travel to different places with her family. After the sabbatical, the plan is to organize an Asian Supper to share the highlights of her sabbatical experience. Proceeds of the dinner will go to the operating funds of BCUC.

A further reminder that the Rev. Lorrie Lowes will celebrate five years of Commissioned service in 2024 and will also be eligible for a three month Sabbatical.

In summary, BCUC is well served by its Ministry and Lay Staff! This is the 2022 Annual M & P Report, approved by the M & P Committee on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee, David Stafford, 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.

The year marked a full year of operation since the retirement of Bill Johnson in October 2021. Bill's responsibilities as Chair have been assumed by Bill McGee, and the Treasurer role has been assumed by Ross Mutton. The functions of a Treasurer of a United Church are well-defined by the United Church, and Canada Revenue Agency has strict and sometimes complicated rules for a church to maintain its charitable status. The changeover involved several changes of signing authority for the various accounts that BCUC maintains. This includes 4 accounts with TD Bells Corners and a BMO Investorline Accounts for donations of securities. These changes were finalized in December, 2022. A new version of ChurchWatch was installed in January 2022, and Griz Morrison managed various updates needed to iron out the bugs in a new software version, and she emailed the Income Tax Receipts to donors with e-mail accounts, which she accomplished in February.

Managing the ongoing financial responsibilities in 2022 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 by Frouin Group of Ottawa; preparing the annual C R A 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, and compliance with BCUC and United Church policies and regulations, and CRA requirements. 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 ChurchWatch, the PAR Coordinator (Ross Mutton), the Securities Coordinator (Brian Durno), the Gift Certificate Program Coordinators (office staff).

Griz Morrison has indicated that she wishes to hand over the envelope secretary function, which includes preparing the Income Tax Receipts, and Linda Ward is working with Griz to this end.

We thank the volunteer members of the FMC who contributed their time and effort to the committee in 2021, and the members of the Congregation for continuing their strong financial support of BCUC.

Bill McGee, Chair Financial Management

Ross Mutton, Treasurer

## Fundraising in 2022

2022 was a better year for fun and fundraising at BCUC.

Early in the year the Celebration Hymn Sing was held with requests as part of Sunday services over several weeks. Donations were used to fund the Pentecost Sunday outdoor service and lunch held in June.

The Gift Card Program continued to be supported with ingenious ways found to deliver cards and receive payment. Cards for Sobeys, Metro and Loblaw are sold through the office with % rebate ranging from 3 to 5%. Thanks to all who continue to purchase these cards for groceries and gifts. New customers are always welcome!

Thanks to Ross Mutton for help with Easter and Christmas Memorial Flower programs so that beautiful plants could be placed in the Sanctuary for services. According to policy, revenue above \$1,000 in the account at year end is moved to the Operating Fund. For 2022 it was about \$400.

An indoor Garage Sale was finally possible after two years missed. The sale was organized by the Boyntons and held on May 7. Masks were mandatory, no food was served and people came out to help organize on Friday and/or to sell on Saturday. At day's end about \$4,800 was raised to help with the BCUC Operating Fund. And people enjoyed selling and shopping as we welcomed everyone back indoors.

Since it was still safe, with masking in place, we returned to the Fall Bazaar held on November 19. With capable Co-chairing by Tina Fowler and Chris Brown details were put in place for a return to the usual

format of previous bazaars and those who offered a wide variety of sales areas were pleased with the day's outcome. A sum of \$13,200 was raised for the Operating Fund and a joyful spirit prevailed through the day.

## **UCW (United Church Women)**

The UCW calendar has opened gradually this past year. The COVID virus is still limiting the numbers of members who are physically participating. We are keeping in touch by email or phone. Units are meeting, carefully but joyfully.

In January 2022, Ruth Howes made 604 turkey pies with crews of five/day. The turkey pies are much appreciated by church folks.

January/February is usually kitchen clean-up, but with minimal usage this was not necessary.

Funeral Receptions have resumed for members. We have changed a few ways we handle the receptions, as we have fewer ladies able and willing to help. Sandwiches are made on site to provide consistency. We have been complimented on our professionalism.

In November, we provided coffee, muffins and ladies to assist with the EOORC meeting of 100 persons.

Also, in November, everyone was excited for the first Christmas Bazaar. Two units worked together to make plates of squares and bags of cookies. Wreaths, pies, jams and turkey pies were also made for the Bazaar.

For now, our executive meetings continue as needed. UCW can provide substantial funds for church needs as well as making annual donations to the United Church Mission & Service Fund and a chosen list of charities. Thanks to Christine Holstead for her steady hand on the finances.

Each of the three units has their own activity to raise money and the recipient of these monies is a unit group decision which has nothing to do with UCW as a whole or BCUC. Their donation decision was made via email or phone.

There are two units which meet in the daytime and one unit meets 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 and welcome. We are resuming some of our activities.

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 organization, operated by the Bells Corners Union Cemetery Board under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act 2002 of Ontario.

The Board consists of Keith Bailey (Co-Chair), Trevor Morrison and Pierre Dugas whom we welcome in place of 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 (Rev Kathryn Otley of the Anglican Church and Rev Kim Vidal of the United Church) are ex-officio members of the board. The Board met twice in 2022 by Zoom and on-site twice to consider the site proposed for installation of the proposed Columbaria. Other business was conducted by e-mail and phone.

Revenue in 2022 (compared to 2021) was \$8,698 (\$7,355) with expenses of \$4,955 (\$4,568). There were six interments of cremated remains and one full burial.

	Revenue		Expenses
Donations	\$3,905	Grounds	\$3,000
Interment Fees	2,900	Hedge trim	1,500
Investments	<u>1,893</u>	Administration	<u>455</u>
	<u>\$8,698</u>		<u>\$4,955</u>

The Memorial Service was held on September 18 in the Chapel at Christ Church Bells Corners. The Reverend Kim Vidal performed the Service, with about 40 people attending.

The Board has continued with planning to build one or more Columbaria to hold cremated remains. We are hoping to have at least one of these installed in 2023. We expect to place an updated and more accurate cemetery map in the Kiosk in the spring.

The grounds were well-kept by Glen Soubliere, sub-contractor for Kare-Mor Ent. Co. Ltd. This past year required extra attention following the destructive derecho of May, including the removal of a severely damaged mature tree and clearing away various broken branches. Officers from the neighbouring Fire Department provided immediate assistance in clearing the adjacent municipal sidewalk.

Richard Eade's help with interments 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.

We appreciate the contributions of Peggy Smyth who resigned from the Board in the spring.

Keith Bailey and Catherine Ginn  
Co-Chairs

January 2023

Email: [bellscorners.unioncemetery@gmail.com](mailto:bellscorners.unioncemetery@gmail.com)

## Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee concentrated its activities on the annual Stewardship Campaign. This year there were two campaigns, one in early January, and one in October after Thanksgiving. We intend to keep to the new schedule, one Fall Campaign, if possible.

As part of the campaign, the printed material for the campaign is reviewed for changes. There were limited changes in the Time and Talent listing, but the coloured brochure also needed an annual update. We used a draft Budget form from the United Church in the brochure this year. The church database CHURCHWATCH is accessed for member and adherent mailing information, and current activities. We do not use and we do not have access to financial information.

Since there was no Committee Fair this year, at the suggestion of Clarke Topp of SOSA, we prepared a substitute, a document highlighting activities of the various committees. SOSA contributed examples of the work that BCUC supports in the Ottawa area. Other Committees also highlighted their work. Because of lockdowns, we did not host our usual Soup & Sandwiches event in 2022. It is planned to have the Committee Fair and Soup and Sandwiches in February 2023, the week after the Committee Fair.

This year we continued being mainly electronic. Every family with an email address obtained the Stewardship message electronically. For those without email, individualized mailing envelopes, return envelopes, financial pledge and Time and Talent forms are printed, and as well as the listing of activities on the Time and Talent. Church Office staff print the coloured brochure. This material was mailed. Many of our members do not have accessible mailboxes in apartments and those that have a community mailbox may not examine their own mailbox, if they still have one.

There were presentations made at Church Services and the online services to explain the campaigns for the year.

The Stewardship returns were tabulated by Larry Ryan and may be used by the Financial Management people for budgeting, and the Time and Talent forms are used to update the ChurchWatch database.

There were about 60 mailed envelopes, and 265 emailed packages.

Committee members were Bob Boynton, Bob and Barb Noyes, Ron Prince, with help from minister Rev Kim Vidal, as well as the capable office administrators Ruth and Ellen. After many years of service on the committee, Bob and Barb Noyes, and Ron Prince, have retired and Larry Ryan has joined the committee with responsibilities to use the ChurchWatch database to enter the results of the Stewardship Campaign.

The members and adherents of Bells Corners United Church continued their generous support for the Ministry of this Congregation this year.

Bill McGee, Chair

Here is a summary of the Stewardship campaigns of this and some previous years, as prepared by Ron Prince and Larry Ryan.

	Returns
Year	Financial Pledges
2015	193
2016	267
2017	194
2018	167
2019	159
2020	168
2021	161 <sup>1</sup>
2022 February	116
2022 October	57 <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This consisted of 61 actual returns, 60 PAR users who did indicate a change, and 40 members who have pledged in the past but did not make a change this year.

<sup>2</sup> Actual returns.