



ST. ANDREW'S
UNITED CHURCH

111 LARCH STREET
SUDBURY, ON P3E 4T5
705-674-0721



Welcome to St. Andrew's

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Growing Spiritually

Building Community

Transforming Lives

VISION STATEMENT

*St. Andrew's United Church ~
Growing Spiritually,
Building Community,
Transforming Lives*

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Andrew's United Church is a welcoming, compassionate, and inclusive Christian community of faith in downtown Sudbury.

We offer meaningful and engaging worship, and provide leadership and support for mission-oriented programs and initiatives that are spiritually and socially relevant.

VALUES

We live out our core Christian values and practice responsible stewardship by:

- Being in relationship with God
- Encouraging life-long learning
- Caring for our neighbours
- Extending hospitality
- Working for peace and justice in our community and throughout the world
- Respecting the environment
- Maintaining honest and open communication
- Cultivating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust
- Managing our resources efficiently, responsibly and effectively
- Practising principled decision-making and leadership

St. Andrew's United Church

111 Larch Street, 3rd Floor
Sudbury, Ontario P3E 4T5
705-674-0721

Fax 705-222-5303

Email: church@st-andrews.ca

Website: www.st-andrews.ca/church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/standrewsunitedchurchsudbury

Leadership Team 2023

Ministers: Rev. Dave Le Grand

Music Leadership: Gordon Brown, Graham Laporte, Tracey LeGrand,
and Ralph McIntosh

Office Manager/ Administrator: Alison Warner-Smith / Gloria Kutorkor Appianing

Co-chairs of Church Council: Ralph McIntosh
Dr. Phil Thurston

Treasurer: Jill Bennett

Deep appreciation is also extended to the many volunteers who add their leadership, gifts, and skills to the life and mission of St. Andrew's.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- VISION STATEMENT, MISSION STATEMENT, VALUES ii
- ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM iii
- AGENDA FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, APRIL 21, 2024 1
- MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETINGS, MAECH 26, 2023 2
- MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS 6
- MINISTER’S REFLECTION 7
- OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT 8
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 9
- CONGREGATIONAL LIFE REPORTS
 - WORSHIP & MUSIC 15
 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 16
 - SUNDAY EVENING SOCIAL HOUR MINISTRY 17
 - CONNEX TEAM 17
 - COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY 18
- REACHING OUT 19
- BENEVOLENT FUND 22
- RESOURCES REPORTS 23
 - FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT AND ADMINISTRATION 23
 - STEWARDSHIP 23
 - MEMORIAL GIFTS 23
 - PROPERTY 24
 - FUNDRAISING 25
- BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 26
- MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT 27
- CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT 28
- ST. ANDREW’S PLACE
 - AGENDA FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 21, 2024 31
 - MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETINGS, MARCH 26, 2023 32
 - ST. ANDREW’S PLACE REPORT 34
- 2023 PHOTOGRAPHS 39

St. Andrew's United Church
Annual Meeting for the Year 2023
Sunday, April 21, 2024

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Acceptance of the Minutes of Congregational Meetings of March 26, 2023
4. In Memoriam, Baptisms, Marriages, New Members
5. Appreciation of the Staff
6. Minister's Report and Reflection
7. Office Administrator's Report

8. Committee Reports
 - a) Church Council
 - b) Congregational Life: Worship & Music,
Christian Education, Sunday Evening Social Hour Ministry,
Connex Visiting, Communications & Technology
 - c) Reaching Out, Benevolent Fund
 - d) Resources
 - e) Board of Trustees
 - f) Ministry and Personnel
 - g) Canadian Shield Regional Council

9. 2023 Financial Statements - for review and approval
10. 2024 Budget - for review and approval

11. Nominations
 - a) St. Andrew's United Church Council members
 - b) Canadian Shield Regional Council members
 - c) St. Andrew's Place Board members

12. Updates: Doing Discipleship process
13. Adjournment
- . Closing

Annual General Meeting for the Year 2022
Sunday, March 26, 2023
12:45 pm.
St. Andrew's United Church
111 Larch St. Sudbury
Attendance in Sanctuary and via Zoom

Chair: Ralph McIntosh

Recording Secretary: Phil Thurston

Co-chair of St. Andrew's Church Council Ralph McIntosh called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm and welcomed everyone attending in person and online.

1. Opening: Rev. Dave LeGrand opened the meeting with prayer, and acknowledged that we meet on the traditional territories of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.

2. Adoption of the Agenda:

Motion: That the agenda as circulated be approved.

Moved by Joanne Ross, Seconded by Jill Bennett. **Carried**

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of Congregational Meetings of May 15, 2022, and November 20, 2022.

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual Meetings held on May 15, 2022, and Novembers 20, 2022 be approved as circulated.

Moved by Sue Darling, Seconded by Debbie Laporte. **Carried.**

Ralph extended his thanks to Kathy Brankley for taking both sets of minutes.

4. In Memoriam, Baptisms, Marriages, New members.

Ralph thanked Bev Chapman for her work on maintaining these important records, listed on page 9 of the Annual Report. Ralph read aloud the names of those who passed in 2022 and offered a prayer in their memory.

The In Memoriam list was amended to note John Arbuckle as a member.

5. Appreciation of Staff:

Bert Brankley spoke in place of Anne Pile to acknowledge and thank not only the staff, but volunteers in general and most particularly volunteer musicians.

6. Minister's Report and Reflection.

Rev. Dave's message centered on how we all dealt with COVID with varying degrees of openness as the disease progressed. He drew our attention to the coming Young Adult ministry to be developed by Torrin Maag, and spoke of the need for worship to be more personal in the face of the use of on-line streaming. In closing, Rev. Dave indicated that we will need to continue to make fine adjustments as we explore more fully the on-line nature of our worship.

7. Committee Reports

The chair drew attention to the Committee Reports contained in the Annual Report, and noted several highlights throughout, including:

- h) Office Administrator
- i) Church Council
 - Council identified 5 priorities: continued post-COVID renewal, the centrality of worship, the nurturing of our church community, internal and external communications, and matching mission and resources.
 - Council noted that the Canadian Shield Regional Council met here at St. Andrew's with Barb Nott chairing.
 - Note was made of revisions to our audit procedures, and thanks were extended to the ongoing financial support from the Place.
 - We noted the recent closures of St. Stephen's United Church in Chelmsford and our neighbouring Knox Presbyterian Church.
 - Council informed the congregation that all members of the present council wish to continue to serve.
- j) Congregational Life: Worship & Music, Christian Education, Welcoming and Belonging, Sunday Evening Social Hour Ministry, Connex Visiting, Communications & Technology
- k) Reaching Out, Benevolent Fund
 - The work of the Community Kitchen team was highlighted. Attention was drawn to its focus on working with tenants and our neighbours to teach them how to cook, instead of the charity model of providing meals (e.g., the Out of the Cold model).
- l) Resources
- m) Board of Trustees
 - The Board of Trustees noted that they wished to draw attention to the good financial results for our investments.
- n) Ministry and Personnel
- o) Canadian Shield Regional Council

Motion: That the congregation accept all reports as published
 Moved by Eric Maag, Seconded by Sylvia Carscadden. **Carried**

8. 2022 Financial Statements

- Cameron Crawford of MNP LLP explained the differences between a "Review Engagement" (RE) and a full audit. The former provides a review of the accounts, and raises questions and tests as to whether the statements meet accounting standards. RE is still a "best practice" and a form of independent review of the accounts. A written conclusion is provided as to whether the financial statements provided are complete and meet the necessary standards.
- Cameron noted that our deficit of ~\$23k is primarily due to a decrease in yield on investments and that therefore the church is viable financially.

Motion: That the congregation approve the 2022 financial statements as prepared by MNP LLP.

Moved by Debbie Laporte, Seconded by Jill Bennett. **Carried.**

9. 2023 Budget

- The budget provided in the Annual Report was reviewed.
- Attention was drawn to the anticipated completion of our new website.
- It was noted that some of our suspended fundraising activities are projected to recommence in 2023.
- The COVID Relief Subsidy provided by the Place will continue for 2023.

Motion: That we approve the 2023 operating budget as presented.

Moved by: Betty McFarlane, Seconded by Jane Baggs. **Carried**

Motion: That we approve the 2023 goal for the Mission and Service Fund of \$18,000.

Moved by Bert Brankley, Seconded by Joanne Ross. **Carried.**

Motion: That we appoint MNP LLP as auditors for 2023.

Moved by Debbie Laporte, Seconded by Jill Bennett. **Carried.**

10. Nominations

a) All present Council members are willing to stand for re-election.

There is a vacancy for a member at large; however, no nominations were made.

b) Canadian Shield Regional Council representatives

The following members have agreed to stand as representatives to the CSRC:

Bev Chapman, Donna Mese, Phil Thurston

Motion: That the congregation approve the slate of Council and CSRC members.

Moved by Bert Brankley, Seconded by Betty McFarlane, **Carried.**

c) Nominations to serve on the St. Andrew's Place Board of Directors

Motion: That the following individuals be confirmed as Directors of St. Andrew's Place, Sudbury for the year 2023:

Jane Baggs, Wayne Cassidy, Scott Darling, Herb Fines, Bob Humphrey, Scott Jeffrey, Rev. Dave Le Grand, Ralph McIntosh (Council Co-Chair), Scott McClure, Dale Myslik, Phil Thurston (Place Board Past President), Robert Topp

Moved by Scott Darling, Seconded by Phil Thurston. **Carried**

11. Discernment Process

Ralph shared two slides outlining Council's decision to convene a Vision & Discernment Team consisting of: Kate Barber, Bert Brankley, Sylvia Carscadden, Leslie Cassidy, Rev. Dave Le Grand, Ralph McIntosh, Donna Mese and Anne Pile. Their mandate is to:

- Consider the questions of who we are as a Community of Faith and how we will answer God's call in these post-COVID times.
- Examine the programs the Church currently offers and programs that we have suspended due to lack of leadership and/or participants, and consider programs that we might offer in the future based on need and/or opportunity.
- Evaluate the Church's financial and volunteer resources.

- Discern some of the challenges that we face, as well as opportunities for new programs and partnerships with other congregations and community agencies.

Council has approved a proposal to hire a facilitator to lead the congregation through a Discernment process over the next two years, beginning later this spring or in the fall. This process would culminate in a report and recommendations to Council and the congregation in the spring of 2025, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada.

Today's engagement activity during lunch was the first of several large and small group consultations that will be held over the next two years. More details will be shared as the process continues. Members of the congregation were invited to actively participate in the discernment process as it unfolds.

12. Adjournment

Motion: That the Annual Meeting be adjourned.

Moved by Scott Darling at 2 pm.

Rev. Dave closed the meeting with prayer.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

In Memoriam

Ilse Jakelski – February 9, 2023 *
 Dr. Terry Carscadden – February 14, 2023 *
 Ruth Buell – April 13, 2023 *
 Howard Simpson – April 22, 2023 *
 Dale Wilson – May 5, 2023
 Margaret Nykilchuk – June 5, 2023 *
 Diane Trollope – July 5, 2023 *
 Flora Barnard – October 1, 2023 *
 James Smith – December 5, 2023 *
 Barbara Jane Eastick – December 12, 2023

* Denotes member of St. Andrew's United Church

Baptisms

Dalton Boyd Lynds, son of Brandon Boyd Lynds and Alyssa Marie Huard– July 23, 2023

New Members Received

Gloria Kutorkor Appianing – November 12, 2023
 Mallon Appianing – November 12, 2023
 Elizabeth Griffiths – November 12, 2023

Total Membership, December 31, 2023

Resident Members: 183
 Non-resident members: 41

Official Members Removed

By death: 7
 Ilse Jakelski, Dr. Terry Carscadden, Ruth Buell, Howard Simpson, Diane Trollope, Flora Barnard, James Smith

Total Membership, December 31, 2023

Resident Members: 178
 Non-resident Members: 42
 Adherents: 60
 Number of households financially supporting the church: 75
 Number of households under pastoral care: 92
 Total number of resident and non-resident members: 220

Respectfully submitted,
 Bev Chapman

MINISTER'S REFLECTION

We began to “dream” again over this past year at St. Andrew’s United Church! Knowing that the pandemic changed us (in some ways for the better!), we formed a small group to do a bit of visioning. That visioning process evolved into a covenant with the Toronto United Church Council (TUCC), who blessed us with consultants Ron Ewart and Jill Strapp. It seems remarkable how, if our minds and hearts are open, we might truly receive unanticipated gifts. What developed was what we now know to be the “Doing Discipleship” process, which has catalyzed a community consultation as well as consultations with individuals and our congregation.

With Ron’s and Jill’s assistance, we are engaging in what we hope is “holy listening”, to hear whispers of what God is up to in our neighbourhood called Sudbury. So much has changed within us, but even more change has happened around us. In 2023, we came to utter the words, “We are growing into being a small church.” This is unfamiliar language for St. Andrew’s, but the gift of this is that we are encouraging one another to speak truth in love to one another. Ultimately, we know that we as a Community of Faith must cooperate more actively with other congregations and communities, bringing our truth and vision to all of our partnerships. For some of us, this is profoundly challenging, to be open to the changes we are experiencing. But we know that we are not at all alone.

We also celebrated the 50th Anniversary of St. Andrew’s Place, an audacious vision of the St. Andrew’s United Church congregation in the late 1960s to build a multipurpose complex that offers affordable housing. We celebrated in fine fashion thanks to the leadership of the Place Board and the Anniversary Committee who organized a star-studded Gala Celebration. Many thanks to the leaders who: created a professional video filled with testimonies and archival photos; organized the Gala Celebration that filled the sanctuary with wonderful music; and, generally, for reminding us of what a treasure this building is, where we – church, residents, and commercial tenants – all live interdependently. What an interesting analogy for Paul’s metaphor of all of God’s people as part of Christ’s “Body” – each of us often feeling the joys and pains of one another.

Many thanks to the “lifeblood” of St. Andrew’s United Church – its dedicated volunteers and staff. To the Financial and Property (Resources) people who manage our complex array of assets so St. Andrew’s can minister to the world – thank you. To the Worship Planning Team who together created engaging worship (online and in person) in complicated times – thank you. To the Fun-d-Raising People who come up with creative ways to raise money and create community – thank you. To the Stewardship Team, sadly having lost some key team members (always seeking new ideas!) who remind us time and again that it is not about “money”, it is about sharing our greatest treasures for God (time, talent, and money) – thank you. To the Communications Team and the dedicated Booth Team who help us connect with one another and our world – a huge thank you. To the Regional Council reps who keep us connected to our United Church of Canada lifeblood, Canadian Shield Regional Council – thank you. To the Reaching Out Team who mobilized in Lent and Advent (and many times in between) to connect us with the organizations and agencies caring for people who have unstable housing and income – thank you. Thank

you to Alison and Gloria who have maintained our “nerve centre” – the church Office – through some very challenging times.

Rev. Dave

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

2023 was another busy year at St. Andrew’s United Church and Gloria and Alison feel immeasurably blessed to be able to play a part in all the many activities. As you are probably aware, Alison has been on sick leave since October, and Gloria quickly and capably filled in since then. Alison is very grateful to Gloria and to Roger Pile for his assistance.

Our main role, of course, is to support Rev. Dave, prepare worship-related materials, research and disseminate information, correspond and communicate with church teams and committees, other agencies, groups, and individuals, and generally do whatever is asked of us. We thoroughly enjoy working with Rev. Dave, and we enjoy a camaraderie that makes it easy to provide the administrative support needed. We prepare the News and Liturgy to email every week, as well as the liturgy script (formatting, not content) and PowerPoint presentation for Worship on Sundays and for other special services. We create advertising posters for many events. Alison updates and maintains the website and electronic membership list. And the list goes on...

We have a great deal of music at St. Andrew’s, and another important task is to report all the music used in worship services and other church events to ensure composers and publishers are appropriately compensated. We must hold music licenses to sing, print, and stream all the music we use, which we have through “One License” and “Christian Copyright Licensing International.” Through these services, we have access to thousands of congregational hymns, songs, and service music to use in our liturgy, projections, and worship aids. There are often changes in how we report our music. Alison regularly attends training sessions on how to use the new reporting formats and systems to ensure there is no copyright infringement.

Paper copies of the liturgy and newsletter are sent to Leigh Cook weekly, and she mails these to the congregation members who do not have internet access and are not able to attend services. Thank you, Leigh. And thank you, Rev. Dave, for delivering the materials to Leigh.

There is certainly never a dull moment in the church office. It is immensely satisfying, knowing we have been able to contribute to church family life at St. Andrew’s. And the best part is working with all of you. Thank you for making St. Andrew’s the incredible place it is.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Kutorkor Appianing and Alison Warner-Smith, Office Administrators

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

What follows is a snapshot of some of the information and activities that came to Council's attention over the course of another busy and productive year – many other initiatives will be referenced in the various committee reports that follow.

Council continued to focus on the following priorities over the first half of 2023:

COVID recovery & renewal – Worship & Music – Mission & Outreach – Matching Resources & Mission - Communications – Partnerships.

Church Council currently meets virtually using the Zoom platform, with plans to revert to a hybrid format (in-person and virtual) early in the new year. The list of current Council members appears at the end of this report – we are grateful to all for their many valued contributions and wise counsel. We also greatly appreciate the valued contributions of the many individuals who support the work of the various committees and teams who carry out the mission of the church.

Our church is blessed by the talents of many people who provide leadership and support for our worship services. Our sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to Reverend Dave Le Grand, Office Administrator Alison Warner-Smith, the Worship Planning team and the growing Sound Booth team for their dedication and creativity.

While the church continues to search for a part-time musical director, we are thankful for the musical leadership of Tracey LeGrand, Graham Laporte and Ralph McIntosh, as well as guest organist Gordon Brown on a rotating basis. A formal survey in February 2023 affirmed the congregation's appreciation of their talent and commitment.

St. Andrew's was also fortunate to enjoy the musical talents of Dr. Robert Hall and Dr. Charlene Biggs when they presented a duo piano concert in October, with a portion of the proceeds being donated to the church.

Sunday morning volunteer coordinator Leslie Cassidy stepped down from this role at the end of June. We thank Leslie for her many years of dedicated service. Volunteers are now recruited through the Church Office – new volunteers are always welcome!

As the church transitioned out of COVID time, we began to hold funeral services and celebrations of life again. This necessitated the review and revision of our Funeral Policies and Guidelines, a project which will continue as we search for new volunteers to take on some of the important roles involved in providing these important services.

Council and the congregation were deeply grateful to the Place Board for extending the COVID Pandemic Relief Subsidy to the Church through 2023, resulting in a significant reduction to our occupancy costs. The anticipated savings allowed Council the flexibility to make several new important financial investments over the past year.

The success of the Community Kitchen initiative led to the implementation of a new Transitional Community Kitchen pilot project in 2023. Two four-week programs were held in the spring and fall, with an excellent response and very positive feedback from our partners with the City of Greater Sudbury.

The Place Board's 50th Anniversary Committee planned and facilitated a wonderful weekend of celebration in early May, including a memorable concert and reception on Saturday May 13 featuring the Penderecki Quartet. The service on Sunday May 14, jointly led by Rev. Dave and former Transitional Minister Rev. Bea Arnill, included reminiscences from past ministers and special music to commemorate this milestone event.

St. Andrew's has been holding funds on behalf of Sudbury Welcomes Immigrants for several years, in anticipation of the arrival of the Al Zaharan family from Syria. We were excited to learn of their arrival in late June. Between June 2023 and June 2024, we are distributing the \$57,000 raised by SWI to assist the family as they transition to their new life here in Canada. Thank you to the many individuals who have contributed time, talent and/or monetary donations in support of this worthy cause.

In June, Council approved the purchase of an OWL device which has proven very useful when holding hybrid Zoom meetings involving multiple participants in-person and online at a central site. This innovative technology will be used during one or more focus group sessions connected to the Doing Discipleship process in 2024. Council also approved expenditures related to the development of a new website, which we hope will be launched before the end of 2024.

As in previous years, we shared summer worship leadership with St. Mark's and St. Peter's United Churches on a three-week rotation. St. Andrew's also provided office space and photocopier access to support the work of summer intern Kaleo Duncanson-Hales in their role as Climate Motivator.

Torrin Maag initiated a Young Adult Ministry pilot project in August 2023, which came to be called "Christianity at the Margins". Young adults from across the city meet regularly online or in-person to share in community and discussion as they explore a socially conscious vision of Christianity. They also host a monthly book study, open to all ages, and a monthly young adult supper. This project serves as a placement component as part of Torrin's studies with the Atlantic School of Theology. Torrin has been provided with access to office space on our 3rd floor, and a three-member team from St. Andrew's - Donna Mese, Kate Barber and Rev. Dave LeGrand - provides additional support and oversight. Torrin was a guest speaker at a MILC event in October, and shared information about the program at the Community Roundtable in November.

Council is grateful to the Canadian Shield Regional Council for its financial support of the Young Adult Ministry, the Climate Motivator position, and the purchase of the OWL.

In September, Council established the following priorities for 2023-24:

- United Church of Canada: Remit NIC 01 - Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization (information was shared with the congregation through the fall and at an after-church session in January led by Rev. Melody Duncanson-Hales - Church Council submitted our congregation's vote in February 2024)
- Canadian Shield Regional Council: Young Adult Ministry - Right Relations
- St. Andrew's and Partners: Doing Discipleship - Matching Resources & Mission
- St. Andrew's: Worship & Music - Mission & Outreach - Communications

Right Relations work undertaken in 2023 included the “Have a Heart” campaign in February. Letters were prepared asking that equal opportunity be given to First Nations children at all levels of funding (Jordan’s Principle). People were invited to pick up the letters and mail them to the local MP and the Prime Minister. The Minute for Right Relations are used as they become available from the regional Right Relations Team. Members of St. Andrew’s attended a special educational event at St Peter’s United Church in September, sponsored by MILC.

Several of our members regularly participate in the bi-monthly Sudbury Partnership Conversations on Zoom, under the leadership of Rev. Melody Duncanson-Hales of the Regional Council. This has resulted in several projects supported by the United Churches in the Greater Sudbury area, including a pre-recorded New Year’s Eve morning worship service with contributions from multiple congregations. It is hoped that these ongoing conversations will lead to further initiatives in the months ahead.

THE DOING DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

(Most of the following information was shared in a Letter to the Congregation in July 2023. By the time of our Annual Meeting, facilitators Jill Strapp and Ron Ewart will have facilitated five consultations with members of the congregation and a Community Roundtable with various partner organizations since starting their work in September.)

In January 2023, Church Council endorsed a recommendation from our Ministry & Personnel committee that an *ad hoc* Visioning task group be formed to undertake the following research and report to Council in the spring with their recommendations:

- Consider the questions of who we are as a Community of Faith and how we will answer God’s call in these post-COVID times.
- Examine the programs the Church currently offers and programs that we have suspended due to lack of leadership and/or participants and consider programs that we might offer in the future based on need and/or opportunity.
- Evaluate the Church’s financial and volunteer resources.
- Discern some of the challenges that we face, as well as opportunities for new programs and partnerships with other congregations and community agencies.

During their first meetings, the Visioning Team - Kate Barber, Bert Brankley, Sylvia Carscadden, Leslie Cassidy, Rev. Dave Le Grand, Ralph McIntosh, Donna Mese, and Anne Pile - acknowledged the congregation’s strengths:

- our staff and volunteers, many of whom contribute in multiple areas;
- quality weekly worship which is also livestreamed, recorded and shared online, providing our members with multiple ways to share in weekly worship;

- many outreach projects in partnership with the City and other downtown community organizations;
- a good sense of community amongst its members.

At the same time, they recognized that we also face some difficult challenges:

- a shrinking and aging membership roll with few young adults and families, children and youth;
- steadily declining financial revenues;
- increasing concerns about personal safety and security related to our downtown location, which could potentially affect the congregation's effective utilization of our multi-purpose building in the future.

In the past decade we have declined from a pastoral-size church with an average Sunday morning attendance of 100 to a family-size church with 40 to 50 attendees. Several key volunteers are leading multiple committees and projects, which if continued will likely lead to further burnout. We wonder if in 5-10 years enough volunteers will be able to support the initiatives that we are passionate about (downtown outreach and worship & music, to name a few).

Our "neighbourhood" has also changed profoundly over the past decade – for example, the park behind our building where our members often enjoyed a summer picnic has become a space that is "home" to many who cannot find stable housing. We are trying to transition from charity-based outreach – donating money or food – to relationship-based outreach, for example focusing on a more Community Kitchen style engagement. Who are we called to be as a Church within this challenging downtown context?

RECOMMENDED PROCESS

With these challenges in mind, and in recognition that decisions about our future would have a wider impact beyond our own membership and thus should involve discussions with other United Churches and community partners, the Team recommended to Council that the church hire an outside person or group to facilitate future discussions and help us to develop a series of options for the congregation's consideration.

Council informed the congregation at the March 2023 Annual Meeting that they had approved a proposal to hire a facilitator to lead the congregation through a Discernment process over the next two years, beginning sometime in 2023. This process would culminate in a report and recommendations to Council and the congregation before spring 2025, coinciding with the United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary.

In preparation for creating a Request for Proposals to share with potential facilitators, members of the Team facilitated a congregational feedback-gathering activity during the 2022 Annual Meeting luncheon. Attendees (both in-person and virtual) were invited to offer their comments on two important preliminary questions:

1. *What do you most appreciate about St. Andrew's United Church?*
2. *What are your concerns about the future of St. Andrew's?*

This activity was to be the first of several large and small group consultations that would be held in the future.

The feedback received through this exercise confirmed the congregation's general agreement that they share similar concerns about our future, while at the same time they appreciate and support the many activities and programs offered by our staff and volunteers that continue to make a difference in the lives of our members as well as those who live outside our walls, and hope to see many of them continue.

The Visioning Team shared a formal Request for Proposals with four potential facilitators, all of whom have experience in working with communities of faith to undertake similar future-oriented discussions. Two of the facilitators expressed an interest in working with us, and after interviewing both candidates, the Team recommended to Council that we hire the Centre for Church Leadership & Development, Toronto United Church Council (TUCC) to work with us. Council approved this recommendation on June 22nd, and a contract was signed on June 29th.

NEXT STEPS

TUCC consultants Jill Strapp and Ron Ewart are working with a new Discernment Team - Sylvia Carscadden, Scott Darling, Marilyn Hurst, Scott Jeffrey, Debby Laporte, Rev. Dave LeGrand, Janet MacKenzie, Ralph McIntosh, Anne Pile, and Phil Thurston - to facilitate a series of consultations between September 2023 and June 2024.

These gatherings will involve members of our own congregation at first, and then expand to invite the participation of representatives from other area United Churches, other downtown denominations, community organizations with whom we currently partner and/or might potentially partner in the future, and other potentially interested parties.

The decision-making process will consider our current contexts, including the challenges faced by many congregations within the local United Church community, as well as various societal trends within the wider community, especially in our downtown neighbourhood. Our intention is to dig deep and examine our current contexts, refocus our vision and mission, and discern goals and related actions.

By extending the outreach beyond our walls, we seek to garner additional important input and feedback that will help our congregation to discern our future options as a community of faith, options which could include discussions about partnerships, amalgamations, or mergers with other congregations, and/or possible closure(s).

BUDGET

The TUCC contract costs are \$26,350 for the work of the facilitators, plus \$8,000 to \$10,000 for travel and accommodations, as well as other related costs such as space rental, food & refreshments, audio-visual support, etc. The current estimate for this one-year project is \$35,000 to \$40,000.

The Canadian Shield Regional Council has generously provided funding support to help offset the costs of this important project. A grant application to the United Church of Canada's Seeds of Hope Foundation in the fall of 2023 was unsuccessful - we plan to apply again in April 2024. We also welcome donations in support of this project.

We encourage all members of the congregation to participate in the ongoing discussions as they are able, as we collectively look towards commemorating the United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary in June 2025.

2023 Council Members

Rev. Dave Le Grand - Minister

Ralph McIntosh - Co-chair

Phil Thurston - Co-chair, Secretary, Regional Council Representative

Jill Bennett - Treasurer

Kathy Brankley - Secretary

Leslie Cassidy - Secretary, Welcoming Coordinator (to June 30, 2023)

Bev Chapman - Secretary, Regional Council Representative

Scott Darling - Place Board Representative

Debbie Laporte - Resources Chair

Donna Mese - Regional Council Representative

Suzanne Nykilchuk - Worship Planning

Anne Pile - Ministry and Personnel Chair

Ralph McIntosh and Phil Thurston, Co-Chairs
Church Council

WORSHIP and MUSIC REPORT

Worship Planning Component

Team Members: Bev Chapman, Maureen McGuinness and Jeannine Zadow

What has been going on?

- Planned and presented weekly services that would be meaningful to our congregation in the sanctuary and at home.
- Collaborated with other United Churches to provide services for Good Friday, Christmas and summer.
- Used decor and graphics to enhance weekly worship.
- Along with the musicians, chose hymns to add beauty and meaning to our services.
- Conducted a music survey which indicated how much we enjoy and are grateful to our musicians.
- Used "Sanctified Arts", through Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter.
- Introduced "Visio Divina", a meditation activity using visual arts.
- In order to meet the needs of various learning styles (visual, audio, tactile) we provided opportunities to engage all types of learners (meditation journals, stones, post it reflections, etc.)
- Honoured our commitment to Right Relations by celebrating Indigenous Sunday, Orange Shirt and Have a Heart Day.
- Celebrated the 50th anniversary of St. Andrew's Place with a special Sunday service.
- Returned to our usual manner of receiving Communion, however, we made plastic cups available to those who wished to use them.
- Experimented successfully with "Table Church". (Small group activities during worship)
- Mourned the loss and celebrated the life of our team member, Diane Trollope.
- We express our gratitude to the Place Board for supplying FOBS to the congregation.
- A special thank you to all our Sunday morning greeters and offering monitors for your support, and to Gloria (and helpers) for providing a welcoming, greatly appreciated social hour, complete with goodies.

Future Goals

- Continue to collaborate with the "Learning Discipleship Team", about worship themes and services.
- As "Seasons of the Spirit" no longer publishes, we are looking for new worship resources.
- Continue to make our effort regarding "Right Relations" a priority.
- Encourage the congregation to participate in the land acknowledgment in a more personal way.
- Searching for new members to be part of our team.
- We will review and possibly update the Baptism policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Nykilchyk, Worship Planning Team Chair

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

St. Andrew's United Church continues to struggle to configure its resources in ways that might spark new Christian Education programming. It seems to me that there are a few factors that presently create barriers to healthy new Christian Education opportunities:

1. The pandemic impacted each of us and all of us in ways that we are only beginning to understand. One symptom of the isolation of Covid was that many of us came to enjoy joining groups from the comfort and safety of home. Related is the expectation of congregants and adherents that they can join groups, studies, or even worship, online. Others, though, are tired of "Zoom" chats and yearn for the immediacy of engaging with others in person. The compromise, "hybrid" technology, is still very much a work-in-progress, often bringing with it glitches that can disrupt the flow of meaningful discussions.

3. We have also changed as a community. Where at one time there were numerous leaders willing to facilitate studies and groups, now we have fewer leaders willing to start a new group or community. Add to this the reality that, at present, St. Andrew's United Church has one paid "minister" to support committees and teams, to take the lead in worship and pastoral care.

4. Finally, the context around us has changed. As always, being downtown presents its challenges to people coming together. Beyond this, however, I sense anxiety among some of our members that might present yet another barrier to Christian Education in this brave new world, coming downtown to participate in groups and communities. To lay the groundwork for reconnecting meaningfully - in groups and communities that help us to grow spiritually - I suggest that we need to be open and honest about how we are feeling, and to nurture courage in one another to initiate honest and loving conversations about our anxieties that hold us back from participating in church life.

If you have an idea for a Group, or Study that might feed our community, spiritually, please come talk to me, Rev Dave. There are many things we *could* do; ways of reconnecting, and of growing together in faith. "Doing Discipleship" has become one "medium" through which to share our visions and dreams, anxieties and concerns. I invite you (the *you* who is reading this) to start a new conversation, with me, with the congregation or a leader. If you have an idea about a Group or an Event that might bring us together, and nurture spiritual growth in us please consider sharing it. It is time to come together, to connect and grow, in faith and love. Let's do this together.

Gratefully,

Rev Dave

SUNDAY EVENING SOCIAL HOUR MINISTRY REPORT

It has gone through a few iterations but in the late spring of 2024 the Sunday Evening Social Hour via Zoom will celebrate its fourth anniversary. Originally created as a way in which our congregation could connect online when the pandemic shut down in-person gatherings, the social hour is still going strong, despite the return to the “new normal”.

Every Sunday evening at 7:00 we get together on Zoom to visit with each other and catch up on the news or discuss issues that have sparked our interest or concern. The atmosphere is meant to be inviting and relaxed, with no “rules or regulations”. Everyone is always welcome and free to attend whenever they can or care to. Our “core” is there almost every week but others come and go. Folks are welcome to stay the whole hour or, if it better suits their schedule, join late and/or leave early.

Given that we live in a world where things always seem to be changing, it is reassuring for those who join us to know that they can count on the weekly social hour to connect with supportive friends. I am so grateful to the regulars who are small in number but fiercely loyal and with whom I have developed deep and lasting friendships.

With great sadness, I cannot conclude this report without acknowledging the loss of one of our founding members, Diane Trollope, who passed away on July 5, 2023. Diane was our technical wizard who brought us together every week, as well as our co-host. Unfailingly, she brought energy, creativity, and joy to our gatherings. We miss her deeply and will remember her always.

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Chapman

CONNEX TEAM REPORT

This is a summary of the role of the Connex Team as it supports the congregation of St. Andrew’s.

- The Connex Team’s mandate is to maintain contact with individual members of the congregation and to act as a Pastoral Care connection between the congregation and our minister.
- The Team is made up of 9 group leaders: Jane Baggs, Sylvia Carscadden, Bev Chapman, Pat Martin, Betty McFarlane, Marian McKnight, Maureen Oldham, Roger Pile, and Jeannine Zadow. We are grateful for the contributions that Jim Smith, Rhodine White, and Bev Harris Cecutti have to our Connex Team.
- Each group leader has a list of members of the St. Andrew’s family and communicates with them in ways that are appropriate to the people in their

group, and, in ways that are comfortable for the leader. On a regular/ongoing basis contact may take the form of emails, phone calls, letters, conversations at church, or personal visits.

- In the past we have organized group letters on two occasions: in December to inform the members of upcoming Advent and Christmas worship services; and, in August to invite members back to church after the summer break.
- Connex also organizes two congregational events during coffeetime in Club 111. Our “Birthday Bash” celebrates everyone’s birthday with cake and ice cream. Our “Welcome Back” party happens on the Sunday after the September long weekend, at which we provide lunch. Last September we hosted the first Doing Discipleship lunch.
- We continue to support Gloria in her role in delivering coffee/treats at our after-worship fellowship time in Club 111. Connex supplies the coffee and fixings, and members often provide delicious baking items.
- We are continually updating our group lists, both in terms of adding new members, and removing the names of those no longer in our congregation. Throughout the year, our Office Administrator keeps me/us informed of any changes in contact information.
- When one of our leaders is made aware of changes in the lives of one of their people, which may involve the benefit of pastoral care, the message is passed on to me and I let our minister know.

Acting as “church elders” our role is important in enabling members of the St. Andrew’s family to feel connected to, and valued by, our church. Roger Pile (chair)

COMMUNICATIONS and TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Members: Eric Maag (Chair), Mallon Appianing, Sylvia Carscadden, Rev. Dave Le Grand, Roger Pile, Alison Warner-Smith, and James Warner-Smith, with participation from Torrin Maag and Ralph McIntosh.

At the beginning of 2023, we worked with the worship committee to improve services from content to layout to communication. Slides were improved and a new system was added to highlight speakers for online participants. We analyzed, recommended, and executed once approved the purchase of certain technologies including the Owl for in-person/virtual meetings. In the fall, we added to the sound booth team as we trained some new folks for sound and camera.

The new website was put on hold as were a few other communication & technology activities as I was on leave for the fall.

The Communications & Technology team responsibilities are in three areas:

Growing Spiritually

Building Community

Transforming Lives

- Internal Communications (how we share our services and our activities and how we communicate with each other) including: email, internal calendars, etc.
- External Communications (how we engage the greater community in worship, faith and ministry) including: website, social media, YouTube, live-streaming, etc.
- Technology (what tools we use to communicate effectively both internally and externally) including: computers and associated peripherals, copiers/printers, sound, lighting and recording equipment, etc.

We are very fortunate to have a dedicated sound booth team led by Roger Pile and Mallon Appianing. Without them, we would not be able to provide the quality of services for both our online audience and the congregation in the sanctuary.

Eric Maag

Communications & Technology Team Leader

REACHING OUT REPORT

Reaching Out Team members are: Kathy Brankley, Sylvia Carscadden, Marian McKnight, Rhodine White, Freda Wilson, Dave LeGrande, ex officio.

We thank Joyce Dickson and Bev Harris- Cecutti who were on the Reaching Out team, and we thank Jill Bennett, our church treasurer for her support of our work. Many people help us in so many ways and we offer all of you A BIG THANK YOU.

Refugee Committee Members are: Joanne Ross, Sylvia Carscadden.

The Reaching Out Team is committed to promoting the outreach mission of St. Andrew's United Church in the downtown of Sudbury

The Reaching Out Team believes that our outreach has its greatest impact when we partner with community groups who are established and have resources and expertise not available to us. We are committed to mission projects that enable independence and recovery; the community kitchen is a good example.

The Team held 4 zoom meetings, January 12, February 9, April 13 and October 26

Outreach.

- On February 5, Lisa **Long from Reseau Access** came to speak with the congregation and our neighbours in St. Andrew's Place about the services Reseau Access provides. At the lunch and learn all the tables at Club 111 were filled and Lisa answered many questions. Reaching Out partnered with Connex on this presentation.
- We continued to collect and deliver **muffins** weekly to the Off the Street Shelter, Reseau Access and SACY. This mission concluded on April 24.
- Vitamins were supplied to Samaritan Centre. This was funded by Out of the Cold.
- **Bus tickets was provided to Reseau Access** to facilitate appointments for their clients, and red scarves were provided by St Andrew's knitters.

- **The Downtown Churches** group is being reactivated with Rev Dave LeGrand representing St Andrews.
- **Monetary donations** were made from the Benevolent Fund to our Partners: Oct 26, 2023
 - Value Vault of Sudbury Secondary School \$600
 - Keeping Seniors Warm Senior Citizens Advisory Panel (City of Greater Sudbury). \$600
 - SACY (Sudbury Action Centre for Youth) \$600
 - Better Beginnings, Better Futures. \$200
- We supported Reseau Access as it continued to search for funding for the Supervised Injection Site.
- During Lent, Lorie Leger from **Sudbury Secondary School's Value Vault** spoke to the congregation, and many items from the Value Vault's wish list along with Walmart gift cards were donated.
- **Loonies for SACY**, a fundraiser for the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth, was held in the spring. \$200 was donated by the congregation.

The Advent Project - Children at the Centre

Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth II and Lansdowne Public Schools were contacted to ask what was needed. Princess Anne school needed gift cards for food and gifts, Lansdowne needed gift cards and some food for lunches and Queen Elizabeth needed books and some money to revitalize the kindergarten play area.

The congregation was asked for cash donations, grocery and gift cards and snack food. A large poster and an informative power point explained our project to the congregation.

The generous response enabled the Reaching Out team to deliver a cheque of \$1000 and a \$50 gift card to each school. As well a large box of snack food was delivered to Lansdowne Public School. The kindness and generosity of our community was very appreciated, and everyone's gift made a difference to someone.



Presentation at Queen Elizabeth II

Larch Street Community Kitchen

Three sessions were enjoyed by tenants from St. Andrew’s Place and members of St. Andrew’s Church.

Refugee Committee

St Andrew’s continues its support of the *Sudbury Welcomes Immigrants* which is responsible for financial and personal support for the Al Zahran family. They are Syrian refugees who are coming to join family members in Sudbury when restrictions are lifted.

*Give us the strength to love each other
Every sister, every brother,
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.
Marty Haugen VU 619*

Respectfully submitted by Rhodine White, Team Lead, and Sylvia Carscadden



Community Partners

BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

Merriam Webster tells us that the Latin root of *benevolent* comes from *bene*, meaning "good," and *velle*, meaning "to wish." English words rooted in *velle* include volition, which refers to the power to make one's own choices or decisions, and voluntary. We better understand the spirit of "Benevolent" by knowing its opposite, the word *malevolent*, meaning *to have or show a desire to cause harm to another person*.

Let's just say that there is ample malevolence in the world around us. You can be assured that St. Andrew's United Church understands that people get lost in the gaps of our frayed social safety system in Canada. With spiking inflation, and a provincial government that tends to see addictions through a criminal justice - rather than a healthcare - lens, we have developed a two-pronged approach to the Benevolent Fund. One prong is the Fund used by your minister to respond to individuals in crisis who reach out for help. The other prong of the Benevolent Fund you support is used to support organizations in the Sudbury neighborhoods who offer more systemic help to those who are: hard-to-house; facing mental or physical health issues; or generally unable to pay essential bills.

For the "day-to-day" crises that individuals in our neighborhood may have, whether they have run out of food and money, or are unable to pay a significant bill and face imminent eviction, your minister offers pastoral support to them, and determines what financial support (if any) is appropriate. From this minister's middle-class perspective, it is impossible to fathom the complexity and anxiety faced by an increasing number of people on our front doorstep, and even in seemingly comfortable neighbourhoods. Thanks to you, at Christmas time in 2023, we were able to purchase Gift Cards for our most vulnerable families and individuals, to let them know that St. Andrew's cares.

The other ministry of your Benevolent Fund is through partnering with amazing organizations who offer support, health care, education, and compassion to the most vulnerable, especially in downtown Sudbury. Most notably, Réseau ACCESS Network, who you might see hard at work out of the back of St. Andrew's Place, administering to people on Medina Lane. St. Andrew's United Church, through the Reaching Out Team, helps Réseau to purchase bus tickets for clients to go to important appointments. Our Reaching Out Team also contributed to the Value Vault at Sudbury Secondary School.

Despite clear evidence of "malevolence" in our world, it seems obvious, given the generosity of the congregation and community towards the St. Andrew's United Church Benevolent Fund, that there is indeed goodness in our world. I convey a wholehearted Thank You for your generosity in 2023, on behalf of the many, many people who need compassion in our community.

Starting balance as of December 31, 2022:	\$4,051
Total <i>Donations</i> to the Benevolent Fund (gratefully received!) in 2023	\$9,480
Disbursements in 2023	\$3,935.35
Balance as of December 31, 2023:	\$9,595.65

(Reverend) Dave Le Grand

RESOURCES REPORT

The Resources Oversight Team oversees the Resource Teams that are responsible for the temporal matters of the congregation: the annual budget and monthly financial statements; administrative and policy matters; Stewardship initiatives; Memorial Gift funds; Fundraising; and Property maintenance.

The Board of Trustees oversees all matters related to insurance and investments.

Financial Oversight and Administration

Debby Laporte (chair), Jill Bennett (treasurer), Susan Darling, Ralph McIntosh

What we do:

- Provide oversight of the operating budget and the Memorial Gifts Fund.
- The Treasurer and Accountant administer the operating revenues and expenditures, and work with the auditor on the year-end financial statements and the Charity return.
- The Memorial Gifts team administers the activities of the various Memorial Funds.
- The Finance team also reviews these activities monthly (or when needed) and develops new policies for Council's approval when required.
- Draft the annual operating budget for the approval of Church Council and the congregation.

Stewardship

Debby Laporte (coordinator), Rev. Dave Le Grand

Stewardship is the wise use of time, talent, and financial resources. We assist the congregation in embracing a framework for the lifelong journey of what it means to be a Christian today, with a focus on being a downtown church. This past fall, due to the passing of Diane Trollope and personal health issues for other members, a formal stewardship program was postponed. Fortunately, the Doing Discipleship process has been helpful in raising awareness about the many ways we share our gifts.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we came close to meeting our 2023 financial goals in terms of member donations and loose offerings, as well as our Mission & Service target goal. Even though we have fewer donors than last year, many members have increased their donations and volunteered countless hours to carry out our mission.

Volunteering time and talent is key to the success of our church and the wider church. Many opportunities exist to help – please contact any member of our team if you would like to become more involved.

Memorial Gifts

Committee: Susan Darling, Kathy Brankley, Alison Warner-Smith

The Memorial Gifts Committee administers the Restricted and Unrestricted Memorial and Endowment Funds of St. Andrew's United Church. It receives applications for the Lola McNaughton Bursary and participates in the selection process for the Rev. Dr. Earl

and Elizabeth Lautenslager Scholarship at Huntington University. The Committee prepares a brief segment within a spring church service to celebrate the gifts received to the Memorial Gift Fund and to honour those in whose memory donations have been received.

Highlights for 2023

- The Church received \$ 7,775.00 in donations to the general Memorial Gift Fund.
- The Lautenslager Scholarship (\$750) was awarded to Luc Couture, a resident of Huntington University completing his 4th year in Kinesiology.
- There were no applicants for the Lola McNaughton Bursary.
- In April the Committee submitted its annual summary of its work for the Church News.
- An expanded *Celebration of Life* segment was prepared for the May 7th Sunday service.

During 2023 the Church received donations in memory of:

Terry Carscadden	Ilse Jakelski	Very Rev. Alfred Kingsley Appianing
Howard Simpson	Ruth Buell	Dale Wilson
Margaret Nykilchyk	Diane Trollope	Flora Barnard
Jim Smith	Brian Harper	Alexandra Burbidge-Pasquin

Property

Joint Place-Church Committee: Susan Darling, Maureen Oldham, Jane Baggs; Graham Laporte as Inventory Steward.

This Committee oversees the procurement, maintenance, repair, replacement and disposal of church equipment and furniture. The Committee endeavors to make spaces inviting to all and has at least one member who sits on the St. Andrew's Place Board. Decision-making involves awareness of the Church-Place Lease Agreement; the Space Improvement Protocol; the Gift Acceptance Guideline; Restricted Funds criteria; and the Council-approved process for managing surplus items.

Highlights for 2023

- Continued to maintain and update inventory of Church furnishings and technology.
- Monitored installation of LED lighting to enhance Eagle Message in sanctuary.
- Maintained the Welcoming Planter and narthex with décor appropriate to each season.
- Purchased items for the Planter from the Wilhemina Wright Fund and continued to manage decor items in three storage cages in B2 level.
- Contributed ideas toward the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of St. Andrew's Place.
- Consulted with new Program Coordinator of One Eleven Senior Citizens Centre Inc. regarding improvements in 111 Lounge.

Fundraising

Sandra Simpson (Chair), Debby Laporte, and Alison Warner-Smith

Purpose:

- To coordinate all fundraising events.
- To ensure events are in keeping with St. Andrew's Mission.
- To follow charitable guidelines and rules of UCC and CRA.

Although raising funds to support the mission of St. Andrew's is important, another key component is to provide our church family with opportunities to meet new people and reconnect with people they know – an environment for laughter, sharing, and working together.

It was a surprisingly good year for Fundraising, especially in the latter part of the year when several amazing projects came to fruition, allowing us to meet our goals.

- St. Andrew's enjoyed the musical talents of Dr. Robert Hall and Dr. Charlene Biggs when they presented a duo piano concert in October, with \$545 being donated to the church.
- Debby Laporte coordinated the Pulla Bread project where 100 loaves of delicious bread were sold, raising \$1,200. Thank you to our professional baker Wes Virtanen from Manitowaning.
- Jen Bruneau and Suzanne Nykilchuk sold pumpkin pies after a church service in the fall and raised \$215.
- Four receptions were held after the Bel Canto Chorus Spring and Christmas Concerts. A total of \$1,000 was raised. Many thanks go out to Jill Bennett for organizing these events.
- In collaboration with the Place, a Christmas dinner was prepared for the residents of our building, coordinated by St. Andrew's members. Over 35 volunteers prepared, cooked, and served 125 tenants a delicious Turkey Dinner in the 2nd floor activity hall. After expenses, this fundraiser raised \$2,000 for the church.

In addition to raising funds for the church, this team coordinated another successful "Socks for Souls" campaign for those in need in our community. 408 pairs of socks were donated to Lansdowne and Queen Elizabeth II Public Schools, the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth, and others in need in downtown Sudbury. The campaign also received 37 blankets.

Our sincere thanks go out to the many volunteers and supporters of our 2023 FR events.

OUT OF THE COLD (OOTC) MEMORIAL FUNDED ACTIVITIES

Each year St. Andrew's United Church funds specific activities using OOTC Memorial funds as an additional part of our Community Outreach. The following is a summary of the activities supported by this fund:

1. **Elgin street mission donation** – St. Andrew’s UC continues to support the Mission each year as part of our Reaching Out activities and in 2023 made its annual donation in the amount of \$6,000.
2. **Vitamins** – in the early days of the COVID pandemic our beloved Diane Trollope put forth the idea that the health of people accessing the Mission could benefit from regular intake of Vitamin C and so our Vitamin Mission began. As part of Diane’s legacy, St. Andrew’s still continues to supply Vitamin C to the Samaritan Centre purchased with funds from the Out of the Cold Memorial Fund.
3. **Community kitchen** – in 2023, in cooperation with Ray Landry and the Sudbury Homelessness Network, St. Andrew’s ran two pilot sessions of Community Kitchen with clients of the Network who had been successfully housed within the last few years . Based on the model of our Seniors’ Community Kitchen, Anne Pile, Rhodine White and I gathered with clients from the Network for four Wednesday afternoons in April and September 2023. While we started out with a small group, participants were very enthusiastic and tremendously grateful for the opportunity to cook wonderful meals together and enjoy the fellowship of the group. The feedback from Ray and his team was more profound than we had anticipated and gives us purpose. We are continuing this Network undertaking as well as the Seniors Community Kitchen in 2024.

The fund **began 2023** with a balance of **\$38,704.40** and a balance at the **end of 2023** of **\$31,846.02**, before interest earned by the investment of the fund during 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Jill Bennett

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

St. Andrew’s Board of Trustees is responsible for investments and insurance matters.

Investments

- Our church’s funds are invested through RBC Dominion Securities and Frontier Capital Funds through the United Church of Canada.
- We continue to comply with our church’s Investment Policy regarding the proportion of fixed income and equity investments.
- In 2023, our Frontier funds realized a gain of \$15,629.66, a growth rate of 5.68%.
- \$25,000 in RBC Dominion investments that matured in January were reinvested.
- The Church has been holding \$42,000 raised by Sudbury Welcomes Immigrants (SWI) for several years in anticipation of a new Syrian family’s immigration to Sudbury. The family arrived in June, and the church began providing monthly allotments to the adult family members from the SWI’s funds held in trust.
- In June, \$80,000 of maturing RBC holdings were reinvested, and an additional \$25,000 was transferred from RBC to the church’s bank account to cover the first six of 12 monthly payments from the SWI funds held in trust (July to December 2023).

- As a result, while the funds in our RBC portfolio averaged a 4.6% gain over 2023, this withdrawal reduced our total portfolio from \$364,300.71 to \$349,375.16, a decrease of \$14,925.55.
- Additional investments were liquidated in early 2024 to cover the costs of the remaining six payments using SWI's funds (January to June 2024), as well as the costs of our contract with Toronto United Church Council for the work being carried out by facilitators Jill Strapp and Ron Ewart from July 2023 to June 2024.

Insurance

- As noted in our 2022 report, as of December 1/22 we purchase our contents insurance through the United Church of Canada's self-insurance program.
- Our monthly premiums have been reduced by approximately 30%.

Inventory

- As we continue to replace old equipment and add new technologies in the church offices and sound booth, the Chair of Trustees will work with Inventory Steward Graham Laporte and Treasurer Jill Bennett to update the church's inventory of computer-related technology and audio-visual equipment.

Members: Bert Brankley, Wayne Cassidy, Donna Mese (secretary), Ralph McIntosh (chair), Freda Wilson, and the Rev Dave Le Grand (staff resource).

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph McIntosh, Chair
Board of Trustees

MINISTRY and PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

M&P Committee: Anne Pile, Chair, Bert Brankley, Dale Myslik, Freda Wilson, Jim Smith (Chair Jan – June)

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee is a confidential, consultative body that acts under the guidelines of The United Church of Canada. The committee has three roles: consultative and supportive role, healthy relationships role and a supervisory role. Through these roles, we assist ministry personnel, lay staff and volunteers in the performance of their duties and work on behalf of our faith community.

In 2023 office work started to return to it's new normal in May. This included Alison being back in the office 1 day/week and continuing to work remotely for the other 2 days. This allowed for in-person connection of staff, volunteers, and Place staff. In early fall, Alison suffered a significant medical event and was off for the rest of the calendar year. The

committee was fortunate to be able to bring on Gloria Appianing to be the office presence and assist Dave with worship related work as well as many other small items. We thank Gloria for stepping into the unknown and are also glad to report that Alison is recovering and hoping to return to work soon.

Throughout the year M&P continued to support and work with Dave as he ministers to this congregation. Dave and the committee supported the idea, which was presented to council, that the church actively engage in visioning and discernment and this has evolved into the Doing Discipleship program which we continue to support. We thank Rev. Dave, on your behalf, for the passion and commitment that he brings to the Church and the Place when it is not always easy to be positive.

The committee, as always, conducted annual performance and job description reviews with staff. We provided representation to the Doing Discipleship group and the Funeral Policy group. Christmas acknowledgment of staff and office volunteers was virtual again, but Kупpa Joe gift certificates were well received.

The committee would be remiss if we did not honour the memory of our longtime member Jim Smith. Jim brought a wealth of information to the group and had a knack for bringing us back to the nitty gritty! Thank you and be at peace Jim.

As Chair, I want to express my gratitude the committee, for their commitment, compassion and careful consideration of all matters that come before us as we journey in faith together here at St. Andrews.

Anne Pile, Chair

CANADIAN SHIELD REGIONAL COUNCIL REPORT

Members: Bev Chapman, Donna Mese, Phil Thurston

It has been another busy year for the St. Andrew's representatives to the Canadian Shield Regional Council (CSRC) which is headquartered in North Bay, Ontario. Your elected delegates have participated in several workshops, townhall meetings, and other gatherings to deal with issues, questions, and concerns pertinent not only to our region but, in some cases, the broader Church. Outlined below are some of the key activities that have transpired in 2023.

On April 25 delegates from the CSRC and our sister Council, Shining Waters, gathered for a Duty of Care workshop hosted online by Jody Maltby and the Rev. Melody Duncanson-Hales. This workshop dealt with the ways in which we are obliged to care for each other with an awareness of individual vulnerabilities. eg. age, youth, disabilities, etc. and with

a special focus on sexual harassment. Ways of doing risk assessments and strategies for reducing/eliminating risks were identified and discussed.

In June Donna and Sylvia Carscadden attended the first Festival of Faith. It was held in North Bay. It was such a success that it will now be held every two years. It was a time of prayer, music, guest speakers, and workshops. Our own Torrin Maag was a presenter at one of the workshops. The Festival of Faith is open to all members of CSRC pastoral charges.

On September 19 representatives from both Councils gathered again for a townhall meeting to address the issue of the upcoming Remit under consideration by the United Church of Canada. This Remit involves an application by the Indigenous Church to remove structural barriers to developing and sustaining their Church, while remaining within the United Church. The townhall meeting was led by Michael Blair, Secretary of the UCC. He began the meeting by offering a very clear, articulate explanation of this initiative of the Indigenous Church and the details involved in the process and the possible outcome. This presentation was followed by a question-and-answer period which proved to be very valuable and informative. A video of the townhall meeting can be readily accessed on the CSRC website (www.canadianshield.rc.ca).

On November 25 the CSRC held its annual General Meeting via Zoom. A central item on the agenda was the Remit, with further information provided by the Rev. Whitney Bruno and the Rev. Melody Duncan-Hales, along with a video featuring First Nations speakers emphasizing the importance of a positive response to the vote on the Remit. The CSRC members eligible to vote then did so, with a very nearly unanimous vote in favour of supporting the Remit. Other topics on the AGM agenda included a celebration of Mission and Service work and ideas and resources available to support upcoming stewardship campaigns and the ongoing work of M&S. A draft budget for 2024 was approved and a call went out for people to serve in various capacities with respect to the work of the CSRC. The Rev. Nancy Ferguson was installed as the Council's new Chair.

Going forward, dealing with the Remit at the local church level will be the top priority in the first part of the new year. Resources have been made available to the congregation and an information/Q&A session is planned for the congregation to become fully informed and express their opinions to members of the Church Council who will submit a vote from St. Andrew's by the deadline in March.

Another upcoming event is the Festival of Faith scheduled for June 13-15 in Sudbury, a joint venture undertaken by the CSRC and the Shining Tree Regional Council.

Finally, the CSRC AGM for 2024 is slated for the weekend of May 3-5 in Sault Ste. Marie. An important task that occurs throughout the year is the dissemination of the many e-mails and bulletins that come from the CSRC. We ensure that each one is forwarded to the appropriate person in our church.

Your delegates to the CSRC are proud to represent you and feel privileged to enjoy the trust you have placed in us to do so. Thank you so much for your ongoing and faithful support.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Mese (reporting)
Phil Thurston
Bev Chapman (reporting)

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH, SUDBURY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Financial Statements are provided in a separate report.

**For more information, please contact the Church Office at
705-674-0721, ext. 101.**



111 Larch Street Sudbury, Ontario P3E 4T5 Canada 705 675 5303 www.st-andrews.ca

AGENDA

52nd ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

1. Opening
2. Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting, March 26, 2023
3. Business Arising
4. President's Report
5. Audited Financial Statements – December 31, 2023
6. Auditor's Appointment
7. Approval of all actions of the Corporation in 2023
8. Confirmation and Election of Directors
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

51st ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. ANDREW'S PLACEMINUTES OF MEETING

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Live and via Zoom

1. Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by Scott Darling, President of the Place, who noted that this meeting marked a special anniversary in the history of the Place.

The Rev. Dave LeGrand opened the meeting with a prayer.

Scott reviewed a few housekeeping items such as a clarification of who could vote on any motions. He also said that questions and comments were welcome.

The agenda was introduced.

Motion: That the agenda be approved, as circulated.

Moved by Eric Maag Seconded by Joanne Ross Carried

2. Approval of Minutes of Annual Meetings – May 18 and November 20, 2022.

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meetings of May 18 and November 18, 2022 be approved.

Moved by Peter Penttila Seconded by Phil Thurston Carried

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the previous meetings noted above.

4. President's Report:

Scott provided a brief recap of the history of St. Andrew's Place from its origins as St. Andrew's Corp Inc. at which time the Board of Directors was made up entirely of members of St. Andrew's Church. The Board met monthly. Their mission statement was to provide low-cost housing for seniors in downtown Sudbury and the Place is proud to be able to claim that it has done this.

In recent years there have been many changes. The safety and security of the tenants and the building have been a chief priority. As well, due its healthy financial situation, the Place has been able to provide St. Andrew's Church with a COVID Relief Subsidy to help offset church-related expenses. This subsidy has been provided to the church for the last two years and will be again in 2023. The church is most grateful for this very generous support. Also, in collaboration with the Church, a Christmas dinner was hosted for the tenants of the building, involving approximately thirty volunteers. This special dinner was very well received.

The Emergency Planning Committee continues to work on behalf of the Place and the Church to provide ongoing security.

As this is the 50th anniversary of the Place, a celebration is being planned to mark this significant milestone, another example of a joint venture undertaken by the Church and the Place. This celebration will take place on the weekend of May 13-14.

Club 111 has been operating for 45 years. Recently, it has had to weather some challenges but is up and running once again, providing social opportunities for its members. Membership is made up mostly, but not exclusively, of tenants. Membership in Club 11 is offered to all tenants.

Recent physical renewals of the building include 111 Lounge which sees continual use eg. Sunday coffee hour, the Sudbury Festival of Music.

With respect to reinvestment and rejuvenation, all the apartments on the west wing have been renovated. This year a major project will be the renovation of the east tower units. The Place recognizes the importance of reinvesting. It is the home of choice for many people and, indeed, there is a waiting list of individuals interested in becoming tenants. All the commercial places are full.

In conclusion, Scott acknowledged the excellent work done on behalf of the Place by the building managers, Luxor Management, and their staff (operational and maintenance). As well, Scott expressed sincere thanks to the volunteers who make up the Board of Directors for their fine work and noted that whatever success the Place enjoys is due in large part to them.

5. Audited Financial Statements - December 31, 2022

Scott introduced Cameron Crawford, the CPA engaged by the Place to provide an audit for 2022.

Cameron provided an overview of the audit and an explanation of the various statements. He noted that the purpose of his audit was to provide an independent and objective report. As a result of his audit, he was providing a clean and fair result, meaning that all the statements could be relied upon.

There were no questions about the statements or services provided by his firm, MNP LLP. Cameron concluded that the statements of revenues and expenses revealed that the Place was in a very good and positive position.

Motion #1 Approval of Audited Financial Statements

That the Audited Financial Statements for St. Andrew's Place , Sudbury, for the fiscal year 2022, as prepared by the firm of MNP LLP be accepted as presented.

Moved by Bert Brankley Seconded by Jim Smith Carried

6. Appointment of Auditors

Motion #2: That the firm of MNP LLP be appointed as Auditors of St. Andrew's Place, Sudbury for the fiscal year 2023.

Moved by Scott Jeffrey Seconded by Phil Thurston Carried

7. Approval of all actions of the Corporation in 2022

Motion #3: That all the actions of the Directors of St. Andrew's Place, Sudbury, carried on for the benefit of the Corporation, both recorded in the Minutes of the meetings, and those not recorded, but having been completed at this time, be and the same, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Moved by: Jane Baggs Seconded by Sylvia Carscadden Carried

8. Confirmation and Election of Directors

Motion #4: That in accord with the nominations made by St. Andrew's United Church at its Annual Meeting, the following be confirmed as Directors of St. Andrew's Place, Sudbury, for 2023: Jane Baggs, Wayne Cassidy, Scott Darling, Herb Fines, Bob Humphrey, Scott Jeffrey, the Rev. Dave LeGrand, Ralph McIntosh, Dale Myslik, Phil Thurston, and Bob Topp.

Moved by: Phil Thurston Seconded by Eric Maag Carried

9. Other Business

No other business was introduced.

10. Adjournment

Motion: That the meeting be adjourned. Moved by Joanne Ross

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45.

Recorder: Bev Chapman

ST. ANDREW'S PLACE REPORT 2023

St. Andrew's United Church made the bold decision in 1973 to build the Place as a not-for-profit corporation. Its mission was to be a multi-purpose complex with a priority of providing affordable housing for seniors in downtown Sudbury. This year our church celebrated the success story that is St. Andrew's Place. Much appreciation is extended to the 50th Anniversary Committee of Jane Baggs, Leslie Cassidy, Susan Darling, Debbie McIntosh, Jim Smith – and to the dozens of volunteers who assisted this team. Since the celebrations, the Doing Discipleship discernment process has provided an excellent opportunity to reflect on the Church's original vision as well as today's reality.

Place and Church Collaboration

- Jointly the Church and Place planned and hosted a 50th Anniversary Concert featuring former congregant Jeremy Bell and his Penderecki String Quartet, along with the Bel Canto Chorus. *[See accompanying photo collage.]*
- Local dignitaries were present at the May 13th celebration which included a well attended reception. *[Opening comments attached.]*

- A professionally produced video was commissioned about the history of St. Andrew's Place, and a 12-page commemorative program distributed at the concert.
- Due to a healthy financial position the Place was able to again offer a *Special Pandemic Subsidy Agreement* to support the Church in addressing its own financial status.
- With many Church volunteers, the Place hosted a Christmas dinner for residents.
- The Board continues to appreciate the cooperation by all as we meet the challenges we face as a residence for seniors, commercial tenants, and the Church.

One Eleven Senior Citizen's Incorporated - A Sudbury community organization

- The Place Board assisted the One Eleven Seniors Board Inc. as it hired a new Program Coordinator, reorganized with new directors, reviewed its policies and practices, and generally was revitalized.
- A 50th Anniversary Barbeque was held for in June on the 4th floor roof terrace.
- New initiatives for members include guest speakers, therapy dogs, singing and musical programs such as with L'Arche members.
- One Eleven Seniors initiated refurbishment of the Courtyard – rebuilding the planter boxes, adding new furnishings, and contributing to funding. This has generated increased use of this area.
- The Place Board continues to pay the membership fees for Place residents and otherwise supports One Eleven programming.

Our Multipurpose Complex – Successfully continuing the Church's original vision.

- We have full occupancy in terms of apartments and commercial spaces.
- Commercial tenants at the Place continue to contribute to the solid financial performance of St. Andrew's Place. Kuppajo Express Bar has been an asset to residents and to the community, as has the presence of two hair salons.

Building Improvements

- Floors 5 to 8 in the East Tower received new lighting, flooring, millwork, wallpaper, doors, and the installation of a new keyless fob system.
- The HVAC units were audited, and replacements were made to improve the building's air quality.
- The refurbished Huntington University Peace Chapel is increasingly used, including on Sundays by a community congregation.

The completed *Policy and Procedures Manual* has proven to be important for the proper operation of the Place.

The Place Board has a practice of collaboration and reaching out to community partners including the City of Greater Sudbury, Huntington University, and the many businesses who look after repairs and improvements in the building.

We are thankful for the longstanding oversight provided by Luxor Management including by Manager Jay Mancini. This year Directors welcomed Joanne Ross to the Board and congratulated Richard Lachapelle on his retirement after a long tenure as building Superintendent. The Place Board truly appreciates the daily efforts of on-site staff who have assisted Rick: Property Administrators Angie Ethier and Alicia Roy; Roxanne Sutton, Victor LeFrancois, Bob Ritchie, and Dennis Poulin.

On behalf of the Church, I would like to express deep appreciation for those who serve on the Place Board of Directors:

Jane Baggs	Scott Jeffrey	Scott McClure	Bob Humphrey
Herb Fines	Bernie Hughes	Wayne Cassidy	Bob Topp
Scott Darling	Phil Thurston	Dale Myslik	Rev. Dave Le Grand
Joanne Ross			

Respectfully,
Scott Darling, President of the Board of Directors

Excerpt of Introductory Comments at 50th Anniversary Concert

Scott Darling: Thank you, Ralph. And thank you to Councillor McIntosh, Councillor Cormier, and MPP West for joining us tonight. As Ralph indicated there really was considerable support and collaboration required from both the city, the Province and the Federal government in order to build a complex such as St. Andrew's Place. And so, we were - and are - appreciative of that and I wish to acknowledge those contributions tonight.

As I have often stated, St. Andrew's Place really is a success story. You can imagine the risk taken 50 years ago, and the ingenuity, to consider a radically new kind of church building. Truthfully there are very few church & apartment combinations such as ours across the entire country.

As you enter St. Andrew's you will notice the 7-tongued Pentecostal flame, a piece commissioned by famous artist Jordi Bonet. The church CHOSE that particular symbol because it represents renewal and vitality. How prophetic that now seems! Most of us visit other communities and we read & see the news, so you know as I do, that many older church buildings are having serious difficulty surviving. A CBC investigation as recently as last fall showed some beautiful churches, in places such as Montreal, that have had to close entirely and are often put up for sale. Others have had to re-invent themselves to be community centres. These churches have transformed into centres that rent out space to day-cares, fitness groups or other organizations. In a sense, St. Andrew's was ahead of the game; we created a building in the 1970's that was multipurpose and sustainable. That bold decision made 50 years ago turned out to be critical in allowing our downtown church to not only survive, but to thrive.

At a time, as I have said, when even our neighbouring churches have had to close, our Church is going strong, carrying on its mission to be a compassionate community of faith; our apartment complex normally has a waiting list; all available commercial space is

leased out; and bookings for events in this room and our other rental spaces are steady. You can imagine that the Board of Directors of the Place, which incidentally always includes our Minister and Chair of Church Council, is kept rather busy. Effective management has meant financial health, and that has allowed us to continuously reinvest in this building. We have been able to replace elevators and the roof, renovate the lobby and amenity spaces as well as all of our apartments. Additionally, we have recently refurbished our Peace Chapel due to a generous donation from Huntington University with whom we have maintained a long-term partnership. You may wish to have a peek inside the rededicated Chapel during intermission or when we move upstairs for the reception. So, I can attest to the fact that this building has been very well maintained and will be here for many more years for the church to do its important work and for the community to host events such as tonight's.

Music has always been important at St. Andrew's - you may have noted we have two grand pianos and a two-rank pipe organ - and so the organizing committee thought a concert was an appropriate way to celebrate our anniversary. We are particularly pleased to have a young fellow who grew up attending Sunday School here, Jeremy Bell, return for this special occasion along with his very accomplished quartet. Soon we will hear the wonderful Penderecki String Quartet and the Bel Canto Chorus perform, but before that we are going to view a short video about St. Andrew's. It is both a fond reflection on the past and a celebration of our vibrant church as it is today. Please enjoy!



ST. ANDREW'S PLACE, SUDBURY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

The Financial Statements are provided in a separate report.

**For more information, please contact Scott Darling or
the Church Office at 705-674-0721, ext. 101.**

JANUARY



Epiphany Sunday - A Sanctified Art

FEBRUARY



Community Kitchen



Al and Roger at Fellowship Time



Fellowship Time

MARCH



Spring planter in the Narthex



Welcome! Spring planter

APRIL



Wedding Party for Torrin and Emily

MAY



Gwen Robbins

JUNE



Sylvia and Jane at PRIDE Protest at School Borad office

JULY



Diane's 80th Birthday

SEPTEMBER



Tracey and Dave



Gloria and Mallon

OCTOBER



5th Anniversary Celebration of Rev Dave
Le Grand

NOVEMBER



The Griffiths



Pumpkin and Apple Pie at
Thanksgiving



Graham, Tracey and Ralph, Musicians -
THANK YOU!!

DECEMBER



Church Choir Party



Guest Musician, Gordon Brown - THANK YOU!!!



Joan, Pierrette and Jenet, Fellowship Time



Peace Planter



Winter Planter



Advent Art



Warner-Smith family



In Loving Memory - Howard Simpson