

Bedford United Church



Annual Report 2023

(Cover photos by Lewis Turner)

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Gratitude and Reflection

Dear Members of Bedford United Church,

As we gather to reflect on the journey of the past year, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and appreciation for each and every one of you. In the face of profound challenges and uncertainties, our church community has demonstrated remarkable resilience, strength, and unwavering faith.



First and foremost, on behalf of Council, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff. Your leadership has been a guiding light, providing comfort, support, and guidance to our congregation when it was needed most. Your tireless efforts, compassionate hearts, and steadfast commitment to serving the needs of our community have been nothing short of inspiring. Whether through pastoral care, administrative duties, or creative adaptations to our worship services and programs, your dedication to the mission of our church has been unwavering.

To our cherished volunteers, I offer my heartfelt appreciation for your selfless service and commitment to our church family. Despite the challenges and disruptions that 2023 presented, you continued to answer the call to serve with enthusiasm, dedication, and love. Whether through your involvement in ministry programs, outreach initiatives, or simply lending a helping hand wherever it was needed, your contributions have made a difference in the lives of others and have been a source of strength and hope for our entire community.

And to each and every member of our congregation, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your support and steadfast stewardship throughout 2023. Your continued prayers, generosity, and commitment to the life and ministry of our church have been the bedrock upon which we have weathered the storms of this past year. Your faithfulness and dedication have been a source of inspiration to us all, reminding us of the power of community, fellowship, and love.

As we look ahead to the coming year, may we continue to stand united as a community of faith, hope, and love. Together, with God's grace, may we continue to support and uplift one another, sharing Christ's love with all whom we encounter and continuing to be a beacon of light and hope in our community and beyond.

With deepest gratitude and warmest regards,

Tim Rorabeck Chair of Council

**BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, March 26, 2023
(in person & on Zoom)**

The Annual General Meeting was held in person and via Zoom at 11:15 am on Sunday, March 26, 2023.

Present in Person: Andrea McQuillin, Tim Rorabeck, Carol McKnight, Carolyn Crowell, Jan Oakey, Shawn Oakey, Janice Reid, Jeff King, Lauren Scott, Anne Boutilier, Diane Livingstone, Edi Gilbert, Mary Belliveau, Bruce McCulloch, Peter Davison, Andrea Richard, Sue Withers, Marilyn Sceles, Nancy Wells, Karen Parnell, Sandy MacMillan, David Hart, Daniele Hart, Terry Choyce, Linda Wilke, Georgia Schurman, Linda Stewart, Sylvia Branton, Donna Miller, Valerie Ivy, Sue Stewart, Cliff Dahms, Maurice Tugwell, Bob Hodgson, Isobel Fleming, Gail Moore, Heather Dickson, Heather Boudreau, Marg Ashcroft, Ann MacVicar, Lynne Burrell, Jill Wilson, Rhonda Allen, Mona Turner, Matt Murphy, Don Ross, David Gremley, Emily McLean, Sarah McLean, Barbara McLean, Nancy Wynn, Betty Ann Wells, Susan Fralick, Arnold Fralick, Diane Allen, David Keefe, Bill Maes, Jennifer Johnson, Peter MacIntosh, Cheryl Inman, Brian King, Jeff Tingley, Jocelyn Tingley, Debbie Pryde, Paul Read, Sheryl Read, Wendy Levo, Jayne Wark, John Dohler, Nic Fieldsend, Ian MacVicar, Andrew Stewart, Kevin Gildart, Gordon Loomis, Rev. Matthew Fillier, Rev. Katie Aven

Present online: Linda Adamson, Natalie Moyes, Eloise Lemire, Linda Johnston

Regrets: Val Welsh, Mary Louise Mills

Welcome: Andrea McQuillin welcomed the group and outlined the voting arrangements and other plans to make the meeting fruitful. Jeff King and Lauren Scott were set up to connect with the online people so they could vote as well. Lauren Scott will report their votes. If the people online wish to make comments, these will be relayed by Jeff King through the Chat function. Slides will accompany the various sections of the agenda.

Agenda: Andrea McQuillin announced that the agenda will include an opening prayer, the 2022 Financial Report, the 2023 Budget, presentation of the Nominations Report, setting the date for the next AGM and closing remarks from Tim Rorabeck, the incoming Chair of BUC Council.

Opening Remarks: A slide was shown of an artist's rendering of what BUC was going to look like before the present building was built.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Matt Fillier led the group in prayer, after reading a poem entitled "New Beginnings".

Opening Motion: It was moved (Andrea McQuillin/Tammy Humphreys) and **CARRIED**

- that Bedford United Church formally constitute the 2022 annual General Meeting of Bedford United Church as open on March 26, 2023,

- that Bedford United Church formally adopt the minutes of the AGM held on March 20, 2022 as printed and circulated,

- that Bedford United Church adopt the 2022 Annual Report Booklet as printed and circulated, *apart from the Financial Reports, 2023 Budget and Nominations Report*, which will be considered separately in this agenda.

What is Stewardship? Andrea offered a short contemplation on the idea of stewardship. A lot of people think of it as a churchy kind of work for "fundraising", but it is more than that. From the Merriam Webster dictionary, the definition of Stewardship is the act of taking care of or managing something. It is an action. It is the action of taking care, care for something outside ourselves. As members of BUC, we are all stewards because we care, we act in ways that express care in many ways, ways as numerous as we are individuals.

Stewardship to the Future: We often think of stewardship as a maintenance kind of activity. If I follow the book, these procedures, if I pay attention to and check these items off the list as the model stewards before me, if I keep things going in the way that they have been executed in the past, I will manage this ... Won't I???

In stable times, times of health, ease, peace and plenty, this could be a successful strategy. But in 2023, for many reasons Stewardship must be more than this.

Stewardship today is doing research, accepting new information, probing trends, looking outside ourselves, making and learning from mistakes, trying new things, questioning our relevance, opening ourselves ... to dreaming & visions.

This slide illustrates the notion of “episodic dreaming” an exercise we did with Rev. Katie Aven last Sunday, a gift from the current Moderator, Carmen Lansdowne, where we try to place ourselves firmly in the future and imagine where we find ourselves in fine detail. With that vision in sight, what are the actions we have to take right now to make that vision reality?

The church building we are in now (our Sanctuary, our organ, our Porch) represent “embodied dreaming” - the results of the dreaming of our ancestors 42 year ago. For lots of reasons that we’ve been discussing this year, the time is right for another turn of dreaming, at defining a vision, the next manifestation of Bedford United Church. We look forward with optimism and hopefulness. The Spirit here is real. What will this Spirit make manifest?

So many dreams, we could be exhausted pursuing them; therefore, we need to circle in on something that is common to most of us and aligned with our values. Can we agree on what success looks like for BUC in 5 years? Can we describe it in words? Could we give the elevator speech if we were speaking with funders or supporters, would we be able to tell them we know the criteria for success and the timeline for achieving that?

I think we’ll all agree that there is no magic bullet, and we don’t have that answer now, although we have lot of ideas, lots of people we can ask, and lots of people who want to help. That’s what the work of 2023 will be.

It’s important that we set realistic expectations for what can be achieved. It’s not magic. It is effort and thoughtful planning and engagement/communication that will allow us meaningfully to define and set targets and shape activities.

What could hold us back? Lack of money, lack of time, lack of engagement, lack of energy, other interests or priorities, conflicting priorities between members, spending out too much time/energy on minor wins/decisions that keep us from discussing the most pressing issues, ignoring the details that are consistent with our survival.

What could propel us forward? Injections of energy, money, strategic partners, creativity, expertise, relevant experience and talent. Can we attract this?

Thanks to the recent Stewardship campaign, we now have a financial runway that will give us 3 to 4 years to define a sustainable future. The time that we spend defining that vision will need to be purposeful and strategic. As Abe Lincoln said, "If I only had an hour to chop down a tree, I would spend the first 45 minutes sharpening my axe."

Council has therefore created an ad hoc committee called Sustainable Future that is tasked with defining a process that will move us toward a common vision. You can read about this group in the Annual Report booklet. These dedicated and talented folks have volunteered to work over the next year to consult and to define a process that will allow us to have a coherent plan to manifest our spirit, a vision where we are right-sized in terms of Operating Revenue, Expenses and Volunteer Resources.

Financial Statements of 2020: Janice Reid, Team Lead of the Stewardship Ministry Team, presented a few slides to summarize the work in 2022. The detailed reports are in the 2022 Annual Report Booklet.

It was moved (Janice Reid/Tim Rorabeck) and **CARRIED** that Bedford United Church accept the 2022 Financial Reports and the unaudited Financial Statements dated December 31, 2022.

2023 Budget: Janice Reid reviewed the 2023 Budget for the meeting.

It was moved (Tim Rorabeck/Jill Wilson) and **CARRIED** that Bedford United Church accept the 2023 Budget as circulated and printed in the 2022 Annual Report Booklet on page 63.

Recognition: With red roses Andrea recognized the following people and Teams for giving leadership throughout 2022: the Stewardship Team, The Staff Team, Gloria Churchill and the Welcoming Team, the Pastoral Care Team, the Christian Development Team, the Worship and Music Team, the Choir and Generations, the Outreach Team, the Trustees, the Ministry and Personnel Team, Gary Schmeisser and the Property and Administration Team, Megan Aston and the Inclusivity Team, Sarah McLean and the Communications Team,

the Fund Raising Committee, the UCW, the Ukrainian Relief Team, members of Council, Tim Rorabeck, our new Chairperson of Council, the Sunday School teachers, the Small Group ministries leaders, the AV Team and many others.

Nominations: There are definitely some gaps in our roster of volunteers for 2023. The pandemic has been challenging for all of us, and I think has led to folks withdrawing a bit, maybe Zoom fatigue has set in. We are on the cusp of being able to gather together more safely and get re-energized by each other. If there is any aspect of BUC activities that you are curious about, I invite you to be in touch with me. There are many ways to contribute, and everyone has gifts to share.

Report of the Nominations Ministry Team: In the absence of Val Welsh, Andrea presented the Report of Nominations, which is located on pages 57-61 of the 2022 Annual Report Booklet.

The BUC Council for 2023 is as follows:

Chair of Council	Tim Rorabeck
Vice Chair of Council	-
Past Chair of Council	Andrea McQuillin
Four Members at Large	Jan Oakey (1st year of 2nd term) Tammy Humphreys (1st year of 2nd term) Matt Murphy (1st year of 1st term) Carol McKnight (1st year of 1st term)
Ministry & Personnel Team Lead	Jill Wilson
Stewardship Team Lead	Janice Reid
Communications Team Lead	Sarah McLean
Property & Administration Team Lead	-
Representative from BUC to Region 15	Jocelyn Tingley
Secretary (non-voting)	Carolyn Crowell
Plus one member of Ministerial Staff - ordained	

Further nominations were called for three times. When none were received, **it was moved** (Tim Rorabeck/Sarah McLean) and **CARRIED** that Bedford United Church accept the nominations as circulated and printed in the 2022 Annual Report booklet.

Meeting Next Year: It was moved (Sarah McLean/Carol McKnight) and **CARRIED** that the AGM next year be held on Sunday, March 22, 2024.

Closing Remarks: Tim Rorabeck spoke briefly to express his honour at being chosen for this position and his excitement at working with such great people during the coming year.

Closing Motion: Having concluded the business agreed to as the Agenda of this AGM, and with thanks to all who made it possible and to all who attended **it was moved** (Carol McKnight/Jocelyn Tingley) and **CARRIED** that the meeting be closed.

.....
Andrea McQuillin, Chair of Council

.....
Carolyn Crowell, Secretary

Celebrating our People

Baptism of Children

Bedford United Church gives God thanks and praise for the gift of the following who were baptized into our community of the Spirit during 2023:

Marshall David Gorman

Leo Alan Moakes

Gordon Moxsom

Gary Jay Bowers

Weddings

Congratulations from the congregation of Bedford United Church to the following newly married couple:

Ruth Robillard and Stephen Maurice Tugwell

In Memoriam

We hold in our hearts the following members and adherents whose funerals were held at BUC or for whom a graveside service was held during the past year.

Arthur "Art" James Hustins

Ethel "Kit" Maude Marion Hunt

Heather Dron Barrett

Charles Clifford Milligan

Donald Edward MacLean

We also hold in our hearts, members, and adherents of our BUC community for whom a service was not held at Bedford United Church.

Catherine "Kaye" Georgina Cantwell

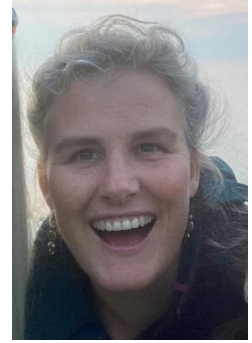
Joan Black

Faye Parker

Supply Lead Minister

Rev. Katie Aven

“The way God has designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don’t, the parts we see and the parts we don’t. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance” 1 Corinthians 12:25-26



2023 was the first full year since 2019 in which we lived out our church life with no public health restrictions. It was a year of great change for Bedford United, as we took fresh stock of the post-pandemic body of our church and adjusted to a new world both within and without our congregation. As the Minister of Congregational Care from January through August, and then the Supply Lead Minister from September through December, I have been privileged to walk with the community of Bedford United as we have navigated the changes that have affected our church body.

Winter started with BUC hosting a Healing Pathways Phase 1 Training. Healing Pathways is a healing ministry of the United Church of Canada, and our workshop brought together folks from multiple congregations in HRM, and established Healing Pathway as a new ministry at BUC (building on the legacy of Great Harbour). The winter also brought our first fund-raising campaign since 2019, in which we successfully raised enough money to cover our \$60,000 operating deficit. Later in the winter I was invited to work with our Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, in designing and building a mandate for her three-year term. As the first Indigenous female Moderator, it was a great joy to be part of this small group, as we vision and implement a future beyond our current existential challenges.

Throughout the winter and spring, small group ministries, like the BUC Makers, the Seniors’ Coffee Group, and the UCW units, continued to gather and found their footing again. Our committees carried on the important inner workings of this community, helping us to live out our mission as Christ’s body in this world. Caitlin Smithers continued in the role of Family Ministry Lead while Paige Fraser was on maternity leave, working together with other nearby congregations to engage children, youth and families.

After a dramatically painful absence, we welcomed Dinner Theatre back in May, under the skilled and patient directorship of Kim Dompierre. The rehearsals and performances were a time of laughter and problem solving, as once again Dinner Theatre put the FUN in fundraising!

Summer months brought predictably smaller (but mighty) gatherings on Sundays, and a new, shorter form of worship to accommodate rest and rejuvenation for our staff and volunteers. BUC hired three summer students and hosted a week of summer camp for BUC children. We said goodbye to Caitlin, as she continued her process towards

ordination in North Bay, ON, and students and welcomed back Paige from her maternity leave. Summer ended with the departure of Rev. Matthew Fillier, lead minister at BUC since 2018, and with me stepping into the Supply Lead role on September 1.

Fall was a very busy time for Bedford United. We began the process of seeking a new Lead Minister through the creation of the Community of Faith profile writing committee, who worked diligently through the fall on the profile. We welcomed Rev. Robyn Brown-Hewitt into the role of Supply Minister of Congregational Care. The Inclusivity Committee continued their work on racial justice within the congregation, and the BUC Women's Retreat spent a fall weekend together at the Tatamagouche Centre. The Sustaining Futures Committee clarified their mandate and engaged a professional strategic planner for three meetings to explore our values, capacities, and deficits as we look towards deep transformation in the next 3-5 years.

Throughout the year, the people who make up Bedford United worshipped together, broke bread together, celebrated the joy of baptisms and weddings together, and grieved together for those we lost. We gathered faithfully to explore how our faith guides us to live meaningful lives in our complex and ever-changing world, and to remember that we are never alone in our joys or our challenges.

As we navigate an uncertain future, with a changed and changing church body, we rest in the knowledge that God's presence in our community remains steadfast, guiding us with wise minds and loving hearts into a re-imaged future, where the world's deepest needs and our heart's deepest desires come together in the lived experience of Bedford United Church.

Supply Minister of Congregational Care

Rev. Robyn Brown-Hewitt

On October 1st, I was introduced to a surprised congregation as the new "Supply Minister of Congregational Care". It might be said I was hastily appointed to BUC not because I was wanted but because I was needed. So, over the past few months, I have tried to make myself useful. I'm very grateful to all the members of the staff team and congregation who have welcomed me and helped me find my way.



During these few months I have:

- Led 'Church in the Afternoon' services. I think these informal Thursday afternoon devotional gatherings are meeting a specific need for face-to-face community time (and for those who love to hear the organ!).

- participated in worship leadership and offered the occasional sermon, as requested. As I haven't been preaching regularly for a decade, this was a huge challenge.
- led the activities for the Longest Night, including a gathering at the Crossing, the experience of the labyrinth and service in the sanctuary.
- enjoyed sitting in with two of the UCW groups.
- worked with Rev. Katie to organize the three 'I Wonder' Sessions.
- officiated funerals and offered bereavement care.

However, most of my work has been done out of sight, that is, pastoral care and visitation. I have met with members of the congregation in their homes, at the office, on the phone or via zoom. The need in this area is very large (as is the case with most congregations). Since the pandemic and during a time of staffing changes, a number of folks have not returned to worship or to active participation in the life of the church. During my remaining time with BUC, I will make pastoral visitation a priority for my time.

At the end of each month, I have reported to the Pastoral Care Team. I cannot speak highly enough of these devoted volunteers. They visit, they call, they pray, they drive people to worship and appointments, they deliver food, they send cards. And most importantly, they are 'eyes and ears' for the staff team. I am deeply grateful for their ministry.

Responding to requests from members of the congregation, I will work with Rev. Katie to update the Funeral Policy and information documents. I will offer a workshop, 'If I Should Die', which will be an opportunity for participants to plan their funeral, learn how to speak with their loved ones about death, and talk about beliefs related to life after death.

It would've been very easy for me to work beyond my designated 20-hours-per-week if it hadn't been for my other half-time position at Dalhousie Multifaith Services. Here again, I'm thankful for the support of BUC members with activities such as DalOUT PIE-Day, the Dal student food bank, and CDC's work on a Monday Night Meal.

As a temporary traveller with BUC, I thank you for your company on the journey. May God continue to bless your ministry together.

Family Ministry Leader Paige Fraser

It is such a gift to serve with the team and community of Bedford United Church. This past year at BUC has been full of learning, connection, challenge, growth, and inspiration from this community. It is so meaningful and fun to work with the babies, toddlers, children, youth, and families of BUC. They are leading



this community, and this world, in such inspiring ways! We are truly blessed at Bedford United Church for all that the young people bring to our community.

2023 was a year of reconnecting, trusting in God and trying new ideas within our family ministry unit as we continue to learn and grow our faith and our ministries. I want to begin by expressing my deep gratitude and appreciation for BUC's Christian Development Committee (CDC) and **Lauren Scott, BUC's Children's Ministry Associate**. This team continued to adapt to change with creativity, support and passion for children and youth ministry! So much of what we do and offer, would not be possible without each of them, and continues to be such a meaningful part of what we do as a community of faith!



This year our family ministry program offered new and beloved programming. A snapshot into some of the engaging activities hosted by CDC this year: hosted and prepared a meal for Dalhousie students experiencing food insecurity, attended a Mooseheads game, hosted two board game nights, hosted a family skate, celebrated Palm Sunday with a Party, Potluck and Egg hunt, went roller blading, went bowling, enjoyed family hikes, hosted a Sunday school picnic and grad celebration, lead a Rainbow Day Camp and a PD Day Camp, went apple picking, gathered at The Crossing, held another fun Trunk or Treat event, and a Hot Spot at the crossing for the Light up Bedford Parade, shared in a Live Nativity, as well as our beloved Holy Chaos service on Christmas Eve and so much more!

During the summer of 2023 we were fortunate to receive funding from Canada Summer job grants to hire three students. We were truly blessed to hire Claire Oakey, Jordan Wood and Chelsea Fullerton. These three students brought energy, wisdom, and passion to our BUC summer. With their leadership we were able to offer a Rainbow Camp for children in our community, this camp was a highlight for many children as they explored a different colour of the rainbow each day and celebrated God's love for all through stories, crafts, games, and activities.

We have continued to offer Sunday School programming every week of the year (including the summer!) along with leadership in Intergenerational worship services. Our Sunday School and worship time focused on sharing the stories of scripture through Godly Play, drama, crafts, games, prayers, and fun!

In 2023, we prioritized our Teens United program and with the help of our committed youth we set three pillars for the year, the focus for the year has been on fun/ fellowship, volunteering/ outreach and food! Living in to these three pillars, Teens United have volunteered at Beacon house, cooked meals for Hope Cottage, prepped a meal for Dal students, made and sold pies for the Halifax Youth Project on PIE Day, offered leadership at our PD Day Camp, volunteered at our Hot Spot and Trunk or treat. They have also grown together as a community through sharing meals together, participating in an escape room, ornament making workshop, gingerbread competition, and other fun activities, and perhaps most importantly, they have shared a lot of laughs and learnings!

Another focus for our youth over the past year has been getting ready to attend Rendez-Vous 2024. Rendez-Vous is a national gathering for youth and their leaders happening in St. Catherines, Ontario this summer. BUC's youth will experience engaging worship services, outreach projects, and adventures with United Church youth from across the country. Our youth have been committed to raising funds and have hosted many fundraisers including Bake Sales, Chili take-out orders, hosted a PD Day Camp, sold Epicure, are hosting a Coffee House and more. Thank you to our community of faith for your ongoing support of our youth!

As we come together in new ways in 2024 and continue this welcoming work that God calls us to do, there are many life-giving things for us to look forward to. In the year ahead, we will be offering confirmation for youth in grade 8 and up, Intergenerational worship services, Faith Family Fridays, Sunday School, graduation celebrations, church picnics and so much more with a supportive and gifted team of staff and volunteers!

I am so grateful for an amazing community of all ages, and I look forward to all of the ways we will learn, listen, love and be inspired by each other in the year ahead!



Music Ministry Tony Janes



Another year gone by, and so quickly! It has been one of many wonderful moments. BUSK, our Bedford United Singing Kids, has really taken off. The children are having fun and loving the opportunity to sing their hearts out! It is very special getting the opportunity to share the love of God in this way. And the questions they ask! They have very curious minds to know more about God and what we believe. As well, I have seen such growth in their voices at such young ages. I am looking forward to what we will bring to worship this year.

Celebration Choir is going strong. With some new members joining us, in total we are 22. That is a lot of people on a small chancel! The anthems have been such a joy and such fun to rehearse together. Heartfelt rehearsals really are uplifting and a great start to everyone's week. Our prayer times are very special.

Generations. These folks really love bringing worship to BUC. And now we have a drummer and a bass player! The group's musicianship is growing and what a joy it is to share in this ministry. The congregation is so encouraging, and we witness the powerful energy of the Spirit each time we minister. It warms my heart to see the sincerity in worship amongst the group, even in our rehearsals.

Our chorale this past Christmas, Come And Behold Him, was a blessing. Such an Outreach too, as we get folks who join who are not part of a church. It really is an annual tradition for both the listeners and the singers. We received so much wonderful feedback from folks who were encouraged, moved, and uplifted during the presentation.

I am very happy with how things are going in the Music Ministry. Our church has such an array of religious and non-religious backgrounds and a wide range of age groups. I always try my best make music choices that spread across the spectrum to be inclusive to all, and not just inclusive but music that we can pour our hearts into so that God is center of all.

We are excited to see what God has in store for us! It is a blessing to see the joy on your faces and those moments of sincere contemplation that draw us to the Spirit of God.



Ministry and Personnel (M&P)

Jill Wilson

The 2023 M&P Team members were Jill Wilson (Team Leader), Sara Carter, Kevin Gildart, and Sheryl Read who resigned from the Team in November 2023. Fortunately, the Team was able to recruit 2 new Team Members to join the Team in November. We were thrilled to welcome Sandra Nimmo and as an ad hoc member, Heidi Leavitt-Hornmoen as the M&P Timekeeper.

M&P works closely with the Ministry Team which includes our two Ordained Ministers and five lay personnel. We are responsible for being available for consultation and support for every member of the BUC Team, as well as overseeing the relationships between our staff and the congregation.

Without going into the actual policy, members of the Congregation are directed to The United Church Of Canada Policy Manual 2024 to reference the specific policy on the roles and responsibilities of M&P. This section of policy is identified on Page 73, Section B.7.8.5 Ministry and Personnel Committee. More specific and detailed information to reference can be made to the United Church Handbook, Ministry and Personnel Committees: Policy, Procedures, Practices.

The M&P Team is responsible for ensuring that all staff have an Annual Performance Review. The assessment process is designed in a 2-year cycle in which feedback from the various Ministry teams was solicited in November and December 2022 with 2023/24 consisting of reviewing the goals established after the 2022 review. Meetings with individual personnel to review the established 2022/23 individual goals are scheduled for March 2024 with a completion deadline of April 9/ 24.

The Monthly Time Report form developed and implemented effective April 1, 2022, continues to be used effectively by all BUC personnel. Modifications to the form were made after an October 2023 meeting with all staff and the M&P Team Lead. The accumulation of additional hours worked on the form was for some personnel resulting in large amounts of time accumulation. The decision was made with staff that effective Dec.1/23 quarterly resolution of additional hours worked would be required. The “use it or lose it” plan went into effect December 1/23. Also during the October Staff meeting BUC staff requested a standardized Continuing Education Request Form which was scheduled for implementation in early January /24.

United Church Policy requires M&P to regularly review, revise and/or rewrite position descriptions. July and August were busy months with the writing of both the Supply Lead Minister and the Supply Minister of Congregational Care. Once the job descriptions were approved by the Regional Pastoral Relations Committee M&P was

charged by Council Executive to fill the Supply positions while the work began with the Community of Faith Profile Team.



The M&P Team extends our sincere appreciation to our Ministry and lay personnel for their commitment and dedication to BUC and their ongoing support to work in partnership with the M&P Team.



Members of the congregation interested in hearing more about the work of M&P and who may be considering this type of volunteering are encouraged to contact me for further discussion.

Sustaining Futures Committee

Mary Belliveau, Andrea McQuillin, Janice Reid

The Sustaining Futures Committee was created by BUC Council in spring 2023. Out of the gate, the committee debated whether its mandate was to:

1. Advise Council on a path based on maintaining BUC's existing form and trying to find ways to revitalize the church. (It was understood that maintaining our existing identity would simply extend our "runway" while not providing a change that would be sustainable over time.)

or

2. Examine opportunities for deep transformation leading to a relevant and sustainable BUC.

With a budget from Council of \$10,000 for 2023, the Committee created a Terms of Reference that was approved by Council in April with an urgent and serious mandate to conclude its work in one year's time recommending *a future direction for Bedford United Church that is sustainable in relevance, in effort, as well as financially, and will be synthesized into a Congregational vision, which would be confirmed at the 2024 AGM.* (Source: *Sustaining Futures Committee Terms of Reference*).

The Committee was composed of the following members:

SF Steering Group:

Chair: Andrea McQuillin©
Vice Chair: Janice Reid©
Bob Hodgson
Sarah McLean©
Val Welsh
Matt Fillier, Lead Minister *

SF Members:

Mary Belliveau▶
Darrell Johnston*
Cliff Dahms
Jan Oakey©▶
Carolyn Crowell©
Linda Stewart*

Katie Aven, Interim Lead Minister
Tim Rorabeck©

Natalie Moyes
Emma Rylee*
Jocelyn Tingley©
Carol McKnight©
Peter Dykhuis

Notes:

**Resigned before end of 2023*

©Served on Council 2023

► Served on Profile Writing Committee 2023

A heartfelt thank you to all the Sustaining Future committee members who gave their considerable time and talents during 2023 to the questions of BUC sustainability and future thriving!

Summary Highlights of Sustaining Futures 2023



The committee has been tested by friction between two approaches toward “transformation”: 1) incremental changes in the near term, without a transformative vision 2) deep individual inquiry and community engagement to envision the transformed operating model and then putting a plan in place to follow that definition. Because Committee volunteers had energy/passion/intellectual alignment with one or both approaches, we divided our committee activities into two groups representing Short Term Priorities and Long Term/Transformation.

Short Term priorities were characterized in this way:

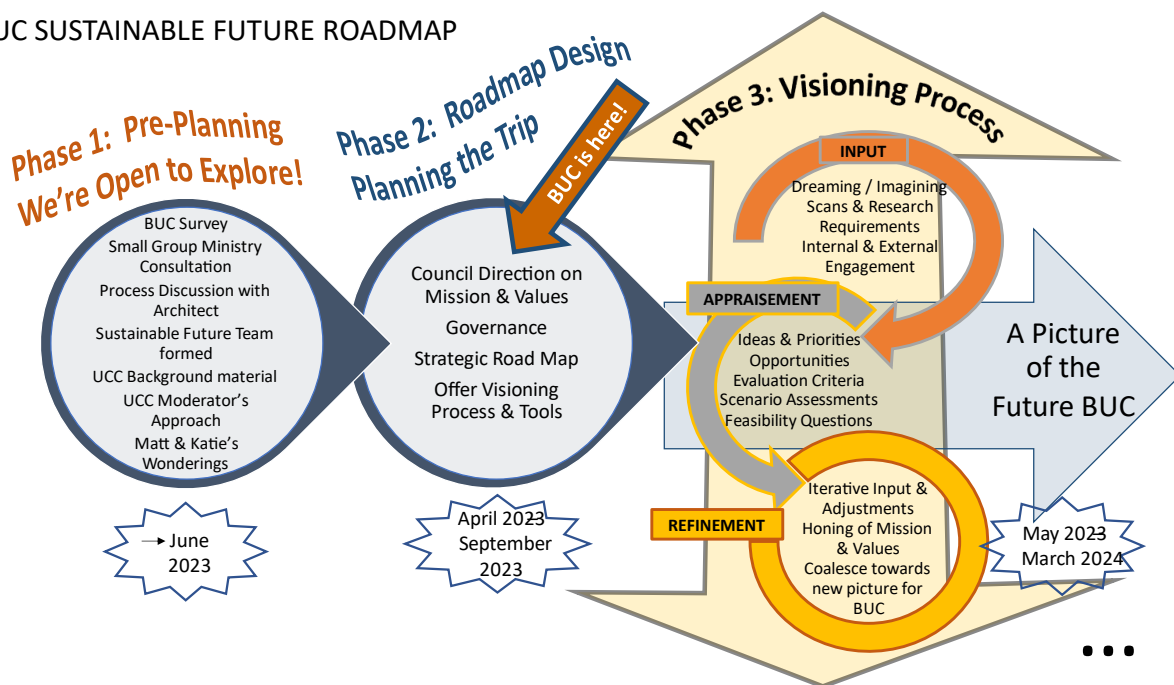
- The primary value of these activities is that they extend viability for a discrete period.
- Largely shaped by the priorities of current members and our current frame of reference. Thus, they reflect our current values and context, what we have done, what we are good at or capable of, what we understand, where we see possibilities, and using connections, structures, and support that we already have.
- These priorities reflect tangible and concrete activities that could produce incremental change.

Long Term/Transformation measures would:

- Be driven by exploring and recreating a deep understanding, connection, and new collective vision.
- Fundamentally change-oriented and continuous learning.
- Confer benefits on unknown community members (Who will we be?).
- Look outwards, seeks information, broader connections, larger context for operating.
- Reinforce that we don't know what we don't know.
- Ensure efforts and processes are collaborative and iterative.
- Lead to an outcome of strategy towards deep change.

No leader or coordinator arose for the Short-Term Group. The Long-Term enthusiasts, volunteers with governance and strategic planning experience (Janice Reid, Bob Hodgson, Mary Belliveau, and Linda Stewart) plotted a roadmap toward transformation that was approved by Council in May. See the roadmap below:

BUC SUSTAINABLE FUTURE ROADMAP



In July, we learned that our lead minister was departing. This had the effect of directing already limited volunteer resources to the more urgent priorities of replacing our minister first by supply Ministry and then conducting a full-on Search process. All of this slowed the clarifying and productive work of the Sustaining Futures Committee.

Chutzpah Consulting was engaged in the Fall of 2023 to facilitate workshops that would capture feedback on the year's work and to provide clarity on shorter and longer-term priorities going forward. An invitation to participate in the workshops was sent to forty people including all members of Council, all Sustaining Futures Committee members and Ministry Team Leads. Twenty-four (24) volunteers took part in the workshops. The first workshop included all volunteers. From this first workshop, volunteers chose to attend the next one designed for short-term interests or the last session, which focused on long-term objectives. For those who are interested, the report on the outcome of

these workshops is available as a standalone document on the [BUC Website](#) with the Council records. The cost of the facilitation and this final report was just shy of \$7,000.

Key Learnings from the Sustaining Futures 2023 Work and Next Steps

This committee worked energetically during a challenging year of continuing changes and additional requests for their limited time/talents. Its members align with the common BUC values and did much profitable work in researching, information-sharing, analysis, and deep thinking. We came together for many fruitful conversations. However, it became increasingly clear that our efforts were not unified by a shared approach to how to create a sustainable future for BUC.

Despite the approval of the “roadmap,” the implications of this approach was not well-understood. Many members of the Congregation, including some Sustaining Futures members, were not clear about the gradual yet definite financial and participation decline. Others were aware of the decline but saw solutions as possible within the context of who and what we currently are. A far fewer number recognized that lasting sustainability will require a deep reassessment and recreation of ourselves. It will change *us* as well as change BUC.

Those of us in this last group found that without this general awareness and agreement, that limited support for transformation truly existed. The many divergent paths and conversations towards “solutions” eroded the focus of the limited volunteer capacity and worked contrary to the urgency necessary in our discussions.

Are we tasked with doing things that will keep us doing the same things for longer – extending our mutual runway?

or

Are we tasked with undertaking transformation/visioning? Are we looking at fundamentally changing what we do, how we do it and with whom?

As you read this, please reflect on your deep feelings with respect to these two approaches to BUC’s vibrant future and the implications for us as a community.

Many of the Short-Term enthusiasts from Sustaining Futures have moved their efforts into BUC Council and Ministry Teams/small groups so that they are enabled to immediately chase and accomplish the Short-Term changes/decisions that are necessary and practical to improve BUC’s position relative to its structural financial and volunteer deficit.

Going forward, based on this years' experience and in lieu of a vision, the Long-Term enthusiasts from Sustaining Futures will conduct an information session/discussion with the Congregation about current state of membership, expenses, finances, and church viability trends elsewhere, as well as a fulsome discussion on the meaning of *transformation*. The objective of that engagement will be to inform, receive feedback and gauge support for transformation.

Following that, Council would meet in a session separate from its monthly meeting to consider information coming out of the Congregational meeting. Its objective: to decide if sufficient congregational support exists to continue towards transformation and define a mandate for this continuing work.

If the decision is to proceed with establishing a vision for the future that is transformative then a small group of the dedicated Long-term enthusiasts should be named "Sustaining Futures 2024" and tasked with describing more precisely what tasks are involved in that process of transformation.



Thank You's and Nominations Andrea McQuillin

This has been another full year. Each year that we operate, we think it can't get more exciting (read between the lines in small print: "challenging"), and it does. We were all asked to be reflective, agile, loving, creative, forgiving. and motivated to pitch in in so many ways. We would like to thank the many people who stepped up to answer the call in 2023, in ways big and small, whether that was volunteering for a committee or Ministry Team, contributing to the set-up or take-down for an event, your talents loaned to a special project of analysis or research, a donation in response to our Christmas appeal or our Share the Love campaign, signing your kids up for Sunday school or attending an off-site event, cleaning up Camp Kidston, schlepping risers from the basement for the Christmas Cantata, buying flowers for the sanctuary, ferrying passengers in the elevator while our worship doors were closed from Sullivan's Hill damage, putting up visitors or refugees from the Tantallon fires, making a meal for Beacon House, calling people on a phone tree, knitting a prayer shawl, making a visit or a phone call to a fellow congregant who is housebound...for these and many other contributions too many to list, please know that we recognize and see your gifts. And we are grateful.

We will call out a few people who have made some extraordinary commitments of time and talent to BUC, starting with our special staff, who are in many ways, the glue that keeps this organization running. Thank you to our Facilities Worker, Brian Skelly, who with the support of our Office Administrator, Jennifer Johnson, (and a number of key Property Team volunteers) kept the day-to-day wheels turning and the place intact in the absence of a volunteer Property Lead for a year.

Let it be known in this first full post-pandemic year, our Music Team Lead Tony Janes has taken Choir, BUSK, and Generations to a whole new level of participation and musicianship. And of course, the Christmas Concert is something that we anticipate every year. We saw Caitlin Smithers, our supply Family Ministry Team Lead, end her term during the summer and Paige Fraser returned at a full sprint, without missing a stride it seemed to all of us, even though a year had gone by with the arrival of her son, Marshall. That was also because Lauren Scott, with the support of the Christian Development Committee and Sunday School volunteers offered such excellent service and continuity, that the transition was almost invisible. Thank you, Paige and Lauren for your enthusiasm and dedication to Family, Youth and Children's Ministry at BUC.

We are so grateful to our Congregational Care Minister, Rev. Katie Aven who offered additional time, organization, spiritual guidance and leadership in the Supply Lead Minister role over the last seven months when our Lead Minister Rev. Matt Fillier moved on to the NSHA in September. We are truly glad that Katie will stay and continue her core work in compassionate care at BUC. While we thanked Matt in October in person, we have had opportunity to reflect on the five years we had with his energetic

leadership and we are truly happy for him and his family and the people of Nova Scotia who will benefit from this shift in Matt's attention. And we really would have been in a bit of a pickle if Rev. Robyn Brown-Hewitt had not agreed to bring her kindness, dry humour, and laser-sharp intelligence to supply Congregational Care Ministry, to make us whole again in our BUC Ministry Team. Robyn, it has been wonderful to have you and good luck in your "retirement."

Speaking of retirement, we are equally grateful that Rev. David Hart has agreed to help patch together with his highly honed part-time skills (remember, David, it's only part-time!) our Ministry Leadership in Q2/Q3 2024 while the Search Committee is hard at work, on the hunt for a new full-time Lead Minister. We are blessed with all this help. All of you staff, we will never be able to express our thanks adequately for the stewardship of this community. Thank you!

If the nominations slate is approved at the AGM, we will welcome the following new members to Council and Ministry Teams, and gratefully acknowledge the valued contribution of the following individuals stepping back from their roles:

On Council

We reluctantly say goodbye to Maurice Tugwell who stepped in as a temporary measure after the 2023 AGM to the role of Vice Chair in order to offer support to Chair Tim Rorabeck for the year. As of the writing of this report, we do not have a nominee for Vice Chair, a role which traditionally takes the Chair position at the end of the Chair's Term.

Matt Murphy steps down after a year on Council as a Member-at-Large. We appreciated Matt's big-picture/horizon-view, and his insights and perspective as a young father and teacher was valuable. We appreciate that you will continue to contribute on the Search Committee and by joining the Sustaining Futures Committee. Tammy Humphreys and Jan Oakey leave Council after three years each as Members at Large, each contributing to our monthly Council discussions and plugging away on other Committees as well— Jan with the Profile Writing and co-Chairing CDC (among others), and Tammy with the Fundraising Committee. Cliff Dahms joins us as a Member at Large with the rise of the AGM and brings construction career experience and knowledge about local development. Welcome Cliff! Sarah McLean, who has been invaluable to us as a mentor on strategic external communications and crisis management is vacating the Communications Chair role to take on a Member at Large role, which better suits her busy life and growing family. Sarah is always to give sage advice and a cogent message when we are in a tight spot!

Speaking of tight spots, we can't do enough to thank Bob Hodgson, who has contributed greatly to both the Stewardship and the Sustaining Futures committees over the last year and has agreed to take on leadership of the Property Ministry Team. Bob brings a ton of experience and wisdom to this role and we are excited to head down the

road with Bob in the BUC Bus. He also has a wonderful laugh. This role was vacant at the rise of the 2023 AGM and it has taken us this long to find---or convince---Bob.

On Ministry Teams

A few new folks have agreed to join the hardy bunch that is the Property Team: Alan MacDonald, David Gremley, and Jeremy MacHattie. Thank you, gentlemen, for pitching in, I don't think you will be sorry given your able Leader and your energetic fellow committee members.

You may see Val Welsh doing so many other things that you don't realize that she has been the Chair of the Worship and Music Ministry Team over the last year. As Val is retiring from her work in June, it's probably time we give Val a chance to have a little bit of a break. But who could fill Val's shoes in this role, you ask? We give you Terry Choyce! Thank you, Terry, for taking on the leadership of this important Ministry and core service of BUC. Sylvia Branton, Patricia Bell, and Ruth Strubank all also take their leave of Worship and Music, although Sylvia has agreed to continue to do the Christmas Tree Lights fundraiser (and 'rastle up the Men's Group Sylvia for the tree?). We enthusiastically welcome new members Carolyn MacDonald and Wendy Levo!

After five years, Jeff King steps down as Chair/Co-Chair of CDC, a committee that works on Christian Development at all stages of life: children, youth, families, adults! Kim Wilson has agreed to help Jan Oakey co-Chair CDC. You folks know how to run a good volunteer operation! Keep up the good work and have a great time at Rendez-Vous! Thank you to Natalie Moyes and Cassandra Hanrahan who have been long-time CDC volunteers and step back this year. Welcome to Heidi Leavitt-Hornmoen, Donna Moxsum and Amy Elms who have joined.

A shout-out to Sheryl Read who for a number of years has been a key volunteer on the Ministry and Personnel Committee. Heidi Leavitt-Hormoen has helped to fill the gap that Sheryl left by taking on some timekeeping in an ad-hoc position. M&P formally welcomes Sandra Nimmo, who is not new to BUC leadership, but new to this committee. Thanks, Sandra, for taking a turn at the wheel with M&P.

Thank you to Sandra Winters who has stepped down from both the Stewardship and the Property Committees. Sandra helped with some of the book entries and helped Jennifer with the management of some of the new facility rentals.

Other Committees

We owe a great deal of thanks to the Profile Writing Committee formed in August and worked rigorously until January, preparing the document that will be the basis of our call for a new Lead Minister. That committee consisted of Jan Oakey, Mary Belliveau, Kendall Younker, Emo Yango, Ruth Strubank, and Kathy MacKay (Bermuda Nova Scotia Regional Council liaison).

Similarly, while they are currently in mid-flight, please let us recognize the Search Committee, which is working hard to follow through on the process that will determine a new Lead Minister for BUC: Mary Belliveau, Kendall Younker, Nancy Johnston, Matt Murphy, Nic Fieldsend, Pam McLean Vessey, and Kayla Wood. Their work is so important, and it takes a lot of bandwidth; they deserve our thanks.

We'd also like to recognize the passing of an era this past year when the Fundraising Committee, a related but independent team from Stewardship "retired": Gloria Churchill, Linda Johnston, Kim Dompierre, and the last woman standing: Tammy Humphreys. We appreciate so much all the lively events you organized over the years---they brought us joy and community as well as much-needed income: lobster boils and art shows and fall vegetable and spring fruit sales.... we sure had fun. And of course, we will miss Kim's leadership of the BUC Theatre terribly---the thespians of BUC miss you already! Fear not though, a new generation of fundraisers have sprouted with spring, and we are looking forward to what they have to offer: Susan Calpin, Kristin Whittaker King, Jocelyn Tingley, Jessica Seward. Stay tuned, BUC!

We want to recognize that both Paul Read and Nathan Oakey have departed the AV team, and a number of new volunteers have trickled in....AV is getting more help all the time, which will help to bring Team Lead Nic Fieldsend's shoulders down from around his ears. Thank you Nic and AV Team for all that you do to keep our services humming in the Sanctuary and online!

And finally, we'd like to say a special thanks to some of the folks who left the Sustaining Futures Committee this past year: Linda Stewart, Ema MacLeod (went back to Ottawa for school), and Darrell Johnston. Darrell has been in front of and behind the scenes on so many decisions, and people and initiatives over the last number of years, it is hard to imagine a BUC future without him! Thank you, Darrell.



Nominations Report

Council

Chair of Council Tim Rorabeck

Vice Chair of Council VACANT

Past Chair of Council Andrea McQuillin

Member at Large Sarah McLean

Member at Large Carol McKnight

Member at Large Cliff Dahms

Member at Large VACANT

Ministry and Personnel Lead Jill Wilson

Stewardship Team Lead Janice Reid

Communications Team Lead VACANT

Property & Administration Team Lead Bob Hodgson

Region 15 Representative (up to 4) VACANT

Lead Minister: David Hart

Christian Development Ministry Team

Team Leads: Jan Oakey/Kim Wilson

Members: Jeff King Kristin Whittaker-King

Amy Elms Heidi Leavitt-Hornmoen

Jeff Tingley Donna Moxsum

Jocelyn Tingley

Family Ministry: Paige Fraser

Children's Programming: Lauren Scott

Communications Ministry Team

Team Lead: VACANT

Ministry & Personnel Team

Lead: Jill Wilson

Sarah Carter

Kevin Gildart

Sandra Nimmo (new member)

Congregational Care Ministry Team

Team Lead: VACANT

Congregational Care Liaison: VACANT

Pastoral Care Lead: VACANT

Hospital: Nancy Johnson

Joan Tompkins

Bev Deelstra

Confined to Home/Nursing Home: Pastoral Care Team

Congregational Care Ministry Team

Berkeley Liaison Margaret Embree

No e-mail Liaison Carolyn Crowell

Bereavement Support and Follow-Up Pastoral Care Tame and Katie Aven

Emergency Prayer Chain Margaret Archibald/Carolyn Crowell

Prayer Shawl Ministry BUC Makers and Wendy Levo

Pastoral Care Meals Jocelyn Tingley/Sylvia Branton

Sympathy Cards Mary MacDermid

Get Well Cards VACANT

Inclusivity Ministry Team

Team Lead: Megan Aston

Secretary: Carolyn Crowell

Members: Anne Boutilier

Jeff King Natalie Moyes

Ruth Robillard Jocelyn Tingley

Nancy Wells Kristin Whittaker

Jeremy MacHattie Kate McLeod

Jessica Seward Aurora Xu

Men's Group Leads: David Gremley and David Hart

Nominating Ministry Team

Lead (Past Chair of Council) Andrea McQuillin

Chair of Council Tim Rorabeck

Vice Chair of Council VACANT

Congregational Care Representative VACANT

Welcoming Team Representative Cathy and Mike Cox

Members: Carolyn Crowell

Val Welsh

Outreach Ministry Team

Team Co-Leads: Jayne Wark and Karen Parnell

Secretary: Jayne Wark

Mission & Service Enthusiast: Carolyn Crowell

Beacon House Representative: Lorraine DeLuca

Hope Cottage Coordinator: Krista Hunt

Deliveries to Hope Cottage: Bob Marryat

Camp Kidston Representative: Carol McKnight

Members: Ann Strickland

Terry Choyce John Drummey

Jessica Seward

Property & Administration Team

Chair: Bob Hodgson

Greg Carlin Brian King

Bruce McCulloch Andrea McQuillin

John Doehler David Lea

Alan MacDonald David Gremley

Jeremy MacHattie

Region 15 Representatives VACANT
(4 VACANCIES)

Stewardship Ministry Team

Team Lead: Janice Reid
Secretary: Carolyn Crowell
Financial Statements: Carol McKnight
Treasurer: Debbie Pryde
Weekly Counting Organization: Marilyn Sceles
Jean MacLeod
Diane Livingstone

Mission and Service Enthusiast: Carolyn Crowell

Member -at-large: Bob Hodgson

Fund Development Team Susan Calpin
Kristin Whittaker King
Jocelyn Tingley
Jessica Seward

Trustees

Team Lead and Secretary: Karen Parnell
Vice Chair: Dave Strickland
Members: John Doehler
Maurice Tugwell

Worship and Music Ministry Team

Team Lead: Terry Choyce
Secretary: Chosen at each meeting
Financial Administrator: Cheryl Inman
Ex-Officio: Tony Janes
Members at Large: Carolyn MacDonald
Wendy Levo

Coordinators:

Candles and Communion Setup: Ruby Barss Brown

Decorating Terry Choyce

Presiders Val Welsh

Scripture Readers VACANT

A/V Team Lead Nic Feldsend

Welcomers Cathy and Mike Cox

Coffee Liaison Jocelyn Tingley

Welcoming Ministry Team

Team Co-Leads: Cathy and Mike Cox

Members:

Ambler, Don MacLeod, Jean

Barbour, Jean MacMillian, Sandy

Belliveau, Mary MacVicar, Don

Bolton, Allison MacVicar, Ann

Branton, Pat McCulloch, Bruce

Branton, Sylvia McLeod, Kate

Churchill, Gloria Moore, Gail

Churchill, Len Putnam, Wayne

Cross, Everett Reddy, Dallas

Cross, Marion Robillard, Ruth

Drover, Leander Rudolph, Tom

Drover, Marg Seward, Judy

DuJohn, Heather Seward, Roger

Duplisea-Bolton , Cheyene Somers, Emily

Dykhuis, Peter Strickland, Dave

Farnell Rudolph, Debby Thompson, Donna

Graham, Connie Tingley, Jocelyn

Hart, Daniele	Tompkins, Joan
Hart, David	Tugwell, Maurice
Hartwell, Murray	Turner, Mona
Inman, Cheryl	Wark, Jayne
Johnston, Linda	Welsh, Val
Leavitt-Hornmoen, Heidi	Wynn, Nancy
Lefort, Pat	Yunker, Kendall
Levo, Wendy	

OTHER ROLES

Lead for United Church Women: Debbie Pryde

Fellowship Co-Presidents: Ange Falkenham and Rena Hill

Fireside President: Isobel Flemming

Friendship President: Bette Joan Knowles

UCC Broadview Representative: VACANT

Archivist/Historian: Jayne Wark

Librarian: VACANT

Ukraine Relief Committee

Chairs: Bill Maes and Joyce Riddell

Sustaining Futures

Chair: Andrea McQuillin Carolyn Crowell

Steering Committee: Tim Rorabeck

Bob Hodgson Janice Reid

(Lead Minister) Sarah McLean

Members: Peter Dykhuis

Natalie Moyes Mary Belliveau

Cliff Dahms Carol McKnight

Jan Oakey Val Welsh

Matt Murphy

Lead Minister Search Committee

Chair: Mary Belliveau
Vice Chair: Nic Feldsend
 Kendall Younker Nancy Johnston
 Matt Murphy Pam McLean Vessey
 Kayla Wood

**Christian Development Ministry Team
 Jeff King**

The Christian Development Committee is charged to plan, oversee, and provide resources for all Christian Development Programs at Bedford United Church. This includes programming and support for Children, Youth, Families and Adults.

Committee members at the end of 2023 included:

Jeffrey King (Chair), Paige Fraser (Family Ministries Leader – staff position), Lauren Scott (Children's Ministry Associate), Jan Oakey, Jocelyn Tingley, Natalie Moyes, Jeff Tingley, Kristin King and Kim Wilson.

Last year we held 8 bi-monthly meetings.

Highlights of programming 2023

WINTER/SPRING	
Skating /Sledding/Kidston Winter opening	Went to Scotia bank center and had a family skate, also did some roller skating, we had participated in a Moosehead game as well ski at Martock, Bowling
Anti Racism Workshop	Easter Party, Family Picnic
Lauren continued to plan Sunday school weekly and provided an opportunity for children to learn through crafts and outreach	Prepare food for Dal Students
Recorded and participated in person intergenerational service.	Church Picnic
SUMMER	
Family hikes outside; Family retreat at Camp Kidston; Campfire at The Crossing	Welcome Paige Back
Offered Rainbow Camp	Hired Students for the summer

FALL/WINTER	
Sunday school Registration	Serve Cookies and Hot Chocolate at Parade
Live Nativity	Fundraising for Teen Trip Audacious Hope
Holy Chaos Christmas Play	Trunk or treat
PD Day – Worship and fun	Apple Picking
Welcome back Sunday School Blessing	Hikes
	Escape Rooms

Areas of focus in 2023:

We had a new addition to the team to cover Paige Fraser’s year-long maternity leave. Caitlin Smithers did a great job picking up where Paige left off in July. Summer was another opportunity for all of us to come together and share great spiritual experiences through camp, beach gatherings and hikes. We were able to continue to offer valuable leadership experiences for the youth through community offerings by making food together and participating in outside church activities. I appreciated the hard work, commitment, and innovation that each of our committee members provided the BUC community.

Sunday School for Children – We have wonderful children at BUC! It is such a joy to work with them and to see how their time in Sunday School is helping to shape their faith and their understanding of God. We offered in person Sunday school and developed the children’s faith through various stories, crafts and outreach experiences enriching the children’s learning.



Sunday School Leaders and Event Volunteers for 2023:

The committee thanks all our volunteers for their contributions of time, talents, and treasures in 2023. The committee offers apologies in advance for any errors or omissions with regards to volunteers this year, Jeff Tingley, Natalie Moyes, Gordon Moyes, David Moyes, Jan and Shawn Oakey, Nathan, Clarie and Caelyn Oakey, Lauren Scott, Jocelyn Tingley, Kim Wilson, Jeff and Kristin King, Nic Fieldsend, Tammy Humphreys and Paige Fraser, Amy Elms, Donna Moxsom, and Heidi Leavitt, Ema MacLeod, Kayla Wood, Cassandra Hanrahan

Special Thanks to:

- Jennifer Johnson for her continuing support
- Paige Fraser and Caitlin Smithers for coordinating Family Events
- Lauren Scott for coordinating Sunday School



Inclusivity Team Report

Megan Aston

The Inclusivity Team continues to meet monthly and contribute to new equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives. Megan Aston chaired the group this year and Carolyn Crowell took notes. Our group is 6-8 people at each meeting.

We continue to focus on many different aspects of inclusivity such as 2SLGBTQ+, Black lives matter, Indigenous ways of knowing and physical disabilities and neurodivergence. For example, we ensure that pride flags are displayed and in good condition and Black Lives Matter signs are on the front lawn and replaced when needed.

We have provided BUC staff with a calendar that we continue to update, highlighting as many topics as possible that relate to issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. This has been a helpful tool to remind all of us of upcoming celebrations and/or commemorations. This calendar has also inspired the monthly and weekly events published in the BUC newsletter and is posted along with related events on the “Inclusivity Board” in the church hall. We have offered suggestions for activities at BUC and during services and have collaboratively participated in these activities.

As an Affirming church, we continue to be in touch with the initiatives and requirements set by Affirm United and The United Church of Canada. We held our annual PIE service and many attended Pride Parade.

Natalie Moyes co-led a Heritage Day anti-racism art workshop in 2023 with Patricia Watson. At the rise of 2024, Natalie and Ruth Robillard have met with BUC committees to discuss key messages from the book ‘Wait is this Racist: A Guide to Becoming an anti-racist church’.



Worship & Music (WAM) Team

Valerie Welsh

The purpose of the Worship and Music team is to support BUC's mission to be a vibrant Christian community, worshipping God and growing spiritually, by working with the ministerial team to ensure the provision of dynamic, inclusive, and meaningful worship services for the BUC community. It has been my pleasure to lead the WAM team this year, though I admit I didn't have a full understanding of the role when I stepped into it. Many thanks to the long serving members of WAM who helped me to learn the ropes.

Among other things, our activities this year included discussing themes and changes in the format of Sunday services, coordinating the many volunteers who take part in BUC Sunday services, understanding and supporting the technical needs of the AV team and implementing changes to the way communion is celebrated. The committee served as a sounding board and place to explore new ideas for Sunday worship services when there was a change in Lead Minister in September. Rev. Katie introduced an on-line, shared spreadsheet document for planning services and a more detailed weekly shared service planning document. Both of these documents have proven to be excellent tools for communication and coordination.

Sylvia Branton had advised that she would be stepping back from WAM in June 2023. We thank Sylvia for her many years of dedication to WAM. Sylvia has agreed to continue to organize and coordinate the lights for the Advent tree, which is much appreciated. Ruth Strubank is a former Chair of WAM and is stepping back from the committee. We thank Ruth for the support, insight, and the continuity that she provided over the past year. Emo Yango is a member of BUC who lives in Toronto and joins services on-line. He always brought interesting perspectives to WAM discussions. Emo's role with the United Church of Canada is changing and he is unable to continue his membership on the WAM team. We will miss the wisdom and insight of Sylvia, Ruth and Emo and thank each of them for their service and commitment to WAM and to BUC.

The WAM team is pleased to welcome Carolyn MacDonald and Wendy Levo as new members of the team. We look forward to the new ideas and energy that they will bring. And a big thank you to Terry Choyce who is assuming the role of Worship and Music Team Leader. Terry brings years of experience and an openness to new ideas, and we look forward to the directions her leadership will take.

Everyone on the WAM team participates fully in discussions and some members take on specific roles as coordinators. The WAM team members for the period March 2024 to March 2025 are listed below. Members of the congregation are invited to speak with

any member of the WAM team if they have ideas or concerns that should be brought to the Worship and Music team for discussion.

Team Lead

Secretary
Financial Administrator
Ex-Officio

Terry Choyce

Chosen at each meeting
Cheryl Inman
Tony Janes

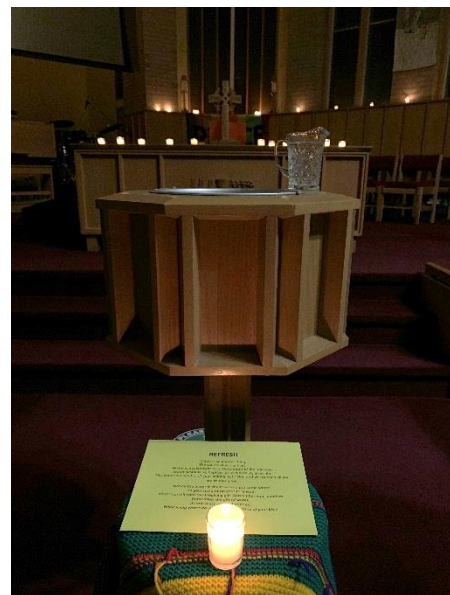
Coordinators:

Candles and Communion Setup
Decorating
Welcomers
AV Team Lead
Coffee Liaison
Presiders
Scripture Readers

Ruby Barss Brown
Terry Choyce
Mike & Cathy Cox
Nic Fieldsend
Jocelyn Tingley
Val Welsh
Open

Members at Large:

Carolyn MacDonald
Wendy Levo



Outreach Ministry

Co-chairs Jayne Wark and Karen Parnell

Purpose of Outreach Ministry (from BUC Constitution).

In support of BUC's mission to be a vibrant Christian community working for peace and justice for all creation, the Outreach team seeks to engage the congregation in promoting peace and reducing injustice and its impact in society, both locally and in a wider context. The team identifies opportunities for the congregation to offer practical assistance to groups and individuals who offer support to people in need.

Team Membership.

Bob Marryatt, Ann Strickland, Terry Choyce, John Drummey, Co-chairs Karen Parnell and Jayne Wark.

Activities: Community Support.

- **Beacon House:** BUC continues to actively support Beacon House. Lorraine DeLuca is BUC's representative on the Beacon House Board of Directors. She provides regular updates on Beacon House to the Outreach committee. BUC met its quota of cranberry sauce for the Beacon House food bank's Christmas hampers. From Lorraine:

Food Bank

Food Bank orders continue to increase. The hunger Count for this year is 15,898 (50% of the hunger count is children). Volunteer hours at the food bank are up. The cost of food has been leveling off some and with the increase in Feed Nova Scotia contributions and revenue from the Thrift Store the Food Bank is doing okay.

Thrift Store

The Thrift Store has had a quarter of a million dollars of sales this fiscal period. Church volunteer Saturdays have resumed after stopping during the pandemic. BUC has four Saturdays scheduled. Two of these will be taken by the youth group and two by adults of BUC.

Mike Hachey and Nic Fieldsend have created a Beacon House Video highlighting the combined services of Beacon House Retail Store, Food Bank and Shelter. This is being used as a presentation to groups as a case for support. Donations have seen an increase in the last few months and with the provincial funding for the Shelter things are looking up financially.

- **Beacon House Shelter:** The Shelter is in the former St. Elizabeth Seton church at 125 Metropolitan Ave. in Lower Sackville. The property is generously provided by the Holy Trinity Parish and the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. The Shelter adds a third component to the already successful Beacon House food bank and thrift store. It provided daily meals for 40 people, laundry, shower facilities and a safe place to sleep and call “home” for housing insecure adults. There are 24 beds in the main shelter as well as 8 micro shelters. An additional 19 pallet shelters will be operational in early 2024. The Shelter is overseen by a leadership team in cooperation with Beacon House Board of Directors, both of which include a BUC congregant, one being an Outreach team member.
- **Bedford Lion’s Club recycling program:** BUC has a basket in the porch for donations of used glasses, hearing aids and CPAP machines. An Outreach team member collects and delivers them to the LeBrun Centre monthly.
- **Youth support:** Outreach received a very generous donation of \$2,000.00 from a congregation member in May 2022. From this donation, Outreach has subsidized 3 children to attend Camp Kidston (2 in 2022 and 1 in 2023) and is working with Family Ministry Leader Paige Fraser to hold a full-day art camp on April 4.
- **Emergency Support Fund:** Outreach provides support to people in need through its Emergency Support Fund (ESF). The ESF is maintained through Outreach fundraising activities and donations from congregation members. Outreach received 9 requests for support and disbursed \$2014.39. This is more than twice the amount of requests and funds disbursed in 2022.
- **Advent Appeals:** Outreach conducted its annual Advent drives for local charities supported by BUC. These include Phoenix Youth, Sackville Heights Community Centre Christmas Cheer, and Beacon House Shelter. In addition to donations from BUC congregants, Shirleen Luttrell, a teacher at Sandy Lake Academy (SLA) collected donations and provided students with the opportunity to make additional stockings to add to the ones made by Outreach. We are thankful for the very generous contributions made by the BUC congregation and the SLA staff and students.
- **Hope Cottage:** The Outreach team expresses a huge THANK-YOU to Krista Hunt; our dedicated Hope Cottage food coordinator, as well as to our dedicated BUC cooks and bakers. Together they have provided 114 casseroles and 79 dozen tea biscuits/rolls in 2023. Hope Cottage, located on Brunswick Street, serves 200 meals daily to those in need.



Activities: Fundraising.

- **‘One Nickel at a Time’:** This is a fundraising initiative with Bluewater Recycling. People can have the money from their recycling returns set aside for Outreach. The total received in 2023 was \$405.50. All proceeds go to the Emergency Support Fund.
- **Soup and Chili Sale:** Outreach held this annual fundraiser again this year. The team prepared the soup and chili for

pickup on April 23. We sold 63 jars of soup and/or chili for a net profit of \$454.39. All proceeds go to the Emergency Support Fund. Outreach thanks Darrell Johnston for arranging for us to use the professional kitchen at Mount St. Vincent University.

Property and Administration Ministry Team

Andrea McQuillin, 2023 Liaison to Council for P&A

The Property and Administration Ministry Team had a rocky ride in 2023, with the former Chair departing the role in March 2023. Because we were unable to find a replacement Chair, staff and many volunteers stepped up to perform additional duties. All the same, the absence of leadership in this key BUC Ministry team had effects felt through all levels of the BUC organization.

Council would like to recognize and thank our property and facility worker Brian Skelly for his dedication and initiative this last year. Jennifer Johnson, our office administrator, juggled her many duties and took on additional administration of property and facility matters. Between Brian and Jennifer, and with the support of the remaining Property and Administration volunteers: Bruce McCulloch, Brian King, Greg Carlin, Jocelyn Tingley, David Lea, John Doehler, and Sandra Winters¹, we managed to muddle through 2023. Thank you, Property and Administration Team, staff and volunteers! The Team is delighted to report that we have a very capable individual stepping into the Property Chair role with the rise of the 2024 AGM: Bob Hodgson. Bob, we pledge to support you!

Looking back on the activities of 2023, you'll remember that in July, Sackville/Bedford, experienced destructive flooding. That event flooded BUC's basement (storage mainly). In addition, the volume of water coming down Sullivan's Hill overwhelmed HRM's stormwater system resulting in undermining of the road at the edge of BUC's property. Council would like to thank those who sprang into action to mediate the damage(s) which impacted our access to the church for months, especially Karen Parnell, Chair of the BUC Trustees, who managed for more many months the contact with our insurance provider while we waited for Halifax Water and HRM to prioritize the fix to Sullivan's Hill. (At the request of our insurance provider, we were required to rent fencing from August until just before Christmas, when the repairs to Sullivan's Hill were completed.) On a positive note, during this period while the fencing was up, our lift/elevator got the most use that it had had in years, as much of the worship traffic was driven to the back

¹ Sandra has stepped aside from Property in 2024. Thank you, Sandra! This leaves P&A with a vacancy in the role of Rental Coordination and Management.

parking lot. Thank you to all the elevator attendants who ferried worshipers up and down in our worthy conveyance!

Maintenance work completed during the year in summary were:

- Heat pumps serviced periodically on a cycle.
- Several windows replacements (we now have another one to replace in the porch)
- Pest control service was in several times to treat for mice and ants.
- We received a “new to us” updated oven and a new pop fridge.
- The alarms tested and fire extinguishers inspected.
- The elevator lift was inspected more than once this year.
- Outside wall of church painted
- Tree-trimming
- The crossing firepit gas line fixed.
- BUC Wi-Fi upgraded.
- Conducted regular roof maintenance in the spring.
- Contracts for snow removal and lawn maintenance renegotiated.

In the last number of years, there has been work from the Property and Administration Team that has attracted more rental income to our facility, an income stream which requires active management and which, on occasion, nets out on the negative side. In 2023 we had 25 unique rental groups at BUC. We still have opportunities to enhance our rental offerings, solicit solid anchor tenants, and to utilize the periods when space is available to renters. These efforts must be intelligently tailored to the condition and amenities in the facility itself.

Given all the above, and within the limits of a modest Property and Administration budget, please be assured that unforeseen crises continue to be sorted and immediate health and safety issues are addressed. Where practical and when adequate funding is available, Property and Administration projects can and will be attempted. Change is in the air! The Property and Administration team has long acknowledged that innovative and ambitious capital investments (i.e. renovations) to the facility are required if this building is to continue to modernize and to meet 1) the evolution of the delivery our key services, 2) net new services that are desired or required under a changed operating model 3) compliance with new regulatory requirements. It is anticipated that BUC Council, in consultation with the Congregation, will make directional decisions in the near term about whether and how to make those investments in the current facility, given the trending of BUC’s overall expenses and income within its current operating model.

Please be assured that your Property and Administration team has the skills and willingness to embrace change through our shared spiritual journey. Thank you for all your support and encouragement to the Property and Administration Ministry Team.

Welcoming Team

Cathy and Mike Cox, Team Leads

We took on the role of Welcoming Team Leads in April from Len and Gloria Churchill. Thank you for your support during the transition. The Welcoming Team at BUC has continued to be active over the past year. Three members of our team greeted each Sunday and special services as required. Two of the team also collected the morning offering each week. All team members made great efforts to make visitors and newcomers feel at home and welcome. We've often received positive feedback from guests via emails and phone calls to the office. We are grateful for the 48 regular volunteers and 11 spares who stepped up to do this important ministry. We had some new members join the team this year and always welcome anyone interested in joining the team.



Communications: Looking back at 2023 & Ready for 2024!

Sarah McLean

Bedford United is in the midst of a transformation and as a volunteer supporting communications, it has been a privilege to sit at the table and brainstorm with BUC's creative thinkers to consider ways to move BUC forward in a way that sustains our future - and our BUC community.

At the recent volunteer fair "Discover and Energize", I was asked by many: "So, what do you do exactly [on the communications team]?"

Let me explain.

The communications function hasn't operated as a typical committee with standing meetings. Instead, communications has been woven into many other BUC committee discussions, including the "Sustaining Future" work that has taken place over the past year. Communications is supporting the strategy development by ensuring all stakeholder groups are considered and that the congregation is well informed along the way. We're also exploring the external stakeholder groups that we haven't yet reached. Perhaps they were once a member of BUC but haven't been in a pew for a while, or maybe they just haven't heard of us - yet. Who is missing? Where are they? How do we reach them?

Over the past year, communications has also played a supportive role to the staff team on special events and fundraising campaigns.

In 2024, we're looking for writers and thinkers to build communications plans, support grant writing, and facilitate engagement workshops. etc. If this work is of interest to you, or something you wish to lead, please raise your hand. No experience necessary - just your good ideas.

I am stepping away from the lead communications role in 2024 but look forward to continuing to support communications and other ministries in 2024 and beyond.

Small Group Ministries:

BUC GARDENING

Nancy Jennings

We, a small group of dedicated gardeners, do our best to attend to the flower gardens at the entry points to the church. Besides doing the regular cleaning, weeding, pruning, and digging, we planted almost 100 bulbs for Spring display. Purchases are made from our small plant sale and from kind donations. The goal for the coming year is to spruce up the Sullivans Hill garden which seems to have a stubborn mind of its own.

Seniors' Coffee Group

Sandra Nimmo

Friends become more important as we age. Every Tuesday morning BUC offers a Senior's Coffee Hour from 10:00am to 11:00am in the Porch. In 2023 we have had 10 regular attendees sharing stories, ideas for the future, family fun, and their involvement in crafts and activities. We were presented with an Information Session on the Prevention of Scams by the Halifax Police Department. As well, we were privileged to spend one morning with Lew Turner, as he showed his many wonderful photographs on our Porch AV screen.

When we share our experiences, our loves and our losses, our mornings are never too long as we support, encourage and care for one another.

We welcome any senior who feels they might need to expand their friendship circle.



BUC Ukrainian Relief Small Group Ministry

Bill Maes and Joyce Riddell

The BUC Ukrainian Relief Team was created in May 2022 and began meeting as a small group ministry in June of 2022. With a strong commitment to social justice, equality and global peace, its purpose is to provide material and monetary assistance to children in the Ukraine who are victims of child trafficking. In collaboration with other partners, the Small Group Ministry will seek to educate the public about human trafficking locally and globally through forums and workshops.

During this past year this small group ministry hosted a perogy dinner, silent auction and "meet and greet" (The NASHI Bash) in support of NASHI, an organization which is focused on preventing young girls from being sex-trafficked and educating Canadians on human trafficking. Saveilia Curniski, the Director, and several members of NASHI came especially from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to support and participate in these

events which raised over \$7,000. The money was donated to NASHI to support 18 young girls who are under the organization's direct care in Ukraine and because of the war, now in Poland.

This Small Group Ministry wishes to thank the many members of the congregation who contributed to the silent auction, participated in the planning and serving of the dinner and made "The NASHI Bash" such a great success.



The BUC Makers Wendy Levo

The group meets every second Saturday afternoon, either in the Porch or the Parlour. The advertised hours are 1:30 – 4:30pm, come for the whole afternoon or drop in when you have time. We meet all year round, sometimes we are a small gathering, but we almost never miss a chance to get together. We always have a variety of crafts – knitting, crocheting, painting, felting, sewing, chatting, etc. We like to have show and tell which is great for inspiration and affirmation. It's always a great place to ask for advice or suggestions. The true value in being part of the Makers group is not about making crafts, it's about the fellowship of gathering together.

We are also unofficially the Prayer Shawl Ministry – we collect them from Rev. Katie or Rev. Robyn to tag them and bless them. We gratefully accept shawls from anyone in the Congregation. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please reach out to Rev. Katie, Rev. Robyn or myself. We are also happy to accept donations of yarn to make into



Prayer Shawls. If you need a pattern, either crochet or knit, please let me know.

We post notice of our gatherings on our Facebook page – BUC Makers. I also usually try to send out a reminder email. If you want to be added to the email list, please send a note to office@bedfordunited.com.

Healing Pathway

Tara Dixon

The Healing Pathway ministry began early 2023 after a group of us completed Phase 1 training. Over the past year we have provided a Healing Pathway session to approximately 20 people in the BUC dedicated healing room. During a session, two practitioners conduct a series of sequences either hands-on or hands-hovering. Our intention is to become a conduit of God's grace and healing energy while we focus on prayer and the recipient's intention for the session. Please visit - <https://www.bedfordunited.com/healingpathway/> - to request a 45 min session. Click on the banner to watch a short video or visit the FAQ to learn more. If you would like to experience healing on a physical, emotional, mental or spiritual level, please reach out. We would love to be part of your healing journey.

Dinner Theatre Jennifer Johnson



We ALWAYS have fun! What more is there to say? Thank you to those of you who buy tickets and a glass of wine, gobble up the meals we serve and give us laughs and applause both when warranted and not 😊.

Kim Dompierre, you have been the one creating the fun and family-feel both on and off the set. We love you and hope some day you'll be back in the director's chair. In the meantime, please know we actors would welcome anyone who feels called to direct this hapless troupe!

In 2023 we were thrilled to have a huge cast perform ***Romeo and Winnifred: A Tragical Comedy in Two and a Half Acts by Charlie Lovett***. The greatest thing about having a large cast is there are many smaller parts which inspired some brand new folx to join us on stage. Again, thank you Kim and all the volunteer heroes who helped pull the show together!!

Scouting Programs Heather Carlin



It starts with Scouts.

The Bedford United Church co-sponsored the 1st Bedford Scouting Group with All Saints Anglican Church. 1st Bedford Scouts is under Charter #219, issued annually to the group since 1919 from Scouts Canada. The Bedford United Church provided meeting space for the Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers on Tuesday evenings.

The 2022-2023 Scout year continued to be a time of regrowth for our group following the pandemic. Interest in the program remains high, however, due to the lack of volunteer leaders we have not been able to register all potential participants. Thankfully, this year we returned to weekly in-person meetings at our two sponsor locations on Tuesday evenings. The Beaver Scouts met at All Saints Anglican Church; while the Cubs, Scouts and Venturers met at Bedford United Church.

For the 2022-2023 Scouting year, the 1st Bedford Group registered 34 youth and 12 adults for program delivery, for a total of 46 participants. There were 16 Beaver Scouts, 4 Cub Scouts, 13 Troop Scouts, and 1 Venturer Company Scouts. Unfortunately, we had one leader coordinating the Cub Scouts. To meet the required youth to leader ratios, the Cub Scouts meetings were held with the Scouts. We continue to appeal to our parents for leadership assistance and Scouts Canada, NS Council is also assisting with this challenge. Our goal in the coming years is to develop our leadership and offer programming to all youth.

We offer our sincere thanks to Bedford United Church for their sponsorship of the 1st Bedford Scouting Group and we look forward to returning to weekly meetings at the church.



2023 Annual Reports

Presented At The
Bedford United UCW Annual General Meeting
Sunday, January 28nd, 2024

Leadership Team Annual Report 2023

Submitted by Isobel Fleming, Team Lead 2023

One cannot report on the year 2023 without commenting on the environmental events that occurred as these impacted many of our UCW members. Some members were evacuated from their homes or had family who lost their homes during the wild fires. Then came the July floods when other members had their basements flooded and lost precious memories. Through all these tragedies, the fellowship and support of our fellow UCW Unit members provided needed encouragement and hope.

The impact of the floods also affected the ability to hold events. As a result, the Fellowship Unit was unable to hold their Annual Christmas Luncheon and Bake Sale. This event was truly missed by all.

During 2023, the Fellowship Unit celebrated their 65th anniversary. Congratulations and we wish you many more years of Christian witness, study, fellowship and service together.

At the February meeting of the 2023 Leadership Team, the draft of the revised UCW Leadership Team Guidelines was approved. One change in the revision was that if Unit Reps were unable to attend a Leadership Team meeting, they were asked to have an alternate attend.

Bedford United Church was the host church for the 2023 World Day of Prayer Service. After much deliberation, it was decided not to hold an in-person event. Instead, UCW members and the other participating Bedford churches were referred to the online service that was made available from the Women's Inter-Church Council (WICC). In addition, a donation from BUC was made to the WICC.

The Leadership Team decided to have Coffee Socials as a fundraiser and a means to increase fellowship between the Units. Fireside Unit hosted a Spring Coffee Social in April and raised \$175. Other Units were unable to host due to other events but might consider hosting in the New Year.

There were significant issues with the kitchen during the winter/spring. A letter of concern was written to the Property and Facilities Team with a copy to Church Council. Our thanks go to Jill Wilson who facilitated Caitlin Smithers being contracted to give the kitchen a thorough cleaning. However, issues still exist with the kitchen area.

On May 1, we held our Spring Service which focused on adapting to change. A Life Membership was presented to Violet Herczeg from the Friendship Unit. A collection of \$160.30 was received and was donated to Beacon House. The service was followed by light refreshments in The Porch.

As a 3-Unit project, a Mother's Day Tea was held on Saturday, May 13. Our thanks go to the Friendship Unit who lead the organization of this event and to all members who assisted. A total of \$760 was raised and this formed part of our contribution to M&S for the year.

A highlight of our year was the hosting of the Fall Rally for the Halifax District UCW on Saturday, Oct 21. The service was followed by an enthusiastic presentation by the Maritime UCW Co-Presidents Marilyn Bubar and Debbie Hawkins. Funds received from the luncheon formed the second part of our M&S donation. The Leadership Team decided that we would donate a total of \$1200 to the M&S Fund for 2023.

The UCW conducted the Sunday service on October 22. All 3 Units participated in the service and we thank Tony Janes and the choir for their lovely anthem.

The Fall also brought the donation of a new stove for the kitchen. Our thanks go to Prindle Vaux, Rev Katie's mother, who donated the stove and to those who kindly volunteered to get it transported and installed. It is greatly appreciated by all groups who use the kitchen.

We held our Candlelight Service on December 6. The Friendship Unit conducted a meaningful service which focused on "Elizabeth and Mary: Bridging the Generation Gap". The event is truly an emotional one for many. A collection of \$408.70 was received and donated to Beacon House. The service was followed by fellowship in The Porch with hot cider and Christmas goodies.

The UCW supported other groups during the year. A donation of \$300 was made to Camp Kidston and \$300 that had been collected from the sale of Sisters in Spirit jewellery was donated to Bryony House. The Social & Funeral Ministry was given \$300 towards their expenses. The UCW donated the coleslaw for the Ukrainian Relief Committee Dinner in June and provided the pies and tea/coffee for Rev Matt's Farewell in October. A cheque for \$225 was donated to the Tatamagouche Centre to be used to purchase new towels. Then on December 17, Isobel Fleming presented a cheque for \$2800 from the 3 Units and the Leadership Team to Rev Katie Aven to be added to the Kitchen Fund of the church.

In closing, I wish to thank the many people who volunteered their assistance during my year as Team Lead. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Special mention goes to Debbie Pryde who, in addition to keeping our UCW Directory current, was always available with the elevator key to assist people in attending events.

Best wishes to the Leadership Team of 2024!

UCW FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

BUC LEAD UCW FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

BALANCE FORWARD DECEMBER 31, 2022	\$737.98
REVENUE	
FUNERAL - ART HUSTINS	\$350.00
FUNERAL - ETHEL HUNT	\$500.00
FUNERAL - HEATHER BARRETT	\$500.00
FUNERAL - DON MACLEAN	\$200.00
TEA & MUFFINS (Spring Coffee Social)	\$175.00
OFFERING MAY SERVICE (NAMED FOR BEACON HOUSE)	\$160.30
MOTHER'S DAY TEA	\$1,045.00
JEWELLERY SOLD (NAMED FOR BRYONY HOUSE)	\$320.00
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN FROM 3 UNITS	\$45.00
PIES SOLD AFTER MATT'S FAIRWELL PARTY	\$30.00
FUNERAL - KAY CANTWELL	\$400.00
RALLY	\$286.00
OFFERING DEC SERVICE (NAMED FOR BEACON HOUSE)	\$408.70
FELLOWSHIP YEAR END DONATION	\$1,000.00
FIRESIDE YEAR END DONATION	\$1,000.00
FRIENDSHIP YEAR END DONATION	\$300.00
MONIES IN	\$6,720.00
EXPENDITURES	
HALIFAX PRESBYTERIAL DUES	\$208.00
WICC (WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL)	\$100.00
SOUND SYSTEM AT MAY SERVICE - JOHN DOEHLER	\$50.00
REVERSED - SOUND SYSTEM - JOHN DOEHLER	-\$50.00

PROJECTION SYSTEM AT MAY SERVICE - ANNE LEVO HARROP	\$50.00
REVERSED - PROJECTION SYSTEM - ANNE LEVO HARROP	-\$50.00
BEACON HOUSE - OFFERING FROM MAY SERVICE	\$160.30
REIMBURSEMENT FOR MOTHER'S DAY TEA - MARY LOUISE MILLS	\$35.94
CAMP KIDSTON - SPONSORSHIP	\$300.00
REIMBURSEMENT FOR NASHI DINNER- ELLEN VARNER	\$128.62
BRYONY HOUSE -JEWELLERY SALE	\$320.00
GIFT - STAFF LEAVING - CAITLIN SMITHERS	\$50.00
REIMBURSEMENT FOR MATT'S FAIRWELL PARTY - RENA HILL	\$94.31
REIMBURSEMENT FOR MATT'S FAIRWELL PARTY - ELLEN VARNER	\$73.93
WICC- FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN	\$45.00
BUC MEMORIAL - KAY CANTWELL	\$25.00
MUSIC FOR UCW RALLY - JOHN LINDSAY BOTTEN	\$100.00
REIMBURSEMENT FOR RALLY - ELLEN VARNER	\$17.97
NUCW - 1 OF 2 ANNUAL M & S COMMITMENT	\$168.03
FLOAT FOR SOCIAL COMMITTEE - ELLEN VARNER	\$300.00
BEACON HOUSE - OFFERING FROM DEC SERVICE	\$408.70
REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEC SERVICE - RENA HILL	\$24.18
BUC YEARLY DONATION - FOR KITCHEN FUND	\$2,800.00
NUCW - 2 OF 2 ANNUAL M & S COMMITMENT	\$1,031.97
TATAMAGOUCHE CENTRE - TO PURCHASE TOWELS	\$225.00
BANK SERVICE CHARGE - 12 MONTHS	\$36.00
MONIES OUT	\$6,652.95
BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023	\$805.03

Submitted by Angela Falkenham - Treasurer BUC Lead UCW

Social Committee Annual Report 2023

Ellen Varner, Leadership Team Rep

The Social Committee provided six receptions this year.

Wednesday, February 16th Arthur Hustins

Wednesday, February 22nd Ethel (Kit) Hunt

Tuesday, February 28th Heather Barrett

Friday, March 31st Charles Milligan

Tuesday, April 4th Donald MacLean

Wednesday, October 4th Kaye Cantwell

As well as the funeral receptions we also provided assistance with Rev. Matt's Farewell Reception. We supplied an assortment of pies and tea and coffee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Varner, Leadership Team Rep

Fellowship UCW Unit Annual Report 2023

Wendy Levo, President

2023 continued to have many challenges. Most significantly, the damage to the street and parking lot that caused us to cancel our Christmas Luncheon and Bake Sale. We were very sorry to have to cancel this again after we had started back after the Pandemic.

Most of our unit meetings continued to be held in the spacious and airy Porch. Our meetings are held on the second Saturday in January, February and March at 10am. From April through June and from September through November meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7pm. We currently have 23 members. We would be happy to welcome anyone who would like to join a UCW unit.

We had a variety of meetings in 2023. We started the year with a New Year's Party in the church hall. We were able to have a couple of our traditional in unit fundraisers. We held a Bake Sale at our April meeting and a Bring and Buy auction in September. Caitlyn Smithers was our speaker at the May meeting, we really enjoyed spending time with her and learning from her.

We were happy to work with the other two units for the Mother's Day Tea in May. We also participated in the Spring Service and the Christmas Candlelight Service.

We continued to support the Funeral Ministry with sweets and sandwiches.

Our Fellowship friends were delighted to provide refreshments as we celebrated the "Golden Anniversary" of our member Ellen Varner & her husband Rick. It was an enjoyable gathering to mark this special milestone in their journey. They are loved by many.

In December, some of our members made cookies for select members of our unit. We also gave those members a poinsettia.

Through our fundraising efforts we were able to make a donation to BUC, memorial donations to honour loved ones and Christmas Gifts. We also sponsored a child to attend Camp Kidston. Our Christmas donation was to Gifts with Vision by supporting Multi Faith Meals for Students at Dalhousie University.

The officers for 2024 for Fellowship will be as follows:

President – Ange Falkenham

Meeting Presider – Rena Hill

Past President – Wendy Levo

Secretary - Debbie Pryde

Treasurer - Lynne Burrell

Representative to Leadership Team – Rena Hill

I want to thank all the members who supported me through my term as President. Thanks to all the members of Fellowship who worked so hard, through the ups and downs of the post pandemic, to get things done.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy C. Levo
President, Fellowship Unit

Fellowship Unit Financial Report for 2023

Cash on hand, January 1,2024 \$3271.00

Revenues

Collection	\$420.00
Bring & Buy	\$351.00
Donation- anniversary party	\$200.00
Total	\$971.00

Expenses

Least coin	\$15.00
Bedford United Church	\$2000.00
Honorariums	\$100.00
Camp Kidston	\$410.00
Gifts with Vision	\$100.00
Memorial Donations	\$50.00
Other(photocopies, spring worship plates)	\$39.66
Total	\$2714.66

Cash on hand, December 31,2023 \$1527.34

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Burrell, Treasurer

Fireside Unit 2023 Annual Report

Isobel Fleming, President

During 2023, the Fireside Unit held 8 regular meetings and had a special get together as a spring closing and Christmas luncheon. We were very pleased to add a new active member to our Unit in November.

In February, we held our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Take-out. This is our main fundraiser of the year and we thank the BUC community for their support of this event. We cleared approximately \$950 and enjoyed the fun and fellowship of working together.

The Fireside Unit volunteered to host the first Coffee Social of the year as a fundraiser for the Leadership Team. The event was held on April 26, 2023 and a cost of \$8 per person was charged. We served various kinds of muffins, coffee and tea. Although attendance was not great, we did raise \$175 and enjoyed a time of conversation with members from other Units and women from the church.

In May, the Fireside Unit was responsible for the worship service at UCW's annual Spring service. The theme was "Eternal and Changing", a meditation by Betty Radford Turcott. Our sincere appreciation goes to members of the AV Team and to the choir for their assistance. In May, we also joined with the other two Units to host a Mother's Day Tea. This was a very successful event made possible by the Units working together. Proceeds from this event went towards the UCW's contribution to Mission and Service.

At our May meeting, we voted to donate \$820 to Camp Kidston to be used to sponsor two children to attend, or to be used for operations if not needed for sponsorship. This we donated in memory of Firesiders Elaine Keefe, Chris Stewart and Shirley Conley.

In October, we participated in the purchase of pies for the Farewell Party for Rev Matthew Fillier. The Unit also participated in the hosting of the Halifax District UCW Fall Rally on October 21 and also UCW Sunday on October 22, 2023.

This December, as the Fellowship Unit had to cancel the Annual Christmas Luncheon and Bake Sale due to the condition of the parking lot, Fireside did not have a candy/book sale. We hope to be able to have this fundraiser again in 2024. The Christmas Luncheon was truly missed by all.

In December, we also made Christmas cookies and put together tins and distributed them to various members of our Unit. These are always greatly appreciated by the recipients.

During the year, we enjoyed very meaningful devotions at our regular meetings. I also want to thank the Social Committee for providing us with several interesting events. We had a "New to You" auction at our March meeting and took in \$75. Other programs included a visit from Rev Katie Aven who discussed the role of seniors in the church and Rev Matthew Fillier who discussed the role of UCW in the church.

In closing, I wish to thank the Executive and all members of our Unit for their continued support during the year.

Fireside Executive for 2024;

President – Isobel Fleming

Past president – Pam McLean-Veysey

Vice president – vacant

Secretary – Pam McLean-Veysey

Treasurer – Rita Stevens

Representative to Leadership Team – Isobel Fleming

Social Committee – Judi Hayes, Julie Irwin and Marilyn Sceles

Respectfully submitted,

Isobel Fleming, President

**Financial Report for 2023
UCW Fireside Unit**

Opening Balance January 1, 2023 \$1,791.64

Income

Pancake Supper	\$ 949.00	
Auction	75.00	
Offerings	<u>350.00</u>	
Total Income		\$1374.00

Expenses

BUC Donation	\$1000.00	
Camp Kidston	820.00	
Rev Matt’s Farewell Party	21.96	
Bank Fees	<u>23.40</u>	
Total Expenses		\$1865.36

Closing Balance December 31, 2023 **\$1,300.28**

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Stevens, Treasurer

UCW Friendship Unit Annual Report 2023

January 9th was our first meeting back in the new year. We meet in the parlor at 1pm the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. We always invite new members to join our group. We start with tea and a sweet of some kind and then our worship service and meeting. We have 11 active and 1 honorary member.

We still do our part in making sandwiches and sweet for funerals and functions etc.

March 3rd, some of us watched the World Day of Prayer online.

March 4th, was presbyterial AGM at St.Johns Church in Fall River. It was attended by 3 of our members. Speakers were Karen Parnell, Jim Gunn and Mel Rogers. They gave a passionate account of all that's happening at the Sackville Warming Center.

April. We had a bring and buy sale to raise a little money. On April 28 and 29th AGM Maritime UCW members, went to Visions United Church in Moncton. Lee Anne Boulet and Mary Louise Mills went to this function.

Some of our members go to the chowder luncheon and ham and potato supper at St. Johns Church Fall River.

Our member Hester Milligan's husband passed away this year. Our thoughts and prayers were with her and family. We keep in touch with cards and phone calls to Charlotte Elliott who is a non-active member of our group.

May 1st was our Church Service and potluck supper. We were so pleased to present Violet Herczeg with her Life Membership pin.

May 13th. Mother's Day Tea, Lee Anne, Sylvia and myself had shared details of the 2019 Tea. So the Leadership Team decided that our Friendship Unit do the planning and advise the other units what was required. We had a meeting at my house, and Mary Louise made up the plans we discussed. The Tea was considered a success and we cleared \$759.06 and is to go towards our Mission and Service 2023 donations.

May 26 and 27th. Several of us went to the Dinner Theater. The meal was lovely and had a laugh or two over the play.

May 29th. On our closing for the summer we went for Lunch at the Sunny Side Restaurant in Bedford. I was not able to attend because of the wild fires in our area.

In July, Ann MacVicar asked Mary Louise to host three days at the Scott Manor House. She chose the 9th,10th and 11th in which time she was in charge of the kitchen with Marg and Sylvia. Myself and Vi served and made oatcakes.

July 28. We received a notice that our Minister Matthew Fillier would be leaving us at the end of August. He has a new job with Nova Scotia Health as part of a newly created team, integrated palliative care, as the IPC operations consultant. We provided pies for Reverent Matt's farewell on Sunday October 1st.

At our October meeting we collected red wagon items for Beacon House.

October 22nd. We as UCW members had the Fall Rally at our church from 11am to 2pm. We served lunch.

December 2nd. There wasn't a sale or Christmas luncheon this year at the church because of road construction around the church.

December 6th. We did the UCW Candlelight service this year. Thanks to Mary Louise for putting the program together.

December 11th. For our get together we went to True North Diner for lunch. We exchanged cards and good wishes. I gave a Christmas ornament to each of the ladies for a keepsake. Colleen Wilson joined us as well. It's nice to keep in touch with her since she left our unit. She goes to St. John's church now.

We had a very busy year as you can see.

Our unit executives for 2024.

President - Bette-Joan Knowles
Vice President - Lee Anne Boulet
Secretary - Mary Louise Mills
Treasurer - Violet Herczeg
Social Committee - Violet Herczeg
Leadership Team Rep. - Sylvia Knox
Caller list - Joy Moyes and Mary Louise Mills

Bette-Joan Knowles President

Financial Report Friendship Unit

Opening Balance: 12/19/22	\$107.26
Income 2023:	
Offering	\$445.00
New to you sale	\$107.50
Donations to our unit	\$130.00
The least coin	\$9.10
Christmas sock fund	\$70.00
Total income	761.60

Disbursements 2023:

Membership life pin	\$60.00
Memorial to BUC	\$50.00
Donations Souls Harbour	\$200.00
Camp Kidston	\$150.00
Bedford United Church	\$300.00
The least coin	\$15.00
Total disbursements	\$775.00

Prepared by Violet Herczeg Treasurer

Mission and Service Fund Carolyn Crowell - 'Enthusiast'

The United Church of Canada uses monies from the Mission & Service Fund to address problems and opportunities that are beyond our congregation, including local concerns such as Brunswick Street Mission.

In times of natural disasters and war our givings are directed in the most useful way - partnering with local charities to reduce overheads, etc.

Stories about the use of the M&S Fund are in the weekly bulletin and vary widely, so there is always something one can support. The ***Gifts with Vision*** brochure (on line or in the foyer) includes a number of projects from which you can choose. You and your child or grandchild can select one easily. BUC is supporting one now - food for students at Dalhousie University.

Give to others as you have Received

Bedford United Trustees Karen Parnell

The Trustees, as required, has 5 members. Karen Parnell as Chair and Secretary, Dave Strickland as Vice-Chair, and 3 other highly valued Members; John Doehler, Barry Goodwin and Maurice Tugwell.

Karen and John met with Bob Hodgson, in 2023, at the request of Stewardship's lead, Janice Reid. The purpose was to work together to analyze historical documents pertaining to bequeathments which are held by Trustees in an investment fund in order to achieve clarity.

Trustee Chair was also coordinating contact with BUC's insurance provider during flood remediation and protection from dangerous areas while waiting repair by Halifax Water. (Normally the responsibility of Property team.) All current members are re-offering to serve as Trustees in 2024.

Stewardship Ministry Team Janice Reid

Many thanks to the 2023 Stewardship team for their dedication to BUC, and their significant volunteer efforts that help BUC run smoothly. Please join me in thanking:

Debbie Pryde: Treasurer and Financial Transactions lead

Carol McKnight: Financial Statements and Reporting

Marilyn Sceles: Coordination and Counting of Collections, Envelopes

Diane Livingstone: Coordination and Counting of Collections, Envelopes

Bob Hodson: Stewardship Contributor and Special Projects

Carolyn Crowell: Mission & Service Enthusiast

And appreciation to Sandra Winters for contributing to the Stewardship team for the past year; as well as Jean MacLeod who, while no longer a member of the team, did step in as needed!

Initiatives and Priorities:

2023 has been the first full year using the revised Chart of Accounts for BUC, allowing us to provide reports to Council and team leads to better understand their spending, and to guide informed decisions moving forward. These changes also introduced greater clarity in classifying the types of revenue BUC receives, and will allow us to trend envelopes, memorial, PAR, and other revenue streams in future. Quickbooks, BUC's accounting system, will also now contain scans of financial transactions, providing easier on-line access for information and inquiries. And lastly, PowerChurch, the software used by the church office to track donations and revenue to BUC, has also been updated to align with Quickbooks coding. These changes have required a sustained effort, and the need for BUC's many volunteers to adapt! Thanks to everyone for making this happen!

In 2023, an envelope review was conducted to condense and reduce the number of printed envelopes required by BUC. Our thanks are extended to those who needed to adjust to having a "new envelope number" for 2024!

Thanks are also extended to those who helped deliver tax receipts, or provided reminders to friends and neighbours to pick up their envelopes or letters. Postage costs are significant, and this small individual action is a source of worthwhile savings.

The Stewardship campaign run in February 2023 successfully supported BUC through the 2023 year. One-time donations of \$35K, and on-going PAR increases of \$20K were achieved. Without these givings the near break-even financial result in 2023 would not have been achieved. It was such a joy to "Feel the Love".

2023 Financial Results

The included financial statements provide an overview of BUC's 2023 financial performance, and we welcome any inquiries on the information presented. It has been

mentioned in past that BUC's reliance on government pandemic subsidies kept us afloat. Going into 2023 with those subsidies behind us, our forecast operating loss was \$27K.

Four key factors led to the near-breakeven financial performance for BUC. The first was the revenue generated through the 2023 Stewardship campaign. It's important, however, to recognize that the financial challenges facing BUC are significant and continue. Although the 2023 Stewardship campaign raised \$55K, the year-end results show increased contributions to general operating of only \$27K. Thus, other events over the course of 2023 led to revenue decreases of \$28K.

Also contributing to BUC's 2023 financial results was increased rental revenue.

On the expense side, reduced salary costs reflected our transition to a supply ministry team. As well, reduced activities and close management of property expenditures, contributed to lower expenditures.

Proposed 2024 Budget

The 2024 budget was prepared to provide a realistic picture of BUC's financial challenges. Revenue forecasts are reduced from 2023 levels to reflect the one-time givings that were not replicated in the recent 2024 Stewardship campaign. **Not** included in the 2024 revenue is the downward trend in PAR donations. This decline was \$17K in 2023.

Rental revenue has been budgeted to increase to \$15K.

In terms of expenses, 70% of BUC's costs relate to personnel expenditures and roughly 25% of this amount relates to CPP, EI, Pension and other employment benefits paid by BUC. Salary increases for ministerial staff are mandated nationally by UCC, and the 6.3% increase for 2024 has been extended to all BUC staff. Total personnel costs are projected to increase by \$11K, over the 2023 budget of \$380.5K.

Budgeted expenses reflect the requests of the various ministry teams. Expenses do **not** include any special project funding for properties or audio-visual equipment in 2024.

Clearly, the bottom-line loss of \$80K is not sustainable for BUC. It does, however, present an unvarnished picture of the financial challenges facing BUC so that this knowledge and understanding can accurately contribute to our future decisions on our path forward.

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2023

		GENERAL OPERATING FUND	CAPITAL FUND	TRUST FUND	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
ASSETS	Note					
Current Assets						
Cash		\$155,511	-	-	\$155,511	\$190,871
Accounts receivable		<u>5,321</u>	-	-	<u>5,321</u>	<u>5,549</u>
		160,832	-	-	160,832	196,420
Investments	3	-	-	387,420	387,420	373,556
Capital Assets	4	-	1,646,807	-	1,646,807	1,646,807
		\$160,832	\$1,646,807	\$387,420	\$2,195,059	\$ 2,216,783
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES						
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Accrued liabilities		25,401	-	-	25,401	18,351
Payable to UCC and other Charities		-	-	-	0	9,013
Deferred revenue		37,982	-	-	37,982	29,993
Provision for sabbatical leave		39,996	-	-	39,996	30,000
Current portion of long-term debt	5	<u>10,019</u>	-	-	<u>10,019</u>	<u>49,723</u>
		113,397	-	-	113,397	137,080
Long Term Debt	5	<u>46,831</u>	-	-	<u>46,831</u>	<u>56,850</u>
		<u>160,228</u>	-	-	<u>160,228</u>	<u>193,930</u>
CHURCH EQUITY		604	1,646,807	387,420	2,034,831	2,022,853
		\$160,832	\$1,646,807	\$387,420	\$2,195,059	\$ 2,216,783

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the Accounting Policies and Notes to the Financial Statements.

UNAUDITED

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH
GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EQUITY
For The Year Ended December 31, 2023

		Budget 2023	2023	2022
REVENUE				
	Note			
Envelopes / Loose		\$93,000	\$71,903	\$93,297
PAR		305,000	274,853	277,323
Special Donations / Memorials		<u>75,000</u>	<u>90,509</u>	<u>38,558</u>
Offerings Sub-Total		473,000	437,265	409,178
Income from Property		15,200	31,379	26,557
Contribution from Trust Fund	3	15,000	15,780	16,130
General Fundraising (net)		15,000	12,108	6,428
Grants & Investment Income		2,000	3,784	2,590
Other		0	0	0
		<u>520,200</u>	<u>500,316</u>	<u>460,883</u>
EXPENSES				
Ministry and Personnel		380,500	360,769	373,642
Property Expenses	4	87,800	78,301	89,496
Finance Expenses		32,000	31,488	30,539
Office Costs		15,500	12,883	11,821
Program/Committee Expenses (net)	6	18,400	11,772	12,661
Council / Ministerial Expenses		13,000	7,090	2,648
		<u>547,200</u>	<u>502,303</u>	<u>520,807</u>
NET INCOME / LOSS		\$ (27,000)	\$ (1,987)	\$ (59,924)
GENERAL OPERATING FUND EQUITY				
Beginning of year			2,490	62,414
Net Income (Loss)			(1,987)	(59,924)
			<u>\$503</u>	<u>\$2,490</u>
MISSION AND SERVICE COLLECTIONS	7	\$60,000	\$60,036	\$55,042

These financial statements are to be read in conjunction with the Accounting Policies and Notes to the Financial Statements.

UNAUDITED

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2023

1. NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Bedford United Church (the Church) is a charitable organization providing services of the United Church of Canada in the Bedford pastoral charge of Nova Scotia. It was incorporated provincially under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia. The Church is a registered charity within the definition of the Income Tax Act and therefore, as long as it complies with the rules and regulations of the Income Tax Act, is exempt from income taxes and may issue charitable donation receipts to donors.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies applied in these financial statements are summarized below.

Fund accounting

The accounts of the Church are maintained in accordance with the principles of Fund Accounting. Fund Accounting comprises the collective accounting procedures resulting in a self-balancing set of accounts for each fund established by legal, contractual or voluntary actions of the Church. Elements of a fund can include assets, liabilities, net assets, revenues and expenses (and gains and losses, where appropriate).

For financial reporting purposes, accounts with similar characteristics have been combined into three major funds. Within each of these larger funds, contributions with external restrictions specific to the donation are tracked internally.

General Operating Fund

The General Operating fund reflects the primary operations of the Church including revenues generated from offerings, fundraising, facility rentals, and investments, as well as organizational expenditures incurred.

Capital Fund

The capital fund is the set of accounts, all elements of which pertain and are solely restricted to capital items. This includes restricted contributions towards active capital projects as well as the use of such restricted revenue for capital expenditures. As such, the net balance of the capital fund represents the equity that the Church holds in capital assets.

Trust Fund

The trust fund includes both trusts and endowments to the Church, and are held in trust for the Church by the Trustees of the Church. There exist various restrictions placed upon the use of these funds.

Revenue recognition

The Church follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

Unrestricted contributions are recognised as revenue of the General Operating Fund in the year received, or as a revenue receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and reasonably assured of collection.

Restricted contributions relating to general operations are recognised as revenue of the General Operating Fund in the year in which the related expenditures are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognised as revenue of the Capital or Trust Fund as appropriate.

Restricted contributions without related expenditures in the current year are held as deferred revenue.

Cash

Cash includes cash on hand and deposits held with Canadian financial institutions, net of outstanding transactions.

UNAUDITED

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2023

Capital assets

As a small organization, the Church has chosen to expense all tangible capital assets except those of a significant nature which it chooses to record as capital assets in the Capital Fund. As required by ASNPO, the amount of tangible capital assets recorded as current expenditures are identified in these notes to the Financial Statements.

Capital assets include the original cost of the assets based upon the 1984 audited financial statements, the donations and expenditures relating to the expansion and improvement of the building, the cost of the organ, and the cost of the parking lot and heat pump improvements.

Contributed services

Volunteers contribute a significant amount of their time each year to assist the Church in carrying out its activities. Because of the difficulty in determining fair value, contributed services are not recognised in the financial statements.

3. INVESTMENTS

The Trust Fund includes investments held in trust by the Trustees:

	2023	2022
Canoe Defensive Global Balance Fund, at market value	\$387,420	\$373,556
Cost \$382,421		

In accordance with the terms of the Investment Policy Statement, the General Operating Fund may expect over time to receive four percent (4%) of the market value of the portfolio as at December 31 of the previous year.

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

Cost amounts for capital assets comprise the following:

	2023	2022
Land	\$25,000	\$25,000
Building	226,192	226,192
Equipment	8,550	8,550
	<u>259,742</u>	<u>259,742</u>
Building	894,618	894,618
Organ	97,075	97,075
Parking lot and heat pumps	395,372	395,372
	<u>1,387,065</u>	<u>1,387,065</u>
	<u>\$1,646,807</u>	<u>\$1,646,807</u>

During the year \$0 (2022 - \$9,530) of capital purchases were expensed and included in Property Expenses.

UNAUDITED

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2023

5. LONG TERM DEBT

	2023	2022
Church Extension Board of Region 15 of the United Church of Canada. This loan bears interest at 3% and is repayable April 1, 2029.	\$56,850	\$66,573
Royal Bank of Canada (Canada Emergency Business Account) This loan is guaranteed by the Government of Canada. The loan was repaid in December 2023.	-	60,000
Since the loan was repaid on or before December 31, 2023, the loan was interest free and amounts were forgiven. These forgivable amounts were recognised as Government Assistance in the Statement of Income and Equity in 2021.	-	(20,000)
	56,850	106,573
less: Amount shown as current liability	(10,019)	(49,723)
	\$46,831	\$56,850

6. PROGRAM / COMMITTEE EXPENSES

			2023	2022
	Revenue	Expenditure		
Inclusivity Committee	\$0	234	\$234	(\$152)
Christian Development	11,500	16,701	5201	5,380
Outreach	2,675	3,000	325	(41)
Congregational Care	15,568	15,203	(365)	(290)
Worship & Music	0	6,294	6,294	7,917
Other	17	100	83)	(153)
			\$10,308	\$12,661

7. MISSION AND SERVICE

During the year the Church collected \$60,036 (2022 - \$55,042) of which \$ - (2022 - \$9,013) was the balance owing to the United Church of Canada for Mission and Service at year end.

8. LEASE COMMITMENTS

Future minimum lease payments for the photocopier are:

2024	\$3,804
2025	\$3,804
2026	\$3,804
2027	\$1,902

UNAUDITED

**BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH
GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Note	Proposed Budget for AGM	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
REVENUE								
Envelopes / Loose Donations		\$72,000	\$71,903	\$93,297	\$124,807			
PAR Donations	1	\$276,500	274,853	277,323	285,384			
Additional Donations / Memorials	2	\$57,200	89,046	38,558	25,250			
Offerings Sub-Total		\$405,700	435,802	409,178	435,441	436,396	394,982	395,296
Income from Property	3	\$31,000	31,379	26,557	25,987	16,823	19,526	13,929
Contribution from Trust Fund	4	\$15,500	15,780	16,130	12,894	17,869	5,000	0
General Fundraising (net)	3,5	\$15,000	12,108	6,428	16,616	4,755	28,299	25,159
Grants & Investment Income	6	\$0	3,784	2,590	15,542	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	9,095	0	0	0
		467,200	498,853	460,882	515,575	475,843	447,807	434,384
EXPENSES								
Ministry and Personnel	7, 8		360,769	373,642	367,363	330,975	313,705	287,663
	8	391,235						
Property Expenses	9, 10	81,335	78,301	89,496	119,802	89,356	98,060	91,325
Finance Expenses	11	32,000	31,487	30,539	29,647	35,932	32,178	27,515
Office Costs		12,500	12,883	11,821	10,718			
Committee Expenses	12, 13		10,308	12,661	18,529	10,514	20,770	20,918
		21,900						
Council / Ministerial Expenses	14		7,090	2,648	1,560	1,786	3,261	16,730
		8,000						
		546,970	500,838	520,806	547,618	468,563	467,974	444,151
INCOME / LOSS BEFORE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE								
		(79,770)	(1,985)	(59,924)	(32,043)	7,280	(20,167)	(9,767)
GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE								
				-	63,123	110,557		
NET INCOME / LOSS								
		(79,770)	(1,985)	(59,924)	31,080	117,837	(20,167)	(9,767)
GENERAL OPERATING FUND EQUITY								
Beginning of year			2,490	62,414	31,334	(16,761)	3,406	13,173
Net Income (Loss)			(1,985)	(59,924)	31,080	117,837	(20,167)	(9,767)
Trust Fund return 2014 - 2019						85,050		
Capital Fund funding shortfall						(154,792)		
			\$505	\$2,490	\$62,414	\$31,334	(\$16,761)	\$3,406
MISSION AND SERVICE								
		\$60,000	\$60,036	\$55,042	\$65,439	\$64,722	\$72,605	\$74,867

Notes:

- Revenue projection does NOT include the trend of decreased PAR gifts. This remains an unforecasted unbudgeted risk.
For instance:

2022 PAR =	274,853
PAR increases from Stewardship campaign:	<u>21,000</u>
Expected PAR for 2023	295,853
Actual	<u>277,323</u>
Decreased PAR during year	<u>18,530</u>
- Donations through means other than Envelopes, loose cash, or PAR are shown as Additional Donations. This includes donations such as those via Canada Helps, as well as memorial donations and \$35K in one-time gifts last year via the 2023 Stewardship Campaign.
- Areas for potential increases if volunteers are available: Income from Property Rentals, General Fund-raising
- 4% return on FMV of Trust Fund assets [\$387,420], per Investment Policy Statement.
- Fundraising \$3.75K per quarter.
- Grants received usually offset specific personnel expenditures, such as staff for youth camps. The \$3,784 in 2023 reflects investment income from the GIC which upon maturity was used to settle the CEBA loan relating to GoC COVID measures.
- Incorporates mandatory ministerial 6.3% increase applied to all BUC salaries.
- Sabbatical leave accrual reduced to \$2,500 from \$10K.
- Property costs increased by nominal 3% plus 5-7% increase for power, fuel, and water costs identified by Team.
- There are no property projects planned for 2024.
- Denominational Assessment \$22,400; Audit costs \$5000.
- Committee expenses are shown net of receipts.
- Increase of \$3500 to Worship & Music: budget requested incorporating Council support January 2024 on live music priority.
- Council budget includes \$5K for the Sustainable Futures project. 2023 budget was \$10,000.