



Living faithfully in the Spirit of Christ to make a loving difference in the world.”



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

25 April, 2021
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| PROPOSED AGENDA..... | <u>5</u> |
| MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020..... | <u>6</u> |
| 2020 Annual Congregational Report..... | <u>13</u> |
| Introduction..... | <u>13</u> |
| Minister’s Report..... | <u>13</u> |
| Council Report..... | <u>14</u> |
| Board of Trustees..... | <u>15</u> |
| Listing of Users of the Building/Property..... | <u>16</u> |
| Building Partnership Team Ministry..... | <u>16</u> |
| 1. Amnesty International..... | <u>16</u> |
| 2. Centre 507..... | <u>17</u> |
| 3. Collection of Gently-used Warm Winter Clothing..... | <u>17</u> |
| 4. Heron Road Emergency Food Centre..... | <u>17</u> |
| 5. Hunt Club Riverside Park Steering Table..... | <u>18</u> |
| 6. Mission and Service..... | <u>18</u> |
| 7. Multi-Faith Housing Initiative..... | <u>18</u> |
| 8. Partnership between RUC, Ottawa, and Providence Methodist Church, Kingston, Jamaica..... | <u>19</u> |
| 9. Refugee Committee..... | <u>20</u> |
| 10. Riverside Grannies..... | <u>20</u> |
| 11. Thexton Garden Report..... | <u>21</u> |
| 12. World Day of Prayer..... | <u>21</u> |
| <u>Caring for One Another.....</u> | <u>21</u> |
| <u>Nourishing Our Faith.....</u> | <u>23</u> |
| Adult Learning..... | <u>24</u> |
| Book Club..... | <u>24</u> |
| Learning Circles..... | <u>24</u> |
| Children's Ministry..... | <u>25</u> |
| Affirming Ministry Circle..... | <u>25</u> |
| Choir..... | <u>25</u> |
| Ministry of Music..... | <u>25</u> |
| Communications Committee..... | <u>26</u> |
| Fund Raising..... | <u>27</u> |
| Book Nook..... | <u>27</u> |
| Christmas Bazaar..... | <u>27</u> |
| Grocery/Gift/Cash Cards..... | <u>28</u> |
| Quilting and Crafts..... | <u>28</u> |
| Membership and Rolls..... | <u>28</u> |

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report..... [29](#)

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council..... [30](#)

FINANCIAL REPORTS..... [30](#)

2020 Statement of Financial Position. [31](#)

 Merged Income/Expense Statement..... [31](#)

 Consolidated Balance Sheet..... [33](#)

 RUC Operating Statement. [34](#)

 RUC - Year End Statements..... [35](#)

2021 Operating Budget. [37](#)

Nominations Report..... [39](#)

Appendix A. [41](#)

PROPOSED AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
SUNDAY, April 25, 2021 - 2:00 PM

1. Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Secretary
3. Appointment of Chairperson
4. Extension of voting privileges
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Minutes of the meeting held on February 23rd, 2020
7. Riverside Churches of Ottawa Inc.
8. Presentation of Riverside United Church Annual Reports as printed
9. Statement of Accounts for 2020 — Riverside United Church
10. RUC Budget for 2021
11. Nominations Report
12. New Business
13. Appreciation of Staff
14. Close with prayer

Please register your attendance by signing the book which will be circulating during the meeting.

United Church Polity

The congregation or pastoral charge must meet annually. This meeting must be held as early as possible in the calendar year. The congregation or pastoral charge may also decide to meet more often than annually.

At the annual meeting, the congregation or pastoral charge is responsible for:

1. electing a chair and a secretary of the annual meeting;
2. receiving the annual reports from the governing body, committees, and other groups in the congregation or pastoral charge;
3. electing the governing body and the regional council representatives;
4. and considering and making a decision on the draft annual budget.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020

The Riverside United Church Congregation gathered for a potluck lunch prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting. Members of the congregation sat together in light discussion, and then settled intently for the meeting to call to order.

1. Opening Prayer

Paul Dillman gathered attention and welcomed everyone to the Annual Congregational Meeting. He opened with a prayer from the book published by Ken Robinson entitled My Church.

2. Appointment of Secretary

Motion: Moved by Alyssa Suthertown, seconded by Mary Shaw that Christine Rhodes be appointed Secretary for the meeting. **Carried.**

Christine Rhodes assumed the position of Secretary.

3. Appointment of Chairperson

Motion: Moved by Norm McLeod, seconded by Louise Madaire, that Dave Bell be appointed Chairperson for the meeting. **Carried.**

Dave Bell then assumed the position of Chairperson.

4. Extension of Voting privileges - Adherents

The Chair then asked the Congregation if it was agreeable to extend voting privileges to all those in attendance.

Motion: Moved by Charles Barrett, seconded by Wendy Graham, that all those in attendance had the right to vote on motions. **Carried.**

5. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair asked the congregation to examine the proposed agenda.

Motion: Moved by Roger Ellsworth, seconded by Gail Christy, that the agenda be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

6. Minutes of the meeting held on February, 24th 2019

The Chair asked the congregation to examine the minutes of the Annual Congregational meeting held on February 24th, 2019. The following corrections were identified:

1. Errors in the draft, identified on the screen.
2. Note: A book is being passed around for this year's attendance to ensure greater accuracy next year.

Discussion arising from the Minutes:

3. Charles Barrett was not present at the previous meeting. However, He wished to ensure the following important additions for this year include the following:
 - a. Financial statements of Joint Holding:
 - i. Category of depreciation has been put back in and factually has never been out, as this is a generally accepted accounting principle.
 - b. The Account Balance sheet on page 21 is the statement of Riverside United Churches accounts.
4. David Gray asked Charles Barrett if the value of banners around the church are included in the furniture or other, or left out.
 - c. Charles Barrett responded that it is unclear if the banners have been included Georgina Gray explained that the prices of material are going up.
 - d. Charles Barrett agreed to look into how the banners are accounted.

Motion: Moved by John Gingerich, seconded by David Gray that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on February 24th, 2019 be accepted, as amended. **Carried.**

7. Statement of Accounts for 2019 – Riverside Churches of Ottawa Inc.

The Riverside United Churches report as printed - Statement of Accounts for 2019 – Riverside Churches of Ottawa Incorporated was presented for information, pages 13-21.

5. Joan Sirrs noted that we have never seen a more detailed report and asked if we pay income taxes as the Riverside Churches.

e. Charles Barrett answered no.

6. Joan Sirrs asked why we would pay taxes if we do not have to go through depreciation analysis, and if it was necessary.

f. Charles Barrett responded that the simple answer is no. We are an incorporated body and the purpose of reporting on a consistent basis follows the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Directors of corporations could choose to change the way reporting is done the same format as it has been found for the last 50 years. Auditing likes the consistent reporting.

7. Ken Smith noted that the Riverside Churches is showing \$18,000 but the shared costs show \$28,000. On the statement of shared costs we always break even. Riverside United Church overpays and shows an increase of what the corporation owes to the church.

8. Presentation of Riverside Churches Annual Report as printed

The Chair introduced the Annual Report document and noted that most reports will be received for information.

Riverside Churches of Ottawa – Board (Joint Holding) Report – The following addition was provided to the report provided:

8. Omissions in the list of members. Don Squires should be listed as he came in half way through the year. Report received.

Riverside Churches of Ottawa Balance Sheet

United Church – Account Balance – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Joint Use and Management Committee Report – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Joint initiatives

Book Nook – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Fish Fry – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Riverside Seniors Group – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Listing of Users of this Building/Property – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Ministry Partnership – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Long Term Planning Committee – The following information was added to the report:

9. Rick Williams joined throughout the year and attended meetings starting in November. Report Received.

Minister's Report – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Council Report – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Board of Trustees – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Investment Management Committee – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Affirming Ministry Circle– The following information was included to the report:

10. Wendy Graham added that the circle invited Nathalie Lloyd and Stephanie Howard from Serenity House to speak.

11. David Gray added that he did not design the logo but used the Affirm logo to handcraft the podium fabric. Report received.

Building Partnership Team Ministry - The following additions were included as the Chair requested confirmation that there were no comments or questions on items under this category in the annual report:

12. Center 507 – Ken Robinson added that at some point \$690.00 was donated to Center 507 through books sold.

13. Heron Road Emergency Food Center – Joan Sirrs asked who the kind soul was who had been collecting grocery slips, which was confirmed to be Roger Ellsworth.

14. Out of the Cold – It was added that COR also came to help. Report received.

Caring for One Another – Peg Brandon noted to the congregation that the report originally submitted is reflective of activities, but not the actual report. A new report has been sent to the office and will be available.

Nourishing Our Faith – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Choir – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Circles, Committees and other reports included within the Annual Congregational meeting package:

Communication committee – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Ministry and Personnel – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Information on fundraising – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Christmas Bazaar – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Grocery cards and cash cards – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Stan Clark – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Quilting and Crafts - Georgina Gray noted that in the past the quilting and craft group has made beautiful quilts and blankets for congregation members for various reasons such as anniversary dates, milestone birthdays, special occasions like graduations, new babies and suggested that the Caring for One Another circle consider this as an offering for those who are ill and in need for a joyful gift.

Report received.

Membership and Roles – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

Mission Forward Circle Report – There was nothing to add to the report and no comments or questions. Report received.

The Chair asked if there were any objections to adopting the reports to recognize these reports as record. No objections were raised.

9. Statement of Accounts for 2019 – Riverside United Church

The Chair asked Ken Smith to lead the congregation through the report. Ken did so by providing a summary of the report.

Questions and Discussion:

15. Ken Robinson referenced page 38 and asked if the income and other expenses are related, as they appear quite similar.

g. Ken Smith explained that they were. Things such as the Mission and Services fund are not included in the Operating budget, Jamaica funds are usually here and that they are designed to be similar.

16. Ken Robinson also referenced the bottom of page 39 and mentioned that Multifaith housing givings do not reflect the individual contributions that congregants may have made directly.

h. Ken Smith acknowledged this and added that people have chosen to contribute to Multifaith housing directly, through Riverside and through relief funds.

17. Rick Williams mentioned that under income on page 39, some spacing has dropped the numbers down by one line, but the numbers are accurate.

Motion: Moved by Ken Smith, seconded by Joan Sirrs, that the Statement of Accounts for 2020 Riverside United Church, be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

10. RUC Budget for 2020

Ken Smith explained the budget for 2020 as presented on page 44 of the Riverside Annual Congregational report package. There were no questions.

Motion: Moved by Marilyn Lindsay, seconded by Alyssa Suthertown, that the 2020 Budget for Riverside United Church be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

The Chair took a moment to recognize the work that Ken Smith puts into preparing and presenting the budget and this was echoed in applause from those in attendance.

11. Eastern Ontario Outauais Regional Council Report

Paul Dillman noted that there was nothing of note to report, but provided insight to the difference between Presbytery and a Regional Council structure has allowed all to reflect and lament on what presbytery meant to the group.

18. Dave Bell asked if there was evidence of reduced expenses from the implementation of Eastern Ontario Outauais Regional Council, as the benefit from removing a level of governance was essentially to see this for the United Church.

- i. Paul Dillman responded that is it too soon to see this, but recent meetings showed the transition and allocation from 2019. More information will be provided as the adjustments continue to unfold.

12. Nominations Report

Alyssa Suthertown added that a number of people have taken the leadership and volunteer positions but there were still more positions to be filled as demonstrated, by the Nominations report PowerPoint slide. Permission for further nominations will be sought later.

Christine Rhodes asked if the new structure provided a difference in the amount of volunteers required, versus the number of volunteers required by the old structure. In a straw poll, there was no difference.

Motion: Moved by Mary Shaw, seconded by David Gray, that the congregation provide authority to council to approve nominations throughout the year, as required. **Carried.**

Paul Dillman extended gratitude towards Marilyn Lindsay and Gwen Bell who have stepped down.

Motion: Moved by Gwen Bell, Seconded by John Gingerich that the Nominations report be accepted as presented **Carried.**

13. New Business

13.1 Freedom Mobile

Charles Barrett opened this item by explaining that previous permission was sought from Riverside United Church and Presbytery for the engagement of negotiation with Telus. A contract was negotiated and signed. Telus paid money as a place holder. Telus then changed their strategy and cancelled the contract. Since that time, Freedom Mobile has approached Riverside United Church on an arrangement that would be more lucrative. A tower would be high, which means discussion on where to put the tower is needed. So this is to say that we might want to propose that the congregation delegate to Joint Holding that we continue to negotiation a mutually beneficial contract and then come back to seek approval.

Discussion:

2. Helen Hunter asked if there would be any discussions with the surrounding community.
 - a. Charles Barrett answered that the vendor would be responsible for discussions and negotiations with the City and neighbours.
3. Peg Brandon asked if we needed to go to presbytery for additional approval or the Region.
 - a. Charles answered that we have the view that this is still acceptable, but may inform them of the change.

Motion: Moved by Charles Barrett, seconded Norm McLeod that the congregation of Riverside United Church delegate to its operating committees such as Joint Use and Management, to negotiate an agreement with Freedom Mobile and seek approval from the congregation upon completion. **Carried**

13.2 Renovation of Chancel and upgrade of sound system

This item was previously identified as a capital priority in past visioning sessions. The chancel renovation has several advantages to address concerns, such as:

4. Chancel is not accessible
5. Curtains fall down
6. Carpet is stained

A small group has been working towards the design. COR has additional monies. The total cost will be less than what we paid for the washrooms and would lead to significantly more accessible space, change how we use the space and provide a better experience to those of us who are hard of hearing.

This meeting is an example of the difficulty of hearing throughout this space.

Discussion:

7. Joan Sirrs asked if it was discussed how much money COR has available, or an approximate value of what the rough estimate would be.
 - a. Charles Barrett answered that \$50,000 is an ear mark and that COR is willing to commit to capital improvements.
8. Joan Sirrs clarified by asking if the total project would be approximately \$100,000.
 - a. Charles Barrett responded that in the past, RUC and COR have split the cost 50/50 and held fundraising campaigns as well as took advantage of a short-term loan from the United Church, as an initiative through Joint Use.

Motion: Moved by Charles Barret, Seconded by Louise Madaire, the congregation grants the authority of Riverside Churches of Ottawa to develop a detailed costing proposal for an upgrade of the chancel and sound system to move together as a partnership of the 50th anniversary of RUC and COR, hopefully to move ahead this summer, and will come back to the congregation for final approval

Discussion:

9. Paul Dillman explained the highlights of the redesign:
 - a. The ramp and organ would be on the floor, a tier from the chancel would be removed, carpet replaced, organ boxes would be removed, and the screen raised, or have two screens, one on either side. Curtis Scarf has estimated at \$17,500.
 - b. Audiovisual items depend on what RUC wants to do. Two sound engineering companies have provided the cost of the quote which included; more than one microphone, a new sound board up at the chancel but utilized by a mobile tablet, dropped projector from the ceiling which would include a camera that would allow for streaming services, audio hearing loops for those who use hearing aids and an acoustic tile, estimated at between \$30,000 - \$70,000.
10. Alyssa Suthertown asked if we are aware of any grants that may be available for capital improvements.
 - a. Charles Barrett answered yes.
 - b. Paul Dillman elaborated that most grants have to do with energy savings, and would want to use an accessibility grant. Noting that if anyone knew of such a grant, to bring this information to Paul.
11. Ted Colwell added that we could use the endowment fund.
12. The Chair clarified that there are a bunch of options. Once the group has the scope, a funding method can be clarified.
13. Marilyn Lindsay asked if curtains are considered.
 - a. Charles Barrett informed that the curtains will be retired.

14. Joan Sirrs asked which committee would be responsible for these discussions and how are they going to be reporting back
 - a. Charles Barrett answered that Joint Use meets the first Tuesday of every month.
 - b. Paul added that Joint Use and Management is starting to change and clarify their mandate and this might be considered as a project group, given the planning requirement.

Motion Carried

Charles Barrett acknowledged the hard work that David Gray has put into this concept. He has spent dedicated time creating a model and keeping this project moving forward.

13.3 Nursery School

Rick Williams provided a presentation on the long-term usage of space and the relationship with Riverside Nursery school.

The Nursery school has provided notice that it will terminate the relationship in 2021, given that the Nursery school would be entering into an agreement with Andrew Fleck Nursery school. Andre Fleck discussed the need for a half-day nursery school program and would like to discuss entering into a five year lease. RUC agreed to come back following the Annual Congregational meeting.

15. Income received is significant. However these accommodations require flexibility.

16. COR would prefer to terminate the lease. COR is also under the discussion of its own viability.

A slide deck was shown to explain key items for consideration.

Motions as within Decisions proposed within slide deck: Moved by Richard Williams, seconded by Heather Smith.

Discussion:

17. Charles Barrett added clarification that what we need to do is to decide what to tell Andrew Fleck. There is an existing lease that has a clause indicating that either party can terminate during the summer months.

18. Alyssa Suthertown asked if COR has made it clear not to continue, and if they mentioned why they do not want to move forward.

a. Paul Dillman clarified the sense is that this was a negative response rather than positive. This time last year COR was under the discussion of its own viability. However with the recent appointment of Michael leading COR, they will be here for at least 2 years.

19. Charles Barrett mentioned there is a possibility of different motions from this conversation depending on the options and avenues chosen.

20. Marilyn Lindsay stated that Andrew Fleck Childcare is a different flavor than Riverside Nursery School. There have been requests for small changes and there may be a concern that Andrew Fleck will request structural changes.

b. Charles Barrett replied that it is a different body, but the Nursery School had also changed from the beginning. Andrew Fleck recognizes there has been a strong grandfathering.

21. Ted Colwell asked to what extent are the present impediments affecting operations and what is being proposed right now.

c. Charles Barret responded that the biggest impact is scheduling events in the morning, funerals and renting of the sanctuary.

Motion Carried.

One objection, noted by Linda Barrett.

The Chair thanked Richard, Charles and others who have been working through this analysis.

14. Appreciation of Staff

The Chair offered thanks to all the people on all the committees who make this congregations work throughout the year and thanks to the congregation for keeping this place as fun and lively as it is. Secondly, to the paid staff – Paul, Louise, Cat and Wayne for doing an excellent job as well as “other duties” (*“mimicked in quotations”*) makes up the majority of the work and results in a warm place to come to.

Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Gwen Bell, seconded by Marilyn Lindsay, For meeting adjournment at 2:25 p.m.

Carried.

2020 Annual Congregational Report

Introduction

The past year has been a unique and unpredictable year in the history and life of Riverside United Church. Two major realities have impacted every aspect of the life of our church, and these events need to be kept in mind in reading this Annual Report. Despite all of the changes, we have remained strong and are moving forward in sometimes surprisingly rewarding ways.

Global Pandemic:

Although this congregational year began with familiar and seemingly predictable way, with our gathering after the 2019 Christmas season followed Epiphany worship together on Sundays and other church activities, we soon learned of the presence of a new virus that was beginning to have an unpredictable effect on the world and could become a pandemic. By the time of our February 23, 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting, this COVID-19 pandemic was spreading across Canada, and was reaching Ottawa. A Government of Canada health advisory very soon shut down travel, shopping, services and gatherings, such as worship together as a congregation in our church.

Beginning with Sunday, March 15, we were not able to gather for worship. We began using Zoom technology for Sunday gatherings that many of us could access on our computers. To optimize our Sunday worship time together to share in prayer, music, and stay connected through conversation, Rev. Paul Dillman prepared a weekly Reflection that could be made available to all of us and others on YouTube that included a welcome, lighting of our worship candles, a bible reading, related words of reflection and music, skillfully filmed, edited and posted by John Gingerich. The readings, words and music were printed and sent to those who could not join us on Zoom. Telephone contact with members became part of our Ministry.

Through the frequent loosening and tightening of restrictions on meetings, we continued with this form of worship, adding Zoom weekly teatime, book study, and regular Council and many committee and Ministry meetings by Zoom. The congregation remained active and creative in meeting our Ministry goals as best we could and still can.

Ending of our Building/Ministry Partner:

Then came the news that as of September 2020, we would lose the partnership of the Church of the Resurrection (COR) through their disestablishment. This partnership in ecumenical worship since 1969 when our building opened ended, saddening us all. It also meant that many financial and operational commitments had to change or end. This included legal work to ensure that our assets were divided, COR continued to provide finances for us for one year, and the Trustees of RUC now have full responsibility for maintaining and sustaining our church on behalf of the United Church of Canada. Details of all these changes are presented the *Come Back Strong* note to the Congregation of Riverside United Church Ottawa of February 2021 appended to this report.(Appendix A) We move forward with optimism for our church in its financial and spiritual future with our members and friends in worship.

Karen Ogston,
Chair of Riverside United Church Council

Minister's Report

In January 2020, as part of our celebration, I gave out "Star" words to those who were gathered in worship. Each word was different and the invitation was to use that word as a lens to reflect on the experiences of the coming year. At that time, we did not know the script that 2020 would become. The word that I drew out of the bag was "discovery".

Through that star word lens, I discovered:

- various ways that the Zoom teleconferencing program could be used
- how to offer to worship in online ways
- various steps necessary to wind down a legal corporation
- that it is possible to watch hair grow when you record a sermon each week and don't have access to hair cutting options
- new ways of doing just about every aspect of ministry (I did ask a former professor why he hadn't taught us how to do ministry without being with people!)
- the resiliency and dedication of the people of Riverside United Church (well maybe I knew that!)

I am now in my 35th year of ministry and I once worried that when I got to this point I would be complacent and unimaginative as I just went through the motions of ministry. What was I worried about!

It has been very sad to witness the closure of the Anglican congregation and I miss the colleague-ship with Michael Garner that had only a few months to build. It has been good to work with Patricia Power as a student in ministry since September. And I continue to feel fortunate to share the staff resourcing roles with Louise Madaire, Wayne Irschick, Marc Godin and Cat La Force (until the end of May). The work of ministry involves working with many dedicated volunteers and I highlight the work of John Gingerich who stepped up with his interest in video editing to be an important part of how we were able to offer recorded worship and programs this year

It was not a year where much Continuing Education was possible, although I did participate in some online events and spend some dedicated time in reading. My major wider church responsibility has been serving on the Board of United Theological College (UTC) in Montreal as the Treasurer and on various task groups. UTC has faced its uncertain future with a plan to form an alliance with the Anglican college in Montreal.

It has been a unique year (we hope) and while I have discovered some new things, I will look forward to the time when we can gather together, eat and laugh and sing together.

In gratitude for the privilege of ministry at Riverside,
Paul Dillman

Council Report

The first Council Meeting of the new 2020 Council took place on March 18th, just after our first Sunday service using the new Technology of Zoom because of the restrictions of meeting in person imposed by the then new COVID-19 Pandemic. Council has continued to meet by Zoom. This year, Council has had 10 members with the inclusion of members at large. Although the Council plan was to meet every two months, we have needed to meet more frequently because of the many changes outlined in the Introduction to this Annual Report that required careful attention to our finances during COVID-19, and to the changes required for Riverside United Church when our partnership with the Church of the Resurrection (COR) ended as of September, 2020. In the first half of this year Council was able to approve our application for Government of Canada wage subsidies. Once obtained by our Treasurer, they allowed us to keep our staff employed for their full hours. We ended the contract of our Children and Youth Coordinator as of June, and by mutual agreement did not renew this contract in the fall. Yet she has continued in her role and creative spirit when possible as needed on volunteer basis.

The disestablishment of COR, our worship partner, necessitated many other changes, such that Council needed to approve ending of the Corporation of Riverside Churches of Ottawa and the Joint Holding Committee that took place at the end of December, which was followed by the approval of the Trustees

of Riverside United Church to assume full responsibility to maintain and sustain the facilities and their management, including banking. This process included RUC hiring the long serving Caretaker of our building and contracting with a lawyer to make sure all details of these transfers took place in careful accordance with the laws that apply. Most of this transfer work took place during the last two weeks of December, such that, as of January 1, 2021 Riverside United Church was its own corporate entity. The financial implications of this will be carefully monitored in 2021 so that we can remain in our present relatively solid financial position. Council approved a Visioning and Transition Task Group that began meeting on December 21, 2020 to monitor this process and to look toward the new horizons for the ever-changing life of our Church.

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Ogston
Chair, Riverside United Church Council

Board of Trustees

Each congregation of The United Church of Canada is required to have a group of Trustees who hold the assets of the church, subject to trust law. At Riverside United the Board of Trustees has traditionally met on an as-required basis, but in 2020 we have needed to meet much more frequently because of the changes brought about by the closure of The Church of the Resurrection.

The Trustees elected in 2020 were Shirley Andrews, Charles Barrett, David Bell, Paul Dillman, Bob Garrow, Wendy Graham, Joan Sirrs, Heather Smith, and Richard Williams.

The assets of the congregation under the stewardship of the Trustees consist of financial resources above and beyond that required for current operations, as well as real property held in trust for The United Church of Canada. In the case of Riverside United, the physical property was managed through Riverside Churches of Ottawa, Inc. Most of the Trustees each year served as the Riverside United representatives on the Board of Directors of the Joint Holding Corporation.

This structure changed in 2020. The by laws of Riverside Churches of Ottawa Inc. were amended to bring the corporation under the sole control of the Trustees, as the Anglican-appointed Members resigned. On December 29th, the title to the church property was conveyed from the corporation to the Trustees of Riverside Congregation, Ottawa, of the United Church of Canada, based on standard United Church polity. Insurance and contracts have been amended to reflect the new ownership structure. The corporation will surrender its charter and charitable number in 2021, once the necessary filings have been made. The Joint Use and Management Committee of Riverside Churches of Ottawa Inc., which formally was responsible for the day-to-day management of the church property, will be replaced by a new Property Committee of Riverside United Church, under the auspices of the Trustees.

Since 2014 the long-term financial assets of the church have been invested with Fiera Capital Funds Inc. consistent with our investment policy statement. Fiera was acquired by Canoe Financial in 2018. These investable funds are overseen by the Investment Management Committee of the Board of Trustees, subject to clear guidelines regarding the allocation of assets. As of December 31, 2020, Riverside United had \$271,943.68 invested with the Canoe Asset Allocation Portfolio Series D, a socially responsible balanced mutual fund.

In 2020 Bob Garrow resigned as Chair of the Investment Management Committee, and Joan Sirrs has stepped down from this committee. We thank Bob and Joan for their dedication and service over the past several years.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Barrett (Chair)

Listing of Users of the Building/Property (Other than Congregational groups):

Daily/Weekly Groups:

Riverside Park Nursery School, TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), The Merry Songsters, Girl Guides, Atlantic Voices Choir, Riverside Seniors Card Group, RUC Thursday Quilting & Craft Group, Ottawa Organic Farmer's Market.

Monthly Groups:

Celiac Association of Ottawa, Riverside Park Community and Recreation Association, Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Ottawa, Leukemia Association, Ottawa PC Users Group, Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild, Riverside Grannies.

Occasional Groups:

Condominium Association annual meetings, Voices in Harmony, Music recitals and other community events, Polling station (in election years), Councillor R. Brockington, Ward 16 – River Ward, City of Ottawa, Society for Creative Anachronism.

Building Partnership Team Ministry

Team Lead: Mary Shaw Co-Lead: Morag Pearce

Our mandate: To actively pursue partnerships based on the values of mutuality, hope and respect. Ongoing partnerships and new ones with faith and community groups ensure sustainability for the church, and fill social needs close to home and in the wider world.

This year has been a year like no other in our living memory, consequently we have not functioned as usual. Some of our ministries have been able to successfully modify their operations, while others have been unable to carry out their mandate at all.

The Mitten Tree was unable to take its place in the church narthex in December, so was unable accept mittens, gloves, scarves and hats to be donated to the Salvation Army, or included with the White Gift offerings.

Out-of-the-Cold, the winter Saturday evening meal program at Southminster United Church was canceled, so our folks were unable to volunteer their services for a night, as is customary.

Reverse Offerings, collected four times a year on specific Sundays, alternating between the Heron Emergency Food Centre and Centre 507, did not take place. Congregants were therefore encouraged to send money directly to these places or via the church.

White Gift Program was not offered, this year, an event when we brought gifts to the church on a specific Sunday in December. People were asked instead to participate by giving monetary donations to the Wabano Centre, which provides Indigenous health care and cultural initiatives, or to Serenity House, a residential program in our neighbourhood for men dealing with addictions.

We look forward to the time when we will be able to renew our full commitment to these initiatives.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Shaw

1. Amnesty International

The network of Amnesty writers from Riverside United Church does not meet as a group but receives requests for actions via email. We are involved in two types of campaigns. There are the regular writing campaigns which arrive every 3 to 4 weeks. Writers respond to cases as they have time. Requests from Amnesty International ask us to write defending Human Rights workers and prisoners of conscience via emails, letters, tweets or signing petitions. These cases involve human rights workers, LGBTQ+ individuals, indigenous communities, minority communities, peaceful protesters - all people attempting to exercise those internationally recognized human rights which we take for granted. We have had some success this year as there have been human rights workers released and death sentences reversed.

Our second campaign is an annual write-a-thon for Human Rights Day in December. In 2020, the event was held on December 12 via ZOOM. People from 4 churches in Ottawa participated in the ZOOM event. Several others wrote from home accessing the 10 cases on-line. We were able to contribute 150 letters and emails to the 2020 campaign defending human rights in the world.

Amnesty International appreciates the contribution that Riverside United makes to the campaigns to improve human rights in the world. We can always use more letter writers. If you are interested, contact us at pn.mcleod@sympatico.ca

Respectfully submitted Pat & Norm McLeod

2. Centre 507

The Centre continued to operate a breakfast and lunch programme despite the challenges of the COVID-19 lockdown. The participants received a take out meal as the drop in and community centre was not operating on a normal basis. Staff continued to assist with appointments and rental concerns. RUC was not able to support the Centre with toiletries this year due to our own lockdown and the Centre pausing the collection of donations. During Lent the congregation was asked to collect cans of coffee for the Centre, we were one of many churches in central Ottawa who took up the challenge. While the campaign was cut short by the lockdown we still were able to deliver almost 10 kg of coffee. Monetary donations are much appreciated and cheques are made payable to Centre 507. Many thanks to everyone who continues to support this much needed ministry.

Respectfully submitted, Morag Pearce

3. Collection of Gently-used Warm Winter Clothing

Many bags of warm clothing were collected and delivered to Centre 507 during January and February where it was much needed and appreciated. Riverside continues to be generous in their support. Many thanks to those who donate, collect and deliver these items to the Centre.

Respectfully submitted, Morag Pearce

4. Heron Road Emergency Food Centre

Although the mandate of HEFC is to provide an emergency 3-day supply of food, once a month, to individuals and families within it's catchment area of South East Ottawa, this year it was able to distribute considerably more. It is located in the Heron Multipurpose Centre, which was closed to most activities for much of the year, but because it is an essential service HEFC remained open as usual. As well as receiving the regular grants from the City of Ottawa, and food supplies from the Ottawa Food Bank, boxes of non-perishable foods were supplied by 'Feed Ontario' from April - December and also smaller boxes for school children were provided by the Ontario Association of School Boards from April till end the of August to compensate for the suspended school breakfast programs.

Contrary to what might be expected, overall the number of people accessing HEFC was less than in recent years. An average of 428 householders visited each month, representing 1435 individuals. Approximately 24 visitors were there for the first time. Some folks were reluctant to visit the centre because of the fear of contacting COVID-19. The Ottawa Food Bank delivered food to those 70+ and those with disabilities who were shut in or unable to collect food for themselves, and some HEFC clients received food from other sources, so despite more people being unemployed and requiring assistance the statistics did not mirror these realities.

Prior to the pandemic many of the volunteers were older retired folks who became reluctant to be on the front line, so a number of younger people stepped up and worked very hard in less than ideal conditions. The operation of the Centre and method of food distribution had to be adapted to ensure everyone's safety. Personal Protective Equipment was supplied for the coordinator and volunteers and strict cleaning protocols were carried out by the building maintenance team.

Until this year the two big annual fund raising events were the Walkathon in September and the Christmas Concert in December. The Walkathon was canceled this year but the concert presented by Immaculate Heart of Mary Church went ahead virtually. It raised around \$11,000 and a virtual concert arranged by St Aidan's Church generated another \$565. The people of Ottawa are always willing to step up and contribute when there is a need. Food Drives by a few organizations and generous monetary donations from the public at large meant that many people were able to receive so much more in the way of food and grocery gift cards. The Ottawa Food Bank divided the money it received among the member agencies, and together with what was donated to HEFC specifically, \$43,000 worth of gift cards were purchased and distributed at different times throughout the year. This allowed folks to go to the grocery store and buy the foods they wanted. There is concern that not all who are in need of food are being reached, so new strategies are being worked on to try to ensure that no one goes hungry.

Unfortunately in 2020 we at RUC were unable to have the usual 2 Reverse Offerings to benefit HEFC, and since March there have not been the regular food donations in the yellow bin in the Narthex. With many thanks to those who planted, tended, harvested and delivered the abundance of produce from the Thexton Garden during the summer, lots of fresh vegetables were enjoyed and appreciated by the recipients. Although difficult to tabulate the total amount, we are aware that the members of Riverside have continued to support HEFC, be it by mailing in cheques or giving via the Canada Helps on-line portal at www.hefc.ca. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all involved, I want to thank all of you who gave and continue to give of your time and/or money to help support your neighbours who are less fortunate, but are thankful that HEFC and other food centres are there for them and their families.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Shaw, RUC Representatives and HEFC Secretary.

5. Hunt Club Riverside Park Steering Table

The Southeast Community Health Centre has organized a steering group of various helping agencies in the Hunt Club Riverside Park area for the past few years. The group meets monthly and the Riverside building has hosted many of the gatherings. One of the identified priorities has been food security in the neighbourhood. In January, the food security task group hosted a community meal at Riverside Churches on January 23rd from 5:30 to 7:30, and approximately 40 people shared in the meal and conversation about ideas for food security strategies. Michael Garner and I prepared chili to serve and despite Michael's opinion, mine was not bland. Michael and I had begun planning to host monthly community suppers, but that plan did not unfold due to COVID-19. The Steering Table did not meet through most of 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Dillman

6. Mission and Service

Riverside United Church continued a strong commitment to support the Mission and Service Fund of The United Church of Canada, with contributions totaling * \$27,827 for the 2020 year. This money is used by the national church to provide funding to various outreach projects, support for theological colleges, programming in the regions and support for international partners. Thank you for making M&S a part of your offering.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dillman.

7. Multi-Faith Housing Initiative

Riverside United continues to be a member of the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative, a not-for-profit organization with strong faith community participation, that was established in 2002 to bring more affordable housing to the City of Ottawa.

Following the successful opening of The Haven facility in Barrhaven in 2017, the Multifaith Housing Initiative launched a new project called Veterans' House: The Andy Carswell Building (Andy Carswell is a former RCAF World War II pilot who was shot down at age 19. He is now 96. His son John was a key donor to the project.)

Veterans' House is designed specifically to address the needs of homeless veterans in the Ottawa area. The forty-unit facility is located at the former CBF Rockcliffe, and it welcomed its first residents in January 2021. The initiative is based on a "Housing First" model that will provide veterans on-site recovery from health, mental health, and addiction-related issues.

United We Stand: the EOORC Campaign for Veterans' House is a partnership between the United Church of Canada's Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) and Multifaith Housing Initiative. It is hoped that United Church congregants can make a difference in the lives of veterans in the Eastern Ontario area through supporting this important initiative. You may make an individual contribution through the MHI website or direct your gift through the church office.

When conditions permit, we hope that Riverside will look at various congregational fundraising scenarios, building on our successful Trivia Night in February 2017 to raise money for The Haven.

Respectively Submitted by Charles Barrett

8. Partnership between RUC, Ottawa, and Providence Methodist Church, Kingston, Jamaica

The partnership between the two churches has continued since 2004, with fairly frequent communication between them. But the year 2020 was different in so many ways, both challenging and sometimes rewarding.

Because we are holding services on Zoom, some members of Providence Methodist Church were able to join with us for our communion service on World Wide Communion Sunday on October 4/20. It was a special time.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our usual annual fundraiser, Jamaica Night at the church. Thanks to the initiative and very hard work of Jamaicans and others, "Jamaica Night 2020 Goes Virtual" was launched on October 25/20, and is still showing on You Tube. It was well received, and reached a wide audience.

Special thanks to Jean Peart, Margaret Tucker, and other Jamaicans, and also many thanks to John Gingerich, for all the hard work involved in putting this together. Jamaican performers in the U.S., Jamaica, and Canada took part. The donations have continued to come in.

We support the Home Visitation & Nursing Programme at Providence Methodist Church in Kingston, and the Mission House Basic School in Gordon Town, Jamaica. Both of these are part of the outreach work of Providence Methodist Church, and the funds we raise are divided equally between the two. Reports are received about the ongoing work, but this has been affected by the pandemic to a certain extent. The school and the Nursing Programme are also supported by the churches in Jamaica – Gordon Town Methodist Church and Providence Methodist Church.

Home Visitation and Nursing Programme – Services – Home visits, medical checks (blood pressure, blood glucose tests, etc.), assistance given in paying for prescription medications and diagnostic tests. The requests for assistance in paying for prescription medications and diagnostic tests have increased since the start of the pandemic. Medical equipment is given out on loan as needed. Some supplies are provided, and health education and counseling are ongoing. Groceries are supplied to a group of people twice a month. The need is increasing due to the pandemic; poverty is increasing in Jamaica.

Mission House Methodist Basic School - There are 45 – 50 boys and girls, ages 3 – 5, 5 teachers, and the principal, Kyc-Ann Scott. The school is certified by the Early Childhood Commission. For much of 2020, the children were not in school, but teaching continued using different methods. Many families cannot afford computers, so the teachers provided the parents with packages containing lessons and activities at the start of each week. The principal and teachers are working hard to keep the school going in these challenging times.

Financial Report – Funds totaling Can.\$1,649.30 were sent to Jamaica in July/20. The funds raised from our virtual Jamaica Night totaled much more than we had ever raised before, because we reached a wider

audience in several countries. In December/20, the amount sent to Providence Methodist Church was Can.\$7,606.41. There were no costs in producing the virtual presentation, because all work and performances were donated.

Members of the Jamaica Partnership Committee are Paul Dillman, Jean Peart, Fay Jarrett, Edith Ngoye Allen, Marjorie MacLean, Rae Finley, Marie Hackett.

Poverty in Jamaica has increased due to loss of jobs and also due to the decrease in tourism. Jamaicans in Jamaica are very grateful for our help. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Hackett

Feb.11, 2021

9. Refugee Committee

On September 20, 2020 Riverside United Church Council approved our request to form a Constituent Group to proceed with one or both of the following sponsorships: one for two adult males 25 and 19, currently in school in Syria and the other for a Syrian family of five.

The co-sponsors who will be working with us have signed a Refugee Sponsorship Agreement with RUC in which they agree to accept all financial responsibility for this family. They have deposited money in RUC's bank account to be held in trust to be used to support the family for the first year.

Riverside United will work with these co-sponsors to provide support in the settlement as we did with our first families. Although RUC will have no financial responsibility there will be the opportunity to provide real goods for this family. As we become aware of their needs we will communicate these to the congregation. RUC has always been very generous in assisting our refugee families.

The application has been filed with the United Church Refugee Office in Toronto. We have been informed that our application has been placed on the 2021/2022 waitlist.

Respectfully submitted, Pat & Norm McLeod

10. Riverside Grannies

The Stephen Lewis Foundation launched the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign in 2006 in response to the emerging crisis faced by African grandmothers as they struggled to raise millions of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The Riverside Grannies joined this campaign in 2007 and have worked to raise funds and awareness of this devastation.

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions this past year, we have not been able to hold fundraisers. However, we continue on a personal level to support the SLF.

Thank you for your continued support in the past. We look forward to continuing our work when the pandemic is finally over.

Respectfully submitted by Wanda Maurais

11. Thexton Garden Report

The Thexton Garden was created in 2019 in memory of Ted Thexton. It consists of 8 raised garden beds. The second year of the garden was very successful and provided produce which was delivered to the Heron Emergency Food Centre every week throughout the summer/fall. 27 deliveries were made by Ken Smith.

We started off in the spring by taking delivery of mushroom compost which was used to enrich the beds. We bought more than we needed and sold the excess at a profit to interested members of the congregation. This plus several donations paid for the compost.

The seeds were bought and the planting was organized by John Dixon such that we planted in pairs at different times to allow for social distancing. Harvesting was done weekly (occasionally more frequently) by various people who volunteered their time.

About three weeks after planting we did our first harvest of radishes followed by lettuce soon after. There were fewer losses of Swiss chard and beet leaves to leaf miner damage this year thanks to an insect netting cover over the appropriate bed. On the other hand, cucumbers did poorly this year compared to last as the plants suffered from some sort of blight early on. In spite of a plague of Japanese beetles once again, we got several good harvests of beans. Tomatoes, as always, provided a bountiful harvest throughout much of the summer. Carrots and potatoes provided good late season harvests.

One interesting find this year was a nest of baby rabbits in the middle of one of the carrot beds in mid-summer! Surprisingly the loss of carrots was limited to those removed to make space for the small nest! So far as we could tell, no other produce was taken and the bunnies disappeared a couple of weeks later.

All gardening volunteers are undoubtedly eagerly anticipating the arrival of warmer weather so we can get outdoors once again and continue this effort for another year. Anyone interested in joining this effort should get in touch with Paul.

Report submitted by: John Gingerich
with input from John Dixon & Ken Smith

12. World Day of Prayer

On Friday March 6th Immaculate Heart of Mary R.C. Church hosted the service for our area. The theme was "Rise! Take your Mat and Walk", and was prepared by the women of Zimbabwe. Representatives from a number of local churches, including Riverside, participated in this annual service. Around 60 people attended what was to be the last ecumenical event before everything closed, and we were unable to gather again for the remainder of the year.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Shaw

Caring for One Another

Functions/Responsibilities:

- Congregational social and connecting events
- Funeral/Memorial Services Hospitality
- Welcoming newcomers
- Offering support to individuals through various circumstances
- Keeping in touch with congregation

Peg Brandon – Chair

Bob Garrow – Member-at-Large

Elizabeth Barclay – Card Ministry

Molly Colwell – Welcoming

Paul Dillman – Minister

Wanda Maurais - Co-Chair

Helen Hunter – Member-at-Large

Marie Hackett – Visitation Ministry

Ted Colwell – Welcoming

2020 began normally. As we approached the anniversary of the first full year of our revised governance model built on three ministry teams we were, as a team, beginning to understand the possibilities and challenges inherent in the founding statement of the Caring for One Another Ministry: "We cherish and support members of our church family and the wider work of God's Church in our community and around the world."

The year started normally. In the course of the first ten or so weeks there was a Women's Breakfast on 28 January, a Men's Breakfast on 29 January and a Games Night on 7 March.

With the help of congregation members, we catered one reception for a funeral/memorial service. We are extremely grateful to those who work so hard to make the receptions an extension of the remembrance services.

Also with the help of congregation members we held a Pot Luck lunch after church and before the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 23 Feb.

Throughout the beginning of the year, Bob Garrow was outside the church prior to Sunday and Memorial services (particularly in awful weather) to assist people to get safely to the door of the church.

Then in mid March this Ministry, along with all the other component parts that make up the body and soul of Riverside United Church, had to figure out how to deal with the lockdown restrictions imposed by the Province of Ontario in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This meant that in 2020, unlike other years, The Caring for One Another Ministry did NOT organize:

- regular Men's and Women's Breakfasts beyond those held in January
- games nights after the one held in March
- the provision of different Easter breads for a reception after the Easter Service
- a church picnic after the service where graduates were recognized
- communion for the folks at Landmark Court Retirement Home
- a "welcome back from summer" Spirit and Spud lunch
- a Potluck lunch after the Anniversary Sunday service
- a reception after the Christmas in a Minor Key service
- receptions after funeral or memorial services, beyond the one in February

So what DID we do in response to these very strange new circumstances?

We continued the outreach that we could continue. Elizabeth Barclay continued sending cards for birthday and anniversary celebrations as well as sympathy, thinking of you, and get-well cards.

We built on the Emergency Contact list that we had begun in October of 2019. Early in the year (in January/February timeframe) we had started work to identify gaps in the list so that we could make specific calls. The actual calling took place in April and May. We are grateful to Wanda Maurais, Bob Garrow and Mary Shaw who made the calls.

In the fall, as it became apparent that we were not going to be returning to any form of in person worship any time soon, a team of volunteers called everyone on the church directory to check in. We are grateful to the callers: Helen Hunter, Bob Garrow, Marie Hackett, Mary Shaw, Wanda Maurais, Gail Christy, Molly and Ted Colwell, Patricia Power and Peg Brandon.

On behalf of the members of the Caring for One Another Ministry, we want to thank members of the congregation who keep us informed about those whom we may be able to assist. We also want to thank those in the congregation who, even though they are not "officially" members of the Caring for One Another Ministry, fulfil the mission of this ministry by regularly checking in on those who live alone, by printing and delivering copies of newsletters and reflections to those who are not electronically connected, and by nourishing a connection with others in the congregation. We know you do not do this for thanks, but we are grateful to you as you spread God's love to others in the congregation.

With God's help, may we continue to care for one another.

Respectfully submitted.

Peg Brandon and Wanda Maurais

Nourishing Our Faith

We wish to note here that while gathering in person is greatly missed, meeting and interacting via Zoom has given us opportunities to be joined by special guests from near and far that would otherwise not have been able to be with us.

Also of special note, The Anglican Church of the Resurrection was Decommissioned in August, 2020. This is a sad reality that we have to acknowledge, as COR did not just share the building, they were our Faith partners and we partnered with them in many worship, outreach, fundraising and fellowship building activities over the years.

Worship Services: January 3rd was our usual Cluster Service, which was hosted by Emmanuel United Church.

January moved forward with the Sunday Serving Groups pitching in to ensure people were greeted, the chancel was set up, coffee and snacks were prepared, served, and cleaned up, scripture was read, and hymn books and bulletins were handed out before and tidied up after.

Star Words was distributed, each person receiving a wooden star with a different inspirational word printed on it. We were encouraged to keep it, to reflect on the significance of the word we received and find ways to use it in our daily activities, such as using it in a computer password. On some of the following Sundays the Star Word theme was continued with a "Spark of the Week" suggestion for reflection.

Lenten Seed Stories: As part of our Lenten Worship, time was included for anyone who wished to share a story of a seed of faith or leadership or wisdom or compassion being planted by ourselves, or by someone in our lives that had made a difference.

The worship service was cancelled on March 15th due to COVID-19. Only one worship service was missed. Paul adapted very creatively and quickly and for the rest of 2020, this is how our Faith was Nurtured:

The following were posted to YouTube each week, with many thanks to the expertise and dedication of John Gingerich:

Paul's reflection, the scripture reading, complete with PowerPoint presentations created each week by David Gray, and a musical offering. The Circle of Friends candle (proclaiming our connectedness to each other and to the wider community) and the Rainbow candle (declaring that we welcome people, of all ages, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities in every aspect of the life of our faith community) were lit, and in Advent a litany was read, by 2 congregational members.

Paul then contacted the members of the congregation via e-mail containing the YouTube link, the texts of the scripture reading and the reflection. Also included were invitations to contact him or the church office with any concerns, and announcements.

Paul carries the candles home in a distinctive cardboard box which now has lots of RUC history, so he can relight the candles on Sunday Morning at his home during the Zoom gathering.

As a testimony of the connectedness and caring of our congregational family, some faithfully printed the reflection and scripture reading and delivered them to those with no other means of receiving them. There is a phone number included in the email so anyone can call and join the Zoom gatherings by phone.

Then on Sunday Mornings, Paul hosts a Zoom gathering.

We have been pleasantly surprised by the number of attendees, (an average of between 40-50 screens, with about 50-60 people participating - it's been remarkably consistent) and very pleased as we witness people develop skills (for some it's been a bumpy ride) so they can engage each week.

Paul has done an absolutely amazing job of relating and integrating the scripture readings and themes and keeps the Sunday Zoom encounters distinct and engaging.

A sampling of some aspects of Sunday morning Zoom gatherings:

- Sharing time focused on a question relating to the scripture reading
- Sharing time focused on how the pandemic has affected us
- Sharing time focused on how we can help others get through this time of isolation and anxiety
- On Remembrance Day Sunday, we were joined via Zoom by a former member of our congregation, Rev. Neil Parker, from Austria. Neil had created moving and meaningful videos for our Remembrance Day services while he was with us, so we were glad he could join us on again on this occasion.

There is usually a time for sharing news of our Riverside Family, and then Prayers of the People.

-There were several virtual candle lightings during the year:

-**MEMORIAL CANDLE LIGHTING** on Anniversary Sunday, November 1st, when we remembered those of our congregation who died during the year, and we were gratified that several family members were able to join from across the country.

-**QUIET CHRISTMAS**, December 20th, a time for quiet reflection during the busy Christmas season when we lit candles in memory of loved ones.

-**CHRISTMAS EVE**, when we closed the service by candlelight, as we listened to Silent Night.

COMMUNION

On March 1st we were able to celebrate communion in person at the church. On April 12th (Easter), June 7th, October 4th (World Communion Sunday), November 29th and Christmas Eve it was celebrated virtually, with each participant having their own bread /cracker and wine/juice as we partook together but apart.

On World Communion Sunday we were joined on-line by Rev George Mulrain and several folks from our partner congregation at Providence Methodist Church, Kingston, Jamaica. Rev Mulrain also participated in the communion liturgy. Also attending were some friends and family from a few other provinces, Florida, and England.

Music: Plans were made to form a Music Program Coordinating Group. This was postponed until after the pandemic is no longer a threat.

Adult Learning

Book Club

In February, we were able to meet together in person, to discuss Educated, a novel by Tara Westover. The Company We Keep, by Frances Itani, was the choice for November. We were fortunate to have the author join us on Zoom to discuss, not only the novel, but the process of nurturing a book through the writing and publishing process.

Learning Circles

We brought our lunches and began an in-person Lenten study of Dr. Amy- Jill Levine's book, Entering the Passion of Jesus. A video preceded each discussion. After two sessions, we moved to a Zoom gathering, which allowed us to meet with Dr. Levine herself who joined us for an hour from Vanderbilt University.

A request to learn more about Women in the Bible resulted in another spring series, which included powerful, consequential women from both testaments and how they have been understood (and misunderstood) through the years.

As Christmas approached, we began a study of Dr. Levine's book The Light of the World. Once again, we began with a short video, which was very helpful.

Children's Ministry

There was one Messy Church event, which was held on Feb 7th, at a new time - 6:00 to 7:30 "A Midwinter Campfire Messy Church". This was the last event that was held by both congregations, before the disestablishment of The Church of the Resurrection. They will be missed.

After Mar 15th, a few Zoom gatherings were held with the children, led by Cat La Force, our Children's Ministry Leader and Paul.

- o Some families made Easter cards and sent them to some of the seniors in the congregation

The children were able to participate in the Thexton Garden project in spite of the pandemic. Because restrictions had been lessened when it came time to harvest the potatoes, and they were able to follow the safety protocols while getting gloriously dirty digging potatoes.

Cat did a video of the event, then did a video of the children who were not there, outside their homes, with their comments for the Thanksgiving service.

The Christmas pageant was created, directed and edited by one of our youth, Charlotte Clark. Participants gathered outside to film the various scenes of the pageant, suitably costumed and masked and socially distanced. It was an experience well suited to the uniqueness of this pandemic year! It's on RUC's YouTube channel if you missed it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFwDAnw8FE0>

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Graham

Affirming Ministry Circle

MEMBERS: Wendy Graham (Chair), Wanda Maurais (Secretary), Alyssa Suthertown, Helen Hunter, Joan Sirrs, Christine Rhodes, Heather Moir and Paul Dillman

New members always welcome.

In February the 'Minute for Affirm' was about Mental Health Awareness. It was well received. March 14, was PIE Day, (National Affirming Day). PIE stands for Public, Intentional, Explicit. The movie "Fish Out of Water" was shown and many pies were served.

Social distancing was maintained.

April 28, 2020 was the first anniversary of RUC becoming an Affirming Ministry. The plans for a celebration had to be cancelled because of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Graham and Wanda Maurais

Choir

No report due to COVID-19

Ministry of Music

Our Choir began the year looking forward to learning new music and experiencing new challenges. In February they were pleased to sing an a cappella number and then have Gerald Finley sing the lead solo in their anthem the following Sunday. The momentum came to a swift halt on March 12, their last rehearsal before everything was locked down.

This did not signal the end of the music program at Riverside. Rev Paul sourced many videos and audio recordings of hymns which were played during the Zoom Sunday gatherings and YouTube recordings that have taken place since late March.

Despite there being no in-person worship, the special services were celebrated with music recorded by some of our talented friends and in-house singers and musicians.

It began with Good Friday when several musicians captured the solemnity of the occasion with their individual contributions: Wayne Irschick - organ and recorder; Donald Russell - organ; Georgina Gray - piano; Malcolm Wade - trombone; Theresa White - flute and Ruth Bryce - clarinet. Malcolm also rendered a trombone solo during our Easter Sunday Zoom gathering.

- * In July, Alyssa Suthertown and her sister Esther Townshend sang a duet for one of YouTube videos.
- * On October 4th, Worldwide Communion Sunday, we were joined by some folks from our partner congregation in Jamaica - Providence Methodist Church, Kingston, and were blessed to watch a video of their lively musical group.
- * At Thanksgiving Wanda Maurais and Mary Shaw contributed to the music and during the Memorial Candle Lighting on Anniversary Sunday, Malcolm Wade sang a solo and Aiden Russell recorded 4 parts, played simultaneously, for his cello solo.

Over the Christmas season many people volunteered their time and musical talents. Although the annual Lessons and Carols service was on-line, with each participant recording separately, it was still a varied program of beautiful Christmas melodies, rendered vocally and instrumentally. Wendy Graham sang to her own piano accompaniment; Theresa White recorded a simultaneous 3 part flute offering; Joy Vidal and Gaby Cubar sang while accompanied on the ukulele by Galvin Cubar; Malcolm Wade sang a solo and Wanda Maurais and Mary Shaw sang a duet. For the closing song we were delighted to have Gerald Finley send a video from England. On Christmas Eve Gerald sang 'Silent Night' in German and English, and Aiden Russell along with his friend Sarah Pollard played multiple parts on their cello and flute duet. Throughout this period our Director of Music, Wayne Irschick has accompanied many of the singers, and also provided organ music for some of the on-line hymns.

In addition to the editing of all the various programs, the recording of many of the musical items were made possible thanks to the technical expertise of John Gingerich, to whom we are exceedingly grateful. Although there have been many challenges during 2020, music has continued to be a vital part of our worship. We look ahead to when we are able to worship in person and eventually join together in singing a Song of Praise to the Maker!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Shaw.

Communications Committee

Mandate: The mandate of the committee is to provide advice, support and guidance to Council, church committees, and event organizers in the production and release of church communications that inform the congregation, the community and the media about religious, social and recreational activities at Riverside United Church.

Members: Ellis Lindsay, John Gingerich, Ken Smith, Louise Madaire, and Theresa White

We started off the year with plans to do an update of our church website. Those plans were side-tracked by the COVID-19 pandemic which brought an end to 'in person' activities. The focus shifted to learning how to provide for an online presence which would allow us to maintain a sense of community while being unable to gather physically.

Theresa ramped up our presence on Facebook. John learned to do some video editing in order to help Paul to produce a weekly scripture reading-sermon-hymn video which is streamed on YouTube. Louise, Ellis and John continued to try to keep our website current. But much of the credit for the success of our pandemic response goes to Paul for learning to use ZOOM to provide a semblance of social connection for many of us, to allow for committees to gather online to continue their work and for continuing to plan and record the weekly videos. After three months of a monthly Zoom subscription, it was decided that an annual membership might be needed.

We have not forgotten about the update for the website and hopefully that project can be picked up again some time in the coming year.

Submitted by,

John Gingerich, Communications Committee

Fund Raising

| | <u>Jan - Dec</u> <u>20</u> | <u>Jan - Dec</u> <u>19</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Fund Raising | | |
| Bazaar | 2,792.80 | 6,755.40 |
| Berries | 560.00 | 455.00 |
| Garage Sale | 720.00 | 4,063.95 |
| Grocery Gift Cards | 3,368.97 | 4,379.41 |
| Grocery Card Purchase Rebate | 780.10 | 1,282.00 |
| Swing Band | 0.00 | 1,433.00 |
| Other Fund Raising | 97.35 | 710.07 |
| Women's Quilting and Crafts | 1,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Total Fund Raising | <u>9,319.22</u> | <u>21,078.83</u> |

Book Nook

We were able to have one real sale in January of 2020 which brought in a mere \$65, but over the summer and fall, various people wanted books to read, so we opened up the Book Nook on a one on one basis. So, over the summer we brought in \$102 and during the fall \$163.

Thus in total, \$330 was raised in a Pandemic year.

There is certainly a great hope that by the end of 2021 we will once again be able to open the Book Nook to the public. In the mean time, church members can pop in to buy a book as we can open up on a case by case basis.

Respectfully submitted by Daphne Biggs

Christmas Bazaar

On Jan 25, 2020, the Bazaar conveners met and agreed on leadership roles, and that the earnings of the Bazaar would be reported the following Sunday, not the day after the Bazaar, to give the counters time to take all earnings properly into account.

Tables will be combined and some will be relocated to accommodate the declining number and energy levels of volunteers.

There was considerable enthusiasm when it came time to talk about ideas for sustainability. Small work groups have, over the past couple of years, produced food and craft items for the Bazaar, and we wish to give credit to those who took the initiative to organize and participate in them.

A mac'n'cheese lunch fundraiser was planned, but it was cancelled because of the pandemic. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, there was no Christmas Bazaar in 2020. There were, however, contributions of preserves over the summer. With the coming of the Ottawa Organic Farmers' Market at the beginning of November, the decision was taken to have a Mini-Bazaar table at the market - an RUC table located outside the entrance to the church and offering the handcrafts (mainly knitting and quilts) and non-organic food products (preserves, soups and baked goods) that would have been available at a normal Christmas Bazaar. Over the six Saturdays from 21 Nov - 19 Dec this table generated sales of \$2,509.30.

Our thanks to all those who so generously contributed knitting, quilts, handcrafts, preserves, soups and baked goods for the Mini-Bazaar. Our thanks as well to those who set up and operated the Mini-Bazaar table out in the cold: Patty Dixon, Diana Desjardins, Susan Wade, Morag Pearce, Wendy Graham and Peg Brandon.

Grocery/Gift/Cash Cards

Profit for 2020 was \$4149

Profit for 2019 was \$5743

Through this COVID-19 year we have managed to sell a respectable volume of cards, through the office thanks to Louise Madaire and curb side delivery thanks to Ken Smith. Thanks also to Karen Tippett for her statistical record keeping and her assistance in inventory control. Thanks also to Joan Sirrs for purchasing the cards. Of course the effort above would be for nought if we did not have the continued and faithful support of our members who purchase these cards.

Respectively submitted by
Ken Smith

Quilting and Crafts

A commissioned King size, flower garden quilt was attached to the quilting frame in December 2019. Then COVID-19 hit and all activities were halted. In the fall of 2020 Georgina Gray came in and did about 35 hours work on it.

Diana Desjardins and Heather Pitt worked on the tied quilts.

Membership and Rolls – 2020 Changes and Revisions

MEMBERSHIP AND ROLLS

| | 31-Dec-2018 | 31 Dec 2019 | 31-Dec-2020 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Members / Adherents | 453 | 437 | 429 |
| Non-Resident Members | 14 | 18 | 15 |
| Households under Pastoral Care | 228 | 241 | 241 |
| Baptisms Adult | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Baptisms Child | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Marriages | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | 31-Dec-18 | 31 Dec 2019 | |
| Funerals & Memorial Services | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| Marriages by Volunteer | | | |
| Associates Ministers | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Changes During the Year | | | |
| Members | | | |
| On by Profession Under age 18 | 1 | | 0 |
| On by Profession age 18 or older | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| On by Transfer of Certificate | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| On by Resolution | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Adherents Added | 8 | 12 | 4 |
| Total | 12 | 12 | 4 |
| Off by Certificate (transferred out) | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Off by Resolution | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Address Unknown | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| Off by Death | 8 | 5 | 4 |

Total **20** **6** **6**

2020 Baptisms - NA

2020 Marriages

Natalie Roxanne Brisson & Andrew Thomas Chenette 02Oct2020

2020 Deaths

*Patricia May Bourassa (Patti) 31Jan2020

Dick "Scotty" Morrison 22Feb2020

Mary Eleanor Symons (Mew) 05Jun2020

*Ruth McDonald 16Aug2020

*Donald Gordon Lyon 12Oct2020

Marvin Green 16Oct2020

We also remember the life of others who died during 2020

*Indicates a member on the Historic Roll of Riverside United

Respectfully Submitted, Louise Madaire, Office Administrator

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

The purpose of the M&P committee is to be the human resources department of Riverside United Church. As such, we hire, write job descriptions, conduct performance staff reviews, assess working conditions, and follow current employment standards, recommend remuneration increases for staff to Church Council and provide support to staff. We are a mandated committee of the United Church of Canada and report directly to Council.

During 2020:

1. We managed to keep all staff on payroll, (except Cat LaForce, the children's coordinator, who volunteered to take a break) due to the wage subsidy program.
2. We followed the United Church of Canada's directive to close during two lockdowns, so Louise Madaire, our administrator, had radically reduced hours and Paul Dillman, our minister, less at church.
3. We only conducted one performance review, due to the pandemic - on Paul. We wanted to make note of his outstanding leadership during this unprecedented time.
4. We thanked staff for their perseverance and flexibility during 2020 at the White Gift Zoom service and dropped off appreciation gift cards, on behalf of the congregation.
5. We happily transferred Marc Godin, the caretaker, in December 2020, from the Corporation of Riverside Churches to Riverside United Church when Church of the Resurrection closed.
6. We had three meetings, two by Zoom.
7. We recommended the cost of living increases in staff salaries to the Treasurer and Council.

This report would not be complete without a big thank you to members of M&P for their continued advice, experience, and contribution to the committee: Bob Garrow, former chair; Susan Wade, Morag Pearce and John Gingerich, and especially to Karen Ogston, past chair, for all her support. I would also like to thank Paul Dillman, Ken Smith and Louise Madaire for their patience, guidance, and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Desjardins, Chair M&P

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

Riverside United Church is accountable as a United Church community of faith to the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC). The representatives to EOORC from Riverside are Charles Barrett and Bob Christy. All ministry personnel (active and retired) are members of the Regional Council in which they serve/reside.

There were two meetings of EOORC in 2020. There was an in-person meeting in February at Glen Cairn United Church. The annual meeting was delayed from May until October and was held over Zoom.

The work of the Regional Council was greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. There was attention paid to the financial realities of communities of faith and some assistance was offered where it was needed. Camp Awesome did not hold in person day camps in the summer, but offered virtual programming instead. Pastoral relations matters and property transactions continued to be processed by the Regional Council.

The Executive of EOORC gave its approval to two Riverside matters. First was the approval of the 20 year lease to Freedom Mobile and second was approval of the transfer of the property from the Joint Holding Corporation to the Trustees of Riverside United Church and the dissolution of the Riverside Churches of Ottawa, Inc.

Respected submitted by
Paul Dillman

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Audited Statement

March 26, 2020

NOTICE TO READER

On the basis of the Information provided, we have reviewed the Income and Expense Statement and Balance Sheet for Riverside United Church, Ottawa, Ontario as of December 31, 2020 and for the 12 months then ended.

Our review consisted of a sampling of financial transactions for the period reviewed, a confirmation from external financial institutions that funds declared exist, and we have not found any items of concern in this process.

We have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect to these financial statements and accordingly, we express no assurance thereon Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

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Ellis Lindsay


Don Squire

**VERSIDE UNITED
CHURCH - 2020 Statement
Financial Position
of December 31, 2020
erged Income/Expense
atement**

| | Trustees | RUC | Total |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | | |
| Income | | | |
| Congregational Giving | | 171,519.74 | 171,519.74 |
| Bank Interest Income | | 101.47 | 101.47 |
| Weddings, Funerals | | 930.00 | 930.00 |
| Directed Financial Gifts | | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Fund Raising | | 8,319.22 | 8,319.22 |
| Church of the Resurrection | 16,100.00 | | 16,100.00 |
| Donations | | | |
| Donation for use of space | 8,315.00 | | 8,315.00 |
| Other Donations | 330.00 | | 330.00 |
| Total Donations | 8,645.00 | | 8,645.00 |
| Riverside Park Nursery School | 13,800.00 | | 13,800.00 |
| Riverside United Church | 27,600.00 | | 27,600.00 |
| Total Income | 66,145.00 | 181,370.43 | 247,515.43 |
| Gross Profit | 66,145.00 | 181,370.43 | 247,515.43 |
| Equip Purchases, Repairs | | 739.78 | 739.78 |
| Office Postage | | 458.57 | 458.57 |
| Office Telephone | | 834.01 | 834.01 |
| Photocopy - recovery | | -65.00 | -65.00 |
| Weddings, Funeral Expense | | 237.77 | 237.77 |
| Cleaning Supplies | 1,512.50 | | 1,512.50 |
| Copier Lease | 3,347.76 | | 3,347.76 |
| Copier Supplies | 861.94 | | 861.94 |
| Depreciation Expense | 10,347.52 | | 10,347.52 |
| HST Expenses | 1,574.20 | | 1,574.20 |
| Office | 1,375.56 | | 1,375.56 |
| Professional Services | 700.00 | | 700.00 |
| Reconciliation Discrepancies | 2.41 | | 2.41 |
| Repair and Maintenance | 14,415.04 | | 14,415.04 |
| Salary Costs | | | |
| Workers Safety Insurance | 134.24 | | 134.24 |
| Salary Costs - Other | 29,247.09 | 148,267.19 | 177,514.28 |
| Staff Other | | 1,925.94 | 1,925.94 |
| Total Salary Costs | 29,381.33 | 150,193.13 | 179,574.46 |
| Utilities | | | |
| Electricity | 7,539.14 | | 7,539.14 |
| Gas | 6,382.25 | | 6,382.25 |
| Water and Sewer | 2,215.55 | | 2,215.55 |
| Total Utilities | 16,136.94 | | 16,136.94 |
| Yard Maintenance | 8,088.95 | | 8,088.95 |
| Total Expense | 105,023.39 | 190,597.60 | 295,620.99 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -38,878.39 | -9,227.17 | -48,105.56 |

| Other Income/Expense | Trustees | RUC | Total |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Other Income | | | |
| Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) | | 18,541.39 | 18,541.39 |
| Mission & Service | | 27,826.60 | 27,826.60 |
| Directed Outreach | | 110.00 | 110.00 |
| Endowment to Operations transfer | | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Total Other Income | | 56,477.99 | 56,477.99 |
| Other Expense | | | |
| Mission & Service | | 27,826.60 | 27,826.60 |
| Directed Outreach | | 110.00 | 110.00 |
| Depreciation - Furnace | | 1,871.04 | 1,871.04 |
| Total Other Expense | | 29,807.64 | 29,807.64 |
| Net Other Income | | 26,670.35 | 26,670.35 |
| Net Income | -38,878.39 | 17,443.18 | -21,435.21 |

Consolidated Balance Sheet

| Consolidated Balance Sheet | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| ASSETS | | Trustee's Property Account | RUC Operating and Investment Accounts | Total |
| | Current Assets | | | |
| | Chequing/Savings | | | |
| | Petty Cash (Property) | 200.00 | | 200.00 |
| | Petty Cash (RUC) | | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| | Royal Bank | 29,632.84 | | 29,632.84 |
| | RUC Operating | | 23,879.96 | 23,879.96 |
| | RUC Savings | | 54,901.78 | 54,901.78 |
| | Total Chequing/Savings | 29,832.84 | 79,081.74 | 108,914.58 |
| | Accounts Receivable | | | |
| | Accounts Receivable | 4,119.85 | | 4,119.85 |
| | Total Accounts Receivable | 4,119.85 | | 4,119.85 |
| | Other Current Assets | | | |
| | Fiera Capital | | 271,943.68 | 271,943.68 |
| | Investments | | 6,054.40 | 6,054.40 |
| | AR-GST | | 87.81 | 87.81 |
| | AR-PST | | 166.67 | 166.67 |
| | Grocery Card Imprest Account | | 18,135.89 | 18,135.89 |
| | Grocery Gift Certificates | | 24,427.71 | 24,427.71 |
| | Total Other Current Assets | | 320,816.16 | 320,816.16 |
| | Total Current Assets | 33,952.69 | 399,897.90 | 433,850.59 |
| | Fixed Assets | | | |
| | RUC | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | Furnace | | 3,431.15 | 3,431.15 |
| | Buildings | | | |
| | Depreciation | -48,401.43 | | -48,401.43 |
| | Washroom Renovations | 93,511.93 | | 93,511.93 |
| | Buildings - Other | 221,228.77 | | 221,228.77 |
| | Total Buildings | 266,339.27 | | 266,339.27 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Furniture & Equipment | | | |
| | Depreciation | -78,201.72 | | -78,201.72 |
| | Original Cost | 80,711.33 | | 80,711.33 |
| | Total Furniture & Equipment | 2,509.61 | | 2,509.61 |
| | Land and Land Development | | | |
| | Depreciation | -7,465.00 | | -7,465.00 |
| | Land and Land Development - Other | 82,715.00 | | 82,715.00 |
| | Total Land and Land Development | 75,250.00 | | 75,250.00 |
| | Organ | | | |
| | Depreciation | -58,954.00 | | -58,954.00 |
| | Original Cost | 58,954.00 | | 58,954.00 |
| | Total Organ | 0.00 | | 0.00 |
| | Thexton Garden | | | |
| | Thexton Garden Depreciation | -320.58 | | -320.58 |
| | Thexton Garden Original Cost | 3,205.82 | | 3,205.82 |
| | Total Thexton Garden | 2,885.24 | | 2,885.24 |
| | Total Fixed Assets | 346,984.12 | 3,431.15 | 350,415.27 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 380,936.81 | 403,329.05 | 784,265.86 |

| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Liabilities | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| | Accounts Payable | 1,747.64 | 1,747.64 |
| | Total Accounts Payable | 1,747.64 | 1,747.64 |
| | Total Current Liabilities | 1,747.64 | 1,747.64 |
| Long Term Liabilities | | | |
| | Holding Account - New Project | 1,399.88 | 1,399.88 |
| | Holding Account - Wesley United | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | Total Long Term Liabilities | 3,399.88 | 3,399.88 |
| | Total Liabilities | 5,147.52 | 0 |
| Equity | | | |
| | Endowment Fund | | 207,769.56 |
| | Manse Fund | | 60,500.00 |
| | Restricted Ministry | | 30,705.00 |
| | Share Account | | 6,054.40 |
| Equity in the Property | | | |
| | RUC Equity in Riverside Churches | | -32,198.60 |
| | from Church of the Resurrection | 44,451.29 | 44,451.29 |
| | Washroom Renovations Funding | 82,281.17 | 82,281.17 |
| | Church Extension Fund, Ottawa Presbyt | 65,000.00 | 65,000.00 |
| | Total Equity in the Property | 191,732.46 | 159,533.86 |
| | Members' Equity | 130,246.73 | 130,246.73 |
| | Retained Earnings | 74,237.20 | 131,506.8 |
| | Net Income | -38,878.39 | 17,443.18 |
| | Total Equity | 357,338.00 | 421,780.34 |
| | TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 362,485.52 | 421,780.34 |

RUC Operating Statement

| | Jan - Dec 20 | Jan - Dec 19 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense | | |
| Income | | |
| Congregational Giving | 170,519.74 | 169,335.64 |
| Bank Interest Income | 101.47 | 230.00 |
| Weddings, Funerals | 930.00 | 958.56 |
| Directed Financial Gifts | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| Fund Raising | 9,319.22 | 21,078.83 |
| Total Income | 181,370.43 | 191,603.03 |
| Expense | | |
| Administration | 2,722.89 | 4,344.95 |
| Assessment - UCC | 8,675.00 | 8,676.00 |
| Building Joint Expense | 27,600.00 | 27,600.00 |
| Partnership Ministry | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Programming | 1,206.58 | 3,271.62 |
| Staff | 150,193.13 | 153,384.70 |
| Total Expense | 190,597.60 | 197,477.27 |
| Net Ordinary Income | -9,227.17 | -5,874.24 |
| Other Income/Expense | | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Other Income | | |
| Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) | 18,541.39 | 0.00 |
| Mission & Service_ | 27,826.60 | 29,263.81 |
| Directed Outreach | 110.00 | 3,360.00 |
| Endowmt to Operation transfer | 10,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Total Other Income | 56,477.99 | 37,623.81 |
| Other Expense | | |
| Mission & Service Expense | 27,826.60 | 29,263.81 |
| Outreach. | 110.00 | 3,360.00 |
| Depreciation Expense - Furnace | 1,871.04 | 1,871.04 |
| Joint Holding Surplus/Deficit | 0.00 | -8,754.08 |
| Total Other Expense | 29,807.64 | 25,740.77 |
| Net Other Income | 26,670.35 | 11,883.04 |
| Net Income | 17,443.18 | 6,008.80 |

RUC - Year End Statements

| | 31 Dec 20 | 31 Dec 19 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Chequing/Savings | | |
| Bank Operating | 23,879.96 | 3,296.93 |
| Savings | | |
| Savings / Sabbatical | 24,297.71 | 22,948.24 |
| Capital Fund | 1,197.52 | 1,197.52 |
| Endowment Fund | 4,406.55 | 14,406.55 |
| Syria Refugee Program - Trust | 25,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Savings | 54,901.78 | 38,552.31 |
| Petty Cash | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Total Chequing/Savings | 79,081.74 | 42,149.24 |
| Other Current Assets | | |
| Fiera Capital | 271,943.68 | 252,253.60 |
| Investments Scotia Bank | 6,054.40 | 0.00 |
| Total Investments | 6,054.40 | 0.00 |
| Riverside Churches Inc | 18,451.29 | 18,451.29 |
| Accounts Receivable - GST | 87.81 | 124.42 |
| Accounts Receivable - PST | 166.67 | 215.63 |
| Grocery Card Imprest Account | 18,135.89 | 8,181.62 |
| Grocery Gift Certificates | 24,427.71 | 33,378.74 |
| Total Other Current Assets | 339,267.45 | 312,605.30 |
| Total Current Assets | 418,349.19 | 354,754.54 |
| Fixed Assets | | |
| RUC | | |
| Riverside Churches | 0.00 | 218,383.50 |
| Accum Amort RUC | 0.00 | -83,942.93 |
| Total RUC | 0.00 | 134,440.57 |
| Furnace 2002 | | |
| Acc Dep - Furnace | -33,990.56 | -32,119.52 |
| Furnace 2002 - Other | 37,421.71 | 37,421.71 |
| Total Furnace 2002 | 3,431.15 | 5,302.19 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total Fixed Assets | 3,431.15 | 139,742.76 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>421,780.34</u> | <u>494,497.30</u> |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | |
| Equity | | |
| Riverside Churches | -32,198.60 | 102,241.97 |
| Endowment Fund | 207,769.56 | 196,118.53 |
| Manse Fund | 60,500.00 | 60,500.00 |
| Restricted Ministry | | |
| Compassion | 80.00 | 80.00 |
| Jamaica | 250.00 | 50.00 |
| Refugee | 25,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Sabbatical | 5,375.00 | 4,000.00 |
| Total Restricted Ministry | 30,705.00 | 4,130.00 |
| Share Account | 6,054.40 | 0.00 |
| Retained Earnings | 131,506.80 | 125,498.00 |
| Net Income | 17,443.18 | 6,008.80 |
| Total Equity | 421,780.34 | 494,497.30 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | <u>421,780.34</u> | <u>494,497.30</u> |

2021 Operating Budget

Riverside United Church Budget 2021

| | Program and Administration | | | Building /Trustees | | | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Actual 2019 | Actual 2020 | Budget 2021 | Actual 2019 | Actual 2020 | Budget 2021 | Budget 2021 |
| Income: | | | | | | | |
| Congregational Givings | 167,866 | 171,520 | 170,000 | | | | 170,000 |
| Bank Interest | 230 | 101 | 125 | | | | 125 |
| Weddings & Funerals | 959 | 930 | | | | | 0 |
| Directed Financial gifts | 3,470 | 500 | | | | | 0 |
| Fund Raising | 19,078 | 7,675 | 8,000 | 3,103 | 6,132 | 1,000 | 9,000 |
| Rentals - RPNS | | | | 12,944 | 13,800 | 14,575 | 14,575 |
| Rentals - Other | | | | 18,226 | 8,315 | 14,000 | 14,000 |
| Other | | | | 8,042 | | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| | | | | | | | 0 |
| Total Income | 191,603 | 180,726 | 178,125 | 42,315 | 28,247 | 34,575 | 212,700 |
| Expenses: | | | | | | | |
| Administration/Office | 4,345 | 2,723 | 3,000 | 2,778 | 1,786 | 2,575 | 5,575 |
| UCC Assessment | 8,675 | 8,675 | 8,675 | | | | 8,675 |
| Communications | 282 | 112 | 200 | | | | 200 |
| Building Partnerships | | | | | | | 0 |
| Outreach | 200 | 0 | 200 | | | | 200 |
| Memberships | 200 | 200 | 200 | | | | 200 |
| Caring for One Another | | | | | | | 0 |
| Pastoral Care | 65 | 206 | 180 | | | | 180 |
| Welcoming | | | 100 | | | | 100 |
| Nourishing our Faith | | | | | | | 0 |
| Programs | 41 | 127 | 500 | | | | 500 |
| Worship and Music | 2,784 | 363 | 1,200 | | | | 1,200 |
| Personnel Costs | 153,385 | 150,193 | 183,250 | 27,829 | 29,381 | | 183,250 |
| New Project | | | 2,000 | | | | 2,000 |
| Building Cost Share | 27,600 | 27,600 | | | | | 0 |
| Utilities | | | | | | | 0 |
| Electricity | | | | 9,273 | 7,539 | 9,400 | 9,400 |
| Natural Gas | | | | 7,027 | 6,382 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| Water & Sewer | | | | 2,595 | 2,216 | 2,600 | 2,600 |
| | | | | | | | 0 |
| Cleaning Supplies | | | | 2,425 | 1,513 | 2,500 | 2,500 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Photocopier Lease | | | | 3,348 | 3,348 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Insurance | | | | 5,752 | 5,907 | 10,781 | 10,781 |
| HST | | | | 1,672 | 5,213 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Auditor | | | | 675 | 700 | 700 | 700 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | | | | 8,288 | 14,415 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Yard Maintenance | | | | 6,826 | 8,089 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| | | | | | | | 0 |
| Total Expenses | 197,577 | 190,199 | 199,505 | 78,488 | 86,489 | 61,556 | 261,061 |
| Net Income (Loss) | -5,974 | -9,473 | -21,380 | -36,173 | -58,242 | -26,981 | -48,361 |
| | | | | | | | 0 |
| | | | | | | | 0 |
| Transfer Endowment | 5,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | | | | 10,000 |
| HST Recovery | | | | | 2,005 | 1,538 | 1,538 |
| | | | | | | | 0 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | -974 | 527 | -11,380 | -36,173 | -56,237 | -25,443 | -36,823 |

Nominations Report

MANDATE: In consultation with the Minister, Officers of the Church and Chairs of Committees, to identify and bring forward for consideration to the Annual Congregational Meeting, new replacement candidates for key positions on Council and other aspects of church governance.

Council members will continue in their roles during 2021-22 where possible.

| Position | 2021-2022 | Term of Office |
|---|---|---|
| COUNCIL | | |
| Vice Chair | Christine Rhodes | One year preceding assuming the position of chair |
| Chair | Karen Ogston | 2 nd year of 2-year term |
| Secretary | David Gray | 3 rd year of 3 years |
| Treasurer | Ken Smith | n/a |
| Member at Large | Bob Christy | 1 st year of 2 years |
| Member at Large | Roger Ellsworth | 1 st year of 2 years |
| Member at Large | Anne Dawson | 1 st year of 2 years |
| Member at Large | Patricia Ryan | 1 st year of 2 years |
| MINISTRY TEAM LEADS & CO-LEADS | | |
| Nurturing Our Faith | Samantha Wilson-Clark | 3 rd of 3 years |
| | Wendy Graham | 3 rd of 3 years |
| Caring for One Another | Peg Brandon | 3 rd of 3 years |
| | Wanda Maurais | 3 rd of 3 years |
| Building Partnerships | Mary Shaw | 3 rd of 3 years |
| | Morag Pearce | 3 rd of 3 years |
| OTHER POSITIONS | | |
| Trustees | Charles Barrett | |
| Investment Management Team | Richard Williams, Dave Bell Shirley Andrews Wendy Graham Heather Smith Bob Garrow Elizabeth Cameron | |
| Ministry & Personnel Chair | Diana Desjardins | 3 rd of 3 years |
| Communications Support Team Lead | | |
| Regional Rep (s) | Charles Barrett | |
| | Bob Christy | |
| Minister | Paul Dillman | |
| Property Committee | Richard Williams Chair Hugh Moser | |

The following nominations are for the upcoming year, 2021-2022:

Trustees (includes investment planning function) - Shirley Andrews, Charles Barrett, David Bell, Bob Garrow, Wendy Graham, Heather Smith, Richard Williams and Paul Dillman.

Representatives to Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Riverside United is entitled to three representatives to the Regional Council. Nominees for 2020 are: Charles Barrett and Bob Christy. Molly Colwell is an alternate.

Ministry & Personnel Committee - Chair: Diana Desjardins Members: Bob Garrow, John Gingerich, Karen Ogston, Morag Pearce, Susan Wade

Nominations Committee: Karen Ogston, Gail Christy

Permission for Further Nominations

Motion Moved to grant the Council permission to approve nominations during the year for any positions normally approved by the congregation at the annual meeting.

Note to the Congregation of
Riverside United Ottawa

The "Come Back Strong" Initiative

It's been a tough year. The ties that link us together have been strained but not broken. We thank each one of you for being a part of keeping us together through these long months.

Despite the onslaught of the COVID-19 virus, our church staff, committees, and members have been working diligently planning and learning how to keep together with Zoom services, YouTube, e-mails newsletters and mailings and through your generous giving of time and money. Ministry teams and committees have been planning for the future.

We want to share the story of our efforts and adventures, and our visions of how we can refresh, remake and rebuild our Church into the uniting force that will sustain us beyond these times. So let us tell that story and explain all that we know about the next steps.

The Loss of our partner congregation - Church of the Resurrection

Perhaps the most profound and symbolic loss has been our partner Anglican congregation from the Church of the Resurrection who agreed to disestablish themselves in the summer of 2020. COR has been our partner since the establishment of The Corporation of Riverside Churches in 1969, and together we managed the church property, shared in our mutual journey of worship and the fellowship we enjoyed, and bore the financial and organizational burdens for our enterprise.

We have accepted their departure with sadness at that reality and are moving forward. We welcome those in COR who choose to continue with us as friends and continuing members.

During December 2020 we began the steps of winding down the Joint Holding Corporation of Riverside Churches and agreed with COR on a mutual satisfactory financial agreement. One of the terms of the 1969 agreement was that if one congregation left, the assets of the Corporation would transfer to the remaining congregation. So, the Trustees of Riverside United have title to the property on behalf of The United Church of Canada and now have assumed full responsibility for the maintenance and sustainment of the facilities. The employment of the Caretaker has been transferred to RUC. We obtained new insurance and assumed legal liabilities for the future. We are now replacing the joint management team with new structures to ensure transparency, accountability and enthusiasm for the times ahead. Our church is sound structurally and will maintain it in the future.

Our finances - Under stress but under control

For many, it is extremely important to feel confident that we have the means to continue our journey as a congregation and to sustain our church. We entered this lockdown year in good financial shape with strong givings, a healthy Endowment Fund, and control over our obligations. We thank you for your generous givings that have enabled us to keep ourselves in a good financial position this year, as have wage subsidy monies from the Government of Canada. Upon the disestablishment and settlement with COR, we received the equivalence of their share of the financial support for a full year.

Despite the loss of many rental opportunities, we are pleased to remain the home of the Riverside Park Nursery School, now under the control of the Andrew Fleck Children's Services organization.



They are breaking ground on a new Day Care facility near the Canoe Bay Development, but plan to continue the Nursery School function at Riverside United Church. We thank them for continuing support throughout this past year and for the time to come. In addition, we have welcomed the Ottawa Organic Food Market who will hold weekly sales on Saturday mornings (10 a.m. until 12 noon) until at least the end of August, with an option to renew on a continuing basis after that. This rental arrangement is good for them, good for us and good for the community.

We hope that with the return to a new normalcy we can be open to many more rental opportunities and the associated revenues.

At the end of December we have agreed to the leasing of part of the property to host a cell phone tower in a new church steeple on the Southwest corner of our church that will be built by with Freedom Mobile. We will still need to monitor the progress to obtain the approval of that proposal with the regulatory authorities. This will also give us a sustained source of income.

Our Legacy of Initiatives for Change

As an enthusiastic congregation, we eagerly look to the future with ambitions. Despite the setbacks for the current situation, we have made progress on several initiatives to refresh, upgrade, and make our Chancel area accessible. We have further studied the addition of a ramp in the Chancel to ensure accessibility to all of our members. We will be ensuring that the Chancel will be on a single level, with relocation of the Choir and Organ to make better and more flexible use of the area with a view to future worship and rental opportunities. Finally, we completed a design project with a contractor to upgrade our audio and visual support systems. This upgrade will improve our ability to offer our congregants better sound quality, including for those who are hearing impaired. Coupled with a mounted camera and more microphones connected to a computer-controlled console, we can provide "on-line" virtual services (similar to our current ZOOM model of connection) for those who cannot be present. This will enable us to continue the "electronic outreach" that has linked us with each other, family, friends and distant partners in Jamaica. Finally, we will propose a new projector and display screen that will improve the view for all. We are exploring various grant and loan options to assist with the funding of this work.

We will bring this forward to the members of our congregation for review and approval in the near future. We ask that you consider the possibility of a special and targeted funding campaign of contributions to cover this work.

Our community is changing around us. You have seen the new paving on Riverside Drive that thankfully was completed while we were participating from home. But, there is also much work underway at the future Canoe Bay development also on Riverside Drive just north of us. The Riverside Mall shopping centre beside the Norberry Apartments may be the site of a major development. To the east of this centre, there are plans to add additional apartment units to the complex on Springland Dr. The large apartment complex on Brookfield Drive will also bring new folks and shops to our area. Finally, work on the Hogs Back Dam/Bridge and Canal Bridge has completed and the road has reopened after more than a full year of construction.

For those that yearn for the return to our fellowship time we can report that work to refresh the kitchen area with new cabinets and fresh paint has been completed. While we were unable to plan our bazaars and Garage Sale under these circumstances, we can report that the Riverside "Table" opened in coordination with the Organic Market, has succeeded very well gaining \$2500 in sales of food and crafts. Our use of Kijiji (on-line small goods sales) has gained \$1400. We thank all those whose creativity and caring made this possible. So while we can't do things the way we used to right now, we are succeeding under new means.



It is also worth remembering the Mission Forward strategic planning process we began a few years ago that included engagement with various community organizations to identify our joint needs and opportunities. We identified four priority areas as shown below.



The work at pursuing these priorities has been on hold through this pandemic time but we have moved onwards from our decision in 2019 to be An Affirming Ministry. We declared our intention to be proactive and public in proclaiming that our understanding of faith and love includes all persons. Our Vision and Mission Statements give voice to what we see ourselves to be as a community of faith.

Vision - *Living faithfully in the Spirit of Christ to make a loving difference in the world.*

Mission - *With open minds and curious hearts, our commitment is:*

- *to nourish our faith in God, as revealed by Jesus*
- *to care for one another and*
- *to build partnerships of mutuality, respect and hope in our neighbourhood and beyond,*

as we worship, learn and serve together.

We embrace the rainbow as a promise of God's affirming love for all, and include people of all ages, races, cultures abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities in every aspect of the life of our faith community

The Return to a New Normalcy

We cannot predict with certainty how things will progress but here is our best guess. The continuation of provincial lockdowns and restrictions on travel and visitors should have the effect of reducing the number of new infections and reducing the load on our hospitals. The coming of spring and summer as well as the surge of inoculations will lower this burden further. When this trend is confirmed and has lowered the infection rate to a manageable level - perhaps next fall - we expect that rules governing gatherings of people will be outlined. Prudence suggests that this will be progressive so we can anticipate a period when we transition slowly from totally on-line services, to mixed limited in church plus on-line, to primarily



in-church with on-line access to accommodate those who may still be at risk or who cannot attend regularly due to other factors. In line with these lowering restrictions, we may see church services return to our normal times or activities (such as barbecues or pot lucks) outside in the open being offered. When permitted, we will move forward on those options.

Summary - and a call for support

We are calling this the "Come Back Strong" initiative and seek your support. We are looking for your reactions, your ideas, your help and finally, yes, your financial support. The future of our church will be different. That is a fact.

But it will also be equally warm and welcoming and supportive founded upon our best abilities to create a uniting church, well organized, well managed and fit for the future. So rest assured that your church continues to be active and looking to the future.

We want you to be part of that.

COME BACK STRONG



Remember ?



Together



Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Page 4