



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



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

March 24th, 2024
3191 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 8N8
(613) 733-7735

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PROPOSED AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, March 24th, 2024 - After Service

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 March 27th, 2023
7. Presentation of Riverside United Church Annual Reports as printed
8. Statement of Accounts for 2023 — Riverside United Church
9. RUC Budget for 2024
10. Nominations Report
11. New Business
12. Governance review
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; and
4. considering and making a decision on the draft annual budget.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 26, 2023

The Riverside United Church congregation gathered at the church and on ZOOM (a video-conferencing software) for the Annual Congregational Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm. The 37 people at church signed a ledger book of attendees and 11 people attended on ZOOM. The lists of attendees, by both methods, are kept in the Church Office.

1. Opening Prayer

Rev. Paul Dillman led the congregation in prayer giving thanks that we can gather as a community of faith.

2. Appointment of Secretary

Motion: Moved by Christine Rhodes, seconded by John Dixon that Peg Brandon be appointed Secretary for the meeting. **Carried.** Peg Brandon assumed the position of secretary.

3. Appointment of Chairperson

Motion: Moved by Christine Rhodes, seconded by Karen Ogston that Dave Bell be appointed Chair for the meeting. **Carried.** Dave Bell then assumed the position of chairperson.

The Chair extended a welcome to all attending both in person and by ZOOM. He explained the process that would be followed so that those on ZOOM could speak to the meeting and be heard by those in the church, and he reminded those in the church to: clearly state their name when making or seconding motions to contribute to the accuracy of the minute taking; and, if they had questions or comments, to use the microphone so that they would be heard by those attending on ZOOM. He noted the progress made since the last Annual Meeting in moving back to more communal worship, including the return of the choir, but opined that hybrid worship would likely continue.

The Chair then directed the attention of the Congregation to the proposed agenda and noted that some of the issues being raised would require a motion and vote, while others were there for information.

4. Extension of Voting Privileges - Adherents

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

Motion: Moved by Samantha Wilson-Clark, seconded by Louise Madaire that all those in attendance had the right to vote on motions. **Carried.**

5. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair asked the Congregation to examine the proposed agenda published in the Annual Report. The Chair then asked if there were any additions; none were suggested.

Motion: Moved by Roger Ellsworth, seconded by Bob Christie that the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried.**

6. Minutes of the meeting held on March 27th, 2022

The Chair asked the Congregation to examine the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on March 27th, 2022 (see pages 6-9 in the 2022 Annual Report package). No items were raised for discussion or correction.

Motion: Moved by Deborah Chaplin, seconded by Daphne Biggs that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held March 27, 2022, be accepted. **Carried.**

7. **Presentation of Riverside United Church Annual Reports as printed**

The Chair introduced this section as information for which no voting is required and advised that he would move through this list of reports by naming each report in turn, asking the submitter if there were any additions and the Congregation if there were any questions (and if so, seek answers to those questions). This process would continue for the full list of reports.

- a. **Minister's Report**
- b. **Council Report**
- c. **Board of Trustees**
- d. **Property Committee**
- e. **Building Partnership Team Ministry**
 - i. Amnesty International
 - ii. Centre 507
 - iii. Partner Offerings
 - iv. White Gift Program
 - v. The Mitten Tree
 - vi. Heron Road Emergency Food Centre
 - vii. Hunt Club Riverside Park Steering Table
 - viii. Mission and Service
 - ix. Multi-Faith Housing Initiative
 - x. Partnership between Riverside United Church, Ottawa, and Providence Methodist Church, Kingston, Jamaica
 - xi. Refugee Committee
 - xii. Thexton Garden Report
- f. **Caring for One Another Team Ministry**
- g. **Nourishing Our Faith Team Ministry**
 - i. Ministry of Music
 - ii. Communion
 - iii. World Day of Prayer
 - iv. Children's Worship: Jessica Hetherington asked if any decision had been made about restarting Messy Churches. Paul Dillman advised that consideration is being given to holding one in the May/June 2023 time frame to allow eating outdoors.
 - v. Adult Learning
 1. Book Club
 2. Advent Gatherings
 3. Indigenous Canada
 - vi. Banners
 - vii. Affirming Ministry Circle
- h. **Communications Committee**
- i. **Fund Raising**
 - i. Book Nook
 - ii. Christmas Bazaar
 - iii. Grocery/Gift/Cash Cards
 - iv. Kijiji Sales
- j. **Quilting and Crafts**
- k. **Membership and Rolls - 2022 Changes and Revisions**
- l. **Ministry and Personnel Committee:** Karen Ogston provided an update to the congregation regarding

the new "Discrimination and Harassment Policy" described in para 4, and the revised job descriptions described in para 5. Both had been approved by Council at the February 22nd, 2023, meeting and were now in effect.

m. Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC)

With the exception of the question in para g iv, and the comment in para l above, there were no additions to or questions about any of the reports.

8. Statement of Accounts for 2021 - Riverside United Church

Ken Smith noted two transcription errors in the report. On page 33 the figure for RUC Total Donations shows as \$63,394.78 when it should have read \$36,247.50. That same error was repeated on page 39 under the "Actual 2022" column in the "Total Donation" row. However these mistakes did not carry through to the totals shown in both columns which are correct.

The Chair noted that no approval of the Statement of Accounts was necessary, since this was an informational report.

9. RUC Budget for 2023

Ken Smith presented the budget and noted that it resulted in a very small potential deficit. He also pointed out that the proposed transfer of money from the Endowment fund would only happen if required and would not take place early in the calendar year.

Motion: Moved by Deborah Chaplin, seconded by Charles Barrett that the operating budget for 2023 for Riverside United Church be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

10. Nominations Report

Karen Ogston advised two changes to the Nominations Report as presented: Bob Christy had agreed to stand for the position of Chair Elect; and Janet Thompson had agreed to stand for one of the team members in the Nourishing Our Faith Ministry Team, replacing Bob Christy. With those changes, she reported that all the positions for 2023 had been filled. She also thanked Morag Pearce who is leaving the Ministry and Personnel committee after many years of service.

Motion: Moved by Mary Shaw, seconded by Wendy Graham that the Nominations Report as amended be accepted. **Carried**

Motion: Moved by Karen Ogston, seconded by Rhoda Thexton to grant Council the authority to approve nominations during the year for any position normally approved by the congregation at the annual meeting.

Carried

11. New Business

Charles Barrett advised that the Meeting House had proposed a partnership around provision of recreational services and equipment to the community. The impetus for the suggestion was that they have a container load of equipment which they would like to move to this site for community use. This proposal is in the very early stages and the Trustees are playing the lead role for RUC. Depending on the results of the analysis, this proposal may be presented to Council for approval sometime in the future.

12. Governance Review

Paul Dillman noted that at the Annual Congregational Meeting held in Feb 2019, the congregation had approved the new governance model including the three Ministry Teams with the expectation that the model would be reviewed three years later (2022). However since COVID protocols had interrupted operations for

two of those three years, the review did not take place last year. Although COVID protocols are changing, and Riverside United Church is moving towards more in-person forms of activity, Paul suggested that it is still too early to have reliable data on the strengths and weaknesses of the current governance model and that a formal review should not take place in the near future. Although he opened the floor for comments or questions, none were expressed.

13. Appreciation of Staff

The Chair noted that 2022 had been another challenging year for the staff who dealt with it with grace and dignity. As we began slowly to move to a post-pandemic steady-state, it is evident that the hybrid model we were now working with will continue into the future. And he thanked by name or position:

- Paul Dillman for his steadfast leadership in ministry
- Jessica Hetherington for her ministry in Paul's absence on sabbatical
- Louise Madaire for keeping things moving with such competence and good cheer
- Richard Williams and John Gingrich for making the hybrid model work
- Marc Godin, now employed by RUC rather than the Riverside Churches
- Members of all the committees
- Wayne Irschick for his music ministry in the face of technical difficulties and singing prohibitions
- Members of the congregation for their financial support and their participation in the life and work of the church
- Cat La Force for building back the Children's worship and providing insight into indigenous issues.

There was a round of applause in appreciation of the contributions highlighted.

14. Meeting Close

Rev. Paul Dillman introduced Eric Versluis, the pastor of the Meeting House, who expressed appreciation that they could share the space and build a relationship with RUC. Paul then led us in prayer.

Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Louise Madaire, seconded by Mary Shaw that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried. Time: 1:10 pm

2023 Annual Congregational Report

Minister's Report

One of the books that I read in 2023 was Imaginable: How to Create a Hopeful Future by Jane McGonigal and it helped me to value the importance of imagination. One of the questions that I have been asking lately as I think about the crisis issues in our world is: Is anyone doing the big picture thinking about how to address the issues?

I read the book because for a good chunk of the year, I chaired a strategic planning process for the regional council of the United Church to which we belong: Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council. The regional council model has only been in place for 4 years and most of that was COVID time, so the process invited us to imagine what we needed the church to be and to become. The report was entitled *Setting our Sights* and was adopted in November. I will continue to find ways to be involved in implementation some of the action plans.

2023 in the life of Riverside United was a good year of continuing to find our way into a new, COVID affected ways of being church. We have welcomed new people into the community and seen changing ways of engagement for many others. The building continues to be an active hub of community activities.

In September, we welcomed Karen Percy as a ministry student in her first year in the Summer Distance Program of the Atlantic School of Theology. A Lay Support Committee has been formed to work with her and I serve as her supervisor as she integrates her learning.

One area of ministry at Riverside that I have been working at practicing imagination is the work to be part of a cluster of 5 congregations in the southeast area of Ottawa. Riverside hosted a potluck in November and the cluster began a rotation of monthly services at Landmark Court. The ministry personnel of the cluster started gathering monthly for coffee/tea.

One of my frustrations from the COVID shutdown time was that we were not able to implement some of the goals determined in the Mission Forward process from 2017/18. One of the those goals was to work to address food insecurity in the neighbourhood. In the fall of 2023, Riverside brought together various agencies for a Food Security Table. Two meetings were held and one idea held promise as we move into 2024.

I continue to enjoy ministry in this place - even through December when the office was packed up due to mold remediation work! I give thanks for the work of other members of staff and for the many volunteers who enable us to live towards our vision of *“living faithfully in the Spirit of Christ to make a loving difference in the world.”* May the gift of imagination inspire how we live our that vision.

Submitted by Paul Dillman

Council Report

Riverside United Church Council met 6 times throughout the 2023-2024 congregational year. As we moved further from the pandemic, Council discussed the energy that returned back into the building. There were several discussions to look at the involvement of the congregation in-person and online to ensure that we were aligned to continue to serve and meet the needs of Riverside United Church and the community.

Council passed several key votes aligned to the vision of Riverside United Church such as adopting and inclusive choir and endorsing the purchase and installation of an affirming sign. Council also agreed to be an

e-learning site for the Atlantic School of Theology for one of its students, Karen Percy, who attended several meetings as an active participant.

The National Church held a Remit this year to establish an Autonomous National Indigenous organization within the United Church of Canada. Council was offered an educational session and voted in favour of the remit. Council enthusiastically reviewed a presentation on the Brookfield Community Food Cupboard under development to address food insecurity in the church's surrounding areas.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Rhodes, Chair of 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 Canadian trust law. 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

The Riverside United Church Trustees are Shirley Andrews, Charles Barrett, David Bell, Elizabeth Cameron, Paul Dillman, Wendy Graham, Heather Smith, and Richard Williams. In 2023 Trustees met on four occasions: February 22, May 30, September 12, and December 20.

Since 2014 the long-term financial assets of the church have been invested consistent with our investment policy statement. These investable funds are overseen by the Board of Trustees, subject to clear guidelines regarding the allocation of assets. As of the end of 2023, Riverside United had \$380,855.52 invested with the Canoe Asset Allocation Portfolio Series D, a socially responsible balanced mutual fund. This performance again exceeded the standard benchmarks in what continues to be a challenging investment environment.

In December 2021 the Board of Trustees created a working group to monitor our investment performance and to recommend any changes in how funds are managed from time to time. Emily Grey and Ken Smith serve on the Investment Management advisory group in addition to Charles Barrett, Elizabeth Cameron, and Paul Dillman. This group met on February 24 and December 6, 2023, to monitor investment performance. It has recommended that no changes be made to our policy or portfolio at this time.

The Trustees are responsible for the stewardship of our building through the Property Committee, which looks after ongoing property management, as well as repairs and maintenance projects are required. In 2023 the cash costs of running managing and maintaining our property (i.e. before depreciation charges) have been covered by cash receipts from Riverside Park Nursery School and other donations for the use of space. This includes tenants, such as the Ottawa Organic Farmers Market and The Meeting House, as well as many other users of the building. During 2022 the Property Committee sought guidance from Trustees on its discretionary spending limits and these limits were revised in 2023 based on experience to date.

In 2022 it was agreed that the Trustees would update the list of medium- and long-term property improvement projects that had been maintained by Riverside Churches. Going into 2024 the most urgent matter is the possible repair or replacement of the roof. Exact requirements will not be determined until this spring.

The Trustees have again renewed our insurance coverage with Ecclesiastical Insurance for 12 months beginning on December 29, 2023. We are still planning to explore the cost effectiveness of UCC Protect, a new group facility through the United Church. If we were to change carriers, the application and underwriting process would need to be complete prior to December 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Barrett (Chair)

Property Committee

The Property Committee had a very busy year this year and met significant challenges for major projects including the garage roof, the church roof, the parking lot and the Audio-visual system.

The committee welcomed new members and was formed as follows:

Chair - Richard Williams (elected by members of the committee)

Council Representative - Charles Barrett

Minister - Rev. Paul Dillman

Members - Carolyn Gauthier, Hugh Moeser (on leave of absence), Pierre Gauthier, Henry Andrews, Daphne Biggs, Karen Percy, Jean Gingerich, and WJ (Bill) Smith.

We have said thank you and farewell to Don Squire.

This is a very busy time for property management and operations at Riverside. Despite the lengthy period of virtual services, the church has remained in use and has required normal attention to the many maintenance issues that emerge due to the age of the facilities.

I would like to bring to your attention the following:

- a. **Progress on the Chancel Renovation.** The original Chancel Renovation is now complete and the increase flexibility of the layout has improved our services and rentals. We have used the Sanctuary for large groups (National Capital Concert band, University Women's Club, Quilters Guild, rehearsal for a National Ballet production, New Horizons Band) as well as smaller rentals. Overall, this was a success.
- b. **Progress on the Audio-Visual (A/V) Project.** We have dramatically increased the use of the A/V system for church services and for rentals. We have had significant improvements to our sound and video performance and have used a "hybrid" Zoom (where we have participants in the church and on line interacting with each other). We have had a series of problems with audio quality and system failures (largely due to wiring issues) that have caused some poor Zoom and YouTube streaming. As a result, we have contracted with Solotech (the designers of the system) for a new configuration project that will take us to the permanent design. This will give us the ability to use the monitor displays more effectively, improve our audio quality and controls, and make the system easier for operators to control. We will have a design review in January and implementation through the spring of 2024.
- c. **Rentals continue to use our facilities.** The Riverside Park Nursery School has continued to deliver its program throughout the post-COVID-19 period. As well, we have the regular Saturday morning Ottawa Organic Food Market. The Meeting House continues its use on Sunday afternoon and evenings. As noted above, we have also had new renters as well so rental income is improved.
- d. **Committee management of regular maintenance.** The Church and grounds have had a very busy year for problems and maintenance.



- Last years wind storms caused some tree damage along Riverside Drive and in the forest near the Scout Hut.
- As well, we had a roofing company replace the shingles on the garage roof. Thereafter we had a return of the critter inside the garage. Once we found the entry point (near the front right soffit) and sealed it, our furry friend found another home.
- We had the lines painted on the parking lot but it continues to deteriorate and within the next five years we will have to perform some serious work on it.
- Daphne Biggs led a team to contract for replacement of the wood steps on the portable leading to the Book Nook. This was complicated by the soil conditions and rotting beams in the portable. However, we persevered and the new steps are working very well.
- We have had some recurring leaks from the roof. Last year, Rev Paul showing great diversity in his talents led a small team onto the roof and found a tennis ball and old shredded pop can blocking the two down spouts after the record breaking rain fall we experienced in Ottawa. This backup caused leaks in the front entrance way and in Paul's office.



- ☺ Removing the blockages improved the situation somewhat but it returned and a leak inside the wall in Paul's office soaked the carpet and generated a musty smell.
- ☺ A mold inspection was performed and the results indicated that remediation was required. We opened up the wall and discovered the leak and removed the carpet in the main office and Paul's office forcing Paul and Louise to relocate.
- ☺ Just as we were preparing to close the wall, paint and replace the carpet we had a return of the leak. Godfrey Roofing came and investigated further to find that the front archway (under the roof at the front of the church) has deteriorated and water is running along the top and into the wall and down into Paul's office. Due to it being winter we can't do anything further to the leakage but we have agreed they will return in the spring and do a major repair on the beam.



- ☺ Meanwhile, we have painted the office, replaced the carpet and returned all of the furniture to the office. We will leave the wall open for now until we complete the beam repair and will closely monitor if leaks recur.
- ☺ This has been a lot of work for everyone so thank you.

e. **Security and Protection.** We had a vandalism incident on the street sign this past year with spray paint over the affirming rainbow logo. This was reported to the police and repainted without too much trouble. However, we have added a new Affirming Congregation rainbow banner on the exterior wall of the church and this raised concerns that further vandalism may occur. So, we did a consultation with our security camera company who have proposed replacing some of our cameras for better coverage and resolution as well as adding new cameras to cover the entrance drive, parking lot and side wall of the church (facing Riverside Dr). To assist in covering this, we prepared and submitted a proposal for coverage under the Federal Government Security Infrastructure Program and await to hear the results. In addition we have replaced lights in the rear of the church to increase illumination around the garage area.

So what is planned for the future. First, we will have a major task overseeing the final repairs to the roof to prevent further leaks. Next, we note that the parking lot deterioration is nearing a critical stage and despite frequent patching it may become a safety concern in the medium term. Further discussion on this will be required. Finally, we need to complete the A/V system configuration change and increase the technical team membership to ensure we have coverage for all church services, activities and repairs.

We can always use additional members and solicit your support to keep the church in fine working condition to support our church services, gatherings and fellowship opportunities as well as providing our renters with top quality facilities.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Williams, Chair Property Committee Jan 2024

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

Daily/Weekly Groups:

Riverside Park Nursery School (Andrew Fleck Children's Services), The Meeting House, Atlantic Voices, Girl Guides (Sparks), Ottawa Organic Farmer's Market, Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild- Charity Quilt group, TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), The Ottawa Police Chorus, The Seniors Card group.

This year we added Vocestra, and a theater group used our space for rehearsal for a play that was presented at Algonquin. The Toucan choir led by Chris White and Roxanne Delmage comes in Monday afternoons.

Monthly Groups: Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), Celiac Association of Ottawa, Ottawa PC Users Group, Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild, Riverside Park Community and Recreation Association. Some monthly groups still did not meet in 2023 due to COVID-19 restrictions such as the Leukemia Association.

Occasional Groups:

Friendship Force Although many other groups did not meet in 2023, however we still rented to Heather Telford, Voices in Harmony, Music recitals and other community events, We also had a Movie production company use our parking lot and facility for a Hallmark movie being shot in the neighborhood.

Building Partnership Team Ministry

Team Lead: Morag Pearce **Co-Lead:** Karen Ogston

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.

Food Security:

Addressing food insecurity in the Hunt Club-Riverside Park area of Ottawa is a new initiative of Partnerships Ministry Team. This has been a goal for RUC first expressed in the Mission Forward project in 2018, then followed up by Paul Dillman in the context of the Steering Table of the Hunt-Club Riverside Park Community Centre, and again at gatherings of the cluster of five area churches in our efforts to collaborate in 2019.

Councillor Riley Brockington encouraged this initiative, and area people were contacted to meet to determine how the need for a Food Cupboard or Pantry in this area could be addressed. He attended the first meetings of the group of 21 people that took place at RUC on September 11, 2023, and included those representing five faith groups, five Ottawa South Food programs, South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre, and other interested people, met on September 12, 2023, at RUC. The group agreed that a new Food Bank, Pantry or Cupboard was essential to relieve pressure on Heron Emergency Food Centre and make it possible for people in need to take fewer than three buses for food. Mapping efforts were initiated that would include a survey of schools. Finding that food insecurity was high among school students (49 -80% in the four of the five area public schools west of Bank Street– with about 20 to 30% in the other two), we met again on November 13th at RUC, and agreed to pursue the option of a new Food Cupboard/Pantry or Food Bank in available space at Brookfield High School. A further Zoom meeting on December 21, 2023, of RUC/The Meeting House members with the School Board Trustee and Vice Principal of Brookfield concluded that there were no barriers to pursuing the Food Cupboard/Food Pantry option at Brookfield High School, as there was space and a history of community partnerships. Visits to Brookfield to begin the Food Cupboard process were agreed upon and would take place starting in January 2024.

In addition, RUC and The Meeting House faith communities that meet at RUC agreed to support four families with particularly acute needs during the Christmas school holidays. Donations for the congregants of the two churches were exceptionally generous in terms of money and goods. We thank The Meeting House for joining us in this project. Their participation, initiative, and generosity. In making this a success. With exceptionally generous donations from both congregations, deliveries of groceries in festive laundry baskets, and additional bags of groceries, knitted hats, and grocery cards took place on December 21st and 22nd. The four families were very grateful.

Funds from this generosity are also available for food and gift card support during March Break in 2024. The two churches will continue to work together on Food Security and other initiatives in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted, Karen Ogston

1. Amnesty International

Amnesty International advocates on behalf of individuals and groups who suffer abuse at the hands of their authorities when they attempt to exercise internationally recognized rights - rights which we take for granted.

ISSUES: The campaigns address the abuse of human rights. In 2023, the authorities in 19 countries received letters expressing our concern over the treatment of prisoners of conscience, protestors, climate

defenders, homelessness, gender abuse, capital punishment, disappeared individuals, deportations, stolen sisters, reproductive rights, property rights, and poisonings.

In 2023, Riverside United people participated in two kinds of campaign activities:

Urgent Action Network Campaigns:

1. As members of the Amnesty Urgent Action Network, we receive requests for actions on a regular basis. We do not meet as a group. The campaign requests are sent on to the 8 members of the group via email. Previously, actions have been through writing and mailing letters to the authorities targeted in the action. However, recently, Amnesty has been sending electronic letters via email. The letters can be modified by the sender and sent on electronically to the authorities. This year we have received requests to participate in 17 such campaigns.

Write-for-Rights Campaign:

2. The annual WRITE-4-RIGHTS EVENT. December 10 is Human Rights Day and we participate in AI's letter writing campaign on the Saturday closest to that date. Letter writers come to the church or write from home. AI provides all the needed information. This year our campaign was on December 9. 13 letter writers came to the church and 8 wrote from home. We generated 142 letters, emails, and cards in this campaign.

We can always use more letter writers. Anyone who is interested in defending human rights can contact us at pn.mcleod@sympatico.ca

Respectfully submitted, Pat & Norm McLeod

2. Centre 507

The Centre met their biggest demand for services in 2023. In one month they served 6,540 meals, Beginning in January 2024 they will be open 24 hours a day, serving as a warming centre in Centretown. The need for services is constantly changing and recently an alarm monitor was installed in their bathrooms to alert the staff if someone had passed out due to a drug overdose.

The Riverside congregation continues to support them with many gifts. They include 5 carloads of clothing, plus toiletries, coffee and a special appeal which raised enough money to buy 28 pairs of new boots complete with warm socks. Many donations of cash were also sent. The staff at the Centre are very much appreciative of the support as they continue to serve the needs of the community going into their 42nd year of operation.

Respectfully submitted, Morag Pearce

3. White Gift Program

During Advent a collection of gifts were donated and presented during Sunday worship then distributed to the Young Men's Shelter here in Ottawa. Also supported were the residents of Serenity House, 28 stockings filled with goodies and gift cards were made possible by the generous cash donations from the congregation. In partnership with the Mission House we supported 4 area families with a Christmas Hamper under the guidance of one of our local schools.

4. The Mitten Tree

This annual collection of warm hats, scarves, gloves and mitts is warmly supported by the Meeting House, other groups who use our facilities and of course our congregation. The donations were delivered to the Young Men's Shelter, the Christmas Hamper programme and in January 2024 a few area schools received the remaining items.

Respectfully submitted, Morag Pearce

5. Heron Road Emergency Food Centre (HEFC)

Located in the Heron Multipurpose Centre, HEFC is one of the 112 Ottawa Food Bank (OFB) agencies. Their mandate is to provide 7 days of nutritious food, once a month, to those living with food insecurity, who reside within its catchment area in South East Ottawa.

Over the past year the number of people who visit food banks in general has grown exponentially. OFB says that 1 in 7 people living in Ottawa are food insecure. Increased food prices, rising housing costs and the influx of immigrants and refugees have meant that all resources have been impacted. In the month of January 2023 HEFC served 516 families, representing a total of 1710 individuals. By December those monthly numbers had risen to 742 households, totaling 2452 souls. Many of those folks are recent arrivals who understand very little English or French. There are also growing numbers of single people accessing emergency food.

Grant money from the City of Ottawa and food supplied by the OFB are not sufficient to sustain the operations, so donations of money and food from local organizations, churches, schools and individuals are most welcome. Produce from the Thexton Garden, here at RUC, is very much appreciated, and considered to be a very generous donation from a community garden. There are two main fundraisers each year, and this year the Walkathon in September and the Christmas concert together raised over \$20,000.

The Executive Coordinator is the Centre's sole employee, but it could not function without the work of the many volunteers who unload the food, stock the shelves, divide portions and serve the clients. In order to provide enough food the Buyer (another volunteer) purchases, wholesale or at bulk discount prices, those items which the OFB does not supply, or has not supplied enough to meet the need. He spent around \$6,000 per month.

The Board of Directors include representatives from several local faith communities and community associations along with other interested individuals, and 3 accountants who manage all financial matters.

We are very grateful for the continued support from this congregation. Your receipts from Wilson's Independent grocery store generate \$1 per each \$100. In September alone you accumulated close to \$12,000 worth, which was almost a \$120 donation from Wilson's. The monetary donations you sent through Canada Helps to www.hefc.ca or enclosed in the designated envelopes, and the non-perishable food items you placed in the yellow bin all helped us to help some of our hungry neighbours. On behalf of the Executive Coordinator, the Board of Directors, the volunteers and all those who benefit from your generosity – Thank you!

Respectfully submitted Mary Shaw, RUC Representative to HEFC Board

6. Hunt Club Riverside Park Steering Table

The Hunt Club Riverside Park Steering Table is an initiative coordinated by the Southeast Ottawa Community Health Centre. It is a gathering of various persons and organizations that work in this area of the city. There is regular participation from Southeast Ottawa, Ottawa Housing, the community associations, Ottawa Public Library, Ottawa Police, Councillor Brockington's office, the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre. Riverside United has the most regular participation of a faith community. The Steering Table resumed meeting after COVID and had a few meetings by Zoom in 2023. The work on Food Security for the neighbourhood that is reported elsewhere has the support of the Steering Table.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dillman

7. Mission and Service

In 2023, donations to the Mission and Service Fund of The United Church of Canada from Riverside totaled \$29,600. This is a decrease of approx. \$2000 from 2022. The Mission and Service Fund supports various organizations and projects in Canada and enables partnerships with global partners throughout the world. In 2019, the national church funding structure changed, so that administrative costs for the national and regional church are now paid by assessment. This means that all donations to Mission and Service support programming and outreach work.

Thank you for making M&S a part of your offering.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dillman

8. Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI)

Housing affordability is a major challenge in Ottawa and across Canada.

Riverside United is a member of the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI), a not-for-profit organization with strong faith community participation. MHI was established in 2002 to bring more affordable housing to Ottawa. In 20 years MHI has grown into a coalition of over eighty faith communities including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindu, Unitarians, Baha'i, and other faiths from across the city.

Currently, MHI owns five different property sites: Blake House, the Haven, Kent House, Somerset Gardens, and most recently Veterans' House: the Andy Carswell Building, designed specifically to address the needs of homeless veterans in the Ottawa area. MHI has recently announced two new projects, Dream LeBreton Flats, as well as a partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa to build affordable housing at the site of the St. Julian of Norwich Parish on Merivale Road.

Dream LeBreton was the successful proposal to develop the "Library Parcel" of LeBreton Flats. This mixed-use project will build a total of 601 new residential rental units, 247 of them affordable, in two towers located between Ottawa's future main public library and the LRT station. The buildings will include a mix of affordable and market units and will have a gathering circle located prominently between them.

MHI will own and operate 130 of the affordable units, ranging from 1 to 3 bedrooms. The affordable units will serve the priority populations identified in Canada's National Housing Strategy, including Algonquin and other Indigenous peoples, veterans, recent immigrants, women and children, and adults with cognitive disabilities.

Members of Riverside United are encouraged to support MHI directly.

Respectively Submitted by Charles Barrett

9. Out of the Cold at Southminster United

After a four year absence, Riverside United prepared and served a hot meal as part of the weekly Out of the Cold meal program at Southminster on Saturday, November 25th.

There were about 18 volunteers who worked over two shifts to serve approx., 35 guests at the program.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dillman

10. Partnership between Riverside United Church, Ottawa, and Providence Methodist Church, Kingston, Jamaica

Members of the Jamaica Partnership Committee - Rev. Paul Dillman, Edith Ngoye Allen, Rae Finley,

Marjorie McLean, Jean Peart, Marilyn Robinson, Marie Hackett.

This working relationship between the two churches and cultures has continued each year since 2004. Funds are raised by Riverside United Church and Jamaicans in Ottawa, and are sent to Providence Church. The funds are divided equally between the Home Visitation and Nursing Programme at Providence and the Mission House Basic School in Gordon Town. We receive regular reports from Jamaica about the work.

On Sunday, October 22, 2023, our 20th Jamaica Night, was an in-person event for the first time since 2019. The program was a combination of live presenters and videos. An edited version of the program was released on YouTube on October 29th. Jamaica Night is our main fundraiser for the projects in Jamaica, and the videos over the past four years have expanded our audience and donors for this partnership work.

In March 2023, Marie Hackett celebrated her 90th birthday and a Zoom birthday party was held. Many members of Providence Methodist Church joined the party and offered their gratitude for her faithfulness and love.

In July 2023, we received word of the death of Mrs. Wendy Litchmore, the wife of Rev. Barrington Litchmore - the minister of the Providence Circuit. The sympathy of Riverside United was passed along to the Litchmore family and Providence congregation.

Report of funds raised.

Funds raised in 2023 for the Providence Methodist Church were approx. \$6000. Can. The outreach work we support is making a difference. If you wish to donate, please send a cheque payable to Riverside United Church, and indicate on the cheque that the funds are for outreach work in Jamaica. A receipt for income tax will be sent to you.

Thank you for your interest and generosity. People in Jamaica are very grateful for our continuing support.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dillman

11. Refugee Committee

In 2020 we started working on an application to sponsor a Syrian family – husband & wife, three children. After many delays we are pleased to announce that the family has finally been issued a permanent resident Visa and will be arriving in Ottawa on April 16th, 2024.

This has been a challenging sponsorship because of COVID and other World events but we were fortunate to have the help of two co-sponsors who are relatives of the family. In addition to helping us with the application, the co-sponsors put up the required money to finance the sponsorship, so RUC did not need to raise funds. We also benefited from the assistance provided by the United Church of Canada's Refugee Program Support in Toronto.

We have already received generous offers from RUC members of good furniture and other necessary household items. The Quilting Group have made quilts for all their beds. A very Canadian way to say welcome.

Our family consists of a husband and wife and three children ages 2, 4 and 6. The husband speaks good English as he studied in England for some time. The oldest girl has been enrolled in English school which should make it easier for her to fit into a Canadian school. We are looking forward to helping this family get comfortably settled in Canada.

Respectfully submitted, Pat & Norm McLeod, Riverside United Church Refugee Committee

12. Thexton Garden Report

In May 2023, each raised bed in the Thexton Garden was enriched with a nutrient soil/compost mixture. Early sprouting showed much promise, with everyone admiring the rows of tender green sprouts and seedlings. Then the rain came. Volunteers who signed up for watering would often report they had little or nothing to do. Nonetheless, we had good harvests of leaf lettuce, chard, green beans, onions and potatoes. Tomato plants, which were so leafy and green in early summer, were twisted dried stalks by the end of the season, holding on to stunted fruit. What happened? Any advice is gratefully received. Thanks to all the volunteers: the planters, the waterers and the harvesters. We are always looking for new people. Join the fun.

Report submitted by: John Dixon

Caring for One Another

Peg Brandon - Chair

Helen Hunter - Member-at-Large

Elizabeth Barclay - Card Ministry

Mary Shaw - Member-at-Large

Diana Desjardins - Member-at-Large

Wanda Maurais - Co-Chair

Bob Garrow - Member-at-Large

Marie Hackett - Visitation Ministry

Marsha Fairfield - Card Ministry

Functions/Responsibilities:

Congregational social and connecting events, Funeral/Memorial Services Hospitality, Welcoming newcomers

This year there was a gentle return to social activities, although these were generally organized with, at best, indirect involvement by the Caring for One Another Ministry. These included:

- Occasional after worship social hours, run by volunteers who sign up as part of the worship service;
- A congregational picnic after the "Recognition of Graduates" service on 11 June;
- A "Stay for Spuds" congregational meal after the 61st Anniversary Service on 29 October;
- A pot-luck supper with the cluster congregations hosted at and by RUC.

On December 20, 2023, we organized the reception that was held after the Quiet Christmas service, a time for reflection during the busy holiday season and a time for remembrance as we light candles in memory of loved ones. At the reception we enjoyed spending some time together as well as sweets and Paul's delicious hot apple cider.

There were no funeral receptions organized by the committee this year. There were four funeral receptions in room 6. These were catered, with a member of the committee on site to answer questions or assist as necessary. Lessons learned from services this year will be used to revise the information made available to families in the future as they plan services at the church.

Throughout the year we continued to reach out to members of the congregation through a phone and card ministry.

The phone ministry checks in monthly with members of the congregation who have requested this, thanks to the efforts of:

- Wanda Maurais
- Karen Ogston
- Heather Smith
- Gail Christy
- Peg Brandon

In addition, Marie Hackett continued her Visitation Ministry by telephone, connecting with people who had

not been able to physically go to church in the years before COVID restrictions.

Elizabeth Barclay continued sending cards for birthday and anniversary celebrations as well as sympathy, thinking of you, and get-well cards to members of the congregation. Marsha Fairfield prepares and sends the birthday cards for the children and youth of the congregation.

On behalf of the members of the Caring for One Another Ministry, I want to thank members of the congregation who keep us informed about those whom we may be able to assist. I 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 copies of reflections for those who are not electronically connected, by visiting those in hospitals and other care facilities, and by nourishing a connection with others in the congregation. I 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

Members: Wendy Graham; Chair - Jonathan Bathurst: Co-chair

Deborah Chaplin, Mary Shaw, Bob Christy: secretary

Mandate: Engaging in a variety of experiences that encourage people of all ages to explore, celebrate and enhance our understanding of the Holy and what God calls us to be and do.

- Offer advice and support for meaningful weekly worship
- Work with minister and music director to offer special worship services
- Work with minister & music director to enhance worship with a wide variety of musical experiences
- Offer multi generational forms of worship such as Messy Church
- Coordinate age-specific and multi generational opportunities for learning and connection

Areas of Focus:

- Worship services
- Sunday morning tasks - making Sunday morning run smoothly
- Music
- Communion
- Special services and traditions
- Affirming
- Children’s ministry
- Adult learning

Worship Time

2023 has been an exciting time as new people joined us, more folks gradually returned to in-person worship, and equally important, folks continue to attend online. Worship services are now well established as hybrid services, and we are very happy to have been able to incorporate folks who participate in worship services online. The technology has been tricky and stressful, and we heartily thank the tech team (with lots of support from partners and other family members at home) for their dedication, skill and ability in fielding the many curve balls the new technology throws their way. One of the many positive aspects of being hybrid is that it accommodates the needs and preferences of a wider range of people than pre-pandemic, including long-time members, occasional participants and first-time attendees, and those who participate from off-site.

Participation in worship activities is encouraged, and it is wonderful to see a variety of people doing readings, requesting prayers, making announcements, doing ‘Minutes or Moments for a variety of subjects such as Affirming, Environment, Mission, and Learning; lighting candles; doing the land acknowledgment; and

taking up the offering. We are hopeful that planned upgrades to the AV system will allow people attending remotely to be even more fully integrated.

At various times, when Paul and Wayne were away, worship leadership was given by Jessica Hetherington, Sharon Sanderson, Jane Griffiths, and Jeannie Taylor, and music leadership was given by Ruth Bryce, Georgina Gray, and Jane Griffiths.

We are very grateful for their willingness to share their talents with us in this way.

Paul sometimes does worship themes for several weeks running, or to highlight an aspect of a season. This year he did the following.

March: Tough Teachings : Great need for mercy; Generosity in the Vineyard; Clothed With Faithfulness; Don't Be Afraid; Seeing the Image of Christ in the Least; and Hosanna.

June/July: With Integrity of Heart - How do we value ourselves? How Does our Culture value us - as things or persons? How Do We value the world We Live in - With despair or hope? What is the centre of our universe - the individual or the community? How do we choose between so many conflicting values - fragmentation of integration?, and How do we view the future - as threat or fulfillment?

September: The need For:, Curiosity and Joy , The Need for Wrestling; The Need for Blessing, and The Need for Astonishment

The Advent theme was: How does a Weary World Rejoice?

Traditions and Special Services: Riverside hosted the Cluster service, which was held on January 1st. This is an annual tradition for several years now, that 5 nearby United churches gather in one church building for the first service of each year. Members of all the choirs are invited to practice and sing an anthem together.

On April 16th we celebrated our more than 50 years of partnership with the Anglican Church of the Resurrection. Previous members of C.O.R. were invited, and a plaque was dedicated. It hangs in the sanctuary on the east wall. Members of the musical group FROGS played.

The Anniversary Service and Memorial Candle Lighting, when we remember and light candles for those associated with the congregation who have died during the year, was held on Oct 29th.

Oct 22nd we had as special guests Sheila White, author of *'The Letters: Postmark Prejudice in Black and White'*, and her brother Chris White, a noted local song writer, performer and choir leader. They enlightened us with stories of the prejudice their parents experienced because of their interracial marriage, and led us in some meaningful singing.

Advent & Christmas Started Dec 3rd The theme for Advent was "How can a weary world rejoice?" Paul used a series of resources from Sanctified Art to develop this theme, with special emphasis on Mary and Joseph, and Elizabeth and Zechariah. The focus was on the first three chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Advent calendars for children and adults, and an Advent devotional booklet were part of the resource.

Communion

This past year the Rev Paul officiated when we celebrated the Sacrament of Communion 8 times.

On the 1st Sunday in Lent – February 26 , Palm Sunday – April 2 , June 4 and World Wide Communion – October 1st, the services were conducted in-person and on-line. Those attending in- person were served in their seats with those on Zoom and YouTube being asked to have juice/wine and bread/cracker on hand so all could participate together.

On Easter Sunday, April 9th communion was shared by those attending the outdoor Sunrise service. The Maundy Thursday – April 6th and Christmas Eve communion services were solely on Zoom.

It was decided that by December 3rd – the 1st Sunday in Advent, we could return to our former practice of serving the congregation at "Stations", using 2 teams of 3 people standing at the front of the sanctuary, and 1 team serving, in their seats, those who were less mobile. Using tongs, one person served each congregant with gluten-free bread, while a second person held the tray of individual juice glasses. The empty glasses were collected in a basket held by one of our young people. This service was also on-line. When offered in-person,

in the sanctuary, the number of those receiving communion were between 51– 66.

Respectfully submitted Mary Shaw

Student Minister

We have been blessed to be a ministry learning site for Karen Percy, a first year student in the Distance Learning program of the Atlantic School of Theology. We have also been delighted to have her family among us. We are grateful to her for her enthusiastic participation in many groups, meetings, and aspects of the life and work of Riverside United. Karen gladly leads meetings with innovative and meaningful opening devotions, and has provided leadership in many ways during our worship services. We look forward to her spending more time with us as she continues her studies.

Music Forward

Our Music Forward Circle was formed early in the year, with a good sized group with varied musical backgrounds. The focus is on supporting Wayne Irschick, our Music Director, and moving music at Riverside into the new post-COVID reality in a creative and sustainable fashion, by imagining how we can experience a variety of musical offerings in worship.

Our first meeting was Feb 6, 2023

Members: Malcolm Wade, Wendy Graham (chair), Wanda Maurais, Paul Dillman, Ted Colwell, Karen Ogston, Wayne Irschick, Christine Rhodes, and Karen Percy.

We encourage anyone who would like to contribute to music at Riverside to contact the church office, or Wendy Graham. Our motto at Riverside is ‘participation, not perfection’!

In years past we had the choir sing an anthem every Sunday. That is no longer possible, and we now often have ‘Special Music’ in that spot in the worship service.

Over the year, we have been blessed to have a variety of musical offerings by a variety of people. There have been solos and duets; and anthems by Riverside’s choir and by a family choir. There have been pieces played on piano, oboe, flute, trombone, saxophone, and a brass group, On a few Sundays a music video was shown. We thank each and every person who contributes musical offerings, and those who help facilitate the musical contributions.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Graham and Wanda Maurais

Choir

After a hiatus of 3 years we were finally able to recommence our regular choir practices on March 12th. It was on March 3rd 2020 that we gathered to sing together for the last time before everything closed down. We sang our first anthem on March 26th 2023 and since then have sung every 3 or 4 weeks.

Our group comprises a few new members as well as folks who have been around for a while. We were delighted to welcome Malcolm Wade (Bass) as an official choir member, although he had already sung while the choir was inactive. Deborah Chaplin sang in our Soprano section for a little while, and Susan Wade and Kira Malchy joined the Altos. Terry Robinson along with Ted Colwell formed the Tenor section. By the end of the year we averaged 10–12 choristers each week. In addition to their choral singing, several members have used their instrumental talents to provide the Special Music during Sunday worship.

Our esteemed Choir Director, Wayne Irschick continues to lead us and arrange music to suit our diminished numbers. We now practice at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, so we are spared having to venture out in the cold, dark evenings.

In August several of our number were present to say a final farewell to a much loved former member and Choir President, Dorothy Belluz. Even in retirement she joined us on a few special occasions, so we miss her and we cherish our memories of her.

Although our role has evolved a little, we still love to sing and enjoy being together. There is always room for anyone who would like to join us as we continue to Sing with joy, A song of praise to the Maker!

Respectfully submitted, Mary Shaw

World Day of Prayer

As the traditional day for this service is the first Friday in March, on March 3rd several of us from the World Day of Prayer (WDP) Alta Vista area cluster group gathered on Zoom – hosted by RUC - as once again there was no in-person service in our area. The service outline, with the theme “I Have Heard About Your Faith” (Ephesians 1:15), was prepared by the women of Taiwan, where 5- 6% of their population is Christian. The video presentation was produced by the Women's Inter Church Council of Canada, with it's Board President giving the Devotional Message. Prayers and scripture readings interspersed by music were offered by several folks from across Canada, with a liturgical dance ensemble from New Brunswick interpreting the message from the steps of several churches. Images of Taiwan were included throughout, and as the final hymn “It is well with my soul” was sung, pictures of groups of participants from previous WDP services across Canada, were shown.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Shaw

Making Sunday Mornings Happen

Many thanks to the volunteers help Sunday mornings to happen smoothly.

We can always use more folks to sign up to help, though. The tasks include greeting and handing out bulletins and hymn books, and accepting hymn books and bulletins at the end of the service, and tidying up the area at the back. Also on the list are: setting up and taking down the candles and hangings on the altar table, doing the bible reading, and taking up the offering. Training is available if anyone would consider helping in this way.

Sunday Social hour: We have been having a social hour approximately every two weeks after the worship service. The dedicated team that made this happen for many years is no longer able to do it, so thank you to a few folks who have been key in making sure we have our social times. Volunteers are solicited regularly; we're aiming for a larger team.

Kudos and thanks to David Gray who so ably and creatively does the PowerPoint slides for the bible reading every Sunday.

Children's Worship

Logistics: We start in the Sanctuary with everyone and go out after the Conversation with the Youth. When the weather safely allows, we go outside to the back treed area. Generally we do not go outside in the winter as I'm not sure everyone will have their snow gear. We were in room 4 this year while the office got renovated.

Program: We always begin with a check in with everyone. This helps kids know they will have a turn to speak, we will all listen, and that what they share about themselves and their week matter to us all. It's very popular and takes time but is totally worth it.

We will continue the experience and experiment format where I choose appropriate science experiments that relate to the passage (for example, with a passage that relates to trusting God, I painted a large paper with invisible ink, let each child used one stroke of their paint brush to reveal the hidden map. We discuss how difficult it is to navigate without the whole picture, but trust that it's there, and over time will be revealed – this was an exciting one). We always set up and clean up before anyone leaves.

All activities have the scripture reading and pauses to ensure everyone knows what the words mean/context

which helps conversation and ensures everyone understands the passage best (we will often discuss what the situation would look like today and get examples from the children). It is the same reading that the adults get so there can be meaningful conversation at home afterwards. No questions are off limits and are responded to appropriately for the ages in the room. I really enjoy when I receive a listing of the passages from Paul, and from there I make the day's activity in relation to that. It's most helpful to build curriculum with the lectionary. The kids have noted that they really love my programming and so have some of the parents.

Timing & Numbers: There are approximately 5-10 youth and children in our classes as we still have 5 consistent families at RUC. Half of our kids are 13 years old and most jump at the chance to be involved in programming and helping. The kids get along wonderfully, the older ones help the younger and new kids. It's been SUCH a pleasure having so many and I'm sure everyone enjoys seeing them all for Conversation with the Children on the new stairs. We could use a bit more time, I'm not sure if there would be a better time to go out (we do not want to lose the stair time though!).

Forecast for the future:

-I would like to continue with the format of Experience, Experiment and Artful worship. These are a favourite among current worshipping children.

-I would like to order some safety equipment (12 pair of goggles) and possibly make some aprons.

-I would like to do a sleepover like the Sparks do. Kids can come sat evening after supper and stay until bedtime or sleep over and wake up for breakfast and Church!

-I would like to do an invite-a-friend as it offers an opportunity to see your friends in safe spaces. Many of the children in our congregation attend a religious school (George-Étienne Cartier).

-I would like to continue Messy Church. It's one of the most well liked activities. As an example, I really enjoyed the 2024 Epiphany where we had 6 activity tables (name tags, playdough, shadow puppets, cupcakes, bingo of important people and places in the church, Share wall 'how you light up the world') and 2 crafts to take home (the globe and the stained glass jar). With more activity and fewer crafts there are less preparations and more interactivity.

-Room 5 make over: there are a few items and furniture in there that we could use in a better way, I think the kids would like to have an opportunity to make it their own with a mural on a Saturday in the spring when we can leave windows open and would be a fun activity to engage parents in too. It would be fun to also have a budget and a mini-council to show the kids how decisions are made in our church ??

Respectfully submitted, Cat La Force, Children Worship Leader

Adult Learning

Advent Exploration Time – Kitchissippi United and Riverside United teamed up to offer an Advent time of reflection. The resource for this program was “Bless This Advent” offered by Kate Bowler.

Book Club

The RUC Book Club had another active year. We are still meeting on Zoom . During the year we discussed *Invisible Boy* by Harrison Mooney, *Secrets of the Spraaakar* by Eliza Reid, *Ducks* by Kate Beaton, *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garbus, *Permanent Astonishment* by Thomson Highway, and *Haven* by Emma Donoghue.

Since 2009, we have enjoyed over forty thought-provoking conversations about both fiction and non-fiction literature. We are grateful to Paul for his patient and insightful leadership.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Dixon

Affirming Ministry Circle

MEMBERS: Members: Paul Dillman, Wendy Graham (chair), Wanda Maurais (secretary), Helen Hunter, Joan Sirrs, Cat Laforce

The Affirming Ministries mandate is to facilitate the congregation to continue to live our our Mission Statement.

Riverside United Church's Mission Statement

With open minds and curious hearts, our commitment is:

to nourish our faith in God, as revealed in 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 symbol of God's affirming love for all and include people of all ages, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities in every aspect of the life of our faith community.

The Affirming Ministries Circle:

This group has had a busy and fulfilling year. We are grateful to the members of the Circle for their enthusiasm and hard work, and for all they accomplish in the realm of including, celebrating, and cherishing differences. We are also grateful to all in the congregation who support our work.

Minutes for Affirm:

The following subjects were presented in the form of 'Minutes for Affirm'

-During Black History month, we presented information on how discrimination affects Black Canadians. The topics were Youth Development, Job Hiring and Levels of Progression, Health and Community Services, and Police Bias.

On March 12, 2023, we celebrated PIE Day (Public, Intentional and Explicit) with tarts and beverages. We watched a video of a PIE Day message from Moderator Carmen Lansdowne.

On March 14, 2023, Cat La Force held a virtual meeting that members of the congregation could attend. The discussion was called Demystifying Non-Binary.

On April 30, 2023, to celebrate the 4th anniversary of RUC becoming Affirming, a video was shown entitled: *God's Love Includes Everyone*. Featuring 4 national church leaders in Canada.

Minute for Affirm: On June 11, 2023, a review of the subjects that we have discussed over the last four years was presented.

June 18, 2023 was National Indigenous People's Day. We sang 'Hymn of the Four Winds'.

This summer an Intersex-Inclusive pride flag sign was installed on the front of the building.

Sept 24, 2023: There was a 'Moment for Learning' on Orange shirt day; everyone was encouraged to wear something orange, as we remember the experience and effect on indigenous children and families, of residential schools.

We are working on a brochure to provide information about Riverside United being an Affirming Ministry. The brochure will be placed in the Narthex.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Graham and Wanda Maurais

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.

The promised church website update was finally realized in 2023. With the help of our website designer, Chris Steingart, owner of a company called Big Creative, the home page was updated along with our version of WordPress, the software on which the website is built. This refreshed the look of the website and gave us access to a new capability to revise the homepage ourselves. This required learning some new methods for editing the elements of the home page. Comments and/or suggestions for improvements are welcomed. Theresa White and Paul Dillman continue to maintain our presence on Facebook. Louise Madaire, Ellis Lindsay and John Gingerich try to keep our website current, updating links and/or adding new content as needed.

John Gingerich, Ken Smith, David Dean and Steven Fearsythe do their best to support Richard Williams in running the Audio/Visual system (A/V), occasionally taking over when he is away. The A/V system makes it possible to stream our services online via Zoom and YouTube. The system also runs the microphones and the PowerPoint slides presented on the monitors in the sanctuary for those attending services in-person. Thanks are due to the many others who help out on Sunday mornings by advancing the PowerPoint slides using the remote control and to those who co-host Zoom from the office. The list includes Rebecca Dillman, Samantha Wilson Clark, Lou Madaire, Ken Smith, Karen Percy, Pierre Gauthier and probably others as well. As always, we would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has an interest in learning about website maintenance, our Facebook presence, or our A/V system.

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

Submitted, John Gingerich, Communications Committee

Fund Raising

Fund Raising	2023	2022	2021
Bazaar	7,473.45	7,436.05	9,117.35
Book Nook	6,820.00	3,545.00	2,143.70
Garage Sale	2,220.25	828.75	2,086.00
Grocery Gift Cards	3,062.61	3,391.51	3,510.80
Grocery Card Purchase Rebate	735	975.45	1,050.80
Plant Sale	0	12	5
Recycle	55.25	0	33
Total Fund Raising	20,366.56	16,188.76	17,946.65

Book Nook

The Book Nook was a great success this past year. It is always amazing that so many books (and Jigsaw Puzzles) pass through our doors and into the hands of contented customers. Although we are up against digital books, I think there is still happiness in holding a physical book and flipping real pages.

The portable, which houses the Book Nook, received an upgrade this year in terms of new entryway steps providing a welcoming portal to the vast array of books we carry.

We held a sale each month last year, except for July and August (too hot in there) and we made a total of \$6,820. I believe a lot of our success goes to the excellent sorting and displaying of books, etc. by Gail Kennedy and Sheila Snelling. They put a huge effort in sorting through the incoming donated books (which are greatly appreciated), then putting them in places where the customers can actually find what they are looking for.

Feel free to come and visit us in the Book Nook on Tuesday mornings when we do our sorting. Books that you donate can be done then, or anytime by dropping them off in the Narthex.

Respectfully submitted by Daphne Biggs

Christmas Bazaar

The 2023 Bazaar was held Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 10-12, to match the hours of the Organic Farmers' Market. It included: knitting, sewn items, quilts and crafts; jewelry; attic treasures; and baking (including pies), jams and jellies. By the end of the day the Bazaar raised over \$6,000 (this included presales). Subsequent to the formal sale date, there were three other mini-sales. The first was after church on Sunday, November 19, when all the remaining food items were sold. The final two were on Saturday 16 December during the Farmer's Market, and Sunday 17 December after church to sell quilting and knitting items for the convenience of last minute Christmas shoppers.

The total Bazaar sales over November and December were \$7473.45.

Our thanks to all those who:

- so generously contributed the many wonderful items for the various tables;
- participated in baking parties at the church for the rhubarb pies, and apple pies and crisps;
- set up, operated, and cleaned up various tables after the Bazaar, and took care of arranging the floats and counting the proceeds;
- operated the mini-bazaar tables outside in the December cold.

I would also like to thank the members of the Bazaar Committee: Diana Desjardins, Patty Dixon, Jean Gingrich, Wendy Graham, and Susan Wade. Their energy, enthusiasm and organizational abilities made it all happen. I also want to thank Rhoda Thexton for her donation of apples every year and her lead in getting the apples ready for pie-making and coordinating the production and packaging of the shortbreads, and Don Squire and Deborah Chaplin for organizing floats before and counting results after the Bazaar.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Brandon, Chair Bazaar Committee

Grocery/Gift/Cash Cards

The profit for 2023 was \$3797.61, down slightly from last year. The best-selling cards are PC \$250, Metro \$250, Farm Boy \$250 and PC \$100.

The majority of sales occur from the office, and we thank Louise Madaire and Paul Dillman for this effort. Thanks to Joan Sirrs for being the Purchaser of all the cards, thanks also to Karen Tippet for her help with inventory control and her statistical record keeping.

Thanks to all of you that bought cards. That is what keeps this fund raiser going.

Respectfully submitted by Ken Smith

Kijiji Sales

No Kijiji sales in 2023.

Kijiji sales Team; Paul Dillman, John Dixon & Ken Smith

Quilting and Crafts

The Quilting and Craft Group meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00, and there are two purposes.

One is to produce items for the fall bazaar, and the other is fellowship.

Attendance and participation fluctuated throughout 2023. Several people returned post-pandemic, others became unable to come for a wide variety of reasons, and a new member or two appeared. Some people contribute items they create at home and rarely if ever come in person.

Between those that come in person and those that work at home, a variety of activities happen: quilts are pieced, then hand-quilted or tied, then bound. Items are knitted or crocheted or sewn. Crafts of unlimited variety are created. All of it is fun and interactive.

Fellowship, I believe, is one of the main reasons this group continues through the ages. As the work happens, so does conversation and laughter. It is very satisfying to see the items accumulate, and having fun and

forming new connections with people is a reward all on its own. It is also rewarding to know that funds are raised for various good works; some in the church and some in the wider community.

Some of the tied quilts are sold, while others are donated to shelters or given to our members who are fighting a serious illness and need a little comfort.

Donations of fabric, yarn, and craft supplies are always gratefully received.

The Quilting and Craft group invites you, all genders enthusiastically included, to come: you don't have to commit to anything - just come and try out the Thursday afternoon gatherings a few times. Instruction is available if you want to try something new to you.

There is always tea time, and whoever is in the church for any reason at that time is invited to have tea and goodies with the group.

Report submitted by: Wendy Graham

Membership and Rolls – 2021 Changes and Revisions

MEMBERSHIP AND ROLLS

	31 Dec 2021	31 Dec 2022	31 Dec 2023
Members / Adherents	433	417	441
Non-Resident Members	19	20	16
Households under Pastoral Care	233	219	218
Baptisms Adult	0	0	0
Baptisms Child	0	2	0
Marriages		1	1
Deaths	3	4	7
Funerals & Memorial Services		7	7
Marriages by Volunteer Associates			
Ministers	0	0	0
Changes During the Year			
Members			
On by Profession Under age 18	0	0	0
On by Profession age 18 or older	0	0	0
On by Transfer of Certificate	0	1	3
Retired Order of Ministry			1
On by Resolution	0	0	0
Adherents Added	3	2	15
Total	3	3	19
Off by Certificate (transferred out)	0	0	0
Off by Resolution	0	0	0
Address Unknown	0	0	0
Off by Death	3	4	5
Total	3	4	5

2023 Baptisms **0**

2023 Marriages **1**

Cristiano Paulo Prosia to Melissa Jean Horner

2023 Deaths

*Belluz, Dorothy

Borthwick, Joan

*Copeland, Margaret

Deakin-Dunning, Ruth

*Downie, Molly

*Pearce, Jane

*Roome, Mike

Memorial service for Erik Moeser

We also remember the life of others who died during 2023

***Indicates a member on the Historic Roll of Riverside United**

Respectfully Submitted, Louise Madaire, Office Administrator

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The purpose of the M&P committee is to be the human resources department of Riverside United Church. As such, we hire new staff, write job descriptions, conduct annual staff performance reviews, and assess working conditions. We ensure current employment standards are followed, 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.

2023 Highlights

1. In years past, during the summer months Riverside United and The Church of the Resurrection coordinated the summer holidays of the ministers such that one was away in July and the other away in August. The two congregations then met jointly throughout the summer months. Now that the Church of the Resurrection has wound up its ministry that arrangement is no longer available. In the summer of 2023 Reverend Paul Dillman was away on a combined vacation and leave for six weeks. Two Licensed Lay Worship Leaders, Jeannie Taylor and Sharon Sanderson, and Rev. Jane Griffiths each led us in worship for those 6 Sundays. This arrangement was very well received. The Committee also is grateful for the administrative support that Louise Madaire gave to those leading our services.
2. Performance Reviews were again held for each of our staff in April and May 2023. During that process all staff were thanked and commended for their service to the Church.
3. Our committee is required by the United Church of Canada to conduct an annual review of policies to address workplace violence as well as workplace discrimination and harassment. That review was carried out and no changes were made to the policies. Both policies are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the office door.
4. Under the leadership of Samantha Wilson-Clark we also reviewed the job descriptions of our staff and put them into a new, uniform format.
5. At the White Gift Service in December 2023 the Committee recognized the work of each of our staff with a token of the appreciation of the entire congregation. With the leadership of Rev. Paul Dillman our church administrator Louise Madaire, our musical director Wayne Irschick, Cat La Force the Children and Youth Worship Coordinator, and Marc Godin the custodian of the church together make Riverside United an informed, welcoming, and affirming, space for learning and spiritual renewal.
6. We work in consultation with church Treasurer Ken Smith and United Church of Canada remuneration policies to make recommendations to Council for annual cost of living increases for our staff.
7. After many years of service Susan Wade is retiring from the Committee. We are most grateful for her calm and wise advice. Her contribution was also recognized by a motion of thanks passed by the Council.
8. Thank you to each of the members of the Committee -Karen Ogston, Susan Wade, John Gingrich, Samantha Wilson-Clark, and Diana Desjardins - for their wise counsel and their commitment to the well being of our staff.

Respectfully Submitted, Peter Griffiths, Chair

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

Introduction

Riverside United Church is a member of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) of the United Church of Canada. The Region consists of the Outaouais in Quebec and the area in Ontario bounded by the St. Lawrence River from the Quebec border to Gananogue, north to Petawawa and the Ottawa River. It supports the ministries of more than 200 communities of faith – congregations, camps, and outreach such as chaplaincies, housing matters networks and right relationship networks.

All United Church clergy, both active and retired, are members of the Region. At Riverside, this includes Rev. Dillman as well as our retired clergy: Rev. Dr. Ken Robinson, Rev. Ted Colwell, Rev. Gail Christy, Rev. Jane Griffith and Rev. Janet Thompson. In addition, Riverside is entitled to three lay representatives who are, at the moment, Charles Barrett and Bob Christy with one vacancy. For many years, Molly Colwell served as an alternate lay representative.

2023 Activities and Meetings

Members of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region Council met four times, virtually and in-person, during 2023.

1. Winter Meeting

On March 5, 2023, under a theme “Building Stronger Communities Through Deeper Connections”, EOORC held a half-day (morning) informational and educational meeting on Zoom with 150 people on-line. The three speakers approached the theme from the perspective of the stranger, diversity, and our faith: going deeper than talking about the weather.

2. Celebration of Ministry (In person)

Members of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region Council met again, in-person at Rideau Park United Church in Ottawa and on-line on April 15th for their annual Celebration of Ministry worship service. During the service, the Region ordained four persons and admitted one candidate from another denomination. One of the new ordinands is serving Trinity United in Ottawa and another is serving Manotick United.

3. Annual Meeting: “Being Courageous Community”

The Regional Council held its traditional spring annual meeting on Friday, May 26th and the morning of May 28th in person in Brockville Ontario and on Zoom. It was the first time since 2019 that the meeting was held “in person”. Highlights of the meeting included:

- covenanted with the Rev. Dr. Eric Hebert-Daly, the Region’s new Executive Minister who replaces the Rev. Rosemary Lambie;
- received greetings from the Rev. Howard Cain, representative of the United Church of Christ, USA.;
- acknowledged the milestones and anniversaries of Regional ministers including the retirement of Rev. Grant Dillenbeck, the 60th anniversary of Rev. Ted Colwell’s ordination, the 40th anniversary of Rev. Gail Christy’s, and the 5th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Jessica Hetherington’s;
- heard two theme presentations from the keynote speaker, Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada;
- voted on and agreed to the Remit establishing an autonomous Indigenous organization with the United Church of Canada; and
- heard reports and dealt with the business of the Church.

4. Fall Meeting “A Time to Listen: Being Courageous”

Members of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region Council met in person at Woodroffe United Church in Ottawa on November 4th for its Fall meeting. A full-day event, the Council members, among other things:

- listened as Rev. Paul Dillman, Chair of the Region’s Setting Our Sights Working Group, presented the Group’s “Setting Our Sights Strategic Plan”. He asked members to accept the plan as the strategic plan for the work of the Region in 2024 - 2025. The meeting did accept the strategic plan with an

- added motion that the Regional Executive take ownership and begin implementing it;
- passed the budget for the coming year; and
 - celebrated on becoming an affirming region within the United Church of Canada.

NOTE:

- a) the Regional Council has moved from Carleton Place to Ottawa. Its mailing address is now c/o First United Church, 347 Richmond Road, Ottawa ON K2A 0E7
- b) the Council met March 2nd on Zoom (educational meeting: whose theme was Strengthening Invitation)
- c) the Regional Council will also meet:
 - May 31 - June 1, 2024 at Trinity United in Ottawa for its annual general meeting
 - October 5, 2024 at Trinity-St. Andrews, Renfrew, for its fall meeting

Submitted by Rev. Paul Dillman, Charles Barrett and Robert Christy

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Audited Statement

February 8, 2024

NOTICE TO READER

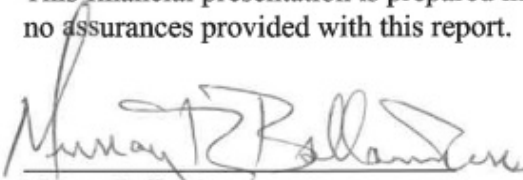
This information is provided for internal use only and may not meet the needs of a Third Party.

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, 2023 and for the 12 months then ended. This process has included a review of the account of the Trustees (building) and the account of the Program/Operations of Riverside United Church.

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.

This financial presentation is prepared internally by a knowledgeable person(s) and there is no assurances provided with this report.


Murray Ballantine


Deborah Chaplin


Brenda Smith

RIVERSIDE UNITED CHURCH - 2023 Statement of Financial Position
Operations Statement As of December 31, 2023

	Jan-Dec 2023	RUC	Trustees	Total	2022
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Congregational Giving	206,640.29			206,640.29	182,549.14
Bank Interest Income	1,767.65			1,767.65	569.91
Weddings, Funerals	550.00				0.00
Directed Capital Fund	20,056.33				17,734.50
Directed Financial Gifts	1,500.00				0.00
Fund Raising	20,366.56			20,366.56	16,188.75
Property Account Donations					
Donations for Use of space	300.00	57,060.00		57,360.00	54,115.30
Donation for Sound System		420.00			
Grants	0.00			0.00	18,513.00
Other Donations	1,500.00	3,405.00		4,905.00	17,734.50
Total Donations	1,800.00	60,885.00		62,685.00	90,362.80
HST Rebate		4,629.76			
Riverside Park Nursery School		15,175.00		15,175.00	14,100.00
Riverside United Church		0.00		0.00	0.00
Total Income	252,680.83	80,689.76		333,370.59	303,770.60
Gross Profit	252,680.83	80,689.76		333,370.59	303,770.60
Expense					
Administration					
Bank Service Charges	426.88	55.20		482.08	738.38
Directed Gift (Affirm Sign)	796.57			796.57	
Equip Purchases, Repairs, Maint	1,488.58			1,488.58	456.27
Office General Supplies	438.62			438.62	167.50
Office Postage	550.04			550.04	550.04
Office Telephone	996.00			996.00	917.93
Photocopy - recoveries	-10.00			-10.00	-33.80
Weddings, Funeral Expense	0.00			0.00	0.00
Cleaning Supplies		2,187.72		2,187.72	2,055.14
Copier Lease		2,753.28		2,753.28	2,728.35
Copier Supplies		920.81		920.81	497.44
Depreciation Expense		28,565.69		28,565.69	14,902.06
GST Expense		0.00		0.00	13.45
HST Expense		6,643.15		6,643.15	1,355.00
Insurance		12,632.00		12,632.00	11,646.00
Total Administration	4,686.69	53,757.85		58,444.54	35,993.76
Assessment - UCC	11,364.00			11,364.00	8,946.00
Building Joint Expense	1,800.00				
Office Expense	94.10				
Partnership Ministry	318.00			318.00	200.00
Programming					

Building Partnerships	0.00			
Caring for One Another	69.54		69.54	67.43
Nourishing Our Faith	4,549.71		4,549.71	2,026.07
Communication Committee	1,281.94		1,281.94	519.85
Total Programming	5,901.19		5,901.19	2,927.38
Major Cost Items				
Kitchen Renovation				
Sanctuary Project				
Thexton Garden		303.75	303.75	174.13
Other		0.00	0.00	496.50
Total Major Cost Items		303.75	303.75	670.63
Miscellaneous (Petty Cash)		300.00	300.00	0.00
Office		906.28	906.28	918.19
Professional Services		0.00	0.00	0.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies		-34.88	-34.88	-50.23
Repairs and Maintenance		21,561.30	21,561.30	13,075.10
Salary Costs				
Total Payroll Expenses	211,195.50		211,195.50	194,631.78
Sabbatical Expense	1,500.00		1,500.00	1,500.00
Training & Enhance-Minister	59.99		59.99	
Travel	641.85		641.85	229.87
Staff - Other	650.00		650.00	717.83
Total Salary Costs	214,047.34	0.00	214,047.34	197,079.48
Uncategorized Expenses		0.00		
Utilities				
Electricity		9,611.73	9,611.73	9,228.50
Gas		7,325.91	7,325.91	7,971.49
Water and Sewer		3,018.35	3,018.35	2,715.94
Total Utilities		19,955.99	19,955.99	19,915.93
Yard Maintenance		8,491.00	8,491.00	8,992.89
Total Expense	238,211.32	105,241.29	343,452.61	288,669.13
Net Ordinary Income	14,469.51	-24,551.53	-10,082.02	15,101.47
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Mission & Service_				
Envelopes	6,029.16		6,029.16	7,315.00
PAR	23,355.84		23,355.84	21,802.02
CanadaHelps	0.00		0.00	336.88
eTransfer	215.00		215.00	150.00
Other	0.00		0.00	1,938.82
Total Mission & Service_	29,600.00		29,600.00	31,542.72
Directed Outreach				
Centre 507	1,806.28		1,806.28	100.00
Heron Emergency Food Centre	690.00		690.00	0.00
Multifaith Housing	0.00		0.00	0.00

Other Outreach	0.00	0.00	710.00
Total Directed Outreach	2,496.28	2,496.28	810.00
New Investment Capital			
Endowment Gifts	600.00	600.00	10,600.00
Memorial Gifts	4,323.70	4,323.70	1,644.24
Total New Investment Capital	4,923.70	4,923.70	12,244.24
Total Other Income	37,019.98	37,019.98	44,596.96
Other Expense			
Mission & Service Expense	29,600.00	29,600.00	31,542.72
Outreach.			
Centre 507	1,806.28	1,806.28	760.00
Heron Emergency Food Centre	690.00		
Outreach. - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Outreach.	2,496.28	2,496.28	760.00
Depreciation Expense - Furnace	0.00	0.00	1,560.11
Total Other Expense	32,096.28	32,096.28	33,862.83
Net Other Income	4,923.70	4,923.70	10,734.13
Net Income	19,393.21	-24,551.53	-5,158.32

Consolidated Balance Sheet 2023

	Jan-Dec-2023	RUC	Trustee	2023	2022
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Chequing/Savings					
Petty Cash (Property)			300.00	300.00	120.40
Petty Cash (RUC)	300.00			300.00	300.00
Trustee Royal Bank			15,036.86	15,036.86	11,901.70
RUC Operating	41,617.12			41,617.12	23,006.59
RUC Savings	74,581.85			74,581.85	80,534.68
Total Chequing/Savings	116,498.97		15,336.86	131,835.83	115,863.37
Accounts Receivable					
Accounts Receivable			4,679.76	4,679.76	3,823.90
Total Accounts Receivable			4,679.76	3,823.90	3,823.90
Other Current Assets					
Canoe Financial	380,855.52			380,855.52	360,395.14
Due from Trustee - Chancel	111,092.90			111,092.90	111,092.90
Due from Trustee - Churches	18,451.29			18,451.29	18,451.29
Investments	0.00			0.00	18,276.34
Accounts Receivable - GST	140.80			140.80	1,955.80
Accounts Receivable - PST	361.64			361.64	5,076.93
Grocery Card Imprest Account	15,138.26			15,138.26	5,166.88
Grocery Gift Certificates	27,425.37			27,425.37	37,396.75
Total Other Current Assets	553,465.78			553,465.78	557,812.03
Total Current Assets	669,964.75		20,016.62	689,981.37	677,499.30
Fixed Assets					
Furnace 2002					

Depreciation	-37,421.71		-37,421.71	-37,421.71
Original Cost	<u>37,421.71</u>		<u>37,421.71</u>	<u>37,421.71</u>
Total Furnace	0.00		0.00	0.00
Buildings				
Chancel Renovation				
AV Upgrade		71,088.79	71,088.79	71,088.79
Construction		<u>40,004.11</u>	<u>40,004.11</u>	<u>40,004.11</u>
Total Chancel Renovation		111,092.90	111,092.90	111,092.90
Depreciation	-99,227.71		-99,227.71	-71,658.35
Washroom Renovation		93,511.93	93,511.93	93,511.93
Building-Other		<u>221,228.77</u>	<u>221,228.77</u>	<u>221,228.77</u>
Total Building		326,605.89	326,605.89	354,175.25
Furniture & Equipment				
Depreciation	-80,228.97		-80,228.97	-79,553.22
Original Cost		<u>80,711.33</u>	<u>80,711.33</u>	<u>80,711.33</u>
Total Furniture & Equipment		482.36	482.36	1,158.11
Land and Land Development				
Depreciation	-7,465.00		-7,465.00	-7,465.00
Land and Land Development - Other		<u>82,715.00</u>	<u>82,715.00</u>	<u>82,715.00</u>
Total Land and Land Development		75,250.00	75,250.00	75,250.00
Organ				
Depreciation	-58,954.00		-58,954.00	-58,954.00
Original Cost		<u>58,954.00</u>	<u>58,954.00</u>	<u>58,954.00</u>
Total Organ		0.00	0.00	0.00
Thexton Garden				
Depreciation	-1,282.32		-1,282.32	-961.74
Thexton Garden Original Cost		<u>3,205.82</u>	<u>3,205.82</u>	<u>3,205.82</u>
Total Thexton Garden		1,923.50	1,923.50	2,244.08
Total Fixed Assets	<u>0.00</u>	<u>404,261.75</u>	<u>404,261.75</u>	<u>432,827.44</u>
Other Assets				
Prepaid Expense	0.00	11,401.00	11,401.00	34,485.30
Total Other Assets	<u>0.00</u>	<u>11,401.00</u>	<u>11,401.00</u>	<u>34,485.30</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>669,964.75</u>	<u>435,679.37</u>	<u>1,105,644.12</u>	<u>1,121,727.74</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	-141.19	2,708.04	2,566.85	31,338.99
Total Accounts Payable	<u>-141.19</u>	<u>2,708.04</u>	<u>2,566.85</u>	<u>31,338.99</u>
Other Current Liabilities				
Owed to RUC Operating Account		<u>111,092.90</u>		
Total Other Current Liabilities		111,092.90		
Total Current Liabilities	-141.19	113,800.94	92,002.11	92,002.11
Long Term Liabilities				
Due to Churches		18,451.29	18,451.29	18,451.29
Holding Account - New Project		1,399.88	1,399.88	1,399.88
Holding Account - Wesley United		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Long Term Liabilities		<u>21,851.17</u>	<u>21,851.17</u>	<u>21,851.17</u>

Total Liabilities	<u>-141.19</u>	135,652.11	135,510.92	164,283.06
Equity				
Endowment Fund	318,846.74		318,846.74	298,386.36
Manse Fund	60,500.00		60,500.00	60,500.00
Restricted Ministry				
Compassion	1,703.72		1,703.72	210.00
Jamaica	6,063.02		6,063.02	38.40
Pause Table	130.00		130.00	0.00
Refugee	30,000.00		30,000.00	30,000.00
Quilting&Crafts	6,662.71		6,662.71	0.00
Sabbatical	2,000.00		2,000.00	500.00
Serenity House	<u>543.47</u>		<u>543.47</u>	905.00
Total Restricted Ministry	<u>47,102.92</u>		<u>47,102.92</u>	31,653.40
Equity in Property				
Church of the Resurrection		44,451.29	44,451.29	44,451.29
Washroom Renovation		82,281.17	82,281.17	82,281.17
Funding				
Church Extension Fund,		65,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00
Ottawa Pres.				
Total Equity in Property		<u>191,732.46</u>	<u>191,732.46</u>	191,732.46
Land and Buildings	-32,198.60	130,426.33	98,227.73	98,048.13
Share Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,276.34
Retained Earnings	256,459.99	2,420.00	258,879.99	233,012.38
Net Income	<u>19,394.89</u>	<u>-24,551.53</u>	<u>-5,156.64</u>	25,835.61
Total Equity	<u>670,105.94</u>	<u>300,027.26</u>	<u>970,133.20</u>	957,444.68
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>669,964.75</u>	<u>435,679.37</u>	<u>1,105,644.12</u>	<u>1,121,727.74</u>

**2024 Operating Budget
Riverside United Church Budget 2024**

Jan-Dec	Operation		Trustee				Total
	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2024	Budget 2024
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
Congregational Giving	182,549.14	206,640.29	190,000.00				190,000.00
Bank Interest Income	569.91	1,767.65	800.00				800.00
Weddings, Funerals		550.00	0.00				0.00
Directed Financial Gifts		1,500.00	0.00				0.00
Fund Raising	16,188.76	20,366.56	20,000.00				20,000.00
Property Account Donations							0.00
Donations for Use of space		300.00		54,115.30	57,060.00	60,000.00	60,000.00
Other Donations	17,734.50	21,556.33	20,000.00	0.00	3,825.00	1,000.00	21,000.00
Total Donations	17,734.50	21,856.33	20,000.00	54,115.30	60,885.00	61,000.00	81,000.00
HST Rebate					4,629.76		
Riverside Park Nursery School				14,100.00	15,175.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
Total Income	217,042.31	252,680.83	230,800.00	68,215.30	80,689.76	84,000.00	314,800.00
Gross Profit	217,042.31	252,680.83	230,800.00	68,215.30	80,689.76	78,000.00	307,800.00
Expense							
Administration							
Bank Service Charges	688.58	426.88	500.00	49.80	55.20	250.00	750.00
Directed Gifts	0.00	796.57	0.00				
Equip Purchases, Repairs, Maint	456.27	1,488.58	1,000.00				1,000.00
Office General Supplies	167.50	438.62	400.00				400.00
Office Photocopy	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00
Office Postage	550.04	550.04	600.00				600.00
Office Telephone	917.93	996.00	1,000.00				1,000.00
Photocopy - recoveries	-33.80	-10.00	-30.00				-30.00
Weddings, Funeral Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00
Cleaning Supplies				2,055.14	2,187.72	2,200.00	2,200.00
Copier Lease				2,728.35	2,753.28	2,800.00	2,800.00
Copier Supplies				497.44	920.81	1,000.00	1,000.00

Depreciation Expense				14,902.06	28,565.69	28,500.00	28,500.00
HST Expense				1,368.45	6,643.15	5,000.00	5,000.00
Insurance				11,646.00	12,632.00	13,500.00	13,500.00
Total Administration	2,746.52	4,686.69	3,000.00	33,247.24	53,757.85	53,250.00	56,250.00
Assessment - UCC	8,946.00	11,364.00	13,318.00				13,318.00
Building Joint Expense		1,800.00	0.00				0.00
Partnership Ministry	200.00	318.00	220.00				220.00
Programming							
Building Partnerships	314.03	0.00	350.00				350.00
Caring for One	67.43	69.54	280.00				280.00
Another							
Nourishing Our Faith	2,026.07	4,549.71	4,000.00				4,000.00
Communication	519.85	1,281.94	600.00				600.00
Committee							
Special Projects			5,000.00				5,000.00
Total Programming	2,927.38	5,901.19	10,230.00				10,230.00
Major Cost Items							0.00
Kitchen Renovation							0.00
Sanctuary Project							0.00
Thexton Garden				174.13	303.75	300.00	300.00
Major Item Costs -				496.50	0.00	150.00	150.00
Other							
Total Major Cost Items				670.63	303.75	450.00	450.00
Office				918.19	906.28	1,000.00	1,000.00
Professional Services				0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Reconciliation				-50.23	-34.88	0.00	0.00
Discrepancies							
Repairs and Maintenance				13,075.10	21,561.30	20,000.00	20,000.00
Salary Costs							
Workers Safety							0.00
Insurance							
Canada Pension Plan				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Payroll Expenses	194,631.78	211,195.50	222,438.00				222,438.00
Sabbatical Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,100.00				2,100.00
Training & Enhancement-Minister		59.99	1,200.00				1,200.00

Travel	229.87	641.85	500.00				500.00
Staff - Other	717.83	650.00	750.00				750.00
Total Salary Costs	<u>197,079.48</u>	<u>214,047.34</u>	<u>226,988.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>226,988.00</u>
Uncategorized Expenses				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Utilities							
Electricity				9,228.50	9,611.73	9,500.00	9,500.00
Gas				7,971.49	7,325.91	8,500.00	8,500.00
Water and Sewer				2,715.94	3,018.35	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Utilities				<u>19,915.93</u>	<u>19,955.99</u>	<u>21,000.00</u>	<u>21,000.00</u>
Yard Maintenance				8,992.89	8,491.00	9,500.00	9,500.00
Total Expense	<u>211,899.38</u>	<u>238,117.22</u>	<u>253,756.00</u>	<u>76,769.75</u>	<u>104,941.29</u>	<u>105,700.00</u>	<u>359,456.00</u>
Net Income	5,142.93	14,563.61	-22,956.00	-8,554.45	-24,251.53	-21,700.00	-51,656.00
Transfer Endowment			15,000.00				15,000.00
Surplus/Deficit			-7,956.00				-36,656.00

* Deficit includes \$28,565.69 depreciation from Operating Statement

Nominations Report

Nominations Committee 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, the names of new replacement candidates and the names of persons continuing in their positions on Council and other committees of Riverside United Church. Persons elected by the Congregation will continue in their roles during 2024 until March 2025 where possible.

Position	2024	Term of Office
COUNCIL		
Past Chair	Christine Rhodes	One year
Chair	Bob Christy	Two years
Secretary	Gail Christy	2 nd year of 3-year term
Treasurer	Ken Smith	No set term
Assistants to the Treasurer:	Deborah Chaplin	No set term
Member at Large	Samantha Wilson-Clark	1 st year of 2-year term
Member at Large	Gwen Bell	1 st year of 2-year term
Member at Large	Anne Dawson	3 rd year of 2 year term
Member at Large	Patricia Ryan	3 rd year of 2 year term
MINISTRY TEAMS:	LEADS & CO-LEADS:	
Nurturing Our Faith	Wendy Graham: Lead	2 nd year of a 3-year term
	Jonathan Bathurst: Co-Lead	2 nd year of a 3-year term
Team Members	Deborah Chaplin Bob Christy Mary Shaw Paul Dillman Karen Percy	No set term
Caring for One Another	Peg Brandon: Lead	5 th year of 3-year term
	Wanda Maurais: Co-Lead	5 th year of 3-year term
Building Partnerships	Morag Pearce: Lead	2 nd year of a 3-year term
	Karen Ogston: Co-Lead	2 nd year of 3 year term
OTHER POSITIONS:		
Trustees	Charles Barrett Ken Smith Richard Williams, Dave Bell Wendy Graham Shirley Andrews Heather Smith Elizabeth Cameron Paul Dillman	No set term
Investment Management Team:	Paul Dillman Ken Smith Charles Barrett Elizabeth Cameron	

	Emily Gray	
Ministry & Personnel Committee:		
Chair:	Peter Griffiths	2nd year of 3 year term
Members:	Diana Desjardins Karen Ogston John Gingerich Samantha Wilson-Clarke	No set term
Communications Support Team:		
Team Lead:	John Gingerich	
Team:	Louise Madaire Theresa White Ken Smith Ellis Lindsay	No set term
Property Management Committee:		
Team Lead:		
Team:	Pierre Gauthier Richard Williams Paul Dillman, Daphne Biggs Hugh Moeser Henry Andrews Jean Gingerich Bill Smith Ex officio: Charles Barrett	No set term
EOORC Representatives:	Charles Barrett Bob Christy Alternate recommended.	
Minister:	Paul Dillman	

The following nominations are for the upcoming year, 2024-2025:

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

Representatives to Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Riverside United is entitled to three representatives to the Regional Council. Nominees for 2024 are: Charles Barrett and Bob Christy

Ministry & Personnel Committee - Chair: Peter Griffiths, Members: Diana Desjardins, John Gingerich, Karen Ogston, Samantha Wilson-Clarke

Nominations Committee: Christine Rhodes, Gail Christy, and Bob Christy. Paul Dillman and Karen Percy (observers).

The following positions remain open for 2024:

– Optional Additional Representative to EOORC

Permission for Further Nominations:

Motion: Move by Christine Rhodes, seconded by Bob Christy, that the Congregation grant the Council of Riverside United Church permission to approve nominations during the year for any positions normally approved by the Congregation at the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Rhodes

Incoming Council Past Chair and Chair of Nominations Committee, Riverside United Church

This Report could not have been produced without the input and help of so many, however I owe an extra thank you to Paul Dillman. Wendy Graham, Heather Smith and Ken Smith.

With much appreciation and respect Louise Madaire