



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



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

March, 2025
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PROPOSED AGENDA

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, March 23rd, 2025 - 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 24th, 2024
7. Presentation of Riverside United Church Annual Reports as printed
8. Statement of Accounts for 2024 - Riverside United Church
9. RUC Budget for 2025
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 24, 2024

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 12:30pm. The 44 people at church signed a ledger book of attendees and 8 people attended on ZOOM. The lists of attendees, by both methods, are kept in the Church Office and appended to these minutes. (Appendix A)

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 and Chair

Motion: Moved by Christine Rhodes, seconded by John Dixon, that Peg Brandon be appointed Secretary for the meeting and that Dave Bell be appointed Chair for the meeting. **Carried.**

- Peg Brandon assumed the position of secretary.
- Dave Bell then assumed the position of chairperson.
- The Chair extended a welcome to all attending both in person and by ZOOM.

Richard Williams explained the process that participants needed to follow during the meeting so that those on ZOOM could speak to the meeting and be heard by those in the church. He reminded those in the church to use the microphone so that they would be heard by both by those in the Church and by those attending on ZOOM.

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.

3. 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 Norm McLeod, seconded by David Gray, that all those in attendance had the right to vote on motions. **Carried.**

4. 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 Mary Shaw, seconded by Keith Walker, that the agenda be adopted as presented. **Carried.**

5. Minutes of the meeting held on March 27th, 2023

The Chair asked the Congregation to examine the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on March 26th, 2023 (see pages 5-8 in the 2023 Annual Report package). Wendy Graham noted the need for one correction. On page 7 of the 2023 Annual Report package, in paragraph 10 dealing with Nominations, the third line should read “Member at large, replacing Bob Christy” rather than “Nourishing Our Faith Ministry Team, replacing Bob Christy.”

Motion: Moved by David Gray, seconded by Daphne Biggs, that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held March 26, 2023, be accepted as amended. **Carried.**

6. 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. White Gift Program
- iv. The Mitten Tree
- v. Heron Road Emergency Food Centre
- vi. Hunt Club Riverside Park Steering Table
- vii. Mission and Service
- viii. Multi-Faith Housing Initiative
- ix. Out of the Cold at Southminster United
- x. Partnership between Riverside United Church, Ottawa, and Providence Methodist Church, Kingston, Jamaica
- xi. Refugee Committee: Norm McLeod noted that with the arrival of the family, as outlined in this report, he and Pat McLeod would be concluding their work with the Refugee Committee. However, he noted that there were two more Syrian refugees who could be sponsored if someone else from the congregation was willing to take on the work required.
- xii. Thexton Garden Report

f. Caring for One Another Team Ministry

g. Nourishing Our Faith Team Ministry

- i. Worship Time
- ii. Communion
- iii. Student Minister
- iv. Music Forward
- v. Choir
- vi. World Day of Prayer
- vii. Making Sunday Mornings Happen
- viii. Children's Worship
- ix. Adult Learning/ Book Club
- x. Affirming Ministry Circle

h. Communications Committee

i. Fund Raising

- i. Book Nook
- ii. Christmas Bazaar
- iii. Grocery/Gift/Cash Cards
- iv. Kijiji Sales
- v. Garage Sale

j. Quilting and Crafts

k. Membership and Rolls – 2023 Changes and Revisions

l. Ministry and Personnel Committee

m. Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council

Except for the comments concerning the Refugee Committee, Music Forward, and Children's Worship, there were no additions to or questions about any of the reports.

n. Statement of Accounts for 2023 – Riverside United Church

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

8. RUC Budget for 2024

Ken Smith presented the budget.

Motion: Moved by Charles Barrett, seconded by Bob Christy, that the operating budget for 2024 for Riverside United Church be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

9. Nominations Report

Bob Christy noted that the list for Council needed to include Trustees Charles Barrett and Peter Griffiths.

Motion: Moved by Bob Christy, seconded by Gail Christy, that the Nominations Report as amended be accepted.

Carried

Motion: Moved by Wendy Graham, seconded by Gail Christy, to grant Council the authority to approve nominations during the year for any position normally approved by the congregation at the annual meeting.

Carried

10. New Business

Peter Griffiths noted that Louise Madaire would be retiring this year. If anyone in the congregation is interested in the position or knows someone who would be a good candidate, please contact Peter Griffiths or Paul Dillman.

11. Governance Review

Last year, 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 in 2022. Nevertheless, a formal review should take place as soon as there is reliable data on the strengths and weaknesses of the model. This review did not take place in 2023, and so remains on the agenda for a future year.

12. Appreciation of Staff

The Chair noted that the members at RUC are blessed to have a team that works so well together and is so capable in serving the needs of the congregation. He thanked by name or position:

- Paul Dillman for his steadfast leadership in ministry
- Louise Madaire for her steadfast leadership in administration
- Wayne Irschick for his music ministry
- Marc Godin who works his cleaning magic late in the evenings when everyone else has gone
- Cat La Force for building back the Children's worship and providing insight into indigenous issues
- Ken Smith and his team for the financial organization
- Richard Williams, John Gingerich, and their tech team for making in person meetings audible and combined on site/virtual meetings possible
- Members of all the committees
- Members of the congregation for their financial support and their participation in the life and work of the church.

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

13. Meeting Close Rev. Paul Dillman closed the meeting by thanking our student minister Karen Percy for her contributions. Paul then led us in prayer.

Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Charles Barrett, seconded by Wayne Irschick, that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried. Time: 1:15 pm

2024 Annual Congregational Report



Minister's Report

2024 was a year of discernment for me, as I began the year trying to decide when I should retire. I had thought it would be in 2024, but it became clear to me that I was not yet ready and so the retirement date was put off until 2025. That was a wise decision because 2024 became a very satisfying year of ministry.

In the Mission Forward process back in 2017 and 2018, there were some ministry needs and projects that were identified. The COVID pandemic had delayed action on addressing food security needs in the neighbourhood and on developing a regular program for seniors to gather for education and connection. 2024 provided the time to address both of these needs.

The highlight of ministry in 2024 for me was the development of the Brookfield Community Food Cupboard. There was work done in the fall of 2023 to build community support, and then in January a meeting was held with staff at Brookfield High School. A vision emerged very quickly, and the cupboard was open on May 1st. The coalition of community support continues to build, as Riverside United provides the administrative anchor for this project.

A weekly series of Connecting Seniors events happened in November and it was agreed that a monthly program would be more sustainable moving into the future.

One of the other ventures of ministry and connection has been the evolution of the Southeast Ottawa United Church cluster of congregations. I have given some leadership to the cluster as we try to sort out what collaboration of ministry might look like as we move into the future.

One of the challenges of the year was a large deficit in the ministry/program account of the congregation and a major drop in rental revenue for the property account with the closure of The Meeting House congregation.

Throughout 2024, Riverside served as a learning site for Karen Percy, as she is enrolled in the Summer Distance Program at the Atlantic School of Theology. Her gifts for ministry have been enjoyed in our midst and her questions have kept my mind sharp.

Ministry at Riverside includes working with so many gifted and dedicated people. Thank you all for your commitment to being a community of faith. 2024 saw a change in the Office Administrator position, as Louise Madaire retired and Jeannie Taylor came on board in late August. The other members of staff - Wayne Irschick, Cat La Force and Marc Godin are dedicated to their responsibilities and things run quite smoothly.

I continue to be involved in the wider work of The United Church of Canada. I am giving some leadership to the newly created Ministry Personnel Support Leadership Team in the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council. I continue to serve as the President of the Berwick Camp Meeting Association in Nova Scotia.

As this will be the last annual report I write for Riverside United Church, I am extremely grateful for the almost 22 years that I have served here. As I retire, I will need to step away from the life of Riverside, so that a new pastoral relationship will be able to form. I am looking forward to retirement and I look forward to discovering how I will use my time, gifts and energy in new ways.

Submitted by Paul Dillman

Council Report

The Council of Riverside United Church, elected by the congregation at its annual meeting each March, meets on Zoom on the third Wednesday of April, June, September, November, January and February. It has eleven members – either a past chair or chair-elect, a chair, secretary, treasurer, four members-at-large, the chair of trustees, the chair of ministry and personnel and the minister. Council and Riverside have a direct connection to the wider United Church, the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council, through its minister and lay representatives.

In 2024, the work of Council was carried out by Christine Rhodes (past chair), Bob Christy (chair), Gail Christy (secretary), Ken Smith (treasurer), Anne Dawson, Patricia Ryan, Gwen Bell and Samantha Wilson the four members-at-large, Charles Barrett (chair of trustees), Peter Griffiths (chair of ministry and personnel) and Rev. Paul Dillman who must attend meetings according to United Church “rules”. Council this past year welcomed Karen Percy our student intern who attended meetings as a non-voting corresponding member. Charles Barrett and Bob Christy were Riverside’s lay representatives to the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council.

The role of Council changed in 2018 with the acceptance of the Mission Forward Circle’s report and recommendations. It now focusses on large policy and strategic issues while the on-going work of Riverside is carried out by ministry teams – Nourishing Our Faith. Caring for One Another and Building Partnerships.

What did Council do from April 2024 until February 2025? A great deal, as the following list indicates:

- approved and encouraged Riverside’s participation in the establishment of the Brookfield Community Food Cupboard;
- approved the rewriting of all staff job descriptions into a common format;
- received notice of Louise Madaire’s planned retirement and approved the hiring of Jeannie Taylor as the office administrator;
- gave a 5% cost-of-living wage/salary increase to staff;
- approved changes to the Membership Roll as people died, moved to other locations or entered our faith community;
- welcomed Karen Percy to serve a second year of her internship with us;
- approved and determined financing of costly roof and parking lot repairs;
- agreed to sponsor Eber and George Hanna so they can be reunited with their family in Ottawa (we previously sponsored members of the Hanna family);
- agreed to review our rental rates which were increased and signed a new agreement with the nursery school;
- also supported the Trustees’ review of Riverside’s insurance policy;
- created a working group to examine our stewardship processes and to encourage the congregation to increase contributions as we deal with a major \$23,000 deficit;
- supported the creation of a technology working group in the congregation that is wrestling with tech use, privacy, and related issues; Riverside now has a QR code allowing people to access its web site using their cell phones;
- received Rev. Dillman’s notice that he will be retiring May 31, 2025;
- created a Transition Team which is hard at work creating a community of faith profile, finding and working with an Eastern Ontario Outaouais liaison person, distributing a questionnaire to determine the congregation’s wishes for/expectations of clergy leadership and seeking needed input from various committees at Riverside; and
- prepared and recommended a 2025 budget for congregational approval at its March 23 annual meeting.

The chair wants to thank the diligent group who served on Council this past year for their hard work and their support. This list of achievements would not have resulted without their willingness to listen, contemplate, share their wisdom and confront risks. From the chair's point of view, this group was a God-sent and Riverside should be proud of them!

I am sure the other members of Council will agree with me that it has been a privilege to work with Rev. Dillman this past year. His keen eye saw the need for the Brookfield Food Cupboard, he supported and encourage our sponsorship of the Hanna brothers, he was committed to finding the positive ministerial aspect of technology, yet pastorally aware of privacy issues. He asked his son what is a QR code and we had one. And there were many more instances of his leadership. As you enter the well earned realm of retirement, we hope you'll pour a cup of tea, relax and "smell the roses". From all of us, thanks a bunch, Paul!

Respectfully submitted by: Robert (Bob) Christy, 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 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 late 2023 the Trustees confirmed their desire to investigate engaging United Church Connect, a captive insurance program, as the underwriter for Riverside United Church coverage. A working group of Trustees consisting of Shirley Andrews, Charles Barrett and Dave Bell met on February 14 and April 24 to review the application process. After due consideration Trustees agreed to continue to insure with Ecclesiastical Insurance for a further twelve months beginning December 29, 2024. Switching insurance providers would have required a full appraisal of the building, a significant cash outlay at a time when there were other major expenses.

On October 15 the Trustees met jointly with the Property Committee and agreed to endorse a recommendation to repair the church parking lot, a major expenditure, which was subsequently completed.

Since 2014 the long-term financial assets of the church have been invested consistent with our investment policy statement. These investible funds are overseen by the Board of Trustees, subject to clear guidelines regarding the allocation of assets. Our investments performed well in 2024 and again exceeded the standard performance benchmarks. At year end, Riverside United had \$ 382,289.91 invested with the Canoe Asset Allocation Portfolio Series D, a socially responsible balanced mutual fund. This was net of \$60,000 redeemed last Fall to pay for the parking lot and roof repairs. The balance had been \$380,855.52 a year earlier.

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 Gray and Ken Smith serve on the Investment Management advisory group in addition to Charles Barrett, Elizabeth Cameron, and Paul Dillman. This group met with representatives of Frontier Capital on October 31 to monitor investment performance. No changes were 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 as required. In 2023, receipts from Riverside Park Nursery School and other donations for the use of space covered the costs of running, managing and maintaining our property before depreciation charges. With the closing of the Meeting

House last summer this was no longer the case in 2024. The congregation is actively pursuing other opportunities to increase revenues from the use of our building.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Barrett (Chair)

Southeast Ottawa United Church Cluster

Riverside is part of a cluster of 5 United Church congregations that are working to find ways to collaborate in various ministry initiatives. The other congregations in the Cluster are: Emmanuel, Glebe St. James, Rideau Park and Southminster.

Some of the activities in 2024 included:

- The year began with a combined worship service held at Southminster on Jan 7th.
- Lenten programs were offered as a cluster and there was participation from more than one congregation in most of the programs. Riverside offered a weekday morning study on the character of Peter. Riverside and Southminster shared the hosting of a 4 week lunch time program on being more welcoming communities.
- The ministry personnel of the cluster gathered most months for coffee and conversation at Bridgehead in Old Ottawa South.
- A pot-luck gathering was held at Riverside on October 18th.
- Advent programs were offered as a cluster, although a more modest array of options than for Lent.
- A gathering of ministry personnel and lay leaders was held at Emmanuel in December to talk further about the purpose and direction of the cluster. This conversation will continue.

The work of being a cluster is charting a new way and there are not many models of how it is happening. When the United Church of Canada re-structured in 2019, one of the hopes was that clusters of communities of faith would form to find ways to support one another and collaborate in ministry where opportunities arose. This is a challenging goal because we have a very congregational understanding of being church. Each congregation has its own culture, specialities of ministry and way of being; and yet, we all recognize that congregational life has changed and is changing.

Respectfully Submitted by Paul Dillman

Property Committee

I began my 2023 report with the comment that *“The Property Committee had a very busy year this year and met significant challenges for major projects ...”*

I can use this statement again for this year.

The committee welcomed no 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, Pierre Gauthier, Henry Andrews, Daphne Biggs, Karen Percy, Jean Gingerich, and WJ (Bill) Smith.

Discussion :

This has been be a very busy time for property management and operations at Riverside. I would say that age

and use are catching up with us but I'm sure most of the members of the Congregation can attest to that. Despite regular attention and proper maintenance we still need to address some key issues.

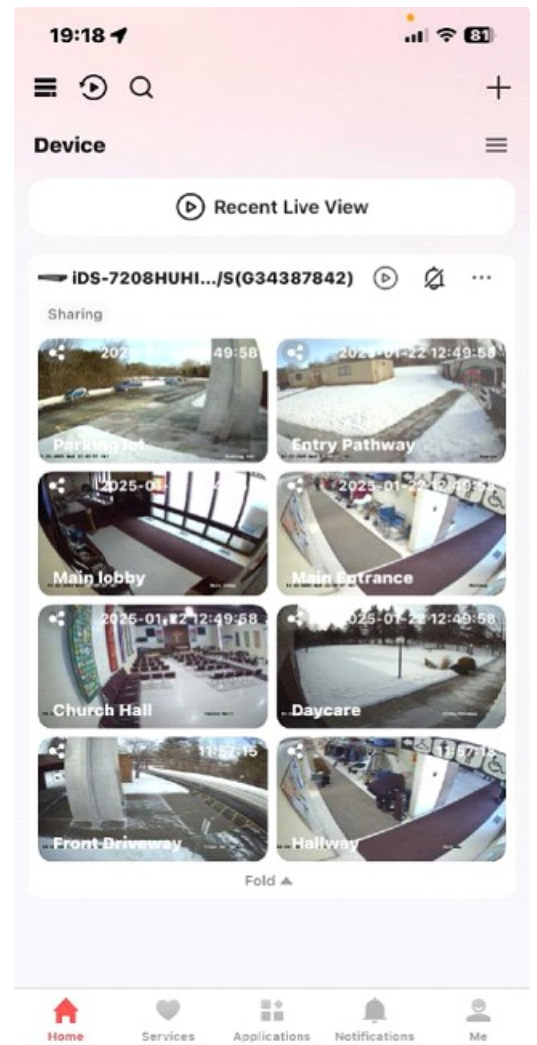
I would like to bring to your attention the following:

- A. **Progress on the Audio-Visual Project.** This project has now reached what I would call Full Functional Use state. We have no plans to make major upgrades to the system and it now performs well for both Zoom and YouTube and renter requirements. We have proposed that the local churches that have AV systems form a subcommittee to share good ideas.
- B. **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 has disestablished but we have another congregation that may use our facilities on a regular basis. Quilters, the University Women's Group, regular concerts and others have joined our facilities.
- C. **Exterior Electrical Lighting.** Comments from congregational members had suggested that exterior lighting around the church had deteriorated and that this was causing a security risk. We hired Faulkner Electric to replace the lights on the lamp standard near the Parking Lot (with new higher luminance LEDs), to replace the exterior lights on the North Side of the Church and to replace the lights on the Church Entrance (front doors). This has greatly improved the situation but we are still looking at adding some lights to the West (River) side of the Church.
- D. **Parking Lot repairs.** Despite our best efforts, the pot holes beat us and we were forced to call for tenders for a major patch resurface operation on the access lanes to the parking lot. My thanks to Pierre Gauthier for his efforts to select a contractor to resurface this area just before the end of the working season. The total cost of the project was \$ 55 K. The paving has been completed and so has the initial repainting but there are major areas requiring more work that will commence under warranty from the contractor in the spring. But we have deferred further work on the parking lot for some years.

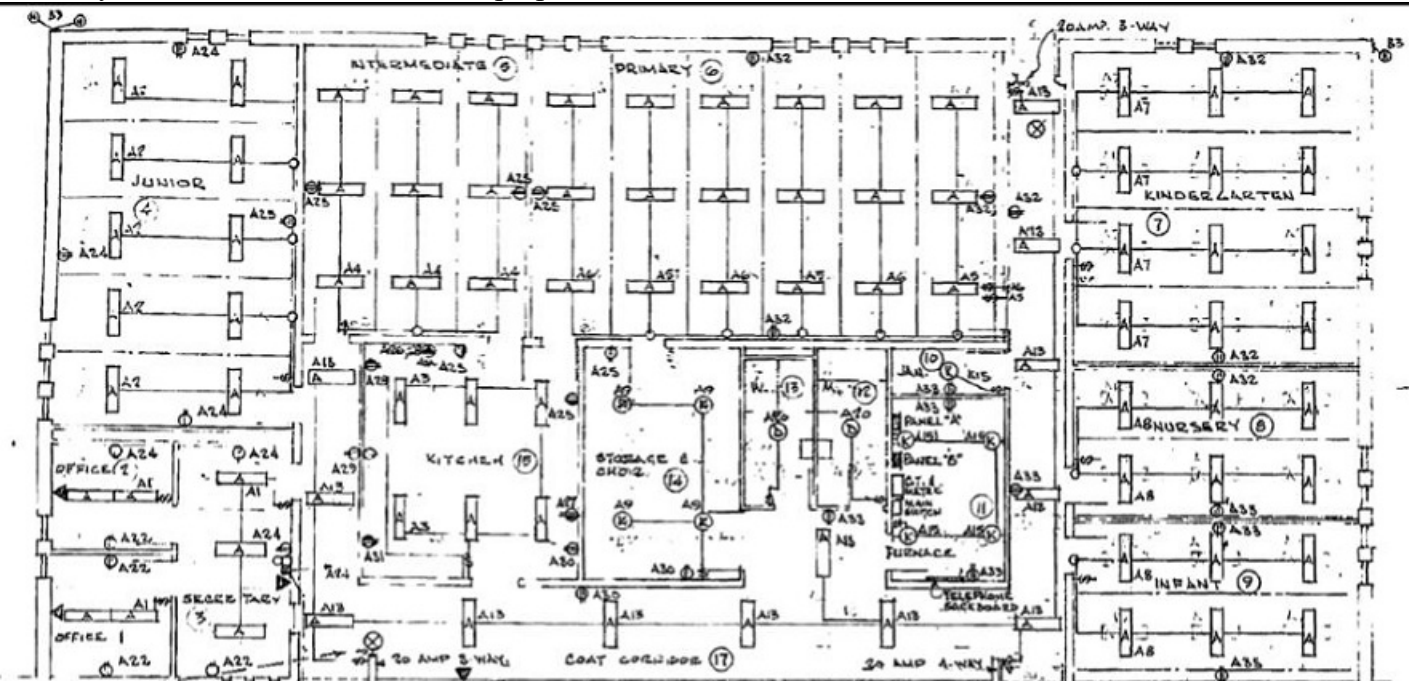


- E. **Roof repairs.** This has been a major area of concern for some time. We have entered an annual maintenance contract with Godfrey Roofing to inspect and repair where necessary. Initially, the flat roof has experienced many "blisters" where water has infiltrated the rubber membrane that covers the area above the classrooms, off areas and corridors near the furnace. We had previously had leaks in the office which were due to leaks caused by loose flashing on the sloping roof that was leaking into this area and caused a major renovation to fix wallboard, carpet, repaint and refinish the office. The lesson here - do the maintenance first and avoid the repairs that are more costly. The flat roof experienced some major leaks during the Dec 2024 melt thaw which affected the corridor near the Furnace Room; we went on the roof with Sump Pumps to offload as much water as possible. I expect this situation to reoccur in the Spring. We have therefore called for Godfrey Roofing to quote for major repairs on the flat roof for this spring. This work will build a slope or pitch into the roof to channel water to the drains (as opposed to letting it sit above the membrane). I expect the quote to be in the order of \$ 50 K or higher and we will present the proposal to Council for approval. We can't allow leaks into the furnace and electrical room.

F. **Security Improvements.** Following a graffiti incident on our road side sign in 2023, we applied for a Federal Security Improvement Program Grant to upgrade our security camera system. After considerable effort we were approved for a 70 % grant for our proposed \$ 5.5 K project to replace the current 4 cameras with four new 4K high res cameras and to install an additional four 4K cameras. We now have comprehensive coverage within and without our church to protect our property and equipment. To the right is a screen shot of the coverage that is available to Church officials on their phones. The video is also recorded on our recorder in the office and kept for 3 months.



G. **Electrical System Review.** Following work in the office and Sanctuary, we have determined that our electrical system mapping to circuit breakers is not up to date. I have reviewed our architectural drawings and will undertake a circuit by circuit review to update our records. While I don't suspect a problem with our system I think we will be better prepared to react to situations in the future.



Conclusion.

The Property Committee both anticipates the future and deals with the present as any realistic manager of property would do. But, I don't want to leave the reader with an impression that our Church Facilities are in a bad state of repair. Our parking lot and roof need work but ...

Our Structure is sound ...

Our Property is sound ...

Our Electrical system is sound ...

Our Heating and Ventilation systems are sound ...

Our Water, Plumbing and Washrooms are sound ...

Our physical security (doors, windows, walls) and surrounding property is sound ...

Rest easy.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Williams, Chair of Property Committee

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.

1. Brookfield Community Food Cupboard.

In the fall of 2023 Brookfield Community Food Cupboard (BCFC) was in the planning stages. May 1, 2024, it opened Wednesdays for students at Brookfield High School (BHS) and on May 8th for neighbours in the BHS Catchment Area, with students 3:05 to 4:00 and neighbours 4:30 to 8:00 pm. In the spring 2024 students from an adult English as Second Language (ESL) class came from 2:30 - 3:00 biweekly and weekly in the fall.

Riverside United Church has been a very close partner with the staff and students of BHS in ensuring its success, along with the area Community Associations and others. BHS has a Special High Skills Major (SHSM) class that studies development of Non-Profit organizations, using this Food Cupboard as their practicum. Students develop materials, volunteer weekly, and provide leadership. Rev. Paul Dillman, Karen Ogston, and Rosemary Hood are Steering Committee members, along with school staff and a students representative. Our church has arranged for financial donations to be made through Canada Helps on the RUC Website and on the Brookfield CFC Website. This has been essential for receiving such donations, although adding extra tasks for our treasurer and office.

The members of RUC have been wonderfully generous with weekly food and monetary donations so essential to continuing operations. Many people in our congregation have been regular weekly volunteers on Wednesdays to help organize and distribute supplies to neighbours, and others through Food Drives, shopping, picking up donations and on Committees. Our goals include providing one full day of meals for every neighbour who visits and their family. It is barrier free, such that, people do not provide names to register, only postal codes for our planning. We now serve up to 50 or more people per week that results in food for close to 200 family members.

We have had Food Drives at community events, with Face Painting by Cat La Force and her daughter, Dalphina, and many other volunteers from RUC at a Fall Festival, a Park Fun Day, Pumpkin Alley Fun Day, Riley Brockington's Christmas Dinner and more events are to come. We share supplies and help raise funds for Heron Emergency Food Cupboard, a goal being to take a little pressure off this, our area Food Bank, and our neighbours who find getting there difficult. We thank Rev. Paul Dillman, our minister, who has been of immense support to all aspects of BCFC. We thank everyone at RUC for your support.

Brookfield Community Food Cupboard

Income: 2024	Amount	Receiptable	Non-receiptable
Feb.	50.00		50.00
June	2,757.75	2,000.00	707.75
July	1,000.00	1,000.00	
August	2,500.00	2,500.00	
September	1,000.00	1,000.00	
October	1,000.00	1,000.00	
November	2,490.10	2,000.00	490.10
December	1,455.10		1,455.10
	12252.95	9,500.00	2,652.95

Expenses: 2024	Amount	Food	Equipment	Other	Bank	HST
Feb.	20.00			20.00		
March	4.00				4.00	
April	4.00				4.00	
May	4.00				4.00	
June	531.33	503.03		22.50	4.00	1.80
July	2,058.23	1,392.81	571.65			93.77
August	959.27	741.23	95.99		95.58	26.47
September	961.36	983.96			(-20.92)	(-1.68)
October	917.97	815.99		92.50		9.48
November	1,301.09	1,292.77				8.32
December	2,089.95	2,003.15	74.86			11.94
	8,851.20	7,732.94	742.50	135.00	111.58	151.78

2024 Income	12,202.95
2024 Expenses	8,851.20
Net	3,351.75

Respectfully Submitted by Karen Ogston and Rosemary Hood

2. Amnesty International

At RUC, the Amnesty International (AI) initiative offers opportunities to defend human rights, rights we take for granted, in two ways:

1. As members of the Urgent Action Group of AI,
2. Participating in the annual Write-for-Rights campaign on Human Rights Day.

The Urgent Action Group consists of letter/email writers who participate in ongoing campaigns defending people whose human rights have been abused by the authorities in their countries. These campaigns come out every 4-5 weeks. We do not meet as a group; rather writers respond to requests for action as they have time. There are 12 dedicated letter/email writers in RUC's group who write on behalf of the individuals identified.

The letters/emails are sent to the authorities in their countries. Actions include opposition to capital punishment, peaceful freedom of expression, harassment, false imprisonment, defence of Indigenous rights and property - among others. It is to be noted that AI will never adopt an individual or a group who has used violence or advocated the use of violence in expression their ideas. We can always use more letter writers. If interested, contact us at pn.mcleod@sympatico.ca

Our Write-for-Rights event was held on Saturday, December 7 in rooms 5 & 6 of the church. Our event attracts people from outside of the RUC congregation. All materials, except postage stamps, including assistance, are made available for people to participate. The campaigns involved letters/emails to the authorities, to ambassadors and cards of support to the individuals being defended. In 2024, the 9 campaigns attracted 15 people to the church and many more who wrote from home. We know that our group produced 259 letters/emails and cards of support defending the rights of the 9 individuals.

Respectfully submitted, Pat & Norm McLeod

3. Centre 507

The Centre met their biggest demand for services in 2024. Daily life has changed dramatically now that they are open 22 hours per day. Overnight, around 70 people seek shelter, warmth and a moment's peace. By year's end there were over 100,000 visits, 15,000 overnight stays and 90 overdose responses. Last Fall they opened a used clothing room which operates two days per week.

The Riverside congregation continues their strong support with gently used warm winter clothing. In the Fall a very generous collection of coffee and toilet paper and many financial gifts were delivered. The staff at the Centre appreciate very much our support as they continue to serve the growing needs and challenges of the community.

Respectfully submitted, Morag Pearce

4. White Gift Program

Our WHITE GIFTS were distributed locally in a variety of ways in 2024.

We were able to give a Christmas gift to the refugee family that arrived in April and buy gifts for a family of 10 in need in the neighbourhood.

Gift bags were provided for residents of Serenity House. Carloads of winter necessities were gathered during the WARM CLOTHING DRIVE and delivered to Centre 507.

All gifts and donations were most gratefully received.

5. The Mitten Tree

From our MITTEN TREE, in remembrance of Yvonne Steadman, dozens of hats, mitts, gloves and socks made their way into community schools and shelters.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Dixon

6. Heron Road Emergency Food Centre (HEFC)

One of the 112 agencies of the Ottawa Food Bank (OFB), HEFC is located in the Heron Multipurpose Centre. Due to the continuing exponential growth in numbers of those accessing this location, space is becoming increasingly more problematic, with ongoing discussions as to how to rectify the situation. Food is distributed for 2 hours/4 days a week (but now open usually at least an extra half hour) to those with food insecurity within its catchment area in South East Ottawa. 7 days of nutritious food can be given once a month.

It is no secret that during 2024, the number of folks visiting food banks has grown by leaps and bounds, and HEFC is no exception. In December 2023, 742 households representing 2452 souls, were served in 16 days. By December 2024, in 15 days, 801 households comprising 2556 were served. It is anticipated that those numbers will keep rising including more seniors and working adults. Beginning in January 2025 the OFB will also be reducing by 30%, the amount of food it supplies.

The Executive Coordinator, who is the only paid employee, and 96 volunteers, who diligently worked 9,000 hours, make this all happen like a well oiled machine. This includes unloading the food, stocking shelves, dividing portions and serving the clients. 1 Volunteer Board member serves as Buyer – to purchase items not supplied by OFB or donated. The Board of directors include several faith community and community association representatives, along with a financial team of 3 accountants and other interested individuals.

The Centre received grants from the City of Ottawa and received \$6,000 from OFB at Christmas. This was augmented by donations from schools, community organizations, food drives and fundraising events. The Walkathon in September raised almost \$13,000 and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Christmas concert \$19,000. During the summer several community gardens, including our Thexton garden, supplied great quantities of fresh vegetables. Thank you to all involved. Unfortunately, with the sale of the business, we can no longer benefit from the Wilson's Independent grocery store receipts which generated \$1 per \$100.

On behalf of the Executive Coordinator, Board of Directors, Volunteers and all those whom you help, a huge thank you for all your continued support of HEFC, with your monetary donations in the envelopes in the Narthex or through Canada Helps at www.hefc.ca

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Shaw, RUC representative to HEFC Board

7. Hunt Club Riverside Park Steering Table

The Southeast Ottawa Community Health Centre convenes a gathering of helping professional and agencies about 4 times a year. Riverside United has participated in this group for a number of years. The Steering Table discusses the needs of the community and shares information about resources and programs available. The Steering Table was pleased to see the Brookfield Community Food Cupboard emerge to help to address food security. The Connecting Seniors program was able to draw on resource people known through the Steering Table.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dillman

8. Mission and Service

Many people of Riverside support the Mission and Service Fund of The United Church of Canada through offerings and PAR contributions. The Mission and Service Fund supports a variety of ministry and outreach programs within Canada and with global partners in various locations around the world. In 2024, Riverside United donated \$28,235 to Mission and Service.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dillman

9. Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI)

Housing affordability remains 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 over 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.

MHI has developed 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.

Gloucester Housing Corporation (GHC) was founded in 1986 to address the need for affordable housing in Gloucester, now part of Ottawa. Over the years, GHC developed several housing projects offering rent-geared-to income and below-market rental units. The organization focussed on providing sustainable, accessible housing in well connected areas with public transit and essential services.

In fall 2024, GHC officially amalgamated with MHI, expanding MHI's housing portfolio and increasing its reach to over 1,000 tenants across nine housing communities, building on the complementary strengths of both organizations. MHI continues to grow, with upcoming housing developments at LeBreton Flats under construction and another project called The Anchor coming soon.

Members of Riverside United are encouraged to support MHI directly.

Respectfully Submitted by Charles Barrett.

10. Out of the Cold at Southminster United

In November a team of volunteers from Riverside prepared and served a hot meal as part of the weekly Out of the Cold program at Southminster United Church. Riverside has been volunteering there for many years.

Respectfully submitted, Morag Pearce

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

Riverside has had a partnership with Providence Methodist Church in Jamaica for about 20 years and this partnership has been enabled by the dedication and commitment of Marie Hackett over those years. Marie was not able to be part of the Jamaica work in 2024, and so the partnership committee missed her inspiration and leadership.

The members of the partnership committee are: Jean Peart, Marilyn Robinson, Edith Ngoye Allen, Marjorie MacLean, and Paul Dillman. Jeannie Taylor joined the committee in May.

The primary work of the committee in 2024 was to produce the 21st annual Jamaica Night that was held as an in-person event on October 20th. The program was a mixture of live acts and video contributions. Jean Peart was the program director and John Gingerich was the technical director. An edited version of the program was available on October 27th on YouTube. We are grateful to the Island Grill Restaurant for the donation of food for the in-person event.

The funds raised by Jamaica Night and other donations through the year are sent to Providence and divided between the Home Visitation and Nursing Programme of Providence and the Mission House Basic School in Gordon Town. In 2024, approximately \$4,165.99 was raised for these two ministries.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dillman

12. Refugee Committee

On April 16, 2024 we were at the airport to welcome our Syrian family of five, a husband and wife and their three children, aged 9, 7 and 5. They were exhausted from their long trip but happy to finally be here.

Thanks to the generous support and donations from the congregation we were able to move them into a completely furnished, three bedroom townhouse. The Quilting group made beautiful Canadian quilts for all the beds. New pillows were purchased as well as sheets and towels. The kitchen was well equipped with all essentials including basic food staples.

Their townhouse is situated within walking distance of a school, a Community Centre and a park. The children have all been enrolled in school and are doing well in both English and in French. The parents are both trying to establish their credentials to allow them to work in Canada. This is a long process and may require some additional classes but they are hopeful.

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 and finding suitable accommodation for them, the co-sponsors put up the required money to finance the sponsorship. The Congregation contributed with donations of furniture, household essentials as well as time to set up the house. A generous gift of money was given to them for Christmas.

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

13. Thexton Garden Report

Last fall, each raised bed in the Thexton Garden was enriched with a nutrient soil/compost mixture. This procedure gave the caretakers a chance to closely inspect the construction of each of the beds. After 5 years, there are signs of wood decay and failure of structure. A major re-build will have to happen in the next couple of years.

Fresh spring produce was abundant followed by fall root crops like carrots and potatoes. Tomato plants were donated by Terre à Terre - our Saturday morning market gardeners.

The Heron Road Emergency Food depot were very appreciative of our donations.



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 Wanda Maurais - Co-Chair Helen Hunter - Member-at-Large
Bob Garrow - Member-at-Large Elizabeth Barclay - Card Ministry Marie Hackett - Visitation Ministry
Mary Shaw - Member-at-Large Marsha Fairfield - Card Ministry Diana Desjardins - Member-at-Large

Throughout the year we continued to reach out to members of the congregation through a phone and card ministry. Elizabeth Barclay sent cards for birthday and anniversary celebrations as well as sympathy, thinking of you, and get-well cards to members of the congregation. Marsha Fairfield prepared and sent birthday cards for the children and youth of the congregation.

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

There was one memorial reception for Joyce Picard organized by the committee this year on 3 July in conjunction with members of the Quilting and Craft group. She had requested that there be no formal service, but the RUC community wished to gather for a less formal occasion to celebrate her contributions to the life and work of the congregation.

There were six receptions held after funeral or memorial services. These were catered, with a member of the committee on site to answer questions or assist as necessary.

On December 18, 2024, 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.

In addition to the social activities outlined as part of Nourishing Our Faith there were the following activities that should be recorded:

- A Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on 13 February
- The Pot Luck prior to the Annual General Meeting held 24 March
- A pot luck luncheon on 8 September held to celebrate Louise Madaire on the occasion of her retirement from the position of Church Administrator
- A BBQ on 21 September hosting members of the South East Ottawa cluster group

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 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, Paul Dillman: minister, Jeannie Taylor, Cat LaForce, Karen Percy.

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, including Messy Church
- Adult learning, such as study series and book club.

Worship Time

We at Riverside strive to help everyone feel welcome and included. Participation in worship activities is encouraged, and a good variety of people do scripture readings, request prayers, make announcements, present 'Minutes or Moments' for a variety of subjects such as affirming, environment, and mission, light candles, do the land acknowledgment, take up the offering, and raise joys and concerns during prayers of the people.

To include as many as possible, most services are on Zoom and You Tube, with an occasional special service either in person or on Zoom only. We are hopeful that at some point people attending from off site will be able to participate more fully, perhaps by doing the scripture reading from home, cottage or hospital, for example.

An interesting, insightful and meaningful year of Reflections was undertaken by Paul throughout 2024, as he chose to navigate the year without the use of a lectionary. Reflections were often based on themes; Paul came up with some, he invited suggestions from the congregation, and some were based on Sanctified Art resources.

Paul invited folks to speak on 'What Riverside Means to Me' and several responded. The presentations were well received and enlightening, highlighting that Riverside is important in different ways to different people.

We are very fortunate to have Karen Percy, our student minister, with us for a second year. Her prayers and preaching are thoughtful, well delivered and very much appreciated.

There was one baptism, an adult, on Easter Sunday.

Sunday Morning Tasks:

We look after ensuring there are enough volunteers to do the Sunday morning tasks; greeting, taking up the offering, setting up and clearing off the altar, and scripture reading, as well as setting up and cleaning up after social hour about every two weeks, keeping the kitchen stocked with supplies, and organizing volunteers for communion. We have been working for a while on creating an electronic sign-up sheet for Sunday Morning Tasks.

Social hour was held every Sunday during the summer.

The descriptions of the tasks were updated and rewritten this year. A lot has changed since before COVID!

The church now has a QR code. It's on the board at the entrance of the building. Scanning it takes the person directly to the church's website.

Another area of discussion has been privacy concerns surrounding our services being broadcast.

Of note throughout the year.

The Southeast Ottawa UCC Cluster hosted the January 7th joint service.

The Lenten studies hosted by the Southeast Ottawa UCC Cluster were based on the Sanctified Art Wandering Heart resource.

Easter season saw us have a Maundy Thursday Zoom service with communion.

On Good Friday we had an in-person service followed by the ever-popular Hot Cross Buns.

Weather cooperated, so Easter Day an outside Sunrise service, with communion, was made possible. The later time (8:00 instead of 7:00) meant that more people attended. Then we had our usual Easter service at 10:30, also with communion. Breakfast was served between the services, so some came for the early service and stayed for breakfast, some came for breakfast and stayed for the 10:30 service, some were here for all three aspects, and some came just for a service.

Paul was away May 12th so a hymn sing was held. Hymn sings 2-3 times a year have become popular.

Patricia Power, who was a ministry student at Riverside from 2020 to 2022, was ordained on May 31st. Several congregational members were in attendance. We are grateful for Patricia's contributions during her time with us and we wish her well as she moves into her calling.

June 9th was our picnic and the recognition of grads. People are asked to send Paul names of anyone associated with RUC who are graduating from secondary school, college, university or other types of educational endeavours so that the congregation can acknowledge their accomplishments.

May 30th was notable because on this day we received new members into our congregation. Some of these folks had been coming to, and contributing to, the life of Riverside for months or years; this was one of the celebrations the COVID pandemic caused us to miss out on. So a formal welcome (finally!)

November 3rd was Riverside's 62nd anniversary, with memorial candles lit in remembrance of those who have died throughout the year, followed by a Stay for Spuds lunch; the event was well attended.

Christmas Services:

In an effort to best serve the needs and preferences of the congregation, this group did a survey in early 2024

to allow folks to tell us what times and what types of services they prefer on Christmas Eve. The results showed that some liked the morning service, (Christmas Eve was a Sunday) some the children's service, some the later service, and that an earlier time for the children's service would be preferred.

Therefore the children's service – a fun, family service - was moved from 5:30 to 4:00, and feedback has been positive about this change. It included lots of carols, the pageant, and ended with candlelight. This service was in person only and was not streamed.

We find that, happily, there are a number of people who come to the Christmas Eve services who are not regulars (or perhaps have never been) at RUC. Fortunately, Paul and Cat opt for a pageant that relies on spontaneous participation by children and adults alike, with no rehearsal beforehand.

The 8:00 p.m. service included Communion and Candlelight. It was in person, and on Zoom and YouTube.

Decorating the sanctuary and the Narthex for Thanksgiving and Christmas is an activity based on fun and fellowship, and we are grateful for the volunteers.

The New Year's Eve service was informal and included a hymn sing.

At times when Paul and Wayne were away, worship leadership was given by Jeannie Taylor and Karen Percy, and music leadership was given by Georgina Gray, Ruth Bryce, and Jane Griffiths. We are fortunate to have such talented and willing people.

On behalf of the members of the Nourishing Our Faith committee, we wish to thank the congregation for their willingness to undertake tasks and to participate in many ways, both named and unnamed, which enrich our worship experience and Riverside's culture and spirit of inclusiveness and connectedness.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Graham and Jonathan Bathurst.

Communion

As has been our practice in the past number of years the Sacrament of Communion has been celebrated 8 times throughout the year. With the exception of Maundy Thursday – March 19th, all were in-person. On Easter Sunday 23 hardy souls gathered outside and received the Sacrament at the Son-Rise service. On all other occasions: 1st Sunday in Lent – February 18th, Easter Sunday - March 31st, June 2nd, World Wide Communion Sunday – October 6th, 1st Sunday in Advent - December 1st and Christmas Eve – December 24th.

The elements were offered by teams at 2 stations at the front of the sanctuary, while another team served, in their seats, those who were less comfortable walking forward. Each team comprised of 1 person offering, by tongs, the gluten free bread, another holding the tray of grape juice glasses, and usually one of the Youth holding a basket to collect the glasses.

Other than Christmas Eve the service was also available on Zoom and YouTube. During the June 2nd worship service a tray of more easily grasped glasses was dedicated and has been used by the moving station at all communions since. This formerly belonged to Pendleton United Church, which is now closed.

When offered in person the numbers receiving in sacrament were between 60-90 people.

Respectfully submitted Mary Shaw

Report from Student Minister - Karen Percy

I have been blessed in so many ways that Riverside agreed to be my learning site again this year. I am ever

thankful that the congregation was open and willing to share their minister. I continue working my way through the various course requirements from the Atlantic School of Theology. Paul, in his role as my supervising minister, must meet me every second week for a meeting that lasts at least 2 hours each time. Though truthfully, it always exceeds that.

Paul graciously sets this time aside for me where I ask questions (lots of questions), offer my ponderings and musings on an aspect of ministry, my course, or discussing an upcoming research paper. Each time, Paul shares his experience, his words of wisdom and insight. Throughout our almost two years in this role, I have been respected, supported, guided, and encouraged by Paul each step along the way. From him, I have learned what it means to be authentic, how to hold sacred space, and to lead with compassion all while sharing the love of Christ with those we meet.

As part of my program, Riverside also provides me with a Lay Support Team comprising Henry Andrews, David Gray, Christine Rhodes, Heather Smith, and Samantha Wilson. I am thankful for their support, their presence, and their feedback along the way.

Thank you to the congregation who have welcomed me and my family into their hearts. You have been my enthusiastic cheerleaders along the way. You have given me opportunities to connect with you, welcomed me in your home, and shared your personal stories. I am humbled each time you share vulnerable moments with me. You graciously offer support and patience as I try to uncover my pastoral identity.

It has been my utmost pleasure to journey with Riverside and Paul once again this past year. It has been a true privilege to hold the Christ light for you in the same way it was extended to me.

With a sincere and grateful heart, your ministry student, Karen Percy

Music Forward

The Music Forward Circle was formed because the choir is very small which makes it difficult to always offer a quality sound on Sunday mornings.

We are very fortunate and grateful to be able to invite members of our congregation to share their musical talents and contribute musical offerings throughout the year.

As well, we have been blessed to enjoy other singers and musicians from the community who have added different perspectives to our Special Music during Sunday worship.

We would welcome any new members with an interest in music to join our planning circle once a month. If you would like to share your talent and make a contribution to the music on a Sunday morning, please speak to any one of us or to the office.

Thank you to Wayne Irschick and Paul Dillman for their continued guidance.

Thank you to all who contribute their talents to 'Make a Joyful Noise'.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Graham and Wanda Maurais

Choir

Throughout the year we have experienced fluctuating numbers of voices, but we have continued to joyfully lead the singing each Sunday whether there were 2 or 12 of us! During this time we have had some choirsters join us for a brief period, and at a Memorial Service in May, and on our congregation's Anniversary Sunday in November we were delighted to have several alumni return to blend their voices with ours. At the annual Cluster service, held on January 7th at Southminster United

Church, one of our members represented us in the Combined choir.

We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9.30am and approximately every 3-4 weeks we sing an anthem. A few members have also shared their talents, either vocally or instrumentally, as special music during the worship service.

Wayne Irschick, our dedicated Choir Director, continues to cope admirably with the diminished and sometimes unpredictable number of choirsters available on any given Sunday. He sources and also arranges music to best suit our particular dynamic.

Yes – we are few in number, and yes – we are, similar to our congregation as a whole, mostly aging, but we still love to sing and we are always open to having new folks (in all vocal sections, but especially the lower traditionally male voice range) become part of our Choir family, as we “Praise God in His Sanctuary”.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Shaw

World Day of Prayer

There have been World Day of Prayer (WDP) services for almost a century in 150 countries. The traditionally designated day for this being the 1st Friday in March, in 2024 it was actually March 1st. That was when 4 of us from RUC joined 5 others on a Zoom WDP service hosted by Rideau Park United Church.

The service outline was prepared by Ecumenical Christian Women of Palestine, with the theme “I beg you...Bear with one Another (Ephesians 4: 1-3). The date for Palestine to write was set in 2017, but the theme was very relevant to their current situation, as was the opening hymn - “Make me a channel of your peace.” The stories of 3 Palestinian women were read by some of the members of the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada, from across the country, including Rev. Stephanie McClellan who offered the Reflection. She illustrated, with a ball of yarn, how untangling one knot at a time will get you there. Messages about peace were given by children and young people from different areas of Canada and around the world. The hymn “I Urge You” was written especially for WDP and was sung in Arabic and English.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Shaw

Children’s Worship - Cat La Force

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. We were in room 5 this year.

Program: We always begin with the kids counting how many we are and setting up the room accordingly (tables, chairs, drawing materials). When the tables are set we do a check in with everyone (we have colour pencils and paper during this time). 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 also clean up and it is part of the feeling of ownership of the room.

We will continue the experience and experiment format where I choose appropriate science experiments that relate to the passage (For example, we made representations of our prayers with fruit skewers. We discussed each fruit representing something we pray for and the situations we might pray in. And how we can talk to God in our own unique ways). We divide the tasks and visitors often volunteer and are paired up with a regular who knows where to find things. There have been a few new children coming regularly and the occasional drop in visitors as well. Some parents join, some do not; they all seem very comfortable.

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 beforehand, and from there I make the day's activity in relation to that. It's most helpful to build curriculum with the lectionary. I aim to make the class feel comfortable and a place where kids are listened to by adults and each other, ask questions, share their ideas and where they can relax and be loved by God just for being themselves.

Timing & Numbers: There are approximately 5-10 youth and children in our classes as we still have 6 consistent families at RUC. Half of our kids are 12-14 years old and many of the new regulars are around 6ish. The kids get along wonderfully; the older ones help the younger and new kids. Some of the regulars that have been coming less often, were at the Christmas pageant as well as visitors.

Forecast for the future:

- I would like to continue with the format of Check-in and Experience, Experiment and Artful worship. These are a favourite among current worshipping children.
- In an effort to show the kids other parts of our church, we went one Sunday to the Book Nook. The kids were encouraged to take books they would read and we talked about how we can donate the ones at home we're done with. It was a very popular activity that encourages reading; they were really excited.
- There has been some discussion in the Nourishing Our Faith Committee about the appearance/showing of kids during Conversation with the Children on the stairs (require a permission form for faces) it might be nice to hear what the kids think of it and see if they have a preference (regular theme conversation, front row, reading a call to worship/passage, or something more in the background from the volunteer sign up sheets etc).
- I think the kids would be interested in doing something for the church, if there is a responsibility like one coffee time or to make cookies for a sale, do some work in the Book Nook etc. They feel like contributors and it gives good ownership of the space and trust in themselves. We have talked about organizing the cabinets together (most likely after church) and I would bring pizza and veggies.
- Paul is offering a Confirmation group where the kids will learn about the United Church and pair up with a mentor from the congregation. This is scheduled for the winter/spring and will be approximately 6 weeks of meeting and discussion where teens and mentors will bring lunch and at the end of the sessions, kids will be offered the opportunity to be confirmed (without pressure).
- I would like to continue Messy Church. It's one of the most well liked activities. As an example, I really enjoyed the 2024 Indigenous focus where we had 6 activity tables (name tags, playdough, talking sticks, turtle cookies, ribbon skirts/shirts, Métis finger twisted fringe, turtle shakers, birch bark spirit plates) and the story of Sky Woman. Senator Parm Bourgie shared with us the meaning and use of Métis woven sashes. She was gracious enough to accept the Semah (traditional tobacco) I presented her and compensation of my (and my best friend Dom's) time to put her garden to bed for the fall. There was less than the regular amount of time to promote and we might be able to get more next visitors next time (approx 50 I believe).
- 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. As it's a shared space, a short focus on something like "make a joyful noise" or something suggested by the kids. It 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

Book Club

The Book Club has been meeting, under Paul's guidance since 2009 when we began with *The Shack* and *Three Cups of Tea*. In 2024, we continued to meet on Zoom and discussed five books: *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, by Edmund de Wael, *The Elephant Whisperer* by Laurence Anthony, *Snow Road Station* by Elizabeth Hay, *Son of Elsewhere* by Elamin Abdelmahmoud, and *Lucy by the Sea* by Elizabeth Strout.

We are grateful to Paul for his insightful leadership.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Dixon

Affirming Ministry Circle

Members: Wendy Graham (Chair), Wanda Maurais (Secretary), Paul Dillman, Helen Hunter, Karen Percy, Joan Sirrs, Stephen Armstrong, Cat La Force

March 10, 2024, we celebrated PIE Day, (Public, Intentional, Explicit) which included inclusive hymns, a blessing by Ken Robinson, and tarts in some of the colours of the rainbow flag.

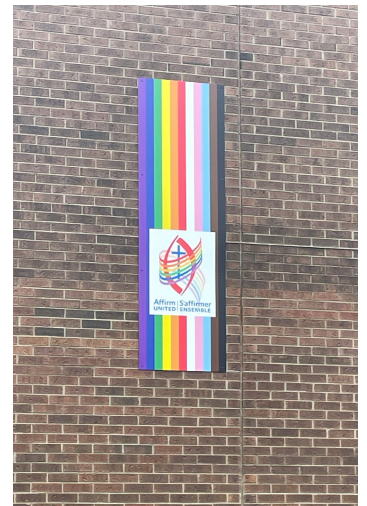
March 31, 2024 was 2 Spirit Awareness Day. On March 21, 2024, Cat organized an online workshop in which two elders shared their life experiences.

March 31, 2024 was also Transgender Awareness Day. Stephen offered a Minute for Affirm. Due to illness, he presented it at Easter time.

April 28, 2024 was our Fifth Anniversary of becoming an affirming congregation. Wendy presented a Minute for Affirm and read a broad description of what we have done since deciding to work toward and become an Affirming congregation.

In Harmony, a women's choir that welcomes queer women and friends/allies was our guest choir.

The dedication of the Affirm United/Progress Pride flag sign, which is on the outside wall of the church facing the road, took place outside at the end of the service.



The Affirming brochure is now in the narthex. Please take a moment to review it. We hope the brochure will be helpful to those who are interested in joining an Affirming congregation, and will be informative to any who wonder what being Affirming is all about.

As an Affirming Ministry Circle, we continue to work toward being an inclusive and welcoming congregation. Thank you to all for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Graham and Wanda Maurais

Communications Team

We are a group of individuals working to keep church members and the wider community informed about the programs and events taking place at Riverside United Church. To achieve this, we do our best to maintain an online presence through our website (RiversideUnitedOttawa.ca) and by streaming our worship services through Zoom and YouTube.

Here is a list of individuals who have assisted with website maintenance and/or Audio/Visual system

operations in the past year: Ellis Lindsay, John Gingerich, Ken Smith, Theresa White, Louise Madaire, Paul Dillman, Rebekah Dillman, Richard Williams, David Dean, Rosemary Hood, Steven Fearsyth and Jeannie Taylor. David Gray should also be mentioned here for his role in preparing the weekly PowerPoint slides which accompany our worship service scripture readings.

We are grateful to those who provide feedback on our website. Some time ago, Jonathon provided us with a list of suggestions. Some of these have been implemented while others are still a work in progress.

Theresa, Jeannie and Paul continue to maintain our presence on Facebook. Jeannie, Ellis and John try to keep our website current, updating links and/or adding new content as needed.

John, David, Rosemary, Steven and Ken provide support for Richard in running the A/V system for Sunday services, occasionally taking over when he is away. Louise frequently acts as Zoom co-host on Sunday mornings with David or John filling in when she is not available. Rebekah frequently operates the remote control for the Sunday morning PowerPoint presentations while Samantha often fills in when Rebekah is away. Cat, Luke and Ken have also taken on this task on occasion.

As always, we would be very pleased to receive comments or suggestions. We would be delighted to welcome aboard anyone who has an interest in learning about website maintenance, our Facebook presence or our A/V system.

Submitted by John Gingerich for the Communications Team

Fundraising 2024

Fund Raising	2024	2023	2022
Bazaar	6,461.85	7,473.45	7,436.05
Book Nook	7,102.00	6,820.00	3,545.00
Garage Sales	2,434.50	2,220.25	828.75
Grocery Gift Cards	3,180.52	3,062.61	3,391.51
Grocery Card Purchase Rebate	735.35	735	975.45
Plant Sale	34	0	12
Recycle	52	55.25	0
Total Fund Raising	20,000.22	20,366.56	16,188.76

Submitted by Ken Smith

Book Nook

Once again the sales at the Book Nook went very well. Our supply of new books keeps our patrons interested in coming back each month to replenish their shelves. We have also done brisk sales in Jigsaw Puzzles, so thank you to those who brought more in for us to sell.

We had 11 sales over the year (two in April due to the Garage Sale, but none in July or August). We made a total of **\$7,087 for the year.**

I would like to thank Gail Kennedy and Sheila Snelling for their tireless sorting of books, puzzles, LP's and CD's. We also appreciate Theresa White's work on advertising the sales on Facebook.

Respectfully submitted by Daphne Biggs

Garage Sale 2024

Our much-anticipated annual Garage Sale is always held the last Saturday in April.

To help reduce the preparation for this event, we decided two years ago to have dedicated price rooms: Room 4 would be the \$1-\$2 room, Room 5 the \$5 room and Room 6 the \$10 and up room. This has worked out well.

One of the biggest jobs is the clean-up. Because the church has no storage, unsold items have to be packed up and delivered to local charities. We always need help with this.

Thanks to all the sorters and salespeople.

Respectfully submitted by John Dixon

Christmas Bazaar

The 2024 Bazaar was held Saturday, November 16, 2024 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 \$5,600 (this included pre-sales).

Subsequent to the formal sale date, there were three other mini-sales. The first was after church on Sunday, November 17, when all the remaining food items were sold. The final two were on Saturday 16 December (at a table outside, 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:

1. so generously contributed the many wonderful items for the various tables;
2. participated in baking parties at the church for the rhubarb pies, and apple pies and crisps;
3. set up, operated and cleaned up various tables after the Bazaar, and took care of arranging the floats and counting the proceeds;
4. 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 Deborah Chaplin and Don Squire for organizing floats before and counting results after the Bazaar.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Brandon, Chair Bazaar Committee



Finer Things, Bazaar November 2024

As part of the annual Bazaar, we asked for donations of Finer Things. These are items that have some value above and beyond a typical garage-sale item. Luckily, the donations were outstanding: decorative glassware, pieces of art, and antiques. Thank you. Unsold items were donated to Holy Cross Elementary School and to Diabetes Canada. Thanks to all the helpers.

Submitted by John Dixon

Grocery/Gift/Cash Cards

The profit for 2024 was \$3180.52 on sales of \$65,425, down slightly from last year. The best-selling cards are PC \$250, Metro \$250, Farm Boy \$250 and Metro \$100.

The majority of sales occur from the office, and we thank to Louise Madaire, Jeannie Taylor and Paul Dillman for this effort and thanks to Cheryl Page for selling cards on Coffee Sundays . Thanks to Joan Sirrs for being the Purchaser of all the cards, thanks also to Karen Tippett 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

Quilting and Crafts

The quilting and craft group meets Thursdays except for the summer, at 1:00 p.m.

Our purposes are to produce items for the fall bazaar and equally important, to have fun and foster fellowship. Conversation is an integral part of making bazaar items.; were you aware of that? Friendships have been formed and solidified while busy hands make a wide variety of items.

Between work that happens at home and that which occurs on site, a variety of activities happen. Quilts are pieced, then hand-or-machine quilted, then bound. Items are knitted or crocheted or sewn or painted, and crafts of unlimited variety are created.

It is very rewarding to see things being created. 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 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. Or just drop in from time to time. Instruction is available if you want to try something new to you.

Tea is served and people take turns providing goodies. Anyone who is in the church is invited to partake.

Report submitted by: Wendy Graham

Membership and Rolls – Changes and Revisions

	31 Dec 2022	31 Dec 2023	31 Dec 2024
-			
Members / Adherents	417	441	432
Non-Resident Members	20	16	11
Households under Pastoral Care	219	218	218
Baptisms Adult	0	0	1
Baptisms Child	2	0	0
Marriages	1	1	0
Deaths	4	7	10
Funerals & Memorial Services	7	7	1
Marriages by Volunteer Associates		0	0
Ministers	0		
Changes During the Year			
Members			
On by Profession Under age 18	0	0	0
On by Profession age 18 or older	0	0	3
On by Transfer of Certificate	1	3	2
Retired Order of Ministry		1	1
On by Resolution	0	0	0
Adherents Added	2	15	11
Total	3	19	17
Off by Certificate (transferred out)	0	0	0
Off by Resolution	0	0	0
Address Unknown	0	0	0
Off by Death	4	5	10
Total	3	4	10

2024 Deaths

Bruno Buser	*June Coke
Maureen Dunseath	*Pat Ellsworth
*Pat MacDonald	Willy Marthaler
*Ruth Morin	*Joyce Pickard
*David Shaw	*Helen Waddell

*Indicates a member on the Historic Roll of Riverside United

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannie Taylor, 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 run competitions for new staff, keep job descriptions up to date, and conduct annual reviews with our minister and staff. We ensure current employment standards are followed, and review salaries annually.

We are responsible for drafting and implementing policies covering workplace harassment and violence. We are a mandated committee of the United Church of Canada and report directly to Council.

2024 Highlights

- After many years of service, our church administrator, Louise Madaire retired effective the end of August. We are grateful for the years of dedicated service Louise gave to the church and to each of us as members. The M&P Committee updated the job description for the administrator position, posted the job opening, received and reviewed applications, conducted interviews and made a recommendation to RUC Council. As a result of this process Jeannie Taylor was hired to be our new church administrator.
- Again last year RUC remained open throughout all of July and August including the period from July 28 through September 1 when the minister took his annual vacation combined with some study leave. We were fortunate to have Jeannie Taylor in her role as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader fill in for four Sundays. The remaining two Sundays Karen Percy was in the pulpit.
- Annual reviews were held for each staff member and the minister during the period from April to June. These reviews were all very positive and we expressed the thanks of the entire congregation for the work done on our behalf.
- As required by the United Church of Canada manual we reviewed our policies on Workplace Harassment and Discrimination as well as Violence in the workplace. No changes were made and those policies are posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office.
- At the White Gift Service in December, 2024 the Committee recognized the work of each of our staff members. We are blessed to have a team that provides us with a welcoming and affirming church home that supports learning and spiritual renewal. So our thanks go to Louise Madaire, Jeannie Taylor, Marc Godin, Wayne Irschick, Cat Laforce, and Reverend Paul Dillman.
- In January each year the salary and remuneration for all our staff and the minister are reviewed taking into account the annual increase in the cost of living and recommendations are then made to RUC Council.

Committee members - Karen Ogston, Diana Desjardins, John Gingerich, Samantha Wilson, Peter Griffiths

Respectfully Submitted, Peter Griffiths, Chair

Riverside United Church:

2024 Congregational Report 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. It supports the ministries of 125 pastoral charges and other communities of faith – camps and outreach ministries such as chaplaincies, housing matters networks and right relationship networks. All United Church clergy, both active and retired, are members of the Region. This includes Rev. Dillman as well as our retired clergy: Rev. Dr. Ken Robinson, Rev. Ted Colwell, Rev. Gail Christy, Rev. Jane Griffiths and Rev. Janet Thompson. In addition, Riverside is entitled to three lay representatives who in 2024 were Charles Barrett and Bob Christy with one vacancy.

Over the years, Rev. Dillman has played an active role in EOORC and will continue to do so after retirement as a member of the “Ministry Personnel Support Leadership Team.” Charles has been called on to wear many hats for EOORC. As this report is being written, he is working with Stittsville United Church as it works through some issues that have impacted on its ministry.

2024 Activities and Meetings

Members of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region Council met three times, virtually and in-person, during 2024.

1. Winter Meeting: “Strengthening Invitation”

On March 2, 2024, under a theme “Strengthening Invitation”, EOORC held a half-day (morning) informational and educational meeting on Zoom. Building on research carried out by the United Church, the focus was how to to those in the congregation’s neighbourhood who are lonely or spiritually hungry.

The United Church’s research found that:

- churches could be beacons of belonging;
- Canadians are experiencing acute loneliness;
- the reason people attend church are: first, social interaction (37%); then, sense of belonging (36%); moral/spiritual guidance (33%); being with a higher power (32%); and comfort in life’s trials and tribulations (30%);
- barriers to attending church: not open-minded enough (32%), my belief not strong enough (29%), feel out of place when attending (28%), issues discussed not relevant to me (24%) and get benefits in other ways (23%).

The meeting was told that it is important for each community of faith to identify its unique gifts of ministry for its neighbourhood.

2. Annual Meeting: “Being Courageous Community”

The Regional Council held it’s annual meeting on Friday, May 31st and the morning of June 1st in Ottawa at Trinity United in person and on Zoom. The meeting’s theme was “Unique Public Witness – The Last 100Years and the Next.” Notable things in the meeting included:

- remembering the worship at the founding of the United Church and singing the hymns in the non-inclusive language of the hymns sung at it [for some at our meeting it was not “a joyful noise!];
- watching a video of the Moderator sending greeting to the meeting;
- dealing with the financial issues and learned that the deficit was substantially smaller than anticipated;
- keeping with the “last 100 years”, stories were told about the Church’s formation, ministries of several communities of faith, the United Church Women (UCW), creation of Affirm, the 1988 ordination issue;
- holding a celebration of ministry service in Trinity United’s sanctuary where those attending recognized the ministries of clergy who had died, recognized changing communities of faith through amalgamation or closure and celebrated the ordination/ commissioning of new clergy, including Rev. Patricia Power who had spent time during her studies at Riverside;
- looking at the “next 100 years” and hearing about stewardship, about evangelism and how to make it more appealing, about how to “grow” your community of faith, about multifaith housing and its exciting work.

3. Fall Meeting “Courageous Community”

Members of the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region Council met on Ocyober 5, 2024 at Trinity-St. Andrews United Church in Renfrew for its Fall meeting. A full-day event, the Council members, among other things:

- elected its commissioners to the upcoming 45th General Council meeting in summer 2025 and debated proposal for General Council: some passed and some didn’t;
- heard Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek, the Region’s Community of Faith and Network Support Minister, explore the theme asking “what is your community faith really good at?” and “what is God up to in your community of faith?”

- learned about neighbourhood profiles developed from census data (Riverside has its profile);
- heard an update from General Council Executive; and
- learned about Multifaith Housing’s new campaign and EOORC’s \$150,000 support

NOTE: The Regional Council will meet in 2025:

- March 1st on Zoom for its winter education event with a theme of “Creative Sparks”
- June 14th at the EY Centre in Ottawa and may have an on-line session on Friday, June 13th

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

February 12, 2025

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, 2024 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 assurance provided with this report.


Murray Ballantine


Deborah Chaplin


Brenda Smith

	Jan-Dec 2024	<u>RUC</u>	Trustees	Total	2023
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
Congregational Giving		197,731.87		197,731.87	206,640.29
Bank Interest Income		1,520.06		1,520.06	1,767.65
Weddings, Funerals		250.00		250.00	550.00
Directed Capital Fund		634.00		634.00	20,056.33
Directed Financial Gifts		700.00		700.00	1,500.00
Fund Raising		20,105.02		20,105.02	20,366.56
Property Account Donations					
Donations for Use of space		4,320.00	49,175.00	53,495.00	57,360.00
Donation for Sound System			450.00	450.00	420.00
Grants				0.00	0.00
Other Donations			2,667.51	2,667.51	4,905.00
Total Donations		4,320.00	52,292.51	56,612.51	62,685.00
HST Rebate				0.00	4,629.76
Riverside Park Nursery School			15,400.00	15,400.00	15,175.00
Total Income		<u>225,260.95</u>	<u>67,692.51</u>	<u>292,953.46</u>	<u>333,370.59</u>
Gross Profit		225,260.95	67,692.51	292,953.46	333,370.59
Expense					
Administration					
Bank Service Charges		552.67	69.00	621.67	482.08
Directed Gift (Affirm Sign)		372.09		372.09	796.57
Equip Purchases, Repairs, Maint.		866.85		866.85	1,488.58
Miscellaneous		128.56		128.56	0.00
Office General Supplies		226.85		226.85	438.62
Office Photocopy		195.36		195.36	0.00
Office Postage		275.02		275.02	550.04
Office Telephone		1,079.02		1,079.02	996.00
Social Activities		67.63		67.63	0.00
Weddings, Funeral Expense		0.00		0.00	0.00
Cleaning Supplies			2,664.37	2,664.37	2,187.72
Copier Lease			2,748.36	2,748.36	2,753.28
Copier Supplies			1,430.89	1,430.89	920.81
Depreciation Expense			28,565.69	28,565.69	28,565.69
GST Expense				0.00	0.00
HST Expense				0.00	6,643.15
Insurance			13,865.55	13,865.55	12,632.00
Total Administration		<u>3,764.05</u>	<u>49,343.86</u>	<u>53,107.91</u>	<u>58,444.54</u>
Assessment - UCC		13,318.00		13,318.00	11,364.00
Building Joint Expense					
Office Expense				0.00	94.10
Partnership Ministry		240.00		240.00	318.00

	RUC	TRUSTEES	TOTAL	2023
Programming				
Building Partnerships	-117.00		-117.00	0.00
Caring for One Another	137.78		137.78	69.54
Nourishing Our Faith	3,584.93		3,584.93	4,549.71
Communication Committee	620.74		620.74	1,281.94
Total Programming	4,226.45		4,226.45	5,901.19
Major Cost Items				
Office Renovation		1,896.90	1,896.90	
Sanctuary Project		0.00	0.00	
Thexton Garden		184.08	184.08	303.75
Other		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Major Cost Items		2,080.98	2,080.98	303.75
Miscellaneous (Petty Cash)		1,546.92	1,546.92	300.00
Office		623.52	623.52	906.28
Professional Services		727.58	727.58	0.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies		-230.65	-230.65	-34.88
Repairs and Maintenance		42,261.45	42,261.45	21,561.30
Salary Costs				
Total Payroll Expenses	223,613.16		223,613.16	211,195.50
Sabbatical Expense	0.00		0.00	1,500.00
Training & Enhance-Minister	290.38		290.38	59.99
Training & Enhance-Staff	150.00		150.00	0.00
Travel	896.50		896.50	641.85
Staff - Other	550.00		550.00	650.00
Total Salary Costs	225,500.04		225,500.04	214,047.34
Uncategorized Expenses				
Utilities				
Electricity		8,533.74	8,533.74	9,611.73
Gas		6,050.71	6,050.71	7,325.91
Water and Sewer		3,281.16	3,281.16	3,018.35
Total Utilities		17,865.61	17,865.61	19,955.99
Yard Maintenance		11,089.06	11,089.06	8,491.00
Total Expense	247,105.02	125,308.33	372,413.35	343,452.61
Net Ordinary Income	-21,844.07	-57,615.82	-79,459.89	-10,082.02
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
Grant	25,000.00		25,000.00	0.00
Mission & Service				
Envelopes	5,152.00		5,152.00	6,029.16
PAR	22,456.22		22,456.22	23,355.84
CanadaHelps	0.00		0.00	0.00
eTransfer	626.75		626.75	215.00
Other	0.00		0.00	0.00
Total Mission & Service	28,234.97		28,234.97	29,600.00

Directed Outreach	RUC	TRUSTEES	TOTAL	2023
Centre 507	540.00		540.00	1,806.28
Heron Emergency Food Centre	640.00		640.00	690.00
Multifaith Housing	0.00		0.00	0.00
White Gift	1,287.03		1,287.03	0.00
Total Directed Outreach	2,467.03		2,467.03	2,496.28
New Investment Capital				
Endowment Gifts	1,225.00		1,225.00	600.00
Memorial Gifts	6,714.29		6,714.29	4,323.70
Total New Investment Capital	7,939.29		7,939.29	4,923.70
Total Other Income	63,641.29		63,641.29	37,019.98
Other Expense				
Mission & Service Expense	28,234.97		28,234.97	29,600.00
Outreach.				
Centre 507	540.00		540.00	1,806.28
Heron Emergency Food Centre	640.00		640.00	690.00
White Gift	1,287.03		1,287.03	0.00
Total Outreach.	2,467.03		2,467.03	2,496.28
Depreciation Expense - Furnace			0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	30,702.00		30,702.00	32,096.28
Net Other Income	32,939.29		32,939.29	4,923.70
Net Income	11,095.22	-57,615.82	-46,520.60	-5158.32

Riverside United Church

Balance Sheet

As of 31 December 2024

	Jan-Dec-2024	<u>RUC</u>	Trustees	2024	2023
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Chequing/Savings					
Petty Cash(Property)			300.00	300.00	300.00
Petty Cash(RUC)	300.00			300.00	300.00
Trustee Royal Bank			13,835.22	13,835.22	15036.86
RUC Operating	39,736.24			39,736.24	41,617.12
RUC Savings	26,925.71			26,925.71	74,581.85
Total Chequing/Savings	66,961.95		14,135.22	81,097.17	131,835.83
Accounts Receivable					
Accounts Receivable	0.00		50.00	50.00	4,679.76
Total Accounts Receivable				50.00	4,679.76
Other Current Assets					
Canoe Financial	382,289.91			382,289.91	380,855.52
Due from Trustee - Chancel	199,959.08			199,959.08	111,092.90
Due from Trustee - Churches	18,451.29			18,451.29	18,451.29
Investments	0.00			0.00	0.00
Accounts Receivable - GST	1,559.46	570.71		2,130.17	140.80
Accounts Receivable - PST	4,633.11	1,499.27		6,132.38	361.64
Grocery Card Imprest Account	26,314.92			26,314.92	15,138.26
Grocery Gift Certificates	19,429.23			19,429.23	27,425.37
Total Other Current Assets	652,637.00	2,069.98		654,706.98	553,465.78
Total Current Assets	719,598.95		16,255.20	735,854.15	689,981.37
Fixed Assets					
Furnace 2002					
Depreciation	-37,421.71			-37,421.71	-37,421.71
Original Cost	37,421.71			37,421.71	37,421.71
Total Furnace	0.00			0.00	0.00
Buildings					
Chancel Renovation					
AV Upgrade			81,194.44	81,194.44	71,088.79
Construction			40,004.11	40,004.11	40,004.11
Total Chancel Renovation			121,198.55	121,198.55	111,092.90
Depreciation			-126,797.07	-126,797.07	-99,227.71
Washroom Renovation			93,511.93	93,511.93	93,511.93
Building-Other			221,228.77	221,228.77	221,228.77
Total Building			309,142.18	309,142.18	326,605.89
Furniture & Equipment					
Depreciation			-80,711.33	-80,711.33	-80,228.97
Original Cost			80,711.33	80,711.33	80,711.33
Total Furniture & Equipment			0	0	482.36

	Riverside	United Balance	Church Sheet	
	As of 31 December 2024			
Land and Land Development				
Depreciation		-7465	-7465	-7465
Driveway		51,969.95	51,969.95	
Land and Land Development - Other		82,715.00	82,715.00	82,715.00
Total Land and Land Development		127,219.95	127,219.95	75,250.00
Organ				
Depreciation		-58,954.00	-58,954.00	-58,954.00
Original Cost		58,954.00	58,954.00	58,954.00
Total Organ		0.00	0.00	0.00
Thexton Garden				
Depreciation		-1,602.90	-1,602.90	-1,282.32
Thexton Garden Original Cost		3,205.82	3,205.82	3,205.82
Total Thexton Garden		1,602.92	1,602.92	1,923.50
Total Fixed Assets	719,598.95	454,220.25	1,173,819.20	404,261.75
Other Assets				
Prepaid Expense		0.00	0.00	11,401.00
Total Other Assets		0.00	0.00	11,401.00
TOTAL ASSETS	719,598.95	454,220.25	1,173,819.20	1105644.12
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	0.00	1,836.17	1,836.17	2,566.85
Total Accounts Payable	0.00	1,836.17	1,836.17	2,566.85
Other Current Liabilities				
Owed to RUC Operating Account		199,959.06		
Total Other Current Liabilities		201,795.23		
Total Current Liabilities			0.00	113,659.75
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		21851.17	21851.17	21,851.17
Total Liabilities	0.00	223,646.40	223,646.40	135,510.92
Equity				
Endowment Fund	380,281.13		380,281.13	318,846.74
Manse Fund	60,500.00		60,500.00	60,500.00
Restricted Ministry				
Brookfield	5,161.96		5,161.96	0.00
Compassion	1,701.69		1,701.69	1,703.72
Jamaica	4,165.99		4,165.99	6,063.02
Pause Table	130.00		130.00	130.00
Refugee	8,000.00		8,000.00	30,000.00
Quilting&Crafts	6,692.71		6,692.71	6,662.71
Sabbatical	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,000.00
Serenity House	108.55		108.55	543.47
Total Restricted Ministry	27960.9		27,960.90	47,102.92
Equity in Property				

Church of the Resurrection		44,451.29	44,451.29	44,451.29
Washroom Renovation Funding		82,281.17	82,281.17	82,281.17
Church Extension Fund, Ottawa Pres.		65,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00
		<hr/>		
Total Equity in Property		191732.46	191732.46	191732.46
Land and Buildings	-32,198.60	130,426.33	98,227.73	98,227.73
Share Account			0.00	0.00
Retained Earnings	275,853.20	-34,162.53	241,690.67	258,879.99
Net Income	7,202.32	-57,422.43	-50,220.11	-5,156.64
Total Equity		<hr/>		
		719598.95	230573.83	950172.78
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		<hr/>		
		719598.95	454220.23	1173819.18
		<hr/>		
				1105644.12

Riverside United Church Budget 2025

Jan-Dec 2024	Operation			Trustee			Total
	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Budget 2025
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
Congregational Giving	206,640.29	197,806.87	200,000.00				200,000.00
Bank Interest Income	1,767.65	1,520.06	800.00				800.00
Weddings, Funerals	550.00	250.00	0.00				0.00
Directed Capital Fund	20,056.33	634.00					
Directed Financial Gifts	1,500.00	700.00	0.00				0.00
Fund Raising	20,366.56	20,000.22	20,000.00				20,000.00
Property Account Donations							0.00
Donations for Use of space	300.00	570.00		56,850.00	49,625.00	52,000.00	52,000.00
Other Donations	1,500.00	0.00	2,000.00	3,405.00	2,667.51	2,000.00	4,000.00
Total Donations	1,800.00	570.00	2,000.00	60,255.00	52,292.51	54,000.00	56,000.00
HST Rebate				4,629.76	0.00		
Riverside Park Nursery School				15,175.00	15,400.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
Total Income	252,680.83	221,481.15	222,800.00	80,059.76	67,692.51	70,000.00	292,800.00
Gross Profit	252,680.83	221,481.15	222,800.00	80,059.76	67,692.51	70,000.00	292,800.00
Expense							
Administration							
Bank Service Charges	426.88	565.77	500.00	55.20	69.00	100.00	600.00
Directed Gifts	796.57	372.09	0.00				
Equip Purchases, Repairs, Maint	1,457.68	866.85	1,000.00				1,000.00
Miscellaneous	30.90	185.04	0.00				
Office General Supplies	438.62	226.85	400.00				400.00
Office Postage	550.04	275.02	600.00				600.00
Office Telephone	996.00	1,079.02	1,000.00				1,000.00
Photocopy - recoveries	-10.00	0.00	0.00				0.00
Social Activities	0.00	67.63	0.00				0.00
Cleaning Supplies				2,187.72	2,664.37	3,000.00	3,000.00

Jan-Dec 2024	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Budget 2025
Copier Lease				2,753.28	2,748.36	2,800.00	2,800.00
Copier Supplies	0.00	195.36	150.00	920.81	1,430.89	1,000.00	1,150.00
Depreciation Expense				28,565.69	28,565.69	29,000.00	29,000.00
HST Expense				6,643.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance				12,632.00	13,865.55	14,000.00	14,000.00
Total Administration	4,686.69	3,833.63	3,650.00	53,757.85	49,343.86	49,900.00	53,550.00
Assessment - UCC	11,364.00	13,318.00	14,861.00				14,861.00
Building Joint Expense	1,800.00	0.00	0.00				0.00
Partnership Ministry	318.00	240.00	250.00				250.00
Programming							
Building Partnerships	0.00	-117.00	0.00				0.00
Caring for One Another	69.54	137.78	200.00				200.00
Nourishing Our Faith	4,549.71	3,584.93	4,000.00				4,000.00
Communication Committee	1,281.94	620.74	600.00				600.00
Special Projects			2,500.00				2,500.00
Total Programming	5,901.19	4,226.45	7,300.00				7,300.00
Major Cost Items							0.00
Kitchen Renovation							0.00
Sanctuary Project							0.00
Thexton Garden				303.75	184.08	300.00	300.00
Major Item Costs - Other				0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
Total Major Cost Items				303.75	184.08	450.00	450.00
Office				906.28	623.52	1,000.00	1,000.00
Professional Services				0.00	727.58	500.00	500.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies				-34.88	-230.65	0.00	0.00
Repairs and Maintenance				21,561.30	29,336.42	20,000.00	20,000.00
Salary Costs							
Workers Safety Insurance							0.00
Canada Pension Plan							0.00
Total Payroll Expenses	211,195.50	223,613.16	191,490.00				191,490.00
Sabbatical Expense	1,500.00	0.00	2,100.00				2,100.00

Jan-Dec 2024	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Budget 2025	Budget 2025
Training & Enhancement-Minister	59.99	290.38	1,200.00				1,200.00
Training & Enhancement-Staff	0.00	150.00					
Travel	641.85	896.50	500.00				500.00
Staff - Other	650.00	550.00	550.00				550.00
Total Salary Costs	<u>214,047.34</u>	<u>225,500.04</u>	<u>195,840.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>195,840.00</u>
Uncategorized Expenses				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Utilities							
Electricity				9,611.73	8,533.74	9,500.00	9,500.00
Gas				7,325.91	6,050.71	8,000.00	8,000.00
Water and Sewer				3,018.35	3,281.16	3,500.00	3,500.00
Total Utilities				<u>19,955.99</u>	<u>17,865.61</u>	<u>21,000.00</u>	<u>21,000.00</u>
Yard Maintenance				8,491.00	11,089.06	9,500.00	9,500.00
Total Expense	<u>238,117.22</u>	<u>247,118.12</u>	<u>221,901.00</u>	<u>104,941.29</u>	<u>108,939.48</u>	<u>102,350.00</u>	<u>324,251.00</u>
Net Income	14,563.61	-25,636.97	899.00	-24,881.53	-41,246.97	-32,350.00	-31,451.00
Transfer Endowment			15,000.00				15,000.00
Surplus/Deficit			15,899.00				-16,451.00

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 2025 until March 2026 where possible.

Nominations Report for 2025

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 2025 until March 2026 where possible. The members of the committee for 2025 were Bob Christy, Gwen Bell and Gail Christy.

Members of Council

Position	Incumbent for 2025-2026	Term of Office
Past Chair	Not required	
Chair	Robert (Bob) Christy	2 nd year of a 2 year term
Chair Elect	Charles Barrett	A one-year term
Secretary	Gail Christy	3 rd year of a 3 year term
Treasurer	Ken Smith	No term
Assistant Treasurer	Deborah Chaplin	
Trustee Representative (Obligatory)	Shirley Andrews	
Ministry & Personnel Rep. (Obligatory)	Peter Griffiths	
Member at Large	Anne Dawson	4 th year of a 2 year term
Member at Large	Patricia Ryan	4 th year of a 2 year term
Member at Large	Gwen Bell	2 nd year of a 2 year term
Member at Large	Samantha Wilson	2 nd year of a 2 year term

Members of Ministry Teams

Ministry Team	Lead & Co-leads	Team Members
Nurturing Our Faith	Wendy Graham – Lead	
	Jonathan Bathurst – Co-lead	Deborah Chaplin Mary Shaw The Minister

Caring for One Another	Peg Brandon – Lead	
	Wanda Maurais — Co-lead	
Building Partnerships	Morag Pearce – Lead	
	Karen Ogston – Co-lead	

Other Committees and Teams

Committee or Team	Chair or Team Lead	Members
Trustees	Charles Barrett	The Minister, Richard Williams, Wendy Graham, Dave Bell, Shirley Andrews, Heather Smith, Elizabeth Cameron
Ministry & Personnel	Peter Griffiths	Diana Desjardins, Karen Ogston, John Gingerich, Samantha Wilson
Audio-Visual Team	John Gingerich	Richard Williams, Louise Madaire, Ken Smith, David Dean
Property Management	N/A	The Minister, Richard Williams Pierre Gauthier, Daphne Biggs, Hugh Moeser, Henry Andrews, Jean Gingerich, Bill Smith Charles Barrett (Ex officio)
Investment Management	N/A	The Minister, Ken Smith, Charles Barrett, Elizabeth Cameron, Emily Grey, Deborah Chaplin
Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council Reps.	The Minister Charles Barrett Robert (Bob) Christy	

Motion: Moved by Robert (Bob) Christy, seconded by Gwen Bell, that the Congregation of Riverside United Church accept the Nominations Committee Report, approve the nominations in the report and 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.

**Submitted by Robert (Bob) Christy
Chair of Nominations and Chair of Council**

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, Louise Madaire, Patty Dixon, Heather Smith and Ken Smith. With much appreciation and respect Jeannie Taylor