

Rockwood and Stone United Churches Annual Report 2022

Stone United Church

Worship and Annual Meeting
February 5, 2023
beginning at **9:45 am** on **Zoom**



The Little Church with a Big Heart

*"Jesus is our Saviour and our example.
Through the love and forgiveness of God,
we are empowered
at Stone United Church
to grow spiritually, to love and serve
those in our family, church, community
and the world.
We will express our faith
by serving needy families."*

Rockwood United Church

Worship and Annual Meeting
February 12, 2023
beginning at **11:15 am** at **Rockwood**
and on **Zoom**.



Live, Love, Laugh

*"We are the body of Christ,
chosen to live together in peace.
Shaped by our love of God,
nurtured in the life of Christ
and embraced by
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we welcome all to God's family.
Come and live simply, love generously,
and laugh freely."*



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Letter from Minister Heather Leffler

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The Jewish Midrash tradition uses reinterpretations of scripture to help make biblical texts meaningful for people's lives. Midrashim – stories that answer questions about the text and fill in gaps in the biblical stories that came from sermons preached in synagogues or popular and folk traditions of the Jewish communities – were collected and written down over eight hundred years and continue to help people relate to the Hebrew scriptures.

As we moved from Christmas to Epiphany – from Jesus' birth and the holy family's flight to Egypt to Jesus' baptism and beginning of his ministry – I found myself wondering about the things the Bible doesn't tell us. How long was the family in Egypt? What was Jesus' boyhood like? Except for the story of him staying behind when his family visited the temple when he was 12, we don't know anything else about Jesus until he is baptized around 30 years of age. I can't help but think that Jesus' perspective was shaped by being a refugee in Egypt. He would have been exposed to people who spoke a different language and had very different traditions. He would have heard the stories of his ancestors spending time there in a new way. I trust his family was nurtured in Egypt until it was safe to return home. His memories or the stories his parents told of this time would have helped him see that all people are beloved children of God and prepared him for his ministry not just to the Jewish people but to the Gentiles as well. His visit to the temple invites us to begin with questions. It was through his listening and questions that people recognized his understanding and respected his answers.

It seems to me the pandemic has been like Mary, Joseph and Jesus' time in Egypt. They took refuge in an unfamiliar land until it was safe to return to Nazareth and they were shaped by that time. We took refuge on Zoom. Online we were able to sing, pray, learn and talk together while keeping one another safe. We could continue the work of our churches and connect with people beyond our congregations. With vaccines and immunities built up, we have been able to move back to in-person worship and activities with caution. The blessing of the time online is that we are learning how to use technology in a way we could never have imagined. Having hybrid worship and gatherings means people who are not able to come to church or are away can join us. Sharing screens is making meetings more informative. Time and resources are saved by continuing to hold some meetings online. Meeting times can be more flexible, and people can participate when they have back-to-back commitments. Thanks to Lisa Leffler's work as our secretary and those offering tech support, recordings of our services and special events are reaching more people. In the spring, Stone will use tech to offer people in our communities and beyond a series of talks on wellness. What was a challenging time has helped us find new ways to move forward thanks to your patience, perseverance and creativity that I trust will help us share the gift of being church with others.

As I gathered and edited the reports that follow, I was filled with gratitude for each of you and the ways you continue to support our congregations of Rockwood and Stone. Some of you worship with us every week online or in person; some support our congregations, Mission and Service and outreach through PAR-authorized remittance, e-transfers or cheques mailed to our treasurers or putting offering in the plates at the back of our sanctuaries; some share your skills and experience in caring for, cleaning and decorating our church buildings and properties; some of you share your amazing gifts of music; some share your gifts, experience and creativity through our discernment circles, committees, councils and board; some make and donate delicious food for fundraising and social gatherings; some participate in studies and activities to help us learn together; some visit, phone and email to keep in touch; and some pray for our churches and church members. All of you are important to our churches. Together we make a difference in each others lives, communities and the world. It is a privilege to serve with you.

With Thanks and Blessings,

Rev Heather Leffler

Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge Committee Reports

Affirming Discernment Circle

Submitted by Brent Stiles

Members: Marion Bascom, Barb Eley, Liz Guthrie, Lisa Leffler, Brian Mack, Brent Stiles

The Affirming Church Discernment Circle is grateful for the ways our congregations are seeking to be affirming of all people:

- Sharing videos in worship and Contemplation and Conversation such as Black History, PIE Day, the TED Talk – *The Danger of Single Story* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- Supporting Rockwood Outreach's PIE Day Fundraiser
- Hosting the Wellness Day at Stone in recognition of Mental Health Week
- Marking Orange Shirt Sunday and supporting Anishnabeg Outreach's Spirit Bundles
- Supporting those who are marginalized by donating to Mission and Service, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, East Wellington Community Services, the Rural Women's Support Program and the Nutrition Programs in our local public schools and more

At the Annual Meetings, we led a word cloud activity to explore what the mission and vision of our churches are. From those word clouds we developed the following **Affirming Vision Statement**:

As Rockwood and Stone United Churches, we are communities of faith that are grounded in God, inspired by Jesus, and guided by the Holy Spirit.

We strive to be safe and inclusive places for all people – especially those oppressed, excluded and marginalized by age, ability, dietary needs, mental health, economic status, language, racial and cultural backgrounds, marital status and family configurations, gender expression, and sexual orientation.

We are committed to creating a space where the unique gifts and skills of each person are valued, lifted up, and shared in service of God, our communities, and the world.

Recognizing our imperfections as a people of faith, we continue to seek God's forgiveness and we commit to learning and growing together.

Our next step was to create an action plan that describes how we would be an actively affirming pastoral charge. This is the plan we will use to guide our practices if we vote to become an Affirming Pastoral Charge. The next step is to send the Action Plan to the Affirm Network for approval.

Action Plan

Visible Signs and Physical Space

- Installing rainbow decals, flags and/or signs
- Creating banners for the sanctuaries
- Gender neutral washroom signs
- Directional signs for people coming into the building for the first time
- Land acknowledgement displayed somewhere visible (possibly on the website and/or a bulletin board)
- Creating accessible washrooms at Rockwood
- Finding ways to make our existing spaces more accessible such as hybrid worship and small groups, better microphones, online bulletins so people can adjust font size

Education

Encouraging ongoing education in all areas for the congregations, committee members and all people in leadership roles through worship and workshops offered by the Region and National Church as well

as local community workshops, sharing resources in small groups (i.e. Book Club, Bible Study, Lenten Study) and encouraging relationship building with marginalized groups in our communities.

Following a list of special Sundays that can be found at <https://united-church.ca/worship-special-days> we will encourage that these days be acknowledged in different ways including but not limited to sharing resources in the announcements or Contemplation and Conversation, recognizing them in worship or small groups, and encouraging people to attend workshops or special events.

Asking each committee to have an Affirming Advocate who is intentional about being Affirming.

- Property and Finance – accessibility and funding support for church activities, budget for Affirming activities
- Worship and Faith Formation – special dates and workshops, inclusive music and language, using a variety of different mediums that will speak to different people
- Outreach – sharing ways to support marginalized groups in the community
- Pastoral Care – to establish and support a small group of people from the congregations (two or three at each church) that anyone who has concerns about inclusion can connect with

Relationship Building

- Creating space for people to name their oppositional needs to find compromises that care for all people
- Having a designated person or people you can go to with your concerns
- Hearing concerns and taking them to the committee or person that can address the issues
- Talking about brave space where we have the courage to engage in the tough conversations
- Creating spaces where it is okay to make mistakes

Website and Communications

- Affirming symbols on the home page of the website and letterhead
- Updating the website to show we are affirming – including the mission statement and action plan on an Affirming page and inclusive marriage policy
- Posting the names and contact information of the people designated to hear concerns in visible places around the church and on the website

Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun

Submitted by Heather Leffler, Minister

In-person Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun resumed monthly in the summer. Sixteen individuals joined one or more of our gatherings. July through September we met for picnics on the lawn at Rockwood to help us be mindful of COVID-19. October through December we met in Day Hall around a large square table to help us keep some distance between us.

Thanks to John and Lisa Leffler for the delicious meals and Tom and Barb Parker for the pork and venison for the chili at Christmas; Ollie Darcie for setting up; Heather and Lisa Leffler for leading the crafts, activities and worship and everyone who shared in these meaningful evenings.

Our themes were Teach Us to Pray, Choosing Healing Love, Through the Storm, Never Give Up, Finding Peace and Hope, and Decorating for Christmas. Our activities and crafts included playing *The Unspoken Word*, making storm bottles, apple sauce and Christmas decorations, and doing neurographic art.

We would welcome people of all ages to join us on the second Friday of each month. Let Heather know by the Wednesday before, if you can attend and if you have any dietary needs.

Finance and Stewardship

Submitted by Heather Leffler, Note Taker

Members: Pastoral Charge – Peter Guthrie (Treasurer of Pastoral Charge Trustees), Randy Dewey (Chair), Roy Steinberg (Treasurer); **Rockwood** – Property and Finance – Colleen Baeumler, Amanda Hunter-Anthony (Treasurer), Sherol Steinberg (Chair); **Stone** – Property and Finance – Bill Allen (Treasurer), Edie Ward (UCW), Jack Ward (Chair); Heather Leffler (Minister)

The Committee met on April 4 with Brad Kosid from AVLI Audio Video Lighting Integration who shared a tech design that would allow us to share hybrid worship from both churches. Each church is moving forward with tech as they are ready.

Thanks to a \$25,000 deposit to the Pastoral Charge from the Manse Fund to cover the minister's housing allowance, the congregations' transfers to the pastoral charge have been reduced this year.

The committee met on November 2 to hear reports from our treasurers and give input to the pastoral charge budget for 2023, including planning for our minister's sabbatical in 2024. The committee is very grateful to everyone who supports our churches, Mission and Service and outreach projects through PAR, e-transfers and envelope givings.

Bill Allen shared that the United Church is moving to self-insurance. The new program – United Assurance – is expected to save our churches 15% on our church insurance costs in 2023.

Committee members gave input to the updated fee schedules for funerals and weddings and were reminded that to meet our charitable status obligations the fees need to be the same for members and non-members. It was also noted that our churches can receive gifts in kind for goods with receipts but not for services.

Ministry and Personnel

Submitted by Brian Mack, Chair

Members: Rosslyn Bentley, Peter Guthrie, Patty Lancaster, Brian Mack, Ellen Thomson

Ministry and Personnel met three times (March 23, May 25, October 12) via Zoom during 2022. Tasks accomplished were as follows:

- Reviewed the roles and responsibilities associated with Ministry & Personnel (consultative, healthy relationships, and supervisory)
- Reviewed the process for handling concerns – the committee will not consider undocumented allegations, anonymous complaints, or rumours
- Reviewed nature of conflict of interest – members of the committee have a shared responsibility to ensure that potential conflicts of interest are openly stated
- Provided proposals for consideration by the Pastoral Charge Board concerning procedures for reviewing the secretarial position, police checks/vulnerable screening checks
- Received oral reports re: annual reviews of all lay personnel
- Received an oral report presented by Brian Mack and Rosslyn Bentley concerning Rev. Leffler's annual review. Heather was thanked for the many ways in which she lives out the great commandment "to love one another." Her extra efforts to build community and develop hybrid worship were applauded.
- Received Rev. Leffler's goals for 2023: to continue to involve more people in worship planning, the writing of Contemplation and Conversation pieces, and the development of meaningful

congregational packages; to support our Pastoral Care Committees; to support our congregations in reaching out in new ways to the community

- Acknowledged the many wonderful things that the committee sees ministry personnel, lay employees, volunteers, and non-ministry personnel doing well on behalf of our congregations
- Discussed ways in which our churches can support our lay employees and Rev. Leffler
- Thanked Ellen Thomson for attending an M & P workshop on our behalf on March 17th entitled “The Knitting Needles of Your Community of Faith”
- Provided recommendations to the Finance and Stewardship Committee for budget considerations re: salary and benefits for Rev. Leffler and our Secretary, Lisa Leffler
- Acknowledged that Rev. Leffler will be eligible for sabbatical in 2024 and encouraged Finance and Stewardship to begin considering the financial implications
- Encouraged our Councils to review honorariums and rates of remuneration unique to each church
- Empowered Rosslyn Bentley to meet with Heather Blair, Liz Guthrie, and Barb Eley to review responsibilities and time allocations as organists and choir directors now that the choir is combined

Ministry & Personnel will next meet in March of 2023.

Minister’s Report to Ministry and Personnel for 2022

Submitted by Heather Leffler, Minister

Worship and Faith Formation – Thanks to our musicians Liz Guthrie and Heather Blair, our soloists, Eramosa Ensemble, Rockwood and Stone Choir and Rockwood Chimes Choir for enriching our Zoom and in-person worship. I am so grateful for everyone who has helped with tech in both churches and the countless hours Lisa Leffler has spent editing and posting videos so that people who aren’t able to be with us on Sunday mornings can still connect to our worship. Thank you to Rockwood for lending their projector to Stone so we could have hybrid services beginning in March. It was good this fall to have worship each Sunday in both churches, with hybrid worship at Stone and to be able to quickly move online when the weather was stormy. Thanks to all the volunteers who help with Contemplation and Conversation and our Congregational Packages, we are able to reach out to members of our church families beyond Sunday worship.

Our Bible Study on the Epistles; the Genesis Book Club; Spiritual Saturdays organized by Lisa Leffler and Heather De Jonge; the Lenten Study Exploring Faith through Art led by Lisa Leffler with wonderful presentations by Heather Nagel and Gord Carothers have all helped us learn and grow in faith.

Children and Young People – Confirmation Classes on Zoom finished in March for the young people from Stone. In October, Lisa Leffler and I gathered with them face-to-face for the first-time to make a video of *A Song of Faith* and ice cupcakes. It was a gift to share with Heidi Smits, Lane Sylvester and Emma Thomson as they confirmed their baptisms on October 23.

I continue to send children’s activities from *Seasons of the Spirit* to families at Rockwood each Sunday.

Pastoral Care and Fellowship – Hosting Coffee Connections on Zoom – thanks to Gord Carothers and John Leffler for filling in for me from time to time; meeting with the ladies for Tea and Talk on Zoom until the summer and when the weather was stormy and joining them in Day Hall when I can; sharing in an afternoon of Crafts and Conversation at Stone; and meeting for studies, with committees and activities like the Ecumenical Campus Ministry Crokinole Tournament gives me the chance to connect with many of you. I am thankful to Gwen Brander at Stone and Ian Pasmore at Rockwood for sending out cards and everyone who contacts members of our church families. Connecting through phone calls, emails, visits, creating Congregational Packages and sending Christmas cards keeps you in my heart.

Outreach – It is a privilege to work with Rockwood Outreach and the Stone Foodgrains Committee to support Mission and Service, Anishnabeg Outreach (AO), the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB), East Wellington Community Services (EWCS) and the Rural Women’s Support Program (RWSP). Taking part in AO’s Reconciliation Garden with John, Lisa, Cees Braamse and Karen Richardson was a gift as well.

Discernment Circles – I supported our Affirming Discernment Circle in preparing the materials we need approved by Affirm United. I try to include stories, videos and other information that remind us of the importance of being affirming.

The Governance Discernment Circle was disbanded after last year’s Annual Meetings approved our Terms of Reference. We are waiting for a response from the Western Ontario Waterways Congregational Support (formerly Covenant) Commissions review of them.

Thanks to Chris Arbuckle, Lisa Leffler and Ed Nagel who participated in our Zoom Discernment Circle and have taken active roles in providing tech for our hybrid worship. I continue to participate in webinars on technology and using social media to connect with people beyond our buildings.

I meet with our Board, Councils, Committees and Discernment Circles, as I am able, to offer support and co-ordinate activities.

Administration – Weekly, our secretary Lisa Leffler prepares the announcements, supports tech at our churches, edits videos of worship, posts them online, sends out Contemplation and Conversation and checks messages remotely. She assists with copying newsletters and Annual Reports and attends to other office duties as they arise. I enjoy completing our annual statistics, maintaining our historical records and preparing the Annual Reports and newsletters – and am grateful to Board members and other volunteers who help with writing and editing.

Continuing Education and Self Care – My continuing education included time reading and attending Theology and Ethics of Digital Ministry, the Festival of Homiletics, Courageous Church, The Online Church, and Rethinking Preaching online. I was grateful to attend the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship in person in Toronto in the fall. My ministry continues to be enriched by meeting with Guelph clergy for coffee once or twice a month. Meeting my support group and my spiritual director monthly help keep me grounded.

Neighbouring United Churches – Our Rockwood Stone musicians, readers and I provided recordings for the Good Friday service at Speedside which was available online in the afternoon. Stone’s CFGB project helped us connect with Arkell, Barrie Hill/Speedside and Ebenezer.

Rockwood Ministers – I was grateful to meet with the Rev. Diane Boyd from Rockwood Presbyterian and Fr. Mark Morley from Sacred Heart until the fall. Fr. Morley has moved, and Rev. Boyd is on leave.

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (WOW) – I continue to serve on the executive of WOW and our Tri Region Evaluation Task Group which is being resourced by Bill Allen and Jenny Stephens. I helped with nominations and planning the WOW meetings. Thanks to Liz Guthrie at Stone for representing us online at the spring and fall meetings. I continue to serve as the pastoral charge supervisor for Ebenezer United Church as they look for a minister with Trinity United in Acton.

I also continue to serve as co-chairperson of the Guided Prayer Network.

Music at Rockwood and Stone

Submitted by Barb Eley and Liz Guthrie

Choir

Thank you to all choir members from both Rockwood and Stone that met at Stone Church, masked and distanced on Thursday nights to learn various parts for hymns, learn anthems, and record hymns and special music for Zoom services.

- Choir members sang *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* for Stone's Anniversary in October and *"Come Home"* for Remembrance Day at Rockwood.
- Patty Lancaster and Randy Dewey sang *"Breath on Us Breath of God"* when we remembered our departed church members Ed Parker, Murray Swanston, Shirley Leslie, Jane Murison and Earl Osborne on All Saints Day, October 30, 2022.
- Choir members joined the community choir to sing, *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"* at the Cenotaph Remembrance Day Service in Rockwood on November 5, 2022.
- During Advent at Rockwood Barb Eley sang *"O Come O Come Emmanuel"* accompanied by Heather Blair; Rosslyn Bentley performed *"Time to Remember the Poor"* accompanied by Chris Barlow on the guitar and Barb Eley on keyboard; the Chime Choir performed; the Eramosa Ensemble performed *"Lo How a Rose"*; and we sang favourite Christmas hymns.
- Barb Eley's beautiful flute music at Rockwood's Reflective Christmas Eve service made for an inspirational experience. It was fortunate that this had been pre-recorded to support Rev. Leffler when the service was switched to Zoom because of poor weather.
- *"Bring Us Hope"* was recorded just in case the snowstorm would cause Christmas Eve services at Rockwood and Stone to be cancelled. They were! Both the Reflective service and the service at Stone were via Zoom.
- On Christmas Day the choir's special music recorded for the Zoom service was *"He is Born."*

Thank you to Chris Barlow and Randy Dewey who accompanied the choir with guitars for several hymns. Thank you to Lisa Leffler who adds pictures and video to compliment the choir music.

Eramosa Ensemble

The Eramosa Ensemble has met regularly either by Zoom or in person on Tuesday evenings.

- They recorded, *"We Wait"* and *"Lo How a Rose"*. Thank you to Chris Barlow who spends many hours editing and improving the recordings.
- The ensemble enjoyed playing in person once again at the annual Carol Sing at Rockwood on November 27, 2022. The audience enjoyed singing and sharing memories of unique Christmas traditions.
- The ensemble played *"Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming"* for special music at Rockwood during Advent.

Barb Eley very capably conducts both the combined choir and Eramosa Ensemble. Heather Blair and Liz Guthrie either record hymns for Zoom services or provide in-person music for our church services.

Reopening Commission
Submitted by Brian Mack, Chair

Members: Bill Allen, Rosslyn Bentley, Randy Dewey, Barb Eley, Liz Guthrie, Marcia Haworth, Heather Leffler, Brian Mack (Chair), Kay Mathies, Sherol Steinberg, Jack Ward

The Reopening Commission continued to guide the response of the Rockwood Pastoral Charge to the COVID-19 crisis throughout much of the year. After considerable prayerful discernment, it was agreed by consensus on August 24th that:

- worship would be on Zoom and in person at Stone beginning September 11 at 9:45 am
- worship would be in person at Rockwood beginning September 11 at 11:15 am
- small groups could begin to meet in person if they wished to do so
- food and beverages could now be served indoors
- masking and social distancing would be optional, people were asked to be respectful of the needs and desires of those around them
- choir would review COVID-19 guidelines/best practices and determine their own approach as to distancing, masking, rehearsing
- each congregation would consider applying for UPFund (United Possibilities) grants to support technological improvements at both Rockwood and Stone to better support hybrid worship using Zoom

Established in 2020, the Commission was officially disbanded by the Board on November 9, 2022. The Pastoral Charge Board took this action with the proviso that the Council Chairs, the Pastoral Charge Board Chair, and the Minister would be empowered to make decisions concerning reopening/closing should circumstances warrant in keeping with emergent provincial or Wellington Dufferin Guelph Heath guidelines.

The Commission wishes to thank our congregations for their support during the past 2.5 years. We are grateful for the care and concern that congregants have shown for each other as we attempted to keep everyone safe. Thanks to Randy Dewey, Jack Ward, and Sherol Steinberg who served as gatekeepers throughout. Special thanks to Rev. Leffler for her willingness to innovate.

Trustees

Submitted by Heather Leffler, Minister, Chair

Trustees: **Stone** – Randy Dewey, Peter Guthrie (Treasurer), Paul May, Eileen McDougall
Rockwood – Rosslyn Bentley, Frances Jamieson, Darryl Nichol, Christine Wenger
Heather Leffler (Minister)

The Trustees did not meet in 2022. The Rockwood Pastoral Charge Manse Fund is invested with Canoe Financial. The signatories on the account are Peter Guthrie and Heather Leffler. Members of the Trustees were informed of the recommendation of the Finance and Stewardship Committee to increase the amount of funds transferred from the Manse Fund to the Pastoral Charge to be used for the housing component of the minister's salary since the fund was performing so well.

Rockwood Stone Trustees Financial Report for 2022

Submitted by Peter Guthrie, Treasurer

Assets December 31, 2021		
Canoe Financial Shares	\$189,749.79	
Total		<u>\$189,749.79</u>
2022 Income		
Canoe Financial Income Distribution	\$6,992.68	
Canoe Financial Fees Rebate	\$1,025.00	
Change in Market Value Canoe Financial	-\$4,542.70	
Total Income	\$3,474.98	<u>\$3,474.98</u>
2022 Expenses		
Housing allowance to General Fund	\$25,140.00	
Total Expense	\$25,140.00	<u>\$25,140.00</u>
Income less expenses	<u>-\$21,665.02</u>	

Assets December 31, 2022

\$168,084.77

The original documents from Canoe Financial were reviewed by Jack Ward representative from Stone Church and David Smelsky representative from Rockwood Church



Jack Ward



David Smelsky

Worship and Faith Formation

Submitted by Barb Eley, Rockwood Chair and Brian Mack, Stone Chair

Members: Stone – Heather De Jonge, Liz Guthrie, Brian Mack, Barb Parker, Tammy Smits

Rockwood – Barb Eley, Carol Smelsky, Brent Stiles **Minister** – Heather Leffler

We give thanks to God for:

- Liz Guthrie and Heather Blair for their preparation, playing, and singing; Barb Eley and members of the combined choir for their many musical contributions; the Eramosa Ensemble for a night of carol singing and for enhancing worship services; Christine Wenger and the members of the Chimes Choir for their lovely music on selected occasions
- Lisa Leffler for music, pictures, tech support for worship, editing services for posting online; Chris Arbuckle, John Leffler and Brent Stiles for tech support for worship
- All congregants who have shared pictures, stories, photographs, paintings, poems, and song during “Offering Praise”, for use with worship slides, or on special occasions
- All who contributed to the preparation and distribution of worship packs to 130 families at the start of Lent, Creation Time, and Advent; Barb Parker for suggesting Creation and Lenten themes
- Rev. Leffler for her ingenuity as she continues to offer us opportunities and messages that challenge us to grow in faith and to be supportive of each other and the wider community

Faith Formation Activities

- **Bible Study** (Heather Leffler) – winter/spring/fall study focused on the writings of Paul
- **Spiritual Saturdays** (Lisa Leffler) – “Rooted in God, Growing in Faith” was the winter/spring/summer theme and the fall theme was “Connecting with God”
- **Tea & Talk/Coffee Connections** – both groups shared bi-weekly during the winter, spring, and fall
- **Genesis Book Club** – met monthly via Zoom except for August and was a lively forum for sharing
- **Combined Choirs** – met periodically from January to May to share song together and to record hymns for use especially during the summer – in the fall resumed regular Thursday meetings
- **Eramosa Ensemble** – met regularly on Zoom or in person
- **Chimes Choir** (Christine Wenger) – met periodically beginning in the autumn
- **Lenten Study** (Lisa Leffler) – the theme was Exploring Faith through Art with contributions by Heather Nagel, Gord Carothers, Heather Leffler and Japanese artist Kellen Hatakana thanks to a video courtesy of the Centre for Christian studies
- **Congregational Packages** – Lent & Easter Packages focused on Jesus’ I am sayings; Creation Packages focused on the theme of “Sharing with Our Partners”; Advent Packages focused on the theme of “Characters in the Nativity”
- **Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun** (Heather, John, and Lisa Leffler) – three outdoor gatherings on the lawn at Rockwood were held over the summer and this group began meeting regularly on the 2nd Friday in the fall in Day Hall
- **Contemplation and Conversation** – weekly contributions by Heather Leffler with support from Lisa Leffler, Tammy Smits, Barb Parker, Brian Mack and Barb Eley
- **Wellness Day (Lisa Leffler)** – held on **May 3** at Stone – a time of relaxation and restoration
- **Carol Sing-November 27** in the evening at Rockwood and on Zoom with the Eramosa Ensemble

Worship

From **January 1 through September 4**, we worshipped by Zoom only, by a combination of Zoom at 10 am followed by a service in one of our churches at 11: 30 am, or in person only in one of our churches at 10 am. Beginning on **Sunday September 11th**, we began hybrid worship at Stone at 9:45 am and in-person service at Rockwood at 11:15 am. Worship highlights included the following:

- **February 27** – Chiamanda Ngozi Adicie’s TED talk “*The Danger of a Single Story*”
- **March 6** – First Sunday of Lent-prayers and pictures from the World Day of Prayer service were used and a history of the World Day of Prayer was shared; communion on Zoom
- **March 20** – Special prayers for the people of the Ukraine
- **April 10** – Palm Sunday – Communion celebrated on Zoom
- **April 15** – Good Friday – Liz Guthrie and members of our choirs recorded music, readers from Stone and Rockwood recorded scriptures and prayers that were included in the service hosted by Speedside and later posted on YouTube
- **April 17** – Easter Sunday with the Gospel read in four parts
- **June 5** – Celebrating Affirming Ministry communion service using resources from *Gathering* was held on Zoom and the communion liturgy was used as a prayer at Stone
- **June 12** – Rockwood’s Anniversary service with Stephen Jackson of Anishnabeg Outreach updating us on their vision followed by lunch on the lawn
- **September 25** – Orange Shirt Sunday – in support of our Indigenous brothers and sisters
- **October 2** – World Communion Sunday – first in-person communion since March 2020
- **October 9** – Thanksgiving Sunday
- **October 16** – Stone Anniversary with guest speaker Cathy Lennon; choir sang *For the Beauty of the Earth*; Stone Soup luncheon and Foodgrains wrap up at the May Farm
- **October 23** – Confirmation of Heidi Smits, Emma Thomson, and Lane Sylvester at Stone
- **October 30** – All Saints Sunday with recognition of those who died since the start of COVID-19; Patty Lancaster and Randy Dewey sang *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* at Stone
- **November 6** – Remembrance Sunday at Rockwood; choir anthem “*Come Home*”
- **November 27** – 1st Sunday of Advent with Communion; at Rockwood, Barb Eley sang a solo *O Come O Come Emmanuel*
- **December 4** – 2nd Sunday of Advent-Rosslyn Bentley, Chris Barlow, and Barb Eley performed *Time to Remember the Poor* at Rockwood
- **December 11** – 3rd Sunday of Advent; Chimes Choir performed Christmas songs at Rockwood
- **December 18** – 4th Sunday of Advent-Eramosa Ensemble performed *Lo How a Rose* at Rockwood
- **December 24** – Reflective service with flute playing by Barb Eley, readings and reflections by Rev. Leffler and communion; followed by worship celebrating the birth of Jesus with communion, scripture, story, song, and conversation on Zoom – the Rockwood and Stone choir pre-recorded their anthem *Bring Us Hope* by Ruth Elaine Schran
- **December 25** – Christmas Day Service on Zoom

Each Sunday, worship services are posted on YouTube.

In closing, the Worship and Faith Formation Committee acknowledges the significant contributions that the UCW has made for many years at Stone. We look forward to recognizing their efforts in 2023.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord! (Psalm 150:6)

Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge Financial Reports

Annual Report for Year Ended December 31, 2022

Submitted by Roy Steinberg, Treasurer

	<u>2022</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u> <u>Favourable</u> <u>(Unfavourable)</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>% change from</u> <u>2022 Actual</u>
Cash Receipts						
Transfers Rockwood	\$ 41,093.04	\$ 41,093.04	\$ -	\$ 42,905.28	1	4.41%
Transfers Stone	\$ 41,093.04	\$ 41,093.04	-	\$ 42,905.28	1	4.41%
Rockwood UCC Assessment	\$ 3,654.00	\$ 3,654.00	-	\$ 3,438.36	2	-5.60%
Stone UCC Assessment	\$ 3,573.00	\$ 3,573.00	-	\$ 3,248.64	2	-9.08%
Transfer from Manse Fund	\$ 25,140.00	\$ 25,140.00	-	\$ 22,250.00	3	-11.50%
Receipts Other	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	4	
Total Receipts	\$ 114,553.08	\$ 114,553.08	\$ -	\$ 114,747.56		0.17%
Expenses						
Salary, Minister	\$ 49,810.08	\$ 74,950.00	\$ (0.08)	\$ 77,498.00	6	3.40%
Housing Allowance	\$ 25,140.00	Included		Included	7	
Minister Automobile Mileage	\$ 893.00	\$ 1,845.00	952.00	\$ 2,200.00	8	146.36%
Minister Telephone Allowance	\$ 420.00	\$ 420.00	-	\$ 420.00	9	0.00%
Office Phone and Internet	\$ 1,020.17	\$ 996.12	(24.05)	\$ 1,020.00	10	-0.02%
Worship-Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,792.00	\$ 1,855.00	63.00	\$ 2,009.00	11	
Church Secretary	\$ 4,951.44	\$ 4,951.44	-	\$ 5,119.79	12	3.40%
Employee Benefits (CPP, EI)	\$ 4,218.74	\$ 5,116.52	897.78	\$ 4,404.88	13	4.41%
Church Pension & Benefits	\$ 14,221.20	\$ 14,220.60	(0.60)	\$ 14,704.76	14	3.40%
Continuing Education	\$ 1,493.00	\$ 1,493.00	-	\$ 1,543.00	15	3.35%
Minister - Minor expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	200.00	\$ 200.00	16	
Office Supplies	\$ 1.50	\$ 200.00	198.50	\$ 200.00	17	
Copier	\$ 134.35	\$ 250.00	115.65	\$ 250.00	18	86.08%
Bulletins	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	19	
Bank Charges	\$ 644.39	\$ 665.39	21.00	\$ 728.11	20	12.99%
Joint Pastoral Charge Projects	\$ 518.70	\$ 2,000.00	1,481.30	\$ 2,000.00	21	285.58%
Marketing Costs	\$ -	\$ 800.00	800.00	\$ 800.00	22	
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 200.00	200.00	\$ 200.00	23	
Audio and Copyright Fee	\$ 477.27	\$ 763.00	285.73	\$ 763.00	24	59.87%
Annual Report	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	25	
United Church Assessment	\$ 7,227.00	\$ 7,227.00	-	\$ 6,687.00	26	-7.47%
PST & GST & HST PAID	\$ 226.05	\$ -	(226.05)	\$ -	27	
Total Expenses	\$ 113,188.89	\$ 118,153.07	\$ 4,964.18	\$ 120,747.54		6.68%
Receipts Less Expenses	\$ 1,364.19	\$ (3,599.99)	\$ 4,964.18	\$ (5,999.98)	28	
Balance Start of Period	\$ 10,252.77	\$ 10,252.77		\$ 11,616.96		
Balance, end of the period (excl Sabbatical)	\$ 11,616.96	\$ 6,652.78		\$ 5,616.98		
Minister Sabbatical Fund for 2024/2025						
Sabbatical Fund Balance as at Jan. 1, 2023				\$ -		
Rockwood Sabbatical Fund Contribution				1,281.00	29	
Stone Sabbatical Fund Contribution				1,281.00	29	
Balance, end of the period (incl Sabbatical)	\$ 11,616.96	\$ 6,652.78		\$ 8,178.98		-29.59%

The original books of record were reviewed by Jack Ward representative from Stone Church and David Smelsky representative from Rockwood Church

Jack Ward

David Smelsky

Notes for 2023 Budget

1	Church operating transfers increase 4.4% - due to cost increases (salary and benefits). Planning for \$6000 overall budget deficit while maintaining year end operating balance around \$5k. Note Sabbatical reserve contributions are not included in the operating transfers.
2	Updated per 2021 statistics and UCC 2023 Regional Assessment
3	Finance and Stewardship recommended reducing the Manse Fund Transfer for 2023 by an amount equal to the excess cash forecast in November for 2022 year and (~\$2800). Note while this increases pressure on Church transfers, the elevated Manse fund transfers are also not sustainable beyond 2024 or perhaps 2025 (consuming historic income).
4	Nothing Planned
5	
6	Minister total salary increase 3.4% per United Church and M&P recommendation
7	Housing allowance (or CRA deduction) included in Salary item 6 above. Separated in 2022 for funding from Manse Fund.
8	UCC recommended minimum mileage rate for 2023 is \$0.55 / km. 2022 rate increased mid year to \$0.46. Budget based on 4000 km annual mileage. Travel demands continue to be lower vs 6000 km pre-pandemic.
9	Minister's Telephone allowance same as 2020. Note we currently benefit from Rev. Leffler's family discount on home services.
10	3 Year term renewed with Cogeco - quoted \$90 + tax. Actuals do not include tax
11	2023 budget at UCC recommended \$232 minimum plus 100 km at \$0.55. 7 weeks for 2023. 2022 had minimal mileage costs (1 only) - mostly zoom services.
12	Secretary wages increased 3.4% per UCC and M&P recommendation.
13	CPP and EI updated to 2023 government regulations. Note CPP model refined to exclude Clergy Residence Deduction (~housing allowance) which is not pensionable income. CRD was a big part of the 2022 underrun.
14	Benefits cost updated to 2023 specifics from UCC. 3.4% increase in line with salary and less than initial UCC
15	Minister Continuing Education: Per UCC guidelines
16	Minister's minor expenses - no change
17	\$200 for incidentals
18	Copier costs continue low without bulletin use.
19	No requirement
20	Includes ADP payroll charges - 2% mid year 2023 increase assumed.
21	No change
22	No change
23	No change
24	Audio, potential video and Zoom. No video license requirement in 2022
25	
26	2023 Assessment updated and split per 2021 statistics. 2021 stats are used by UCC to calculate the Assessment.
27	
28	Projecting a \$6000 budget deficit with target to get back to \$5000 year end balance
29	Heather is due for next Sabbatical in 2024. Need to build reserve to cover 13 weeks of Pulpit Supply equivalent. This plan is to build that reserve over 18 months from January 2023 to June 2024.

Stone Annual Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2022 on Zoom

97th Annual Meeting for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Submitted by Tammy Smits

Present: Bill Allen, Carl Baker, Marg Baker, Gwen Brander, Gordon Carothers, Susan Carothers, Cate Dewey, Randy Dewey, Liz Guthrie, Peter Guthrie, Heather Leffler, John Leffler, Lisa Leffler, Brian Mack (Chair), Paul May, Diane May, Sherry May, Ed Nagel, Eva Oliver, Murray Oliver, Barb Parker, Tom Parker, Karen Richardson, Tammy Smits (Recording Secretary), Edie Ward, Jack Ward

Opening:

Chair Brian Mack opened the meeting with a prayer at 11:15 am. He went over the agenda and invited those who submitted reports to highlight a few items. When all reports in a section finished, congregants were free to post questions or make additional comments.

1. Voting Procedures

There was a motion that voting be made by a show of hands, unless voting by ballot is requested by one person. Moved by Liz Guthrie. Seconded by Bill Allen. Carried.

There were no visitors present.

There was a motion that adherents be eligible to vote at this meeting. Moved by Carl Baker. Seconded by Peter Guthrie. Carried.

2. Minutes From Last Year's Annual Meeting

There was a motion to accept the Annual Meeting minutes pp 16-18 for the year ended December 31, 2021 as printed. Moved by Barb Parker. Seconded by Marg Baker. Carried.

3. Business from the Minutes – None noted.

4. Correspondence

Heather typically sends information along to committees as it arrives. Everyone was encouraged to sign up for the WOW Regional Council monthly newsletters. Lisa will post instructions on how to enroll in the announcements.

5. Review of Annual Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2021

a) Pastoral Charge Reports

i) Minister's Letter/Minster's Report/ Faith Food Friendship and Fun – Heather Leffler

Heather was grateful to the congregation for their willingness to be creative and felt that through their willingness to engage, everyone got the best out of the virtual platform and the church grew in ways never expected. Faith Food Friendship and Fun has not been held since spring, but it has helped expand her thoughts on worship and what it means to be community. She continues to look for other ways to gather.

ii) Affirming Discernment Circle – Brian Mack

This committee has been meeting for several years exploring what is involved in being an affirming congregation. They began educating the people attending worship on what it is and what it might mean to become an affirming congregation. They are pleased with people's willingness to comment and share.

There is a manual outlining the procedure to become affirming, should that be the decision of the congregation. One item is to look at the current vision statement and meld it with an affirming vision statement. Lisa outlined the word cloud activity that she will lead later in the meeting to help create this vision statement.

iii) Pastoral Charge Finance and Stewardship – Brian Mack

Brian thanked the treasurers for their valuable work. It was noted that \$25,000 was transferred from the Manse Fund to general operating budget for 2022. Bill agreed that the three treasurers work well together and resolve questions on “who pays for what” quickly.

iv) Re-Opening Commission – Brian Mack

Kudos were given to Jack & Edie Ward for the tremendous job they did to welcome the congregation back in person. The focus was to keep everyone, including the congregants, minister, lay and paid employees safe. The next meeting will be on February 17th to assess the current situation and future possibilities. If someone is wondering about the Re-Opening Commission and why churches aren’t open, they can be directed to a member of the commission who can address concerns quickly and keep consistent messaging.

v) Trustees – Heather Leffler

The trustees have not met. Their sole responsibility is the Manse Fund and they have accepted the direction recommended by the Pastoral Charge and Finance and Stewardship Committee. All trustees consulted to date are fully supportive of transfer of \$25,000; Heather will meet with Rockwood trustees that have not yet been consulted. Peter was thanked for his diligent tracking of the investment.

vi) Worship and Faith Formation – Liz Guthrie

Liz thanked the different groups that participated in the services, noting how far everyone has come with the technology. Vicki Olatundun was a lively and informative anniversary speaker, and the Remembrance Day service used a lot of videos which added richness to the service.

There was a motion to accept the Pastoral Charge Reports pp 3-13 – Minister’s Letter; Affirming Discernment Circle; Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun; Finance and Stewardship; Ministry and Personnel; Minister’s Report to Ministry and Personnel for 2021; Re-Opening Commission; Trustees; Rockwood Stone Trustees Financial Report for 2021; Worship & Faith Formation, as printed. Moved by Jack Ward. Seconded by Liz Guthrie. Carried.

b) Pastoral Charge Financial Report and 2022 Budget – Bill Allen

The 2021 actuals show a balance of over \$10,000 which is \$5,000 more than anticipated because expenses were lower than expected. The budget for the upcoming year shows a transfer of \$25,000 from Manse Fund (usually \$4000), which means the transfer for Stone is \$41,093, compared to \$51,400 last year. This allows for a \$10,000 reduction for both churches and will have a significant impact for 2022 projections.

There was a motion to accept the Pastoral Charge Financial Report and 2022 Budget pp 14-15 as printed. Moved by Bill Allen. Seconded by Peter Guthrie. Carried.

c) Stone Reports

i) Membership, Statistics and United Church Roll – Karen Richardson

The church has received two members and added some adherents to our congregation, which is pretty amazing given the amount of time spent on Zoom instead of in person. Some members were moved to non-resident. The Stone Church roll has been included in the Annual Report and the contact list has been circulated to the congregation.

ii) Canadian Foodgrains Bank – Bill Allen

With help from the Parkers and Mays, it was another very successful project. Six other churches were involved, and together \$9,300 was raised, the highest amount yet. There was tremendous support from Ebenezer United Church who donated almost \$1,200. With the matching 3:1 government grant the donation translates into more than \$37,000 for the Foodgrains Bank. The new sunflower competition was a great addition to the pumpkin growing.

iii) Children of Bukati – Peter Guthrie

This project is almost complete, with \$6,000 held in reserve for one more student whose education has been stopped due to COVID-19. Once he notifies the committee of his plans, the final payments can be made. The money was transferred into the General Fund to eliminate monthly bank charges. Brian thanked Randy and Cate Dewey, Karen Richardson and Peter Guthrie for their hard work over the years.

iv) Choir Financial Report – Edie Ward

The choir did not meet and therefore has not given dues. A donation was made to the University of Guelph in memory of Lou Darcie.

v) Genesis Book Club – Brian Mack

They enjoy great conversation at these meetings and were happy to have Emma Smits join to bring a new perspective.

vi) Pastoral Care and Fellowship – John Leffler

John thanked Patty Lancaster for her service, as she is moving on to a new committee and welcomed Gwen Brander. Heather thanked the committee for its hard work and for reaching out to those not on Zoom.

vii) Property and Finance – Jack Ward

There will be a maple syrup fundraiser again this year using the same supplier. There will be a modest price increase due to an increase by the supplier, but the same profit range is expected for 2022. Jack thanked all the people who help with the yard clean up/snow removal.

viii) United Church Women/UCW Financial Report 2021 – Edie Ward

There have been no in-person meetings due to COVID-19 but some members have still been donating, so they have continued to give to different schools and outreach projects. It is hoped meetings can resume soon.

ix) Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council – Liz Guthrie

WOW continued to meet on Zoom; Liz found them to be well organized and it was a great way to meet.

There was a motion to accept the Stone Reports - Membership; Statistics 2021; Stone United Church Roll; Stone Council; Canadian Foodgrains Bank; Children of Bukati Financial Report 2021; Choir Financial Report; Genesis Book Club; Pastoral Care and Fellowship; Property and Finance; United Church Women; UCW Financial Report; Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council pp 19-27 as printed. Moved by Liz Guthrie. Seconded by Edie Ward. Carried.

d) 2021 Stone Financial Reports - Bill Allen

Income

- Total Weekly givings were down \$7,500 for the end of the year, attributed to lack of in-person services and the loss of two donors
- Mission & Service reached a high mark of over \$13,000

- Under Foodgrains it was noted that the books show \$7,200 but this does not include Ebenezer's contribution which was sent directly to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- The beef dinner usually makes \$5,000; the takeout dinners almost matched that income
- Total income was \$87,000, down from last year's \$93,000

Expenses

- Operating expenses were down from a normal year because the church was not used
- Biggest impact was insurance, up to \$7,100 from \$4,000 – partly due to the re-assessment of the church's value; independently insurance costs rose. Bill is speaking to insurance companies but is not hopeful of getting a rate reduction.
- With reduced givings and increased costs, there was a deficit of \$5,400

Summary of Capital Purchases

- Over \$33,000 was spent to insulate and clad the church addition, but the cost was reduced thanks to a \$4,000 UPFund grant
- Insulation and cladding were mostly funded from the Oakes Fund
- A new stove was purchased, paid from the Memorial Fund, which helped to prepare the takeout dinners

Balance Sheet

- The \$20,000 in current account is split between six funds
- All bank charges are now eliminated
- Miscellaneous receivables of \$7,100 were cheques received in early January dated for 2021
- HST receivable already received
- Total of \$85,000 invested in the general fund and Oakes Fund; Bill will be making some adjustments (taking money out of Oakes fund for insulation/cladding)
- Total equity is \$115,000 despite the operating deficit – the church is still in a very healthy financial position

Barb Parker noted that on page 32 it should read "Church Funds 2021" on the summary of funds.

There was a motion to accept the Stone Financial Reports (Cemetery Fund; Reviewers; Operating Statement; Church Funds 2021; Balance Sheet) pp 29-33 as corrected. Moved by Bill Allen. Seconded by Ed Nagel. Carried.

e) Stone Nomination Reports for 2022 – Brian Mack

The formatting was changed slightly to match Rockwood. Brian thanked:

- Tammy and Heather for compiling and formatting the report
- Lisa and Randy for their time on the Worship and Faith Formation Committee
- Patty for her time with the Pastoral Care and Fellowship Committee as she is joining the Ministry and Personnel Committee
- Randy for his time on the Ministry and Personnel Committee

The committees are empowered to add people through the year and changes can be endorsed at the next council meeting.

There was a motion to accept the Stone Nominations Report for 2022 p 34 as printed. Moved by Peter Guthrie. Seconded by Randy Dewey. Carried.

6. New Business

a) Update on Oakes Fund – Bill Allen

The fund started with a total of \$200,000 and was split into four different pots of money. Bill outlined how money has been spent over the years:

- Recent window replacements and church insulation used the last of the \$105,000 allocated to building repairs
- Community money was used for the Rockwood medical clinic
- Global fund of \$30,000 was allocated to Children of Bukati
- \$5,000 was given to help Lisa Leffler with her ministerial educational pursuits; Bill confirmed that the money was earmarked for those in pursuit of ministry education
- Final amount of \$20,000 in a GIC and \$14,000 in a Mutual Fund

Brian thanked Bill for his clear presentation of the funds.

Oakes Fund Updated 2022-01-01					
Use of Funds	Building	Community	Global	Family	Total
Beginning Balances	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Health Clinic 2010		\$ (25,000.00)			\$ (25,000.00)
C.O.B.2010			\$ (30,000.00)		\$ (30,000.00)
Vacuum 2010	\$ (1,350.00)				\$ (1,350.00)
Back Roof 2010	\$ (28,135.00)				\$ (28,135.00)
Choir loft 2010	\$ (5,487.00)				\$ (5,487.00)
New windows 2010	\$ (4,816.00)				\$ (4,816.00)
Trimble family 2011		\$ (510.00)			\$ (510.00)
Painting 2011	\$ (800.00)				\$ (800.00)
floor,choir electric 2011	\$ (2,401.00)				\$ (2,401.00)
Floor and carpet 2011	\$ (4,554.00)				\$ (4,554.00)
Upstairs Bathroom 2011	\$ (10,589.29)				\$ (10,589.29)
Downstairs Bathroom 2013	\$ (11,423.93)				\$ (11,423.93)
Front Windows 2014	\$ (5,076.00)				\$ (5,076.00)
Education Support for Lisa				\$ (4,776.71)	\$ (4,776.71)
Window Replacement 2019	\$ (3,985.69)				\$ (3,985.69)
Church Insulation 2021	\$ (26,382.09)				\$ (26,382.09)
	\$ -	\$ 14,490.00	\$ -	\$ 20,223.29	\$ 34,713.29
GIC					\$ 20,000.00
Mutual Fund					\$ 14,713.29
Current Account					\$ -
Total Oakes Fund					\$ 34,713.29
Difference					\$ -

b) Presentation of 2022 Budget – Bill Allen

Income

- Anticipate same amount of income as last year with a total general operating givings of \$54,970
- Bill thanked all of the people on PAR because it makes budget projections much easier
- Hoping to maintain the same income from maple syrup sales with the price increase
- Unknown if the beef dinner will happen, can revert to takeout dinners
- Projecting slight increase in income but staying on conservative side

Bill is always cautious about Foodgrains projections. Barb noted that Henry Reinders connected her with Cathy from Royal York United Church in Toronto, as they are possibly interested in supporting our project. She suggested adding zucchini as a growing option. The hope is that support from a wider range of churches will increase revenue.

Expenses

- Significant change from Pastoral Charge expenses – increased transfer from the Manse Fund means \$10,000 less than last year
- Operating budget increased slightly to allow for in-person services using more utilities
- Kept property insurance the same as this year with hopes to reduce
- Projecting \$4,000 surplus for this year

Brian thanked Bill for putting this together and all his hard work throughout the year. Bill is in the process of sending out tax receipts.

There was a motion to accept the 2022 proposed budget. Moved by Bill Allen. Seconded by Barb Parker. Carried.

c) Pastoral Charge Terms of Reference – Brian Mack

The Governance Discernment Group was given the task of looking at the structure of the Board, committees, positions and their related duties. The last update was in 1989 and many practices had changed by convention and were not documented. This led to the group formulating policies for both churches as well as the Pastoral Charge. The Committee ended up with overarching statements on how to guide relationships as a governance group with focus on a safe, nurturing atmosphere.

Some of the changes made include decreasing the number of meetings per year from 4 to 2 to allow committee members more time to accomplish their tasks, and reducing the voting parties to Committee Chairs, although anyone can speak.

Brian thanked Bill for coordinating the policies and making sure they were formatted consistently.

Heather updated the documents distributed that had “Christian Education” to “Worship and Faith Formation”.

There was a motion to accept Pastoral Charge policies as corrected as living documents – Rockwood and Stone United Churches Governance Structure; Policy to Guide Church Missions; Policy to Guide Approval of Discernment Circles and New Initiatives; Pastoral Charge Position Descriptions for the Pastoral Board Chair; Pastoral Charge Secretary and Pastoral Charge Treasurer; and Terms of Reference for the Pastoral Charge Board, Finance and Stewardship Committee, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Nominations Committee, Trustees Committee and Worship and Faith Formation Committee. Moved by Lisa Leffler. Seconded by Liz Guthrie. Carried.

d) Stone Terms of Reference – Brian Mack

Liz noted in the Treasurer position description that the task of issuing tax receipts was listed for various items but not Foodgrains or Children of Bukati. Bill said he captured those in other funding projects as a catch all, but now that Foodgrains is established it can be added separately.

It was also noted that a reference to issuing T4A slips for honorariums paid of more than \$500 needs to be added; it is in the Pastoral Charge Treasurer description but not in the Stone Treasurer description. Heather will amend.

There was a motion to accept Stone Terms of Reference as corrected as living documents – Chair of Council Position Description; Council Secretary Position Description; Treasurer Position Description; Pastoral Care & Fellowship Terms of Reference; Property & Finance Committee Terms of Reference and Worship & Faith Formation Committee Terms of Reference. Moved by Randy Dewey. Seconded by Liz Guthrie. Carried.

e) Governance Discernment Circle – Brian Mack

The committee will make some minor changes to the policies, after which they will be sent to Western Ontario Waterways Council for approval. After WOW approves them, future changes will be made through either the Pastoral Charge or Stone Council. This will be included in the Governance Structure policy and it does not affect the overarching operation of the church.

There was a motion to authorize the Governance Discernment Circle to make changes to the Pastoral Charge Terms of Reference or Stone Terms of Reference as may be required from time to time in keeping with the understanding that such policies are living documents and that the changes would not alter the intent of the original document. Changes would be brought to the Board or Council for information. Moved by Jack Ward. Seconded by Ed Nagel. Carried.

f) Affirming Word Cloud Activity – Lisa Leffler

Lisa explained that part of the affirming process is to have a vision statement that is inclusive to all people.

She led a brainstorming experiment where people submitted a word in response to the following questions:

1. What draws you to our church community?
2. What nourishes your spirit and feeds your faith?
3. How does our church live out God's mission in the world?

The more often a word was submitted the bigger it appeared.

Lisa thanked everyone for doing this reflection. It will be used as a starting point for creating an open and inclusive space. If Stone church chooses to be affirming this will be helpful for creating the mission statement. Brian thanked Lisa for leading in new technology and putting together the accompanying music.

g) Conclusion – Brian Mack

Brian thanked everyone who submitted reports and supported our congregation and pastoral charge, including:

- members of the Affirming Committee for organizing the word cloud activity (Lisa Leffler, Brian Mack, Liz Guthrie, Brent Stiles, Barb Eley, Marion Bascom)
- the Governance Discernment Circle that has been working faithfully since 2018 (Rev. Leffler, Bill Allen, Brian Mack, Heather De Jonge, Sherol Steinberg, Sarah Leffler)
- Jack Ward and Carl Baker for auditing financial statements and to Bill Allen for his record keeping
- Special thanks to Rev. Leffler for her diligence in preparing the annual report and her guidance in preparation for submission of policies to Western Ontario Regional Waterways Covenant Commission

Heather closed the meeting with a prayer.

There was a motion by Barb Parker to adjourn. Carried.

Tammy Smits, Recording Secretary

Chairperson

Stone United Church Committee Reports

Membership

submitted by Karen Richardson

Number of Resident Members – January 1, 2022	80	
Received by Confirmation on October 23, 2022		
Heidi Smits		
Lane Sylvester		
Emma Thomson	3	
Total Number of Resident Members – December 31, 2022		83
Number of Non-Resident Members – January 1, 2022	69	
Removed by Death		
Phillip Hartung	2	
Stanley O'Shea		
Total Number of Non-Resident Members – December 31, 2021		67
Total Number on Church Roll – December 31, 2021		150

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0

Marriage Blessings: 1

Emily Churchyard and Doug Dolejsi at Andrews Scenic Acres on August 6, 2022

Funerals: 2

Murray Bertram McDougall at Wall Custance Funeral Home on May 14, 2022

William "Bill" James King Harper at Union Cemetery on June 4, 2022

(recorded at Eramosa Pastoral Charge)

In Memoriam

Phillip Hartung died April 16, 2022

Stan O'Shea died December 19, 2022

Statistics 2022

Submitted by Heather Leffler, Minister

Number of Households	110	Other Group Memberships	
Number of Financially Supporting Households	44	(includes anyone who has attended	
Number of Givers to Local Expenses	44	at least once in person or online)	
Number of Givers to Mission and Service	19	*Bible Study	9
Average Weekly Attendance for worship on Zoom in	11	Combined Choir from Stone	8
October/November		Confirmation	5
Average Attendance for in-person worship	25	*Craft and Conversation	9
Adherents <i>(includes children, youth and adults who</i>	24	*Genesis Book Club	13
<i>participate in the life and work of our church</i>		*Lenten Study	14
<i>monthly)</i>		*Wellness Day	5
Children and Young People	Total	*UCW	10
12-18 years of age	8		

*Includes participants from both congregations.

Stone United Church Roll
(list includes members and adherents)
Submitted by Karen Richardson

Bill Allen	Ron & Donna Hawkins	Kerri O'Kane
Carl & Marg Baker	Bradley Hawkins	Murray & Eva Oliver
Joel Bandy	Michelle Hawkins	Marion Neilson Osborne
Loren Bandy	Gord & Jean Haws	Helen O'Shea
Janet Bird	Krista Hay	Mabel Parker
Don & Gwen Brander	Andrew & Nadine Jackson	Tom & Barb Parker
Josh Brander	Earl Jackson	James Patterson
Mary Brander	Jean Jackson	John Patterson
Tyler & Debbie Brander	Sheila Jackson-Elder	Randy & Rhonda Peart
Linda Brown	Heather Kidston	Christian & Trudi Poschung
Gord & Susan Carothers	Leila Kingston	Marianne Poschung
Arthur Churchyard & Matt Setzkorn	Joanne Lacroix	Pierre Poschung
Mary Churchyard	Ben Lancaster	Marion Prentice
Norman (Jr.) Craigie	Larry & Patty Lancaster	Karen Richardson
Ollie Darcie	Matthew Lancaster	Aaron Rietkerk & Jaclyn Hay
Abby De Jonge	John Leffler	Jordan & Amanda Rietkerk
Rick & Heather De Jonge	Lisa Leffler	George & Leita Root
Chris Dewey	George Leslie	Melanie Running
John Dewey	Gerald Leslie	Reuben & Joanne Salmon
Randy & Cate Dewey	Graham Leslie	Rachael Siderius
Peter Dewey	Sharon Leslie	Stan & Anna Siderius
John Duffield	Brian Mack	Amanda Smits
Michael Duffield	Barb Marshall	Heidi Smits
Murray & Marg Duffield	Debbie Marshall	Mike & Tammy Smits
Steven Duffield	Don Martin	Shelly Steele
Joyce Duffield	Greg Martin	Frank & Janice Stokman
Claudia Etches	Ryan Martin	Glenn & Heather Storey
Evelyn Farr	Abby May	Ron & Betty Storey
Herbert Farr	Andy May	Tiffany Sutherland
Tom Farr	Paul & Diane May	Rob & Melissa Swackhammer
Carolyn Farrell	Sherry May	Marlynn Swanston
Shirley Fiebiger	Tim May & Kirsten Graham-May	Jill & Scott Sylvester
Nancy Fountain	Darrell McDougall	Lane Sylvester
Myra Freeman	Eileen McDougall	Janine Taylor
Glenna Fryer	Cheryl McQueen	Abby Thomson
Wilma Fuller	Allan Millson	Brittany Thomson
Jack Gallin	Ed Millson	Emma Thomson
Jennifer Gerber	Gordon A. Millson	Grace Thomson
Robin Grace	Lloyd Millson	Margaret Thomson
Marie Graham	Murray Millson	Megan Thomson
Peter & Elizabeth Guthrie	John Murison	Steven & Sandra Thomson
Nancy Halliburton	Shirley Murphy	Lucille Turner
Laverne Hartung	Ed & Heather Nagel	Gary Walton
Bill Hartung	Grace Nellis	Jack & Edie Ward
Tammy Hawes Cameron	Steve Nyman	Lisa Ward
Marlene Hawkins	Ken Oakes	Christian & Cathy Wassermann
		Elaine Williamson

Stone Council

Submitted by Brian Mack, Chair

Stone Council met two times during 2022 as per our current terms of reference. At each of the meetings, Council received for information

- reports from Property and Finance, Worship and Faith Formation, Pastoral Care
- reports concerning Ministry and Personnel, the Reopening Commission, Western Ontario Waterways, UCW, Foodgrains
- Rev. Leffler's report (including any correspondence)

At the January meeting, Council received for information

- a detailed, historical break down of the status of the Oakes Fund
- made minor changes to various Terms of Reference for submission to the entire congregation at the Annual Meeting of February 6, 2022
- the nominations report for consideration at the Annual Meeting

At the September meeting, Council discussed how communion might best be served in light of COVID-19. Council also endorsed by consensus the following proposals:

- that the Pastoral Care and Fellowship, Property and Finance, and Worship and Faith Formation committees will remain responsible for organizing communion, and they are encouraged to invite people in the congregation not just those on committees to serve if needed
- to continue not holding Fellowship on the last Sunday of the month due to COVID-19 concerns. At the January 2023 council meeting, Council will discuss whether to resume Fellowship, how often, and the schedule of those responsible.
- that a Discernment Circle be struck to investigate the possibility of a spring 2023 speakers series focusing on community and wellbeing.
The Discernment Circle will be empowered to investigate the viability of a Speaker Series, and if the Circle sees fit, to hold one workshop in the fall of 2022. (Volunteers are Heather De Jonge, Tammy Smits, Heather Leffler, Brian Mack and John Leffler to form the discernment circle.)
- that Stone Council meetings will remain on Zoom for 2023, with breakout rooms open after the meeting for visiting. This will be reviewed for 2024 at the September 2023 Council meeting.
- that the Stone Council Minutes be emailed to the whole Stone congregation from the Pastoral Charge Office and posted on the bulletin board one month following the meeting.
The minutes will be sent to Stone Council Members one week before the next meeting.
- that the changes around reporting be implemented as follows: two weeks prior to the Stone Council Meeting committees, groups and officers send reports to the Stone Council Secretary. Reports for September would be from May Pastoral Charge Board meeting to September. Reports for the January meeting would be from September to December. These reports with the reports to the Board in May and November would be the basis for Annual Reports. The secretary will send the reports to Stone Council the week before the meeting so that they can be received as circulated. Committees are encouraged to include proposals for Council.

- that the devotions for the Council meetings and one of the Pastoral Charge Board meetings be rotated between Pastoral Care and Fellowship, Property and Finance, and Worship and Faith Formation
- that the Property and Finance Committee will clarify the governance of the cemetery and report back at the January council meeting
- that the Property and Finance Committee be authorized to apply for a United Possibilities Fund grant for new technology to support hybrid worship

Thank you to all who serve on Council and our various committees and discernment circles. Council is indebted to all the members of our congregation who so willingly act as “the hands and feet of Christ in the world”. Special thanks to Rev. Leffler for her guidance and her unwavering support of our various initiatives.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank Growing Project

Submitted by Bill Allen

Stone United Church, with participation from the churches of Rockwood, Barrie Hill, Speedside, Ebenezer and Arkell, carried out our fourth Foodgrains growing project. This year, zucchinis were added to pumpkins and sunflowers for the growing competitions. The project wrap-up was held October 16th at the May’s farm, where an enthusiastic crowd joined Stone United Church for the conclusion of the growing competitions, and to recognize World Food Sunday.

Winners in the growing competitions included Flora Benham for the heaviest pumpkin, Marg Baker with the smallest pumpkin and Lisa Leffler for the best decorated. Murray Oliver grew the tallest sunflower at 14 feet as well as the largest zucchini.

The Stone Project is one of many growing projects to raise money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in its mandate to combat global hunger. Currently, it is estimated over 800 million people globally are experiencing hunger. Food insecurity is impacted by people fleeing violent conflict, climate change, natural disasters, political upheaval, and economic disruptions. This year, the conflict in Ukraine has added to the global food crisis. This past year, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank provided funding to almost one million people in 34 countries for emergency food assistance and long-term sustainable agriculture development.

This year a Foodgrains fundraising breakfast was held in December netting \$850. All told, we raised \$7,207. When matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government, it means \$36,000 to combat world food insecurity. We should also note that although not part of the Growing Project, the congregation donated \$1,525 through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank for Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief. Thank you to everyone who supported the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in 2022.

Genesis Book Club
Submitted by Brian Mack

Members: Bill Allen, Marion Bascom, Susan Carothers, Heather De Jonge, Heather Leffler, John Leffler, Lisa Leffler, Liz Guthrie, Peter Guthrie, Patty Lancaster, Brian Mack, Barb Parker, Emma Smits

Sometimes, only through a story can a truth be heard.

Axie Oh, **The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea**

This quote resonated with many members of the Genesis Book Club in 2022 as we read widely divergent narratives as to setting, characters, and theme. Whether we enjoyed a particular book or not, we were open to listening to each others' viewpoints as we shared our thoughts concerning writing style, the aspects of different genres, and the importance of story in our lives.

Thanks to Heather Leffler for hosting our sessions on Zoom, Peter Guthrie for regularly providing background information about the books we were reading, Susan Carothers for posting notices concerning the book club, and Lisa Leffler for organizing our wonderful soup and dessert luncheon at the church in December.

We are grateful to each member of our book club for their suggestions as to reading material:

January – **Rules of Civility**, by Amor Towles (Bill Allen)
February – **Learning to Walk In the Dark**, by Barbara Brown Taylor (Heather Leffler)
March – **How to Pronounce Knife**, by Souvankham Thammavongsa (Liz Guthrie)
April – **If You Want to Make God Laugh**, by Bianca Marais (Susan Carothers)
May – **The Scarlet Pimpernel**, by Baroness Emmuska Orkzy (Emma Smits)
June – **The Four Winds**, by Kristin Hannah (Barb Parker)
July – **Olive Again**, by Elizabeth Strout (Heather De Jonge)
September – **A Sin of Omission**, by Marguerite Poland (Marion Bascom)
October – **Once Upon a River**, by Diane Setterfield (Heather De Jonge)
November – **Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea**, by Axie Oh (Lisa Leffler)

As always, we encourage folk to join us. You will find a welcoming group with a collective sense of humour, a love of tales, and a yearning to explore deeply what it means to be human.

In closing, Salman Rushdie has said, *"Literature is where I go to explore the highest and lowest places in human society and in the human spirit, where I hope to find not absolute truth but the truth of the tale, of the imagination of the heart."* We are immensely grateful to all the authors who entice us, like Rushdie, to regularly enter that place we call fiction and to explore on our own terms what it means to be human. Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Care and Fellowship

Submitted by John Leffler

Members: Marg Baker, Gwen Brander, John Leffler (Chair), Karen Richardson

Thank you to the Stone Pastoral Care members for sending cards, keeping the phone and membership lists up to date as people move, and keeping in touch with our Minister to inform her of life events within our congregation. Thanks also to everyone who makes phone calls, sends emails and texts, when worship is moved to Zoom because of winter weather.

When I think of our Church take-out dinners this year, I believe as a Church, these events offer pastoral care. Many people in the congregation, friends and family members are contacted and by purchasing a dinner(s) support the Church. The people who prepare, cook and package the food, organize the delivery and pick up of meals, and deliver the meals, as well as the treasurer are all extending pastoral care.

The members of the committee along with other Church members helped to deliver Advent packages to each Church family and from this project many thanks were received for the cookies, the amazing Christmas cards, and the Advent reflections. Earlier in the year we received positive responses to the Creation and Lent Easter packages as well.

The Foodgrains event at Stone also offers an opportunity to connect and care for each other. Thank you to the people who collected homemade local food stuff for the gift basket for the guest speaker, the use of Paul and Dianne May's farm for the afternoon Foodgrains event, the set up and cleanup and the silent auction, all contributed to raising money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Property and Finance

Submitted by Jack Ward, Chair and Caretaker and Bill Allen, Treasurer

Members: Bill Allen, Tom Parker, Ed Nagel, Steve Thomson, Edie Ward (Secretary), Jack Ward.

Stone United Church Property and Finance Committee have had another busy year even during COVID-19. Thanks to all who helped with snow removal and yard cleanup. Volunteers met to cut up the fallen tree from the May 22 storm. Thanks to Jack Ward and Murray Oliver for taking care of the branches left on the lawn with a burn barrel. Special thanks to Andy May for clearing the parking areas.

Water samples were done every 3 months.

Property – Jack Ward

The annual Maple Syrup Fund raiser was very successful. Thanks to everyone involved in organizing, taking orders, picking up and making deliveries. A total of \$3,556 was raised.

Instead of our Annual Beef Dinner in October Marg Baker, Liz Guthrie, Edie Ward and Barb Parker planned a series of take-out dinners. In 2022 dinners were as follows: June 2 – Roasted Smoked Ham, July 9 – Pulled Pork, September 29 – Turkey, and October 27 – Roast Beef. Thanks to all who supported our dinners and to the drivers who made the deliveries – great response from everyone. A total of \$4,846 was raised with the four take-out dinners. Our kitchen was inspected by Public Health on November 14, 2022 and passed.

Preliminary work to install Cogeco internet service has been completed. Final connection is waiting for availability of Cogeco service in the area. Installation date is uncertain at this time. We will keep the congregation updated on future developments.

We were approved for a grant of \$5,000 from the UPFund (United Possibilities) of the United Church. This money will be used for the purchase and installation of audio-visual equipment to enhance online and in-person services at the church. Some of this equipment has been purchased and installed and the results have been excellent to this point. When the Cogeco installation is completed, we look forward to enjoying the final results of this project.

- Thanks to Ed Nagel for his expertise in this area.
- Thanks to Don Martin for electrical advice.
- Thanks to Bill Allen, Tom Parker, Ed Nagel and Jack Ward for lifting and installing the new monitors.

Finance – Bill Allen

In 2022, the Stone United Church ended the year with a \$920 operating surplus compared to a deficit of \$5,456 in 2021. Although total income was lower by \$5,700, total expenses were down by \$12,000, primarily as a result of a \$10,500 reduction in transfers to the Pastoral Charge. This reduction was a result of higher transfers from the manse fund due to higher-than-expected investment returns. PAR donations held steady in 2022 while weekly givings were lower by \$3,000. Congregational givings to the M&S Fund were \$10,886 while donations to various outreach causes, including the Canadian Foodgrains Bank totalled \$9,500.

Stone United Church is in a solid financial position with \$51,325 in general investments and \$34,713 in Oakes Fund investments.

All Property and Finance Committee members are thanked for their help and input throughout the year, as well as members of the congregation who are always willing to lend a helping hand.

United Church Women (UCW)

Marg Baker, President

Submitted by Edie Ward, Secretary

Due to COVID-19 two meetings (September and November) were held in 2022. In February Marg Baker sent out a newsletter for us which contained a word search puzzle. During the month of April we supported Women in Crisis.

Even though we were not meeting we were reminded to continue to make offerings which enabled us to make donations to our outreach projects at the end of the year. With the generous givings of Bakeless Bake Sale this helped us to meet our goals.

In September six ladies met with their lunch at the Church for our meeting to discuss whether to disband our UCW group as numbers are getting smaller. It was decided to go ahead with our decision.

We discussed how we would serve funeral luncheons but only at Stone Church. We also discussed how to handle the cleaning schedule going forward. We decided to hand over the responsibility of funeral luncheons and cleaning schedule to Church Council giving help where we are able.

In November we met again with our lunch to go over the distribution of our funds.

There will be a special worship service in 2023 to recognize the work of the many ladies of Stone UCW. We are asked to write down memories of UCW we have to read at this service.

See the UCW Financial Report for donations (offerings and Bakeless Bake Sale) made over the year. We were able to contribute to the Nutrition for Learning Programs at Rockwood Centennial, Eramosa and École Harris Mill Public Schools, Mission and Service, East Wellington Community Services, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Anishnabeg Outreach and General Funds at Stone Church.

UCW Financial Report 2022

Submitted by Edie Ward, Treasurer

Income

Collections	\$1,690.00	
Total Income		\$1,690.00
Chequing account as of January 1, 2021		\$294.35
Total		\$1,984.35

Expenses

Mission & Service Allocation	\$400.00	
East Wellington Community Services	\$200.00	
Stone Church General Funds	\$574.35	
Stone United Church – Canadian Food Grains	\$300.00	
Stone United Church – Anishnabeg	\$250.00	
Eramosa Public School Nutrition program	\$75.00	
Rockwood Centennial Public School Nutrition program	\$75.00	
École Harris Mill Public School Breakfast Club	\$75.00	
UCW WOW assessment for 2022	\$35.00	
Total Expenses		\$1,984.35
Chequing Account as of December 31, 2022		\$0.00
Total		\$1,984.35

Western Ontario Waterways

Submitted by Liz Guthrie

WOW Regional Council Meetings – May and November 2022

Two virtual WOW Regional Council meetings were led by President Mark Laird. The theme for the May meeting was *Our Words Matter: Reconsidering the Word “Mission.”* November’s theme was *Where Two or Three are Gathered.*

Worship was an important part of each meeting. Scripture readings, keynote speakers, hymn, choruses like “I am there”, hearing how the UCW ministers to the needs in our churches and communities and exploring “What does mission really mean?” all centred us before the meetings began.

In Memorium remembered ministers and Regional Council representatives who died. Retired ministers were honoured. All clergy who have served for 5 years all the way to 71 years were recognized.

Disbandments and church name changes, e.g. Marsville-Mimosa Pastoral Charge to Mimosa Pastoral Charge; Amalgamations e.g. Alma United Church, Elora United Church and Bethany United Church, Centre Wellington changed to Hope Springs United, Elora; Collaborative Ministry Agreements, e.g. Ebenezer United Church, Campbellville and Trinity United Church, Acton, Ontario were recognized.

Teresa Coulthard was recognized as a Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) candidate.

Jenn Brown was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister (DLM) at Knox United Church, Clifford.

Alex Jebson was ordained at Brussels United Church.

Reports from the Executive and Covenant (now Congregational Support), Human Resources, Mission and Discipleship Commissions were all heard. All commissions work hard at remaining accountable. They help with listings and sale of churches, provide pastoral charge supervision, co-ordinate calls and appointments, and lead covenanting services. There is also focus on social justice and outreach. Many workshops are made available.

The General Council 44 update shared that the Right Reverend Richard Bott has completed his term as the Moderator and that Reverend Carmen Lansdowne is the new Moderator for the United Church of Canada. There has been discernment around a new structure for an Indigenous Church within the United Church. The Council approved the proposal that “rest and renewal” should be part of any extended developmental leave for General Council and Regional staff.

The 2022 budget to date was reviewed. The proposed budget for 2023 was approved. By 2023, all congregations will be assessed at 4.5%.

Effective December 1, 2022, The United Church of Canada is offering an insurance programme aimed at providing United Church ministries – congregations and incorporated ministries such as camps, senior’s homes and education centres – with more affordable and accessible property and liability insurance coverage.

The next WOW Regional Council Meeting will be held in person at the UNIFOR complex in Port Elgin on May 26 and 27, 2023.

Stone United Church Financial Reports

STONE UNITED CHURCH Balance Sheet As at December 31, 2022 *Submitted by Bill Allen*

ASSETS			
Current Account			
General Fund	\$	8,860.76	
Memorial Fund		13,600.04	
UCW Fund		-	
Choir Fund		1,150.37	
Sunday School Fund		202.23	
Children of Bukati		6,142.65	
Total Current Account			\$ 29,956.05
Other Current Assets			
Misc. Receivable	\$	150.00	
HST Receivable		879.96	
UPI Fuel Oil Account		298.28	
Total Other Current Assets			1,328.24
Investments			
General Fund			
GIC (Apr 23) 1.00%	\$	15,000.00	
GIC (Apr 24) 3.41%	\$	30,000.00	
TD Savings 0.20%		6,324.96	
Total General Fund Investments			51,324.96
Oakes Fund			
Savings Portion	\$	14,713.29	
GIC (Apr 23) 1.00%	\$	20,000.00	
Total Oakes Fund			34,713.29
Total Assets			<u>\$ 117,322.54</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Accounts Payable			\$ -
Beginning Equity	\$	114,899.88	
Surplus or (Deficit) Operations		1,241.32	
Surplus or (Deficit) Other Funds		(294.35)	
Insurance Rebate		1,826.10	
AV Purchases (Net of Grant)		(350.41)	
Total Equity			117,322.54
Total Liabilities and Equity			\$ 117,322.54

STONE UNITED CHURCH
Operating Statement
For the 12 Months Ending December 31, 2022
Submitted by Bill Allen

INCOME	2022 Actuals	2022 Budget
General Operating Fund		
Weekly Givings	\$ 18,320.00	\$ 21,000.00
PAR Givings	33,580.00	33,540.00
Loose Collection	35.50	100.00
Other Donations	70.00	130.00
UCW Donation	574.35	200.00
Total General Operating	\$ 52,579.85	\$ 54,970.00
Mission & Services		
Weekly Givings	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 4,000.00
PAR Givings	7,465.00	7,260.00
UCW	400.00	400.00
Other	1,221.34	950.00
Total Mission & Services	10,886.34	\$ 12,610.00
Foodgrains Donations	\$ 5,934.00	
In-Kind Donations	\$ 445.27	
Fundraising	1,057.02	
Project Expenses	(228.82)	
	7,207.47	8,500.00
Anishnabeg Outreach	-	1,050.00
Ukraine Humanitarian Relief	1,525.00	
Other Outreach	270.00	450.00
Maple Syrup Sales	\$ 11,937.50	
Maple Syrup COGS	(8,382.00)	-
Net Maple Syrup Sales	3,555.50	3,600.00
Take-Out Dinners Revenue	\$ 5,520.00	
Take-Out Dinners Donations	85.00	
Take-Out Dinners In-Kind	483.98	
Take-Out Dinners Expenses	(1,243.04)	
Net Income Dinners	4,845.94	4,500.00
Beef Dinner		\$ -
Chili Dinner	-	-
Rental Revenue	100.00	-
Interest Earned	197.40	1,500.00
In-Kind Givings	83.17	100.00
Other Revenue	700.00	310.00
Total Income	\$ 82,545.67	\$ 87,590.00

STONE UNITED CHURCH
Operating Statement
For the 12 Months Ending December 31, 2022

EXPENSES	2022 Actuals	2022 Budget
Transfer of Mission & Services	\$ 10,886.34	\$ 12,610.00
Other Transfers	9,597.47	10,000.00
Pastoral Charge Expenses		
Operating Expenses	\$ 41,093.04	\$ 41,093.04
Assessment	<u>3,573.00</u>	<u>3,573.00</u>
Total Pastoral Charge Expenses	44,666.04	\$ 44,666.04
Church Operating Expenses		
Electricity Expenses	\$ 1,182.33	\$ 1,500.00
Fuel Oil	2,746.25	1,500.00
Propane	826.96	1,500.00
Maintenance & Repairs	964.06	500.00
Water Tests	227.80	170.00
Organist/Pianist	1,280.00	1,200.00
Caretaker	500.00	500.00
Lawn Cutting (Stone Part)	500.00	500.00
Property Insurance	6,351.75	7,200.00
Other Operating Expense	<u>308.70</u>	<u>250.00</u>
Total Operating Expenses	14,887.85	\$ 14,820.00
Administrative Expenses		
Postage & P.O. Box	\$ 250.60	\$ 200.00
Bank & Other S/C	76.43	-
PAR Service Charges	113.00	114.00
CanadaHelps Fees	28.00	50.00
Office Supplies	-	-
Other Admin Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>20.00</u>
Other Expenses	\$ 468.03	384.00
UC Broadview (Net)	\$200.00	\$ 200.00
Committee Expenses		\$ -
Resources (Books etc.)	-	-
Gifts	-	300.00
Study Support	-	-
HST Expense	<u>598.62</u>	<u>700.00</u>
Total Other Expenses	798.62	\$ 1,200.00
Total Expenses	81,304.35	83,680.04
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	\$1,241.32	\$ 3,909.96

STONE UNITED CHURCH
Operating Statement
For the 12 Months Ending December 31, 2022

AV Equipment

TV's & Accessories	5,245.76	
HST Expense on Equipment	104.65	
UPFund Grant	<u>(5,000.00)</u>	
Net Cost		\$ 350.41

Church Funds 2022

Memorial Fund

Beginning Balance		\$ 13,600.04	
Donations	\$ -		
Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>		
Change in Fund		<u>0.00</u>	
Memorial Fund Balance			\$13,600.04

UCW Fund

Beginning Balance		\$ 294.35	
Revenue	\$ 1,690.00		
Expenditures	<u>(1,584.35)</u>		
M&S Contributions	<u>(400.00)</u>		
Other Contributions	<u>0.00</u>		
Change in Fund		<u>(294.35)</u>	
UCW Fund Balance			\$0.00

Choir Fund

Beginning Balance		\$ 1,150.37	
Collections	\$ -		
Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>		
Change in Fund		<u>0.00</u>	
Choir Fund Balance			1,150.37

Sunday School Fund

Beginning Balance		\$ 202.23	
Money In	\$ -		
Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>		
Change in Fund		<u>0.00</u>	
Sunday School Fund Balance			202.23
Children of Bukati Fund		<u>\$ 6,142.65</u>	6,142.65
General Operating Fund			8,860.76
Total Account Balance			<u>\$ 29,956.05</u>

STONE UNITED CHURCH
Proposed Budget
for 2023
Submitted by Bill Allen

INCOME	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget
General Operating Fund		
Weekly Givings	\$ 18,320.00	\$ 20,000.00
PAR Givings	33,580.00	33,500.00
Loose Collection	35.50	100.00
Other Donations	70.00	100.00
UCW Donation	<u>574.35</u>	<u>-</u>
Total General Operating	\$ 52,579.85	\$ 53,700.00
Mission & Services		
Weekly Givings	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,000.00
PAR Givings	7,465.00	7,200.00
UCW	400.00	-
Other	<u>1,221.34</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Mission & Services	10,886.34	\$ 10,200.00
Foodgrains Donations	\$ 5,934.00	
In-Kind Donations	\$ 445.27	
Fundraising	1,057.02	
Project Expenses	<u>(228.82)</u>	<u>8,000.00</u>
	7,207.47	
Anishnabeg Outreach	595.00	1,000.00
Ukraine Humanitarian Relief	1,525.00	-
Bakeless Bake Sale		500.00
Other Outreach	270.00	500.00
Maple Syrup Sales	\$ 11,937.50	
Maple Syrup COGS	<u>(8,382.00)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Maple Syrup Sales	3,555.50	3,600.00
Take-Out Dinners Revenue	\$ 5,520.00	
Take-Out Dinners Donations	85.00	
Take-Out Dinners In-Kind	483.98	
Take-Out Dinners Expenses	<u>(1,243.04)</u>	
Net Income Dinners	4,845.94	4,500.00
Rental Revenue	100.00	-
Interest Earned	197.40	500.00
In-Kind Givings	83.17	100.00
Other Revenue	<u>700.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 82,545.67	\$ 82,600.00

STONE UNITED CHURCH
Proposed Budget
for 2023

EXPENSES	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget
Transfer of Mission & Services	\$ 10,886.34	\$ 10,200.00
Support for Community Organizations		500.00
Other Transfers	9,597.47	9,500.00
Pastoral Charge Expenses		
Operating Expenses	\$ 41,093.04	\$ 42,905.28
Assessment	3,573.00	3,438.36
Sabbatical Reserve	-	1,281.00
Total Pastoral Charge Expenses	44,666.04	\$ 47,624.64
Church Operating Expenses		
Electricity Expenses	\$ 1,182.33	\$ 1,200.00
Fuel Oil	2,746.25	2,700.00
Propane	826.96	1,000.00
Maintenance & Repairs	964.06	500.00
Water Tests	227.80	200.00
Organist/Pianist	1,280.00	1,200.00
Caretaker	500.00	500.00
Lawn Cutting (Stone Part)	500.00	500.00
Property Insurance	6,351.75	5,000.00
Other Operating Expense	308.70	250.00
Total Operating Expenses	14,887.85	\$ 13,050.00
Administrative Expenses		
Postage & P.O. Box	\$ 250.60	\$ 250.00
Bank & Other S/C	76.43	-
PAR Service Charges	113.00	113.00
CanadaHelps Fees	28.00	25.00
Other Admin Expenses	-	50.00
Other Expenses	\$ 468.03	438.00
UC Broadview (Net)	\$200.00	\$ 200.00
Resources (Books etc.)	-	-
Gifts	-	300.00
Study Support	-	-
HST Expense	598.62	600.00
Total Other Expenses	798.62	\$ 1,100.00
Total Expenses	81,304.35	81,912.64
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	\$1,241.32	\$ 687.36

Stone United Church Cemetery Fund
Submitted by Eileen McDougall, Treasurer

Income

Bank Balance January 1, 2022	\$138.81
Interest on Perpetual Care	237.51
GIC Maturity	2,658.80
Bank Interest	<u>.37</u>
	\$3,035.49

Expenses

GIC Renewal	\$2,500.00
Grass Maintenance	200.00
Bank Fee	.60
Balance December 30, 2022	<u>334.89</u>
	\$3,035.49

GIC Investments	\$9,500.00
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Reviewed and found correct as presented
The following Stone Church Reports

Property and Finance

Memorial Fund

Choir Fund

Sunday School Fund



United Church Women Fund

Children of Bukati Fund

Mission and Service Fund

Cemetery Fund

Jack Ward and Carl Baker, January 2023

Stone Nominating Report for 2023

Submitted by Brian Mack, Council Chairperson

Committee/Position	Nominated for 2023	Appointed for 2023
Worship and Faith Formation (5+ appointed)	*Brian Mack ²⁰¹² Barb Parker ²⁰¹⁶ Heather De Jonge ²⁰¹³ Tammy Smits ²⁰²²	Liz Guthrie ¹⁹⁸⁹ (Organist) Heather Leffler (Minister)
Pastoral Care and Fellowship (5)	*John Leffler ²⁰¹⁶ Marg Baker ²⁰¹⁶ Gwen Brander ²⁰²² Karen Richardson ²⁰¹⁸	
Outreach Canadian Foodgrains Bank	*Barb Parker ²⁰¹⁹ Tom Parker ²⁰¹⁹ Bill Allen ²⁰¹⁹ Paul May ²⁰¹⁹	
Children of Bukati		Cate Dewey ²⁰⁰⁷ Peter Guthrie ²⁰⁰⁷
Property and Finance (5+ appointed)	*Jack Ward ²⁰⁰⁷ Tom Parker ²⁰¹⁷ Ed Nagel ²⁰²⁰ Steve Thomson ²⁰²²	*Bill Allen (Treasurer) Jack and Edie Ward (Caretakers)
Nominating (1+ appointed)	Paul May ¹⁹⁹⁹	Council Chairperson Council Secretary
Ministry and Personnel (3)	Brian Mack ²⁰¹³ Peter Guthrie ²⁰¹² Patty Lancaster ²⁰²²	
Trustees	Eileen McDougall ²⁰⁰⁹ Randy Dewey ²⁰⁰⁹ Peter Guthrie ²⁰¹¹ Paul May ¹⁹⁸⁸	Heather Leffler (Minister)
Chair of Council	*Brian Mack ²⁰²¹	
Secretary of Council	*Tammy Smits ²⁰²⁰	
Treasurer	*Bill Allen ²⁰¹⁷	
Financial Reviewers	Jack Ward ²⁰⁰⁹ Carl Baker ²⁰⁰⁹	
Chair of Pastoral Charge Board	Randy Dewey ²⁰²¹	
Broadview Magazine Representative	Carl Baker	
UPFund of Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council Representative	Bill Allen ²⁰²⁰	
WOW Regional Council Representative	Liz Guthrie ²⁰¹³	

The Stone Council is made up of those designated by an * or their designate and the minister.

Rockwood Annual Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2022, on Zoom

Submitted by Carol Smelsky, Secretary

Present: Sherol Steinberg - Chair, Carol Smelsky - Secretary, Rev. Heather Leffler, Adrian Alder, Kevin Anthony, Colleen Baeumler, Phyllis Bayne-Puchyr, Cees Braamse, Ione Cox, Ollie Darcie, Barbara Eley, Scott Grant, Marcia Haworth, Amanda Hunter-Anthony, Lisa Leffler, Kay Mathies, Brent Stiles, Ellen Thomson, Christine Wenger.

11:15 am: Sherol Steinberg welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

Opening: Sherol Steinberg led us in prayer.

Voting Procedures:

Motion that voting be by a show of hands, or in chat box if no video available: Marcia Haworth / Ollie Darcie. Carried.

Motion that visitors be made corresponding members: Ellen Thomson / Barbara Eley. Carried.

Motion that adherents be eligible to vote at this meeting: Ellen Thomson / Barbara Eley. Carried.

[B.3.4 Adherents

B.3.4.1 Meaning

An adherent of a congregation is a person who contributes regularly to the life and work of the congregation but is not a member or full member.

B.3.7.2 When Adherents May Vote

Adherents may vote at meetings of the congregation if the full members decide to allow adherents to vote.

Motion to accept the Minutes from last year's Annual General Meeting, pages 35-37, as circulated: Ellen Thomson / Amanda Hunter-Anthony. Carried.

Business arising from last year's Minutes: None

Motion to accept the Pastoral Charge Reports (pages 3-13) as circulated: Barbara Eley / Ellen Thomson. The reports include Minister's Letter; Affirming Discernment Circle; Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun; Finance and Stewardship; Ministry and Personnel for 2021; Re-Opening Commission; Trustees; Rockwood Stone Trustees Financial Report for 2021; Worship and Faith Formation (as circulated and corrected). Carried

Rev. Heather Leffler expressed her thanks to all of the Committees for their reports with a special thank you to the Reopening Commission for their hard work.

Motion to accept the Pastoral Charge Financial Report and 2022 Budget (pages 14-15) as circulated: Marcia Haworth / Ollie Darcie. Carried.

Motion to accept the Rockwood UC Reports (pages 39-44) as circulated: Colleen Baeumler / Christine Wenger. The reports include Membership; Statistics 2021; Chimes; Outreach; Pastoral Care and Fellowship; Property and Finance; Trustees. Carried.

Motion to accept the Rockwood UC Financial Reports (pages 45-50) as circulated: Barbara Eley / Christine Wenger. The reports include Reviewers; Balance Sheet; Operating Statement; Church Funds 2021. Carried.

Sherol Steinberg expressed her thanks for everyone's support. Thank you was expressed to Amanda Hunter-Anthony for her work with Rockwood's finances and to Sherol Steinberg for her letter to the congregation. It was noted that the investments that the Church has did so well that Rev. Heather Leffler's housing allowance for 2022 will be covered by the proceeds from the investments.

Motion to accept Rockwood UC's Nominations Report for 2022: Colleen Baeumler / Barbara Eley. Carried. All Committees are always looking for new members.

Moment of Silence: Rev. Heather Leffler

Rev. Heather Leffler led us in a moment of silence and prayer as we remembered Lou Darcie for his gifts of music, reading, warmth and being a part of everything in the Church.

New Business:

On behalf of Property and Finance, Sherol Steinberg received a cheque from Capital Paving in the amount of \$1000 for the use of the Church's parking lot during construction. This was since the Property and Finance's last report.

Correspondence: None

There is information about accessing the United Church of Canada's website, newsletters, monthly publications and other information. If you would like to receive any of these publications, please let Rev. Heather Leffler or Lisa Leffler know and they will send you the link.

Governance:

Sherol Steinberg explained that these documents are living documents and as such can be changed as necessary. Council meetings have changed from four per year to two per year. Christine Wenger drew attention to the fact that the date of approval was not on all of the documents. Rev. Heather Leffler informed Council that the documents will be updated to include the dates of approval. Sherol Steinberg expressed her thanks to Rev. Heather Leffler and everyone for all of their contributions to these documents.

Pastoral Charge Policies:

Motion to accept the Pastoral Charge Policies as circulated as living documents: Ellen Thomson / Barbara Eley. These policies include: Rockwood and Stone United Churches Governance Structure; Policy to Guide Church Missions; Policy to Guide Approval of Discernment Circles and New Initiatives; Pastoral Charge

Position Descriptions for the Pastoral Charge Board Chair, Pastoral Charge Secretary and Pastoral Charge Treasurer; and Terms of Reference for the Pastoral Charge Board; Finance and Stewardship Committee; Ministry and Personnel Committee; Nominations Committee; Trustees Committee; Worship and Faith Formation Committee. Carried.

Motion to accept Rockwood UC policies as circulated as living documents: Marcia Haworth / Ollie Darcie. These policies include: Rockwood United Church Position Descriptions for Council Chair; Council Secretary; Council Treasurer; Communion Coordinator; Media Volunteers; Music Director and Organist; Rockwood United Church Terms of Reference for Outreach, Pastoral Care and Fellowship; Property and Finance Committee; Trustees Committee; Worship and Faith Formation Committee. Carried.

Motion to authorize the Governance Discernment Circle to make changes to the Pastoral Charge or Rockwood Policies in order to ensure clarity and consistency prior to forwarding to the Western Ontario Waterways Covenant Commission for approval. In keeping with the United Church Manual, it is understood that the Pastoral Charge Board or Rockwood Council will make changes from time to time to reflect current mission and ministry in keeping with this governance model.

Christine Wenger / Ellen Thomson. Carried.

Affirming Discernment Circle: Brent Stiles, Barbara Eley, Lisa Leffler

The Affirming Discernment Circle is looking at creating a new mission statement to include an affirming statement. The members in attendance were asked to participate in an affirming word cloud activity. The members were asked to answer the three following questions and submit their answers to the word cloud:

1. What draws you to our Church Community?
2. What nourishes your spirit and feeds your faith?
3. How does our Church live out God's mission in the world?

Sherol Steinberg thanked Lisa Leffler for her innovative ways to keep the congregation engaged on Zoom, including word clouds and music.

Outreach: Marcia Haworth

Motion that the Outreach goal for Mission and Service for 2022 be \$12,250: Marcia Haworth / Kay Mathies. This is a \$250 increase over last year because of the 2021 donations received. Carried.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Heather Leffler

Motion to Adjourn: 12:15 pm: Colleen Baeumler / Ollie Darcie. Carried.

Carol Smelsky, Secretary

Chair

Rockwood United Church Committee Reports

Membership

Submitted by Heather Leffler

Number of Resident Members – January 1, 2022	100	
Removed by Death	5	
Helen Anderson		
Jeannie Southwell Croft		
Joan Leslie		
Fran Stewart		
Sheila Yorke		
Total Number of Resident Members – December 31, 2022		95
Number of Non-Resident Members – January 1, 2022	16	
Total Number of Non-Resident Members – December 31, 2022		16
Total Number on Church Roll – December 31, 2022		111

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0

Funerals and Interments: 11

Frances Mae Stewart on March 26, 2022 at Memory Gardens Funeral Home Breslau

Andrew Joseph Terrell on April 10, 2022 at Jones Funeral Home Georgetown
interment on June 16, 2022 at Hillcrest Cemetery Norval

Susan Dorteia Light and James Edward Harrison on June 4, 2022 at Rockwood United Church

Karen Suzanne Danks on June 25, 2022 at Rockwood United Church

John Arbuckle on July 4, 2022 at Hart Chapel Guelph

Christina Agnew Bryant on August 27, 2022 at 1308 Lichty Rd. Wellesley

Helen Anderson on October 21, 2022 at Rockwood Cemetery

Jeannie Southwell Croft on October 21, 2022 at Rockwood United Church

Raymond Willis Law on November 15, 2022 at Rockwood United Church

In Memoriam:

Fran Stewart died February 22, 2022

John Arbuckle died July 4, 2022

Jeannie Southwell Croft died July 21, 2022

Helen Anderson died September 11, 2022

Sheila Yorke died December 1, 2022

Joan Leslie on December 4, 2022

Statistics 2022

Submitted by Heather Leffler

Number of Households under Pastoral Care	75	Other Group Memberships	
Number of Financially Supporting Households	39	<i>(includes anyone who has attended at least once)</i>	
Number of Givers to Local Expenses	39	*Coffee Connections	9
Number of Givers to Mission and Service	18	Combined Choir from Rockwood	10
Average Attendance for in-person worship	23	*Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun	16
Adherents <i>(includes children, youth and adults who participate in the life and work of our church monthly)</i>	25	*Tea and Talk	14
Children and Young People	Total		
Under 3 years of age			
3-5 years of age	1		
6-11 years of age	4		
12-18 years of age			
Teachers			
*Includes participants from both congregations.			

Chimes

Submitted by Christine Wenger, Chimes Choir Leader

Members: Chris Barlow, Rosslyn Bentley, Heather Blair, Barb Eley, Sherol Steinberg, Christine Wenger (Leader)

The chimes were pleased to restart practices in October 2022 after pausing since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and held their first performance on December 11, 2022.

No money was spent on the purchase of new music for 2022.

Outreach

Submitted by Marcia Haworth and Kay Mathies, Co-Chairs

Members: Our enthusiastic Outreach committee members are Colleen Baeumler, Marion Bascom, Marcia Haworth, Darlene McPhedran, Kay Mathies, and Phyllis Puchyr. We would happily welcome new members with open arms.

This year we have slowly ventured back into some pre-COVID-19 activities. It felt so good to get together in person for meetings, workshops and one in-person fund-raising event. Once again you enabled us to offer assistance within our community, through The Rural Women's Support Program, Anishnabeg Outreach and EWCS Food Bank, all of which supported an increased number of clients during 2022. We extend our most sincere thanks to all for supporting Outreach this year.

This is how your generous support helped during 2022:

Mission and Service: This year our donations to Mission and Service exceeded our target of \$12,250, by \$2! In addition, we also donated \$925 to Act Alliance – an M & S partner, in response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. We can't thank you enough on behalf of the many people within Canada and worldwide that benefit so greatly from M & S. The monthly M & S videos help to highlight the diverse and wonderful ways in which M & S reaches out within Canada and through 72 partners in 21 countries in many parts of the world.

East Wellington Community Services Food Bank: We donated two "freezer fills" and are forever grateful to our friends at MacMillan's for their generous discounts. As a change in routine this year, our congregations donated very generously to a pre-Thanksgiving food drive in response to an identified urgent need. This gave clients additional nutritional options for the holiday prior to the receipt of other community-based donations, which arrive after Thanksgiving. We were happy to help out with the breakfast component of EWCS Christmas hampers by providing sausages, (thanks to another generous donation from Maple Lodge Farms), bacon and maple syrup (donated) for 32 households. This year we did not hold an Advent food drive, as other community groups are generous with their support at Christmas time. However, we gave each of the 38 adult clients a Christmas gift of a \$50 gift card for the grocery store of their choice and 16 children each received a \$25 Walmart gift card. These became a component of the Christmas hampers, and we pray that they helped ease the burden of food insecurity, at least in the short term.

Rural Women's Support Program: This Christmas six Rockwood women receiving counselling through our local Rural Women's Support Program each received a \$50 Walmart gift card and six children each received a \$25 gift card to help them over the season. An additional donation of \$850 from Outreach funds will be made to Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis, the parent organization of RWSP.

Anishnabeg Outreach: In September we invited our congregations to stand in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters by wearing an orange shirt to demonstrate our awareness of the impact of the Residential School System in Canada. As we continue our special partnership with AO, we try to raise awareness of Every Child Matters Orange Shirt Day on 30 September. We received \$695 in donations and will top that up to \$750 to fund five more Orange Shirt pin sponsorships. Each \$150 provides Indigenous people with beads, workshops, mentorship and guidance to establish their own businesses showcasing traditional Indigenous beading skills. AO became our Advent focus this year and we received very generous donations of the most needed items for their Spirit Bundles as well as donations of gently used winter clothing. In addition, we are supporting AO with a \$250 donation to assist with Spirit Bundle purchases.

Special Requests: We continue to ensure we can respond to the folk that reach out for assistance by having a supply of grocery and gas cards available in the narthex, on which we spent \$200 in 2022.

Outreach Activities

Most of our fund-raising activities this year unsurprisingly involved food. Outreach committee members donated six Food Fixes during 2022 and thanks to the competitive natures of our fun-loving bidders and their passion for home-made food, we made \$2147. One of the Food Fixes was designated specifically to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine for which we also received \$468 in donations.

Our new venture this year was the Christmas Market and lunch at the end of November. This event was very generously supported, and we hope everyone enjoyed their home-made/hand-made treats, festive crafts, Christmas planters and wreaths. Thank you so much to all that contributed to the event, especially Cees Braamse for the beautiful fresh greenery, Jeremy Mathies for the gift boxes, Leffler's for crafts and Steinberg's for baked goods. We were delighted to make \$2940 which was all spent on purchasing the gift cards.

For a detailed record of how all the Outreach funds were distributed please see the year-end Operating Fund included in the 2022 RUC Financial Report. We will carry over \$600 to help us respond immediately if we are made aware of a need within our community in early 2023. Any remaining funds will be used to purchase small denomination Foodland gift cards for EWCS food bank clients.

We are forever grateful to our hard-working committee members who continue to rise to the challenge of helping our neighbours with enthusiasm and energy. As ever, we are so thankful to all the members of both RUC and Stone congregations who helped make it all happen. We thank Heather, for her unfailing support, ideas, wisdom, and abundant craft supplies. Thanks also to Lisa, and Amanda for their help in so many ways.

We continue to be united in a common cause to walk humbly with God as we demonstrate love and support for each other.

Pastoral Care and Fellowship

Submitted by Ellen Thomson, Chair

Members: Ollie Darcie, Ian Pasmore, Ellen Thomson

Our committee is grateful that our congregation continues to keep in touch with one another through cards, emails, calls and visits. Thanks to Ian Pasmore for sending special birthday, anniversary, thinking of you, get well and sympathy cards. Please let him know if someone would appreciate a card.

Our church coordinates subscriptions to Broadview (formerly, The Observer). If you wish to subscribe or discontinue your subscription, please let Ellen Thomson know.

Our congregation offers care for one another through groups and gatherings, like Tea and Talk and Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun that meet in person and Coffee Connections that meet online. A huge "thank you" to those who host Food Fixes and small groups for decorating the sanctuary for seasonal times. Thanks to everyone who helped deliver Lent Easter, Creation and Christmas packs and reached out to people in our congregation.

Property and Finance

Submitted by Sherol Steinberg

Members: Amanda Hunter-Anthony (Treasurer), Kevin Anthony, Colleen Baeumler, Darryl Nichol, Sherol Steinberg (Chairperson)

Thank you to all who support the church with their resources and time. Monthly bills including salaries, gas, hydro, internet, water, Guelph Business Machines, Flanagan's (breakfast supplies) and insurance range from \$6100-\$6700, with January being particularly costly at \$7500 due to some bills that we receive at the beginning of the year. Monthly givings for PAR, e-transfers, and post-dated cheques are \$3142.12. With church being back in person, there are also varying amounts each week in the offering plate. Giving through PAR, e-transfers and post-dated cheques allows the treasurer to plan. Please consider joining PAR-for more information contact Amanda rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com.

Throughout the year our finances were stretched by the continuing delays in receiving demolition and building permits for the house and the parking lot. We are pleased to announce that we have received all required permits, and the Trustees are formulating a plan. Trustees have asked us to provide our recommendations on capital projects when the sale of the current parking lot is complete. Our committee's visioning includes maintenance on stain glass windows, accessibility ramp in sanctuary, possible removal of pews to create a multi use space, create an additional room by walling off choir loft and moving the choir, addressing accessibility issues around lighting and sound system, look for community partners, and hiring professionals to help create a multi year plan. In the spring Property and Finance with the Trustees will host a visioning meeting to get ideas for consideration.

The Rockwood Firefighters thank the congregation for allowing them to use the house for fire fighting exercises.

Kevin has fixed the hole going through the kitchen wall for utilities. Lefflers have donated a file cabinet, and the choir music is moving from the cupboard in Day Hall to the file cabinet in the office. The cupboard is being repurposed for overflow kitchen items. Thanks to Reuben Salmon who answered our desperate call for the pipe leaking in the kitchen. Thanks to Alex Steinberg who donated a laptop and programs to run the projector and facilitate Zoom.

Thank you to Cees Braamse and Kevin for snow removal and grass cutting at the church and the house and for having willing hands to complete small maintenance tasks throughout the year on a shoestring budget and lots of creativity.

Thanks to all for decorating the outside and inside of the church for Christmas.

Thank you to Colleen for decorating the church throughout the year – with the help of her minions.

Thank you to Kevin, Cees, Marcia and Chris Haworth for taking on putting out the garbage and recycling weekly.

Thanks to Darryl and Marion Nichol, Ollie Darcie, and Kevin, Amanda and Liam Anthony for coming to the work bee at the House of Joy to start removing items that could be reused or sold.

Thank you to Helen Ferrier, who works hard weekly to ensure our house of worship is clean and welcoming.

Thanks to Darryl for his hard work on behalf of the church selling and repurposing items from the house, and for all his work with the engineers and township to facilitate the permits and sale of parking lot.

A special thank you to Colleen who is stepping down from official committee-dom after years of faithful service. Her contributions and wisdom have been invaluable. But never fear – she is remaining on to decorate and organize spring/fall cleanings.

Trustees

Submitted by Rosslyn Bentley, Chair

Trustees: Rosslyn Bentley, Heather Leffler, Darryl Nichol, David Smelsky, Christine Wenger

The Rockwood Trustees met on February 3rd, June 4th, June 24th and July 27th, 2022.

Christine Wenger continues to be the corresponding secretary of the committee. Heather Leffler takes the minutes. We welcomed David Smelsky as a Trustee this year. Darryl Nichol continues to take the lead in terms of negotiation of the land sale and car park construction, and we thank him for the patience and diligence to continue to move this process forward.

The main focus of the Trustees activities in 2022 continued to be related to our property and the proposed car park development. Over the year, the lot was independently appraised by S.W. Irvine and Associates (SWIA). The Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Grand River Conservation Authority and County of Wellington were consulted. There were some delays relating to the MTO consideration of the set back distances from Highway 7 but after engaging Ted Arnott MPP's office, confirmation was received in July from the Township that plans could continue as proposed.

The Trustees approved proceeding with the sale of the parking lot in July to pay Extension Council what they are owed and to improve the cash flow of the church. The mortgage must be paid off before the house is demolished. The balance of the Rockwood mortgage owing to Extension Council at the end of July 2022 was \$153,798.14.

The sale of the existing parking lot began to move forward however the appraisal resulted in the land having lower value than previously anticipated. We have received a verbal offer of purchase for the existing parking lot which is linked to the construction of the new parking lot and demolition of the House of Joy.

Soil samples have been required in order to move forward with a possible sale. We are still awaiting these results.

We are grateful to Rockwood Property and Finance Committee and volunteers for removing items of value from the House of Joy and that the Fire Department has been using it for training.

Insurance – Policy No: 18879C02.6.0 for 107 Harris Street runs from December 1st each year. Colley Insurance has informed us that our insurance from Hub will decrease due to the United Church moving to self insurance. Colley's will no longer be our broker. Halwell has allowed only for a 3-month policy term beginning December 1st, 2022 and ending March 1, 2023 – after which they will no longer provide coverage for the House of Joy.

In February we reviewed the importance of following the Manual and Faithful Footsteps Screening Procedures for Positions of Trust and Authority with regards to people currently working with vulnerable individuals. A motion was therefore passed that going forward we will set a screening policy in accordance with the Manual and Faithful Footsteps.

Donation – Capitol Paving donated \$1000 for use of the parking lot.

Signatories – Revised signatories were made due to changes in Trustees so that in addition to signing for the investment with Frontier Capital Funds, Christine Wenger is a signatory on all accounts for Rockwood United Church at the Royal Bank and any legal documents pertaining to the Trustees along with Darryl Nichol.

Investment with Frontier Capital Funds #20670253 – The value of our investment with Frontier Capital Funds was \$5685.46 as of December 31, 2021. Funds from our Investment have continued to be used to meet the expenses to date.

Western Ontario Waterways (WOW) Regional Council Congregational Support (formerly Covenant)

Commission – The final sale is conditional on the approval of the Commission and a condition will need to be inserted into the sale documents to allow for seven business days for them to approve it.

The Commission will require the church to set restrictions on how to use the proceeds from the sale to ensure they are used for charitable purposes and relate to the work of the church. Ideas from Church committees were solicited by the Fall of 2021 and further discussion will take place once information about costs associated with major repairs to the church building and the dollar amount remaining after debts and fees are settled is understood. If the sale takes place the proceeds will be paid into the general fund and once immediate needs are served the balance will be paid into the investment fund until RUC has made any decisions about the use of the funds.

Rockwood United Church Financial Reports

ROCKWOOD UNITED CHURCH

Annual Financial Report

For 12 Months Ending December 31, 2022

Submitted by Amanda Hunter-Anthony

Beginning Balance			\$9,213.85
Income			
General Operating Fund			
Weekly Givings	\$ 3,925.00		
Loose Collection	762.00		
E-Transfers	6,315.00		
PAR Givings	34,952.00		
Total General Operating		\$ 45,954.00	
Country Breakfasts			
Revenue – Stone (Flanagan's)	\$ 266.98		
Expenses – Extra	-		
- Flanagan's	345.43		
Country Breakfasts (Net)		-	78.45
Other Revenue			
Church Rentals – Other	\$ 80.00		
- Praying Hands	\$ 1,620.00		
Reimbursed from Pastoral Chg.	1,199.49		
Fundraisers			
- Food Fix	\$ 258.00		
- Garden Tour	738.00		
Anniversary	100.00		
Memorial	1,225.60		
Wedding/Funeral	1,125.00		
Other Donations			
- Non Specific	1,100.00		
- Canada Helps	240.00		
- United Way	-		
- Cdn Online Giving (Benevity)	3,028.85		
- Pay Pal	500.00		
Decor (In General)	-		
Building Fund – Repairs & Maintenance	-		
- Borrowed	1,704.53		
Trustees – Returned	3,392.48		
- Borrowed	5,408.00		
Transfer after Deposited	260.00		
Bank Credit	25.00		
HST Refund	3,083.21		
Total Other Revenue		25,088.16	
Total Revenue			\$ 70,963.71

Expenses			
Pastoral Charge Expenses			
Operating Expenses	\$ 41,093.04		
Presbytery Fees	3,654.00		
		\$ 44,747.04	
Church Operating Expenses			
Enbridge Gas	\$ 3,127.43		
Reliance	\$ 434.00		
Hydro	1,101.60		
Water	318.77		
Cogeco	1,113.57		
Guelph Business	111.91		
Landscape/Lawn Maintenance	-		
Snow Removal	140.80		
Repairs & Maintenance - General	-		
- Building	-		
Returned – Loan from Building	-		
Loan to Trustees	7,306.89		
Transfer before Deposited	260.00		
Organist	1,240.00		
Church Cleaning	2,232.50		
Insurance	6,007.57		
Total Church Operating Expenses		23,395.04	
Administrative Expenses			
PAR Service Charges	\$ 351.81		
Bank Fees	32.65		
Office Supplies & Treasurer Supplies	-		
Total Administrative Expenses		384.46	
Other Church Expenses			
Broadview Magazine	\$ 350.00		
Decorations & Flowers	39.38		
Kitchen Supplies	150.60		
Guelph Papers	-		
Anniversary Service	320.00		
Baptism, Wedding, Funeral	84.17		
Total Other Church Expenses		944.15	
Total Expenses			69,470.69
Net Surplus or (Deficit) from Operations			\$1,493.02

The House

Revenue

EWCS Rent	\$	-	
Mortgage - Weekly Givings			
- PAR Givings		640.00	
Reimbursed from Enbridge Gas		130.96	
B&I Repairs & Maintenance		-	
Total Revenue			\$ 770.96

Expenses

Enbridge Gas	\$	631.68	
Hydro		507.68	
Water		218.26	
Insurance		2,347.49	
Mortgage Interest/Principal		-	
Repairs & Maintenance		-	
Total Expenses			3,705.11
Net Surplus or Deficit			-\$ 2,934.15

House Mortgage

Beginning Balance **\$ 152,032.73**

Principal Payments			
Individual Contributions 2021	\$	960.00	
Individual Contributions 2022		-	
Total Principal Payments			960.00

Expenses

Interest Incurred		4106.5	
			4106.5
Ending Balance			\$ 155,179.23

Balance as of December 31, 2022 - General Fund **\$7,772.72**

Church Funds

Outreach Fund

Beginning Balance \$3,095.14

Revenue

M&S Weekly Givings	\$525.00		
PAR Givings	\$11,062.00		
Donations – M&S	\$600.00		
Christmas Cards – M&S – Rockwood	\$65.00		
		\$12,252.00	
Donations – Outreach	\$0.00		
- Jubilee	\$100.00		
Food Bank	\$50.00	\$150.00	
Food Fix – Revenue	\$1,450.00		
- EWCS Hampers	\$240.00		
- Ukraine Dinner	\$457.00	\$2,147.00	
- Extra Donations for Ukraine	\$468.00	\$468.00	\$925.00
Festive Market	\$2,972.00		
Anishnabeg Donations	\$695.00		
Bank Interest	\$24.46		
		\$3,691.46	

Total Revenue

\$18,708.46

Expenses

UCC – M&S Weekly Givings	\$12,252.00	
- Ukraine Crisis	\$925.00	\$13,177.00
Benevolent Fund/Drop Ins	\$200.00	
Food Bank & Gift Cards	\$3,486.00	
RWSP Gift Cards	\$450.00	
Anishnabeg Outreach	\$1,050.00	
Women in Crisis	\$500.00	
Bank Fees	\$0.00	

Total Expenses

\$18,863.00

Balance as of December 31, 2022 - Outreach Fund

\$2,940.60

Net Surplus or (Deficit)

-\$154.54

Rockwood Nominating Report for 2023

Committee/Position	Nominated	Appointed
Chair of Council:	Sherol Steinberg ²⁰¹⁴	
Secretary of Council:	Carol Smelsky ²⁰¹³	
Treasurer:	Amanda Hunter-Anthony ²⁰¹⁸	
Regional Council Representative:		
Pastoral Care and Fellowship:	Ellen Thomson ²⁰¹⁹ (Chairperson) Ollie Darcie ²⁰⁰⁶ Ian Pasmore ²⁰¹⁵ (Cards)	
Outreach:	Marcia Haworth ²⁰⁰⁰ (Co-Chairperson) Kay Mathies ²⁰¹⁰ (Co-Chairperson) Marion Bascom ²⁰¹⁵ Darlene McPhedran ²⁰¹³ Phyllis Bayne-Puchyr ¹⁹⁹³	
Property and Finance:	Sherol Steinberg ²⁰²⁰ (Chairperson) Kevin Anthony ²⁰¹⁸ Darryl Nichol ²⁰¹⁴	Amanda Hunter-Anthony (Treasurer)
Worship and Christian Education	Barbara Eley ²⁰⁰⁶ (Chair/Choir Director) Carol Smelsky ¹⁹⁹⁵ Brent Stiles ²⁰¹⁹	
Chime Choir Director:	Christine Wenger	
Financial Reviewer:	David Smelsky ²⁰¹⁴	
Nominating:	Ollie Darcie ²⁰¹⁴	Sherol Steinberg (Council Chair)
Pastoral Charge Committees and Positions		
Ministry and Personnel:	Rosslyn Bentley ²⁰⁰⁵ Ellen Thomson ²⁰¹⁸	
Pastoral Charge Secretary	Carol Smelsky ²⁰¹⁴⁻²⁰²¹	
Pastoral Charge Treasurer	Roy Steinberg ²⁰¹⁴	
Trustees:	Rosslyn Bentley ²⁰¹⁵ Darryl Nichol ²⁰¹⁴ Christine Wenger ²⁰¹⁹ David Smelsky ²⁰²²	Heather Leffler (Minister)
Appointed Positions		
Communion Co-ordinator		
Country Breakfast Co-ordinators	Marcia Haworth, Sherol Steinberg	
Decorating Co-ordinator	Colleen Baeumler	
Offer Co-ordinator	Carol Stiles ²⁰¹⁴	
Website Host/Webmaster	Chris Barlow ²⁰²⁰	
Rentals	Marcia Haworth ²⁰¹⁶ , Kay Mathies ²⁰¹⁶	Lisa Leffler (Secretary)
UPFund of Waterloo Presbytery Extension	Heather Leffler	
Council Representative		

It has become our practice to check in with committee members each year to see if they are willing to continue serving, so we are no longer including an end date for new terms. With the exception of the Ministry and Personnel Committee and the Trustees, committees may add members throughout the year.

Thank you to all faithful our volunteers, especially those who are completing their term.