



Rockwood Stone News

Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge, The United Church of Canada
Grounded in God, inspired by Jesus, and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Visit our website at www.rockwoodstoneunitedchurches.com



Rockwood United Church
119 Harris St.
Rockwood, ON NOB 2K0

May 2024

Minister: Rev. Heather Leffler
will be on Sabbatical from May 13 to
September 9, 2024

Office:

Messages are monitored virtually.
rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com
519-856-4160



Stone United Church
5370 Fourth Line
Rockwood, ON NOB 2K0



Connect with us on Facebook at **Rockwood-Stone** for Contemplation and Conversation, updates and reminders about upcoming events.

Join us for...

Worship on Sundays at 9:45 am at **Stone** and on **Zoom Worship** and at 11:15 am at **Rockwood** and on **Zoom** or watch on **YouTube**.

To join **Zoom** for **Worship and Meetings** click on the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6995074926?pwd=eTk1T1d0V2NXVVNxazlEcGpuL3JpUT09> .

To join by phone, dial +1-647-374-4685 or +1-647-558-0588 and enter **Meeting ID: 699 507 4926** and **Password: 20120701**.

To receive the **Announcements** on Thursdays, **Contemplation and Conversation** on Sundays each week, contact the office.

If you don't have email, we can provide printed copies.

Sunday, June 9 join us to celebrate **Rockwood's 157th Anniversary** with **Worship**

at **10 am**, on **Zoom** and at **Rockwood**.

Our guest **Andrew Hyde** will share about his work with the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the U of G.

There will be a breakfast and dessert after the service.

Summer Worship Schedule 2024

All services will begin at 10:00 am

Sunday	Church	Worship Leader
June 23	Stone	Worship &
June 30	Rockwood	
July 7	Stone	Faith Formation
July 14	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
July 21	Stone	Lisa Leffler
July 28	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
August 4	Stone	Lisa Leffler
August 11	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
August 18	Stone	Lisa Leffler
August 25	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler
September 1	Stone	Lisa Leffler
September 8	Rockwood	Lisa Leffler

For pastoral concerns while Rev. Heather Leffler is on Sabbatical contact **Brian Mack** dbmfarm101@gmail.com. **Rev. John Benham** rev.john@trinityunitedguelph.ca will be our Pastoral Charge Supervisor

Wednesday, May 15

Genesis Book Club

at **7:30 pm**, at **Stone or on Zoom**

join us for a thoughtful,

thought-provoking discussion of

Fire Weather: The Making of a Beast

by John Valiant.

June 19's book will be **Our Life with the Rocket**

by Roch Carrier. Check with lleffler@live.ca

to borrow a copy of the book.

Spiritual Saturdays

Join us on **June 8**

and the **second Saturday of the month**

at **Stone** or on **Zoom** from **1 to 3:30 pm**

If you are praying scripture for the first time, contact Lisa Leffler to learn the practice. Email lleffler@live.ca by Wednesday to receive the materials. Take time to pray the scripture.

At 1 pm on Saturday afternoon join the group on Zoom, meet with and companion one another, and share in the large group conversation. Everyone is welcome.



May 16 and every other **Thursday**

through June and beginning again in September.

For Women: come to **Tea and Talk**

from **10 am to 12 noon**, at **Rockwood**.

Share in lively conversations, laughter,

and enjoy delicious treats!



Thursday, May 30

For Men: you are invited to

Coffee Connections

from **10:30 am to noon**, at the **Bearded Barista**.

Come join in the conversation and fellowship!

Tuesday, September 17

join us for

Bible Study

at **7:30 pm** on **Zoom**.

Come and explore the parables of Jesus and discover what they mean for our lives today.

Fridays, September 20, October 18

and **November 15**

**Faith, Food,
Friendship and Fun**

beginning at **6 pm**, at **Rockwood**

Join us for dinner, activities, conversation, a craft, and casual time of worship. Contact Heather at lleffler@rogers.com or 519-265-7385 by the Wednesday before if you plan to attend.

Join us **Saturday, May 25, 2024**
for **Rockwood's Country Breakfast**
at **Rockwood**, from **8 to 11 am**

Bring your family, friends and neighbours
for a delicious breakfast and lively conversation.

If anyone would like to **help serve, cook, clear tables or clean the kitchen afterwards**, please contact Marcia at **519-856-4968**.

The next breakfast will be **September 28**.



**MOOSE HIDE
CAMPAIGN**

**CAMPAGNE
MOOSE HIDE**

The Moose Hide Campaign recognizes that all forms of violence are unacceptable, regardless of gender. We see the disproportionate number of women who are victims and the importance of engaging men and boys in addressing this issue. We also know that "shame and blame" isn't the answer.

Pick up a pin at Rockwood or Stone and wear it on **May 16, 2024**. Go to www.moosehidecampaign.ca to learn more and sign up for online activities.

Letters, Notes and Emails ...

Friends,

What an amazing celebration we enjoyed on April 28th. Looking back over our journey to be recognized as an affirming pastoral charge there have been gifts and challenges.

In 2017 when we began the conversation, we recognized that to truly be affirming Rockwood United and Stone United needed to make the decision together. Approaching Affirm United we discovered that no one had done it this way before. Normally each church made their own decision. In our pastoral charge we understood that to truly create safe, inclusive space both churches needed to be affirming.

In 2019 our Affirming Discernment Circle was formed including Barb Eley, Brent Stiles and Marion Bascom from Rockwood and Brian Mack, Lisa Leffler and Liz Guthrie from Stone. The three-year process they committed to included studying Open Hearts: Resources for Affirming Ministries in the United Church of Canada and inviting our congregations to learn and grow in what it means to be affirming was complicated by the pandemic. The work continued faithfully online but when we were back in our churches, we needed to be sure no one was left behind. The circle planned more activities and conversations through another year.

It was a wonderful gift when our vote on June 11th, 2023 could include people in worship and online and was unanimous. Our joy filled service on the 28th complete with word, music, conversation, communion, bright coloured clothes, food, flags, decorations and the fun of playing with balloons was an amazing way to start our journey.

Being affirming invites us to intentionally open ourselves to the needs of others as we worship, work and plan for the future together. Our practice of discernment is a good starting point. When we think about a change to our worship or buildings, activities or practices, if we take the time to consult with people who will be impacted and ask ourselves how we can care for everyone who would like to be part of our journey, we will discover paths we could not have imagined. It won't always be easy to give up familiar ways of being we have enjoyed for a long time. Being open to doing things in new ways may make room for new people to join us on the journey.

As we celebrate being affirming and 100 years of being a part of The United Church of Canada may we be grounded in God, inspired by Jesus, and guided by the Holy Spirit to where God is leading us.

Blessings,

Rhett

May 2024

A Message from the Pastoral Charge Board Chair

Dear Friends,

As an avid gardener, I always look forward to this time of year, when trees bud and flowers bloom. Bulbs planted last year suddenly appear with new growth. This is much like what our churches are experiencing this year.

When I look back at my message in last year's Newsletter, I see that I was encouraging everyone to come out to vote whether our churches would become affirming. That vote took place at Rockwood's Anniversary Service in June of 2023. It was a secret-ballot vote that ended with a unanimous decision to support becoming affirming in our two churches!

At our services on the last Sunday in April of this year, our congregations blossomed into becoming officially affirming. We were even recognized by our United Church Moderator, Dr. Carmen Lansdowne! We appreciate all the hard work of the committee members in getting us to this point. We have a lot to celebrate as we continue to grow and bloom!

I wish you all a great spring and summer.

Take care,
Randy Dewey

From The United Church of Canada

The United Church of Canada celebrates 100 Years!

The year-long celebration of our 100th Anniversary will start with **General Secretary, the Rev. Michael Blair** preaching for a service at **Metropolitan United Church**, 56 Queen St. East, Toronto, on **Sunday, June 9, 2024**, from **4:00 - 6:00 pm EDT**

This service will also be livestreamed for those who aren't able to join in person.

Visit the [Centennial Worship page](#) for materials to use in your Community of Faith!

Sign up now for our new monthly [Centennial Newsletter](#)!

Explore the rich history of The United Church of Canada through images and video pulled from our archives. Learn more about our history of deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

Make sure you don't miss important updates and opportunities to mark this historic moment. Together, let's celebrate 100 years of milestones within Canada and around the world! <https://100unitedyears.ca/>

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council Project

Each congregation will receive a [puzzle piece](#) to decorate – depicting their ministry. These pieces will be returned and put together into a mosaic to be displayed at the 2025 in-person Regional Council meeting.

A Message from WOW RC President Jennifer Irving

In a rare opportunity, The United Church of Canada has partnered with the 2024 Stars on Ice tour as part of our strategic plan to Strengthen Invitation. This 30-second video will be witnessed by over 100,000 guests during the 12 live performances by the world's top skaters in arenas across Canada.

It's so exciting that everyone who goes to see Stars on Ice this year will see the promo for The United Church of Canada and our 100th Anniversary! I wish I was going to Stars on Ice! In the video <https://100unitedyears.ca/>, people are invited to check us out.

There is a "Find a Church" tab on that website which uses the information each Community of Faith and Ministry has in ChurchHub. Unfortunately, many, many churches need to have information added or updated on ChurchHub!

... Let's work together to make sure anybody who wants to find us, can actually find us! Added bonus: we'll be able to connect with each other a little easier too!

Yours in service,

Jennifer Irving, OM

Centennial United Church, Stayner ON!



Thank You

Your faithfulness through PAR, e-transfers, Canada Helps and postdated cheques is keeping our finances stable and allowing us to continue to serve God in our church communities and the world.

How can I support our churches?

- PAR:** To sign up for monthly Pre-Authorized Remittances or to change your givings, contact Bill Allen at stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com or 519-841-4170 for **Stone** or Amanda Hunter-Anthony at rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com or 519-856-1129 for **Rockwood**.
- E-transfer Stone** at stoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com or **Rockwood** at rockwooduc.treasurer@gmail.com
In the memo, please designate whether your offering is for your church, M&S and/or other and include your contact information.
- Canada Helps** is a Canadian registered charity that enables other charities to receive online gifts. Go to Stone <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/80455/> or Rockwood <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/48574/> to make a credit card donation. You can designate your offering to the church, M&S and/or other in the message box.
- Cheques** can be sent to **Stone United Church**, PO Box 57 Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0 or **Rockwood United Church**, 119 Harris St., Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

Committees and Groups ...

Rockwood and Stone Worship and Faith Formation

Submitted by Barb Eley and Brian Mack

We give thanks to God for the following:

- Hybrid services and recordings on our YouTube channel that continue to be well received with 15-20 views per week.
- Weekly Contemplation and Conversation reflections written usually by Rev. Leffler but by Lisa Leffler and Brian Mack on occasion which continue to engage.
- Stone's worship and annual meeting on February 4th via Zoom with Rockwood joining for worship.
- Rockwood's worship and annual meeting on February 11 which included lunch following the service. Stone's worship led by our Worship and Faith Formation Committee with Bill Allen sharing his slides of his visit to Malawi.
- World Day of Prayer at Stone on March 1st with 29 in attendance which was planned by Marg Baker and Rev. Leffler.
- Communion which was served on March 24, Palm Sunday, at both churches. Stone had a successful pancake breakfast prior to the service.
- Our Good Friday service featuring choir members from Rockwood, Stone, Barrie Hill and Speedside was held at Stone on March 29th. The service was led by Rev. Leffler and Rev. Lena Medeiros.
- Easter Sunday service on March 31st.
- Our Affirming Celebration Service on April 28th which began at Stone at 10 am and moved to Rockwood for the second half of the service. Special music was provided by the combined choirs. The pealing of the bells by the Bell Ringers welcomed folks at Stone and the Chimes Choir welcomed worshippers at Rockwood. Communion was served. A rainbow luncheon was enjoyed by all.
- Easter packages which were distributed the second Sunday of Easter with thanks to Sarah Leffler for the activities, Brian Mack for the prayers, Heather Leffler for questions and reflections, Barb Parker for the seeds and the

volunteers who edited, prepared, and delivered the packages.

- Bible Study participants who completed their study of the Epistles and look forward to a study of the parables of Jesus in the autumn.
- Faith, Food, Friendship, and Fun which was held February 16th and March 15th at Rockwood. Heather, John, and Lisa Leffler planned the worship, the crafts, and the supper.
- Tea and Talk which continued to meet bi-weekly and Coffee Connections which is meeting the last Thursday of each month.
- Book Club which continues to meet in a hybrid format at Stone each month.
- Stone's Wellness series which commenced February 10th and concluded May 4th. Speakers included Liz Kent (Victim Services), Sean James (Nifty Native Plants), Jill Kron (Powers of A Pharmacist), Kendra Seymour (Medical Assistance in Dying), Courtney Gioia (Food Labels: Myths & Misconceptions), and Karishma Rego (Coping with Post Covid Stress)
- Our choirs, the Ensemble, and the Chimes Choir which continue to meet regularly and bless our congregations with special music.

Upcoming:

- May 12-Rev. Leffler's final service at both churches before she begins her time of study leave, holidays, and sabbatical. There will be a baptism at Rockwood.
 - Rev. Leffler will be away from May 13th until September 9th. Lisa Leffler will lead worship from May 19th until September 8th except for the Pastoral Charge Picnic at Stone on May 26th, June 9th at Rockwood for Anniversary Sunday featuring guest speaker Andrew Hyde, June 16, June 23, and July 7. These services will be led by Worship & Faith Formation
 - Summer services begin June 23 at Stone and will end September 8th at Rockwood. Plans for September 15th when Rev. Leffler returns will be announced in late August.
-

Affirming Celebration

Submitted by Brian Mack

On April 28th, the congregations of Rockwood and Stone United Churches officially celebrated becoming affirming ministries following a unanimous vote of congregants to do so on Rockwood's Anniversary Sunday, June 11, 2023. The celebration complete with rainbow-colored decorations and symbols throughout both churches was planned by Brent Stiles, Liz Guthrie, Barb Eley, Brian Mack, Marion Bascom, Lisa Leffler, and Rev. Heather Leffler. Taking the form of a travelling celebration, the service began at Stone United at 10 am and moved to Rockwood United about 35 minutes later.

Highlights of the Celebration

- pealing of the bells by Matt Setzkorn, Michael Benham, Liz Guthrie, and Barb Eley to welcome folks to Stone and the Chimes Choir consisting of Rosslyn Bentley, Barb Eley, Chris Barlow, Christine Wenger, Sherol Steinberg, and Heather Blair welcoming worshippers to Rockwood
- reading of a letter of congratulations from the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Landsdowne, Moderator of the United Church of Canada at Stone
- shared reading of our land acknowledgement at Stone
- Hymns: "As A Fire Is Meant for Burning" and the first two verses of "Let Us Build A House" at Stone; the third, fourth, and fifth verses of "Let Us Build A House" and "Go Make A Difference" at Rockwood
- Combined Choir Anthems: "Praise With Joy the World's Creator" at Stone and "My Soul Cries Out" at Rockwood
- presentation of the Affirming Certificates to Liz Guthrie at Stone and Brent Stiles at Rockwood by Rosemary Kennedy from Dublin Street United; Brent replied on behalf of both congregations
- Rev Leffler's message based on Acts 8: 26-40 (the story of the Eunuch) at Stone and the serving of Communion at Rockwood
- reading of our Pastoral Charge "Statement of Intention" at both churches
- group photos taken at both churches by Gord Carothers; the many wonderful photos shared by Brent Stiles, Claire Stiles, Susan Carothers, Helen

Smith, Heather Leffler, John Leffler, Lisa Leffler, and Liz Guthrie; compilation of the photos set to music by Lisa Leffler

- tossing of balloons to conclude the celebration followed by a rainbow luncheon



Rockwood Stone Ministry and Personnel

Submitted by Brian Mack

Ministry and Personnel met on March 6 at 7pm via Zoom. The meeting was chaired by Brian Mack and Ellen Thomson was the recording secretary. We were pleased to welcome Heather DeJonge as a representative for Stone.

Tasks accomplished included the following:

- review of Rockwood-Stone Ministry and Personnel Terms of Reference
 - review of the procedures for annual reviews of ministry and lay personnel which will take place in September
 - summation by Rev Leffler of her activities to date regarding her 2024 goals, her work with Western Ontario Waterways, and her on-going professional development
 - Brief review of plans that have been developed to carry on the work of the Pastoral Charge when Heather is on holidays, study leave, and her Sabbatical. Rev. John Benham rev.john@trinityunitedguelph.ca will be our pastoral charge supervisor. He will be present at any meetings of the Board, Council, Congregations, Pastoral Charge or Trustees and will support the Sabbatical Committee.
 - Decision taken to not hold a summer meeting. The next meeting of Ministry and Personnel will be October 23 at 7:30 pm on Zoom.
-

Rockwood Stone Finance & Stewardship

Submitted by Heather Leffler

The Committee met on April 10. Chair Randy Dewey expressed gratitude for Roy Steinberg's work as Pastoral Charge Treasurer and to Bill Allen for taking on this role in the interim.

A new email has been set up for the pastoral charge treasurer rockwoodstoneuc.treasurer@gmail.com.

The balance in the Manse Fund held in the Canoe Asset Allocation Portfolio as of December 31, 2023 was \$154,102.29. The balance as of March 31, 2024 was \$164,800.15.

Ed Nagel will be added as Treasurer and cosigner for the Manse Fund with Frontier Capital Funds. The budgeted \$12,570 will be transferred to the pastoral charge from this fund.

Stone Property & Finance

Submitted by Jack Ward and Bill Allen

Property – Jack Ward

Water samples were done January 3, 2024, instead of December due to holidays at the lab and April 3, 2024, and both passed.

Maple Syrup fundraiser was held during March and April. Thanks to all who placed orders, helped with picking up and delivering the syrup. Profits were lower than previous years but still a success.

Take-out ham dinner was held May 1, 2024, for 75 people and dinners in June, September, and October are in the plans.

Yard cleanup will be planned soon.

Replaced a stove in the kitchen April 24, 2024, at a cost of \$725.

Financial – Bill Allen

Both PAR monthly and weekly givings are lower than last year. However, interest earned from a maturing GIC of **\$2,800** has helped in mitigating a deficit from operations. The resulting deficit to April 26, 2024, is **(\$2,592)**. Net revenue from Maple Syrup sales was **\$2,281** which is \$847 less than last year.

Rockwood Property & Finance

Submitted by Sherol Steinberg

Thank you to all who support the church with their resources and time. Work on the kitchen began November 4 led by Kevin Anthony along with his able helpers Cees, Heather, Heather, Ollie, Ray and Patrick. The transformation has made for a much more useable space. Completed work included reorienting the space by moving the fridges, stoves, installing range hoods, led lighting, electrical and vent work ... still to come backsplashes behind the new stoves, new countertops and a new work surface.

One negative note is the pump on the dishwasher stopped working and the part has been backordered for months ... impacting breakfasts and potlucks. A big round of applause to those who stepped up to do dishes ... with a standing ovation to Brent who was a true dishwashing rockstar.

Stone United ran a breakfast from Rockwood at the end of November in conjunction with a Silent Auction to benefit Foodgrains. Rockwood ran breakfasts in January, February, March and April. There will be a breakfast in May then a break for the summer. The attendance at April's breakfast was 132 – a new record.

We are starting to get more interest in rentals again after shutting down rentals while renovating.

Gratitude and Thanks to

- the Country Breakfast Volunteers who are steadfast and true
- Cees Braamse and Kevin Anthony for taking on the snow removal
- all for decorating the outside and inside of the church especially to Colleen for organizing decorating the church throughout the year – with help of her minions
- thanks to Eric and Christine Wenger for the awesome tree for the outdoor nativity, to those who braved the cold to decorate at Christmas, and special mention to Chris Barlow who came to the rescue when we had a tree light emergency

Stay turned for our exciting upcoming projects!

Rockwood Outreach

Submitted by Marcia Haworth

We started off our fundraising this year with a Robbie Burns Night. It was a wonderful evening of food and fellowship with as much Scottish tradition as we could conjure up. We are very grateful to the wonderful Eramosa Ensemble and all the other musically talented people who made the evening very special. It was great to welcome back Heather's Scottish relatives with David dressed in full Scottish regalia which added the perfect touch of authenticity to the occasion as he addressed the haggis. We made over \$1000 with this event as much of the food was donated and it will enable us to support our partners: Anishnabeg Outreach, EWCS Food Bank and the Rural Women's Support Program.

To celebrate Pie Day, we held a Food Fix which was well supported and earned \$400. We have already purchased some cooked frozen food items to help the food bank clients who have limited cooking options. Also, we have replenished our stock of grocery and gas gift cards to support any drop-in requests for assistance.

In March we catered the Celebration of Life for Roy Steinberg and are so grateful to the Steinberg family for their generous donations to Outreach. As our way of honouring Roy's memory, we are donating \$1000 to the Royal City Mission in Guelph which was a charitable organization close to Roy's heart.

Our 2024 target for Mission and Service is \$12,000 and we are thankful for the donations of \$3,684 received to date.

Stone Canadian Foodgrains Bank Project

Submitted by Barb Parker

Stone UC's Canadian Foodgrains Bank Project Committee has been actively promoting our 6th year of local activities, as well as CFB nationally, and here in Ontario. In February, Bill Allen did a presentation during a Sunday Service on his November 2023 CFB Learning Tour to Malawi, and on March 27 our committee/SUC hosted Ontario CFB Coordinator Henry Reinders, and CFB Supporter Relations Manager, Julie Derksen, at a CFB Spring Information Meeting. This meeting received coverage with a nice article and picture, in the Wellington Advertiser.

Our Harvest Table initiative has expanded to include a table outside the church to offer the community mulch, spring leeks, trees/plants, seed potatoes, etc., with the theme – Take as you Need, Give as You are Able.

Seeds for pumpkins, sunflowers, zucchini are being distributed for the growing competitions along with seeds for squash, carrots, beets, cucumbers and beans, which we hope will be shared back as produce for the Harvest Table this summer and fall.

Rockwood Pastoral Care and Fellowship

Submitted by Heather Leffler

We are grateful for Ellen Thomson's leadership. As she completed her time on the committee, we welcome Scott Grant. Thanks to Ollie Darcie for continuing to organize Tea and Talk for the ladies and set up for Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun and Ian Pasmore for sending cards.

Stone Pastoral Care and Fellowship

Submitted by John Leffler

Thank you to the Pastoral Care and Fellowship members for sending cards, keeping the phone and membership lists up to date and keeping our minister informed of life events within our congregation.

The outside Harvest table is up and running. We will arrange for excess produce to go to Royal City. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to care for the earth, to care for each other by sharing produce from our gardens, to care for people in the wider community, and to offer hope to people around the world through our donations to Foodgrains.

The Easter packages that we helped deliver help keep us connected to our Church family.

Pastoral Care served communion Sunday, March 24, 2024.

Marg Baker is going to take over the task of looking after Broadview subscriptions.

Rockwood Trustees

Submitted by Rosslyn Bentley

The Trustees met with Realtor Andrew Vince on February 28, 2024 to discuss a request from the buyer to extend the closing date for the car park and entertain a bid on the work to demolish the Harris Street property and create the new car park as part of a single deal. The Trustees declined the proposal although agreeing the buyer could bid on the car park construction as a separate proposal. It was decided not to give the requested extension at that time.

On March 3 the Trustees met and declined to meet with the buyers to negotiate an extension. It was agreed to have our lawyer Chris Wood write a letter to the purchaser to clarify that the purchase of the existing car park and bidding on the new car park project must be separate. The proposed letter was not required as Andrew Vince conveyed to the buyer the information that the car park construction could not commence until the sale was completed and debts including the existing mortgage paid off.

The Trustees met again on March 12 to consider an amendment from the buyer requesting the March 27 closing on the sale of the car park be delayed to May 15 and the purchase price of \$610,000 be increased to \$615,000. The extension was approved with an added clause that if the buyer breaches the contract the church would retain the deposit \$30,000.

The WOWRC Covenant Commission and Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council have been informed of all the developments to date.

The Trustees have ascertained through the insurance provider that both the church and vacant property are fully insured.

Darryl noted that the Township needs our insurance liability information for the house. GM Blue Plan is talking to the Township Planner on our behalf. The Township reduced our deposit from \$36,000 to \$26,000. The deposit will need to be paid to the Township as soon as the property is sold.

The Trustees met on April 18 and agreed to contract with K-W Cornerstone to build our new car park.

The Trustees will begin to consider the church requirements for future spending priorities once the debts are paid off. The remaining mortgage on the house if paid during May will be \$160,528.22.

Western Ontario Waterways

Submitted by Liz Guthrie

All regional councils, the National Indigenous Council and 80% of pastoral charges in The United Church of Canada participated in the vote on Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization.

The remit now goes to go to the 44th General Council Annual Meeting when it meets on October 19, 2024.

In the meantime, the National Indigenous Council, the National Indigenous Elders Council and the Executive of the General Council will continue to work together to identify and lay out a framework for the autonomous Indigenous organization within the United Church.

The above information was received from Lori-Ann Livingston.

The Spring WOWRC meeting is being held in person/via Zoom at/from the Unifor Centre, Kincardine, Ontario from May 25 to 27, 2024.

The General Council of The United Church of Canada is in the process of looking for Commissioners to work together prior to and to attend the 45th General Council meeting August 7 to 13, 2025 in Calgary.

