

Rockwood and Stone United Churches Annual Report 2023

Stone United Church

Worship and Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 4, 2024
beginning at 9:45 am on *Zoom*



The Little Church with a Big Heart



Rockwood United Church

Worship and Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 11, 2024
beginning at 11:15 am at *Rockwood*
and on *Zoom*.



Live, Love, Laugh

Our 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 a safe and inclusive place 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 commit to learning and growing together.



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Letter from Minister Heather Leffler

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As I ponder the changes in our congregations before and after the pandemic, the prophet's words in Isaiah 43:18-19 keep coming back to me.

*Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

There will always be challenges and trials in life. Often it is in these trying times that we discover new possibilities. I trust that God is doing new things in our communities of faith and our United Church. Sharing the stories of this past year through our Annual Report helps us recognize God's activity in our midst and open ourselves to the new things the Holy One intends for us.

- a grandson coming to church with his grandmother ... a daughter coming to church with her mom*
- people sharing pictures, poetry and gifts of music enhance our worship and inspire offering praise*
- the ongoing gift of the technology that connected us through the pandemic and deepened the relationship between our congregations, allows folk to join us from home and away for worship ... lets us meet online saving travelling time and fuel ... allows family members to join in funeral services from across the country and across the ocean ... allows us to move worship to Zoom instead of cancelling when the weather is stormy using our library of the music our organists and choirs have recorded and continue to record*
- using seasonal decorations on the outside of the church door at Stone to share with the community what is happening inside our church*
- grants from the UpFund for the new heating system at Stone that the caretaker can monitor from home ... the wonderful kitchen renovations at Rockwood ... helping with the 2024 wellness series*
- our amazing anniversary speakers – at Rockwood, a young, queer woman and her family sharing their story and helping us celebrate our unanimous decision to become an affirming pastoral charge ... at Stone, our Muslim guest sharing his faith journey, his family joining in the Foodgrains celebration and his children helping serve at the Country Breakfast as part of their practice of service*
- sharing extra produce with our church family growing into Stone's Harvest Table ... putting fresh produce on our tables ... raising funds for Foodgrains ... and helping provide nutritious meals for the guests at Royal City Mission*
- a call to the Foodbank saying an additional gift card had been dropped off just when the coordinator needed cheese and butter for Christmas hampers ... butter and cheese were on sale at the grocery store, so the gift card was used to purchase what was needed*
- just before Christmas Rockwood unwrapped the gift of a sold sign on the parking lot ... the sale will pay our mortgage that has been graciously carried by Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council without regular payments for the last few years and construct a parking lot adjacent to the church which will make walking from the parking lot much safer*
- social media – our website, Facebook and Eventbrite helped people find us in-person and online for Stone's Wellness series, Rockwood's Country Breakfasts, the Pub Grub Night and Christmas Markets, Christmas Eve Worship and more ... a young person joins the Genesis Book Club from university ... Christmas Eve, responding to a phone message just before Rockwood's beautiful contemplative service brought twelve young adults who shared their wonderful voices and joyful energy at Stone's service on their tour of services which ended at the Church of Our Lady at midnight*

Thank you for being open to the Spirit and making space for our churches to be God's hands and feet in the world in new ways. May 2024 be filled with God's new possibilities for our church.

With Thanks and Blessings,

Rev Heather Leffler

The Rockwood Stone Board made the decision to vote on becoming Affirming as a Pastoral Charge. Since the Pastoral Charge does not meet regularly the minutes from this meeting are being presented to the congregations of Stone and Rockwood for acceptance as part of their Annual Meetings.

Hybrid Special Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge Meeting Minutes

Held on Sunday, June 11, 2023 in person at Rockwood and on Zoom

Submitted by Carol Smelsky

Present: (in person) Randy Dewey - Chair, Rev. Heather Leffler, Carol Smelsky - Secretary, Bill Allen, Colleen Baeumler, Carl Baker, Marg Baker, Chris Barlow, Marion Bascom, Heather Blair, Charles Michael Benham, Rosslyn Bentley, Arthur Churchyard, Mary Churchyard, Jill Clyde, Ollie Darcie, Barbara Eley, Liz Guthrie, Marcia Haworth, Patty Lancaster, John Leffler, Brian Mack, Kay Mathies, Eileen McDougall, Darlene McPhedran, Marie Milne, Ed Nagel, Eva Oliver, Barb Parker, Tom Parker, Phyllis Puchyr, Karen Richardson, Matt Setzkorn, Brent Stiles, Carol Stiles, Claire Sauveterre-Stiles, Ellen Thomson, Ray Thomson, Edie Ward, Jack Ward, Christine Wenger

(on-line) Gord Carothers, Susan Carothers, Cate Dewey, Myra Freeman, Presley Freeman, Samuel Freeman, Elsa Hore, Chris Haworth, Lisa Leffler, Sherol Steinberg, Margaret Thomson

Opening: Randy Dewey opened the meeting at 11:25 am

Opening Prayer: Rev. Heather Leffler

Motion that visitors be made corresponding members: (corresponding means that visitors can speak in the meeting but not vote) Barbara Eley / Chris Barlow. Carried.

Motion that adherents be eligible to vote at this meeting: (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) Barbara Eley / Chris Barlow. Carried.

Motion that Bill Allen (Stone UC) and Rosslyn Bentley (Rockwood UC) be the scrutineers in person and that Lisa Leffler (Stone UC) be the Zoom scrutineer: Barbara Eley / Chris Barlow. Carried.

Vision Statement (Read together)

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 a safe and inclusive place 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 the service of God, our communities, and the world.

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

Motion to accept the Rockwood Stone Vision Statement: Ellen Thomson / Brent Stiles. Carried.

Motion to become an Affirming Pastoral Charge: Edie Ward / Liz Guthrie.

Voting Procedure

At Rockwood UC, ballots will be distributed to members and adherents of Rockwood and Stone with both motions.

On Zoom, a poll will be posted for the first person in each household on both questions. Additional polls will be offered until each member or adherent of the households online have been able to vote. Anyone on Zoom struggling with technology will be invited to reach out to Lisa Leffler for assistance through a private message or by phone.

Voting

Ballots were distributed.

The Board made the decision that to pass the vote would be 75% in favour of the motions to ensure our churches can provide safe, brave space for us to continue to grow into God's churches where all people are welcome.

A hymn sing occurred while the ballots were being tallied.

Results of the Vote:

In Person - in favour 40

On Zoom - in favour 11

Unanimous vote

Motion to destroy the ballots: Ollie Darcie / Ellen Thomson. Carried.

Declaration of adjournment: Randy Dewey at 11:43 am

Closing Prayer: Brian Mack

Lunch was served afterwards.

Carol Smelsky, Recording Secretary

Stone Annual Meeting Chairperson

Rockwood Annual Meeting Chairperson

Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge Reports

Affirming Discernment Circle

Submitted by Lisa Leffler

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

The Discernment Circle met a number of times from January to June. Brent Stiles shared an affirming reflection and led the conversation in worship at Stone and Rockwood on January 22.

In February, Lisa Leffler offered an affirm reflection In Rockwood on the 5th and Stone on the 12th. A letter from Affirm was sent with the Lent Easter Congregation Pack.

In March, the Discernment Circle hosted a PIE Day event at Stone United on March 14. Elizabeth Ford and Allen Switzer from Parkminster United in Waterloo shared their church's experience of becoming affirming. Our Action Plan and Vision Statement were presented. There was time for questions, conversation and delicious pie.

The Board approved the changes to our Affirm Action Plan, Marriage Policy and Wedding Brochure and they were sent to Affirm United. The Board made the decision to hold the Affirm vote as a pastoral charge following Rockwood's Anniversary service. The Discernment Circle held an information session at Stone and on Zoom on the Saturday before for anyone who had questions.

The Discernment Circle finished our work with the vote on June 11 at Rockwood. We were grateful that the vote to become Affirming was unanimous.

Eramosa Ensemble

Submitted by Barbara Eley

Members: Chris Arbuckle (viola), Chris Barlow (cello), Heather Blair (French horn), Barbara Eley (flute), Liz Guthrie (clarinet)

The ensemble has continued to meet regularly on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm.

The ensemble performed at two private functions in June and July and played music for the annual Carol Sing on November 26. The carol sing was also a fundraiser for the EWCS Foodbank.

Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun

Submitted by Heather Leffler, Minister

Thirty-two adults and children gathered for one or more of the 10 Friday evenings held through the year. The August and November gatherings were at Stone.

Thanks to John, Heather and Lisa Leffler for the delicious meals; Liz Guthrie for her tasty desserts; Ollie Darcie setting up and making coffee; Heather and Lisa Leffler for leading the crafts, activities and worship and everyone who shared in the Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun.

Evenings include a craft or activity, conversation and worship. Our themes were Light in the Darkness, Experiencing the Holy, Life Giving, The Sacred Drum, Jacob's Ladder, Peter the Rock, The Potter and the Clay, For Such a Time as This, Cain and Abel, and The Give-Away. Our activities and crafts included candle messages, squishies, paper cranes, rainbow note cards, Jacob's ladder, rock painting, pottery, and gingerbread cookies. As well we had lots of fun carving jack-o-lanterns and flying glider doves.

People of all ages are welcome to join us on the third Friday of the month from February to April and September to December. 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 resigned), Randy Dewey (Chair), Roy Steinberg (Treasurer); Heather Leffler (Minister); **Rockwood** – Property and Finance – Amanda Hunter-Anthony (Treasurer), Sherol Steinberg (Chair); **Stone** – Property and Finance – Bill Allen (Treasurer), Edie Ward, Jack Ward (Chair)

The Committee met on Zoom on April 26 and November Updates were received from our treasurers and property chairpersons.

Roy Steinberg shared that budgeted draw from the Manse Fund for 2023 was reduced from \$25,000 to \$22,262.50 based on the excess of the balance in the account to the end of November 2022 and the budgeted float to year end.

Heather Leffler was able to change the existing Zoom license to the pastoral charge.

Amanda Hunter-Anthony and Bill Allen connected with Canada Helps to set up custom donation forms which means our fees have been reduced slightly.

The old computer and monitor from the office were taken to Habitat for Humanity.

Par Statements and invoices were redirected to the Treasurers' email and will be stored by them instead of in the office email.

Since many people are on PAR, send their offering by etransfer or mail cheques, it was decided to continue to have the offering plates at the back at Rockwood and in the narthex and on the communion table at Stone.

Ministry and Personnel

Submitted by Brian Mack, Chair

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

Ministry and Personnel met on March 8 on Zoom, July 16th in-person at Rockwood and on October 11, 2023 via Zoom.

Actions Taken

- Reviewed role of M & P, the process for communicating with Councils, the Board, and our congregants.
- Received for information that the Board had accepted our recommendation that Lisa Leffler continue as church secretary at the fall 2022 meeting.
- Received for information that the Board had endorsed our proposal to develop a policy re: police checks at the fall 2022 meeting.
- Received for information actions taken by councils concerning remuneration of custodian and organist at Rockwood and for the organist at Stone.
- Received oral reports re: annual reviews of all lay personnel.
- Received an oral report concerning Rev. Leffler's annual review which was conducted by Brian Mack and Rosslyn Bentley. Heather continues to enjoy working in partnership with our congregations.
- Received at each meeting updates concerning Rev. Leffler's 2023 goals and acknowledged Rev. Leffler's goals for 2024:

- to encourage our congregations to grow in understanding of what it means to be affirming;
 - to continue to support the Rockwood and Stone Trustees;
 - to prayerfully discern how to support volunteers and committees in embracing change;
 - to continue to invite our entire congregations to see themselves as part of pastoral care
- Discussed ways in which our churches can support ministry personnel, lay employees, volunteers, and non-ministry personnel.
 - Provided recommendations to the Finance and Stewardship Committee for budget considerations re: salary and benefits for Rev. Leffler and our Secretary, Lisa Leffler for 2024.
 - Encouraged our Councils to review honorariums and rates of remuneration unique to each church.
 - Discussed Rev. Leffler's upcoming sabbatical in 2024 and supported her in determining which dates of leave work best for her, what the nature of her experience will entail, and how she will report to the congregations following the sabbatical.
 - Concurred with Worship and Faith Formation that Lisa Leffler provide pulpit supply when Rev. Leffler is on sabbatical.
 - 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.

Ministry and Personnel will next meet in March of 2024.

Minister's Report to Ministry and Personnel for 2023

Submitted by Heather Leffler, Minister

Worship and Faith Formation – I am so grateful for our musicians – Heather Blair, Barb Eley and Liz Guthrie, our soloists, choirs, the Rockwood Chimes Choir and Eramosa Ensemble, everyone who shares pictures, reads and takes part in conversation in person and on Zoom enriching our worship. Thanks also to those who help with tech so people can join us on Zoom; our secretary for editing and posting videos of worship so people can connect on YouTube; and everyone who has written and contributed to Contemplation and Conversation and helped prepare and deliver Congregation Packages to offer faith formation opportunities beyond Sunday morning.

Our Bible Study on the Epistles, the Genesis Book Club, Spiritual Saturdays and Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun offer ongoing opportunities for learning, spiritual growth and deepening relationships.

Children and Young People

Until Seasons of the Spirit ceased publishing in December, I was able to send children's activities to families in our congregations each week.

Elsa Hore's generous prize for the *Why is Pumpkin Shedding a Tear?* story contest encouraged children and grandchildren to write stories in conjunction with Stone's Canadian Foodgrains Bank project. Congratulation to winner Naomi Grace and Hudson McPhedran for the most unique story. Thanks to all the participants; Bill Allen and Barb Eley for judging the stories and Elsa for the inspiration and prizes.

Pastoral Care and Fellowship

Tea and talk for women continues every other Thursday at Rockwood, occasionally moving to Zoom if the weather is stormy. I host on Zoom and attend when I am available. I hosted a morning of Crafts and Conversation at Rockwood in the fall to crochet stars for the Congregation Packages. Until June, Gord Carothers or I hosted Coffee Connections for men on Zoom.

Thanks 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, writing Contemplation and Conversation, creating Congregational Packages, and sending Christmas cards keeps you and your families in my heart.

Outreach

I am grateful the willingness of both congregations to be innovative has led to some new, exciting initiatives. The Wellness Series and Harvest Table at Stone and the Chimes Anniversary, Country Breakfast Pub Grub Night and Christmas Market at Rockwood invite others to connect with us.

Both congregations recognize that outreach means much more than just sending monetary contributions to various organizations. Outreach has come to mean educating ourselves, building relationships with each other, our partners and the community.

I am grateful for the continued growth in our partnership with Anishnabeg Outreach through donations, opportunities for attendance at various AO functions, and support of their reconciliation garden. Your generous support of our partners the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, East Wellington Community Services, Mission and Service and the Rural Women's Support Program help us make a difference in our world.

Churches

The imagination of our two congregations coupled with looking both forward and outward led to discernment concerning possibilities for the front door and a new environmentally friendly heating system at Stone, kitchen and Day Hall renovations at Rockwood, and the beginning of discussions concerning the potential for use of space in both sanctuaries. I am especially grateful for the sale of the parking lot at Rockwood.

Meeting with our Board, Councils, Committees and Discernment Circles, as I am able, allows me to offer support and help co-ordinate activities. The willingness of both congregations to often plan jointly and to be supportive of projects undertaken by each other helps me serve you. Your willingness to embrace technology keeps us connected and builds community.

Discernment Circle – I am very grateful to our Affirming Discernment Circle for their leadership and our congregations unanimous vote to become affirming. We look forward to our celebration and to continue to find ways to not only welcome people into our churches but to make our spaces safe and inclusive for all people.

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, Congregational Packages and Annual Reports and attends to other office duties as they arise. Thanks to Treasurers Amanda Hunter-Anthony at Rockwood and Bill Allen at Stone for collecting the mail.

I complete our annual statistics with the help of our treasurers, maintain our historical records and prepare 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 the Festival of Homiletics, Can the Church Change, Amplifying Digital Ministry, and the Courageous Church 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 helps keep me grounded.

Neighbouring United Churches – Our Rockwood Stone musicians, readers, Lisa Leffler and I hosted the Good Friday service at Rockwood with participants from Barrie Hill and Speedside. Stone’s Canadian Foodgrains Bank project helped us connect with Arkell, Barrie Hill and Ebenezer.

Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council (WOWRC) – I continue to serve on the executive of WOWRC and our Volunteer Recruitment Committee, and helped plan WOWRC meetings. Thanks to Liz Guthrie at Stone for representing us online at the spring and fall meetings. Ebenezer United Church and Trinity United in Acton called Rev. Jeff Werner in April which brought my time as pastoral charge supervisor to an end. I was thankful to members of our churches who joined Ebenezer for their 200th anniversary worship and events.

I continue to serve as co-chairperson of the Guided Prayer Network and enjoy attending the Guelph Bridging Group.

Trustees

Submitted by Heather Leffler, Minister, Chair

Trustees: Stone – Randy Dewey, Peter Guthrie (Treasurer – resigned), Ed Nagel – elected October 15, 2023), Paul May, Eileen McDougall
Rockwood – Rosslyn Bentley, Darryl Nichol, David Smelsky, Christine Wenger
 Heather Leffler (Minister)

The Trustees met on October 23 and welcomed Ed Nagel. He agreed to replace Peter Guthrie as co-signer with Heather Leffler. Heather agreed to prepare the financial report for 2023.

The Trustees reviewed the Manse Fund from 2013 to 2022.

Rockwood Stone Trustees
 Manse Fund Summary 2013-2022

Date	Fund(s) at Year End	GIC Interest	Income Distribution	Fees Rebate	Capital Gain Distribution	Change in Market	Withdrawal for Housing Allowance	Balance
2013	GIC’s – Resmor Trust, T.D. Pacific, Canadian Tire	\$2,936.40					-\$2,936.40	\$119,847.00
2014	GIC’s – Resmor Trust, T.D. Pacific, Canadian Tire	\$2,278.00					-\$2,261.47	\$119,863.53
2015	Canadian Tire GIC, Fiera	\$1,220.98	\$2,580.30	\$395.51		-\$5,643.94	-\$754.22	\$117,663.16
2016	Fiera	\$750.45	\$2,073.03	\$582.99		-\$938.44	-\$1,700.00	\$119,380.74
2017	Fiera		\$1,106.84	\$793.72	\$15,252.36	-\$3859.90	0	\$132,673.76
2018	Fiera		\$8,139.36	\$841.50		-\$12,291.02	0	\$129,363.60
2019	Canoe Financial		\$8,043.79	\$859.58		\$7,973.28	-\$4,000.00	\$142,240.20
2020	Canoe Financial		\$5,436.83	\$767.55		\$4,566.08	-\$4,000.00	\$149,010.66
2021	Canoe Financial		\$10,761.94	\$1,058.42		\$32,918.77	-\$4,000.00	\$189,749.79
2022	Canoe Financial		\$6,992.68	\$1,025.00		-\$4,542.70	-\$25,140.00	\$168,084.77

\$22,262.50 was withdrawn in 2023.

The Trustees decided to withdraw up to \$25,140 in 2024 to transfer to the Pastoral Charge to pay the housing allowance.

Rockwood Stone Trustees Financial Report for 2023

Prepared by David Smelsky

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets - December 31, 2022 - Market Value	<u>\$ 168,084.77</u>	<u>\$ 189,749.79</u>
Income		
Canoe Financial Income Distribution	4,885.42	6,992.68
Canoe Financial Fees Rebate	964.92	1,025.00
Capital Gain (Loss)	<u>3,138.06</u>	<u>4,962.74</u>
	<u>8,988.40</u>	<u>12,980.42</u>
Expenses		
Housing allowance transfer to General Fund	<u>22,250.00</u>	<u>25,140.00</u>
	<u>22,250.00</u>	<u>25,140.00</u>
Income (loss) before change in market valuation	(13,261.60)	(12,159.58)
Increase (decrease) in Market Valuation	(720.88)	(9,505.44)
Assets - December 31, 2023 - Market Value	<u>\$ 154,102.29</u>	<u>\$ 168,084.77</u>
	-	-
<u>Summary of Account Holdings</u>		
Adjusted Cost Base (ACB)	\$ 125,693.96	\$ 141,674.23
# of shares	12,104.8729	13,440.867

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:

- Rev. Leffler's careful preparation and attention to detail
- Liz Guthrie and Heather Blair for their preparation and playing; Barb Eley and Liz Guthrie for working with our choirs when combined and separate; 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 beautiful music on selected occasions
- Lisa Leffler for music, pictures, tech support for worship, and editing services for posting online; Chris Arbuckle, John Leffler, Ed Nagel, Brent Stiles, and Tammy Smits for tech support for worship
- all who provided pictures, stories, photographs, paintings, 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 at the start of Lent, Creation Time, and Advent

Faith Formation Activities

- **Bible Study** (Heather Leffer) – In the months leading up to summer, Bible Study focussed on the writings of Paul. The books of Titus, 1st and 2nd Peter were discussed in the fall.
- **Spiritual Saturdays** (Lisa Leffler) – Themes explored: "Called to Community" and "Bread of Life".
- **Genesis Book Club** – Met monthly on Zoom or in a hybrid format. Led to lively discussion.
- **Congregational Packages** – Packages were distributed for Lent & Easter, Creation, and Advent/Christmas.
- **Tea & Talk** – Ladies met bi-weekly in-person or on Zoom during winter, spring, and fall.
- **Coffee Connections** – Men met bi-weekly online until mid-June.
- **Faith, Food, Fellowship, and Fun** (Heather, John, Lisa Leffler) – Gatherings were held on June 16, July 21, September 15, October 20, and December 15 at Rockwood while Stone was the setting for our August 18 and November 17 gatherings.
- **Choir** (Liz Guthrie, Heather Blair, Barb Eley) – After meeting in a combined choir format for the early part of the year, individual choirs began meeting in the fall and have supported worship on a regular basis.
- **Eramosa Ensemble** – Practicing at Stone weekly, the Ensemble played at private functions over the summer and for Rockwood's Carol Sing on November 26.
- **Chimes Choir** – Began rehearsing Sunday mornings at Rockwood as of October 22 and celebrated their 15th year anniversary on the evening of June 4th. Following a delicious supper, they shared their music and Christine Wenger, Brent Stiles, and Chris Barlow entertained with a skit.
- **Contemplation & Conversation** – Weekly contributions by Heather Leffler with support from Lisa Leffler, Tammy Smits, Liz Guthrie, Brian Mack, and Rosslyn Bentley are shared by email and online.

Worship Highlights

- **February 5, Stone Worship and Annual Meeting** on Zoom – Rockwood committee members led their service in-person focusing on Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, and Daring Justice.
- **February 12, Rockwood Worship and Annual Meeting** – Sherol Steinberg led the service and Rev. Leffler joined for the service and the annual meeting on Zoom. At Stone committee members and Lisa Leffler led their service on the same theme as that of Rockwood the previous week.

- **February 26, 1st Sunday of Lent** – Communion served.
- **March 3, World Day of Prayer** – Service led by Rev Leffler at Rockwood while some of our members attended the service held at Barrie Hill. Parts of the service were used in worship in our churches on the subsequent Sunday with Lisa Leffler leading.
- **April 2, Palm Sunday** – Communion served.
- **April 7, Good Friday Service** – Led by Lisa Leffler and Heather Leffler with guests from Barrie Hill and Speedside attending.
- **April 9, Easter Sunday** – Randy Dewey and Patty Lancaster sang at Stone and Chris Barlow, Rosslyn Bentley, Heather Blair, and Barb Eley sang at Rockwood.
- **May 14, Rogation/Rural Life Sunday** – Lisa Leffler offered a video of farm pictures with the Rockwood Stone Choir singing “We Plough the Fields and Scatter” and Brian Mack reading a poem suggested by Barb Parker.
- **May 28, Pentecost Sunday** – We held our annual pastoral charge picnic on the lawn at Stone following a combined service. Tom Parker, Heather Leffler, and Lisa Leffler engaged us with a trivia contest, a craft and a scavenger hunt. The service which included communion was based on the Dreaming Dreams worship from the Western Ontario Waterways Spring Meeting.
- **June 4, UCW Celebration at Stone** – Marg Baker prepared the UCW closing that was part of worship and provided each member of the UCW with a rose. Heather prepared a slide show for Offering Praise with pictures of UCW through the years. Bakers and Lefflers made cupcakes for fellowship following worship.
- **June 11, Rockwood’s Anniversary** – Natasha Luth spoke passionately about her church experience and her work with the Queer Christian Community as part of the U of G Ecumenical Campus Ministry. Following the service, a pastoral charge meeting was held chaired by Randy Dewey with Carol Smelsky recording the minutes. Our Affirming Vision statement was unanimously accepted. The congregations together also voted unanimously that we become an Affirming Pastoral Charge.
- **September 24, Orange Shirt Sunday** – We wore orange in support of our Indigenous brothers and sisters who are still experiencing the effects of residential schools.
- **October 1, World Communion Sunday** – Rev. Leffler used worship resource materials from Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.
- **October 15, Stone’s 161st Anniversary** – Guest speaker Anees Munshi talked about his faith journey and commonalities between various faiths. Following a “crock pot” luncheon, the Canadian Food Grains Bank wrap up occurred outside the church and in the Jeanne Jackson Reading Room.
- **October 29, All Saint’s Sunday** – We remembered people who have died from each congregation during the past year.
- **November 5, Remembrance Sunday** – Worship was led by the Worship and Faith Formation committee at Rockwood at 10 am.
- **December 3, 1st Sunday of Advent** – Communion was served.
- **December 3, Blue Christmas Service** – Quiet, reflective service at Stone at 7 pm. Candles were lit in remembrance of individuals.
- **December 24, Christmas Eve Morning Service** – Held on Zoom.
- **December 24, Christmas Eve Night Services** – Readings, Reflections and Communion at Rockwood from 6:15 until 7 pm featuring the flute playing of Barb Eley. Communion Service at Stone at 7:30 pm featuring the Stone Choir for their Offering Praise of “In the Bleak Midwinter” which accompanied a video prepared by Lisa Leffler.
- **December 31, 1st Sunday of Christmas** – Service led by the Worship and Faith Formation Committee on Zoom at 10 am.

Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge Financial Reports

Annual Report for Year Ended December 31, 2023

Submitted by Roy Steinberg, Treasurer

2023 Receipts and Expenses compared to Budget				2024 Approved Budget		
	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Variance Favourable (Unfavourable)	2024 Budget	Notes	% change from 2023 Actual
Cash Receipts						
Transfers Rockwood	\$ 42,905.28	\$ 42,905.28	\$ -	\$ 45,837.48	1	6.83%
Transfers Stone	\$ 42,905.28	\$ 42,905.28	-	\$ 45,837.48	1	6.83%
Rockwood UCC Assessment	\$ 3,438.36	\$ 3,438.36	-	\$ 2,843.52	2	-17.30%
Stone UCC Assessment	\$ 3,248.64	\$ 3,248.64	0.00	\$ 3,082.56	2	-5.11%
Transfer from Manse Fund	\$ 22,250.00	\$ 22,250.00	-	\$ 25,140.00	3	12.99%
Receipts Other	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	4	
Total Receipts	\$ 114,747.56	\$ 114,747.56	\$ 0.00	\$ 122,741.04		6.97%
Rockwood Sabbatical Fund Contribution	\$ 1,281.00	\$ 1,281.00		\$ 681.00		
Stone Sabbatical Fund Contribution	\$ 1,281.00	\$ 1,281.00		\$ 681.00		
Sabbatical Fund Contributions	\$ 2,562.00	\$ 2,562.00	\$ -	\$ 1,362.00		-46.84%
Total Contributions	\$ 117,309.56	\$ 117,309.56	\$ 0.00	\$ 124,103.04		
Expenses						
Salary, Minister	\$ 52,456.91	\$ 77,498.00	\$ (98.91)	\$ 82,380.00	6	6.16%
Housing Allowance	\$ 25,140.00	Included		Included	7	
Minister Automobile Mileage	\$ 2,211.40	\$ 2,200.00	(11.40)	\$ 2,200.00	8	-0.52%
Minister Telephone Allowance	\$ 420.00	\$ 420.00	-	\$ 420.00	9	0.00%
Office Phone and Internet	\$ 1,001.39	\$ 1,020.00	18.61	\$ 1,080.00	10	7.85%
Worship-Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,856.00	\$ 2,009.00	153.00	\$ 1,812.00	11	
Church Secretary	\$ 5,119.92	\$ 5,119.79	(0.13)	\$ 5,442.47	12	6.30%
Employee Benefits (CPP, EI)	\$ 4,479.27	\$ 4,404.88	(74.39)	\$ 4,356.54	13	-2.74%
Church Pension & Benefits	\$ 14,704.80	\$ 14,704.76	(0.04)	\$ 15,631.10	14	6.30%
Continuing Education	\$ 1,543.00	\$ 1,543.00	-	\$ 1,640.00	15	6.29%
Minister - Minor expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	200.00	\$ 200.00	16	
Office Supplies	\$ 326.46	\$ 200.00	(126.46)	\$ 200.00	17	
Copier	\$ 270.90	\$ 250.00	(20.90)	\$ 250.00	18	-7.72%
Bulletins	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	19	
Bank Charges	\$ 591.58	\$ 728.11	136.53	\$ 739.91	20	25.07%
Joint Pastoral Charge Projects	\$ 318.50	\$ 2,000.00	1,681.50	\$ 1,100.00	21	245.37%
Marketing Costs	\$ -	\$ 800.00	800.00	\$ 800.00	22	
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 200.00	200.00	\$ 200.00	23	
Audio and Copyright Fee	\$ 354.00	\$ 763.00	409.00	\$ 763.00	24	115.54%
Annual Report	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	25	
United Church Assessment	\$ 6,687.00	\$ 6,687.00	-	\$ 5,926.00	26	-11.38%
PST & GST & HST PAID	\$ 120.32	\$ -	(120.32)	\$ -	27	
Total Expenses	\$ 117,601.45	\$ 120,747.54	\$ 3,146.09	\$ 125,141.03		6.41%
Receipts Less Expenses	\$ (2,853.89)	\$ (5,999.98)	\$ 3,146.09	\$ (2,399.99)	28	
Balance Start of Period	\$ 11,616.96	\$ 11,616.96		\$ 8,763.07		
Balance, end of the period (excl Sabbatical)	\$ 8,763.07	\$ 5,616.98		\$ 6,363.08		
Minister Sabbatical Fund for 2024/2025						
Sabbatical Fund Balance as at Start of Period	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 2,562.00		
Sabbatical Fund Contribution	\$ 2,562.00	\$ 2,562.00	\$ -	1,362.00	29	
Sabbatical Fund Expense	\$ -	\$ -		3,924.00	29	
Balance, end of the period	\$ 11,325.07	\$ 8,178.98		\$ 6,363.08		-43.81%

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 2024 Budget	
1	7% increase in church transfers - due to 6%+ salary increase and deeper deficit run in 2023. For 2024 transfers reduced by \$100 to help manage increase and to right size deficit (YE balance one payroll
2	Assessment updated for 2024. Calculated and split from 2022 statistics on revenue.
3	Finance & Stewardship recommended 2024 withdrawal.
4	
5	
6	6.3% increase per UCC and Ministry and Personnel recommendations
7	included in salary
8	Mileage held at 4000 km - in line with 2023. Note actuals in 2023 include mileage for pulpit supply which are budgeted with pulpit supply.
9	Minister's Telephone allowance same as 2023 and prior years. Note we currently benefit from Rev. Leffler's family discount on home services.
10	Rates increased \$5 mid 2023 - included for 2024
11	Rates are per UCC recommendations - \$247 per day plus \$0.55 / km. 6 pulpit supply Sundays planned for 2024 other than sabbatical (see below)
12	6.3% increase per UCC and Ministry and Personnel recommendations
13	Updated per Government rates for 2024
14	Updated per UCC calculator worksheet.
15	Per UCC and M&P requirements and recommendations
16	No Change
17	\$200 for office incidentals
18	Copier costs continue low without bulletin use.
19	no requirement
20	Includes ADP payroll fees and RBC monthly banking fees
21	Affirming complete - \$100 annual fee included for membership
22	No Change
23	No Change
24	audio, video and zoom
25	
26	2024 Updated
27	
28	Projecting a deficit of \$2.4k for 2024 - target \$5k year end balance as one payroll cycle buffer.
29	Sabbatical fund contributions from 2023 - balance
30	Additional 2024 contributions - note 2023 was set as 2/3 of the requirement
31	Sabbatical expense modelled as 12 weeks of pulpit supply expenses
32	Pastoral Charge Supervisor fee \$30/hr x 10 hrs added per Heather for Trustee meetings

Stone Annual Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2023 on Zoom at 11:10 am

98th Annual Meeting for the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Submitted by Tammy Smits

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

AGENDA ITEM #	DESCRIPTION – PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1	Welcome/Overview/Opening Prayer/Voting Procedure – Brian Mack
	<p>Chair Brian Mack opened the meeting with a prayer. He went over the agenda and invited those who submitted reports to highlight a few items. When all reports in a section finished, attendees were free to ask questions or make additional comments.</p> <p>There was a time for people to reflect on how Stone answered the calls of daring justice, deep spirituality and bold discipleship to connect to others in 2022 and forward.</p> <p><i>Motion that voting be made by a show of hands, unless voting by ballot is requested. Moved by Barb Parker. Seconded by Jack Ward. Carried.</i></p> <p><i>Motion that visitors be made corresponding members. Moved by Patty Lancaster. Seconded by Paul May. Carried.</i></p> <p><i>Motion that adherents be eligible to vote at this meeting. Moved by Liz Guthrie. Seconded by Marg Baker. Carried.</i></p>
2	Minutes of February 6, 2022 Annual Meeting – Brian Mack
	<i>There was a motion to accept the Annual Meeting minutes pp 16-22 for the year ended December 31, 2021 as printed. Moved by Peter Guthrie. Seconded by John Leffler. Carried.</i>
3	Business Arising from the Minutes – Brian Mack
	Heather noted that the Congregational Support (formerly Covenant) Commission passed the submitted governance policies in their consent agenda.
4	Correspondence – Brian Mack
	Heather invited everyone to join the Regional Council email list to receive communications from the wider United Church community. Anyone wishing guidance on how to do this can contact Heather.
5	Review of Annual Reports for the Year Ended December 31, 2022
5a	Pastoral Charge Reports pp 3-15
i	<p>Minister’s Letter/Minster’s Report/ Faith Food Friendship and Fun – Rev. Leffler</p> <p>Heather thanked everyone for all their hard work; she feels privileged and grateful to serve together with people in this church.</p> <p>Everyone is welcome to join the Faith Food Friendship and Fun group that gathers on the 2nd Friday of the month in Rockwood. John makes delicious dinners and it is a lot of fun.</p>
ii	<p>Affirming Discernment Circle – Liz Guthrie</p> <p>Further details will follow on Pie Day being planned in March.</p>

iii	Finance and Stewardship – Bill Allen The transfer from the Manse fund was significantly increased over 2021 due to a decision by the Pastoral Charge Board, which decreased transfer amounts in 2022.
iv	Ministry and Personnel – Brian Mack This committee meets 3 times per year; anyone in the church can contact committee members with questions or concerns to be addressed.
v	Music at Rockwood and Stone – Liz Guthrie Both the Rockwood and Stone choirs have lost several members, so they have combined. They continue to meet masked, distanced, and moving room to room. They are quite happy with how it is working.
vi	Reopening Commission – Brian Mack This group was disbanded by motion of the Board and decisions related are now dealt with by Randy Dewey, Heather Leffler, Sheryl Steinberg and Brian Mack with input from the Worship and Faith Formation committee.
vii	Trustees – Rev. Leffler The Stone Trustees have not met but were contacted individually to discuss taking money from investments to help the congregation. They will be meeting this year to discuss the role of Trustees and to make some decisions about GIC's coming due in April.
viii	Rockwood and Stone Trustees Financial Report for 2022 – Peter Guthrie \$25,000 was transferred to the General Fund in 2022 and a similar amount will be moved again in 2023; further discussion is needed as this is not sustainable.
ix	Worship and Faith Formation – Brian Mack The report shows the amount of activities and commitment of this congregation. Brian especially thanked Liz for her musical leadership and the choir for all their efforts. <i>Motion to accept Pastoral Charge Reports – Ministers Letter; Affirming Discernment Circle; Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun; Finance and Stewardship; Ministry and Personnel; Minister's Report to Ministry and Personnel for 2022; Music at Rockwood and Stone; Reopening Commission; Trustees; Rockwood Stone Trustees Financial Report for 2022; Worship & Faith Formation as printed p. 3-13. Moved by Randy Dewey. Seconded by Elsa Hore. Carried.</i>
5b	Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge Financial Reports and 2023 Budget – Bill Allen There will be an increase in the transfer from the Manse Fund again in the amount of \$22,000 which will have a positive impact on the amount being transferred from the Rockwood and Stone churches. A sabbatical fund has been created to cover Heather's leave in 2024-2025; each church will be contributing \$1,200 this year and subsequent years. Projections show \$8,000 at year end. <i>There was a motion to accept the Pastoral Charge Financial Report and 2023 Budget pp 14-15 as printed. Moved by Bill Allen. Seconded by Elsa Hore. Carried.</i>
5c	Moment of Silence was held to remember those who died this year.
5d	Stone United Church Committee Reports pp 23-25 & pp 38-39
i	Membership/Statistics 2023/Stone United Church Roll – Karen Richardson

	Karen noted how nice it was to have Heidi, Lane and Emma join Stone this year and thanked Heather and Lisa Leffler for the work they put into the confirmation classes.
ii	Stone Council – Brian Mack Council is trying to communicate consistently with the members of congregation on decisions made. Minutes are now being sent within 2 weeks of the meeting. Committee Chairs are submitting written reports to the Secretary a week in advance of the next meeting to be distributed to allow people more time to prepare. Motions are also being sent ahead of time and being approved in a consensus model.
iii	Canadian Foodgrains Bank Growing Project – Tom Parker The Foodgrains always set a high bar. Henry Reinders is very happy with the out-of-the-box approach used by Stone to raise funds.
iv	Genesis Book Club – Brian Mack The book club is a dynamic enthusiastic group and always has good conversation whether members have read the book or not. Everyone is welcome to join.
v	Pastoral Care and Fellowship – John Leffler John thanked Gwen for sending cards, Karen for keeping up the rolls and contact list, and the other committee members for their hard work on all they accomplish through the year.
vi	Property and Finance – Jack Ward/Bill Allen Jack corrected that there were 3 takeout dinners held last year (May 28, September 28, and October 26) as opposed to 4 mentioned in the report. The amount raised was reported correctly. The Cogeco connection will not happen until better weather, but he continues to monitor.
vii	United Church Women (UCW)/UCW Final Report 2022 – Marg Baker/Edie Ward Everyone is saddened by the disbanding of the UCW but are hopeful the work can be carried on by the congregation through the other committees. Brian thanked Marg for the comprehensive list of duties provided. Heather thanked them for all the work over the years with their own projects and for supporting the congregation. April 23 rd is being recommended as a combined service to recognize the UCW members and their contributions.
viii	Western Ontario Waterways – Liz Guthrie WOWRC met twice over Zoom. They send the workbooks out ahead of time. The meetings have a time of worship, remembering those who have passed and hearing about new appointments/covenanting's etc. and are well done. Brian thanked Liz for being the WOWRC representative. <i>Motion to accept Stone Committee Reports – Membership; Statistics 2022; Stone United Church Roll; Stone Council; Canadian Foodgrains Bank; Genesis Book Club; Pastoral Care and Fellowship; Property and Finance; United Church Women; UCW Financial Report; Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council as corrected. pp. 23-31. Moved by Edie Ward. Seconded by Peter Guthrie. Carried.</i>
5e	2022 Stone Financial Reports – Bill Allen
i	Operating Statement Income

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly givings were down from previous year and have continued to decline over the past 3 years due to pandemic and loss of long-term givers • Mission & Service was down about \$1,500 from 2021 • Foodgrains came short of the intended budget but received \$1525 for Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief that went through Foodgrains but did not count in this project • Maple syrup sales met predictions and will continue in 2023 • Takeout dinners have replaced the revenue from the beef dinner • Total revenue was down slightly from previous years <p>Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Charge expenses were down due to transfers from the Manse Fund • Fuel oil costs were up more than propane which is likely due to the new furnace in being more efficient • Lower than expected net surplus of \$1,200 <p>Church Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of purchase of AV – with the UPFund grant the church’s portion is \$1,500 • UCW fund now closed <p>Balance Sheet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,000 in current account spread over 5 funds • Largest is Memorial Fund • Still have money in Children of Bukati Fund • \$51,000 in General Fund that was surplus invested • \$34,700 in Oakes Fund • \$35,000 in 2 GIC’s are due in April 2023 – need to have a meeting with Trustees to discuss the re-investment of that money <p>Overall the church is in excellent shape with \$117, 322 in assets and \$0 liabilities.</p>
ii	<p>Stone United Church Cemetery Fund/Reviewers – Bill Allen The Cemetery fund expense is \$200 towards grass cutting (church provides \$500). There is \$9,500 in a GIC. Both the Cemetery fund and governance will be reviewed in 2023. Brian thanked those who reviewed the reports. <i>Motion to accept Stone Financial Reports – Balance Sheet; Operating Statement; Cemetery Fund; Reviewers as printed. pp. 32-35 & p. 38. Moved by Carl Baker. Seconded by Ed Nagel. Carried.</i></p>
iii	<p>2023 Proposed Budget – Bill Allen</p> <p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipate total weekly givings of \$20,000; PAR projections remain the same • Hoping to maintain the same income from maple syrup sales • Takeout dinners projected at \$4,500 • Foodgrains projected at \$8,000 • Increased Anishnabeg Outreach slightly • Projecting roughly the same as last year <p>Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Charge expenses slight increase in operating – still have benefit of transfer from Manse Fund • Assessment same as last year • Sabbatical reserve added • Operating expenses projected to be down about \$2,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed the property insurance provider so anticipating about 15% lower • Projecting all other expenses to be the same • Net surplus projected of about \$700 but that is including the slight increase in weekly givings <p>Peter noted that internet service is not reflected in this. Bill will add under the operating expenses at about \$100/month for the last six months.</p> <p>Patty noted that the organist amount is less than 2022; Bill will increase to \$1,300. It is on the agenda to look into how much the organist is compensated in 2023 because if the church had to hire an organist it would be a significantly higher amount.</p> <p>Bill noted that a line of \$500 was added to revenue for donations to the Bakeless Bakesale; the same amount was added to expenses for donation to schools as was previously done by the UCW. With the above proposed changes, the Net Surplus is now \$300.</p> <p>Brian thanked Bill for putting this together and all his hard work throughout the year.</p> <p><i>There was a motion to accept the 2023 proposed budget pp 36-37. Moved by Patty Lancaster. Seconded by Randy Dewey. Carried.</i></p>
5f	<p>Stone Nomination Report – Brian Mack</p> <p>Brian discussed the report, noting that voting council members are shown with an asterisk. In the Outreach portion, the UCW member on Council will be replaced by a member of Foodgrains (Barb Parker).</p> <p>If a voting member of Council cannot attend a meeting, they can designate a member of their committee to vote in their place. Everyone is welcome to attend Council meetings whether they can vote or not.</p> <p><i>There was a motion to accept the Stone Nominations Report for 2023 p 39 as printed. Moved by Bill Allen. Seconded by Peter Guthrie. Carried.</i></p>
6	<p>New Business – All</p>
6a	<p>Door Panel Discernment Circle – Tom Parker</p> <p>A Discernment Circle has been struck to explore whether the side panels on the front door of the church can be revitalized to make it more modern, inclusive, inviting and visible from the road. Tom Parker, Gwen Brander, Heather Leffler and possibly Heather Nagel will continue to compile ideas, get quotes and bring recommendations to the September Council meeting.</p> <p>Other ideas mentioned were having more signage for the church to make people aware of what is happening with the congregation, and painting the door in the interim until the panels are finalized. Tom agreed those are part of the conversation on how to move forward, even incrementally. Other stakeholder identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eileen McDougall as she was involved with the original installation of door and panels • members of the Duffield family as it was their family who donated money for the door originally
7	<p>Closing Prayer and Declaration of Adjournment – Heather Leffler/ Brian Mack</p>
	<p>Brian thanked everyone for their submissions and editing. He thanked Lisa Leffler as the Pastoral Charge secretary and John Leffler for all their technology support and hard work.</p> <p>Reverend Leffler closed the meeting with a prayer.</p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.</p>

**Stone Congregational Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2023 at Stone United Church
and on Zoom at 11:30 am**

Submitted by Tammy Smits

AGENDA ITEM #	DESCRIPTION – PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1	Welcome/Call to Order/Voting Procedure – Brian Mack
	Chair Brian Mack called the meeting to order and established that voting would be done by show of hands.
2	Motions – All
	<p><i>Motion that adherents be eligible to vote at this meeting. Moved by Liz Guthrie. Seconded by Bill Allen. Carried.</i></p> <p><i>Motion to accept the resignation of Peter Guthrie as Trustee. Moved by John Leffler. Seconded by Jack Ward. Carried.</i></p> <p><i>Motion to welcome Ed Nagel as Trustee. Moved by Lisa Leffler. Seconded by Tom Parker. Carried.</i></p>
	Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Tammy Smits, Recording Secretary

Chairperson

Stone United Church Committee Reports

Membership

submitted by Karen Richardson

Number of Resident Members – January 1, 2023	83	
Removed by Death	2	
Diane May		
Carl Baker		
Removed to Non-Resident Member	1	
Peter Guthrie		
Removed by Request	1	
Nancy Fountain		
Total Number of Resident Members – December 31, 2023		79
Number of Non-Resident Members – January 1, 2023	67	
Added to Non-Resident Member	1	
Peter Guthrie		
Removed by Death	1	
Leila Kingston		
Total Number of Non-Resident Members – December 31, 2023		67
Total Number on Church Roll – December 31, 2023		146

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0

Funerals: 3

Diane (Wrigglesworth) May at Mayhaven Farm on October 8, 2023

Carl George Baker at Johnson-Eramosa Union Cemetery on October 14, 2023

Kathryn “Kate” Joan Gilchrist at Crowne Cemetery on November 7, 2023 (Eramosa PC Burial Record)

In Memoriam

Diane May died June 29, 2023

Leila Kingston died July 8, 2023

Carl Baker died September 26, 2023

Statistics 2023

Submitted by Heather Leffler, Minister

Number of Households	106	Other Group Memberships	
Number of Financially Supporting Households	39	<i>Includes anyone who has attended</i>	
Number of Givers to Local Expenses	39	<i>at least once in person or online.</i>	
Number of Givers to Mission and Service	17	*Bible Study	9
Average Weekly Attendance in October and November		Stone Choir	9
in Worship on Zoom	4	*Genesis Book Club	13
In Worship in-person	22	*Wellness Day	67
Adherents – <i>Includes children, youth and adults who</i>	15		
<i>participate in the life and work of our church monthly.</i>			
Children and Young People			
3-5 years of age	2	<i>*Includes participants from both</i>	
12-18 years of age	3	<i>congregations.</i>	

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

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

Stone Council

Submitted by Brian Mack, Chair

Stone Council met on January 17 and October 4 via Zoom. At each meeting, Council received for information written reports from each of our committees and orally from Rev. Leffler concerning her ministry.

Consensus this year was reached regarding the following:

- To re-assess coffee hour in light of on-going Covid concerns
- To have the February 5 church service and annual meeting solely on-line
- To authorize Jack Ward to meet with representatives of the McCarl family re: cemetery stone
- To recognize the contributions of the UCW and to re-distribute the various tasks normally completed by UCW amongst Property & Finance, Worship & Faith Formation, and Pastoral Care
- To form a committee consisting of Bill Allen, Tom Parker, Eileen McDougall and one other person to provide for proper governance to oversee the cemetery
- To send a letter outlining current church initiatives to lapsed donors
- To hold a congregational meeting on Anniversary Sunday for the purpose of accepting the resignation of Peter Guthrie as a trustee and to endorse Ed Nagel as Peter's replacement

Motions discussed and carried this year concerned the following:

- To adopt the proposed terms of reference re: Organist and Music Director Position Description for Stone United Church (via email declared carried by the Chair on February 15/23)
- To examine choir director/organist remuneration and make a recommendation
- To support six wellness sessions open to the community in person and online March - May 2023
- To have a member of the Foodgrains Committee be designated as one of the nine voting members of Council to replace the UCW representative
- To make an application to the Eden Mills Trust for a grant to assist in covering costs associated with a spring 2024 wellness series
- To apply for a grant from the United Church UP fund for the purchase/installation of a Hyper Heat hybrid/electric heat pump furnace. (via email declared carried by the Chair on April 19/23)
- To accept the Terms of Reference for Trustees with amendments to the length of terms served.
- To accept the recommendation that effective October 1/23, the Stone Choir director/organist will be paid \$100 per week for 52 weeks and that this remuneration will increase automatically on the 1st of January of each subsequent year in keeping with the cost-of-living increase as determined by the United Church of Canada. Payments will be made quarterly.
- To allocate \$5000 of the memorial fund to the furnace purchase and that \$2500 be earmarked for outreach projects.
- To have selected Stone United Church records be sent to the United Church Archives.
- To have Nancy Fountain's membership removed at her request.

Thank you to all who serve on Council and our various committees and discernment circles. Council is indebted to all members of our congregation who offer support in order that mandates be fulfilled, on-going initiatives be enhanced, and new initiatives be undertaken. Special thanks to Rev. Leffler for her guidance and her enthusiasm for our shared endeavours in ministry.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank Growing Project

Submitted by Bill Allen

Stone United Church in conjunction with the participants from the churches of Rockwood, Barrie Hill, Ebenezer and Arkell United, carried out our fifth Foodgrains growing project. This year, Zucchini, Pumpkins and Sunflowers were included in the growing competitions. The project wrap-up was held October 15 at Stone Church, due to inclement weather. An enthusiastic crowd gathered following the Anniversary Service and lunch, for conclusion of the growing competitions, activities, and to recognize World Food Sunday.

The Stone Project is one of many growing projects to raise money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) 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 over 1.1 million people in 34 countries for emergency food assistance and long-term sustainable agriculture development. Progress has been made but hunger is still on the rise in Western Asia, the Caribbean, and all subregions of Africa.

Winners in the growing competitions included Flora, Hazel and Levi Benham for the heaviest pumpkin, Louise Mead for the smallest pumpkin and Jordan Blackburn for the best decorated. Murray Oliver grew the tallest sunflower, which also had the biggest head, as well as the largest zucchini. Andy May grew the tallest corn stalk.

This year a Foodgrains fundraising breakfast and silent auction was held in November netting \$1,296.81. The Harvest Table fundraiser garnered \$225, while contributions from the Rockwood UC "Pub Grub Night" accounted for another \$200. Another \$600 of donations to our project were made directly to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. All told, we raised \$9,726.81. When matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government, it means over \$48,000 to combat world food insecurity. We should also note that although not part of the Growing Project, the congregation donated \$1,000 directly to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank for Ukrainian and Turkey Humanitarian Relief.

Malawi Learning Tour 2023 – Bill Allen

I have been involved with the Eden Mills UC and now Stone UC for 25 years raising money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. In the Fall of 2023, the opportunity to participate in a learning tour to Malawi came from the CFGB. I applied to be considered, having often wondered how the funds we raised are being expended.

So, what did I learn? We visited projects where the CFGB is providing funding in three areas: supporting better infant nutrition, promoting conservation agricultural practices, and responding to food crisis. We met with several non-government organizations (NGO) that the CFGB relies on and funds to deliver these programs. We found the NGOs were generally staffed with local people who were very familiar with the culture, practices, and economies of the communities they were working with. It was obvious these organizations were making a difference.

Malawi is a very poor country where government support programs are non-existent. We found the funds provided by the CFGB and delivered locally were filling a critical need for the people of Malawi. The people in the communities we visited were very much living a "hand-to-mouth" existence. For example, one community we visited had been hit in March 2023 by Cyclone Freddy. The cyclone resulted in crops being wiped out and severe damage to homes and infrastructure. The CFGB stepped in with direct food aid and later, funds to purchase seed and fertilizer for next season's planting.

Choir

Submitted by Liz Guthrie

This year Stone Choir has changed from Covid ways of practicing to more normal ways of singing and sharing music.

From January to June, the combined, masked choirs of Rockwood and Stone practiced together at Stone Church on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

The combined choirs sang "O Sacred Head" for Good Friday, "Because You Came" for Easter, "Kum Ba Yah" for Pentecost, "Everywhere I Go" for Rockwood Anniversary in June and "For the Healing of the Nations" for a combined Remembrance Day Service.

From September to December, the two choirs were once again practicing in their own churches.

Stone Choir practiced for many years at 8 pm but in the fall changed the time to 7:00 pm.

Stone Choir anthems for the end of each month included "For the Beauty of the Earth", "It Only Takes a Spark", "Rejoice the Lord is King" and "In the Bleak Midwinter".

Thank you to Patty and Randy who sang "He Lives" for Easter and to Randy Dewey who provided drum accompaniment for "In the Bleak Midwinter" and guitar accompaniment for "Silent Night".

Thank you to Ollie Darcie, Randy Dewey, Patty Lancaster, John Leffler, Lisa Leffler, Eileen McDougall, Eva Oliver and Edie Ward who all joyfully sing and record hymns for our services.

The only thing better than singing is more singing. Ella Fitzgerald

Choir Financial Report

Submitted by Edie Ward

Income

Balance forward from December 31, 2022 \$1,150.37

Collections 89.55

Total \$1,239.92

Expenses

Gift \$ 100.00

Bank Balance December 31, 2023 \$ 1,139.92

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

“Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die,
we can’t remember who we are or why we’re here.” Sue Monk Kidd

Stories make us laugh, cry, reminisce, and challenge our way of thinking about the world around us. Literature makes us ask some tough questions about life and the world of today or yesteryear. The books that we read during 2023 caused us to experience the full gamut of emotions, to wonder why, to eagerly share our life experiences with one another, and to debate the merits of the work of an author.

Reading a book alone is one thing. To talk about it with a friend or a group adds a whole new dimension to the experience. The gift of being in community allows us to draw on the wisdom of one another as we explore various genres, time periods, writing styles, and subject matter that broadens our horizon and sometimes forces us to go beyond our comfort zone.

Book Club is not entirely about reading books. In December and July, we gathered to share potluck meals, to have some fun, and to get to know one another better. As part of our December gathering, we again provided books for young readers at Christmas under the auspices of the Salvation Army.

Gratitude is extended to Susan Carothers for the first half the year and to Lisa Leffler for the last half of 2023 for being “the keepers of the list” which included the following books which engaged us deeply.

Haven by Emma Donoghue

Out of the Silent Planet by C.S. Lewis

The Circus Train by Amita Parikh

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doer

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

Denial by Beverley McLaughlin

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer

Weyward by Emilia Hart

Lessons In Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

In 2024, feel free to offer a suggestion for us to read, join us for a discussion about just one book, or embrace the full Genesis Book Club experience by engaging in conversation about multiple books. As we look toward a new year of reading, may we remember the words of Stephen King:

“The truth about stories is that’s all we are.”

Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Care and Fellowship

Submitted by John Leffler

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

On January 17, Karen Richardson led the opening devotions for the Stone Council meeting. Pastoral Care served communion on Sundays, February 26 and December 3, hosted coffee hour after worship on Sunday, April 30 and assisted with coffee hour before church on Sunday, December 10, 2023.

Pastoral Care has taken on the following responsibilities due to the closing of the UCW:

- 50th and 60th anniversaries – purchasing and delivering cards and flowers
- 90th birthday – purchasing and delivering cards and small gifts
- hosting wedding showers or purchasing gifts for couples in Stone United Church
- funeral lunches
- birthday and anniversary catering

Our church family makes connections and provides pastoral care for each other and people in the wider community in many ways:

- the Harvest Table allowed us to share produce with our church family and Royal City Mission and raised funds for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- the Lent Easter, Creation and Advent Christmas Congregational Packages we deliver keep us connected to our church family
- Contemplation and Conversation and links to our worship on YouTube go out each week especially for people who aren't able to join us for Sunday worship
- take-out dinners, Foodgrains activities, and the Wellness series provide opportunities for our church family, family, friends and members of the community to get to deepen relationships and work together to make a difference in our community and the world
- the cards, emails, phone calls and visits you make

We are grateful for the many, many years Carl Baker looked after the Broadview subscriptions and that Marg Baker is going to take over this task.

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.

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.

Property – Jack Ward

Water samples were done every 3 months and passed.

The annual Maple Syrup fundraiser was very successful. Thanks to everyone involved in organizing, taking orders, picking up and making deliveries. A total of **\$3,128** was raised.

Take-out dinners were planned by Committee members Marg Baker, Liz Guthrie, Edie Ward and Barb Parker. May 24 served ham, scalloped potatoes, bean salad and dessert. October 25 served roast beef, mashed potatoes, turnip, coleslaw, roll and dessert. Both dinners were well received and a total of

\$2,852 was raised. Thanks to all who supported our dinners and to the drivers who made the deliveries.

The kitchen was inspected by Public Health and passed September 5, 2023.

The Bakeless Bake Sale was held in December to help with community outreach activities that were previously supported by the UCW.

The twenty-year-old oil furnace was replaced during 2023 with a furnace/heat pump at a total cost of **\$14,891**. A grant of **\$5,000** was secured from the UPFund resulting in a net cost to the Church of **\$9,891**.

Finance – Bill Allen

This past year was a challenging one financially for the Stone United Church, ending 2023 with an operating deficit of **\$9,076**. This deficit was a result of a decrease in donations to the Church General Operating fund of **\$3,500** and a reduction in fundraising efforts of **\$2,400** compared to 2022. There was also an increase in expenses of **\$5,500**.

On the positive front, church donors stepped up to strongly support both community and global outreach activities. This year, we raised **\$9,727** in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank efforts to end global hunger compared to **\$7,207** raised in 2022. In addition, the congregation donated **\$1,000** to mitigate the impact of earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Locally, donations were made to Anishnabeg Outreach, East Wellington Community Services, and nutrition programs in three local schools. New this year, Stone Church supported a very successful “Wellness Series” attracting both church and community members to hear presentations on important wellbeing topics. We also received **\$3,975** to our Memorial Fund in memory of Diane May and Carl Baker, two long time members and supporters of the Stone United Church.

The Stone United Church currently holds in reserve a total of **\$86,300** in GIC’s and short-term investments.

Stone Spring Wellness Series 2023

Submitted by Heather Leffler

The response to our first Stone Wellness series was very exciting. Events were held on Saturday mornings at 10 am or Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm from March through May. Presentations were about an hour followed by a time of fellowship.

Special thanks to our wonderful speakers, Tammy Smits for setting up the Eventbrite site, everyone who donated items for the gift baskets, the Stone Council for supporting the series financially, Lisa Leffler for assisting with tech, everyone who shared food, hosted events and attended in person or online. Thanks to Brian Mack, Tammy Smits, Heather and John Leffler and Heather DeJonge for conceiving and organizing the series.

We had a total of 218 tickets spoken for on Eventbrite. A total in person attendance of 114 for the five in person events and 62 computers online for the six events. The first event moved online because of the weather with 28 computers connected. This may have included up to 40 individuals. There were approximately 68 individuals who attended one or more of the events.

Date	Speaker(s)	Topic	Eventbrite Tickets	In Person	Computers	YouTube Views
March 4, 2023	Farmer Tim May	Stop the Stigma: Farmers & Mental Health	63		28	43
March 22, 2023	Rosslyn Bentley	Advanced Care Planning: Who Will Speak for You?	30	24	4	
April 1, 2023	Brad Hull, OPP Auxiliary	Safeguarding & Crime Prevention for Everyone	22	30	8	
April 12, 2023	Dr. Kirsten May	An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure (for Pets)	58	21	14	66
April 29, 2023	Kevin Ariss	Computers and Seniors	16	24	5	10
May 3, 2023	Crime Stoppers and OPP	Cyber Safety and Human Trafficking Prevention	29	23	3	12

We are looking forward to another series in 2024 and have received an Eden Mills Fund grant from the UP Fund of \$2500 to assist with costs.

Western Ontario Waterways

Submitted by Liz Guthrie

The WOWRC Spring 2023 Hybrid meeting was held at the Unifor Centre, Port Elgin May 26 and 27, 2023. President Mark Laird’s theme was “Dreaming Dreams.”

We heard the story of “Dream: A Tale of Wonder, Wisdom and Wishes” by Susan Bosak. It is available on YouTube.

It was felt that the volunteer community is broken due to restructuring, change of vocabulary, Covid and aging volunteers. A recruitment team will find volunteers for the various committees.

Mark Laird finished his term as president. The new president is Jennifer Irving.

The Fall Gathering of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council meeting was held online on September 28, 29 and 30, 2023. President Jennifer Irving and other advisors were situated at Nottawasaga Inn. The theme: We are One – Living into Right Relations

A sacred fire was lit in Cape Crocker and kept burning until the end of the meeting. Joyce Johnston added many words of wisdom.

It has been suggested that Pastoral Charge supervisors be paid \$30/hour by the community of faith receiving supervision effective as of January 1, 2024.

Nine items were highlighted in the Regional Council Evaluation. Breakout groups had the chance to discuss the evaluation.

Category 3 Remit: “At General Council 44, the National Indigenous Circle asked for the removal of any structural barriers that would prevent the development and sustaining of an autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada. With the passing of this remit, the National Indigenous Organization will have its own mechanisms to make any future changes to its structure and processes, and therefore will not be subject to the remit process.” *From Western Ontario Waterways Workbook*

The remit was passed at Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.

The spring meeting will be held May 24 and 25, 2024.

Stone United Church Financial Reports

STONE UNITED CHURCH Balance Sheet As at December 31, 2023 *Submitted by Bill Allen*

ASSETS		
Current Account		
General Fund	(\$4,615.25)	
Memorial Fund	12,575.04	
Choir Fund	1,139.92	
Sunday School Fund	202.23	
Children of Bukati	6,142.65	
Total Current Account		\$ 15,444.59
Other Current Assets		
Misc. Receivable	\$ -	
HST Receivable	430.48	
UPI Fuel Oil Account	960.00	
Total Other Current Assets		1,390.48
Investments		
General Fund		
GIC (Apr 25) 4.00%	\$ 15,000.00	
GIC (Apr 24) 3.41%	30,000.00	
TD Savings	6,580.15	
Total General Fund Investments		51,580.15
Oakes Fund		
Savings Portion	\$ 14,713.29	
GIC (Apr 25) 4.00%	20,000.00	
Total Oakes Fund		34,713.29
Total Assets		<u><u>\$ 103,128.51</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Deferred Revenue		\$ 2,500.00
Beginning Equity	\$ 117,322.54	
Surplus or (Deficit) Operations	(9,075.57)	
Surplus or (Deficit) Other Funds	3,964.55	
Capital Purchases (Net of Grant)	(11,583.01)	
Total Equity		100,628.51
Total Liabilities and Equity		\$ 103,128.51

STONE UNITED CHURCH
Operating Statement
For the 12 Months Ending December 31, 2023
Submitted by Bill Allen

INCOME	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget
General Operating Fund		
Weekly Givings	\$ 16,393.00	\$ 20,000.00
PAR Givings	32,160.00	33,500.00
Loose Collection	340.00	100.00
Other Donations	390.00	100.00
Total General Operating	\$ 49,283.00	\$ 53,700.00
Mission & Services		
Weekly Givings	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 2,000.00
PAR Givings	6,930.00	7,200.00
Other	15.00	1,000.00
Total Mission & Services	8,520.00	\$ 10,200.00
Foodgrains Donations	\$ 7,605.00	
In-Kind Donations	295.43	
Fundraising	1,521.81	
Project Expenses	(295.43)	
Total Foodgrains		8,000.00
Anishnabeg Outreach		1,000.00
Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief		-
Community Support		500.00
Other Outreach		500.00
Maple Syrup Sales	\$ 10,623.00	
Maple Syrup COGS	(7,495.00)	-
Net Maple Syrup Sales		3,600.00
Take-Out Dinners Revenue	\$ 3,570.00	
Take-Out Dinners Donations	-	
Take-Out Dinners In-Kind	231.71	
Take-Out Dinners Expenses	(950.22)	
Net Income Dinners		4,800.00
Rental Revenue		-
Interest Earned		500.00
In-Kind Givings		100.00
Other Revenue		500.00
Total Income	\$ 77,707.93	\$ 82,900.00

STONE UNITED CHURCH
Operating Statement
For the 12 Months Ending December 31, 2023

EXPENSES	2023 Actuals		2023 Budget
Transfer of Mission & Services		\$ 8,520.00	\$ 10,200.00
Support for Community Organizations		1,185.00	500.00
Other Transfers		9,926.81	9,500.00
Pastoral Charge Expenses			
Operating Expenses	\$ 42,905.28		\$ 42,905.28
Assessment	3,248.64		3,438.36
Sabbatical Reserve	1,281.00		1,281.00
Total Pastoral Charge Expenses		47,434.92	\$ 47,624.64
Church Operating Expenses			
Electricity Expenses	\$ 1,506.46		\$ 1,200.00
Fuel Oil	1,988.54		2,700.00
Propane	1,329.97		1,000.00
Furnace Maintenance	269.94		
Internet Expense	785.58		600.00
Maintenance & Repairs	1,924.92		500.00
Water Tests	242.04		200.00
Organist/Pianist	2,580.00		1,300.00
Caretaker	500.00		500.00
Lawn Cutting (Stone Part)	500.00		500.00
Property Insurance	5,175.66		5,000.00
Other Operating Expense	575.00		250.00
Total Operating Expenses		17,378.11	\$ 13,750.00
Administrative Expenses			
Postage & P.O. Box	\$ 218.80		\$ 250.00
Bank & Other S/C	7.97		-
PAR Service Charges	102.50		113.00
CanadaHelps Fees	61.27		25.00
Other Admin Expenses	25.00		50.00
Other Expenses		\$ 415.54	438.00
UC Broadview (Net)	(\$250.00)		\$ 200.00
Wellness Series (Net)	1,090.00		
Resources (Books etc.)	-		-
Gifts	684.98		300.00
Other Expenses	-		
HST Expense	398.14		600.00
Total Other Expenses		1,923.12	\$ 1,100.00
Total Expenses		86,783.50	82,612.64
Net Surplus or (Deficit)		(\$9,075.57)	\$ 287.36

STONE UNITED CHURCH
Operating Statement
For the 12 Months Ending December 31, 2023

AV Equipment			
TVs & Accessories	\$	1,628.35	
HST Expense on Equipment		64.17	
Net Cost			\$ 1,692.52
Furnace/Heat Pump Purchase			
Furnace Purchase	\$	14,326.00	
HST Expense on Furnace		564.49	
UPFund Grant		(5,000.00)	
			\$ 9,890.49
Church Funds 2023			
Memorial Fund			
Beginning Balance			\$ 13,600.04
Donations	\$	3,975.00	
Expenditures		-	
Change in Fund			3,975.00
Transfer to General Fund			(\$5,000.00)
Memorial Fund Balance			\$ 12,575.04
Choir Fund			
Beginning Balance			\$ 1,150.37
Collections	\$	89.55	
Expenditures		(100.00)	
Change in Fund			(10.45)
Choir Fund Balance			1,139.92
Sunday School Fund			
Beginning Balance			\$ 202.23
Money In	\$	-	
Expenditures		0.00	
Change in Fund			0.00
Sunday School Fund Balance			202.23
Children of Bukati Fund		\$ 6,142.65	6,142.65
General Operating Fund			(4,615.25)
Total Account Balance			\$ 15,444.59

STONE UNITED CHURCH
Proposed Budget for 2024

INCOME	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget
General Operating Fund		
Weekly Givings	\$ 16,393.00	\$ 20,000.00
PAR Givings	32,160.00	32,064.00
Loose Collection	340.00	100.00
Other Donations	390.00	500.00
Total General Operating	\$ 49,283.00	\$ 52,664.00
Mission & Services		
Weekly Givings	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 1,600.00
PAR Givings	6,930.00	6,780.00
Other	15.00	500.00
Total Mission & Services	8,520.00	\$ 8,880.00
Foodgrains Donations	\$ 7,605.00	
In-Kind Donations	295.43	
Fundraising	1,521.81	
Project Expenses	(295.43)	
Total Foodgrains		8,000.00
Anishnabeg Outreach		140.00
Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief		1,000.00
Community Support		985.00
Other Outreach		100.00
Maple Syrup Sales	\$ 10,623.00	
Maple Syrup COGS	(7,495.00)	
Net Maple Syrup Sales		3,128.00
Take-Out Dinners Revenue	\$ 3,570.00	
Take-Out Dinners Donations	-	
Take-Out Dinners In-Kind	231.71	
Take-Out Dinners Expenses	(950.22)	
Net Income Dinners		2,851.49
Rental Revenue		200.00
Interest Earned		1,555.19
In-Kind Givings		164.44
Other Revenue		654.00
Total Income	\$ 77,707.93	\$ 80,544.00

EXPENSES	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget
Transfer of Mission & Services	\$ 8,520.00	\$ 8,880.00
Support for Community Organizations	1,185.00	700.00
Other Transfers	9,926.81	9,700.00
Pastoral Charge Expenses		
Operating Expenses	\$ 42,905.28	\$ 45,987.48
Assessment	3,248.64	3,082.56
Sabbatical Reserve	1,281.00	531.00
Total Pastoral Charge Expenses	47,434.92	\$ 49,601.04
Church Operating Expenses		
Electricity Expenses	\$ 1,506.46	\$ 3,000.00
Fuel Oil	1,988.54	-
Propane	1,329.97	1,000.00
Furnance Maintenance	269.94	540.00
Internet Expense	785.58	1,212.00
Maintenance & Repairs	1,924.92	500.00
Water Tests	242.04	250.00
Organist/Pianist	2,580.00	5,377.00
Caretaker	500.00	500.00
Lawn Cutting (Stone Part)	500.00	500.00
Property Insurance	5,175.66	5,000.00
Other Operating Expense	575.00	250.00
Total Operating Expenses	17,378.11	\$ 18,129.00
Administrative Expenses		
Postage & P.O. Box	\$ 218.80	\$ 200.00
Bank & Other S/C	7.97	10.00
PAR Service Charges	102.50	96.00
CanadaHelps Fees	61.27	25.00
Other Admin Expenses	25.00	25.00
Other Expenses	\$ 415.54	356.00
UC Broadview (Net)	(\$250.00)	\$ 200.00
Wellness Series (Net)	1,090.00	\$ 250.00
Resources (Books etc.)	-	-
Gifts	684.98	300.00
Other Expenses	-	
HST Expense	398.14	350.00
Total Other Expenses	1,923.12	\$ 1,100.00
Total Expenses	86,783.50	87,766.04
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$9,075.57)	(\$7,222.04)

Stone United Church Cemetery Fund
Submitted by Eileen McDougall, Treasurer

Income	
Bank Balance January 1, 2023	\$334.89
Interest on Perpetual Care	117.82
GIC Maturity	1,500.00
Gibson Cremation	600.00
Bank Interest	<u>.17</u>
	<u>\$2,552.88</u>
Expense	
GIC Renewal	\$1,500.00
Cremation Expense	100.00
Grass Maintenance	300.00
Balance December 31, 2023	<u>652.88</u>
	<u>\$2,552.88</u>
GIC Investments	\$9,573.00

Reviewed and found correct as presented
The following Stone Church Reports

Property and Finance

Choir Fund ✓

Sunday School Fund ✓

Children of Bukati Fund ✓

Cemetery Fund ✓

Jack Ward and Gordon Carothers, January 2024





Stone Nominating Report for 2024

Submitted by Brian Mack, Council Chairperson

Committee/Position	Nominated for 2024	Appointed for 2024
Worship and Faith Formation (5+ appointed)	*Brian Mack ²⁰¹² Barb Parker ²⁰¹⁶ 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
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 Patty Lancaster ²⁰²² Heather De Jonge ²⁰²⁴	
Trustees	Randy Dewey ²⁰⁰⁹ Paul May ¹⁹⁸⁸ Eileen McDougall ²⁰⁰⁹ *Ed Nagel ²⁰²³	Heather Leffler (Minister)
Chair of Council	*Brian Mack ²⁰²¹	
Secretary of Council	*Tammy Smits ²⁰²⁰	
Treasurer	*Bill Allen ²⁰¹⁷	
Financial Reviewers	Gord Carothers ²⁰²³ Jack Ward ²⁰⁰⁹	
Chair of Pastoral Charge Board	Randy Dewey ²⁰²¹	
Broadview Magazine Representative	Marg Baker ²⁰²⁴	
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, 2023, on Zoom

Submitted by Carol Smelsky, Secretary

Present: Sherol Steinberg - Chair, Carol Smelsky - Secretary, Rev. Heather Leffler (on Zoom), Kevin Anthony, Colleen Baeumler, Phyllis Bayne-Puchyr, Rosslyn Bentley, Cees Braamse, Barbara Eley, Marcia Haworth, Amanda Hunter-Anthony, John Leffler, Kay Mathies, Brent Stiles.

12:28 pm: Sherol Steinberg welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

Voting Procedures:

Motion that voting be by a show of hands, unless voting by ballot is requested by one person: Brent Stiles / Marcia Haworth. Carried.

Motion that visitors be made corresponding members: Amanda Hunter-Anthony / Brent Stiles. Carried.

Motion that adherents be eligible to vote at this meeting: Amanda Hunter-Anthony / Brent Stiles. 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 40-42 as printed and circulated: Kay Mathies / Barbara Eley. Carried.

Business arising from last year's Minutes:

Congregational Support Commission - April 21, 2022 - received our Terms of Reference for information.

Questions for us today: (completed during Worship time)

1. What is one thing about the physical structure of Rockwood United Church you appreciate/enjoy?

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| - kitchen | - amazing volunteers | - people |
| - new cupboard | - reconciliation | - outreach |
| - file cabinet | - stained-glass windows | - feeling of community |
| - ramp (outside) | - music | - attention to scripture |
| - food - apple pie | - helpfulness | - affirmation |
| - support/fellowship | - companionship/family | - leadership |
| - flexibility | | |

2. What is one thing about the physical structure of Rockwood United Church you feel could be improved upon?

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| - kitchen | - tree | - lighting |
| - accessibility | - ramp (inside) | - choir loft |
| - heating | | |

Motion to accept the Pastoral Charge Reports (pages 4-13) as printed and circulated: Brent Stiles / Marcia Haworth. The reports include Affirming Discernment Circle; Faith, Food, Fellowship and Fun; Finance and Stewardship; Ministry and Personnel; Minister's Report; Music at Rockwood and Stone/Eramosa Ensemble; Reopening Commission; Rockwood/Stone Trustees; Worship and Faith Formation. Carried.

Affirming Discernment Circle - Brent Stiles and Lisa Leffler spoke at each Church. There will be a PIE (Public Intentional Explicit) meeting with a guest speaker on March 14 and a possible vote, if approved by Affirm United.

The Reopening Commission has been disbanded and we are following Public Health Guidelines now.

Rev. Heather Leffler expressed her thanks to all of the Committees for their reports.

Motion to accept the Pastoral Charge Financial Report and 2022 Budget (pages 14-15) as circulated: Cees Braamse / Colleen Baeumler. Carried. Special thank you to Roy Steinberg for helping out.

Motion to accept the Rockwood United Church Reports (pages 43-49) as circulated: Barbara Eley / Rosslyn Bentley. The reports include Membership; Statistics 2022; Chimes; Outreach; Pastoral Care and Fellowship; (note – fellowship has moved to be part of the Worship Committee); Property and Finance; Trustees. Carried.

Chimes will be hosting a dinner and concert the first Sunday in June to celebrate their 15 years together.

Outreach is planning on helping with PIE Day in March and are planning a fall Pub Grub and Quiz night.

Property and Finance has had shelves built in Day Hall and has also cleaned up the kitchen.

Darryl Nichol reported that he has a meeting with Drexler Construction on February 13, 2023 at 10:00 am regarding the sale of the parking lot. He has a verbal agreement for the sale and needs to have it in writing.

Moment of Silence: Rev. Heather Leffler

Rev. Heather Leffler led us in a moment of silence and prayer as we remembered the deaths of loved ones: Fran Stewart, John Arbuckle, Jeannie Croft, Helen Anderson, Sheila Yorke and Joan Leslie.

Motion to accept the Rockwood UC Financial Reports (pages 50-53) as circulated: Rosslyn Bentley / Colleen Baeumler. Carried.

Motion to accept the Rockwood Nominations Report for 2023: Rosslyn Bentley / Marcia Haworth. Carried.

New Business:

Kitchen upgrades and Launch Lunch will be held March 5th. Property and Finance are looking at purchasing 2 new stoves, a solid surface on the island, exhaust fans over the ovens, a solid surface on the counter tops, fundraising and using the UPFund grants to help with the financing.

Correspondence: None

Rev. Heather Leffler reported that there are amazing workshops being offered all the time through the United Church of Canada. If you are interested in learning more about the workshops or attending any of them, please speak with Rev. Heather Leffler or Lisa Leffler and they will send you the links.

Outreach: Marcia Haworth

Motion that the Outreach goal for Mission and Service for 2023 be \$12,500: Marcia Haworth / Cees Braamse. This is a \$250 increase over last year. Last year the goal was \$12,250 and \$12,252 were received. Carried.

Rev. Heather Leffler expressed her thanks to Sherol Steinberg for all of her assistance today, as Rev. Heather Leffler was ill at home.

Sherol Steinberg thanked everyone for coming today.

Meeting adjourned at 1:19 pm.

Rockwood United Church Committee Reports

Membership

Submitted by Heather Leffler

Number of Resident Members – January 1, 2023	95	
Removed by Death	2	
Roy Yorke		
Gord Ostrander		
Total Number of Resident Members – December 31, 2023		93
Number of Non-Resident Members – January 1, 2023	16	
Removed by Request		
Steven Darby	1	
Total Number of Non-Resident Members – December 31, 2023		15
Total Number on Church Roll – December 31, 2023		108

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 1

Jessica Jean Campbell and Noah Patrick Schelter
at Grey Silo Country Club Waterloo on October 7, 2023

Funerals and Interments:

Violet Georgina “Georgie” Hutchinson at Knox United Clifford on February 4, 2023
(recorded at Clifford Pastoral Charge)

Catherine Lorraine Gee at New Hope Cemetery Cambridge on May 6, 2023

Gordon Frank Ostrander at Wall Custance and Rockwood Cemetery on May 18, 2023

Sheila and Roy Yorke at Rockwood United on December 1, 2023

In Memoriam:

Sheila Yorke died December 1, 2022

Roy Yorke died November 20, 2023

Gord Ostrander died May 13, 2023

Statistics 2023

Submitted by Heather Leffler

Number of Households under Pastoral Care	66	Other Group Memberships	
Number of Financially Supporting Households	42	<i>Includes anyone who has attended at least once.</i>	
Number of Givers to Local Expenses	42	*Coffee Connections	8
Number of Givers to Mission and Service	16	Chimes Choir	6
Average Weekly Attendance in October and November		Choir	10
in Worship on Zoom	1	*Craft and Conversation	4
In Worship in-person	25	*Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun	32
Adherents – <i>Includes children, youth and adults who participate in the life and work of our church monthly.</i>	23	*Tea and Talk	12
Children and Young People			
Under 3 years of age	1		
3-5 years of age	1	<i>*Includes participants from both congregations.</i>	
6-11 years of age	3		
12-18 years of age	1		

Chimes

Submitted by Christine Wenger, Chimes Choir Leader

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

The chimes choir was delighted to be celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2023. A special fundraising dinner and variety show was organized and held on June 4, 2023, to celebrate the event. The chimes provided the music and played 10 favourite pieces played over the 15-year period. The revenues generated from the event were shared between the church and Outreach (see Outreach report for details).

The chimes also played the Ukrainian Bell Carol and Angels from the Realm of Glory on December 10, 2023.

New stands were purchased for the group and Christine Wenger donated the total amount to the church. No additional money was spent on new music.

Choir

Submitted by Barbara Eley, Choir Director

The choirs from Stone and Rockwood continued combined rehearsals with masks from January to the beginning of June. Separate choir practices resumed in September.

The combined choirs sang “O Sacred Head” for Good Friday, “Because You Came” for Easter, “Kum Bah Yah” for Pentecost, “Everywhere I Go” for Rockwood Anniversary and “For the Healing of the Nations” for the combined Remembrance service.

Rockwood choir sang “For the Beauty of the Earth” on Thanksgiving, and “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” and “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary” during Advent.

Heather Blair’s work as organist is much appreciated.

Outreach

Submitted by Marcia Haworth and Kay Mathies, Co-Chairs

Members: Our committee shrank a little this year with Colleen Baeumler’s resignation. We miss her and thank her for her years of dedicated work. Thankfully we still have Marion Bascom, Marcia Haworth, Darlene MacPhedran, Kay Mathies, and Phyllis Puchyr.

We will happily welcome new members with open arms.

This year things have started to feel a little more like pre-Covid days as we have always met in-person and organized in-person events. We know that most people welcome the fellowship, and we hope it can continue in 2024.

This was a worrying year for many in our community with escalating costs of food and shelter which affected not only clients of the community agencies we support, but also the number of supporters of these agencies. Thankfully the members of our congregations again opened their generous hearts and continued to support our community through donations and attendance at Outreach fund-raisers. We feel humbled and blessed and thank you from the bottom of our hearts on behalf of Women in Crisis –

Rural Women's Support Program, Anishnabeg Outreach and East Wellington Community Services Food Bank. Your generosity and support enabled us to raise \$7500 this year.

How your support helped during 2023:

Mission and Service (M&S): This year our donations to Mission and Service fell a little short of our \$12,250 target as we ended the year with \$11,896. This can likely be explained by the fact that some former church members have left the community. 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 keep us all up to date with the diverse and creative ways that M & S reaches out within Canada and through 72 partners in 21 countries in many parts of the world.

East Wellington Community Services (EWCS) Food Bank: This year we filled the food bank freezer several times and in response, to their identified need. We held a late summer food drive which was extremely successful and focused on the items that were in shortest supply. Several members of our congregation took us up on our offer to shop for them which enabled us to purchase much needed items when on special, after all the donations had been received. This was especially appreciated by the food bank coordinator as it topped up the freezer with whole chickens and ground beef as well as a large quantity of frozen food from our friends at MacMillan's Frozen Foods who always support us with a generous discount. We were happy to help out again with items for the Christmas hampers by providing maple syrup, butter and cheese and thanks to another generous donation from Maple Lodge Farms, we gave them 48 packages of sausage. This Christmas we were able to provide a \$100 grocery gift card to each family plus \$25 Walmart gift cards for each child and \$50 grocery gift card to each single adult. We pray that they helped ease the burden of food insecurity, at least in the short term.

Rural Women's Support Program (RWSP): This Christmas, three Rockwood women receiving counselling through our local Rural Women's Support Program each received a \$100 Walmart gift card. An additional donation of \$1200 from Outreach funds will be made to Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis, the parent organization of RWSP.

Anishnabeg Outreach (AO): In September we again 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. Each Sunday during Advent we collected the most needed items for Spirit Bundles and will send a further \$1200 to support this ongoing and much needed initiative.

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 office on which we spent \$350 in 2023.

Outreach Activities

We introduced a few new fund-raising activities this year. A Robbie Burns Food Fix and home-catered private Robbie Burns dinner were both well received. The pie lovers among us got their fix as we celebrated the United Church of Canada's National Affirming PIE Day on March 14 with a pie themed Food Fix. In early summer we catered the Chime Choir 15th anniversary concert. Our newest venture this fall was the Pub Grub and Quiz Night which everyone seemed to enjoy. There was certainly a great deal of friendly participation and competition as well as plenty of raucous laughter. We were happy to welcome two teams from Stone and donate \$200 to their Foodgrains initiative. Later in the summer we catered a private Celebration of Life at Rockmosa, donating a portion of the funds raised to the General Fund and the remainder to Outreach.

Our second annual Christmas Market and Lunch surpassed our wildest dreams as we made \$1200 more than last year. This enabled us to give more generously to our partners than in recent years. The event was very generously supported both by shoppers and donors. It is wonderful to have fresh Christmas greens magically appear at the perfect moment, not to mention hand crafted wooden gift boxes, beautifully made knitted items, artwork and baked goods.

For a detailed record of how much each fund raiser made and how funds were distributed please see the year-end Operating Fund included in the 2023 RUC Financial Report.

We are grateful, as ever, to our Outreach Committee members who will rise to any challenge with energy, enthusiasm and good humour as we strive to help our neighbours whether within Rockwood or elsewhere. A huge thank you to all the members of both RUC and Stone congregations who attended our events and responded generously to our donation requests. Thank you to Heather for attending our meetings and supporting us in every way and for having a basement full of very useful stuff. Thanks also go out to Lisa for organizing the announcements and to Amanda who patiently keeps our finances in perfect order.

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

Submitted by Ellen Thomson, Chair

Members: Ollie Darcie, Ian Pasmore, Ellen Thomson

Our committee tries to keep up with special birthdays, illnesses and situations where maybe a card or telephone call should take place. I personally feel that we miss many people. Please remember to forward your change of address, email address or telephone number.

Congregational Packages were delivered for Lent Easter, Creation and Advent Christmas to help connect our congregation.

Thanks to Ollie Darcie for hosting *Tea and Talk. Coffee and Conversation* met on Zoom until June. *Faith, Food, Friendship and Fun* continues the third Friday of most months. These activities help build community and deepen relationships.

The committee has not met formally this year. We would like to add another person to our committee.

Property and Finance

Submitted by Sherol Steinberg

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

Thank you to all who support the church with their resources and time. Interest in renting Day Hall has increased but several months have been blocked off as unavailable because of the kitchen renovations.

The Country Breakfasts began again in January 2023 and ran January, February, March, April, May, September and October. Stone United Church, with the assistance of Rockwood United Church and with use of the RUC kitchen ran the November Breakfast as a fundraiser for Foodgrains. The breakfasts continue to be a community builder both in the church community and in the community at large. Thanks to all the volunteers and all those who have come to the breakfasts.

We partnered with the Country Breakfast Committee to do a highly successful fundraiser to benefit upgrading the kitchen and applied to the UpFund Grant. We have purchased a new stove, added upgraded electrical service in the kitchen, installed energy efficient LED lighting panels, storage, range hoods and ducting, have closed the pass-through to the hall, and have reoriented the location of the stoves and fridges to create a more spacious, inviting space. Painting has been started. Still to come – a second new stove, backsplash behind the new stoves, stainless steel table and potentially new countertops. In many ways the kitchen is the heart of our church and the improvements made will help to ensure this continues. We were truly pleased to see the engagement of all in this project-with special mention to Kevin Anthony for being crew boss, and to Cees Braamse, Ray Thomson, Patrick Haworth, Ollie Darcie, Heather Leffler and Heather Blair (mudder extraordinaire).

Kevin has fixed the hole going through the kitchen wall for utilities and has overseen installation of an outdoor plug on Day Hall. Lefflers have donated a file cabinet, and the choir music has been moved into the office – with thanks to Barb Eley, Ollie Darcie and John Leffler for their efforts. The music cupboard has been repurposed and Kevin has made wonderful sturdy new shelves that are now used for storing larger kitchen items that are primarily used for the Country Breakfasts.

The stained-glass window in the narthex has been repaired and replaced and the results are extraordinary.

A Special Thank You to Cees Braamse and Kevin Anthony for snow removal (especially after the tremendous blizzards with exceptional snow fall) 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 Cees for identifying the hazard, hiring the arborist and overseeing the ash tree's safe removal, and supervising his helpers Al Jay and Liam Anthony for clean up.

Thanks to Darryl Nichol, and the rest of the Trustees for their 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. An offer has been accepted and will close in 2024.

Thanks to a financial gift from the estate of Jeannie Southwell-Croft we were able to weather the first nine months of the year.

Gratitude and Thanks to

- the Country Breakfast Volunteers who are steadfast and true
 - Cees Braamse and Kevin Anthony for grass cutting at the church and the house and for having willing hands to complete numerous small maintenance tasks throughout the year on a shoestring budget and lots of creativity
 - all for decorating the outside and inside of the church especially to Colleen for decorating the church throughout the year-with help of her minions Phyllis Puchyr, Ollie Darcie and Michele McDaid, and to Christine and Eric Wenger for their donation of a magnificent tree for our outdoor decorations
 - Helen who cleans the church weekly with the endless challenge of keeping the cobwebs at bay and her enduring patience and positive attitude
 - Amanda, Treasurer of RUC
 - my fellow committee members for their patience and support-
We are few in number but mighty in spirit.
-

Trustees

Submitted by Rosslyn Bentley, Chair

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

The Trustees met throughout the year with Andrew Vince of Royal City Realty who was engaged to sell the parking lot at 112 Harris St.

An offer we accepted in the spring and approval of the sale was received from the Congregational Support Commission of Western Ontario Waterways. There was a due diligence clause and the sale fell through.

The Trustees accepted a second offer on the parking lot in August. It was approved by the Congregational Support Commission. After their due diligence the buyers confirmed the fulfillment of conditions in December and the purchase for \$610,000 will close in March 2024

The Council directed the Trustees to apply for a grant from the Relief Fund for Thriving Congregations which was set up to help alleviate the pressures of debt and for a grant from the UPFund to offset some the costs of upgrading the kitchen. While we did not receive the Thriving Churches grant, we received \$625 for applying. We did receive \$4400 grant from the UPFund for the kitchen renovation.

Quotes were sought for construction of the new parking lot.

We received a bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Jeannie Southwell Croft.

Rockwood United Church Financial Reports

ROCKWOOD UNITED CHURCH

Annual Financial Report

For 12 Months Ending December 31, 2023

Submitted by Amanda Hunter-Anthony

Beginning Balance - January 01, 2023 - General Fund		\$7,772.72
Income		
General Operating Fund		
Weekly Givings	\$ 5,530.00	
Loose Collection	716.85	
E-Transfers	6,818.00	
PAR Givings	33,462.00	
Total General Operating		\$ 46,526.85
Country Breakfasts		
Revenue	\$ 6,252.70	
Stone – Flanagan's	303.42	
Expenses – Extra	1,036.70	
- Flanagan's	2,080.47	
Country Breakfasts (Net)		3,438.95
Other Revenue		
Church Rentals – Other	\$ 460.00	
- Praying Hands	1,485.00	
Reimbursed from Pastoral Chg.	1,258.60	
Anniversary	-	
Memorial	295.00	
Wedding/Funeral	2,380.00	
Fundraisers		
- Chimes Dinner/Show	730.00	
Other Donations		
- Non Specific	560.00	
- Gift in Kind	571.53	
- Canada Helps	144.24	
- Cdn Online Giving (Benevity)	4,307.80	
- Estate Funeral	10,000.00	
Decor (In General)	-	
Building Fund – Borrowed	1,300.00	
- Gift in Kind	159.88	
Returned from Trustees	3,914.41	
Transfer after Deposited	945.00	
Stone – Food Grains	300.00	
HST Refund	714.22	
Total Other Revenue		29,525.68
Total Revenue		\$ 79,491.48

The House

Revenue

EWCS Rent	\$	-	
Mortgage - Weekly Givings		5.00	
- PAR Givings		-	
Total Revenue			<u>\$ 5.00</u>

Expenses

Enbridge Gas	\$	-	
Hydro		73.11	
Water		-	
Insurance		442.89	
Mortgage Interest/Principal		640.00	
Repairs & Maintenance		-	
Total Expenses			<u>1,156.00</u>
Net Surplus or (Deficit)			(\$1,151.00)

House Mortgage

Beginning Balance **\$ 155,179.23**

Principal Payments			
Individual Contributions 2022	\$	640.00	
Individual Contributions 2023		-	
Total Principal Payments			<u>640.00</u>

Expenses

Interest Incurred		<u>4,205.12</u>	
			<u>4,205.12</u>

Ending Balance **\$ 158,744.35**

Balance as of December 31, 2023 - General Fund **\$6,031.87**

Church Funds

United Church of Canada

Revenue

M&S Weekly Givings	\$	1,255.00	
PAR Givings		10,402.00	
Donations - M&S		239.00	
Total Revenue			<u>\$ 11,896.00</u>

Expenses

UCC - M&S Weekly Givings	\$	1,255.00	
- PAR		10,402.00	
Donations - M&S		239.00	
Total Expenses			<u>\$ 11,896.00</u>

Ending Balance **\$ -**

Net Surplus or (Deficit) **\$ -**

Outreach		
Beginning Balance - January 01, 2023		\$ 2,940.60
Revenue		
Donations – Celebration of Life	\$ 477.00	
- Outreach	20.00	
Food Drive (EWCS)	100.00	
Food Bank	10.00	\$ 607.00
Food Fix – Pies	541.00	
- Robbie Burns	525.00	
- Chimes Dinner/Show	365.00	
		1,431.00
Fundraiser – Festive Market	4,202.00	
- Festive Cards	140.00	
- Pub Night	1,060.00	
Anishnabeg Donations	20.00	
Bank Interest	79.04	5,501.04
Total Revenue		\$ 7,539.04
Expenses for Outreach		
Food Bank	\$ 1,449.00	
Benevolent Fund/Drop Ins	350.00	
Fundraiser – Pub Night (Stone)	200.00	
RWSP Gift Cards	2,700.00	
Anishnabeg Outreach	1,000.00	
Women in Crisis	850.00	
Donation to M&S	239.00	
Total Expenses		\$ 6,788.00
Balance as of December 31, 2023		\$ 3,691.64
Net Surplus or (Deficit)		\$ 751.04

Trustees Fund	2021	2022	2023	
Beginning Balance - January 01, 2023	-	-	-	\$ -
Loans from - (Advance) Repayment				
Loan from Trustees	(17,000.00)	(5,500.00)	-	(22,500.00)
Loan from Building	(5,385.77)	607.52	1,493.59	(3,284.66)
Loan from General		(3,914.41)	3,914.41	-
Total Loans - (Advances) Repayment	(22,385.77)	(8,806.89)	5,408.00	(25,784.66)
Expenses				
BluePlan Engineering	15,282.77	2,245.26		17,528.03
Township of Guelph/Eramosa	5,408.00	4,044.05	(5,408.00)	4,044.05
Landscape Architect	1,695.00			1,695.00
Dekkar Appraisal		1,017.00		1,017.00
Lawyer		1,500.58		1,500.58
Total Expenses	22,385.77	8,806.89	(5,408.00)	25,784.66
Balance as of December 31, 2023	-	-	-	\$ -
Balance as of December 31, 2023 – Building, Kitchen & Trustees Fund				\$ 8,573.81

Sunday School Fund			
Beginning Balance - January 01, 2023			\$ 74.00
Revenue			
Transfer from General	\$ 10.00		
Bank Interest	1.72		
		<u>11.72</u>	
Total Revenue			\$ 11.72
Expenses			
Returned to General	\$ 10.00		
Total Expenses			<u>10.00</u>
Balance as of December 31, 2023			<u>\$ 75.72</u>
Net Surplus or (Deficit)			<u>\$ 1.72</u>

Choir Fund			
Beginning Balance - January 01, 2023			\$ 669.13
Revenue			
Transfer from General	\$ 10.00		
Bank Credit (Return of Inactive fee)	20.00		
Bank Interest	15.35		
		<u>45.35</u>	
Total Revenue			\$ 45.35
Expenses			
Returned to General	\$ 10.00		
Inactive Fee	20.00		
		<u>-</u>	
Total Expenses			<u>30.00</u>
Balance as of December 31, 2023			<u>\$ 684.48</u>
Net Surplus or (Deficit)			<u>\$ 15.35</u>

The original books of record were reviewed by David Smelsky and found correct as presented.

January 27, 2024



 David Smelsky

Rockwood Nominating Report for 2024

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:	Brent Stiles ²⁰²⁴ (Chairperson) Ollie Darcie ²⁰⁰⁶ Ian Pasmore ²⁰¹⁵ (Cards) Scott Grant ²⁰²⁴	
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 Faith Formation:	Barbara Eley ²⁰⁰⁶ (Chair/Choir Director) Carol Smelsky ¹⁹⁹⁵	
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	
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	
Offering 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 Council Representative	Heather Leffler	

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.