

# Laidlaw Memorial United Church

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

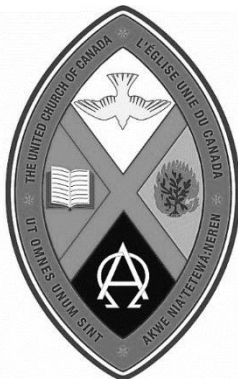
## 2023 Annual Report

FINAL

Celebrating our 111<sup>th</sup> Year



**Our Mission: With respect, cooperation and joy,  
through acts of love that build each other up,  
we seek to share the light of Christ  
as a Beacon from our corner in East Hamilton**





# **2023 Annual Report**

## **Laidlaw Memorial United Church**

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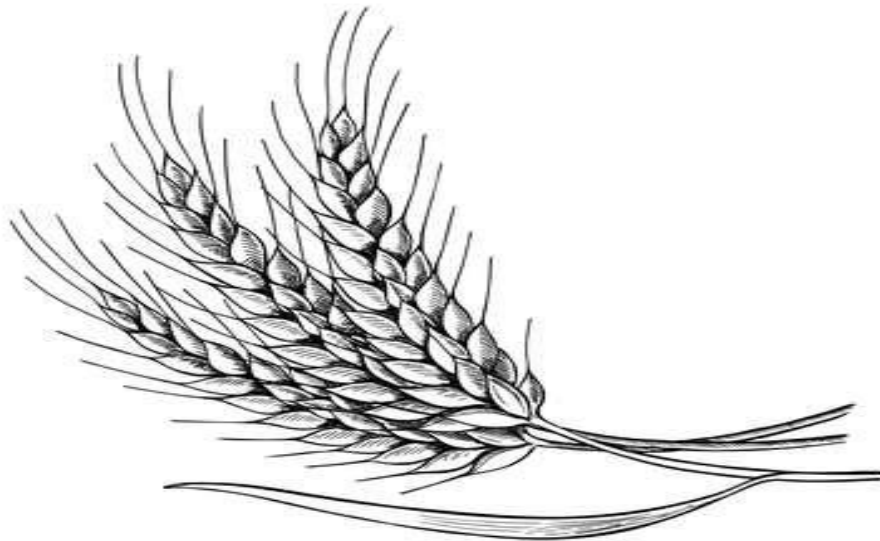
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## In Memoriam 2023

*Norma Patricia Inman, née Parnall, Died December 27, 2022, age 91*  
*Aalihah Anne-Rosa Espinal-Hines, Died December 31, 2022, age 13*  
*Helen Elliott Wortman Formerly Pouliotte, née Morrison, Died January 7, 2023, age 87*  
*Steven Micheal McCleary, Died December 27, 2022, age 33*  
*Esther Cluett née Grady, Died: December 29, 2022, Age 93*  
*Cathryn Elaine McMeechan née Williams, Died December 9, 2022, Age 58*  
*Margaret McKinnie Smith Fleming née Welsh, Died January 20, 2023, Age 85*  
*Patrick Rodrigue, Died January 24, 2023, age 75*  
*Marlene Jones, Died December 2, 2022, Age 90*  
*'Kathy' Kathryn Phyllis Elizabeth French Wilson née Burton, Died Jan. 30, 2023, Age 67*  
*and her mother, Phyllis Beatrice Burton née French, Died 1980*  
*Dorothy Jane McCleary née Lloyd, Died February 19, 2023, Age 86*  
*Douglas Wayne Hines, Died February 22, 2023, Age 75*  
*Harry Melvin Cecil Furry, Died March 3, 2023, Age 86*  
*Nevaeh Rosemary Muley, Died March 4, 2023, Age 2*  
*Ermie Zamora Capalongan Clark née Capalongan, Died March 14, 2023, Age 85*  
*Alexander "Alec" Dan Grenville Irvine, Died December 24, 2022, Age 83*  
*Robert Albert Thivierge, Died February 26, 2023, Age 62*  
*Sasa Spasojevic, Died March 28, 2023, Age 52*  
*Wayne Harvey Urquhart, Died March 17, 2023, Age 79*  
*Norman Joseph Robichaud, Died April 13, 2023, Age 70*  
*Marlene Susan Vorkapic née Joki, Died February 25, 2023, Age 79*  
*Donna Roberta Barbas née Houghton, Died May 1, 2023, Age 74*  
*Kevin Michael Myles, Died December 27, 2022, Age 41*  
*Tina Louise Hines, Died May 4, 2023, Age 49*  
*Edna Bertha Ellis née Roscoe, Died May 13, 2023, Age 95*  
*Dean Anthony Young, Died May 22, 2023, Age 40*  
*Ann Alice West née Jensen, Died May 23, 2023, Age 62*  
*Donald 'Finny' Finlayson Sr. (aka Diamond), Died June 5, 2023, Age 70*  
*Norma Lynne Doggett, Died January 23, 2023, Age 65*  
*Keira Rasheila Anderson, Died June 17, 2023, Age 9*  
*Christopher (Lurch, Luciano) Lee Toth, Died June 22, 2023, Age 43*  
*Brette Lee Smith, Died June 24, 2023, Age 61*

*Dora Florence Craig, formerly Donald; née Payne, Died: June 25, 2023, Age 104*  
*Heather Elizabeth Dean, Died July 18, 2023, Age 64*  
*Robert Harvey Daley, Died July 18, 2023, Age 85*  
*Susan Elizabeth Radford, Died July 23, 2023, Age 69*  
*Jeanette Leona Marie Heinemann née Fontaine, Died July 26, 2023, Age 74*  
*Carolyn Helen Vanderzwaag, Died August 30, 2023, Age 60*  
*Gaetane Nicole Melanson, Died August 16, 2023, Age 62*  
*Srdjan Vojinovic, Died June 27, 2023, Age 53*  
*Claire Violet Marion Guiver, Died October 1, 2023, Age 84*  
*Vannessa Ann Sherwin, Died September 29, 2023, Age 40*  
*Cindy Gagnon née Lavelle, Died October 2, 2023, Age 61*  
*Evelyn Ruth Smith née Burden, Died October 27, 2023, Age 81*  
*Elsbeth "Elsie" Scott Hutton née Whyte, Died November 3, 2023, Age 90*  
*Barbara Ann Jamieson-Venesia, Died November 5, 2023, Age 59*  
*Hoyt MacRae Fraser, Died November 10, 2023, Age 87*  
*'Chris' Christopher Martin Watson, Died November 14, 2023, Age 49*  
*Hendrika 'Henny' Geertruida Vanderzwaag née Bijl, Died November 23, 2023, Age 91*  
*Joan Paula Biley née Terrani, Died November 17, 2023, Age 79*  
*Scott Lawrence Wilson, Died: December 7, 2023, Age 60*  
*Leonard 'Len' Brian Carter, Died December 22, 2023, Age 82*



**51 Funerals for 52 People in 2023**

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation

## Sunday February 19, 2023, at 1:00 pm.

**Present:** A quorum of members and adherents was present (32)

**Opening:** Rev. Doug opens the meeting in prayer

**Proposed Slate of Officers for 2023,** Al Finlay, Chair, asks three times. Nominations closed.  
Motion to Accept: by Acclamation

**Call to approve minutes:** Moved by Carol Courtney, seconded by Barb Havens, All in favour,  
CARRIED

**Moment of Silence** was observed for members and adherents who died in 2022

**United Church Women Report:** Motion to accept the financial report, moved by Carol Courtney, seconded by Barb Havens, All in favour, CARRIED

**Financial Statement:** Rev. Doug goes over financial statement, \$40,000.00 CEBA to be paid back at the end of 2023. We received \$72,300.00 from the Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council as a grant to the Accessible Entrance Project of installing wheelchair lifts. We will need to raise an additional \$7,500.00 to balance the 2023 budget. Motion to approve the financial statement for 2022 and budget for 2023, Moved by Kathi Austin, seconded by Ben Moore, all in favour, CARRIED

**Motion of Thanks:** to Ron Jenkins and David Mason for taking care to get CEBA loan, Federal Wage Subsidies. Also, thanks to George Redburn for auditing our books. Moved by Janet Bond, seconded by Matt Saunders, all in favour, CARRIED

**No further business**

Vice Chair, Shirley Bowers comes to thank Rev. Doug for all his hard work, referring to him as the 'Energizer Bunny'

**Meeting Adjourned,** Moved by David Crown, no objection

*Alan Finlay, Chair*  
*Wendy Greeniaus, Recording Secretary*



## Church Council Chair's Report – 2023

This past year we have seen growth and a lot of progress and are entering 2024 with great optimism. With your help, participation, and donations, we will reach our goals and more. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our success in 2023.

Thank you to all members of the Church Council, past and present, for your support, contribution, and ideas. We could not function without you.

Fundraising is better than ever, with bigger crowds at our events, and is only going to get better. This includes Penny Sales, BINGO, Movie Nights and much more. Thank you, Carol, and Kathi, for keeping the kitchen humming and the food crew, Drew, Matthew, Benjamin, and James for all your work with the food table, setting up and dismantling for events and keeping us fed. Fundraising requires many hands; any help is welcomed and appreciated.

With the help of The Mission Council of Hamilton Presbytery, which gave us a Grant of \$72,300 for the new access lift and has been installed at the Northwest corner of Laidlaw, we now have access to all floors. Thanks to David and Dennis for all their continuous work in preparing and constructing the new entrance overhang and the Woman's lounge kitchenette, plus whatever else needs addressed. We have a state-of-the-art facility that we can be proud of and can entertain multiple events. We have also been given a \$6,900.00 grant to upgrade our sound system. This will help the clarity of sound and acoustics for service and the variety of events happening at our church. Also, with a Government Grant of \$7,500.00 for anti-hate groups, we have installed a new security system for the parking lot door.

Thank you, Rev. Doug for your commitment, resilience, and arduous work. It does not go unnoticed. We are blessed to have you as our Minister and friend.

Yours Truly,

*Alan Finlay*

Council Chairperson





## Finance and Envelope Secretary's Report – 2023

On Behalf of the Finance Committee and Laidlaw Memorial United Church, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed financially to Laidlaw in 2023. In 2023 there were 50 boxes of offering envelopes, including 10 donors on PAR (Pre-Authorized-Remittance). There were 42 non-envelope donors. In 2023 we are still in some respects feeling the effect financially of COVID.

For the year 2023 we have many highlights. Thanks to generous donations, we were able to pay off the CEBA loan and the insurance for Laidlaw. Also, wheelchair lifts were installed. A big thank you to our United Church Women, for all their hard work. In 2023 we were able to balance the budget except for the amount of \$7,644.90 still owing on the lifts. This amount was paid off with generous donations in January of 2024. Any extra offering on top of your regular or monthly offering would be greatly appreciated. Envelopes will be available for Balanced Budget 2024 donations to help meet our general expenses and balance our 2024 budget.

Please remember the Pre-Authorized Remittance program, in which donations are deducted from the donor's bank account on the twentieth of each month. Please give me a call if you wish to be on 'PAR', and I will make the arrangements for you. (905 312 4945)

Please remember to mark the amount on the outside of your envelope, as this helps reduce errors. Also, if you are using an unnumbered envelope make sure that you either put your number on it, or, if in the case of not having envelopes, put your name and address on the envelope to receive a tax receipt.

For any changes of address, please contact the Church Office at 905 544 6536. Any questions concerning your 2023 income tax receipt, or if you require envelopes of adjusting PAR, please contact Keith at 905 312 4945.

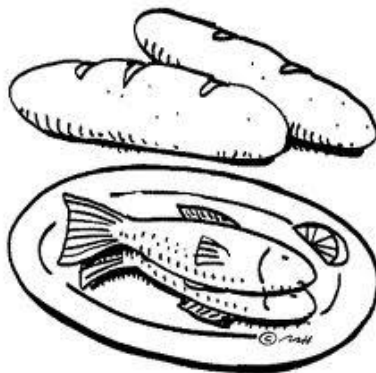
Thanking everyone again for their generosity in this difficult year.

*Keith Greeniaus*

## 2023 Annual Review of the Church Books

I have reviewed in detail Laidlaw Memorial United Church's General Fund Ledger for 2023 and Lottery Trust Ledger for 2023 and compared entries made in the Ledgers with bank statements, returned cheques, invoices, reconciliations, and statements from 2023. I have found them to be accurate and in good order.

*George Redburn*, Auditor, February 2024



**LAIDLAW MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH, Hamilton, Ontario**  
**Finance Report, December 31, 2023, and Budget for 2024**

INCOME	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>RECEIPTED OFFERINGS</b>					
General Fund Envelopes	\$ 35,529.80	\$ 29,068.40	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 33,240.55	\$ 34,000.00
Monthly Maintenance, including PAR	\$ 3,251.75	\$ 2,081.50	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,652.35	\$ 3,400.00
Air Conditioner Lease Donations	\$ 6,889.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Initial Offering	\$ 261.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 199.00	\$ 300.00
Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) General Fund	\$ 21,801.36	\$ 17,280.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 14,910.00	\$ 15,000.00
Mission and Service Donations, including PAR	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,180.00	\$ 100.00
Bulletin Covers/ Memorials Sponsored	\$ 1,365.00	\$ 775.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,045.00	\$ 1,100.00
Gift in Kind Donations	\$ 6,590.93	\$ 5,919.32	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,026.86	\$ 7,500.00
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday Offerings	\$ 695.50	\$ 820.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 544.40	\$ 500.00
Easter Offerings	\$ 2,441.50	\$ 2,497.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 405.00	\$ 2,500.00
Thanksgiving Offerings	\$ 565.00	\$ 248.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 330.00	\$ 500.00
Anniversary Offerings	\$ 530.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 1,000.00
Summer Offerings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,500.00
Christmas Offerings	\$ 5,962.72	\$ 7,015.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 4,717.55	\$ 6,000.00
COVID-19 Offerings	\$ 2,166.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Canada Helps Offerings (received by Canada Helps)	\$ 1,702.05	\$ 1,868.46	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 2,500.02	\$ 2,500.00
Miscellaneous Offerings	\$ 7,285.00	\$ 6,568.66	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,955.00	\$ 8,000.00
<b>Total Receipted Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 97,096.62</b>	<b>\$ 75,711.34</b>	<b>\$ 87,110.00</b>	<b>\$ 74,810.73</b>	<b>\$ 83,900.00</b>
<b>Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council Grant/Loan</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>FUNDRAISING EVENTS</b>					
Loaves and Fishes Lunches	\$ -	\$ 551.50	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 549.40	\$ 900.00
Coin Boxes	\$ 410.61	\$ 586.68	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 519.72	\$ 900.00
Movie Night Food and Popcorn Sales	\$ -	\$ 1,703.30	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 3,173.80	\$ 3,200.00
Other Food Sales	\$ 250.20	\$ 4,519.19	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 8,183.50	\$ 8,400.00
Market Place Events	\$ -	\$ 2,233.55	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,603.25	\$ 2,800.00
Craft Sales, Weekday Coffee Donations	\$ -	\$ 701.55	\$ 600.00	\$ 259.80	\$ 500.00
Bingo (Lottery Trust Account)	\$ -	\$ 970.50	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,300.50	\$ 2,500.00
Penny Sales (Lottery Trust Account)	\$ -	\$ 3,170.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 11,030.25	\$ 12,000.00
Coffee Fund (Sunday Coffee Hour)	\$ 53.10	\$ 965.60	\$ 600.00	\$ 641.91	\$ 700.00
Miscellaneous, including Book Korner	\$ 55.75	\$ 48.50	\$ 100.00	\$ 97.75	\$ 100.00
<b>Total Fundraising Events</b>	<b>\$ 769.66</b>	<b>\$ 15,450.37</b>	<b>\$ 25,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,359.88</b>	<b>\$ 32,000.00</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>					
Loose Offerings	\$ 118.00	\$ 598.45	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,160.35	\$ 1,200.00
United Church Women General Fund Donations	\$ 2,070.00	\$ 6,251.62	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 12,317.00	\$ 10,000.00
TWSE, CEWS, CEBA, Federal, re COVID-19	\$ 49,031.29	\$ 20,758.24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
HST Refunds	\$ 7,276.73	\$ 4,868.70	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 5,252.51	\$ 5,500.00
Interest Paid on Investments	\$ 4.00	\$ 105.51	\$ 100.00	\$ 790.92	\$ 500.00
Micellaneous Income	\$ 200.00	\$ 709.13	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,332.00	\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$ 58,700.02</b>	<b>\$ 33,291.65</b>	<b>\$ 13,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,852.78</b>	<b>\$ 18,700.00</b>
<b>USE OF FACILITIES/PROPERTY</b>					
Thursday AI Anon Group	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,200.00
Income from Solar Panels	\$ 9,545.32	\$ 9,150.93	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 6,954.59	\$ 9,400.00
Weddings, Use of Sanctuary	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 800.00
Miscellaneous Rentals	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 10,560.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 14,425.00	\$ 19,000.00
<b>Total Facilities/Property Income</b>	<b>\$ 18,245.32</b>	<b>\$ 20,710.93</b>	<b>\$ 22,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 22,579.59</b>	<b>\$ 30,400.00</b>
<b>BUDGET SURPLUS FROM PRIOR YEAR</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,293.76</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>BALANCED BUDGET EFFORT</b>			<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,887.75</b>	<b>\$ 12,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 174,811.62</b>	<b>\$ 156,458.05</b>	<b>\$ 155,410.00</b>	<b>\$ 160,490.73</b>	<b>\$ 177,000.00</b>

EXPENSES	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL</b>					
Minister's Salary and Housing	\$ 64,260.96	\$ 64,330.58	\$ 67,646.88	\$ 69,131.94	\$ 75,384.96
ADP Payroll Processing Fees	\$ 307.47	\$ 352.80	\$ 360.00	\$ 359.58	\$ 440.00
Musician's Contract	\$ 16,980.14	\$ 11,991.99	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 10,713.41	\$ 13,500.00
Continuing Education/Study Allowance	\$ 1,442.04	\$ 1,446.29	\$ 1,542.96	\$ 1,542.96	\$ 1,640.04
Travel Allowance	\$ 5,906.88	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 4,800.00
Telephone Allowance	\$ 480.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Pension/Group Insurance, Employer Portions	\$ 11,321.04	\$ 12,206.28	\$ 12,778.68	\$ 13,117.32	\$ 14,301.36
EI Employer Portion	\$ 1,245.40	\$ 1,333.87	\$ 1,013.04	\$ 1,403.47	\$ 1,468.77
CPP Employer Portion	\$ 3,166.45	\$ 3,499.80	\$ 3,754.45	\$ 3,754.45	\$ 3,867.50
<b>Total Ministry and Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 105,110.38</b>	<b>\$ 100,441.61</b>	<b>\$ 105,596.01</b>	<b>\$ 106,023.13</b>	<b>\$ 116,002.63</b>
<b>CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>\$ 125.77</b>	<b>\$ 125.19</b>	<b>\$ 134.23</b>	<b>\$ 134.23</b>	<b>\$ 350.00</b>
<b>OFFICE ADMINISTRATION</b>					
Insurance	\$ 10,256.56	\$ 7,912.08	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 8,847.36	\$ 10,100.00
Supplies and Ink	\$ 1,890.86	\$ 1,671.09	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,793.03	\$ 1,800.00
Website Hosting Fees	\$ 450.87	\$ 450.87	\$ 450.87	\$ 450.87	\$ 450.87
Postage	\$ 883.70	\$ 259.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 341.44	\$ 600.00
Photo Copier Contract	\$ 565.00	\$ 698.34	\$ 700.00	\$ 2,188.57	\$ 2,600.00
<b>Total Office Administration</b>	<b>\$ 14,046.99</b>	<b>\$ 10,991.38</b>	<b>\$ 10,950.87</b>	<b>\$ 13,621.27</b>	<b>\$ 15,550.87</b>
<b>STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE</b>					
Accounting Expenses	\$ 67.80	\$ 119.69	\$ 120.00	\$ 67.80	\$ 80.00
Bank Charges	\$ 391.24	\$ 421.62	\$ 430.00	\$ 391.92	\$ 420.00
Offering Envelopes	\$ 419.85	\$ 749.32	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,167.45	\$ 500.00
PAR Service Charges	\$ 86.14	\$ 68.50	\$ 70.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 70.00
<b>Total Stewardship and Finance</b>	<b>\$ 965.03</b>	<b>\$ 1,359.13</b>	<b>\$ 1,370.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,687.17</b>	<b>\$ 1,070.00</b>
<b>UTILITIES</b>					
Natural Gas	\$ 4,478.28	\$ 5,846.21	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 7,008.99	\$ 7,200.00
Hydro	\$ 2,442.18	\$ 2,839.59	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 3,159.31	\$ 3,200.00
Water and Sewer	\$ 480.33	\$ 614.75	\$ 600.00	\$ 733.23	\$ 750.00
Telephone	\$ 1,174.18	\$ 1,334.44	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 1,153.31	\$ 1,160.00
Internet	\$ 561.61	\$ 640.71	\$ 720.00	\$ 677.56	\$ 680.00
Water Heater Rental (bought out in 2020)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$ 9,136.58</b>	<b>\$ 11,275.70</b>	<b>\$ 11,040.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,732.40</b>	<b>\$ 12,990.00</b>
<b>PROPERTY MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 1,833.22	\$ 2,862.29	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,390.86	\$ 1,400.00
Building and Equipment Repairs/Improvements	\$ 7,205.04	\$ 15,685.42	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,590.86	\$ 1,000.00
Electrical Repairs/Improvements	\$ 6,555.87	\$ 39.37	\$ 500.00	\$ 17.73	\$ 500.00
Plumbing/HVAC Repairs/Improvements	\$ 1,275.77	\$ 213.39	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,264.47	\$ 1,000.00
Fire/Buglar Alarm Monitoring Contract	\$ 474.60	\$ 474.60	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,033.95	\$ 1,000.00
Fire Alarm Inspection and Repairs	\$ 2,458.21	\$ 1,599.18	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,241.71	\$ 1,250.00
Pest Control Contract	\$ 844.04	\$ 916.83	\$ 925.00	\$ 993.93	\$ 1,020.00
Roof and Solar Panel Loan Payments	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Wheelchair Lift Inspections (Air Conditioner lease 2021)	\$ 6,889.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Total Property Maintenance and Improvements</b>	<b>\$ 33,535.76</b>	<b>\$ 27,791.08</b>	<b>\$ 12,675.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,533.51</b>	<b>\$ 15,170.00</b>
<b>WORSHIP</b>					
Supplies/Communion	\$ 473.95	\$ 959.87	\$ 600.00	\$ 641.85	\$ 650.00
Organ and Piano Maintenance	\$ 461.40	\$ 591.40	\$ 700.00	\$ 466.40	\$ 700.00
Pulpit Supply	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Special Bulletins	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CCLI Licences, Choir Supplies	\$ 222.00	\$ 694.17	\$ 450.00	\$ 244.00	\$ 250.00
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>\$ 1,157.35</b>	<b>\$ 2,245.44</b>	<b>\$ 2,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,352.25</b>	<b>\$ 2,400.00</b>
<b>PASTORAL CARE AND MEMBERSHIP</b>					
Membership Expenses	\$ 55.72	\$ 183.34	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.53	\$ 250.00
Seasonal Gifts for Shut Ins	\$ 155.38	\$ -	\$ 110.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
United Church of Canada National Dues	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 4,498.00	\$ 5,729.00	\$ 5,729.00	\$ 5,860.00
<b>Total Pastoral Care and Membership</b>	<b>\$ 4,011.10</b>	<b>\$ 4,681.34</b>	<b>\$ 6,039.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,979.53</b>	<b>\$ 6,210.00</b>
<b>OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION</b>					
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 28.90	\$ 3,766.43	\$ 4,654.89	\$ 7,754.74	\$ 7,000.00
Mission and Service Fund Donation	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,520.00	\$ 250.00
<b>Total Outreach and Communication</b>	<b>\$ 428.90</b>	<b>\$ 4,166.43</b>	<b>\$ 5,054.89</b>	<b>\$ 9,274.74</b>	<b>\$ 7,250.00</b>
Unbudgeted Misc. Expense (2021 Drywall) (2023 Float to Ltt Trst)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 310.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 172,517.86</b>	<b>\$ 163,077.30</b>	<b>\$ 155,410.00</b>	<b>\$ 167,648.23</b>	<b>\$ 176,993.50</b>
<b>NET INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,293.76</b>	<b>\$ 6,619.25</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 7,157.50</b>	<b>\$ 6.50</b>

## Chair of Trustees Report 2023

The Trustees elected for Laidlaw Memorial United Church are charged with the duty to serve in the present with an eye to the future. Your Trustees in 2023 have been Keith Greeniaus (Representative of Trustees to the Council), Don Wood (Secretary to the Trustees), Henny Vanderzwaag, Shirley Bowers, and Hinson McMillan. Rev. Doug Moore serves as Chair of the Trustees, ex officio. We remember and give thanks for the years of service Henny Vanderzwaag has given to Laidlaw, even as we grieve her passing.

Trustees tend to the Church's investments, oversee our insurance coverage, and act as formal legal representatives for the Church, as well as overseeing major building improvements, meeting often informally and less often formally, with an aim to meet four times a year, often in the form of a report to the Church Council meetings. The Investment Certificates held by Laidlaw are held in common, without attaching labels to particular investment certificates, but this year, we have received several grants, and the wisdom of putting those grants into a cashable GIC in the name of that grant until needed to pay invoices became apparent.

This has been a year of many projects. The installation of the Wheelchair Lifts delayed the installation of the new upstairs kitchen, but both have made amazing progress, and the Access Lifts are now complete. We are working on completing upgrades to the sound system, as well as a new porch roof over the parking lot door. A grant from the Province of Ontario is allowing us to upgrade the security of the parking lot entrance door, giving remote access to the door and the alarm system, with more improvements in the new year. In addition, we have entered into an agreement with Green Venture in Hamilton to improve and enhance the church greenspaces, coming out of the back fence garden experiment. In addition, several improvements requested from the city, including a loading zone parking spot by the northwest entrance, and a concrete base for the SOBI bicycle rack on the north lawn were accomplished, not to mention improvements to the safety of the Ottawa and Cannon Street traffic lights and crosswalks. We continue to live and grow into the new era of in-person and online, with now more than 330 subscribers on YouTube! Many things are different, one thing has not changed. We continue to share the light of Christ from our corner in East Hamilton, with respect, cooperation, and joy.

Generosity this year has allowed us to settle the CEBA loan as hoped, paying \$40,000.00 on the \$60,000.00 loan in time to receive a \$20,000.00 loan forgiveness. The year has certainly been a challenge, but the efforts of a great many people helped the Balanced Budget Effort this year to exceed expectations. Fundraising efforts also exceeded expectations and have surpassed pre-COVID levels now. There are many new people and groups gathering at Laidlaw, and we are seeing the benefit of neighbours becoming friends. The sound system improvement open new possibilities for music and community events. We are grateful for the generosity, cooperation, and joy that makes this possible.

The Accessible Entrance Project is now complete, with final payment for the lifts being made in January of 2024. The cost of this improvement will not be carried as a debt, due to the wonderful generosity of the Mission Council. The lifts will be dedicated in memory of Calvary United Church, that amalgamated with Laidlaw many years ago. The funds for the lifts come from proceeds from the sale of Calvary Church on Campbell Avenue many years ago. Those funds, wound up with the Accessibility Project at Laidlaw, have done immeasurable good for many congregations, and were also the funds for the Roof and Solar Project at Laidlaw.

There have been no insurance claims this year. Keith explored insuring Laidlaw from several companies, but we found we are doing as well as can be hoped with our present insurer. The only debts Laidlaw currently carries are the remainder of the Roof and Solar Loan, the obligation for the CEBA Loan has now been met and dismissed. A new copier was leased in 2023 and is part of the Administration budget for 2024.

The years following COVID have been challenging, and this year was no exception. The CEBA loan, and increased Insurance Costs, as well as rising United Church of Canada Annual Dues have called everyone to contribute to meeting these challenges. We have done very well indeed, and our church is better prepared for the future than at any time in recent memory. The planned balanced budget for 2023 was not met. Expenses for 2023 were \$167,648.23 on a budget of \$155,410.00. Mid year mandated increases to the minister's minimum salary, as well as the increased heating fuel costs due to unrebated carbon taxes contributed to the additional expenses. Income for 2023 was \$160,490.73 on a budget of \$155,410.00. In addition, a bequest for \$20,000.00 to pay the CEBA loan was received, with deep thanks. Income and fundraising are recovering well now, post COVID. We continue to rise to the challenge of inflation, the death of longtime generous members of our congregation, with generous support for a balanced budget. The operating deficit for 2023 is \$7,157.50. This deficit is unfunded. The challenge will be to recover from this deficit over the course of 2024, while meeting current expenses. We have proposed a balanced budget for 2024, with income of \$177,000.00 and expenses of \$176,993.50.

We are grateful to the Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council. Payments on the Roof and Solar Mortgage incur no interest costs, something of great value and kindness as interest rates rise. We have repaid \$6,000.00 of that Loan in 2023, leaving us now with 161 payments of \$500.00 per month left at the end of 2023. The Access Project funding granted in December of 2022 by the Mission Council is a great blessing. \$72,300.00 has been granted from the Calvary Fund. \$38,225.50 arrived in December of 2022, and was paid out as deposit on the lift installation. The Balance of \$33,974.50 was received in 2023, and used to make progress payments on the lifts, with a payment of \$7,644.90 owing as of December 31, 2023. This final payment was made early in 2024. We will now wind up the Accessibility Fund.

We end the year 2023 with \$12,250.00 in GICs. See the summary page below for details. All other funds are held in the General or Lottery Trust Accounts.

Insurance costs continue to rise. A review of our coverage was done by Keith this year, and we find that our insurance costs are reasonable by comparison to other available coverage. Rising insurance costs are a worldwide issue currently.

This has been another exceptional year for repairs and improvements to our facilities, and that is reflected in our property expenses being more than budgeted. The work of volunteers has made the money spent on repairs and improvement, not to mention a large amount of gift in kind offerings of paint and supplies, go an exceptionally long way. We are deeply grateful for all who volunteer and contribute to these efforts. We need help—don't be shy to volunteer!

Gatherings are returning to pre-COVID levels, and in some cases, exceeding them. Penny Sales, particularly, are popular and well attended. Donations for prizes and help with the sales are truly appreciated. We are frequently being approached by groups seeking meeting, rehearsal, and performance space. We have no desire to be anyone's landlord. We cooperate with other charitable and community groups to make our facilities available on a cost recovery basis. We have enjoyed several cooperative successes in 2023. The Vocal Point Choir is making good use of the space, as well as music studios for recitals, Narc Anon and AA and Al Anon groups. We are also making facilities available for local music teachers, as well as L'Arche. We look forward to the partnership with Green Venture, enhancing community use of our outdoor greenspace, building on the back fence garden project. We can do this without complicating our own fundraising and other events. We continue to be asked to help with community weddings and funerals, often with the addition of livestreaming. With the Access Project now complete, we are adjusting events to be friendlier to wheelchair access. It has been noticed that improvements to accessibility in our washrooms is a next step for us. We continue to ensure our facilities become even more useful to our ourselves and our neighbourhood.

We will continue to cooperate with local Arts and Community Groups in making Laidlaw a part of the wider community, and we appreciate the cooperative relationship with L.G. Wallace, sharing our parking with each other when there is overflow.

I am confident the pattern of balanced budgets at Laidlaw will resume as we move into the future. These exceptional COVID years have been difficult; but have also accelerated progress toward the future God has in mind for us at Laidlaw. It is a credit to everyone, our congregation, all our community friends and partners. The 2024 budget calls for a balanced budget, and though we know there will be challenges this year, we are also in a place where some major projects are complete, and we can concentrate on ensuring a balanced operating budget.

We take joy this year in the many people who have chosen to be part of Laidlaw Church. We are amazed to see an increase in YouTube Subscribers from 301 to 335 over the year, and, even with increased in person attendance, we often have fifty hits or more on worship videos. Attendance at worship, by any reasonable measure, is at least stable. Our great challenge is to work together, keep in touch, and informed, and act in love, so that we can tackle the challenges we face together, and find the joy God intends for us all.

We are presenting a balanced Budget for 2024. With confidence, generosity, hard work, and great fun, welcoming each other and our community partners, we will, I believe, have another exceptional, successful, and blessed year at Laidlaw. Everyone is encouraged to make the contributions they can make to our mission and ministry as a Beacon from our corner in East Hamilton, reaching further and farther than we ever imagined.

**The operating deficit for 2023 was \$7,157.50. The Bequest Fund was used to offset this deficit in the amount of \$569.35, leaving \$6,588.25 of this operating deficit is unfunded. Income for 2023 was \$160,490.73, expenses were \$167,648.23.**

The Endowment Fund began 2023 at nil, no donations in 2023, ends the year at nil.

**The Bequest Fund began 2023 at \$569.35. A bequest of \$20,000.00 was received in 2023, designated to pay off the CEBA Loan. That \$20,000.00 was immediately applied to the balancing owing on the CEBA Loan. \$569.35 was applied to the operating deficit for 2023. The Bequest Fund ends the year at nil.**

**The Reserve Account was nil at the beginning of 2023 and ends the year at nil.**

The Monthly Maintenance Fund seeks to accumulate funds toward major building repairs through weekly offerings. This fund began the year cashed out from 2007, and donations to this fund in 2023 were \$2,652.35. All these funds were transferred to the General Fund this year to defray the cost of Church repairs; and will be again in 2024.

**The Accessibility Fund began the year with \$3,551.33. Funds received to the Access Fund were the second half of the proceeds of Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council grant in the amount of \$33,974.50 toward the Access Project Stair Lifts. Expenses to the Fund this year were \$30,544.60 to 101 Mobility for the Stair Lift installations. And \$644.98 for materials and electrical work to move church infrastructure to accommodate the lift installation. The Accessible Entrance Project is complete as of January 2024. The Accessibility Fund has \$6,326.25 it at the end of 2023. The final payment of \$7,644.90 is due to 101 Mobility at year end. This payment has been made at time of writing. The Fund provided all but \$1,318.65 of this payment.**

**The Miscellaneous Fund began 2023 at nil. The Miscellaneous Fund takes in and spends out Designated Funds. There was no income or expense to the miscellaneous fund in 2023. The Miscellaneous Fund ends the year at Nil.**

**The Easter and Christmas Flower Fund has now been made a part of Envelope Gives in the General Fund Budget, under the line item: *Bulletin Covers/Memorials Sponsored*. In 2023, \$1,045.00 was donated in this way, and reported in the General Fund Finance Report.**



**The Memorial Fund** receives memorial donations at funerals and other times. We continue to work on a renewed way to remember the names of those remembered by our memorial fund, in the narthex. The Memorial Fund also receives the donations made at the Memorial Candle Stand each week. These funds are used on the recommendation of the Church Council. **The fund began the year with \$1,308.62 in it. Memorial Fund income this year was \$3,392.43.** Memorial Fund projects in 2023 were: Sound and Lighting Equipment, \$603.58, Christmas Décor, \$130.00, and Votive Candle Supplies, \$249.17. **Purchases totalled \$928.75. The Memorial Fund ends the year with \$3,718.30.**

**The Benevolent Fund is reported in the Outreach Reports.** Donations received and disbursed for **Outreach Projects**, including Special Appeals, Wesley Urban Ministries, and the Partners in Learning through the General Fund are reported in the Outreach Committee Report. **Mission and Service Fund donations and disbursements are part of the 2023 Financial Report and 2024 Budget.**

A Summary at the end of this report lists all Funds and Monetary Assets and Liabilities of Laidlaw Memorial United Church. All our Accounts and Investments are held at the Royal Bank of Canada at the Centre Mall.

As we begin our 112<sup>th</sup> year together, we give thanks to God for the provision that is being made for ministry in our community. When we gather and work together with Respect, Cooperation and Joy, we can be a Beacon of the Light of Christ as we worship, work, and play with each other, and our community. It will be a great joy to welcome *everyone* to Worship and events, upstairs and down in this new year together. *Glory to God in the highest!*

*Rev. Douglas C. Moore, Chair of Trustees*



## Summary of Fund and Investment Activity at Laidlaw Memorial United Church

January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

### Investment Certificates Held (All at the Royal Bank of Canada) as of January 1, 2023

Investment # & GIC type	Interest Rate	Balance	Maturity Date	Interest Payee
00017-Redeemable GIC	4.25%	\$20,000.00	March 7, 2023	General Account
00018-Cashable 1 year GIC	3.00%	\$2,012.00	December 13, 2023	General Account
<b>Total Certificates Held, December 31, 2021</b>		<b>\$22,012.00</b>		
<b>Investment Capital Cashed in 2023</b>		<b>\$22,012.00</b>		
<b>Total Interest Earned in 2023</b>		<b>\$790.92</b>		

### GICs Cashed and Purchased in 2023

March 7, 2023	00017-Redeemable GIC	\$20,000.00	CEBA GIC Matured
March 8, 2023	00018-Redeemable GIC	\$20,000.00	CEBA GIC Purchased
April 12, 2023	Donation	\$20,000.00	Donation for CEBA Repayment
April 16, 2023	Payment to CEBA	\$20,000.00	Payment on CEBA Loan
July 20, 2023	00016-Cashable GIC	\$2,012.00	GIC Cashed, to General Fund
July 20, 2023	00019-Cashable GIC	\$1,000.00	GIC Purchased, General Fund
July 20, 2023	00018-Redeemable GIC	\$20,000.00	CEBA GIC cashed
July 21, 2023	Payment to CEBA	\$20,000.00	Final Payment on CEBA Loan
August 23, 2023	00020 Cashable GIC	\$6,900.00	Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council Sound Grant
October 3, 2023	00020 Cashable GIC	\$3,600.00	GIC Partially redeemed, Deposit
October 3, 2023	Deposit to Alleyway Sound	\$3,600.00	from HPMC Grant
October 3, 2023	00020-Cashable GIC	\$3,300.00	HPMC Sound Grant Held
November 15, 2023	Received	\$7,500.00	Ontario Anti-Hate Grant
November 20, 2023	00021 Cashable GIC	\$7,500.00	Ontario Anti-Hate Grant Held
December 22, 2023	00021 Cashable GIC	\$550.00	ON Anti-Hate cashed for alarm work
December 23, 2023	00021 Cashable GIC	\$6,950.00	Ontario Anti-Hate Grant Held
December 22, 2023	00019-Cashable GIC	\$1,000.00	General Fund GIC Cashed
December 22, 2023	00022 Cashable GIC	\$2,000.00	General Fund GIC Purchased

<b>2023 Operating Deficit</b>	<b>\$7,157.50</b>
<b>Total Capital Transferred to Operating Funds in 2023:</b>	<b>\$569.35</b>
<b>Total of Cashed Investments held in General Account:</b>	<b>\$9,017.86</b>
<b>Mission Council Grant to Laidlaw in 2023, Access Project</b>	<b>\$33,974.50</b>
This is a Grant. The proceeds were used to make progress payments on Stair Lifts in 2023	
<b>Hamilton Presytery Mission Council Grant (Sound System)</b>	<b>\$6,900.00</b>
<b>Ontario Anti-Hate Grant (to improve door security)</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>

### Investment Certificates Held (All at the Royal Bank of Canada) as of December 31, 2023

Investment # & GIC type	Interest Rate	Balance	Maturity Date	Interest Payee
00020 Cashable GIC	4.00%	\$3,300.00	August 25, 2024	HPMC Sound Grant
00021 Cashable GIC	4.0750%	\$6,950.00	November 21, 2024	Anti-Hate Grant Held
00022 Cashable GIC	2.2500%	\$2,000.00	December 22, 2024	General Fund GIC Held
<b>Total Certificates Held, December 31, 2023</b>		<b>\$12,250.00</b>		

### Fund Balances

Fund	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-23
Partners in Learning Fund	\$250.06	\$250.06	\$0.00 unused funds to HCF
Endowment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bequests	\$7,188.80	\$569.35	\$0.00
Reserves	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial	\$698.22	\$1,308.62	\$3,718.30
Access Project	\$455.33	\$3,551.33	\$6,326.65
Benevolent Fund	\$649.54	\$1,007.59	\$952.91
Monthly Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wesley/Relief late donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Miscellaneous Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total of All Funds</b>	<b>\$9,241.75</b>	<b>\$6,686.95</b>	<b>\$11,017.86</b>
<b>Total Certificates Held</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,012.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Funds in the General Account</b>	<b>\$7,241.75</b>	<b>\$4,674.95</b>	<b>\$9,017.86</b>

### Balance Sheet

	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-23
General Fund Bank Balance,	\$19,917.66	\$14,497.17	\$13,637.63
Lottery Account Bank Balance,	\$131.94	\$936.32	\$843.38
Less Capital held in Gen. Acc.	\$7,241.75	\$4,674.95	\$9,017.86
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$12,807.85</b>	<b>\$10,758.54</b>	<b>\$5,463.15</b>
<b>Total of All Laidlaw Accounts:</b>	<b>\$22,049.80</b>	<b>\$17,445.49</b>	<b>\$7,463.15</b>
<b>GIC Held: Hamilton Presytery Mission Council Grant (Sound System)</b>			<b>\$3,300.00</b>
<b>GIC Held: Ontario Anti-Hate Grant (to improve door security)</b>			<b>\$6,950.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS HELD</b>			<b>\$17,713.15</b>

### Roof/Solar Loan Payments

January 1, 2023	\$86,500.00
principle paid	\$6,000.00
interest paid	\$0.00
December 31, 2023	\$80,500.00

Mission Council Converted the mortgage  
to a no interest loan in September of 2020



## Christian Development Report- 2023

As the Christian Development chair, I am very pleased and thankful for the steady group of young people who show up on Sundays at Laidlaw. This past year we have had a group of kids show up on Sunday!! I'd like to thank all the parents and kids who came out and a special thank you the volunteers who were honorary children!

We were able to get back to fundraisers including Movie Nights this year and have been seeing smiles on faces as they are able to enjoy movies with the Family! Thanks to all our volunteers and Carol and Kathy for helping out with all we need to run our events! This year we didn't give out any pins as we weren't able to have our normal Sunday School Picnic but I am hopeful that we can give them out in 2024!

We are happy that we can still help engage with the kids through the activities that are put in the bulletin by Rev. Doug. As we head in to 2024, I am grateful and excited to continue running Sunday School and helping out with Events and encourage our young people to keep coming out!

Thanks to all the parents who bring their children to church every Sunday when we open!

Respectfully Submitted, *Drew Walker*, Christian Development Chair

## Outreach and Communications 2023

Another year has come and gone and I'm so pleased to report what a successful year we had. Our Penny Sale, 50/50 and Raffles brought in \$11,030.25, and Bingo brought in \$2,300.50. That's amazing! So, at this time, I'd like to thank all those who made this possible, our volunteers and people who donated all the wonderful prizes and gifts. None of this could be possible without you giving us all your time and generosity.

Our Mitten Tree was a huge success this year, as well. We had three large car loads that were donated to Wesley Urban Ministries, and a car load of groceries went to Neighbour to Neighbour, at Wesley's request. Both were extremely grateful for our donations.

Our successful functions show us that our church is a vital part of our community.

Sincerely, *Kathi Austin*  
Chair of Outreach

## Summary of Donations to Outreach Projects in 2023

Outreach Project	Bal. Jan 1	Received	Donated	Bal. Dec. 31
Wesley Urban Ministries	\$0.00	\$390.00	\$370.00	\$20.00
United Church Mission and Service Fund	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
United Church Appeal	\$0.00	\$1,120.00	\$1,120.00	\$0.00
Benevolent Fund Donations, Assistance	\$1,007.59	\$570.00	\$624.68	\$952.91
Partners in Learning Fund	\$250.06	\$0.00	*\$250.06	\$0.00

\*These funds were returned, unused, to Hamilton Community Foundation, and Partners in Learning was wound up.

## Worship, Pastoral Care and Membership-2023

Thank you everyone for another great year. This was my second year in this role, and I am happy with how things were executed. We were able to celebrate 4 Baptisms and 8 Weddings. We unfortunately had 3 members of Laidlaw Church pass away in 2023. We will miss them very dearly; they will always be loved and remembered.

Our digital footprint continued to do well this year with a steady view count of about 60 to 80 views per video. With the recent upgrade to our sound system the livestream viewer experience will be enhanced and will help our channel grow even more.

Thank you everyone for your support and I am looking forward to 2024!

*Matthew Saunders*, Chair of Worship, Pastoral Care and Membership

### Pastoral Care and Membership Statistics – 2023

Members as of December 31, 2022 (Resident & Non-Resident)		73
Received by Confirmation and Profession of Faith	1	
Received by Transfer	0	
		74
Removed by Death	-3	
Removed by Letter/Transfer	-0	
		71
<b>Total Non – Resident Members as of Dec. 31, 2023</b>	-7	
<b>Total Resident Members as of Dec. 31, 2023</b>		64
<b>Identifiable Financially Supporting Persons at Laidlaw in 2023:</b>		120
<b>Identifiable Financially Supporting Households at Laidlaw in 2023:</b>		92
<b>Identifiable Contributors to Mission and Service Fund in 2023:</b>		2
<b>Sunday Attendance, Average of October and November Sundays in 2023:</b>		
Average in Person Attendance	44	
Average Peak Concurrent Viewers on YouTube	13	
<b>Total Average Weekly Attendance, October and November 2023</b>	57	

**Editor's note: A more accurate measure of average attendance in 2023 would be 70.** This takes into account the average of YouTube concurrent viewers would be two per household. This excludes the people who view the livestream after the fact. Worship Videos receive an average of 45 views after the fact, often more. **Laidlaw has 334 YouTube Subscribers!**

In 2023, Laidlaw was privileged to be asked to help with: 3 Youth\Infant Baptisms, and 1 Adult Baptism, 8 Weddings, and 51 Funerals for 52 people.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Doug Moore, Keith Greeniaus, Matthew Saunders*

### 3 Youth/Infant Baptism in 2023

*Kalea Rose Baverstock-Chabot, Baptized April 30, 2023*

*Jayce-Raymond Lupus, Baptized June 25, 2023*

*Jayden-Onyx Leo, Baptized June 25, 2023*

### 1 Adult Baptism in 2023

*Zoie-Breanne Finlayson, Baptized June 25, 2023*



## **1 Member Received in 2023**

*Zoie-Breanne Finlayson, June 25, 2023, by Baptism*

## **3 Members Removed in 2023**

*Edna Ellis, transferred to heaven*

*Dora Craig, transferred to heaven*

*Henny Vanderzwaag, transferred to heaven*

## **8 Weddings in 2023**

*Catherine Ann Ryan and Wayne Albert Secord, March 31, 2023*

*Kyle Jackson and Shayna Moore, May 28, 2023*

*Steven Wright and Rochelle Harris, Saturday, July 22, 2023*

*Susan Gallant and Steve Ludkin, July 19, 2023*

*Angelo Messina and Joanne Satkunas, September 9, 2023*

*Scott Gatenby and Caryn-Lynn Coates, September 23, 2023*

*Therese Gatneau and Ivan Mugerwa, September 27, 2023*

*Ron Hollis and Kim Skinner, December 31, 2023*

## **51 Funerals for 52 People in 2023**

*Please see the 'In Memoriam' on page 1*



## **Ministry Personnel Committee - 2023**

The Ministry Personnel Committee is in place to ensure proper oversight of our relationship with each other and with church staff. The committee negotiates, within the standards set by The United Church of Canada, compensation for staff, and receives any complaints from members of the church or community.

The minister's compensation was set nationally, by The United Church of Canada's Salary and Benefits Board. The increase for the minister's salary this year was set at 6.3%.

Steve McRae remains on permanent contract at Laidlaw, and received a 6.3% increase, which is the same increase as Rev. Doug received.

The members of the Ministry Personnel Committee attended to their responsibilities diligently and with dispatch this year. There were no formal complaints filed.

Your new Ministry Personnel Chair will be Alan Finlay. Thank you to all the volunteers who help and all those who support and pray for our staff as they seek to do their work.

Respectfully submitted, *Carol Courtney*, Ministry and Personnel Chair

## **Partners in Learning Group Report 2023**

In 2022, the **Partners in Learning** Group decided, when COVID had concluded, to wind up their group. There was, initially, a plan to use those funds to install a painted labyrinth on the church parking lot. Delays and additional costs thwarted that plan, so a decision was taken to disburse the funds. Rev. Doug, as treasurer for the group, prepared a final finance statement, and returned the unused fund to the Hamilton Foundation, from which they were originally granted.

The group and the associated account are now formally wound up.

Respectfully submitted, *Rev. Doug Moore*

## **Property Committee Report 2023**

**A sincere thank you to each of you who volunteer to clean the church inside and out every week. This is a wonderful gift to Laidlaw!**

### **2023 Property Actions**

Main floor kitchen install was put on hold to Jan 2024 to prep for 2 access lifts

#### **January to April**

Preparation for access lift installs scheduled for Feb 13 was carried out

#### **Jan 16 to Feb 3**

#1 Restoration of 2 sets of stairs at the northwest entrance on Cannon

Safety modifications were carried out to the space prior to the install, including installing a plexiglass shield Feb 6, altering an existing closet door and reducing the height of the electrical cupboards on the lower level.

#### **Feb 7- 9**

Patching cleaning and painting of the hallway was carried out

#### **Feb 13 -Mar15**

The Lift installs were carried out by licensed installers with Mobility 101  
Challenges of installing lifts into a space not contemplated by the architects of 1912 required additional time and problem solving.

Funded by a Mission Council Grant of \$72,300 was greatly appreciated.

#### **Feb 22- 23**

#2 Strip, clean and wax the gym floor (4coats)

#### **Mar 8 -27**

#3. Remove the existing kitchen floor and install click flooring and baseboard molding

#### **May to June**

#### **May 11 -15**

#4. Paint the outside lower side and back wall of the church off the parking lot and ally way

#### **May 29 - June 21**

#5. Strip, restore and paint the windows of the ministers old office. Add plexiglass security covers

#### **October To December**

#### **Oct 20 - Dec 13**

#6. Build and install a lighted canopy over the side entrance to the church

**Dec 20** #7. Furnace repair \$1,200

The lifts have been installed with several cosmetic aspects to be addressed

#### **2024 actions completed in January**

Sound system upgrades carried out in January 2024 (grant)

Security systems upgrades installed in January 2024 (grant)

Main floor kitchen install. Completed Feb /2024

#### **Summary of Initiatives for 2023**

2 access lifts have been installed 2 stairways have been restored

The gym floor has been cleaned and waxed The main kitchen has a new floor  
Outside painting has been carried out A set of windows off the parking lot has been restored  
A lighted canopy has been built over the side entranceway.

The costs of these initiatives have been achieved through a combination of grants, gift in kind donations and the careful use of budget resources.

Thank you for supporting the work of Laidlaw church

**Other property budget items are listed in the property section of the financial report.**

*David Crown*, for the Property Committee

## Access Project - 2023

Amazingly, this will be the second to last 'Access Project' report, after many years. The project is now complete, with TSSA inspected lifts operating out of the northwest entrance. The City has also granted a 'Loading Zone' parking spot at the end of the sidewalk leading to the northwest door. A Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council Grant of \$72,300.00 has been applied to the total cost of \$76,499.10, along with a Donation from the Estate of Stella Naves. With generosity from the United Church Women, and another generous donor, the lifts have been paid off completely in January of 2024, so we'll have one more report to write in 2024 about that.

We are now training folks to use the lifts safely. It is amazing to see so many people, including Estelle, joining us downstairs for events and coffee hour. We continue the learning curve, as we ensure that folks in wheelchairs can access events, with some major reorganizing of the way we set up a Penny Sale. We also recognize that a suitable accessible washroom or stall needs to be created, and that improvements to the northwest doors need to be made. Plans are in the works to address these needs.

Going forward, the lifts need to be inspected and maintained, and that will cost around \$2,000.00 per year, about the same cost as the annual fire inspection, certification, and repairs. In addition, this year, we will dedicate the lifts, and install the plaque requested by the Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council recognizing that this grant winds up the Calvary Fund. Calvary United Church amalgamated with Laidlaw Church in the 1950's, and the sale of Calvary Church created the Calvary Fund. This fund has done much good in the last few decades, including funding the Roof and Solar project at Laidlaw.

We will continue to work together to find ways to make Laidlaw Church accessible to everyone, and we are grateful to all those whose patience, forbearance, and assistance have made this possible. David and Dennis are to be thanked for tending in record time to preparing the stairwell for the installation of the lifts and keeping up with unanticipated necessities.

Thank you to all those faithful souls who for so many years have contributed, encouraged, and facilitated the Accessible Entrance Project. We are truly grateful for this amazing progress in our life together.



## U.C.W. President's Report 2023

It's a New Year for Laidlaw's United Church Women and time to move forward with our numerous fundraising events. We are truly blessed with the gift of fellowship, coming together for worship, food, and fun.

Our past year has been extremely successful as far as raising money for our Church. Our Penny Sales, Marketplaces, Bazaars, etcetera, always draw people from near and far. Our bake table sales, knitting table sales, and basket sales are very popular and draw a lot of funds for our Church.

On behalf of all the U.C.W. ladies, I would like to thank Reverend Doug for his traditional Monday lunches, always on time, always delicious. I would personally like to thank all of these amazing U.C.W. ladies and our congregation as well, for their help, support, and willingness to assist when needed.

If you are a woman looking for a Monday, once-a-month lunch out, small worship service, and making new friends, we would love you to join our U.C.W. women at Laidlaw. We are just simple folks in a beautiful, historic church.

Respectfully submitted, *Carol Courtney* President, U.C.W.



### Laidlaw United Church Women Financial Statement December 31, 2023.

Balance Forward, January 1, 2023		\$ 6,879.95
Deposits, Income, and Offerings	\$ 8,636.55	
Expenses: Laidlaw General Fund, supplies	\$ 11,802.86	
Closing Balance, December 31, 2023		\$ 3,713.64

# Minister's Report to the Annual Meeting - 2023

*Some give freely yet grow all the richer.*

*Others withhold what is due, and only suffer want.*

*A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.*

*Proverbs 11:24-25*

*Jesus said: "Do not judge, and you will not be judged.*

*Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.*

*Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you.*

*A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over will be put into your lap.*

*For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.*

*Luke 6:37-38*

It has always been hard to wash off a stink. My ancestors were proud hunters—of racoons. The thing about that is, as I learned in my youth, skunks and racoons are the same genus. And if you have a young dog, not yet fully trained, you can wind up chasing down a skunk instead of a racoon. I stank for days, and my urban-from-Buffalo,-New-York mother finally understood that old phrase my grandfather often said to us when we were hanging out in the house—“*Go outside and blow the stink off you!*”

The ‘COVID’ years through which we have recently passed are a bit of that stink that lingers, that we need to go outside to get the stink to blow off us. This year, things have smelled better. A great many projects that bode well for the future of Laidlaw are getting done; and producing the hoped for results, and there are more projects arising. Fundraising exceeded expectations. If I began to recite the generosityes I have seen from members and friends of Laidlaw Church, it would take another couple of Annual Reports to do it, and then I would miss things that were important. Every generosity, from the widow’s mite to the largest coins, has helped us continue to put the COVID years behind us. The CEBA loan is paid off. We almost balanced our budget, in a year of inflation and unrebated carbon taxes, and wildfires that blocked the sun and reduced the electricity our solar array could produce. We are beginning, again, to learn how to work together and make progress in life and in faith, and especially, in love.

As I said last year, comfortable routines do not return the way we imagine they will. People are missing who we used to count on. Things we used to do to ‘get along’ don’t seem to work the way they used to work. We are trying new things, and welcoming new people, and seeking out new partnerships that allow us to do together what none of us can accomplish on our own. A great many people have been generous to us, and we can do no better than to be generous in what we do for one another, and for our community. The way forward is unfolding, and, like always, generosity, forgiveness, withholding condemnation and judgement, offering love freely and joyfully, are the path that will lead us into the future God imagines for us.

Jesus will continue to be our light and beacon, and we will find our way. The ancient proverb reminds us that the only real path forward is forgiveness and generosity. We must be ready to receive grace; and offer grace. Faith, hope, and love are not something we ‘try’ meekly. Faith, hope, and love are what we embrace wholeheartedly, and find new life together.

There has been, again in this year together, so much generosity, so many labours of love, so much compassion and kindness, so much diligence and faithfulness in sharing the light of Christ. Laidlaw is full of wonderful, good people, and we are privileged to serve our community.

I have never been more grateful to be your Minister at Laidlaw United Church. The kindness, support, and help you consistently give to the ministry we share is, for me, a wonder of grace that gives me joy and strength to continue in generosity and hope. The Beacon shines.

Thanks be to God. *Glory to God in the Highest!*

*Reverend Doug Moore*, Minister

## Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024

# Laidlaw Memorial United Church

155 Ottawa Street North, at Cannon Street,

Hamilton, Ontario, L8H 3Z2

Telephone: 905-544-6536

**[www.laidlawchurch.ca](http://www.laidlawchurch.ca)**

E-mail: [laidlawuc@bellnet.ca](mailto:laidlawuc@bellnet.ca)

### Church Officers for 2024

#### Staff

Rev. Douglas C. Moore, Minister	905 547 2021
Steve McRae, Musician	905 818 5251

**Church Office Hours—9 a.m. till Noon, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**

**Friday or Saturday by Chance or Appointment!**

**The Church office is closed on Mondays!**

#### Church Council

Alan Finlay, Chair	905 979 1469
Shirley Bowers, Vice-Chair	905 383 5934
Ben Moore, Recording Secretary	905 544 6536

#### Committee Chairs

Keith Greeniaus	Finance	905 312 4945
David Crown	Property	905 464 6229
Alan Finlay	Ministry and Personnel	905 979 1469
Andrew Walker	Christian Development	905 538 4510
Matthew Saunders	Worship, Pastoral Care, Membership	905 549 0210
Kathi Austin (co-chair)	Outreach	289 639 7039
Barb Havens (co-chair)	Outreach	905 746 6574

#### Representatives

Keith Greeniaus	Trustees	905 312 4945
Ben Moore	Regional Representative	905 544 6536
Keith Greeniaus	Envelope Secretary	905 312 4945
Carol Courtney	U.C.W. President	905 318 6797

#### Trustees

Rev. Doug Moore, Chair (ex-officio)	905 547 2021
Keith Greeniaus, Representative to Council	905 312 4945
Don Wood, Secretary	905 560 6183
Shirley Bowers	905 383 5934
Hinson McMillan	905 545 9617