



# **2023 Annual Report**

**Erindale United Church**

**1444 Dundas Crescent  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5C 1E9**

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Mississauga, Ontario L5C 1E9  
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A Congregation of  
The United Church of Canada

**Mission Statement**

*"Erindale United Church is a people of God.  
We embrace, proclaim and practice  
the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
We seek justice for all people,  
striving to become a loving, nurturing  
ministering community."*

**Ministers**

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## **Minister's Report 2023**

It has been a pleasure to be with you as supply minister Sept. 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024. The role of supply is to keep things going while you search for a new called minister. I have tried to have some variety in worship and preaching, such as Christmas services; Tenebrae Candles; and the Lenten Series on Spiritual Disciplines. I attend committee meetings, the Council; and do emerging pastoral care. I have also participated in area and regional meetings to connect to the broader church.

The church is still getting back from the pandemic, and we will likely spend many years reflecting on what it has meant for us. Online meetings are seen as convenient but are 'cooler' in relationships than in-person for many of us. Some younger people – especially the 'gamers' - will see the internet as a place or a community, which can be difficult for many of us. We are glad, however, to be able to provide connections for those who can't get out and pastoral care can be provided, and there is the opportunity to connect with people a long way away.

Thank you to all the faithful, efficient, and hard-working leaders in our church. Thanks to the worship teams for their leadership in worship services. Thanks to Laura and Sarah for keeping me on track.

We look forward to the arrival of our new minister Rev. Nicholas. Work together to do the best possible for Erindale United Church.

Blessings to you, Rev. Ken MacDonald

## Chair of Council

The calling of a minister by a congregation is special. It is energizing and one of the most consequential and time-intensive activities in the life of the church. Beginning in 2022, this function was in the hands of the Search Committee for a permanent Minister made up of Laura Turner (Chair), John Hurst, Ann Edge, Doug Johnson, Pat Jenkins, Lowell Hendricks, Rachel Nott, and Bill McIntosh. Barb Duffin was the Horseshoe Falls Regional Liaison on this committee. At the end of 2023 this committee had reached the point where its members were ready to recommend a candidate for the call to Erindale. In early 2024, a congregational meeting approved the call to the Rev. Nicholas Forrester. As the hard and intensive work was done through much of the past year, I feel it is appropriate to include this call in my report for 2023. Our deep thanks and congratulations to this committee for shepherding us through this process.

In June of 2023, we said our fond farewell to the Rev. Warren McDougall whose supply ministry came to an end in June and in September we joyfully welcomed the Rev. Ken MacDonald in a similar capacity. Our thanks and deep appreciation go to the Search Committee for a supply minister made up of Harvey Watson, Mary Patterson, and Claudette Neita for their leadership in the search for a supply minister. Our thanks to both Rev. Warren and Rev. Ken for their ministry to us.

The minutes of the September Council meeting demonstrate the quality of our summer worship experience. “. . . the Worship Committee was impressed by the refreshing variety of styles presented by these leaders. It made for an interesting summer”. These leaders were Laura McClure, Fraser Code, Ann Edge, Alison Mock, Rachel Nott and Byron Bright. The Rev. Jessica McCrae and Rev. Warren volunteered to be available for pastoral care during these months. Our thanks and appreciation were conveyed to them and reflected in the September minutes of Council.

There are two on-going trends that I will highlight. Firstly, the worship team initiative continues and is continuously being refined to meet the needs as they occur. Thanks go to Bill McIntosh and Pat Jenkins for their leadership and to the worship teams for the work they do throughout the year. Secondly, we continue to adjust to the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it continues to affect the health of members of the community and our congregation, its impact on our congregational life is less dramatic than a few years ago. For instance, a smaller space in the sanctuary is devoted to social distancing and mask wearing and Zoom meetings are held, more for convenience and efficiency rather than as a health measure. Deep thanks are due to the Tech Team of Ralph Nott, Rachel Nott, Chris Sawyer, and Gary Jenkins for streaming regular services and meetings through Zoom.

Elsewhere in the Annual Report detailed reports of the various activities in our congregation will be outlined. But here, I will highlight initiatives that deserve special mention:

- A special meeting was held in on Zoom in late December focused on re-committing to meet the financial needs of the church. It was a successful meeting.
- The stained-glass installation in the narthex is now complemented with the staining of the woodwork on the outside of this installation.
- Outreach continues through individual and small group efforts: support to refugees spearheaded by Jim Bright, contributions to the Deacon’s Cupboard with David Gorman as the liaison person and activities with the DAM through the work of Nadia Lay, George Beagley and Claudette Neita. There is an appetite for outreach work to be organized through a committee of Council.

- Maintenance of our building and its grounds and handling the finances are major areas of activity throughout the year. Repaving the roadway, re-gravelling the parking lot near to Dundas Street and redrawing of lines in the rear parking lot have made our life more comfortable. Heating and cooling needs are constantly and proactively addressed. The gardens are beautifully maintained. This is only a partial list of maintenance done. The Treasurer keeps Council updated on the finances of the church. Our thanks to the Finance and Property Committee for their invaluable and timely work.
- The investment team of Earl Cochrane, Doug Johnson, Barbara Manchur and Paul Sabourin deserve kudos for managing this element of our lives. Their work has made the financial challenges facing us less intimidating.

Special thanks to our staff persons and the countless volunteers for all that they do. Together they have made coming to Erindale and being a part of the EUC community enjoyable and rewarding.

Blessings,

Horace Neita

## **Reports of Standing Committees**

### **Congregational Care**

#### **Mission**

Our goal is to develop and maintain a nurturing and enjoyable environment that will provide a knowledge and understanding of God's love.

#### **Mandate**

In working towards our mission, we provide pastoral care through visiting, communicating, and welcoming visitors, members, and friends of Erindale United Church.

#### **Committee Members**

Jennifer Code, Pat Jenkins, Nadia Lay, Cindy Williams, and Sandra Wiseman. Ruth Nott and Pat Viau join us at home in praying for those on our prayer list.

#### **Achievements in 2023**

Although Covid-19 is no longer an emergency we continued to hold our meetings on Zoom for convenience.

- We continued to pray for members and others who have been facing illness, bereavement, and life challenges.
- Cindy Williams continues to mail our sympathy, get well, new member, thinking of you, new baby, and 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of baptism cards. If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a pastoral care card, please contact Cindy or Sarah McEwing in the church office.
- Jennifer Code took orders for subscriptions to the United Church magazine, Broadview.
- Telephone visits continued, but this year some visits were made in person.
- Sandra Wiseman and Pat and Garry Jenkins delivered hard copies of the weekly e-newsletter and bulletin to members who were without access to computers.
- Cards were mailed in December to each person in our congregation who was bereaved or housebound during 2023. We usually send cards to baptismal parents as well. This year there were no baptisms.
- At Christmas Cindy, Pat and Sandra delivered poinsettias to parishioners who are isolated or ill. We also delivered Easter gifts.
- We recently invited bereaved members as well as those who might not be able to enjoy the Christmas festivities to attend the Quiet Christmas service (Christmas in a Minor Key). We attended to support those in attendance and found the service moving personally.

We also thank those who have worked so hard to bring church services to us in our homes. One advantage to virtual services is that friends and family from afar have been able to join us, one a former member of our committee. We have had participants from England, Western Canada, the United States, and from previous members who have moved from the area.

## **Plans for 2024**

As in 2023, we will need to see what the year brings. We will continue to keep in touch with each other and members of the congregation, and to continue praying for those on the prayer list.

We planned a CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) course in which we will also learn to use the defibrillator which is in the narthex. Because we did not have the number of participants required, we plan to put this out to the congregation in the spring of 2024.

We wish the best to Dianne Drennan, who has moved to Parry Sound to live with her daughter. Eileen Roberts, who was our committee's former secretary, died this year in England. We thank Rev Warren McDougall and Rev Ken McDonald for their support of our committee.

**Contacts** Jennifer Code (Co-Chair), Pat Jenkins (Co-Chair), Nadia Lay, Cindy Williams and Sandra Wiseman.

## **Finance and Property**

### **Mandate**

To ensure proper financial controllership and property management within the context of service to God, our members, and our community. To create an environment within the Church where financial resources are spent to ensure the Church's future needs are met and accomplish future goals.

The Finance and Property Committee is concerned with tangible property and funds, and so the vision and the mission of the Committee get woven together.

### **Mandate Execution**

The Finance & Property Committee is responsible to manage the following activities:

- contracts for snow removal, outside maintenance (lawns, gardens, building), heating/cooling and cleaning
- technology (internet, phones, cell service, hardware and software support and purchasing)
- manage the relationship with our renter, Tender Years
- general interior maintenance, painting & repairs
- financial analysis, annual detailed budget and 3-year plan
- safety & security, including contracts with companies supplying these services
- church bookings, rental arrangements
- offertory counting coordinator, large funding raising (coordinated with Stewardship), trustee liaison
- treasury, envelope steward, congregational giving statistics and analysis, liaison with Stewardship Committee
- manage the capital budget



## **Achievements In 2023**

The following jobs were completed:

- Over \$40,000 was spent on paving about ½ of the front roadway to where it joins with the back parking lot and the 3 handicapped parking spots. A large amount of gravel was added to the front parking lot to level it and fill in dips that had developed to increase safety for people coming to the church.
- A new water heater was installed in the Tender Years area.
- A new heat pump was installed in one of the classrooms in the Tender Years area to replace one that was no longer working.
- Two new exterior fire doors were replaced in the Tender Years area to ensure the security of the building and the safety of our tenants.
- New aluminum hand railings were installed outside by the Tender Years entrance and the back entrance to Gardner Hall.
- Trees and shrubs on the property were pruned to remove dead branches and maintain the plants.
- Three new comfort height toilets were installed in the washrooms.
- Mold remediation was required in the Tender Years area. The cost was shared equally by the church and the daycare. Steps are being examined as to how to prevent this from being required again.
- Front entrance of the church was refurbished which included cleaning and re-staining the cedar on the overhang, staining the front doors and painting all the exterior metal beams.
- A new lock was put on the furnace room door with the help of Jim Bright.
- The two multipurpose rooms off of Gardner Hall were deep cleaned and painted to ensure they remain a good space for our Sunday School and any other renters to use. Thanks to Eleanor McIntosh & Mary Cochrane for decluttering the rooms in preparation for the cleaning & painting. Thanks to Bill & Earl for helping to move the furniture in those rooms out and back in again after the job was done.
- Thanks to Bill McIntosh for always being willing to advise and help in areas where the information needed is locked away in Bill's memory. We're working on transferring all that wisdom to other current members of F & P.
- The remaining funds that had been collected for the Deacon's Cupboard has now been spent and this fund will be considered closed as of Dec 31, 2023. Council has authorized \$3000 out of the Outreach budget to be sent to the Deacon's Cupboard in 2024.
- The Chess Club continues to be a consistent renter of Gardner Hall and they held many weekend tournaments in 2023. They hope to resume the tournaments in the spring of 2024.
- Much of the money in the Fund accounts continues to be invested in cashable GICs in order to increase interest generated by these funds but to also keep them liquid in case the funds are needed. GICs are held at Meridian Credit Union or RBC. This is overseen by the 4 person Erindale investment committee: Earl Cochrane, Paul Sabourin, Doug Johnston & Barbara Manchur.

Thanks to the whole committee for keeping the church in good repair, the bank balances and finances maintained, the budget updated and followed, and all the utilities running as needed. New members always welcome.

## **Committee Members**

Brian Longley, Barbara Manchur (Treasurer & Secretary), Paul Sabourin, Doug Brien, Claudette Neita, Norma Macintyre (Controller), Bob Rogers, Craig McLean, Joy Cunningham, Janice Everett (Tender Year's Coordinator) and Sarah McEwing (Envelope Steward, non-voting). The chair position has continued to be rotated through Claudette, Brian, Doug, and Paul.

## Stewardship

### Mission

To assist each member and participant of Erindale United Church to, as is appropriate to them, give time, money and energy to the total Mission and Ministry of the Church.

### Mandate

To have full understanding of the Givings and Giving patterns of the congregation; to plan Stewardship Campaigns which will match the Givings of the congregation to yearly budgets and targets for support of the Church; to educate members and participants as to the Givings that the church needs to continue its Mission and Ministry; and to educate new members and participants as to how they may support the Church with Givings of time, money, and energy.

### Activity Summary

The 2023 Stewardship Committee consisted of: Carolyn Hendricks (Chair), Laura Turner, Christian Hawn, Joanna Robinson (started in May), Rev. Warren McDougall (January to June), and Rev. Ken McDonald (started in September). Meetings were held monthly, and the committee worked throughout the year to ensure Erindale's Mission and Mandate were met.

Meetings focused on:

- Monitoring and Understanding the flow of Givings
- Determining the 'Ask' for money (pledges), time and energy
- Creating and Presenting the Annual Fall Givings Campaign

In Erindale's 2021 Fall Campaign, members were invited to personalize fabric squares and contribute to the making of a church quilt. The squares were stitched together. In March of 2022, the quilt was presented to the congregation and was hung in the sanctuary as a visible reminder that each and all are a part of the church fabric.

"It would be nice to know the stories about our squares," an Erindale member said to Stewardship.

In March 2023, a short survey was created inviting members to talk about how they contributed to the Stewardship quilt; what the quilt meant to them; and what was the inspiration behind their square. The process of bringing in a square, making a quilt and sharing stories can be seen as a metaphor for stewardship as we are the fabric of Erindale. Stewardship held a special service in April 2023 where members of the congregation were invited to share their ***Stories Behind the Squares***.

In May 2023, Erindale's Bulletin Cover Picture Library continued to grow. These pictures were included in the weekly communications sent out by the church office. Dedications when offered, along with bulletin cover pictures were displayed on the monitors during hybrid services. These pictures helped facilitate making loving and meaningful dedications throughout the year. *Thank You* to the number of participants who responded to the annual call for submissions.

***Gathering the Gifts*** was the title of Stewardship's 2023 Fall Campaign. It ran for 3-weeks starting the end of October and into November, culminating with Stewardship Sunday on November 19. Built on the theme of appreciation, church members were invited to look around our beautiful church identifying various gifts and the individuals and groups who gifted them. A wonderful collection of items and stories came to light through a *Gathering the Gifts* slide presentation that hi-lighted Erindale's spirit of giving through generosity and love.

Stewardship's 2023 Fall Campaign *ASK*: Continue to give as you are able, and where possible, increase Givings by the rate of inflation.

Looking back over the past few years:

Year	Budget	Givings (rounded)
2019	\$214,000	\$221,000
2020	\$217,000	\$215,000
2021	\$196,000	\$225,000
2022	\$210,000	\$232,000
2023	\$210,000	\$233,000

In December 2023, a total of 33 pledges were received. This was down from 37 pledges made December 2022 and 40 pledges made in 2021. This represents 89% and 82% when compared to the two previous year's pledges respectfully. The breakdown was as follows: Foundation and Other 12%, Envelope/etransfers 30%, and PARs 58%. Responses held varying commitments: 1 was a first time pledger; 14 pledged the same as last year; 3 decreased their pledged amount; and 15 increased the amount pledged.

As a result of an urgent end-of-December Council meeting and subsequent open congregation discussion to support an incoming permanent Minister, members were asked to consider increasing their financial commitment. *How-to-Give* communication from the Treasurer, Envelope Steward, and Stewardship Committee appeared in Erindale's weekly communication, outlining the options to give. Members were encouraged to reconsider the pledge commitment and several members voiced their support and adjusted their offering.

At the time of this report, numbers were being finalized to be used to inform budgetary decisions of 2024. Based on Pledges, PARs, etransfers, cheques or cash, Canada Helps (online), and Security Donations, along with discussions with Finance and Property, Stewardship estimates a range of \$226K to \$232K be considered for the 2024 budget.

One-time gifts, regular contributions, and increased donations allows Erindale to continue its Mission and Ministry. Members' continued support of time, money, and energy remain key. The congregation's combined contributions will help maintain and enhance the healthy church life of Erindale United Church.

**Contacts:**

Carolyn Hendricks (Chair), Laura Turner, Christian Hawn, Joanna Robinson, and Rev. Ken MacDonald

## **Ministry and Personnel**

### **Mission**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee provides a confidential setting for consultation, support and assessment of all staff, together with support and consultation for congregants at Erindale.

### **Mandate**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is the human resources committee of the church; with responsibility for managing areas such as: Employment standards, Human Rights and Harassment, Workplace Health and Safety, and relationship with the Region's Pastoral Care Staff. The committee provides consultation and support for the staff of Erindale United Church and for the members and adherents of the congregation. The committee works with members of staff to ensure they are supported from both an administrative and personal perspective, in a way that allows them to best carry out their responsibilities.

M&P meets with staff and church groups when requested to ensure objectives are clearly understood and communicated as defined by Council. Once a year, each staff member participates in a performance review with two committee members. Ongoing discussions provide both Staff and Council an opportunity to monitor progress and provide an opportunity for mutual reflection on accomplishments, performance against objectives and to make continuing education plans for the subsequent year.

### **Achievements in 2023**

For convenience we continued to meet via Zoom. Members kept the committee informed of new information in their areas of responsibility.

Performance reviews were conducted on schedule, personnel policies and procedures were reviewed and ad hoc issues were handled as they arose. All salary reviews were completed on time and approved by Council.

This year we reviewed and updated the wording in contracts to eliminate inconsistencies and make the content and wording clear and unambiguous.

We have worked with our supply ministers, Rev Warren McDougall and Rev Ken MacDonald.

Committee Members: Harvey Watson (Chair), Jennifer Code (Secretary), Barbara Manchur, Cathy Stone, George Beagley.

## **Board of Trustees**

### **Mission & Mandate**

The Board of Trustees holds all of the property of Erindale United Church for the use and benefit of the congregation and as such is responsible for:

1. Monitoring, preserving and strengthening the assets of Erindale United Church
2. Preserving and celebrating the history of the church
3. Maintaining and managing the Memorial Gardens

### **2023 Highlights**

- The Investment Team, which reports to the Board of Trustees, continually monitored the Manse, Endowment, Capital and Memorial Funds and made numerous investment decisions in line with the increase in interest rates and GIC rates.
- Coordinated the maintenance of the Memorial Garden, and the pruning of trees around the perimeter of the church property.
- On December 01, 2022, the United Church of Canada transitioned to a self-managed, self-insured form of insurance. We were actively involved in the implications of this to us as we moved toward this new model in 2023.

### **Plans for 2024**

- Continue in all activities associated with the Memorial Garden.
- Continue to migrate our insurance to the new self-managed model developed by the United Church of Canada.
- Continue our work on risk assessments and present our findings to the appropriate groups.
- Monitor the performance of the Manse Fund; Endowment Fund; Capital Fund and Memorial Fund and manage the portfolios to maximize returns within the constraints of the investment strategy of each fund.

As part of our risk management responsibility, there is an identified need to review/update our guidelines and provisions for preserving the security of our data and technology infrastructure. In addition, there is a need to explore insurance needs and options as our current umbrella insurance through the United Church does not cover cyber security. These subjects will be reviewed with Church Council to initiate action by the appropriate groups.

### **Members**

Earl Cochrane (Chair), Doug Johnston (Vice Chair), Brian Longley, Eleanor McIntosh, Fred Williams, Priscilla Brandy, Tom McIlwraith, Mary Patterson, Garry Jenkins, Rev. Ken MacDonald and Sarah McEwing (as non-voting Secretary)

## **Worship**

### **Mission**

Enable worship, which is open, inviting and involving to all to celebrate their faith; which reflects elements both traditional and new that can be shared by all members of our community, and is the basis for joyful praise, inspired action and deeper commitment.

### **Mandate**

Co-ordination and supervision of all phases of worship. Work with the Minister and Director of Music to co-ordinate, support and supervise all phases of worship. Approve all activities which take place in the sanctuary. Arrange for supply ministers and organists, as required, to provide pastoral care and conduct Sunday services.

### **Introduction**

The year 2023 continued as a year of still taking precautions for Covid 19. Hybrid services continued. Some protocol was relaxed during services and meetings. Masking was no longer mandatory but encouraged in parts of the sanctuary or if people felt comfortable in masking. Communion continued with individual communion cups.

### **Activities/Achievements in 2023**

The committee continued working with supply ministers. We had very successful summer services with guest ministers preaching a number of Sundays and members of the congregation preaching and also providing ushering, readings, refreshments etc.

Worship teams continued with many participants enjoying and getting to know their fellow members. It was decided that the Worship Committee would be responsible for replacing the antependia as required.

The committee held Zoom meetings every other month, a special meeting to welcome Rev. Ken MacDonald in August, and one extra meeting in October focusing on Advent and Christmas Eve services.

### **Black History Month**

Plans for Black History Month included music every Sunday recognizing Black composers. Highlights included Rev Michael Blair & Rev Don Parsons preaching assisted by Rev Warren preparing the bulletin and being the liturgist. We also shared communion.

### **Lent and Easter**

All services were led by Rev. Warren McDougall. These services included Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. These services were all hybrid allowing people to worship in person and on Zoom. Palm and daffodils were joyfully shared with congregants.

### **June – Indigenous Month**

Liturgy included input from Indigenous leadership. A Music Appreciation lunch was held at the Mandarin Restaurant was well attended and enjoyed by all.

### **Summer Services**

We had an interesting array of guest ministers during July and August. Thanks to Rachel Nott (twice), Laura McClure, Fraser Code and the UCW from our congregation for filling in for 5 Sundays. Alison Mock (once) and Byron Bright (three times) also preached and led the services. Thanks to all who volunteered to usher, read and provide refreshments. It made for very interesting and diverse messages and services.

## **Fall Services**

Reverend Ken MacDonald joined us September 3 to begin his tenure as supply minister. A traditional Remembrance Day service held in early November.

## **Advent and Christmas**

The Quiet Christmas service, *Christmas in a Minor Key*, was held on the evening of December 14. A service focused on children and families was held on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. Psalm 98 and Laura provided the music. Rev MacDonald led the service with readings dispersed throughout. It was a child friendly service on the animals that may have been present at the manger.

A more contemplative service was held at 8 p.m. with Communion and candle lighting. The senior choir and Laura led the music. The Chancel players did a live presentation of "The Christmas Bazaar". At the morning service on Christmas Eve, a Lessons and Carols service was done.

## **Members of Worship Committee 2023**

Rev. Warren McDougall to June 2023, Rev. Ken MacDonald starting September 2023, Karen Bright, Jim Bright, Cynthia Carr, Laura McClure (Music Director), Claudette Neita, Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott, Linda Watson

## **Ministry of Music**

### **Mandate and Overview**

Music at Erindale is provided by the Senior Choir and Psalm 98. The **Senior Choir** offers musical leadership for the congregation of Erindale during worship services and occasions such as funerals and memorials. Its repertoire of introits, anthems, and benedictions (and sometimes music during offertory and communion) is largely traditional, drawing upon a substantial library of sheet music and a number of choral music books, accompanied by organ or piano. Microphones are used to enhance choral and solo presentations.

**Psalm 98** (aka 'The Band') provides musical leadership for the congregation during worship services, focusing on contemporary music provided by keyboard, guitar, bass, flute, and percussion. Psalm 98 members offer prelude music and contemporary pieces, sometimes during the youth portion of services. Microphones enhance individual singers, frequently as soloists. The Senior Choir and Psalm 98 usually present their music separately, taking turns from week to week but, occasionally, the two groups sing together.

### **Reflecting on 2023**

The choir and band, having returned to regular in-person musical leadership in 2022, in 2023 we were well into the swing of things, with the band leading music on the first and third Sundays of each month while the choir provides leadership and special music on the other Sundays (though present and gowned every Sunday).

Our annual Gospel Sing, led by an in-person choir for the first time since 2020, was a highlight of Black History Month. In Holy Week, Tom McIlwraith provided a resonant bass solo for the Good Friday piece "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", while both Psalm 98 and the Senior Choir offered special music on Easter Sunday. In May, the choir presented the beautiful piece "Song for the Mira" by Canadian composer Allister McGillivray. Rev. Warren was greatly moved by this piece and so we reprised it to say farewell to Rev. Warren in June. In June, the choir also offered the lovely anthem

"Cantique de Jean Racine" by Gabriel Fauré, with a special guest appearance by Thomas McIlwraith, grandson of Tom and Duane.

Andrew McClure added flute accompaniment to "Song for the Mira" as well as a few other times throughout the year. Laura Culp again joined us on Remembrance Sunday as the trumpeter for the Last Post and Rouse.

In the fall, the Senior Choir made the decision to move its rehearsals to Sundays after the worship service. This change allowed Barbara Manchur, Priscilla Brandy, and Doug Brien to join/rejoin the choir on a permanent basis.

The Christmas season was hectic for the musicians of Erindale! Both the choir and the band were enhanced by additional musicians who joined us for this special season. The lessons and carols service on Advent 4 (December 24<sup>th</sup> this year!) was a major highlight with both musicians and readers leading the service beautifully. As it was my first time participating in a lessons and carols service, it was a huge highlight for me (Laura) personally. Psalm 98 led the music at the 5 PM Christmas Eve service, at which we were delighted to see children dancing in the aisles. The Senior Choir led the music at 8 PM, presenting the challenging anthem "O Nata Lux" by Morten Lauridsen. Kudos to the choir for doing such a great job with this difficult, beautiful piece!

Throughout 2023, Psalm 98 expanded its repertoire significantly, introducing the congregation to many new pieces while still bringing forth old favourites on a regular basis. Some highlights for the band included presenting "Hosanna" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* on Palm Sunday, "Blowin' in the Wind" by Bob Dylan on Remembrance Sunday, and "Come, Follow the Star" on Christmas Eve.

All the Erindale musicians gratefully acknowledge the steady support and encouragement shown by the congregation. They know that members are all volunteers and strive to do our best for the Erindale community.

## **Personnel**

Psalm 98 was thrilled to see Sarah Watson, back from Montreal, return to the band on an occasional basis. Randy Ali continued as drummer and Oksana Manchur (a pre-Covid member) rejoined the band as vocalist and guitarist. Arlene Stevens, Gabriella Wallace, and Laura Turner, members of the choir in the first half of the year, were unable to join in the fall due to other commitments, but we hope to see them again in 2024. Norma Brown has retired from the choir but made her presence felt in December, bringing out her tambourine for Christmas caroling. Edward Neufeld has retired after several decades as a stalwart in the tenor section but remains in our thoughts. Janelle Maharaj joined the choir on a couple occasions and is encouraged to consider joining us again. Priscilla Brandy, longtime occasional choir member, has joined the choir permanently, and the bass section is very pleased to be joined by Doug Brien. For the seasons of Advent and Christmas the Senior Choir was further expanded by altos Myrna Coleman and Angela Brien, who we hope will join us again soon!

Senior Choir:

- Soprano: Marilyn Johnston, Nadia Lay, Mavis Mahabir (wardrobe coordinator), Laura McClure (Music Director), Arlene Stevens, Gabriella Wallace, Dorothy Weston
- Alto: Priscilla Brandy, Ellen Dunlop, Barbara Manchur, Laura Turner
- Tenor: Fraser Code, Doug Johnston
- Bass: Doug Brien, Tom McIlwraith (librarian), Fred Williams (purser)

Psalm 98:

- Randy Ali: drums



- Jim Bright: bass, guitar, vocals
- Cindy Maharaj: vocals
- Oksana Manchur: guitar, vocals
- Laura McClure: piano, vocals, director
- Harvey Watson: vocals, flute
- Linda Watson: vocals
- Sarah Watson: vocals

**Contacts:** Tom McIlwraith, Harvey Watson, Laura McClure

### **Erindale Chancel Players**

Although some members of the group had already announced their retirement last year, they were convinced to return for one last hurrah, as "The Christmas Bazaar" by Doug Johnston was remounted for Christmas Eve 2023. This was to give the congregation a chance to actually experience the performance, as last year's problems with the audio made it an unsatisfactory experience.

Thanks to the cast of Karen Bright, Marilyn Johnston, Claudette Neita, and Alan Schaubel, for all their hard work and patience. They really are troupers. And thanks for the much help from Jim Bright not only to ensure the audio worked effectively, but also to act as Stage Manager. Finally, thanks to the congregation for always being a warm and supportive audience.

### **Horseshoe Falls Region**

#### **Region and Organization**

Horseshoe Falls Region (and all the other regions across Canada) began operating at the beginning of 2019 as the result of the national reorganization that was approved at General Council in 2018. Horseshoe Falls Regional Council (HFRC) has been fully operational since its inaugural Annual meeting in May 2019 in Port Elgin Ontario. I was elected as HFRC Treasurer at that meeting. I am now serving a second term as Treasurer from 2022 to 2026. The term was extended by one year to provide adequate time for replacement and because the first year (year of our Region startup) was relatively inactive.

Horseshoe Falls Region is comprised of all pastoral charges in Erie Presbytery, all pastoral charges in Halton Presbytery; all pastoral charges in Hamilton Presbytery; all pastoral charges in Niagara Presbytery; and the Pastoral Charges of Norval, St. John's PC (Georgetown), St. Andrew's Georgetown, and Acton.

Horseshoe Falls Region is organized into an Executive and three Commissions: The Congregational Support Commission (for Governance); the Human Resources Commission (for Pastoral Relations); and the Discipleship and Justice Commission (for Faith Formation). The Executive includes a President, Treasurer, Past President, Chairpersons of the 3 Commissions and other members of the Executive to a total of 13 or so members.

There are Staff Resources for the Regions: An Executive Minister plus 11 staff members, most of whom are responsible for their responsibilities across three regions: Horseshoe Falls Region (our

Region), Western Ontario Waterways and Antler River Watershed. This encompasses about 400 communities of faith.

### **Regional Meetings**

In the year 2023 Region and Region Executive Meetings have been a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings. Zoom meetings are likely to remain as they are both convenient and less expensive.

There were two Region Meetings in 2023: the Spring 2023 meeting was June 8 and 10. The Saturday June 10 meeting was both in-person (Meridian Center, Fonthill) and by Zoom. The Fall 2023 Annual Meeting (as is required for a Not-for-profit entity) was October 15 by Zoom.

The May meeting was concerned primarily with the work of the three Commissions (Governance, Discipleship, and Human Resources) to make sure the work of the Region was being carried out properly and to reply to any concerns raised by the Commissions. The concern of Congregation and Ministry isolation continues to remain a work in progress.

The October meeting was the Annual Meeting, and it received annual reports from the Executive and three Commissions.

The YTD Financial Position was reviewed and received, and the 2024 Budget was approved with the ability for the Executive to amend as necessary.

In 2019, the Region received notice of a reduction in Mission and Service Grants from the National Church to the Regions to take effect in 2021. The 2021 Budget acted to re-align and change costs but there was a need to take in funds from Reserves to cover the Learning Fund and Events for Commissions. The 2022 Budget assumes the same action. Region Executive approved the 2023 Budget given the fact that Grant reductions stabilized for 2023, but this remains a topic of discussion. There now has been a further reduction for 2024 which we are managing through. Continued reduction in pastoral charge membership will eventually result in re-defining regional staff requirements.

Funds coming from Reserves are nominal and planned. Prudent investment of excess funds (Reserves) has provided about \$28,000 into 2023 Operations and approximately \$40,000 in 2024.

### **Executive Meetings**

For the most part, Executive Meetings were held by Zoom. An Executive Meeting that accompanied the Retreat in September 2023 was in-person:

Executive Meetings are held approximately 10 times per year with additional meetings held under unique circumstances.

Executive meetings are concerned with Property matters (some closures of more rural properties), staff changes and appointments to Regional Commissions, personnel matters (in camera), grants to appropriate organizations, and keeping the business of the Region up to date.

The house owned by Halton United Church Extension Council was sold in November 2021, and Region has remained involved in the closure of HUCEC as at December 31, 2022 and gifting of Assets to Toronto United Church Council. The Extension Council was finally closed as an Ontario Corporation in

2023 by the firm of Gardiner Roberts in Toronto (used by TUCC) and all HUCEC business is now formally complete.

As Treasurer, I keep the Executive (and Annual Meeting) apprised of the Budget and Actual results measured against Budget. Budget planning and related results are in good shape, due in some part to lower meeting and travel expenses because of the continued use of Zoom post Pandemic. We always plan our operations to be balanced with respect to Income and Expense, and in 2021 we saw our grants from the National Church drop, and so made judicious use of our considerable reserves. The drop was one time, but the effect continued into 2022, 2023, and 2024. As noted earlier, prudent investing of funds in Reserves is certainly helping Operations.

### **Executive Retreat**

An Executive Retreat was held September 26 in person at the Region building on Highway 6. The retreat is held annually and is used to provide Commission Orientation for Region Executive and help set priorities.

The meeting was followed by a HFRC Executive Meeting to provide an in-person meeting for the HFRC Executive (Executive Meetings are normally held on Zoom).

### **Tri-Region Executive Meeting**

Some staff is also shared amongst the three Regions, there is some staff (administrative) that each Region employs, and there is an Executive (elected volunteer members of the Region) for each Region.

We had always planned to have annual Tri-Region Executive meetings. The Tri-Region meeting for 2023 was deferred to January 13, 2024, because the death of our administrator's mother in the fourth quarter of 2023. The meeting will be held on Zoom.

The main function of the meeting was for people to have a chance to meet each other and share the responsibilities and work of each Region.

### **Other Activities**

Our Regional Council Executive Minister is Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. The Executive Minister also serves as Executive Minister for Antler River Watershed Regional Council and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council. Cheryl-Ann has taken a new position at the National Office as of March 2024 and the Rev. Mark Laird is taking over as the new Executive Minister.

The Treasurers of each Region (Brent, Doug and myself) meet from time to time with the Executive Minister to discuss budgets and finances, and to consider clouds on the horizon which may need an action plan prior to preparing a budget or year-end forecast.

In 2022, we formed Investment Committees (one for each Region) and work with BMO Nesbitt Burns to prudently invest funds and use the interest income to support Operations.

I finished my second 3-year term as a member of the National Church Audit Committee. I was elected by the Region as a Commissioner to General Council 44 which began in February 2022 as an online meeting. Meetings were entirely on-line and stretched from February 2022 until August 2022. All the business put before the Council was properly dealt with at the meeting or properly reviewed and sent back to the GC Executive for further review and action. This is a normal Council process and gets work properly accomplished.

I was also a Commissioner to General Council 43 which met twice in 2021 – a special meeting in March to approve Financial Statements and other specific business and the Annual meeting in October 2021 for regular business.

These activities help to keep our local congregation connected to the wider church.

Mary Patterson is a member of the Human Resources commission. Marilyn Johnston joined the HFRC Executive as the HFRC UCW President. Ann Edge is the Region UCW Secretary. Together with our Minister, Rev. Robert Lawson (Horseshoe Falls Region President and Minister in a pastoral charge in southwestern Ontario), and a number of members from our old Presbytery, Erindale is very well represented and connected to the new Region.

Erindale can send 3 representatives to the Region. Mary, Marilyn and I represent the three members at this point. If you feel called to wider church work, please any of us know.

Prepared by: John Hurst, Horseshoe Falls Region representative and Treasurer

### **Erindale United Church Women**

**Purpose:** To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship, and Service.

**Erindale UCW Annual Meeting** was held on February 21st, 2023. Devotions were led by Mary and Martha Circle. The Reports in our Annual Report were accepted. Marilyn Johnston presented the Slate of Officers for 2023. As there were no further nominations from the floor, the slate was acclaimed. Our program consisted of videos about the Healing Fund and the special Fund within it set up for National UCW's 5 Year Project in support of Indigenous Women and Children, and a preview of Taiwan which was the subject of the 2023 World Day of Prayer.

**Horseshoe Falls Region UCW:** The **Annual Gathering** was held on April 29, at Five Oaks Centre. Several Erindale women attended. Marilyn Johnston, as President, welcomed everyone. She introduced Rev. Alison Mock, our facilitator for the day. Alison led our Worship and Communion and presented a program based on characters in the movie "Inside Out". Her subject was "Joy". The Slate of Officers was presented with Marilyn continuing as President and Ann Edge continuing as Recording Secretary.

The **November Zoom Meeting** was attended by several Erindale women. The guest speaker on the topic of human trafficking was retired RCMP officer, Shirley Cuillierier.

### **Yearly Activities**

We have accomplished much again this year. We held three soup lunches in aid of The Healing Fund's special UCW Fund. Thanks to the Congregation for their overwhelming support of these and our other fundraising efforts. Thanks also to the honorary male members of UCW who assisted in setting up tables, moving chairs and clearing up. In June we held our Annual Social Evening, with a speaker on 'Nursing Through the Pandemic'. Our Garage Sale, Card Party and Frosty Fayre were also well supported, and the Fayre included vendors from within our congregation again. We sponsored a team for the Coldest Night of the Year Walk in aid of The Dam and continued our campaign to help rid the planet of plastics by partnering with Tru Earth for eco-friendly laundry products. This initiative

has now ended, having raised around \$530. Because of this fundraising, we were able to support a number of worthwhile and needy causes locally and farther afield. We thank the congregation for their support and donations to our special projects. Charitable donations we made in 2022: Doctors Without Borders, and Canadian/Local Organizations: UCC Mission and Service Fund, Sandy Salteaux Centre, Ian Anderson House Hospice, Heart House Hospice, Embrave (Interim Place) & Armagh House Women's Shelters, Our Place Peel Youth Shelter, Mississauga Foodbank Breakfast Program. We also sent funds via The Canadian Red Cross and The United Church for disaster relief. The total disbursed for 2023 was \$7,323.

Our visitation team continued to send cards to UCW sick or bereaved members and those unable to attend meetings and make in-person calls when possible. Plants were delivered at Easter and Christmas.

Our Executive meeting is held each month except July and August. This year they have been in-person. In June, Cathy Stone took on the position of Mary and Martha Circle Leader. Thank you, Sandra Wiseman, for your service as Leader.

As I finish my term as President, I thank all the members of the Executive for their hard work and support over the past two years. While most of the current members will continue, Marilyn Johnston is stepping down after several years of service including three as President. Thank you, Marilyn. Pat Jenkins is slated to become President in Feb. 2024.

All women of the church are welcome to be part of UCW. Please come along to any unit meeting to enjoy a time of fellowship and friendship. Mary and Martha meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 1 pm in the McGill Room and Friends in Faith meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 12:30 in the Boardroom and bring a lunch.

Ann Edge, President

## **Christian Development**

### **Mission**

To develop and sustain a nurturing environment for Christian Education programs that provide knowledge and understanding of God's word and meet the needs of all members and segments of the Erindale family and community.

### **Mandate**

To develop the policies and programs for Christian education within Erindale, according to United Church standards, and to ensure there are resources, including financial, to carry out these programs with approval of Council. This includes support and guidance for Sunday School programs and teachers, adult education, youth ministry and any opportunities for spiritual growth.

### **Achievements in 2023: Children and Youth**

Christian Development looks forward to helping any person that is interested to start up a regular meeting/program at the Church for education, health or spiritual growth.

Erindale had in person Sunday School classes in 2023. The students and teachers participated in the Easter and Christmas events, including making the Sunday School Christmas video. We all had fun at the end of the year graduation and picnic!

We thank our dedicated teachers, Karen Bright and Alan Schaubel as well as the volunteers. If you have experience with children and would like to share your talents with Sunday School, please let us know.

### **Outreach**

Erindale continued to love and serve our neighbours with generosity and compassion this year. Ad-hoc groups and committees took on outreach initiatives in various ways (see UCW report and The Dam working group's report), but there were also several other wonderful activities we took part in during 2023.

The Deacon's Cupboard continued giving food to those in need and Erindale contributed \$2691.62 in food during the year for DC to distribute. We are no longer accepting donations through Erindale United Church, however the DC will be supported by Erindale in 2024 with \$3000 from 2023 excesses as was voted by Council in November 2023. If you wish to donate to the DC directly, you can donate through St. Peter's Anglican which is the church that houses the DC. You are welcome to continue to donate shelf stable items at Erindale in the cart just outside the Sanctuary doors. Our thanks to David Gorman for his leadership.

Healing Fund soup lunches in January, February, and March were run by UCW, with funds raised going to benefit indigenous women and children.

We continued to provide support for Indwell, a Christian charity building supportive housing units in Streetsville.

The refugee file has been moderately active this year. The Northwest Mississauga Constituent Group (NWMCG), of which Erindale is a member, settled one more refugee family (two adults, two children) from Syria. We also assisted in the settling of a Syrian refugee family of two, now three, with a new (Canadian) baby. The first family arrived in September 2023, while the second family arrived in early 2024. Members provided furniture and other household items for Syrian families who arrived with essentially nothing. NWMCG wants to thank you all for your support both monetary and in-kind donations of furniture and household items.

Erindale folks participated in a discussion on human trafficking in our area, led by Shirley Cuillierier, Retired RCMP; Senior Consultant – Policing/Criminal Justice Indigenous Advisor.

In addition to the Christmas gift card tree drive for The Dam, many Erindale folks participated in the annual Coldest Night of the Year walk to benefit The Dam. Our thanks to George Beagley and Marilyn Johnstone for providing leadership and thanks to all those who participated and sponsored walkers.

We continued our partnership with Canadian Blood Services to help make a difference for patients in Canada. Thanks to Ann Edge for regularly encouraging the congregation to donate blood.

Thanks to our parishioners' concern for our neighbours, we were able to continue to provide gift cards that we have available to supplement groceries for those in need.

## **THE DAM COMMITTEE**

### **ACRONYM - The DAM DEVELOP ASSIST MENTOR**

Committee: George Beagley, Claudette Neita, Nadia Lay

This is our third year supporting the DAM.

Last year the tags were available a little late. So this year it began in October when I contacted Jill deJager and sent her the 2022 list of gifts for her to go through and updated the list. I wanted the tags on the tree by the beginning of November to give everyone enough time to purchase and bring the gifts to the church.

While waiting for the list I prepared the tags. When Jill sent the updated list the front labels with the gift items and the instructions for the back were prepared and put on the tags. The Worship Committee was kind enough to put the tree up for the tags. The tags adorned the Christmas tree ready for Sunday November 12.

George Beagley was away and we needed some help. Claudette and I were joined by Mavis Mahabir who helped sort the gifts. The gifts were sorted into different categories (toiletries; hats, scarves & gloves; PJ's etc.). This saves the staff at the DAM time and makes getting the gifts ready easier. Bill McIntosh loaded the gifts and helped me deliver them to the DAM on December 12.

It takes a whole community to successfully complete a project like this. Thank you to Erindale for living the scriptures by your generosity. I am proud to be a member of such a loving, caring and generous community.

Respectfully Submitted Nadia Lay

## **Communications**

Electronic communication has continued to be very important in 2023 as we settle into the "new normal", which includes running hybrid Sunday services permanently.

PowerPoints are shared on Zoom and on the screens in the sanctuary, largely replacing print bulletins. The weekly e-newsletter keeps the congregation up-to-date with everything going on at EUC as well as events in the wider church and community. Many of EUC's groups send in announcements to be shared in the newsletter.

The main page of the church website is updated weekly. Most pages of the website are up-to-date with current information. Groups are encouraged to send updates to the communications assistant, who will update the website accordingly. Our Facebook page has 144 followers (138 at this time last year) and our Instagram page has 352 followers (329 at this time last year). Check out our social media for announcements, recognition of special days and events, and pictures.

**Communications Assistant:** Laura McClure

## Listeners Corner

The Listeners Corner is an internet Bible study group for Erindale United Church. Attendance varies from 6 to 12 members. This is convenient for lively Zoom discussions. We meet every Wednesday morning from 10 to 11 am using the regular EUC Zoom link. We began the year by continuing the practice of reading the revised common lectionary selections of about five different Bible readings. Throughout the year, it became apparent that this strategy had some difficulties. Many times, we felt that the readings selected, usually three from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament, were too diverse to give each selection proper attention. So, from Advent onwards, we have been adopting the convention of reading one Bible book at a time from start to finish at the rate of two chapters per session. This has proved to be quite satisfactory. Note that our schedule of readings is posted on the page for the Listeners Corner on the church website. New participants are welcome at any time. Just log in and join in the chat.

Participants: Priscilla Brandy, Angela and Doug Brien, Fraser and Jennifer Code, Ann Edge, Loretta Jackson, Pat Jenkins, Tom McIlwraith, Thelma Naughton, Horace Neita, Cathy Stone,

**Contact:** Fraser Code.

## Tech Team

We transitioned from apple iPad to amazon fire tablet for the soundboard tablet due to an iOS update rendering zoom to no longer work for the iPad. We also discovered that using a second laptop to run the videos made things run a lot smoother than hosting it all on the church laptop.

Zoom stats and facts of 2023:

- We averaged **14** zoom connections for Sunday services.
- **191** documented zoom uses outside of Sunday services.

Committee members: Garry Jenkins, Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott, Chris Sawyer.

## Book Club

For those who love to read, this is the place to be. We met once a month, except summertime on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at the church at 7:30 pm.

We have recently made a change and now meet in the daytime on the **4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month**. We continue a hybrid type of meetings. Some on Zoom and some in person at the church. We discuss the selected book of the month. The books are selected by a vote of the participants from a list of suggested books at the last meeting of the year in June.

At regular meeting discussions are usually lively and varied and full of insight. This group is a wonderful place to meet new Authors (so to speak) as well as getting to know the members at a deeper level. Members have said that what they like best about the group is the friendships and that they have been challenged to read books that they would never have chosen for themselves. It certainly keeps us from getting into a rut and exposes us to new and different ideas. All in all, a perfect combination to enhance our always lively, interesting discussions.

### Books we read in 2023 are:

- January- The Smallest Lights in the Universe by Sara Seager
- February- What Strange Paradise by Omar EL Akkad



- March- Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro
- April- Permanent Astonishment by Tomson Highway
- May- The Nickel Boys by Colin Whitehead
- September- The Violin Conspiracy by Brenda Slocomb
- October- Letters Across the Sea by Genevieve Graham
- November- The Spoon Stealer by Lesley Crewe
- December- This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger

## **Members**

Melanie Blake, Kim Booth, Sandra Butcher, Cynthia Carr, Jennifer Code, Joy Cunningham, Pat Jenkins, Susan Lyons, Doug Johnston, Marilyn Johnston, Duane McIlwraith, Horace Neita, Ruth Nott, Elaine Thorne.

**Submitted by** Marilyn Johnston, Co-ordinator

## **Friday Morning Coffee Group**

Another year has come to an end. Most of you will remember that Coffee Hour was started by Rev. Neil and met in the McGill Room every Friday. There was always a great group, abundance of conversation, coffee and sweet treats.

Coffee Hour is still thriving but now meets on Zoom. It continues to provide a ray of sunshine and companionship to many. There is only one slight change – we must provide our own coffee and treats.

2023 was very special. For the first time in several years, we met live. I hosted two gatherings at my home. Our first was in the summer, outside on my deck, taking full advantage of our warm weather and beautiful sunshine. Our second meeting was a Potluck in November. Both gatherings were well attended, filled with hugs, smiles, conversation and of course plenty of coffee and desserts. The Coffee Hour is **not** a formal meeting. It is open to all members and is a special way for us to keep in touch, support each other and provide comfort. It gives us a stronger sense of community, recalls previous events, and creates new memories and friendships.

We meet every Friday at 10:00 am on the Erindale Zoom Link and is open to anyone who wishes to join us. God willing, I will continue to have a few live gatherings in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by Nadia Lay, Coordinator and Host

## **Craft and Conversation**

We are starting our 9<sup>th</sup> year; meeting together to do our crafts and have wonderful conversations. This group meets on the **first Wednesday of the month** at 1:00 pm. at the church. Members bring a bit sewing, knitting, crochet or anything, even mending, and spend a few hours working together and sharing conversation. It is a wonderful way to unwind and destress. There is always someone to answer a question if you get stuck. If anyone wants to learn some of these crafts, they are welcome to come and join in the fun.

New members are always welcome. Come and Join in the fun.

**Members:** Ann Edge, Marilyn Johnston, Norma Macintyre, Ruth Nott, Linda Watson, Sandra Wiseman **Submitted by** Marilyn Johnston

### **Egg (Erindale Growing Group)**

This group was formed in 1982 when there were several groups called EGGS. They were scrambled once every two years from lists of people who signed up. The groups were made of 12 people who met in people's homes monthly. There were spiritual and social groups. The program for the EGG meeting were and still are set by the monthly host. In the spring of the 2nd year there was a social dinner at the church of all the EGG groups with skits and good food.

We have continued to meet most months and turns by members are taken to host. Each year in January we ask the question, "Do we want to continue with EGG" and so far the answer has been yes. In 2023, we met several times for BBQs and friendly conversation. Discussions are always amicable, thought provoking, respectful and enjoyable.

We believe that small groups strengthen the church family because we get to know everyone just a little bit better and reinforce our shared values or understand and respect our differences. This is not an exclusive, "invitation only" group. If you are interested in being part of this group, please do not hesitate to ask any of our members as there is no official leader.

### **The 2020 Group**

The 2020 Group is a social group of widows and widowers. We meet every 2 weeks for an on-zoom chat. Although continuing to be careful of our health, we have been able to meet in-person a few times this year. Some of us went to the Shaw Festival to see "Gypsy" in September and some also went to Stratford to see "Much Ado About Nothing" in October. We also had a visit to George Beagley's condo for an early Christmas get-together. We welcome any widows and widowers who would like to join us on our chats, every second Monday at 4:00 PM using the church's zoom link.

For more information contact Mary Patterson ([pattersonm311@gmail.com](mailto:pattersonm311@gmail.com))

## Roll Report

The statistics below reflect data required by the United Church of Canada.

	2022	2023
Number of Households under Pastoral Care	226	220
Number of Adult Baptisms	2	0
Children Baptised	1	0
Members received		
a) under 18	0	0
b) 18 or older	2	0
Members received by Transfer or otherwise	2	0
Members removed by Death	3	8
Members removed by		
a) Certificate of Transfer	0	0
b) Otherwise	7	8
Total Confirmed Membership	264	256
Total Non-resident Members (included above)	22	20

### Baptisms

*Children:* None

*Adults:* None

**Zero Members Received by transfer or otherwise**

**Zero Members Transferred Out**

### Weddings

None

### In Memoriam

Gerry Brown (Member)

Harry Campbell (Member)

Arnold Dillon

Dorothy McBroom (Member)

Eileen Roberts

Jeane Wilson

Jane Zane

Roger Butcher

Harvey Crone (Member)

David Drennan (Member)

Dallas McLean-Lowe

Judith Stuart (Member)

Joan Wood (Member)

**MINUTES**  
**ERINDALE UNITED CHURCH, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, March 26, 2023**

1. Election of Chairperson and Secretary – Rev. Warren invited a motion.

**Moved by Fraser Code, seconded by Jennifer Code, that Horace Neita chair the Erindale AGM. All in favour. Carried.**

**Moved by Nadia Lay, seconded by Ann Edge, that Tom McIlwraith be recording secretary for the Erindale AGM. All in favour. Carried.**

Chair and Secretary took their positions and the meeting was convened at 11:55AM.

Attendance: 45 people in the sanctuary and 8 parties attending by Zoom.

2. Report of the 2022 Chair – Horace Neita.

The report of the Chair of Council appears on pages 5 and 6 of the Annual Report for 2022. Horace highlighted a number of points, among them the retirement of Rev. Brenna Baker and the welcoming of Rev. Warren McDougall, and the installation of the stained glass over the narthex entrance.

**Moved by Paul Sabourin, seconded by Bill McIntosh, that the report of the Chair of Council be received. All in favour. Carried.**

3. Council and Committee Organization 2023 – Horace Neita. (Appendix A)

**Moved by Nadia Lay, seconded by John Hurst, that those named in the Table of Council and Committee Organization for 2023 be supported by the congregation in their appointed roles and service to the church. All in favour. Carried.**

4. Blessing and Commissioning of Council and Committees – Rev Warren.

Rev. Warren remarked on the number of people serving in more than one capacity, strengthening the interconnectedness of the Erindale community. His blessing and commissioning followed.

5. Staff Appreciation – Horace Neita.

Horace drew attention to the many unheralded members of the Erindale family: Oksana Manchur and Kathy Stone as wedding coordinators, Sarah McEwing as Office Manager extraordinaire, Harvey Watson as Psalm 98 Coordinator, Laura McClure in both her musician's role and editor of the weekly eNewsletter, and the tech team of Ralph Nott, Rachel Nott, Chris Sawyer and Garry Jenkins.

6. AGM Minutes of 2022. (pages 31-33 of 2022 Annual Report)

**Moved by Earl Cochrane, seconded by Priscilla Brandy, that the Congregation approve the minutes of the AGM held on Sunday March 27, 2022. All in favour. Carried.**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Reports of Standing Committees. (pages 7-19 of 2022 Annual Report)

In the Worship Committee entry (page 15) under "Activities / Achievements in 2022" the first sentence is to be revised to include an additional name and thus read as follows: "Worship teams were put together, thanks to Rev. Brenna, Pat Jenkins and Bill McIntosh, leaders of each team contacted their members and the first team started in September."

**Moved by Ralph Nott, seconded by George Beagley, that the Congregation accept the reports of the standing committees as revised. All in favour. Carried.**

8. Report of Horseshoe Falls Region. (pages 19-22 of 2022 Annual Report)

**Moved by John Hurst, seconded by Paul Sabourin, that the Congregation accept of the report of Horseshoe Falls Region. All in favour. Carried.**

9. Report of Erindale United Church Women. (pages 22-24 of 2022 Annual Report)

**Moved by Ann Edge, seconded by Pat Jenkins, that the Congregation accept the report of Erindale United Church Women. All in favour. Carried.**

10. Other reports (pages 25-29 of 2022 Annual Report)

Erindale has a substantial list of groups and organizations offering reports on their membership and activities, among them Christian Development, Outreach and Social Action, The DAM Committee, Communications, Listener's Corner, Tech Team, Book Club, Friday Morning Coffee Group, Craft and Conversation, Erindale Growing Group and the 2020 Group.

**These reports are received for information only.**

11. Congregation Statistics. (page 30 of 2022 Annual Report)

The list includes the Membership Roll, Baptisms (both children and adults), Members received in and transferred out, Weddings, and Funerals / In Memoriam.

**Moved by Duane McIlwraith, seconded by Sarah McEwing, that the Congregation receive the Congregational Statistics Report. All in favour. Carried.**

12. Financial reports.

Paul Sabourin guided the congregation through the Audited Financial Statements for 2022 (Appendix B) and Budget for 2023 (Appendix C). He presented an up-beat positive account of Erindale's financial situation, well above revenues in 2021. He added that Erindale is 'pretty healthy' when compared to other United Church congregations in the vicinity. Surplus money has been directed to Erindale's designated funds, thus remaining under Erindale supervision with the understanding that it would be available at any time for major expenses (such as roof or furnace replacement), as well as to cover operating deficits that predictably may arise in an aging congregation. Income, particularly from rentals, and expenses both picked up from 2021 as Covid-19 restrictions eased. Rising costs of caretaking, grounds maintenance and insurance indicate that Erindale may run a slight deficit in 2023.

Regarding Erindale's tenants, Paul reported that the contract with Tender Years School is to be renegotiated in 2024 with every indication of their presence continuing. He hailed the Mississauga Chess club – the largest such club in Canada! – as an important and cooperative tenant generating substantial income.

A member of the congregation made reference to food insecurity, noting that, although Erindale no longer provides money specifically to The Deacon's Cupboard, participants in the EUC outreach program welcome donations of money addressing food insecurity more broadly. A member of the congregation expressed concern for the condition of the front parking lot, a subject not for action at the AGM but duly noted for Council consideration.

**Moved by Brian Longley, seconded by Norma Macintyre, that the Audited Financial Statements for 2022 be accepted by the Erindale United Congregation. All in favour. Carried.**

**Moved by Brian Longley, seconded by Barbara Manchur, that the Erindale United Congregation approve the 2023 Budget. All in favour. Carried.**

13. Auditor for 2023.

**Moved by Norma Macintyre, seconded by Barbara Manchur, that the firm of Capstick McCollum & Associates, Professional Chartered Accountants, be appointed auditors for 2023. All in favour. Carried.**

14. Other business.

Horace noted the steady work of the Supply Minister and Permanent Minister committees; those present expressed their appreciation.

15. Earl Cochrane moved adjournment at 12:42 PM.

16. Benediction was offered by Rev. Warren McDougall.