



2021 Annual Report

Erindale United Church

**1444 Dundas Crescent
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."*

Minister

Rev. Brenna Baker
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Music Director

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Minister's Report 2021

In 2014, Canadian writer, Emily St. John Mandel wondered how a global pandemic might impact the world. Her acclaimed novel, *Station Eleven*, describes both the “before” time and the years immediately following a pandemic that destroys most of civilization. What is hopeful about her work, as opposed to other post-apocalyptic imaginings, is her description of art persevering in the midst of suffering. A theatre troupe emerges following the pandemic, wandering from settlement to settlement performing Shakespeare’s plays to those who have survived. Traveling in a caravan, they have painted their wagon with their motto and guiding principle, “Because survival is insufficient.” (a quote from Star Trek).

In the second year of our current pandemic, we have in many ways embraced that sentiment. We have continued to be careful – following guidelines, keeping the most vulnerable in our midst safe. But we have also cautiously dipped our toes into the water of this new reality – finding life and joy where we can, remembering that God loves *both* our physical and spiritual lives, that Christ came so that we may have life *and* have it abundantly. In other words, we have done much more than merely survive.

When I think of the past year, I am so grateful for the ways that we fought for life and community and the well-being of our neighbours, even when it would have been easy to just sit back and wait for things to get better. Sometimes, it’s been more challenging to do things via Zoom or at a distance, but life has found a way. Below are some highlights for me from the past year – times when we declared it wasn’t enough to just survive, that we wanted to bring life into our little corner of the world. You’ll read much more in the pages to come.

- **Worship** – Over and over, you all chose to make worship a priority this year, a weekly gathering and centering point in the midst of confusion in the wider world. We opened the church, closed it, had an outdoor blessing of the animals service, opened in the fall, and closed again. But through it all, we were a community professing our faith that God is with us, we are not alone. Worship also brought us some new members of our community – through baptism in the spring, and through Zoom, which has widened our understanding of who is in our community with folks joining from Saskatchewan, England, and New Jersey on a regular basis. It was also a joy to work with other Mississauga churches on various special worship services – especially during Lent when we had shared Ash Wed, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. What a gift to remember that we’re all in this together, and to hear from different voices and perspectives.

Huge thanks to the tech team of folks who worked so hard to bring us hybrid services and keep us unified, as well as the support from the Finance and Property committee on new equipment.

- **Funerals and a Wedding** – While we never wish for a member of our community to leave us, after a 2020 with no funerals in the sanctuary, it was meaningful to return to our spiritual home to celebrate the lives of friends we lost this year, and support

grieving families. There were other meaningful services outside of the sanctuary, too, and in those cases as well, it was a gift to have people present – even masked and distanced – to mark the holy time of grief and to comfort the family. As Christians, testifying to our belief in life after death is one of the most important things we do. In 2022, I hope that if the occasion arises, we will continue to have the option to live out this sacred ritual in person.

We also had one wedding in the sanctuary this fall. Again, while it wasn't what it might have been, what a joy to bring life, celebration, and hope for the future into that space. Congrats again, Michael and Megan!

- **Outreach Initiatives** – Whether it was Coldest Night of the Year, collecting food in the spring for the Mississauga Food Bank, supporting The Dam through a graduation event in September and Christmas gifts in December, our mission of loving our neighbours continued. We also used our website and social media to provide community pandemic resources to anyone who needed them. All these initiatives came about organically through your ideas – shared at roundtables and meetings.
- **Faith Formation** – One of the best parts of my role at Erindale is leading small groups in exploring various topics of faith. This year, we concluded a year-long discussion group wondering about how we might become more anti-racist as a congregation. In Lent, we used a resource from Illustrated Ministry about the Psalms, which helped us to more fully understand that book of poetry in the Bible. And in the spring, we started what will be a year-long study using the book, *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian MacLaren. This book looks at the overarching story of scripture and how we might be called to be Jesus followers today.

Our young folks were busy this year too despite being unable to meet in person for Sunday School. We continued to provide the option to meet with Erindale Presbyterian for virtual Sunday School, and our teachers supported as they could. You can read more in the Christian Education report.

- **Pastoral Care** – Pastoral Care remained a challenge this year as visits were largely not advisable – especially because the people I would normally visit were also generally the most vulnerable. However, I did get some visits in here and there when things were safe, and definitely upped my phone calls and Zoom visits. I cannot say enough about the amazing ministry that our Congregational Care Committee lives out every day. They are so dedicated to checking in with and connecting everyone, and in a year when I felt there were more people hospitalized and more deaths than usual, it was great to know that we have this team to make sure no one falls through the gaps. A huge joy for me every year is the Christmas visits and gifts we do – often of baskets – this year of cards and poinsettias for those who are grieving or home bound. We also send cards out to our young adults and university students. Even if the visits are mostly on doorsteps now, it's wonderful to be that physical presence of the church.
- **Communications** Your faith and generosity meant that we were able to create a communications assistant position this year, and we were so grateful that Laura McClure was willing to add this "hat" to her Erindale portfolio. More than ever, connection and communication are important. We've seen how things can change in a matter of hours,

and I'm so grateful to have someone dedicated to communicating what we need in creative ways, and someone who is intentionally connecting with the community through the website, social media, etc.

- **Wider Church** You might know that according to our United Church of Canada Manual, Ministers are expected to give 10% of their time to wider church work. As with the rest of our lives, even without many in person gatherings, it remained a full year. I served as Finance Chair of the Skylight Festival, and even though we couldn't have a large festival, it was immensely gratifying to have even 60 people gather at Five Oaks in the summer to listen to music and amazing speakers. I also continued to serve on the Just Peace in Israel and Palestine Task Group. After three years, our work has resulted in a report and recommendations to be considered at General Council this spring. I've also done a bit of work here and there for the Human Resources Commission of Horseshoe Falls Region and participated in formal and informal meetings of clergy groups. I am working on wrapping all these obligations up as I turn toward my sabbatical over the summer of 2022.

As I wrap up, I want to thank Sarah and Laura for their amazing teamwork and friendship this year. Their gifts of organization, foresight, and thoughtfulness have been so helpful and meaningful as we continue to journey through this time for which there is no instruction manual. I could name so many others as well whose support has been invaluable this year – whether it was a generous word, taking on a new project, or even just offering to lector, when things have felt too hard at times, there is always someone there to pick up the load and carry it for a while. Thanks for all the ways you've been the Body of Christ this year.

As we turn into 2022, I feel something like that raggedy theatre troupe – dancing, singing, proclaiming resurrection and new life to anyone who will listen to us. Thanks be to God.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Brenna Baker

Chair of Council

"Meeting face to face, unmasked, is still an elusive dream today, but an eternal hope and an underlying sentiment in the thoughts circulating through the Council this evening."

Would you have guessed the above is an excerpt from the minutes of the Council meeting held on January 27, 2021; almost to the day one year prior to me writing this report? Would we have fathomed in early 2020 that we would be living in a pandemic that has to date spanned two years? Yet here we are, and dare I say "still going strong": a community bound together by our faith, our certainty that we are not alone, and our desire to be of some good in a world that so badly needs love, healing, and friendship.

Council continued to deliberate issues and opportunities to serve the Erindale United Church congregation and our wider community with devotion. It is impossible to do all their work justice in this brief report, and I do hope members see their thoughtfulness and actions reflected in these words.

- A large part of Council's time throughout 2021 was dedicated to reflecting on our role as church officers and leaders. With guidance from Rev. Brenna, we thought about the concept of spiritual leadership, and how we could enable our interactions to be focused on church mission, strengthening connections and fellowship. We debated how we might evolve the Erindale governance structure to invite new participants while freeing up time for mission work. We clarified decisions that needed to be made by Council versus those that can be made by committees. We crystallized Council's role in holding together and enabling communication flows across the congregation and introduced Council Corner in the E-News to help in that regard. In the fall, we realized that we needed to hear from the broader congregation about how members were feeling about our faith community, its priorities and its various activities and groups. The "Erindale in Action" survey was issued in October, with results suggesting a high degree of engagement in the life of our church by respondents.
- Council recognized that not all topics needing to be addressed were clearly in scope for any existing committees, the exploration of new IT supports being one that rose to the top. We are grateful to the Finance & Property Committee to have recommended amendments to its mandate in this regard and approved those.
- Knowing how important communications are to the life of the church, and particularly during these times of virtual connections, Council gladly approved the recommendations of the Communications Assistant Working Group to appoint Laura McClure to that role.
- Recognizing the ongoing critical work of Truth and Reconciliation, Council supported Rev. Brenna to include a Land Acknowledgement permanently in the order of service. She worked with volunteers on creating one that resonated, with the aim of regularly refreshing it so it evolves and stays meaningful.
- We continued to support "being church" in a pandemic in various ways. Those included endorsing an amended COVID-19 Church Re-Opening Plan, disbanding with enormous gratitude the Re-Opening Task Group (Craig Laferriere, Garry Jenkins, Claudette Neita, Liz Gorman, Harvey Watson and John Hurst), and forming the COVID-19 Safety Plan Review Task Group (Garry Jenkins, Craig Laferriere, Harvey Watson and John Hurst) to review all requests for the use of our church building through the pandemic. We also endorsed a set of recommendations from Worship Committee regarding ongoing technology enablers for virtual worship services, as well as formalizing and recruiting members for the Tech Team.
- With in-person gatherings and fellowship being constrained through the year, Council enthusiastically supported an idea from Carolyn and Lowell Hendricks to host a "Zoom dinner". They reported back that this worked very well, meeting the need for connections, and offering a blueprint for potential future similar gatherings.
- Of note also, the many ways in which various groups continued with important outreach and community support work this year, which are contained in other pages of the Annual Report. Council gladly heard updates of this work and applauded the members of the Into the Promise group (George Beagley, Claudette Neita and Nadia Lay) in actively supporting The Dam in its work with youth. Kudos also to the UCW who pursued new virtual fund-raising activities to fill the gap created by still being unable to hold any on-site!

- Council mandated an ad-hoc committee (Jan Everett, Carolyn Hendricks, Craig Laferriere, Earl Cochrane, and Rev. Brenna) to work with artist Lynn Chidwick to complete the design for a stained-glass installation over the front doors in the Narthex as part of the Braithwaite family gift to Erindale. The centre piece was installed and dedicated at the end of the year, with its remainder having been fully funded by congregational members and giving us something beautiful to look forward to in 2022.

As I think about the coming year, I know we have questions about when we will worship in person, when we will gather in person for meetings and fellowship, and when we will visit one another without needing to think about pandemic protocols.

What I do not question is that we all will continue to do God's work with love and energy, deepen our connections to one another as church family, and that Council will continue to serve our church with dedication and thoughtfulness. It has been an honour to serve as Interim Chair this past year, and I look forward with great anticipation to what Council and all of us together as Erindale United Church will do in 2022.

Respectfully and faithfully,

Jutta Argao

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, Dianne Drennan, Pat Jenkins, Nadia Lay, Margaret McCrae, Cindy Williams, and Sandra Wiseman. Ruth Nott and Pat Viau join us at home in praying for those on our prayer list. We thank Margaret McCrae and wish her well as she moves to another church. We welcome our new member, Nadia Lay.

Achievements in 2021

In this second year of the Covid-19 pandemic, much remained the same as last year.

- Our meetings were held on Zoom.
- 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 1st 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 to replace in person visits.
- Sandra Wiseman and Pat and Garry Jenkins delivered hard copies of the weekly e-newsletter and bulletin to eleven members who were without access to computers.
- Cards were mailed in December to each person in our congregation who was bereaved during 2021, as well as to baptism families.
- Rev. Brenna bought poinsettias for us to take to members of the congregation who were isolated, ill, or facing other difficulties. Because of the recent arrival of the new variant of Covid-19, Omicron, we decided to drop them off without a visit. Rev. Brenna also arranged for gift cards to be sent to some young people and others in the congregation who were facing challenges such as attending university/college online or starting careers.

We thank Rev. Brenna for her support of and participation in our committee, and a thank you once more to Sarah McEwing for all that she does to make our work easier, especially in these uncertain times. This year she willingly added printing copies of the e-newsletter and bulletin to her weekly tasks.

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 2022

As in 2021, we will need to see what the year brings. We hope that when vaccination and public health measures bring the Covid-19 pandemic under control, we will be able to resume meeting and visiting in person. In the meantime, 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.

Contacts Jennifer Code (Co-Chair), Dianne Drennan, 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. *A note here that the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship disbanded as a congregation in September and won't be a consistent renter going forward. We're thankful for their years of friendship and partnership.*
- offertory counting coordinator, large funding raising, trustee liaison
- treasury, envelope steward, congregational giving statistics and analysis, liaison with Stewardship Committee
- manage the capital budget

Achievements In 2021

The following jobs were completed:

Remodel of the Church Office (re-painted, new furnishings and window coverings purchased, carpet cleaned, lighting changed to LED).

Re-assessment and upgrade of internet provider and services. Implementation of a technological support group. Special thanks to Craig Laferriere, Barb Manchur and the Mahabir brothers for their help with this.

Installation of anniversary Japanese Maple in the Memorial Garden. Refurbishment of gravel in Memorial and Companion Gardens.

Installation of rubber curb to assess impact on Gardner Hall flooding. Assessment was successful. Rubber curbs were effective both in preventing water drainage into the Hall and from a cost perspective. No need for expensive concrete curbs!

Supervision of exhaust fan installation in TYCS kitchen area, as per rental agreement (TYCS expense).

Repair of blinds in the Sanctuary.

Assistance to Jim Bright in consolidating and rewiring the audio-visual system of the church. Many thanks to Jim.

All the other small everyday tasks that dedicated volunteers execute, even in the midst of COVID. Heating came on and off, A/C came on and off. Gardens and lawns were maintained. Hedges were trimmed and fallen trees were removed. Snow was plowed and shoveled. Missing roof tiles were replaced. Wasps, bees, ants, and other pests were eliminated. Sprinklers came on and off. Leaky toilets were repaired. Drains and sump pumps were cleaned and monitored. Fire safety inspections happened. Windows were cleaned. Potholes were patched. Accounts were maintained and bills were paid. Budgets were prepared and updated. Minutes were written. Meetings were attended and liaising was done!

Committee Members

Craig Laferriere, Brian Longley, Barbara Manchur (Treasurer), Paul Sabourin, Doug Brien, Norma Macintyre (Controller), Bob Rogers, Craig McLean, Joy Cunningham (Secretary), Janice Everett (Tender Year's Coordinator) and Sarah McEwing (Envelope Steward, non-voting). Chair has continued to be rotated through Craig L, Brian, Craig M, 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 2021 Stewardship Committee consisted of: Carolyn Hendricks (Chair), Laura Turner, Rev. Brenna Baker, Christian Hawn, and Paul Sabourin. 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'
- Creating and Presenting the Annual Fall Givings Campaign

At the start of 2021, Stewardship discussed drafting an on-boarding document for newcomers interested in becoming involved with the life of our church. A *How-To Welcome Letter* was created outlining: how to give money; what we do with the funds; and how to get involved in the life of our church. Casual attending guests and frequent visitors were provided this information. The Stewardship page on the church website was also updated with this information in March 2021.

In the eNews, Stewardship regularly encouraged members, visitors, and guests to give as they were able using a variety of flexible options: mailed or dropped off cheques welcome, with PARs, eTransfers and Canada Helps donations recommended. Again, this year, the use of electronic offerings grew as the members' preferred choice when giving; a trend likely to remain after the pandemic.

Remembering those who have gone before.

Giving thanks to the many hands and hearts within our midst.

Finding small and simple gestures of expressing love is Rooted and Grows at Erindale.

With provincial mandates impacting the opening and closing of our building, staggered printed bulletins resulted. Stewardship took the opportunity over the summer to re-design the Bulletin Cover Dedication process. Pictures, offered by church members were collected, organized, and by mid-September 2021, electronic bulletin covers were issued weekly. This long-standing tradition was successfully re-imagined with an enthusiastic response from members, both in donating pictures to Erindale's new Picture Library and, by re-establishing the opportunity of making loving and meaningful dedications.

Stewardship's Fall Campaign entitled *We are the Fabric of Erindale*, launched in October 2021. The Stewardship Committee invited the congregation, near and far, to see themselves as the *Fabric of Erindale*.

- Oct 31: We are Building a Quilt
- Nov 14: Good Old Church Swap
- Nov 21: Collecting of Swatches

Symbolizing that any one or two squares stand alone; yet a big number of squares stitched together with love, can be "comforting, beautiful, long-lasting and be useful to everyone who touches it." The making of our quilt, we believe, is a metaphor for Stewardship. The presentation of the finished church quilt is anticipated early 2022.

In the second year of this world health crisis, Erindale remains strong, and members continue to support the Church offering time, money, and energy.

Stewardship's *ASK*, again this year: *stay the course and give as you are able.*

A solid response of Pledges, similar in number and amount to the prior year, was submitted. This information is used to inform budgetary decisions of 2022. The Stewardship Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- Sarah McEwing (Office Administrator) for her support and flexibility dealing with changing demands and timely follow-up of letters and Pledge forms
- Laura McClure (Communication) for handling eNews, bulletin, and slide submissions
- Barb Manchur (Church Treasurer) for supporting meetings with reports, links, and Stewardship specific information

Pledge forms were submitted with 82% of anticipated responses over the previous year. This was an increase of over 20% to last year's submissions. Pledge form commitments were close to 2021 results with minor variations. This valuable and timely information was used towards setting the church budget for 2022.

Looking back over the past few years:

Year	Budget	Givings (rounded)
2017	\$215,000	\$207,000
2018	\$210,000	\$221,000
2019	\$214,000	\$221,000
2020	\$217,000	\$215,000
2021	\$196,000	\$225,000

Based on the received Pledges, steady level of PARs, eTransfers and Canada Helps, loose givings and other gifts to the church, our best estimate is that Erindale should receive approximately \$208K to \$213K. Stewardship provided these numbers to the Finance and Property Committee in December and recommended this range be considered for the 2022 budget.

The 2021 Stewardship's Annual Fall Campaigns combine the needs, wants, and wishes of the church and closed with the gathering of the squares. The financial health of Erindale United Church remains strong. Remembering that piece-by-piece when stitched together, *We Are the Fabric of the Church*. Where possible, increased Givings of time and talent to continue the good health and service of our church was emphasized.

In early 2022, the Stewardship Committee plans to present Erindale's Church Quilt. Together we are stronger, and with the commitment of pledge forms, Stewardship has taken the stance of being conservative, once again, to meet our budgetary commitments for 2022.

Contacts Carolyn Hendricks (Chair), Laura Turner, Rev. Brenna Baker, Christian Hawn, Paul Sabourin.

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 2021

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic 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.

We are working with Rev Brenna as she plans her sabbatical which will be from June through September 2022 inclusive and are involved in discussions around the supply minister who will fill in during her absence. In June we recognized Rev Brenna's tenth year of ministry with a brief ceremony following the service.

We recommended adding a "zoomographer" to the fee schedule for streaming weddings and funerals. Council approved the hiring of a communications assistant to formulate the weekly e-news and provide illustrations to be screened during the service.

We were involved in the replacement and updating of office furniture, led by Carolyn Hendricks in consultation with office manager Sarah McEwing.

Harvey Watson assumed the leadership of M&P as Chair effective January 2021. In November Craig Laferriere resigned from the committee owing to new responsibilities. We thank him for his service.

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

Board of Trustees

Mission & Mandate

The board of Trustees holds all 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 all the assets (Real and Personal) of Erindale United Church
2. Preserving and celebrating the history of the church
3. Maintaining and managing the Memorial Gardens

2021 Highlights

- Undertook an extensive review of the Trustees mandate and agreed to the individual job responsibilities that resulted from that review.
- Maintenance of the Memorial Garden continued with the able assistance of Jan Everett, Green Thumb and Custom Lawn Sprinklers. Additional red crushed stone was placed on the perimeter pathway in the Garden.
- We facilitated 2 interments in the Memorial Gardens and arranged for the engraving and placing of the memorial stones in the gardens and memorial markers at the door leading to the gardens. The Memorial Garden regulations were updated.
- As part of our risk assessment responsibility, the Worship committee confirmed they had reviewed the policy regarding the use of copyright material to ensure that all conditions are met, both for music and the use of images.
- Monitored and made appropriate investment decisions on the Manse and Endowment Funds.
- Work on the archives continued despite the obstacles imposed by COVID.
- Conducted a review and confirmation of adequate insurance protection at the best available rate.

Plans for 2022

- Further planting will be done in the Memorial Garden and the companion garden with the goal of creating color.
- Continue our work on risk assessments and present our findings to the appropriate groups.

- Monitor the performance of both the Manse and Endowment Funds and manage the portfolios accordingly.
- Review the "Donations Acceptance Policy" and up-date as required.
- Review inventory of assets and update as required.
- Continue work on updating archives including digitization where possible.

Members

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

Worship

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

Familiar phrases like "keep your distance; secure your mask over your nose and mouth; isolate; suffering from Zoom fatigue; closed again; tired of it" demonstrate the continued disruption to normal life globally as each new COVID-19 variant presents challenges more deadly than the previous one. Juxtapose these emotional responses with the uplifting and inspiring words of the hymn "Lord of the Dance" (Voices United 352). Erindale United Church remains resilient; the Church remains open just that the building is closed. Though physically separated, the gift and use of technology kept us spiritually connected as a community of believers and thus the Dance goes on.

Activities/Achievements in 2021

The sound system in the sanctuary has been consolidated and synchronized to the audio-visual booth at the back of the sanctuary. A Zoom interface was installed. Thanks to Jim Bright and Ralph Nott.

Thanks to Ralph and Rachel Nott who put together a comprehensive guide to running the AV booth and recruited much needed volunteers as part of the AV crew.

Also, thanks to our Covid response team and ushers so that we were able to hold some in person socially distanced services.

The committee held Zoom meetings monthly from January to June. It was decided at this time to go to every other month to meet.

Black History Month

Rev. Brenna invited congregational members to identify poems, readings and videos to share during Worship services. Several congregants shared stories on notable Black Canadians and their role in history. A delightful Caribbean tradition of telling riddles (riggias) was shared by Claudette Neita during gathering time.

Lent and Easter

The **Ash Wednesday** service was in partnership with five other churches, via Zoom. All ministers were in their respective sanctuaries.

Palm Sunday service was shared with Erindale Presbyterian Church (EPC) and featured pre-recorded elements as well as live via Zoom.

Maundy Thursday was a shared, virtual Tenebrae Service with EPC, Erin Mills UC and Streetsville UC. Rev. Brenna would be hosting from our sanctuary, Laura would be in her home, as would the other ministers. The service included Communion.

Good Friday service was shared with EPC on Zoom, with Rev. Brenna and Laura in the sanctuary. Chancel Players participated in providing readings along with several members of EPC on the last days of Christ and our journey with Him.

Easter Sunday was a joyous service on Zoom for Erindale UC.

May – notable services

On May 9 the United Church Women of Erindale led the service for Christian Family Sunday. It was a very interesting look at the country of Zambia and the reality and hopes for their future. Our youth also helped in leading this service! The Sacrament of Baptism was held for Kelsey Beckstead.

On May 16 - joint service with EPC, led by Rev. Jen Sokolowsky.

On May 23, The Sacrament of Baptism for Carley and Benjamin Kameka was held at the church.

June – Indigenous Month

The Worship Committee members had helped to lead service on June 6th. Doug Johnston led on June 13th. Both services provided on a deeper understanding of the issues and the disconnect between the Indigenous community and the greater Canadian society. The services provided greater clarity as we focus on our reconciliation journey. The services featured two

General Council Office staff members, Emo Yango, Program Coordinator (Intercultural Ministries and People in Partnership) on June 6, and Sarah Stratton, Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator on June 13.

Summer Services

The worship series in July focused on Creation, and in August thinking about the "Gospel of Motown".

Thanks to Laura McClure, our Music Director who took four weeks off following her daughter's birth, the due date being July 10. She pre-recorded the music for the Sundays that she was off, and played live from her home the following the four weeks, she would return to the Sanctuary after the Labour Day weekend.

The outdoor Blessing of the Animals service was on July 25. Highlights were welcoming a few neighbours (and several dogs!) from the community as well as being able to sing together for the first time in a long time.

Fall Services

A Congregational Round table was held by the committee (Rev. Brenna and Jutta) after October 24 worship. It was to invite input from everyone to help shape the theme for Advent and Christmas. Advent I this year being November 28.

November was a season of Stewardship with members of that committee and their families sharing stories and an invite to add to a "quilt" to show our commitment to Erindale through our faith.

A special Service of Remembrance was held on November 7.

Our guest preacher on November 14 was Rev. Dr. Thomas Shin.

On November 21 we celebrated in church the baptisms of Chloe Lynn Wood and Thomas Robert Hans Moore.

Advent and Christmas

Due to a resurgence of Covid, most of our December services returned from hybrid attendance to Zoom. The **Service in a Minor Key** was held on the evening of December 9.

A service focused on children and families was held on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. Psalm 98 was present for this in the sanctuary. The congregation was encouraged to light a candle at the end of the service for Silent Night.

A more contemplative service was held at 8 p.m. with Communion and candle lighting. The Chancel players did pre-recorded readings of "I Was There".

The Boxing Day service was led by several members of the Worship Committee and was based on a Mission and Service theme provided by the United Church of Canada.

Hopes for 2022

- To implement a church group approach to Worship services.
- To revise and update our committee's Mission and Mandate.

Submitted by Karen Bright and Claudette Neita

Members

Rev. Brenna Baker, Jutta Argao (Chair), Karen Bright, Cynthia Carr, Laura McClure (Music Director), Claudette Neita, Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott

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** provides musical leadership for the congregation during worship services, focusing on contemporary music provided by keyboard, guitar, flute, and percussion. Psalm 98 members offer prelude music and sometimes contemporary pieces during the youth portion of services. Microphones enhance individual singers, frequently as soloists. The Senior Choir and Psalm 98 usually present their music separately, but the two groups on occasion sing and play together.

Reflecting on 2021

For the first time in Erindale's history the Senior choir passed a full calendar year without once performing as a group from the sanctuary. The COVID-19 pandemic kept members safely, but sadly, at home and away from singing together. Psalm 98 managed to enter the sanctuary on occasion, however, and several unique musical opportunities presented themselves during the year.

- Laura continued her role as the lyrical solo soprano voice for hymns, singing and playing the piano while choristers and congregation sang along (muted) at home. She provided preludes and postludes on the organ, with which she has matured in confidence and versatility.
- The musicians of Erindale offered recorded music from home for special services throughout the year: Easter, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, and Christmas Eve. Special thanks goes to Craig Laferriere for his work editing the music and videos, a remarkable contribution for one who claims to have a tin ear.

- The Watson family and Jim Bright of Psalm 98 joined Laura in providing live music from the sanctuary on a number of occasions throughout the year, including leading the 5 PM Christmas Eve service.

-

Recorded music from beyond Erindale and the gifts of special Erindale members enhanced worship services in 2021 in ways never heretofore experienced. Thank you, Laura, for your drawing upon these connections, a wonderful expression of Erindale's community engagement.

- Black Canadian musicians were highlighted throughout February, including Measha Brueggergosman and the Toronto Mass Choir.
- Keisha Bell Kovacs and the Halton Gospel Chorale provided music for our Black History Month gospel sing, and the Mahabir family led the congregation in a medley of gospel tunes.
- The Hawn family kids shared their piano skills with the congregation in April.
- Laura highlighted the Indigenous musicians Buffy Sainte-Marie and Edward Gamblin in June and led the congregation in the Indigenous hymn "This Path We Walk."
- The summer sermon series "The Gospel of Motown" provided the congregation with the opportunity to listen to and reflect on a selection of 1960s Motown music.
- Oksana Manchur, trumpeter, played the Last Post and Reveille on Remembrance Sunday.

The sudden passing of Don Lay in August shocked and saddened us all. Don, a gentle and spiritual man, added an element of droll humour to the men's row in the choir loft. Choir members will miss those moments, and the congregation so much more that Don has offered to the arts at Erindale over the past half century.

Hopes for 2022

Choristers' continuing hope is to resume regular music in the sanctuary, bringing Choir and Psalm 98 members back together in real time. Perhaps we will be wearing special singer's masks to make it happen, and it would be lovely if some new singers joined in. The plan to return to the choir loft in January 2022 was dashed by the Covid Fourth Wave, however. Yet, choristers stand ready to take up with full voice just as soon as restrictions are eased. Mozart's 'Ave Verum Corpus' still patiently awaits.

Personnel

Senior Choir:

Soprano: Norma Brown, Selina Campbell, Aileen Jamieson, Mavis Mahabir (also wardrobe coordinator), Laura McClure (Music Director), Arlene Stevens, Dorothy Weston

Alto: Priscilla Brandy, Ellen Dunlop, Nadia Lay, Barbara Manchur

Tenor: Fraser Code, Doug Johnston, Craig Laferriere, Edward Neufeld (and we are told that Andrew McClure has occasionally joined virtually)

Bass: Tom McIlwraith (also librarian), Fred Williams (also purser)

Submitted by Tom McIlwraith.

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

Psalm 98 assisted in the service on several occasions in 2021 providing our normal up beat music for a number of preludes and postludes. We provided support for both new and old hymns during the service during the year and provided, with Laura, all the music for the early Christmas Eve service.

Psalm 98:

Jim Bright: bass, guitar, and vocals

Harvey Watson: flute and vocals (and contact person)

Linda Watson: vocals

Sarah Watson: vocals

Samantha Watson: (occasional) vocals

Thomas Watson: (occasional) vocals

Technical support:

Craig Laferriere, Laura McClure

Psalm 98 report submitted by Harvey Watson

Erindale Chancel Players

Once again, this year, the Chancel Players were faced with the challenge of performing remotely. They participated in a joint reading with Rev Brenna and Erindale Presbyterian Church at Easter and put on *I Was There* by Doug Johnston at the Christmas Eve service based on the characters who attended at Bethlehem. Thanks go out to Claudette Neita, Craig Laferriere, Marilyn Johnston, and Doug Johnston, for their continued enthusiasm and to the congregation for their support.

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 will likely serve a second term as Treasurer from 2022 to 2025.

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 Covenant Commission (for Governance), the Human Resources Commission (for Pastoral Relations), and the Mission & Discipleship Commission (for Faith Formation). The Executive includes a President, Treasurer, Past Chair, Chairpersons of the 3 Commissions and other members of the Executive to a total of 13 members.

There are Staff Resources for the Regions: An Executive Minister plus 11 staff members most of whom are responsible for their particular responsibilities across three regions: Horseshoe Falls Region (our Region), Western Ontario Waterways and Antler River Watershed. This encompasses over 400 communities of faith.

Regional Meetings

The year 2021 was a year of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and so all Region and Region Executive Meetings were held remotely via Zoom.

There were two Region Meetings in 2021: May 27 and 29; and the Annual Meeting (as is required for a Not-for-profit entity) October 14 and 16.

The May meeting was concerned primarily with the work of the three Commissions (Governance, Mission & 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 October meeting was the Annual Meeting, and it received annual reports from the Executive and three Commissions.

Two notable concerns were raised that are outcomes of the new Region organization where there is no middle body like a Presbytery. (1) Congregations expressed a concern that they feel disconnected from the very large Region; and (2) Retired Ministry people expressed a concern at the loss of collegial groups that had been a hallmark of the Presbytery organization. Zoom workshops (Zoom Rooms) were conducted to discuss these concerns and summarize findings to the larger group. This remains a work in progress as Commissions took away the findings and will report in a later session.

The YTD Financial Position was reviewed and received, and the 2022 Budget was approved.

In 2019, the Region received notice of a reduction in Mission and Service Grants to Regions to take effect in 2021. The 2021 Budget took action 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 (in fact, the tri-Region Executives) are discussing ways to match revenue and expenses in 2023 and beyond.

Executive Meetings

Executive Meetings were held by Zoom:

January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, August 20, August 24, September 22, and November 24.

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.

One Executive matter that we dealt with was to approve the sale of a house owned by Halton United Church Extension Council in November 2021.

As Treasurer, I keep the Executive (and Annual Meeting) apprised of 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 Pandemic lockdown. 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.

Executive Retreat

An Executive Retreat was held February 3 and 5th 2021 via Zoom. The retreat was to provide a space for the Region Executive to imagine a vision overarching the activities of the Region for the next 12 to 18 months; to review and refine the roles and responsibilities of Region Staff and Executive members; and to discern how God guides us and how our faith supports us in our work.

The facilitator for the Retreat was Credence & Co. and Betty Pries as consultant (who was well known within Halton Presbytery).

Tri-Region Executive Meeting

The Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Executive Minister is Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa. Cheryl-Ann is also the Executive Minister for Antler River Watershed Regional Council and Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council.

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.

Now very broadly speaking, the hopes, dreams and wishes of each Region is roughly the same as each other Region, so it made sense in the 3rd year of Regional operations (2019, 2020 and

2021) to have a Tri-Region Executive meeting. This was held (via Zoom) November 26 and 27 2021.

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

The Treasurers of each Region (Brent, Doug and myself) meet from time to time with Cheryl-Ann to discuss budgets and finances, to begin the discussions of amalgamating (about) 5 Extension Councils amongst the Regions (only one is really needed), and to consider clouds on the horizon which may need an action plan prior to preparing a budget or year-end forecast.

I am in 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 begins in February 2022 as an online meeting. I am 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 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. Together with Rev. Brenna (who is knowledgeable about the new structure), 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 and I represent two members, and there is room for one more. If you feel called to wider church work, please let either 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.

Vision

As Women of Faith, we believe in nurturing Christian spirituality by reaching out through commitment and devotion to all God's people in the promotion of truth, justice, peace, caring, and respect for all throughout the earth, God's world.

We believe in honouring God the Creator, and loving others through generous giving and joyful Living.

And we believe in affirming and strengthening ourselves both individually and together through creative study, prayer, and action. (UCW Handbook March 2018)

UCW Annual Meeting

On February 17th, 2021, the 2 units met together for the Annual Meeting. The business portion of the meeting included the January UCW Income Statement and the 2021 UCW Budget presented by Norma Macintyre, the UCW Treasurer.

Pat Jenkins, Past President, presented the 2021 UCW Nominations Report asked for nominations from the floor, none were given, the slate of officers stood as proposed.

Pat Jenkins led us in devotion "Prayer for Guidance and Protection" from Psalm 25 verses one to ten.

Our meeting was held on Zoom as were all our meeting this year and we were fortunate to connect with a presentation that Rev Japhet Ndhlovu gave at a Tri-Region event. He spoke on our partnership between the United Church UCW and Women for Change Zambia. As of February 2022, \$74,443.00 has been raised by the UCW to add in the education of women and girls.

Yearly Activities

Even in the midst of the worst pandemic ever, we have accomplished so much this year. We managed a Bake Sale, published a cookbook, sponsored a team for the Out of the Cold Walk, had a successful chocolate sale and finally began a yearlong campaign to help rid the planet of plastics by partnering with Tru Earth for eco-friendly laundry products. Because of all this fundraising we were able to support many worthwhile and needy causes in our neighbourhood and the world. For Example, we donated through the United Church to purchase covid vaccines for the less wealthy nations. We acknowledge and thank the support of the congregation for donations to our special projects. Below is our list of gifts.

Stewardship & special projects	-
Mission and Service	1000
EUC - Memorial	400
Armagh	200
Deacons Cupboard	1,177
Heart House Peel	200
Ian Anderson House	200
Interim Place	200
Our Place Peel	200
Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre	200
United Church of Canada	-
covid	500
flood	300
	4577

The Regional Annual Gathering was also cancelled and changed to an online Zoom meeting which was well received

Our visitation convenor, Dorothy Weston, diligently makes contact with shut-ins at Easter and Christmas. She also sends Get Well/Thinking of You, and Sympathy cards.

Members of Erindale UCW support functions planned by the wider church. We were represented at Horseshoe Fall Region meeting by Ann Edge and Marilyn Johnston.

Erindale United Church Women (UCW) are an active and vibrant group within our congregation, due to dedicated leaders and an enthusiastic membership. All women of the congregation are invited to attend any meeting. This year has been a challenge due to Covid 19 as we were not able to meet in person. We adapted and are even beginning to see a place to continue using Zoom meetings in the future. On snowy days it nice to walk to your computer and just get on with it. As everyone says "it's not the same as meeting in person" but it's better than nothing.

There are two units which meet monthly.

Mary and Martha Circle

This group usually meets monthly on the third Tuesday afternoon for fellowship in the McGill Room, under the leadership of Dianne Drennan. The unit did not meet this year. They kept in touch by phone calls. Dianne also called the members to wish them each a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Friends in Faith

This group usually meets monthly on the third Tuesday evening for fellowship in the McGill Room, Susan Lyons and Patricia Jenkins provide leadership. This year unit meeting were held on Zoom with the exception of a Christmas get together in the Hall to maintain social distancing.

Erindale United Church Women 2020-2021 Executive

President	Marilyn Johnston
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Pat Viau
Treasurer	Norma Macintyre
Past President	Pat Jenkins

Church Council Representatives:	Marilyn Johnston Ann Edge
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Convenors:

Garage Sale	Marilyn Hurst
Kitchen	Marilyn Hurst
Member At Large	Sandra Wiseman
Publicity	Ann Edge
Receptions/Social	Susan Lyons
	Joyce Murdoch
Visitation	Dorothy Weston

Unit Leaders:

Friends in Faith	Pat Jenkins/Susan Lyons
Mary and Martha Circle	Dianne Drennan

Report prepared by Marilyn Johnston, President

Ministry Teams

These are ad-hoc groups that meet as needed to lead and plan specific initiatives. They report to Council and seek guidance as appropriate.

Christian Development and Faith Formation act as ad-hoc ministry teams meeting as necessary to plan programming for children, youth, and adults. New ideas and volunteers are always welcome.

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 2021: 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.

For years Terry Wykurz has ably led and Jutta Argao has been an enthusiastic teacher of the Sunday School program at Erindale. They both have retired from the Sunday School program and we would like to thank them for their great service and dedication, all the best Terry and Jutta!

The Sunday School program wishes to thank the dedicated group of teachers and volunteers. The Sunday School class shares the costs and virtually meets with Erindale Presbyterian Church. The students and teachers participated in the Easter and Christmas pageants, the Youth led service with the UCW, shared gift bags, and collected food donations.

If you have experience with children and would like to share your talents with Sunday School please let us know.

Achievements in 2021: Adult Faith Formation

Sundays in Lent, Rev. Brenna led a small group to discuss the resource, *Psalms* from Illustrated Ministry. We learned more about the different categories of psalms and imagery used.

Following the great conversation in that group, in May we started reading *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren, which will take a year to complete. Our group has changed times to allow others to participate. Including two friends from Erindale Presbyterian, we've had about fifteen different people join the study at one point or another. The book looks at the big picture of scripture – who God is, who we are, and who we're called to be. Lively discussions have taken place around the nature of violence in the Bible, our understanding of the afterlife, and the role of the parables. This group is set to wrap up in June.

In the first half of 2021, the Wednesday morning check in group met weekly to pray with one another and spend some time with the upcoming scripture reading for the following Sunday. We used a method of reading from the Into the Promise program where we read scripture a few times allowing certain words or questions arise. Since the fall, Wednesday prayer time happens monthly. We also include in the enews opportunities for education and faith formation through the Region and wider denomination such as anti-racism and reconciliation events.

Outreach

Despite needing to keep our distance, we 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 here are the other ways we reached out as a faith community:

- **Deacon's Cupboard** – Although the Deacon's Cupboard was limited in its service this year, we continued to do what we could. Rev. Brenna and David Gorman were active in the Core planning meetings, and David was successful in applying for a grant from the government that provided \$25000 in funds to the DC. Also, in January, we coordinated with Feed Mississauga to provide 100 ready to heat meals to families of the Deacon's Cupboard.
- **Unmute** – In April, we co-hosted an on-line production of **Unmute: The Power of a Pandemic**. This interactive dramatic presentation was conceived by Theatre of the Beat to draw attention to domestic abuse. Audience participants were encouraged to make donations to Armagh House.
- **May Roundtable**- At a roundtable conversation in May, we discussed various needs in the community and ways we might meet those needs. As a result, we decided to keep an updated list of community resources front and center on our website – providing information on food banks, mental health resources, domestic abuse information, etc.
- **Conversation with Wendy Gichuru** – In June, we welcomed Wendy Gichuru, staff member at General Council, to talk about her work with the Mission and Service Fund and how partnerships are created and sustained. A recording of the conversation is available on YouTube.

THE DAM COMMITTEE

ACRONYM - The DAM DEVELOP ASSIST MENTOR

Erindale's congregation has always demonstrated a strong commitment to the Christian concept of "outreach" – serving our neighbours near and far. This year, operating under the theme **"Living the Gospel: Supporting Youth at the DAM"**, Erindale partnered with the DAM to address the needs of youth who use their services. Erindale assisted with the following:

GRADUATION:

On September 25th, 2021, Erindale hosted a graduation in Gardner Hall for the graduates. This gave the graduates an opportunity to mark this milestone with a celebration and recognition of their achievement.

NEW KITCHEN

The DAM had a new kitchen installed in their facility and needed supplies for the kitchen such as dishes, cutlery, dishtowels etc.

Claudette was able to purchase the necessary items with Outreach Funds (\$215.98).

In November 2021 we delivered these items to the DAM.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

We were provided with a wish list of items that were needed by the youth that come to the DAM.

Erindale, as always came through, and fulfilled the wish list and more with their great generosity.

To help the staff, the gifts were sorted in different categories, put into individually labeled boxes. As requested, the boxes were delivered on December 8, 2021.

It was truly a successful year even though we didn't start until later in the year.

Please refer to the attached for more information, pictures, brief descriptions and "Thank You" from the DAM.

Submitted by: Claudette Neita, George Beagley, Nadia Lay

Communications

Electronic communication was very important throughout 2021 as we dealt with pandemic restrictions and appears likely to continue in importance as we transition to a post-pandemic church community.

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. Over the summer and fall, many pages of the website were updated with current information—an ongoing project. Groups are encouraged to send updates to the communications assistant, who will update the website accordingly. Our Facebook page has 125 followers, and our Instagram page has 302 followers. Check out our social media for announcements, recognition of special days and events, and pictures.

Communications Assistant: Laura McClure

Book Club

For those who love to read, this is the place to be. We meet once a month (excluding December and summertime) on the 4th Monday of the month at the church at 7:30 pm. 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. Since the beginning of Lockdown due to the Covid 19 Pandemic the book club has been meeting via Zoom meetings.

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 2021 are:

- January – Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
- February- The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
- March-Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Talaga
- April- Greenwood by Michael Christie
- May- Our Little Secret by Roz
- September- Blood Hollow by William Kent Krueger
- October- A Town Called Solace by Mary Lawson
- November- The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Members

Melanie Blake, Kim Booth, Sandra Butcher, Cynthia Carr, Jennifer Code, Joy Cunningham, Peggy Goff, 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

Well, another year has come to an end. With COVID19 taking control of our lives, we still have many things for which to be thankful. We, as members of Erindale United, are truly blessed to have great leadership with Rev. Brenna, Laura, Sarah and all the committees that keep us going and informed. Many churches do not have the connection that we do with their congregation.

The Coffee hour has been a great way for people to get together, share thoughts, solve world problems (not) and get to know each other. It has also provided people away to support each other during this difficult time.

Previously, we gathered in the McGill Room every Friday, but since the COVID19 situation, we have been able to connect through the church's Zoom link. Hopefully we will be able to meet in person very soon.

It was very gratifying this year that, with the use of Zoom, we were able to once again meet on December 24th, 25th, 31st, and January 1st to celebrate Christmas and New Years, even though we could not do it in person. This was especially important to give those who would have been celebrating on their own an opportunity to share with others. We had 10 – 15 people join us each day.

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. We welcome your presence. Please feel free to join us and, if you wish, bring your thoughts, jokes, concerns and ideas. We don't promise to solve any issues, but we do promise you will have fun, create memories and new friendships.

For more information, contact Nadia Lay

Craft and Conversation

We did not meet in 2021 at all as restrictions kept us at home. As we begin our 7th year in 2022 we changed the time that we meet. This group meets on the **first Wednesday of the month** at 1:00 pm. at the church. It is a group that loves to do handiwork and we really missed the friendships and chat. Members bring a bit sewing, knitting, crochet or even beadwork 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.

Members: Ann Edge, Marilyn Johnston, 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.

The coordinated multi EGG initiative has long since wound down but this one current group has continued to this day. Of course, some members have left and others have joined but a large portion of the membership does indeed date back to this first group.

EGG is currently 18 people strong. 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.

Discussions at these gathering are largely informal and whole group discussions occur maybe only about half the time. Topics are wide ranging but almost always centre around Erindale church life, Christianity and how we relate that to our daily life. Sometimes in informal discussions a question will come out of one corner, and all will join in with their thoughts. Discussions are always amicable, thought provoking, respectful and enjoyable.

Personally, I think the group is important. I think this group has helped us grow in faith. We care and cherish each other and the church. 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. Currently there are 18 members and we have talked on occasion of splitting up the group as it can be a challenge sometimes to accommodate everyone if all show up for a meeting. Perhaps we should use this group as a springboard for others? Perhaps we should splinter this group as a seed for a new 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.

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the EGG group only had a few Zoom meetings this past year and one outdoor meeting last September. Many thanks to the people in our group who arranged and hosted these meetings. We look forward to resuming regular meetings as soon as it is safe to do so.

The 2020 Group

The 2020 Group is made up of widows and widowers who, during COVID times have been meeting every second week via zoom. We originally wanted this to be a social group since we all live alone. The idea was that if we wanted to go out for dinner, or for a walk, or anything else and wanted company, we could send a message to the group to see if any were interested in joining the activity. However, since COVID we are just able to do this virtually hence our meeting schedule of every second Monday at 4:00 PM via the church's zoom link.

For more information, contact Mary Patterson

Ad Hoc Committee Report on Stained-Glass Project

During 2021, despite COVID, we were able to install stain glass in the center panel above the front doors in the Narthex.

This initiative was due to a significant contribution given to us by the Braithwaite family in memory of their mother, Kay who was a long-time member of our church and who passed away in 2017. An Ad Hoc committee reporting to Church Council was formed with a mandate to undertake a project that would honour Kay and provide inspiration to us for many years to come.

We were fortunate to find a stain glass artist from Guelph, Lynn Chidwick, who was able to design and create an exceptional work of art that we believe will honour Kay's memory for many years to come. We are indeed blessed.

Members of the Ad Hoc committee were Carolyn Hendricks; Tom McIlwraith; Barbara Manchur; Garry Jenkins; Jan Everett; Doug Johnston; Craig Laferriere; Rev. Brenna Baker; Earl Cochrane.

Roll Report

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

	2020	2021
Number of Households under Pastoral Care	228	225
Number of Adult Baptisms	0	2
Children Baptised	0	3
Members received a) under 18	0	0
b) 18 or older	0	2
Members received by Transfer or otherwise	0	0
Members removed by Death	3	6
Members removed by a) Certificate of Transfer	2	1
b) Otherwise	0	2
Total Confirmed Membership	273	266
Total Non-resident Members (included above)	21	22

Baptisms

Children: 3

Adults: 2

Zero Members Received by transfer or otherwise

One Member Transferred Out

Weddings

Michael Manchur/Megan Gilsenan

In Memoriam

Beresford Campbell	George Samuel Carpenter
Sharon Dearie (Member)	Gordon Harlock (Member)
Donald Lay (Member)	Ronald Rutherford (Member)
Katherine Scott (Member)	Joan Smyton
Joseph Tkach	William Warren
Dorothy Wyman (Member)	

Erindale United Church
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 21, 2021

Preceding the Annual Meeting

Sunday service started very promptly at 10:29 AM with Laura McClure's organ prelude: "Breathe on Me Breath of God" as our screens at home filled with a floral view with the passage "Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go." COVID-19 protocols required that this be a Zoom service, with Rachel managing the Power Point slide show arranged by Laura in her capacity as Communications Assistant. 57 screens and 4 phone-ins appeared on Zoom, representing about 80 members of the congregation present.

Before starting the formal service Rev. Brenna announced that Erindale would be receiving food bank donations on Saturday March 27. Palm Sunday service (March 28) is to be shared with the Erindale Presbyterian congregation. Please gather real or improvised palm fronds!

Jutta Argao took a few minutes to relate the current prospects for in-person worship in the sanctuary. As of March 15th, Provincial regulations were amended such that in-person worship services would again be permitted in Peel Region and others in the grey zone (despite evidence of a third wave of the pandemic approaching). Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel Medical Officer of Health, met with inter-faith leaders, including Rev. Brenna, to review this change in regulations. His advice was that virtual services were still the best arrangement for the present, and any in-person services should only be phased in very slowly.

Recognizing the importance of in-person worship for Erindale's emotional and spiritual health, Worship Committee, in consultation with authors of the Reopening Plan, determined to take these small but important steps. The worship team (Rev. Brenna, Laura, Ralph and Rachel) will return to leading services from the Sanctuary (starting March 28). In-person services are being planned for three upcoming special Sundays: Easter, Christian Family Sunday and Pentecost, with concurrent Zoom connection as usual. Reservations will be necessary in order to keep numbers within the 15 per cent capacity limit (approximately 60 people). Ushers are needed, and volunteers reported in via the chat box even before Jutta had finished her report.

The theme of the service was covenanting with God, evident in the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer. The opening prayer has been composed by Darryl Webber, one of several members of the Erindale congregation who, over the years, have been ordained into the ministry of the United Church. Laura further set the tone as she sang and played the Opening Hymn "Spirit, Open My Heart" (MV 79).

Annual Meeting, Part 1

Rev. Brenna called the Annual General Meeting to order at 10:46 AM.

1. Election of Chairperson and Recording Secretary.

Mary Patterson moved, seconded by Duane McIlwraith, that Jutta Argao chair the Annual General Meeting. All in favour. Carried.

Jennifer Code moved, seconded by Fred Williams, that Tom McIlwraith be the recording secretary. All in favour. Carried.

Jutta narrated the agenda and invited participation by all members of the congregation, either orally or by placing messages in the chat box.

The church service continued with the prayer for Illumination, followed by two passages from scripture: Jeremiah Chapter 31, verses 31-34 – A New Covenant; and Psalm 51, verses 1-12 – seeking God’s mercy.

In her message for all ages (the time when youth would normally gather on the chancel steps) Rev. Brenna shaped a pink lump of Play Doh into a heart, symbolizing God’s renewal of the hearts of his people. In her sermon message – “The Days are Surely Coming” – she reviewed the 2020 Annual Report from the perspective of so many willing people offering unselfishly their talents. Even after the bleakest of weeks, a Psalm 51-type despair for many, a Good News Sunday would invariably follow. Something new is emerging from God living in our hearts, rising from the inside out. Rev. Brenna’s “United Against Racism” t-shirt was just one instance underscoring this message. She concluded with the optimistic thought that better days are surely coming in a world of resurrection.

Congregation members professed their faith by joined in A New Creed. Laura played and sang. “Make me a channel of your peace”, a musical rendition of Psalm 51.

2. Report of the 2020 Chair – Ralph Nott (Appendix *alpha*).

Ralph’s theme was living out the Erindale mission amid the disruption of Covid 19, and how uncertainty invites opportunity. Jutta graciously thanked Ralph for his many years of dedication.

3. Council and Committee Organization 2021 – Rev. Brenna (Appendix *beta*).

Moved by Nadia Lay, seconded by Pat Jenkins, that those named in the table of Council and Committee Organization for 2021 are 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. Brenna.

Rev. Brenna spoke of “the priesthood of all believers”. We all do ministry. She sees vacancies as opportunities, empty chairs waiting to be filled.

4.5. Staff appreciation – Ralph Nott (Appendix *gamma*).

Ralph complimented Rev Brenna’s nurturing of souls, Laura’s arranging music in such unlikely places as the parking lot, Sarah’s keeping the building secure, and Janelle Ward’s introduction of the eNews structure.

Following the dedication of our offering Laura sang the sending hymn “O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go” (VU 658). Following the benediction Laura offered the postlude: J.S. Bach’s Fugue no. 2 in C minor from Book 1 of the Well-Tempered Clavier.

After a short break the remainder of the business meeting picked up at 11:51 AM.

Annual Meeting, Part 2

Erindale United Church 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 and ministering community.

Erindale Values. Inclusivity, empathy, spirit-led, worshipful, outreach, justice

2021 priorities. Faith formation, community outreach, social justice, leadership, pastoral care

NOTE: Page numbers in items 5 through 10, below, refer to the **Annual Report for 2020**, posted on the Erindale website (Newsletter, March 18, 2021) and available in the church office.

5. Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, September 27, 2020.

Moved by Earl Cochrane, seconded by Fred Williams, that these minutes (pages 29-32) be approved. All in favour. Carried. There was no business arising from the minutes.

6. Reports of Standing Committees.

Moved by Jennifer Code, seconded by Carolyn Hendricks, that the reports of standing committees (pages 7-19) be accepted. All in favour. Carried.

7. Report of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council.

Moved by John Hurst, seconded by Mary Patterson, that this report (pages 20-21) be accepted. All in favour. Carried.

8. Report of Erindale United Church Women.

Moved by Marilyn Johnston, seconded by Ann Edge, that this report (pages 21-24) be accepted. All in favour. Carried.

9. Other Reports.

Reports of Christian Development, Bible Seminar, Book Club, Friday Morning Coffee Group, Craft and Conversation Group, and Erindale Growing Group (EGG) (pages 25-28) are received for reference. This is an expression of how we live into our Mission informally and foster connections amongst our church family.

10. Congregational Statistics.

Moved by Duane McIlwraith, seconded by Harvey Watson, that these reports (roll, baptisms, membership, weddings, memorials; page 28) be received. All in favour. Carried.

11. Presentation of Financial statements – Paul Sabourin.

a. Audited financial statements for 2020. (posted on the EUC website, Newsletter, March 18, 2021)

Paul opened by acknowledging the many years of service that that Steve Wykurz gave to the Finance & Property Committee. He acknowledged also the work by Barb Manchur and Norma Macintyre in handling financial affairs; that made it easy for him to speak about these matters. In 2020 givings held up solidly, rent fell substantially and expenses were trimmed thoughtfully, leaving a small surplus to go into the Capital Fund. Government COVID-19 wage and rent subsidies helped, with Tender Years school benefitting, but as of October 2020, resuming paying Erindale its full rent.

Members of the congregation expressed interest in the various funds and the way they are utilized. Paul explained that, beyond routine expenses, the various designated funds may be drawn upon for meeting exceptional needs in the following sequence: capital (\$42k), manse

(\$117k) and endowment (\$150k) for a total of more than \$300k. Paul described the Endowment Fund as “the ultimate rainy-day fund.” The investment team invests this money conservatively, yielding dividends in the 4 or 5 per cent range.

b. Budget for 2021. (Appendix *delta*)

Paul stated that the budgeting strategy anticipates that offerings will hold up through 2021 amid revenue falling and expenses rising. Still, a small surplus is anticipated, to be placed in the Capital Fund. More and more income is expected to be handled electronically. By 2022-23 expenses are expected to catch up to givings, meaning that the stewardship campaign will have to step up and congregation respond.

Various question and comments were offered and deftly responded to by Barb Manchur and Norma Macintyre.

Moved by Doug Brien and seconded by Norma Macintyre that the Erindale United Church budget for 2021 be approved. All in favour. Carried.

Jutta thanked all those involved in stewarding the finances of the church for their dedication and service to the congregation.

12. Appointment of auditor.

Moved by Norma Macintyre and seconded by Barbara Manchur that the firm of Capstick McCollum & Associates, Professional Chartered Accountants, be appointed auditors for Erindale United Church for 2021. All in favour. Carried.

13. There was no other business.

14. Adjournment.

At 12:45 PM Earl Cochrane moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Secretary: Thomas McIlwraith

Chair: Jutta Argao