

# Westminster United Church 2019 Annual Report



### **Our Mission Statement**

Westminster United Church is a Christian family sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the congregation, the community and the world at large. We provide a spiritual home for worship, celebration of the sacraments, and Christian Education.





#### Statement of Inclusion

We embrace people of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientations, gender identity, abilities, ethnicity, social and economic circumstances, in the membership, ministry, leadership and life of this congregation.

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### **Minister's Introduction to the Annual Report**

All Glory to God, who is able, through power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or imagine. Glory to God in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21, NLT)

One night last spring I left my office at Westminster to head to a Worship Committee meeting. On the way, I walked by the Founders' Room where people were setting up for choir practice. I passed a group of parents talking in the narthex while they waited for their kids who were having Karate lessons in the gym. A few of those kids ran past me to the water fountain, sweating and beaming, to get a quick drink of water. A group from the community was meeting in the youth room and their laughter was bouncing into the halls. There was a sense of community and connection all around. I remember thinking, "It matters that this place is here."

The last time I was in the pulpit among you was May 12, 2019 B.H. (*Before Holden*). A lot has happened since. The time away, for me at least, has been anything but quiet. (I still don't know where the saying "sleep like a baby" comes from because in my experience babies don't sleep.) These months have offered the gifts of distance and reflection. What makes our church a place that matters? Why do we make time each week to worship, connect with others, and beyond that, commit to volunteering on committees and groups throughout the weeks i.e. Worship, Outreach, Property, Friendly Visitors, Parish Mosaic, Wellness, Climate Disruption Mitigation, Foodman Group, UCW, Christian Education, Stewardship, Youth Play, Youth Group, St. Vincent's Kitchen, Christmas Hampers, Living Alone Lunch, Sanctuary Committee, Trustees, Choir...? (and that, as they say, is just to name a few.)

As a leader in the church, I admit that at times I take what happens here for granted. Yet, I realize that the gifts of sanctuary, community, diversity and belonging that our church offers are anything but commonplace. There are precious few spaces these days where people of various backgrounds, ages, political persuasions, abilities and cultures are able to come together to share, care, learn, ask questions and engage in the work of justice; where love and the Source of Love are measurement and Guide.

You will see evidence of these gifts in the following pages. Celebrate what we have done together as the body of Christ and pray for the work to come. We have the opportunity in this new year, through an important visioning process, to deepen our awareness of God and of who we are as God's people. What are we being called to in 2020? I'm sure the journey will be challenging and meaningful.

I look forward to returning to work among you at the end of January and give God great thanks for you. Many thanks to Rev. Dan Yourkevich for once again taking the reins with such competence and care during my time away; to my colleagues Cathy, Beth and Rebecca, Ronell and Margaret for being a great team to work with each day; to Paul Pierson, Chair of Council, for your incredible dedication to this congregation; to the M&P Committee for your support and encouragement; and to leaders and members of each committee and group for all that you do. Yours in Christ,

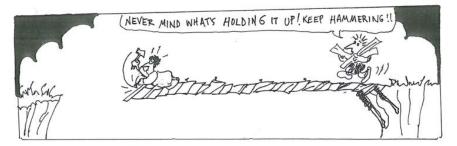
Rev. Michelle Robinson

#### From Daniel's Den

It has been an honour to serve Westminster United Church as Supply Minister while Rev. Michelle has been on Parental Leave over the last eight months. To be part of the Westminster family is a special gift. When Joanne and I came to Westminster in June 2014 we started a new chapter in our lives. Getting to know people, while sitting in the congregation, has been an important transition for me. Over these last five and a half years, I've had a chance to do that, while I have also been called on to serve several other churches when their ministers have gone on Sabbatical. But the days of travelling to other churches are done for me. It is hard to feel like you are part of a family if you are not spending time with them. So, I'm glad we chose to connect with the Westminster Community of Faith.

Since being here, I have served as Supply Minister at Westminster. This is the third time I have done this over the last four years. It has allowed me the special privilege of getting to know many of the people at Westminster in a slightly different way. To share in ministry with you has allowed me to journey with you and care for the needs of the church in a way that is unique to the minister's role. I am thankful for the trust you have given me and the small part I have played in Westminster's life.

This annual report tells the story of many of the events and activities that have been part of our Church in 2019. We may have wondered how we could fulfill our mission. Sometimes it might feel a bit like the comic drawing below.



We may wonder sometimes what is holding the church up? How is it possible for us to be faithful in today's world? It is obvious the world is very different from 1958 when Westminster had its formal beginning as a congregation of the United Church of Canada. But the need of people to find out who Jesus really is and to become more like Jesus has not changed. It may not be that everyone sees that need but our world still does need what Jesus Christ can do in the world through the mission of His Church.

How we will be effective in doing that is part of what we have been preparing for in 2019. In the coming months, with Rev. Michelle's return to her role in our ministry and mission, we will consider together how we will be most faithful in fulfilling Christ's mission through Westminster United Church in this third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Westminster United Church is a vibrant community of caring people. We have many passions and a great desire to be of service. Together, with the blessing of the grace and strength of Jesus Christ, we <u>will</u> do more than we could ever imagine, as imitators of the One we follow, Jesus Christ.

Peace and love to you all, Rev. Dan

# At a Glance: What happened in 2019



Sock Tree, Friday Flicks

### February

• Black History Month Events, Coldest Night of the Year Walk for The Refuge, Scouting/Guiding Celebration Service, Annual Congregational Meeting

#### March

 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Games Night, Foodman Group "Island" Dinner, Lenten Prayer Event/Labyrinth, Friday Flicks, Blood Donor Clinic

#### April

 Church Yard Sale, EGGstravaganza, Easter Services & Breakfast, Family Dinner & Movie Night

#### May

Trivia Night FUNdraiser, Mother's Day Tea, Friday Flicks

#### June

• Church Picnic, Blood Donor Clinic, Games Night, Labyrinth Event

#### July

Vacation Bible School

#### September

Welcome Sunday & Lunch, Blood Donor Clinic

#### October

Rebecca Clingman, our new Office Administrator, joins Westminster, Thanksgiving
 Celebration, BROADsWay Concert Fundraiser, Stewardship Sunday & Stew, Games Night

#### November

Turkey Supper, Church Bazaar, Advent Labyrinth Event, Friday Flicks, Games Night

#### December

Mitten Tree, Blood Donor Clinic, Family ADVENTure Day, Jesus' Birthday Party in J.a.M., 83
 Christmas hampers filled for 302 people, Lessons & Carols Service featuring Brooklin,
 Northminster and Westminster Choirs, Longest Night Service, Christmas Eve Youth Play,
 Candlelight Communion



### **Council Chair**

Thanks to everyone, who through numerous ways, has contributed and supported the Westminster Community of Faith. **Thank you for another great year!** 

Our Community of Faith is about people connecting and sharing their faith, and **people connecting and engaging** with their community. Please take the time to read this edition of Westminster's Annual Report. It is full of great stories, dreams and successes.

What I thought would happen in 2019 and what did happen in 2019 did not exactly match – and I am glad it didn't. Why? (Here are just a few of many examples.)

- We would not have had the opportunity to celebrate the arrival of Holden Robinson in June and accordingly to have Rev. Dan lead us over the last six months (with his shopping bag of stories and surprises) while Rev. Michelle was on family leave. **Thanks Rev. Dan for your support and leadership!**
- I would not have had the opportunity to go to a shower to celebrate Beth Navarro's marriage.

  Thanks Beth for your support over the last 2 years.
- We would not have met Becky (Rebecca Clingman) who replaced Beth. Welcome to the Westminster Team, Becky.
- Through patience and perseverance by some members of Westminster, the Climate Disruption
   Mitigation Committee was formed. This group is bringing timely focus, discussion and action as
   it relates to our Climate challenges.
- I didn't plan on walking in a Pride Parade in Ajax but I did. It was fun to be out with WUC friends, other faith groups and the community supporting the LGBTQ community.
- I did not plan on updating our flower gardens. A great example of the strength of our faith community, as people spontaneously stepped up and made it happen

Looking ahead into 2020, I am looking forward to working with the facilitators from Credence and Co. and to our listening and discernment process as we look to answer the questions "What is our central purpose for being together?" and "What ministries, dreams and other acts of faith is God calling us to at this time?"

Thank you to our great staff for everything you do – day in and day out. Thank you to the Council Members and to the many volunteers for your time, talents, support and leadership.

Blessings, Paul Pierson

### **Minister of Faith Formation**

In our family, one of our guiding mottos has always been, "do what you love, and love what you do". This is what we have taught our children and what we have always encouraged in others. How wonderful it is then, to know that I am indeed practising what I preach; I *am* doing what I love and I *am* loving what I do!

As I rapidly approach my seventh anniversary as your Minister of Faith Formation, I have come to the conclusion that it is because of you and the grace of God that I am blessed to do what I do. I am privileged to work and worship alongside incredible people and I am truly in awe of the gifts and the talents, the kindness and the compassion that I encounter every day.

Each of you is responsible for making Westminster what it is; a warm, inviting, safe and welcoming place. Through your willingness to care for one another, to support outreach projects, to work on committees, to teach our children, to give of your time and to share your talents, this community of faith is strengthened.

I have found over the years that not everyone understands exactly what it means when we say Faith Formation. The simple explanation is that Faith Formation is a *lifelong* process of discipleship. It is growing as individuals and as a church community in our daily lives and it is growing together as a collective in Christ - through worship, outreach, education, working for justice and peace, embracing diversity, affirming all people and sharing our good news stories. By doing so, our faith is nurtured, enlivened, sustained, and *formed*.

As we move through each year, there is so much to experience, as individuals and as a congregation. There are blessings and struggles, great joy and deep sadness, but in our togetherness we weather the challenges and celebrate our good fortune. My wish is that we will continue to embrace all that comes our way: finding ways to serve, to build community and to share God's love, and by doing so, *form* and *transform* our faith.

Thank you for allowing me to do what I love and for making it easy to love what I do...seven years later and I am still in awe of the blessings God has given me by leading me to Westminster! Many thanks also go to my colleagues with whom I've had the honour to serve throughout 2019; Rev. Michelle, Rev. Dan, Margaret Motum, Beth Navarro, Rebecca Clingman and Ronell Paguio. Each of you has my heartfelt appreciation for making my job easier, my load lighter and my days brighter.

I would also like to thank Joanne Gibb for being such an amazing M&P Rep for the last five years. Her guidance, words of wisdom, listening skills, gentle nature and kind heart have made me a better person and a better minister. Thank you for your dedication, Joanne; I will miss you as my Rep! To all the others who have served on the M&P team, thank you for taking such great care of my colleagues and me throughout the last year.

As we go forward into 2020, may God continue to richly bless each of us, and walk with us every step of the way!

Many Blessings, Cathy Shaw

### **Minister of Music**

I happened upon an anonymous quotation the other day.

"Sometimes I need the music and sometimes I need the lyrics."

I'm sure that's how we approach and react to music in church. Sometimes we let the familiar or new melodies carry us away. Sometimes we concentrate on the words and allow them to refresh our faith. Those of us in music ministry at Westminster know what a privilege it is to share music and lyrics with the congregation each Sunday.

The past year has been a busy and exciting one for us.

Special activities included:

January - our first Jazz service with guests, "Add Water and Stir"

February - Black History month service with guest, Kalista Wilson

March - 1st annual "A Cappella" service on the first Sunday of Lent

April - Good Friday - Shadows Lengthen Into Night

Easter - Kathleen Booth, trumpeter

Choir participation in "Spring Sing" massed choir concert, Northminster

October - UCW regional meeting - Margaret led Justice-themed music

Rehearsals for Christmas Eve play resumed

November - Remembrance Service, Luke Yourkevich, trumpeter

December - Lessons, Carols and Candlelight - featuring Brooklin, Northminster and

Westminster Choirs, The Durham Wind Ensemble, and soloists, Pandora

Bryce, flute, and Kathy Beatty, oboe. Christmas Eve Play - "A Star is Born"

Profound appreciation is extended to each member of the Senior Choir and SALT for his/her musical gifts and amazing commitment. Once again, I stress the fantastic support Heather Von Zuben (Jr. Choir leader, Sunday supply), Jennifer Tilk (Sunday supply), Sue Shkolnik (Jr. Choir co-leader), and Emma Cullen (liturgical dancer) provide to our ministry. We are blessed.

Respectfully submitted by, Margaret Motum

### **Worship**

The Worship Committee works with many volunteers to support our Interim Minister – Reverend Dan Yourkevich and Minister, Reverend Michelle Robinson. We are very thankful for the guidance of Reverend Dan and Reverend Michelle. Our committee is very grateful for all the dedicated volunteers who work on the various teams to support worship at Westminster.

The committee is made up of the following volunteers:

Communion – Sandra Kell-Cullen

Baptism – Ava Tomlinson (Co-Chair)

Greeters and Candle Lighters – Patti Lang

Sanctuary – Heather Von Zuben (Co-Chair)

Coffee Hosts – Heather Montague

Ushers – Ed Rosdobutko

Secretary – Sarah Baker

Minister of Music – Margaret Motum

Ministers – Reverend Dan and Reverend Michelle

Over this past year we have worked hard to ensure the worship service flows smoothly. The members of the Worship Committee and many volunteers have worked on the following initiatives in 2019:

- Worked with the Property Committee to install the outdoor Nativity Scene.
- Created a proposal for Affirming Sundays. Affirming Sundays will be held in the months
  where there are 5 Sundays in the month. We would designate the Sunday to connecting
  our faith and our continuing journey to be an affirming congregation. In 2020, there are 4
  months with 5 Sundays March, May, August and November.
- Created "Use of Narthex" Statement. This statement provides a guideline for the activities that can take place in the Narthex during church/worship on a Sunday morning.
- Dedicated 20 additional pew bibles to be placed in the sanctuary. The sanctuary now has 63 pew bibles.
- Staged the annual Christmas Eve Play including moving the play times to 1:00, 3:00 and 5:00. The times were changed to help manage the crowds at one performance. Worship will review the results of the change in times over the Winter months.
- Worked diligently over the year to update and change the adornment of the sanctuary to follow the liturgical calendar.

Thank you to everyone for all your support during the year.

Respectfully submitted by, Ava Tomlinson and Heather VonZuben, Co-Chairs

### **Sanctuary**

The goal of the Sanctuary Committee is to make Westminster United Church a welcoming beacon in the community through our creative efforts in decorating the Narthex and Sanctuary to reflect the liturgical events throughout the year. At times the decorations may reflect special celebrations and times of our lives that link us to our community and church.

### **Christian Education**

I am grateful for the privilege of reporting on behalf of the Christian Education Committee. The following are the dedicated members who have diligently carried out the mandate of this committee; Susan Shkolnik, Cheryl Nicholson, Michelle Alston, Ava Tomlinson and Susan Pleasance. This year we were also pleased to welcome Joanna Shaw to our team.

Our committee is always appreciative of the support of our Ministry Team, Rev. Michelle and Rev. Dan and our Office Administrators, Beth Navarro and Rebecca Clingman. We also work closely with Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation who is a valued resource, idea person and hardworking member of our committee.

The J.a.M (Jesus and Me) Sunday School report and the Youth Group report are being provided independently by Cathy Shaw and the Nursery Report by Crystal Smith. Many thanks to our curriculum writer, Cathy Shaw, and to all the leaders/teachers of J.a.M for providing a valuable Sunday School program for Westminster's young people.

Along with assuring that Westminster has a vibrant and educational Sunday School, our committee is also responsible for the leadership and support of Adult Christian Education programming, Confirmation classes, Vacation Bible School (VBS), family social events, youth groups, library, church picnic and the Easter EGGstravaganza.

Christian Education is ever-changing and ever-growing, and 2019 was no exception. Our Vacation Bible School changed not only its program but its leadership this year. I would like to thank Crystal Smith and Susan Pleasance for their many years of VBS leadership, and I would also like to thank those who have stepped in to lead us into the future.

This year we were pleased to host our third ADVENTure Day for families and continued with our new Friday Night Flicks endeavour. Our team also introduced an ongoing Games Night and it has proven to be a wonderful addition to our programming.

It is because of our dedicated committee members, teachers, volunteers and ministry team that we are able to offer quality Christian Education for all ages, to our congregation and to our community. I thank each of them for their time, input and support.

Respectfully submitted by, Jolene Baker, Chair

### **Nursery – The Little Jammers**

2019 was another busy year for the smallest members of Westminster ranging from birth to school age with an average of 8 children each week plus visitors and increased numbers over the holidays. Many of the kindergarten children continue to stay in the nursery rather than moving up to the J.a.M. program as it is a familiar, comfortable environment that provides them with some continuity while they are experiencing the change of attending full time school. Those with older siblings tend to move in the Fall, while those with younger siblings stay until they feel that they are ready. We leave it to the parents and children to decide what is best for them.

This year, we were joined by a soft, stuffed, child-friendly version of Jesus, (a doll) who joined our class to assist in the teachings of Jesus, which was the focus during the beginning of the year. Later in the Fall, we concentrated on the creation story, looking at various things that God created and supported by stories that dealt with toddler topics, such as sharing, dressing independently for the weather, etc., while developing fine motor skills through crafts, and gross motor skills through play. In February, the children enjoyed our annual "Jumping with Little Jammers" in the gym with various activities and games including a bouncy castle, indoor riding toys, parachute games, hoops and balls.

The leadership team of Crystal Smith, Celeste Bones and Kaireen Adamson appreciate the support received by various parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren in providing a safe, loving environment for the wee ones. These angels contribute to the sense of "family" that Westminster is known for and is seen in the eyes and the smiles of the children.

Respectfully submitted by, **Crystal Smith** 

### J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)

J.a.M is our Rotational based Sunday School program, and 2019 was a huge part of the ministry to and for our children and youth at Westminster! Throughout the year, many two-week Rotations were offered to our J.a.M Kids: opportunities to learn about the people, places and stories in the Bible in fun, interactive and hands on way. There were three different age groups and thus three different programs. Our Nursery program is for our Little Jammers, our Just Jammin' class is for our youth and the rest of our children are the J.a.M Kids. We are extremely blessed to have a roster of dedicated teachers and leaders who do everything they can to bring the J.a.M curriculum to life each week. This program would not be able to function without them and so we owe them our gratitude. As for our children...they are simply AMAZING! Without them, there would be no J.a.M at all! We currently have 106 wonderful young souls registered in J.a.M, from all three different age groups, and we couldn't be happier. It is an honour and a privilege to lead, guide and learn from these amazing children and youth.

Respectfully submitted by,

#### **Book Club**

#### We read to know we are not alone. — C.S. Lewis

In the months of January, March, May, September and November 2019, a group of 6 to 12 people met at WUC on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:00pm. We discussed and reflected on how life and faith transected in the following books: <u>Forgiveness: A Gift from my Grandparents</u>, <u>The Alchemist</u>, <u>Glass Houses</u>, <u>If Beale Street Could Talk</u>, and <u>The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding</u>.

# All are welcome to join the group for each of the book discussions or a few or even just for one afternoon to discuss the chosen book.

In May we will choose our books for the next year by voting on the titles members have submitted (3 fiction/non-fiction general titles, 2 books that have been made into movies, 2 classic books from school or your youth).

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Pleasance

### **Westminster Library**

Books give a **soul** to the universe, **wings** to the mind, **flight** to the imagination and **life** to everything. - Plato

Thank you to all who have donated reading materials and media material to our library (located in the Founders' Room), and for growing our church's library. Thank you so much for your generosity and in particular to Jeannie Yee who donated a selection of children's books on civil rights for Black History Month that were displayed last winter.

Please remember that monthly copies of the United Church's church magazine, now called Broadview, are always available to borrow.

To check out a book, simply enter your name, phone number and book title in the Signout book provided. Book "Return" and "Donation" containers can be found in the Library or you can drop them off at the church office.

The library accepts both new and gently used books in good condition. <u>The church librarian in consultation with the Christian Education Committee makes a determination as to the suitability of any donated resources</u>. Donations can be left in the Library or can be dropped off at the church office.

Come, give wings to your mind and let your imagination soar through one of the church's library books.

Respectfully submitted by,

#### Susan Pleasance

### **Vacation Bible School Report**

In 2019 our Vacation Bible School went through some changes, as it adapted to a new format and changed its leadership.

After many years of Leading, Directing and Programming, Crystal and Susan decided to take a step back from this ministry to focus their gifts elsewhere. We are truly grateful for the incredible leadership they offered, as well as their dedication to the children of VBS throughout the years.

As with all things, change is important and necessary, and so a new VBS was introduced. With eager volunteers, leadership from our Christian Education Team, input from our Minister of Faith Formation and Jolene (CE Chair) stepping in as Director, Westminster continued to offer a quality program for the children of our church and community. Our theme was "Hero Headquarters...where Kids Join Forces with God". It was a half-day, week-long program in which the children rotated to four different interactive Workshops...WonderWorks (Lesson), Kapow Crafts, Super Snacks and Power Play (Games). The topics covered included: Heroes Do The Unexpected (The Wedding Banquet), Heroes Take Action (The Prodigal Son), Heroes Have Faith (The Lost Sheep), Heroes Save The Day (The Good Samaritan) and Heroes Stand for Truth (The Children as God's Light).

Although there were definitely some major changes, our VBS had a successful run this year. Many thanks are expressed to all those who attended or volunteered or helped in some way. Please know that without you this new VBS would not have become a reality. Your willingness to be part of this important ministry has not gone unnoticed nor unappreciated!

Our Christian Education and VBS Teams are looking forward to hosting VBS again in 2020, so save the week of July 13 - 17 and join us for fun and adventure and another vibrant Vacation Bible School. Whether you decide to attend or to lead, we'll be thrilled to have you on board!

Respectfully submitted by, Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation

### Youth

Our Youth Group started up again in September 2019, and offered programming for youth in Grades 6, 7 and 8. After trying many different formats, it was decided that at this time the focus would be on young people of this age group.

While assessing our Youth Program, it was determined that there were not enough youth of high

school age to warrant an older Youth Group, at this time. This will be revisited as the need arises.

Our current Youth Group is a vibrant one with between 6 and 8 dedicated youth attending each week. This group is currently being led by Cathy Shaw, our Minister of Faith Formation, but she would welcome anyone interested in joining her on this wonderful journey of leadership.

If you have any youth in your family, please know that we encourage them to give our Youth Group a try...we would love to see them and have them involved in the life of our church through this awesome group.

Our Youth Group meets every Thursday evening from 7:00pm - 8:30pm in the Youth Room at the church. This group does occasionally meet off-site, so should your Youth be attending for the first time, please contact Cathy at <a href="mailto:cshaw@westminster-uc.ca">cshaw@westminster-uc.ca</a> to verify the location of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by, Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation

### **Outreach**

Team Members: Cathy Cherwinka (Co-Chair), Joanne MacPherson (Co-Chair), Paul Kneebone, Debbie Joyce, Gail Wild, Dianne Noftle, Joanne Yourkevich.

The Committee extends its thanks to Sandra Kell-Cullen for her years of service through our Outreach Committee. The Committee welcomed Dianne Noftle and Joanne Yourkevich to our Outreach ministry in 2019. The Committee is also grateful to Joanne MacPherson for her years of Outreach leadership and continued work with us as she transitions off as Co-Chair.

Our Outreach team met regularly throughout 2019 with continued focus on the following Outreach ministry programs, inside and outside our church walls:

### **Christmas Hampers**

83 Christmas Hampers were distributed in December 2019, extending to 302 individuals, including 143 children. We used Loblaws gift cards again this year instead of groceries which we've found to be well-received by Hamper recipients and those delivering. Westminster received several thank-you cards from Hamper recipients. We extend our thanks to all who worked on this long-standing Outreach project in 2019: Ashley Edwards, Joanne MacPherson, Peter Spratt, Katherine Franklin, Joanne Yourkevich, Cathy Cherwinka and our J.a.M Kids. We are also thankful for our Westminster ministry team's ongoing support of this Program.

#### Mitten & Sock Tree

In January 2019, Sandra Kell-Cullen delivered approximately 200 items of winter mittens, gloves and hats to 4 area schools and 4 community groups.

In early February 2019, Sandra delivered approximately 500 pairs of socks to 3 schools and 4 community groups. (We were thankful for a donor who provided 3 big boxes of socks.)

We give thanks for these donations from our congregation and to Sandra for her continued care of this program.

### **Coldest Night of the Year**

In February 2019, many Westminster family participants joined together again for the walk in support of The Refuge Youth Outreach Centre.

### **Bridge to a New Home**

Thank you to this dedicated group of volunteers for their continued work with and support of new friends seeking refuge in our community. See report below.

### Faith & Fellowship

In October 2018, a new fellowship group led by Debbie Joyce was started, meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. This small-group initiative continued monthly throughout 2019. Thank you to Debbie for her service through this ministry.

#### **Food Bank**

The Committee gives thanks for Suzanne Renkiewicz's coordination of the Food Bank and volunteer team for the past several years. Our thanks to Dianne Noftle for taking on the role of coordinator for our Committee. We also appreciate the continued service of our Food Bank volunteers.

Food Bank need has continued to rise with 470 visits in 2019. Food and monetary donations from Westminster user groups, Whitby Scouts, the UCW and our congregation have helped to keep supplies available.

Beverages and treats have been provided once a month to Food Bank users, as well as bus tokens.

#### St. Vincent's Kitchen

A dedicated group of volunteers continue to support St. Vincent's Kitchen on the first Wednesday of the month. We give thanks to Gail Wild for continuing to organize the volunteer team. The new building project has faced serious setbacks and a fundraising campaign continues. Thank you to members of our congregation who donated to the building campaign through a "Westminster United Church Brick" in 2019. The Committee was also pleased to apply for and see a United Church of Canada ministry initiative grant be provided to St. Vincent's Kitchen in 2019.

### **Winter Clothing Drive**

Thank you to Debbie Joyce for raising awareness of the November 2019 winter clothing drive through Bobby Orr P.S. in Oshawa. Westminster's congregation donated generously and overall donations in Durham Region exceeded previous years. 533 individuals were serviced through the drive in 2019.

#### **Parish Mosaic Subcommittee**

Thank you to Don Fry and the subcommittee for their continued work on behalf of Outreach. See report below.

We also give thanks to those who lead other Outreach initiatives through Westminster: **Prayer Shawls:** Shirley Wallis and her team of knitters (45 Prayer Shawls were distributed in 2019)

**Blood Donor Clinics:** Elizabeth Hatter and her dedicated volunteer team. See report below.

The Committee looks forward to expanding its Outreach initiatives in 2020 to include the following ministries: Outreach partnership with the Friendly Visitor Program and a new Soup Program.

We welcome new Committee members to help us extend our Outreach programming.

Respectfully submitted by, Cathy Cherwinka and Joanne MacPherson, Co-Chairs

### **Parish Mosaic Team**

The work of the Parish Mosaic Committee flows directly from the Westminster United Church "Statement of Inclusion".

"We embrace people of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientations, gender identity, abilities, ethnicity, social and economic circumstances, in the membership, ministry, leadership and life of this congregation."

The Mandate of the Parish Mosaic Committee is to provide leadership, education and support within our congregation and community as we live into our ministry of radical welcome and inclusion.

This year, our activities again included:

- Producing newsletter articles, bulletin board postings, information tables and bulletin inserts to inform and motivate our congregation on Affirming and Inclusion issues.
- In conjunction with The Friendly Visitor committee, organizing and running the "Multi-Cultural Pot-Luck luncheon".
- As part of the Multi-Faith Pride committee, organizing and participating in the Durham Multi-Faith Pride Service and Parade on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Additionally, this year, hosting an information table to engage and inform participants about Westminster's Affirming initiative.
- On June 8<sup>th</sup>, participating in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Pride show, held at the Durham District School Board in Whitby. Here again, hosting an information table to engage and inform.

New activities this year included:

- On May 26<sup>th</sup>, hosting the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service in the Westminster sanctuary, followed by a "Meet and Greet" reception.
- On June 15<sup>th</sup>, participating in the Pickering Town Centre Pride event; there hosting an information table in the mall's centre court.
- In August, sponsoring a needy camper to attend "Camp Rainbow Phoenix" for LGBTQ youth, providing a safe environment to experience the outdoors. Here again also hosting an information table to engage the campers.
- In November, organizing and hosting a "Gathering" of Affirming United Churches in Durham Region. The objective was to encourage the newer Affirming congregations, search for synergies and foster a "team approach" to initiatives. The meeting was very positive, with plans for an additional "Gathering" for next April.
- In late November, facilitating and hosting a meeting with A Bridge to a New Home, AIDS Committee of Durham Region, PFLAG Durham Region and Parish Mosaic Committee. The purpose was to determine a path to sponsoring LGBTQ Refugees, in desperate need. The meeting was positive with more discussion and meetings to follow.

Current Members of the committee: Don Fry (chair), Gail Brimbecom, Peter Spratt, Cheryl Fleury-Eekma, Alex Eekma, Jeanne Yee, Paul Kneebone, Rev. Dan Yourkevich.

The Parish Mosaic Committee is a sub-committee of the Outreach Committee.

Respectfully submitted by, Don Fry

### **Bridge To A New Home**

And then there were 10! In November 2019 our newest family from Syria, Modar, Rasha and their daughter, Fareeza welcomed a baby boy named Tameem. He is our first Canadian citizen.

2019 continued to be a busy year for our volunteers. We moved our newest family to a high rise apartment in Oshawa which felt more like home to them. There have been many medical appointments to take them to throughout the year. Fareeza has required many trips to Sick Kids hospital for ongoing medical conditions but it's been such a blessing that this resource is so close to us and everyone there has been wonderful to this family.

Sut continues to work at his part time job as well as his ESL studies; he is so happy to be here in Canada. He found time to play soccer again this past summer.

Freweyni and her children continue to thrive. Three of the children played soccer in the summer which required many volunteers to drive to 6 different games and practices each week. All the children have become good skaters and go twice a week during the winter. Jirom advanced to the regional finals in cross country and did very well. Tmnit sang O Canada with her school choir at an Oshawa Generals game in December and she was very proud. We have applied to bring Freweyni's brother to Canada – he is currently being held in a detention centre in Libya in deteriorating conditions. We're praying for good news in 2020.

Some of the BTANH group met with the Parish Mosaic and members of Aids Durham and PFLAG with the hopes of sponsoring a refugee from the LGBTQ community. We hope this can be accomplished in 2020.

We appreciate the continued support from our Westminster congregation as well as the other partner churches. This continues to be a rewarding experience for all of us involved and we welcome new volunteers.

Respectfully submitted by, Joanne MacPherson, Outreach Co-Chair

### **Blood Donor Clinics**

Four clinics took place in the Westminster gym this year between the hours of 4-8pm. 324 units were collected and 362 people attended.

Many thanks to all of you wonderful people who took the time to attend our clinic. Many thanks to our volunteers - Anne Butler, Arlene Jones, Joanne MacPherson, Jean Senko and Pat Weldon for all their help. We are sorry Andy Senko, Shirley Wallis, Lauren Maharaj and Phoebe Woodill retired from our group for various reasons this year. Thanks, guys. Many thanks to Jim Ward and Bruce Cullen who have assisted with "sign" duty - out and in.

The September clinic was graciously attended by our Progressive Conservative leader "The McCarthy family" and this increased our units collected.

The future clinics booked for 2020 are March 17, June 16, September 15, December 15 and March 16/21. Please mark your calendar and book your appointment. Come and chat with our great volunteers, get cookies, Bits & Bites and drinks. Call Canadian Blood Services at 1-888-236-6288 or online at www.blood.ca to book your appointment. You are so needed.

If you wish to help here at Westminster, call Elizabeth at 905-242-4620. We could use a spare or two.

Respectfully submitted by, Elizabeth Hatter, Volunteer Coordinator

### **Living Alone Luncheons**

Life sometimes sends us curves and it is up to each individual what we do with them. Our Church, Westminster, is a great place to be when this curve enters our lives.

We have a very active "Outreach" program where we can meet for companionship and a nutritious meal once a month. On the first Wednesday of every month, except July and August, we meet at 12 noon in the gym at the Church and the ladies of the catering committee prepare a fantastic meal for us and the cost is only \$7.00.

The group has grown since last year. We now have 12 Church members and 39 community members and there is room for more. If you need more information please call Barbara Auchterlonie at 905-430-1715.

Respectfully submitted by, Barbara Auchterlonie

### Wellness

The Health and Wellness committee supports members of Westminster by promoting their wellbeing as whole persons and their wholeness (health) through growing in relationship with God, creation and each other.

The committee's work of service includes:

- Arranging spiritual and emotional support for congregants facing challenges to their health and well-being and access to community healthcare services.
- Providing awareness education to foster well-being of the whole person (body, mind, spirit and relationships)
- Promoting wholeness (health) through spiritual practices that include sacred reading, meditation, prayer, contemplation and relational care

#### Its activities for 2019 included:

- The Easter Flower Project which provides floral decorations for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and their subsequent delivery by Friendly Visitors and volunteers to people in need of special care or unable to attend the service.
- Five Blood Pressure Sunday Sessions
- Three Labyrinth Prayer and Meditation workshops
- Liaison with the Stroke Support Group, Accessibility Group
- Monthly Monitoring of the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and maintenance of first aid boxes
- Assistance with weekly Ministry Prayers and Prayers of the People
- Maintenance of the Westminster Life Center, an online community, where members can share information that addresses spiritual, body/mind and relational care topics through discovery groups, practice groups and events that promote well-being, compassionate care

and living in harmony with God, creation and each other.

We wish to thank the following out-going members for their years of dedication and service to the Westminster Family: Susan Neil, Maureen Dingman, Sue Kurtz and Beverley McClain.

We look forward to continuing with similar activities for 2020 and welcome any new members or suggestions on how we can meet the health and well-being needs of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted by, The Wellness Committee, Clarence MacPherson, Chair, and Crystal Smith

### **Friendly Visitors**

Westminster is a very diverse community full of warmth and caring for all who enter into our midst. We care for each other and strive to support each other through life's good times as well as the more difficult times. We reach out to those who have difficulty getting out and about and who are part of our Westminster community. Our Friendly Visitors enjoy meeting people wherever they may be.

One of our Friendlies enjoys a card ministry and sends out all kinds of cards on behalf of Westminster when we become aware of a concern. All of our Friendlies get together at Christmas time with home baked cookies which we package and deliver to about 50 recipients. At Easter time, we gather again to assist the Wellness Committee for the distribution of your Easter flower donations. Occasionally we receive a request. Other times we recognize a need for meals and then deliveries are coordinated through our volunteers.

You have blessed us with the opportunity to meet many people and make great friendships.

Our visitors, card writer and phone 'Friendlies' are Amy Ponech, Claire Stacey, Jack Darroch, Jocelyne Fry, Joyce McCready, Maureen Dingman, Paul Kneebone and Teena Morrow.

Cooks who have also been very supportive are Ashley Edwards, Ava Tomlinson, Bev Crumb, Dianne Noftle, Gail Brimbecom, Joanne MacPherson, Kaireen Adamson, Margaret Suepaul, Maureen Dingman, Monica Veenstra, Teena Morrow and Tena Darroch.

Respectfully submitted by, Teena Morrow

### Stroke Recovery Group

A group of volunteers have led regular Stroke Recovery sessions for over ten years.

### **Communications**

The goal of our committee is to facilitate, promote and improve communication at Westminster United Church.

We are responsible for the monthly newsletter - *The Westminster World*, for the Program Directory - *Welcome to Westminster United Church* and also for subscriptions to <u>Broadview</u> (formerly <u>The United Church Observer</u>). We also publish a fridge flyer, entitled

**UPCOMING EVENTS** which is published twice a year and lists all the activities going on at the church.

In addition to these important aspects of communication, we also maintain the bulletin boards in the hallway and oversee postings to the electronic sign. We also ensure that the pew pockets are replenished regularly with Welcome cards, Prayer Request cards, offering envelopes, doodle paper and pencils. Keeping the information on the kiosk in the Narthex current is another of our responsibilities. At our monthly meetings, we discuss ways to enhance communication in our expanding congregation.

We continue to collaborate with the Worship Committee to schedule committees to greet. Each month, one of the committees on Council is responsible for greeting and candlelighting. It is our job to highlight that committee and explain their mandate in the newsletter and in the Sunday bulletin.

Three years ago, we undertook our first fundraising venture and have continued to hold a successful Trivia Night each Spring since.

Westminster's social media communication (website and Facebook) is maintained by the office.

Joan Sanderson, one of our very dedicated, very long-standing members has decided to step down from our committee. We thank her for her many years of service and especially for penning the "Did you know..." column in *The Westminster World*. We have recently welcomed a new member to the team; Ron Kurtz joined us late last Spring. The other dedicated members of this committee are Mary-Lynn Fraser, Lori Rosdobutko, Cathy Shaw (staff rep.) and Bev Crumb (chair).

Respectfully submitted by, Bev Crumb, Chair

### **Property**

The Property Committee is charged with ensuring that Church property is maintained and is safe and secure. In 2019, the committee has attempted to pro-actively manage a budget of approximately \$90,000 in discretionary and non-discretionary expenses related to the church property. The committee managed/dealt with over 30 initiatives which included everything from misbehaving toilets/sinks, roof drainage, emergency lighting and furnaces. A complete list of projects may be obtained from the committee. To help plan and manage its work, the committee held four meetings. Copies of meeting minutes are available from the church office.

It was another busy year for the Property Committee with our major projects being:

- 1. Restructuring the choir end of the chancel. This was done at the request of the choir to make the front row safer and to install a privacy panel. The changes to the flooring structure were led by Larry Laycock. Some challenges were encountered with the anchors for the privacy panel so that element of the project has been extended into 2020.
- 2. In 2019, the phone system used by Westminster offices was outdated and the Toshiba phone sets were no longer supported technically. The system did not meet the needs of a modern office as it lacked call forwarding (from COA to ministerial staff), call display, remote access of voice mail, and multiple greetings for different hours of operation, etc. For these reasons, the phone service was moved from Allstream/Bell to Rogers and the three handsets replaced. There is no ongoing cost increase for these changes. This challenging initiative was led by Bill Fisher.
- 3. Special initiatives. During the year, three important projects were identified for which additional funding of \$10,000 was approved by Council. The accessible sidewalk ramps were replaced, two cracked sanctuary windows were replaced, and changes to the chancel, noted in #2, were carried out.
- 4. A special thanks goes out to Larry Laycock for building a second table for the worship chancel and making repairs to the stained glass window sill.

Our worship facility and grounds are aging reasonably well, but there are always things to be worked on. Initiatives included:

- 1. We continued our work to be more energy efficient by replacing the three ceiling entrance lights with LED units and replacing the last security light at the front door with an LED unit.
- 2. We are now required to do a 'back flow prevention' test annually to ensure that water does not flow from the church back into the public system. Our systems are working as designed.
- 3. Replaced the battery charging system for the upper row of emergency lighting in the Sanctuary.
- 4. Ron Kurtz and Monica Veenstra initiated a "Buds and Shrubs" group. This group will lead the charge to rejuvenate our building landscape. Some initial work has been done on the garden on the north wall and those changes were well received.

We would like to thank Ronell Paguio, our full-time custodian, for his continued support in maintaining our church facility. Our church building sparkles because of his work.

We continue to be grateful for the work of volunteer teams: the Sunday Custodians and the Westminster Weed Whackers. These teams strive to keep our church building and property in good condition for the enjoyment of all who visit...  $\odot$ 

The rental of church space continues to provide a significant source of income for the congregation, approximately \$75,000. Short-term applications were stick-handled by Rebecca Clingman/Beth Navarro,

our church office administrator. We continue to seek volunteer custodians for weekend rentals.

For The Chairman Group, 2019 was a busy and challenging year as they were asked to service a rental which used our gym twice a week every week for the year. This on top of our usual schedule of rentals, funerals, dinners, luncheons, yard sale, bazaar, and other special occasions. We had to increase our number of volunteers considerably. The Whitby Seniors Bridge group met twice weekly until the end of August when the Town of Whitby re-opened Heydenshore, their usual meeting place. The number of volunteers, volunteer hours, and the number of requests is as follows: Regular Chairman Duties; 306 volunteers, 217 volunteer hours and 55 requests.

Whitby Seniors Bridge group: 248 volunteers, 298 volunteer hours and 62 requests. Total for both groups; 554 volunteers, 465 volunteer hours and 117 requests. Thank you to the many dedicated people who made all this possible and successful. We continue to welcome all persons to participate and help share the load. Respectfully submitted, Jim Ward.

The Tech Booth team of volunteers, led by William Von Zuben, make a significant contribution to our Sunday services by moving the many switches that give us sound, light and video. In addition to these services, the group provided support to the Christmas pageant and some rentals. Tech Booth teams are comprised of: David Hall, Jan Hendrikse, Paul Cruz, Arthur Smith, William Von Zuben, Martin Gilroy, Jim Fielder, Bruce and Adam Cullen, and we welcome Liam Bonikowsky, Tim and Chris Shkolnik, Saudi Mohammed as new members. Thanks, 'techies', for lights and sound!

Looking forward to 2020, the most significant initiatives will be:

- 1. Replacement of the furnace/AC unit that services rooms 1, 2 & 3.
- 2. Developing a plan for replacement of all furnaces in the coming years.
- 3. Developing a plan to rejuvenate all of our flower gardens.
- 4. Replacement of the four south side floods with LED units.

The following is the 2020 list of committee members as per the Westminster Constitution. We would like to thank the many volunteers who continue to support the work of this committee but are not listed below.

<b>Committee Members</b>	Role
Jack Darroch	Coordinator-Carpentry
Bob Dingman	
Bill Fisher	
Ron Kurtz <sup>1</sup>	Coordinator HVAC Systems
Harry Lahtinen <sup>1</sup>	
Larry Laycock	Specialty Projects
Dean Mortimer	
Bob Neil: Chair	HVAC
Dave Summers	Coordinator-Water Systems
Neville Wright	
William Von Zuben	Tech Committee team lead
Jim Ward	Chairman Group team lead
King Whitney	Coordinator-Fire Safety Plan
xx: Co-Chair (vacant)	

Respectfully submitted by, Bob Neil, Chair

### **Ministry & Personnel**

2019 started with the appearance of a quieter year, but as we know, appearances can be rather deceptive. Very shortly into the new year, we were excited to learn that Rev. Michelle Robinson and Jake were expecting and would be welcoming a baby brother for Opaline into their family mid-year.

Rev. Dan Yourkevich, whom we all know well from his previous leadership at Westminster, agreed to lead us until Rev. Michelle's return at the end of January 2020.

September arrived and brought us another surprise. Beth Navarro, our Office Administrator was getting married mid-October, and had elected to resign from Westminster as of September 13<sup>th</sup>. A hiring committee was quickly organized by our Council and on October 1<sup>st</sup> we welcomed Rebecca Clingman as our new Office Administrator.

Our staff throughout 2019 were:

Rev. Michelle Robinson, Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care

Rev. Dan Yourkevich, Interim Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care

Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation

Margaret Motum, Minister of Music

Beth Navarro, Office Administrator (Resigned September 13<sup>th</sup>)

Rebecca Clingman, Office Administrator (Effective October 1st)

Ronell Paguio, Custodian

Your M&P team feel privileged to be able to support our talented and caring staff. Maureen Dingman, Joanne Gibb, Sandra Harding, Teena Morrow (chair), Peter Spratt

Respectfully submitted by, Teena Morrow, Chair

### **Trustees**

The Board of Trustees held four meetings in 2019 and copies of minutes are available in the church office. The important issue in 2019 was the Trustee involvement in the sale of the property from Westminster United Church to Manning Mews Non-Profit Housing Corp. We ensured the sale was completed by attending the solicitor's office to sign the necessary paperwork for the transfer of the land to Manning Mews Non-Profit Housing Corp and to sign for our new mortgage.

The Trustees also made recommendations to Council on investing the reserve funds of \$138,000.00 in 2019.

The Board of Trustees, in consultation with Council, has formed a committee to look at and formulate a plan for the electronic backup of the church's records as mandated by the United Church of Canada. Due to the nature and the size of this project, this may take a couple of years as it also means digitizing all the manual records for the past 60 years.

Board of Trustees Members in 2019

Shane Suepaul	Chair	2019
Wendy Ekker	Member	2019
Ron Motum	Member	2014
Bob Neil	Member	2013
Jim Ward	Member	2015
David Parks	Member	2016
Larry Morrow	Member	2017

The Minister, by virtue of policy, sits as a member of the Board of Trustees. We want to thank Doug McKay and Joanne MacPherson for their service to the Board of Trustees.

Respectfully submitted by, Shane Suepaul, Chair

### **Manning Mews Non-Profit Homes Corp.**

Manning Mews is located at 1827, 1829, 1831, 1833 and 1835 Manning Road and has 20 units in 5 pods. By operating as a non-profit and taking steps to keep rents and costs low and with the help of small federal subsidies distributed by the Regional Municipality of Durham, 50% of the units have been and continue to be offered as rent geared to income (RGI) at no more than 30% of the tenant's income. This outreach mission project of the Church was begun in 1978 with the approval of The United Church of Canada. The Corporation was established to reduce the liability to the Church and permit Manning Mews to qualify for CMHC mortgages and subsidies. The Corporation has run for over 40 years at no cost or liability to the Church and in 2018, the Corporation purchased the land from Westminster United Church.

With the sale of the Property by the Church to the Corporation, the outreach mission begun by the Church to provide affordable homes for seniors will continue past the end date of the lease agreement, June 2040. The ownership of the Property will permit the Corporation to make long term investments in maintenance and other improvements.

As part of the purchase agreement, the Church nominates, from the Council of the Church, several voting members of the Corporations who, along with the other members of the Corporation, will review the audited annual statement of the Corporation and ensure that the original mission of the Church is continued. All other members of the Council of the Church will be non-voting members able to attend, review and ask questions but not to vote at the annual meeting.

The Corporation will present its audited financial statements (audit review) for 2019 to the Corporation's members at the annual meeting held during a Westminster Council meeting in April. The Corporation continues to invest in the property and has recently made upgrades to the laundry facilities along with several other ongoing improvement projects.

Respectfully submitted by, Arthur Smith, President

### **Presbytery**

By working together, pooling our resources and building on our strengths, we can accomplish great things. Ronald Reagan.

Region 11 or East Central Ontario Region or ECOR is a work in progress. Westminster United Church has 4 representatives: Arthur Smith, Paul Kneebone, Shirley Penny and Susan Pleasance. ECOR has had two meetings (a 3-day meeting in Lindsay in May/June and 1-day meeting in Belleville in September). The Elders (the executive committee) are in the process of making policy and guidelines, some of which have been accepted and passed.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Pleasance

### **United Church Women**

Strong women **stand together** when things are rough, **hold each other up** when they need support, and **laugh together**. From Women Working. Com

Westminster's UCW (United Church Women) is a group of women who meet the first Monday of the month (except for July and August) for a time of worship, entertainment/educational programs, business and fellowship. This past year we participated in and learned about: wellness and good health for mind, body and spirit; The Refuge; Grace Stanley updating us about the Bridge to a New Home refugee families; aging with humour; the global warming of mother nature; Debbie Dawson speaking on Hearth Place; thanksgiving with Betty Turcott; Diane Marks speaking about St. Vincent's Kitchen. We ate out at Coco Fruitti's in June and shared our favourite holiday food dishes during the Christmas potluck dinner. This year we celebrated the contributions of two UCW members, Glenda Locksley and Susan Pleasance, by presenting them with a UCW Life Membership pin during the UCW worship service in June.

Some of our activities included: participation in the World's Day of Prayer, holding a congregational Yard Sale, presenting a Mother's Day Tea, leading the worship service on Regional Council Sunday with Susan Pleasance speaking, hosting Lakeridge UCW Presbyterial Fall Gathering, participating in the WUC Christmas bazaar and providing refreshments for Lakeridge Presbytery cluster meeting. We catered 18 events (including 9 Living Alone monthly meals, provided lunch at the Yard Sale and Mother's Day Tea, 3 Supper-To-Go meals and made apple pie and pumpkin pie and more apple pie and pumpkin pie for our Christmas catered dinners). Our heartfelt gratitude to Barb A. and Mary S. who very generously co-ordinated the successful Yard Sale and to Barb A, Joanne Y, and Heather M for co-ordinating the flourishing Mother's Day Tea. This year we moved our banking from CIBC to DUCA. Thank you to Helen Bowman, who has agreed to become our UCW program resource co-ordinator.

We sent out 52 cards to people within our church family and community (get well, sympathy, thinking of you, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Valentine's, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas cards to our shut-ins).

It is with sadness and regret that this year we lost two of our active members, Greta Hope and Glenda Locksley. They enriched our lives and our community with their hard work, questions, laughter and creativity, and we are stronger for having known them. We are forever blessed by their presence amongst us.

Through the year we collect stamps, hearing aids, eye glasses, bread tags, and pop tabs that are used to fund worthwhile projects locally and worldwide through the presbyterial and we welcome your contributions of those items - they can be placed in the wooden box in the narthex. This year we sent 5 body blankets to Lakeridge Cancer Clinic and held 3 special congregational drives. The first drive was for Guyana, Africa, and we sent them: 318 bars of Ivory soap, 20 hand towels, 2 dish towels, 49 dish cloths, 191 face cloths and 4 preemie vests. Our drive for Camp Quin-Mo-Lac provided them with: 4 footballs, 3 soccer balls, 4 basketballs, 2 softballs, 2 hockey pucks, 5 various balls, 6 – 60-watt lightbulbs, 6 Noma lightbulbs, and 4 -9-volt batteries. The drive for Personal Hygiene Items for MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) collected: 4 towels, 41 tooth brushes, 10 tubes of tooth paste, 9 combs, 1 hair curler, 2 hair brushes, 14 packages of sanitary pads, 89 packages of face soap, 1 hand towel, 12 packages of laundry soap, 3 sponges, 3 containers of deodorant, 3 packages of band aids, 1 package of sponges, 5 bottles of body lotion, 1 bottle of body cream, 7 bottles of body wash, 14 hair products, 2 packages of sponge wipes, 1 large bag of assorted clothing. At Christmas we delivered 35 Christmas Angel bags and 2 large boxes of bulk toiletries to various agencies across the Durham region.

What did we do with the monies we raised? We donated \$500.00 to the UC's M&S Fund and donated \$10132.00 to WUC general funds. We also donated monies to 4 UCW Presbyterial and conference projects (student bursary, Cross cultural experiences, Native Healing, Camp Quin-Mo-Lac), and 7 local community charities (Cornerstone, Denise House, Gillie Beans Fund, The Refuge, St. Vincent's Kitchen, Bridge to a New Home, Hearth Place).

We could not have done any of these activities without EACH ONE OF YOU! Our heartfelt gratitude for saying yes when we phone to ask for your help in donating food or preparing food or serving at a catering. Thank you for donating items, buying tickets, buying pies and suppers-to-go. Thank you for your attendance and your support at our Yard Sale and Mother's Day Tea. Thank you for all your donations for our 3 drives and of toiletries during the Advent season. With you and your support in so many ways – together we were and are able to plant seeds of change within our church and within our community. You made our success possible.

Respectfully submitted by, Susan Pleasance

### **United Church Women Financials**

Westminster United Church Women Financial Report Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2019

Income	\$ 18,014
Expenses	\$ 20,773
Income - Expenses	-\$ 2,759
Bank Balance	\$ 884
Petty Cash	\$ 150
Total	\$ 1,034

Respectfully submitted by, Shirley Penny, WUCW Treasurer

### **From the Office Administrator**

### Membership

By the numbers:

- 509 members were recorded in the Westminster Historic Roll at the beginning of 2019
- 11 new members were received by Certificate of Transfer
- 7 new members were received by Affirmation
- 2 new members were received by Profession of Faith
- 4 members were removed by death
- 1 member was removed by Certificate of Transfer
- 524 members are recorded in the Westminster Historic Roll

Baptisms and Marriages

- 7 baptisms, 0 adult and 7 children
- 0 marriages

#### In addition

- 684 people are in our contact/telephone list
- 421 email addresses receive our weekly email blast

### **Baptisms**

Last name	Given Name(s)	Baptized
Austin	Payton Frances	March 31
Baker	Lorelai Elizabeth	March 31
Bowes	Boyce David	May 12
Hughes	Charlie Lee	May 12
Hughes	Madeline Laura	May 12
McCready-Roberts	Saoirse Kyle	May 12
McCready-Roberts	Issa Iman	May 12

### **Marriages**

	Date
None in 2019	

### **In Memoriam**

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." *John 11:25* 

These following names are listed in the Westminster Burial Register for 2019.

Last name	Given Name(s)
Atwood	Pamela Beryl
McCalden	Elva Noreen
Zinck	Ola Bertha
Evans	William James
Hope	Greta Merle
Yourkevich	Woldymira
Graham	Peggie
Bullock	June Wilhemine
Lowe-Turner	Nancy Lucille
Grylls	Dorothy Bernice

Respectfully submitted by, Rebecca Clingman, Office Administrator

### **Connections**

### **Small Groups**

Small Groups have one, simple purpose: to bring people together. God created us to live in relationship with others, sharing life through community.

In 2019, the Small Groups at Westminster brought people together, building relationships by connecting people with common interests in a place where they could grow in community and in spirit.

The following Small Groups were offered throughout the year, to our congregation and to the wider community.

**Book Club:** The Book Club is a group that met five times in 2019 (January, March, May, September and November). Led by Susan, the members of this ongoing group met to discuss a variety of books, all of which were chosen at the beginning of the year.

**Faith & Fellowship:** This group began to grow last year and is continuing to do so. It is a monthly group that offers adults an opportunity to meet informally for a time of fellowship, discussion, prayer and refreshments. This group is led by Debbie and has become quite popular amongst participants.

**Westminster Walkers:** This ongoing, weekly walking group is led by Eileen. In the warm months of Spring, Summer and Fall, the walks started and ended at the church on Thursday mornings. During the Winter, the walking moved indoors to the Abilities Centre. This group gathered for a time of fellowship and exercise and everyone was encouraged to set their own pace...this group's motto is, "No one walks alone".

Wine, Women and the Word: WWW is a monthly Bible study that is open to all women.

This group met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, sometimes at the church, but most often in various homes. Participants were notified through the bulletin and newsletter of the topic for each month, including scripture readings. Carol is the driving force behind this ongoing Small Group.

**Foodman Group:** This group of gentlemen met almost every Monday evening for a social gathering and to prepare and taste different recipes. We are grateful to this group for all the "extras" that they provide throughout the year in the form of a variety of meals (Easter morning breakfast, barbequing for the Church picnic, Welcome Sunday luncheon, fundraising dinners and so much more).

**NOOMA DVD Series:** This faith forming small group continued to be a hit in the Fall/Winter of 2019 and was led by Cathy Shaw, our Minister of Faith Formation. The program offered a time to watch, listen, think, discern and discuss life and God. NOOMA will run again in 2020.

**Prayer Team:** Our Prayer Team met monthly to pray for, and with one another, to share in life's joys and sorrows, to invite God in, to listen, learn and discern and to lift up the prayer requests offered by the congregation on Sunday morning and from those received at other times. This team also made time daily to actively pray on their own for those in need.

Many thanks to all those who stepped forward to lead or participate in a Small Group in 2019. We hope that the experience has brought you joy and has helped you to connect with others and with God through the sharing of common interests. If you have an idea for a group you would like to have at Westminster, or you would like to lead a group, kindly contact Cathy at the office.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation

### **The Climate Disruption Mitigation Committee (CDMC)**

The purpose of the CDMC is to engage Westminster's congregation, both individually and collectively, in the mitigation of climate disruption and to facilitate other faith groups to do the same.

Since its inception in late 2018, based on the results of a congregational survey completed in January 2019, the committee has been engaged in providing education and information to the congregation through the bulletin, Newsletter, special presentations, exhibits and documentaries.

Towards the end of the year the committee proposed a comprehensive policy to the Council for approval. This policy is designed to include all Westminster staff, committees, and interest groups, as well as outside groups using our facilities. The policy should facilitate decisions and actions throughout the whole organization that will measurably reduce our carbon footprint.

We want to align Westminster with the United Church of Canada in regarding climate disruption as a global emergency.

Respectfully submitted by, Bill Shepherd

### **Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Rangers**

**31**<sup>st</sup> **Whitby Sparks and Brownies** meet on Tuesday nights, the Sparks from 6:30 - 7:30 and the Brownies from 6:30 - 8:00. We have 16 Sparks with 4 Guiders and 28 Brownies with 6 Guiders. We have had a Halloween party, a Halloween sleepover camp, made gingerbread houses, made crafts, sold our chocolate mint cookies and have worked on badge work. We plan on participating in a big Thinking Day event in February, visiting a retirement home and going camping in March and May.

**18th Whitby Guides** meet Monday nights from 6:30 - 8:30. We have 28 girls and 4 Guiders who run the meetings. We have had an awesome year; thanks to you for allowing us to use your facility. The custodian and staff at the church are amazing! The girls and Guiders feel very welcome and comfortable attending the meetings every week. Along with learning about the Guiding organization around the world, we are learning about differences in Guiding and us as individuals. Thank you for allowing us to use the church to teach our Girl Guides what Believing in Themselves is all about!

We would all like to thank Westminster United Church for allowing us to use your gym and meeting rooms.

### 11th Whitby Scouts

Westminster is proud to hold the Charter for the 11<sup>th</sup> Whitby Scouts. Although the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts do not meet on the premises, all of our leadership meetings and planning sessions take place at the church. Cathy Shaw, Minister of Faith Formation, acts as the liaison between the 11<sup>th</sup> Whitby and Westminster United Church, allowing for a true partnership to take place.

This partnership was evident on February 3, 2019 when all of the Scouting Sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers), along with the Sparks, Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders (that meet at Westminster) attended a special service in honour of Lord Robert Baden-Powell and Lady Olave Baden-Powell, the founders of the Scouting and Guiding movements. After worship, there was a time of fellowship in the gym, where refreshments were served and guests were encouraged to observe the wonderful memorabilia on display. It has been mutually agreed upon that this special Worship Service will only take place every two years from this time forward.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Whitby Scouts value their partnership with Westminster United Church and this year continued to show their appreciation by donating to our Food Bank and offering support and assistance wherever needed.

### Stewardship/Finance

The Committee thanks Tom McNown who was the Chair until May 2019. Our current Stewardship members include Brian Woodlock and Margaret Suepaul, while the Finance side includes Alan Dunn and is headed up by Monica Veenstra, Treasurer. Diane Booth did step down in 2018 but was still looking after the scheduling of Sunday Counters. And Debbie Joyce continues to coordinate the ongoing monthly "Minute for Mission".

Our meetings usually include our Minister and/or our Council Chair, Paul Pierson. We acknowledge their advice, input and leadership, especially since the sale of the land to Manning Mews and the subsequent significant decrease of our Mortgage. And because the Property Committee is allotted a sizable portion of Westminster's Annual Budget, Bob Neil almost always attends our meetings imparting valuable updates on the maintenance of our Church and preservation of the building and other assets.

However, without your involvement and participation, we would not have been able to celebrate the successes of:

- The Christmas Bazaar and the Broadsway Concert, both activities successfully coordinated by Brian and his daughter, Sharon, raising approximately \$6,700;
- Loblaws Gift Cards Sales, resulting in approximately \$3,000 in revenues;
- Other Fundraising activities raising approximately \$5,500 and,
- Donating over \$27,500 to Mission and Service, to name a few.

One of our goals in 2019 was to continue to adhere to the Committee's responsibilities as outlined in the WUC Constitution, namely, to: a) "generate a program of awareness of and responsibility for Westminster's financial requirements"; and, b) "Promote individual ministry within the Church".

With guidance from Rev. Dan, we continued to share with you our monthly Stewardship Moment as we offered ourselves to God, through the 5 "Ts" of Stewardship. Monica also ensured transparency and awareness of our financial situation through her financial updates in the Sunday bulletins. She has also made it possible for us to tithe online or use the debit/credit terminal, which was purchased in November, instead of renting it. And since purchasing and implementing the new "Donation" database in late 2018, it has decreased time spent by our Office Administrator in data entry and has made issuing tax receipts much easier.

During our annual Fall Commitment Renewal Campaign, we continued the theme "Love Our Neighbours". We asked for your prayerful consideration when completing your Commitment form and encouraged its return by October 20<sup>th</sup>. With declining offerings, this was a pivotal year for us to relay as much information to you as possible to emphasize this theme of Love at WUC. We demonstrated the many ways your tithing was managed and efficiently and reverently spent making this difference, all to reinforce our Mission and Value and Affirming Statements.

It is a fact that over the past 3 years, offerings which comprises approximately 60% of Westminster's revenues, has been trending downward:

- Local & Building Fund Offerings in 2016 = \$278,000;
- In 2017 = \$275,000;
- In 2018 = \$274,000; and
- In 2019 = \$274,000.

Prior to 2015 annual offerings were consistently well over \$300,000.

In 2019 we reached 93% of our \$295,800 budget/target for Local Fund & Building Fund Offerings. The 2019 budget/target amount for M&S Offerings was \$23,000 – we reached \$27,000!

For 2020 we received 45 Commitment forms (compared with 56 for 2019). Of these 45 forms, 23 indicated there will be no change to their 2020 offerings; 17 indicated there will be an increase to their 2020 offerings; 3 indicated there will be a decrease to their 2020 offerings; 2 indicated a one-time gift in 2020.

We then capped off our Fall Campaign with our annual "Stew for Stewardship", for which the Foodman Group, yet again, outdid themselves with a wonderful meal.

In late November our Council Chair, Paul Pierson, while announcing to the Congregation about the financial affairs and pending deficit, noted that someone had in fact made a \$2,000.00 contribution towards the unexpected \$7,800 repairs to 2 access ramps, a catch basin and 2 cracked windows. He then gave a "friendly challenge" to see if we could double that amount. Well, we ended the year with a total of \$7,000 contributed towards the "friendly challenge"!! What a wonderful example of stepping up when challenges arise.

We are all partners in Stewardship and the following is a small sample of why we can do what we do:

- The UCW's support;
- Your prayerful weekly/monthly offerings by envelopes, (or preferably) by PAR;
- Your involvement, support and volunteering at the fundraisers;
- The Foodman Group Dinner; Turkey Dinner; making/selling/buying pies and pre-packaged take-out meals;
- The leadership and guidance of our Minister(s), Staff and Council Members; and,
- Our Treasurer's dedication and countless hours of work to ensure our reports are correct and analysed monthly, while pursuing transparency and simplicity.

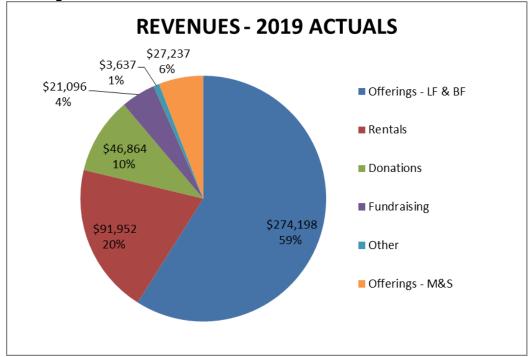
On behalf of your Stewardship Finance Committee, thank you again for showing us that "STEWARDSHIP IS EVERYTHING WE THINK, SAY AND DO AFTER WE SAY, 'I BELIEVE".

Respectfully submitted by, Margaret Suepaul, Chair of Stewardship Committee

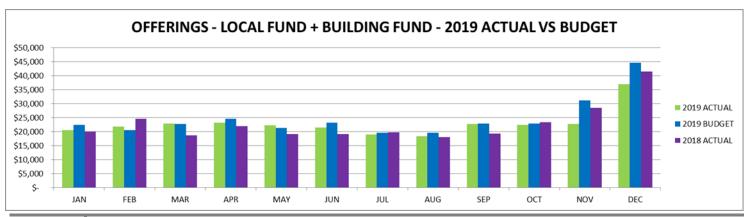
### <u>Treasurer's Report – 2019 Results</u>

The year-end result for 2019 was an operating deficit of \$8,973, which is on target with our revised budgeted operating deficit of \$8,102. In May, Council approved the revision of the original 2019 budgeted deficit to reflect the unexpected expenditures required to repair two access ramps, a catch basin, and two broken windows, at a budgeted cost of \$7,400. A "friendly challenge" was launched towards the end of 2019 to cover these additional expenditures, and \$7K in donations were received.

Total Receipts (excluding M&S Offerings and other net \$0 transactions) were \$14K lower than budgeted. We reached 93% of our budget/target Offerings (\$274K actual versus \$296K budget, variance of \$22K). Donations were \$10K higher than budgeted, due to an additional UCW donation of \$6K in December (in addition to the \$4K received in June), and \$7K in donations towards the "friendly challenge".

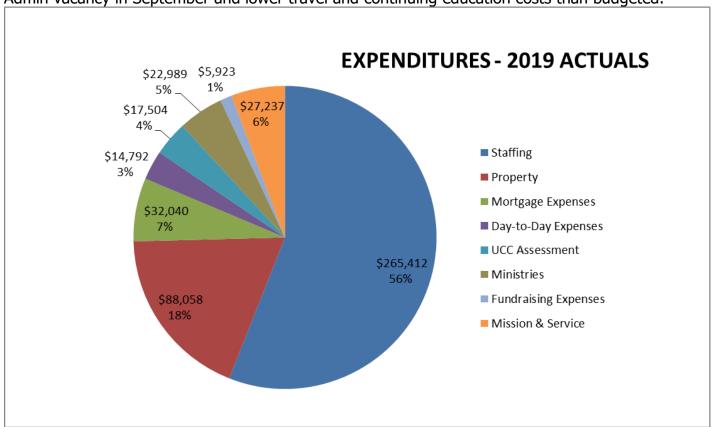


Total Offerings for Jan – Oct 2019 were \$10.7K higher compared to Jan – Oct 2018, and we were only \$5.5K below the Jan – Oct 2019 budget. Unfortunately, Nov – Dec 2019 Offerings were \$11.3K lower than Nov – Dec 2018.

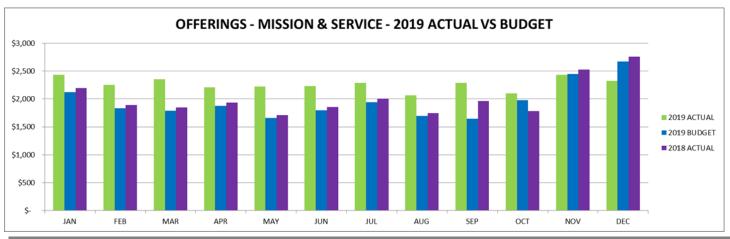


After deducting the fundraising expenses of \$6K from the fundraising income of \$21K, we generated \$15K in fundraising revenues (versus a budget of \$17.6K). This includes \$3K in commission income generated from the sale of Loblaw's cards (sales = \$58,700). Many thanks to the dedicated individuals who volunteered their time and talents to the raising of those funds, and also to those who made these fundraisers a success.

Total Disbursements (excluding M&S Disbursements and other net \$0 transactions) were \$13K lower than budgeted. Property Expenses were \$88K versus a budget of \$90K. This included \$2K for repair of three fence sections; we expect to receive two cheques in 2020 to cover the cost of this repair. Salaries and Benefits were \$264K versus a budget of \$273K; the \$9K savings are due to the Office Admin vacancy in September and lower travel and continuing education costs than budgeted.



Mission & Service Offerings were 16% higher than budgeted (\$27K versus \$23K).



Donations for distribution to other not-for-profits of \$1.9K were received and disbursed accordingly (Bridge to a New Home = \$700; St. Vincent's Kitchen = \$1,245; Gate 3:16 = \$20).

In November we received a \$5K Mission & Support Grant from the UCC for St. Vincent's Kitchen, which was disbursed accordingly in December.

Reserve Funds of \$6K were used to pay for mission renewal initiatives.

Reserve Funds of \$2K were used to pay for lawyer fees for the mortgage insurance.

Total Cash Available (chequing & savings) on December 31, 2019 = \$42,260.

Total Available Funds on December 31, 2019 = \$178,379.

Outstanding loan due to UCC on December 31, 2019 = \$373,976. (Original loan amount = \$400,000; 15 years @ 2.5% compounded monthly; 14 years remain)

Respectfully submitted by, Monica Veenstra, Treasurer

## **Westminster United Church Statement of Operations - Cash Basis** For Jan 1, 2019 - Dec 31, 2019

JAN - DEC 2019		
ACTUALS	BUDGET	VARIANCE
274,198	295,800	- 21,602
46,864	37,150	9,714
21,096	21,800	- 704
87,977	87,514	463
3,975	6,000	- 2,025
3,637	3,500	137
437,746	451,764	- 14,018
4 072	2 500	620
•		
•	•	
•	•	295
•	•	1,723
		368
•	•	-
	,	,
•	•	319
		-
,	•	•
264,545	•	•
-		
6,424	•	
	•	•
7,351	6,950	401
	450.000	40 447
446,719	459,866	- 13,14/
446,719	•	•
•	•	•
8,973	- 8,102	- 871
<b>8,973</b> 27,237	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460	- <b>871</b>
8,973	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460	- <b>871</b>
<b>8,973</b> 27,237	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460	- <b>871</b> 3,777 - 3,777
27,237 27,237	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460	- <b>871</b> 3,777 - 3,777
27,237 27,237 27,237 1,965 1,965	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460	3,777 - 3,777 1,965 - 1,965
27,237 27,237 1,965 1,965 5,000	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460	- <b>871</b> 3,777 - 3,777 1,965 - 1,965 5,000
27,237 27,237 27,237 1,965 1,965	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460	- <b>871</b> 3,777 - 3,777 1,965 - 1,965 5,000
27,237 27,237 1,965 1,965 5,000	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460	3,777 - 3,777 - 1,965 - 1,965 - 5,000
27,237 27,237 1,965 1,965 5,000 5,000	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460 - 23,460 6,000	- <b>871</b> 3,777 - 3,777 1,965 - 1,965 - 5,000 - 5,000
27,237 27,237 1,965 1,965 5,000 5,000	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460 - 23,460 6,000	- <b>871</b> 3,777 - 3,777 1,965 - 1,965 5,000 - 5,000
27,237 27,237 1,965 1,965 5,000 5,000 8,127 6,000 2,127	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460  - 23,460  6,000  - 6,000	- <b>871</b> 3,777 - 3,777 - 1,965 - 1,965 - 5,000 - 5,000 - 2,127 - 2,127
27,237 27,237 1,965 1,965 5,000 5,000 8,127 6,000	- <b>8,102</b> 23,460 - 23,460 6,000	- <b>871</b> 3,777 - 3,777 1,965 - 1,965 - 5,000 - 5,000 - 2,127 - 2,127
	274,198 46,864 21,096 87,977 3,975 3,637  437,746  1,872 4,757 566 2,295 5,923 868 32,040 4,202 9,569 17,504 88,058 264,545 - 6,424 746 7,351	274,198 295,800 46,864 37,150 21,096 21,800 87,977 87,514 3,975 6,000 3,637 3,500 437,746 451,764  1,872 2,500 4,757 5,500 566 900 2,295 2,000 5,923 4,200 868 500 32,040 32,040 4,202 6,000 9,569 9,250 17,504 17,504 88,058 89,767 264,545 273,500 - 200 6,424 6,455 746 2,600 7,351 6,950

\*\*\* NOTE: The 2019 operating deficit of -\$8,973 is covered by the Funds Available from the beginning of 2019. \*\*\*

## **Westminster United Church Statement of Cash and Investments** as at Dec 31, 2019

CASH & CASH EQUIVALENT	
CIBC Chequing Register Balance	41,725
CIBC Savings Register Balance	535
ENDING CASH & CASH EQUIVALENT BALANCE AS PER QB	42,260
Adjustments	
Accrued Liabilities	- 1,704
Government of Canada Payment	- 1,350
ADJUSTED ENDING CASH & CASH EQUIVALENT BALANCE	39,206
OTHER FUNDS/INVESTMENTS	
DUCA Savings Account	899
DUCA Dividend Shares - cashable	3,497
DUCA Dividend Shares - earned but not cashable	2,440
Investor's Edge (CIBC)	4,777
GIC (CIBC)	30,000
GIC (CIBC)	50,000
GIC (CIBC)	50,000
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS/INVESTMENTS	141,613
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	180,819
RESTRICTED FUNDS	
Mission and Service Fund	-
Bridge to a New Home	-
St. Vincent's Kitchen	-
Gate 3:16	
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	-
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	180,819
DUCA Dividend Shares - earned but not cashable	- 2,440
Designated funds for Long Range Planning	
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	178,379

## **Reserve Funds Tracking**

Council-Approved Allocation of Reserve Funds	as at Jan 1/19	2019 Outflow	as at Dec 31/19
Contingency for day-to-day operations	30,286		30,286
Reserve for Capital Investments	52,000	2,127	49,873
Reserve for Ministerial Investments	52,000		52,000
Reserve for Long Range Planning	6,000	6,000	
TOTAL RESERVE FUNDS	140,286	8,127	132,159
Zumbathon Funds for SALT	560	560	-
Funds Received for Gate 3:16	20	20	-
Other Funds	54,569	8,349	46,220
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	195,435	17,056	178,379

## **Fundraising Tracking**

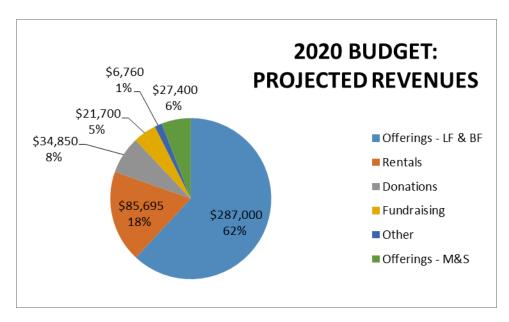
	o o	2019 ACTUALS			2019 BUDGET			VARIANCE	
		Revenues	Expenses	Net	Revenues	Expenses	Net		Net
Feb	Westminster's Got Talent	-	-	-	1,300	-	1,300	-	1,300
Feb	Foodman Group Dinner	2,415	1,274	1,141	-	-	-		1,141
May	Trivia Night	1,955	411	1,543	2,600	300	2,300	-	757
Oct	Concert (2019: The Broadsway)	3,630	2,648	982	5,000	2,420	2,580	-	1,598
Nov	Bazaar	6,336	585	5,751	7,000	500	6,500	-	749
Nov	Turkey Supper	3,845	1,006	2,839	3,000	980	2,020		819
Dec	Wellness Fundraiser	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
	<b>Loblaws Commissions</b>	2,916	-	2,916	2,900	-	2,900		16
	Other		-	-		-	-		-
		21,096	5,923	15,173	21,800	4,200	17,600	_	2,427

Respectfully Submitted by, Monica Veenstra, Treasurer

## 2020 Budget

The following provides details to the major budget lines as presented in the 2020 Budget, found on page 41. The 2020 operating deficit is projected to be -\$5,579.

## RECEIPTS including M&S = \$463K

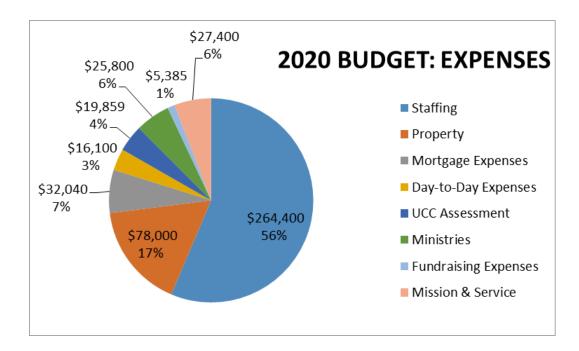


Offerings: Your ongoing financial support of Westminster and its missions is greatly appreciated. Offerings have been holding steady around \$274K - \$278K over the last several years, however given that expenses are steadily increasing, and noting that the last three years have resulted in operating deficits, a target of \$287,000 (62% of total revenues) has been set for 2020, which is a 4.7% increase over 2019 offerings. In order to maintain Westminster's current ministerial programming without depleting our surplus funds, revenues need to match expenses. Operating expenses are closely monitored and controlled, and while we have realized annual savings of approximately \$58K in mortgage expenses with the sale of Manning Mews at the end of 2018, these savings are largely offset in 2020 (as compared to 2018) by a \$12K increase in UCC assessment fees, a \$6K increase in property expenses, and a \$32K increase in salaries & benefits as a result of regular increases (approved by Council); UCC mandated increases; and parental leave costs. Assuming a 4.7% increase in offerings, the 2020 budget is projecting an operating deficit of -\$5.5K. We ask for your prayerful consideration of these factors as you continue to give generously to Westminster in support of its missions.

**Rental Income:** The Senior's Bridge Group rental (\$14K) ended December 2019. We look forward to a new rental partnership with "Rooks to Cooks" as they will be renting our kitchen this coming summer (\$5K). Total Rental Income is projected to be \$86K (18% of total revenues).

**Other Income:** \$6.7K, which includes \$3K in interest paid out on GICs set to mature in March 2020, and \$2K from VBS revenues.

## DISBURSEMENTS including M&S = \$469K



**UCC Assessment:** Assessments are based on a general percentage of revenues minus specific allowable deductions (e.g. M&S Fund). The 2020 assessment is approximately \$2K higher than in 2019 (\$20K vs \$17.5K).

**Property:** The 2020 budget amount is \$78K, which is \$10K lower than 2019 actuals. 2019 included several one-time expenditures that we do not anticipate for 2020. See below planned capital expenditures.

**Salaries & Benefits:** Set at \$263,900 for 2020, this reflects an average salary increase of 2%. This includes \$1.6K for two summer students (\$8K less \$6.4K government grant).

**Mission & Service Offering:** M&S target has been set at \$27,400 to be in line with 2019 actuals.

**Ministerial Investments using Reserve Funds:** In 2019 we began our Mission Renewal process, which we will continue in 2020 using reserve funds of \$9,000.

**Capital Investments using Reserve Funds:** The church building is now 15 years old and it is time to start replacing some of the HVAC systems. The Property Committee is working on a long-range plan that will see a total of approximately \$150,000 spent on new HVAC systems. In 2020, \$15,000 will be used from reserve funds to begin this necessary overhaul.

Respectfully submitted by, Margaret Suepaul, Chair of Stewardship Monica Veenstra, Treasurer

## WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS - CASH BASIS

ACTUALS	ACTUALS	ACTUALS	DECEMBE	BUDGET
2017	2018	2019	RECEIPTS	2020
275,423	273,954	274,198	Offerings - Local and Building Funds	287,000
57,994	39,401	46,864	Donations	34,850
16,181	26,970	21,096	Fundraising	21,700
70,024	74,609	87,977	Rentals - Long Term	79,695
7,708	6,954	3,975	Rentals - Short Term	6,000
11,076	6,721	3,637	Other Income	6,760
438,406	428,609	437,746	TOTAL RECEIPTS	436,005
			DISBURSEMENTS	
1,234	1,125	1,872	Bank/PAR Charges	1,800
4,624	4,785	4,757	Christian Education	6,500
99	461	566	Communications	900
733	3,231	2,295	Council & Trustees	2,100
4,452	6,283	5,923	Fundraising Expenses	5,385
2,508	868	868	M & P Committee	500
88,596	90,345	32,040	Mortgage Expense	32,040
5,509	5,117	4,202	Office	5,600
14,076	8,725	9,569	Outreach	9,750
66,010	72,098	88,058	Property	78,000
222,841	231,377	264,545	Salaries and Benefits	263,900
0	0	0	Small Groups	203,500
4,890	4,877	6,424	Stewardship & Finance	6,600
9,033	7,367	17,504	UCC Assessment	19,859
1,352	1,494	746	Wellness	1,500
5,403	5,690	7,351	Worship	6,950
431,360	443,844	446,719	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	441,584
7.046	4= 00=	0.070	ODEDATING A CURRILING / DESTATE	
7,046	-15,235	-8,973	OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT	-5,579
		27,237	Offerings - Mission & Service Fund	27,40
24,298	24,217			
-24,298	-24,217	-27,237	Mission & Service Commitment	
-24,298 7,046 14,000			Mission & Service Commitment OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements	
7,046 7,046 14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525	-24,217 -15,235 1,930	-27,237	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019) 2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior	-5,579
-24,298 7,046 14,000 -18,035 -4,931	-24,217 - <b>15,235</b>	-27,237	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)	-5,579
7,046 7,046 14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525	-24,217 -15,235 1,930	-27,237	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT	-5,579
-24,298 7,046 14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445	-24,217 -15,235 1,930 -13,305	-27,237 -8,973	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS	-5,579
-24,298 7,046 14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445	-24,217 -15,235 1,930 -13,305	-27,237	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS Donations from Congregants - for distribution to other NFPs	-5,579
-24,298 7,046 14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445	-24,217 -15,235 1,930 -13,305	-27,237 -8,973	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS Donations from Congregants - for distribution to other NFPs Donation from Jewish Family Services for Bridge to a New Home	-5,579
-24,298 7,046 14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445 17,103 0	-24,217 -15,235 1,930 -13,305 2,570 16,500 0	-27,237 -8,973 1,965 5,000	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements     Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot     GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior     SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS  Donations from Congregants - for distribution to other NFPs Donation from Jewish Family Services for Bridge to a New Home Grant from UCC for distribution to St. Vincent's Kitchen	-5,579
-24,298 7,046 14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445 17,103 0 0 -17,103	-24,217 -15,235 1,930 -13,305 2,570 16,500 0 -19,070	-27,237 -8,973 1,965 5,000 -6,965	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements     Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot     GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior     SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS  Donations from Congregants - for distribution to other NFPs  Donation from Jewish Family Services for Bridge to a New Home     Grant from UCC for distribution to St. Vincent's Kitchen  Outreach Expense - Using Donations & Grants Designated for Other NFPs	-5,579
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-24,298 7,046  14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445  17,103 0 0 -17,103 0	-24,217 -15,235 1,930 -13,305 2,570 16,500 0 -19,070 0 16,950 21,492 23,922 -62,364 0	-27,237 -8,973 -8,973 -6,965 -6,965 0 0 0 0	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements     Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot     GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior     SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS  Donations from Congregants - for distribution to other NFPs Donation from Jewish Family Services for Bridge to a New Home     Grant from UCC for distribution to St. Vincent's Kitchen Outreach Expense - Using Donations & Grants Designated for Other NFPs     NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  CAPTIAL EXPENDITURES  Grant from UCC for Capital Expenditures     Special Appeal for Capital Expenditures     Reserve Funds for Capital Improvements Capital Expenditures (2018 = roof; 2020 = HVAC)     NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW	-5,579 year(s) 15,000 -15,000
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-24,298 7,046  14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445  17,103 0 0 -17,103 0 0 0 0 0 0	-24,217 -15,235  1,930 -13,305  2,570 16,500 0 -19,070 0  16,950 21,492 23,922 -62,364 0 0 0 0	-27,237 -8,973 -8,973 -1,965 -6,965 0 0 0 0 2,127 -2,127 0 6,000	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements     Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot     GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior     SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS  Donations from Congregants - for distribution to other NFPs Donation from Jewish Family Services for Bridge to a New Home     Grant from UCC for distribution to St. Vincent's Kitchen Outreach Expense - Using Donations & Grants Designated for Other NFPs     NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  CAPTIAL EXPENDITURES Grant from UCC for Capital Expenditures     Special Appeal for Capital Expenditures     Reserve Funds for Capital Improvements Capital Expenditures (2018 = roof; 2020 = HVAC)     NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  Reserve Funds - for Capital Investments  Lawyer Fees for Mortgage Insurance     NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  MINISTERIAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENDITURES Reserve Funds - Ministerial Investments	-5,579  year(s)  15,000 -15,000
-24,298 7,046  14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445  17,103 0 -17,103 0 0 -17,103 0	-24,217 -15,235  1,930 -13,305  2,570 16,500 0 -19,070 0  16,950 21,492 23,922 -62,364 0 0 0 0	-27,237 -8,973 -8,973 -1,965 5,000 -6,965 0 0 0 0 2,127 -2,127 0	Mission & Service Commitment  OPERATING + SURPLUS / - DEFICIT  GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements     Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot     GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019)  2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior     SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS  Donations from Congregants - for distribution to other NFPs Donation from Jewish Family Services for Bridge to a New Home     Grant from UCC for distribution to St. Vincent's Kitchen Outreach Expense - Using Donations & Grants Designated for Other NFPs     NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  CAPTIAL EXPENDITURES Grant from UCC for Capital Expenditures     Special Appeal for Capital Expenditures Reserve Funds for Capital Improvements Capital Expenditures (2018 = roof; 2020 = HVAC)     NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  Reserve Funds - for Capital Investments Lawyer Fees for Mortgage Insurance     NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  MINISTERIAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENDITURES	-5,579  year(s)  15,000 -15,000 0 0 9,000 -9,000
-24,298 7,046  14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445  17,103 0 0 -17,103 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	-24,217 -15,235 1,930 -13,305 2,570 16,500 0 -19,070 0 16,950 21,492 23,922 -62,364 0 0 0	-27,237 -8,973 -8,973 -1,965 5,000 -6,965 0 0 0 0 2,127 -2,127 0 6,000 -6,000	GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019) 2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS  Donations from Congregants - for distribution to other NFPs Donation from Jewish Family Services for Bridge to a New Home Grant from UCC for distribution to St. Vincent's Kitchen Outreach Expense - Using Donations & Grants Designated for Other NFPs NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  CAPTIAL EXPENDITURES Grant from UCC for Capital Expenditures Special Appeal for Capital Expenditures Reserve Funds for Capital Improvements Capital Expenditures (2018 = roof; 2020 = HVAC) NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  Reserve Funds - for Capital Investments Lawyer Fees for Mortgage Insurance NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  MINISTERIAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENDITURES Reserve Funds - Ministerial Investments Council & Trustees - Mission & Renewal Costs NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW	-5,579  year(s)  (15,000 -15,000 (0) -9,000 (0)
-24,298 7,046  14,000 -18,035 -4,931 -8,525 -10,445  17,103 0 0 -17,103 0 0 0 0 0 0	-24,217 -15,235  1,930 -13,305  2,570 16,500 0 -19,070 0  16,950 21,492 23,922 -62,364 0 0 0 0 0	-27,237 -8,973 -8,973 -1,965 5,000 -6,965 0 0 0 0 0 2,127 -2,127 0 6,000 -6,000	GIC Redemption for Parking Lot Improvements Capital Expenditure - Parking Lot GST/HST (moved to Balance Sheet in 2019) 2017 "Other Expenses" was for outstanding M&S payment from prior SURPLUS / - DEFICIT (as reported in 2017 & 2018)  TRANSACTIONS WITH \$0 NET IMPACT  OUTREACH DISBURSEMENTS Donations from Congregants - for distribution to other NFPs Donation from Jewish Family Services for Bridge to a New Home Grant from UCC for distribution to St. Vincent's Kitchen Outreach Expense - Using Donations & Grants Designated for Other NFPs NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  CAPTIAL EXPENDITURES Grant from UCC for Capital Expenditures Special Appeal for Capital Expenditures Reserve Funds for Capital Improvements Capital Expenditures (2018 = roof; 2020 = HVAC) NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  Reserve Funds - for Capital Investments Lawyer Fees for Mortgage Insurance NET INFLOW/OUTFLOW  MINISTERIAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENDITURES Reserve Funds - Ministerial Investments Council & Trustees - Mission & Renewal Costs	-27,400 -5,579 year(s) 0 15,000 -15,000 0 0 9,000 -9,000 0 487,405 492,984

## **Accountant's Report & Financial Statement (unaudited)**

At the time of printing, the report from our accounting firm (Ritchie, Shortt & Tully) was not finalized. It will be made available in a separate report.

## **Nominating Committee**

In the 2018 Annual Report, Margaret Suepaul wrote, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, of the work the Committee members had undertaken to solicit volunteers for various events and activities occurring at Westminster. In mid-2019, I assumed the role of Chair of the Nominating Committee and along with Paul Pierson, we continued the work of securing volunteers. The valuable work and solid foundation that the previous committee laid for us has been most helpful. Thank you to the 2018 Nomination Committee!

"Volunteer" – what does that mean to you? What does that mean to Westminster United Church? When you read through this year's Annual Report, it will be apparent that volunteering is a cornerstone of Westminster's activities. Through the work of the various committees and the smaller, specific groups and with the support of our staff, Westminster plays a significant, important role in our lives and in our community. Volunteering at Westminster is doing something you like to do or having the skills and talent to make a difference. Volunteering can also mean learning something new, an activity that you may not have the skills or knowledge to complete. Life is one long learning process and volunteering supports that path.

Volunteering does not mean having to commit to a long-term arrangement. Volunteer opportunities include being a member of a committee and/or a smaller group, accomplishing specific tasks, e.g. being part of the catering team, lending your skills to the Weed Whackers (lawn cutters), decorating the Sanctuary, assisting in our annual bazaar, providing a friendly visit to a fellow church member and many other similar activities. To that end, we are in the process of developing a *Volunteer Handbook* that will identify the numerous volunteer opportunities, be they as a member of a committee or as part of a smaller activity.

Thanks to all who have volunteered and continue to volunteer. And to those who have an interest, we welcome you to speak to any of the committee Chairs or connect with either Paul Pierson or me. Additionally, when available, we encourage you to review the Volunteer Handbook for possible areas of interest.

Respectfully submitted by, Tom McNown, Chair

# **Westminster 2020 Council and Committee List**

Rev. Michelle F	Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care			
Cat	Minister of Faith Formation			
Margare	Minister of Music			
Pau	·			
Shane	Council Vice Chairperson			
Monica Veenstra				
Nancy Wallis				
Margaret Su		Past Council Chairperson		
TRUSTEES (10 Yrs.)		CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (3 Yrs.)		
Shane Suepaul (Chair)	2019	Jolene Baker (Chair)	2016	
Bob Neil	2013	Ava Tomlinson	2016	
Larry Morrow	2017	Cheryl Nicholson	2015	
Ron Motum	2014	Susan Shkolnik	2014	
Dave Parks	2016	Michelle Alston	2015	
Jim Ward	2015	Susan Pleasance	2014	
Wendy Ekker	2019	Joanna Shaw	2019	
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE (3 Yrs.)		SMALL GROUPS Co-ordinator (3 Yrs.)		
Margaret Suepaul (Chair)	2019	Vacant		
Monica Veenstra (Treasurer)	2018	WELLNESS (3 Yrs.)		
Brian Woodlock	2017	Clarence MacPherson (Chair)	2016	
Alan Dunn	2015	Crystal Smith	2020	
WORSHIP (3 Yrs.)		UCW (Term varies)		
Ava Tomlinson (Co-Chair)	2018	Tena Darroch (Pres)	2017	
Heather Von Zuben (Co- Chair)	2018	Carol O'Neil (Past-Pres)	2012	
Patti Lang	2018	Susan Pleasance (Sec)	2014	
Sandra Kell-Cullen	2016	Shirley Penny (Treasuer)	2018	
Heather Montague	2015	PROPERTY (3 Yrs.)		
Ed Rosdobutko (Head Usher)	2018	Bob Neil (Chair) - HVAC	2014	
Sarah Baker	2018	Neville Wright	2014	
OUTREACH (3 Yrs.)		Larry Laycock (Specialty Projects)	2018	
Joanne MacPherson (Co-Chair)	2014	Dean Mortimer	2014	
Cathy Cherwinka (Co- Chair)	2017	King Whitney (Coord-Fire Safety)	2016	
Debbie Joyce	2015	Bill Fisher	2017	
Paul Kneebone	2015	Dave Summers (Coord-Water Systems)	2009	
Gail Wild	2015	Jack Darroch (Coord-Carpentry)	2017	
Dianne Noftle	2019	Bob Dingman	2014	
Joanne Yourkevich	2019	William Von Zuben (Tech Comm. Lead)	2017	
COMMUNICATIONS (3 Yrs)		Jim Ward (Chairman – Lead)	2009	
Bev Crumb (Chair)	2014	Ron Kurtz (Coord-HVAC Systems)	2020	
Mary-Lynn Fraser	2018	Harry Lathinen	2020	
Lori Rosdobutko	2014	NOMINATIONS (2 Yrs.)		
Ron Kurtz	2019	Tom McNown (Chair)	2019	
		Paul Pierson	2016	
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL (5 Yrs.)		REGIONAL COUNCIL REPS (3 Yrs.)		
Teena Morrow (Chair)	2016	Arthur Smith	2011	
Peter Spratt	2017	Paul Kneebone	2012	
Jocelyne Fry	2020	Susan Pleasance	2016	
Sandra Harding	2018	Shirley Penny	2016	
Maureen Dingman	2018			
riaarcon binginan	2010	<u> </u>	]	

## 1. Nominations for Council Committee Members:

The following is a list of those members who are departing, have departed or have resigned:

Wellness

Beverley McClain Maureen Dingman Sue Kurtz Masie Morrison

M&P

Joanne Gibb

**Christian Education** 

Heather Seabright Leanne Fisher Heather VonZuben

## 2. Welcomed onto Council Committees:

**Communications** 

Ron Kurtz

M&P

Jocelyn Fry

**Property** 

Harry Lathinen Ron Kurtz

**Communications** 

Joan Sanderson

Wellness

Crystal Smith

**Christian Education** 

Joanna Shaw

**Council Vice Chairperson** 

Shane Suepaul

## DRAFT Minutes Annual Congregational Meeting, February 24, 2019

# **Draft** MINUTES of the **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**: Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#### We Gathered:

1. Paul Pierson, our Council Chairperson, called us to order at 12:20 pm

Paul welcomed everyone and thanked the Foodman Group for preparing the delicious lunch and the Chairman Group for setting up. Paul thanked Nancy Wallis, Bev Crumb and Beth Navarro for their work on the ACM report. He thanked Megan Paddick for providing childcare and Jan Hendrikse (Jr.) and Heather Von Zuben for tech booth support.

2. Rev. Michelle Robinson lit the Christ Candle and offered an opening prayer. A Moment of Remembrance for those that are no longer with us, in our congregation and within our community, we hold them within our hearts.

Sanderson, Dr. Harry Milton Salmers, Orest Lew Thiessen, Ryan Eliot Mark Armitage, Robert Albert Janes, Judith Anne Janes, Vivian Morison, John James Harrison, Andrew James Miller, Sean Christopher Taylor, Christopher James Amirault, Shirley Anne Kivitis, George Storms, Wilbert Fay

#### 3. Motion re: voting privileges:

**MOTION**: Moved by Joanne MacPherson, seconded by Brian Woodlock, that with the consent of the full members of Westminster United Church, adherents of the church will be permitted to vote on temporal matters. Motion Carried.

#### 4. Motion to nominate a Chairperson:

**MOTION**: Moved by Teena Morrow, seconded by Gail Brimbecom, that Sue Kurtz be elected as Chairperson of our Annual Congregational Meeting. Motion Carried.

#### 5. Motion to nominate a Secretary:

**MOTION**: Moved by Ava Tomlinson, seconded by Heather Von Zuben, that Nancy Wallis be elected as Secretary of our Annual Congregational Meeting. Motion Carried.

#### 6. Motion to accept the Agenda:

**MOTION**: Moved by Dan Yourkevich, seconded by Brian Woodlock, that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion Carried.

## 7. Motion to accept Minutes of February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Annual Meeting:

**MOTION**: Moved by Helen Bowman, seconded by Gail Wild, that the minutes of the February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 annual meeting (of 2017) be approved as presented. Motion Carried.

#### **Our Ministry**:

#### 8. Minister's Comments: Rev. Michelle Robinson

Rev. Michelle shared that this March marks her 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that it is a tremendous joy to serve. The impact of the congregation's work makes a profound difference. Rev. Michelle expressed great thanks to Rev. Dan for stepping in and offering his leadership in service while she goes on maternity leave. A great thanks also to the staff team, chairs and committees. Change is something we can depend on that happens. When challenges arise, we can face them together. We are a connected community of faith. We can embrace what comes and use interruptions as opportunity to deepen our faith. Rev. Michelle concluded with a video highlighting many of the activities that have happened in Westminster in 2018.

#### 9. Minister of Faith Formation Comments: Cathy Shaw

Faith Formation is a lifelong devotion of Christian discipleship and is at the heart of what Christian life is all about. Cathy is thankful for the people she works with as a staff team, the leaders, and the attitude that everyone has here. It is a feeling of togetherness and God is the centre of everything we do. Cathy feels blessed in her life and her ministry here and is very thankful. Thanked M&P and thanked all of us who share Christ's light.

#### 10. Minister of Music Comments: Margaret Motum

Margaret poetically related her work here with the organ. Our Phoenix organ has 3 manuals – the 'swell' manual features beautiful, solo expressive voices – Michelle and Cathy are an inspiration in their creativity. The 'bottom' manual – has ethereal, quieter voices used often for accompaniment – Margaret thanked those who accompany her - Choir, SALT, those who dance, youth, junior choir. The 'middle' manual – has loud and rich, full sounds – this is the congregation. You can couple the swell to the middle and the quieter together and that is called the 'Great'. We can put our voices all together. Thanked everyone for the privilege to serve here.

### 11. Council Chair Comments: Paul Pierson

Paul began by thanking the staff; Michelle Robinson, Cathy Shaw, Margaret Motum, Beth Navarro and Ronell Paguio and that it is a privilege to work with them. Small gifts were presented to each of them in appreciation and recognition of their work. Paul thanked and presented flowers to Sue Kurtz and Nancy Wallis in appreciation for their work today. Paul reflected on this time last year, when he was feeling a bit anxious with the roof, 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Manning Mews and other work ahead. Now that feeling has changed to become more curious as to what lies ahead. To step back and view the activity on a Sunday morning is incredible. A lot of work by many people and it all comes together. Paul thanked everyone for their contributions over the year. It takes a community to make this work.

Looking ahead to 2019, we are looking forward to welcoming baby boy Robinson. Paul thanked Rev. Dan as we are blessed for him to support us. There are many opportunities and possibilities ahead and over the next year and a half we will figure out our next steps. Growth doesn't come without change. In March we will have a 'Healthy Conversation' with the congregation that will allow everyone to speak. It is now three years into the affirming process. We will use what we have learned and as we live into affirming move ahead. A facilitator, Betty Pries, will help us to do this. Council will meet with Betty in April. We will wait for Rev. Michelle to return from maternity leave next year before we begin the bulk of the work of the discernment process. Paul thanked everyone for 2018 and for allowing him to be the Chairperson.

#### 12. 2018 Financial Report and 2019 Budget: Monica Veenstra

2018 Financial Report - Monica thanked the Finance Committee and Paul for helping her get settled into her new role. We ended the year with a deficit of \$13,305 which was much better than our budgeted deficit of \$20,057. A question was asked regarding the variance in the actual rentals (long and short term) versus the budgeted. At the time of setting the 2018 budget it was based on a best guess. This year we have done more analysis on the long and short term income rentals.

For 2018 Cash Flow we received donations of \$21,492 for roof, as well as roof grant, roof loan and repayment and used some reserve funds to pay for the balance of the roof. Donations for Bridge to a New Home were paid out to them. We had a bank balance of \$141,071 and total available funds of \$188,856. A question was asked if the available cash (\$188,856) included the deficit of \$13,305. Yes, the available cash does take the deficit into account. We are in a healthy financial position.

We have a Reserve Funds balance of \$134,286. Council has approved an allocation of the Reserved Funds -\$30,286 Contingency for day-to-day operations, \$52,000 for Future Capital Investments and \$52,000 Future Ministerial Investments. To clarify, Capital Investments would include such things as roof, building, land and Ministerial would be ministry related decisions. The discernment process will help us determine our Ministerial Investments. A question was asked as to what we now owe for the building. Monica confirmed it is less than \$400,000.

#### Motion to Accept Financial Reports for 2018

MOTION: Moved by Tom McNown, seconded by Dan Yourkevich, to accept the 2018 Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Carried.

2019 Budget - For 2019 we have an overall operating deficit of \$702. Offerings for Local and Building Funds increased by 2%. Rental Income increased due to the rental by the Town of Whitby for their Senior's Bridge Group. Salaries and Benefits for 2019 have increased and approved by Council including salary increases, full custodial position vs. previous part time position.

#### Discussion:

It was mentioned that on the statement instead of Presbytery it should now be East Central Ontario Regional Council. It was asked if an almost 0 balance budget was realistic, and Monica confirmed it is. Another member asked why our mortgage payment is significantly less now. We have 15 years to pay back UCC mortgage and it is at a significantly lower interest rate. A final question was asked about the 2018 actual offerings coming in under budgeted amount yet in the 2019 budget offerings are 2% higher. The 2019 budgeted amount took into consideration not only offerings but also roof donations made by the congregation. People proved that they could give and we don't have any reason why we can't do it again.

#### Motion to Accept Budget for 2019

**MOTION**: Moved by Tom McNown, seconded by Heather Von Zuben, to accept the 2019 Budget as presented. Motion Carried.

#### We Offer Ourselves:

#### 13. Motion to accept 2018 Annual Report as printed

**MOTION**: Moved by Brian Woodlock, seconded by Tom McNown, that the 2018 Annual Report be accepted as printed. Motion Carried.

A mention that the ACM report was really well done, informative and the electronic version is easy to use.

#### 14. Nominating Committee Report:

**MOTION**: Moved by Paul Pierson and seconded by Gail Brimbecom to accept and approve the following names of those <u>departing</u>, <u>departed or have resigned</u>. Motion Carried.

Stewardship/FinanceNominationsTom McNownMargaret SuepaulShane SuepaulTeena MorrowJoan Sanderson

WorshipWellnessPeter CoulsonSue Neil

Analicia Coulson

TrusteesChristian EducationDoug MacKayHeather SeabrightJoanne MacPhersonLeanne FisherHeather Von Zuben

M&P

**Eileen Whitney** 

**MOTION**: Moved by Paul Pierson, seconded by Tom McNown to approve the following names as presented and amended to include Ron Kurtz for Property. Motion Carried.

Further nomination to include: Ron Kurtz on Property

<u>Communications</u> <u>Wellness</u>

Mary-Lynn Fraser Beverley McClain

OutreachWorshipJoanne YourkevichPatti Lang

Dianne Noftle

Nominating Committee

M&P Tom McNown

Sandra Harding Maureen Dingman

**Stewardship/Finance** 

Monica Veenstra (Treasurer)

Margaret Suepaul

#### 15. Resignation and Election of Trustees

Nancy Wallis read the resignation letters from Doug MacKay and Joanne MacPherson. Paul mentioned that both Joanne and Doug have had a term of 10 years and we thank them.

MOTION: Moved by Paul Pierson and seconded by Heather Von Zuben, to accept and approve the names of those who have resigned. Motion Carried.

#### **Trustee Appointments**

Shane Suepaul Wendy Ekker

**MOTION**: Moved by Paul Pierson and seconded by Crystal Smith, to accept and approve the names of those being proposed as Trustees, Shane Suepaul and Wendy Ekker. Motion Carried.

16. Outstanding, New or Other Business

No items brought forward.

#### As We Go into the World:

17. Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION: Moved by Tom McNown to adjourn our 2018 Annual meeting.

- 18. Closing Prayer: Rev. Michelle Robinson
- 19. Sung Response: VU 481 Sent Forth By God's Blessing