



Growing Through Change

Annual Report 2023

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LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Message from Kenji...

For 2023, we lived with an understanding and appreciation of grace flowing through hope. We hoped for many things; some dreams realized, others never to be. As a congregation, we continue to present grace as a response and outlook on opportunities to extend welcome, care, empathy, and understanding to a world that is becoming, increasingly, artificially intelligent.

The work of the Relevance to Resonance Project seeks genuine (emotional and spiritual) intelligence as it looks to implement sociological theory in church communities. Although, I find that the name “Project” is a misnomer; for me, resonance is less a project with a beginning and ending yielding measurable outcomes and more an understanding of connection to self, one another, and the transcendent other (spirit, God, and creation). These themes have become the filter through which I preach and pastor. Our Congregational Retreat allowed time for such moments to occur, but they can’t be prescribed, controlled, or managed.

In 2023, I worked to representing Grace at meetings of local worship leaders and concluding my term with Antler River Watershed Regional Council Executive. Lest you worry that my appetite for church business would go unfed, the national church named me as Business Coordinator for the 45th General Council meeting in 2025.

Beyond church circles, I worked to forge stronger connections of awareness and alliance with the following community partners: Rayjon ShareCare, Fairwinds Lodge, Inn of the Good Shepherd, Alzheimer Society, Lambton Centre, Parents and Friends of

Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Diversity Ed, and Women's Interval Home. I became well-acquainted with various hospital wards, nursing home facilities, and hospice as many pastoral care visits occurred in such settings.

I used my Study Leave resources to attend the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis and a planned trip to Israel and Palestine was cancelled. I worked as an adjunct instructor for Luther Seminary, working with a cohort of 5 seminary students on their practical preaching skills through on-line lab sessions.

The personal highlight for the year was a long overdue holiday in Japan (Tokyo – Kyoto – Osaka). Our youngest flew from the family nest to Fanshawe College. As my partner, Shelley, and I recalibrate to life as just-the-two-of-us again, we continue to note that we are growing through change.

The time has flown by, having had a full year to work with Marque Smith as Music Director, welcoming him to the team with smiles, hugs, and high-fives. Seems strange that not so long ago, I was the new kid on the block! I remain immensely grateful for the entire staff team at Grace, for the active involvement of so many lay leaders on committees and behind the scenes, for the congregation's commitments to intergenerational inclusion, community partnership, indigenous reconciliation, and affirmation of 2S-LGBTQIA+ people.

Looking forward in faith, Kenji

Message from Pat ...

There is always good news for every moment. That is the promise of the gospel. That is the meaning of gospel. Good news! It was good news that birthed the church. The church didn't create the good news. The church didn't engineer gospel. Gospel was the gift inherited. The church discovered good news.

And the church is always the bearer of good news for every moment.

The church faces several challenges in this moment. Declining membership, and all that that means, seems to top the list for many. Declining mental health among teens is a challenge I would hold up. And I'm sure we could name several other concerns facing the church. In the face of any and all of these challenges, there is good news. This is our hope. And as is always the case, hope does not hinge on human agency.

For those who believe Rosa, we don't need to ramp up and accelerate our efforts, but rather our response begins by assuming a particular stance. For those who believe Han, the answer is already among us, and we need not conjure a solution but begin by assuming a particular stance. For those who believe God is an active agent in the world, we begin with a particular disposition. For those who believe Acts, we don't need to figure it all out, but rather we begin by looking to God who reveals (Acts 1:4). From its inception, the church was called to its first work: to watch and listen. The first apostles were called to a particular stance, a posture of watching and listening, not striving, fixing, or forging.

This is the good news for this moment. We are gifted with the practice of discernment with a God who speaks when and where God will. We are invited away from that which we are good at—measuring, calculating, initiating—into what Han calls 'immersive contemplation' with this God who speaks. Hope, in our tradition, derives from what God has done, is doing, and will do.

As we read this report on the year past and as we move through the next year, we continue our work to let go of acceleration, to be freed from chasing relevance, and we begin by leaning on something beyond our own agency. Gospel is the gift inherited.

As we venture into this next chapter, I want to offer my appreciations to my colleagues in ministry. We are gifted with the excellence of Lori, Kenji, Marque, and Curtis. And on this occasion, I want to express my deep love and gratitude for Lori who will be retiring in May and is forever the best den mother a team could ask for. I also want to express my appreciation for being called to share this ministry with all of you. I offer my thanks to you and to the God who speaks, who calls to us, and makes the world sing again.

Message from the Outgoing Chair of Council...

Grace, flowing through hope.

I started my message as Chair last year with “Hope, Grace and Coca-Cola” and I’m still hoping, still learning about Grace and always appreciate Coca-Cola!

It’s been a great year. I first want to thank you, the congregation, for giving me the opportunity to be the Chair. I have learned a lot, made new friends and continued to be inspired by what we accomplish here in Sarnia and the broader world.

This year has been a challenging year in many respects. We are learning new ways to be together while navigating health concerns; we are struggling with how to support our international community while they face wars and natural disasters; and we are figuring out how to support peace in our lives, for our community, and the world at large. The lyrics from the Coca-Cola commercial remains my hope for the world. They bear repeating....

I’d like to build the world a home and furnish it with love
Grow apple trees and honey bees and snow white turtle doves

I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony
I'd like to hold it in my arms and keep it company
I'd like to see the world for once all standing hand in hand
And hear them echo through the hills for peace throughout the
land.

By The New Seekers Songwriters: B. Davis, B. Backer, R. Greenaway, R. Cook

I want to thank our staff, for all they do for all of us, but especially for how much they helped me! Lori, you will be missed!

I want to thank our council and committee members. This church would not be the success it is without your time and talents.

Some of our successes this year include (but not limited to) the following:

- We painted the gym and that wall looks fabulous!
- Marque has grown our music program, with the youth choir and the introduction of new music, through the trial of a new hymnal.
- We completed a significant fix to our parking lot.
- We started to host our soup luncheons again.
- Our youth group is leading the Community Living dances which are a shining example of what our kids can do.
- Our resonance retreat was a treat, for our souls – thanks to Kenji and Pat and Dave, our invited guest, and our bellies – thanks to the nourishing gifts of Lo-Anne and family.

I look forward to continuing to support our church and the Council as Past Chair. You are in excellent hands with Marion, your new Chair of Council.

*Wishing us Hope, Grace and Coca-Cola,
Leslie Veldman, Outgoing Council Chair*

Message from the Incoming Chair of Council...

“Growing Through Change 2024!”

John F. Kennedy stated: “Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past and present are certain to miss the future.”

This year through the direction of Council and its chair Leslie Veldman, it has started to shape the future through post covid decisions. Through Leslie’s commendable leadership committees have been encouraged to reach out to the congregation to resume pre-covid activities with the concept that the decisions they make will move us further along in our personal and congregational growth. Thank you, Leslie for your leadership during this past year. Thank you to the chairs of committees, and its members, the executive of Council, Kenji, Pat, and Maraue for your willingness to serve now and in the future and to you the congregation for your prayers for the betterment of Grace.

In 2024 what will “growing through change” reflect if we are to continue to move into the future? Do we “throw the baby out with the bath water” when it comes to the programs and activities that we currently pursue? Will worship services and music evolve into something totally foreign to us by the conclusion of 2024? To both of these questions the answer is no. The preaching, music, programs, and activities provide solid foundations to build and expand the effectiveness of their amenities in the days to come.

However, that does not preclude the introduction of new programs and activities that impact our personal and congregational growth. Let’s take for example the deepening of personal relationships! What would happen if we made an effort to meet and converse with one new person a week or deepen

the dialogue between current friends? Trust and a sense of inclusiveness will develop, not to mention personal growth. This could be accomplished through Passing the Peace, Soup Luncheons, where we sit with someone new or meeting people at coffee hour following service, or through general congregational get togethers such as Piano, Piano, Piano or Guess who's Coming to Dinner. In time trusting relationships will develop along with a deeper sense of church family.

Another area for future growth presents itself in the development of our relationship with our Indigenous brothers and sisters through dialogue and worship interaction. We use the Indigenous Bible effectively and we hosted Every Child Matters at Canatara Park, but do we need to go further in our education of their customs and beliefs. How we do that is depended upon us and the extent we wish to be involved.

When it comes to community, should we promote the LGBTQ+ community within the broader sphere of society? We host PFLAG meetings, PIE events, and Kenji has been involved with the queer community through Diversity Ed. Are there other opportunities beyond responding successfully to gender conversion therapy to expanding our inclusiveness and ongoing knowledge base or is Sunday morning affirmation from the pulpit along with current functions enough?

Then there is the topic of financial support. This year we are faced with a sizable deficit. Is the answer to solving this situation to reduce committee involvement within the congregation or do we consciously decide to increase our giving's? Whether we grow or maintain the status quo, finances are imperative.

These are just a few suggestions on how we as individuals and/or collectively grow our future within our church family. Think how each of us can grow our involvement in this great

congregation. Take those big or small ideas to committees or Council for consideration. Look forward! The future belongs to us as a congregation.

Marion Staples, Incoming Chair of Council

Annual Congregational Meeting

Grace United Church

Sunday February 11, 2024

12:00 pm in the sanctuary after the soup luncheon

Via Zoom [Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

***NOTE: Access to asking questions and voting on Motions will be limited through the ZOOM call. Members and adherents are encouraged to attend in person, if you are able.*

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Constitution of the Annual Congregational Meeting
3. Motion to allow adherents to vote on the financial and administrative matters
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Minutes of the Annual congregational Meeting held on February 12, 2023
6. Approval of the 2023 Annual Reports of Council, Committees, Groups and of the Financial Review Committee, excluding Finance and Nominating Committees.
7. Approval of Finance Committee Reports
 - a. Review and approval of the 2023 Financial Report
 - b. Review and approval of the 2024 Budget Proposal
8. Nominating Committee Report
 - a. Removal and election of Trustees
 - b. Appointment of the Financial Review Committee for 2024
 - c. Election of Officers
 - d. Election of Governing Body
9. Ministry and Personnel Committee
10. New Business
11. Introduction of Incoming Chair
12. Appreciations
13. Adjournment
14. Closing Prayer

Minutes Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Sunday, February 12, 2023

The Meeting was held at Grace United Church in the Sanctuary and via Zoom. Having achieved a quorum, the Meeting began at 12:00 pm.

Chairperson: Al Shaw, Chair of Council.

Secretary: Cecily Chiles.

1. Opening Prayer– Kenji Marui
2. Constitution of the Annual Congregational Meeting. There were approximately 42 participants in person and 6 Zoom screens, with quorum. A procedure was described for casting a personal vote on Zoom.
3. Motion to allow adherents to vote on the financial and administrative matters. No adherents of Grace United church identified themselves, no motion was made.
4. Approval of the Agenda. Inserted item 8a Removal and Election of Trustees. 8b becomes Election of Officers, 8c is Election of Governing Body, 8d is Election of Nominations Committee

MOTION to approve the agenda as printed and amended
[David Murray/Leslie Veldman].

Discussion: – –changes to agenda Add item 8a Removal and Election of Trustees motion carried

5. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Minutes of the Annual congregational Meeting held on Sunday, February 20, 2022

MOTION to approve the minutes from February 20, 2022, Annual Congregational Meeting. [Vernon Chiles/David Murray]

Discussion: none– Motion carried

6. Approval of the 2022 Annual Reports of Council, Committees, Groups and of the Financial Review Committee, excluding Finance and Nominating Committees.

MOTION to receive the 2022 reports. [Kirk Wilson/John Cooke]

Discussion: Al Shaw reports that the 2022 financial review was conducted by Laura Black and Gord Walkling. A report by the Financial Review Team will be presented at the March 2023 meeting of Council.

Summary of findings: The Financial Review team found the books to be in order and approves the accuracy and integrity that the financial team exercised in supporting this aspect of Grace's governance structure in 2022. Thank you to members of the Finance committee for their excellent work. Financial review team members are available today to answer questions. – Motion Carried.

MOTION to approve the 2022 reports, excluding Finance and Nominating Committee, with spelling correction to in Memoriam list, the name Terry Barros. [Karen Cooke/Maurice Cameron]

Discussion: None– Motion Carried.

7. Approval of Finance Committee Reports
 - a. Review and approval of the 2022 Financial Report
2022 Financial Results presented by Paul Cooper
2022 was an interesting and challenging year as COVID restrictions eased.

Year End result was a deficit of \$16,000 which is a significant concern – however there were a number of positives.

2022 budget predicted a deficit of \$44,000 so we did a lot better than plan.

Givings were short of target but about 2% higher than 2021.

Rental income exceeded expectations – thanks to Lori for her leadership in this area and the work done to facilitate outside groups to use our facilities.

Ministry & Personnel costs were below plan due to transition of music choir director from Glenn to Marque.

Reserve fund was used to cover the deficit and we remain debt-free.

Outreach

Summary is provided for our impact beyond the Church walls.

Significant support for United Church Mission & Service (M&S) fund, for Refugee family #2 and the Inn of the Good Shepherd.

Special Funds

In addition to the operating budget, donations were received for specific dedicated Church funds.

Highlights include completing the mandatory 12 month support for our Syrian family, funding the 2022.

Deficit drew from the Reserve fund and paving the Cathcart driveway from the Legacy Fund.

Special thanks to Bob Newman as he continues to sustain our financial system, and thanks to the congregation for supporting Grace United Church as a community of faith.

MOTION to approve the 2022 financial report as presented on pages 44 to 49 of the Annual Report.

[Paul Cooper/Marion Staples]

Discussion:

Question: (Karen Cooke) what is planned for the L4L funds, since operations are suspended?

Schools are changing to full nutrition programmes and so the conditions for the lunch model may have changed. Answer: L4L funds are from 3 primary sources: High Park United bequeathed money through Sarnia Community Foundation, special fund at Grace specifically for L4L, the equipment (freezers etc.). We would like to find a candidate to continue with the programme, and resume operations in 2023.

- Motion Carried

b. Review and approval of the 2023 Budget Proposal

2023 Budget Proposal, presented by Paul Cooper
Proposed budget recommends a deficit of about \$24,000 covered by the Reserve Fund which would be reduced to \$37,000.

Included are requests by various committees to ensure adequate funding is available as programs resume or new initiatives are proposed.

There are 2 'new' proposals in the budget. On the revenue side, it is proposed that the interest from the legacy fund GICs be used to support the operating budget. On the expense side, it is proposed that our M&S commitment be reduced from 7.5% to 5% of total givings. These actions are intended to keep the deficit at a manageable level to enable us to progress to a balanced budget in 2024.

MOTION to approve the 2023 budget as printed on page 44 of the Annual Report with proposed deficit of approximately \$24,000 [Paul Cooper/Ian McGuinness]

Discussion: presented by Paul Cooper– assumed any deficit could be funded out of the Reserve Fund. Included in budget are funds for the various committees in the church. New proposals, revenue, take the interest from the legacy funds and transfer it to the operating budget. Second proposed to reduce our M&S commitment, from 7.5% to 5%.

- Question (David Murray) about Interest amount of \$18,000 – Answer (Paul Cooper): This is the expected interest yield from Legacy Fund GIC's to be transferred to the operating budget.
- Question (Karen Cooke) about using refugee fund amounts to M&S – answer (Paul Cooper) – refugee funds currently showing in account is committed to the refugee family. If the congregation wants to support special fundraising for M&S, that is an option.
- Question (Vernon Chiles) about Grace's assets in Sarnia Community Foundation (SCF) funds, and each year a decision is made whether to take those funds and put them into our operating budget or maintain money in SCF to grow. Answer (Paul Cooper): most monies there are for specific dedicated funds. If we don't have any use for that money, it will be brought to council to decide whether to include it in the operating budget revenue. Council is the proper group to approve such decisions. Answer (Gord Walkling):

The SCF funds are segregated funds, they have a dedicated purpose based on the wishes of the persons who donated the money.

- Question (John Cooke) SCF dedicated funds are not shown in the Annual Report, what is the process for reporting this information to the congregation? Answer (Paul Cooper): SCF year-end 2022 results are published March/April 2023. Finance committee will provide an estimate of value of those funds to council at that time.
- Motion Carried

8. Nominating Committee Report

a. Removal and Election of Trustees

The removal and election of Trustees requires congregational approval. In 2022 Grace United church had 2 Trustees resign and 2 Trustees who died.

Motion to approve the removal of the following trustees: Bill Palmer and Alexia Gladdy by resignation, and Lorne Longley and Madeline McCaw by death. [Pete Melanson\Chris McGuinness].

Discussion: none – Motion Carried

Motion to approve the addition of Bruce Davies to the Board of Trustees [Bev Walkling/Neil Holloway]

Discussion: none – Motion Carried

b. Election of Officers

Regan Pfaff-MacDonald presented officers for 2023 as follows:

Council Chair: Leslie Veldman
Council Vice-Chair- vacant
Secretary: Cecily Chiles
Treasurer: Wayne Pease
Regional Representatives: vacant
Financial Reviewers: Gord Walkling, Laura Black

MOTION that nominations be closed. [David Murray/Joanna Catterson]

Discussion: none -Motion Carried

MOTION to approve the slate of nominated candidates for office, as presented. [Bev Walkling/David Murray]

Discussion: none -Motion Carried

c. Election of Governing Body

2023 Council and Council Committee members are listed in the Annual Report 2022.

MOTION that the elected 2023 Council and Council Committee members be those names printed in the 2022 annual report as listed with each committee report with amendment to AOTS. [Jim Wicks/Marion Staples]

Discussion: Remove Al Grimwood's name from AOTS.

Motion Carried

d. Election of Nominations Committee

As the Nominations Committee is an Ad Hoc committee of Council, its membership requires annual appointment.

MOTION to approve the slate of candidates and granting Council power to add as needed until the

next Congregational Meeting [Bev Walkling/Barb Kilburn]

Discussion: None – Motion Carried

9. Ministry and Personnel Committee

John Cooke presented annual staffing appointments on behalf of M&P Committee.

- a. MOTION – that Grace UC request Region 7 ARW to extend Pat Morrison’s appointment for the period of July 1/23 to June 30/24 [John Cooke / Vernon Chiles]– Motion carried

10. New Business: None

11. Introduction of Incoming Chair– Leslie Veldman– introduced herself and gave an outline of this year’s theme– Grace, flowing through hope.

- Appreciations– from Al Shaw– thanked everyone for attending the meeting today. Thanks to Kenji and Pat for their help in preparing for this meeting. Welcome to Marque Smith. Thanks to Lori and Curtis for keeping everyone organized and maintaining the church space. Thanked the Council Executive, Council representatives from all the committees for all the work building a community. We are grateful for what we have here at Grace United Church.

Leslie Veldman special thanks to the Grace Choir, Al Shaw for his leadership as chair for the past year.

Let’s keep carrying on all the good things happening at Grace and keep being the light of the world and light for the world.

12. Meeting closed at- 12:50

13. Closing Prayer- Kenji Marui

COUNCIL STRUCTURES – 2023

*Chairperson *Representative to Council

Chair	Leslie Veldman	613-888-4198
Vice-Chair	Marion Staples	519-333-7762
Secretary	Cecily Chiles	519-331-1008
Treasurer	Wayne Pease	519-541-1360
Assistant Treasurer	Bob Newman	519-542-9890
Past Chair	Al Shaw	519-312-5230
Christian		
Development	C & R Shirley Willis	519-491-1460
Communications	C & R Chris Cooke	519-491-6801
Congregational		
Care & Growth	C & R Bev Walkling	519-542-9872
Finance	C & R Paul Cooper	519-542-9237
Ministry	C Alternating	
& Personnel	R John Cooke	519-869-2908
Outreach	C & R Paul Cooper	519-542-9237
Planning	C & R Jim Wicks	519-542-8621
Property	C & R John Cooke	519-869-2908
Special Events	C & R Bev Walkling	519-542-9872
Trustees	C & R Pete Melanson	519-332-4914
Worship	C Bryce McGarvey	519-542-1542
	R John Baxter	519-542-1087
Nominating Cttee	Always Past Chair of Council	
A.O.T.S.	Paul Cooper	519-542-9237
	John Cooke	519-869-2908
Ministers	Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui	519-542-1203
	Pat Morrison	519-542-0475

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee works with the pastoral team to organize and coordinate the weekly worship services, as well as special services, as required. We review and approve requests for use of the sanctuary for non-routine worship and non-worship events that serve our congregation and/or our community.

Worship services continue to be offered in-person, live via Zoom and in a YouTube recorded format. Thanks are extended to audio video volunteers who facilitated the in-service management and recording of the services in 2023: Gord Walkling, Séamus White, Eli Watson, Chris Cooke and Ben Parkinson.

Kenji organized a joint Good Friday service with St Bartholomew's Church. The service began at Grace with several readings followed by a procession to St Bartholomew's with a cross that they provided. The service ended with readings in the St Bart's sanctuary. Those who are unable to walk were encouraged to drive. Overall, it was a good collaboration in which Grace was exposed to another faith community.

Throughout the year, there were some Sundays when both Pat and Kenji were unavailable and Grace was fortunate to have several ministers come to Grace to preach. Thanks are extended to Jon Forbes, Tom Rodger, Sandra Fogarty, and Bob Gibson. Appreciation is also extended to Worship Committee members who assisted with introductory announcements and the liturgy.

John Baxter is the Worship Committee representative for Council.

Marque Smith is the Grace Music Director and leads the Choir, Junior Choir and arranges for guest musicians and vocalists. Thanks are extended to Jim Wicks, Dave Ashdown, and Noah Cattran for additional music leadership support, and to Jim Wicks, Chris Cooke, and David Nichols for providing outstanding interim music leadership for the periods when Marque was unavailable.

Members of the Sanctuary Guild support the Worship Committee and are responsible for decorating the sanctuary to reflect changing liturgical seasons and funding of sanctuary-related activities. The members of the Worship Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the Sanctuary Guild for their work in decorating the sanctuary with liturgical seasonally themed wall banners and items throughout the church.

The committee expresses our gratitude to Lori Armstrong for her support of the worship services through another year of ever-changing series of scenarios. The weekly emails largely replace the order of service, and Lori continues to carry out many behind-the-scenes tasks that keep the worship services moving smoothly.

If you wish to participate or learn more about becoming a member of the Worship committee or volunteering in a specific area, such as being a Sunday morning greeter, part of the Sanctuary Guild, etc. please contact one of us.

The 2024 Committee members will be: Daniella D'Andrea, John Baxter, Tessa Hall, Bryce McGarvey, Sheila Scott, Marque Smith, Gord Walkling, and the Pastoral Team (ex officio).

Bryce McGarvey, Chair

SANCTUARY GUILD

The Sanctuary Guild is a subset of the Worship Committee, who looks after adorning the sanctuary throughout the changing church seasons. We are always looking for new members.

The 2024 members will be Karen Cooke, Sharon Melanson, Karen and Jim Rutledge, and Jim Wicks.

Sharon Melanson

MUSIC MINISTRY AT GRACE

2023 has been a wonderful year to say the least at Grace United Church!

Thanks so much to Kenji Marui, Pat Morrison, Lori Armstrong and Curtis Dixon. They are terrific staff, and it has been a joy to collaborate with them all this year.

Thanks so much to The Grace Choir for making musical magic with me at Thursday rehearsals and Sunday worship services.

Thanks so much to The Junior Choir for your phenomenal participation throughout this year. Thanks so much to Cecily Chiles for assisting me with this great group.

Thanks so much to Jim Wicks, Dave Ashdown, Noah Cattran, and Rob Larose for part of the amazing band. They enhance worship in countless ways.

Thanks so much to Cecily Chiles, Marilyn Barros, Al Shaw, Andrew Shaw, Brian Eagleson, Bev Walkling, Gord Walkling, Ian Adamson, Jane Janes, MaryAnn Hucker, Valerie Schmidt, Stella Siklosi, Luciano Iacobelli, Abilene Clark, David Nichols, Chris

Cooke, Wavesong and Celebration Dancers for their outstanding offerings of special music at some of the worship services.

Thanks so much to all of the committees for their wonderful work behind the scenes to enhance our experiences.

On a personal note, thanks so much to this congregation for all of their love, light, support and strength when my partner Rev'd Canon Greg Smith died in May. Thanks so much to this congregation for your warm and wonderful welcome to my partner Andrew Koornstra when he started attending in September. Grace United Church are our family whom we love very much,

I look forward to seeing what 2024 has in store!

*Love and Peace,
Marque Smith,
Music Director, Grace United Church (Sarnia)*

INREACH MINISTRIES

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND GROWTH COMMITTEE

The Congregational Care and Growth Committee traditionally meets on the third Wednesday morning of the month. In 2023, meetings have been a combination of in-person and hybrid. The committee oversaw the approval for persons requesting baptism, confirmation, profession of faith, transfer of membership, and weddings, as well as maintaining an up-to-date membership roll. It monitored the Benevolent Fund that is used to help people in need. We also sponsored groups as needed for physical use of the church.

In January of 2023 following the fire at Fairwinds our committee reached out to friends and family of those from Grace who lived there to see how we could address their needs. We collected clothing to be donated to those in need and searched through Grace files for photographs we could pass on to those who had lost their memories. We also partnered with Fairwinds to host a concert which Marque arranged, and which was very well received.

This past year we undertook to send letters to Grace students attending college or university away from home to let them know we were thinking of them. Letters were written by committee and congregational members and each one had a Tim Horton's gift card included as well as the message that they are not forgotten while away from us. We plan to do this again in 2024 and will be looking for letter writers and perhaps donations towards gift cards and postage.

Flowers are sent to members celebrating special birthdays and anniversaries. We appreciate it if you know of one that you let the office know. Easter flowers were delivered to members who had experienced a close bereavement in the past year and those in long term care. We may expand on this a little further this year to include those who live on their own but have difficulties attending in person. This year the flowers were delivered to the church where they were picked up by the committee members.

Under the co-ordination of Sylvia Rose a team of church members has continued to stay in contact with all members of the congregation to assess how people were doing and whether there were any urgent pastoral needs that had to be met. For many this involved a single telephone call but for others, calls are being made on an ongoing basis. More volunteers would be lovely to ensure we can reach out especially to those who do not have computer access. The congregation is encouraged to continue to stay in touch with other church members by phone or email – especially with those in more isolated situations. We

have placed a box of cards in the narthex that people are welcome to access and use to send a note to other congregational members or friends beyond our membership. Children are also encouraged to access these cards as needed. Many thanks to all those who help in these areas.

In early 2023 our committee invited Christine Wright from the Alzheimer's Society to attend after church and provide some information to the congregation on what was involved in becoming a Dementia Friendly congregation. This was very well received, and she came back to lead a longer session in April that all staff and other interested members were able to attend. We now carry the designation of being "Dementia Friendly" and encourage this to continue through post sharing on the church Facebook page.

During the year we were approached by another congregation's minister to share information as to how our committee helps to provide pastoral care. Bev and Sylvia shared information on how our committee does our best to help.

Another new activity sponsored towards year end was a games afternoon. It was well attended and cross generational, allowing people of different ages to gather, play games, and develop relationships. We hope to continue this on a monthly basis. All are welcome to attend.

Prior to Christmas, our committee supported the second year of the presentation of a worship service on a Sunday afternoon called "A Quiet Christmas" to help address needs within the congregation to meet and mourn together especially for congregational members who had died in the past year or so. Letters of invitation were sent to the families of those who had died to invite them to attend, and the service was also streamed via Zoom and uploaded to YouTube. Many thanks to Marque Smith for his assistance with this service. The service was very well received, and we had lots of positive feedback.

In 2024, the Congregational Care and Growth Committee will continue to promote spiritual growth and Christian care and fellowship within the congregation. Committee members for 2024 will be Margaret Cameron, Sylvia Rose, Bev Walkling, Diane Werezak, and the Pastoral Team (ex officio). Carol Holmes has tendered her resignation but will continue to be the point person for delivering cards and plants to those with special celebrations. We thank her so much for her contributions to our team and continued care for those in our congregation. New members are always welcome so if you have an interest feel free to speak to Kenji or any member of the team. Many thanks to Sylvia Rose for taking on secretarial duties. The committee thanks Lori Armstrong for providing a membership report for each meeting and for being a resource person to the committee.

Respectfully submitted by Bev Walkling

2023 Records

Membership as of December 31, 2022	
Resident Members	323
Non-Resident Members	<u>70</u>
Total Membership	393

Removed	Received
Members received through profession of faith	1
Members received by certificate of transfer	0
Members added by returning to resident status	<u>0</u>
Total received	1
Members removed by death	9
Members removed by transfer	0
Members removed by other	<u>0</u>
Total removed	9

Membership as of December 31, 2023	
Resident Members	315
Non-Resident Members	<u>70</u>
Total Membership	385

Number of baptisms	1
Number of marriages	1
Number of funerals	14

Jim Wicks, Roll Clerk

A.O.T.S. (As One That Serves) Men's Club

AOTS administers and contributes to the Ken Plumley Award that is presented to graduating secondary school students. The 2023 recipients were Ryan Davies and Hannah McClure Buxton. The fund received generous memorial donations from church members and others in 2023, and we offer our sincere thank you for the contributions and support to graduating secondary school students.

The AOTS Men's Club is open to all men of the church to participate. We chose not to resume activities in 2023 due to the lingering health concerns.

AOTS Executive members are Paul Cooper, John Cooke

John Cooke

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee has a mandate to engage the Grace United congregation in;

- a) local outreach activities (usually in partnership with a local organization)
- b) providing a focal point for the United Church Mission and Service Fund
- c) communicating other international initiatives (including urgent disaster relief response requests)
- d) sponsoring other community groups who wish to use the Grace church facilities

Lambton Refugee Committee: Our Syrian families continue to progress in their new community. Jaber started work as a school

bus driver in September 2023. Hussain is focused on improving his English skills. In November 2022, we completed our mandatory financial sponsorship period of 12 months for the second family. We are continuing to work with the family to help resolve ongoing issues and challenges. We are grateful for the support of the Grace congregation as well as the wider United Church and other local community members for the ongoing support for the families.

Community Living – Sarnia Lambton (CL–SL) continues to occupy and maintain the Grace United Church Manse as a residence for their clients. The CL dances, held in the church gym, and supported by the grace youth, restarted in 2023 after being interrupted by COVID.

In 2023, Grace continued our partnership with Brigden United on a Canadian Foodgrains Bank “Forget–Me–Not” grow project. Our soup luncheon donations supported the up–front costs associated with the project. The wheat was harvested in the fall and, when matched 4:1 by CIDA, over \$50,000 was raised for the CFGB – a wonderful contribution to world food aid. Plans are already in–place for a 2024 project.

The Grace Congregation continued to support the United Church Mission and Service Fund. In 2023, M & S funding continued to be part of our unified budget.

Circles We sponsored a meal on one of the group meeting nights in May. Grace supports the great work being done to lift people out of poverty. Thanks to those who sponsored with money or food items and to those who helped serve the meal.

Outreach continued to sponsor a significant number of community groups that use our facilities. 2023 was an outstanding year for both returning as well as new groups.

Soup Luncheons: With COVID restrictions easing, we were able to restart 'live' soup luncheons in 2023 to support the following organizations:

- Canadian Foodgrains Bank (with Brigden UC)
- Rayjon
- ReFound (a new Rebound initiative)
- Literacy Lambton
- Middle East emergency appeal

We also designate beneficiaries for special thank offerings at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

We are very grateful to the wonderful soup makers in our congregation.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Barb Baxter | Colette McGarvey |
| Margaret Billings | Chris McGuinness |
| Carrie Brescia | Sharon Melanson |
| Carolyn Callaghan | Alice Minty |
| Betty Carson | Alison Morrison |
| Joanna Catterson | Daphne Murray |
| Cecily Chiles | Marianne Nichols |
| Karen Cooke | Joyce Rawson |
| Lorna Cooper | Maggie Rochon |
| Melissa Dent-Watson | Lynda Ruston |
| Pamela & Joel Eagleson | Karen Rutledge |
| Joan Guthrie | Valerie Schmidt |
| Pat Holloway | Eleanore Sich |
| Debbie Kafford | Lindsay Smith |
| Barbara Kilburn | Bev Walking |
| Ruth Kriebich | Yvonne Vanderbeld |
| Jan Leckie | & Bill Yates |
| Diana McClure | Sue Wicks |

Inn of the Good Shepherd (IOGS): We were able to maintain our monthly meal support through COVID restrictions, thanks to

many volunteers helping with meal prep at Grace and meal serving at the Inn.

The congregation continues to bring food supplies for the Inn on the first Sunday of each month. A total of 1250 pounds were donated in 2023. We also supported the Inn financially in 2023 with cash donations of \$3,000.

We are grateful to the many people who help with these activities as well as those who make donations to help pay for the food used in meal preparation.

IOGS Volunteers

Sylvia Rose	Colette & Bryce McGarvey
Joanna Catterson	Bill & Betty Carson
Maggie Rochon	Mary Mellon
Paul & Lorna Cooper	Barb Kilburn
Karen & Jim Rutledge	Gord Walkling
Ingrid McFarlane	Kenji Marui
Jane Janes	Kirk Wilson and Nan
Deb Kafford	Cecily Chiles
Nadyne Dell	David & Daphne Murray

Salad Preparation

Karen Cooke

Desserts

Barb Kilburn

We welcome new volunteers. It is a great way to get to know others in the congregation. We serve one meal each month on the fourth Wednesday. Meal preparation is normally done from 9:00 am to noon at the Grace with serving of the meal done from noon to 2:30 pm at the Inn.

If you wish to help prepare meals or work at the Inn, please contact Maggie Rochon or leave your name with the office.

The Outreach Committee recognizes that many members of the congregation and other committees are involved with significant outreach activities. This is an active demonstration of the involvement by Grace United church people in the community around us. We hope to continue to learn about and help publicize these activities.

Pat Holloway indicated she would leave the Outreach Committee in 2023 but would continue to assist with activities when available. We appreciate the contributions she made.

We also lost a valued long-time member of the Outreach Committee in 2023 when Edna Dent passed away. We will miss her.

Members of the Outreach Committee in 2024 will be:

Karen Rutledge	Lynda Ruston	Paul Cooper
Maggie Rochon	Colette McGarvey	Sue Wicks
Deb Kafford	Ministerial Team (ex officio)	

The Outreach Committee welcomes new members who may feel called to participate in this rewarding activity at Grace. In 2024, we plan to meet on the first Monday of the month in the Friendship Room. You are welcome to attend as a way of getting to know the Outreach Committee, to participate in one or more of the many activities underway or to initiate a new Outreach activity to energize the congregation. Please approach any member of the committee at any time for more information.

*Paul Cooper,
Chair*

TEACHING MINISTRIES

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Christian Development programs continued to provide opportunities for people of Grace of all ages to study and grow in the faith, and to provide a positive experience inside the walls of the church for others beyond our walls.

Pat's participation in the Resonance Project triggered book study and discussion groups with all ages to explore the work of Hartmut Rosa and resonance, and on the topic of adolescent mental health.

In the fall, a discussion group explored ways for adults to continue to support Christian Development programs without having to run the programs. The congregation is encouraged to consider offering support as laid out in the video posted on the Grace YouTube channel.

Community Living Dances were re-initiated with Seamus White and Kari Rent taking the lead on behalf of Grace.

Federal cuts to the Canada Summer Jobs program meant that we didn't receive funding for summer students for the first time in over twenty years. As a result, campfires did not run as in the past, but Friday night gatherings in the green space behind the church continued.

Christian Development appreciates Pat's leadership. His ability to understand and connect with young people, understand technology, and be open to creative, new ways of thinking have helped keep us current. We also appreciate the many volunteers that we count on to lead Christian Development programming. Care for the young people of Grace is very evident.

Committee membership for 2024 includes Shirley Willis, Margaret Billings, Marilyn Barros, and the Pastoral Team (ex officio).

Shirley Willis, Chair

PROCLAMATION MINISTRIES

PROCLAMATION & SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE (P&SE)

The Proclamation and Special Events Committee has grown smaller over the past year and is looking for some new members who have ideas to contribute and energy to help take the lead on some fundraising efforts. Bill Yates tendered his resignation from the committee, and we thank him for all his greatly appreciated efforts over the years. We hope he will still help and advise as needed.

In 2023 we tried several new fundraising activities. We have had two cardmaking afternoons which were a great opportunity for people to come and work together while supporting the congregation. The two sessions raised a total of \$160 for the general church funds.

Another new endeavour was selling coupons for poinsettias from Prail's. Given this was our first time participating in such an event, we weren't sure how many coupons we should try and sell. We opted for 50 and managed to sell 47 of them. Pricing was cheaper if purchased in multiples of 3 and the poinsettias had to be picked up directly from Prail's. Our profit was \$335.57. Hopefully we can build on that in 2024.

We held a pizza Kit fundraiser in February of 2023 with Bill and Yvonne taking the lead along with Lori handling her part in the office. \$390. was raised. Many thanks to all who supported

these different events either by participating, purchasing, or sharing the word about them.

Other ideas for the coming year include pastafest, book sale, bake sale, attic treasures, Strawberry Social, rummage sale Oktoberfest... We just need volunteers to make these happen! Hoping to hear from you!

Our committee was responsible for the development of the Inspiration Fund, and at year's end \$8,725.64 remains in the fund. The 2024 committee will be: Bev Walkling, Yvonne Vanderbeld, and Pastoral Team (ex officio).

As mentioned, we would be very interested in recruiting new members with new ideas and energy to support us in the development of special events. Traditionally our work has primarily be done via email without face-to-face meetings.

Submitted by Bev Walkling

GOVERNANCE & SUPPORT MINISTRIES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The 2023 members of the Board of Trustees for Grace United Church were Bruce Davies, Neil Holloway (secretary), Ray Philips, Peter Melanson (chair) and Pastoral Team (ex officio).

The insurance for 2023 was with Ecclesiastical Insurance Company through Brokerlink Insurance.

Peter Melanson, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

In 2023, the committee continued roll-out of our new logo with the painting of the gym wall and a refresh of the church sign. Thank you to everyone that supported the gym painting project! Next steps remain a refresh of the website, new pew pamphlets and a “welcome kiosk”.

Did you know the church offers several devices to support your groups or church activities?

- The volunteer laptop was replaced this year. If you require a “loaner” laptop your group or church activity, please contact the office.
- All three projectors were upgraded/replaced this year, and a screen installed in Room 1. A projector is mounted in the Friendship Room, a television is mounted in Room 9, and a portable projector is available in a Friendship Room closet (indoor key). The portable can either be projected on to the gym wall or on to screens mounted in Room 1, the Chapel or Room 10. All three devices are suitable for presentations, YouTube videos or even movies.
- Highspeed “Wifi” internet is available throughout the church (SSID = graceuc_guest, password = love&faith). Anyone entering our building is welcome to connect.

Our Office Administrator, Lori Armstrong, announced her retirement. Her last day will be April 26, 2024. While we look forward to celebrating her retirement, we also know she will be truly missed. She has been “the face of Grace” for anyone emailing, phoning, or stepping foot into the building. Thank you to Lori for all her hard work in 2023 and the past 25 years.

Thank you to Curtis Dixon for maintaining the outdoor sign.

Thank you to Marianne Nichols for maintaining the photo boards found in the hallway outside the Friendship Room. It's nice to be able to see what everyone has been up to at the church, or to be reminded of an enjoyable event.

Thank you to Bev Walkling for her dedicated Facebook support.

The Communications Initiatives Fund supported many of the purchases described above. Our 2023 expenditures included:

- Volunteer laptop replacement (\$572.65)
- Friendship Room projector upgrade (\$1,373.96)
- Room 1 projector screen (\$488.51)
- Wifi access point replacement (\$220.35)
- Gym painting and logo installation (\$4,394.55)
- Church sign refresh (\$1,031.17)
- Room 9 television (\$1,656.12)

The committee membership for 2024 will be: Christopher Cooke (Chair), Marianne Nichols, Bev Walkling, and the Pastoral Team (ex officio).

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M&P)

The Ministry and Personnel Committee at Grace meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The members are Laura Black, Joanna Catterson, John Cooke, and John Scott. We are responsible for staff contracts, salaries and benefits, approving vacation time, staff appraisals, and acting as a liaison and confidential sounding board for staff.

This year, the committee approved and took to Council the newly developed staff appraisal model, which is now being used. We also continued our ongoing work of reviewing and refining staff position descriptions. As usual, one of our roles is to work

with the Finance Committee to set the budget for staff compensation. It is important for the congregation to understand that Cost of Living increases are set by the United Church of Canada and are a year behind (e.g. for 2024 the increase is based on 2022 data).

This year our Office Administrator, Lori Armstrong, indicated that she would be retiring in the Spring of 2024. A search committee was convened that includes John Scott as representation from M&P. The M&P Committee will be responsible for ensuring a smooth transition, including contract development, all background checks, and Health and Safety training.

Part of our role is to support our staff during times of celebration and sadness. This year we mourned the loss of Marque's husband, Greg, with him. We took part in celebrating our ministerial staff during Clergy Appreciation Month in October and provided for a staff gathering at Christmas.

Submitted by Joanna Catterson

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee offers our sincere thank you to:

- Curtis for his attentive work and quick response to maintenance problems.
- Lori for her administration of the rental policy and attention to many building details.
- John Scott for his support to Curtis and his willingness to help when needed.
- Brian Eagleson, Jim Wicks, and others who assisted with repairs and projects.
- Cecily Chiles, Joel Eagleson & Hugh Clarke for landscaping maintenance and painting the shed.

- Cecily Chiles and Curtis for their diligent efforts to relocate raccoons from the roof.
- Contributors to the Capital Replacement Fund which supports projects and unexpected maintenance.
- Joyce Rawson for her participation on the committee in 2021–23.
- Kaela Koundakjian and family who provided weekend snow shoveling for several years.
- Jim Wicks for completing a major cleaning of the gas stove.
- David Murray for investigating opportunities for Greening GRACEfully.
- The 32nd Guides' Unit removed garlic mustard (an invasive species) from the vacant property.

Property activities are focused on essential maintenance and strategic improvements. 2023 initiatives and projects included:

- Upgraded lighting in Room 1 and the Main Kitchen to LED.
- Renewed the contract with Ainsworth for HVAC maintenance and repairs with a 3–year term.
- Agreed with Keytech to provide Boiler Water Treatment and monitoring on a 3–year contract (Keytech).
- Repairs were completed on the main parking lot, including paving of some sections and repair of the catch basins. The project was funded by the Legacy Fund.
- The City of Sarnia completed the roundabout at the Indian/Cathcart intersection. The project improved safety for motorists and pedestrians although a few street parking spaces were lost to reconfigure the lanes.

The committee would welcome members. Options include joining the committee, volunteering your time to help, or a role on the Greening GRACEfully subcommittee. Cecily Chiles is planning and coordinating landscape maintenance/improvement. Brian Eagleson is coordinating small repairs.

The 2024 committee members will be: John Cooke, Cecily Chiles, Brian Eagleson, Hugh Clark, and the Pastoral Team (ex officio).

Submitted by John Cooke

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The role of the Planning Committee is to “*keep aware of, and challenge Grace United Church to respond to changes in direction occurring in the church at large*”. With declining attendance at churches and responding to the challenges of COVID, Grace faces many opportunities to continue to thrive as a United Church serving our diverse and active congregation.

The 2023 Planning Committee membership included: Cecily Chiles, Regan Pfaff –MacDonald, Marion Staples, Jim Wicks (Chair), and the Pastoral Team (ex officio).

The Focus of the Planning Committee in 2023

We wrestled with the concept of the longer-term plans for Grace in the face of many uncertainties and opportunities.

- We encouraged each committee to better inform the congregation of their work and how individuals can help. This included “Did You know?” minutes during worship and information banners at a number of church events.
- We looked for opportunities to enable the community of Grace to know each other for “Real connections with real people”.
- We continued to discuss the role that Grace and its land and facility could contribute to solution for the unhomed in our community.
- We continued to support the “Greening Gracefully” in its early stages to help to reduce our carbon footprint.

The Future Focus of the Planning Committee in 2024

- Our approach to “visioning” the future of Grace will be to focus on finding ways to facilitate smaller, congregant-lead initiatives that will build on the community we have and to support all groups who use the church as a gathering place.
- Planning will provide support to the Property Committee during the proposed energy audit related to the “Greening of Grace” initiative and support the follow-up activities.
- Planning will continue to offer support to any individuals who would like to start and/or plan a new initiative to help enhance our Grace community.
- Planning will play an active role in addressing the important need for congregation-led Christian Development to ensure our focus on our youth remains a priority for the vision of Grace.
- Planning will continue to better understand what we need to do as a community to ensure that there is a place for all.

The 2023 Planning Committee membership will be: Cecily Chiles, Regan Pfaff –MacDonald, Marion Staples, Jim Wicks (Chair), Vice Chair of Council (TBN), and the Pastoral Team (ex officio)

Jim Wicks, Chair of Planning Committee

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is responsible to effectively manage the church finances, to regularly provide updates to the congregation and to communicate issues and proposed resolutions to Council.

2023 was a challenging year financially for Grace. Our deficit for the year was \$18K. On a positive note, the approved budget for 2023 called for a deficit of almost \$23K so we did better than budget. Givings were lower than plan and also lower than 2022. Rental income exceeded expectations – thanks again to Lori Armstrong and all the work she does with the outside groups who use our facilities. Also, interest income was significantly higher than in 2022 and was used to reduce the deficit. The Reserve Fund was able to cover the deficit and, as a church, we remain debt free.

Financially, the congregation also made significant contributions to a number of Outreach initiatives as well as to funds that exist to support specific ministries at Grace (see the summaries in the Annual Report).

In 2023, Grace UC funds at Sarnia Community Foundation (SCF) continued to grow. Total funds invested are estimated to be about \$70K supporting the following;

- funds to support youth initiatives
(Tom Murray and Gwen Hopper)
- Ken Plumley Youth Scholarship
- Tom and Donna Moore Fund
- General Grace Fund

The Legacy Fund was re-invested in 2023 with more favourable GIC rates (5.55 and 4.75%) than obtained in the 2022 GICs. Interest from the GICs were used to support the operating budget in 2023 as is the plan for 2024.

The 2023 operating budget predicts a deficit of about \$13K which will be partially covered by the Reserve Fund but also require support of \$10K from the Legacy Fund principal. It also includes a new proposal to generate additional income or reduce costs. We feel that these additional steps are required in 2024.

to reduce the proposed deficit. Our target remains to achieve a balanced budget in 2024.

Proposed Finance Committee members for 2024 are: Ian McGuinness, Bob Newman (*), Paul Cooper, Marion Staples, Wayne Pease, and the Pastoral Team (ex office). We are also looking for a candidate for the assistant treasurer position (*).

We welcome new members. It's a great way to learn more about church finances.

Finally, thank you to all members of the congregation who have contributed financially to the operating budget, specific funds, and outreach initiatives in 2023. Without your generosity, Grace could not sustain the ministries that support both the local and international communities around us.

Paul Cooper, Finance Committee

	2022	2023 Budget	2023	2024 Budget
Givings for Operating Budget	\$ 343,819.66	\$ 354,000.00	\$ 334,175.67	\$ 354,000.00
Designated M & S Givings	\$ 6,064.92	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,284.92	\$ 3,500.00
Total Givings - Unified Budget	\$ 349,884.58	\$ 357,500.00	\$ 339,460.59	\$ 357,500.00
Other Income				
Rental	\$ 40,798.50	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 42,403.10	\$ 43,000.00
Donations	\$ 1,213.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 3,500.00
Interest	\$ 7,488.69	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 21,927.36	\$ 20,000.00
Special Events	\$ 1,176.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 751.69	\$ 5,000.00
Manse Rental				\$ 4,500.00
Other Income	\$ 2,344.10	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 282.00	\$ 1,000.00
	\$ 402,904.87	\$ 411,500.00	\$ 408,474.74	\$ 434,500.00
Committee Expenditure				
Congregational Care and Growth	\$ 41.40	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 212.92	\$ 1,160.00
Outreach			\$ 125.00	
Christian Development	\$ 294.17	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,040.92	\$ 2,200.00
Worship	\$ 1,133.46	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 1,570.65	\$ 2,550.00
Communications	\$ 8,027.88	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 8,031.35	\$ 8,000.00
Ministry and Personnel	\$ 316,747.00	\$ 337,000.00	\$ 326,488.02	\$ 354,200.00
Trustees	\$ 10,112.46	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 10,531.82	\$ 12,000.00
Property	\$ 37,400.50	\$ 35,100.00	\$ 39,232.60	\$ 37,500.00
Finance	\$ 3,823.87	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,378.32	\$ 3,500.00
Region 7	\$ 15,264.00	\$ 18,678.00	\$ 18,208.00	\$ 19,100.00
Council	\$ 216.08		\$ 239.41	
M & S	\$ 25,800.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 7,000.00
Total Expenditure	\$ 418,860.82	\$ 435,128.00	\$ 426,559.01	\$ 447,210.00
Net Income vs. Expenditure	-\$ 15,955.95	-\$ 23,628.00	-\$ 18,084.27	-\$ 12,710.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund				
Transfer from Reserve Fund	\$ 15,955.95	\$ 23,628.00	\$ 18,084.27	\$ 2,715.00
Transfer from Legacy Fund				\$ 9,995.00
	-\$ 0.00	\$ -	-\$ 0.00	\$ -

Grace United Church - Operating Account		
Assets	2022	2023
Royal Bank Chequing	\$ 17,945.88	\$ 20,405.14
RBC Business Chequing	\$ 415.00	\$ 351.00
Investment Account #001603885	\$ 179,829.52	\$ 102,764.67
Scotiabank Cashable GIC	\$ 102,980.84	\$ 52,270.68
Scotiabank LT GIC	\$ 252,712.33	\$ 301,824.66
Petty Cash	\$ 201.39	\$ 131.78
Scotiabank Chequing	\$ 11,127.24	\$ -
Scotiabank GIC	\$ -	
Accounts Receivable	\$ 2,304.71	\$ 4,939.60
Total Assets	\$ 567,516.91	\$ 482,687.53

Liabilities and Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$ 40,514.48	\$ 2,059.83
Church Funds		
Affirming	\$ 147.18	\$ 147.18
Canada Day	\$ 800.00	\$ -
Refugee	\$ 11,127.74	
Reserve	\$ 61,445.43	\$ 43,367.91
Youth Initiatives	\$ 3,489.55	\$ 4,245.02
Lunches for Learning	\$ 12,379.81	\$ 12,379.81
Inn of the Good Shepherd	\$ 1,824.64	\$ 1,578.17
Youth Worship	\$ 5,121.78	\$ 2,436.54
Capital Replacement Fund	\$ 2,413.62	\$ 2,776.51
Benevolent Fund	\$ 1,234.47	\$ 1,616.29
Legacy Fund	\$ 357,848.88	\$ 346,875.94
Ken Plumley Fund	\$ 9,501.02	\$ 10,591.02
Resonance Project	\$ 13,390.00	\$ 10,878.40
Inspiration Fund	\$ 8,725.64	\$ 8,725.64
Leadership Development Fund	\$ 7,000.59	\$ 7,000.59
Memorial Fund	\$ 11,925.97	\$ 13,473.56
Communications Initiative Fund	\$ 7,032.59	\$ 2,941.58
	\$ 515,408.91	\$ 469,034.16
General Fund	\$ 11,593.52	\$ 11,593.54
Total Funds	\$ 527,002.43	\$ 480,627.70
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 567,516.91	\$ 482,687.53
Schedule of Accounts Payable		
Church Key Deposits	\$ 260.00	\$ 260.00
VISA	\$ 254.48	\$ 1,799.83
Government Loan	\$ 40,000.00	
	\$ 40,514.48	\$ 2,059.83
Schedule of Accounts Receivable		
HST	\$ 2,304.71	\$ 4,939.60

2023 Outreach Report	
United Church of Canada Missionary and Service	
Givings from Unified Budget	\$ 17,500.00
Easter M and S - Turkey-Syria	\$ 1,010.00
Thanksgiving M and S - Anti Racism	\$ 280.00
Christmas M and S	\$ 640.00
Subtotal	\$ 19,430.00
Soup Luncheons	
Brigden - CFG Project	\$ 2,861.00
Rayjon	\$ 3,575.00
Literacy Lambton	\$ 1,600.00
Rebound	\$ 1,940.00
United Church of Canada ME Relief	\$ 4,125.00
Subtotal	\$ 14,101.00
Other Donations	
Inn Meals and Donations	\$ 5,164.27
Refugee	\$ 12,672.74
Brigden - CFG Project	\$ 1,000.00
Rayjon	\$ 1,000.00
Women's Interval Home	\$ 2,950.00
Lambton Centre	\$ 542.40
Subtotal	\$ 23,329.41
Fair value manse rental	\$ 24,000.00
Total	\$ 80,860.41

Grace United Church

Summary of all Donations by Category Between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023

Printed: January 3, 2024

Category	Amount	# Donations	# Donors
Capital Replacement	\$6,760.00	60	25
Communications Initi	\$5,425.95	44	43
Communion Fund	\$1,815.65	29	18
General	\$316,866.87	1,672	184
Initial Offering	\$110.00	12	12
Inn	\$4,609.00	82	19
M and S	\$5,184.92	158	19
Memorial Fund	\$475.00	6	5
Other	\$12,812.00	129	64
Soup Luncheon	\$14,001.00	251	90
<hr/>			
Totals:	\$368,060.39	2,443	
Total Distinct Donors across all Categories:			229

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Grace Council Nominating Committee is responsible for overseeing the process that ensures that all congregation members are appropriately represented on the Church Council. At this time, the committee is currently contacting members of the congregation in order to fill the various open Council positions. As of the date of printing of the annual report, the committee is still in the recruitment phase. It is our hope that a full slate of candidates will be presented for the congregation's approval at the Annual Meeting in February.

*Allan Shaw, Past Chair of Council,
Chair of the Nominating Committee*

CHURCH STAFF

PASTORAL TEAM:	Kenji Marui, B.Sc.H., M.Div., D.Min.
	Patrick Morrison, B.Math, DLM.
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	Marque Smith,
CUSTODIAN:	Curtis Dixon
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:	Lori Armstrong

In Memoriam (2023)

George Fithern	January 21
Bill Danylchuk	February 8
Alan Grimwood	February 9
John Goodwin	February 17
Jean Simpson	March 29
Jack Hamilton	April 3
Annie Hope	April 16
Jackie Lewis	May 14
Catherine Wardell	May 26
David Clift	June 13
Helen West	June 18
John Adamson	July 8
Doug Matson	July 25
Ruby McPhedran	October 8
Betty Bullock	October 17
Edna Dent	October 22
Doug Davidson	October 31
Nellie Marshall	November 15
John Bond	November 26
Marian McLean	November 27