

Grace United Church
An Affirming Ministry
Annual Report 2020



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LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Message from Pat...

One of the moments from 2020 that will always stay with me is from Sunday, September 20, the first Sunday we reopened the building and resumed live, in-person worship. After scrambling to get tech up and running, I stepped to the pulpit and said, “Good morning and welcome to worship at Grace United Church. It is *sooo* good to be back together with you.” As the congregation spontaneously began applauding, I was jolted from my task-orientation and taken by emotion. Choked up and unable to speak for what seemed like a minute, I eventually managed to push out words through the tears: “I’ve been alone in this building for six months.”

Reflecting on that moment I realize that my tears exposed a confession: I need you.

Reflecting with others on the discoveries COVID-19 has gifted us with, I hear that confession voiced in different ways: I missed my Grace family. Witnessing how you organized yourselves to tend to each other animated a profession: I am yours and you are mine. Watching how we found creative ways to remain near to each other exposed the truth about us: we are a people. Even with COVID-19 restrictions in place, it was clear the profession “we are a people” extends to include the broader community, animating our mission to be an inclusive, intergenerational, community partner.

We confess a belief in Jesus Christ. That confession makes us a people. That confession draws us to each other. And that confession draws us into the world.

This annual report may be thinner than years past as COVID-19 shut down our usual operations. But, as you’ve heard it said, a closed building does not stop the animation of gospel. There are many who responded to the voices of those who confessed “I need you.” A

special thanks to Bev Walkling, Gord Walkling, Chloe Brescia, Carrie Brescia, Sylvia Rose, John Scott, Paul Cooper, Marion Staples, the Reopening Committee, and the many others who mobilized care.

Thank you to Kenji, Lori, Glenn, and Curtis for the gift of animating gospel together, and to those who filled contracts to help carry the mission: Linda Marcotte, Marilyn Townsend-Smith, Dan Leaver, and Cameron Scott. Further, my thanks to those who offered ongoing support to me through a challenging year, especially Alison Morrison, Anna Morrison, Lauren Morrison, John Scott, and John Cooke.

Peace, Pat

Message from Kenji...

2020 will be remembered for many different reasons. The last two-and-a-half months of the year especially so, for the much-anticipated start of my ministry with Grace. For my first sermon with you, I opted to reflect new beginnings as described by Psalm 96. Its first verse tells us, “Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD all the earth.”

Except we’re not allowed to sing, at least not aloud in a group. We’ve all had to manage all kinds of workarounds and Plan Bs, making do with imperfect adaptations. The people of God continually faced challenges and setbacks, relying on communal support and common belief to guide them through times of struggle and strife.

I’ve often commented that as weird as leaving a church during a pandemic has been, it’s even stranger to start a new ministry during one. Ordinarily, I would have been getting acquainted with the congregation, the city, and nearby faith communities. Instead, I find myself limited to phone calls and online meetings.

I’m grateful for the understanding, patience, and generosity of spirit the Grace community has extended to me and my family. I’m especially

glad for the support and strength of the staff team as we've begun this new movement. I'm confident that the energy and enthusiasm that we all bring to this new song, all the practicing and rehearsing we've had to do in our separate spaces, will be rewarded when we finally come together again in person, without hindrance or restriction.

God's love is amplified and augmented in communal presence. Our new venture together will resound and reverberate through our lives in spirit and in song. And to think it all began in the very strange year that was 2020.

Thank you. Thank you very much. Kenji

Message from the Outgoing Chair of Council...

2020 turned out to be quite the year that none of us expected or anticipated. We started the year having successfully recruited a supply minister, Rev Linda Marcotte, for up to six months (replacing Brad Morrison who moved to Strathroy United Church mid 2019), as we began the process to recruit a full-time minister for Grace. But by early March the COVID-19 pandemic changed everything. Rev Marcotte returned to her home base before travel restrictions were put in place, provinces were trying to cope with rampant outbreaks of COVID-19 and hospitals, businesses, schools, and the general population were experiencing restrictions and lockdowns as the pandemic spread. Our Sarnia Lambton community, as well as Grace, was greatly impacted. Our church and building were shutdown and church services went online, all rentals were cancelled, and all church groups and special events were put on hold. Our financial outlook was in doubt.

However, the work of Grace's members in our community did not halt due to the pandemic. Our theme for 2020 was service- caring and sharing. We continued with this approach throughout the rest of 2020. Members of the congregation continued to plan, cook, deliver, and

serve meals at the Inn of the Good Shepherd; members made phone calls to check up on housebound church members, friends or neighbours or those in long term care or retirement homes; members purchased and delivered meals and groceries to those in need; the church building and property were serviced and maintained by church volunteers; Outreach hosted a virtual soup luncheon; Glenn and Beth produced a CD with proceeds going to a local charity. Church Council meetings continued to be held via Zoom calls monthly. And when things seem to have quieted down and restrictions lifted, we restarted church services in the sanctuary under strict COVID-19 protocols as well as hosting church groups and outside rental groups once again.

In spite of the great challenges, Grace church was also immensely blessed during the year. Thanks to Pat and his dedication, we were able to continue to have Sunday morning online weekly services via Zoom. I want to express on behalf of the congregation our sincerest thanks to Pat for all the extra time and effort that he devoted in keeping us all connected this past year.

We were also blessed to have been a recipient from the estate of Jean B McRitchie with a sizable bequest. Currently, the Finance Committee has the funds invested until Council, with the congregation's input, determine how best to use this bequest.

I also want thank Glenn and Beth for their ongoing support to Grace though their musical ministry via many musical selections, including the Grace choir, all delivered from their London home. Also, I want to thank Cameron Scott who stepped in to cover janitorial duties as Curtis needed to take a leave to focus on family. And last but by no means least, my grateful thanks and appreciation to Lori who kept the church functioning during the year whether from the office or from her home – could not have done this without your assistance.

We also kept our focus on our search for a full-time minister. With the pandemic, the task was much different than usual. Working with the Regional Council and a series of Grace task teams who each took

on a small part of the recruitment process we were able to keep to our timetable. As a result of everyone's efforts, we were successful in recruiting the Rev Dr Kenji Marui to become Grace United Church's full-time minister in October. A subsequent Covenant ceremony was held and Kenji is now working diligently as part of our team ministry at Grace. We are extremely happy to have him with us at Grace.

As the year ended, we received wonderful financial news in that Grace ended the year with a surplus of ~ \$16,000. This would not have been possible without the ongoing generous support from all of you. Your financial stewardship service is greatly appreciated.

The year 2020 has been stressful and difficult for all. Especially so for all those in our community of faith who lost a loved one this year. Please take a moment to remember those of our church who are no longer with us and remember their contributions of service over their lifetime at Grace.

As 2020 comes to a close, we are back in another COVID-19 wave with the church building closed and once again making use of online church services. But vaccines have been developed and are being rolled out and 2021 begins with renewed hope that things will improve. I want to thank Council Executive, Council members, ministers and staff for their dedication and efforts for what has been a very difficult 2020.

2020 has shown us that service to others -- caring and sharing-- of our time and concern does make a difference in the health and wellbeing of our Community of Faith at Grace and in Sarnia Lambton. So, my heartfelt thanks to all at Grace who provided your service in 2020 -- let's continue this in 2021.

In Christian Faith, Kirk Wilson, Outgoing Council Chair

Message from the Incoming Chair of Council...

First, I would like to thank Kirk Wilson for his guidance and leadership as Chair of Council for 2020. His unwavering ability to provide calm, rational considerations during a very turbulent year and help direct Council through some difficult 'virtual' discussions, set a great example for me as I move into this role. I am excited to continue working with Kirk as Past Chair and the Grace Council in 2021. This past year we welcomed our new minister, Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui and family to Grace. I look forward to hearing more of his ministry and gathering his insight on how to help drive Grace United forward with innovative ministry development.

What a difference a year can make. And this past year was not at all what anyone was expecting. A year ago, we were all together under one roof to worship and now we find ourselves under different roofs but still able to *come together*. That is what has completely impressed, inspired, and motivated me. The resiliency of this church and strong connection we all share. The Grace congregation continues to reach out to each other despite these unusual and challenging times.

By *coming together* as an 'inclusive, intergenerational, community partner,' we show how Grace United can support each other and our community when we all need the extra help. These times are particularly challenging. Many are feeling the hardship of isolation by not being able to be physically present with family and friends, feelings of stress due to financial constraints or job loss, or juggling home schooling while working from home. But we still *come together*. Whether it be offering meals to help serve our community or families within our own congregation, reaching out with a phone call just to 'check-in', offering prayers and support, or have virtual gatherings to just have some fun, we at Grace know how to care for each other. So, I encourage everyone to continue reaching out and offering their support to those in need as I have seen so much in the past year.

God has placed compassion and grace in our hearts, and I am grateful to help support the continuation of this legacy that this church has sustained. *Coming together* may only be virtually in the near future, however I am very hopeful that this is short lived and soon all the families of Grace will *come together* again under one roof and rejoice.

Peace, Regan Pfaff-MacDonald, Incoming Chair

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021

After Worship, via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Constitution of the Annual Congregational Meeting
3. Motion to allow adherents to vote on financial and administrative matters
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of the Minutes
 - a) Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, February 16, 2020.
 - b) Minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, July 5, 2020.
6. Approval of the 2020 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 2020 Financial Report
 - b) Review and approval of the 2021 Budget Proposal
8. Nominating Committee Report
 - a) Appointment of the Financial Review Committee for 2021
 - b) Election of Officers
 - c) 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 16, 2020

The Meeting was held at Grace United Church as per adjournment, and began at 12:00pm. There was a quorum. Quorum: Manual B.5.5 “for a congregation...with 100 or more full members, at last 20 full members must be present...”

CHAIRPERSON Barb Baxter, Chair of Council.

Recording Secretary was Chris Cooke.

1. CONSTITUTION OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & OPENING PRAYER

Pat Morrison opened the meeting with a prayer.

Barb Baxter called the 2020 annual meeting to order.

2. MOTION TO ALLOW ADHERENTS TO VOTE

This motion is structured to allow members to pull out any one of the three categories and vote on all or some of them. This is a major change to voting rules in the United Church.

MOTION to allow adherents to vote on:

a) financial and administrative matters, b) mission and ministry matters, and

c) pastoral relationship matters.

Al McLean/Chuck Mallard. Carried

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION to approve the agenda.

Bev Walkling/Bryce McGarvey. Carried

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ALL 2019 CONGREGATION MEETINGS

Review and approve congregation meeting minutes from last annual meeting held Feb. 17, 2019 and special meetings held July 7, 2019, Oct. 20, 2019 and Nov. 17, 2019.

MOTION to approve the minutes as printed from last annual congregation meeting held Feb 17, 2019, WITH REVISION to fix typo in Item 4 – change Childs to Chiles

John Cooke/Joanna Catterson. Carried

MOTION to approve the minutes from special congregation meeting held July 7, 2019.

John Baxter/Sheila Scott. Carried

MOTION to approve the minutes from special congregation meeting held Oct. 20, 2019.

Brad Mackey/Bryce McGarvey. Carried

MOTION to approve the minutes from special congregation meeting held Nov. 17, 2019.

Kirk Wilson/Val Adamson. Carried

5. APPROVAL OF 2019 ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports of council, committees and groups, finance and budget have been distributed and reviewed.

MOTION to receive the 2019 reports.

John Cooke/George Vero. Carried

It was clarified that the UCW groups at Grace United Church did not disband as a result of the United Church restructuring, but rather was a decision made by our local groups.

MOTION to approve the 2019 reports, excluding Finance and Nominating Committee.

Gord Walkling/Susan Mallard. Carried

6. APPROVAL OF FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Paul Cooper presented the 2019 Financial Report. The revised numbers that were presented at the Annual Meeting are attached.

MOTION to receive the 2019 Financial Report as presented.

Ian Adamson/Ian McGuinness. Carried

7. REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

The 2020 budget was presented by Paul Cooper. M&P Committee clarified that the 2019 budget had included an intern for 4 months beginning in September, that ultimately did not come to pass. The 2020 budget assumes a Supply Minister for 6 months and a Permanent Minister for 6 months.

MOTION to approve the 2020 budget with a deficit of -13,327.

Joanna Catterson/Susan Mallard. Carried

8. REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE 2019

Barb Baxter reports that the 2019 Financial Review was conducted by Laura Black and Gord Walkling and found the books to be in order.

9. APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR 2020

Barb Baxter presented the Nominations report.

MOTION that GORD WALKLING and LAURA BLACK be appointed as the 2020 Financial Review Committee.

Brad Mackey/George Vero. Carried

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Brad Mackey presented officers for 2020 as follows:

Council Chair: Kirk Wilson

Council Vice Chair: Regan Pfaff-MacDonald

Secretary: Diana Fisher

No other nominations were presented.

MOTION that nominations be closed.

Brad Mackey/Val Adamson. Carried

MOTION to approve the candidates for office for 2020 as presented.

John Cooke/Bryce McGarvey. Carried

11. ELECTION OF GOVERNING BODY

Brad Mackey presented members of governing body for 2020.

MOTION to accept Rick Armstrong's resignation from Trustees.

Pete Melanson/Bev Walkling. Carried

MOTION to approve the following as Trustees: Alexia Gladdy, Neil Holloway, Ray Phillips, Bill Palmer, Madeline McCaw, Lorne Longley, and Pete Melanson.

Sharon Melanson/Marg Cameron Carried

MOTION that the elected 2020 Council and Council Committee members be those names printed in the 2019 annual report as listed with each report.

John Cooke/Gord Walkling. Carried

12. MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

John Cooke presented staff salaries as per the Salary Disclosure Policy.

MOTION to request Region 7 Antler River Watershed to extend Pat Morrison's appointment for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Bev Walkling/Janet Jordan. Carried

13. INTRODUCTION OF INCOMING CHAIR

Kirk Wilson presented his theme for 2020: Service. He highlighted that Grace United Church has a history of service to the Sarnia community. He identified that service could be defined as Sharing and Caring. He would like to use his time as chair to rededicate the congregation to Service.

Barb Baxter declared the meeting closed at 12:30pm

Linda Marcotte lead us in a closing prayer.

Chairperson, Barb Baxter

Recording Secretary, Chris Cooke

**Grace United Church –
Operating Account**

Assets	2018	2019
Royal Bank Chequing	\$ 68,580.94	\$ 39,471.13
Royal Bank Savings	\$	-
Investment Account #001603885	\$ 162,686.28	\$ 120,650.16
Petty Cash	\$ 353.56	\$ 149.50
Scotiabank Chequing	\$ 31,685.37	\$ 32,429.37
Scotiabank GIC	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 21,219.59
Accounts Receivable	\$ 4,118.14	\$ 6,961.60
Total Assets	\$ 287,424.29	\$ 220,881.35
Liabilities and Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$ 273.55	\$ 260.00
Church Funds		
Affirming		\$ 334.18
Refugee	\$ 52,685.35	\$ 54,648.94
Growth and Givings	\$ 55,599.30	
Reserve	\$ 56,133.10	\$ 60,874.23
Audio-Visual Equipment	\$ 14,566.88	
Youth Initiatives	\$ 6,871.62	\$ 4,200.95
Office Equipment Fund	\$ 498.33	
Lunches for Learning	\$ 20,488.66	\$ 12,623.19
Inn of the Good Shepherd	\$ 837.77	\$ 1,716.63
Youth Worship	\$ 4,284.79	\$ 4,217.18
Capital Replacement Fund	\$ 14,918.53	\$ 11,199.40
Benevolent Fund	\$ 783.72	\$ 428.15
UCW	\$ 2,883.29	
Ken Plumley Fund	\$ 1,147.40	\$ 1,701.02
Inspiration Fund	\$ 15,762.50	\$ 16,150.46
Leadership Development Fund	\$ 8,035.59	\$ 8,035.59
Memorial Fund	\$ 20,060.39	\$ 15,269.27
Communications Initiative Fund		\$ 17,628.64
	\$ 275,557.22	\$ 209,027.83
General Fund	\$ 11,593.52	\$ 11,593.52
Total Funds	\$ 287,150.74	\$ 220,621.35
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 287,424.29	\$ 220,881.35

Schedule of Accounts Payable

Church Key Deposit	\$	260.00	\$	60.00
VISA	\$	17.10		
	\$	277.10	\$	260.00

Schedule of Accounts Receivable

HST	\$	4,118.14	\$	6,961.60
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Minutes Congregational Meeting

Grace United Church

Sunday, July 5, 2020

The Meeting was held via Zoom with 60 participants and as per adjournment began at 9:00am. There was a quorum. Quorum: Manual B.5.5 “for a congregation...with 100 or more full members, at last 20 full members must be present...”

CHAIRPERSON Kirk Wilson, Chair of Council.

Recording Secretary was Diana Fisher.

1. CONSTITUTION OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & OPENING PRAYER

Pat Morrison opened the meeting with a prayer.

Kirk Wilson called the special congregational meeting to order.

2. MOTION TO ALLOW ADHERENTS TO VOTE

Marion Staples / Pete Melanson. Carried

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

One agenda item to consider a candidate for the ministerial position at Grace UC.

MOTION to approve the agenda as stated.

Bev Walking / Lori Armstrong. Carried

4. CONSIDER CANDIDATE

MOTION that Grace United Church call the candidate selected and named by the Search Team and approved by Grace Council according to the mutually agreed upon terms.

Bruce Davies / Leslie Veldman. Carried

Bruce Davies presented details of proposed candidate, Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui. He is currently employed at Calvary United Church in London and resides in Strathroy. Reviewed his education and employment history. Discussion followed with a few questions.

5. CLOSE MEETING

Thanks and appreciation to the Supply Search Committee for all efforts and work done during this long process.

Meeting closed at 10:07am

Pat lead us in a closing prayer.

COUNCIL STRUCTURES – 2020

*Chairperson *Representative to Council

Chair	Kirk Wilson	519-908-9642
Vice-Chair	Regan Pfaff-MacDonald	519-869-4317
Secretary	Diana Duke	519-402-9380
Treasurer	Wayne Pease	519-541-1360
Assistant Treasurer	Bob Newman	519-542-9890
Past Chair	Barb Baxter	519-542-1087
Christian Development	C Shirley Willis	519-491-1460
Communications	C & R Chris Cooke	519-491-6801
Congregational Care & Growth	C & R Iris Murtha	519-344-7809
Finance	C Paul Cooper	519-542-9237
	R Alternating	
Ministry & Personnel	C Alternating	
	R John Cooke	519-869-2908
Outreach	C & R Paul Cooper	519-542-9237
Planning	C & R	
Property	C & R Marion Staples	519-333-7762
Special Events	C & R	
Trustees	C & R Pete Melanson	519-332-4914
Worship	C Bryce McGarvey	519-542-1542
	R Val Adamson	519-542-5808
Nominating Cttee	Always Past Chair of Council	
A.O.T.S.	C Paul Cooper	519-542-9237
	John Cooke	519-869-2908
	R Bill Palmer	519-541-0267
Ministers	Pat Morrison	519-542-0475
	Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte	450-522-3005
	<i>(until March 31)</i>	
	Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui	519-542-1203
	<i>(beginning mid-October)</i>	

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.

The arrival of the COVID-19 virus in 2020 created significant disruption, but also many opportunities to evolve the manner in which worship services are created and presented. Reverend Dr. Linda Marcotte fulfilled the role as Grace's short-term replacement minister through to the end of March. For personal family reasons related to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, Linda resigned her position to return to New Brunswick. Linda provided consistency for weekly worship following a period of temporary and rotating worship leadership in 2019 as the process of selecting a permanent minister was taking place. The committee is grateful to Linda for all that she did during unsettled circumstances.

The forced closure of the church in mid-March led to the need for a major shift in how worship services could be provided to the congregation. Pat Morrison emphasized to the committee that he saw opportunities to create online or pre-recorded services with the potential to serve our congregation, and to potentially increase the number of people who could join through online options. Within a week, Pat was able to record a service that was posted to YouTube for the congregation to view. It was clear to the committee that without Pat's expertise in recording technology, his generous loan of his personal equipment, and most importantly, his commitment to providing a weekly service, that Grace would not have had such a smooth transition during that period. To provide support and maintain connection with the congregation, Pat engaged members of the congregation to record segments for the service. Additionally, Dan Leaver assumed full

responsibility for the Swell segment of the services, and thanks are extended for his support to the weekly worship services at Grace.

Throughout the transition into the electronic mode of services, the music ministry also underwent major changes. With the choir and the band unable to meet, Glenn and Beth Parsons recorded the songs and hymns that Pat used to piece together the services. Glenn and Beth's musical talents and Stephen Parsons' recording skills allowed the congregation to experience a full range of music in the online services. As it became clear that the lockdown would continue, Glenn developed recording techniques that allowed the choir to record anthems individually, which he was able to integrate into high quality group music that was incorporated into worship services.

The transition to online worship was a new paradigm, and one that required an enormous amount of time to prepare and put significant demands on the ministerial staff. During the period where the church was closed to in-person worship, Grace collaborated with Beth Parsons and her churches to allow both Pat and Beth to take some well-deserved vacation and study leave. While Grace has always been active in sharing and exchanging worship resources and personnel, this was a new approach that assisted in bridging the resource challenges that presented themselves.

As we progressed through the summer months, Grace began early planning for returning to in-person worship service. It was recognized that the guidelines from the province of Ontario and the Antler Watershed Regional Council would not permit full use of the sanctuary. Gord Walkling and Bryce McGarvey were members of the church Reopening Committee that was tasked with developing a plan for a safe and effective return to in-person worship and general use of the church facilities by the congregation and outside user groups. Gord, Bryce, and John Scott developed a seating plan and guidelines, as well as church entry and exiting protocols for use with worship services.

The church successfully reopened for in-person worship on September 20 using all the protocols that the Reopening Committee established. This transition required a relocation and expansion of the audio-visual equipment to support the service in the sanctuary and to create the live-stream and recorded versions of the services. Once again, the committee extends our gratitude to Pat for sharing both his technical equipment and the vision and dedication to preparing high quality weekly services that can reach our traditional congregation and beyond. Thanks are also extended to Stefan Jackson, Sam Watson, and Eli Watson for their weekly behind-the-scenes mastery of the audio-visual and recording system.

The return to in-person worship was undertaken with a number of restrictions, including having neither a gathered choir nor singing by the congregation. Thanks to Glenn for his continued music ministry leadership, both instrumental, but importantly for also coordinating vocal leadership for the in-person services. Special thanks are also extended to the many individuals who led the vocals throughout the services, which brought an element of normalcy to the services. The choir was also able to continue with the music ministry through recorded anthems.

On October 18, Grace welcomed the Reverend Dr. Kenji Marui and his family to Grace. Although the welcoming activities were more subdued than desired, Kenji's arrival was clearly a highlight for Grace in a very tumultuous year. The committee met virtually with Kenji and was able to support his transition to Grace during the challenging situation of pandemic worship. Worshiping with a hybrid format continued successfully through until December 20, which was the last in-person service before the transition back to the online format for the Christmas season. The committee looks forward to working with Kenji as we all move through the uncertain period that will define 2021.

Finally, the committee expresses our gratitude to Lori Armstrong for her support of the worship services through the ever-changing series of scenarios. The behind-the-scenes support and the issuing to late

breaking emails with information and links to the services is gratefully appreciated by all.

The 2021 Committee members will be: Val Adamson, John Baxter, Bryce McGarvey, Glenn Parsons, Sheila Scott, Gord Walkling, and the Pastoral Team (ex officio).

Bryce McGarvey, Chair

SANCTUARY GUILD

Use of the sanctuary this past year was limited to only a handful of Sundays due to the pandemic but was decorated for those few weeks that we were able to be there. We would like to recognize the willing talents of Karen Rutledge in making new banners.

The 2021 members will be Becky Clarke, Karen Cooke, and Sharon Melanson with help from Karen Rutledge.

Sharon Melanson

MUSIC MINISTRY AT GRACE

With the pandemic being forefront in our thoughts, it seems that life as normal is a distant memory. There was a short time in 2020 when COVID-19 was not a reality and we carried on with our lives, unaware of what was looming over the horizon.

On Saturday evening, March 6, Grace Choir, a Band Called Mule, and Beth took part in a concert that was held at Central United Church. The evening was filled with music provided by many of the local United Churches. All proceeds of the concert were to support technology in worship.

In mid March with the shut down of in-person church services, Grace found it necessary to hold worship services online. For me this meant learning how to make a quality recording of piano and voice in my studio. The studio had to be re-arranged to allow for proper recording. A lot of experimenting with microphone placement was needed to achieve a good, recorded sound. I am fortunate that my wife, Beth, is an excellent singer. She agreed to sing for the Grace online services, and I agreed to play for Mt. Brydges Pastoral Charge online services, where Beth is the minster. All the weekly recordings we were doing for worship services led us to consider working on a joint project with Grace United and Mt. Brydges Pastoral Charge. We planned to record a CD with all proceeds going to the *Caring Cupboard Food Bank* and *Community Concerns for the Medically Fragile*. The CD was titled *Music in Isolation*. We were able to raise over \$2,000 for those organizations. A thank you to the people of Grace and Mt. Brydges for their support in the success of this project.

In September of 2020, we were allowed to hold in-person worship services with strict protocols put into place. Congregational singing was not permitted during the worship service. I contacted many singers to enquire if they would be willing to sing a solo for the worship service, as well as lead with the singing of hymns. A big thank you goes out to Joel Eagleson, Gord and Bev Walkling, Jane Janes, Brian Eagleson, Cecily Chiles, Andris Evans, Sharon Melanson, Jayme Davies, and Ian Adamson for sharing their voices in our worship services.

Grace choir was unable to rehearse due to COVID-19 restrictions. During one of the choir Zoom meetings, I presented the choir with an idea of having them sing an anthem virtually. The choir was very open to making this happen. I began with recording Beth singing the soprano and alto parts and I would sing and record the tenor and bass parts. These individual parts would be sent to choir and they would listen to us singing and then record themselves singing the part. Once each singer had recorded their part, they would send it back to me. I would then import each part into a music program and sync everyone

together. The completed file would be then sent on to Pat to place into the worship service. I was also very grateful to have had other members of Grace lend their voices to the “Grace Virtual Choir”. Thanks goes out to Grace Choir, Jane Janes, Andris Evans, Jennifer and Beth Parsons, Gord and Bev Walkling, and Bill Yates for making this idea a reality.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to Pat Morrison for all the energy he has put into making our online services a reality and success. When Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte was unable to continue with her ministry at Grace, Pat stepped right up and took charge. His expertise and experience were instrumental in getting Grace’s worship services online.

One bright spot in the darkness of the pandemic was the arrival of Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui. I have known Kenji for nearly 10 years in many capacities. My wife Beth worked with Kenji at Calvary United Church for 6 years and we got to know the family during that time. I worked with Kenji with the *Jazz Vespers* ministry at Calvary and also when Kenji was president of London Conference. It has been a welcomed gift to be working with Kenji once again. I look forward to many years of ministry together at Grace.

During my 19 years of music ministry at Grace, I have always been so grateful for the support of the staff and the congregation. As we found new ways to be the church this year, your support has meant that much more to my family and myself. Thank you.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank my wife Beth. She has been a source of guidance and support as we created a bubble that would become “Parsons’ Studio.” I thank her for her incredible voice and talent and for her partnership in all that we do.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to be a part of a great team at Grace. Wishing everyone to stay safe and well.

Yours in Christ, Glenn Parsons

INREACH MINISTRIES

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND GROWTH COMMITTEE

The Congregational Care and Growth Committee traditionally meets on the third Wednesday morning of the month in Room 1. With the advent of the pandemic, meetings in person halted and communication between members continued via email or telephone. Zoom was considered as a possible means of communication but not all committee members had access or felt comfortable with this as a choice. This is up for review in 2021.

Late in the year the committee received resignations from Iris Murtha (chair) and from Madeleine McCaw both of whom have served the committee with great diligence through the years. Our thanks go out to them for their efforts. We would also like to thank Edna Dent for her many years of arranging the member subscriptions for Broadview Magazine. Bev Warkling has taken over that role.

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 was used to help people in need. A donation was made to Sarnia Jail Chaplain Ministry.

Easter flowers were delivered to members who had experienced a close bereavement in the past year and to shut ins and those in long term care. Flowers were also sent to members having special occasions. This year the flowers were delivered to a committee member's garage where they were picked up by the committee members. Because long term care homes were locked our committee members rang the bell and gave the flowers to staff to deliver to our church members. This past year our committee also ensured delivery of the annual report and income tax receipts to any members who had not picked up their copy in person.

Volunteers were scheduled to provide refreshments after worship while we were still meeting in person, but this is currently on hold for the foreseeable future.

Under the co-ordination of Sylvia Rose, a team of church members was formed to contact 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. A list was prepared for Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui so that on his arrival, he, in co-ordination with Sylvia Rose was able to plan to address the needs of congregation members. 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. Iris Murtha co-ordinated requests for meal support and grocery delivery for those at high risk. Many thanks to all those who helped in these areas.

In 2021, the Congregational Care and Growth Committee will continue to promote spiritual growth and Christian care and fellowship within the congregation. Committee members for 2021 will be Margaret Cameron, Carol Holmes, Alice Minty, Bob Newman, Sylvia Rose, Bev Walkling, Diane Werezak, and the Pastoral Team (ex officio). New members are always welcome.

The committee thanks Rev. Linda Marcotte and Lori Armstrong for providing a membership report for each meeting and for being resource persons to the committee.

Respectfully submitted by Bev Walkling

2020 Records

Membership as of December 31, 2019

Resident Members	345
Non-Resident Members	74
Total Membership	419

	Received	Removed
Members received through profession of faith	0	
Members received by certificate of transfer	0	
Members added by returning to resident status	0	
Total received	0	
Members removed by death		7
Members removed by death in previous years		1
Members removed by transfer		1
Members removed by other		0
Total removed		9

Membership as of December 31, 2020

Resident Members	337
Non-Resident Members	73
Total Membership	410

Number of baptisms	0
Number of marriages	0
Number of funerals	4

Jim Wicks, Roll Clerk

AFFIRMING COMMITTEE

2020 started with the Affirming Committee planning and choosing books for a bimonthly book club. We were able to host our first meeting attended by both Grace and community members and discuss “All Out” by Kevin Newman before the pandemic shutdown occurred. Our second annual PIE (public, intentional, explicit) dinner was cancelled so last minute that all the pies had already been prepared!

The importance of affirming actions by faith communities was highlighted in Kirk Wilson’s most recent email update which told of MP Gladu’s presentation of a petition to Bill C-6 (conversion therapy ban) before parliament.

It is our hope that we are able to resume activities in person at some time this year. As always, new members to the Affirming Committee are most welcome.

Barb Baxter, Chair

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

AOTS Men’s Club is dedicated to fellowship, spiritual growth, and service. We are fortunate to have 22 active members although our 2020 activities were curtailed severely by the pandemic. Al Grimwood spoke at our January Breakfast about his MS Bike Ride. We celebrated Valentine’s Day with a dinner served by George Vero and John Scott. The 55 attendees, including members, spouses, and special guests, enjoyed a delicious meal and musical entertainment by DJ Squared. The Club members were saddened by the passing of Jim Kearns, a long-time member.

AOTS administers and contributes to the Ken Plumley Award that is presented to graduating secondary school students. The 2020 recipient

was Chloe Brescia. Several families contributed to the fund in 2020 and we offer our sincere thank you for your support and generosity.

The AOTS Men's Club is open to all men of the church to participate. We hope the pandemic conditions will soon ease and allow the club to resume activities later this year.

AOTS Executive members are Paul Cooper, John Cooke, and Al Grimwood.

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

In 2019, Grace was asked to take the lead role in the sponsorship process for an additional Syrian refugee family (specifically the mother, brother, and family of Jaber Almudeer). In October 2019, the congregation approved this request. Unfortunately, Immigration Canada activities have been impacted by the pandemic and everything went on hold in 2020. The family is doing well and staying safe. They did apply for Canadian citizenship in 2020. We are thankful for those who continue to provide ongoing assistance and support to the family.

Community Living (CL) continues to occupy and maintain the **Grace United Church Manse** as a residence for their clients. Thanks to the vigilant work by the **CL** staff, to date there have been no **COVID-19** related issues within the **CL – Sarnia Lambton** organization.

In 2020, **Grace** continued our partnership with **Brigden United** on a **Canadian Foodgrains Bank “Forget-Me-Not”** grow project. Our February soup luncheon donations assisted with ‘seed’ funding for the project. The corn was harvested in the fall and, when matched 4:1 by **CIDA**, \$45,000 was raised for the **CFGB** – a wonderful contribution to world food aid. Plans are already in place for another project in 2021.

The **Grace** congregation was very generous in 2020 with support for the **United Church Mission and Service Fund**. Our commitment is demonstrated by having our **M&S** commitment as part of our operating budget.

Outreach continued to sponsor a significant number of community groups that use our facilities. This was impacted in 2020 by the church closure from March through September. We were pleased that many groups returned in October. Hopefully, these groups can continue with the use of our facilities in 2021.

Soup Luncheons

With **COVID-19** restrictions, only 2 soup luncheons were held in early 2020. We also had a ‘virtual’ soup luncheon presented by **Community Living – Sarnia Lambton**. Thanks to the congregation for their generous support. The following organizations benefited from our soup luncheons:

Rayjon Share Care

Canadian Foodgrains Bank (with Brigden UC)

Community Living – Sarnia Lambton (virtual)

The congregation also supported our Thanksgiving and Christmas M&S appeals, as well as UCC special appeals for Lebanon Relief and the Global COVID-19 emergency response.

We are thankful to those who assisted with the soup luncheons in 2020 and hope to resume this ministry in 2021. A listing of the soup providers has been included in this report as the Outreach Committee's way of saying thank you,

Very Important People – Our valued soup makers!

Val Adamson	Margaret Billings	Carolyn Callaghan
Betty Carson	Joanna Catterson	Karen Cooke
Edna Dent	Pauline Henderson-Ferguson	
Ruth Kreibich	Jan Leckie	Colette McGarvey
Linda Marcotte	Marian McLean	Karen Rutledge
Valerie Schmidt	Susan Shaw	Carol Shelton
Betty Simpson	Lindsay Smith	Audrey Stringer
Bev Walkling	Sue Wicks	

The list, of course, is only a part of the regular soup makers. And we are always looking for new soup makers for when we are back to monthly soup luncheons ... hopefully soon.

Inn of the Good Shepherd (IOGS)

With COVID-19, the Inn had to adapt their meal format to a pickup versus dine-in. We were able to maintain our monthly meal activity thanks to folks volunteering to help with meal prep at Grace and meal packaging at the Inn.

The congregation, as conditions permit, continue to bring food supplies for the Inn on the first Sunday of each month.

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

IOGS Volunteers

Sylvia Rose	Pauline Henderson–Ferguson
Sue Wicks	Bill & Betty Carson
Maggie Rochon	Mary Mellon
Paul & Lorna Cooper	Barb Kilburn & Kirk Wilson
Karen & Jim Rutledge	Al & Maureen Grimwood
Gord Walking	John Cooke
Linda Marcotte	

Salad Preparation	Desserts
Karen Cooke	Gloria MacLeod

We welcome new volunteers. It is a great way to get to know others in the congregation. If you wish to help prepare meals or work at the Inn, please contact Maggie Rochon or leave your name with the office.

The sign-up sheet to serve at the Inn is normally located on the bulletin board next to the gym window. During the pandemic, we have moved to an email system for volunteers. We serve one meal each month on the fourth Wednesday from 12:30 – 2.30pm.

The Outreach Committee recognizes that many members of the congregation and other committees are involved with significant outreach activities. An example in 2020 was the CD produced by Glenn and Beth Parsons which resulted in a sizable donation to the **Community Concerns for the Medically Fragile**. 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.

Members of the **Outreach Committee** in 2021 will be:

Karen Rutledge	Pat Holloway	Lynda Ruston
Maggie Rochon	Edna Dent	Sue Wicks
Deb Kafford	Carol Shelton	Paul Cooper
Pauline Henderson–Ferguson		

The Outreach Committee welcomes new members who may feel called to participate in this rewarding activity at Grace. Although not possible for most of 2020, we normally meet at 7:00pm 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

L4L (LUNCHES FOR LEARNING)

Lunches for Learning was able to hold two monthly dinners and serve 20 lunches to approximately 2000 students and staff before the COVID-19 lockdown. With the 2019-2020 school ending with online learning, we did not get a chance to get back into the schools.

Over the summer, I corresponded with the four schools to determine if L4L would be able to start in the fall with students. Two of the four schools cancelled the program and after much thought, I decided to cancel it at the other two schools. The only way to do it was in a take-out form, which has too high a financial and environmental impact. As well, I did not want to put the amazing volunteers at risk, many who are caring for loved ones or are in the higher risk category.

COVID-19 also effected the catering aspect of L4L. The region used these services for the meetings held here at Grace in the fall. Pathways contacted the program and request we make the apple crisp for their anniversary take-out dinner. L4L was happy to donate our time and talent to Pathways and it gave us an opportunity to get together and work, socially distanced of course.

We did succeed in catering three turkey dinners for the Alzheimer's Society of Sarnia Lambton. The society devised a plan that would allow cohorts to dinner together and enjoy a Christmas party complete with carolers (behind a clear barrier). It was a real joy to be able to do this for our community.

The hope is to return to the schools in September 2021, depending on how quickly Sarnia-Lambton immunizes those who want the vaccine.

Pauline Henderson-Ferguson
L4L Coordinator

TEACHING MINISTRIES

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The year started out as most years have during Grace's history. We had many volunteers, under Pat's leadership, helping our children and youth navigate their spiritual journey. All four of our Sunday morning programs were running smoothly, youth groups, parent, and family connection, the Swell, confirmation classes, and pancake supper all happened early in 2020.

Things changed quickly in March and little did we know how long it would last. We needed to get creative with our programming in an effort to keep the children and families as connected as we could at a social distance. Many people in the congregation stepped up to help us with this and shared their gifts.

We also had the added wrinkle that because of our ministry shortage, Pat was called on to carry the weight of all programming, including worship over the next many months. As luck would have it, we also had the luxury of Pat being well versed in electronics which allowed us to quickly put our services and programs online giving us all the ability

to at least see each other in “coffee time” after worship, and connect for nightly check-ins.

The programming that we offered over the rest of the year through social distance included:

- Tuck in Time with Chloe
- A live online Good Friday Swell service
- Modified virtual summer campfire program with summer students (Chloe, Lauren, Marlaine)
- Online youth group activities thanks to a temporary contract with Dan Leaver
- Halo Project interviews with parishioners

We would like to thank all volunteers for their continued care in keeping Grace families connected and supported during the pandemic.

The 2021 committee members will be: Shirley Willis (chair) and Pastoral Team (ex officio)

Shirley Willis, Chair

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

9th Sparks

The 9th Spark Unit has 14 girls and 5 leaders. We still use the cupboard at Grace, but we haven't been using the indoor meeting space. Once Girl Guides of Canada allow us back inside for meetings, we will definitely be back at Grace!

Vanessa Nicole, Guiding Leader

33rd Sarnia Brownies

33rd Sarnia Brownies have 14 girls and 3 leaders. We haven't been using Grace, since our first meeting. However, once we are allowed to

host meetings inside, we would like to keep using Grace as a meeting space.

Sarah Knight, Guiding Leader

Guides

32nd Sarnia Girl Guides have 5 leaders and 21 girls registered this year. This is fewer girls than last year which is not unexpected given the pandemic. Since the pandemic began, we have had mostly virtual meetings with some in-person outdoor meetings (when permitted) with both girls and leaders masked. Currently, we are only allowed to meet virtually. We have used the church grounds occasionally and have also met at Newton Park and other local outdoor sites. We still have many items in storage at Grace and hope that eventually we will be able to return to in-person indoor meetings at the church. Unfortunately, this is still likely to be quite far in the future.

Many thanks, Bev Walkling, 32nd Sarnia Girl Guides

PROCLAMATION MINISTRIES

PROCLAMATION & SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE (P&SE)

The Proclamation and Special Events Committee has had a very quiet year in 2020 due to the pandemic and the impossibility of doing things with groups. In a more normal year, we are involved with events like Spring and Fall Fair with all that they involve, or choir events, concerts, and the like. Hopefully, we will be able to do things like this at some point in the future. We are also available to provide support to other committees who are planning events.

Our committee was responsible for the development of the Inspiration Fund, and at year's end, the total amount banked for the fund was \$15,925.64. In 2021, a good portion of these funds will be used to help pay for new equipment being purchased to assist in providing quality

audio/visual recording with the ability to livestream Sunday morning worship (or any sanctuary event) to internet platforms such as Zoom and YouTube.

The 2021 committee will be: Bev Walkling, Yvonne Vanderbeld, Bill Yates, and Pastoral Team (ex officio). 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

Members of the 2020 Trustees were: Alexia Gladdy, Neil Holloway(secretary), Ray Philips, Bill Palmer, Madeline McCaw, Lorne Longley, Peter Melanson (chair), and Pastoral Team (ex officio).

Insurance from Dec. 1, 2019 to Nov. 30, 2020 was provided by The Ecclesiastical Insurance Company at a cost of \$6,701.00. The properties were valued at \$5,466,202.

Peter Melanson, Trustees

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

In 2020, the committee made modest IT infrastructure improvements to support our staff team:

- Roll-out of Microsoft Teams and Exchange to enhance collaboration and remote work
- Increased wi-fi/ethernet coverage to enable the sanctuary A/V project and the Region Annual Meeting. This included a

wireless access point paid for by the Communications Initiatives Fund (\$204.10) and a second wireless access point paid for by the Region

Additionally, in the fall, the committee had a fruitful discussion with Lori, Pat, and Kenji regarding the committee's portion of the Grace Constitution. This successfully served both to orient Kenji to the committee's activities (past and present), and to lay the groundwork for next steps as a committee. In 2021, the committee aspires to collaborate with the Planning Committee to align committee activities with the evolving mission of Grace United Church. Improvements might include development of a logo, refresh of the church sign, introduction of new social media platforms, etc. As we grapple with the on-going impacts of the pandemic, we look forward to a fresh start with our new staff team.

Thank you to John Scott and Cameron Scott for maintaining the outdoor sign.

Thank you to Bev Walkling for continuing to update our Facebook page with fresh content and responding to private messages. It takes significant dedication and creativity, and Bev's efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Lori Armstrong for all the work she does on behalf of the committee. Having a skilled and reliable office administrator is a very real blessing for the church.

The committee membership for 2021 is Christopher Cooke (Chair) and Pastoral Team (ex officio).

Christopher Cooke

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M & P)

The Ministry and Personnel Committee at Grace meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month from September to June. This year, due to COVID-19, we have been meeting by Zoom call. During the past year, we have worked on several items including:

- Continuing to update and review documents to align with current practice
- Administering payroll changes through ADP
- Streamlining accounting and budgeting practices to reflect more accurately actual expenses
- Approving holidays/study leaves and arranging coverage for staff
- Continued support of staff
- Setting a budget for staffing costs according to UCC guidelines
- Acknowledging significant staff anniversaries
- Maintaining documentation on permanent and temporary staff (contracts, agreements)
- Celebrating our staff at Christmas

This year has been busy with the hiring of our new minister, Kenji Marui, in the midst of a pandemic. We also worked with our staff during the Provincial lockdowns to transition to work from home models and to support individual needs as they arose. We hired Cameron Scott as a custodian to replace Curtis while he is on leave to support his wife through her illness. We also supported Pat as he managed as the sole minister for a large part of the year. We worked with him to ensure vacation time was managed and recognized his efforts to transition Grace to the virtual world.

The 2021 committee members will be: Laura Black, Joanna Catterson, John Cooke, and John Scott.

Submitted by Joanna Catterson

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee has been busy this year with repair and maintenance items as well as grounds maintenance. Thank you to John Scott for his regular support with custodial duties, general maintenance, and grounds upkeep. Thank you to Kaela Koundakjian for weekend ice and snow removal. Thank you to the many men who helped with hedge trimming and leaf raking. Thank you to John and Karen Cooke for their assistance in maintaining the church lawn and shrubs. Thank you to Ingrid McFarlane for volunteering her time to weed the flower beds. A special thank you to all who donated flowers for our beds. Also, thank you to Leo Spence for his painting expertise. Thank you to Bill Carson for his ongoing plumbing and electrical support. Thank you to Lori Armstrong for managing rentals and room bookings. Thank you, also, to Curtis Dixon and Cameron Scott for their ongoing care with the building. The committee continues to search for volunteers to help maintain our grounds and to perform light maintenance. In 2021, the Property Committee will be continuing the upkeep of the church and rejuvenate the flower beds. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact the office.

The 2021 committee members will be Marion Staples and Pastoral Team (ex officio).

Submitted by Marion Staples

PLANNING COMMITTEE

This is an exciting time for the Planning Committee as we are in the midst of resurgence after being dormant for a few years! It is becoming anew with new members being sought at the end of 2020 and start of 2021. The committee is responsible for reviewing and rating all project proposals for the church, then puts them forth to Grace Council for approval. We are starting the process of developing the

project list and plan to continue to build on it throughout the coming year.

The Planning Committee would like to thank Kirk Wilson for his guidance and sharing his past Planning Committee experience with us to help kick start the new committee.

The 2021 Planning Committee members are: Cecily Chiles, Joel Eagleson, Regan Pfaff–MacDonald, Jim Wicks, and Pastoral Team (ex officio).

Submitted by Regan Pfaff–MacDonald

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.

2020 was a good year financially for Grace. The Operating Budget ended up with a surplus of \$16.5K. Givings were strong considering COVID–19 impacts but were below our 2020 budget assumption. However, lower costs – mainly due to reduced staffing – more than offset this impact. It was a great result in a year with many challenges.

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 2020, Grace UC funds at Sarnia Community Foundation (SCF) continued to grow. Total funds invested now are about \$52K with the following breakdown:

- funds to support youth initiatives (Tom Murray (\$9,000), Gwen Hopper bequest(\$29,000)
- Ken Plumley Youth Scholarship (\$11,000)
- Tom and Donna Moore Fund (\$1,000)
- General Grace Fund (\$2,000)

Grace was also fortunate to receive a generous estate bequest in 2020. Council is working on a proposal for the future use of these funds.

The 2021 operating budget predicts a deficit of about \$48K which will be covered by the Reserve Fund. Although it is unusual to propose a budget with such a large deficit, we feel that Grace should ‘stay the course’ in terms of staffing and programs until the COVID-19 impact is mitigated.

Proposed Finance Committee members for 2021 are: Ian McGuiness, Bob Newman, Paul Cooper, Wayne Pease (Treasurer), and Pastoral Team (ex officio).

We would welcome new members. It is a great way to learn more about church finances and to get to know other members of the congregation.

Finally, thank you to all members of the congregation who have contributed financially to the operating budget, specific funds, and outreach initiatives in 2020. Without your generosity, Grace could not sustain the ministries that support both the local and international communities around us.

Paul Cooper, Finance Committee

	2019	2020 Budget	2020	2021 Budget
Givings for Operating Budget	\$ 354,202.52	\$ 378,800.00	\$ 332,358.80	\$ 354,203.00
Designated M & S Givings	\$ 3,424.92	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 3,734.92	\$ 3,425.00
Total Givings - Unified Budget	\$ 357,627.44	\$ 384,200.00	\$ 336,093.72	\$ 357,628.00
Other Income				
Rental	\$ 21,655.24	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 13,135.44	\$ 15,000.00
Donations	\$ 2,372.85	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,863.41	\$ 2,800.00
Interest	\$ 2,292.58	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 763.55	\$ 750.00
Special Events	\$ 5,097.09	\$ 5,000.00		
Grace Ministries				
Other Income	\$ 744.55	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 600.42	\$ 600.00
	\$ 389,789.75	\$ 414,700.00	\$ 353,456.54	\$ 376,778.00
Committee Expenditure				
Congregational Care and Growth	\$ 803.40	\$ 650.00	\$ 235.65	\$ 650.00
Outreach	\$ 53.58		\$ 15.00	
Christian Development	\$ 2,205.82	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 633.65	\$ 2,200.00
Worship	\$ 787.10	\$ 1,625.00	\$ 1,156.23	\$ 1,650.00
Communications	\$ 8,474.89	\$ 8,150.00	\$ 7,231.40	\$ 7,500.00
Ministry and Personnel	\$ 297,366.51	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 247,168.60	\$ 329,500.00
Trustees	\$ 7,028.60	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 7,063.99	\$ 8,570.00
Property	\$ 32,337.35	\$ 38,500.00	\$ 29,529.81	\$ 30,750.00
Finance	\$ 3,680.14	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,701.23	\$ 3,500.00
Region 7	\$ 15,013.23	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 14,699.00	\$ 15,600.00
Council	\$ 33.00		\$ 72.70	
M & S	\$ 27,415.00	\$ 25,422.00	\$ 25,422.00	\$ 25,000.00
Total Expenditure	\$ 395,198.62	\$ 422,847.00	\$ 336,929.26	\$ 424,920.00
Net Income vs. Expenditure	-\$ 5,408.87	-\$ 8,147.00	\$ 16,527.28	-\$ 48,142.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund			\$ 16,527.28	
Transfer from Reserve Fund	\$ 5,408.87	\$ 8,147.00		\$ 48,142.00
	\$ 0.00	\$ -	-\$ 0.00	\$ -

Grace United Church – Operating Account

Assets	2019	2020
Royal Bank Chequing	\$ 39,471.13	\$ 40,284.78
Investment Account #001603885	\$ 120,650.16	\$ 166,413.71
Scotiabank Cashable GIC		\$ 350,268.49
Petty Cash	\$ 149.50	\$ 126.20
Scotiabank Chequing	\$ 32,429.37	\$ 32,235.37
Scotiabank GIC	\$ 21,219.59	\$ 21,219.59
Accounts Receivable	\$ 6,961.60	\$ 4,094.57
Total Assets	\$ 220,881.35	\$ 614,642.71
Liabilities and Equity		
Accounts Payable	\$ 260.00	\$ 449.28
Church Funds		
Affirming	\$ 334.18	\$ 147.18
Refugee	\$ 54,648.94	\$ 54,454.94
Reserve	\$ 60,874.23	\$ 77,476.51
Youth Initiatives	\$ 4,200.95	\$ 3,273.58
Lunches for Learning	\$ 12,623.19	\$ 11,429.81
Inn of the Good Shepherd	\$ 1,716.63	\$ 2,171.74
Youth Worship	\$ 4,217.18	\$ 4,192.20
Capital Replacement Fund	\$ 11,199.40	\$ 11,241.83
Benevolent Fund	\$ 428.15	\$ 1,037.01
Legacy Fund	\$ -	\$ 376,481.57
Ken Plumley Fund	\$ 1,701.02	\$ 2,851.02
Inspiration Fund	\$ 16,150.46	\$ 15,925.64
Leadership Development Fund	\$ 8,035.59	\$ 7,000.59
Memorial Fund	\$ 15,269.27	\$ 16,636.79
Communications Initiative Fund	\$ 17,628.64	\$ 18,279.50
	\$ 209,027.83	\$ 602,599.91
General Fund	\$ 11,593.52	\$ 11,593.52
Total Funds	\$ 220,621.35	\$ 614,193.43
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 220,881.35	\$ 614,642.71
Schedule of Accounts Payable		
Church Key Deposits	\$ 260.00	\$ 260.00
VISA		\$ 189.28
	\$ 260.00	\$ 449.28
Schedule of Accounts Receivable		
HST	\$ 6,961.60	\$ 4,094.57

2020 Outreach Report

United Church of Canada Missionary and Service

Givings from Unified Budget		\$ 25,422.00
Lebanon Relief		\$ 1,220.00
Thanksgiving M and S		\$ 1,195.00
Christmas M and S		\$ 1,050.00
Subtotal		\$ 28,887.00
Soup Luncheons		
Rayjon		\$ 2,295.00
Brigden		\$ 2,870.25
Community Living		\$ 1,215.00
Subtotal		\$ 6,380.25
Other Donations		
Lambton Centre		\$ 100.00
Canada Foodgrains		\$ 200.00
Inn Meals and Donation		\$ 3,838.89
Lunches for Learning		\$ 2,708.38
Community Care for the Medically Fragile		\$ 1,025.00
Subtotal		\$ 7,872.27
Other Grace Groups		
Youth Group	World Vision	\$ 160.00
Subtotal		\$ 160.00
		\$ 43,299.52
Fair value manse rental		\$ 24,000.00
Total		\$ 67,299.52

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is responsible for overseeing a process that ensures that all members of the congregation are appropriately represented on the church Council. At the time of printing, the committee had not yet completed its work. An update will be provided at the Annual Meeting. Members of the committee were Barb Baxter (Past Chair), Regan Pfaff-MacDonald (Vice Chair), Jim Wicks (Roll Clerk), and Pete Melanson (Trustees).

Barb Baxter, Past Chair of Council

CHURCH STAFF

PASTORAL TEAM:	Kenji Marui, B.Sc.H., M.Div., D.Min.
	Patrick Morrison, B.Math, DLM.
MINISTER EMERITUS:	Rev Doug Greenough, B.A., B.D. M.Div.
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	Glenn Parsons, B. Mus. A.
CUSTODIAN:	Curtis Dixon
CUSTODIAL RELIEF:	Cameron Scott
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:	Lori Armstrong
OFFICE VOLUNTEER:	Debbie Mills

In Memoriam (2020)

Aimee Bouffard	February 13
Don Phillips	March 13
Jim Kearns	May 11
Ralph Hall	June 25
Bernice Rogers	November 8
Marnie Kearns	November 15
Clint Sykes	December 15
Margaret Manser	December 20