

First United Church Mount Pearl



Annual Report 2020

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Minutes

Annual Congregational Meeting

First United Church

November 15, 2020

The meeting began immediately following the morning worship service at 11:40 am.

Rev. Ian called for nominations for a Chairperson and a Secretary. Wayne Rideout was elected chairperson and Heather Sinyard was elected secretary.

There were 26 people in attendance at the church and 4 people in attendance via Zoom.

Wayne opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance. He expressed his thanks to Rev. Ian and the Covid-19 Committee for their efforts during this year. He also thanked all church members for their continued support.

Proposed Agenda – It was moved by Cynthia Burt and seconded by Kyle March-MacCuish that the proposed agenda be adopted. **Motion Carried.**

The Minutes of the Congregational meeting of March 10, 2019 – It was moved by Gary Gosse and seconded by Dorothy Latreille that the minutes of the congregational meeting be accepted. **Motion Carried.**

There was no business arising from or questions raised by the minutes.

Committee Reports – It was moved by Susan Vardy and seconded by Janice Andrews-Ralph that the committee reports be accepted. **Motion Carried.**

Minister's Report - Wayne asked Rev. Ian if he had any comments or questions on the report. He had none.

Board of Management - Board Chair, Joan Winsor, was unable to attend. Vice Chair, Gary Gosse advised that she had not sent any message through him.

Wayne then proceeded to ask if any one had any further comments or questions on each of the reports. There were none.

Property Report
Worship Committee
Christian Development Committee
Sunday School Report

Book Club
Quilting Group
Youth Group
Outreach and Social Action
Bridges to Hope
Ministry and Personnel
Board of Trustees
Men's Fellowship Club
First United Church Women
General Protestant Cemetery Report

Stewardship Report – The Stewardship Committee / Financial Report was moved by Kyle March-MacCuish and seconded by Mike Bouzane. **Motion Carried.**

Wayne asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the report. Stewardship Committee Chair, Len Sturge and Treasurer, Glenys Harris had no further comments.

Rev. Ian asked if there was any information available on 2020. Treasurer, Glenys Harris, did not have any figures with her for 2020. She will have figures available for the next Board Meeting.

Rev. Ian stated that there would be a letter going out to the congregation very shortly and a summary of the current 2020 financial statement would be included.

Len advised that all 2020 bill payments are up to date. Glenys advised that we had applied for and received some Government Assistance through the CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) Programme.

Constitution Changes – There were none to be addressed.

Re-Election of Current Board Members and Election of New Board Members –

Given the circumstances of the 2020 year

- All Current Board members will remain in place until next Annual Meeting in February/March 2021. Note: Gary Gosse believes that 3 members have already dropped off the board.
- Any new members identified for 2020 plus any additional new members will join the board as of the next Annual Meeting in February/March 2021 and begin their terms then.

Election of Delegates to First Dawn Eastern Edge – Brenda Andrews, Janice Andrews-Ralph and Cynthia Burt have agreed to continue as our representatives. There were no additional nominations or volunteers. We will need to look for a 4th representative.

Rev. Ian informed the congregation that 3 people from our congregation; Brenda Andrews, Cynthia Burt and Tony Tuck, have been nominated and have accepted to be

Lay Representatives for First Dawn Eastern Edge at General Council in Calgary in 2022.

Statistics for 2019 – Rev Ian read out the names of the 22 members for whom funerals were conducted. A moment of silence was held for the deceased members.

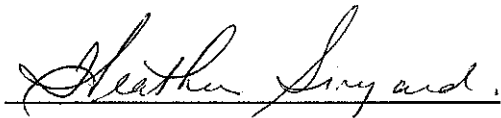
New Business – there was no new business brought forward.

Closing Remarks - Rev. Ian thanked the staff; Christina Manning and Peter MacDonald as well as Melissa Butt, even though she has not been on staff this past year, for their continued contributions to the church.

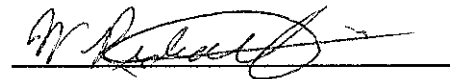
Wayne added that it has been a trying 8 months. Many have been alone. We have missed seeing friends, missed singing, fellowship and social action within this congregation. Slowly but surely, we are returning to some sense of normalcy. Wayne again thanked the congregation for all their support.

Rev. Ian said the benediction.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather Sinyard", written over a horizontal line.

Heather Sinyard
Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wayne Rideout", written over a horizontal line.

Wayne Rideout
Chairperson

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Official Board
2020

Minister	Rev Ian March-MacCuish
Chairperson	Joan Winsor
Vice Chair	Gary Gosse
Secretary	Jean Fry
Treasurer	Glenys Harris
Stewardship Chair	Len Sturge
Worship Chair	Madeline Rideout
Property Chair	Kirk Howell
CD Co-Chair	Kelly Tuck
CD Co-Chair	Tony Tuck
M&P Chair	Brenda Andrews
Membership Co-Chair	Susan Vardy
Membership Co-Chair	Dorothy Latreille
Board of Trustees Chair	Nelson Harris
UCW Rep	Gloria Gosse
Men's Club Rep	Harold Sinyard
Board Members	Melvina Moores Kyle March-MacCuish Cynthia Burt Carolyn Rice Mike Bouzane Raylene Newman Susan Melendy-Stark Oliver Stark

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Annual Meeting
October 16-18, 2020
via zoom video conference

RC101

Behold, I Make All Things New

Friday, October 16, 2020

REGISTRATION

Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council registered online for the October 16-18, 2020 Annual Meeting of the Regional Council. In preparation for the annual meeting, the Executive offered three webinars so that members were able to ask questions for clarification about matters that will require decision making at the annual meeting.

Registration

ATTENDANCE – Appendix A

Regional Council members in attendance at the meeting are included in Appendix A.

Attendance

REGRETS – Appendix B

Appendix B lists regrets received by members of the region.

Regrets

GATHERING

The annual meeting, held by zoom video conferencing, opened at 6:30pm for members to gather and to test connections.

Gathering

CALL TO ORDER

The President, Peggy Johnson, welcomed everyone to the second annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council and called the meeting to order. She thanked everyone for embracing the technology that brings us together during the pandemic, and for those who participated in the webinars in preparation for the meeting. The President offered thanks for the staff of the region and for the members in attendance.

Call to Order

WELCOME

The President introduced Alan Hall, Executive Officer, Ministry and Employment, joining the meeting as representative of the General Council Office and offered a special welcome to those celebrating anniversaries and milestones in ministry.

Welcome

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

The President noted that there was a quorum present, and constituted the council for the business that shall properly come before it.

**Quorum
Constitution
of the
Regional
Council**

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

The President began the meeting by acknowledging the territory in which we gather. The island of Newfoundland is the ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We also recognize the Inuit and the Innu as the original people of Labrador. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation.

**Acknowledging
the Land**

OPENING WORSHIP

Bill Matchem and Alice Moores, of the Worship Team, opened the meeting with scripture, song and prayer to animate the theme *Behold, I Make All Things New*. Peter MacDonald provided ministry of music for the worship. The Moderator, the Right Rev. Richard Bott preached from his home in British Columbia and offered thanks for the land on which we gather. The Moderator asked us to ponder how we can strive to make a difference and work towards living in right relations. The Moderator spoke on what ways we have had to find for ministering during this pandemic. What lessons have we learned? In this newness, in what is becoming, how are we to be the people God calls us to be? The Moderator asks us to remember that God is making new things with us and in us.

**Opening
Worship**

In Memoriam

IN MEMORIAM – Appendix C

The in memoriam prayer and slideshow presentation was led by Rev. Heather Sandford, Regional Minister.

Procedural Motions

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Kathy Brett, Chair of the Regional Council Program Team, presented the Procedural Motions.

MOTION: (Kathy Brett/Cecil Noseworthy)

That the Roll of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be (Manual 2019 C.1.1 and C.1.2):

The members of the Order of Ministry and other Ministry Personnel who are:

- a) Members of the order of ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
- b) Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council; and
- c) The lay members who are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by their Communities of Faith.
- d) Appointed members, lay Members of the Regional Council Executive who have not been elected by their community of Faith.

That the quorum be as indicated in Section C.4.3 of the Manual 2019;

"The Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present... If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and that there be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose."

"That the Bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room and the telephone connections to that meeting space."

"That representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; ministry students not serving a pastoral charge; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council."

"That the agenda as printed and distributed be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined, by the Council."

That the business table be Kathy Brett and Cecil Noseworthy.

That the minute secretary for the Second (2nd) Annual Regional Council meeting be Jennifer Taylor.

The President will chair the meeting, making any rulings necessary. The Regional Council will work together using the Whole People Covenant and Holy Manners as its guide. The President will apply the Manual 2019 Appendix: Procedures for Holding a Meeting and Decision-Making. Bourinot's Rules of Order will be used as the authority should a question arise which is not answered by the Appendix.

Guidelines for discussion; the speakers will:

- Start by identifying them self (name, Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith)
- All discussion should be directed to the President.
- Each person may address the President only once about a motion, except the mover, who may speak both first and last.
- That the initial time allocated for the mover to address the motion be limited to three minutes.
- That all subsequent speakers limit their time to two minutes, including any reply by the mover of the motion.
- All discussion should be clear and concise and deal only with the motion.

CARRIED

CONSENT MOTION

Consent
Motion

Kathy Brett, Chair of the Regional Council Program Team, presented the Consent Motions.

MOTION: (Kathy Brett/Cecil Noseworthy)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

1. Approves the Minutes of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Inaugural Meeting, May 3-5, 2019, Gander, NL (TC39-TC61) as circulated.
2. Approves the following accountability reports:
 - a. President
 - b. Regional Executive Minister
 - c. Division of Finance and Administrative Resources
 - d. Division of Regional Council Services and Support
 - e. Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning
 - f. Division of Human Resources
3. Receives for information the following reports:
 - a. United Church Women
 - b. Moderator and General Secretary
 - c. General Council Commissioner
 - b. Atlantic School of Theology
 - c. Emmanuel College
 - d. Office of Vocation
 - e. Pine Hill Divinity Hall
 - h. Tri-Region Staff Committee

CARRIED

MILESTONES IN MINISTRY

Milestones In
Ministry

Heather Sandford, Regional Minister, hosted the Milestones in Ministry event, celebrating significant milestones in the lives of some of our ministry personnel. A slideshow and music highlighted the years of service of those who have offered their gifts and talents to The United Church of Canada and are celebrating milestone events.

Retirement

Retirement

The Rev. E. Brian Colbourne.

Anniversaries

Anniversaries

The Rev. Hubert A. Mercer	64 Years	The Rev. Joseph G. Burton	61 Years
The Rev. Boyd L. Hiscock	60 Years	The Rev. Theodore C. (Clem) Rodgers	60 Years
The Rev. F. John Adams	55 Years	The Rev. Arthur G. Elliott	55 Years
The Rev. Ralph G. Moores	55 Years	The Rev. Dr. L. George LeDrew	50 Years
The Rev. Clayton M. Parsons	50 Years	The Rev. James Allen Von Riesen	45 Years
The Rev. S. Boyce Parsons	40 Years	The Rev. E. Brian Colbourne	30 Years
The Rev. Roger D. Janes	30 Years	The Rev. Beverly G. Matthews	25 Years
The Rev. Denine P. Morgan	25 Years	Ms. Jessie Newbury	25 Years

New Minister

New Minister

Rev. Limon Daka was welcomed to the region and introduced to the council.

Introduction of Students

Students

Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister, welcomed the students and candidates for ministry to the council. Welcome and congratulations were extended to ordinand Oliver Dingwell and Emma O'Rourke, being recognized this weekend at the Celebration of Ministry Service; admission applicants Limon Daka and Edison Wiltshire; candidates for ordered ministry Heather Cronhelm, Rebecca Pike, and Stephanie Rose; and Designated Lay Ministerial candidates James Martin-Carter and Keith Wiseman.

Transfers
and Leaving

Transfers and Leaving

Goodbye to those who have left the region, with thanks for your ministry among us; Rev. Adekunle Adeniyi, Rev. Gus Pendleton and Rev. Shepherd Munkwa.

Closing
Prayer

CLOSING PRAYER

Alice Moores from the worship team closed the meeting with prayer.

Saturday, October 17, 2020

Gathering

GATHERING

The meeting opened at 1:00pm for members to gather and to test connections.

Call to Order

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order and thanked members of the regional council for their participation. The Executive Minister reviewed some of the procedures for the meeting, using features of the zoom video conferencing platform.

Acknowledging
the Land

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

The President acknowledged the land on which we gather. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation.

Opening
Worship

OPENING WORSHIP

The opening worship was led by Oliver Dingwell and Emma O'Rourke. Peter MacDonald Music provided the music for the worship.

General
Secretary

GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary, Nora Sanders, shared opening remarks via video message. She thanked the region for its support and encouragement throughout her career, and especially in this time of unexpected change. She reminded us that blessings can be found in change and that God is with us. We are not alone.

Check-In

CHECK-IN

Using breakout rooms, members of the Region took time to check-in with each other and share their feelings and experiences about the focus question *What is a new beginning for you this year?*

Executive
Minister

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Faith March-MacCulsh, Executive Minister thanked members of Regional Council for gathering and for embracing the technology to meet in this new way. In keeping with the theme, she offered thanks to the commission for seeing the region through the transition, to the executive and volunteers for participating in the new structure; to the past president, president and president elect for their leadership; to staff for going above and beyond; and to ministry personnel and communities of faith who are serving in the midst of crisis and are the very core of the region. The Executive Minister stated that we are on a journey of faith. We are experiencing a global pandemic, and at the same time we have experienced immense care, support and love. She shared that there is hope and celebration in transformation. We have quickly learned new skills, ways to worship, connect, and provide pastoral care and follow the call of Christ. There is much to celebrate as we strive to be the people God calls us to be. God calls us everyday to do more, to be better, and to love deeply.

Prayer for the
Anglican
Church

PRAYER FOR THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Executive Minister offered prayer in support of our brothers and sisters in the Anglican church who are experiencing the deep loss of Bishop Geoff Peddle. The region sends love and prayer to all who grieve and holds them close at this time.

EXECUTIVE MOTION

Executive
Motion

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCulsh/Kathy Brett)

That the current Regional Council Executive remain as the executive for the regional council until the spring 2021 Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

(Grant Stuckless assumed the chair)

PRESIDENT

President

The President, Peggy Johnson addressed the council. She expressed sincere gratitude to the region for their support. The President spoke about the ability to connect in this most difficult time. She thanked the staff for their care and work to transition to virtual work and help the communities of faith to continue gathering through this new lifeline. The President offered special thanks to the Executive Minister for her unbelievable effort in leading the region through this uncertainty. The President shared the views of the Moderator; that God is still doing marvelous and exciting things.

(Peggy Johnson reassumed the chair)

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER ELECTION – Part 1

General
Council
Commissioner
Election

Bruce Rideout, chair of Nominations, introduced the council to the matter of General Council Commissioners to General Council 44 (GC44). Those nominated for General Council Commissioners attended a webinar on October 8, 2020 and were each given two minutes to speak to introduce themselves. It was noted that First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council is eligible to have 13 (thirteen) Commissioners to GC44. Eight (8) commissioners will be named today, leaving four (4) commissioners to be elected in 2021. There were four (4) names brought forward for the four (4) lay commissioner positions and five (5) names brought forward for the ministry personnel positions.

The Executive Minister presented the council with information regarding voting for the election of ministry personnel commissioners for General Council 44 (GC44). Members were provided with instruction for the online voting. Once the electronic voting opens, members will have one hour to cast their vote. The four (4) nominees with the most votes will be elected as commissioners, with the remaining nominee serving as an alternate.

MUSIC AND BREAK

Music and
Break

PROPOSAL – Appendix D

Proposal

Paula Gale introduced the proposal *Establishing an Affirm Standing Committee for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council* (Appendix D), received from the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Executive. The proposal asks for action by the regional council in supporting the executive to establish an Affirm Standing Committee which will engage the region in an educational process in which we learn what it means to be an affirming region.

MOTION: (Paula Gale/Jocelyn Cook)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council empowers the Regional Council Executive to establish an Affirm Standing Committee, which will engage the Regional Council in an educational process, at the end of which a proposal as to whether or not to become an affirming region will come before the Regional Council.

CARRIED

REMIT

Remit

Faith March-MacCulsh introduced the remit for voting. A remit is a proposed change to the Basis of Union. The remit before us today is a change to the Basis of Union to make Article 10.0 inclusive of persons of all gender identities. This is a Category 1 Remit, requiring a vote by the regional council.

**First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, October 16-18, 2020
via zoom video conference**

The 43rd General Council in 2019:

- (i) approved a change to Article 10.0 of the Basis of Union to be inclusive of persons of all gender identities; and
- (ii) authorized this Category 1 Remit to Regional Councils to test the will of the church with respect to this change.

Remit 1 – Amendment to the Basis of Union’s Article 10.0 on Ministry Personnel

Does the Regional Council agree that:

- a) the Order of Ministry be open to persons of all gender identities; and that
- b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change as follows:
10.0 The Order of Ministry shall be open to persons of all gender identities.

Results: YES (70) NO (5)

**Financial
Statements
2019**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019

Roy West, chair of the Division of Finance and Administrative Resources, presented the 2019 audited financial statements to the Regional Council. A detailed account of the region’s finances was presented during a webinar on October 6, 2020. The auditor reported that the regional funds were well managed and are in good order. As a region, the report indicates that we have enough reserves to maintain stability and overall have a strong financial position, with assets of the region currently totaling over \$8 (eight) million, and net assets over \$3.6 (three point six) million.

MOTION: (Roy West/Shane Foote)

That the 2019 audited financial statements for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Budget 2021

BUDGET 2021

The First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council budget for 2021 was presented by Roy West. An information webinar for the 2021 budget took place on October 6, 2020. It was noted that the grant amounts for salaries and regional support have been added to the 2021 budget at the request of the auditor in order to show more detail than the 2020 budget line items. The chair also noted that detail has been added to show budgets for teams within the divisions. For the first time, a budget line item for legal matters has been added. This is to allow for legal expenses on the various property and legal issues within the region. It was also noted that there has been a reduction of 17% (seventeen) in the mission support grant to the region for 2021. The division is recommending that money from previous unallocated funds or reserves be used as a contingency fund and may be used to make up some of the reductions in mission support grant monies available to support ministries within the region. It is important to note that going forward the region needs to live within its means.

MOTION: (Roy West/Shane Foote)

That the budget for 2021 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**General
Council
Commissioner
Election**

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONER ELECTION – Part 2

The President presented the results of the vote for the ministry personnel and lay commissioners for GC44 elected from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

The Lay Commissioners to General Council 44, elected by acclamation, are:

1. Brenda Andrews
2. Cynthia Burt
3. Shane Foote
4. Tony Tuck

The elected Ministry Personnel Commissioners to General Council 44 are:

1. Simon Muwowo
2. Oliver Dingwell
3. Paula Gale
4. Emma O'Rourke

The elected Ministry Personnel alternates to General Council 44 are:

1. Miriam Bowlby

Bruce Rideout, Nominations Chair, encouraged all members to consider putting their names forward for the remaining positions for commissioners, to be elected in the spring of 2021.

MOTION: (Kathy Brett/Cecil Noseworthy)

That the ballots from the election of commissioners be deleted.

CARRIED

CLOSING MOTION

**Closing
Motion**

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Kathy Brett)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council designate to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2019; and
That the second annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service. The third annual meeting will be held on May 14-16, 2021 in St. John's, NL.

CARRIED

CLOSING WORSHIP

**Closing
Worship**

The meeting closed with worship provided by youth from across the region offering prayer, scripture readings, a video presentation of the New Creed, and a video challenging members to take a second look at many of the everyday things around us as illustration of the theme *Behold, I Make All Things New*. Music was provided by Peter MacDonald Music.

Sunday, October 18, 2020

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE

**Celebration
of
Ministries
Service**

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at Wesley United Church, St. John's, on Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 2:00pm. There were a limited number in attendance (in person) at the service, but the service was live streamed so that all members were able to witness this important milestone event. The President, Rev. Peggy Johnson, was the preacher. Oliver Dingwell was ordained and Emma O'Rourke was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister in The United Church of Canada.

Rev. Peggy Johnson
President

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

From the Desk of Reverend Ian March-MacCuish

It has been one heck of a year. Who would have thought that our churches and our communities would have to shut down due to a virus.

The Coronavirus has extracted a heavy toll on our health-care system and our front-line people. Many sacrifices have had to be made. Many businesses have had to close. We have had tremendous job loss with an economic downturn. These are just a few of the repercussions.

Here at First United, the biggest sacrifice has been on the social level. We have not been able to gather for all the many social events that take place in a calendar year. Barbecues, jiggs dinners, breakfast with Santa, Men's Club/UCW Christmas dinners were all cancelled. Good Friday breakfast has had to be cancelled for the second year in a row, as has Easter morning breakfasts served by the Youth Group.

Wearing a face mask has become compulsory. So much so, we now have designer face masks.

There is no question that it has been one heck of a year. However, to dwell on the coronavirus too much would cause us to spiral down in a state of despair and hopelessness. I am very pleased to report that our church not only has survived, it has thrived! With the help of technology, we have been able to live-stream our worship services. This has been met with tremendous success. Our services have been seen as far away as Australia and as close as around the corner. We've had comments that the services have provided hope, fellowship and connectedness in a world where being connected face-to-face can be dangerous.

Our relationships with various ministries such as Bridges to Hope and Stella Burry community services have continued. The Book Club, Youth Group and UCW have all continued to meet virtually and provide support and nurturing to members. The official Board has continued to meet over Zoom technology to provide outstanding leadership in very difficult circumstances. Technology has proved to be an indispensable tool over the last year. Staying connected over email, YouTube, FaceTime and Skype have been important ways of staying in touch. Thank you so much to those volunteers who have enabled our church to worship as a family.

Thankfully, here in Canada the coronavirus is one thing that we can work towards eradicating. In other parts of the world there is still much conflict and much violence. The coronavirus is only one devastating part of the puzzle for many of our sisters and brothers around worldwide. As we have responded to the coronavirus as a global community, let's continue to find ways to support each other, to look after each other and our neighbor so that, as a global family, we may celebrate life and faith together. In his [letter to Mission & Service partners](#), Moderator Richard Bott wrote: "May we find tangible ways of supporting each other—and all of God's world—in this time, and in the days to come... [A]s we 'proclaim Jesus' with our words and our actions, we will find a way through this, together."

GOD IS GOOD

Ian March-MacCuish

First United Church - Board of Management

Annual Report 2020

WOW!!! What a year we just had!! We started out in January with snowmageddon and then two months later we were in lockdown with Covid 19. On March 12, 2020 the Emergency Preparedness Team, which consists of Gary Gosse, Harold Sinyard, Rev. Ian, Cynthia Burt, Carolyn Rice and myself, met. We decided, with the Board's approval, that we "would cancel all church activities effective immediately". The team did up a church re-opening plan that was forwarded to all families of First United. In September we finally opened our church to in-service worship. We could seat 58 people per Sunday, keeping in mind that we had to obey the six-foot rule. From May to September we broadcasted recorded services put together by Rev. Ian and Peter MacDonald. A big thank you to all the people that helped in getting the services ready.

In November we finally held our Annual Congregational meeting. At that meeting we said good-

bye to Mark Rice and Nelson Bailey. Thank you both for all that you have done over the last five years.

A very big thank you to all the people who have been involved in broadcasting our live services on Sunday mornings. To the people who have checked on the church to make sure everything thing was ok, thank you. Also a big thank you to the Finance Committee for all the long hours doing the paper work for all the grants that we have applied for. If I have missed anyone, sorry, but a big thank you to you as well. Rev. Ian - we cannot thank you enough for all that you have done this past year, between working at home, at the church and all the zoom meetings that we have had. Thank you!

This being my last report as Board Chairperson, thank you to all the board members and staff for all their support over the years. A special thank you to Gary Gosse for being my right hand person this year, I could not have gotten through this year without your help. Thank you to all the Board members that are retiring this year after many years of service, enjoy your free time! Good luck to the new Board.

Joan Winsor
Board Chairperson

Property Committee - 2020 Annual Report

First United Church March 2021

I hereby submit this 2020 Annual Report on behalf of the Property Committee. We would like to thank the entire committee as well as past co-chair Nelson Bailey for all the help, both past and present. Also, many thanks to Harold, Gary, Wayne, Cyril and Mike for your continued help and support. As we go forward, we must reflect on the past year living with COVID-19, which this report is based on. The year 2020 was a year of restrictions, cancellations and lockdowns. With those restrictions in place, it made things more difficult or impossible to carry out. We did manage to keep things together at a minimum without compromising any building functions; while restricting personnel entering the building and adhering to all COVID-19 protocols.

Just to highlight a few:

- Thanks to Cyril for checking the furnace and mechanical system weekly.
- Snow clearing operation, both parking lot and doors and walkways carried on as normal.
- Thanks to Gary and Harold for replacing the shed doors and making the necessary repairs.
- Thanks to Gary for arranging necessary repairs to the heating system.

The fore mentioned is only a highlight, and not limited to, of what we were able to achieve under the strict conditions. Hopefully, we haven't left anyone out. If so, it was not intentional, as we appreciate everything both big and small that was done to help get things done. We all know that many hands make things a whole lot easier.

In closing, we would like to thank the congregation and the official Board for trusting and having faith in us as a committee to manage their place of worship.

As we go forward into another uncertain year with COVID-19, we trust that everyone will **Stay Safe**, as there are **Brighter Days Ahead**.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Howell

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Committee Members: Melvina Moores, Kyle Match McCuish, Peter MacDonald, Rev. Ian Madeline Rideout. Co-op members: Gordon Morgan, Brenda Thistle.

2020 was a difficult year, with major snowstorms in January and February and the COVID pandemic starting in early March, we were unable to have regular Worship services. There were no in person services from March 8th - October 4th. Thank you to Peter MacDonald, Rev, Ian and their family members for their dedication in producing and conducting the Virtual Services during this time.

There were two Baptismal services at the church during the closure, one in July and one in September, with family members only present. Since church re-opened in October and due to COVID restrictions, we are able to have only one baptism at each regular Sunday service. The Canadian Bible Society and the UCW continue to provide Bibles and candles for each baby.

Communion Services continue with Communion being served in the pews only. Congregational members are asked to provide their own elements. However, individual elements available for those who request them. Church members have been very supportive of the new safety procedures.

While we have been unable to have the Senior or Youth choirs take part in the services, individual members have joined Peter and Ronalda to bless us with their singing.

During the Christmas season the UCW held their annual memorial hymn sing. Thanks to all UCW members, our guest singers, and Harold Sinyard for his technical help.

On Christmas Eve we held two services, a parking lot service at 4pm. and service in the sanctuary at 8pm. Thanks to everyone who helped. The parking lot service enabled our church family to worship together as we were unable to accommodate everyone in the sanctuary.

Thank you to the members of our ushering teams who continue to serve during the pandemic.

Thank you to Rev. Ian for his spiritual guidance during this very difficult time.

Respectfully submitted



Madeline Rideout (Chair)

Christian Development Committee

Annual Report 2020

Well, who would have thought in January 2020 we would be finding ourselves here, in the middle of a World Health Pandemic? We know it was the furthest from our minds. We never would have imagined being here in these moments, trying to be a Faith Community, while being in our own small bubbles.

Just like all faith groups in our church, right now 2020 has been a struggle for Christian Development. In March of 2020 when the world shut down and our church doors closed, it was an emotional, stressful, and very scary time for us all.

Then began the process of trying to keep our faith community together, while maintaining social distancing. This was a challenge we had not faced before, but we were not willing to back down. Life quickly became consumed with watching daily updates and receiving guidance from our health authorities and governments. All the while we continued to pray for the health and well being of not only our family and loved ones, but our church family, our communities and we prayed for the health and well-being of our world.

Christian Development oversees such groups in our church community as Sunday School, Youth Group, Quilting and Book Club.

January, February and part of March 2020, Christian Development saw the beginning of a regular year. Sunday School met once a week in our church hall with singing, crafting and enjoying fellowship. Youth Group met once a week on Sunday evenings and we had so much fun enjoying our time together. Youth Group had their first community outreach project for the year in February 2020 with the annual Valentine's delivery to the seniors homes in and around Mount Pearl. This is an outreach project loved by our group. Of course, with the changes and challenges in our world, Sunday School has not been able to meet. Youth Group meetings have moved to Zoom meetings.

The Quilting Group would meet in the church. This group would get together and bring their beautiful talent of sewing to life. Taking the tiniest piece of fabric and creating it to a beautiful creation of a quilt, and they had so much fun doing it. They laughed and supported one another, celebrating in what they created, cheering each other on and giving pointers. They helped each other when needed. When a final product was finished, it would be a spectacular creation. Now these beautiful ladies meet on Zoom. I am sure they still praise and celebrate one another and have a great time.

The Book Club has been another wonderful part of our church for many years. Bringing a group of people together that share the love of reading. They read many books throughout the year, on a wide variety of themes and topics.

We are so fortunate to have such groups in our church community. We are very grateful for the leaders and volunteers that run these groups. To say that over this past year they have gone above and beyond is an understatement. We are so, so fortunate to have the dedication of our volunteers. Through this pandemic they have worked very hard to keep programs going. There has been a lot of thinking outside the box.

A year ago who even knew what Zoom was? Or that it would become such a vital part of our faith community in keeping us all in touch with one another. We are certainly blessed with the talents, hard work and dedication of our volunteers. They play such a vital role in doing what is possible to keep us together as a faith community and still enjoy fellowship, while in a new way.

There are not enough thanks to give to our wonderful volunteers, who have made this trying, lonely time a bit easier. Being part of a church community is a huge part of each one of us, part of who we are. Thank you to all the people who thought outside the box and kept us together in our faith community. We can only speak for ourselves when we say that entering that Zoom Board Meeting or Zoom Youth Group meeting, or just even being in church, distant from others; these are the things that have gotten us through this very difficult time.

Thank you and God Bless.

Youth Group - Pam Morgan, Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Rev. Ian, Emily March-MacCuish, Sarah Walsh, Jenny Hillier, Tony Tuck, Kelly Tuck

Sunday School - Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Susan Vardy, Kelly Tuck, Sara Case
Music- Ronalda MacDonald

Book Club - Pam Morgan

Quilting- Pam Morgan

Christian Development - Cynthia Burt, Janice Saunders, Pam Morgan, Susan Melendy Stark, Oliver Stark, Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Rev. Ian, Tony Tuck, Kelly Tuck

Thank You and Blessings

Tony and Kelly Tuck, Co-Chairs- Christian Development

“Act as if what you do makes a difference....IT DOES”-William James

Youth Group Annual Report **SNAC -2020**

The Youth Group at First United Church known as SNAC-Sunday Night at Church (because that is where you will find us and you will also see us snacking among other things) has had another successful year. We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated leaders. Thank you to: Pamela Morgan, Kelly Tuck, Tony Tuck, Sarah Walsh, Jennifer Hillier, Emily March-MacCuish, Faith March-MacCuish, and Rev. Ian March-MacCuish.

The 2020 year was very different for everyone and our Youth Group was no different. We were not able to do many of the projects that we normally take part in because of the COVID shut-down. Through it all, we moved our Youth Group meetings to the virtual format. We have kept in touch, played games, celebrated Christmas and did some outreach, all from our homes. The COVID shut-down has been hard on our youth, and they have missed being together in person. Some of the youth have not been able to take part in virtual gatherings. They found this too hard since they have had to complete their schooling on line as well. Please hold our youth in your thoughts and prayers.

Outreach Programs

Can Project:

Postpones due to COVID

Prison Loot Bags:

This year we provided 160 Christmas bags for the inmates who are at Her Majesty's Penitentiary. This project is important for our Youth Group. It always reminds us that we are all children of God, that all of us are capable of making mistakes and we all have the potential for forgiveness and restoration.

Seniors Outreach:

We were able to complete this activity just before shut-down. This year again we baked cookies and made Valentine cards for the seniors who live at Hillcrest Seniors Residence and Pearl House. Each person received a visit, two cookies and a homemade Valentine card. The best part of the whole outreach program was having the young and the young at heart spend a small amount of time visiting together.

Congregational Outreach:

Trick or Trunk – Cancelled

Easter Breakfast - Cancelled

We as a group also took part in the Prayer Vigil. It is really amazing to see a bunch of young people sitting quietly in church in prayer and contemplation. We are very proud of our young people for being part of this ministry.

Worship Services:

The Youth Group was able to take part in the virtual services throughout the year when needed.

Faith Talks:

Talking about our faith is an ongoing thing, but there are times when we study topics that are important to us - Anti-Racism and Climate Change, eradication poverty to name a few.

Fun and Fellowship:

Our Youth Group provides a place for youth to come and feel comfortable, supported and safe. We play games, go bowling, watch movies, go sliding, go curling, have sleepovers and gym nights and just plain old nights enjoy being together, even when being together means on-line.

Thank You:

Thank you to First United Church for all your support, to the UCW and Men's Clubs and Official Board who support us. Thank you to Rev. Ian, our Minister. Thank you to the youth for being such a great group of young people. Thank you to the parents who help and support the youth, get them to the church and events we are hosting, and for being a support to all we do!! Thank you to all the leaders who give of their time for the love of our youth.

Submitted by Rev. Faith March-MacCuish

Sunday School Report First United Church 2020

We have a small, faithful Sunday School here at First United Church. The average attendance is normally 9-13 children ranging in ages of nursery school to grade nine. We have Sunday School each Sunday during church service. We begin in the sanctuary with our families, with a time of reflection with Rev. Ian. We move to Trinity Hall, where we:

- light the Christ Candle
- check in with each other to see how the week went
- light our Birthday Candle and sing Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating throughout the week
- take up our collection
- hear the bible story
- sometimes we use songs, acting and games to explore the Bible story
- we always have a craft that we complete and take home, to remind us of the story and to talk to our parents about what we learned
- and of course, we always end the time together with a snack.

The Sunday School has two outreach projects that we have been part of for the past 15-20 years. We sponsor two Foster Children. We collect our Least Coin (5 cents) each week and this goes towards our Foster Children's Fund. The congregation also helps us out from time to time with donations to this fund in memory of loved ones or in celebration of a life event. Thank you to those who help us with our Foster Children sponsorship.

Collecting Pop Can Tabs:

This ministry began as an outreach ministry from a young man in Ontario. His name is Robert Hampson and he is now 22 years old. He started this ministry when he was four years old after he had brain surgery due to cancer. The surgery made him blind but opened his vision to the fact that he had a lot more than many of the kids he met. He wanted to start this project as a way to help people help kids. It has made a very big impact over the years. We have purchased eight wheelchairs for children and had a van renovated for a teenager in Corner Brook who needed an accessible vehicle which enabled her to drive and be independent.

[Poptabsforwheelchairs.ca](https://www.poptabsforwheelchairs.ca) site updated as of April 2021 reports 19 children have been provided equipment and 13 wheelchairs assembled. Wow! If you wish to learn more, please go to the link below.

<https://www.google.com/search?sxsrf=ALeKk025Yr3pjW3ItZrC1wQDrrXkptkkHg:1619115426561&q=poptabsforwheelchairs.ca&spell=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjkwOb-upLwAhWxSxUIHQlCh0QBSgAegQIARAx&biw=1280&bih=610>

We ask the congregation to also save their pop can tabs for this Sunday School appeal.

Lenten Journey 2020:

We started our Lenten Journey on our train. Thank you to Peter Macdonald for making our train for us. It added to the joy of traveling to the places that Jesus was born, lived, ministered, died and was resurrected. Unfortunately, COVID shut us down and we had to leave our train at the station. We are longing to board the train again and follow Jesus Ministry.

The COVID Pandemic stopped our Sunday School in March of 2020. We are praying that September 2021 will see us all back together.

Thank you to our Sunday School leaders and teachers, snack attackers, children and parents for all of your support and help! We have a great group of volunteers and an awesome group of children and youth in our Sunday School.

Sincerely,

Sunday School Superintendents: Susan Vardy, Kelly Tuck, Rev. Faith March-MacCuish

First United Book Club

So, 2020 brought some interesting times. We started the year with a snowstorm cancelling our January meeting and moved that book to February. We managed to have that meeting. And then March brought us a Stay-home Covid-19 Pandemic order. Three months, two cancelled meetings!

How to have book club with everyone stuck at home, isolated in their own bubble? After much perseverance and trepidation on the part of some members, and a lot of trial and error, we managed a meeting with Zoom videoconferencing. It proved a success, and although some people still found the technology challenging, most thought the benefits outweighed the difficulties and enjoyed the opportunity to see another face and chat with other people outside their own bubble. In fact, we commenced meeting weekly instead of monthly, chatting about anything and everything. After a month of this, we decided to start discussing books again, moving every third meeting to a book discussion. Although most of our members have e-readers and could get the books quickly, one member did not, thus it became very important to pick books well in advance so she could order the books allowing enough time for the mail, which was slow for online orders.

We were also greatly saddened in March with the passing of one of our founding members, Joanne Juteau. Although not a member of our congregation, Joanne faithfully attended with her neighbour and brought her good humour and love of books to us. Covid, unfortunately, prevented our attending the funeral, but we sent our thoughts and prayers to the family. You will be missed, Joanne.

We dropped one book as a person reading ahead convinced us that the book was not worth our time, and no one else had bought it at that point. We read pure non-fiction, several books based on historical events that were unknown to us, and several fictional books. Family seemed to play an important role in many of our books this year, although it was not planned.

Below are our one-line book reviews for the past year:

- 2020-02-26 **Educated** by Tara Westover
"Education takes many forms"
- 2020-04-24 **The Family Beach House** by Holly Chamberlin
"Family dynamics still alive and well even if the mother is dead and the house is inanimate"
- 2020-05-20 **The Thirteenth Tale** by Diane Setterfield
"A tale of twins ... or is it?"
- 2020-06-17 **The Alice Network** by Kate Quinn
"A Woman's work is never done, particularly in war"
- 2020-07-15 **One Good Dog** by Susan Wilson
"A story of a dog and his boy"
- 2020-08-26 **Almost Sisters** by Joshilyn Jackson
"A tale of white privilege, pregnancy, and female kinship told with humour and compassion"
- 2020-09-30 **All We Left Behind** by Danielle Graham
"An engaging story of one of Canada's lesser-known injustices from World War II"
- 2020-10-28 **The Best Kind of People** by Zoe Whittall
"A story of character, trust, and faith -who do you believe?"
- 2020-11-25 **Beneath a Scarlett Sky** by Mark Sullivan
"Powerful historical fiction of a little known side of WW2."
- 2020-12-16/23 **Oh My Stars** by Sally Kilpatrick
"Christmas: a family affair of the good and the bad, where relationships are Everything"

Submitted for the Book Club by Pam Morgan

First United Quilting Group

Between Snowmageddon and general slowness getting back into the swing of things, the quilting group had a sudden panic when realising we hadn't even picked out a pattern for our Fall Fair quilt, let alone started it. And so we jumped right in and were soon happily sewing along when the Covid-19 Pandemic sent everyone to their homes and their own little quilting bubbles. So long Fall Fair quilt! So long Fall Fair and church.

So could we still have quilting when we weren't allowed to get together? You bet we could. Took a bit of effort for some people, but we managed to get most of our regulars into a meeting using Zoom videoconferencing. And were able to continue ooh'ing and aah'ing over the projects people were working on at home. Such a success, we decided to continue meeting weekly and share what was going on in our confined lives. There were quilting projects, painting (even one room painted like a patchwork quilt/stained-glass window), other craft projects, and of course sewing. Lots of sewing. We had one member sewing caps for Eastern Health, and another sewed wash bags for a nurse. And then, with one of our members working at Eastern Health, many members answered the call to provide masks to the administrative staff at Eastern Health who, in the early stages of the pandemic, were not being provided the "good stuff".

The videoconferencing isn't perfect and we wish we were together – it is hard to see a full quilt on a video or to get a true sense of colour, but we are happily carrying on, encouraging one another, admiring projects, consulting on techniques or colours, commiserating when things don't work as they are supposed to.

And while we couldn't have our Christmas Social in person, we still did it on Zoom, with our mugs and treats.

Submitted by Pam Morgan on behalf of the Quilting Group

Outreach and Social Action Report 2020

In mid-January, we endured one of the worst storms in the province's history, *Snowmageddon*- a 90-plus cm snowfall and an imposed State of Emergency. The unprecedented snow that fell, accompanied by wind gusts, created blizzard conditions, and essentially shut down the Eastern section of the island. From neighbour helping neighbour, sharing food and muscle power, in addition to the mighty Canadian military who picked up shovels and helped those who could not help themselves we owe them our gratitude.

Then, we had the pandemic and the realization that COVID-19 was everywhere, literally. During 2020 its spread and resulting impact led to a global crisis of unprecedented reach and proportion. In January of 2020, Canadians were still living their lives like they always had commuting to the office, visiting friends, dining out, hugging loved ones, vacationing and for a lot of us locally attending weekly worship at First United Church.

By March, with cases climbing, health officials began implementing a series of measures that would fundamentally alter how many Canadians live. Lockdowns and calls for physical distancing, travel restrictions, mask-wearing rules, cancellation of major events, and video meetings replacing in-person interactions as people were asked to avoid seeing anyone, even loved ones. In-person worship was cancelled, and we quickly shifted to online worship. Although our physical building was closed, church was not cancelled.

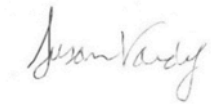
Outreach to our church family was even more important than before and through our Facebook Page, Constant Contact Email updates, YouTube Channel, and our Webpage <http://www.firstunitedchurchmp.ca/> were all updated regularly to keep everyone informed.

The Outreach and Social Action Committee was actively keeping the congregation up to date with all the activities of First United Church through our various church communications. Our church website is updated regularly with the most up-to date information as possible. <http://www.firstunitedchurchmp.ca/> (special thanks to Beulah Bouzane - BCI-solutions/Bouzane Consulting Inc.) and special thanks as well to the team responsible for getting our services on the web each week. If you are on Facebook -you are encouraged to like and follow our page, sign up for Constant Contact- our email distribution list, check out our website and subscribe to our You-Tube Channel.

Bridges To Hope-Newfoundland has the highest rate of per capita food bank usage in Canada. In 2020 the Bridges to Hope Food Pantry provided food aid to over 8,000 people. The clients come from every sector of society – no one is turned away. The clients are your neighbours, co-workers, and friends. At Bridges to Hope the focus is “neighbours feeding neighbours.” Clients access food aid assistance once a month and can receive a full food hamper or an emergency hamper. The full food hamper includes fresh baked bread, homemade soups and stews prepared in our community kitchen, plus other essential food items required to feed a family or an individual for up to five days. It's not a handout –

it's a hand up, helping Newfoundland families and individuals move forward in life. Bridges To Hope serves the Northeast Avalon region. At First United, the first Sunday of each month is designated as Bridges To Hope Sunday and members of the congregation are invited to bring along non-perishable items or make a financial contribution. Non-perishable food items are always needed, and there is a collection bin in the church foyer. Your continuous support is greatly appreciated...thank you so much.


Although Christmas 2020 was different for our church community we still had our Mitten and Hat Tree where members of the congregation donated hats and mittens to help keep people in our area warm this winter. Respectfully submitted,




Susan Vardy, Chair, Outreach and Social Action Committee

Are you on the First United Church Constant E-mail List?


If Not, Take a Moment and Email or Call The Church Office With Your Information.



Name: _____



Email: _____



Phone: _____

Email this information to First United Church firstunited@nf.aibn.com

BRIDGES TO HOPE

REPORT TO OUR PARTNER CHURCHES FOR 2020

Bridges to Hope, which is the largest Food Bank in St. John's, had, like most organizations in NL, a different and difficult 2020. However, like everyone else, we have worked through both Snowmageddon and COVID-19, and we have come through, learning new lessons about ourselves, our community and our clients, which have enabled, and will enable us to provide better services as we head into 2021.

Snowmageddon in January saw St. John's shut down, and Bridges to Hope with it. This was cause for concern for our clients who, with limited financial resources and city wide food shortages, could be without sufficient food. The persistence of Jody our Manager with the city had them recognize our dilemma, and a plow was sent to create an access to Bridges to Hope. Jody and a group of about 8 Volunteers and Board Members arrived the next day and immediately set about packing emergency hampers. 100 hampers were packed and distributed by 2:00pm. Several food businesses who were closed came with deliveries of frozen food, dairy products, eggs and fruit and vegetables to restock supplies, and we were helped as well by two policemen assigned to us should there be crowd issues (there weren't). Community spirit was alive and well.

March saw COVID-19 arrive in NL, and with it concern about how we could operate as a Food Bank under Government restrictions. Each day brought new issues, and the Board held regular conference calls as to whether we could remain open. Finally we agreed we had no choice but to close our doors at the end of March. The final day we were open, we emptied our shelves to those who came for hampers.

The Board and staff now had to work toward preparing for how and when we could reopen. A COVID-19 Health and Safety Committee was created, and the Committee carefully established Protocols and how to follow them according to Government regulations. This required physical and operational changes to Bridges to Hope, as many of our food sources such as churches and individual donors were no longer available to us, as well as suppliers unable to provide enough food for our needs.

Early May saw us in a position to reopen on a limited scale. It was fortunate that the students who were hired to begin with us in June under a Federal summer program (and were with us in 2019) were all available to start in May, and were able to help reopen and set up. We had received Federal COVID-19 monies for Food Banks, most of which we received as gift cards for supermarkets, and many generous businesses and companies and the general public donated funds to help us stay open. We gave out the limited food we had and gift cards to clients, we were able to have 2 Drive By Food Drives after which all food received was placed in quarantine for three weeks, and from there we have moved ahead slowly and steadily to where we are now, about the same as in March 2020 with respect to food and number of clients. Since the reinstatement of Level 5 we are seeing an increase in the number of clients coming to us for help. Food insecurity seems to be a main concern these days, and we are doing our best to help those in need. All Protocols are still being followed, and they have become the basis for a new Health and Safety Committee for Bridges to Hope.

Bridges to Hope has also created two new partnerships to aid in the distribution of food to those who have need, but are unable to come to our Pantry, Connections with Seniors and Local Wellness Collective (part of Food First NL). Seniors who need to use Food Banks and are unable to leave their homes or have no one to collect a hamper for them can contact Connections with Seniors, giving their MCP number and ID, and a list of their food needs. Connections will then contact Bridges to Hope, a hamper will be prepared according to what we have on our shelves, and Connections will pick up the hamper and deliver it. Local Wellness Collective provides the same service under the same conditions for people who need to use Food Banks and are ill or disabled. Bridges to Hope does not deliver hampers as we do not have the ability to do so.

August saw us wondering if we could do our Bags to School Program under present conditions, especially as so many parents count on this for their children. Again, a new method appeared. Thanks to Jody, staff and Dicks & Company we were able to provide over 250 backpacks filled with school supplies appropriate for each individual. Clients registered with staff at Bridges to Hope giving the necessary information, and were then given a day and time to pick up their backpack. Monies were donated by many businesses, companies and individuals to provide supplies, and Dicks & Company staff assembled and identified all the backpacks in their warehouse, then delivered them for distribution to Bridges to Hope on the specified days. Dick & Company also helped us with reducing costs of materials. This was a much more efficient way to do the bags, and was quite successful.

A similar method was used to provide Christmas Hampers. Clients registered for hampers, noting family size – small, medium, large and exlarge as to hamper needed. Rotary, with whom we have partnered to do these hampers for many years, chose in these times, not to pack actual hampers, but to give the value of what would be put in a hamper according to size, in a supermarket gift card of the same value. It was a very generous donation from Rotary, and made for providing hundreds of families with the means to purchase a Christmas dinner.

We would like to introduce you to our new staff members. Our Manager is still Jody Williams, who many of you may recognize from interviews about Bridges to Hope. Kelly Yetman, who was our Administrator/Accountant moved out of the province. We were happy to welcome Lindsay Upshall to this position in September. We have established a new fulltime position, Pantry Manager, and have hired Lesley Burgess, who was one of our student staff in 2019 and 2020, and has been with us part time since September. She will help Jody with the Pantry and give him time for Fund Raising and his other responsibilities. We have also hired Emily Noel on a part time basis to help with stocking shelves.

Our other good news is that we have been making renovations at Bridges to Hope that are almost completed. The Pantry will now move to the main floor of the Cookstown Road building in what was formerly our Offices. The Offices have been moved upstairs in the same building. This will give us a larger Pantry space, and will make providing services more efficient for staff, volunteers and clients. It is hoped in the future to renovate the present Pantry to become a food storage facility.

Because of the generosity of many organizations, businesses, individuals, and government COVID-19 based funding, we are at the moment financially stable. However, there is no guarantee we will see the

same monies donated next year. Jody has worked hard on fundraising, and has had a successful year on our behalf. We hope we can continue to provide the services that we give, and also to start some new initiatives for our clients. A newsletter is in the offing to keep donors and partners up on what we are doing, and any new program initiatives we may undertake.

Again, we would like to thank all those who have supported and donated to Bridges to Hope, whether it be food, monies or your time. We value all three. Our Volunteers are one of our most valuable assets. We could not exist without them and are grateful for the time they give us. Our partner churches have been a big support especially with food donations. We appreciate that, since Churches are not back to usual, many church members have brought donations of food to us at Cookstown Road. We are unable to receive food from individuals under Level 5, but will welcome all donations after it is lifted.

We acknowledge the support and financial assistance of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of the United Church and the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces. Special thanks are given to the United Church of Canada who have made their Conference Calling Ability available to us at no charge so that we are able to conduct our many Board Meetings that cannot be held in person, and which are so important to dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, and operational issues as a Board.

We offer a special thank you to two of our participating churches. Wesley United and First United Church Mount Pearl have come to our assistance several times over the past year.

In September Wesley allowed us to use their property to have a Drive By Food Drive, and then stored all food received in a closed room for the long quarantine. Wesley has also provided the Board of Bridges to Hope a place to have its meetings, as our own quarters cannot provide the required social distancing. We also held our Annual General Meeting at Wesley, and Rev. Mercer participated with prayer, and conducted the election of officers.

First United Church in Mount Pearl also held a Drive By Food Drive, and provided space for quarantine for food donated. They have also assisted us with providing space for food storage while Bridges to Hope is undergoing renovations and we required space to empty our building of food. Thank you to Wayne Rideout, a member of First United who on Tuesdays volunteers to drive a truck to Food Sharing to pick up our weekly supply of reclamation food. This requires loading the truck and unloading it at Bridges to Hope Pantry. We thank you Wayne for performing this important and essential service.

Hopefully by this time next year COVID in its many forms will be under control and we can return to the new 'normal' whatever that may be. We anticipate that Bridges to Hope will still be in existence as a Food Bank, and will continue to provide food and services for our clients, many of whom are the most vulnerable members of our society. We ask for your continuing support and prayers as we carry out our mandate.

Eleanor Bonnell, Board Chairperson

Bridges to Hope

FIRST UNITED CHURCH MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M&P) ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Presently serving on the M&P Committee are: Brenda Andrews (Chair), Eric Eveleigh, Ada Eveleigh, Janice Andrews-Ralph and Carl Burt. We respectfully submit our Annual Report.

The M&P Committee acts under the guidance of *The Manual* of the United Church of Canada. The committee functions around three roles, which are: the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for our staff and our community of faith with respect to any issue involving staff of our Church. We work to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of our community of faith.

Much of the M&P Committee's most effective work is done quietly and confidentially. The Committee has a responsibility to make recommendations to the Board and receives direction from the Board. We welcome advice and input from staff and the congregation at all times.

Examples of our 2020 efforts include:

- reviewed and kept current the employee job descriptions
- advised the Board on salary levels appropriate for each position
- recommended to the Official Board annual compensation guidelines
- advised employees in general on HR issues
- attended Board meetings and submitted monthly reports
- met with and supported staff on an ongoing basis
- communicated salary and wage changes for employees

It certainly has been a different year for our congregation and our staff. With the closure of our churches due to COVID-19 in the Spring, everything changed seemingly overnight. Yet, through ingenuity, determination and tenacity, our dedicated staff and volunteers worked together to find a way to institute necessary changes and continue to bring us worship services on a regular weekly basis.

Our Minister, Reverend Ian March-MacCuish, our Music Director, Peter MacDonald, with the help of Melissa Butt and several dedicated members of our congregation, produced videos which were uploaded to YouTube to ensure that we had access to uplifting spiritual services online every Sunday. Christina Manning valiantly staffed our office to ensure that any essential work was completed on time and to take "reservations" for our in-person church services that eventually returned in the Fall. Who would have ever dreamed that a reservation would be necessary to attend church! We are very grateful to all of our staff and congregation who worked so diligently to make this possible and to help us survive this challenging year. As well, we are very grateful for the excellent overall leadership and guidance provided for our churches by First Dawn Eastern Edge Region.

During 2020, Avalon Cleaners provided cleaning services, as necessary, on a contractual basis. Mr. Jim Eales provided snow-clearing services for the parking lot, and Mr. Roland Vivian provided snow-clearing services for the thoroughfares and exits on a contractual basis. Members of the congregation looked after the grounds-keeping during the Summer. We are very grateful to all who have assisted in any way in keeping our church property safe and beautiful.

May I take this opportunity to thank the M&P Committee members for their work and support over the past year.

Brenda Andrews - Chair

First United Church Men's Fellowship Club

Annual Report 2020

First United Church Men's Fellowship Club is a group of men of the congregation who meet on the first Tuesday of each month for worship, fellowship and a good meal. Our club recently adopted a less formal meeting agenda, usually with a meal, worship, a short business session and followed by social time for things such as darts or cribbage.

Our club prepares meals for fundraising or to support our UCW and assists the board with other meal preparations.

We take part in outreach such as preparing meals for the residents at Ronald McDonald House.

Many members of the club are also involved in various activities such as:

- delivery of envelopes, newsletters and other items to members of the congregation
- assistance with the sanctuary sound system
- various repairs and maintenance around the building
- taking part in church services and visitations in partnership with UCW members
- visitation providing flowers, cards and fruit baskets to members in hospital or recuperating at home
- sympathy cards to bereaved families.

The following is an outline of our limited activities for 2020:

January:

We held our traditional pot luck meeting on January 14th and made some brief plans for the next couple of months.

February:

We held our meeting on February 4th with a meal of fish and brewis.

Feb 18th we attended Gower Street for an evening of fellowship with their Men's Club.

Feb 23rd some members took part in a gospel service with members of the UCW and The Right Fit gospel group.

Feb 28th we held our regular spring Jiggs dinner with some UCW members assisting with serving.

March:

Our regular meeting was held on March 3rd with a meal, a brief planning session for our flea market in April and our bbq in June. This was followed by a friendly game of darts by some members.

On March 9th some members attended an information session at the invitation of the UCW where Rev. Faith shared information on her trip to the Philippines.

Within a few days of this, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all our normal social activities have been curtailed and it is unknown at this time when they will be able to resume.

Two of our members held positions on our Emergency Preparedness Committee, working to ensure the safety of our congregation.

When our limited church services resumed in the Fall, some of our members were involved with assisting in our preparation for on-line services and required adjustments/changes to our sound system. We also assisted with the setup for our first ever parking lot service for Christmas Eve by erecting the stage, setting up the sound equipment and organizing the parking lot.

Club members were saddened in September by the passing of long- time member Harvey Hodder.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Sinyard
President

First United Church Women

Annual Report 2020

The First United Church Women Group (UCW) continues to be a vibrant and active group who meet the second Monday of each month. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we were unable to have regular meetings from April to December. However, we did have meetings in January, February and March.

In January, the UCW and Men's Group visited Pearl House Retirement Home.

In February, at our regular meeting, we had the collection of our Valendimes Fundraiser.

In March, Rev. Faith attended our regular meeting where she talked to us about her trip to the Philippines and showed some of her pictures. It was very informative and we thank her very much.

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions we were not permitted to have gatherings. In May we sponsored a Virtual Afternoon Tea and in November we had a Bakeless Bake Sale. Both events were very successful and we thank all those who contributed.

In November it was decided we would have our annual shower of personal care items. We arranged for two of our members to be at Trinity Hall on November 25th so people who had items to donate could drop them off. The amount of donations, both items and money, exceeded our expectations. Thank you to everyone who helped us. 24 Christmas gift bags were delivered to Carew Lodge, according to Covid regulations. The remaining items were taken to Stella's Circle and The Gathering Place.

At our Executive Meeting in November, we decided to retain our positions for another year as we cannot have regular meetings.

On December 6th, the UCW held our annual Christmas Lights Service. Because of Covid restrictions we decided to have both a virtual and in-person service at the church at 7:00 pm. We would also like to thank all those who made memorial and celebration donations.

The UCW continues to provide many programs with financial support. In 2020, the group supported the Mission and Service Fund, the Fellowship of the Least Coin, Burry Heights, Chaplaincy Fund, the Labrador Fund and, as well, supported the church's local and building fund.

The UCW provides outreach in other ways. We provide copies of "Our Daily Bread" booklets to members of the congregation. We support Bridges to Hope, Carew Lodge and Emmanuel House with personal care items. We also support Bridges to Hope with their Smart Snack Program. We provide mittens, scarfs and hats to the Mitten Tree Project. UCW members and friends knit strips for the Quilts for Comfort Project. Since the project started in 2006, a total of 560 quilts/blankets have been distributed far and wide to those who need a little warmth in their lives. This year we gave six quilts to Carew

Lodge. We give thanks to those who provided the wool, knit the strips and to those who put the quilts together.

We have a Prayer Chain that circulates prayer requests for individuals and families who are going through difficult times. We provide Baptismal Candles for the newly baptized children and Birthday cards for their 1st and 2nd birthdays.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all members and friends of the congregation who continue to support our many projects. Without you we could not do what we do.

When Covid-19 restrictions permit and we are able to have regular meetings again, we would like to extend an invitation to all women of the congregation to join us in our faith journey as we share our time, talents and treasures. We pray that God will continue to bless us and our work.

Respectfully submitted.

Linda Manuel

Secretary 2020

**The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.
Annual Report for 2020**

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at all three Cemeteries. We, leveled and resodded a large number of graves and leveled a number of headstones in the General Protestant Cemetery and Mount Pleasant Cemetery We install several thousand square feet of sods per year. In Memorial Gardens we have installed continuous reinforced concrete bar beams under each row of monuments..

During the year we had 214 burials, which is an increase of 24 over the previous year; Of these 156 (73%) were cremations, which is an increase of 29 from last year.

The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	9	4	12
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	179	142	161
The Field of Honor	18	21	21
Memorials Gardens Cemetery	<u>12</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>20</u>
Total Burials	218	190	214
Cremations Included	136 (62.40%)	127 (66.84%)	156 (73%)

Your Board met 4 (four) times during the past year.

There have been 64 burials in Memorial Gardens. Twenty (20) of these were in 2019=2020.

All maintenance at Memorial Gardens, such as grass cutting, snow clearing etc., is done by our own staff.

Memorial Services;

The Memorial Services for 2021 are tentatively scheduled as follows::

- 1) Mt Pleasant Cemetery, Monday, July 5, 2021, 7pm.
- 2) General Protestant Cemetery, Monday, July 19, 2021, 7 pm.
- 3) Memorial Gardens, Monday, August 2, 2021, 7pm..

In the event that COVID-19 regulations are in place the memorial services dates will be adjusted accordingly

A personal thank you to the congregation of First United for their continual support.

I am pleased to place on record thanks to our cemetery staff. We have a dedicated staff, and the feedback from the public is excellent. We appreciate the work done by Bill, Vince and Graham. We operate six days a week, sometimes through difficult and challenging situations, especially during the winter season.

Respectfully submitted,

Calvin Gibbons

Calvin Gibbons
First United Church Representative
Vice Chairman, General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.
tel: 709 364 9733
email: cgibbons@nf.sympatico.ca

Stewardship Report 2020

Our Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that on December 31, 2020 all bills were paid and all financial obligations were met, eg. - Mission and Service Fund, Food Bank, District Assessment, Cemetery Fund and VOWR.

I would like to bring to your attention that for 2020 our operating Account had a surplus of \$7,895.17 and our Building Fund Account had a surplus of \$4,227.00. The surplus in our operating account was due to the wage subsidy program from the Federal Government. We received \$13,880.76.

Our Loan balance as of December 31, 2020 is \$248,200.00. For us to continue meeting this financial obligation we are asking each family of our congregation to contribute an extra \$10.00 per month to our Building Fund account; however, this is not to be at the expense of contributions to our general revenues.

We had previously mentioned to the congregation about setting up pre-authorized (PAR) for your monthly contributions. We are strongly recommending that you (the congregation) take a serious look at this option. It is very important to our cash flow position especially during the summer months. If you wish to make your contributions by post - dated cheques that would also be greatly appreciated. The pre-authorized forms are available at the church office.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I want to thank all members of the congregation for your support during 2020. While we may have challenges ahead of us, I am quite confident that with your continued support, we will overcome to grow as a community of faith.

In His Presence,



Len Sturge
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Statistics 2020

Baptisms:	8
Marriages:	2
Funerals:	13

Confirmation of Membership

December 31, 2019	1091
Added by profession of Faith	0
Added by Transfer	0
Removed by Transfer	0
Removed by Death	3
Removed by Request	0
Membership as of December 31, 2020	1088

Marriages in 2020

Michael James Best and Lisa Marie Sharpe
Brendan Michael Joseph O'Rourke and Rebecca Lee Hicks

Baptisms in 2020

Adriana Eileen Perera	Rowan William Gillingham
Dev Anthony Varghese Novecosky	Sterling Preston Edward Tibbs
Catherine Dawn Squires	Brynn Margaret Peddle
Jackson Wayne Ashwell Greening	Jacob Thomas Rowe

Deaths in 2019

Wilfred Giles	Harvey Hodder
Frederick Herbert Pike	Louise Hoyles
Stephen Thistle	Phyllis Pope
Robert Clarke	Cyril Noseworthy
David Boland	Mary Louise Follett
Norma Ruby Cook	Melinda Lillian Janes
Wilfred Howell	