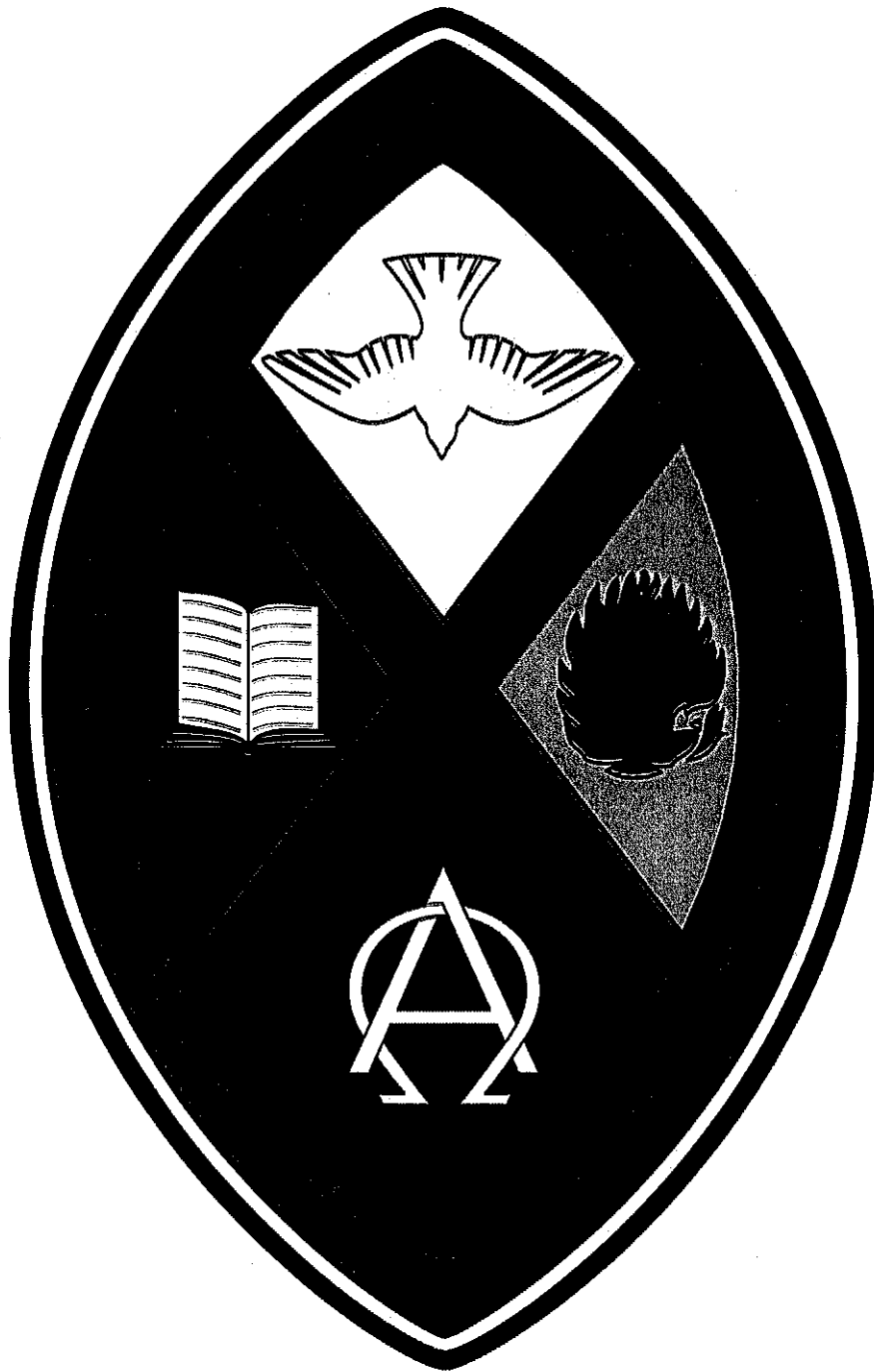


# First United Church Mount Pearl



Annual Report 2021

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**Minutes**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**First United Church**  
**MAY 2, 2021**

The meeting began immediately following the morning worship service.

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

There were 28 people in attendance at the church and 8 people in attendance via Zoom.

Wayne opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance. He expressed his thanks to all the volunteers who have helped throughout the pandemic with their time, abilities and donations etc. He expressed his hope for some future sense of normal.

**Proposed Agenda** – It was moved by Gary Gosse and seconded by Cynthia Burt that the proposed agenda be adopted. **Motion Carried.**

**The Minutes of the Congregational meeting of November 15, 2020** – It was moved by Susan Vardy and seconded by Carolyn Rice that the minutes of the congregational meeting be accepted. **Motion Carried.**

There were no errors or omissions noted, no business arising from or questions raised by the minutes.

**Committee Reports** – It was moved by Joan Winsor and seconded by Gary Gosse that the committee reports, except for the financial report, be accepted. **Motion Carried.**

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**  
**Youth Group and Youth Group Financial Report**  
**Sunday School Report**  
**Book Club**  
**Quilting Group**  
**Outreach and Social Action**  
**Bridges to Hope**

**Ministry and Personnel – Brenda Andrews (Chair)** took a moment to express her thanks to everyone, especially the staff, for their flexibility and team work. She also expressed her thanks to the congregation for bearing with us as we figured out the technology and to the many volunteers who helped to get the technology working.

**Board of Trustees**

**Men's Fellowship Club and Men's Fellowship Club Financial Report**

**First United Church Women and UCW Financial Report**

**General Protestant Cemetery Report**

**Stewardship Report –** The Stewardship Committee / Financial Report was moved by Dorothy Latreille and seconded by Joan Winsor.

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

Pam Morgan noted that the Financial Report was not included with the online report. She was advised that in order to obtain a copy of the financial report it would be necessary to drop by the church and pick up a paper copy. The church was not allowed to post the report online.

There were no additional questions or comments. Wayne asked for the vote to adopt the motion on the floor for the Stewardship Committee / Financial Report.

**One person abstained. Motion Carried**

**Constitution Changes –** There were none to be addressed.

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

Joan Winsor stated that there were 10 people who were leaving the board this year. She thanked them for their service.

Kelly Tuck	Tony Tuck
Susan Vardy	Dorothy Latreille
Glenys Harris	Melvina Moores
Joan Winsor	Cynthia Burt
Jean Fry	Kirk Howell

Joan announced that 4 people had agreed to come onto the board.

Andrea Mercer	Allison Randell
Sara Case Strickland	Heather Sinyard

That these people be accepted to the First United Board of Management.  
Moved By: Gary Gosse and Seconded By: Cynthia Burt **Motion Carried**

Wayne called for further nominations for new board members.  
Carolyn Rice nominated Jean Whelan who accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

That Jean Whelan be accepted to the First United Board of Management.  
Moved By: Carolyn Rice and Seconded By: Joan Winsor      **Motion Carried**

These are the new members to the Board for 2021.

**Election of Delegates to First Dawn Eastern Edge –**

Joan advised that the members have already been put into place given that our congregational meeting is later than usual this year and the Conference Meeting is next week. Brenda Andrews, Janice Andrews-Ralph, Cynthia Burt and Jean Whelan have agreed to be our representatives.

That these people be our delegates to First Dawn Eastern Edge.  
Moved By: Kelly Tuck and Seconded By: Susan Vardy      **Motion Carried**

**Statistics for 2020 –** Rev Ian read out the names of the 13 members for whom funerals were conducted. A moment of silence was held for the deceased members.

**New Business –**

Cynthia Burt asked if the current existing members on the board also had to be re-elected. She was advised that this was not necessary.

**Closing Remarks –** Wayne thanked everyone for attending. He then asked Rev. Ian for any closing remarks and to say the benediction.

Rev. Ian asked that there be a motion proposed to, Thank the staff; Christina Manning in the office and Peter MacDonald, Director of Music as well as Melissa Butt former Director of Music for their continued contributions to the church during this challenging time.

Moved By: Gary Gosse and Seconded By: Joan Winsor      **Motion Carried**

Rev. Ian said the benediction.

The meeting adjourned.

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Heather Sinyard  
Secretary

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Wayne Rideout  
Chairperson

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH**  
**Official Board**  
**2021**

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Ian March-MacCuish
<b>Chairperson</b>	Gary Gosse
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Carolyn Rice
<b>Secretary</b>	Heather Sinyard
<b>Treasurer</b>	Glenys Harris
<b>Stewardship Chair</b>	Len Sturge
<b>Worship Chair</b>	Madeline Rideout
<b>Property Chair</b>	Kirk Howell
<b>Christian Development Chair</b>	Allison Randell
<b>Membership &amp; Social Action</b>	Susan Melendy-Stark
<b>Membership &amp; Social Action</b>	Oliver Stark
<b>M&amp;P Chair</b>	Brenda Andrews
<b>Board of Trustees Chair</b>	Nelson Harris
<b>UCW Rep</b>	Gloria Gosse
<b>Men's Club Rep</b>	Harold Sinyard
<b>Board Members</b>	Jean Fry Sara Case Andrea Mercer Kyle March-MacCuish Jean Whelan Mike Bouzane Raylene Newman

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
**FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
 Annual Meeting  
 May 14-16, 2021  
 via zoom video conference

*Presence and Hope*

Friday, May 14, 2021

Registration

**REGISTRATION**

Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council registered online for the May 14-16, 2021 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.

Attendance

**ATTENDANCE** – Appendix A

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

Regrets

**REGRETS** – Appendix B

Appendix B lists regrets received by members of the region.

Gathering

**GATHERING**

The annual meeting, held by zoom video conferencing, opened at 6:00pm for members to gather and to test connections.

Call to Order

**CALL TO ORDER**

The President, Peggy Johnson, welcomed everyone to the third annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council and called the meeting to order. The President noted what a joy it is to gather together, and for her to be chairing this meeting of the regional council. The President noted that we are joined together through this technology and also through our shared faith and spirit.

Quorum

**QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Constitution of  
the Council

The President noted that there was a quorum present, and constituted the council in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, for all the business that shall properly come before it.

Acknowledging  
the Land

**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.

Opening  
Worship

**OPENING WORSHIP**

Gneid Lackey of the Liturgy Team, opened the meeting with scripture, and prayer. President Peggy Johnson offered prayer. President-Elect, Rev. Grant Stuckless introduced the theme *Presence and Hope* and welcomed Dr. Erin Powell to help animate this theme. Dr. Powell is an oncologist, and offered particular insight into God's hope and presence, even in these most difficult pandemic times. Bill Matchem, Peter MacDonald Music, and Wayne Blackwood provided music leadership.

In Memoriam

**IN MEMORIAM** – Appendix C

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

**MODERATOR**

Moderator

The Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, shared opening remarks via video message. He spoke of the challenges of this pandemic year, but thanked those gathered for finding ways to ensure that we continued to reach out and support one another through it all. It will be a different year ahead, and a different General Council 44 (GC44) gathering, but there will also be opportunities in connection, learning and worship. The Moderator invites everyone to take the time and energy to make GC44 the best experience it can be. He asks also that we continue to gather and celebrate one another.

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

General Secretary

The General Secretary, Michael Blair, shared opening remarks via video message. He thanked the region for its mission and ministry in the past year. In particular, the General Secretary expressed gratitude for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador for offering support to Ontario as they still grapple with this pandemic. The General Secretary expressed thanks and gratitude for the work of the church in this difficult time, but also expressed excitement for what lies ahead.

**WELCOME**

Welcome

The President introduced John Young, Executive Minister of Theological Leadership, joining the meeting as representative of the General Council Office, and Cameron Trimble, theme speaker.

**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 where have you experienced *Presence and Hope* this year?

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS AND STUDENTS**

Introduction of New Ministers and Students

**Introduction of Students**

Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister, welcomed the students and candidates for ministry to the council. Welcome and congratulations were extended to admissionand Limon Daka, and to Rebecca Pike, being commissioned as a Diaconal Minister, this weekend at the Celebration of Ministries Service. Andrew Richardson also introduced to the council admission applicant Edison Wiltshire; candidate for ordered ministry Stephanie Rose; and Designated Lay Ministerial candidates Heather Cronhelm, James Martin-Carter, and Keith Wiseman.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Procedural Motion

Stephanie McClellan and Cecil Noseworthy of the Program Team presented the opening procedural motion.

**MOTION:** (Stephanie McClellan/Cecil Noseworthy)

That the Roll of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be (Manual 2021 C1.1 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 2021;



**First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, May 14-16, 2021  
via zoom video conference**

"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 Cecil Noseworthy, Stephanie McClellan and Grant Stuckless.

That the minute secretary for the Third (3rd) 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's Covenant and Holy Manners as its guide. The President will apply the Manual 2021 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.

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**

**MOTION:** (Stephanie McClellan/Cecil Noseworthy)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

1. Approves the Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting, September 16-18, 2020 (RC101-RC114) as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts 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
  - g. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
3. Receives for information the following reports:
  - a. Atlantic School of Theology
  - b. Emmanuel College
  - c. Office of Vocation
  - d. General Council Commissioner

**CARRIED**

**BREAK**

**Break**

**YOUTH FORUM**

**Youth Forum**

The Youth Forum joined the meeting for the Theme presentation. The President welcomed the youth to the regional council.

**THEME I**

**Theme I**

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, introduced the theme speaker, Rev. Cameron Trimble, CEO of Convergence. Rev. Trimble used examples from her aviation background to illustrate perspective, and how we see things differently from different levels. She asks us to question our assumptions and the way we do things; to develop the eyes to see and the ears to hear the opportunity that is before us. In recent times, we have witnessed financial meltdown, entertainment shutdown, climate breakdown, Covid lockdown, racial throwdown, and Christian letdown. The hope is that we have woken up and are hopefully shaken up to see that rules, systems and institutions are shaping new values, beliefs and religion. "When the old way of life becomes unbearable, a new way of life emerges". The presentation concluded with several theories, including one that online church is here to stay; church closures will accelerate; our funding models need to be reimagined; we will seek new skills and greater connection to communities; and that we will create new stories and songs to carry us forward. The theme presenter left us with the challenge to grant one another the openness and curiosity to say yes to new ideas and to "just try".

**CLOSING VESPERS**

**Closing  
Vespers**

Closing vespers were led by Gneid Lackey, with Peter MacDonald Music, Catherine Stuart, and St. Matthew's United Church Choir, Lewisporte, offering music leadership.

**Saturday, May 15, 2021**

**GATHERING**

**Gathering**

The meeting opened at 9:30am for members to gather and to test connections.

**MUSIC**

**Music**

Gneid Lackey led the gathering with music. Music was offered by Larry Noseworthy, Yvonne Milley, and Peter MacDonald Music.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Call to Order**

The President called the meeting to order and thanked members of the regional council for gathering together.

**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 Liturgy Team Convenor, Gneid Lackey, who offered prayer, words and song to help centre those gathered. Bill Matchem shared the scripture reading from Psalm 139. Members gathered were moved into breakout rooms to further reflect on the theme and scripture.

**THEME II**

**Theme II**

The President welcomed Cameron Trimble, theme presenter, back to the regional council meeting. The theme presenter continued to focus on the patterns of life that we are seeing in the world now, and the principles of leadership that we need to move forward.

**First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, May 14-16, 2021  
via zoom video conference**

In this period of deconstruction, we are seeing a move from organized religion to organizing religion, unprecedented questions of human identity and meaning, and faith as spirit-focused; in search of deeper wisdom. If we come to understand that God's love is always there for us, and that we share that love with one another, then we want to work for our communities, and show that the quality of life and the community as a whole is better when the United Church is present. We are challenged to ask ourselves why? Why the United Church? What do we stand for, as opposed to what do we stand against? Covid provides the opportunity to challenge all the ways "we used to be" and how "we can be". If so, we will come out the other side more whole; more awakened. Ask your congregations what is our adventure? What is our journey? As leaders, we are challenged to not let control limit creativity. Open space allows the spirit to flow through and lead us forward. Failure is a part of the process. It is scary to make these investments, but out of failures can come great successes. Cameron concluded her presentation with the thought that maybe our best days are ahead! Keep being faithful to the ministry and the work, and to the willingness to stay in this change together. A new Christianity is emerging in our midst; as faith on the move; kind, generous and brave and embracing the ancient faith.

The Executive Minister thanked Cameron Trimble for joining us, and for sharing so much that will challenge us to think deeply.

Music and  
Break

**MUSIC AND BREAK**

As the meeting moved to the break, the Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy introduced a video to bring awareness to the Guaranteed Livable Income Network.

Elections –  
Part I

**ELECTIONS – Part I**

President-Elect

**President-Elect**

Bruce Rideout, Chair of Nominations, introduced the matter of the election of the President-Elect. The nominee for President-Elect attended a webinar on May 12, 2021, and was given five minutes to speak to introduce herself to the members gathered.

**MOTION:** (Bruce Rideout/Grant Stuckless)

That Rev. Nancy Mojica-Fisher be acclaimed as President-Elect of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

**CARRIED**

Ukulele Church

**UKULELE CHURCH**

Catherine Stuart, Children, Youth and Young Adult Minister, and Linnea Good, biblical storyteller and musician, introduced the council to Ukulele Church, a new ministry for children ages 5-12 in the regions, which offers bible stories, crafts and music each Sunday afternoon. This initiative was developed as a response to "how to be the church with children during these pandemic times". It is growing into a musical and spirit-filled way of being church together. More details are available on the regional website, through the minister of Children, Youth and Young Adults. The ministry has also received a grant through *Embracing the Spirit*, and encourages members to invite youth in the region to join.

Mission and  
Service

**MISSION AND SERVICE**

The President welcomed Roger Janes, Stewardship and Gifts Officer for the eastern regions of the United Church. Roger shared a presentation asking members to imagine what we would do if money was not an issue? If money is getting in the way of your congregation's dreams, then there are resources available for your ministry and mission through stewardship. *Called to be the Church: The Journey* is a new program that is finding a way to help pastoral charges to focus on their ministry. This program includes detailed analysis, individualized coaching, and staff support. We are all invited to consider making Mission & Service a part of our givings. Donations are used to help make a huge difference in living out our faith in the world. A video presentation thanked everyone for their gifts and for helping the United Church change lives through donations.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements

Heather Sandford reminded members of the kitchen party, scheduled after the Milestones in Ministry celebration. All those who would like to participate are invited to sign up.

**LUNCH**

Lunch

**GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

Gathering with Music

Music for gathering was offered by Peter MacDonald music, Chloe Gale, and Myles Vardy.

**PROPOSAL** – Appendix D

Proposal

Paula Gale introduced the proposal *A call for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, through its Executive, to begin discussions with Designated Lay Ministers (DLMs) to address issues being felt by them, especially as it pertains to policy around sacraments and licensing, and how First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council might best represent DLMs at the General Council level.* (Appendix D), received from Alice Moores, Designated Lay Minister, DLM, William Matchem, DLM, James Martin Carter, DLM-NR, Susan Sheppard, DLM, Georgina Parsons, DLM, Ray Case, DLM, and Emma O'Rourke, DLM. The proposal asks for action by the regional council to begin discussions with DLMs on the issues stated to clarify and understand the frustrations that are being felt in the region, and on policy around sacraments and licensing and how best the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council might represent DLMs at the General Council level. Alice Moores provided background for the motion, and members were invited to ask any questions for clarification.

Designated Lay Ministry

**MOTION:** (Alice Moores/Bill Matchem)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, through its Executive, begin discussions with Designated Lay Ministers (DLMs), on the issues stated above, in order to clarify and understand the frustrations that are being felt in the Region; and that First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council begin discussions with DLMs on policy around sacraments and licensing and how best the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council might represent DLMs at the General Council level.

**CARRIED**

**EXECUTIVE MINISTER**

Executive Minister

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, offered her remarks to the members gathered. The Executive Minister expressed gratitude for everyone who has given so much of themselves to the living out of the Gospel in this time and place in our history; to members of the region, ministry personnel, communities of faith, staff, executive. The Executive Minister also shared a parable, which animated how the difficulties we have faced were hardships, but have also given us new possibilities. We have what it takes within us to be the church; to answer the call to discipleship; and to answer God's call to be open to the spirit and ask what next? If we all work together, the best might be yet to come.

(Grant Stuckless assumed the chair)

**PRESIDENT**

President

The President, Peggy Johnson, addressed the council. She expressed sincere gratitude to the region for their support. She shared her deep appreciation for the clergy who found ways of ministering throughout the pandemic. The President reflected on the professions that led to her call to ministry, and her time with the United Church. The President thanked all the members gathered for their support, and offered special thanks to the Executive Minister and the regional council staff. The President graciously offered thanks to the region for allowing her to have this experience. The Executive Minister thanked the President for going above and beyond, and serving this region for two years.

(Peggy Johnson reassumed the chair)

Go Project**GO PROJECT**

The President welcomed Oliver Dingwell and Rebecca Pike to the council to speak to the GO Project. A slide show presentation was used to educate the council on the mission and vision of this national incorporated ministry for children and youth. Inclusivity, community building and justice are at the core of the program. This summer, the GO Project will operate youth day camps, with one program offered from Cowan Heights United Church.

Stella's Circle**STELLA'S CIRCLE**

Lisa Browne, CEO of Stella's Circle, was introduced to the regional council by the President. The vision *a home, a job and a community* is the foundation of Stella's Circle in the community. The programming of Stella's Circle offers a hand up, not a hand out. The past year has been a challenge, however, within two weeks of the pandemic being declared, programs were developed to bridge the technology divide with participants; bringing counselling programs to those in need of support. A real source of pride this year is the establishment of JEDI: justice, equity, diversity and inclusivity committee. In closing, Lisa Browne expressed gratitude to the United Church and for all of their support.

Sing 2025**SING 2025**

The President introduced Kevin Parks, a member of *Sing 2025*, the development team working on the church's new digital hymn and worship resources. Kevin presented a background of the future forward plan for Worship United; the umbrella for *Gathering* online and the *Let Us Sing* portal for online resources that are easy to access, simplify copyright issues, and are readily searchable. These resources are planned to be available for the church's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Church music leaders are invited to connect through Music United for mutual support and encouragement. The network is currently looking for a convenor from the First Dawn Eastern Edge region.

Break**BREAK**
General Council  
Executive  
Representative
**GENERAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE**

The President welcomed, John Young, Executive Minister of Theological Leadership, who joins the meeting as representative of the General Council Office. John Young shared that the United Church is currently working on its strategic plan. As was stated by the theme presenter, we need to know where we want to go as a church in the days ahead. Over 500 (five hundred) participants have taken part in town halls. After additional consultation, a draft plan will be presented to General Council Commissioners, laying out our vision as the United Church.

Financial  
Statements  
2020
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020**

Roy West, chair of the Division of Finance and Administrative Resources, presented the 2020 audited financial statements to the Regional Council. A detailed account of the region's finances was presented during a webinar on May 6, 2021. The auditor, MNP, reported that the statements *present fairly the financial position of the regional council*. It was also noted that the reports outline the restricted and unrestricted funds of the region very clearly, and that the region is in a stronger financial position after 2020 than it was after 2019. The chair offered thanks to the regional staff for their work on the audit.

**MOTION:** (Roy West/Sharon Collins)

That the 2020 audited financial statements for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

Budget 2022**BUDGET 2022**

The First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council budget for 2022 was presented by Roy West. An information webinar for the 2022 budget took place on May 6, 2021. It was noted that, since entering the new structure in the church, that there has been no "normal" fiscal year to gauge regular operating expenses.

The budget for 2022 therefore shows very few changes from 2021, and is considered conservative, given the uncertainty of these pandemic times. The noted changes in the budget are an increase in salaries due to cost of living increases, and an increased contingency for legal expenses. Also noted was that the budgeted amount for divisions and teams are based solely on previous years, but will be refined as we develop some financial history as a region. The Division of Finance and Administration is therefore presenting a balanced budget for 2022, with Mission Support Grant payments remaining the same.

**MOTION:** (Roy West/Danny Button)

That the budget for 2022 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**ELECTIONS – Part II.**

Elections -  
Part II

**General Council Commissioners**

General  
Council  
Commissioners

Gneid Lackey, Secretary 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 May 12, 2021, and were each given three 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. One position is held for the youth pilgrim, eight (8) commissioners were elected in October, 2020, leaving four (4) commissioners to be elected today.

**MOTION:** (Gneid Lackey/Grant Stuckless)

That Hannah Sheppard (Young Adult), Miriam Bowlby, Simbarashe Mazhara, and Bruce Rideout be acclaimed as the 2021 elected Commissioners to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Council.

**CARRIED**

**FAITHFUL FOOTPRINTS**

Faithful  
Footprints

Laura Hunter presented information about *Faithful Footprints*, and asked congregations to embrace the work to address climate change and help reduce the carbon footprint in our buildings. Resources and tools are available to help.

**WORSHIP**

Worship

Worship was offered by Youth Forum participants gathered at regional council. The youth led the regional council in prayer, scripture readings, and a video presentation as illustration of the effects of climate change in the context of the theme *Presence and Hope*.

**BREAK**

Break

**GATHERING**

Gathering

**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.

**Retirements**

Retirements

Mr. William Matchem and the Rev. Rachel Robinson.

**First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting, May 14-16, 2021  
via zoom video conference**

AnniversariesAnniversaries

The Rev. Hubert A. Mercer	65 Years	The Rev. Joseph G. Burton	62 Years
The Rev. Boyd L. Hiscock	61 Years	The Rev. Theodore C. (Clem) Rodgers	61 Years
The Rev. C. Jack Mercer	55 Years	The Rev. Dr. Clarence R. Sellars	50 Years
The Rev. Karen E. Bursey	40 Years	The Rev. David Guzzwell	40 Years
The Rev. Eric G. Hillier	40 Years	The Rev. Ernest H. Feltham	35 Years
The Rev. Lee E. Michelin	30 Years	The Rev. Nancy L. Warder	30 Years
The Rev. William N. Williams	30 Years	Mr. Raymond L. Clouter	25 Years
The Rev. Joan Y. Conrad	25 Years	The Rev. Wendy N. Cronhelm	25 Years
Ms. Lorraine Jarvis	25 Years	Mr. Thomas Russell Lodge	25 Years
The Rev. Lisa Potter	25 Years		

LeavingLeaving the Region

Goodbye to those who have left the region, with thanks for your ministry among us; Rev. Sharon Earle-Marshall, Rev. Gordon Flint, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint, and Rev. Myles Vardy.

Acknowledgement and FarewellAcknowledgement and Farewell

Rev. Dr. John Young was acknowledged for his retirement from his ministry with The United Church of Canada. Farewell and thanks were offered to Laura Hunter, Justice Mission and Outreach Minister for the eastern regions, as she follows a call to her new ministry as Executive Director with Open Sky.

CourtesiesCOURTESIES

Stephanie McClellan offered thanks and acknowledgements to all who participated in the regional council meetings. She presented a "punny" thank you to those who attended, presented, planned, and inspired. Gratitude was also expressed to the theme speaker, the youth forum participants, general council commissioners, president-elect, division chairs, program team, and all the members who attended. The President then thanked Stephanie McClellan for her leadership on the Program Team.

Closing MotionCLOSING MOTIONMOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Stephanie McClellan)

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 2021; and

That the third annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Sunday, May 16, 2021; and

That the fourth annual meeting of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council will be held in the spring of 2022, at a date and place to be determined.

CARRIED

Closing PrayerCLOSING PRAYER

The closing prayer was offered by Gneid Lackey of the Liturgy Team.

Kitchen PartyKITCHEN PARTY

President-Elect, Grant Stuckless hosted a relaxing and entertaining "kitchen party". Members signed up to participate and offered to share their songs, stories, poems and laughter to conclude the day of meetings.

Sunday, May 16, 2021

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES SERVICE

Celebration of  
Ministries  
Service

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at Wesley United Church, St. John's, on Sunday, May 16, 2021 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. Rev. Limon Daka was admitted to The United Church of Canada, and Ms. Rebecca Pike was commissioned as a Diaconal Minister. Rev. Grant Stuckless was installed as the new President of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

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Rev. Peggy Johnson  
President

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Rev. Faith March-MacCuish  
Executive Minister



## From the Desk of Reverend Ian March-MacCuish

It has been a strange couple of years: holding worship services in an empty church for many Sundays, limited attendance for many others, no singing to limited singing, being on YouTube. Finally, within the last two weeks, attendance restrictions have been lifted and masking is still necessary for moving around the church, but masks can be removed while seated in the sanctuary. Covid protocols seem to change every week and there were times when we did not know what was going on or how to interpret the guidelines. However, it looks like we have turned a corner in this pandemic. Covid is still a major problem, but we are learning how to live with it.

Our groups are starting to make use of the church building again, just in time for an Easter celebration this year and to start planning a "Come Home to First United Church 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year in 2023". We are looking forward to special worship services, suppers and other "come home" events. First United has baptized and confirmed many people over its 70 years, many of them have moved away. We are inviting them to celebrate with us this anniversary. We are hoping to add a memorial/peace garden on the church property that recognizes the contributions of the many, many people who have been part of the ministry here at First United.

We are aware that many will continue to worship via YouTube until they feel safe entering public spaces. We are pleased to be able to offer such a service. This use of technology has helped tremendously, as we have struggled to continue to be a community in the midst of the pandemic. We thank all those people who have continued to contribute to the church. From ushers to the camera operators and sound booth people, to the many solos Peter has arranged, to our runners, our email coordinator and our webmaster, our treasurer and others who have contributed to the running of our church. And thanks to all the financial contributors who have made it possible to carry on various ministries and look after our financial obligations. We still owe a little over two hundred thousand dollars for the multipurpose room extension, and we are currently operating with a deficit of about thirteen thousand dollars.

Prayer has been an important daily ritual that has helped shape our faith. When the global village has been rocked with Covid 19 and has experienced six million deaths, prayer seemed to be the only way to deal with such horrendous loss. We will continue to offer our prayers and, to the best of our ability, discern God's will for our lives and the life of the church. May we always live out our mission statement:

We are a welcoming  
Spirit filled community of Christians  
Spreading the love of God through  
Worship, caring, sharing and  
Outreach

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ian March-MacCuish

## **First United Church Board of Management Annual Report 2021**

Another year that no one could have imagined with Covid-19 continuing for a second year. Our Emergency Preparedness Team of Harold Sinyard, Rev. Ian, Cynthia Burt, Carolyn Rice, Joan Winsor and myself continued to meet as conditions evolved and restrictions changed. In January, we continued to be able to seat 58 people per Sunday, keeping in mind that we had to meet the physical distancing requirements. Then came the February Covid-19 outbreak bringing everything to a standstill. We continued to broadcast services through our YouTube channel.

We were able to open the church to in-person worship in late winter and our Annual Congregational meeting was held on May 2nd. At that meeting we said good-bye to Joan Winsor, Kelly Tuck, Tony Tuck, Susan Vardy, Dorothy Latreille, Melvina Moores and Cynthia Burt. We also welcomed to the board Heather Sinyard, Allison Randell, Sara Case, Andrea Mercer, and Jeannie Whalen. In September, we said good-bye to Andrea Mercer and in October, we said good-bye to Susan Melendy Stark and Oliver Stark. All resigned from the board for personal reasons. Thank you all for your service to the Board and to the congregation of First United. As the year progressed, restrictions lessened and, in the fall, singing was once again permitted, provided VaxPass requirements were met and masks were worn. Capacity limits increased to 50% and physical distancing was not required. We were preparing for 130 congregants for our Christmas eve service...then Omicron hit. We ended the year with a parking lot drive-in Christmas eve service at 4pm and a virtual service at 7pm.

Thank you once again to all the people who have been involved in broadcasting our live services on Sunday mornings. Harold Sinyard, Kyle MacCuish and Pete MacDonald have allowed many the opportunity to continue worship from the safety of their own homes. Thank you also to our Finance Committee who has continued to put in long hours doing the research and paper work for any and all grants and subsidies we could avail of. Were it not for those grants and subsidies, it is likely that First United would not be in a position to meet its financial obligations. In that regard, I want to give my personal thanks to Glenys Harris, Len Sturge, Heather Sinyard and Christina Manning. Thank you to you as well Rev. Ian. As a congregation, we are blessed to have you as our spiritual leader. And to Peter McDonald and his "team", including Melissa Butt who we welcomed back in October, for providing the best possible music program!

I want to thank all board members and staff for their support. Individually we are strong but together we are stronger! I also want to thank past chair Joan Winsor who has been but a phone call or text away when I needed advice or information.

Let us hope and pray for a better year in 2022!

Respectfully submitted;



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Gary Gosse  
Board Chair

# First United Church

## Property Committee Annual Report 2021

I hereby submit the 2021 Annual Report on behalf of the Property Committee. We would like to thank the entire committee, as well as Harold, for coming on board with the Property Committee. Also, many thanks to Gary, Wayne, Cyril, Mike and others who have pitched in to help over the year. As we go forward, we must reflect on the past year, living with COVID-19, which this report is based on. The year 2021 was also a year of restrictions, cancellations, lockdowns & scheduling changes. 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.

- Thanks to Cyril & others who assisted him in checking the furnace and mechanical systems weekly.
- Snow clearing operation, both parking lot and doors and walkways carried on as normal. We have however, had to change our snow clearing company and have secured a new company to take care of same.
- Thanks to Gary for arranging necessary repairs to the heating system and valve replacement in Rev. Ian's office.
- We had expected to have the roof replaced but due to circumstances beyond our control & contractor backing out, we have now established new contractors and work will progress when the weather is favorable to do so. The money has been allocated for this job.

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 year with COVID-19 among us, we have learned to live with the new normal and adhere to all protocols. With our new normal in place, we go forward to carry out any and all Building Operations necessary to ensure our Church is kept up to ideal and safe standards for all to enjoy.

Respectfully Submitted by

Kirk Howell  
Property Chair

## **First United Church**

### **Worship Committee Annual Report 2021**

Worship Committee members: Rev. Ian, Peter MacDonald, Kyle March-MacCuish, Jean Whelan, Madeline Rideout, co-op member Brenda Thistle.

2021 was another difficult year for our church family due to COVID-19 and the restrictions put in place to combat the disease. The church was closed for in-person services during the Spring, but we were open for Easter. We were closed again at Christmas, but were able to have our Christmas Memorial Light Service in early December led by the UCW. When opened, we were limited to 58 people. There were three parking lot services held during the year. This enabled members of the congregation to safely attend worship services.

All of our services are online. A new camera was donated to ensure we had a smooth online connection. Thanks to Kyle for his dedication ensuring that our services are online. Thanks to Peter Andrew for his help with the online services.

We continue to have Communion and Baptisms. We are permitted to have one baptism each service as per COVID protocols. The Canadian Bible Society no longer provides bibles for the children. The church provides a bible to each child. Thank you to the UCW for supplying the Baptismal Candles.

Our choirs have not met since March of 2020. We do, however, have a Handbells Choir and members of the choir who lead the singing for our services. Thank you to Peter and Ronalda MacDonald and Melissa Butt for their dedication and musical leadership.

Thank you to Rev. Karen Bursey, Lorne Squires and Gloria Gosse for leading our worship services during Rev. Ian's vacation.

A special thanks to Rev. Ian for his spiritual guidance.

Thank you to the ushering teams and members of our congregation for following COVID protocols.

We trust that 2022 will see things return to normal. Looking forward to having our choirs return, Communion at the rail and the return of our church family.

God Bless

Madeline Rideout

## First United Church

### Christian Development Committee Annual Report 2021

2021 proved to be more difficult than 2020 from a Christian Development standpoint. Our Sunday School had no choice but to cancel regular classes. This was a major setback for our church. We missed seeing the children grow and missed their involvement in worship services. We will be looking to the Fall of this year to restart our Sunday School program. If you are interested in helping, please reach out as we are looking for a new superintendent and teachers.

Other groups turned to zoom technology and were able to gather around computer and tablet screens. The youth group managed to meet face-to-face in November and December when there was a relaxing of some Covid protocols and held their Christmas party that was well attended. You can read about this group and other Christian Development groups in their own report contained in this document.

We thank everyone who has helped out with the Christian Development program. We are looking forward to a “new” normal that will include in-person gatherings.

**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** – Ronald MacDonal

**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**  
Rev. Ian

# **Youth Group Annual Report**

## **SNAC -2021**

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 2021 Year was very different for everyone and our youth group was no different. The many projects that we normally take part in, we were not able to do because of the COVID shut down. Through it all, we stayed together as a group through the virtual format, and we were lucky to be able to gather in person for some of the year. The Pandemic has been hard on everyone, but especially our youth. Please hold our youth in your thoughts and prayers.

### **Outreach Programs**

#### **Can Project:**

While we could not deliver the can this year, people were asked to use a can/bottle/jar from home. Thank you to all who helped in this way as 30% of the funds raised through the can project goes to the youth group for their planning.

#### **Prison Loot Bags:**

This year we provided 175 Christmas bags for the inmates who are at Her Majesty's Penitentiary. It is important for our youth group, because it always reminds us that we are all children of God and that all of us are capable of making mistakes, and we all have the potential for forgiveness and restoration.

#### **Seniors Outreach:**

This year we had to cancel our outreach to seniors because of the Covid shutdown

#### **Congregational Outreach:**

**Trick or Trunk** – Cancelled Due to COVID.

**Easter Breakfast** – Cancelled due to COVID

#### **Good Friday Vigil**

We as a group also took part in the Prayer Vigil on line.

#### **Worship Services:**

We did not get to take part much this year due to Covid.

#### **Faith Talks:**

Talking about our faith is an ongoing thing, but there are times when we study topics that are important to us.

#### **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 plan old nights enjoy being together, even when being together means on line.

#### **Thanks 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 and 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**

## First United Book Club Annual Report 2021

Still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we started the year with Newfoundland doing well and people less isolated than at the start of it last year. With people able to get about and more activities on the go, we decided to move from weekly zoom meetings to biweekly zoom meetings, the first and third Wednesday of the month. Of course, that openness only lasted until February when we were hit with a second wave that sent us all back to Level 5 Stay-at-Home status. More time for reading!

After our summer break, we started the Fall still online but swiftly moved back to in-person for October and November. However, with cases rising again with the new variant, we went with caution and held our Christmas social at a member's house rather than at a restaurant. And were served a wonderful meal and had a great time socializing and discussing a light Christmas-themed book. Thank you, Judy, for the hospitality.

Our reading once more included some historical fiction as well as contemporary fiction. This year we seemed to have several books that focused on children, families, and growing up.

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

- 2021-01-27 **A Good Neighborhood: A Novel** by Therese Anne Fowler  
*"A good neighbourhood with hidden undercurrents"*
- 2021-02-17 **We Were the Lucky Ones: A Novel** by Georgia Hunter  
*"A family's story of survival during the war years"*
- 2021-03-17 **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens  
*"A good read, beautiful setting, but with some unbelievable aspects"*
- 2021-04-21 **The House Girl** by Tara Conklin  
*"A good story that left us wanting more."*
- 2021-05-19 **The Home for Unwanted Girls** by Joanna Goodman  
*"A story of another lesser-known incident from Quebec's past"*
- 2021-06-16 **The Choices We Make: A Novel** by Karma Brown  
*"A look at ethics and choices, and how the outcome is not always what you expect"*
- 2021-09-29 **Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate  
*"Children overcome corruption in the adoption industry"*
- 2021-10-27 **The Warsaw Orphan** by Kelly Rimmer  
*"A look from two different sides of the war in Poland"*
- 2021-11-24 **Clover Blue** by Eldonna Edwards  
*"Commune, family, cult...the utopia of living off the land is not as ideal as expected"*
- 2021-12-15 **The Santa Suit** by Mary Kay Andrews  
*"Delightful, entertaining, lighthearted seasonal story"*

Submitted by Pam Morgan, for the Book Club

## **First United Quilting Group Annual Report 2021**

2021 saw us still meeting online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Who knew we would be at this online quilting for so long! We continued to meet weekly for awhile, but as things began to open up and people had more freedom, we switched to our usual biweekly meetings. There were several calls for the group to go back to in-person meetings, but most of the members were hesitant about meeting in person especially as it would entail sharing their tools. Our typical set-up pre-Covid was a couple of sewing stations with only a few people bringing their sewing machines, and only one ironing station, and many of the new quilters didn't have quilting tools and were able to use other's during the meetings. It means that the quilting group is more meeting the needs of the experienced quilters and not so much the new quilters who don't have the tools or knowledge to sew at home between meetings. It is also indicative of the different age ranges within the group, as those who were back at work were more inclined to want to meet in person versus the retirees. The Fall looked like we might get back together in person, but cases started to rise again with the new and more transmissible variant, and we held off to see what the new year would bring.

This year, six of us tried working on a mystery Block of the Month (BOM) quilt. This is where a designer posts a pattern for a quilt block online, and you have a month to finish that block before the next one is posted. While some were better than others at getting their block finished within the month, we weren't too concerned about the timing, and it was great having something else to chat about, the colour choices, how hard the pattern was... And to see the variety that results from each person doing the same block each month yet ending up with totally different looking blocks based on the fabric choices.

Besides the BOM project, members worked on their own projects and finished several quilts, table runners, and wall hangings. And we were able to do our Christmas social online again, with our mug-ups, although it isn't as good as being able to sample everyone else's treats. Just as "show and tells" just aren't the same when you can get the full impact, can't see the true colours, and can't feel the fabric. We look forward to when we can get together in person again.

Submitted by Pam Morgan, for the Quilting Group



## Membership and Social Action

Lockdowns, physical distancing, mask wearing and video meetings continued for much of 2021. Outreach to our church family has never been more important.

Our church website (<http://www.firstunitedchurchmp.ca>) continues to be updated regularly thanks to Beulah Bouzane, BCI-solutions/Bouzane Consulting Inc. Subscribe to our YouTube Channel (search First United Church Mount Pearl in YouTube). If you are on Facebook, you are encouraged to like and follow our page. If you are not on our email distribution list, sign up for Constant Contact for regular updates by calling the church office at 368-2194 or emailing [firstunited@nf.aibn.com](mailto:firstunited@nf.aibn.com) and provide your name, email address and phone number. Thanks to Susan Vardy for Facebook and Constant Contact updates. Thank you as well to the team (Kyle March-MacCuish, Pete MacDonald, Harold Sinyard) for getting our services on the web each week.

Our Mitten and Hat Tree was placed in our foyer before Christmas. Once again, members of the congregation donated hats and mittens to decorate the tree and help keep people in our area warm through the winter.

Newfoundland has the highest rate per capita of food bank usage in Canada. In 2020 the Bridges to Hope Food Pantry provided food aid to over 8,000 people. 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. First United also sponsored a drive-thru food drive in the parking lot to support Bridges to Hope. The results:

- 20 milk crates of non-perishable food items
- 13 cardboard boxes of non-perishable food items
- Vegetables including
  - 60 lbs of potatoes
  - 20 lbs of carrots
  - A turnip
- A turkey
- \$565 cash

First United continued to participate in the Community Suppers program. This program, is sponsored by collaboration of Private, Municipal and Ministerial organizations in Mount Pearl and provides high quality food and services to an all-inclusive community of the citizens of Mount Pearl and surrounding areas. Delivery of the Community Suppers Program was not possible at the beginning of 2021. Later in the year, they resumed but with modifications. Delivery of the program was changed from an eat in meal to a take-out service only, due to the public health restrictions. In many instances, volunteers delivered the meals to those who were unable to pick them up in person.

## BRIDGES TO HOPE

### REPORT TO OUR PARTNER CHURCHES FOR 2021

Bridges to Hope, like most other organizations in N L, has just come through a second year of operating under COVID-19. With COVID levels of restriction rising and falling, this meant that management were faced with fluctuating COVID Levels, but still working at maintaining a functioning operation with staff, volunteers and clients. Despite often difficult conditions, Bridges to Hope was able to adapt successfully, and maintain its services.

January saw the Pantry, which had been in a separate building from the Main Offices, move to the main floor of our Cookstown Road facility. A generous donation from Rotary and funds from City of St. John's enabled us to establish this larger, fully functioning Pantry, user friendly for staff and volunteers, in which to prepare food hampers for our clients. Offices of Bridges to Hope have moved upstairs in our building, which now also has a Board Room for meetings. Rotary's donation also enabled the conversion of the former Pantry into a Food Storage Facility. We have always had a shortage of storage space, which limited us from being able to participate in Food Rescue. We now have relationships with grocery stores who donate usable food that otherwise would have been thrown out, reinforcing our mission to reduce food wastage and increase food security for our clients. In November Bridges to Hope received a generous donation from Tim Horton's Smile Cookie Campaign, and were able to purchase a Company Van to be used to pick up food from Food Drives, as well as shopping, and participating in more Food Rescues, thus expanding on our mission .

In August we had our Bags to School program and delivered 370 Back Packs full of quality curriculum based, age appropriate, school supplies to students of all grades to enable them to be prepared for classes. We also distributed over 2,000 Smart Snack Kits which provided school age children access to Healthy Food as recommended by Canada Food Guide.

In December we again partnered with Rotary to provide gift cards for 350 of our clients to purchase their Christmas food supplies at Colemans. COVID prevented us from providing actual Christmas hampers. Many of our clients preferred the gift cards as they then could make their own Christmas food choices for their families based on family size and need.

This year we have increased our partnership with Local Wellness Collective and Connections for Seniors. These organizations deliver hampers for us to client members of our community who cannot physically access our pantry. Most days around 30 of these hampers are prepared by staff and volunteers in addition to the hampers they prepare for our regular clients. Over 3,000 hampers were delivered to vulnerable people in our community. Our own regular client numbers vary from day to day depending on various circumstances including weather, but we had around 9,600 come for hampers this past year. Because of COVID we are also seeing new clients who need our assistance because of lower or no income.

Bridges to Hope requires the help of many people to carry out its programs. The increase in client numbers, and the work involved in carrying out our operations required that we increase staff. We depend upon our volunteers to assist in our Pantry, and to bake bread and cook meals in our Commercial Kitchen. They are a valuable asset. As long as we had low COVID levels we had loyal volunteers who continued to come on a regular basis, and we were most grateful for their help. Unfortunately, with rising COVID restrictions, most were not available to work with us, we were unable to bake and cook, and at COVID Levels such as the current Level 4, volunteers were not allowed to be on our premises as our insurance only allows staff under the circumstances. Fortunately, we have an excellent staff, and they have all taken on extra work. Jody Williams is our Manager, Lesley Burgess who worked part time last year, has been hired full time as Procedure and Policy Coordinator, Raylene Roche, the Outtake Co-ordinator who was part time, has seen her hours extended, and Emily Noel, who was a summer student with us, has been hired part time to help with the Pantry for as long as needed. We appreciate their cooperation and willingness to help under COVID regulations.

Before COVID, the greater percentage of food for distribution was from donations from the general public. Our Participation Churches were consistent supporters as their congregations brought food items to church each Sunday. They also had Food Drives and other events at which donations of food were brought. Congregation members often dropped by our facilities bringing extra donations. COVID meant these activities were not allowed. Many members of the general public and other organizations and businesses also used to bring food donations and held Food Drives. All this came to a halt in 2020 with COVID regulations. 2021 saw some easing of these, and our Churches responded. Last year there were 10 successful Food Drives sponsored by our Participating Churches! Businesses and organizations are also responding and again supporting us with Food Drives and food donations.

We have, however, a challenge because of the quantity of food we need to maintain the number of hampers we pack. We are faced with having to purchase a higher percentage of our supplies. We pack Healthy Hampers to try to encourage healthy eating, and this involves fresh fruit and vegetables as well as eggs, when available. All of this is purchased. We make soups, our own bread and items such as lasagna for which ingredients must be purchased. Many items that used to be donated such as tins of milk and cereal are so increased in price, we see fewer donated, and we purchase them too as they are staples in our hampers. It is challenging, but we are a Food Bank, and our staff works very diligently to meet the challenge. We thank all those who donate food or funds to help us operate, and our staff who find the most efficient way to use our food and money.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of the United Church. We are a part of their Outreach Ministry and receive the benefits and supports it provides, and which have been valuable to us. We also acknowledge the support of the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces.

As a non-profit organization, we are dependent on the kindness and generosity of others for our existence. A list of donors is printed in the Annual Report of Bridges to Hope, a more comprehensive report compiled for our Annual General Meeting, and which is sent out to the Participating Churches at that time. We encourage you to read it. Our meeting this year will be held in April 2022.

Hopefully COVID will soon be under control, and some restrictions will be lifted so that the burden it places on all of us can be eased, and life can return to whatever will be the 'new'normal.

Eleanor Bonnell

Chair, Board of Directors

Bridges to Hope

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH  
MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M&P)  
ANNUAL REPORT – 2021**

The M&P Committee respectfully submit our Annual report. M&P representatives for 2021 were: Brenda Andrews (Chair), Eric Eveleigh, Ada Eveleigh, Janice Andrews-Ralph, and Carl Burt. Carl resigned from the Committee in September, and we are very grateful for his valuable contribution to our work.

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 2021 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

Again, it has been a different year for our congregation and our staff. With the ever-changing COVID situation, we all have had to be very adaptable and willing to adjust at a moment's notice. We are so very grateful for our dedicated staff and volunteers and the flexibility they have shown in helping ensure that we continue to bring meaningful worship services to our congregation on a regular weekly basis.

Reverend Ian March-MacCuish, Minister, and Peter MacDonald, Music Director, with the help of several dedicated members of our congregation, provided in-person services whenever possible, as well as YouTube video to ensure that we have continued to have access to uplifting spiritual services online every Sunday. After an extended leave of absence, in October we were delighted to welcome Melissa Butt back to her role as Associate Music Director. Christina Manning continued to staff our office to ensure that essential work was completed on time and to take "reservations" for in-person church services whenever they were possible. We are very grateful to all who have continued to work so diligently under difficult circumstances again this year. As well, we continue to be very grateful for the excellent overall leadership and guidance provided for our churches by First Dawn Eastern Edge Region.

During 2021, Avalon Cleaners provided cleaning services, as necessary, on a contractual basis. Mr. Jim Eales provided snow-clearing services for the parking lot and Mr. Tom Cheeseman provided snow-clearing services for the thoroughfares and exits. 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.

**Respectfully submitted by Brenda Andrews, Chair**

**First United Church – Mount Pearl**  
**Board of Trustees – Annual Report 2021**

The function of the Board of Trustee is to hold, in trust, all of the property of our congregation for the use and benefit of our congregation as part of the United Church and to liaise with the Official Board respecting any relevant matters which arise.

I, as chair, attended board meetings in order to remain current on activities related to our church property, and, to the life and work of our church. Our Committee corresponded by e-mail as required.

One matter requiring our attention during the year was that, given the recent increases in the cost of insurance, churches generally have been looking for ways to decrease premiums. Based on the premise that decreasing premiums results in a lessening of coverage, we could not prudently recommend that our levels of insurance be changed from that which it traditionally has been, that is, replacement value.

We are indeed grateful for all people who work together in fulfilling the mission and ministry of our church.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nelson Harris*

Nelson Harris

Members: Carolyn Rice and Ray Hayward

## **First United Church Men's Fellowship Club Annual Report 2021**

The Men's Fellowship Club held no meetings or events during 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.

We thank Mike Bouzane for continuing to distribute cards and baskets on our behalf.

Our Club was saddened by the loss of members Graham Bursey and Bert King during 2021.

We hope to be able to resume some Club activity in the near future with the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Sinyard, President

# First United Church Women Annual Report 2021

The First United Church Women's Group (UCW) continues to be a vibrant group of women. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions we could not meet as a group for the year 2021. The Executive did meet on several occasions during the year.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> we held our Good Friday service at 10:30am. It was virtual. Hopefully in 2022 we can have an in-person service.

In May we sponsored a virtual Afternoon Tea and in October we had a Bakeless Bake Sale. Both events were very successful and we would like to thank all those who contributed.

In November it was decided we would have our annual shower for Emmanuel House and Carew Lodge. We arranged for two of our members to be at Trinity Hall on November 25<sup>th</sup> between 2-4pm to collect items that were dropped off. The amount of donations, both items and money, exceeded our expectations. Thank you to everyone who helped us. We delivered 24 Christmas bags to Carew Lodge according to Covid-19 restrictions. The remaining items were given to Stella's Circle and other local charities.

At our November executive meeting, it was decided we would have our Christmas Lights service. The service this year was on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, and it was in-person. We would like to thank those who made donations and helped in any way.

The UCW continues to provide many programs with financial support. In 2021 the groups supported were Chaplaincy Fund, Our Daily Bread ministries, Mission and Service Fund, Burry Heights, as well as the Local and Building funds of our church.

The UCW provides outreach in other ways. We provide copies of "Our Daily Bread" booklets to members of the congregation; provide personal care items to Carew Lodge and Stella's Circle; provide mittens, scarfs and hats to the Mitten Tree Project. We have a Prayer Chain that circulates prayer requests for individuals and families who are going through difficult times. We also provide candles for the newly baptized children and birthday cards for their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> birthdays.

UCW members and friends knit strips for the Quilts for Comfort Project. Since the project began in 2006, a total of 563 quilts/blankets have been distributed far and wide to those who need a little warmth in their lives. This year we gave 3 quilts to Carew Lodge. We give thanks to those who provide wool, knit the strips and to those who put the quilts together.

We would like to express our 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 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*  
Linda Manuel

Secretary 2021



**The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.  
Annual Report for 2021**

**We are sorry that we have been unable to have our Annual General Meeting again this year because of COVID19 restrictions.**

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at all three Cemeteries, we leveled and sodded 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. This method has proven to be beneficial in reducing the overall maintenance cost around the monuments. , ,

During the past year we had 226 burials, which is an increase of 12 over the previous year; Of these 173 were cremations, which is an increase of 17 from last year..

The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020 -21</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	4	12	20
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	142	161	159
The Field of Honor	21	21	12
Memorials Gardens Cemetery	23	20	35
Total Burials	190	214	226
Cremations Included	127	156	173

Your Board met 7 (seven) times during the past year...

There have been 115 burials in Memorial Gardens. Thirty five (35) of these were in 2020-21..

We have sold 107 of the 120 niche columbarium which was installed in 2019.. We have another columbarium on order and delivery is expected in May or June 2022.

.Because of the COVID19 outbreak. were unable to hold on site memorial services in either of our cemeteries. The Reverend Bill Mercer prepared a service that was broadcast virtually and incorporated all three cemeteries.

We are especially grateful for the work that Rev. Mercer and his technical Mark Chafe provided to ensure the success of a virtual service during a time when gatherings were prohibited .

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

### **Memorial Services;**

The Memorial Services for 2022 are tentatively scheduled as follows::

- 1) Mt Pleasant Cemetery, Monday, July 4, 2022, 7pm.
- 2) General Protestant Cemetery, Monday, July 18, 2022, 7 pm.
- 3) Memorial Gardens, Monday, August 1, 2022, 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 2021

Our Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that on December 31, 2021 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 2021 our Operating Account had a surplus of \$41,473.00. This surplus was due to receiving \$13,210.00 from the Federal Government Wage Subsidy Program, \$20,000.00 from the CEBA Program (Federal Government) and \$20,000.00 grant from the Provincial Government. Our Building Fund Account had a surplus of \$10,894.00. This surplus was largely due to rental income received from 2 elections in the amount of \$7,979.00.

Our Loan balance as of December 31, 2021 is \$221,800.00. 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 2021. 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 2021

<b>Baptisms:</b>	6
<b>Marriages:</b>	1
<b>Funerals:</b>	19

### Confirmation of Membership

December 31, 2020	1088
Added by profession of Faith	4
Added by Transfer	0
Removed by Transfer	2
Removed by Death	8
Removed by Request	0
Membership as of December 31, 2021	1082

### Marriages in 2021

Megan Bernice Burt and Sabrina Madeline Andrews

### Baptisms in 2021

Macie Elizabeth MacDonald	Kolton Alexander Seward
Benjamin Wilfred William Marshall	Brayden Roger Gordon-Shute
Ivy Lee Swain	Grayson George Basha

### Deaths in 2021

Janet Victoria Wight	Ronald Benson
Linda Louise Whalen	Irving Hayward Antle
Margaret Rose Forsey	Beulah Parsons
Ella Button	Shirley Marcella Sutton
Harold King	Millicent North
James Thistle	Laura Milley
Florrie Pennell	Harold Augustus Clarke
Reginald Inniss	Bonnie Noseworthy-Renouf
Karen Angela Jones	William Stringer
Bertram Elijah King	