

First United Church Mount Pearl



Annual Report 2022

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Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
First United Church
April 3, 2022

The meeting began immediately following the morning worship service.

There was 32 people in attendance

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

Adherents - It was moved by Gary Gosse and seconded by Janice Andrews-Ralphy that adherents to the church be able to vote. **Motion Carried**

Wayne opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. He said he is looking forward to the day when the church will be full again. Wayne also thanked all the volunteers and staff for all that they have done over the past year. Without their help we would not have been able to maintain the use of the church building.

Proposed Agenda - It was moved by Paul Hillyard and seconded by Gary Gosse that the proposed agenda be adopted. **Motion Carried**

Minutes of Congregational Meeting of May 2, 2021 - It was moved by Heather Sinyard and seconded by Jean Fry that the minutes of the congregational meeting be accepted. **Motion Carried**. Please note the error that Jean Fry and Kirk Howell both had one year left on their term on the board.

Committee Reports -It was moved by Kyle March-MacCuish and seconded by Pam Morgan that the committee reports, except the financial report be accepted. **Motion Carried**

Wayne then proceeded to ask if anyone had any further comments or questions on each of the reports.

- **Property Report**
- **Worship Committee** - Paul Hillyard acknowledged the effort put into the online services. He said hopefully we will keep up with the online services when we get back to normal.
- **Christian Development** -

- **Youth Group and Financial Report**
- **Book Club**
- **Quilting Group**
- **Membership and Social Action**
- **Bridges to Hope** - Wayne mentioned that over the past two years with covid, it have greatly increased the numbers at Bridges. First United is one of the top with food donations and money contributions. Next Saturday there is a food drive.
- **Ministry and Personnel** - Brenda Andrews sends a big thank you to all staff, volunteers and church members for keeping everything going
- **Board of Trustees**
- **Men's Fellowship Club and Financial Report**
- **Women's Group and Financial Report**
- **General Protestant Cemetery**

Stewardship Report -The Stewardship Committee / Financial Report was moved by Len Sturge and seconded by Gary Gosse. **Motion Carried**

Constitution Changes - There were none to be addressed

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

Wayne announced that Lily Pope, a youth member, have agreed to come onto the board. It was moved by Gary Gosse and seconded by Paul Hillyard that Lily would be accepted to First United Board of Management. **Motion Carried**

There was no nominations from the floor.

Election of Delegates to First Dawn Eastern Edge - Cynthia Burt, Brenda Andrews, Janice Andrews-Ralph and Jean Whalen have agreed to be our representatives. It was moved by Heather Sinyard and seconded by Gary Gosse that these people be our delegates to First Dawn Eastern Edge. **Motion Carried**

Statistics for 2021 -Rev Ian read out the names of the 19 members for whom funerals were conducted. A moment of silence was held for the deceased members.

New Business -

- Gary Gosse thanked Glenys Harris, Heather Sinyard, Christina Manning and Len Sturge for all the work they have done on the grants

- Harold Sinyard thanked the UCW for all their fund raising this past year during covid
- Cynthis Burt gave a special note to Kyle March-MacCuish for the phenomenal job doing the online services.
- Joan Winsor mention that next year First United will be celebrating 70 years. A committee is being formed, stay tuned

Closing Remarks- Wayne thanked everyone for staying

Rev Ian said the benediction.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm

Joan Winsor

Secretary

Wayne Rideout

Chairperson

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Official Board
2022

Minister	Rev Ian March-MacCuish
Chairperson	Gary Gosse
Vice Chair	Carolyn Rice
Secretary	Heather Sinyard
Treasurer	Glenys Harris
Stewardship Chair	Len Sturge
Worship Co-Chair	Madeline Rideout
Worship Co-Chair	Jeannie Whalen
Property Chair	Harold Sinyard
Christian Development Chair	Allison Randell
Membership & Social Action	Vacant
M&P Chair	Brenda Andrews
Board of Trustees Chair	Nelson Harris
UCW Rep	Gloria Gosse
Men's Club Rep	Harold Sinyard
Board Members	Sara Case Kyle March-MacCuish
Youth Board Member	Lilly Pope

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL
Annual Meeting
May 13-15, 2022
via zoom video conference

RC77

Presence and Hope: Health and Wellness

Friday, May 13, 2022

REGISTRATION

Registration

Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council registered online for the May 13-15, 2022 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 – Appendix A

Attendance

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

REGRETS – Appendix B

Regrets

Appendix B lists regrets received by members of the region.

GATHERING

Gathering

The annual meeting, held by zoom video conferencing, opened at 5:30pm for members to gather and to test connections.

CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order

The President, Grant Stuckless, welcomed everyone to the fourth annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council and called the meeting to order. The President noted that many past-presidents, members, guests and celebrants are in attendance, and he thanked everyone for taking part and being involved in the work of the wider church.

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Quorum

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.

Constitution of
the Council

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

Acknowledging
the Land

The President began the meeting by acknowledging the land on 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

The Liturgy Team, led by Gneid Lackey, opened the meeting with scripture, song, reflection and prayer. Wayne Blackwood offered an opening prayer. Grant Stuckless, President, offered a scripture reading from the Gospel of Mark 12:28-31, and introduced the theme *Presence and Hope: Health and Wellness*. The President shared that, in these most difficult pandemic times, it is more important than ever to care for ourselves and each other. Let us continue to be faithful and present to each other in healthy community, inspired by the Holy Spirit among us. Larry Noseworthy and Jocelyn Cook provided music leadership.

IN MEMORIAM – Appendix C

In Memoriam

The in-memoriam slideshow presentation was led by Rev. Brian Colbourne, Acting Regional Minister. The Acting Regional Minister offered prayer, as we paused to remember those that we have lost since we last gathered, and celebrate all that they have given to us, and this church of ours.

"That the bounds of the Regional Council meeting be the virtual meeting room, the telephone connections to that meeting space and Wesley United Church"

"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 and Stephanie McClellan.

That the minute secretary for the Fourth (4th) 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 2022 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 themselves (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 (3) minutes.
- That all subsequent speakers limit their time to two (2) 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, May 14-16, 2021 (RC40-RC57) as circulated.
2. Receives and accepts the following accountability reports:
 - a. President
 - b. Executive Minister
 - c. Division of Finance and Administrative Resources
 - Financial Accountability & Consultation
 - Property
 - Incorporated Ministries
 - Board of Trusts
 - d. Division of Regional Council Services and Support
 - Communications
 - Faith Formation, Christian Education & Leadership Development
 - Justice, Mission & Outreach
 - Stewardship
 - Regional Council Program
 - e. Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning
 - Pastoral Consultation & Accountability
 - Missional Assessment Planning
 - Future Directions in Ministry

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 center those gathered. Nancy Mojica-Fisher, President-Elect, shared song, a scripture reading from Galatians 5, and offered a reflection on how peace and stillness can offer comfort in the midst of turmoil and challenge. Yvonne Milley and Nancy Mojica-Fisher provided ministry of music.

GENERAL SECRETARY

**General
Secretary**

The General Secretary, Michael Blair, shared opening remarks via video message. He brought greetings to the region on behalf of the General Council Office, and acknowledged the stories and land from the Treaty 13 Territory. The General Secretary acknowledged the difficult journey we have been on, and some of the difficult decisions that have been before us, as a church. The General Secretary reminded us that we are not alone; we are in this place of learning together; God is with us. The General Secretary offered thanks to those gathered, and for continuing the work of the church even when it is not easy. May we all know the blessing of being God's people.

PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP EQUITY RESEARCH PROJECT

**Pastoral
Relationship
Equity Project**

Marcie Gibson, Project Co-Researcher on the Pastoral Relationship Equity Research Project, introduced the region to the project Pastoral Relationships Thriving with Equity. Ministry Personnel and equity-seeking congregations are encouraged to consult the website for more information and to please sign up for this important research for more equality and justice.

CHECK-IN

Check-In

Using breakout rooms, members of the Region took time to check-in with each other and further reflect on the theme. Members were asked to share something they have done for their *Health and Wellness* this past year.

ELECTIONS -- Part 1

Elections

President-Elect

**President-
Elect**

Gneid Lackey, Nominations Secretary, introduced the matter of the election of the President-Elect. The nominee for President-Elect attended a webinar on May 9, 2022, and was given five minutes to speak to introduce herself to the members gathered.

BREAK

Break

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements

Stephanie McClellan, Program Team Convenor offered the announcements for the region, including a save the date for the Youth Forum, planned for September 30-October 2, 2022.

THEME II

Theme

Grant Stuckless, President, welcomed the theme speaker, Adam Hanley, Program Coordinator, Ministry Personnel Vitality, General Council Office, back to regional council. In the first session, we were invited to share practices for our wellness, and begin to understand the four "quadrants" for wellness: physical, spiritual, mental and emotional. Today we continue to explore our wellness needs and how to fulfill these needs.

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with Music

The Liturgy Team, with music ministry by Alex Constable, the music team from Bonavista, Oliver Dingwell and Catherine Stuart, gathered the members of regional council together with music.

GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE

General Council Office Representative

Adam Hanley, theme presenter, was also in attendance at the annual meeting as General Council Office representative. Adam introduced the council to the six theme words from the strategic plan: deep spirituality, bold discipleship, daring justice; words that represent all that the United Church stands for; and how we live our ministry together, as we work to become our best selves and commit to this vision. Adam thanked the council for allowing him to be present to bring greetings.

MINISTERIAL, HUMAN AND PASTORAL RELATIONS

Ministerial, Human and Pastoral Relations

Ian March-MacCuish, Ministerial, Human and Pastoral Relations Team Convenor, introduced the team members to the regional council members, and thanked the communities of faith for their support in this important work. The team encourages everyone who is not familiar with ChurchHub to please reach out and obtain help to this essential link for communities of faith and ministry personnel. There are currently 30 (thirty) communities of faith in the pastoral relations process. The Team Convenor expressed that it may be time for the region to not only think outside the box; but to build a new box for future directions in ministry.

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES AND NEW MINISTERS

Introduction of Candidates and New Ministers

Brian Colbourne, Acting Regional Minister, welcomed students and candidates for ministry to the council. Welcome and congratulations were extended to admissionand Edison Wiltshire, and to James Martin-Carter, being recognized as a Designated Lay Minister, this weekend at the Celebration of Ministries Service. Edison and James were both offered the opportunity introduce themselves to the regional council. Brian Colbourne also introduced to the council candidates for ordered ministry Jennifer Billard, Corey Paul (FSLDW), Stephanie Rose, and Katelyn Vardy; and Designated Lay Ministerial candidates Heather Cronhelm, and Keith Wiseman. New ministers Alex Constable, James Ravenscroft, Beverly Matthews, Stephen Matthews, and Sherpherd Munikwa were welcomed to the region.

BREAK

Break

As members entered the break, Stephanie McClellan, Program Team Convenor, reminded the council of the Clergy Retreat and Symposium, scheduled on June 6-10, 2022. Registration and information is available on the regional website.

THEN LET US SING

Then Let Us Sing

The President introduced Kevin Parks, a member of the development team working on the church's new digital hymn library, *Then Let us Sing*, as well as online worship resources through Gatheringworship.ca All resources are easily searchable, and include licensing. These resources will be brought online in 2024 and available for the church's 100th anniversary.

AFFIRM COMMITTEE

Affirm Committee

Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister, presented the progress report on behalf of the Affirm Committee. The committee was established by the council in October, 2020. The Executive Minister outlined the terms of reference of the committee, and introduced the members to the Affirming Ministry Program, which strives to be fully inclusive and publicly welcoming. To become affirming, your ministry must be public, intentional and explicit. The Executive Minister noted that a piece of this work would also involve communities of faith examining their marriage policies. In First Dawn Eastern Edge region, the committee is preparing to offer educational webinars and is continuing work on an updated mission statement. This revised statement was sent to Affirm United for feedback, and will now be posted for feedback from the region. The committee hopes to have the statement ready for acceptance at the next annual meeting.

CLOSING MOTION

Closing
Motion

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/Russell Small)

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 2022; and

That the fourth annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Sunday, May 15, 2022; and

That the fifth annual meeting of the First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be held virtually on May 12-14, 2023.

CARRIED

CLOSING WORSHIP

Closing
Worship

Liturgy Team Convenor, Gneid Lackey, led the regional council in closing worship. Bill Matchem offered reflection and prayer, based on a scripture reading from 1 Corinthians 12. Music leadership was offered by Bill Matchem, and Wayne Blackwood and the music ministry team of Central Labrador Pastoral Charge.

GRACE AND SUPPER

Grace and
Supper

Gneid Lackey, Liturgy Team Convenor offered a blessing and grace.

KITCHEN PARTY

Kitchen Party

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Closing
Prayer

Grant Stuckless closed the meeting with prayer.

Sunday, May 15, 2022

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 15, 2022 at 2:00pm. There were a limited number in attendance (in person) at the service, and the service was live streamed so that all members were able to witness this important milestone event. The President, Rev. Grant Stuckless, was the preacher. Rev. Edison Wiltshire was admitted to The United Church of Canada, and James Martin-Carter was recognized as a Designated Lay Minister. Rev. Nancy Mojica-Fisher was installed as the next President of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council. The newly installed President, Nancy Mojica-Fisher announced the theme for the 2023 annual meeting as *Created in God's Image*, based on Psalm 139.

Rev. Grant Stuckless
President

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
Executive Minister

From the Desk of Reverend Ian March-MacCuish

The last couple of years have been difficult for all of us for a vast array of reasons. Our church is no exception. We have struggled with attendance, some of our ministries have suffered, our fund raising has not been happening as it has and our financial situation is down considerably. At the same time, our prayer life, our worship life, our connectiveness has exceeded in numerous ways. Through YouTube, emails, Facebook, telephone, FaceTime, skype and zoom we have done our best to ensure our community of faith has remained faithful. Thanks to everyone who helped keep our church moving forward. As you can tell from the pages of this Annual Report, a lot of work has been done. Our groups started to meet again, people have started to drop by the church during the week. Our online community was strong and now our "real" church is becoming stronger.

We can put 2022 behind us and look forward to celebrating our 70th Anniversary. I have already heard some of the amazing stories and memories of life here at First United. Memories of weddings and concerts and afternoon tea's, memories of Trinity United and our amalgamation. Memories of shared grief, memories of joy and celebration. As we move through Lent and into the season of resurrection, may that same faith bring us together in spirit and in truth.

GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD!

Blessings to you all, Reverend Ian

First United Church
Board of Management Annual Report 2022

And on it goes..Covid-19 continues to impact our lives. Our Emergency Preparedness Team of Harold Sinyard, Rev. Ian, Cynthia Burt, Carolyn Rice, Joan Winsor and myself continued to meet when necessary. In January, our shutdown as a result of the Omicron Variant of Covid continued. We continued to broadcast services through our YouTube channel.

The church opened to in-person worship in late winter. We did encourage the continued use of masks and encouraged social distancing, however the VaxPass was no longer required.

At the Congregational Meeting, said good-bye to Kirk Howell and Jean Fry whose terms on the board had expired. Thank you for your service to the Board and to the congregation of First United. We also welcomed to the board, as a youth member, Lily Pope.

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 to those involved behind the scenes who keep our church building safe and functional.

Thank you to Rev Ian. As a congregation, we continue to be blessed to have you as our spiritual leader. And to Peter McDonald and his "team", including Melissa Butt 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!

Respectfully submitted;



Gary Gosse
Board Chair

First United Church

Property Committee Report 2022

I hereby submit the Property report for the year 2022. As this is my first time in the role of Property Chair, I have to state that this job certainly requires a committee. I would like to especially thank Kirk, Gary, Wayne, Cyril and Roger for their assistance, expertise and experience. I hope I'm not leaving anyone out. Any assistance, no matter how small is appreciated.

2022 started out as a continuation of the past year's conditions. With a relapse of Covid at Christmas of 2021, we were once again into a period of virtual services and staying at home. However, the property matters of the church still had to be kept up, although at a reduced capacity. Checking the church for water leaks, making sure the heating system was functioning and looking after the garbage was all continued.

At the end of February, we were finally able to start creeping back to a "new normal" once again. It was so good to see our congregation starting to return to our sanctuary.

We had to resume our cleaning services and our lawn maintenance. Once the furnace was shut down for the summer, our regular furnace maintenance and cleaning was done as well as replacement of some heating valves. Also, our annual lift inspection and fire system inspections have been carried out. The propane valve in our kitchen was replaced as required by an OHS inspection. Regular maintenance items such as replacement of lights and repair of leaking faucets were carried out by our volunteers. Our garbage was also looked after by volunteers, as the amount of garbage being generated did not warrant resuming the services of our garbage contractor at that time. The heavy rains in September resulted in some water in our basement. Once again, our volunteers were on hand to clean up and to put some preventative measures in place for the future. Inspection has not turned up any lasting damage. Our snow clearing arrangements from the 2021-2022 season were able to be carried forward for the coming winter.

In the spring, arrangements had been made for a contractor to replace our aging roof shingles. (carried over from 2021) Then came **THE GULL !**.

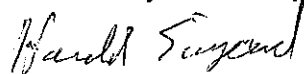
Unknown to us, a gull nested on our roof in early summer and laid eggs. At that point, we were not allowed to disturb the nest according to federal law. It made for some interesting visits around the building as Momma Gull swooped low over your head attempting to protect her young!

By the time the gulls finally vacated the roof and the contractor was advised, the bad weather and hurricanes of September caused delays. We once again reached a point where the contractor would not chance replacing the shingles because of the cold weather. We have carried this project over to the spring of 2023. We now have the challenge of making sure the gull does not return to her nesting spot.

The committee thanks the Board and the congregation for their faith and trust in us to look after our property. We know that Covid is still with us, but as we learn to live with it, we hope that we can keep things working to safe standards for all and that we, as a congregation will be able to get back to more of our regular activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Sinyard – Property Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold Sinyard".

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Committee members:

Kyle March-McCuish, Peter MacDonald, Rev. Ian, Sara Case, Jean Whelan and Madeline Rideout.

During 2022 in person worship services resumed without interruption from COVID. Our numbers have been slowly increasing to an average of 60-70 each Sunday. At the Christmas Eve service we had about **160** in attendance. We continue to have between **200 and 300** plus watching our broadcast services on uTube. On occasion we have had **over 500** viewers.

Baptismal services are the last Sunday of each month. Thank you to the UCW who continue to provide candles and to the church for providing Bibles to each baby.

We are continuing to use communion packets for the monthly Communion services. Congregation members can now come forward to the communion rail to receive communion.

Thank you to Peter MacDonald and Melissa Butt for their musical leadership. Our Senior choir meets every Thursday at 8pm and Sunday mornings at 10 am for practice. This enables us to accommodate all members of the choir.

During the Christmas season, our U.C.W. held their annual Christmas Light Memorial hymn sing. Our Youth Group conducted the Vesper service. We held one service on Christmas Eve and had an 11am. service on Christmas Day. Thank you to everyone involved in leading these services.

Thank you to the dedicated members of our Ushering teams for their continued support. Collection plates for our offerings are now placed at the entrance to the Sanctuary and brought forth by the ushers.

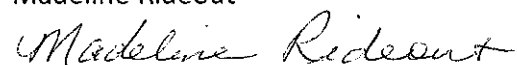
A special thank you to Rev Ian for his Spiritual Guidance during a difficult year, in which he has had to deal with health issues and the loss of many long-time members of our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chairs,

Jean Whelan

Madeline Rideout



**First United Church
Christian Development Committee
Annual Report 2022**

This committee oversees groups in our church such as the Sunday School, Youth Group, Quilting and Book Club. It was very exciting to be able to meet face to face again as Covid Policies and Mandates were being lifted.

In 2022 we attempted to restart our Sunday School program. This proved difficult as we could not recruit the volunteer teachers that are needed. We are currently still looking for a new superintendent for our Sunday School and welcoming any new children to join so we can have them more involved in our services. We sure do miss 'childrens time' as part of our worship, and hearing their funny stories and seeing their smiling faces. We hope to see more children back in the sanctuary soon! Please reach out to us if anyone is interested in teaching or leading the Sunday School program.

By the Fall of 2022, most groups were meeting in person. The Youth Group is small but have had so much fun this year. The leaders have gone above and beyond to provide a safe environment for the youth with new fun games to play. They have also enjoyed giving back to the community, especially during Christmas and for Valentine's Day with their outreach projects.

The Quilting Club has been actively working hard on a special project for our church and the Book Club has read a total of 9 books so far this year. They are graciously welcoming new members to join any time!

A huge thanks goes out to all of our volunteers who keep these groups involved in our worship. For their hard work, thoughtfulness, kindness and love always shown to our church community. These groups would not be the same without these strong leaders keeping them together in a world that is trying to keep us six feet apart. Nothing can separate us from the love of God!

"If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" -1John 4:12.

Sunday School - Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Jonathon Pittman

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

Quilting Club - Pam Morgan

Book Club - Pam Morgan

**Thank you and God Bless
Allison Randell, Chair of Christian Development**

Sunday School Report First United Church 2022

I would say that one of the unfortunate outcomes from COVID has fallen on our Sunday School. We had a small, faithful Sunday school at First United Church. The average attendance was normally 9-13 children ranging in ages of Nursery to Grade nine. Over the past couple of years our Sunday School has not been operating. Unlike the youth group, we were unable to move Sunday School to an online platform. During the fall, Advent season, we tried to rebuild our Sunday School. The rebuilding involved trying to find **new volunteers** to help us run the program and, of course, the reaching out **to our families who have children of Sunday School age**. We have two leaders to date and will need others due to the schedule of the two leaders. More are needed to create a consistent program. We have two teachers, myself and Johnathon Pittman. We would be happy to have others join our team. The plan is to gather **more volunteers**, get our planning in place and to **reach out to families** and have our Sunday School back better than ever. To do that we need **YOU!!**

The program looks like this:

During church each Sunday, we begin in the sanctuary with our families and with a time of reflection with Rev. Ian. We move to Trinity Hall, where we:

1. Light the Christ Candle.
2. Check in with each other to see how the week went.
3. Light our birthday candle and sing happy birthday to those who are celebrating throughout the week.
4. Take up our collection.
5. Hear the bible story.
6. Sometimes we use songs, acting and games to explore the Bible story.
7. We always have a craft that we complete based on the bible story and a take home. This is a way to engage the family at home. It reminds us of our faith story and helps us to talk to our parents about what we learned.
8. 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 it when he was four years old and came out of the hospital from 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, so he wanted to start this project as a way to help people help kids. It has made a very big impact over the years, and we have bought eight wheelchairs for children and done a van renovation for a teenager in Corner Brook who needed an accessible vehicle so she could learn to drive and be independent.

Pop tabs for wheelchairs.ca site updated as of April 2021. 19 projects and 13 wheelchairs purchased.

<https://poptabsforwheelchairs.ca/>

We ask the congregation to also save their pop tabs for the Sunday school.

If you are willing to help please contact. Faith @ 709-691-3524

LET'S GET REBUILDING!!!!!!

Faith March-MacCuish and Jonathon Pittman

Submitted by Rev. Faith March-MacCuish

Youth Group Annual Report SNAC -2022

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, Allison Randell, Emily March-MacCuish, Faith March-MacCuish, and Rev. Ian.

2022 has been a year to rebuild our youth group since the Pandemic. The Pandemic has been difficult on everyone and our youth are not different. As we begin to rebuild, some of our youth have graduated and we were fortunate to have had some new Grade 7's join our group.

Outreach Programs

Can Project:

Unfortunately, we were not able to have our Can Project this year.

Prison Joy Bags:

This year we contributed 200 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 were fortunate to have been able make our cards and cookies for the seniors and have one of our leaders drop them off. COVID caution meant we could not go as a group to deliver them. But we were happy that the staff could distribute them for us.

Congregational Outreach:

Trick or Trunk – It was exciting to get back to our trick or trunk. Due to COVID cautions we did not host the pumpkin carving, but we were able to have the Trick or Trunk. Thank you so much to all the congregation who came out to support. We had about 45 children take part which we consider a great success.

Easter Breakfast – Cancelled due to COVID.

Good Friday Vigil

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

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. It is important for youth to have a place where that know they are valued, cared for and love. There is no better place to do that, than with their church family.

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. We are so proud of you. 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 2022

We started yet another year, still in lock-down from the Covid-19 pandemic, and back to online meetings in January, continuing online through to our summer break. It was a much smaller group that resumed with in-person meetings for the fall, as several long-time members decided not to return. Despite the size of the group, we had some good discussions but unfortunately had to postpone our Christmas dinner as illness took centre stage; the book was discussed in January along with our January book.

Looking back at our title list, it seems that family was an underlying theme to most of our books this year.

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

- 2022-01-26 **Our New Normal** by Colleen Faulkner
"Like a reality show without the reality"
- 2022-02-23 **Miracle at The Higher Grounds Café** by Max Lucado
"The title says it all. Would you like an angel with your coffee?"
- 2022-03-23 **The Woman in The Attic** by Emily Hepditch
"Dark strange tale of a dysfunctional family"
- 2022-04-27 **The Paris Library** by Janet Skeslien Charles
"Well-written, different perspective than usual on WW2"
- 2022-05-25 **Five Little Indians** by Michelle Good
"Trauma affects everyone differently; memorable, relatable, but not uplifting"
- 2022-06-29 **The Red Cross Orphans** by Glynis Peters
"A romance with historical tidbits rather than historical fiction"
- 2022-10-26 **Night Road: A Novel** by Kristin Hannah
"Could happen to any of us in some way"
- 2022-11-23 **The Last Bookshop in London: A Novel of World War II** by Madeline Martin
"Worth picking up at the first bookshop you find"
- ~~2022-12-14~~ **The Christmas Bookshop** by Jenny Colgan
2023-01-11 *"A surprisingly good Christmas read, a little less than Hallmark."*

Submitted for the Book Club by Pam Morgan

First United Quilting Group Annual Report 2022

2022 began with us still meeting online rather than in-person, but still meeting biweekly. While mostly the same folks, we had a couple of new people join onto our mailing list. And a couple of people decided they were no longer attending although have stayed on the mailing list for now.

Those who had been doing the Block of the Month (IBOM) project worked on finishing them off. It made for an interesting Show-and-Tell when we finally got together, so see how everyone had done the same pattern but with such different results.

In the Fall, we began meeting again in person and had to sort out what we had been working on as a collective. We set to working on the now two-year old Fall Fair quilt, that we only had a vague recollection of having started in January 2020. As well, the church anniversary committee asked us to work on a Banner for the sanctuary, so we spent a lot of time figuring out a design and collecting fabric.

We held our Christmas social after a two-year absence, and began to feel like things were getting back to normal.

Submitted for the Quilting Group by Pam Morgan

Bridges to Hope 2022 Annual Report to our Supporting Congregations

Once again the Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors would like to express our sincere thanks for the ongoing support of Bridges to Hope by our founding and supporting congregations. Our core mission remains an important one, *to reduce the effects of poverty on individuals and families through access to essential food, and other programs that help empower our clients.*

Operations: It's been another year of operations under the cloud of a pandemic, but with gradual return to more "normal" conditions. Our invaluable and loyal volunteers are back in action, in the pantry as well as the kitchen, which is a huge relief for our staff and a boost in morale. We are not yet at the point of having clients enter the building, given health and safety concerns, but our goal remains to move to a more customized and interactive service going forward, providing more dignity for our clients and lowering wastage through providing the most suitable food for all.

Staff: We have had some significant changes in structure in 2022, with Jody Williams becoming our Executive Director and Lesley Burgess becoming our Operations Manager. Raylene Roche is our Intake Coordinator and Emily Noel is our Food Support Worker rounding out an extremely strong and dedicated team. Jody's ability to focus primarily on public awareness, funding applications, donor relationships, and strategic initiatives has already led to increased support from individuals and businesses in 2022. Of course, this has been a year where inflation, particularly in terms of groceries, has had a huge impact on our clients, and also on our cost of operations.

Demand: The number of clients coming to Bridges to Hope has been increasing steadily through 2022, primarily as a result of rises in the cost of living from inflation. We provided support to over 11,000 people in 2022. In order to assist low income earners working during the day, we started evening openings in the Fall, which are being well attended.

Higher needs and demand has been apparent across the food support system in St. John's and the Province as a whole, as is evident most nights on the news. It is expected that closures of some of the existing food banks in the region will see a transfer of clients to our organization, especially as we pride ourselves in being open and supportive of all, regardless of religion, race, status or location.

Programs: Bridges to Hope continue to offer very essential programs and services. In addition to normal food support services, we had our Bags to School program in late summer, which distributed 460 Back Packs full of quality curriculum based, age appropriate, school supplies to students of all grades. We distributed 2,021 Smart Snack Kits with healthy after-school snacks for school age children, and through our annual Christmas program, funded by Rotary we distributed \$75 gift cards for groceries from Coleman's for 343 of our clients.

Support: Bridges to Hope remains very grateful for support from our founding churches, during universally challenging times. We remain an Outreach Ministry of the United Church of Canada, with financial assistance from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of the United Church, as well as the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces. And of course, donations and volunteerism from congregational members remain crucial to our ongoing mission.

Individual and corporate donations are a critical part of our funding, in addition to grants and funding from community service groups. The people of our province, and beyond, remain faithful supporters, even as the costs of living increase. Bridges to Hope have seen good response to appeals for regular monthly donations, which helps even out the financial support stream through the year.

2022 saw a resumption in food drives, with Covid measures easing, as well as planning for significant fundraising events (such as the Songwriter's Circle event, March 16th with Music NL, Gower St. United Church... Tickets are available on the Bridges website www.bridgestohope.ca - mark your calendar!)

The Future: Bridges to Hope has completed strategic planning for the next 3 to 5 years. We will be building upon and enhancing our core mission offerings, while adding new services and elements. We will be building new collaborative relationships with similarly-minded groups. A particular area of focus is seniors, and those with accessibility issues. We are, and will be, working with other not-for-profit organizations, as well as advocating to government, to continue and improve these crucial support services.

Submitted by:

Ewan Cumming

Board Chair, Member from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M&P) ANNUAL REPORT – 2022

The M&P Committee respectfully submits our Annual report. M&P representatives for 2022 were: Brenda Andrews (Chair), Eric Eveleigh, Ada Eveleigh, Janice Andrews-Ralph, Joan Winsor and Cynthia Burt.

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.

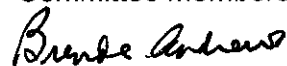
Examples of our 2022 efforts include:

- 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

We are grateful for our dedicated staff and volunteers who help to ensure that we continue to bring meaningful worship services to our congregation on a regular weekly basis. Reverend Ian March MacCuish (Minister), Peter MacDonald (Music Director), and Melissa Butt (Associate Music Director), with the help of several dedicated members of our congregation, ensured that we have continued to have access to uplifting spiritual services in church and online every Sunday. Christina Manning continued to provide excellent support in staffing our office as our first point of contact for those who interact with First United. We are very grateful to all who have helped in any way with the ongoing operations of our Church, and we express our sincere appreciation. 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 2022, 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. Nutri-Lawn 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 – Mount Pearl
Board of Trustees – Annual Report 2022

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.

In the tradition of First United, matters related to the operation, the mission and the ministry of our church is handled by the entire Official Board which results in our trustees having little in the way of official business. However I, as chair, attend monthly board meetings in order to participate in discussions and to remain up-to-date on all church activities.

One of our trustees, Raymond Hayward passed away during the past year. We thank God for Ray and his many contributions toward the accomplishments of our church for many years.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Nelson Harris, Chair

Members: Carolyn Rice

Rev. Ian March-MacCuish

Men's Club Report 2022

The club normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month for a meal and a time of fellowship. Any men of the congregation are welcome to join.

Some members of our club are involved in operating our sound equipment, distribution of church mail, repairs and maintenance around the church and in the newly reactivated Blended Voices group visiting our seniors' homes. We also assist in the decoration of the sanctuary at Christmas and in setting up for various church activities.

The pandemic flare-up at Christmas of 2021 caused us to delay our startup for 2022. No meetings were held during the spring. Our first activity for the year was to prepare a summer closing meal for the UCW in June. When activities resumed in the fall, we gathered for brief meetings in October, November and December with a meal and just some fellowship time to chat and catch up. We had 20 – 24 members attend each of these gatherings.

We were fortunate in the fall to receive a donation of 2 water heaters from James G Crawford Plumbing Supplies. This resulted in raising \$1000, the bulk of which was turned over to the Church. We are very thankful to Crawford's for their donation.

In November, Kevin Martin and Harold Sinyard took part in the Remembrance Day ceremony, laying our wreath at the Mount Pearl Memorial.

In December, we prepared a Christmas dinner for the UCW. Some of our members also assisted in the Seniors' Christmas dinner.

We hope that in 2023 we will get back to more of a regular format meeting with a worship time and a brief period for business. We also hope to get back to offering some public meals for the members of the congregation which were curtailed due to pandemic restrictions and fears.

Our executive members, who have carried on over the pandemic are as follows: (we have held no elections since the start of covid)

President: Harold Sinyard Vice President: Gary Gosse

Treasurer: Nelson Harris Secretary: Currently vacant

Membership: George Hicks Visitation: Mike Bouzane

Program Coordinator: Lorne Squires

We thank Ford Rideout for his past role as secretary and Sid Butt for his past role as Worship Coordinator. We have not yet secured replacements in those roles.

We thank Mike for continuing to send out or deliver sympathy and get-well cards. We regret that lack of funds during the pandemic caused us to stop sending baskets and flowers.

We were saddened this year by the passing of members Ray Hayward, Norm Hollett, Jerry Simmons and Charlie Starkes.

Respectfully submitted:

Harold Sinyard – President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harold Sinyard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

First United Church Women.....Annual Report 2022

First UCW meets one Monday each month beginning at 12:30 pm. Ladies bring their own lunch with tea and coffee provided. Worship and business follow lunch. All ladies are welcome.

Thankfully, in April 2022 we were able to meet again for the first time in two years, due to Covid restrictions. On April 15th we were able to have our Good Friday service and on December 4th our Christmas Lights service

In May we sponsored a Virtual Afternoon Tea and in October a Bakeless Bake Sale. Both events were very successful and we thank all who contributed.

At our meeting in September we collected personal care items for the residents of Port aux Basques who were affected by Hurricane Fiona.

Outreach is also provided with our "Quilts for Comfort" project....ladies knit strips (according to a pattern), strips are knit together into a quilt. These quilts are distributed to give a little warmth where needed. This year we gave 9 quilts to the Waterford Hospital pastoral care, 3 to Port aux Basques during Hurricane Fiona and 3 to Carew Lodge at Christmas. We thank all those who provided wool, knit the strips and to those who put the strips together.


In November we had our annual shower of personal care items. We filled and delivered 24 Christmas bags for residents of Carew Lodge and the remaining items were delivered to Stella's Circle.

On October 14th & 15th, 13 of our ladies attended the UCW 60th anniversary gathering at Wesley United Church where 5 of our ladies, namely Pearl Smith, Evelyn Parsons, Grace Hollett, Lillian Ivany and Doreen Squires, were recognized as charter members, each had 60 plus years with the church women's groups, sadly only Doreen was able to be present.

The UCW continues to financially support the Chaplaincy Fund, Burry Heights Camp, Our Daily Bread ministries, Mission and Service Fund as well as the Local and Building Fund of the church. In addition, this year instead of a Christmas gift exchange, we each donated to the Foster Children's Fund. We express our thanks to all those who continue to support our many projects. Without you we could not do what we do.

Sadly, this year we lost two faithful members of our group, Elaine Butt and Edna Swain. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

We 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,


for Linda Manuel, Secretary

The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.
Annual Report for 2022

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at all three cemeteries, we leveled and sodded many graves and leveled several 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 250 burials, which is an increase of 24 over the previous year. Of these 250 burials, 169 of them were cremations which is a decrease of 4 from last year.

The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
The General Protestant Cemetery	12	20	10
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	161	159	190
The Field of Honor	21	12	24
Memorials Gardens Cemetery	<u>20</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>26</u>
Total Burials	214	226	250
Cremations Included	156	173	169

Your Board met 9 times during the past year.

There have been 141 burials in Memorial Gardens. 26 of these were in 2022.

We have sold all the niches in the columbarium which was installed in 2015 at Mount Pleasant and 115 of the 125 columbarium niches that were installed in 2019. We had a third columbarium installed at Mount Pleasant in July 2022. Of the 125 niches, 60 have already been sold.

This year we installed a double concrete foundation for two columbarium at Memorial Gardens. One columbarium has been ordered and delivery is expected in the spring of 2023.

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

The Memorial Services for 2023 are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- 1) Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Monday, July 3, 2023, 7pm.
- 2) General Protestant Cemetery, Monday, July 17, 2023, 7 pm.
- 3) Memorial Gardens, Monday, July 31, 2023, 7pm.

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, Cell: 709-763-0988
Email: cgibbons@nf.sympatico.ca

Stewardship Report 2022

Our Stewardship Committee is pleased to report that on December 31, 2022, 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 2022 our Operating Account had a deficit of \$31,709.77. Our Building Fund Account had deficit of \$2,872.68. We were able to pay all bills and meet our Financial Obligations due to our previous year's surplus.

Our Loan balance as of December 31, 2022, is \$195,400.00. 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. Also, donating to First United is now possible through E-transfers right from your bank account. We now have four ways for you to donate;

1. In – person;
2. Par;
3. E-transfer;
4. Canada Helps.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I want to thank all members of the congregation for your support during 2022. 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 2022

Baptisms:	9
Marriages:	6
Funerals:	22

Confirmation of Membership

December 31, 2021	1082
Added by profession of Faith	3
Added by Transfer	0
Removed by Transfer	0
Removed by Death	7
Removed by Request	2
Membership as of December 31, 2022	1076

Marriages in 2022

Andrew Stephen Conway and Kayla Jane Murphy
Ronald Shayne Greening and Kiersten Amber Slaney
Dylan Robert March-MacCuish and Hunter Catherine Rixmann
Michael Aarron Coombs and Sara Marie Kennedy
Joshua Robert King and Samantha Anne Moores

Baptisms in 2022

Henry James Robbins	Sadie Ethol Mahoney-Mills
Grayson James Leger Clarke	Laine Harvey Walter Smith
Sophia Claire Hays	Peyton Erica Elizabeth Squires
Lainey Amelia Grace Legrow	Quinn Elizabeth May Skinner
Audrey Jane Squires	

Deaths in 2022

George Legge	Eleanor Churchill
Lewis Donald Tucker	Shirley Irene Moore
Vera Rebecca Collins	Raymond Hayward
Gary Pippy	Charles Chaytor
Lillian Marguerite Porter	Edna Swain
Ida M. Leonard	Ronald Penney
Eric Barbour	Dorothy Hicks
Gerald Albert Simmons	Gale Dunphy
Adolphus Benson	Dorothy Maude Parsons
Elaine Butt	Maurice Bennett
Henry Norman Hollett	Richard Raymond Benson