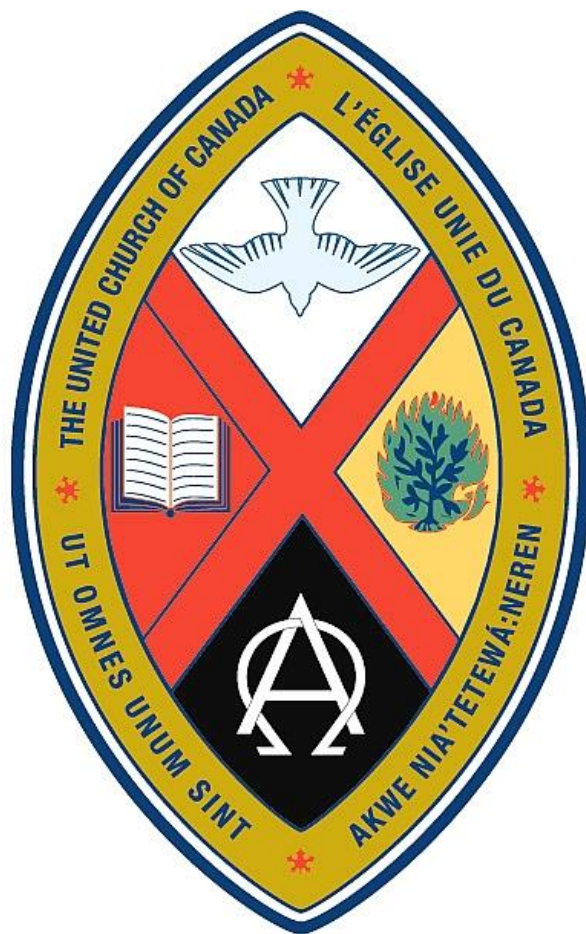




2021

Robertson-Wesley Annual Report



Budget Information Session
Sunday, February 27, 2022

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 6, 2022

Table of Contents

Trustees of Robertson-Wesley United Church 3

2021 Statistics 3

Minutes: Annual Congregational Meeting..... 4

Agenda 7

Robertson-Wesley Church Board..... 8

Between the Aisles 10

Catering Ministry 10

Communications 11

Discernment, Envisioning, and Policy (DEAP) 11

Family Ministry Committee 13

Fellowship 13

Finance Committee..... 14

Fundraising..... 15

Gratitude Team..... 15

 Mission and Service 16

Koinonia Worship..... 16

Men’s Group 17

Ministry and Personnel..... 18

Mission and Outreach Pod..... 19

Nominations Committee 19

Outreach Committee 20

 Community Dinner..... 20

 Magic Pantry 21

 Food Bank 21

 Helen Mack Fund 21

Property 22

 Sign Committee..... 22

Spirited Arts Movement 23

Spiritual Formation Pod 25

Staff..... 27

UCW & Friends..... 28

The Wesley and Clarke Funds 29

Worship..... 30

 Worship Committee..... 30

 Music..... 30

 Ushers & Greeters..... 31

Trustees of Robertson-Wesley United Church

General Purpose: The Trustees are authorized on behalf of the Congregation to hold in trust all properties of the Congregation.

Membership: There shall be no fewer than 8 Trustees. Vacancies shall be filled by election by the Congregation.

Specific Duties: To erect and repair buildings; to permit use of property for church purposes; to sell, mortgage, exchange or lease the property with the consent of Presbytery. Trustees' activities are restricted and governed by public statute, the UCs "Trust of Model Deed" and lawful directions of the Official Board or Church Board or Church Council and of other courts of the UC having jurisdiction.

Current Trustees:

Vital Ouellette, Sylvia Duffus, Lorne Langman, Allison Seymour, Bud Squair, Karen Hansen, Harry Bridges, Jack Waters

2021 Statistics

Average Sunday Morning Attendance:

January	30 in person	278 online	
February	31 in person	281 online	Confirmations 0
March	39 in person	230 online	Reaffirmations 0
April	33 in person	277 online	Transfers In..... 7
May	219 online		Transfers Out0
June	53 in person	121 online	Baptisms 2
July	44 in person	148 online	Funeral/Memorial Services* 11
August	52 in person	99 online	Weddings* 6
September	61 in person	164 online	* For services performed both at R-W and offsite.
October	71 in person	130 online	
November	84 in person	83 online	
December	59 in person	86 online	

Online attendance reflects devices used not people watching, so for example if a family is watching together at home it will count as 1 viewer.

Minutes: Annual Congregational Meeting
February 21, 2021 12:00PM

Chair: Doug Sollows

Attendance: Appendix A

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
1. Call to Order	Doug welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order 12:05 pm
2. Invocation	Rev. Karen open the meeting with a prayer and a call to Holy Manners.
3. Opening Hymn	<i>Dear Weaver of Our Lives Design VU 623</i>
4. Act of Remembrance	Ministry Team lead a time of silence and read the names of those who died in the past year. Peter Kent, George Blondheim, Keith Provost, Bill Hik, Gerald Rimington, Margaret Henderson, Robyn King, Bus Haryett, Winn Edworthy, Agnes Robertson, Ken Graham
5. MOTION to allow adherents be allowed to vote:	MOTION: that adherents be allowed to vote at the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting. Moved: James Triscott Second: Brenda Sheppard Motion Carried
6. Approval of Agenda	MOTION: that we accept the agenda for the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved as presented. Moved: Colleen Graves Second: Norma Johnson Motion Carried
7. Approval of the 2020 Meeting Minutes	MOTION: that we approve the meeting minutes for the 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting held on February 23, 2020 Moved: Geoff Anderson Second: Lynn Maki Motion Carried 3 abstentions
8. Approval of Annual Report 2020	MOTION: that accept the 2020 annual report as printed. Moved: Lorna Berlinguette Second: Lynn Maki Motion Carried
9. Motion to accept 2020 financial statements	MOTION: Treasurer moves the acceptance of the 2020 financial statements as audited year ending December 31, 2020. Moved: Tory Bachmann Second: Louis Berlinguette Discussion: Who we invest with? We have investments with two different firms. Tory gave the names Are we focusing on ethical investing? Yes, we have and a policy is in place and it includes what we will and won't invest in. The list is being expanded to look at the environmental stance we are investing in. Motion Carried
10. Motion to accept 2021 budget.	MOTION: Treasurer moves the approval of the 2021 annual budget as presented. Moved: Tory Bachmann Second: Gary Pecknold Discussion: -Is there any possibility that the bequest will be directed to any specific fund? No, it's directed to General Revenue -Why in the increase in M&P costs? Last year we did not have a music director and did not have a full-time minister for over ½ a year. We are budgeting for both positions and for the standard increases in wages for 2021 -Would be advisable to direct the coming bequest into investments to generate interest as opposed to spending them on general revenue? That will be studied by the board and depends on our financial circumstances in the coming year.

	<p>-What are the different funds and how are they performing and who manages them. It falls to the finance committee to work with the portfolio managers at RBC and IG Funds. Yearly meetings are held and presentations are made regarding the performance of both portfolios.</p> <p>Motion Carried 1 abstention</p>
<p>11. Appointment of Auditors</p>	<p>MOTION: Treasurer moves that we continue using Ellis Group to audit Financial Statements. Moved: Tory Bachmann Second: Gary Pecknold Motion Carried</p>
<p>12. Recognition of Retiring Official Members of Board and Trustees</p>	<p>Board Secretary: Paul Verdin Treasurer: Tory Bachmann Member at Large: Christopher Gowers Regional Rep: Tamara Wright Spiritual Formation Pod Coordinator: Ainsley Brown</p>
<p>13. Election of 2021 of Official Board Members and Trustees</p>	<p>Nominations committee introduced our new leadership that is appointed not elected such as Pod Coordinators</p> <p>MOTION: I move that the congregation approve varying our practice of 1 year terms for the Chair of the Board and Past Chair of the Board a one-time extension due to the current pandemic by 1 year Moved: Lisa Fairweather Second: Rosemary Dunbar Motion Carried 2 abstentions</p> <p>Nominations committee presented the following nomination slate for the Official Board: Those continuing their term Board Chair: Doug Sollows Past Chair: John Fleming M&P Chair: Lisa Fairweather Property Chair: Jack Waters Regional Rep: Lesley Verdin Regional Rep: Colleen Graves</p> <p>Nominations from the Floor: None</p> <p>MOTION: To approve new In-Coming Chair of the Board: Brian Webb Board Secretary: Ainsley Brown Treasurer: Troy Murray Member at Large: Tamara Wright Regional Rep: Lorna Berlinguette Regional Rep: Phyllis Harlton</p> <p>Moved: Ron Soans Second: Rosemary Dunbar Motion Carried 2 abstentions</p> <p>Motion: To remove Ray McKall as Trustee Moved: Ron Soans Second: Brenda Sheppard Motion Carried</p> <p>Motion: To accept Jack Waters as Trustee Moved: Ron Soans</p>

	<p>Second: Sylvia Post Motion Carried 1 abstention</p> <p>MOTION: Give the Board the power to fill the vacant positions until the next congregational meeting Moved: Connie Waters Second: Louis Berlinguette Motion Carried</p>
14. New Business	<p>Motion: Thanks to those who produced the financial statements, the annual report and the Zoom ACM Moved: Karen Hansen Second: Rosemary Dunbar Motion Carried</p> <p>-Are members of the congregation encouraged to attend board meetings? Yes, they are welcome to attend, if bringing a item for the meeting please notify the chair. You won't have a vote. -Are the board minutes available to the congregation? Yes, they are always available, just need to make a request to the office.</p>
15. Closing Hymn	<i>Go, Make a Difference</i> More Voices 209
16. Benediction	
17. Adjournment	<p>MOTION: Present Chairperson asks for a motion to close the Annual Congregational Meeting. Moved: Brenda Sheppard</p>

Chair: Doug Sollows

Secretary: Paul Verdin

Robertson Wesley United Church
Official Annual Congregational Meeting
February ...

Appendix: Attendance

Lesley Verdin, Paul Verdin, Rev. Karen Bridges, Joan Morrison, John Fleming, Lourdes McLaughlin, Jill Lambie, Ann Thomas, Garnet Thomas, Laura D. Foster, Clara Dyck, Tamara Wright, Carol Inglis, Ian Inglis, Jane Chesebrough, Rhonda Black, Chris Gowers, Kathleen Gowers, Sarah Wiens, Ainsley Brown, Melisa Guilbeault, Robert Mah, Troy Murray, Alison Dunwoody, Margery Wright, James Triscott, Lynn Maki, Arnold Maki, J. S., Lisa Fairweather, Sharon and Dick Damery, Tony Jansen, Elsie Coon, Janet Clark, Ron Soans, Karen Hansen, Albert de Vos, Kathryn Rambow, Brad Warkentin, Heather Warkentin, Grant Harlton, Phyllis Harlton, Sylvia Post, Doug Sollows, Tory Bachmann, Joan and Gary Pecknold, Rosemary Dunbar, Jack and Connie Waters, Richard Kennedy, Lois Field, Brian Webb, Pat Stewart, Brenda Sheppard, Colleen Graves, Rev. Sally Boyle, Lorna and Louis Berlinguette

Agenda
Annual Congregational Meeting
Robertson-Wesley United Church
Mar 6, 2022 12:00 PM

- Call to Order
- Invocation
- Opening Hymn
- Act of Remembrance
- Motion to allow adherents to vote
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of the 2021 Annual Congregational Minutes
- Approval of 2021 Annual Report
- Motion to accept the 2021 Financial Statements
- Motion to accept 2022 Budget
- Motion to appoint Auditors
- Recognition of Retiring Official Members of the Board and Trustees
- Election of 2022 Official Board Members and Trustees
- New Business
- Closing Hymn
- Benediction
- Adjournment

Robertson-Wesley Church Board

Our year 2021-2022 has been progressive and productive!

The Board had a half-day planning session on Saturday, May 15. The focus was to conclude a set of goals established in the 2020 Pastoral Relations Review, by the Northern Spirit Region.

The goals were to:

- study, understand and implement the Manual of the United Church of Canada;
- select a new Director of Music;
- prepare a Community of Faith Profile to outline a new Ministerial Framework;
- review, evaluate, evolve and enhance communication within the Community of Faith;
- bring on new Committee and Board members;
- continue to evolve a Five-year Strategic Plan.

Our Community of Faith has implemented these goals, some are works in progress and others are concluded. Robertson-Wesley has a Mission and an Anthem. They are published on our website, for the whole world to see. This year the Committees were asked to address in their reports “How was the Mission and Anthem lived out?” The other important elements in guiding intent are WHY do we do? and What do we do? The concept of the Theological Banquet in the five lived faiths:

- Evangelical: Share Jesus with others
- Ecclesial: Worship and learn with God
- Missional: Go where the need is
- Ecumenical: Work for social change
- Spiritual: Open my life to holiness and wisdom

For me the Theological Banquet speaks to the WHY do we do? These distinctions are a way of expressing the innate nature in humans to be good and want to help. The WHAT do we do? is truly amazing not only as captured in the Annual Report each year but often in the seen and unseen of a person’s life.

The conclusion to this Year’s report on activities is taken from a summary sent to the Pastoral Relations Commission.

The Paradigm shift created with the changes ...over the last three years has allowed for an opportunity to evaluate existing conditions and to evolve new concepts. The process of engaging in change management has provided the Community of Faith to come together with new and often different perspectives.

Robertson-Wesley has positively embraced the changes. The framework of the Manual underpinned by the importance of a healthy and vibrant Community of Faith is being expressed in a fascinating way by very amazing people.

I am grateful for my exposure to this amazing time!

Respectfully submitted by,
Douglas Sollows,
Board Chair – Robertson-Wesley United Church

Affirming Ministries

Events

Robertson-Wesley hosts at least two affirming events every year. In the spring, RWUC planned and hosted an online livestream event for the International Day Against Homo/Trans/Bi-phobia. It featured songs, reflections and prayers from LGBTQ2S+ community members around Edmonton. For Pride, the City of Edmonton is still having internal community issues with Pride events. Due to this and the additional stressors of COVID-19, there was no opportunity to partake in the Pride Parade or host a Pride event. Robertson-Wesley decided to partake in a region-wide Pride Resource Document that helped share information to United Churches in the Northern Spirit Regional Council to help smaller/newer congregations create their own Pride events. RWUC also hosted a Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil service that was available to folks in person and online in November.

Programming

SoulOUTing

Once a month, Robertson-Wesley hosts SoulOUTing which is a safe and inclusive space where 2SLGBTQ+ folks and allies of all faith traditions and spiritualities get together. They share in conversation and company. This program has collective leadership and is coordinated by the Affirming Ministries Coordinator. Attendance and diverse attendees have been growing every month as there is a huge need for a safe space to discuss and talk about issues relating to 2SLGBTQ+ identities and spirituality. SoulOUTing moved to online gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic and is looking into creating a hybrid meeting model for the New Year.

Affirming Coffee Hour

RWUC continued hosting the Affirming Coffee Hour, which was led by the Affirming Ministries Coordinator. It was held online through Zoom and meet once a week. It was a chance for connection for 2SLGBTQ+ folks who are wanting to learn more, ask questions, engage in thoughtful discussions, and socialize. With the Affirming Ministries Coordinator leaving his position at the end of the year, this program ended in November.

Affirming Reflections

RWUC hosted monthly livestreams for different aspects of church life. One of the livestream programs was Affirming Reflections, co-hosted by the Affirming Ministries Coordinator. This was a chance for discussing different faith topics through a 2SLGBTQ+ lense, teaching about 2SLGBTQ+ identities, and interviewing local artists and community leaders. With the Affirming Ministries Coordinator leaving his position at the end of the year, this program ended in November.

Additional Information

With help from the Affirming Ministries Coordinator, Robertson-Wesley continues to spread information on 2SLGBTQ+ identities. Pamphlets are available at all entrances of the church. They show information on Affirm United, 2SLGBTQ+ terminology, Pronouns, programs and more. There is a section on our website that includes all of our affirming information along with links to affirming blog posts and newsletters. RWUC continued to host and share the Affirming Ministries Facebook Page and Instagram, where events and information are placed for both RWUC and the Northern Spirit Regional Council.

Affirming Ministries Coordinator

In 2018, Robertson-Wesley received a grant from the New Church Development Fund which allowed us to offer a full-time position along with rent for office space for 2 years with the possibility of further funding as part of our Outreach Ministries. Robertson-Wesley hired Shylo Rosborough to take on the role of the Affirming Ministries Coordinator. Throughout the last year, many connections have been made between the Affirming Ministries Coordinator and the local and rural congregations, the wider Northern Spirit Region, Affirm United, Generous Space Ministries and others across Canada. The Affirming Ministries Coordinator was the Resource Person for the NSRC Affirming Task Group as they journey through the Affirming Process. Due to lack of funding available to continue this position and personal life changes for Shylo, the Affirming Ministries Coordinator position will no longer be available in 2022. Connections have been made between RWUC and the NRSC to have the possibility of future funding and to potentially find a replacement for this critical role in the Affirming community.

Plans for 2021

Events

With the complications that happened with Edmonton Pride over a year ago, there was a huge drop in events around Pride week. Moving into next year, we are hoping to provide a safe place for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals to worship and celebrate. Given the COVID-19 restrictions, events are likely to be online or hybrid. In addition to the pride events, RWUC hopes to continue being a safe space for 2SLGBTQ individuals through services and events.

Programming

Robertson-Wesley will continue supporting SoulOUTing by hosting space and providing resources. We are hoping to support and assist an additional Program called C.O.R.E, which is a Catholic support group for 2SLGBTQ+ folks. It has been a focus this year to inspire and prepare community members to take on more leadership opportunities. With the absence of the Affirming Ministries Coordinator, we will also be finding a new way of supporting the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Contact Information

Rev. Karen Bridges
Minister of Congregation and Community Development
karen.bridges@rwuc.org
P: 780 482 1587 EXT 224

Between the Aisles

What a tremendous resource here at R-W. A church newsletter where all people may practice their writing, share their excitement or bring up topics to further justice initiatives.

Between the Aisles is a quarterly publication. There are four rotating editors. The current group is Marilee Stephens, Nancy Heule, Janet Clark, and myself, Maria Adria. We have Lisa Fairweather who serves as our proof-reader. Our church office administrator, Elyse Munro, always does an outstanding job with graphics and layout.

I am grateful to the group members because without them we wouldn't have this rather special opportunity. The practice of writing gels, processes, and distills our thoughts like nothing else. Many times the hand and pen write what the consciousness does not yet know. It has been said the pen is mightier than the sword. Why not join us and claim your waiting strength. Submit an article, idea or poem. It is good for the body and great for the soul.

Humbly submitted by,
Maria Adria

Catering Ministry

The Catering Ministry is a ministry of caring for grieving families who choose to hold a funeral or memorial service at Robertson-Wesley. At such a difficult time, it can be comforting to meet with other family members and caring friends after the service. During this past year of pandemic restrictions, RW volunteers served two simplified receptions and directed the net proceeds of \$1203 to be donated to the Mission & Service of the United Church of Canada.

Respectfully submitted by,
Colleen Ouellette

Communications

2021 saw the continuation of the 2020 trend of communications being focused in digital spaces, however it also saw a return to in-person communications.

R-W maintaining the hybrid of online and in person services, meant I had to find ways to reach all of the diverse members of R-W's community. This was done by mixing traditional communications with digital methods. For digital we reached out through social media, R-W's website, and e-news; for traditional we continued with posters, pamphlets, Between the Aisles, the R-W report, and internal and external printed signage.

The high online attendance numbers that we saw at the start of the pandemic normalized, and combined with the in-person numbers equaled our pre-pandemic attendance. Having an average weekly in-person attendance that was lower than pre-pandemic numbers meant printing less bulletins, so I continued to use those printing cost savings towards sending a monthly letter to those who were isolated, including letters from Rev. Karen, copies of Between the Aisles, and printed sermons and blogs. 2021 saw the instillation of a new digital lawn sign to help R-W engage the surrounding community. I have been working on learning the signage software and hope to master it soon. If there's a quote or message that fits with R-W's mission, or a church committee or pod event that you would like to advertise please send your suggestions or requests to me at mail@rwuc.org.

We are continually updating our forms of communication, and are working to ensure that we continue to engage the congregation and wider community in the great things that Robertson-Wesley is offering!

Respectfully submitted by,
Elyse Munro

Discernment, Envisioning, and Policy (DEAP)

The Discernment, Envisioning and Policy (DEAP) group is dedicated to listening for and discerning where the spirit of God and Christ, is leading us as a congregation. The DEAP group is currently comprised of seven individuals, so it is a relatively small but diverse gathering. We meet monthly, and often start with the question "Where is the Spirit of God leading Robertson-Wesley now?" Through discussion and discernment, ideas and suggestions that often lead to action and change are generated.

In our 90-minute monthly meetings we discuss what we are hearing, noticing, and feeling at the church (in-person and online) and then pause to reflect on what has been mentioned. The content of the ensuing discussion can vary widely, but it inevitably encompasses shared joys and sorrows, and envisioning our roles within the church and the community, i.e., ***are we as a group and as a congregation living out our mission?*** During this pandemic we have reflected on how to use the new constraints for creatively supporting the teachings and spirit of our church. For members of the group, this time of quiet discernment and reflection actively reinforces their faith and promotes strong and respectful relationships with the church at large.

DEAP was invited to walk in the "***spirit of wisdom***" in early May when Rev. Karen did a test-run of the Theological Banquet program with the group. Throughout the month of May many folks participated in four weekly online workshops hosted by Rev. Karen. The Theological Banquet concept was created by Rev. Janet Gear to help participants articulate their personal beliefs and faith journey and discover how others live out their faith. The banquet metaphor revealed the importance of hearing all voices; not leaving anyone's perspective out. It also demonstrated how interdependent we are as a community of faith.

- Who needs whom?
- What do we stand to lose if someone is left out?
- What do we gain through inclusion?
- How is the Robertson-Wesley community different from other communities that people can be a part of?

We were privileged to have several opportunities to express this through the written word. We each wrote enthusiastically in *“Still Spirited”* on how it felt when it looked like full-programming, such as Kid’s Church and a full Community Dinner might be returning. Of course, we needed to exercise more patience as that small taste in early October was short-lived. We had the opportunity to wax poetic on how R-W’s unique *Pod Structure* supports Janet Gear’s *Theological Banquet*, whereby each of us live our Faith differently and the structure enables the community to find or start something new that speaks to their Faith. DEAP also spent a couple of months with our Ministers re-working the brochure *“How Does the Church Work?”* to less wordy and easier to understand *“Who Does the Work of the Church?”*

In the *“spirit of justice”* DEAP pondered what we, the congregation of Robertson-Wesley, could do when we learned with astonished horror that 215 unmarked graves were identified in Kamloops (this was only the first of many such discoveries). There weren’t any satisfying answers – for over 150 years, Indigenous culture was systematically eradicated and this was the most brutal and un-ignorable result of this dark chapter in Canada’s history. Rev. Sally organized Truth and Reconciliation conversations. This is extremely serious work that requires compassion and awareness of our shared history and its brutal impact on those that occupied this land long before settlers arrived. We wish that we could say that progress was made this year, but we have barely begun what is required to reverse the harm and discrimination that Indigenous People have and continue to experience. The first and biggest step is for each of us to understand how Indigenous People were treated since colonization of their land and the impact this has had on their culture, their people, and their sense of identity, and work to restore justice.

During COVID our Sunday worship has been a constant. The doors are open, the computer, sound system, cameras, are turned on, the Prelude is played, and, our Ministers begin by reminding us that we are gathered on Traditional Territories, and that we are All welcome. Our bodies, minds and souls are nourished and we are reminded that WE are Not Alone. For a time, we are able to be still and to be surrounded by the love of friends, family and the Love of God.

DEAP has pondered how church life has changed due to COVID. In the face of physical distancing, virtual worship, and online programming, R-W had to reimagine how we connect with one another *“in a spirit of friendship and caring.”* Over the last year, this has included virtual fellowship, flower and Christmas cookie deliveries, visits on the church front lawn, phone call check-ins, and nature walks. We acknowledge that the work of re-imagining is necessary and ongoing as the pandemic continues. While it presents challenges, it has also pushed us to reach out in ways that engage new people, and has gifted us the option of attending Sunday worship in our pajamas at home!

Given the increased reach provided through online worship and programming, DEAP considered virtual newcomers to our faith community during COVID. R-W faces a challenge of extending hospitality and a *sense of belonging* to those who have primarily attended worship online. In particular, we considered how to support newcomers to build connections with congregation members who aren’t visible online. Options discussed included a “buddy” system and providing small virtual gatherings.

We also acknowledged the loss of touch as an important means of comforting one another; we noted that meaningful support right now may best involve being curious, asking people what they need, and actively listening to their responses.

Throughout 2021 our Robertson-Wesley faith community, that means all of us, did a lot of pivoting. During all of this action, what, who is our **centre point**? How have we continued to move forward with our lives physically, mentally and spiritually? As people of faith, we all have a **centre point**. It may not be exactly the same for all of us. Many of us may say our **centre point** is God. It is our God, and other aspects of our Faith, that help us to slow down, believe, trust, pray, take in and release a BIG breath.

We live out our faith at Robertson-Wesley by walking in the spirit of prayer where we reflect, sing and create beauty together.

A collaborative submission for the 2021 Annual Report by Carol Inglis, Jill Lambie, Robert Mah, JS, and Kay Meier

Family Ministry Committee

The role of the Family Ministry Committee is to support family-based and multi-generational programming at Robertson-Wesley. We focus on children, youth, young adults and families through supporting a variety of activities and programming. 2021 was another challenging year for families at Robertson-Wesley United Church. Still in the thick of a pandemic, Kids' Church and Youth Group continued to be virtual. We had a brief moment of light in September that allowed us to come together for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks (and other things) so we could start our school year carrying the spirit of RW with us.

Though virtual, that does not mean we were inactive. True to the mission of RWUC, we gathered when we could, with as many as we could. Every Sunday for Kids' Church, thanks to the amazing work of Rev. Karen, there is a streamed service that brings us together in song, story, prayer, and worship. Once a month, we joined together in fellowship over Zoom, to celebrate the spirit of fun – playing games and making jokes. In Advent, we had a family step up to lead a small group program where families met weekly through the season to share a time of meditation and reflection. At Christmas, the early service featured many voices from our younger group, which allowed us to share the good news of Jesus' birth virtually.

These moments helped ground our kids in the spirit of belonging and joy, knowing that even at home, the congregation is with them.

Young Adult's and adults gathered as well through God on Tap, coming together to grow and build spiritual friendships.

In the time of COVID, our goal in Family Ministry is to offer the spirit of caring by being there for our congregation in new ways. It has meant being flexible and adaptable and spreading our reach virtually. In 2022, we will continue to reflect on how we can support our younger community and make sure that they feel the warmth of the congregation – no matter the stage of the pandemic we may be in.

We want to thank Heather and Elizabeth for their work and dedication to this committee as they step down. People who are interested in this work, are invited to join this fun and faithful committee.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tory Bachmann, Rhonda Black, Andrew Seale, Heather Warkentin, Elizabeth Nash

Fellowship

Fellowship involves the planning for and presentation of the reception after the church service each Sunday: organizing the food and drinks (buying, making, accepting donations); setting everything out; serving; cleaning up afterwards. Co-chairs are Sylvia Duffus and Janet M Clark.

This year Fellowship has been somewhat truncated: none until summer, then until just before Christmas, and now in February. People who attend are required to be fully vaccinated and masked unless eating or drinking. We try to keep seating spread out.

The "Fellowship Kitchen Krew" is comprised of Sylvia Duffus, Janet Clark, Karen Hansen and Susan Hutson. Ruth Belford, Donna Krucik and Sylvia Post help, mainly now with their food donations. When Donna and Sylvia have a bake sale we buy their products with the money that the FS attendees put in the donation basket placed on the food table. This donated money goes to church enterprises that Donna and Sylvia support and, of course, other product we must buy elsewhere.

Of course, we are always grateful to individuals and groups in the congregation who help by donating food, setting up and cleaning up. Always wonderfully supportive is Brad Campbell; and few Sundays go by without the contributions of Richard Kennedy.

As noted earlier, we love the donations we receive, in the donation baskets or in the kitchen. You also might have noticed that whatever we put out for Fellowship seems to rapidly disappear, especially if it looks homemade or healthy. Help us all out, please! We hope to see more people at Fellowship soon, especially the children whose activity and cheerful voices we miss. Those who come, mind you, are not at a loss for conversation. We love it.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sylvia Duffus and Janet M Clark

Finance Committee

Let's have a huge shout out to our Finance Committee members for 2021: Eric Sauze, Connie, Waters, Pat Stewart, Gary Pecknold, Sharon Damery, Karen Bridges, Tory Bachmann, and Garth van Herwaarden! This team met monthly throughout 2021 to make sure we are regularly reviewing and discussing the financial position of RWUC.

It is the job of the Finance Committee, and the Treasurer, to ensure that the work for RWUC fits into the budget that is approved by the congregation. It is your generosity that funds the programs of RWUC. The many programs and services in this report would not function without the generosity of our congregation. The vast, vast majority of funding for the programs and services delivered by RWUC comes directly from this congregation in one way or another - so thank you to each and everyone of you that donates their time, treasures and talents to advance the Mission of RWUC.

Through his role as Financial Manager, Garth van Herwaarden makes the work of the Finance Committee and especially the work of the Treasurer easier. Garth's financial analysis and cash flow planning coupled with his work with the Federal Government all contribute to the financial well-being of this church. Thank you, Garth.

In summary - 2021 was an amazing year. We started the year with a lot of uncertainty, not the least of which was uncertainty on how the continuing pandemic would impact us financially. While there have been some rocky roads, we find ourselves in a much better financial position than we had presented in the budget for this year. Government grants and subsidies were a large factor in the positive results, as were bequests. Bequests were received - or will be received from - Betty Jenkins, George Ford, and Cecily Janet Clark - a heartfelt thanks once again.

In 2021 the markets recovered from their slump in the last calendar year. Protecting minimum balances, we have withdrawn the gains and as a result, we have nearly enough cash combined to fund 2022 - without touching investments. Once again we enter 2022 with much uncertainty. For example, the Federal Government grants that have been available have ended, and there are no known new programs for which we qualify.

The finance committee lives out the mission of RWUC by collectively working together to learn and grow in faith, and to use God's gifts wisely. Growing in faith is a dimension of working together on the finance committee. Faith, and the belief that monitoring and articulating an accurate financial picture of our faith community helps provide the best basis for informed decision making as a congregation.

The finance committee lives out the values of RWUC. For example - there have been some friendships made over the last year, we work in a caring, respectful manner, trying to be caring and accommodating for those in need. We rely on the collective wisdom of the group to collectively make decisions.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Troy Murray, Treasurer

Fundraising

At RWUC, fundraising allows us to do more of God's work by helping to pay for some of our expenses and programs. We also want to support God's work in the world through supporting Mission and Service.

The budget for Fundraising for 2021 was \$5,000.00 for general revenue. We raised \$4,706.70 which is so close! The main fundraisers to achieve this goal were the grocery card program (profit \$1,439.00) and the Art and Book Sale (profit \$2,934.30). Thank you to Robert Mah for continuing to organize the Grocery Card Program and, Sheila Carr-Stewart, Pat Stewart, and Victoria Fedorak for organizing the Art and Book Sale.

Bake sales by Sylvia Post supporting the Anniversary Fund raised \$2,520.30.

Jams and Pickles by Donna Krucik raised \$1,178.00 for Mission and Service.

The selling of food items is more than just that. These sellers share their love of food and hospitality in the spirit of caring in our community and beyond.

We have a new Chair of the RWUC Fundraising Committee for 2022, Tamara Wright. Tamara held one Fundraising meeting on Zoom on Jan. 26, 2022. If you missed it and want to attend the next meeting, she promised to give notice for the next one. Her enthusiasm is delightful and many members have brought forward new ideas. All are welcome to attend.

Thank you to all who organized fundraisers and those who supported the fundraising. Your efforts make a difference in the life of Robertson-Wesley United Church and in the world through Mission and Service.

The Fundraisers and their supporters are living out the mission of RWUC in a missional way. We want to support God's work in the world.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Graves
Fundraising Chair 2021

Gratitude Team



When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides the Spirit becomes embodied throughout Robertson-Wesley. Gratitude is more than a feeling. It is a state of mind and can become a way of life. Throughout October and November, we introduced our theme to the church community with hymns, bells, skits and questions. Our congregation engaged enthusiastically. We shared what brought us, encouraged us to stay and what we found special at RW. We printed our responses on paper hands. These hands were joined so they reached around the Sanctuary. On display for everyone to read.

GRATITUDE is a way to live, a way to follow and a way to give. Our Gratitude Givings Campaign supports and enables Church programs, property maintenance, and Ministry and Personnel. Our RW faith community responded by committing their Skills, Abilities and Financial Resources.

Year	2022		2021	
	GIVERS	AMOUNT	GIVERS	AMOUNT
REGULAR	100	\$293,746	69	\$208,452
M&S	56	\$26,790	42	\$17,268

There are 80 PAR givers as of January 2022. For 2022 Gratitude Team considered someone on PAR as making a financial commitment so that increased the number of givers.

Thankful for what we have received we plan to continue to actively THANK members of our R-W Congregation.

Mission and Service

“Mission & Service, the unified annual fund, is the compassionate response by the people of The United Church of Canada to God’s call to mission and healing for the world.” Monies raised by our congregation are submitted to the United Church of Canada to support the church and its mission locally and throughout Canada as well as partnering with humanitarian organizations throughout the world.

In 2021, donations from Robertson-Wesley to Mission and Service total \$32,057.63. This is made up of \$30,854.63 from the Congregation and \$1,203.00 from the Catering Ministry. We topped last year’s figure by over \$4,000. Well done! Heart felt thanks are offered to all who contributed in any way.

On Communion Sundays we continue to raise awareness of the many ways this money is used to support the mission of the Church whether at home or abroad. COVID has limited the times we have been able to put out the M and S Bucket for special donations.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Sylvia Duffus



This year the Gratitude Team researched a symbol to remind us to be grateful to the SOURCE OF ALL THAT IS. You have already met Spritely. Expect to meet Spritely again this spring to make you Welcome, Thank You and to Discern and Listen.

When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides, we can spread the Light/Spirit of God in our community and the world.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jill Lambie, Sylvia Duffus, Vicky Mah, Pat Stewart, Frazz Kamal, Ian Inglis

Koinonia Worship

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” Matt 18:20.

However difficult it was to meet together as a group to worship because of COVID 19 protocols, individuals kept in touch by phone and email, or in person outside, as evidenced by occasional garden get-togethers in sunny backyards. Many attended R-W Sunday services when permitted by AHS; many tuned into services on line. Several others connected with R-W Church groups such as Scripture Reflections, DEAP group, Spirited Art Studio, and various other committees on Zoom, and with members of the congregation at large. Of course, the availability of online e-news on Fridays, the Sunday bulletin & Report and Between the Aisles were invaluable in helping keep members of the total congregation united in Spirit as well.

Late in August, Koinonia Worship experienced a well-attended planning meeting for upcoming worship services in the Berlinguettes’ garden, happy to be together again, enthusiastic to commit their time and energy in the coming months towards the lay-led, once-per-month, worship services. Their positivity, enthusiasm and hopefulness managed to get every month covered for the September - June season!

Sadly, health regulations halted the first service in September. It was to have been to recognize that Every Child Matters or Orange Shirt Day, in acknowledgement of the hundreds of young Indigenous children who were lost during the residential school era in Canada, and to examine what the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation means to us personally, and to help us understand the reconciliation process”. Thankfully for us, the planners, Donna Krucik and Bonnie Werner, have agreed to carry this service over to September 2022.

Happily, the services planned for October and November were a “go”! Karen Hansen led Worship in October, with the theme, Prayers for the Planet, from an ecumenical service held during the Climate Conference in Paris in 2015. This theme was very timely, in fact, as another Climate Conference was to be held in Glasgow the following month. For November worship, Garnet Thomas and his planning team led us in a service of Hope for the upcoming season of Advent, including two “playlets” (written by Garnet, himself!).

It has been a tradition on White Gift Sunday for members of the Koinonia group to sort, pack and deliver to Bissell Centre, the gifts donated by the RW congregation. The gifts were well-received by Bissell...again, with thanks for the generosity of the congregation, the work of the Koinonia group; and delivery of the gifts by Louis and Lorna Berlinguette.

In early December, as is customary, participants of Koinonia Worship were able to meet for their annual Progressive Dinner, organized by Joan and Gary Pecknold. Although it was deemed prudent not to gather in and travel to homes this year, we were able to book Memorial Hall for the occasion for a scrumptious potluck meal; some fun table quizzes, provided by Karen Hansen; and hearty Christmas carol singing directed by Phyllis Harlton. It was a celebration of togetherness once again and a warm start of the special season of Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy!

As members of Robertson-Wesley United Church and Koinonia Worship, we strive to “live out our faith at Robertson-Wesley by walking the Spirit of Christ: the spirit of friendship, the spirit of prayer, the spirit of caring, the spirit of justice, the spirit of belonging, the spirit of wisdom, and the spirit of joy!” (from the Robertson-Wesley United Anthem)

Respectfully submitted by,
Joann Cooke on behalf of Koinonia Worship

Men’s Group

The ‘Men’s Group’ is a loose number of the usually male members of the congregation who gather for fellowship and conversation at Robertson-Wesley or often are found wandering around the city experiencing its numerous features which many people may not normally undertake. Please note the name of the group is the ‘Men’s Group’, but the title does not emulate how the group operates. Where as the activities of this group are usually organized by the senior men of Robertson-Wesley, all other people and groups of Robertson-Wesley are always welcome to participate.

Because the Men’s Group consists of members of Robertson-Wesley United Church, there is a consistency of common faith amongst those attending. During the monthly activities normally undertaken, there is a strong sense of friendship, caring, belonging wisdom and joy amongst the attendees.

Unfortunately, with the appearance of COVID, and COVID’s lethal affect on people, especially seniors, the Men’s Group has been inactive since February of 2019. Hopefully COVID recedes in the summer of 2022 and the group can restart in the fall. Hopefully.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jim Triscott & Louis Berlinguette

Ministry and Personnel

2021 was a year of uncertainty and the Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) played a role in supporting staff as our faith community adapted and transformed.

All aspects of our faith experience were affected this year as our options to live our faith shifted to meet public health requirements. Staff used their ingenuity and stamina to adjust to changing public health requirements, supporting meaningful connection to community members and our church in person, virtually and through phone/mail. Robertson-Wesley is continually considering how to offer safe spaces to share Jesus, worship and learn about God, go where the need is, work for social change, and foster the spirit in our lives.

Highlights of our year include:

- Welcoming our new music director, Dr. Allan Bevan on October 1. Allan took a chance and moved across the country to join our community! We are very happy to have an exceptional organist and award-winning composer in our midst, with years of experience as a church music director.
- Giving thanks for the joy and talent shared by Erin Craig, who led R-W's music program until August 2021. Erin's beautiful voice, devotion to meaningful music and creativity in the face of logistical challenges was a gift to our community. We wish her well teaching at Crescendo Music Studios and directing Accord Ensemble.
- Rev. Karen Bridges' creative and engaging Sunday worship and kids' church services, both in-person and virtual, and her commitment to really seeing people and asking how they are doing in all her activities in the church.
- Rev. Sally Boyle's leadership as our part-time bridging minister, who brings her wisdom and passion to foster belonging in worship, adult learning and pastoral care.
- Devotion to the financial and physical well-being of our community, led by Brad Campbell, Elyse Munro, Garth van Herwaarden, with support from Roderick Mamita, Isabela Ramos, Christine Mandrusiak, Richard Kennedy, Mylo Maydonik and Nathan Dennis.

While not under M&P's supervision, we'd also like to highlight Shylo Rosborough's valuable leadership of R-W's Affirming Ministry, exploring various aspects of diversity and inclusion in the church. We wish him well in his plans to care for community as he studies to become a paramedic!

Building and maintaining a thriving faith community AND modern organisation has been especially meaningful this year. The role of Robertson-Wesley United Church in our personal spiritual lives and in the world has been a source of strength and service, our community when physical distancing and anxiety have been a pervasive force in our lives. We have an incredible variety of people who find nourishment at Robertson-Wesley, and we continue to be impressed by the professionalism of the staff and volunteers who light up our church and our community.

The M&P Committee included the following members in 2021:

Karen Gabert, Kathryn Rambow, Nancy Heule, Eric Sauze, Ron Soans, Sarah Wiens and Lisa Fairweather. Heartfelt thanks to Kathryn, Nancy and Sarah for their service as they wrapped up their membership on the committee, and welcome to new member, Ron!

M&P looks after confidential human resource matters, and as such, regular meetings are attended only by committee members and sometimes staff members. We are available any time to answer questions or discuss matters - please let any one of us know!

Respectfully submitted by,
Lisa Fairweather
Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee

Mission and Outreach Pod

The Mission and Outreach Pod has lived out the aspect of our mission related to “leading active Christian lives of service among our neighbours here and in the global community” over the past year. The Pod pursued this through a focus on Refugee Ministry, Reconciliation, and Environmental Stewardship.

The work of this pod largely fits within the missional lived faith as we tended to the immediate and specific needs around us, as well as the ecumenical, as we worked towards larger social change; these lived faiths have been reflected in the pod’s focus on how we relate to and treat all of God’s Creation – human, animal, and earth. The Spirit of Justice and the Spirit of Caring are certainly lived through this Pod. For instance, over the last year, the pod has sought out interested participants to undertake a refugee sponsorship project, which is now underway.

In the Spirit of Justice, the Pod has also been engaging in conversations and planning about ongoing Truth and Reconciliation work. Initial conversations included a focus on articulating personal concerns, finding our commonalities, and reviewing the ways in which we will hold a loving community with one another as we continue this work. The year ended with the incoming pod coordinator connecting with the City of Edmonton’s Indigenous Relations office and sharing insights back with the pod. Key messages are to meet our Indigenous relations where they are and support their activities, rather than creating something new, and to recognize that there is a complicated relationship with the church for many Indigenous people, and to be compassionate and patient in going about this work.

The Environmental Stewardship group, which formed through the Pod has also been gathering regularly throughout the year. The focus of this group is to heighten awareness of our deep connection with God’s Creation and ways in which we can respond to God’s call to care for creation through the Spirit of Caring. The group hosted a series of weekly events this June designed to help us connect with creation and learn ways to address the environmental crisis – activities included a bird walk, a plant walk, and a hybrid car demonstration. We have also hosted a book study on the “Green Good News”. Tentative plans for next year include eco-spiritual book studies, minimizing the environmental footprint of Robertson-Wesley, and reaching out to the larger community with environmental programs and activities through the Grand Market.

J.S. has completed her term as Pod Coordinator, with Julie Phillips beginning her term in January 2022.

Respectfully submitted by,
J.S. and Julie Phillips

Nominations Committee

The nomination committee consists of Garnet Thomas, John Fleming, and Ron Soans. The nominations team is mandated to find suitable candidates from our church membership for official board elected positions and to recommend their names to the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM), where the general body can officially vote their appointment to the Board. The role of the individuals on the Nomination committee is to call members and ask them if they would be interested in the vacant roles and also to receive interest from members for these open positions on the Board. The need for an incoming Chair of the Board will be a standing need every year. Interested candidates for this position please contact us. Also, this year we were looking for three Ministry and Personnel (M&P) members and a Regional Representative.

We have been blessed in our search this year, as our search has yielded a full slate for the ACM. Please note, anyone still interested for any of the above positions can indicate their interest and could be added to the slate prior to the ACM on March 3rd. We believe in God’s spirit at R-W to inspire our congregation members to this calling every year and we look forward to welcoming all who show interest in being part of the Board.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ron Soans on behalf of the Nomination Committee,

Northern Spirit Regional Council (NSRC)

As RWUC Northern Spirit Regional Council Representatives, we are called to connect with our Northern Spirit Region and attend the NSRC annual meeting which was held on May 4th and 6th, 2021 on Zoom. There were 165 delegates who came to the 3rd Annual meeting to worship together, and to listen, discuss and decide the work of the NSRC. In addition to attending the NSRC annual meeting, your representatives bring news of the region to the RWUC board meetings.

If you want to keep up with the news of our NSRC, please contact Kathy Jackson at kjackson@united-church.ca and ask her to put you on the email list to receive the newsletter. The website for the NSRC is <https://northernspiritr.ca> and you can read about the many activities of the NSRC. Our NSRC offers many educational opportunities and also they provide a liaison to help us with important work such as our "Pastoral Review" and our "Community of Faith" work.

In addition to the annual NSRC meeting there was also a special education on Zoom on Oct. 27, 2021 with the theme, "No Easy Jesus: an evening exploring Two Spirit and 2SLGBTQIA+ Affirming Theology and Practice in our contexts." As NSRC members, we are curious about the world around us. We want to learn more about The United Church of Canada. The work of the NSRC is Ecumenical, working for social change. For NSRC representatives the meetings are also spiritual as we worship and pray together throughout the meeting. It has been a pleasure to serve as your NSRC representatives. For 2021, your NSRC representatives were Colleen Graves, Phyllis Harlton and Lesley Verdin.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Graves
RWUC Northern Spirit Regional Council Representative 2021

Outreach Committee

Several established RWUC outreach initiatives fall under the umbrella of the Outreach committee, including the Food Bank, Magic Pantry and Community Dinner programs. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, these programs continue to joyfully serve the Oliver and surrounding communities, through the ongoing dedication of committed volunteers and the skillful stewardship of the leaders of these programs. (Further details provided below). Other Outreach committee activities were again somewhat curtailed in 2021. Nonetheless, the committee met in the spring to coordinate RWUC's annual participation in the ICPM (Inner City Pastoral Ministry) lunch program, which this year involved preparing 100 bagged lunches and delivering them on May 16. In the summer, the committee also met to discuss the possibility of a new refugee sponsorship project, with engagement of a new team. With input and insights from Lois Field and Garnet Thomas (who have spearheaded RWUC refugee sponsorships for many years), the torch was passed to a project team formed later in 2021, led by Leanne Foff. In December, this team submitted a sponsorship proposal to the RWUC board (for family members of Charles Sabu), which was approved; the team is now initiating and formulating their fundraising plan.

Community Dinner

How did the work of your group or committee live out the mission and values of Robertson-Wesley this year? Our Leadership and Planning group stayed connected to one another throughout the year with virtual communication thanks to an amazing group of people who adapted as necessary. We were continually seeking to live out our mission of service among our neighbors.

With open hands offered to everyone in the spirit of friendship we provided nutritious meals in September, November and December. In the spirit of belonging, we openly welcomed guests within the broader community. We shifted organizing of volunteers and systems to create a new format of take-out style meals. Planning meals that were easily enjoyed cool or warm, using environmentally friendly take-out disposables in caring for our world. Also, in caring and support of one another, guests and volunteers, we kept our volunteer base to a minimum to reduce crowding and possible contacts. With high COVID numbers in October we paused that month.

In the spirit of joy, we set up outside Memorial Hall doors our hardy helpers served coffee, hot chocolate, take-out meals, friendly conversation and smiles (behind their masks). Did you know you can smile with your eyes? We even had Christmas Music piped outside for December's meal.

We gathered some gracious donations: Little Potato Company, Cobs Brewery District bread and a few special friends put together a Christmas gift of toiletries and candy canes with a special prayer attached for our Christmas Dinner guests. We had no idea of the number of guests coming to each dinner. In September we served 60 meals, November 70 and December 125. Trying to be over prepared we ended up with leftover meals that we shared with Magic Pantry guests the following week. Keeping in close communication with our neighbor, Christ Church and their plans we supported one another with sharing details and experiences. The spirit of friendship shone through. Checking in with government guidelines we will continue to adapt as necessary. We hope, at minimum, to serve take-out style meals until such time as we can confidently ensure safety in an eat-in setting.

The work of our group may have changed slightly but our values and sentiments have not. Our guests and volunteers shared the same thoughts; we miss one another, in person company, sense of belonging and time of sharing in a relaxed, warm, friendly space. It's what we value about Community Dinner and why we do it.

Respectfully submitted by,
Rhonda Black

Magic Pantry

Bag lunches, which include 2 sandwiches, juice, cookies, pudding and crackers were given out by some dedicated volunteers on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday over the noon hour. An average of 33 bag lunches were given out each day, which has gone up by 9 lunches per week from last year. Then COVID hit and the program stopped for a while. It was started up again in October with a new system. A table is placed outside the church and a few bag lunches are set on the table with a sign 2 meters away from the door. There are lots of conversations and waving through the glass doors. We again have a dedicated group of volunteers that make the sandwiches once a month, and another group that give out the lunches and make up the bags. A special thanks goes out to Connie and Jack Waters who ensure that supplies are purchased and available for this program, to Bonnie Werner and others from the food bank who make up the bag lunches, and to Ron MacKinnon, Jill Lambie and Nathan Dennis who give out the lunches each week. The community appreciates this help especially during these difficult times.

Food Bank

For the 2021 year we continued on with our COVID-19 protocols and the team plans to keep the system we have in place for the future. We have a dedicated group of volunteers made up of the congregation members and members of the community, without them, we wouldn't be able to operate the depot. For interest sake, from January 2021 to November 2021, the Robertson-Wesley Food Depot received 31,468 kg of food valued at \$179,373.

Thanks to the congregation for their continued support with grocery bags, egg cartons, toilet paper, and feminine hygiene products. The clients we serve truly do appreciate all the help.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jack and Connie Waters

Helen Mack Fund

The Outreach subcommittee overseeing the Helen Mack Fund had a relatively quiet 2021. One external (to RWUC) request was received, which was not funded, since it fell outside the Helen Mack mandate. The subcommittee formally met once, to allocate funds to existing RWUC programs (Community Dinner, Magic Pantry). We look forward to 2022 with optimism and hope, for renewed opportunities for Outreach.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brad Warkentin

Property

We were hoping 2021 would be a get back to normal year. This didn't happen, so we operated under many COVID restrictions for the year. Thanks to Brad Campbell for staying up to date on the restrictions and making Robertson-Wesley as safe as we could.

It was an interesting year. After many years of having intermittent sewer smell problems, we had the plumbing wall stripped from the basement to the roof. The old cast pipes were disintegrating after many years of rust and wear. We replaced them all with PVC piping. While the walls were open, we replaced the water lines as well. After several months of operation, I think we can conclude that the problem is finally fixed.

A second project that was proposed by a group in our congregation was to replace our outdoor sign with a new state of the art LED sign. This group included Chris Gowers, Pat Stewart, Ian Inglis and Donna Krucik. The process of getting the permit was harder than getting the sign, but with the help of Doug Sollows and Brad we received the permit, and the sign was installed in November. Thanks to everyone involved.

Our gardens and yards were excellent as usual. The garden group including, Lea Callebaut, Rosemary Dunbar, Jane Chesebrough, Richard Kennedy, Ian and Carol Anne Inglis, Sarah Wiens, Jill Lambie, and Jim Triscott spent many hours maintaining our yard.

There were so many little jobs that were completed: the phone system upgrade, wiring for the door system, organ repairs, general paint, and polishing. I don't know how Brad does it, but he stays on top of everything. I think I said last year that 2021 would be a year of maintenance. Maybe this year, 2022, will be a year of maintenance. However, the property committee responds to whatever is thrown at it. The maintenance of an Historic Building is never predictable. Our dreams for the future, includes upgrading our electrical, maybe solar panels (if we can get grants), painting the exterior woodwork, parking lot upgrades, and a new storage facility outside to replace the old one. Some of these projects will get done this year depending on grants and funding.

We have a dedicated Property Committee that rolls with the flow and keeps smiling. We couldn't get along without Brad Campbell, Lorne Langman, Albert de Vos, Rosemary Dunbar, Karen Hansen, Louis Berlinguette, Doug Densmore and Jack Waters.

A special thanks to all the part time events staff and the summer student. These include Roderick Mamita, Richard Kennedy, Nathan Dennis, and Mylo Maydonik. Without the support of these crucial people Brad would never be able to leave this building.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jack Waters, Chair of Property

Sign Committee

In 2021 it was determined that the manual exterior sign board had passed its useful life and required updating. After extensive research, a new state-of-the-art LED sign was ordered and installed in time for Christmas. The committee was charged with the responsibility of fundraising and this was successfully completed (helped by a small transfer of funds from the Wesley Fund).

We believe that this new LED sign which can be quickly and readily updated will extend in a more dynamic and exciting way the Church's outreach to the community. It should be noted that at the same time as the new LED sign was being installed, the header at the top of the sign which was in aged and in poor condition was removed and extensively renovated thanks to the charity of an Edmonton company and its owners.

With much appreciation to those of the Congregation who financially contributed to the new LED sign.

The Sign Committee,
Donna Krucik, Ian Inglis, Pat Stewart, Jack Waters, Chris Gowers

Spirited Arts Movement

Just to back track, the “Spirited Art Studio” is a community-based art program that started in the fall of 2015, and had continued to run weekly during the school year, and once/month after the community dinner (which had continued to be the busiest time). Until the Mid-march 2020, the beginning of pandemic the community was continuing to outgrow the studio space in moved into the lower hall. Then starting on March 23, 2020 a week after the pandemic began - when the church building closed, and people were asked by the government of Canada to physically isolate and begin social distancing - the Spirited Art Studio began a livestream on Facebook as a way to continue to connect with participants. We felt that more than ever before, particularly for people who were single and lived alone, physical isolation became a prevalent mental health concern.

Then, starting in the fall of 2020 we began with our online zoom art studio Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons. This was in response to the church building remaining closed for most weekly programs.

Similar to meeting in the art studio in person, online on Zoom people gather together to connect, create art and build community. Our purpose was to better provide a safe environment of nonjudgement for individuals to gather together, have some fun, conversation, have compassion for and provide support for one another, and feel a sense of belonging though the virtual connection.

Each time starts with introductions, then an art directive by Laura as the facilitator. People share their own ideas and they learn from one another. We take time to create independently, yet together, sometimes while listening to music. We end each session with some sharing of what has been created and/or thoughts that emerge from experiences. People are finding this to be a worthwhile way to spend some time creatively to get away from the stress of the pandemic and all that it has brought with it and find supportive community.

We found that having both an evening and an afternoon time scheduled accommodates people who have availability and/or preferences for each.

Due to requests we kept Wednesday afternoons online on zoom, and there continues to be a good response for those who prefer it for now. Then we had plans to begin in-person for Monday evenings September, 2021 but delayed plans and began on Nov. 1, 2021. We had a good response and had 6 weekly evenings of the in-person art studio following all health protocols, until shutting down before Christmas break. Due to the latest omicron variant, the in-person group remained closed, we will be opening again soon in person.

Art and Spirituality Workshop

We continued with the theme from the 2021 workshops of “Art as a Spiritual Practice” and had 2 workshops. One was a mindful outdoor watercolour painting workshop. It was a glorious day and we enjoyed RWUC gardens and not only stopping to smell the flowers, but also painting them! Though basic guidance in watercolour painting was given, the focus was enjoying being in the moment, and the process and engaging in some fun and relaxation with nature! There were 8 in attendance. Care was taken in preparing packages for each person and having plenty of hand sanitizer and safe distancing.

The other workshop was in December, respecting the season of Advent. In this workshop we are explored how to activate the imagination through various simple art and spiritual practices with the intention to experience the sacred and to explore meaning and to reflect on this both individually and collectively in these unprecedented times. The workshop was well received by an enthusiastic though small group of 4 registrants. Healing Artistic Director Laura David Foster will be continuing offerings of up to 3 workshops this winter and spring.

Art Therapy Student Learning Site

We continue to partner with St. Stephen’s College as a learning site for students in the Art Therapy Program. This allows us to offer free Art Therapy to people in the community and the church. Due to the Pandemic, this has been paused. We hope to have a new student in early Spring of 2022.

Art Therapy at Canterbury Court and Manor

R-W received a grant from the United Church Foundation in 2019 which allowed Laura David Foster to offer free Art Therapy to the residents at Canterbury Court and Manor, with a grant from the Clarke Fund This program offered artistic and spiritual exploration to seniors who are not able to participate in programs at the churches they used to attend with no cost to them. The program ran on a weekly basis, for a 1.5 hr. session. Because of not wanting to put seniors at risk in the pandemic through the various waves and variants, this program paused for all of 2021.

The art therapy offered strives to enhance autonomy, self-worth, and dignity through creativity, decision making, and storytelling in reflecting on the artwork they create. It is not just recreational and it is not just crafts. In this program we hope to continue to hold space for feelings of grief and loss that may be felt in this stage of life as they are shared within the safety of a therapeutic relationship, with empathy, congruence and unconditional respect.

In 2019 and 2020, seniors enjoyed experiencing something new, they liked the stimulation of mind and imagination, the reassurance that there's no perfectly right way and no judgement, and they enjoyed the freedom of expression in a unique way.

We hope to continue this when possible in 2022, with the grant from the Clarke Fund, likely meeting folks for art therapy on an individual basis. We hope assist with residents at Canterbury Court and Manor, to help to work through grief, loneliness and isolation they have been experiencing.

Justice Spirited Arts Movement

This year saw limited programming from the Justice Spirited Arts Movement due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic and low turn out for the programming that did occur. For the first half of the year, Justice Artistic Director, Brooke Leifso, ran online mutual aid support groups for the congregation and public. This included meeting to share current concerns, hearing and supporting each other and joint art making together to create a generative space, community building and just a kind, supportive space!

Question: How did the work of your group or committee live out the mission of Robertson-Wesley this year?

The mutual aid circle programming in an outreach, secular, program that works with wider members of the community to offer co-supportive and co-generative environments. In these unprecedented times, I wanted to create a space for people to talk through their experience and find support within each other. That could be the spirit at work! Through the justice spirited arts movement work, it's my hope to educate and create true space for community in difference.

Question: How have these values been lived out in the work of your group or committee?

The Spirited Arts Movement is an extension of the ecumenical faith. Through art and education of social justice topics, the Justice Arts Movement aims to work for social change. We believe that diverse and supportive communities are possible.

Respectfully submitted by,
Brooke Leifso and Laura David Foster

Spiritual Formation Pod

The Mission of Robertson-Wesley United Church is this:

“Trusting in the promise of Jesus that ‘where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them,’ we come together at Robertson-Wesley United Church to worship God, to share each other’s joys and sorrows, to learn and grow in faith, to use God’s gifts wisely, and to lead active Christian lives of service among our neighbours here and in the global community.”

Question: How did the work of your group or committee live out the mission of Robertson-Wesley this year?

The Spiritual Formation Pod helps to support various activities which deepen the faith and the spiritual growth of members of Robertson-Wesley as well as the wider community. These activities also provide opportunities for participants to grow in relationship with one another. Faith is not lived in a vacuum but nurtured within community and lived out in the real world. Thus, the activities provided by the SFP seek to help participants to grow in their faith so they may discern and utilize their gifts to better serve God’s people in the world.

I assumed the role of Spiritual Formation Pod Coordinator in fall 2021, so I am still learning of all of the various SFP activities and groups and how they serve the RWUC community and the wider world. Here is a list of the activities I know of, and I apologize for any which I have left off.

Theological Banquet: In the Spring about 35 people gathered on zoom to learn about The Theological Banquet which was also explore for 5 weeks in worship. Janet Gear, a professor at the Vancouver School of Theology, created a resource. This resource provides language and a way of looking at ourselves and the faith community in which we live and helps us identify how we live out our faith in the church, our lives and the world. “Its purposes are to affirm and articulate the lived faith of those in your community, to deepen an appreciation of theological differences within a community of faith, and to build capacity for theological interpretation of community life.” We shall discover how we live our faith, and what God is doing and how. What was learned is that there are generally five different ways that people live out their faith. What is most important is the acknowledgement that no one way is better than the other. All are needed to fulfill the mission and ministry that God calls the community of faith to. The five different expressions are as follows: evangelical, ecclesial, missional, ecumenical, and spiritual.

Scripture Reflections: Every week, the ministers of RWUC lead Scripture Reflections via zoom, to allow for lively discussions of the scripture texts for the coming Sunday. Using the practice of Lectio Divino, participants hear the words of the texts and listen for what God is saying to them through the readings. Since God speaks in various ways to each, participants have the option to learn from one another and to grow together.

Adult Study Group: Rev. Sally has led an Adult Study Group at various times throughout the year. Topics of discussion has included biblical themes, and the program Living the Questions, which encourages participants to explore new ways of looking at the Bible and of engaging the stories of our faith, thus allowing them to grow in wisdom and deepen in faith.

Book Buddies: Nancy Heule has led Book Buddies, which has met to discuss various books, including The Green Good News by T. Wilson Dickson, and Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times, by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. These book discussions have allowed participants to put themes of justice in the world and society in dialogue with their faith.

Family Advent Zoom: During Advent, families with young children were given the opportunity to participate in a Less Is More Advent program, which offered fun-filled, faith-filled ways to help families get to the heart of the season. Activities included weekly zoom candle-lighting sessions where we reflected on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. In addition, a devotional booklet and poster provided gave families ideas for additional activities to deepen their experience of these themes throughout the season - such as praying for the senders of all the Christmas cards for Love. Families deepened in their faith and in their connection with one another.

Labyrinth: During the month of December, we offered the opportunity for people to experience the ancient practice of walking the labyrinth as they journeyed through Advent. Walking the labyrinth is a form of contemplation, inviting a person to quiet the mind and allowing a person to focus on a spiritual question or prayer. Participants claim that the experience helped to deepen their spiritual journey. Lynn Maki hopes to lead a Labyrinth workshop in 2022.

Stillness: Throughout Advent, we provided the opportunity for meaningful connection with one another through a time for stillness. In a series of workshops, gathered in solitude, with choices of artistic and spiritual practices to promote contemplation and reflection.

Robertson-Wesley United Anthem:

We live out our faith at Robertson-Wesley in by walking the Spirit of Christ:

The spirit of friendship where an open hand is offered to everyone

The spirit of prayer where we reflect, sing and create beauty together;

The spirit of caring where we support each other, our community, and our world;

The spirit of justice as we ask hard questions and defend those who need a voice;

The spirit of belonging where everyone is welcomed regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or differing abilities;

The spirit of wisdom where people are encouraged to learn together and seek their own spiritual answers;

The spirit of joy where we play together as a family.

Question: How have these values been lived out in the work of your group or committee?

Friendship: we provided opportunities to connect with other members of the congregation both in person and online.

Prayer: elements of prayer were present in all of our activities, from lighting candles with friends over zoom to walking the labyrinth.

Caring: our gatherings gave us opportunities to care for one another, and the learning helped us to discern ways to reach out and care for the wider world.

Justice: we learned about injustices in the world and we explored ways in which our faith calls us to work for social change.

Belonging: we strive to welcome all people, remembering that we all belong to each other.

Wisdom: we provide opportunities to learn, to ask big questions, and to seek answers together.

Joy: we hope that our activities provide fun, beauty, and laughter for all who join.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel Frey

Spiritual Formation Pod Coordinator

Staff

This is the first time that we have collectively written a staff report. In the past some staff have written from their various areas of work to help people of the faith community understand our individual roles. We figure it is time for a change, and we wanted to focus more on what we have in common. Let's be honest, as a faith community we are family and what is most important is that we work together. As we have said goodbye to some staff and hello to others we have spent time learning about what unique gifts, skills, passions, and experiences we bring to the team. We each have a role that works in consort with others, which provides the faith community with a strong foundation upon which to live out their faith. Staff's individual roles are well-defined, and we have manuals to guide us in our work together. These guidelines help us to stay focused, to meet our deadlines, and to be there for the congregation when we are needed week in and week out. They also assist in helping us not to step on one another's toes by crossing boundaries into another staff member's area.

We asked ourselves the question: "what are we called to do as a staff at Robertson-Wesley?" We believe that we are called to serve and support the congregation in living out their mission and ministry in the church and in the world, and we provide leadership at different times for which we are specially trained or feel called to do. We want to create an atmosphere of welcome, warmth, acceptance, and deep caring for all people who walk through the doors and who we encounter each day both inside and outside the church. Staff are here to bridge and fill the gaps in the work of the volunteer leadership, and to ensure that people who are engaged in the work of the faith community have what they need to do what they have been called to do. We recognize that we need to encourage people to be involved in their own development within their faith journey without doing the work for them. This includes providing information, resources, guidance, encouragement, a listening ear, procedures, and systems that help us work together in a way that is safe and efficient, and uses all resources wisely. At the same time, we work hard to ensure that we do not become a barrier in fulfilling the mission that has been set by the Community of Faith.

As staff we can help people navigate the church structure. We can help point people in the right direction of who to talk to, or where to find the information that is needed. We keep things running, extend hospitality, remind the faith community of their hopes and dreams, and ask questions that help the community of faith live out their call in the world and we meet people where they are at, while continuing to evolve as a Community of Faith. This past year we have continued to adapt, and shift how we work, and how we support people of this faith community in the new hybrid models of in person and online. As we learn and grow together we welcome questions, constructive feedback, and patience.

Whether you see us as the tendons that connect the muscles to the body of Christ, the oil that keeps things running, or the fertilizer that keeps us healthy and growing, know that we are here for you!

Respectfully submitted by,

The staff of R-W

Dr. Allan Bevan, Rev. Sally Boyle, Rev. Karen Bridges, Brad Campbell, Elyse Munro, Garth van Herwaarden

Staff & Contractors

Dr. Allan Bevan	Music Director
Brad Campbell	Facilities Manager
Brooke Leifso	Justice Artistic Director, Spirited Arts Movement
Elyse Munro	Office Administrator
Garth van Herwaarden	Financial Manager
Rev. Karen Bridges	Minister of Congregation and Community Development
Laura David Foster	Healing Artistic Director, Spirited Arts Movement
Nathan Dennis	Facility Support Staff: Choral Morphosis Assistant
Richard Kennedy	Facility Support Staff: Event Assistant
Roderick Mamita	Facility Support Staff: Event Assistant
Rev. Sally Boyle	Bridging Minister

UCW & Friends

Throughout 2021, Robertson-Wesley UCW and Friends has continued to meet by Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month, due to the restrictions required by COVID protocols, and also concern for the safety of our members.

The UCW and the Mission of Robertson-Wesley

Attendance at UCW has been lower during COVID, but even in the months where there are only five or six on the Zoom call, God is with us. We worship by having a short devotional each month led by one of our members, which includes scripture, commentary, and prayer. In March, we shared a beautiful video of the annual World Day of Prayer service, prepared by the Women's Interchurch Council (Canada) from a service written by the women of Vanuatu. We share each other's joys and sorrows every time we meet (and often at other times as well). Melisa Guilbeault sings for us most meetings, which has widened our musical horizons and given us the opportunity to share in the growth of Melisa's musical ability and repertoire.

We have experienced a variety of learning opportunities. In February, Sally Boyle led us in a discussion: "Communion: What is it anyway?" In May, we shared how we each got involved in church, and specifically Robertson-Wesley, and why we remain involved. In June, we watched a short video about an inspiring woman, Rose Hudson Wilkins (a Black woman born in Jamaica who followed God's call and is now an Anglican bishop). In July, Donna Krucik led a presentation on the Remembering the Children Society, and their work in locating graves and remembering the children who died at the Red Deer Industrial School. In August, Donna helped us learn more about the Women's Interchurch Council, and in September Lorna Berlinguette showed a video from Interpares, "Uprooting Systemic Racism". The pandemic has limited our ability to provide service as a UCW, but our some of our individual members serve in a number of ways in the church and community.

The UCW and the Values Expressed in the Theological Banquet and R-W Anthem

Most of the activities of our local UCW have reflected the Ecclesial and Spiritual ways of living out our faith during the last year. There is an Ecumenical element in our learning about social issues. The present national UCW project, supporting Women for Change, Zambia, is also Ecumenical (work for social change). UCW has a strong Missional and Evangelical history, although that has not been reflected in this year's activities.

We live out the values of the Robertson-Wesley Anthem, touching on all seven of its elements.

This past year we mourned the deaths of three of our long time members: Agnes Robertson, Betty Jenkins, and Mary Van Dolder.

In 2022 we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UCW.

"And now, go with us God, into the days ahead. Strengthen us for peace, give us wisdom, keep us humble, and may we live and work together, and so striving, build a new and better world for tomorrow. Amen."

Respectfully submitted by,
Margery Wright, UCW Secretary

The Wesley and Clarke Funds

The Wesley Trust Fund

The Wesley fund was established in 1971 when the Wesley United Church (originally, Wesley Methodist Church) building was sold. Proceeds of the sale were designated to be invested, with the proceeds donated for social development in the Edmonton area.

The E. I. Clarke Memorial Fund

The Clarke Fund was established in 1968 by a member of the Robertson United Church congregation, the late Edwin Irwin Clarke (d. 2009). This fund is designated to be invested, with proceeds donated to outreach projects. The Clarke family, presently of Victoria, have made additional contributions to the fund in recent years.

Wesley & Clarke

The Wesley & Clarke Trustees meet annually, usually in early December, to consider requests for funding in relation to the amount available for disbursement that year. The current trustees are Rev. Karen Bridges (Chairperson, *ex officio*), Troy Murray (Treasurer, *ex officio*), Dr. David Buchanan, Robert Mah, and Marg May.

2021 Allocations	Wesley	Clarke	Total
Bissell Centre	4,800	8,200	13,000
Voices of Albertans with Disabilities		1,000	1,000
Choral Morphosis	5,000		5,000
No Room in the Inn (L'Arche Community)		2,000	2,000
R-W Benevolent Fund		4,000	4,000
Pilgrims Hospice Society – comfort and care		3,000	3,000
R-W Spirited Arts Movement	13,000		13,000
Total Allocations	22,800	18,200	41,000

Total Allocations in Recent Years

	Wesley	Clarke	Total
2020	25,300	19,700	45,000
2019	28,150	21,750	49,900
2018	25,500	19,500	45,000
2017	25,500	19,500	45,000
2016	23,000	18,000	41,000
2015	22,000	18,000	40,000

Commitment

Robertson-Wesley continues its commitment to the management and allocation of these Funds according to their originally specified purposes. Along with these disbursements go our prayers for the thousands of people whose lives are supported and enhanced by these contributions. It was decided at the meeting in 2019 that if deemed necessary we would use the principle of the Wesley Trust Fund up to \$20,000 for the recruitment of the music position at R-W. Troy Murray has been advised to take the total amount of what was actually used for moving and advertising for the Music Director.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Karen Bridges, Chairperson of the Wesley & Clarke Trustees

Worship

Worship Committee

As health restrictions continued to be a noticeable part of our existence in 2021, it seems that regular worship at Robertson-Wesley has taken on a dual character in our church life. Many of us are acutely mindful of the risks involved in “going public” while a highly transmissible virus may be present anywhere, even though vaccines have gone a long way to make us safe. Live-streamed worship has emerged as a viable alternative to in-person gatherings. While live streaming has the advantage of convenience and outreach (did we ever think one day we could attend a worship service at R-W from another part of the world?), many of us nevertheless sense the isolation that it brings. Consequently, much of the church’s activity associated with worship has taken on different forms, such as Koinonia, an intimate style of worship with a strong fellowship component. Communion services have been held separately from the regular Sunday mornings. Choral music, always a significant aspect of Sunday worship, was virtually abandoned during the first nine months of the year due to health concerns. This is not to mention the myriad of programs within the church, such as youth groups and other social gatherings, which have suffered for lack of physical presence. Thankfully, Kid’s Worship has continued on a weekly basis, albeit remotely through a screen, as has the monthly SoulOUTing worship group as part of our affirming ministry.

Let us, in any case, focus on the positive! There was some excitement in 2021, as in October we welcomed a new member of the ministry team. Dr. Allan Bevan has taken the reins as Robertson-Wesley’s Music Director, bringing a wealth of experience as an organist, choir director and handbell leader in a number of church’s in Canada. Dr. Bevan has an international profile as a distinguished composer of choral music, and we look forward to hearing some of his works here in his new church home. He has, in fact, already kick started the R-W choir and handbell ensembles. A lovely Lessons and Carols service in Advent was a welcome event after the long absence of the choir, but unfortunately illnesses at Christmas resulted once again in reduced participation. All indicators point to a robust renewal of music programs under Dr. Bevan’s leadership once the pandemic eases, and although progress may take a slow but steady course, we eagerly await the eventual return of music to its prominent place in worship at R-W.

The Worship Committee continues to work with ministry to facilitate worship of the highest possible quality. One of our several functions is to provide a communication link between staff and congregation. We regularly receive valuable feedback on issues of theology, liturgy, music and other aspects of worship, and we reflect on these with our ministers. Indeed, we invite thoughtful comments from anyone to help fashion worship experiences that ring true for this faith community. The Committee is always pleased to hear from you, and may be contacted via the church office.

Thanks again to our ministry team, Revs. Karen Bridges and Sally Boyle, and Allan Bevan for their remarkable diligence in planning worship services throughout the year. And thanks to other members of the committee, Pat Stewart, Jill Lambie, Susan Hutson and Laura David Foster, for cheerfully accepting the many challenges we faced in 2021. A special nod goes to our head ushers, Pat Stewart and Brenda Sheppard, who make sure all in-person attendees are safe and comfortable. We look forward with great optimism to 2022 and beyond!

Respectfully submitted by,
Bob Klakowich
Worship Committee Chair

Music

Following an audition visit to the church in July, I began my position as Music Director of Robertson-Wesley in October 2021. It was a busy three months working with our ministers, my fellow staff members, our Worship and Ministry and Personnel Committees, and our music groups, the Robertson-Wesley Choir, Nova Bells, and the Robertson-Wesley Ringers. I have very much enjoyed my work at the church in spite of the health restrictions and my own encounter with the virus. I came down with COVID over the Christmas period and was forced to miss our services on Advent 4, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, and Epiphany as a result. This was more than a little disappointing but I would like to thank guest organists Karen Epp and Belinda Chiang, vocal soloists Doug Graham, Raydene Koch,

and Claire Rolheiser, handbell soloists Kathy Koski, and Linda Stocki, and Nova Bells and Robertson-Wesley Choir for carrying on in my absence over Christmas. Thanks also to facilities manager Brad Campbell, Reverend Karen, and our Ministry and Personnel Committee for their prompt and effective response to my unexpected health emergency. Thankfully my COVID symptoms were mild and I was able to return to work early in the New Year.

My first service at Robertson-Wesley was on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10, where the choir and some of our handbell people gathered to sing and ring an anthem together for the first time under my direction. In the weeks following, the R- W Choir returned to regular rehearsals and worship services as did our handbell groups shortly thereafter. For me, one of the musical highlights of our 2021 worship was the beautiful Lessons and Carols Service on December 5. Thanks to the R-W Choir for the wonderful reception for our musicians and families that they hosted in the church hall following the service.

The church's pianos are ably looked after by Greg Young, who tuned a number of our instruments over the summer, then our sanctuary pianos this fall. I have taken a liking to the smaller Young Chang piano as its proximity to the organ and the choir makes it very useful for our worship music. Unfortunately, our relationship with organ maintenance expert Warren Mack came to an end in 2021 as he sustained a fall while working at another church and has decided to (mostly) retire. We will need to address this loss as we come out of the pandemic as experienced organ maintenance people are becoming difficult to find.

In closing there are many people I would like to thank for their assistance in 2021: to Doug Sollows, Lisa Fairweather, and to Marilee Stephens and the Selection Committee for their roles in bringing me to R-W. To Brad, Elyse, Garth, and Revs. Karen, and Sally for their patience and stellar advice in helping me to figure things out and in "showing me the ropes" at R-W. Special thanks also to all our singers and ringers for their care, their faithfulness, and their excellence, and to interim Directors Erin Craig and Isabella Ramos for their hard work in keeping things going musically over such difficult times early in the year.

Finally, my thanks go out to our congregation at Robertson-Wesley who have done so much to make myself and my family feel welcome here.

Respectfully submitted by,
Allan Bevan, PH.D.
Director of Music

Ushers & Greeters

Except for a brief period in May, the church remained open for in person services.

Because of City regulations on how many could attend a service, we continued with fewer ushers. Brenda monitored the Narthex door and welcomed attendees while Pat did the same at the Memorial Door entrance. The church also continued with contact tracing each Sunday although thankfully we never had a case of COVID so we did not have to use the lists.

Special thanks goes out to Joanne MacQueen and Rosemary Dunbar who help regularly in the Narthex, and Roy Skoreyko who helps monitor the hall door. A special thanks to Brad Campbell who kept everything well organized through it all. It was a pleasure to see many old and new friends come through the doors on Sunday morning.

Hopefully with COVID declining more people will feel comfortable returning to our beautiful sanctuary in 2022.

Respectfully submitted by,
Brenda Sheppard and Pat Stewart



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