



Annual Report

2018

(REVISED FEBRUARY 15, 2019)

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REPORTS FROM THE TEAM MINISTERS

Jim Ball and Miriam Flynn

Once again we gather together the committee reports and statistical figures of another church year. The pages following chronicle our shared life for 2018. They note the gains and losses, achievements and adjustments Harcourt members addressed effectively and faithfully over the past twelve months. Some of these matters were important. A few were urgent. And several were simply constructive, wise or fun things to do. We are eminently thankful for the members whose gifts of time, talent and money helped to advance our common life.

A bold decision by the congregation at its February AGM authorized a deficit budget with a view to making progress on several important fronts - communication, education and community engagement. A few generous gifts followed that helped float progress in these areas. Staffing the communications piece has proven a solid addition to core operations. And good planning and research has been done to flesh out what is needed or possible in the other two areas. We were joined at various times for these and other pieces of work by Shaina, Colt, Natalie, Sonya and Gabriel. Each of them added value and energy. And we cannot express well enough our gratitude for the exceptional lay leadership that was generously exercised in all areas of our life and work.

Eleven of our members died this past year. These persons were not numbers to us. Their passings were not matters simply to count and record. No number can begin to measure what they meant for us and what their going did to us. News of their deaths left us breathless. They were our friends. They were part of our family. They were our companions on life's way - people who knew and carried pieces of our story as surely as we knew and carried pieces of theirs. We knew them by name. We loved them. And they us. We are stronger for having known them. And we miss them, even as we turn now to the opportunities and challenges of a new year.

In the same way, no number can adequately describe what it meant to make new friends this year, or to experience wonderful, lay-led, small group ministries and learning opportunities, or to gift so much to the local Chalmers Centre and to the national M&S Fund, or to go on spiritual retreat together as a church community, or to attend together the informative Skylight Festival and the ReImagine Conference, or to welcome folk at newcomers coffee or with bubbles and food trucks, or to build relationships on the university hill through the "All Things Christmas" sale, or to listen to the inspiring sounds of our vocal and bell choirs and our other gifted musicians, or to experience the exciting and growing all-ages, inter-active, education and worship experiment we call, "MANNA".

When we look back, we see and celebrate the fact that good planning happened. Careful listening took place. Deep compassion was extended. Wise decisions were made. And some bold actions were taken. It was a positive, courageous and generous year. Made possible by the gift of thoughtful minds, loving hearts and dedicated hands. Many of them.

Thank you!



REPORT FROM CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Lorraine Holding

Reflecting on this year's focus of revitalization and radical change, my lens to note some highlights is our tag line **Seek Connect Act**.

Seeking:

- Our Harcourt 20/20 journey continued through intentional focus on learning about, and exploring, what radical change might look like.
- Council studied *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church in Our Time* (Alan J. Roxburgh, 2015). Changing our language and perspectives helps us consider these questions: What is God doing in our community? How do we define our community? How can we 'be with' rather than 'do for' others? What learnings do we glean from experiments, including when ideas don't work out as hoped?
- The enhanced budget approved by the congregation in February opened the door to experimentation, to enhanced Worship, Communications & Technical Support, and to exploration of what a community support facilitator might offer as part of radical change.

Connecting:

- Two experiments focused on intentional welcoming. A Newcomers' Coffee Corner, on spring Sundays, provided an opportunity to visit with two hosts and ask questions. Food Trucks came to Harcourt for three Monday evenings in September; we welcomed many from our neighbourhood to join us for tasty food and conversation in community with others.
- In August, speakers from the Community Health Centre and Waterloo, Wellington & Dufferin Health Unit shared their approaches and knowledge about community development. Discussion by twenty Harcourt folks focused on community engagement and knowing our neighbourhood.
- Our September volunteer appreciation evening provided an opportunity to say "thank you" to all who contribute in so many ways to Harcourt.
- In October, nine from Harcourt participated in the ReImagine Conference in Hamilton, organized by The Parish Collective (an international organization). Discussion topics provided new insights: Reimagining Hospitality + the Neighbourhood; Teach Us to Want Place; Linking In and Across Neighbourhoods; Reimagining Liturgy (Worship); Reimagining Buildings; Reimagining How We Gather; Listening to the Echo – a Study of Nones and Dones in Post Christian Canada (a book now in our Library).
- Representatives of Harcourt Trustees and Council participated in meetings hosted by Guelph United Ministries (GUM). An intentional focus to reimagine what the United Church presence in Guelph might look like in three to ten years is underway.

Acting:

- Sonya Wu-Winter's short contract has helped us explore possibilities and models of community engagement, and potential community partners.
- Council approved two opportunities to provide outreach support: financial assistance from the Outreach Pillar to an Iraqi family of four who are pursuing refugee status in Canada; financial administration for the Two Countries, One World youth program in our area.
- Ad hoc teams provide valuable service to carry out special projects. The accessible washrooms were completed early in the year. New project teams, each with a specific focus, have formed: planning for Jim Ball's sabbatical; an update of the Greeting Area; a process to determine if flexible seating in the Sanctuary is the next renovation.

- All that happens at Harcourt depends on the time, energy, talents and financial contributions by many people ... individually, in small groups, on committees and teams. On Council this year we welcomed Lynn Hancock (Umbrella Councillor for Christian Life), Rosalind Slater (Umbrella Councillor for Outreach) and Patrick Martin (Ministry & Personnel Committee).

Throughout 2018, Harcourt's core values have been evident: Risk; Respect; Responsibility; Vulnerability; Trust. With faith and hope, these values will continue to guide our decisions and actions along our Harcourt 20/20 journey.



Model created by Elizabeth Bone

Short-Term Community Support Development

Submitted by Sonya Wu-Winter

In late August 2018 I began a three-month stint at Harcourt to journey alongside the church in exploring possibilities and models of community engagement in connection to the church's narrative of radical change. This work was extended another three months until the end of February 2019.

Over the past six months I have had the joy of meeting both with Harcourt members and with people in the wider community of Guelph as Harcourt asks the important question, "How can we join in the work God is already doing in the world?" Thank you to the many of you who have taken time to meet and share so thoughtfully.

In October, nine of us from Harcourt attended the 2-day ReImagine Conference in Hamilton which drew together people from diverse Christian faith communities across Canada who are "reimagining" new ways of being church together and being church in their neighbourhoods. Highlights from the conference included:

- new experiences of worship and music
- hearing from presenters from across a wide spectrum of ethnic, theological and age diversity
- hearing from Wendy Gritter and Generous Space Ministries which is a faith community focused on welcome and belonging within the LGBTQ community
- a presentation by Carla Leon of the EDGE Network cautioning churches against carrying their ulterior motives into outreach to the neighbourhood.
- a focus on relationship at the heart of neighbourhood hospitality.

Meetings with community groups making use of Harcourt space has also surfaced some good connections including with SWESH, a women's only exercise class that meets on Sundays, and with the Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition.

This listening work is culminating in a proposal for a Community Engagement Animator position which the congregation will have an opportunity to consider during the February Congregational Meeting. The Community Engagement Animator will be a bridge-builder who has one foot in the community of Harcourt Memorial United Church and one foot in the wider community beyond the church. The Animator will assist the church in listening to what is happening in the wider community and experimenting with opportunities for partnership and mutually transformative engagement.

REPORTS FROM THE GUELPH UNITED MINISTRIES (GUM)



2018 Activity Report

Time goes by relentlessly. It is now about 6 years since Norfolk Street United Church closed and this organization was formed. The 2017 annual activity report described the history, successes and failures of the group during the 5 year term of the Norfolk Trustees.

In 2018, the major project was the staging of a seminar featuring Rev. John Pentland, who is the minister of a Calgary united church which has experienced remarkable recent growth. The intent was that attendees would learn practical lessons that could be put into practice in their own parishes, and throughout the city. We also continued contributions to the North End Harvest Market, Guelph United Performers and with joint newspaper advertising. The remaining 2018 activity centred around “what do we do next?” The managing circle struggled with this issue and finally agreed that we needed input from a wider group of people. In addition to the managing circle's deliberations, there were separate meetings of boards of trustees and finance committees of all of the churches. These meetings focused more on the longer term financial viability of the church in this city. They concluded that the future of the United Church in Guelph is diminished by the steady decline in financial and human resources within the congregations. It is essential that we find a way or ways to solve this problem.

In response to the conclusion reached above, and to the inability of the managing circle to arrive at solutions, a meeting/seminar/searching was held in November. There were 25 participants, representing all congregations and community ministries and facilitators with considerable interest and experience with church affairs assisted in the deliberations. There were interesting and lively discussions with general agreement on the major issues to be resolved, but only one conclusion was reached. That was that the process was essential, and that the guidance of knowledgeable consultants/facilitators would be very helpful.

So, for 2019, the first activity will be a series of engagements similar to the one in November to find the best pathway to assure ongoing strength. In addition to the consultants, a cross section of participants from the previous managing circle, the “trustees group” and previously unengaged, but interested persons will take part in the proceedings. The process timing is flexible, but there is a preliminary intent to complete the initial process by June 30, 2019.

If someone from your congregation asks you to take part in this process, please say “yes”.

If you would like to take part, but have not yet been asked, please make yourself known to your Minister very soon.

Stay tuned.....

GUM Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2018

(operating through Norfolk United Church Trust)

GUELPH UNITED MINISTRIES

(operating through Norfolk Street United Church Trust)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,
2018**

NET ASSETS ON HAND AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

Operating bank account	<u><u>\$62,912</u></u>
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OPERATING FUND

Balance, January 1, 2018	\$88,877
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Cash input

City of Guelph grant re North End Harvest Market	4,000	
Interest income	<u>809</u>	
		<u>4,809</u>

Total available funds	93,686
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Expenditures

Operations

Administration	129
Advertising	1,323
Internet services – maintenance and consulting	<u>1,607</u>
	<u>3,059</u>

Project support

Guelph United Performers	3,000
North end market – direct support	7,500
North end market – pass through City of Guelph	4,000
Pentland event (net)	7,215
Social media initiative	<u>6,000</u>
	<u>27,715</u>

Total expenditures	<u><u>30,774</u></u>
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Balance, December 31, 2018	<u><u>\$62,912</u></u>
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Note that an amount payable on account of advertising of approximately \$1,000, has not been included above. It will be reported on the 2019 financial statement.

PREPARED WITHOUT AUDIT FROM THE RECORDS OF THE ORGANIZATION

STANDING COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

CHRISTIAN LIFE UMBRELLA GROUP

CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLUSTER COMMITTEES

MANNA

Submitted by Jim Ball

MANNA is an experiential, all-ages service. We have grown this fall and on an average Sunday we have 30-40 worshippers ranging in age from six months to eighty. We follow the lectionary, and try to make scripture meaningful for every age through a variety of means, such as drama, discussion, crafts and story-telling. We have Shannon Kingsbury, Lynn Hancock and Jerry Daminato leading our music on various Sundays. The Harcourt ministers take turns supporting our lay leadership team.

In January, MANNA leaders painted and reorganized Room 301, consolidating most child and youth supplies into that excellent storage and planning space. This freed up storage space on the ground level for other Harcourt groups. We hosted a Pancake Supper in February and donated the proceeds to Chalmers Community Services. We held a joint worship service with the scouting groups that are hosted in the church. MANNA enjoyed a few breakfasts and lunches this past year. Once again this year a number of the MANNA group attended the Skylight Festival at the end of July. We camped together for the weekend and shared communal meals, while enjoying the various sessions that were offered. In late August we held a potluck dinner where we did a start/stop/continue exercise to help the planning team with their long-range plans. In the fall the planning group held a day-long retreat where plans were made and many ideas were brainstormed. Jennifer Antler Menominee came to talk to us about her work with the Indigenous Healing and Wellness Centre. During November, Judy Steers came each Sunday to share her expertise in Godly Play as a way to share the story each week. Thanks to all the participants, leaders and supporters. We look forward to another year of community!

Adult Faith Formation

Submitted by Marion Auger and Lisa Browning

Harcourt continued to offer opportunities for adult faith formation throughout 2018.

- **Explorations in Progressive Christianity** continued in its sixth year and met every week except summer. Between 10 and 15 participants regularly attend. Videos of progressive theologians are viewed and reactions shared.
- **Sharing Evenings, facilitated by Lisa Browning, explored various topics:** Making Time for Your Dreams, You Are What You Eat, Addiction, Crystals and Oils and Mindfulness and Meditation.
- Upcoming evening topics February to June are: Childless - By Choice or Circumstance, Letting Go, Spiritual Expression, Energy Healing and Aging Gracefully

Morning Mindstretch

Submitted by Jean Jackson

The year started with a series of essays and poems by a wide variety of Indigenous people, on the topic of the church and Indigenous spirituality. *Quest for Respect* is a special issue of **Intotemak**, a magazine by the Mennonite Church Canada. Mindstretching, definitely, so many different views, and so much information. Our understanding and our sympathy were enlarged.

Next, we read Marcus Borg's final book, *Convictions*, a sweeping review of the beliefs he has come to hold, and why. Borg's faith changed greatly as he aged, and most of us can relate to that. It was helpful to reflect on the "final convictions" of this learned and gentle man.

Joining God, by Alan J. Roxburgh, was the third major study of the year, and another one to truly stretch the mind. Harcourt's council also looked at this book, and we sent some final comments along to them. We said: "In essence, we read the book as calling for a profound letting go of church as the focus of our energy and hopes. Instead, we are to turn our energy outward into doing good for one reason only: because it is the right thing to do. Not, then, because we want our good works to be advertisements that will attract new people to join our church.

"In fact, it seems that Roxburgh is encouraging us to let go of trying to maintain church and instead devote ourselves to joining God already at work out in the world - without any guarantee of where that will lead us, but trusting that it will be to a good place. Church as we know it may or may not survive.

"This is a radical letting go of the church we value. We are encouraged by Council's approach of experimenting with Roxburgh's 'radical change', with a view to learning as we go. We support you in moving forward with trust and without fear."

The United Church Observer is a treasure trove of interesting articles, and in between books, Mindstretch asks questions about some of these articles.

Mindstretch continues to support Chalmers with financial donations.

The number attending Mindstretch is around twelve.

We were deeply saddened by the loss of Ian Miller in September. Ian is greatly missed.

Thursday mornings, from 8:45 – 10:00 a.m., in the chapel, Mindstretch welcomes any and all to come; it is a time of expressing opinions, sharing stories, learning, and above all, a time of respectful listening. Contact Jean Jackson for more information.

Youth Group

Submitted by Suzanne Webster

The Youth Groups at Harcourt continue to be an attractive outreach program for the neighbourhood community. There are two very popular groups: a Friday night Junior Group (for teens/tweens grades 6-8) and a Sunday night High School Group (for teens grades 9+). Each group meets approximately every three weeks usually at the church, with the odd meeting held off-site within the community. Each group regularly sees between 8-15 attendees. Participants are encouraged to bring a loonie or twoonie to help cover the cost of snacks, however parents often volunteer to contribute snacks as well. The groups are run by volunteers Suzanne Webster, Lisette Vanderkamp and a new helper this year is Rhea. The Groups are popular for an opportunity to get together, be silly, meet new people, spend time with peers in a safe environment and mostly run around and play games in a dark empty church. Favourite games include Dr. Good Guy/Dr. Bad Guy, Gotcha, Cat and Mouse, Manhunt and the old classic Sardines.

Tai Chi Chuan

Submitted by Helen Esch

Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. we meet for gentle exercise and fellowship in the Friendship Room. We are studying the Yang Set of Tai Chi from Dr. Zaiwen Shen, instructed by Helen Esch. Everyone, regardless of fitness level is welcome. Overtime you will see improvements in your balance, strength and co-ordination all done in a loving and supportive environment.

Girl Guides of Canada: 3rd Guelph Guides

Submitted by Regan Avis, Contact Guider 3rd Guelph Guides

For the September 1 2017- August 30 2018 Guiding Year.

The 3rd Guelph Guides meet on Wednesday evenings in the Friendship Room. For 2017-18 we have 25 girl members and 5 volunteer leaders. Each week has a different theme and activities. The highlights for our Guides were overnight events, special guests, and adventures. We are very grateful to the Harcourt Memorial United Church community for all of your support.

This year was especially exciting because we were selected to represent girls across Canada to pilot activities and ideas for a brand new program. We had the opportunity to give feedback and suggestions on how to create a program in tune with their needs and interests.

This year we had relaxed movie night sleepover in the Friendship Room, camped in tents, and even spent a night in a museum.

Over the year we welcomed guests including engineers, law enforcement, a midwife, an HVAC technician, and more to share their skills, help us grow, and get us thinking about what we love.

We had a great time learning about some historical Guelphites by exploring the Woodlawn Memorial Park led by the Guelph Civic Museum. We often walk down to Hugh Guthrie Park when we need space to be active, we were glad to be part of Guelph Clean and Green we spent a Saturday morning cleaned up litter and other debris in the park.

Guiding provides a safe, all-girl environment that invites girls to have fun, try new things, challenge themselves, find their voice, meet new friends, and make a difference in the world. Our vision is a better world, by girls. Our mission is to be a catalyst for girls empowering girls.

Girl Guides of Canada–Guides du Canada strives to ensure that girls and women from all walks of life, identities and lived experiences feel a sense of belonging and can fully participate. We are an organization with over 100 years of history and a strong and growing future.

For more information, you can visit www.girlguides.ca or call 1.800.565.8111.

3rd Guelph Harcourt Scouting Groups

Submitted by Rita Borho, Group Commissioner, 3rd Guelph Scouting

For Scouting Year September 1st, 2017 to August 31, 2018



The 3rd Guelph Scouting Group consists of 3 sections with 16 Scouts (ages 11-14) on Monday nights, 13 Cubs (ages 8-10) on Tuesday nights, and 18 Beavers (ages 5-7) on Wednesday nights. The program is open to girls and boys and we always welcome new participants. We are most grateful to Harcourt Memorial United Church and its members, for the wonderful facilities and support shown to our organization through the year.

Scouts Canada's program is based on 3 fundamental beliefs and principals.

Duty to God, Duty to Others and Duty to Self.

The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law: To help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

Each section is supported by leaders, who in turn are supported by a Group Committee. In recent years, Scouts Canada has implemented a new program structure - "The Canadian Path" that encourages the youth to be actively involved in planning the activities. Each section has an age appropriate structure with guidelines supporting the program. We are currently in year 3 of this new adventure with our youth. There were 3 Cub aged youth that earned their Seeone Award at the end of May. The leaders are enjoying the challenge of adapting to the new program, and to that effect we've seen growth in all the sections this year.

This past year the youth have been involved in crafts, hikes, community visits, Beaver Buggy and Car races, learning First Aid, and visiting local cultural sites including John McCrae House and University of Guelph. The Scouts ended the year with a Bicycle Camp at the end of June. As a Group we've enjoyed Camps involving all sections. It's quite a delight to see Youth of all ages together, where older Scouts are involved with planning and implementing programming, campfires, and games for the entire Group.

3rd Guelph Scouts, Cubs and Beavers were involved over the past year with fund-raising and planning, in order to purchase tents and other equipment for the Group. Many thanks for Harcourt member's support at our Spaghetti Dinner, during Apple Days, and the Scout Popcorn Sales.

We welcome parents, grandparents and others in the community to become involved with our Group Committee or Scouting Sections, with your effort to enhance the program for our youth. Please speak with any of our leaders or "drop in" to a meeting to see how you may be able to contribute.

For more information about Scouts Canada please visit www.scouts.ca

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Barb Saw

A small group looks after the Church Library. It is located on the lower level, next to the Friendship Room. Members are Mary Lou Funston, Barb Shaw and Janet Webster. Meetings are held approximately every 2 months or when required to evaluate donations, make decisions on purchases or to process new additions. Tasks have been divided among members so that they can be completed whenever individuals are available. Many discussions and decisions take place by email!

Mary Lou looks after our sign-out records and the displays for MANNA, Barb looks after ordering books, cataloguing, culling and keeping the data base up-to-date. Janet changes the Bulletin Board displays near the office to reflect the Church year. All members have input on decisions regarding the addition of books, DVDs, CDs and other material and pitch in to place labels on items after they have been added to the catalogue.

In 2018, 91 books were signed out. Most were from the adult section, equally divided between fiction and non-fiction. Many people do browse the books, not all borrow. Each Sunday when possible, a selection of books is set up in the MANNA meeting space. The aim is to choose books dealing with the theme of the day, plus a few others that might be of interest. Different MANNA leaders have expressed appreciation for this service and note that children and parents do read the books.

However, one problem with this practice is that when people visit the library before, after or between services, the cart (and therefore the sign-out cards) are not in the main library. We are looking for ideas on how to address this issue.

The Harcourt Library catalogued 12 additions to the shelves in 2018, 3 items by purchase and 9 by donation.

Thank you to members of the congregation for supporting the Library and for providing so many donations for our consideration. Donations have included DVDs as well as books. Decisions are made based on age, condition and whether the title is already in the collection. We welcome any suggestions and requests.

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Bill Lord and Peter Jackson* (co-chairs), André Auger*, Marion Auger*, Lisa Beattie*, Maxine Lipinski*, Kathy Magee*, Stan Bunston*, Tammy te Winkel, Megan Ward

* covenanted spiritual companions

The Committee's work has a three-part focus:

1. helping the congregation be open to the movement of the Spirit, by facilitating and encouraging communal discernment practices;
2. helping individuals by offering recurring opportunities for spiritual growth and by supporting the adoption of spiritual disciplines;
3. noticing where the Spirit is moving and where the Spirit seems blocked in Harcourt, and trying to act accordingly.

In our August retreat, we continued to explore ways of living out this mandate. So far, this has led to Council's approval of an expanded role for Covenanted Spiritual Companions, which we plan to put into effect in 2019.

We prepared meditation materials for Holy Week, ran the Easter Saturday vigil, developed 'questions for reflection' used in Advent worship services, and ran the Christmas Day worship service. We also conducted Harcourt's congregational retreat at Loyola House with the theme of Living In The Light. We published several articles in the Herald about spiritual life and progressive Christianity, and new brochures on working with spiritual companions, retreats and the spirituality of stewardship.

We sponsored the Judy Myers Avis Meditation group's use of the chapel for weekly sessions during the winter with a waived rental of \$540. In collaboration with the Director of Music Ministries, we also sponsored the post-Easter Vocal Meditation Group led by Elizabeth Bone and Jane Lewis.

The Committee reviewed the state of the covenant relationship between Harcourt and the Covenanted Spiritual Companions, and helped plan the annual covenant renewal. The Companions' activities have included spiritual direction of individuals both through the 40-week Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius In Daily Life and on a continuing basis, serving as guides during the week of Guided Prayer & Spiritual Exploration, and leading prayer series at Wellington Park Terrace. The Companions also undertook their own journey together through the New Spiritual Exercises (an adaptation of the original to include a more modern theology), and participated via livestream in the annual conference of Spiritual Directors International in April.

We were pleased to welcome Lisa Beattie as a new member of the Committee and a new Covenanted Spiritual Companion.

Women's Spirituality Group

Submitted by Lorna Rourke

This group of women ranges in size from six to twelve and meets in the chapel or a member's home once a month for 10 months of the year.

For the first months of 2018 we studied Joyce Rupp's book *Your Sorrow is My Sorrow*, meditations on the life of Mary.

Since June, members have taken turns leading a discussion or activity on various themes including dreamcatchers, light/candles, nativity scenes, and Thanksgiving/Fall. We enjoyed solstice potluck evenings at the homes of members in June and December.

All meetings include a meditation and an opportunity to share through the use of angel cards.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Sandy Middleton, Chair

Committee members: Joan Charlebois, Karyn Davies, Lawrie Jones (to June 2018), Sandy Middleton (Chair), Merrill Pierce (MANNA rep.), Gay Slinger (to September 2018).

Ex officio members: Jim Ball, Miriam Flynn, and Alison MacNeill.

The committee, met nine times (every second Tuesday of the month) over the year. Though stretched at times, and particularly with the resignations of Lawrie Jones and Gay Slinger, the committee managed to cover its varied responsibilities.

In addition to planning for regular worship, including baptism and communion, some of the notable events of the year included visits by guest speakers, and presentation of lay-led services during times when both ministers were absent (Hamilton Conference and vacation/study leave periods). On May 27 we celebrated Pride week and welcomed the Rainbow Chorus to join with us in worship. In September we celebrated the season of Creation, which included the annual Blessing of the Animals. And once again, candle lighting at the front of the sanctuary on Remembrance Sunday, November 4. The busy Advent and Christmas seasons followed with the Advent Candle lighting liturgy and preparation for our candle-lit Christmas Eve services.

Weekly worship would not be possible without the quiet and unassuming commitment of many. These include the Worship Team, that weekly plans and delivers our services; our office staff that selects and prepares our weekly bulletins and maintains our web site; our technical staff and booth operators who deliver the audio and visual components for each service; our Ushering Coordinator who arranges for all our ushering requirements; our Communion Coordinators, who prepare the elements as required; our Chancel Team that arranges for weekly flowers and special seasonal decoration; our Prayer Shawl Group whose quiet ministry touches so many; and our Congregational Worship team that provides lay leadership as requested. The efforts of all are deeply appreciated.

For those who served on the Worship Committee during 2018, it has been our privilege to serve Harcourt in this way.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Submitted by Alison MacNeill, Director of Music Ministry (during her 31st year!)

The Choir continues its dedication to Harcourt worship and pastoral care. The Choir is an integral part of services of weekly worship, and all music is chosen with great care to fit theme and message. Music is very important to Harcourt, and the Choir is particularly involved with special services at Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and other special occasions.

We come together to share our love of music, and enjoy friendship, mutual support, laughter and tears.

The level of commitment from the people of the choir in all aspects of the church and in the wider community is heartwarming and formidable!

Our annual **Affirming service** was held in May, and we were joined again by the **Rainbow Chorus**. Since September, Alison has been their artistic director, and hopes to forge even deeper connections between this chorus and our church.

The **Handbell Choir** rings at weekly rehearsals, playing on occasion in church, adding their festive sounds in particular to the Christmas season, ringing out the 9 a.m. folks and ringing in the 10:30 folks in the Gathering Hall between the two services. We have welcomed a couple of new members this year, and several guests. Goody Night is another highlight of our year! This is a warm, supportive, and loving group.

The wee **Sanctuary Band**, which may variously include guitars, bass, flutes, drums, and other instruments, continue to offer their music gifts Sunday mornings and at other special services. If you play an instrument (any kind!) and you would like join us on occasion – please do offer!

This fall, Alison revived the **Music Intern** project, with support from Council. We have one intern presently honing his church leadership skills, Gabriel Stringer. Gabriel's background includes choral training through the St Michael's choir school.

Music in MANNA is led by Shannon Kingsbury and others. MANNA joins the Sanctuary congregation at special services – Easter, baptisms, Blessing of the Animals – and it is always a joy for Alison and Shannon to work together.

Park 'n Dance is a music/movement therapy program offered for those with Parkinson's disease. It is effective and fun, and is co-sponsored by Harcourt. It is led Sarah-Jane Burton, with Alison providing live piano accompaniment. Some of our members attend this.

Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. – the church was again filled to watch the Pageant play and sing the old carols. We had more participation from families with young children this year, and the play was a wonderful success.

Later in the evening, for **10:00 p.m.**, the church filled again for a quiet, candlelit communion service, with the singing of many familiar and beloved carols.

And so has passed another busy year... blessings in the one to come.

Chancel Guild

Submitted by Barb Friend

Current members: Marta Coutts, Norma Fear, Barbara Friend (Chair), Carol Jones, Deb Murray, Anne Piper, Janet Webster

Thank you to Marty Ragetlie and Ann Middleton (Chair) who have retired after many years on the committee.

The chancel committee's mandate is to provide floral arrangements in the sanctuary on a weekly basis as well as seasonal decorating. We also offer the opportunity for members of the congregation to join together to add to our displays at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Many members also provide flowers during the year in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion.

MANNA decorated the Friendship room tree for Advent and added this to the sanctuary décor on December 23.

In October 2018, we conducted a survey with the congregation. Thank you to those who completed the survey. The majority felt that flowers are indeed an important part of the worship experience. Many are willing to support the committee financially or by providing flowers on a specific day.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE UMBRELLA GROUP

Submitted by Lorraine Holding

Hospitality and intentional welcoming continue to be an important part of Congregational Life. This year some new activities provided opportunities for people to connect with others while working together (e.g. Newcomers Coffee Corner; Food Truck Mondays). Other examples are ongoing. Personal commitment to strengthen our sense of community through offering hospitality is important. Will you offer your time and talents to revitalize this part of our ministry?

Caroline Harcourt Women's Fellowship

Submitted by Jean Hume

The Caroline Harcourt Friendship Circle is an organization open to all women of the church. The group is organized by a committee of volunteers. The contact person is Jean Hume.

The gatherings are composed of lunches, business, special programs, devotionals and plenty of treasured fellowship. The group meets on the second Monday of the month in the Friendship Room between 11:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. The women bring their bag lunches. Tea and treats are served. The members are divided into

four groups and each group is responsible for two meetings and the organizing committee looks after the two special party/meetings in December and June.

There are 49 active members on the phone list and an average attendance of 30. Cards are sent to those who are ill or suffering a loss in their family.

This year, donations were made to our speakers from outside the church, five Christmas Bags to Chalmers Community, a Christmas gift to Darko, and a special donation of \$1000 to the fundraising project to replenish the Property Pillar.

The speakers included a policewoman from the Fraud Department and Dr. Shelly Hunt from the University Arboretum. Jill Gill spoke about the take-home work that she does for the Chalmers guests and the extras that she does behind the scenes, Arlene Davies Fuhr and Dr. Penny VanEsterik presented a skit about selecting clothing and goods from the second hand shops in Guelph as their effort towards the environmental waste issues and supplied lists and comments about each outlet, Merrill Pierce and Lynn Hancock lead us through a MANNA service. Alison and Gabriel shared their information about the music internship and had us participate in their program. Lynn Hancock and Janet Webster both facilitated meetings that helped us to get to know more about one another.

Next year, we will again look at some of the intriguing women of the Bible and hear their fascinating stories.

Let it be emphasized that not just members, but ALL WOMEN and their friends who may find a program of interest, are welcome.

Men's Group

Submitted by Dave Mowat and Malcolm Coutts, Treasurer.

The Men's Group held 10 monthly gatherings during 2018 with an average attendance of 18. We meet on the second Wednesday morning of the month, except over summer. We gather at around 7:30 a.m. for fellowship with coffee\tea followed later with a little ceremony of a hymn, invocation, welcome and then speaker beginning at 8:00. The meeting leader may plan a discussion or source a speaker from within the group, the congregation or from outside Harcourt, so that a wide range of topics are addressed. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal and there is plenty of opportunity for fellowship with both old and new friends.

Everyone contributes around \$3 each meeting for expenses and charity. During 2018 we donated \$300 to Chalmers Community Services Centre and \$300 to Property Pillar. All men in our church or community are welcome.



PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Esther Devolin, Chair

Committee Members: Don Johns, Malcolm Coutts, Esther Devolin and our two ministers, Miriam Flynn and Jim Ball. However, the 11 Pastoral Care Visitors support the bulk of the work that the committee does by continuing to provide friendly visits to a number of people at Harcourt. Some of the caring relationships developed through these visits are approaching 8 years. Well done Visitors.

On January 14, 2018, Harcourt hosted a GUM Advanced Care Planning/Substitute Decision Making Event that was presented by Advanced Care Planning Waterloo Wellington. Lisa Beattie, who attends the 9:00 a.m. service, was the facilitator for this very informative presentation.

The GUM Pastoral Care Committee also continues to work together to provide support and opportunities for all United Church people to attend. Two of the occasions were 'Care for the Caregiver Tea', hosted by Trinity United in March and a 'Care for the Caregiver Coffee Hour', hosted by Dublin St. United in October. Both events were well attended and appreciated by both Pastoral Care Visitors and Harcourt people who are caring for a loved one.

Thank you to Steve Pierce who co-ordinates volunteers to host at funerals held at Harcourt and thank you to those who volunteer to host. Also, a sincere thank you to Diana Sterenberg, who has been sending out cards of condolences, get well cards and for celebrations on behalf of Harcourt Church.

If you would like to be visited or join our committee, contact Esther at ekdevolin@sympatico.ca or 519.836.7675. Again, a big thank you to everyone who works diligently to make our Pastoral Care Program successful.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Submitted by Joan Bowland

The Prayer Shawl Circle meets on Monday afternoon from 1:30 til 3:00 p.m. We have 7 members at present, and we welcome new people joining us anytime. We have a couple of people who prefer to knit at home, and their shawls are always very welcome.

If you know of someone who could benefit from having a shawl, please feel free to help yourself from the bins. If you prefer to have help choosing a shawl, a member of the group will be happy to assist you, or speak to Anne in the office. If you do help your self, we ask that you enter the name in the binder which is in the slot on Miriam's study door.

There are blue Prayer Shawl slips in the pews which you may fill in and place on the offering plate. One of our group will then contact you.

We delivered 18 adult shawls and 7 Baptismal shawls in 2018. Each baby, child or adult Baptised receives a shawl at the time of their Baptism.

Community Support Services (CSS) Feeling Better Move Well program

Submitted by Maryanne Wilford

On Tuesday, September 11, 2018, a Feeling Better Move Well 55+ gentle exercise class took place for the first time in the Harcourt United Church's gymnasium. The 10:00-11:00 a.m. class welcomed four eager older adults (all of whom happened to be Harcourt parishioners) and the trained volunteer instructors led them through a sixty minute class consisting of an aerobic/warm-up component, balance exercises, a strength training component and lastly a stretching and flexibility regimen.

CSS wishes to thank Harcourt's Joan Barham for initiating the partnership between the two groups and facilitating so that the gentle exercise class has realized this ongoing success and is optimistic for its' potential growth in this location. CSS looks forward to the opportunity to renew the contractual agreement to continue into 2019.

OPERATIONAL LIFE UMBRELLA GROUP

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Joan Barham, Chair

Members: Gillian Joseph, Nancy Ryan, Carolyn Davidson, Joan Barham (Chair)

Staff Lead: Shaina Ensing

Communications Lead Participants:

Website – Andy Kwiatkowski

Bulletin Boards – Marta Coutts, Lynn Crow, Kathy Magee

Harcourt Walkers – 25 people who deliver 1500 Spring and Fall Flyers and a special delivery of a poster for Food Truck Mondays. Some of these people also deliver the Harcourt Herald to specific people.

MANNA Facebook – Pam Girardi, Merrill Pierce

Herald – People who provide copy to the editor, Gill Joseph. 25 – 30 on average per month

Summer Students (2) – Images/support for communication purposes

Video Production – Jerry Daminato

Harcourt Photographers – Mark Sears, Larry Smith, Marilyn Whiteley, Jerry Daminato, Alun Joseph, Gill Joseph

Emergency Communication Protocol: – 23 people involved

The Staff appointment of Shaina Ensing as Worship, Communication and Technical Support, with time to not only support the audio visual work for Worship, but also support operational work for the website, Twitter, and Facebook, has made a significant difference to the quality and efficiency of these forms of communication. Shaina is also enabling great efficiency in developing shared calendars as a tool for coordinators to be able to contribute to and the Ministers to view, all who are participating in the many aspects of a Sunday service, including coffee hour. Shaina's availability to support groups and a person with their marketing needs, including poster production, is also invaluable. Communication was not managing to meet the demand for such tasks as we wished.

Communication has now, in 2018, been able to concentrate on other needed communication changes some of which are: specific website changes; Emergency Communication Protocol; forming a GUM website Group; working with Ministry and Personnel in tasks for the Summer Student which enhance images and video availability for Harcourt's use; researching streaming as a potential tool for Harcourt; updating and changing key marketing documents; creating Harcourt Post Cards; developing policies; collaborating with the Tech Team about digital signs, both internally and externally; acquiring a camera and tripod appropriate for the quality images needed; etc etc.

Many thanks to the great numbers of participants who make formal communication channels a reality at Harcourt. It has been a great year!

ELECTRONIC INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM (TECH TEAM)

Submitted by Mark Sears, Chair

We have had another year of activity and progress with the help of our small but dedicated team of electronic 'techies' that include Jerry Daminato, Petr Vales, and Jock Rutherford. With Shaina Ensing and Anne Purkis, our Office liaisons, and with support from Larry Smith, we act as a sub-committee of the Communications Committee to deal with all the electronic audio/visual elements needed for worship activities and other needs of groups or individuals during the church year.

AV Booth

We purchased and installed a new projector in the sanctuary to greatly improve the image on the rear screen so that the choir and others at the front could better see words and images during the services.

Office Equipment

We purchased a laptop computer and monitor for Shaina, our Worship, Communication and Technical Support administrator that needed an upgrade and adapt to newer software that included the latest version of Easy Worship used Sunday mornings for the 10:30 a.m. service. Petr and Jock spent time in improving our server and examining the effectiveness of our WiFi system.

Live-Feed Video

The tech committee along with the Communications Committee continue to investigate the potential use of live stream video of the worship services and/or capturing the service for transmission to some of our members who cannot easily attend the services but could receive the service live or as a later presentation via the website or other process. This is a much more involved process than we have experienced previously and will involve considerable discussion and feedback from staff and several committees. The Communications Committee is investigating applying for grant money from several sources to provide start-up funding for this endeavor.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Dave Hume, Chair

Members of the Property Committee were Sarah Lowe, Cisca Vanderkamp, Carol Jones, Ben Fear, Frank Webster, Gary Parsons, Michael Hofer, Larry Smith, who joined the Committee in June, and Dave Hume.

Several highlights occurred during 2018. Most of the lights in the church were converted to LED's to save on energy costs. This resulted in some expenditures above budget but the accounting does not show the rebates received for making the LED changes. Costs were also above budget because, in installing new washrooms on the Sanctuary level, related problems were uncovered and needed to be fixed. The sum of Harcourt room rentals and contributions for the use of space were equal to the total budget of the Property Committee. Other significant costs included fixing roof leaks on the flat roof areas, installation of shelving for storage in the former MANNA storeroom, repairing heating valves and replacing flooring that contained asbestos.

The Harcourt Garden team maintained the grounds and gardens with "work" parties in the spring, summer and fall. Additional help from members of the congregation was much appreciated. The Team welcomes new volunteers to any of the gardening events.

Worrying occurrences included thefts of equipment from the Sound Booth and loss of the AED, plus purses taken from the pre-school area. Be vigilant, folks.

One of our summer students, Colt Seraphim, did an excellent analysis of the church's space usage by outside groups. Approximately 50 different organizations and individuals used our space, some of them sponsored by the church and others paying rent, with total revenue from rent and donations of \$50,000. This represents a significant support for Harcourt's operating budget. Music and Youth formed the major sector.

Special thanks are extended to Anne Purkis for her excellent work in arranging rentals and to Darko for keeping the church clean and sparkling and for finding low cost ways to get repairs done.

Solar Energy Report

Submitted by Kent Hoeg, Chair, Finance

Harcourt generated about 11,610 kWhrs of solar power in 2018 – that means we generated enough carbon-free electricity for 1.5 homes. So far, our \$86,000 investment has generated us \$75,000 in income. We are on track to recouping our costs by 2020, which was our hope. This still leaves an additional 10 years to produce income via our 20-year microFIT contract. The sun is good!

Guelph Community Orchard Project (GCOP)

Submitted by Jill Gill

September 2018 marked the sixth year since the orchard's planting. This diverse orchard is fully maintained by volunteers and the fruit and nuts are available for anyone in the community to enjoy. We also harvest to donate to Chalmers Community Services Centre food pantry.

Many pounds of delicious asparagus were enjoyed in May and June. This summer, the Stanley Plum tree which had an abundance of fruit last year, seemed to wither and drop its leaves as we watched. In Spring 2019, an arborist will inspect the tree and if it has died, it will be removed and replaced. The Burbank Plum, planted in 2016, blossomed and provided lovely fruit which all fell over night when we had a very heavy rainfall in September.

In July, we took part in Transition Guelph's Urban Farm Tour and a workshop was conducted, attracting many folks to visit the church grounds. They marvelled at all the food crops being grown here and at Harcourt's obvious commitment to caring for the environment. On July 30 a dozen teen 'pilgrims' came to learn and work in the orchard as part of the UCC's GO Project from Islington UC in Toronto. On September 15 we welcomed nine U of Guelph students who carried out maintenance as part of the annual Project Serve initiative.

OUTREACH UMBRELLA GROUP

Submitted by Rosalind Slater, Umbrella Councillor

In March of this year I took over the position of Umbrella Counsellor of Justice and Outreach. At Harcourt we have diverse opportunities to become involved with that ministry. Our members are interconnected with the wider community in projects of their choice which speak to them of the needs of the people. Though we have not sponsored any families from overseas since 2015 many of our members have helped in the wider community of Guelph to share with them our support.

We are still sponsoring the Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC) project which has been ongoing for over ten years. Many of Harcourt's people can be seen at the CCSC drop in on Friday mornings at the new building 41 Carden Street, and I am happy to report that in the last week we have been able to form a committee of four to replace Jill Gill when she retires in December. This is to organize the Saturday Night Suppers which we host four times each year.

Harcourt is an Affirming congregation and our outreach touches the LGBTQ community, warmly taking a progressive step with the affirming service each year and our attendance at the Pride parade.

Some of our members take a stance with the Indigenous community and Harcourt sponsored a Blanket ceremony during our 2017\18 worship year.

We at Harcourt feel strongly about social justice and many of our members feed the needs of the socially deprived. Areas where our members help are with Bridges Out of Poverty and Circles.

Justice and Outreach has recently been sponsoring the SWESH programme, a get fit keep fit programme for women of all ages through the Muslim society. We also sponsor a Guelph Wellington Senior's Association senior's exercise programme and the Park 'n Dance on Thursday afternoons for those suffering from Parkinson's disease.

We have an ongoing stewardship with the University of Guelph bringing home comfort to students who are away from home, some for the first time. There is much need for help in all the above mentioned areas and volunteers may contact me at any time especially if you are interested in joining a vibrant committee.

Communal Garden

Submitted by Jill Gill

Harcourt's Communal Garden, producing local, organically grown vegetables, fruit and herbs had a harvest of 468.6 lbs this year, our 8th season. In total, we have donated all of our produce (4,749 lbs) to Chalmers Community Services Centre (CCSC) food pantry to augment the non-perishable foods that the congregation generously provides to some of Guelph's most food-insecure folks. CCSC and their guests are most appreciative. We staged several events this year: A Strawberry and Rhubarb Social (June 7), and a Salsa Tasting (September 16) – both at coffee time after Sunday 10:30 a.m. services. We invited folks to explore both the vegetable gardens and Orchard and take in a workshop on Container Gardening during the Urban Farm Tour on July 21. On September 23, Harcourt hosted the first annual Salsa Fest 2018 in partnership with the Guelph Community Garden Network and the Guelph Neighborhood Support Coalition. An enormous 'community salsa' was created in the kitchen and outdoor activities were enjoyed by the participants. The event in 2019 will be much expanded and be more like a Garden Fall Fair.

This important outreach activity would not be possible without the dedicated and committed work of all our volunteers. We would like to acknowledge a special thank you to Lisa Mactaggart who plans the garden crop rotation each year, purchases seed and last year grew ALL our vegetable seedlings. If you would like the opportunity to volunteer in the communal garden in 2019, stay tuned for details in the Harcourt Herald.

Harcourt Quilting Group

Submitted by Jill Gill

The Harcourt Quilting Group meets monthly on the 4th Monday (9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.) from September until June. We create machine-sewn quilts for donation to those in need.

We currently have 7 quilts made and waiting for their recipients. This fall, we made a connection with Carolyn Tait-Guest, Development Co-ordinator for Family and Children's Services, Guelph-Wellington. This year we will be making quilts for donation to children who are leaving the care of foster families. These young folks seldom have much to call their own.

All of our quilts are constructed from donated materials and we welcome donations of 100% cotton quilting fabrics for our use. We encourage new participants, who have some quilting experience, to join the group at any time.

Lightshine Singers

Submitted Anne Piper

The Lightshine Singers are a community choir of approximately 15 women who practice Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Harcourt. This year we sang at five retirement / nursing homes in Guelph. We are adjusting well to our new conductor, Deva Neely, and new pianist, Enid Petheram and hope to continue sharing our love of singing in the Guelph Community.

We welcomed two new members and would welcome more if you or someone you know might be interested in joining us.

Thank you to Harcourt for your support and to Darko for his help. A donation was made to Harcourt for piano maintenance.

Park'n Dance

Submitted by SJ Burton

Park'n Dance is a program dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of people with Parkinson's by providing weekly dance classes guided by qualified instructors on Thursdays, 1:30pm-2:30pm. The sequences, accompanied by live music provided by Alison MacNeill, help promote coordination, creativity, balance and memory, as well as enhance self-esteem and confidence. All levels of ability are accommodated, and caregivers are welcome to attend. An essential part of the program is the social time following each class during which light refreshments accompany friendly chatter. A welcoming community is built through dance. The classes and social time are fun and filled with laughter; friendships are made and confidence is boosted.

We are delighted to report that quite a few new participants have joined us. Our wonderful senior volunteers enjoy helping to make the program run smoothly. We have had visitors who have heard of the benefits of our classes and hope to promote this type of program in their communities. The success of our program has been directly dependent on the important sponsorship of Harcourt Memorial United Church. This support is deeply appreciated.

Park'n Dance is honoured to be a founding member of the Dance for Parkinson's Network Canada:

<https://dancepdnetwork.ca/>. Further information about our program can be found at: <https://parkndance.com/>.

Old University Residents Association (OUNRA)

Submitted by Bruce Ryan

The OUNRA made use of the facilities of Harcourt United Church twice in 2018

On May 10, the Association held its Annual General Meeting in the gymnasium. There were about 80 people in attendance.

On October 16, the Association held its Fall General Meeting which was comprised of an all candidates meeting ahead of the municipal election. All mayor and councillor candidates made presentations and responded to questions. About 120 people were in attendance. The meeting was held in the Sanctuary.

SWESH

Submitted by Sidra Sarfaraz

I would like to begin this report by thanking the Justice and Outreach committee for allowing SWESH to continue at the Harcourt gym, with the insurance funding given by the Muslim Society of Guelph. SWESH is a wonderful example of a great partnership between different community groups.

For this fall term of SWESH, attendance has been steady. The maximum in the fall term has been about 12 people, though there are about 3-5 regulars. Brandi, the class instructor, has been designing excellent workouts that challenge every single participant to push themselves, regardless of level of fitness. The participants have really enjoyed this aspect of challenging their bodies, especially as Brandi provides plenty of encouragement. From a health perspective, this type of circuit workout is beneficial because they challenge the heart and make it stronger. Brandi has also been encouraging younger teenagers to come, and so we have had some participants that are high school girls. For these younger participants, the class serves as an example of making good lifestyle choices. In turn, the younger participants motivate older participants to push themselves.

STEWARDSHIP UMBRELLA GROUP

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Kent Hoeg, Umbrella Councillor for Stewardship

<<If this report looks suspiciously similar to the last two years, it's because it is! We need a Chair of Stewardship to move us forward.>>

What is Stewardship? The United Church of Canada describes it as the faithful and effective use of all the gifts entrusted to us by God. It is a way of life, an attitude. Stewardship is our partnership with God as we thankfully share life's abundant blessings. Stewardship allows us to acknowledge our blessings and live out our ministry - to nurture our faith in Christ and serve the world God loves.

Harcourt is fortunate to have the gifts of so many, whether it be time, talent or dollars. We are all Stewards!

However, there is no active Stewardship Committee. We have no chair to lead us.

Won't you please consider contributing your talents and taking on the Chair role? The United Church of Canada provides many resources (just look up <http://www.stewardshiptoolkit.ca/> for a wealth of ideas). Help Harcourt plant the seeds of faith!

Fundscrip

Submitted by Frank Webster, Co-ordinator

We continue to read reports from the company that controls our Fundscrip program and wonder how they do it. We think most congregations have members with bigger appetites and more young voracious eaters than we have at Harcourt. Nevertheless, we provide the opportunity to participate in a fund raising program that provides some churches 5 figure benefits. In 2018 our faithful team of sales persons earned commissions totalling \$750 for Harcourt. That is \$150 less than in 2017.

If we could have 20 families buying Fundscrip of only \$200 per month we could almost double that to \$1500. As we move forward, it becomes necessary to have multiple projects earning moderate financial returns. We would like you to try using Fundscrip. It's simple to use, saves times checking out and the groceries cost just the same as paying cash or using a credit card AND you get all the same benefits. We would be pleased to greet you on Sundays at the Lucy Booth, we take cash or personal cheques.

Harcourt Garage Sale

Submitted by Janet and Frank Webster

On April 14, 2018 Harcourt held its annual sale. Despite a forecast of freezing rain, the garage sale went ahead, with a gym brimming with donations. Many customers lined up for the 8:30 a.m. opening and business was brisk, but by 10:00 the rain had indeed turned to ice. Unfortunately, that meant fewer buyers with a corresponding drop in total revenue.

Volunteers from the Guelph Food bank braved the elements to collect much of the unsold goods and by 1:30 p.m. the gym was restored. Members of Harcourt as well as the neighboring community welcome this opportunity to de-clutter and /or downsize. Buyers looking for bargains and treasures return each year. Those volunteers who assist over the two days, describe it as fun and an opportunity for casual fellowship. We recommend continuing this fund raiser as long as people find the time to work for a few hours with set-up on Friday, sales Saturday morning and clean-up Saturday at noon and of course as long as the Food Bank selects from the unsold items. Dumping fees would lower our monetary results substantially.

There are no meetings, approximately 20-30 helpers are recruited by personal contact and requests on the various Harcourt communication formats to sign-up

Funds generated totalled: \$1815.25

All Things Christmas Sale

Submitted by Janet Webster

Many people came together for a very successful sale on November 24, 2018. Now in its 10th year, the organizing team has honed the process. Music, greeters, “sherpas”, cashiers, pricers etc. contributed to a wonderful atmosphere. Besides talented Harcourt arrangers, at least two professionals donated several days from their work schedule. There were 60 unique indoor and outdoor planters available for sale in the gym along with several hundred bunches of greenery. The Friendship Room offered treasures, jewelry and baked goods as well as a Cafe with hot beverages and muffins.

The fact that so many people donate tree trimmings, pots, soil, items for the specialty tables makes this a financial success. We bought a large white pine tree to cut up. We also received several types of greenery from a local arborist who donated branches he cut for clients. Our challenges are recruiting enough people to bunch greenery ahead of time and convincing people to head into the bush to cut branches. Supplies ran out long before closing time and some hopeful customers were disappointed.

Of course it is also a guessing game as to the best day to head out to the bush. Volunteers prefer to not be out in the rain, cold wind, ice or 20 below temperatures. Again, the success of the sale owes much to the 6 or 8 people who dressed warmly for the occasion and cut fresh greenery at the Crow and Morris properties.

It is impossible to name everyone who is involved and I list some here at the risk of overlooking someone! The main organizers include Lisa Mactaggart, Jean Hume, Marilyn Sears, Carol Jones, Kent and Heather Hoeg, Heather and Peter Sullivan, Cisca Vanderkamp, Alice Carey, Janet Webster. Greenery harvesters were Joe and Judy Cimino, Bill and Judy Morris, Lynn Crow, Marta and Malcolm Coutts, Jack Buykes, Mark Sears, Janet and Frank Webster. Many others lent their time and energy in a variety of ways. We are always happy to welcome new faces and this year Leslie Pipes and Kathleen Brennan joined us. At one point, over 90 individuals promised things for the bake table.

Final amount raised: \$6697.20

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Kent Hoeg, Chair

The Finance Committee is responsible for the management of the congregation’s operating funds. We strive to conduct business according to the United Church of Canada’s financial guidelines and the Canada Revenue Agency’s rules and regulations for charitable organizations. We are not fundraisers, but rather overseers of the funds raised.

I want to give a heartfelt thank you to those that are part of the Finance Committee and those who assist in many other ways. Leo Medeiros is our meeting minute taker, has great financial background from which he gives us great insight and this year has provided us valuable observations of our rentals. Marilyn Parr and John Fessenden are superstars as our co-treasurers. They pay and record our bills. They make sure all our income gets allocated to the correct account. They provide us regular reporting on our financial situation. One cannot understate the value of their time and commitment to Harcourt. Sadly, John will be leaving Harcourt and as such the co-treasurer role. Another unsung hero is John Phelps who is our Payroll Administrator. To be sure, we would have a mutiny on our hand if not for John! Thanks also goes to our Trustee Representative Lynn Crow. Not only does she attend Trustee meetings, but then she also attends Finance Meetings. For 2019, John Phelps will be our Trustee Representative. Thanks John!

Not to be missed is Marilyn Sears who arranges for Sunday morning counters. Getting volunteers at any time can be a challenge. Marilyn sees that we have counters 52 weeks a year! With that, must come the thanks of our Counters. They enter all donations for a Sunday and make sure everything balances. Makes the life of Heather Hoeg, our Envelope Secretary so much easier. Heather takes all donations and records them into our donation software so that we can send tax receipts and report on the congregation’s givings. I don’t know what I would do without her!

In 2019, I am thrilled to welcome Jane Peaire, who will replace John Fessenden as our co-treasurer. Jane and Marilyn will be a dynamic duo, I'm sure!

I urge you all to read the financial reports contained in this Annual Report and don't be shy to ask questions on what you see.

2018 was a pivotal point for Harcourt, as we progressed in our 20/20 vision. Last year the congregation approved a 10% budget increase. We, in our journey of revitalization and radical change, spent \$40,000 more and received \$40,000 more than 2017. A significant accomplishment! Well done. Our journey is far from over, but with the strong support of our leaders and contributors we move forward in God's name. Blessings.

Rental Report

Submitted by Leo Medeiros, Finance Committee

The Harcourt Rental Policy outlines the principles and guidelines for the use of Harcourt space. Rentals include the use of space/facilities where rent is charged, sponsored or for marriages, funerals or other worship. The Finance Committee is responsible for the annual review of revenues received and waived.

The policy contains a rental subsidies target of 33% of the total value of rental usage. In 2018 total rental revenue was \$47,092 compared to \$40,498 in 2017. This is an impressive 16% increase. Sponsored rent was approximately 28% in 2018 compared to 35% in 2017. Sponsorship represents approximately \$18,000 of waived revenue, although we did receive \$4,830 in rental 'donations'.

OTHER CHURCH TEAMS & COMMITTEES

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Submitted by Anne Piper, Secretary

Six family members and friends were remembered in 2018 through memorial donations to Harcourt Memorial United Church. A total of \$2165 was donated during the year. The Memorial Book will be updated early in 2019 with the names of those remembered and the names for the donors. The Memorial Books are always available for reviewing and reminiscing in the Greeting Area.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Submitted by Noma Vales, Chair

Members: Pat Martin, Sandra Welch, and Marilyn Sears

The Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) oversees the affairs of Harcourt's ministerial and paid staff personnel by coordinating annual reviews as well as supporting and responding to concerns that arise throughout the year that impact ministerial and paid staff members. At the beginning of each year, an M&P budget is submitted to the Finance Committee.

In March 2018, the congregation approved a permanent position of Worship, Communication and Technical Support for 20 hours per week. M&P conducted a search for this position and Shaina Ensing was the successful candidate.

In preparation for Rev Jim Ball's sabbatical, which will begin in April and end in June, 2019, a Sabbatical Committee has been formed. The committee consists of Pat Martin, Esther Devolin, Karyn Davies, Merrill Pierce, Miriam Flynn and Bill Lord. The committee focuses on organizing a team that would support Rev. Miriam Flynn during the above three months.

M&P submitted an application for the federal Canada Summer Job program and once again was successful in receiving funding for two students. Natalie Houde our "official" Harcourt photographer captured images of

Harcourt and the community for Harcourt's photo library, while Colt Seraphim took on various administrative projects such the planning for the Food Truck event. An application for funding for summer 2019 will be submitted by the end of January.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Submitted by Murray Woods, Chair

The Board of Trustees had a busy year in 2018 involving ten monthly meetings and two Lunch & Learn Events. The speaker for the first event on June 3rd, was Rev. David Jagger, Stewardship and Gifts Officer for the Hamilton and London Conferences, United Church of Canada. The Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada addressed the November 25th event. They shared stories and alternatives for Legacy Gifts, while stressing their importance in sustaining the vitality of the church.

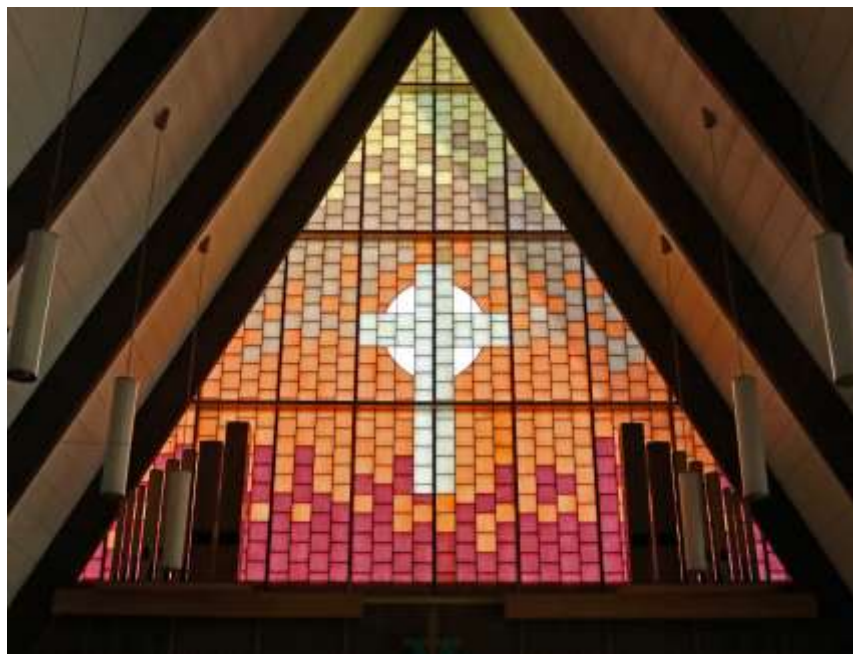
This very active Board of Trustees was composed of John Phelps, who handles the Church Insurance portfolio, Carol Jones a member of the Property Committee, Lynn Crow the incoming Chair and a member of the Finance Committee, plus Judy Cimino, Marilyn Murray, Jim McQueen and Murray Woods, Chair and the Trustee Treasurer.

This year at the Trustees request, the Council approved a motion that effective January 1, 2019 changes the allocation of non-endowed funds to Pillars as follows: Property to 55% from 40%, Outreach from 40% to 25%, with Music & Arts, and Spiritual Life & Education remaining unchanged at 10% each.

Representatives of the Trustees and the Council along with the clergy continue to be a part of a GUM initiative for Guelph United Churches to develop a coordinated plan for their future. A professional facilitator has been engaged to provide leadership.

This December 31, Marilyn Murray retired after having completed seven years of valued service on the Board. With regrets Jim McQueen has resigned after serving four years as a Trustee.

We are pleased to welcome Larry Smith and Jane Peaire to the 2019 Board which will be ably chaired by Lynn Crow.



FINANCIAL REPORT – BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018

Submitted by Murray Woods, Treasurer of Trustees

*Revised February 15, 2019

INVESTMENT \$	DEC. 31, 2018 \$	DEC. 31, 2017 \$
Fiera Capital Growth Fund	53,804.99	100,423.82
Fiera Capital U.S. Equity Funds	172,863.54	158,544.23
TOTAL	226,668.53	258,968.05
CIBC - CHEQUING	11,973.48	71,073.39
CIBC - SAVINGS	2,327.44	7,319.37
Transfer Pending	19,080.00	
TOTAL	33,380.92	*78,392.76
GRAND TOTAL	260,049.45	337,360.81

1. \$45,000.00 was removed from Fiera Growth Funds for new washroom costs in the 12 months to December 31, 2018.
2. The Fiera Capital Funds gained \$12,700.00 or 5.93% on a difficult market year.
3. The Outreach Pillar supported the Fuad Ali family with \$9200.00 in 2018.
4. The Music and Arts Pillar provided \$550.00 for the Music Intern this fall.
5. \$32,138.00 was raised for the Property Pillar toward the cost of the washrooms, which provided the repayment to the Outreach Pillar of \$30,000.00 borrowed. The HST rebate of approximately \$18,000.00 is still outstanding.
6. Effective January 1, 2019 Pillar Funds will have a 10% Market Reserve Holdback which will be in addition to the existing Target Reserve for each Pillar. This will allow for market fluctuations that could affect available funds.

Pillars	Property	Outreach	Music & Art	Spiritual Life & Ed.
2019	\$36,238.00	\$160,672.00	\$40,325.00	\$22,815.00
Target				
Hold back	\$25,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Market				
Reserve	\$3,625.00	\$16,067.00	\$4,033.00	\$2,281.00
Available				
Funds	\$7,614.00	\$44,605.00	\$26,292.00	\$10,034.00

WASHROOM BUILDING COMMITTEE

Submitted by Dave Hume, Chair

Members of the Committee were Jean Julian, Joan Barham, Lynda Jessop-Lew, Michael Hofer, Mark Sears, Kent Hoeg, Murray Woods (Treasurer) and Dave Hume (Chair).

The committee selected Unto Kihlanki as architect and Even Construction as the main contractor. Two major benefactors provided \$161,295 toward the project, including interest. An initial design was considered too costly and a second design was approved in which two washrooms were installed in the former cloakroom. The work was made more expensive than originally estimated by three major factors: asbestos had to be removed in various places, a break in the sanitary sewer under the Greeting Place had to be rectified, and new sanitary sewers had to be installed to bypass the break under the Greeting Place.

The work was completed in early 2018 and an Official Opening event was held on February 18, 2018. The total cost, if 50% of the HST is returned, is about \$288,000. The washrooms have functioned well since their installation.

Special thanks are extended to the members of the Building Committee, to Unto Kihlanki, to Curtis Donnahee, President of Even Construction and to the donor families.

OFFERING COUNTERS TEAM

Submitted by Marilyn Sears, Co-ordinator

We are a group of about 20 people who record, balance, tally and deposit the monetary offerings that are collected from the weekly Sunday morning services at Harcourt Church. We do the counting in teams of two. The results are passed on to the treasurers and envelope secretary for their records. This is usually done immediately after the final service and can take from 30 minutes to an hour.

As organizer of the group, I email the counters with upcoming dates that need counters to be scheduled. We usually have counters scheduled for about three months ahead. Some counters prefer to count every Sunday for a month and others prefer to count more sporadically according to their availability.

We are always open to accepting new members who would be interested in contributing to this effort.

CHURCH STATISTICS

WEDDINGS: 2

Stephanie Van Ryswyk and Andrew Cataford	January 13
Jeffery Cann and Jamie Altman	June 9

BAPTISMS: 7

Amy Tina Forestell	Kian Langley Rae
Jane Barbara Forestell	Adrian Keyvan Sullivan
Harry Louis Collins	Shila Vakili
Russel Mario Lakatos	

FUNERALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES: 8

Maxine Crispin	Ian Miller
Forrest Caldwell	Rodger Peaire
William Crow	Russell Willoughby
William Mactaggart	Jean Sharman

PEOPLE JOINING HARCOURT BY TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP: 5

Lisa Beattie	Thelma McIntyre
Madeline Harrington	Leslie Pipes
Norman McIntyre	

PEOPLE JOINING HARCOURT BY PROFESSION OF FAITH: 2

Gretchen Ball
Deb Murray

REMOVED FROM ROLL BY TRANSFER TO OTHER CONGREGATIONS: 3

Nancy Kozlovic
Paul Reeve
Elaine Williamson

REMOVED FROM ROLL BY DEATH: 4

Florence Allen	Ruby McMullen
Ian Miller	Brock Pilkey

Total Membership December 31, 2017

Members received by Profession of Faith	2
Members received by Reaffirmation of Faith	0
Members received by Transfer of Membership	5
Members removed by Death	4
Members removed by Transfer	3
Members removed by Action of Church Council	0

Total Membership December 31, 2018	538 (522 + 15 non-resident)
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COUNCIL, STANDING COMMITTEES, TEAMS, STAFF 2018-2019

COUNCIL

Chair	Lorraine Holding
Vice- Chair	VACANT
Secretary	Carolyn Davidson
Presbytery	Lindsay Lennox (Council Liaison)
Ministry & Personnel	Pat Martin
Vision Implementation	Tammy teWinkel

UMBRELLA COUNCILLORS

Christian Life	Lynn Hancock
Congregational Life	VACANT
Operational Life	Mark Sears
Outreach	Rosalind Slater
Stewardship	Kent Hoeg

MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Jim Ball, Team Minister

Rev. Miriam Flynn, Team Minister

STANDING COMMITTEES & SUB-TEAMS OF COUNCIL

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Councillor: Lynn Hancock

CLUSTER COMMITTEES:

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

MANNA

Team Leader: Merrill Pierce

Anne Ball

Arlene Davies-Fuhr

Pamela Girardi

Lynn Hancock

Laura Hofer (Stoss)

Melissa Kwiatkowski

Deb Murray

Rev. Jim Ball, Team Minister

Rev. Miriam Flynn, Team Minister

Music Resource – Shannon Kingsbury

Library Committee

Chair: VACANT

Mary-Lou Funston

Dorothy McCrady (to August 17, 2018)

Barbara Shaw

Janet Webster

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Co-Chairs: Peter Jackson* & Bill Lord

Tammy teWinkel

Megan Ward

Kathy Magee*

Andre Auger*

Marion Auger*

Stan Bunston*

Maxine Lipinski*

Lisa Beattie* (from May 16, 2018)

* *Covenanted Spiritual Companions*

WORSHIP

Chair: Sandy Middleton

Joan Charlebois

Karyn Davies

Lawrie Jones (to June 2018),

Gay Slinger (to September 2018)

Merrill Pierce (co-MANNA Rep.)

Lynn Hancock (co-MANNA Rep. to April 2018)

Ex officio members: Jim Ball, Miriam Flynn, and Alison MacNeill

Youth Ministry Team

Team Leaders:

Lisette Vanderkamp, Suzanne Webster

Adult Faith Formation Team

Andre Auger

Bill Lord

Rev. Jim Ball, Team Minister

Rev. Miriam Flynn, Team Minister

Chancel Team

Barb Friend (Team Contact), from September 1, 2018
Ann Middleton, to September 30, 2018
Marta Coutts
Norma Fear
Carol Jones
Deb Murray, from September 1, 2018
Anne Piper
Marty Ragetlie, to June 30, 2018
Janet Webster

Communion Team

Barb Forestell
Jane Peaire
Sandra Phair

Usher Coordinator

Jean Hartmans

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Councillor: **VACANT**

CLUSTER COMMITTEES:

FELLOWSHIP

Chair: VACANT

Committee is inactive

Nametag Co-ordinator: Marilyn Reilly

10:30 a.m. Coffee time Co-ordinator: VACANT

Potluck & Games Night Co-ordinators: Heather & Peter Sullivan

PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Esther Devolin

Malcolm Coutts
Don Johns
Rev. Jim Ball, Team Minister
Rev. Miriam Flynn, Team Minister

Note cards to Congregation

Diana Sterenberg

OPERATIONAL LIFE

Councillor: **Mark Sears**

CLUSTER COMMITTEES:

ACCESSIBILITY

Chair: Joan Barham

Jean Hartmans
Jane McNamee

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Joan Barham

Gillian Joseph
Nancy Ryan
Carolyn Davidson

The Herald Newsletter

Gillian Joseph – Editor

Anne Purkis – printing, mailing

Heather Sullivan – calendar (to May)

Shaina Ensing – calendar (from May)

Electronic Infrastructure Team (Tech Team)

Chair: Mark Sears

Jerry Daminato

Petr Vales

Jock Rutherford

Larry Smith

Shaina Ensing, Staff Liason

Anne Purkis, Staff Liaison

PROPERTY

Chair: Dave Hume

Ben Fear

Michael Hofer

Sarah Lowe

Gary Parsons

Larry Smith (From June 2018)

Cisca Vanderkamp

Frank Webster

Carol Jones, Trustee Rep.

Gardening Team

Ben Fear

Norma Fear

Carol Jones

Sarah Lowe

Dave Mowat

Helen Mowat

Gary Parsons

Mark Sears

Cisca Vanderkamp

Frank Webster

OUTREACH

Councillor: **Rosalind Slater**

CLUSTER COMMITTEES:

JUSTICE AND OUTREACH

Chair: VACANT

Arlene Davies-Fuhr - to May 2018

Edna Miller – to April 4, 2018

Julie Ashley (LGBTQA liaison)

Rev. Miriam Flynn, Team Minister

STEWARDSHIP

Councillor: **Kent Hoeg**

STEWARDSHIP

Chair: VACANT

Julie Henshaw

Ian Miller, to September 2018

Re. Miriam Flynn, Team Minister

Trustee Rep. TBA

Finance Rep. TBA

FINANCE

Chair: Kent Hoeg

Heather Hoeg, Envelope Secretary

Marilyn Parr & John Fessenden, Co-Treasurers

John Phelps, Payroll Administrator

Leo Medieros

Marilynn Crow, Trustee rep

M&S Advocacy

Ann Estill

OTHER COMMITTEES & TEAMS

Not associated with Council Umbrella Councillors

MEMORIALS TEAM

Chair: Dave Hume

Anne Piper, Secretary

Karyn Davies, Worship Committee Rep.

Vacancy, Property Committee Rep.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Chair: Noma Vales

Patrick Martin, Council Rep

Marilyn Sears

Sandra Welch

TRUSTEES

Chair: Murray Woods

Marilynn Crow, Finance Committee Liaison

Marilyn Murray

Jim McQueen

Carol Jones, Property Committee Liaison

John Phelps, Insurance

Judy Cimino

Rev. Jim Ball, Team Minister

Rev. Miriam Flynn, Team Minister

OFFERING COUNTERS

Co-ordinator: Marilyn Sears

Marta and Malcolm Coutts	Marnie Allen
Jean and Dick Julian	Joan Miller
Joyce and Walter Johnson	Helen and Dave Mowat
Joanne and Dale Lockie	Marilyn and Mark Sears
Nancy and Roy Pullman	Janet and Frank Webster
Janet McCallum and Murray Woods	Lorraine Macpherson

WASHROOM BUILDING COMMITTEE

Chair: Dave Hume

Joan Barham	Michael Hofer	Murray Woods
Lynda Jessop-Lew	Mark Sears	
Jean Julian	Kent Hoeg	

GUELPH UNITED MINISTRIES (GUM) REPRESENTATIVES

Roz Stevenson
Rev. Miriam Flynn
Rev. Jim Ball

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES

Lay Reps:

Lindsay Lennox, Council Liaison

Ministry Reps:

Rev. Jim Ball, Rev. Miriam Flynn

WATERLOO PRESBYTERY EXTENSION COUNCIL

Brian Clark

VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATE MINISTERS (VAMS)

Bill Lord
Deborah Shanks

STAFF

Rev. Jim Ball, Team Minister
Rev. Miriam Flynn, Team Minister
Alison MacNeill, Director of Music Ministries
Anne Purkis, Church Administrator
Shaina Ensing, Worship, Communication and Technical Support (from May 1, 2018)
Darko Cikovic, Custodian
Sonya Wu-Winter, short-term contract, community engagement
Gabriel Stringer, Music Intern
Natalie Houde, Summer Student, Photographer and Videographer
Colt Seraphim, Summer Student, Project Facilitator

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Draft Minutes

Sunday, March 4, 2018

11:45-1:45

MINUTES

In the gym following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Present: (78) Marilyn Parr, Joanne Mitchell, Hugh Whiteley, Marilyn Whiteley, Leone Sutor, Lynn Crow, Paul Webb, Marty Ragetlie, Pat Kandel, Joan Bowland, Ruth Tatham, Anne Piper, Rosalind Slater, Julie Ashley, Lorraine Macpherson, Madeline Harrington, Mary Peleschak, Michael Peleschak, Tammy teWinkel, Fran Holden, Kathy Magee, Marnie Allen, Joan Miller, Mavis Johnson, Jean Julian, Anne Ball, Mark Sears, Alison MacNeill, Sandra Welch, Bryan Fuhr, André Auger, Bill Lord, Stan Bunston, Ann Estill, Jocelyn Sherman, Fran Mathieson, Peter Gill, Jill Gill, Bob McCracken, Faith McCracken-Drabbe, Laura Hofer, Michael Hofer, Colleen Barrett, Roz Stevenson, Bill Higgins, Pat Martin, Jon Welch, Dick Julian, Dave Hume, Sandy Middleton, Pamela Girardi, Nancy Ryan, Lynn Hancock, Cathy Dean, John Phelps, Janet Webster, Frank Webster, Miriam Flynn, Jean Jackson, Peter Jackson, Jean Hume, Larry Smith, Ben Fear, Norma Fear, Ruth Kaufman, Marilyn Sears, Cisca Vanderkamp, Alice Carey, Heather Hoeg, Elizabeth Bone, Marion Auger, Jerry Daminato, Joan Barham, Richard Barham, Lorraine Holding, Carolyn Davidson, Jim Ball, Kent Hoeg

1. Constitution of the Court by Presbytery Representative

Rev. Jim Ball called the meeting to order at 11:45 and constituted the Court on behalf of Waterloo Presbytery.

2. Gathering Prayer and Review of Holy Manners

Jim Ball led us in prayer and a review of the holy manners we committed to follow during the meeting.

3. Motion:

To appoint Carolyn Davidson as Recording Secretary and Lorraine Holding as Chair of this meeting.

(Janet Webster, André Auger) Carried

4. Outline of Meeting Plan

Lorraine outlined the meeting plan and asked that all present sign the attendance sheets that were circulated.

5. Consent Agenda:

a) Speaking and voting privileges are extended to all present; and

b) Approval of agenda as presented; and

c) Approval of minutes of February 26, 2017 and June 4, 2017 Congregational Meetings as distributed and/or amended.

Motion: That the Consent Agenda be approved.

(Richard Barham, Marnie Allen) Carried

6. Business for 2017

a) The 2017 Annual Report: Questions for clarification and responses to 2017 work

Lorraine expressed thanks to all who had contributed submissions and to Anne Purkis for compiling the report. Highlights from 2017 included hiring Miriam Flynn as a team minister and the June

conversation groups and banner exercise, from which Council set three priorities for action and experimentation. There were no questions or comments from those present.

Motion: That the Harcourt Memorial United Church 2017 Annual Report from Committees, Teams and Groups be accepted as presented.

(Tammy teWinkel, André Auger) Carried

b) Financial Report for 2017: Questions for clarification

Kent Hoeg gave an overview of Harcourt's finances in 2017. In particular, Kent noted that although we finished 2017 in the black, congregational givings declined by 2.9% compared to 2016. This is largely due to a decline in the number of givers. By contrast, last year's budget targeted a 2.5% increase. It was noted that to meet our commitments, if fully spent, we would need to average about \$1,700 per giver. Although we do receive memorial donations, we have not received any recent bequests. Bequests may be given to a pillar rather than to general operating expenses.

Motion: That the 2017 Financial Report be accepted as presented in the 2017 Annual Report pages 47-50.

(Kathy Magee, Frank Webster) Carried

No financial reviewer's statement is available this year. For 2018 we will be inquiring about the cost of having this done professionally by an accounting firm. Audited statements are a requirement for some grants.

7. Business for 2018

a) Harcourt 20/20 – Continuing Our Journey

Lorraine reminded those present that Harcourt 20/20 is a journey of discernment to examine who we are and who we are becoming. Today we would continue our journey through conversation and reflection on our personal commitments of time, talents and money. Today we would make a significant decision about our financial support of the 2016 Joint Needs Assessment, how far and how quickly we will move forward with revitalization and radical change.

b) Budget for 2018 and Presentation of Options

Kent presented the narrative budget for 2018 as prepared by Finance Committee, linking the financials to the three narratives of Slow Death, Revitalization and Radical Change. He also presented four budget options identified by Council that tie together our three narratives with the financial resources that will be required this year to implement Harcourt 20/20 plans.

c) Table discussion

Lorraine introduced the table discussion topics and outlined the process for discussion.

Motion: To consider the 2018 budget options in an informal session for 25 minutes.

(Stan Bunston, Joan Barham) Carried

- Participants spent the next 25 minutes reflecting on and discussing the following questions:
 1. Look at the diagrams that summarize the four Congregational Operating Budget Options. Consider your personal level of support to Revitalization and/or Experimentation (Radical Change).
 2. What (one additional) value would the expanded communications and worship support bring to Harcourt? What (one additional) value would the community support worker bring to Harcourt?
 3. How can we move Revitalization and Radical Change forward without these additional tactical resource allocations for 2018?

4. Our personal and family stewardship has been and will be critical to Harcourt's ability to survive and flourish. Costs continue to rise; needs and opportunities for ministry continue to grow. Would you consider increasing your donation to Harcourt by 5%, or 10%?
- Sandy Middleton and Sandra Welch spoke in turn to provide more detail about the expanded communication and worship support role (Option B - Revitalization) and the community support worker role (Option C – Radical Change).
 - André Auger noted that although MANNA now has 12-15 children aged 1-10 who attend regularly, we have nothing in our plans to help these children mature in their faith and become active, believing Christians as they become adolescents. He reminded us that the 2013 Call to Discipleship stated that the congregation has a responsibility for the education of its young people and that by 2016 would need to hire a youth minister. This has not yet happened.
 - To gain a sense of how comfortable we are with the budget and deficit implications, a straw vote was taken by show of hands on Options B and C. The result indicated support for either or both of Options B and C.

Motion: To close the informal session.

(Mark Sears, Richard Barham) Carried

d) Formal Voting on Budget Options

Lorraine explained that voting would begin with Option A (Revitalization and Radical Change) and that voting would continue until a majority was reached.

Motion: That the Budget for 2018 be approved as presented on pages 51-54 of the 2017 Annual Report plus proposed staffing support for Revitalization and Radical Change, including a projected deficit of \$39,000.

(John Phelps, Stan Bunston)

Motion to amend: That the motion be amended to include "with either a community support worker or a youth minister".

(André Auger, Richard Barham) Carried

Discussion:

- Kent reiterated that an increase in giving of about 10% per member would be required to fund this option.
- Concern was expressed that not all members were present at the meeting, and that we also need to replenish funds from work related to the washroom project. Some would prefer to have the money in hand first, to avoid having to lay off staff if we find we cannot afford them.
- Some felt that there was insufficient background and detail to make such a big decision, and that they would prefer to see a full job description before deciding. Lorraine clarified that it would be the responsibility of Ministry & Personnel Committee to define the job descriptions and recommend them to Council for approval.
- Others expressed support for the motion on the understanding that further study would be conducted before hiring takes place, to look at the experience of what other churches and denominations have done to determine the best course of action.
- Joan Barham reported that many other churches, including member churches of Guelph United Ministries (GUM), are recognizing the need for additional paid support for marketing and communications initiatives.

- The amended motion was read aloud:

Motion (as amended): That the Budget for 2018 be approved as presented on pages 51-54 of the 2017 Annual Report plus proposed staffing support for Revitalization and Radical Change, with either a community support worker or a youth minister, including a projected deficit of \$39,000.

(John Phelps, Stan Bunston) Carried

- Kent noted that by the time we are ready to post these positions we will have a good idea of whether giving has increased to the point that we can proceed. Lorraine also promised on behalf of Council to keep the communication flowing. Lorraine also noted that we need a champion for Stewardship to keep us focused on financial support for this work.

e) Mission and Services Fund Target for 2018

- Kent noted that the recommended target of \$80,000 is a significant reduction over previous years but is an increase over what we contributed in 2017 (\$78,494). A breakdown of average givings per member was not currently available but could be provided if people are interested. Some wondered if there will be an impact on M&S givings if members are asked to give more to the operating expenses.

Motion: That Harcourt's 2018 target for the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service Fund be set at \$80,000.

(Kathy Magee, Ann Estill) Carried

8. Presentation of Names for Council, Standing Committees and other appointments for February 2018 to February 2019

Lorraine noted that some Council members are extending their terms because of their commitment to Harcourt and the work that needs to be done. She also noted a last-minute change to the list of Council members (Pat Martin replacing Sandra Welch) and a few remaining vacancies.

Motion:

- That the Congregation of Harcourt Memorial United Church approve the candidates who have agreed to serve for positions on the Council for 2018-2019; and***
- That the Congregation of Harcourt Memorial United Church approve the candidates who have agreed to serve as Chairs of Committees and for positions on Harcourt's Committees and Teams for 2018-2019.***

(Elizabeth Bone, Jerry Daminato) Carried

Motion:

- That Marilyn Parr and John Fessenden be appointed as Co-Treasurers and John Phelps as Payroll Administrator for 2018-2019 with all the rights and responsibilities attending these positions; and***
- That Heather Hoeg be appointed as Envelope Secretary for 2018-2019 with all the rights and responsibilities attending that position; and***
- That the Congregation appoint the Chair of Council, Chair of Trustees, Chair of Finance Committee, Co-Treasurers and Payroll Administrator as signing officers of Harcourt Memorial United Church, with two signatures required for financial transactions.***

(Marnie Allan, Marion Auger) Carried

9. Other Business

a) Questions or items from the floor

- Sandy Middleton noted that while we may have sufficient money to carry out the work of the congregation, we are at risk of not having enough hands.

- Bill Lord moved a vote of thanks to the staff of the church for their leadership in the past year.

b) Notice of Congregational Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 24, 2019

c) Closing and Thanks

Lorraine extended thanks to those who helped set up for today's meeting, to those who provided refreshments, and to Kent for leading us through the budget.

10. Closing Prayer

Stan Bunston led us in a closing prayer.

11. Motion:

To adjourn the Congregational Annual Meeting (2:00 p.m.)

(Mike Peleschak)

Recording Secretary

Chair of Council

Date

HARCOURT MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
FINANCIAL REPORTS
2018 Comparative Income Statement (Cash basis)

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2017</u>
REVENUE			
<u>Congregational Offerings</u>			
Envelope	165,166	185,000	169,662
Par	209,771	200,000	206,578
Sunday School	60	0	60
UCC Foundation	38,180	0	0
Loose	4,693	5,000	4,317
Observer	1,711	1,750	1,745
Congregational Retreat	5,280	0	0
Initial Offering	180	350	365
Sub-Total	<u>425,042</u>	<u>392,100</u>	<u>382,727</u>
<u>Other Revenues</u>			
Recoverables & Misc. Income *	8,611	5,000	14,731
Rent	47,092	45,000	40,498
Donation for Room Use	4,830	0	4,420
Fundraising & Other Revenue **	19,568	26,000	18,962
Office Income	3,406	0	7,041
Book Sales	0	0	0
Sub-Total	<u>83,507</u>	<u>76,000</u>	<u>85,652</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u><u>508,549</u></u>	<u><u>468,100</u></u>	<u><u>468,379</u></u>
<u>Outreach & Other Revenues</u>			
Mission & Service - Congregation	82,697	80,000	78,494
Lenten Appeal	130		1,241
Advent Appeal	170		1,245
CCSC - Saturday Night Suppers	126		0
Accessibility Grant & Washroom	0		5,696
Total Outreach & Other Revenues	<u>83,123</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>86,676</u>
Total Revenues	<u><u>591,672</u></u>	<u><u>548,100</u></u>	<u><u>555,055</u></u>

HARCOURT MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

EXPENDITURES

	2018	2018 Budget	2017
<u>Operating Expenditures</u>			
Worship	6,006	5,640	5,745
Christian Formation	1,824	3,500	2,123
Spiritual Life	5,758	950	685
Fellowship	1,629	1,700	1,740
Pastoral Care	169	200	105
Justice and Outreach	4,000	4,300	4,225
Outreach Teams	1,900	2,000	2,012
Property	53,518	45,350	42,472
Electronic Communication	9,428	8,650	10,234
Accessibility	0	0	0
Finance	29,684	31,800	28,416
Stewardship	298	0	0
Personnel	382,063	397,576	369,376
Events Organized by Ministers	57	300	0
Ministers' Discretionary	500	1,000	500
Council Expenses	8,522	4,500	0
Total Operating Expenditures	505,354	507,466	467,633
<u>Outreach & Other Expenditures</u>			
Mission & Service - Congregation	82,697	80,000	78,494
Lenten Appeal	0	0	1,241
Advent Appeal	0	0	1,245
CCSC - Saturday Night Suppers	0	0	0
Accessibility Grant & Washroom	0	0	6,983
Total Outreach & Other Expenditures	82,697	80,000	87,963
Total Expenditures	588,051	587,466	555,596
 Net Operating Revenues/Expenditures	 3,195	 -39,366	 746
Net Outreach & Other	426	0	-1,287
	3,621	-39,366	-541

HARCOURT MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

2018 Comparative Balance Sheet (Cash basis)

	2,018	2,017
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank - Current Account CIBC	45,276	37,620
Bank - Current GIC CIBC & MCU	45,422	20,422
Meridian Account	142	5,000
Pillar (Trustees) Funds	260,050	337,363
Accounts Receivable	6,697	-494
Fundscrip Inventory	4,575	4,225
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>362,161</u>	<u>404,136</u>
TOTAL ASSET	<u><u>362,161</u></u>	<u><u>404,136</u></u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Memorial Donations	275	0
Accessibility Grant	597	597
Accessible Washroom	-1,287	-1,287
Lenten Appeal	130	0
Advent Appeal	170	0
HST	336	336
Web Design	142	142
Men's Breakfast	735	749
Community Garden	497	497
Misc. Events (Christmas Dinners)	932	932
Saturday Night Supper	2,129	2,003
Ignatian Exercise	98	8
TCOW	-95	-95
Project Funds Payable	161	161
Vacation Payable	494	0
Receiver General Payable	77	0
UC Pension Payable	-29	0
Rental Prepayments	4,763	1,408
HST Paid on Purchases	27,132	-338
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u><u>37,255</u></u>	<u><u>5,111</u></u>
EQUITY		
Pillars (Trustees' Fund)	260,050	337,363
Beginning Operating Surplus	61,662	60,916
Current Operating Surplus	3,195	746
Total Operating Surplus	<u>64,857</u>	<u>61,662</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>324,907</u>	<u>399,025</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>362,161</u></u>	<u><u>404,136</u></u>

HARCOURT MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

* Recoverables & Misc Income Summary			
	2018		2,017
Miscellaneous	35		288
Summer Student Job Grant	6,780		5,124
Insurance Payment for Theft	1,565		4,305
Basketball Net Repair Refund	100		0
Interest on GIC for Visa Security	132		0
Small Business Tax Credit	0		1,015
GUM Repayments	0		4,000
	8,611		14,732
** Fundraising Summary			
	2018		2,017
All Things Christmas	6,597		6,309
Garage Sale	1,815		2,930
Fundscrip Profit	750		900
Solar Sales	8,726		8,823
LED Lights Rebate	1,192		0
Food Truck Proceeds	487		0
	19,568		18,962

HARCOURT MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET 2019

		2016	2017	2018	2018	2019
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
REVENUE						
1	Envelope Givings (including PAR & Stocks)	387,541	376,240	385,000	413,118	390,000
2	Other Congregational Givings	4,303	4,377	5,000	4,753	5,000
3	Rent	48,292	44,918	45,000	51,922	50,000
4	Observer + Initial offering	782	2,110	2,100	1,891	2,100
5	Recoverables & Miscellaneous	4,526	14,731	5,000	13,891	7,000
6	Fundraising and Other Sustainable Revenue	25,806	26,003	26,000	22,974	25,000
7	TOTAL REVENUE	471,249	468,379	468,100	508,549	479,100
EXPENDITURES						
CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLUSTER						
WORSHIP						
8	Supplies, books, flowers, baptisms gifts, misc	2,392	3,240	2,350	3,277	2,650
9	Instrument Maintenance & Repair	1,350	640	1,350	1,185	1,350
10	Honorarium (guest preachers 6x/yr)	900	1,400	1,500	800	1,500
11	Canadian Copyright Licence	380	465	440	744	480
12	Worship subtotal	5,022	5,745	5,640	6,006	5,980
CHRISTIAN FORMATION						
13	Child, Youth and Family Ministry	2,345	1,734	2,900	1,227	3,100
14	Adult Ministry	87	200	250	521	250
15	Ecology - Information Campaign	0	0	50	0	50
16	Harcourt Library	221	188	300	75	300
17	Christian Formation subtotal	2,653	2,123	3,500	1,824	3,700
SPIRITUAL LIFE						
18	Events, workshops, advertising, training, supplies	295	685	950	478	950
19	Congregational Retreat	0	0	0	5,280	0
20	Spiritual Life subtotal	295	685	950	5,758	950
21	Christian Formation Cluster subtotal	7,970	8,553	10,090	13,588	10,630
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE CLUSTER						
FELLOWSHIP						
22	Observer	3,584	1,659	1,700	1,629	1,700
23	Advertising, special events, Minister's Soiree	0	81	0	0	0
24	Fellowship subtotal	3,584	1,740	1,700	1,629	1,700
PASTORAL CARE						
25	Speakers, Events, Training & Support Volunteers	98	105	200	169	400
26	Pastoral Care subtotal	98	105	200	169	400
27	Congregational Life Cluster subtotal	3,682	1,846	1,900	1,798	2,100

		2016	2017	2018	2018	2019
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	<u>OUTREACH CLUSTER</u>					
	<i>JUSTICE & OUTREACH</i>					
28	Welcome In	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
29	Chalmers Food Shelf	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
30	Misc. Outreach Requests	0	225	300	0	0
31	Justice & Outreach Total	4,000	4,225	4,300	4,000	4,000
	<i>OUTREACH TEAMS</i>					
32	Ecumenical Campus Ministry	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
33	LGBTQA	100	212	200	100	200
34	Outreach Teams subtotal	1,900	2,012	2,000	1,900	2,000
35	Outreach Cluster Subtotal	5,900	6,237	6,300	5,900	6,000
	<u>OPERATIONAL LIFE CLUSTER</u>					
	<i>PROPERTY</i>					
36	Utilities, Heat	18,316	21,400	22,000	20,725	21,750
37	Repairs, Maintenance, Supplies, Furniture, Other	12,043	13,072	14,650	21,784	15,750
38	Insurance/ Fire Protection/Appraisal	5,653	5,485	5,700	8,688	6,200
39	Snow Removal	2,853	2,515	3,000	2,321	3,000
40	Property subtotal	38,865	42,472	45,350	53,518	46,700
	<i>COMMUNICATIONS</i>					
41	Marketing Team	0	29	1,150	218	1,000
42	Electronic Team					
43	Sound system, training, honoraria	960	1,037	500	700	700
44	AV Equipment and Maintenance	851	3,279	2,500	4,990	2,000
45	Internet/Video licence	2,077	1,867	1,500	1,627	2,000
46	Computer Hardware and Software	1,170	3,072	2,000	1,893	1,500
47	Computer Service / Website Mainanance	1,350	950	1,000	0	1,000
48	Communications Team subtotal	6,408	10,234	8,650	9,428	8,200
49	Accessibility	0	0	0	0	0
50	Operational Life Cluster subtotal	45,273	52,706	54,000	62,945	54,900
	<u>STEWARDSHIP CLUSTER</u>					
	<i>FINANCE COMMITTEE</i>					
51	Bank Charges/Brokerage Fees	1,813	1,679	1,800	1,901	2,000
52	HST Non-Refund Expense	3,259	2,524	2,400	2,668	2,400
53	Supplies/Postage/Miscellaneous	4,014	3,101	3,300	3,279	3,300
54	Machine Rental/Service	3,412	3,203	3,500	3,424	3,200
55	Presbytery Assessment	18,911	17,909	20,800	18,412	20,253
56	GUM membership	1,000	0	0	0	0
57	Trustee's	0	0	0	0	600
58	Finance subtotal	32,409	28,416	31,800	29,684	31,753
	<i>STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE</i>					
59	Stewardship Campaign	0	0	0	298	0
60	Stewardship subtotal	0	0	0	298	0
61	Stewardship Cluster Subtotal	32,409	28,416	31,800	29,981	31,753

		2016	2017	2018	2018	2019
		Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	<u>MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL CLUSTER</u>					
	<i>PERSONNEL</i>					
62	Wages + Benefits + Telephone	353,891	347,786	359,555	359,586	357,169
63	Ministers' Travel & Moving Expenses	1,637	1,684	3,321	1,621	8,321
64	Development - Staff	2,020	3,161	4,100	3,591	4,100
65	Staff Replacement & Overtime	1,100	1,675	3,600	1,076	3,700
66	Extra Maintenance and Lockup	10,603	11,156	10,500	12,289	12,250
67	Manna Music Program	3,238	3,800	4,500	3,900	6,000
68	CY&F Contingency - Youth Leadership	0	0	0	0	0
69	Joint Search Committee	0	114	0	0	0
70	Sabbatical Coverage	0	0	0	0	6,500
71	Personnel subtotal	372,488	369,376	385,576	382,063	398,040
72	Ministry and Personnel Cluster subtotal	372,488	369,376	385,576	382,063	398,040
	<u>NON COMMITTEE BUDGETS</u>					
73	Books for resale	288	0	0	0	0
74	Events organized by Ministers	175	0	300	57	200
75	Ministers' Discretionary	900	500	1,000	500	1,000
76	Non Committee subtotal	1,363	500	1,300	557	1,200
	<u>COUNCIL</u>					
77	Miscellaneous	0	0	500	0	500
78	PRE - Community Engagement Worker	0	0	12,000	5,474	4,500
79	Harcourt 20/20 Action and Experimentation	0	0	4,000	3,048	4,000
80	Non Committee subtotal	0	0	16,500	8,522	9,000
81	Grand Total All Expenditurees	469,085	467,633	507,466	505,354	513,623
82	Surplus/(Deficit)	2,164	746	-39,366	3,195	-34,523
	CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION:					
	Community Engagement Worker (20 hrs/week; \$20/hour; 28 weeks)					11,200
	Manna Support Worker (5 hrs / week ; \$20/hour ; 40 weeks)					4,000
	Possible Surplus/(Deficit)					-49,723

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