

**ST. ANDREW'S
UNITED CHURCH**

ANNUAL REPORT

2021
EDITION

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AGENDA

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 27, 2022 – 12:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

(Please submit all motions for this meeting in writing to the secretary so that the correct wording is used for the minutes)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome
3. Voting
 - a. Motion: All present, member and adherents included, have the right to vote except on specific motions as indicated beforehand.
4. Agenda: additions, approval
5. Minutes: Approval of the Congregational Meeting minutes of January 26, 2020. None for 2021.
6. Business Arising out of the minutes of January 26, 2020.
7. Review of the 2021 Annual Reports: printed and oral
 - a. Motion to receive all reports for information.
8. New Business
 - a. 2022 Budget
 - b. The Affirm Committee as a voting member of the Board
Motion: Moved by Doug Maas, seconded by Shelley-May Lloyd, that the Church Board include a member of the Affirm Team as a voting member.
9. Elections
 - a. Presentations of committees and vacancies
 - b. Nominations from the floor
 - c. Election of Outreach and Congregational Life persons to the Church Board (3-year term)
 - d. Election of Board Chairperson for 2022 (1-year)
 - e. Chinook Winds Regional Representative (1-year)
 - f. Trustees for 2022 (Board Chair, Chinook Winds Regional Representative, Finance Chair, Property Chair (1-year)
 - g. Appointment of Independent Internal Examiner
10. For Information:
 - a. Volunteer Link Representative – Doug Maas – one year remaining
 - b. Members of the M&P Committee (appointed by the Board) Barry Brouwer (Chair), Jim Dixon, Karen Yakimishyn, Sandra Smith-Bernatsky.
 - c. Camp Kasota Rep(s) – Madeline Hendrickson
 - d. Motion to destroy ballots (if necessary)
11. Announcements and Courtesies:
12. Closing prayer
13. Adjournment

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

St. Andrew's United Church

Sunday, January 26, 2020

St. Andrew's United Church Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 26, 2020 following a soup luncheon offered by the Outreach Team. There were 51 in attendance. See list attached. Jane Wilkinson took the minutes.

1. **Opening Prayer** – Reverend Sarah Fanning
2. **Welcome** – Karen Yakimishyn. There were three documents for the meeting: Annual Reports 2019, Annual Financial Report, and 2020 Budget.
3. **Voting**
A1/2020 Motion to approve that all present, adherents and members be given the right to vote except on specific motions as indicated beforehand. Madeline Hendrickson, Edwin Woodrow. Carried.
4. **Holy Manners** – Karen Yakimishyn read the Holy Manners
5. **Approval of Agenda** – **A2/2020 Motion** to approve the agenda with item 9g. Schedule of Fees removed. Norm Start, Bryant Burnard. Carried
6. **Approval of 2019 Minutes** – **A3/2020 Motion** to approve 2019 minutes with the following correction – in motion A2/2019, “Sandy McDonald” should read “Sandy Douglas”. Sandy Douglas, Louise Pickett. Carried.
7. **Business Arising from the January 2019 Minutes** – There were two congregational meetings following the January meeting. On March 24, a revised budget was presented. On September 15 there was an update regarding the financial year.
8. **Review of 2019 Annual Reports** – Bob Settle announced that Dieulita Datus’ name should be added to the LIRR May walk on page 34.
A4/2020 Motion to receive all reports. Ross Pickett, Bryant Burnard. Carried.
9. **New Business**
 - a. **Membership Policy** – A member is someone who has been baptized, a full member is someone who has been baptized and confirmed, an adherent is one who supports the church. Removal of a full member can be by transfer to another church, death, or by action of the board.

- b. **Stewardship Committee** – The board decided that Stewardship and Finance should remain as separate entities. **A5/2020 Motion** to approve that decision. Ivor Bernatsky, Lawrence Hrycan. Carried.

- c. **Financial Report** – Byron Mickelson Cash received in 2019 \$282,577.78. Cash disbursed \$256,342.40. Excess cash received over expenditures \$26,235.38.

Madeline Hendrickson asked what the average weekly givings were. Byron Mickelson reported that PAR donations were approx. \$4,800.00/month. Re: envelopes. Individuals averaged \$2,500.00 per year.

- d. **Internal Examiner.** Laurie Maas examined the books for 2019. It is unknown if she is willing to do it for 2020.

- e. **Budget 2020** – Byron Mickelson. Estimated income \$299,420.00 Expenses \$255,223.00

Sandra Smith inquired as to why rental income was down over last year? Byron Mickelson didn't have an answer at this time. Donnie Tafts asked about property projects this year. Byron Mickelson mentioned the completion of the brick work on the south and east exterior walls. Sandy Douglas asked about basement renovations and Byron replied the plans have been put aside for now.

A6/2020 Motion to accept the 2019 financial statements. Sandy Douglas, Bryant Burnard. Carried.

A7/2020 Motion to accept the 2020 Budget. Jane McDonald, Bob Settle. Carried

- f. **Legacy Fund Proposal** – Bob Settle

Community Portion \$300.00 towards hymn books for the lodge and nursing homes.

A8/2020 Motion to accept. Madeline Hendrickson, Jurjan Dunnewind. Carried.

Any money left over will go towards "fill a fridge"

A9/2020 Motion to accept. Bob Settle, Edwin Woodrow. Carried

International Portion \$300.00 to go to the UN food program.

\$400.00 Congregational portion to go towards pew cushions. Approved at Board level.

A10/2020 Motion to accept. Bob Settle, Donnie Tafts. Carried

10. Elections

Chair – Hans Haefliger nominated Lawrence Hrycan. Edwin Woodrow seconded. Carried. Lawrence accepted.

Past Chair – Karen Yakimishyn

Christian Development – Henk Kassies nominated Sandy Douglas. Madeline Hendrickson seconded. Carried. Sandy accepted. Brie Schmidt nominated Bob Settle. Bob declined the nomination.

Congregational Life/Circles of Care - Sandy Douglas nominated Tilly Meyer or Doris Thesenvitz. Both declined. Reverend Barbara Lieurance will assume the position until it is filled.

A11/2020 Motion to approve that Barbara Lierance assume the position as chair of Congregational Life until someone steps in. – Tilly Meyer, Pat Crozier. Carried

Trustees for 2020 – Over the next few months a job description will be put together for the trustees. The Trustees will include: The Board Chair, Regional Representative, Chair of Finance, Chair of Property.

Volunteer Link Representative is Doug Maas

11. **For Information**

a. Members of the M & P Team (appointed by the Board): Barry Brouwer, Jim Dixon, Sandra Smith-Bernatsky.

b. Madeline Hendrickson is our Kasota East Camp Champion.

12. **Announcements and Courtesies** – Lawrence Hrycan is pleased to be the Board Chair for 2020 and is seeking support from the whole congregation. Hans Haeffliger thanked Byron Mickelson for his hard work and dedication. Karen Yakimishyn thanked the congregation for their support over her two year term as Board Chair. Pat Crozier thanked Karen for her dedication to the Chair position. Sandy Douglas also thanked Karen and Reverend Sarah Fanning for all of their work.

13. **Closing** – Reverend Barbara Lieurance. Community of faith recited the prayer on page 915 from Voices United. “At the Close of a Meeting”.

14. **Adjourn** 1:24 pm

Reverend Dave Holmes

Well, what a year this has been – and I haven't even been here for a full year yet! As I contemplate my first annual report here at St. Andrew's, these are some of the things I'm thinking of.

First, gratitude. Karen and I are *so* glad to find ourselves here in Lacombe, and here at St. Andrew's! Having been in Calgary for almost 30 years, I did not anticipate being out of the “big city,” but it was definitely time and we are delighted to be here. The fit here at the church feels great, and the location is turning out to be wonderful for our family. The only fly in the ointment is that we're slightly more than an hour further away from our grandkids... but that's still pretty close. We are very, very thankful!

Visiting. After three decades of city ministry, I must say I have not been a “visiting minister” for a long time. However, I resolved to change that here at St. Andrew's, and I have been spending a significant time since I started visiting congregants. It's been delightful! And I think it's also an important way to personalize the ministry here, and to keep me in touch with what's really going on for you. I also hope, as time goes on, to visit with people beyond the church as well – community leaders, potential ministry partners, and so forth. **Thank you to those who have been organizing these visits for me** – It began with Karen Yakimishyn, and lately it's been mostly Monique Vermegen. Going forward, I will also be depending on your invitations. If there's something going on that you want to discuss, if I simply haven't been by (at all, or for too long), please give me a call (or call Jana at the office) and invite me for a visit. Don't worry that I might be too busy; I'll let you know if I am (and I don't intend to be too busy for this).

Conflict. I'm aware that there has been some significant conflict here at St. Andrew's over the past few years; it's part of why I'm here, I think! I have heard a certain amount about this as I've been talking to people. I want to say *I'm not worried about this*, though I think it has significance for us. I'm aware that it has been painful – very painful, for some. I'm sorry about that, and I certainly don't want us to repeat this kind of hurtful conflict. I do think there have been some very important learnings for us, and the conflict, though difficult, may help us in the long run. Part of my work has been, and will continue to be, to help us “argue for the sake of heaven” – conduct our conflict in constructive ways so that our relationships are deepened not broken, and so that our disagreements may help our discernment, and add to our wisdom, rather than stalling our progress.

Advent. One of the things I've tried to do in a number of congregations I've served is to plan a season of the church year collectively, so that as many as possible of the church's programs and events tie into a single theme. I think this helps to pull us together, it deepens our experience of a theme and a season, and it can energize us as well. We tried this here during Advent, as we looked at “Finding God in the Dark.” My experience of this is a good example of what I am appreciating about being part of St. Andrew's! I found people – some from the committees, and some from the wider congregation who just jumped in out of interest – were happy to contribute, readily took leadership, and then did amazing things with the programs and events they were developing. *This church is full of amazing and talented leaders!* Even through Zoom meetings

and restrictions on gatherings and stretches of extreme cold, the Advent team pulled together a number of great events and programs, to which both church and community responded with enthusiasm. Wow!

Looking ahead to 2022. I certainly hope that we'll be back, sometime hopefully early this year, to a more normal in-person church experience – including coffee and meals together! I look forward to the renewal of some of our cherished programs, like Messy Church and other in-person programs for children and families. I am aware, though, that we will be looking to find a **new normal**, and that there will be some shifts and changes brought about by changing circumstances and new opportunities. To that end, I think that 2022 will bring some discussions about the mission to which we are called together. I know you've had these discussions before – and we'll definitely build on what you've already done. But in these days of rapid change, this kind of conversation needs to happen in an ongoing way. Given the recent conflicts and challenges, I think it will help if we can find the sense of passion and call in us that is deeper than our comfort and preferences, and that unites us in our diversity.

This year I also look for some celebrations, as we come back together!

Let me finish with gratitude again. St. Andrew's is a wonderful congregation, and I am so happy to be here with you. I come home from visits with my heart full, in every visit I find reasons to love you, and the more I see this church at work, the more impressed I am. Of course, none of us is perfect. Perfection probably isn't a worthwhile goal anyway. But there is grace here, wisdom, energy, leadership, joy, love, personality, and more. I'm excited to see what God has in store for us in the years to come. Thanks for being part of this!

Dave

Reverend Barbara Lieurance

Go Define Love

When we wake up each day
let gratitude
stir and strengthen us, O God.
Let it draw us to goodness
and hold us there...
There, where our Spirit sings,
“Go define love today,”
and our hearts choose
to rise to the occasion. Amen.

<https://united-church.ca/prayers/go-define-love> (adapter)

Pope Gregory I (c 540 – 604 CE) is quoted as saying: pastoral care is the art of arts, and I have the tremendous privilege to practice the art of arts at St. Andrew's with caring people who bring their own creativity and passion to the art of arts. I am deeply grateful for all who are connecting with others in so many different ways. Every week I notice a kind word, a hopeful thought, a gentle blessing shared.
THANK YOU!

With reverence and joy – the words of blessing I heard at the very beginning of my ministry – I am part of this community that inspires and supports my own work.

I look forward to and greatly value the twice monthly get-togethers with Jana and Dave, the monthly St. Andrew's board and Lacombe ministerial meetings, and the bimonthly gatherings with the Circles of Care team.

I, also, give thanks for the opportunity to connect in new and different ways within the St. Andrew's community. One highlight was the “Experience the Dark” gathering out in the country at the Hueppelsheuser farm. The spirit of generosity was alive and well in planning and hosting the event! Crunching snow under our feet, the wonder of the night sky above, and the joy of being together around a fire were real gifts on this winter night.

As I look forward to the next months of practicing the art of arts together, may God's spirit of hope and wonder travel with us all.

With respect and gratitude for our shared ministry,

Barbara

Board Chair – Lawrence Hrycan

The past year has been one of hope, frustration, belief, asking, moving on, staying the course, and wondering when we are going to get back to some sense of feeling like we can be a community together without causing each other harm.

Despite the existing circumstances in Alberta, Canada, and the World, our church family has managed to pull off some miraculous ways of “bringing us together” and giving us a “sense of belonging” through shared activities that have kept St. Andrew's in a much better place than we could have been. Our teams did not pull the “feel sorry” for us theme but rather presented us with options to get together in the best ways that we could. For that, I feel privileged and grateful to be a part of the St. Andrew's community.

Our Worship Team made the recommendation to the Board that, with the increase and concern about the safety of our congregation members due to the high number of Covid cases in the province and in Alberta, in-person Sunday morning services be put on hold. We started off using a stand-alone camera and uploading services to You Tube. Our Worship and Finance Teams arranged for a Cultural Grant, which was offered to churches, to obtain and install live streaming equipment. In February we were able to offer live streaming. It became so popular, that we had several calls asking that we continue with live streaming even when we went back to full time in-person services. Thank you to the live streaming members of Tristan Maloney, Brendan Simensen, Brielle, Bryna, and Jana Figursky, and Tilly Meyer.

The Worship Team continues to do and be the team in charge of decorating, licensing, working with the ministers and obtaining supply ministers, other personnel for church services, and many other duties which keep us running smoothly.

The Transition Team chaired by Karen Yakimishyn led us through the remainder of the time with Reverend Sarah Fanning and into the Search Team chaired by Claudine Bruning and the ministry of Reverend Dave Holmes. A Covenanting service was held with Dr. Brian Wyatt (from Tennessee), a close friend and colleague of Reverend Dave, sharing stories and helping us to make Dave feel welcome.

The Ministry and Personnel Team (M&P) found us two new members for the church office. Jana Figursky is the Office Coordinator and Shannon Epp is our new Finance person. Karen Yakimishyn and Linda Hueppelsheuser took care of the finances until Shannon was hired. Marg Woodrow, Tilly Meyer, and Susan Hrycan took care of office duties until Jana was hired. Marg Woodrow has also taken on the task of updating our membership list.

Our Living into Right Relations team spearheaded the ‘Little Shoes’ project in May culminating in the bell ringing on June 9. A Special Service was also organized and led by this fantastic team of individuals.

Several individuals from across all teams met jointly at the Dunnewind farm in the summer to help plan how St. Andrew's could move forward.

The Outreach Team kept us updated with regards to FROG (Friends of Guatemala) and The Food Grains Project which celebrated 25 years this year. The Affirm Team has a new permanent sign and 5 sessions on the book "Queer Virtues" were offered on-line for anyone interested by Chinook Winds Regional.

Property and Finance worked together to have a fence put up on the west side of the church. This has created a safe space for the Pre-school to enjoy their outdoor activities. Funding came from bottle drives and garage sales held by the Christian Development Team and the Pre-school group, donations from UCW #2, and from the Board.

Lodge services continue to be offered every week. Our Congregational Life and Circles of Care teams try to ensure that emotional and social needs are met.

A reciprocal agreement was reached with the Lacombe Memorial Centre that, in the event of any emergency or cold weather, we could use each other's facilities to muster.

The Christian Development Team arranged for Bell Ringing on Saturday nights to honour those who served unselfishly during the pandemic. An Easter Egg Hunt was held, and a scavenger hunt took place at J.J. Collett in October. Faith at Home Kits for each of the church seasons were made available for anyone interested.

The Men's Breakfast Club has not been meeting for their monthly breakfasts since Covid began. However, some of the men came out to set up and take down the Nativity Scene, and to share some company and coffee afterwards.

During Advent the following took place: Letters and artwork by children for seniors, Phone calls by a team of volunteers, Lift Someone into the Light, A Walk in the Dark, Advent Lighting videos, Food Bank Drive, Santa's Anonymous, Fill a Fridge, Blue Christmas worship service and our annual Christmas Eve service.

We lost some of our friends and family during the year – a time of sadness and reflection. We celebrated weddings, the births of new babies – a time of celebration indeed.

The Board continued to meet both in-person and using Zoom when necessary. Normally, the Board meets 8 or 9 times during the year, taking the summer off. The Board members met all 12 months, sometimes twice a month. Reverend Dave has been leading the Board on a journey of self-reflection with a discussion of the current mission, vision, philosophy, and values of St. Andrew's. This will eventually manifest its way into the congregation.

We have an incredible number of volunteers at St. Andrew's. I just want to say that I am so very grateful for the roles that people have taken on, and St. Andrew's is so much stronger because of you. Even though you are not named, you are forever in our hearts.

Lawrence Hrycan, Chairperson

THE LEGACY FUND

The Legacy Fund has a current balance of \$64,594 comprised of a chequing account and a series of GICs. It is a “rainy day” fund for future use of St. Andrew's United Church under certain conditions for items of a non-administrative nature.

New donations in 2021 amounted to \$600.00. Thank you to those individuals that provided donations and received a charitable tax receipt.

The investment mandate for the Fund calls for a conservative strategy and interest rates on GICS in Canada are historically very low, so the GICS earned a minimal amount of interest.

Due to the low number of new donations and the low amount of interest earned, no disbursements will be made in 2022 from the Fund, but the small amount of eligible disbursement funds will be carried forward to be compiled with next year's donations and earnings for possible distribution.

If you have any questions about The Legacy Fund, please contact Doug Maas at 403-782-1860. We are also looking for additional committee members.

Submitted by Doug Maas - Chair, The Legacy Fund.

Affirm Committee

The Affirm Committee was on hiatus for most of 2021 because of the pandemic, but we reconvened in November. Our focus moving forward is helping St. Andrew's to become a more public, intentional, and explicit affirming community of faith, and finding meaningful ways to connect with the wider community. We were happy to host PIE day in person on March 13, and we look forward to holding more events in the future. If anyone is interested in joining the Affirm Committee, we are always looking to increase our membership!

Brie

Christian Development Committee

The Christian Development Committee is an energetic and enthusiastic committee whose purpose is to *support and nurture faith-based learning for young and old*. We support a variety of programs and are always looking for ways to expand our faith focus within the church.

Members: Teri Lynn Amundson, Alida Burnard, Dustin Butterfield, Annerie Dunnewind, Sandy Douglas, Norm Start, Lawrence Hyrcan, Claudine Bruning, and Sherri O'Muir

Christian development supports adult learning initiatives provided by the minister, confirmation classes, Sunday School, Nursery, VBS, Youth group, Messy Church, and the church library.

We started in the Spring by still being able to host our 3rd annual Easter Egg Hunt just set up within the COVID parameters. We had 19 seniors participate and 9 of our families. It was a great success and fun was had by all. For 2022 we will be bringing the Easter Egg Hunt back to the church, but we hope that all the seniors and all our church family comes and joins in on the fun.

We have been ordering the Faith at Home kits for our church families. These kits guide us through Lent, Pentecost, Advent etc. These kits are complete with instructions/directions and activities as well as scripture readings and much more.

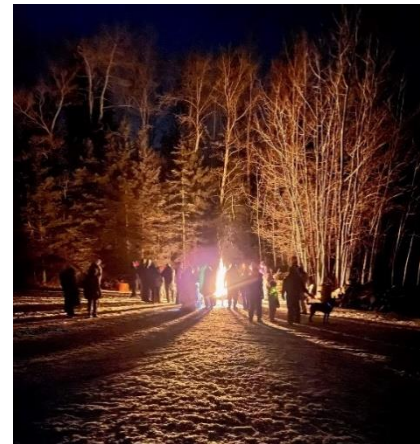


We ended the year with a joint project between the CD Committee and the Advent Planning Committee

with an off-site event. Experience God in the Dark, this event was so great to have us reconnect but safely in an outdoor environment due to the COVID

risks. Barbara led this event, and it was enjoyed by ALL Ages.

We are blessed at St. Andrew's to have an energetic, creative, and dedicated group of volunteers who strive to make the St. Andrew's experience welcoming, enlightening, and open. Without the support of these volunteers, many of the programs under our umbrella would not function. If any of these areas are of interest to you and you would like to more information or to volunteer, please contact the C.D. committee or the church office.



Red Deer Presbytery Camps Society operating **Kasota East Camp (KEC)**

KEC Board: (as of AGM, January 20, 2022):

Shari Hanson	<i>Chair</i>
VACANT	<i>Vice-Chair</i>
VACANT / Kathy Broks <i>acting</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Amity Sponholz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mandy Alcide	<i>Director (Personnel)</i>
Kathy Broks	<i>Director (Membership)</i>
VACANT	<i>Director (Property)</i>
Nancy Nourse	<i>Director at Large</i>
John Hull	<i>Director at Large</i>

KEC Management

Team:

Megan Anderson	<i>Director of Summer Programs</i>
Angela Wymann- Richter	<i>Director of Camp Operations</i>



KEC CHAMPIONS: Representatives from congregations to support KEC's continued connection with founding congregations. We ask each Church Board to appoint someone to this role to liaise fundraising, communication & community building around KEC.

For 2020-2021 our Church's KEC Champion was:

2020-2021 remained painfully quiet with no summer camps for second summer. However, it was a year of exciting projects and site improvements at Kasota East Camp (KEC). In early spring, with continued uncertainty of overnight summer camps, we decided it was the right year for a project that would provide us a tangible goal centred on a summer of fundraising activities in 2021.

Project Pavilion: During a previous (2014) Visioning process, stakeholders identified a new covered kitchen space as one of KEC's 3-year goals to provide more programming and rental space in the absence of Smith Hall. After careful thought, the Board of Directors decided that 2021 was the right year.

Summer 2021 saw Phase 1 of this project, with our new outdoor Pavilion successfully erected. It is beautiful new outdoor program space. We all worked hard supporting this project through Bottle Drive Month, Inspiring DIY Fundraiser Campaigns, Donor Tiles Campaign, Paddle for the Pavilion, Rebel Bean Coffee Campaign, and Snowball Week. This provided our KEC community, supporters and volunteers opportunity to maintain connection to each other and camp, raise awareness of camp and collect funds in support of Project Pavilion.



Phase 2 of this project will improve the function of this space for summer camp programs and activities, as well as for renters. Once completed, this Pavilion will have seasonal running water and electricity, a central fireplace with venting, and roll-down shutters on the doors and windows. If successful with a grant to match funds raised,

we hope to complete Phase 2 in 2022.

Other Site Improvements: Not having camps in session provided us a rare opportunity to complete such programming related site improvements. This coming summer we are so

excited to test out our new Hammock Village and Archery Range Net Posts. Staff cabins were all painted and soffits and fascia repaired where needed. Paint and repairs also provided to older cabins. Vesper wood repairs, trees and brush cut and trimmed as required.

Youth Volunteer Squad: Because we were unable to operate camps, KEC offered this free summer leadership opportunity for youth. Each week over the summer, our 4 YVS recruits joined Megan online to learn about leadership, communication, and planning. Together they coordinated a YVS Leadership Retreat, the Tie-Dye T-Shirt Fundraiser, Paddle for the Pavilion, and a mini Camp Cleanup. All 4 recruits plan to apply as volunteer counselors!

Together, we all have the responsibility of stewarding the legacy and the future for offering summer camp programs based on the ethos of the United Church of Canada and teaching the radically inclusive love of Jesus. We still have much work ahead and we need a full Board to support the critical roles and goals we have set for ourselves. If you or anyone you know feels called to supporting camping ministry, there are opportunities to serve and help strengthen KEC! [Kasotaeastcamp.org](https://kasotaeastcamp.org)

Submitted by Shari Hanson (Chair, Red Deer Presbytery Camps Society)

Congregational Life/Circles of Care 2021

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is a time for hospitality and community engagement. Connecting together is an important time of service in the church, face to face over the coffee cup is experiencing closeness with new and old relationships. 2020 and 2021 saw many changes due to the coronavirus and this fellowship had to be canceled till the present day.

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES are acknowledged with a card, cake, flowers or a congratulation Facebook post. Congregational life and Circles of Care relies on the congregation to let them know of any of these celebrations. Some of our church members turned 90 and 100 this past year. We also had two 50th anniversaries; St Andrew's sends congratulations to them all. To those who celebrated special milestones but that we may not have known about, all our best wishes. In photo Bob and Sarina King fifty years ago.



CARD MAKING: Card making activities, we Congregational Life and Circles of Care are caring for one and another in the congregation by making and sending cards to those that are grieving, those who are not well, or might be celebrating an event.

FUTURE: The planning for activities for fellowship and caring for one and another in the congregation and the wider Lacombe community in the near future is dependent on the rules around Covid-19. With God's help we pray that we all soon are able to meet face to face, over a cup of coffee.



Lynn and Tilly making cards.

Congregational Life committee: Lynn Millar, Mary Solick, & Tilly Meyer
Submitted by Tilly Meyer

Ministry and Personnel (M & P) Committee

The M & P Committee of St. Andrew's is a committee of trust and confidentiality that provides support, assessment of and consultation with all ministry personnel and non-ministry staff of the church. Comprised of individuals from the congregation appointed to 3 year terms, the committee provides a liaison between and among the congregation and the ministers and other staff of St. Andrew's. As an advisory body, the committee makes recommendations to the church board on ministry and personnel matters. The M & P Committee is represented in the Church Board.

Our membership for 2021 was: Karen Yakimishyn, Sandra Smith, Jim Dixon and Barry Brouwer.

Ministry Staff – Rev. Sarah Fanning's two-year term as an Intentional Interim Pastor ended on June 30, 2021. Sarah's farewell service was on May 23. Rev. Dave Holmes began his ministry with us on May 30. We are looking for someone to join the M & P Committee to represent Dave.

Barbara Lieurance continued in her Pastoral Care role for the equivalent of 1 day per week (20% of fulltime).

Office Staff –Diane Bruce resigned her position of Communications and Community Service Coordinator (CCSC) in June. The office duties were capably carried on by volunteers (Karen Yakimishyn, Marg Woodrow, Sue Hrycan and Tilly Meyer). Jana Figursky was hired (October 1) to fill the CCSC position (25 hours/week). Many thanks to Karen Yakimishyn and Sandra Smith for posting the position, conducting the interviews, and selecting such a capable candidate! We have contracted a bookkeeper, Shannon Epp (5 hours/week) who will commence her duties in January, 2021. We are very thankful for the considerable volunteer effort by Linda Hueppelsheuser to sort out the financial records to prepare for an audit. Also, many thanks to Karen Yakimishyn and Linda Hueppelsheuser for conducting the interviews, and selecting Shannon. Linda will also be involved in familiarizing Shannon with Power Church and is producing a financial procedures reference manual. Thank you, Linda!

Building Custodial & Grounds Keeping – Jill Hair is filling the janitorial position, and the security/custodial contract is with Lee Heindal and Diane Hayduk. The janitorial and custodial contracts were extended for 2022. The grounds keeping contract with Enviromasters is concluded. Norm Start has volunteered to maintain the lawn in the summertime, and snow removal has been contracted with I Care Lawn Service (Terry Souveny).

Staff Liaison - Individual committee members endeavor to maintain regular and open communication with individual members of the Church staff, and these liaisons include:

Committee Member	Staff Position
Karen Yakimishyn	Communications and Community Service Coordinator – Jana Figursky
Karen Yakimishyn	Book Keeper – Shannon Epp
Jim Dixon	Building Janitorial, Custodial and Grounds Keeping Contractors
<i>Vacant</i>	Full-time Ministry Position – Rev. Dave Holmes
Sandra Smith	20% Ministry Position – Rev. Barbara Lieurance
Sandra Smith	Worship (Choir Director & Pianist) Support – Leanne Oslund & Nicole Bartolay
Sandra Smith	Honorary Associate Minister – Rev. Bob Settle
Barry Brouwer	Ministry & Personnel Committee Chair

Members of the Congregation wanting to comment regarding an individual staff member or position are encouraged to contact these Committee Members.

Submitted by Barry Brouwer, Chair

Communications and Community Service Coordinator

One of the outcomes of the Transition Team work that took place in 2019- 2021 was the enhancement of the support staff position. The new Communications and Community Service Coordinator position not only is responsible for the administration of church business but has additional responsibility to support the ministers and committees in their work and to support the church's communications effort. This change came at a time when we were experiencing a new kind of worship with COVID and the need to connect with our church family from a distance.

With the arrival of Reverend Dave Holmes and the addition of Jana Figursky in this role we now have a better sense of how this position is helping support our ministry. The chart shows that half of Jana's time is being used to support the ministry of our church, this includes support to Sunday worship with the increased work in live streaming and involvement in initiatives such as "LIFT SOMEONE INTO THE LIGHT". Her communication responsibilities are still being developed with the support of a communication discussion group. Presently she has been the creator of our colourful and lively newsletter and provides coordination and maintenance support to our various social media outlets.

Thanks for you for your support as we continue to develop this position and ensure it meets the needs of our changing way of engaging with our community of faith.

Karen Yakimishyn



Friends of Guatemala (FRoG)

Another year has come and gone, and again we have been unable to do a fundraising event for our friends in Guatemala. However, we have received generous donations through St. Andrew's, and have been able to send funds of \$7500 each to both CEDEPCA and Fraternidad de Presbiterales Mayas through the United Church office for Latin America Mission in Toronto. A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support our Friends in Guatemala! Your steadfast generosity is greatly appreciated.

Our FRoG group has been able to meet a few times this year, mostly by zoom meetings. This July we were also able to gather outside for a potluck dinner at Hueppelsheuser's Firepit. Thanks so much, Linda and Dennis, for providing us with enough space and a wonderful setting to gather again!

We wish for everyone a new year filled with blessings, joy and peace.

From the FRoGs:

Doug, Tom, Geke, Ko, Sherill, Jim, Winnie, Bob, Dennis, Donna.

Central Alberta Foodgrains Growing Project

Despite the hot temperatures and lack of rainfall, Year 26 turned out to be very successful.

This year, our field was located 10 minutes southeast of Lacombe and we grew 120 acres of canola. We obtained 5,638 bushels from the field and sold it to Richardson Pioneer and received a cheque for \$114,937.

On harvest day, we had 14 farmers/agri-businesses arrive to combine the crop and Vision Truck Lines provided three trucks to haul the crop. It took just over an hour to complete the harvest on a warm late September afternoon.

Previous to harvest date, 4 local farmers swathed the crop to prepare it for harvest.

Immediately prior to combining, GEM Silage Products, Decisive Farming and the Dyck Family provided a lunch for the volunteers and their families.

We had expenses for fertilizer and crop insurance but these were covered by our Sponsor-Acre donors through cash donations.

We were able to submit \$120,000 in December to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg to help with emergency food assistance internationally. These funds will be matched on a 4 to 1 basis by the Federal Government, so our local project raised \$600,000.

A big **Thank-You** to all the farmers, agri-businesses, other local businesses, the landowner, churches, local media and individuals for supporting us in 2021.

We are looking for land in Lacombe County for Year 27. Please contact Doug Maas at 403-782-1860 for land availability or any questions about the growing project.

Submitted by Doug Maas, Committee Member

Healing Pathway Group

The Healing Pathway Ministry team at St. Andrew's has been unable to offer healing sessions for the past year due to the COVID restrictions. It did, however, manage to meet twice for a sharing session.

The Healing Pathway group has continued to stay active within the group. Twice monthly throughout the year, emails were exchanged offering meditations, readings, etc. There have also been rotations of sending each other healing intentions via distance healing. When able, group members offered a blessing to the lead minister each Sunday prior to the service. At the minister's invitation, group members have also offered meditations to the congregation during the service.

The Healing Pathway team is looking forward to a more active 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Ayer

LiRR Living into Right Relations

Treaty Acknowledgement: *We acknowledge that St Andrews United Church resides on land of "Treaty 6". We respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the indigenous peoples with whom the land treaty was signed.*

- **National Indigenous Peoples Day** June 21 2020, is a national day of celebration of the heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.
- **Indian Residential School** children found in unmarked graves all across Canada in 2021. The **residential school system harmed Indigenous children significantly** by removing them from their families, depriving them of their ancestral languages, and exposing many of them to physical and sexual abuse. After the BC Kamloops discovery of over two hundred graves, St. Andrew's LiRR, placed little shoes on the Churches door step, after 215 hours the bells rang to commemorate them.
- **Orange Shirt Day** is held yearly on Sep 30th. In 2021 awareness was brought on-line and at schools. Students and many people wore orange shirts with the slogan "Every Child Matters". It is to raise awareness about the residential school system in Canada and the impact it continues to have on Indigenous communities.



- **Truth and Reconciliation Day** On September 26th, Don Fraser did a talk on and did a smudge at the Sunday church service. Our granddaughter Annika read the smudge prayer. Don's sister Sandy and niece Crystal from Ontario along with Don, Winnie, Annika and Tilly lead us in a drumming circle and chanted a song calling our children home.

- **Truth and** official day) September Andrew's church bells at light vigil for the was well attended by the



Reconciliation Day (now an 30th LiRR rang the St. 7:00 pm and held a candle Residential school children. It Lacombe community.

- **MMIWG** Oct 3, Tilly did a talk about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the red dress meaning.
- LiRR committee members: Bob & Winnie Settle, Don Fraser, Doug Maas, Tom Crozier & Tilly Meyer. Summited by Tilly

Lacombe & District Volunteer Link

Despite the pandemic, we were able to provide much needed driving for seniors and others in 2021 to their medical/dental appointments.

To November 30, 2021, we completed 504 hours of assistance to Lacombe County residents.

We are now a registered charity of 8 member churches, as the Lacombe Community Seventh Day Adventist Church joined our organization in 2021.

Our clients are very appreciative of the service we provide. There is no cost for our drives, but clients may choose to give the volunteer drivers funds to assist with the cost of gas if they are able to do so.

We could always use more drivers to spread the work out, so if you can help us, please talk to Madeline Hendrickson or Winnie Chesney Settle.

Submitted by: Doug Maas, Chair - Lacombe & District Volunteer Link

Property Committee

It has been another challenging year for all of us. A year of limited in person worship, meetings through Zoom and still not knowing if the next year will be any better. But especially through these times we notice the team spirit within St. Andrews. If there was anything property related that needed to be done, lots of volunteers were able to take on the work.

Furnaces, thermostat batteries, hot water tanks, toilets, elevator, emergency lighting, it all needed to be checked over to meet code and/or work as it should.

We got a beautiful new fence around the playschool play area. This will help Candice and the other teachers to keep the children safe and away from the road.

The storage room beside the sanctuary got a solid set of stairs now. This is a lot safer for everyone to bring material up to the loft area and back down for use.

The bench outside the main entry doors got renovated.

Some of the doors outside the church got a fresh coat of stain.

Jill Hair has been cleaning the church for some time now and offered to do some painting and repairing of the walls in the church, a perfect time to do it now that there isn't as much traffic.

Next spring a contractor will have to look at the overhang at the backroad entry doors to the hall. One chain has let go and it looks like that roof needs a bit of work.

The shingles on the steeple facing the LMC are curling up, they need to be replaced this spring/summer.

There are a few leaks in the roof that need attention sooner rather than later. If we have a roofer do the shingle job, he might as well have a look at these issues and give us a recommendation on that.

There are some fascia boards that are starting to rot. This will eventually need to be replaced with either vinyl or tin to eliminate the maintenance since they are hard to reach.

The eaves troughs need to be looked at this summer especially on the south side of the sanctuary, some downspouts are missing, and the eaves aren't sloping properly.

I would like to thank everyone for all their help, it is really appreciated!!!

UCW 1

"Friends are the fruitcake of our lives. Some are nutty, some are soaked in alcohol, some firm, some sweet but altogether, they are great to have in your life" Each of us are a different, important ingredient to the mixture and we come together to make a wonderful fruitcake.

Our unit is sometimes called the fruitcakes and we wear that title with warmth, humor and love. Our unit was not able to make fruitcakes this year, host the Christmas tea, nor able to have our social functions, make birthday cakes for coffee time with the congregation, and do other fun things. We also suffered a great loss with the sudden passing of Sue Bergen. Sue was an integral part of UCW 1, she was a big supporter, a hard worker, and a good friend. We have purchased a bench in her honour and placed it on the walking trail at the Bergen farm. Some of us visit it and find peace and comfort sitting on Sue's bench.

Despite this difficult year and even though we didn't see much of each other we tried to stay connected. When possible, we met for coffee at Kavacchinos on Thursday mornings and stayed in contact through social media and phone calls. Some of the members have book club meetings, and we had one lunch last spring when restrictions were eased. We are looking forward to 2022 and hopefully putting COVID behind us, creating renewed connections, attending church, continuing our duties, making fruit cake, and creating more fun activities.

In the past, Sue Bergen has written this report numerous times, and we miss her for many reasons.

Hugs

UCW 2

Our Unit consists of 16 active members.

Because of Covid, we have been unable to meet on a regular basis and have sorely missed this contact with each other.

Our donations this year included the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Fill a Fridge and Santa's Anonymous. We donated towards the completion of the fence on the west side of the church which has given our playschool members a safe area in which to have their outside activities. Our church year looked quite different this year and many different activities were planned throughout Advent. We helped by supporting the 'Lift Someone into the Light' that was planned in conjunction with the City's 'Light up the Night Festival'.

We lost one of our long-time members this past year, Darlene Crawford. It was a sad time for all of us and we miss her still. In her memory, we dedicated a bench at the J.J. Collett Natural Area. Many of our members, as well some of her Guiding friends turned out when the plaque was installed. It was a special time. This was a place that was near and dear to her heart.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Hrycan

UCW PURPOSE: To unite all women of the congregation for the total mission of the Church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

Worship Committee

Church is not an organization you join: it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing. Nickey Gumbel

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile. Billy Sunday

The Worship Team has always felt that St. Andrew's United Church is a family, where we argue or agree, have differences of opinion or think alike, have similar tastes or totally different, but we come together when things become difficult and we care deeply about each other. This year has had some trials and through COVID rearing its ugly head again and again, we have come together, to help each other and see each other.

Our year started off with no in person services but Worship was still working on arranging video messages and looking for ways to add to them. Lawrence Hrycan came forward and not only acquired the equipment for live-streaming but had multiple meetings with people about it and visited congregations that were using it. Worship is very grateful for all the work Lawrence did on this project. Live streaming gave people the option of being able to worship at home and starting February 2nd we could also attend in person once again. One lady, who couldn't make it to the service, enjoyed it through live streaming and it made her heart glad to see some of her church family sitting in the pews.

We started the year with Rev. Sarah Fanning (Intentional Interim Minister) and in May, Rev. Dave Holmes came to join our family. Within a few weeks, Dave was meeting people, asking questions about how we do things and presenting ideas. In the summer, representatives from different committees met to discuss what direction we want to go in, ideas for future projects/endeavors, etc. One item that came out of that meeting was to have an Advent Planning Team to design and plan the Advent Season. Many wonderful ideas came from that team that has enriched our Advent season. We had some organizational meetings with our new admin person, Jana, and exciting new ideas have been coming from Worship meetings.

We've had to adapt some of the normal practices in our services like no passing of offering plates or communion but that didn't stop our ministers or Worship Team with offering alternate ways of doing things or adding something different. There are some things that couldn't be replaced like our choir, gathering music or special music which we miss dearly. We are fortunate in that Nicole still beautifully plays for our services and on rare occasions other talented pianists like Carol Cornwell, Ken Oliphant, and Darryl Langille fill in. Worship is also grateful for Sarina arranging ushers and all those people who read scripture, stories, usher. We are very grateful to Jim Dixon on all the work he did to get stairs built in the storage room.

Worship is looking forward to 2022 and all the new ideas, projects and paths we can take on this journey together.

Church Statistics for 2021

Marriages 2021 (2)

Thomas Waddell / Marci McLenahan
Robert McPherson / Emma Burnard

Funerals 2021 (12)

Susan Bergen
Gladys Seltenrich
John Cookson
Joyce Fitzgerald
Beret Cutler
Victoria Insko
Darlene Crawford
Irvine Suggett
Louise Deacon
Joyce Hunt
Annie Smith
Leslie Flinn

Baptisms 2021 (1)

Louise Deacon

Confirmations 2021 (0)

Transfers 2021 (0)