

# Sackville United Church Annual Report 2021

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Harm Reduction

Machine

Preacher's Help Group

Small Group Studies

Advent "Unfamiliar

Carols" Study

Ushers & Hospitality

Choir online

Prayer Circle

Justice and

Outreach

Food Bank

Christmas Cheer

Livestreaming Services

Beer and No Hymns

Pre-Recorded Services

Property and Maintenance

PIE Day

Sunday Seekers Study

A/V and Sound

Sunday School at Home

Book Readings Online

Affirm United

Communications

Cemetery Committee

LGBTQ Refugee

**Draw the  
Circle Wide**

# Our Governance

## Minister's Report

### **Musings of the Minister, the Rev. Lloyd A. Bruce**

It's been quite a year! We've lived through an ongoing pandemic, constantly pivoting to various positions as we followed the various attempts by the provincial government to respond to the ongoing threat of COVID-19. We have struggled faithfully in relationship and despite our best efforts, still we grieved the dissolution of a pastoral boundaries that resulted in two new single-point pastoral charges. Loved ones in our community died and others moved away and for much of the year we were unable to be physically present to one another to offer comfort and encouragement. Still, we have moved forward.

Weekly we gathered to ponder the stories of those who have gone before us. Epiphany's light brought us to Lent where purple was shaded with the Orange Level of Recovery and for the second year in a row were we unable to gather on Holy Thursday for the ritual of servanthood.

Easter brought with it the promise of new life and new hope for reduced restrictions. In June I marked 30 years of ministry and was deeply touched by the way the congregation of Sackville United shared this milestone with me. Thank you!

As a congregation we marked the first ever Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada and then many of us took every opportunity available to us to engage in the beauty and wonder of creation over the summer months! Sunday Gatherings were very capably led by a variety of gifted and faithful individuals. Thank you!

Fall, a season of fullness and gratitude, had us grateful that we were able to meet in-person weekly. We celebrated Worldwide Communion and Thanksgiving and then found ourselves in the first circuit breaker of the fall. Thankfully we were able to gather in-person for the early part of the Advent season with the fun of the annual Cookie Walk and other events.

During the early days of Advent a number of creative people came together and created and installed a creche scene at the front of the Church. This project well received and many expressions of support and encouragement were received from the larger community. Other groups produced videos of Christmas stories and a special Christmas album! We are so blessed by the many who share their gifts and talents in so many ways!

Regrettably, we ended the year as we'd begun it – physically apart from one another, but thankfully, united in spirit, purpose and commitment to ministry.

I am so very deeply appreciative of the many ways that so many contribute to the ministry of Sackville United Church. I especially want to extend deep appreciation to those who have served on Committees and Task Groups, offered leadership in Sunday School and Study Groups. Thank you! Your ministry is deeply appreciated! Thank you as well to members of the Executive. Without this small group of deeply committed people the faithful journey of Sackville United Church would surely falter! Thank you for your service in discernment, visioning and administration. It is a deep privilege to share in ministry with you.

I want to conclude with a brief reflection on one of the texts for the last Sunday of February, I Corinthians 12:13-27, particularly these two verses: “For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.”

In this text Paul goes to great length to focus our attention on the hidden, and the humble parts of the human body (rather like Jesus focused on mustard seeds, and widow's coins, and lost sheep and outcast lepers).

There is a human tendency to only notice the big muscles, the shiny hair, the spectacular voice, without realizing how much those tiny body parts like papilla, cilia, villi, or extensor carpi radialis brevis are required to make any of these spectacular features work at all.

The same can happen with the Church too when we focus on the big; the big givers, the big doers, we run the risk of undermining Paul's point; the Gospel point: that we all matter, that we belong, that we all have a place at the table. That we all contribute our unique, God-given part to the vitality of this particular body.

I can tell you, from experience, that it all counts: the whispered encouragement at the door, the sound of Finnian singing “I will remember you”, feeding a multitude; the cookies baked and left on a doorstep, flowers from the garden taken to a homebound senior, postings of gratitude, meals delivered to the sick or grieving, Facebook ‘likes’ and ‘shares’ from those who are part of our community near and far, these are the Gospel writ large in tiny acts of care, courage, compassion, commitment, and love.

You matter, you belong, whatever it is you do in this body, because what we do as the Body of Christ in the world matters. It matters to God, whose infinite love for Creation, every sub-atomic whatnot of it, that we embody that God-love, in the only way we can. Together.

Faithfully,  
Lloyd

# Our Governance

## Activities of the Executive

### **Report of the Activities of the Executive of the Congregation of Sackville United Church in 2021**

The Executive of SUC in 2021 consisted of Chair, Janet Hammock, Treasurer, Chrystal Everill, Communicator (Secretary), Lois Hicks, and Elders, Elsie MacDonald, Diane Fullerton and Julien Desrochers. In November three additional Elders were elected to join the Executive: Linda MacDonald, Sarah Poirier and Luc Poirier. The Minister, Rev. Lloyd Bruce, also participates in all meetings. The Executive traditionally meets twice monthly for ten months of the year, once for grounding and once to conduct business.

As the governing body of the congregation, the Executive seeks to maintain close engagement with the congregation through the various ministry groups: Worship and Sanctuary, Faith Formation and Sunday School, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Property and Finance, and Communication. As well, the Executive may invite the formation of Circles of Service (Task Groups) to meet other needs as identified.

Responsibility for leading the Grounding meetings circulates amongst the group. These meetings play a vitally important role as members explore spiritual practices together and build a sense of community within the group.

Business meetings focus on church matters which arise from within the congregation, from the Board of Trustees, and from the community at large.

In 2021 the Executive continued with a full year of activities despite the restrictions Covid-19 and its variant Omicron placed on the usual activities of the church. Nearly all of our meetings and services in 2021 were held online or by ZOOM. NB government regulations changed frequently and we adhered to its guidelines, as well as those issued by the United Church of Canada, embracing caution to ensure the health and safety of all.

Our minister, Rev. Lloyd Bruce, led by example. He is one of us, and at all times guides gently yet forcefully from within, always aware of and responsive to the needs of all. His continued learning of new technologies and the acquisition of new and used sound equipment -- often through the generosity of anonymous donors -- helped him to offer deeply inspired ministry online when in-person pastoral care was not possible. Lloyd, together with Jennie del Motte, Director of Music, enabled dynamic, welcoming ministry at Sackville United Church to continue and thrive in the face of incredible odds.

Jennie del Motte was a comforting, familiar musical presence during services with her uplifting hymns and glorious songs streaming forth unimpeded. A hand-in-glove complement to Lloyd's compassionate ministry, Jennie offered deep spiritual inspiration through music that went a long way to uniting our congregation during a very difficult time when choir singing was forbidden. She used technology with great skill and was nothing short of miraculous during online services as she juggled several machines along with the piano keyboard, always with good humour and panache.

The primary attention of the Executive in 2021 focused on discerning our way forward as a church. During the first year of Covid, in 2020, we became increasingly aware that we are powerless to accurately predict the future. This awareness intensified in 2021, compelling us to look even more deeply into who we are as a community of faith, and to faithfully discern what God calls us to be as we face an uncertain future.

Important questions began to surface during our pondering -- questions for which there were no easy answers. The Executive "drew the circle wide" and reached out to all members and adherents of SUC. In April a small task group -- *Visioning Volunteers* -- was formed with 7 dedicated members of the church plus the executive. This group further extended our outreach into the congregation, involving as many folks as possible to join with us in our "visioning quest". Together, as a community of faith, we explored challenging questions such as these: What does it mean to "be church"? What do we want our church to be in 3 years' time? In 5 years' time? What can we do without? What is important to retain? These questions, reflected upon again and again in various ways, sparked meaningful, often difficult, discussions and informed our actions and our non-actions throughout the year. At our monthly Executive Grounding and Business meetings, as well as when we facilitated Congregational group discussions, the SUC Mission and Affirming Vision was our guiding light as we sought to live the call of Jesus in our midst.

In February Anne Pirie and Frank Oulton, along with Chair Janet Hammock, undertook a 4-part Stewardship Training Course -- *Called to be the Church: The Journey* -- offered as online seminars by Roger Janes of the United Church of Canada. This was invaluable, and helped us to establish an intentional stewardship program and further cultivate a culture of generosity. It also led to the happy appointment of volunteer Frank Oulton as Stewardship Convenor for which we are deeply grateful. Another positive manifestation of the spirit of hope moving amongst us -- especially following Rev. Bruce's inspiring sermons which challenged us to find ways to integrate good stewardship practice into our spiritual lives -- was a very generous increase in PAR contributors and donations.

Fundraising activities, a communal and often fun part of good stewardship, continued during Covid, albeit a little differently. The second *Pi Day* -- this time a partially online, partially live event -- was a great success. *A Cookie Welcome to Sackville* saw Rev. Lloyd delivering freshly baked cookies to homes into which new families had moved,

establishing a tasty and friendly point of contact with families new to our area. Similarly, the successful, hilarious *HABS/LEAFS* fundraising initiative for Mission and Service reduced many to helpless gales of laughter -- so very needed during the darker moments of Covid! Donations were solicited in the SUC website posting of a musical collection entitled *Christmas Songs of Light and Love* created by church members (including the Sears/Nelson family) in memory of Karen Sears, whose joy and deep grace touched all who knew her.

In tandem with our year-long spiritual discernment process was our continued financial preparation for 2023 when the Lafford payments of \$25,000 will end. Treasurer, Chrystal Everill, and Office Assistant Jennie del Motte, offered financial information and budget updates at meetings which informed our discussions and decisions regarding issues such as building maintenance and repair. Catherine Gaw, as the Building and Maintenance Committee chair, kept us aware of expenses on the horizon, and always searched out the company or individual who offered the best rate for the best work. We will greatly miss her care and diligence when she steps away from this position early in the new year following many years of service.

The Executive spent time over the course of the year, evaluating the implications of accepting a generous offer by Lloyd to assist our bottom line through integrating his Chaplaincy work and salary into a position which would have seen him reduce his full-time call to 85%. In the end, it was discerned that SUC will not request any change to the minister's full-time call, or take steps to make savings through adjustments to the Director of Music position at this time. Rev. Lloyd Bruce enjoys the full support of the community of faith, and we recognize and have publicly acknowledged both our Minister and the Director of Music, Jennie del Motte, as our strongest assets, moving forward.

Reaching out to help where there is a need in the community of Sackville is always a part of the work of the Executive. This intensified in various ways during the pandemic in 2021. A Harm Reduction Machine, installed by *Ensemble Moncton* late in 2020, was up and running early in the new year and continues to admirably serve the purpose for which it was intended. Luc and Sarah Poirier were appointed by the Executive to be the SUC liaison persons with *Ensemble Moncton*. Elsie MacDonald continued her dedicated work at the Sackville Food Bank, and Diane Fullerton continued her compassionate outreach through phone calls, in person visits when possible, and prayers, as well as through the cheerful singing of Happy Birthday along with her husband David, outside homes and apartments of SUC birthday celebrants!

In January the Executive stepped up our ongoing consideration of ways in which we might faithfully use our building. We invited a representative from *United Property Resources* to speak with us, asking how they might assist us with this task, although our situation at that time was not one which could effectively benefit from their expertise.

We keep our building well-maintained and suitable for serious rental, as well as for casual use by local groups. SUC entered into a year-long rental agreement with *Live Bait Theatre* to use some of our space for office, storage, rehearsals and performances. Exploratory conversations regarding long-term rental possibilities were also held with a several other interested groups and individuals.

In March Julien Desrochers and Eric Tusz-King brought an exciting project to our attention: *A Youth and Young Adult Project Related to Climate Change*. The Executive approved Eric's intention to apply to the United Church Vision Fund for a seed grant, with Julien as our liaison person. The Youth Project was awarded the grant and a report about their work was given during a church service at the conclusion of the project by one of the youth involved, Catherine Priemer.

Our ongoing discernment process readied us to absorb the word, in mid-May, that the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Regional Council had approved the request of Upper Sackville United Church for a change in pastoral boundaries. On July 1st Sackville United Church began a new path on our journey as a single point pastoral charge. Great care was taken by the Executive to fully inform the congregation about the nature of this change through meetings, at church services, and through the release of informational videos made by members of the Executive. We needed time to process the disorientation and many feelings that this change in our communal life together brought. We held each other in care as we began to navigate the sometimes unfamiliar and uncomfortable pathway of endings and new beginnings.

In June the Executive invited Eva Dickson and Gary MacDonald to revise the former *Joint Needs Assessment Committee* document and create a new Community of Faith Profile for SUC. They graciously accepted our invitation. Now called *The Living Faith Story*, their first draft was submitted to the Executive in September for our review, and a second draft was approved by the Executive in October. Following the process outlined by the Regional Council which requires that a liaison person from the Regional Council work with the church as it writes its *Living Faith Story*, we look forward to completing this final step in the process.

After a much-needed summer break we returned in September to learn that Julien Desrochers, a treasured member and former chair of the Executive, was stepping away from the Executive as he had accepted a tenure-track faculty appointment at Acadia University. Julien is sorely missed. Over the next few months several names of potential Executive members were considered, and at the November Congregational Meeting three new members were elected to the Executive: Linda MacDonald, Sarah Poirier and Luc Poirier. Our work is refreshed by their tremendous boost of energy and enthusiasm.

In November two very important Executive Task Groups were struck. Both groups will directly address the critical question: what is the best use of our building as a primary

asset. Task Group #1 -- Elsie MacDonald and Sarah Poirier -- was mandated to develop and encourage immediate and near-future short-term use of our building, and to oversee the present rental use of our building. Task Group #2, now known as the SUC Future Group -- Linda MacDonald, Luc Poirier and Diane Fullerton -- was tasked to gather important information relevant to possible longer-term uses of our building. December's meeting saw further clarification and development of the work of both groups.

In December the Executive welcomed and enthusiastically adopted an excellent *Governance Handbook for the Executive of SUC* compiled by Rev. Bruce.

Because of a serious flare-up in NB of Covid-19 in December, followed by the predictable change of regulations by the NB government, the Executive made a very difficult decision to revert to online services during the Christmas season. While these services were beautiful and deeply meaningful, it is our fervent hope and prayer that a return to live church services in the new year will not be temporary, and that soon our services and activities will be live in our Sanctuary once again.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Janet Hammock  
Chair, Executive Committee of Sackville United Church*

# Minutes of Congregational Meetings

## Sackville United Church Annual Congregational Meeting March 28, 2021

**Members in Attendance:** Julien Desrochers, Jennie Del Motte, Lois Hicks, Janet Hammock, Bruce Moore, Jane Braedley, Margaret Anderson, Shirley Hopkins, Sandra Sears, Diane and Dave Fullerton, Frank Oulton, Catherine Gaw, Elsie MacDonald, Geoffrey Patridge.

**ZOOM** Chrystal Shipper-Everill, Judith Colwell, Linda MacDonald, Sarah Poirier, Ruth Buckinger, Eric and Margaret Tusz-King, Marilyn Lerch, Anne Pirie, Hannah Lane, and Edward Knuckles

**Adherents in Attendance:** Robert Hicks

**Minister in Attendance:** Rev. Lloyd Bruce

The Sackville United Church annual congregational meeting took place in-person and by ZOOM (virtual) in the church sanctuary immediately following the conclusion of worship on Sunday, March 28, 2021.

It was decided by unanimous consent that Janet Hammock will chair the annual meeting and Lois Hicks will be secretary. Rev. Lloyd Bruce welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

Welcome – Janet Hammock

Frank Oulton moved the acceptance of the Minutes of the November 15, 2020 Annual General Meeting, and all Ministry Area Reports included in the Annual Report 2020, Jane Bradley seconded. Motion carried.

Chrystal Schipper-Everill, Treasurer, will speak to the Financial Report for 2020 and the Interim Budget for 2021;

Chrystal Schipper- Everilll moved the approval of the Financial Report 2020, Jennie Del Motte seconded. Motion carried.

Chrystal Schipper- Everilll moved to adopt the Interim Budget of 2021 with the final budget being brought to the congregation by June 30, 2021. Margaret Anderson seconded. Motion carried. (appendix 1)

Ron Sutherland, Chair of the Board of Trustees, will present the new Investment Policy & Procedures for Sackville United Church. Ron Sutherland was unable to attend today, he will bring this important policy to the congregation at a later meeting.

Other Business: Jennie Del Motte gave information that \$25000 was the M&S goal for the pastoral charge in 2019-2020. Chrystal Schipper-Everill moved that a goal of \$22,000 be set for M&S for Sackville United Church, Margaret Tusz-King seconded . Motion carried.

Catherine Gaw thanked Rev. Lloyd Bruce and Jennie Del Motte for the many, many, extra hours of technical work that 2020 produced.

Janet Hammock, Chair of the Executive, spoke about next steps forward:

In presenting the budget today, Chrystal has again drawn your attention to some sobering financial information. The Executive has fully grasped the budget's reality and its implications for our immediate and long-term future. Over the past year, especially, our discussions at Business meetings have intensified as we search for solutions. There is no question that important choices lie ahead of us, and difficult decisions must be made. Similar discussions are also underway at Sackville Pastoral Charge Council meetings.

Because our Executive is small in number it is extremely important at this juncture to invite others to work with us. We want to consult with and benefit from your individual and collective wisdom and expertise.

To this end we have created a Two-step Consultation Structure which will help us enormously as we seek to discern the best way forward. The first step is to have two intensive meetings with a small group of volunteers. The second step will be to extend our outreach to a full congregational meeting facilitated by the Executive and members of the small volunteer group. At this meeting information will be given, feedback sought, and options and choices will be discussed, first in small breakout groups, and then at the meeting of the whole.

Today we are taking the first step and inviting.... you! If you are interested and willing to help -- and if you have the time to meet with the Executive twice over the next few weeks -- please let us know! All of us will brainstorm together. Our conversations will open doors to a myriad of possibilities. We need to hear your ideas, dreams and creative visioning! Our discussions will also be open to ideas about the future of our church building, the future of our ministry, and possible future partnerships with others.

If you would like to help, please stay for a moment after the AGM and let us know. We will be up here at the front for a few minutes! For those on Zoom, please phone me, Janet Hammock, at 536 4245 or drop me an email at [jhammock@mta.ca](mailto:jhammock@mta.ca).

Our first meeting with a small group of volunteers will take place in the Sanctuary, and/or via Zoom, on April 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Jane Bradley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Diane Fullerton.

Closing prayer – Rev. Lloyd Bruce

## **Sackville United Church Congregational Meeting May 2, 2021**

**Members in Attendance (in-person)** Elsie MacDonald , Janet Geier, Janet Hammock, Margaret Anderson, Elsie MacDonald, Edward Knuckles, Sandra Sears, Ron Sutherland, Jane Braedley, Lois Hicks, Bruce Moore, Frank and Dianne Oulton, Jennie DelMotte, Wallie Sears , Paula Sears, Dave and Diane Fullerton, Shirley Hopkins, Geoffrey Patridge, Sheila Parker, Julien Desrochers, Dawn Estabrooks, Catherine Gaw and Minister of the Congregation, Lloyd Bruce; **(via Zoom)** Margaret Tusk-King, Eric Tusz-King, Sarah Poirier, Judith Colwell, Linda Macdonald, Elaine Smith, Chrystal Everill, Gary MacDonald, Ruth Buckinger, Karen Sears, Chris Watts, Laura Hunter, Jerry Hicks, Stephen Puddle, Kathy Carr , Frank Chisholm, Barb Chisholm, Hannah Lane, and Harris McSheffery

**Adherents in Attendance (in-person)** Bernie Conroy **(via Zoom)** Charlie Scobie, Jean Scobie, Bob Campbell, Donna Campbell and Marilyn Lerch.

### **Welcome and Call to Order**

Lloyd welcomed those gathered and called the meeting to order. He then offered prayer and reminded us of the lit Candle that reminds us of the Light and the call to be light.

**Motion** (Diane Fullerton/Paula Sears): that Janet Hammock act as Chair. **CARRIED**

**Motion** (Frank Oulton/Jane Braedley): that Lois Hicks act as Secretary. **CARRIED**

**Motion** (Jennie Del Motte/Bruce Moore): that adherents be permitted to vote on all matters. **CARRIED** (It was moted that people on Zoom would vote with the ‘thumbs up’ button.)

Jane Braedley, Chair of the Sackville Pastoral Charge Council provided background on how we have arrived at this point. Her notes are included below:

*On behalf of the SPC Council, I am going to provide some background for how we have journeyed to where we are today.*

*In January of 2019 the SPC Council agreed to review the percentages that SUC and USUC had been responsible for in the SPC budget. The percentage allocations had been in place for a number of years. The chair and treasurers of both congregations met in November of 2019 to begin discussions of how these percentages could be realigned. Lloyd provided us with a breakdown of how he allocated his time to each faith community to assist in our discussions. In January of 2020 the SPC Council met to look at the budget in preparation for the AGM which was set for April 2020. The budget was approved as a working budget until it could be approved at the upcoming AGM. Because of COVID and the ensuing restrictions the AGM was never held and the budget was never approved by the SPC.*

*In June of 2020, there was some urgency to deal with the budget and the financial challenges that were facing the charge for both the short term and the long term. These challenges were not new and needed to be addressed for the sustainability of the future of the charge. Conflict arose from the discussions at that June meeting. Rev. Kendall Harrison was asked as the regional minister to intervene which he agreed to and he met several times with all who were involved in that meeting. Unfortunately, there was quite a delay in the charge receiving the report that Kendall wrote. Travel restrictions prevented him from actually meeting with the SPC Council to take us through the report and the recommendations.*

*In March of 2021, the SPC Council came together to address the ongoing financial challenges that were facing the charge. Lloyd generously brought forward the option of the SPC assuming the chaplaincy contract that he holds with the region. The council came together several times and Lloyd took us through a process using the communion table as a metaphor. Over the course of these meetings a proposal and blended budget were developed incorporating the chaplaincy contract. Congregational meetings were set up for USUC and SUC to discuss the impact of the proposal and decide whether this was what they saw as the path forward together.*

*USUC met this past Tuesday. Charlotte Youland represented the region at that meeting and will now take the floor to brief you all on decisions taken at that meeting.*

### **What Happened & Next Steps**

Charlotte Youland thanked Jane Braedley for the background information, noting that the background was very helpful, and then shared how on April 27, 2020 at a properly called meeting of the USUC congregation, USUC rejected the chaplaincy proposal, and passed a motion requesting that the Region realign the boundaries of the Pastoral Charge. It was further indicated, that in all likelihood, both USUC and SUC, if a boundary change is approved, will need to complete a Living Faith Out Story (former Needs Assessment).

Jennie Del Motte spoke, attempting convey what she understands as the desires of USUC: part-time ministry, Sunday services only, that they feel they are not being heard.

Lloyd spoke briefly about the proposal as it was drafted (80% SPC, 15% chaplaincy, 5% USUC) and the spirit in which he offered it.

A Circle Conversation: Hopes & Fears, Dreams & Visions for Ministry.

Charlotte Youland spoke briefly and responded to questions, noting that until such time as a change is affected the status quo remains. In response to questions:

- It is the hope of USUC that the change may be affected by June 30.
- The region will have to agree with the USUC motion for a change of pastoral boundaries and both USUC and SUC will need guidance from region.
- She believes that on July 1 SUC will be on own.

Jane Braedley also responded to questions:

- No, SPC has not met with Kendall Harrison to discuss his report. Kendall's report listed 9 recommendations: one was a mediated meeting of congregations to discuss relationship, another was a recommendation that USUC fill vacant positions on committees eg. M&P.
- Is it possible to share this report with the congregation? Jane Braedley stated that it is possible. Bruce Moore suggested that it may be best to wait to see what action the the Region does.

**Motion** (Eric Tusz-King/Stephen Puddle) that SUC ask the SUC Executive to meet with representatives of USUC for the purpose of reconciliation.

Discussion ensued with the following points being made:

- that there has been significant meetings of both parties, it seems clear that USUC not interested in reconciliation.
- that this motion might add insult to injury- as USUC already feels that they are not being heard;
- that two meetings with a clear process exploring the questions: How Have You Have Been Blessed at the Table (SPC)? and What Is Your Congregation Able to Bring to the Table (SUC)?
- that USUC is has not been happy with relationship for a long time.

Question was called and the Motion was **DEFEATED**.

**Motion** (Eric Tusz-King/Harris McSheffery) that SUC Executive wait to hear the response from Region with regard USUC request to leave SPC, and be ready to offer our sense of loss and regret in leaving our relationship.

Following discussion Harris McSheffery withdrew his second and the motion was withdrawn.

**Motion** (Catherine Gaw/Harris McSheffery) that SUC accept with regret and respect the decision of Upper Sackville United Church to request the Regional Council (Fundy-St Lawrence Dawning Waters) to review the boundaries of the pastoral charge, and that we remain open to working with the Upper Sackville United Church, pastoral charge, and the Region. **CARRIED**

The suggestion was made that SUC be intentional in using the time ahead to listen deeply as USUC departs the relationship.

**Motion** (Jennie Del Motte/Elsie MacDonald) that SUC approve the Investment Policy as drafted by the Trustees in consultation with the Executive. **CARRIED**

Dianne Oulton moved the meeting adjourn at 1350.

Rev Lloyd Bruce ended the meeting with prayer.

## **Sackville United Church Congregational Meeting November 14, 2021**

Minister in Attendance: Rev. Catherine Gaw representing Regional Council.

Members in Attendance: Janet Hammock, Lois Hicks, Elsie MacDonald, Dawn Estabrooks, Eric and Margaret Tusz-King, Shirley Hopkins, Sandra Sears, Edward Knuckles, Jennie Del Motte, Linda MacDonald, Wallie Sears, Janet Geier, Margaret Anderson, Judith Colwell, Ruth Buckinger, Luc and Sarah Poirier, Bob and Donna Campbell, Harris McSheffery, Glenda Thornton, Chrystal Everill

Adherents in Attendance: Geoffrey Patridge and Robert Hicks

Rev Catherine Gaw opened the meeting in prayer, and then called the meeting to order.

It was moved by Elsie Mac Donald, seconded by Eric Tusz-King that Janet Hammock be appointed chair of the Congregational meeting and Lois Hicks be the secretary. Motion Carried

Janet Hammock: Good morning, and welcome to all of you here in the Sanctuary this morning, and to everyone joining the Congregational Meeting via Zoom and Facebook Live and welcome to Rev. Catherine Gaw as our ministerial presence this morning.

The purpose of our meeting is to elect three Elders to serve on the Sackville United Church Executive. Prior to this election, however, it is necessary to conduct a vote to permit adherents, in addition to full members, to vote on this matter.

Eric Tusz-King: **I move that adherents be permitted to vote on all Motions made during this Congregational Meeting.**

Secunder: Linda MacDonald. Motion carried

Thank you. Today the names of three members of Sackville United Church who have stepped forward to offer to serve as Elders on the SUC Executive, are being brought before the congregation -- **Linda MacDonald, Sarah Poirier and Luc Poirier**. Janet Hammock called for further nominations. As there were no further nominations, Janet Hammock declared that nominations cease.

Elsie MacDonald: **I move that Linda MacDonald, Sarah Poirier and Luc Poirier be elected to serve as Elders on the Sackville United Church Executive.**

Secunder: Margaret Tusz-King. Motion carried

Janet Hammock informed the congregation that The Living Faith Profile is still being reviewed by Regional Council.

As there was no further business, Janet Geier moved that the meeting adjourn.

Rev Catherine Gaw ended the meeting with prayer.

# Our Membership:

## 2021

### Members welcomed to Sackville UC:

#### By transfer and Profession of Faith:

Noseworthy, Margaret	February 14, 2021
MacDonald, Barbara	February 14, 2021
Wright, Dianna	November 21, 2021
Poirier, Luc	November 21, 2021
Knuckles, Edward James	November 21, 2021



### Members removed from Sackville UC:

#### Through Death:

Gamble, Frederick Robert John	Dec 2, 2020
Cook, Ruth Viola (Carter)	Jan 21, 2021
Meldrum, Dorothy Ferne	Jan 24, 2021
McLeod, Rodney Orland	Feb 7, 2021
Sears, Norma Elizabeth	April 16, 2021
Adams, Alice Louise	May 17, 2021
Sears, Karen Marie	June 12, 2021
Briggs, Muriel L.	July 31, 2021
Moore, Lloyd James	August 2, 2021
Barclay, Dr. Lawrence Ross Coates	August 12, 2021
Smith, Ronald George	September 7, 2021
Polley, Edna Martha	October 12, 2021
Snowdon, Edna Helen	October 19, 2021
Hicks, Florence Elsie (Sullivan) (Atkinson)	December 31, 2021

### Members removed from Sackville PC through Realignment of Pastoral Charge Boundaries:

33 (Resident-23; Non-resident-10)

**Marriages Performed:**

Barbara Tower and Lewis Henderson	April 3, 2021
Vernon Thomas Niall Lister and Jade Isis Harriott	July 24, 2021
Emily Marie Jarvis and Sara Louise Thomas	August 19, 2021
Madison Barczyk and Francois Toussaint	September 25, 2021
Elise Fougere and Paul Gallant	October 30, 2021

**Funerals, Memorials, and Graveside Services Registered:**

	<b>Date of Death:</b>	<b>Funeral Date:</b>
<b>Sears, Norma Elizabeth</b>	April 16, 2021	April 19, 2021
<b>Smith, David Ervin</b>	May 6, 2021	May 11, 2021
<b>Sears, Karen Marie</b>	June 12, 2021	June 23, 2021
<b>Beal, Gordon Hallet</b>	Aug 19, 2021	Aug 23, 2021
<b>Atkinson, Lorraine Theresa</b>	Aug 17, 2021	Aug 29, 2021
<b>Townshend, Barbara Jean</b>	March 1, 2021	Oct 7, 2021
<b>Moore, Lloyd James</b>	August 2, 2021	Sept 23, 2021
<b>Smith, Ronald George</b>	September 7, 2021	Sept 11, 2021
<b>Polley, Edna Martha</b>	October 12, 2021	Oct 15, 2021

## Our Statistics:

# 2021

**Total Sackville UC Confirmed members:**

287 (Resident-152; Non-resident-135)

**Total Households under pastoral care:**

160

**Total number of financially supporting households:**

79

# Ministry Area Reports:

## Worship and Faith Formation

Circle of Service:  
Sunday School

Sackville United Church Sunday School  
Annual Report for 2021-22

*We have stories that tell us of God's love.*

Our approach to spiritual formation with children has been informed by Godly Play, which offers a way of making meaning through story, wonder, and play. Godly Play frames the nurturing of spiritual lives by honouring the centrality, competency, and capacity of children of all ages.



We support spiritual formation through tending these principles:

**SPACE, PROCESS, IMAGINATION, RELATIONSHIP, INTIMACY, TRUST**

**Godly Play offers a practice for engaging with children/youth. A curriculum may include a variety of content for faith formation offering unique opportunities with local leaders.**

---

**We gather apart and connected as a People of Story!**



This past year, while holding safe guidelines during the pandemic, we have adapted our Sunday School meeting spaces. We had one outdoor gathering in the park to begin in September. Since then, we have offered a combination of Zoom sessions once a month and delivering at-home kits of creative materials, simple feast foods, and suggested practices based on liturgical seasons and sacred stories.

**Participants: 18 children/tweens comprising 12 families:**

**Ages 3-5: 2 children**

**Ages 6-9: 8 children**

**Ages 10-14 yrs: 8 tweens/youth**

***We welcome visitors, guests, and wonderers.***

**Sunday School Leaders:** Andrea Beverley; Gary MacDonald; Mora MacDonald; Anne Pirie offer reflections:

Gary MacDonald writes: **And Jesus called a little child unto him, and sat the child in the midst of them** ~ Matthew 18:2

“A primary goal in the teaching of art for children is that the process is more important than the resulting piece of art. It is normal if the child feels no connection with a work of art that the child has created. The child works not to develop a product but to develop a “self. In our Sunday School we as teachers believe deeply that part of that self includes an understanding and experience of the spiritual.

Our Sunday School programme at Sackville United has worked hard to provide materials and opportunities for our children to engage in artistic practice.

It has been my delight and privilege to have been a part of this. My hope is that those who move into leadership will continue and build upon this important work.” Gary

Andrea Beverley expressed her appreciation of a sense of the sacred which we have cultivated: the liturgical elements, sacred practices; being intentionally welcoming and connecting with each child. It is her hope that children’s main learning will be that God is love and they are loved. Andrea celebrates that we have a unified vision and an understanding of this ethos; she hopes it's something that we're communicating to one another as well. She sees this in the core principles of Godly Play. She likes the process of Godly Play while being flexible in our practice of it.

Andrea would like to see more involvement in Sunday School by people who are interested. She nudges us to consider ways of being more welcoming and communicating core messages and engaging our resources. She raised: what might our ministry with children /youth look like if we were living according to the actual means that we have?

Andrea shared this observation: When/if we start going back to church in person, it would be difficult to offer what we used to offer every single Sunday. So, what are the

resources that we have, people and other?

Mora MacDonald:

Mora reflected on how meaningful she finds the Biblical stories presented in a Godly Play way; and the importance of being together in a sacred circle with children and others. Mora loves presenting the stories and learning together; also, she cherishes being in relationships with the children. She notes how important it is to respect children's opinions and their thinking.

Mora treasures the opportunity to deepen connections with children at church and outside in the community. She affirms the process of wondering together through open questions and how this respects children's thinking and their spirituality. It is Mora's hope that the children will be empowered by that openness, integrate it in their own lives and carry respect for diversity and different views into the world. She enjoys supporting the creative process with children and takes joy in their engagement with this.

Sunday School leaders offer these hopes:

- to find ways to build on what we have done in teaching/learning
- to lift up what is experienced and offered in our Sunday School community.
- to honour children and youth through tending space, relationships, and a broader base of meaningful engagement in our community of faith.

***Our own lives are stories through which God speaks to the world***

The community of faith at Sackville United Church is supportive of Sunday School in a variety of ways. We appreciate the ongoing support of our staff: Rev. Lloyd Bruce and Jennie DelMotte who know the children, participate/lead in sessions with them, provide adaptive and technical help. Many members in our midst offer care and attention for our children and youth: being interested in their experiences, inviting their participation in congregational initiatives, seasonal readings, leadership in worship and in broader community programs. These are meaningful ways to tend intergenerational relationships in and beyond our faith community.

***I wonder what is your deepest hope for the future of ministry with children and youth at SUC?***

As I complete my time as Sunday School Coordinator, I recognize that being engaged with this ministry has been a transformative experience for me – a journey of discovery as teacher/learner. I have been accompanied by many companions along the way. It has been a delight to work with Andrea, Gary, and Mora, who offer their gifts

generously. Sharing in children's ministry with them has been full of playfulness, prayer, planning, and patience.

Thank you to the families and the congregation of Sackville United Church for your trust and support in my leadership. I am grateful for your commitment to children and youth. Your care, your financial support, your participation, and your prayers for this ministry matter.

**How shall we move forward together in ministry with children and youth in this time?**

May we go gently and with courage.

Faithfully submitted on behalf of

Sunday School,

*M. Anne Pirie*

Anne Pirie  
15 February 2022

## Circle of Service: Worship and Sanctuary

### Worship and Sanctuary Committee 2021 Annual Report

Committee members:

Dawn Estabrooks  
Miranda Forstall  
Linda MacDonald  
Paula Sears  
Rev. Lloyd Bruce  
Jennie Del Motte

The Worship and Sanctuary Committee saw a shift in members this year owing both to the realignment of pastoral charge boundaries (leading to the removal of committee members from Upper Sackville United Church) and also the mid-year retirement from the committee of longtime members Jane Braedley and Janet Geier. The congregation has benefited greatly over many years from their thoughtful suggestions in shaping our seasonal worship, their unseen efforts in decorating the sanctuary and organising communion, and their support of Rev. Lloyd and our church in arranging for pastoral supply ministry during vacation and study leave. We wish to acknowledge the ways their quiet dedication has shaped the time we have shared together in worship for the better, and are deeply grateful for their years of service.

In fall 2021 the committee welcomed new members Dawn Estabrooks, Linda MacDonald, and Paula Sears. Jane and Janet provided a generous orientation and transition process and continue to serve as consulting resources for the new additions to the committee.

The committee met approximately half a dozen times over the course of the year, along with additional consultation via email. Here are some of the highlights of topics discussed and addressed over the course of 2021:

1. The ability to hear congregational responses and singing from those attending in-person by those attending online was requested by several regular online attendees. Hanging microphones were purchased and, with the help of Chris Meaney in installing those mics and mixing levels, congregational sound is now able to be heard by those joining in online worship.

2. Spring and fall pulpit supply as well as for six weeks over the summer was organised and feedback for those services discussed. The committee wishes to express its thanks to those congregation members who generously volunteered to provide worship leadership while Rev. Lloyd was away.
3. Discussions continued about the increasing necessity for technology as part of regular worship, as well as the extra knowledge and time required by both Rev. Lloyd and Jennie to provide online/hybrid worship.
4. The reporting structure for the committee changed as a result of the mid-year realignment of pastoral charge boundaries. The Worship and Sanctuary committee now reports directly to the SUC executive on a quarterly basis through correspondence of minutes and/or via a representative present at Executive meetings.
5. A dedication liturgy during Sunday worship for the new Welcome Centre generously donated by Wallie Sears in memory of Norma was crafted by Rev. Lloyd in consultation with the committee.
6. Suggestions for maintaining accessibility for online and in-person attendees who are hard of hearing was discussed, including restricting times when music and spoken word are heard at the same time and activating automatic closed captioning on FB live broadcasts.
7. Ensuring the meaningful yet safe experience of sharing communion for those attending in-person on Sundays at which it was served, as well as providing a liturgical process through which those attending online could also experience the sacrament meaningfully.
8. Decorating the sanctuary for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and other special occasions.

We are grateful to all those who help and shape the challenge, comfort, care, and mystery of the ministry we share as we gather together in worship, and to Rev. Lloyd for his dedication to sharing God's word and promise in soul-filling ways.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee by  
Jennie Del Motte*

## **Group: Choir/Director of Music**

2021 was another year of adaptation and innovation musically as our worship oscillated between online, hybrid, and in-person models, often with very little notice. We were deeply saddened by the loss of longtime choir member Karen Sears, whose bright disposition and crystal voice (often heard soaring above the choir on descants) will be truly missed.

This year our ministry of music continued to be blessed by the generosity of many. Ed Knuckles offered shared his talents with us several times, including for our Christmas Eve service at which we also welcomed MTA baritone Ben Blue. Oboeist Margaret Hancox, who performed during worship many times over the past few years, offered a final springtime ministry of music before her move to Ontario for graduate studies.

Chris Meaney continued to serve as an invaluable resource both for setting up a sound mix and ability for Jennie to operate it remotely from the piano during regular services, but also in the repair of our damaged speakers and providing replacement equipment in the interim.

The choir had very limited opportunities to gather together to make music this year, but were blessed with the opportunity to provide music for Karen's memorial service, as well as joining with SUC alumni and friends (including Holly Samson, Catherine Stuart, Rhonda Sears, and others) for a Christmas Virtual Anthem.

Several members of the congregation including Janet Hammock, Linda MacDonald, Harris McSheffery and Ed Knuckles also joined in offering music for our Christmas CD project "Songs of Light and Love", which was also done in memory of Karen. Chris Meaney provided recording, editing, and mixing skills.

I wish to end this year's report in the same vein as for 2020, by thanking Rev. Lloyd for his dedication to learning and adapting to the various technological changes and troubleshooting that have made up a large part of his (and my) work this year.

I trust that everyone is continuing to "make a joyful noise" wherever and whenever it is possible.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Jennie Del Motte*

## **Group:** **Sunday Seekers Book Study Group**

*“Our images of God matter. Just as how we conceptualize God affects what we think the Christian life is about, so do our images of God.” -Marcus Borg*

A curious and interesting group gathers via Zoom each Sunday morning- usually at 9:30. That in itself shows the strength of the bond created and nurtured by pursuing faith formation.

In 2021 a wide variety of books were shared:

- Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy-Jill Levine
- The Skin We're In: A year of Black Resistance and Power, by Desmond Cole
- Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence, by Diana Butler Bass
- Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World, by John Philip Newell
- The Birth of Jesus for Progressives, by Donald Schmidt

Each of these authors challenged us to look at our assumptions (in fact, one of these books just about did us in with its depth and scope!). They enriched opportunity to speak of our faith and they deepened a community which usually comprised ten members.

We encourage you to consider joining, or even forming your own reading circle.

Many thanks to the individual who subsidized the cost of the books so that we would not need to pay beyond \$25.00. Thanks to each and everyone of the Seekers who show up to share, to learn to reflect on new ways of looking at faith.

*Blessings be,  
Catherine Gaw*

# Ministry Area Reports:

## Pastoral Care and In-Reach

### Circle of Service:

#### **Ministry and Personnel**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee oversees the relationship of the pastoral charge staff to each other and to the people in the congregation. It reviews working conditions, responsibilities and compensations for all staff and makes recommendations to the Executive of the Congregation. We have recently reviewed the contract of the secretary and of the music director and recommended changes to both that better reflect the responsibilities and practices currently in place. Annual performance reviews for all staff will resume as we move toward a post-pandemic environment. Committee members are Karen Bamford and Shirley Hopkins.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Shirley Hopkins*

### Group:

#### **Soul Sisters**

Among the Contemplative Journeys groups of the Sackville United Church, one is the Soul Sisters, a monthly meeting of four women, whose purpose is to share each one's spiritual journey, holding in our minds and hearts during meditative moments images that appear reflecting a listener's sense of what was heard and deeply taken in. A format helps keep the journey moving between meditation, speaking, meditation, sharing, meditation. One may speak or not. It is a journey not to correct thinking or to offer advice but to deeply listen and reflect on one's personal journey and those of others within a frame of deep trust. It is to be hoped that other members of the congregation may form their own contemplative journey group. There is guidance available for those who may wish to do so.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Marilyn Lerch*

## **Circle of Service: In-Reach**

Although limited by pandemic restrictions in many ways, the in-reach committee, enthusiastically spearheaded by Diane and Dave Fullerton, continued to provide cards in honour of special events celebrated by members of the congregation including birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Enthusiastic outdoor performances of “happy birthday” and “happy anniversary” were also shared with great gusto. In the middle of ever-changing regulations and increased feelings of isolation and anxiety, the tireless and enthusiastic efforts of Dave and Diane, in particular, are deeply appreciated.

*Submitted in celebration of all those who provided in-reach this year by  
Jennie Del Motte*

## **Circle of Service: Coffee and Conversation**

Coffee and conversation in partnership with Open Sky was once again on pause in 2021 due to both pandemic restrictions and a care-filled approach to the safety of both the church and Open Sky community. We hope to be able to resume this shared time of community fellowship at some point in 2022.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Jennie Del Motte*

## Circle of Service: Ushers

First of all, we would like to thank all who have served as greeters in 2021, a year that has had its many challenges. With only one live service in the first two months of the year posed a wait and see approach at Sackville United. We were fortunate to be able to have live serves with the appropriate Covid restrictions for much of the rest of the year until having to go back to virtual serves in December. Thanks goes to Catherine Gaw, Elsie MacDonald, Ron Sutherland, Jane Braedley, Edward Knuckles, Lois Hicks, Dawn Estabrooks, Margaret Anderson, and Dianne Oulton for their continued service in this important role. When one start listing names, you run the risk of leaving someone out. Hopefully I have listed everyone who helped out this year. Much thanks goes to Reverend Lloyd Bruce and Organist Jennie Del Motte in navigating the online/virtual services.

I have received further volunteers available to take on this morning role, but there is always room for any who are interested in greeting for a Sunday or more.

Thanks goes to so many.

*Yours in faith,  
Frank Oulton, Greeter Coordinator*

## Group: UCW

The Sackville UCW was saddened this year by the loss of two of our members: Norma Sears and Florence Hicks. We met only once in December 2021. We were thankfully able to gather in person for a shared meal at Patterson's Restaurant, where we presented UCW member Sandra Sears with Norma Sears' life membership pin.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Brenda Allen*

### U.C.W. PRESIDENTS 1962 – 2021

1962	Dorothy Meldrum
1963-1964	Dorothy Barker
1965-1966	Lillian Hunt
1967-1969	Jean Logan
1970-1971	Jean MacLeod
1972-1973	Louise Seaman
1974-1975	Isabel Crawford
1976-1977	Shirley Taylor
1978-1979	Dorothy Carlisle
1980-1981	Wanda Harding
1982-1983	Judy Landsburg
1984-1985	Hazel Steeves
1986-1987	Hazel Ward
1988-1989	Norma Sears
1990-1991	Ruth Boothroyd
1992-1993	Pauline Atkinson
1993-1994	Hazel Steeves

1995-1996	Mary Moores
1997-1999	Olga Donald
2000	Jean MacLeod
2001-2002	Judith Colwell
2003	Florence Cook/Phyllis Carson
2004	Hazel Ward
2005-2006	Norma Sears
2007-2022	Brenda Allen

*Respectfully submitted by  
Judith Colwell*

*Please note that all UCW assets are held on the UCW's behalf by Sackville United Church through its bank account, and the balance for that account can be found at the bottom of the 2021 income statement as well as under "Transfer Accounts" on the 2021 balance sheet.*

# Ministry Area Reports:

## Justice and Outreach

### Circle of Service: Outreach

Outreach efforts were limited in many ways in 2021, but nonetheless the desire to spread messages of welcome, comfort, and support were nonetheless shared this year. Rev. Lloyd spearheaded the welcoming of many families and individuals who moved to a new house in Sackville in 2021. Members of the congregation provided many dozens of home-made treats that were shared with newcomers to Sackville along with Rev. Lloyd's warm welcome.

As well, the harm reduction machine installed in the former storage closet facing the Main St side of the building provides a regular source of essential items for some of the most vulnerable members of our local community.

Thank you to all of those who have sought over this past year to extend the reach of the ministry of this congregation "out" beyond walls and borders and barriers of all kinds.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Jennie Del Motte*

### Event: PIE Day 2021

2021 Pie Day featured an online auction of pies donated both by congregation members and local businesses. A joyful (if slightly chaotic due to the online format) time was had by all, with the revenue of auctioned pies and other donated items going toward the support of Sackville United's ministry as a Public, Inclusive, Explicit, and affirming place of welcome. A number of donations in celebration of PIE day were also received from individuals both within the congregation and across the country.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Jennie Del Motte*

## Event: Cookie Walk

Another successful Cookie Walk was held on December 3rd, 2021 in our sanctuary. Many folks from our community of faith donated a wonderful variety of cookies. Several women then plated and bagged the cookies. These were displayed on tables.

Covid protocols were followed with proof of vaccination required, masking and social distancing. Many were ready for an outing so there was lots of fun and visiting while the community shopped.

Thank you to the bakers, thank you to those who plated the cookies and thank you to Jim Hopkins and his grandsons who set up and later dismantled the tables

Approximately \$1,200.00 was received. A portion was shared with the Sackville Community Association as part of their 2021 Annual Christmas Cheer campaign.

*Respectfully submitted by Elsie MacDonald on behalf of committee members  
Elsie MacDonald, Shirley Hopkins, Chrystal Schpper-Everill*

## Circle of Service: Sharing Space

### **God's Doors are Open Wide at Sackville United** **Shared Space Annual Report 2021**

When moving into our new location, the congregation of **Sackville United** developed a "Shared Space" policy, with the goal that we would be less concerned with "rentals" than we would with sharing our space with the wider community. And we have!

Despite the limitations arising from the pandemic, including many times when all in-person gatherings at the church were on pause, a number of groups were still able to share in our space in 2021. These include:

- Girl Guides and Pathfinders
- Live Bait Theatre
- Sackville Meditation Group
- Performer's Company Theatre
- Girl Guides of Canada

All groups meeting in the space were required to follow both NB government health regulations as well as the policies established by the SUC Executive regarding covid-19 operational plans.

Thank you to everyone who extends this hand of friendship outside of our walls and into our town and our world! The SUC Executive continues to explore opportunities for more shared partnerships in 2022 and beyond.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Jennie Del Motte*

# Ministry Area Reports:

## Communication

### Circle of Service: Communications Group

The Communications Group continues to work towards its goal of “facilitating good communication both within the congregation and from the congregation to the larger community”.

Some new and continuing initiatives in the past year include:

- A new hosting platform and format of the church website, generously spearheaded and designed by Rev. Lloyd as part of study leave
- New email lists resulting from the realignment of pastoral charge boundaries
- Welcome visits for families/individuals moving to Sackville by Rev. Lloyd, along with a gift of cookies baked by congregation members
- posting announcements online on our website and Facebook, especially for special events
- A variety of online community events including: Beer and No Hymns, Obscure Christmas Carols, Online Suppers, post-service Zoom Coffee and Conversation, and more
- continuing our weekly email for the congregation (and Pastoral Charge) “What’s On at SPC” with information about church and community activities, and also important information from the wider church

Rev. Lloyd is an active participant in reaching out to our church and wider community with his Monday Morning Musings and innovative ways of offering pastoral care and building community in uncertain times with fluctuating limitations on in-person gatherings.

*Submitted on behalf of the Committee by Jennie Del Motte*

# Ministry Area Reports:

## Property and Finance

### Circle of Service: Trustees

#### Trustees 2021 Annual Report

Members: Shelley Beaver (Secretary), Rev. Lloyd Bruce, Bruce Moore,  
Ron Sutherland (Chair)

The Trustees met four times during the year. Meetings are held quarterly or more frequently as might be required.

Bruce Moore was officially welcomed to the Trustees at the first meeting in January.

The Trustees completed the review and revision of the Investment Policy during the first quarter. The policy was approved by the Executive in May and then by the congregation at a special congregational meeting.

The Trustees met with Adam Dempsey of Scotia Wealth Management in January to review the performance of the investment fund.

The Trustees oversaw the insurance claim relating to the repair of the stairs facing Main Street and closest to the parking lot. The work was completed in August.

Bequests were received during the year from the estate of Karen Sears and the estate of Catherine Smith. Both were invested in the investment account and will be managed as unrestricted funds.

The Chair met with Sears Insurance in October to request a review of the building, content and liability insurances carried by the Church through Ecclesiastical Insurance. The broker was also requested to obtain quotes from other insurers.

A decision was made late in the year to conduct an inventory of the Church contents. That work will be completed early in 2022.

Correspondence was sent to John Lafford in November concerning the repair and relocation of the granite sign for the Old Lower Sackville Methodist Cemetery. As of year end, a response had not been received.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Sutherland (Chair)*

## **Circle of Service: Property & Maintenance Group**

### **Report to the Annual Meeting 2021**

*“Home is more than a house. It is a sacred location, a place of aspiration and dreams, of learning and habit, of relationships and heart.*

*Home is the geography of our souls.”*

— **Diana Butler Bass, Grounded: Finding God in the World-A Spiritual Revolution**

Although Covid 19 has kept us out of our church home for much of 2021, this space remains an important piece of our story. To maintain the property exhibits the reality that we share this space: it is our ‘home’.

In order to support the rental of the property two projects took precedence this year. The electrical system in the lower level was upgraded. Now all the lights work! Upstairs, after several months of not being used, the three toilet mechanisms were replaced by Jonathon Harper.

Of greater concern, the brick stair wells on the Main Street required repair. The north set of steps was damaged during the winter and the south set of stairs were showing wear with some of the bricks becoming loose due to the freeze thaw cycle. The Trustees made a claim to our insurer for the northern steps with the insurer covering approximately 50% of the cost. While here, the bricklayers were asked to complete repairs to the southern set of steps and to repair some of the places on the building itself (for instance partial bricks had fallen on the York Street side of the building).

In addition, the speakers in the meeting space had to be repaired. Thanks to Chris Meaney for his efforts in the repair of the speakers and for his generosity in providing his own speakers in the interim.

As we continue to discern ways to utilize our shared space may we also discern what this space means to us both as a community of faith and as individuals.

This will mark my final report as convenor of the property maintenance committee. I thank you for your support.

*Blessings be,  
Catherine Gaw*

## **Circle of Service: Cemetery Committee**

### **Sackville United Church Cemetery Committee Annual Report 2021**

One of the longtime members of the Sackville Cemetery Committee, Florence Hicks, passed away in 2021. As well, member David Fullerton resigned from the committee. We are grateful for the many years of faithful service offered by them both. Rebecca Houstma and Willie Hunter have generously volunteered to join the committee and assist longtime members Elsie MacDonald, Phyllis Stopps, and Margaret Anderson in their work to organize and maintain the upkeep of the church cemetery.

It has been drawn to the committee's attention that during heavy snowfall over the past two years, snow piles have been pushed into the Sackville United Church cemetery in a way that is potentially damaging to certain gravestones. The church intends to contact the parties involved to try and ensure that this is not an ongoing issue. As well, the official cemetery sign - which was moved during construction of new buildings - has yet to be reinstalled by the builders. When this reinstallation takes place, the committee would like to see a new stone foot to replace one of the original ones which was broken and the metal frame currently replacing it.

The Old Methodist Burying Ground, the mowing and maintenance of which is overseen by Sackville Pastoral Charge, does not have any report for 2021.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Phyllis Stopps*

## Circle of Service: Stewardship Convenor's Report

### Stewardship Convenor Report 2021

As many of you saw, I focused in on the blessings our church has with so many active members sharing their time and talents with the SEVEN weeks of Thanksgiving in the fall. I thought it would be good to recognize the tremendous amount of work and fellowship we have. Then, on an inspiration, seeing our Church Building being in the centre of town on the first Moonlight Madness the idea of adding a Nativity Scene was born. Unfortunately, this was late in the year, and with a short time frame to pull it off, Reverend Lloyd ran with it. It is something our congregation can be proud of, right in the centre of our town! Thanks goes to the ever talented Kate Keough for cutting out the scene, and to Paula Sears, Ron Sutherland and Reg Wade for painting, then Reg and Ron for installing! I had wanted the Sunday School to be involved in this project in same way, either by designing it or painting, but it would have delayed this until another year... People, including active members of other congregations have expressed what a wonderful addition it was to our downtown! Now, we should put some thought into an Easter Scene!

In my role as Stewardship Convenor, it was appropriate to have a greater grasp on the givings. Again, our ever talented Jennie provided me with the necessary information. My analysis is that there are so many giving so much, I do not see asking for more from the same people... many who have upped their givings and have had new contributors added! Much thanks has to go to the Executive for reaching out to people and to the congregational letter sent out in the fall, to which I believe the response again to be quite generous. But even with all this good news, the reality of our situation still exists. With this in mind, the Executive has tackled important discussions on moving forward with a greeter use of our building. Having a regular tenant like LiveBait is fabulous. Please continue the good work!

It goes without saying, that with another lockdown and virtual services compromises givings and further growth. We are SO FORTUNATE that the online/virtual/Facebook services continue and this would not be possible without the tech savvy Jennie Del Motte and Reverend Lloyd! As far as future projects, eg Turkey Suppers, Pancake Suppers and other fundraisers are on hold... BUT there are many who understand our situation, and are very willing and able to tackle a project to contribute to our Mission af staying a visable, viable presence in Sackville. Please forward any and all ideas out there!

*Yours in faith,  
Frank Oulton  
Stewardship Covenor*

**Rockport United Church  
2021 Annual Report**

The Rockport United Church was once again unable to gather in person in 2021 as a result of pandemic restrictions. Liability insurance continues to be kept up to date on the building in anticipation of being able to join together in worship in 2022.

*Submitted by Jennie Del Motte on behalf of  
Nancy J. Read, Trustee*

**Rockport United Church  
2021 Annual Financial Report**

Bank Balance on Hand January 1, 2021  
\$7201.47

REVENUE:

Miscell. (bank interest)	\$0.67
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EXPENSES:

Insurance	\$230.00
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Bank Balance on Hand December 31, 2021  
\$6972.08

*Submitted by Nancy J. Read, Trustee*

## Report: Treasurer's Report

### Treasurer's Report to the Annual Meeting of Sackville United Congregation 2021 Annual Report

This year represented the second year of the Covid pandemic. We also had a major financial shift in July as Sackville Pastoral Charge moved to a single point charge of Sackville United Church. For this reason, SPC 2021 financial documents are included in these reports.

Our stewardship campaign continues with Frank Oulton at the lead. This has led to increased numbers of PAR donors and a greater appreciation for all those who work to make our congregation run smoothly. We are truly thankful for all the ways in which our church community has supported the continuing life and work of our church

The Executive continues to look at all the ways we can save money, generate income and continue to thrive together as a church community. Tasks groups formed to look at short term and long term possibilities. This has led to increased revenue by sharing our space with Live Bait and others. We are ever aware that the Lafford payments are ending soon and there will be a larger gap between our income and expenses.

We have continued our partnership with Visions United Church to undertake a mutual review of books. Included in the financial documents is a copy of their letter of review for SPC 2021. We have shared and met with Visions United regarding the SUC financial documents. We should have that completed soon and do not anticipate any significant changes will need to be made. We will share their letter and any changes made with the congregation as soon as possible. We look forward to continuing this partnership in the coming years and have found it enormously beneficial.

I want to take time to thank Jennie Del Motte for her knowledge and kindness. I thank her for her commitment and diligent work in carrying out her responsibilities. Without her, I simply could not do my job as treasurer.

In the Financial Reports appendix to the 2021-22 Annual Report, please find, in order:  
2021 SUC Financial Statements and Explanatory Notes  
2021 SUC Investment Report  
2021 SPC Financial Statements and Explanatory Notes  
Proposed 2022 Budget

*Respectfully submitted by  
(Jennie's note: the amazing and dedicated) Chrystal Schipper-Everill*