

BRIDGENORTH
UNITED CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT
2022



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bridgenorth United Church is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations. Bridgenorth United Church respectfully acknowledges that the Williams Treaties First Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

BUC MISSION STATEMENT

Centered in the grace and love of God, we strive to be an inclusive community of faith that answers God's call with gladness and serves with kindness. Our worship is progressive, grounded in the Gospel and celebrates God's love in word and melody as we sing with joy and praise with enthusiasm! We offer a place for learning and growing in faith for all ages as we explore the wonder and mystery of God in Jesus, the Christ. We seek to follow in the Way of Jesus as we care for our neighbours, our community, and all Creation.

2022 BUC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Steve Kirton

OPENING PRAYER: Rev. Cathy Gradante

ELECTION for Recording Secretary for AGM

ELECTION for Chairperson for AGM

Motion of Acceptance of Voting Members/Adherents

ACCEPTANCE of AGENDA

APPROVAL of Previous Meeting Minutes (found in Annual Report)

New Business: Annual Review of Church Profile *

- Current Church Profile – see Appendix 2
- Marriage Policy for BUC- see Appendix 3
- Discussion Item: Manse sale

REPORTS of Committees Under Church Council:

CHAIR: The 2022 reports for all committees and individuals under the church council are provided in the 2022 Bridgenorth United Annual Report for the congregation to read. We invite the chairperson of the following committees to answer any questions regarding their reports.

1. Finance Committee: Lane Vance - Treasurer's Report, Envelope Steward, Memorial Fund

Motion to approve the 2022 Financial Statements- See Appendix 1

Motion to approve the 2023 Operating Budget- See Appendix 1

Motion to approve the Mission and Service Convence

2.Church Council Report: Steve Kirton

3.Board of Trustees: Lois Moore

4.Ministry and Personnel Committee and Minister Search Team: Sue Pettersone

5.Worship and Faith Development: Sharon Baptie

6.Outreach and Justice: Patty Latour/Anna Thompson

7.Property and Renovations: Jim Thompson

8.Communications: Dennis Craig

9.Nominating Committee: Sandi Deslaurier

10.Prayer Shawl Ministry: update

11.Membership and Pastoral Care and Prayer Shawl Ministry: Sandi Deslaurier

REPORTS of INDIVIDUALS UNDER CHURCH COUNCIL

ECORC Representative: Ian Deslauriers

Affirming Committee: Mary Ruth Begbie

Archives: Beth Chambers

Changes in the Church Family: Rev. Cathy Gradante

List of 2023 Events: Rev. Cathy Gradante

Choir and Tarnished Angels Report: Wendy Dunits

Cemetery Report: Lois Moore

CHAIR: Acceptance of Reports; I now bring a motion to the floor to have all the above reports accepted as given. Second motion.... Those in favor....

Motion for Adjournment

Benediction: Rev. Cathy Gradante

Minutes: BRIDGENORTH UNITED CHURCH 2021 AGM

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Ian Deslaurier at 12 pm.

OPENING PRAYER was given by Rev. Cathy Gradante (Rev. Cathy)

ELECTION for Recording Secretary for AGM- Jim Thompson moved that Jane Kirkwood be the recording secretary, seconded by Patti Latour and carried by all.

ELECTION for Chairperson for AGM- Tanna Edwards moved that Ian Deslauriers be the meeting chairman, seconded by Lane and carried by all.

Motion of Acceptance of Voting Members/Adherents- moved by Sandi Deslauriers, seconded by Tanna Edwards and carried by all.

ACCEPTANCE of AGENDA-(see addendum 1.)For agenda moved by Pattie Latour, seconded by Sue Wilson and carried by all.

APPROVAL of Previous Meeting Minutes (found in Annual Report)- moved by Jim Thompson, seconded by Beth Chambers and carried by all.

REPORTS of Committees Under Church Council:

CHAIR: We invite the chairperson of the following committees to bring forward their report. If any Committee members wish to add information to their chairperson's report, please feel free to raise your hand after your chairperson has delivered their share of the report.

Church Council Reports:

a. Board of Trustees: Lois Moore

b. Ministry and Personnel Committee and Minister Search Team: Sue Pettersone- added to the report that Tanna Edwards is nearly finished her lay minister course of study, Rev Anne Gowan Blinn has been approved as a Volunteer Acting Minister for BUC.

c. Worship and Faith Development: Sharon Baptie

d. Outreach and Justice: Patty Latour/Anna Thompson

e. Property: Jim Thompson

f. Communications: Dennis Craig- there was a question from Joe Latour about the next newsletter, and it was stated that it is in the works

g. Membership and Pastoral Care: Sandi Deslauriers

h. UCW – Jane Kirkwood

i. Finance Committee- Lane Vance see new business

REPORTS of INDIVIDUALS UNDER CHURCH COUNCIL

Presbytery Representative: Ian Deslauriers

Archives: Beth Chambers – Beth announced that Joe Latour is doing research into the stories of the previous BUC minister and their stories

Cemetery Report – Lois Moore

Choir Report – Wendy Dunits

Tarnished Angels – Ian Deslauriers

Library Report – Karen Weir absent– Joe Latour announced that there are books on Indigenous issues and these books are being profiled on the BUC Facebook page. Joe asked people to use the library

Minister's Message- Rev. Cathy Gradante

New Business:

1. Nominations Report – (see the 2. addendum Nominations Committee Report 2022).

Additions to the report Council Secretary Jane Kirkwood will serve until 2024, volunteers from the floor – Communications – Tanna Edwards, Ministry and Personnel – Heather Sanders,

Renovation Sub committee – Randy Wilson motioned that the nominations for committees with additions be accepted and motion was carried by all.

2. New Horizons for Seniors Grant: Rev. Cathy-BUC received \$24,000. to install a kitchenette in the sanctuary that will allow us to offer refreshments/space for gathering mid-week. A sub-committee was formed, (see page 2 of the nominations list) and funds have now been received, so work can commence soon!

3. Finance Committee: Lane Vance - Treasurer's Report, Envelope Steward, Memorial Fund- Financial Update -adopted a budget for 2022 with a \$10,000. deficit - some of the ways to alleviate this shortfall is to have those who are able increase their monthly givings by 10 percent. If on PAR, just send Wendy an email to make the change. Fundraising will also need to take place once again - coordinators needed! The long-term plan is to have fundraising done to finance special projects only and not used as way to balance the budget.

The Financial Statement and 2022 Operating Budget, presented by Lane Vance, were approved by the congregation.

4. Fundraising – Ian Deslaurier – there is a need for members to step forward to take the lead in fundraising activities.

5. COVID conversation – Sharon Baptie – Reopening Committee – Sharon made the motion that BUC no longer require proof of vax/screening for those entering the building. Masks/sanitizer/contact tracing will continue for the time being, seconded by Heather Sanders and Carol Holder and carried by all. Review the COVID situation again in June 2022.

6. Vision and Mission Statement-(see 3. addendum for Mission Statement Report). Rev. Cathy- Mission Statement and Tagline Adopted at the Annual Congregational Meeting held April 3rd, 2022. From the input received at the Workshop Services held March 13th, 20th and 27th . Our thanks to Rev. Cathy for leading BUC through this process.

Mission Statement: Centered in the grace and love of God, we strive to be an inclusive community of faith that answers God's call with gladness and serves with kindness. Our worship is progressive, grounded in the Gospel and celebrates God's love in word and melody as we sing with joy and praise with enthusiasm! We offer a place for learning and growing in faith for all ages as we explore the wonder and mystery of God in Jesus, the Christ. We seek to follow in the Way of Jesus as we care for our neighbours, our community, and all Creation. Tag Line Rooted In Community, Grounded in God's Love!

7. Affirming process – Mary Ruth Begbie - it was decided that we would start the process of becoming intentionally welcoming to all including LGBTQ2S people. The affirming subcommittee – was struck and includes Wendy Dunits, Joe Latour, Mary Ruth Begbie, Sue Petterson, Heather Sanders, Paul Bodrug, Tanna Edwards

8. Allowing groups to meet at BUC – Wendy Dunits-received a request from AA about meeting times at the church. It was agreed that Wendy and Jim Thompson review group requests for using the church for their meetings,

**CHAIR: Acceptance of Reports- I now bring a motion to the floor to have all the above reports accepted as given- moved by Heather Sanders, Seconded by Jim Thompson and carried by all. Meeting ended at 1:10 pm

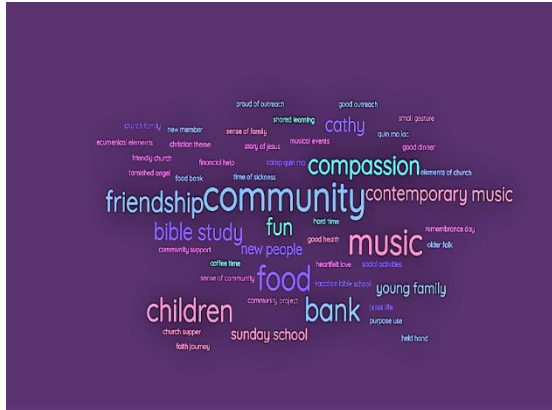
Benediction- Ian Deslaurier

Thank You

Addendums

1. AGM agenda2022 BUC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA April 3 2022.docx
2. Nominations Committee Report NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT - BUC.pdf
3. Mission Statement report BUC Mission Statement 22.pdf

MINISTER'S MESSAGE FOR 2022



At our visioning workshops in March of 2022, we shared what we value most about our faith community and I created a “word cloud” from that long list.

It is no surprise that “community” is central to our life of faith here at Bridgenorth United! And the surrounding words illustrate just how we focus on building up our community of faith – in our worship, study, music, children’s programs and outreach to the wider community around us. We also reach out to our community through the use of our building and our dedicated – and busy! – volunteers at the

Bridgenorth United Church Food Bank. And this commitment to the life and work of our faith community has only grown throughout the year.

We have seen a number of activities, events and projects be reinvigorated after the pandemic lockdowns of the past few years. We even gathered for our first church potluck in over 3 years when we celebrated our 180th Anniversary in October! There is such joy when we gather in community!

As the Apostle Paul wrote in this letter to Romans:

11 For I long to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened— 12 or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.

My hope and prayer for the faith community here at Bridgenorth United is that we will continue to be strengthened by God for the work of the church in the world around us and that we do that work with joy and compassion.

As we look forward to the year ahead, may we experience the Spirit’s lively encouragement in our daily living and join together in worship and witness with enthusiasm as God’s beloved people!

In faith & hope,
Rev. Cathy

COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

2022 was the 180th year of operations for BUC, a milestone that gets more impressive with each passing year. Our new minister Cathy Gradante, who in May completed 1 year in the post, continues with the assistance of Jim Thompson our new tradition of “live streaming” of the weekly Sunday services. So this remains an option for those who for whatever reason can’t be in church on any particular Sunday.

Your church council has also embraced technology vis-à-vis its monthly meetings, which now appear to have been permanently shifted to “Zoom” in lieu of in-person meetings. It just seems to work well for everyone as an effective “virtual venue”, it’s convenient and although I haven’t been keeping track, I think it makes for shorter meetings...(!) So I can indeed say that after 2 years there have been some positive changes emanating from the disruptions of the pandemic. We did however lose a couple of council members in 2022 so do let me or any of the council members know if you’d like to contribute.

I’m happy to say BUC emerged from the tail-end of 2022 in reasonable financial shape in spite of a prognosticated budget deficit of \$10k going into the year, so I’m sure I speak for everyone in heaping abundant accolades onto all those who contribute of their time and financial resources to help keep our building and church family running smoothly. I can say with humility that I continue to learn from you all and will look forward to a continuing discourse in ’23.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Kirton - Council chair

TREASURER’S REPORT

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Notice to Reader The guidelines as established in the United Church of Canada Financial Handbook have been utilized in preparing this report.

Thanks are extended to Wendy Dunits and Joe Latour with respect to cash receipts processing and ongoing e-mail communications. Additional thanks are also extended once again to Joe Latour for his availability for cheque signing, processing payments and discussions on finances. Also to Wendy Dunits for her ongoing work as Envelope Steward for the pastoral charge.

An annual financial review will be completed related to all financial aspects of these statements prior to the annual meeting.

The Treasurer's Financial Report is respectfully provided to the Congregation of Bridgenorth United Church for their review and acceptance.

R. Lane Vance

Contents: See Appendix 1

Balance Sheet

Operating Fund - Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Building Fund - Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Memorial Fund - Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Mission & Service Fund - Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Notes to Financial Report

2023 Budget

ENVELOPE STEWARDS REPORT 2022

The following are statistics of those donating to the church through their church envelopes, PAR and or other.

\$1 - \$100 9	\$101 - \$200 6	\$201 - \$300 7	\$301 - \$400 3	\$401 - \$500 4
\$501 - \$750 9	\$751 - \$1000 5	\$1001 - \$1500 19	\$1501 - \$2500 25	\$2501 + 16

There were in the year 2022, 54 households using PAR (**Pre-Authorized Remittance**) as their method of giving. We can arrange for you too to use this method as it assures the treasurer of a set offering each month. Great for when you are away as it is taken out monthly. Please speak to Wendy if you wish to have this method of “offering” set up for you. Your PAR giving can easily be changed by letting Wendy know any changes you wish to make.

Please be sure to always use your correct envelope number and if you are unsure what that is then always put your name on the envelope. Those on PAR have a number also.

Also added to ways of giving is “on line” through “Canada Helps” BUC is very appreciative of all your givings.

Thank you!

Income tax receipts will be sent out through e-mail and for those not on e-mail hard copies may be picked up at the **end of February** and those not picked up will be mailed. If you have any questions regarding your tax receipt please call the office at 705-292-9601 and speak to me. Please keep your e-mail address up to date with the church office. bucoffice@nexicom.net

Respectfully submitted by
Wendy Dunits, Envelope Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We have had another busy year of changes and growth in our Church Family.

We have been notified that there is a change for our United Church Insurance that should “deliver significant savings” as it was reported to us. Time will tell on that front.

We wish to thank all of the Church committees without whom there would be no church for us to enjoy and share in.

We have lost one of our lifetime Trustees in the passing of Bob Hardill. The church was always very near and dear to his heart. We will miss him. We have also had three retirements this year:

Long time Board members, Chair Ray Render and Secretary Karen Weir, as well as Edith Bell have asked to retire, to allow new members to be added as Trustees. We have benefitted greatly from their commitment and appreciate their sincere service to B.U.C. and wish them the very best going forward.

Anyone with an interest in becoming a Trustee please speak to the Nominating Committee for more information.

Respectfully Submitted, Co Chair Lois Moore

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Children' Time Celebration Sundays

We first wish to thank all our Families for bringing the children out for our Family and Celebration Sundays. You are the most important part of our Special Sundays together!

Miss Emily and I also wish to thank Rev.Cathy for all of her wonderful fresh, new, exciting lesson plans, games, crafts and the best homemade treats – Always a big hit! The new schedule has helped breath new life into our classes as well as the leaders.

Over the last year we have enjoyed Noah's Ark animal search and rainbow cupcakes, Palm Sunday with Dudley Donkey, Easter Sunday, egg hunt, butterflies and children's communion with grapes and goldfish crackers, Mothers Day kissing hand cards, Mustard Seed faith, Father's Day keychain craft.

Our June Church Picnic at Selwyn Park was a real highlight for us all. September Rally Sunday with the lost sheep, and World Communion Day the children baked the bread and served the Congregation; Christmas pageant with Sparkle the Christmas Star...These, as the saying goes, are "A few of my favorite things", that we have enjoyed together.

Miss Emily and I really appreciate everyone's encouragement and support and look forward to the new and exciting programs ahead.

Thanking you, Miss Lois (Moore), Miss Emily (Ellison)

MINISTRY AND PERSONEL

It has been a very busy, productive and inspiring year for your M&P team.

We welcomed 3 new members this year, Mary Ruth Begbie, Karen Kirton and Heather Jackman Sanders. They joined Barb Render, Paul Bodrug and me. Some of the team attended a Regional Council webinar on "The Ministry and Personnel Committee". The information was very useful, and the slides have been retained and shared as an excellent resource. We all learned a lot and found the experience very valuable.

In October the Bridgenorth United Church Community of Faith covenanted with Rev. Anne Gowans Blinn and welcomed her back into the fold as a Voluntary Associate Minister. She has worked with Rev. Cathy and our music team to bring us various worship services and study group experiences. We are thankful for her gifts and desire to continue to be part of the BUC family.

In addition to Rev. Anne, we are very fortunate to have four other retired ministers worshipping with us on a regular basis. We are thrilled to welcome Rev. Janet Stobie, Rev. MaryAnne McFarlane, Rev. Joanna McQuarrie and Rev. Don Genge. This is providing BUC with some very interesting opportunities, including plans for a monthly coffee time (support group??).

Firstly, M&P would like to make a Motion that BUC appoints Rev. Anne Gowans Blinn and Rev. Don Genge as Minister Emeritus. (A Minister Emeritus is granted to honor long and meritorious service to a congregation, a true show of respect.)

Secondly, Revs Janet, MaryAnne and Joanna bring with them various gifts and skills which could enhance the spiritual experience here at BUC. Rev. Cathy welcomes their gifts as complementary to hers and she would be grateful to be able to draw on their expertise. Conversations are ongoing about how best to use these talents, and all have expressed interest in becoming Voluntary Associate Ministers connected to BUC.

Therefore, M&P would like to make a Motion to work with these Ministers and Regional Council to complete the process to request their designation as Voluntary Associate Ministers at BUC.

It is important to note that there is no cost associated with these motions. Salary recommendations have been communicated to Lane and have been factored into the budget for your consideration.

Finally, a round of thank you's!

To Rev. Cathy, you have led us in such dynamic, imaginative, interactive and thought-provoking worship experiences. We are so blessed to have you here at BUC!

To Wendy, you keep the church office humming along and somehow you bring out the best in a sometimes unruly group of choir members. We thank you for coordinating a truly inspiring music ministry.

To TC Elmourne, our mostly invisible custodian, thanks for keeping everything so clean and tidy!

To the M&P team, it is a pleasure to work with you all. Special thanks to Barb Render, Paul Bodrug who are completing their tenure with us this year. Your contributions have been great and your insights are bang on! The remaining team members eagerly await new arrivals.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Pettersone
Chairperson Ministry and Personnel

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Rev. Cathy Gradante, Sharon Baptie (Chair), Wendy Dunits, Sandra Stewart, Sue Liczkowski, Tanna Edwards, Lois Moore, Ruth Dalton, Sue Dennison

**Ending their Term on the Worship Committee in 2022- Moira Vance and Heather Sanders - Thank you both for all your hard work during the many years on the Committee!

We have completed yet another very eventful and fun Church year, during this Crazy Covid -19 Pandemic!

Looking back at a glance, of the year 2022, I see that in Jan. 2022 we were still not back to our regular Sunday morning services and still watching Rev. Cathy and our amazing Worship team video taping our Services. It was looking hopeful that we would soon be back to a fairly normal Sunday Service, and we were planning to tentatively reopen on the

Family Day weekend.

In January, Rev. Cathy applied for a grant from the United Church of Canada, to help with a new kitchenette, in the "overflow" area of the church. This would allow the Congregation to have coffee and tea after church services and give us the opportunity to host other special events for both our Congregation and Community. The Grant was accepted and the renovation plans have begun. (The renovations, using the grant funds, will need to be complete by March 2023).

Feb 6, 2022, we celebrated with our Grand Reopening of our Sanctuary! With all Covid protocols in place, we were back to worshiping in person.! Feb. 27th we welcomed new members: Pauline McGrath, Wendy Dunits, Heather Sanders and Jeff Julian, to BUC. We celebrated Black History Month (with an Educational Event and Sunday Service) . Ash Wed., Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, were finally celebrated in our Sanctuary! It felt like a long time coming, but was certainly well worth the wait!

Rev. Cathy organized 3 Workshop Services (held on Sunday mornings) in March, to help us develop our new Church Mission Statement.

Our return to Sunday School, began on March 13th. Thanks goes out to Lois Moore, and Emily Ellison, for helping our little ones learn to worship, with lots of fun, crafts and Bible Stories. Rev Cathy does a lot of planning as well, and these Children Sundays are not only loved by the Children, but also all the young at heart :)

BUC learned about Holy Humour Sunday in April, with a fun Beach Party Theme...and fun was had by all!

Many exciting services were held in June and July , including the Indigenous Awareness Sunday, Pride Sunday and our very Special Church Picnic, held at Selwyn Conversation Area. WE plan on having this a yearly event!

A very special "multi church" service was held at Lang Pioneer Village, Sunday July 17th, with many of our congregation in attendance, and the Tarnished Angels taking part. Rally Sunday was celebrated Sept. 11th, an "Every Child Matters" service and a very meaningful Prayer walk, for Truth and Reconciliation Day, were organized, by Rev. Cathy , at the end of September.

A very memorable Anniversary Sunday was organized Oct. 16th. , with fun skits, a presentation by Beth Chambers on the History of the Church, a very special covenanting of our very own Rev. Dr. Anne Gowans Blinn, as our new VAM (Voluntary Associate Minister) and a wonderful pot luck lunch to follow.

The end of 2022, was as busy...if not busier than usual! Rev. Cathy out did herself once again, planning wonderful Advent services, Christmas Calm with Rev. Cathy and Rev. Dr. Anne Gowans Blinn taking part, a fun movie morning for families to watch the movie Encanto, a very snowy Christmas Eve Service, and a Christmas Day service complete with Breakfast. Families were excited to attend our very first "messy Church" evening on Dec. 2nd. It was attended by many families and people of all ages. We were treated to a delicious taco dinner, " Minute to win it" games and a story and worship time. What a wonderful fellowship, with all ages!!

Well, as you can see, Bridgenorth United Church has had a very busy and eventful year in 2022. We are so blessed to have so many very capable people in our Congregation to help with many aspects of our Worship and so lucky to have our wonderful Rev. Cathy! I would like to thank everyone that has helped make our Services so memorable.

Let's Bring on 2023, with as much fun, fellowship and memories, as we have had in 2022!

** Baptisms were held for the Barkley, Wilson, and Cavanagh families

** 2 Weddings performed.

Respectively submitted by
Sharon Baptie
Worship Committee Chair

OUTREACH AND JUSTICE- FOOD BANK

In 2022 the 6 members of the Outreach & Justice Committee were Patty Latour and Anna Thompson (co-chairs), Linda Guppy, Sandra Forsey, Yvonne Hunter and Sue Wilson.

Our Bridgenorth United Church Food Bank has 22 hard working and caring volunteers, a combination of congregation and community members. We continue to welcome new volunteers.

With the increases in rent, groceries and gas in 2022, the number of local families needing to access our food bank has been increasing. Total households using the Bridgenorth United Church Food Bank has gone up from 411 in 2020 to 739 in 2022. Number of individuals relying on our Food Bank has gone up from 954 in 2020 to 1905 in 2022, an increase of 100%. In the month of December 2022 alone, we served 228 individuals, compared to 134 individuals the previous December. Based on forecasts from Feed Ontario, we expect another 60% increase in usage in 2023.

We are very grateful for the donations we receive from Kawartha Food Share, our congregation, community members, community groups, service clubs, local churches and businesses. We organized a Food Drive in the Spring with John's Your Independent Grocer, Bridgenorth. Other Food Drives were organized by community groups and MPP Dave Smith. With this support, we are able to continue helping food insecure families.

The Bridgenorth United Church Food Bank is one of 37 agencies that Kawartha Food Share helps. Anna and Patty attended KFS meetings in June and September.

In May, we distributed our Hunger Count Commentary to inform our congregation and community about the increased need of our community for our food bank.

In December we provided Christmas hampers to 82 local households. Each household had a choice of turkey or ham and Christmas gift bags containing gravy, stuffing mix, canned cranberries, boxed potatoes, hot chocolate, candy and chocolate, Christmas napkins, cake/dessert mixes and a specialty tea.

As well, families received non-perishable groceries, eggs, cheese, fresh produce and breads, butter, and warm hats, scarves, mittens and socks.

We thank the Chemung Lake District Lions Club for donating \$2,000 to ensure every family in need received a Christmas hamper.

Food Bank Reverse Advent Calendar

We had a wonderful response to our Bridgenorth United Church Food Bank Reverse Advent Calendar! Our calendar was widely shared on Facebook and many families in our community, not just in our congregation, participated.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE 2022 REPORT

Regular maintenance and “emergency” repairs were dealt with by BUC’s Property Committee and our members stepped up to make-up some of the duties historically dealt with by the caretaker. Regular main floor cleaning has been done by a cleaning contractor, with the Daycare looking after cleaning on a daily basis in other areas of the building.

The roof of our main building is serviceable for the next few years. However, the shingles will need to be replaced on the west side of the old church building in the next year, with quotations for re-shingling in the spring/summer.

The rooftop furnace/HVAC unit servicing the overflow area of the sanctuary failed in the fall and our service contractor has been sourcing replacement options. Since there are 4 furnaces/HVAC units servicing the sanctuary, the failure of this one unit does not severely affect the temperatures in the sanctuary.

Members of the property committee are actively involved with the kitchenette installation in the overflow area of the sanctuary. By year end, the round café tables were purchased and in use in the area adjacent to the overflow area. Obtaining Architectural drawings and the required building permit for the kitchenette was in progress by years end and the expectation is that the kitchenette would be substantially complete by the end of March 2023. The plan is to utilize volunteers to complete the partition wall and cabinets and engage licensed electricians and plumbers to complete those services.

Storage is an on-going issue within the church and the property committee has actively undertaken activities to dispose of surplus or un-used materials and items, including tables, chairs and our tenants like the Daycare, scouts and other users.

SGS Environmental services in Lakefield has been engaged to conduct the testing required to operate our septic system. Samples are collected by the property committee members and submitted to SGS 4 times per year.

Over the last year the Property Committee has lost members and are looking forward to welcoming new members in 2023.

At year end our rental committee negotiated with the Liftlock Band to start holding band practices in the sanctuary on Wednesday mornings starting in January 2023. We also welcomed back the scouting groups and the AA group in 2022 using the Friendship Hall and sanctuary.

Jim Thompson

Property Committee Chairman

COMMUNICATIONS

No report

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

The Membership and Pastoral Care Committee met on Zoom and changed to “in person” as Covid restrictions eased. We have continued to make contact with all church members and adherents without computers who have not returned to live church services to find out how they are doing and to keep them up to date with church information and updates.

Through the pandemic restrictions we have been able to keep our Birthday Cards to our “over 80’s” and cards have been sent to those needing thoughts and prayers during illnesses, we send sympathy cards to those who have lost loved ones. Jessie Bennett has been keeping in touch with our shut-ins by phone and cards.

Our prayer chain led by Carol Holder has been very busy with many dedicated folks praying for those needing to know they are being prayed for every day during difficult times.

Women’s Coffee Hour has been meeting the 3rd Wednesday of the month with thoughtful topics and interesting discussions.

Ruth Begbie has encountered some difficulties with the receiving of the Upper Room but has been able to distribute copies as they arrive.

After church refreshments have been restarted, well-attended and enjoyed, especially since the arrival of our new chairs and tables.

We have successfully offered luncheons for the Remembrance Day Veterans and for Joyce Sperry’s funeral.

Our first Corn Roast since the pandemic was a success as well as a take-out spaghetti dinner for Polarfest.

We delivered over 30 Easter and Christmas Cheer and goodie bags to folks in our congregation with limited or no internet connection to our church services.

We have developed a job description for an “Events Coordinator” who will report to our committee.

We have set up a system of matching those folks needing a ride to church and those willing to pick up and deliver.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Deslauriers

EAST-CENTRAL ONTARIO REGIONAL COUNCIL (ECORC)

- Property and Finance
- 2. Covenant Support
 - a. pastoral support
 - b. when pastoral change has been requested
 - c. support for community of faiths and their profiles
 - d. when there is a search
 - e. the covenanting service for a new minister
- 3. Formation, Nurture and Justice
- 4. Nominations

I sit on the Property and Finance committee. We review the activities and financial health of the churches in our jurisdiction. While we still have a number of churches that are fairing well each year we also review the proposed amalgamations and/or church closures.

In addition, our committee deals with grant requests from churches for a wide range of improvement including retrofitting churches to reduce energy consumption. As our churches age it is good to know that there are still grants available to assist in their maintenance.

Other activities for the region include developing programs to deal with racism and the establishment of affirming churches.

A new initiative that will be promoted more strongly in the months to come is the preparation of a new Strategic Plan for the United Church of Canada. Opportunities for church input will be coming up and all are encouraged to participate in the discussion.

When I look at some of the issues facing other churches I believe that we should count our blessings at Bridgenorth United Church. No church is ever completely financially stable or without issues but the demands on our church are being met for the most part and we have a vibrant church community.

Submitted by Ian Deslaurier

ARCHIVES

In October 2022, Bridgenorth United Church reached another milestone in the life of the church – the 180th anniversary of the congregation, founded as the Mud lake mission in 1842! It was celebrated with a special Sunday morning service on October 16 2022.

Beth Chambers dressed in period costume and gave a brief outline of the history of the church, from its humble beginnings in peoples homes to the present day. Four ladies – Wendy Dunnetts, Tanna Edwards, Sue, Lazoŭski, and Lois Moore – presented a humourous skit that showed how very different peoples' perspectives can be when attending the same church service. Ian Deslaurier sang one of his own compositions titled "this old pew". A potluck meal was much enjoyed following the service; it was the first time in 2 1/2 years that the congregation had gained access to the great hall due to Covid.

Joe Latour by his own initiative and his interest in the history of the church, has been researching the lives of former ministers. He has completed a profile on Reverend Margaret Errey, and is currently working on that of Reverend Earl Taft (deceased 2019), and on one of

the elderly clergyman, Reverend John Ryerson Trumpour. Periodically he will be updating the congregation with his findings by means of a handout in the narthex.

Submitted by Beth Chambers

AFFIRMING COMMITTEE 2022

Our Affirming committee has been meeting regularly for 8 mos. We have been studying online, reading books, watching videos, doing zoom meetings, and talking with people who are part of the LGBTQ2S+ community and those who have been through the Affirming process.

We set up our registration with Affirm United. We can use their Resources, network of meetings, and Zoom events.

June 13,2022 Rev. Cathy led a wonderful Pride Sunday which was a great introduction into our work.

Our first Congregation get together was Sept. 25 after Church. We all watched a brief video about an affirming church and heard from some of their members. We gave an update on what our committee had been doing, which followed by question and discussions. It was a positive event.

Oct. 25, we participated in a Zoom workshop with other affirm people. People from churches currently Affirming and those of us going through the process.

Oct. 29, we hosted a movie event for the congregation. We watched the Canadian movie "Dawn, Her Dad and the Tractor." It is an inspirational and educational movie. We all enjoyed it. A good learning experience for us all about Trans people and the reactions of family and friends. Often a difficult journey!

We have then been planning for the future. Jan.29, 2023 we will lead worship as a committee. We will have two guest speakers who are a lesbian couple.

In January 2023 we will start visiting the committees in our church to see how they feel about moving ahead with the next steps such as a same sex marriage policy, and an Affirming Mission Statement.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Ruth Begbie, Joe Latour, Paul Bodrug, Sue Pettersone, Wendy Dunits, Heather Sanders, and Tanna Edwards.

"With Open hearts and open minds, there is welcome in this place."

CHANGES IN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY FOR 2022

We remember...

- James Bright Julian
- George Bernard Jackman
- Kenneth Sydney Hook

- Joyce Bernice Sperry

We celebrate the weddings of...

- Michelle Lee Geeves and Sherwin Tyson Van Rooi
- Kelsey Marie Biddiscombe and Nathan Mark Hardy

We welcomed through baptism...

- Lillian Louise Barnes
- Lee Arthur Barnes
- Jack William James Cavanagh
- Brooks Elgin Wilson

We welcomed through Transfer/Profession of Faith...

- Heather Sanders
- Pauline McGrath
- Jeff Julian
- Wendy Dunits

CEMETARY REPORT

Bank Balance 2021..... 18,931.05

Expenses 2022:

Scotia Care Fund 4552.50

O&C Graves (2) Crem. (12) Niches (5)..... 5390.10

Caretaker Grass5265.80

Bereavement Association License.....171.00

Sec/Treasurer Honourarium/Expenses.....2400.00

Inscription Niches(4).._.....582.00

Corner posts ..(4 sets).....519.80

Total..... 24,881.20 - 24,881.20

- 5950.15

Income 2022:

Sale of Niche(3) Incl.C&M / Insc.....	7675.00
Sale of Graves (7) Incl.C&M+,O&C's.....	8400.00
Corner Posts (4) sets.....	1200.00
Open & Close of Graves(2).....	1600.00
In Ground Cremation (12) Niche(5)	6900.00
Care & Maintenance Mon (5)	800.00
Adjustment Reverse O&C	689.30
Total.....	27,264.30 +27,264.30
Bank Balance Dec.31, 2022	21,314.15

Respectfully Submitted by Lois Moore

Review to be completed before the annual meeting and confirmed at that time.

CHOIR REPORT



Well "Praise the Lord" !!! Choir is back!

How thankful I am to lead such a wonderful group of singers, which includes Beth Chambers, Ian and Sandi Deslauriers, Anna and Jim Thompson, Sue and Barry Pettersone, Sue Liczkowski, Sue Wilson, Liana Sarginson, Barb Render, Jeff Julian, Walter Artymko, and Tom Stobie.

It was a thrill to work together and produce a lovely evening of Carols By Candle Light with the Choir singing from the cantata "The Christmas Story" by T. Fettke and T. Grassi and joined by our readers Janet Stobie and Joe Latour.

If any one wishes to join the Choir we meet Thursdays at 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Another big plus is having Ian, (guitar) Sue, (djembe) & Dennis (bass guitar) assisting in our music.

Submitted by

Wendy Dunits

TARNISHED ANGELS

The Tarnished Angels are back too!

Ian and Sandi Deslauriers, Liana Sarginson, Beth Chambers, Dennis Craig, Tom Stobie, Ken Young, Sue Liczkowski and Roger and Wendy Dunits

This summer we were very happy to assist in a combined worship time of churches at Lang Pioneer Village. Then in the fall we led The Baptist Ladies at Elim Lodge in a full out, dancing in the aisles, worship time!

We also enjoy bringing our Gift of Music on some Sunday mornings to BUC worship.

Submitted by

Wendy Dunits

LIBRARY REPORT

Your Church Library was back to full operation in 2022 and usage by members of the congregation has been increasing. We added about 30 new titles to the library this past year, including several books by Indigenous authors for our Indigenous Justice and Right Relations collection. As well, we acquired a few contemporary LGBTQ2S themed books in conjunction with the Affirming Committee. Finally, we added six new books to our popular Karen Kingsbury series.

We initiated a “BUC Book of the Week” feature on the Bridgenorth United Church Facebook page. This includes a book cover photo and brief description of the selected title each week.

In October, we provided a representative selection of our Indigenous Studies books for display at the Eastern and Central Ontario Regional Council conference in Peterborough. Attendees at the conference borrowed seven books from our collection.

We invite all members of the congregation to visit your library and take advantage of some of excellent resources available. The library is open Sunday mornings and whenever the church office is open.

Submitted by Joe Latour

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES for 2023

February 22nd	Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm
February 26th	Lent begins – Sacrament of Communion
March 24th	Messy Church Event - intergenerational
April 2nd	Palm Sunday
April 6th	Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm

April 7th	Good Friday Service at 11am
April 9th	Easter Sunday!
April 16th	Holy Humour Sunday – intergenerational service
May 7th	Christian Family Sunday
May 28th	Pentecost Sunday – intergenerational service
June 25th	Church Picnic Sunday!
September 10th	Rally Sunday! – intergenerational service
October 1st	World Communion Sunday
October 8th	Thanksgiving Sunday
October 15th	BUC Anniversary Service
November 5th	Remembrance Sunday
November 12th	Children’s Sunday – intergenerational service
December 4th	1st Sunday of Advent – Sacrament of Communion
December 17th	Christmas Pageant Sunday – intergenerational service
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service at 6pm

APPENDIX 1: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet

For the Period Ending
(with comparative figures for 2021)

Details	2021 Actual	2022 Actual
<u>Assets</u>		
Bank-Local-Consolidated	-88,660.33	-65,695.71
Other Funds	190,469.50	200,920.01
GIC	<u>6,543.77</u>	<u>6,576.67</u>
Total Cash	108,352.94	141,800.97
Inventory - Food Vouchers	0.00	0.00
Accounts Receivable	1,612.50	4,177.50
A/R - HST Rebates	5,271.91	2,683.07
Fixed Assets	1,427,095.00	1,427,095.00
Total Assets	<u>1,542,332.35</u>	<u>1,575,756.54</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Accrued Expenses	1,075.00	1,075.00
Deferred Grant Revenue	0.00	24,000.00
Other Funds	190,469.50	200,920.01
Due to M&S	0.00	0.00
Operating Fund Balance	1,350,787.85	1,349,761.53
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>1,542,332.35</u>	<u>1,575,756.54</u>

Local Operating Fund

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

For the Period Ending: **December 31, 2022**

(with comparative figures for 2021)

Details	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Offerings	102,440	122,714.64	113,090
Offerings & Donations - Food Bank	30,124	23,642.35	10,620
Other Donations	89	1,391.10	1,253
UCW Sale Proceeds	4,807	---	---
Manse Rent	13,425	13,975.00	12,900
Facilities Rent	27,150	28,600.26	28,442
Fundraising	295	15,346.35	15,400
Total Revenues	178,331	205,669.70	181,705
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Wages/Benefits/Employer Taxes	88,410	112,383.03	112,354
Worship	1,254	706.80	1,230
Music	1,705	1,905.52	1,360
Pastoral Care & Outreach	31,287	26,069.72	11,145
Church Council (UCC Assmt.)	8,941	8,758.00	9,058
Trustees	750	750.00	750
Archives	0	0.00	25
Christian Development	95	202.49	250
Junior Church	121	570.55	1,250
Communications	311	281.70	1,035
Library	117	594.14	470
Church Office	2,483	3,128.20	4,191
Manse - Property & Maintenance	4,483	4,562.79	5,237
Church - Property & Maintenance	33,055	43,548.23	38,307
Finance/Bank Charges	1,863	1,343.41	1,839
Fundraising	2,047	2,941.44	3,300
Total Expenses	176,922	207,746.02	191,801
Net Revenues (Expenditures)	1,408	-2,076.32	-10,096
Interfund Transfers	517	1,050.00	0
Change in Fund Balance	1,925	-1,026.32	-10,096

Building Fund

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
 For the Period Ending: December 31, 2022
 (with comparative figures for 2021)

Details	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
Opening Balance	121,424	112,667.02	112,667
Revenues:			
Envelope offering	5,313	4,539.50	6,000
Other Donations	0	2,945.00	0
Fundraising	---	---	---
Total Revenues	5,313	7,484.50	6,000
Expenses			
Fundraising expenses	---	---	---
Capital Projects			
Manse	9,718	0.00	0
Church - capital equipment	0	0.00	0
Church - capital maintenance	4,351	1,427.13	6,000
Church - Café project	0	3,799.47	0
Total Expenses	14,069	5,226.60	6,000
Net Revenues (Expenditures)	-8,757	2,257.90	0
Interfund Transfers			
Transfers to Operating Fund	0	0.00	0
Transfers from Memorial Fund	0	0.00	0
	0	0.00	0
Total Transfers	0	0.00	0
Change in Fund Balance	-8,757	2,257.90	0
Closing Fund Balance	112,667	114,924.92	112,667

Memorial Fund

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

For the Period Ending: **December 31, 2022**

(with comparative figures for 2021)

Details	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
Opening Fund Balance	35,711	37,408.78	37,409
Revenues:			
Donations	4,280	2,118.80	0
Total Revenues	<u>4,280</u>	<u>2,118.80</u>	<u>0</u>
Expenses			
Receipts/fees/postage	156		0
Sanctuary Improvements/Sound System	1,909		0
Worship Equipment/Books - Sanctuary	0		0
Total Expenses	<u>2,065</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Revenues/Expenditures	2,215	2,118.80	0
Interfund Transfers			
Transfer designated gifts to building fund	0	0.00	0
Transfer designated gifts to operating fund	517	50.00	0
Transfer designated gifts to food bank	0	1,000.00	0
Transfer designated gifts to M&S fund	0	0.00	0
Total Interfund Transfers	<u>517</u>	<u>1,050.00</u>	<u>0</u>
Change in Fund Balance	1,698	1,068.80	0
Closing Fund Balance	<u><u>37,409</u></u>	<u><u>38,477.58</u></u>	<u><u>37,409</u></u>

Note:

Please see the **Report on the Memorial Fund** for additional information.

Bridgenorth United Church has been fortunate to be the recipient of numerous donations in memory of our members and adherents in 2022.

Mission & Service Fund

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For the Period Ending: December 31, 2022
(with comparative figures for 2021)

Details	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
<u>Contributions:</u>			
Mission & Service Fund Donations	9,113	12,455.54	9,500
Total Contributions	<u>9,113</u>	<u>12,455.54</u>	<u>9,500</u>
Payments to the United Church of Canada	9,113	12,455.54	9,500
Balance	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0</u>

Note:

Based on existing PAR donations and typical M&S offerings throughout the year, it is proposed that the congregational goal for 2023 will be increased. The Covenant amount will be confirmed through resolution at the Annual General Meeting.

Notes to 2022 Financial Report:

1. Nature of Association

Bridgenorth United Church is a pastoral charge of the United Church of Canada.

2. Accounting Policies

Bridgenorth United Church uses fund accounting to track revenues and expenses. A consolidated bank account is used to manage cash flow and combines the following fund balances into one bank account at the local chartered bank.

Local Operating Fund reports on the Church's program delivery and administration.

Building Fund reports on matters related to significant building renewal projects, major maintenance and related equipment purchases.

Memorial Fund reports contributions made in memory of loved ones and gifts designated by donors.

Mission & Service Fund reports on contributions specific to initiatives under the United Church of Canada - Mission & Service Fund.

Notes to 2022 Financial Report: (continued)

3. Other Fund Balances

The following balances are included in the "Other Fund Balances" on the Balance Sheet.

Building Fund	114,924.92
Memorial Fund	38,477.58
Misc. Funds - Tarnished Angels	2,476.55
Food Bank - Reserve	44,514.53
Library	526.43
Other Funds	<u>200,920.01</u>

4. Financial Reporting and Information

Financial reports and supporting comments are provided to the Bridgenorth Church Council at their meetings periodically throughout the year.

In addition, members of the congregation are welcome to ask questions about the church finances at any point by dropping a note in the Treasurer's mailbox at the church.

5. Fundraising Overview

Fundraising is an essential component of the financial program at Bridgenorth United Church. Our events of fellowship and fundraising were affected by the ongoing impacts of the COVID19 pandemic, but rebounded nicely in 2022.

The following is a summary of net proceeds (funds received less expenses) for the 2022 fundraising events held in support of Bridgenorth United.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Net Proceeds</u>
Polarfest Supper & Music	1,680.25
Non-Dinner	700.00
Plants & Bulbs	1,306.50
Junk in the Trunk Sale	590.18
Concerts	350.00
Beef Dinner	0.00
Auction Proceeds	6,796.59
Misc. Food Sales/Luncheons	981.39
Total Net Fundraising Proceeds	<u>12,404.91</u>

**Bridgenorth United Church
Budget Year - 2023**

Budget Introduction

The attached budget displays the three primary funds for BUC on one worksheet. This format is used in monthly reports to the Church Council on the financial status of the church and its various programs.

Budget Approach to Offerings

This budget reflects General Offerings for the Local and Building fund that were achieved in 2022 and adjusted for excess Food Bank donations. These actuals were then increased by a 3% target. To meet the givings targets we will require increased Local Offerings from the congregation and continued support from the Bridgenorth community.

Budget Approach to Operations and Fundraising

While the budget as presented is a break-even, it relies on increased givings and projected expenses based on historical data and known wage changes. Inflationary pressures are affecting the church expenses and the costs to "keep the lights on and doors open" continue to increase. To achieve this budget target, the congregation is encouraged to support the Local Operating Fund.

The budget assumes the return of many fundraising events in 2023. Event convenors and support are required - so please reach out to the Membership Committee for a role in these events.

In the Building Fund, the Café Project is included and funded primarily through a Federal Seniors Grant. Additional HVAC repairs are also expected and funded through donations.

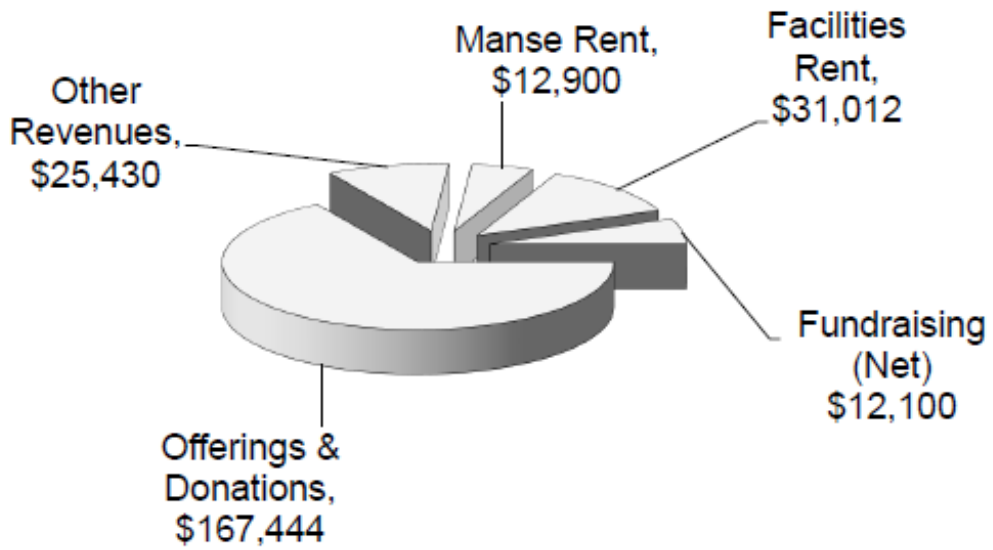
Questions regarding the budget, and church finances in general, are encouraged. Reach out and get clarification.

R. Lane Vance

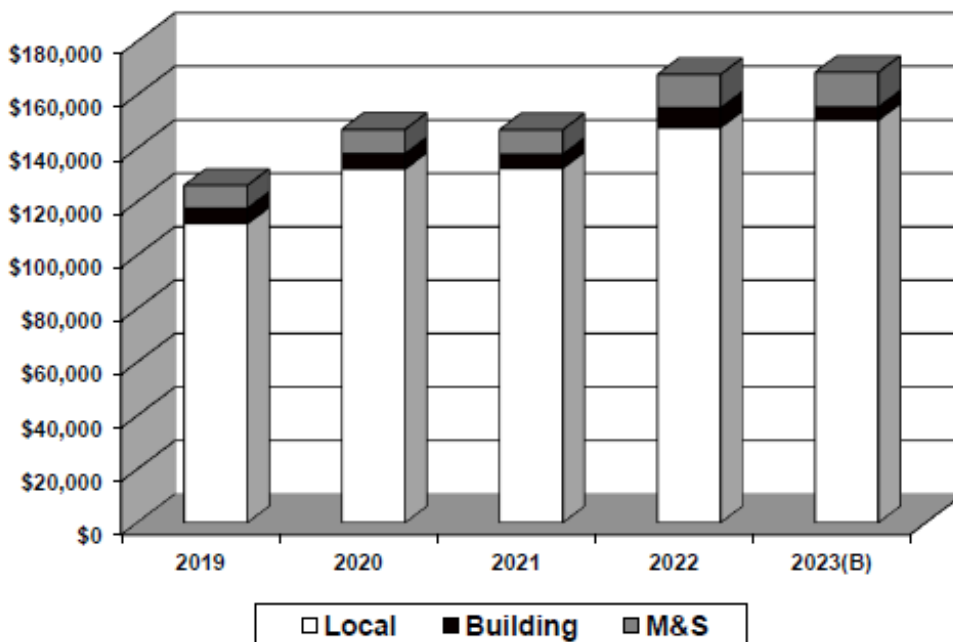
Bridgenorth United Church
Budget Year - 2023
All Funds

Details	Operating Budget	Building Budget	M & S Budget	Total Budget
<u>Revenues:</u>				
Offerings & Donations	125,208	5,000	12,936	143,144
Offerings & Donations - Food Bank	24,300			24,300
Other Revenues	1,430	24,000		25,430
Manse Rent	12,900			12,900
Facilities Rent	31,012			31,012
Fundraising Revenues	18,698			18,698
Total Revenues	213,548	29,000	12,936	255,484
<u>Expenses:</u>				
Wages and Benefits	119,205			119,205
Worship	1,230			1,230
Music	1,734			1,734
Food Bank & Pastoral Care	25,200			25,200
Presbytery Assessment	8,589			8,589
Trustees - cemetery	750			750
Archives	25			25
Christian Development	250			250
Junior Church	1,250			1,250
Communications & Outreach	1,035			1,035
Library	641			641
Church Office	4,179	0		4,179
Property - Manse - all expenses	5,647	0		5,647
Property - Repairs/Maint./Utilities	38,807	29,000		67,807
Finance & Remittances	1,792		12,936	14,728
Fundraising Expenses	3,215			3,215
Total Expenses	213,548	29,000	12,936	255,484
Net Revenues (Expenditures)	0	0	0	0
Interfund Transfers	0	0	0	0
Change in Fund Balances	0	0	0	0

**Bridgenorth United Church 2023 Revenues
All Funds**



Bridgenorth United Church Offerings Overview



Appendix 2

CHURCH PROFILE: A LIVING FAITH STORY

Bridgenorth United Church is a community of faith in transition. We have been blessed to have a long-term relationship with our now retired minister. And while we knew her departure was coming, the current pandemic situation impacted our ability to engage our full community in the process to discern where we want to go from here. That work is now completed and we are very fortunate to have appointed a wonderful retired supply minister in a half time capacity as we seek to call a full time minister to lead and support our church family into the future.

And now our story, with historical details provided by the late Helen Willcox, who documented not only the history of the church, but also the town of Bridgenorth and Smith Township. (Bridgenorth is now part of Selwyn Township, in the heart of the Kawartha Lakes.)

“The Smithtown Methodist Congregation of 1842 was led by Mr. and Mrs. William McKee. The members met in homes, were served by an itinerant circuit rider and were called the “Mud Lake Mission.” The name derived from Lake Chemung, which at times of the year, was just a small muddy stream meandering past Bridgenorth.”

The first small wooden church building was built on the site of the current cemetery. In 1889, a brick church was constructed at a cost of \$1800 at the current location. Over time, changes were made including the addition of a Christian Education Centre in 1960 and a Narthex in 1975. In 1996, the congregation moved into our current facility, which houses worship services, and numerous community activities.

Due to the current pandemic situation, BUC has been providing virtual worship services weekly. As the situation evolves we are planning for a safe return to in-person worship. We will continue to provide virtual services to those who are unable to attend in person.

The weekly worship services at Bridgenorth are spiritual, thought provoking, interactive and a learning EPIC. Our congregation appreciates special worship services like the Christmas Calm, the Christmas Eve family time, and several during Lent and the Easter season.

Our Junior Church is growing and while our congregation is generally older, there is a wonderful opportunity to welcome and encourage young people to attend. We see ourselves as “progressive Christians”.

Our musical ministry is very important to us. We are often led by our “Tarnished Angels”, an entertaining group of musicians and singers, from within our congregation. We also have a skilled senior choir and a small but mighty junior choir, led by our wonderful Music Director.

As an affirming and inclusive community we are friendly, welcoming, comforting and very caring for our family and neighbors. We regularly hold events ranging from Saturday morning Christian video studies and our mid-week women’s coffee group. We have an in house library and a nursery area with a view and audio of the service.

We are active fundraisers, utilizing the talents of many of our people. Many of these events such as dinners, indoor garage sale, our spring UCW flower sale, and the mid-November Silent Auction have become community traditions, although this year COVID-19 has affected our activities. Financial stewardship has been organized in various forms over the years, including every member visitations, use of intention cards, increased promotion of the Preauthorized Debit Program and the “Donate Now” button on our website. The BUC congregation has been very responsive to direct appeals and funding to support special projects. The extended congregation has traditionally supported a strong Advent giving season. Fundraising events are not only fellowship events, but they are also required sources of finances to support BUC budget requirements.

Our Outreach and Justice Committee with more than 20 volunteers, operate a weekly community food bank from the church, serving approximately 75-80 individuals and families each month. We are also home to a branch of Trent Child Care supporting young families in the surrounding area. These services continue during the pandemic, subject to provincial, municipal and health department regulations and changing local conditions. Normally, our facility is a community hub for Scouting, Chemung Seniors, AA meetings and other events.

In addition to our Minister, a paid part-time Administrative Assistant, who is also our Music Director, and a Custodian support us. They are valuable members of our team. Numerous congregants are stellar informal leaders, willingly participating in worship, music, pastoral care, fundraising and the committee work, which is integral to the ministry of Bridgenorth United Church.

A key aspect of our outreach focus is interaction, cooperation and excellent relationships with other faith communities in the vicinity. Across the causeway is St. Martin’s Roman Catholic Church and Causeway Pentecostal, and Gilmour Baptist Church is located on the way to Peterborough. We join with these and other churches during the year for World Day of Prayer services and other ecumenical events such as the community Remembrance Day services. They are also very supportive of the community Food Bank. We also have a special relationship with our Indigenous neighbors at Curve Lake First Nation. As a congregation, we have sponsored several refugee families as they have relocated to Canada and our region.

Bridgenorth boasts a thriving business core and its accessibility to Peterborough means everyone’s shopping needs can be met. We have an elementary school, Chemong Public, across the road from our Church, which hosts their Grade 8 graduation ceremony in our sanctuary. For secondary school, our children are bussed into Peterborough about 15 minutes away. “In town” there is Trent University, Sir Sandford Fleming College, the Peterborough Regional Health Centre, and many recreational and cultural venues. One branch of our community library system is next door. Tourists flock to our region all year round for various sports and outdoor activities.

Appendix 3

MARRIAGE POLICY FOR BUC

We believe that marriage should be grounded in love – God’s love for humanity, love between consenting adults who seek to live in relationships based on trust and commitment. We also affirm the love of caring communities – family, friends and faith community – that offer support, nurture, and example for those seeking to live into their commitment of marriage. We believe that no one is beyond the love of God.ⁱ

We believe there should be no barrier for anyone seeking to be united in Christian marriage. Therefore, we affirm that anyone seeking to be married at Bridgenorth United Church, by the minister(s) called to our faith community, will be welcomed regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity or religious affiliation.

We are called to be part of a faith community that lives out a vision of love and justice in the world around us.

ⁱ Adapted from resources found in *Of Love and Justice: Toward the Civil Recognition of Same-Sex Marriage* (United Church of Canada, 2003)