

United Church of Canada

Orchard Valley United Church

Annual Report

2022

Orchard Valley United Church

130 Cornwallis Avenue

New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

Tel. (902) 681-0366

Fax (902) 681-1460

AdminOVU@bellaliant.com

www.OrchardValleyUnited.ca

Minister

Rev. Don Sellsted

MinisterOVU@bellaliant.com

Youth Pastor

Katie Logan

Youth.ovuc@gmail.com

Music Director

Ken Hassell (January - July)

Carmen Peng (August - December)

Administrative Assistant

Rachel MacLean Hawley

AdminOVU@bellaliant.com

Custodian

Doug MacKinnon

Table of Contents

1. Our Mission and Vision Statements	1
1.1 Mission Statement	1
1.2 Vision Statement	1
2. In Memoriam	1
3. Individual Statistics	2
3.1 Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals	
3.2 Membership	
4. Notes from Council & Ministry	
4.1 Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk, Chair, Church Council	3
4.2 Rev. Don Sellsted, Minister	4
4.3 Katie Logan, Youth Pastor	7
5. Committee Reports	10
5.1 Affirming	10
5.2 Christian Development	12
5.3 Communications	13
5.4 Congregational Life	15
5.5 Covenanter Church	16
5.6 Facilities	21
5.7 Finance	21
5.8 Ministry & Personnel	22
5.9 Outreach	23
5.10 Pastoral Care	27
5.11 Property	29
5.12 Worship	30

6. Other Groups	
6.1 Orchard Valley UCW (OV-UCW)	33
6.2 Wolfville UCW Unit (Unit UCW-W)	33
6.3 Orchard Valley Men’s Group	34
6.4 Friday Women’s Breakfast Group	35
6.5 Wolfville & Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC)	36
6.6 Kentville, New Minas & Area Council of Churches (KNMACC)	37
6.7 Valley Foodgrains Bank Project	37

7. Board of Trustees	39
-----------------------------	----

Annual Congregational Meeting 2021	41
---	----

Financial Statements – OVPC Operating Fund

Financial Statements – OVPC Trust Funds

Operating Budgets

Our Mission and Vision Statements

1.1 Mission Statement

Inspired by the grace of God, we are a welcoming faith family called to love ourselves, others, and the world. We seek to deepen our spiritual understanding and reach out to others through worship and socially just action.

1.2 Vision Statement

Living and Acting through Faith (LAF)

2. In Memoriam

We remember with gratitude and thanksgiving the following who passed away in 2022:

- Dorothy Carter*
- Rev. Dr. Randy Crozsmán*
- Fred Falconer*
- Carl Hick*
- Buzz Hine*
- Marion McKinley*
- Mary Mercer*
- Craig Morgan*
- Violet Roy*
- Burton Russell*
- Peggy Spicer*
- Joan Tracey*
- Joan White*

3. *INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS*

3.1 *Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals*

There was 1 Baptism in 2022.

No weddings were held in 2022.

There were 13 funerals/memorials in 2022.

3.2 *Membership*

In 2022, there were 7 Transfers of Membership in to Orchard Valley United Church.

4. NOTES FROM COUNCIL & MINISTRY

4.1 Message from the Chair of Council

This has been a somewhat tumultuous year for our little church, at least at a physical level- the efforts involved in finding a temporary home, the sorting and packing and travel, and unpacking and sorting again have all represented a staggering number of people hours...all to be repeated once we are able to return to our wonderful, redesigned, church home. Daunting.

One might expect that people could be driven away, or feel overcome by these monumental tasks.

Instead, I see excitement, such hope and such joy in our temporary space, and such anticipation for our new home. If I squint at it just right, I can **almost** see God moving among us: bolstering us in the videos of the project; lifting us with smiles on the faces of our church family; growing us in bringing in new people to visit in our new space and even our services. If I listen really closely, I can **almost** hear God whispering that “all is well”; in the words of our Ministers; in the songs of the choir and congregation; in the laughter of children during the service. Spiritually, we have been solid, through all the physical changes.

It has been a somewhat tumultuous year for me too, at least internally –stepping up to chair the council, even though I had not been vice-chair; committing to even more time in an already busy life. Yet it has been a delight to work with such dedicated committee chairs and with our ministers – people with a common goal of doing good. Taking on this responsibility has been good for me: it has given me a chance to get to know some of our church family better; it has given me a better sense of the workings of our church and all the things that happen behind the scenes that I wouldn’t have otherwise been aware of; even the personal reflection that I invest in writing a Reflection for the start of the Council meeting has been good for me – something I didn’t realize I needed until I started doing it. And, no Don, I do know that I don’t HAVE to do it. But selfishly, I am not quite ready to give it up.

Many hands make light work...and new minds bring new ideas. I think the message I most want to convey, is that although I was of mixed emotions on offering to chair the Council, it has been GOOD. And if I leave no legacy other than having streamlined our council meetings quite a bit, well heck, that's good too! I would really like to encourage you, my church family, to consider your gifts and skills - not only could you be very good for our church, by stepping up to serve on one of our various committees and/or the council, but it could be very good for you too!

And, if our AGM marks the start of a new church year, then I wish you all good health and happy hearts, and let us move forward into the year ahead (2023) with joy and faith. Happy New Year!

Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk

4.2 Minister's Annual Report

*We must always give thanks to God for you, my siblings,
as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and
the love of every one of you for another is increasing.*

2 Thessalonians 1:3

Greetings and peace to you all. I wish to begin by giving thanks to each of you. For it is through your prayers, your words of wisdom and encouragement, your determination for our future, and your commitment to Living and Acting thru Faith, that has brought us through another wonderful year in the life of our church. Not because it has been an easy year, but because we have hung in there together, supported and loved one another, and we will look back on 2022 as a year that truly made a difference.

*For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one
body- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free- and we were
all made to drink of one Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 12:13

We are a church that desires to draw our circle wide to be a welcoming home for all. We began the year as a people who affirmed and welcomed everyone, and then we made it official as we became an Affirming Congregation with a unanimous vote in March followed by the certification and celebration on June 5. I was, and am, very proud! (Forgive me!)

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?*

Isaiah 43:19a

Since the birth of Orchard Valley United Church, you have worked and persevered toward doing something new! After all your efforts, we gathered to dig our spades, shovels, and spoons into the rich holy ground of our church home to symbolize not just our growth, not just the beginning of a major project, but our commitment to the future of our church, our faith family, our community, and our belief that in God, we can do great things, and our desire to be a unique voice of faith in our part of the beautiful Annapolis Valley.

Seemingly overnight, we moved into our temporary home and made it much more than a temporary inconvenience. We did not miss a Sunday as we began to worship and tell our story. It gave us unique insights into how we can come together and how we can evangelize with increased visibility just who we are to a greater number of people. And many have seen what we are about and now call Orchard Valley their church home and their faith family.

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and
be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

We said goodbye to several saints of our church this year. We give thanks for their

life and commitment to the church and to us as the love of God and this community flows through their families and friends. Knowing them has made us a better people and they are missed deeply.

*The human mind plans the way, but the Lord
directs the steps.*

Proverbs 16:9

In the fall, your council, committee chairs, and volunteers met to do some initial vision planning toward our future. One thing that became very apparent is just how much we depend on one another to achieve our goals of being the church in our time and place. To serve, whether as a member of council, on a committee or other volunteer role, or as a member of our congregation, is a vital part of being the church. Your words and prayers of encouragement make a difference to each of us – a difference beyond the telling of it. Thank you!

My gratitude cannot be measured as its immensity overflows. I could not begin to name all the saints that help me to continue to be your servant leader. Blessing to you all!

The work of the church in the valley continues with the strength and passion of this community of faith. It is my extraordinary pleasure to be part of our faith journey. When the Holy Spirit led Cheryl and I to you, and opened your arms to us, we could not have imagined to be so blessed with this place we call home. Hallelujah!

In closing, please join with me as all the people say, *Amen!*

Shalom my friends,

Rev. Don Sellsted

4.3

Katie Logan, Youth Pastor

What a great year! So many exciting things have happened for us as a church and what a future we must await in 2023! Last year I opened my annual report with the word “courage”; this year my word for you is “love” because right now what the world needs is more love, love inspires our faith. Inspires justice, and inspires kindness. I encourage you to approach the new year ahead with love.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts. Always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.”

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

Children and Youth Programs

We kicked off 2022 with our own version of “Coldest Night of the Year” and walked to Open Arms Shelter to support those dealing with homelessness; our youth and kids are passionate about helping others who are in need! One of our favorite memories from this year was sledding at Burger Hill in Kentville, what a great time! In March we celebrated PII day – a day to affirm and celebrate our LGBTQ+ siblings! More on that in the worship section. We also celebrated Saint Patrick’s Day by learning some traditions of Saint Patrick as well as playing some awesome games and making our own rainbow shamrocks!

Then came the big move! Our youth and kids walked into the new space and we made it our own! With all the free space for us to play games and run around, we have loved our time here at the mall. We even kicked off our first month in the mall with a great big Easter egg hunt with almost 20 kids participating of all ages! It was so great to see the older kids make sure that every kid found the same number of eggs; we truly had a great time together!

This summer was super fun, a few of the families went to camp! Some of our youth

went to overnight camps and really had a great time, we even had a crew at Berwick this summer! This was my first summer at Berwick and I made sure to make the best of it, spending mealtime in the dining hall helping youth serve meals to working with the youth group in the afternoon. I even made some new friends at camp! However, we really loved evening worship and veggie tales!

Once we got back from camp it was time to prepare for our own! This summer we held Vacation Bible Camp: The Gospel Express! The theme was trains and learning about Jesus' ministry, we had some great Bible lessons including the wedding at Cana, the lost sheep, the nativity and more. We did some super cool science and crafts and played so many games, especially "keep the beach ball in the air", our kids managed to reach over 500! We even took some time to build a train track! We were so grateful for our youth volunteers for helping with leading too! Then rolled around fall, and with it our kids returned to school! We are so excited to share that sports teams are meeting again and our kids had a blast headed to basketball games, gaining some skating skills, and even learning how to swim! By the time October came, everyone was over the moon excited for Halloween! We had a huge party and lots of candy! We even carved pumpkins to put out on display for the following Sunday. It was at this time that we learned that changing "Kids Hang Out" (our all-ages program) to Fridays in place of one of our youth groups was a big hit!

Before we could blink, fall had come and gone and winter was on our doorstep! We started November with Mystery friends, a program that brings together the generations in the church by partnering an adult member with a child or youth and they exchange anonymous letters for a few weeks and then meet at the Santa Claus celebration!

What fun we had meeting Santa! After we performed our White Gift Play "Mouse's Christmas Gift", we all got to meet Santa! Even the grown ups took a picture with Santa! We concluded the year with our nativity play on December 18th where the grown ups and the kids came together to put on a great performance; we even had some new friends performing with us!

Worship

Participating in worship has truly been a wonderful experience this year. Some of the most memorable moments were my PIE day sermon where I shared my experience as an LGBTQ+ minister with the church, not only was my sermon received with loving response but many hugs! So much support for my story truly made for a wonderful day preaching. I have preached several times since and even for a few weeks in a row while Don was on vacation. A lovely learning experience for this student minister and I am so grateful that I have been given the opportunity to share worship with all of you.

Education

This year has been a busy year for my education. I have focused on UCC doctrine, and supervised ministry placement! As well I had a wonderful summer learning from Ross Bartlett, Adrian Jacobs, and John Bell, each of which brought very meaningful educational experiences. Now as I shift into the new year and a new batch of classes, I am so grateful for everything I have learned at AST this past year.

Closing

In closing, I am so grateful for this year of love, for this year of teachings and justice and friendship. Orchard Valley United Church is truly a place I am happy to call home. May the Holy Spirit go with you in all that you do.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Katie Logan

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 Affirming Committee

2022 Committee Members:

- Vicky Austin (Co-Chair)
- Dale MacArthur (Co-Chair)
- Cheryl Sellsted (Secretary)
- Julien Davis
- Jean Illingsworth
- Katie Logan
- Chris Seymour
- Carol Wooster

2022 was a busy and exciting year for the Affirming Team.

These are the highlights:

March 2022:

- The Affirming Team took part in the second annual PIE Day service
- At the AGM, the congregation voted to become an Affirming Church
- The rainbow bench arrived from the Flower Cart and now sits “proudly” at the entrance to the church

June

- The Committee organized and held an Affirming Celebration with guest speaker, Caitlin Smithers, and guest from Affirm United, Rev. Kim Curlett. At this time, after receiving our certificate, Orchard Valley United Church officially became a member of Affirm United and is now considered an Affirming Church.

September

- Bev Sweatman spoke about Indigenous Issues, and committee members were invited to wear Orange Shirts to represent “Every Child Matters”

- Vicky Austin virtually attended the Affirm United AGM
- A donation was made to the GSA program at Evangeline Middle School (Gender Sexuality Alliance) for resource material
- The Committee bought more resource material for our library, specifically regarding Indigenous issues. They can be borrowed at any time.

October

- Committee members read during the service “Calls to Action” from the Truth and Reconciliation Report

November

- Transgender Day of Remembrance: Tamsin Michael Robson delivered a powerful message, “The Many Passions of the Transgender Christ” during the service.

December

- The committee sent affirming Christmas cards in a rainbow stocking to the GSA program for the students at EMS, New Minas. The stocking was made by Cheryl Sellsted.
- The Committee submitted its budget for 2023

All in all, the committee is very busy and active and had a very successful 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale MacArthur & Vicky Austin, Co-Chairs

5.2 Christian Development Committee

2022 Members: Andy Pitter (Chair)

Cheryl Hill

Amanda Dominey

Heather Hennigar

Rev. Don Sellsted

Pastor Katie Logan

Thea Burton

The mandate of the Christian Development Committee is to provide stewardship of the Christian Development programs of the congregation. It is also to determine the educational and developmental needs of the congregation and initiate programs to meet these needs for all persons, at each stage of their lives.

The year started out differently than expected because of the Omicron variant: we focussed less on programming and more on purging, packing, and moving our resources. Many thanks to the Facilities sub-committee who oversaw the moving and who finally sorted out the storage room! Katie stayed in touch with families, made Lenten kits, and had PIE Day, sledding and St. Patrick's Day events. Don facilitated an Orchard Valley group for the United Church Lenten book study on *Lesser Evils*. Two families walked with Outreach member sin Kentville, and the congregation helped us raise %520 for Open Arms.

In the spring, we launched our camp sponsorship campaign. Katie had egg hunt for Kids Hang Out and involved children and youth in singing on Pride Sunday when Orchard Valley became an Affirming congregation. We had two youth attend a virtual Youth Forum; Katie attended Berwick Camp for the first time. Katie held a small but very fun Vacation Bible camp. Just over \$1,620 sent 2 youth and 5 families to Sherbrooke Lake Camp. Thanks again to all who donated funds!

Katie and Thea represented the committee at Don's congregational planning meeting. Katie had a Halloween party for both children and youth, and we had a book-writing night with Valley Community Learning Association. The end of the

year kept Katie busy with Advent kits, Mystery Friends, White Gift Sunday, a visit from Santa, a Nativity play, and more. Congregational Life held a Christmas party for children and youth with Katie providing many of the activities.

Thanks to everyone who supported our programs in 2022!

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Pitter

5.3 Communications Committee

Members: Sylvia Jacquard (Chair)

Carol Dewar (Secretary)

Jane McDonald

Donna Murphy

Thea Burton

The committee met monthly to deal with the items related to our mandate which is to let the congregation and the public know what is happening at Orchard Valley. This we do in a variety of ways.

We continue to create twice-yearly newsletters at Advent and Easter. They are available in regular and large print versions, which are emailed, posted on the website and available in church.

They each include messages from the minister and the Council chair, a story specific to the season, a Voyagers/Youth group article and children's activity pages. The Easter newsletter included an article about PIE Day, the Affirming vote, sod turning ceremony for the expansion/renovations, farewell to Ken Hassell and Cynthia Bruce, and the first service in the Mall location.

The Advent newsletter featured articles about the progress of the renovations, our official designation as an Affirming Ministry, Tamsin Robson, speaker at our Transgender Day of Remembrance service, progress on the new directory, the 12

Days of Christmas, Christmas Hamper program and the choir's Christmas music. Committee members continue to provide assistance with keeping the website up-to-date, the live streaming of the church services in terms of preparing and presenting the power points, and camera switching.

This year's Stories from the Orchard pre-service slideshows included both the spring and fall Canucopias, the New Year's Eve party, and showing the progress of the renovations (7 slideshows)

The big project this year, which is still ongoing, has been the contacting of everyone in the congregation, active and inactive, to update their information. Many thanks to the members of the Pastoral Care Committee who have assisted us in making these calls. This updated information benefits the church database as well as ensuring that the new directory will be as up-to-date as possible.

We are also investigation new church management systems as PowerChurch no longer meets our needs. A new one will be chosen before the PowerChurch subscription expires in June and after extensive consultation with those who will be using it the most.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Jacquard, Chair

5.4 Congregational Life Committee

2022 Members:	Cheryl Sellsted (Chair)	Pastor Katie Logan
	Rebecca Godfrey	Norma Mailman
	Gail Gordon	Cheryl Manzer
	Frank Hartman	Brenda Parker
	Sarah Hartman	Ruth-Anne Stirling

This has been a good year with regards to Congregational Life. Since the pandemic, things have opened up. We have more freedom to do more activities within the church. We also moved to a new temporary location which has worked out well. We are looking forward to moving back into our new church building in the spring. This year we are able to have people stay after church for social time. We have coffee time back again. It is great to have this back.

We are currently working on having small dinner groups. This is within our church family. Our congregation gets to meet different people within our church community for a meal, so people can get to know each other. Cheryl Sellsted is in charge and has made lists for people who would like to participate. This is going to happen in 2023 and is a great way for people to make friendships within our congregation. Thank you, Cheryl, for all your hard work on this.

In June, Congregational Life showed the movie “The Magnitude of All Thing”. There were 16 people there. The committee was happy with the turnout. In November we decorated the church for Christmas. Brenda Parker played a big part in the decorating. A huge thank you to Brenda and all the others who helped her. They did a beautiful job.

In December, Santa met with the kids after the church service. This was special for the children. Congregational Life was there to help out. We also had a children’s crafts and movie day. Christian Development helped us with this event. There were 10 children there and it went well. Pastor Katie worked hard and she did an excellent job with the children. We had pizza for lunch and saw the movie “How

the Grinch Stole Christmas”. A big thank you to all the people who helped.

This year we had a New Year’s Eve event for the adults from 4-8 pm. There were 33 people in attendance. We had appetizers, sweets, dessert, hot apple cider and mock cocktails. It was a nice get together and enjoyed by all. There were games and special music provided by the Steeple Strummers. The evening ended with everyone singing Silver Bells. It was a big success and maybe we will do it again in 2023. A special thank you to the Steeple Strummers and to all the people who made the evening special.

To all the members of Congregational Life, a huge thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Godfrey

Member of Congregational Life Committee

5.5 Covenanter Committee

Time and Place of Meetings: 10:00 a.m. – 2nd Tuesday of each month – at OVUC or virtually

Number of Meetings: 12 *Average Attendance:* 9

<i>Executive :</i> Chair – David Murphy	<i>Members:</i> Jim Keech - Building Coordinator
Secretary – Ramona Jennex	Rev. Don Sellsted - ex officio
Treasurer – Betty Curry	Bill Woodman
	Anthony Harding
	Krystal Tanner
	Carrollee Day
	Barbara Sobaskilwicz
	Harvey Gilmour – Trustees Rep.

Cookbook Sales: Chris Herbin, Donna Murphy

General Purpose:

The Covenanter is the oldest existing Presbyterian Church building in Canada and is an object of great pride to the local community. This historic church is under the umbrella of the United Church of Canada through Orchard Valley United Church in New Minas. It is a registered Provincial Heritage Building and a National Historic Site and as such, is an active tourist destination for local, national and international travellers. The Covenanter Church Committee is tasked with ensuring this church remain a “living church” through organizing and implementing various services.

Currently the responsibility and a trust of the Orchard Valley United Church Board of Trustees, the Covenanter has unique and independent sources of funding and this is managed by the Covenanter Committee. The Covenanter Church is a trust of Orchard Valley United Church trustees and is managed by the Covenanter Committee. The Committee has representation from OVUC Trustees, community members, the OVUC minister as well as OVUC church members. The church has been financially self sufficient through the Heritage Fund set up to receive and disperse monies for repairs and maintenance. Funding is from a variety of sources including offerings, donations, weddings, fundraising, bequests, memorials and government grants.

Highlights:

During 2022, roofing contracts have been signed and the work is scheduled to start in March 2023. The committee secretary, Ramona Jennex, has resigned and our treasurer, Betty Curry has given notice of vacating that position in early 2023 after 23 years of service. Betty will remain as a much-valued member of the Covenanter Committee. As a result, the committee will be looking for replacements for both these positions.

Many of our committee meetings, in the first half of the year, were held virtually on Zoom and those from early to late fall were held as in person meetings at OVUC in 2022.

The proper care and maintenance of the Covenanter is always a priority of the

Committee and OVUC Trustees and so thanks to Greg Allen (lawn maintenance) and Heather McKinley (custodian) for the service they provided in carrying out their duties for the Covenanter..

Ongoing fundraisers for the Covenanter include sales of Winds of Change, a history of the peoples of the Covenanter Church in Grand Pré; sales of “A Joyful Noise”, a CD of early 1800 hymns, by Millennium Friends, an a cappella choir; handpainted note cards by artist Joy Myrah depicting seasonal scenes of the Covenanter and the sale of the Grand Pré Cookbook, compiled by the former Lower Horton UCW.

Even though summer services and tours in 2022 at the Covenanter were curtailed because of COVID-19, visitors not being able to physically enter the building could do so by a virtual tour made possible through the OVUC website, where a pano view of the interior is available. There was no virtual Easter Service this year but a Christmas eve service was held at 11 pm and led by Rev. Don Sellsted which included members of the Covenanter Committee; Caroline Burton, soloist; Carmen Peng, organist and Thea Burton, musical director.. The response to this service was very positive from many congregants of OVUC and the public who attended and found it uplifting and meaningful.

The Covenanter Committee’s goals for 2023, with an approved budget include: to continue ongoing maintenance and projects for the Covenanter; to replace the material on the roof and steeple of the church; to consider repairing or replacing the round window in the tower as well as the weathervane; to initiate conversation/ ideas for fundraising for the Covenanter and to finalize the Committee’s Vision and Mission Statement which will be incorporated with that of Orchard Valley United Church. The Covenanter Committee has begun plans to resume summer services at the Covenanter and getting back to pre-COVID routines of the church services and activities such as Kirkin O’Tartans.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Murphy, Chair, Covenanter Church Committee

2022 Covenanter Heritage Fund Financial Summary

Revenue

Book sales	
Cookbook sales	\$ 350.00
Note card sales	\$ 150.00
Kirkin O' Tartan	
Summer Services	\$2200.00
Memorials	
McClatchy Donation	\$ 500.00
Other Donations	
Christmas Eve Service	\$ 470.00
Wedding	\$ 300.00
Reimburse 2022 maintenance	\$ 990.00
<u>Sub-Total Revenue</u>	\$4960.00
HST Refund Due	\$3438.00
Total Revenue	\$8398.00

2023 Capital Budget 3rd of 5 Year Plan

Contract roof repair project	\$78,688.50	
Contract Deposit paid 2022	\$11,173.25	
Balance of Roof project	\$67,688.50	
Cov plaque renovation cost	\$ 1,380.00	
Tower Rondel window quote	\$ 3,425.00	
Weathervane removal-lift quote	\$ 990.00	
<u>Confirmed 2023 capital costs</u>	\$73,483.50	
Donation to sanctuary roof cost	\$20,000.00	
Person doing removal from lift	???	
Weathervane repair or replication	???	(no quotes until they examine it)

Donation to weathervane cost **\$ 2,000.00**

Balance will be paid through grants and/or by The Covenanter Heritage Fund reserve, the Fund held in trust for the Covenanter Church.

Draft Budget 2023

Expenditures

Summer Ministers	\$ 1275.00
Summer Organist	\$ 900.00
Portable Toilet rental	\$ 400.00
Custodian – general	\$ 400.00
Custodian – weddings	\$ 100.00
Christmas soloist	\$ 125.00
Christmas organist	\$ 100.00
Christmas Minister	\$ 150.00
Christmas Choir director	\$ 100.00
Lawn care	\$ 640.00
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 300.00
Electricity & Heating	\$ 425.00
Sewer Frontage Tax	\$ 167.00
Bank Charges	\$ 36.00
Insurance	\$ 3000.00
Total of fixed expenses	\$ 8118.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 200.00
Repair & Maintenance	
Bookkeeping supplies	\$ 80.00
Sales Inventory	
<u>Total Other Expenses</u>	\$ 280.00
<u>Total All Expenses</u>	\$ 8398.00

5.6 Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee, composed of Harvey Gilmour, Don Sellsted, David Murphy, Jane McDonald and Gary Dunfield (as well as Cupido Daniels for part of the year before moving on to other responsibilities with the Worship Committee), has continued to meet regularly to bring the renovation and expansion project to completion. It has been a busy year with the move to the mall in early spring and the construction proceeding through the fall and winter with an expected completion in the spring. As of Dec.31, 2022, the project was approximately 60% completed.

As we look to the move back there is a lot of work to do and the need for assistance of many individuals as we pack up, move and get setup in our new/renovated space.

It has been a pleasure to work with a wide group of individuals on this project.

Gary Dunfield

For the Facilities Committee

5.7 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee, made up of Bill Simpson (Treasurer), Jennie Bustin, Helen Gill, Betty Curry, and Gary Dunfield, has met on a somewhat regular basis (sometimes using technology) to approve the monthly statements, required expenditures and to set the 2023 budget as well as other matters as they arise.

We are pleased with the financial position of the church and the work that we are able to do.

One of the tasks we focused on during the latter part of the year was, with consultation with M&P, the treasurer, the admin assistant and others, the establishment of a volunteer Envelope Secretary position, which Sheila Francis has agreed to hold. With tellers now counting each Sunday, we have returned to pre-covid practices around the handling of the weekly offerings.

The statements from Kelly Coombs CPA are included with this report as well as the treasurer's report and the 2023 budget.

Gary Dunfield, Finance Committee

5.8 Ministry & Personnel Committee

2022 was an eventful year with the staff of Orchard Valley. Not only did they continue to navigate the long-lasting effects of pandemic restrictions and constantly changing recommendations, they managed the big move out of our church building and into the former Sears store. Although they had lots of help from church volunteers, it was a huge undertaking to make a new church and work home.

Doug managed the space set up and cleaning beautifully. Rachel created a cozy cubby for the office activities with an eye to the mall doors. Ken set up the music room and choir space in the sanctuary space and enjoyed reuniting with the baby grand. Don and Katie arranged their respective offices where Don welcomed visitors during the week and Katie had lots of space for youth programming and supplies. And Bill continued to keep the books on track with no disruption due to the move.

Everyone has done an incredible job and the congregation could not be more blessed.

The sad part of the year in personnel matters was saying farewell to Music Director Ken Hassell after 10 years of loyal and expert music leadership. He and Cynthia Bruce made the move to Montreal for Dr. Bruce's professorship at Concordia University and it is a true loss for Orchard Valley. With gratitude for all they brought to the first decade of our church family, and several decades in leadership with the former United Church of St. Paul & St. Stephen, Kentville, prior to amalgamation, we enjoyed a final service together in May.

After a summer of substitute accompanists, we welcomed Carmen Peng to our piano bench in September and Thea Burton directing the choir until a new Music Director is found. We thank them for their leadership and willingness to share their musical gifts for as long as we need them.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Handrigan

5.9 Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is comprised of representatives of several sub-groups: Affirm; Benevolent; Canucopia; Christmas Hampers; Coldest Night; Families Needing Support; Friday Morning Breakfast Group; Glooscap Breakfast program; Meet Your Feet; Scholarship Committee and Wolfville and Area Interchurch Council (WAICC). Our mandate is to reach beyond the congregation and serve the needs within our community. Meetings are held following the morning service on the first Sunday of each month.

Benevolent Fund: Benevolent spent \$10,609 (approx. last year) broken down as following: \$4,255 on Food, \$1,500 on Power (and rent), \$1,172 on oil, \$4,365 on transportation, \$1,400 on Rent, \$1,280 on health and \$160 on other. At this point the expected budget for next year is approx.. \$8,000, so...it means I must be careful to not spend too much...or seek additional funds.

Gary Dunfield and Pastor Katie Logan

Canucopia: Orchard Valley United Church organized two Canucopia Food Drives in 2022. They were both held at Sobeys store in New Minas. The Twelfth Annual Canucopia Drive was held on June 25, 2022. We raised over \$800, plus 1,872 kg of food and thirty volunteers participated.

The second food drive which was our Thirteenth Annual Canucopia Food Drive was held on October 29 in which we were able to raise \$1,175.45 plus three gift cards and 800 kg of food items. Thirty-four volunteers participated.

All food items were split between the three local food banks -Canning Food Bank, Fundy Food Bank (Kentville & New Minas Area) and Wolfville Food Bank.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this year's Canucopia Food Drive a huge success.

Susan Cater & Sue Smith

Christmas Hamper Program: This year Dale MacArthur and Helen Seymour coordinated the Christmas Hamper program. Sarah and Frank Hartman assisted with disbursing the gift bags and gift cards. Most recipients requested to pick up

their Hamper gift cards but five eventually were delivered as last-minute updates.(2 of these going back to Salvation Army when unable to be delivered.)

The Hampers were very well supported by the congregation. We took on 50 families and started with a base amount of \$70 and added \$10 for each family member. This was up 10 families from last year's 40 and up \$20 as the base amount from \$50. The fund had \$248.23 as a starting sum. Total donations during the year were \$6,355.00 for a total budget of \$6,603.23. After purchase of gift cards, mints, detergent and recycle grocery bags totalling \$6,545.73, we have \$57.50 to carry forward to 2023. Dale donated all the Christmas greeting cards to go with the Christmas Hampers.

Two announcements were made to the congregation for support and a thank you was made to the congregation.

Helen Seymour & Dale MacArthur

Coldest Night 2022: because of COVID and other factors, the youth group did not participate in Coldest Night of the Year again but they still had a walk in Kentville and raised funds for Open Arms. Two families and two Outreach members did the walk with me, and the youth group raised \$520. Thank you, Outreach and the whole congregation for your support of our youth group and Open Arms.

Andy Pitter

Community -building Assignment: As part of my work for the Centre for Christian Studies' Certificate in Social Justice, I need to research a new community initiative and write a grant proposal with someone else in the community. I have begun this assignment with Mi'kmaw knowledge keeper Carolyn Landry and expect the initiative to be beach cleanup or some other cleanup in the spring.

Andy Pitter

Families Needing Support: We continue to provide assistance in a variety of ways to a number of families who need support. This was especially so in the spring when someone had to move out of a family home into single-person housing and in the fall when two different families in the same circle of friends each lost a loved one within a week of each other. I am grateful for the advice and help the committee

gave me regarding these families as well as other families we are supporting.

Andy Pitter

Fundy Food Bank: The number of families we are now serving each week are steadily rising in the past few months. We are seeing four to six new families each week, a total of 221 new families this year. The food bank served 732 families – 7,350 clients (2,926 children/4,424 adults) and dispersed over 108,050 kg of food throughout the year.

70% of the clients are from Kentville and 17% are from New Minas.

54% of the clients made 1,2 or 3 visits to the food bank during the year.

Kentville Rotary Club volunteers provided 262 deliveries to clients who are unable to get to the food bank and the food bank provided taxi chits to clients who cannot carry the food items back home.

Orchard Valley United Church donated 1,034 kg of food which included the two Canucopia Food drives plus the Food Bank Sundays.

Sue Smith

Glooscap Elementary School Breakfast Program: Although the Breakfast Program was able to re-start at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, COVID restrictions closed the school to volunteers so that we did not do our weeks that fell between January-June 2022. Volunteers did two of the scheduled weeks (Sept 27-Oct 1, Nov 22-26) in 2021

We were back at Glooscap for the 2022-2023 year and continued to provide the request for two volunteers each morning. This year we had five weeks: Sept., Nov., Feb., Apr., and June). Our task is to prepare toast and/or bagels.

Sylvia Jacquard

Meet Your Feet: We re-started the program in April 2022 with two regular nurses and two nurses that come when their work rotations permit. We are using the appointment-only format which is working very well. All clients must have their vaccinations up-to-date and masks are required. We are using a donation box that on average brings in \$500.00 a month and we also received a grant of \$1000.00

from the Valley Regional Hospital Foundation. That money is to replace supplies of files, nippers, and aids for feet like toe tubes and bunion supports. This program could not happen without the support of the volunteers who greet the clients, make the appointments, and do the filing. A special thank you to Orchard Valley United for their ongoing support.

Cheryl Manzer

Scholarship Program: The four-member Scholarship Committee administers the \$1000 Rev. Dr. K.G. Sullivan Memorial Scholarship and the \$500 Arthur R. Allen Memorial Scholarship on behalf of the congregation. This year we received 20 applications from the three high schools in our catchment area (Central Kings rural High School, Horton High School, and Northeast Kings Education Centre). The students chosen were Leah Newcombe from Central Kings Rural High School, and Emma Slauenwhite-Powers from Horton High School. The committee members read redacted applications and reference letters and so were able to choose the winners based solely on the criteria set forth in the scholarship (academics, leadership, and humanitarianism).

Sylvia Jacquard

Helen Seymour

Chair, Outreach Committee

2022 Annual Report from the Pastoral Care Committee,
Orchard Valley United Church

The Orchard Valley United Church Pastoral Care Committee, in partnership with the Ministry Team, coordinated pastoral care visitation to members of the congregation (and other United Church of Canada people living in our communities). The Pastoral Care Committee encouraged and supported Orchard Valley United Church home, hospital, and institution visitations, while providing a nurturing environment for both the visiting volunteers and those being visited.

The 2022 Pastoral Care Committee membership included Rev. Don Sellsted, Admin Assistant, Jean Millett, Vangé Leslie, Vera Burke, Noreen MacGregor, Edie Lloyd, Allyson Dunfee, George Dunfee, Linda Draper, Jan Porter, Sheila Richardson, Diana Dunn, Vicky Dekker, Gerald Giddens, and Joy Waterbury (Chair). All members have the requirements for the Duty To Care Program.

The committee met monthly, most of the time, either in person or by Zoom. The meetings all started with a meditation and ended with a blessing and prayer circle. We reported to the OVUC Council and attended the Council meeting. Bills for expenses were forwarded to Council for payment from the 2022 budget.

No Point-To-Point and Cab transportation for members to be brought to Church have happened in 2022.

Nursing Home Services for seniors have started again for the Wolfville Nursing Home and Shannex in Kentville. Committee members have provided assistance when needed. Bulletins and cards were sent, telephone calls were made, funerals were attended where possible and emails were sent. Hospital Visiting was limited to Rev. Sellsted.

The Journeying Through Grief books (four short books set) are available for committee members to share with Orchard Valley United Church at four crucial times during the first year after a loss.

Pastoral Care's two Sub-Committees were Prayer Shawls and Spirit Yoga that met when COVID restrictions allowed. A total of 44 Prayer Shawls or Prayer Squares were given out this year. Yarn and patterns are available at the Church for those

who prefer to work at home.

Rev. Don and our Pastoral Care Committee hosted a virtual Longest Night Service on December 21st with members of WAICC.

A program called, “You’ve Got a Friend” (to help OVUC Church Members keep in touch with each other), was organized by Vera Burke, Linda Draper, and Allyson Dunfee. Thank you to our callers: Vera Burke, Judy Gilmore, Jan Porter, Jean Millett, Eleanor and Ned Chase, Linda Draper, Peggy Jones, Ann Clattenburg, Fran Turner, Betty Rockwell, Joy Waterbury, Margaret Curry, George and Allyson Dunfee, Cheryl Manzer and Sheila Richardson. This group effort was especially important this year to support and prevent loneliness for isolated Church members. We worked with OV Communications Committee to update Church membership lists.

We wish to thank those Church members who donated cards, stamps, time and money for our OVUC Pastoral Care work throughout 2022. Linda Draper and Diana Dunn have done our cards this year.

Partnership with our clergy team is essential for Pastoral Care. Rev. Don Sellsted participated in meetings. For this, we are very grateful. Thank you to our OVUC Administrative Assistant and Rev. Don.

We are forever grateful to all of those caring prayers, energy and innovative OVUC people who have stepped up to the challenge of keeping our Church family connected this year.

Respectfully submitted:

Joy Waterbury, Pastoral Care Committee, Orchard Valley United Church

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl group met on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 in the evenings up until November 2022 for a time of sharing friendship and handiwork. In December, we moved the time to the second Tuesday at 2:00 and will continue at this time. Shawls have been completed, donated, and gifted to those who are celebrating a milestone (4), experiencing grief, or recovering from illness or surgery (37) and 3

are for unknown reasons. There was a total of 44 Prayer Shawls given out this year. We would welcome anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting to contact the church for yarn and to come out for a time of fellowship at our new time. Please let the church know if you have someone who would appreciate receiving a shawl.

Submitted by Helen Seymour

5.11 Property Committee

This committee carries a great of responsibility for the everyday and on-going function of the temporary facility and on the former site. This is mostly maintained by our custodian Doug MacKinnon. Other dealings were handled upon request.

This Committee held seven meetings throughout the year with very few in-person meetings.

We are responsible for

- Submitting an expenditure budget to the Finance Committee
- Continual upkeep and maintenance of the temporary site to ensure ready for use and safety
- Submitted reports and attended Council meetings
- Was part of the Decommissioning Committee from the former site to the temporary and will again back to our permanent site
- Maintained a key listing for the temporary site
- Overseen or handled any required dealings
- Upon return to Cornwallis Ave. there will be the re-issuing of contracts i.e snow removal, fire extinguishers, alarm system, electrical supply and/or internet transfers
- Re-positioned and secured the storage unit at the rear of the church
- Overseen duties during Doug's week vacation

In addition to

- Bill Woodman was able to secure the monument at the Heritage site until the spring of 2023 when it will be returned, placed and re-dedicated with the Kerr family

- Three extra keys made from maintained listing
- Provided an extra long ladder for the Covenanter Church (from storage)
- Future consideration
- 1-3 yr 5 yr 10 yr
- Re-newing contracts
- Monument replacing parking lot paving
- Vacuum cleaner(s)
- Janitor's cart
- Gardens
- Inventory file

Respectfully submitted
Norma Mailman, Chair

5.12 Worship Committee

2022 Members: Cupido Daniels (Chair as of June, 2022)
 Cynthia Bruce (Chair as to April, 2022)
 Johann Botha (joined committee as of November 2022)
 Marion Buchan
 Diana Dunn
 Patricia Godfrey
 Betty Rockwell (retired from committee as of November, 2022)
 Kathy Schofield
 Fran Turner

Ex-Officio: Rev. Don Sellsted , Pastor Katie Logan

With the passing of another year during which many challenges, changes, and new growth occurred within our OVUC family, the Worship Committee responded with commitment to adapt to these changes.

Some of the changes which the committee adapted, involved:

- i) A change in the Chair position with the relocation (hopefully temporarily) of Cynthia Bruce to other pastures, to Cupido midway through the year, who only joined the committee two months prior
- ii) The departure of Ken Hassell, our very accomplished and able Director of Music. Until fulltime replacement is in place, music leadership for our worship services has transitioned from Marilyn Whiteway, through Donna Rhodenizer, to now Carmen Peng and Thea Burton.
- iii) Changes to temporary relocation to our physical space of worship, and changes to the Communion necessitated by the continuing COVID-19 concerns.

The primary functions of the committee, with direction to and from Council, include involvement and approval of:

- i) Format and elements of all worship services, including senior care facilities
- ii) Baptisms, weddings, transfers of membership

The committee feel extremely blessed for the unwavering and dedicated spiritual leadership and guidance of Reverend Don Sellsted, for which we are extremely thankful. Rev. Don also serves as the vice-chair of the committee. We are also blessed to have the hardworking, pleasant, and effervescent Pastor Katie Logan for her dedication and continued input.

The committee wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to all who make our worship services such an uplifting experience. These include, but not limited, to:

- i) Our pastoral, office and custodial staff: Rev. Don, Pastor Katie, Admin Assistant Rachel and Custodian Doug MacKinnon
- ii) Our leaders in music: Thea Burton, Carmen Peng, the choir, and all those who provide special music items throughout the year
- iii) Members of the Congregational Life Committee, especially for decorating the sanctuary to make it feel so homey

- iv) Ushers, live stream, and IT team
- v) Betty Rockwell who retired from the committee this year. She will continue to be involved in our services at the Senior Care facilities. THANK YOU BETTY!
- vi) Marion Buchan for her continued lead and dedication to preparing and setting up the items and elements for Communion services. THANK YOU MARION!

We always welcome new members to bring diverse opinions.

Respectfully submitted in Prayer and Humility, on behalf of the Worship Committee
Cupido Daniels (Chair)

Choir Update

It has been a joy to pull together the choir for in-person worship services. Since September, we have enjoyed a combination of choral and solo work culminating with our special Christmas service exploring carols from around the globe in 5 different languages, accompanied by piano, guitar, and hand chimes. Our temporary choir room and our extensive music library has been organized for easy access and ready for our move back into our permanent home. The choir is considering new attire as our current robes are uncomfortable, hot, and getting old. More news on that in the new year. The choir is always open to welcoming new members. No experience necessary.

Thea Burton

OTHER GROUPS

6.1 Orchard Valley UCW (OV-UCW)

The Orchard Valley United Church Women (OV-UCW) follow their purpose, to unite women of the congregation for the mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.

Members met on the third Monday of March and April. It was decided at that time that there was not enough interest to continue the group. UCW Area events will continue to be brought to the attention of the women of the church.

2022 United Church Calendars- 32 calendars were sold. Funds returned to the church treasurer.

OV-UCW Bank Balance- the balance of the OV-UCW funds - \$525.00 was given to Bill Simpson, Church Treasurer, for use in the church.

Events: Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our gatherings for the World Day of Prayer and Spring Rally were not held. The afternoon at Berwick Camp for the UCW program was held on August 3rd. Two members attended. Three others needed to attend a funeral that same afternoon. Cookies for Berwick Camp were provided by the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Millett

6.2 Wolfville UCW Unit (WV-UCW)

We held our meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month except for June and December, when we go out for lunch. There were no meetings in July and August.

Over the year Devotions were led by Jayne Hynes, Ann Booth, and Jan Porter. Programs were led by Brenda Barss, Jan Porter, Andy Pitter and Ann Booth. Refreshments were offered by Jan Porter, Hughanne Hennigar, Ann Booth, Brenda Barss, Carol Vanderkloet and Sylvia Delisle.

We have made donations to Mission and Service in memory of Dorothy Walker, to the Canadian red Cross for their Ukranian Crisis relief, to WAICC and to Valley Regional Hospital in loving memory of Mary Mercer and Marion McKinley, long time UCW members.

Many thanks to Wickwire Place for allowing us to hold our meeting and providing tea and coffee.

Submitted by,

Jane Hynes, President

6.3 Orchard Valley Men's Group

The OVUC men's Group has a following of 20 men from the church; we are active within the Church in numerous ways:

- We administer the Fundscrip and Guys Cans program on a continuous basis. This program assists with helping to financially contribute to the many outreach programs offered by Orchard Valley United Church. One example is the "Meet Your Feet" program.
- The Men's Group also provides assistance to the Property Committee when needed for projects at the church.
- We serve on various committees within the Church structure.
- The Men's Group assist with helping Congregation members by ushering at the entrance on Sunday mornings.
- We participate in the Church choir
- We are available for additional tasks whenever we are needed.
- We hold meetings when required to address various issues related to the church.
- We meet once a month for "fellowship and breakfast" at a local eating establishment.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Seymour, Chair

6.4 OVUC Women's Breakfast Group

Financial Statement for year ending December 31, 2022

Revenue

Breakfast Donations	\$1,091.60
Catering & Fundraising	\$ 300.00
Programming	
TOTAL Revenue	\$1,391.60

Expenses

Bank Fees	\$ 36.00
Benevolent Fund	-
Gifts	\$ 200.00
Maritime Conference	-
Programming & retreat expense	-
Supplies-Food & other	\$ 895.00
TOTAL Expenses	\$1,131.00
Net Income	\$ 260.60

Net Worth as at Dec.31,2022

Balance forward-Dec.31/22	\$ 876.18
Income 2022	\$1,391.60
Expenses 2022	\$1,131.00
Closing Balance-Dec.31,2022	\$1,136.78

Submitted by Jennie Bustin & Heather Hennigar

6.5 Wolfville & Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC)

The Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council's biggest work is to assist those in need in their catchment area through social initiatives. The Council currently has five social initiatives:

Wolfville Area Food bank

Special needs (individual emergency assistance)

School supplies/fees program

Cheques to schools for their food programs

Christmas Hampers

Food Bank volunteer Janet Roberts and then President Nancy Harbers conducted a community needs assessment by contacting the leaders involved in these initiatives. One finding, for example, was that school Principals are spending significant time getting money for their food programs given the number of students needing support. They are most appreciative of WAICC's contributions.

WAICC's spiritual initiatives in 2022 included the usual worship at the Elms and Wolfville Nursing Home, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity activities, and Good Friday (the latter with Rev. Don preaching at Port Williams United Baptist). WAICC also had a Blessing of the Animals at Willow Park in September and participated in Orchard Valley's Blue Christmas worship.

WAICC's AGM voted in a new slate of officers with several changes: Rev. Dr. Scott Kindred-Barnes, President; Rev

.Nicole Uzans, Vice-President; and rev. Dr. Rob Hankinson, Secretary. Nancy Harbers became Past President and Ray Bishop stayed on as Treasurer.

The Council had its first ever orientation for lay representatives and clergy. Sylvia Jacquard is now a lay representative, too, and we both attended.

With great sadness, many WAICC reps noted the passing of long-time supporter Rev. Dr. Roger Prentice: Roger had been active in WAICC when he was Acadia

University Chaplain and even when he was not! We also noted the passing of a new rep, the esteemed Rev. Dr. William Brackney.

Respectfully submitted, Andy Pitter (OVUC Rep)

6.6 Kentville, New Minas and Area of Churches

The Council of Churches for Kentville, New Minas and Area of Churches did not meet again in 2022.

Ecumenical Worship:

Christian Unity Worship: no service was held

Blessing of the Grads/Family Picnic: Northeast Kings Education Centre hosted the event at their school in June.

Advent Service: No service was held

Valley Foodgrains Bank – Again this year various fund-raising activities were cut back due to COVID-19 virus. The pumpkin sale did take place with the Kentville Baptist Youth Group raising \$1,287.10.

Fundy Food Bank- Numbers have steadily risen this past year reaching high eighties or low nineties. (More info has been given in Outreach report)

Christmas Hamper & Good Neighbour Energy Home Heating Programs are administered by the Salvation Army. The Good Neighbour Energy Home Heating Program is for clients who need assistance with their heating and funds are provided by NS Power.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith

6.7 Valley Foodgrains Bank

The Valley Foodgrains Bank Project (VFGBP) has been a multifaith and community project since its inception. The VFGBP works under the direction of the Canadian

Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). The CFGB is a partnership of fifteen churches and church-based agencies working to end global hunger by: supporting international programs to meet immediate food needs, reduce malnutrition and achieve sustainable food security; influencing improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger. Since 1983, the Canadian

Foodgrains Bank and its members have – provided over \$1 billion of food assistance – worked with over 100 international partners to address global hunger – worked in over 70 countries around the world. Churches in the area forming VFGBP are Orchard Valley United, Berwick United, Woodville United, Kingsport United, Kentville Baptist, Bethany Baptist, Saint James Anglican, and Kings Presbyterian.

Due to restrictions, the usual meetings and projects have not taken place. However, The Kentville Baptist Youth Group and church members were able to have a pumpkin sale project. They raised \$1,287.10. Wonderful work! We were able to send \$1,200 to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Thank you to the Kentville Baptist Youth Group.

We have been advised by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank that Valley Foodgrains Bank project has been approved for a grant of \$400 from Bayer Crop Science Inc. Bayer Crop Science has generously supported Foodgrains Bank Growing Projects with an \$80,000 gift and asked the Foodgrains Bank to distribute to almost 100 projects across Canada. The funds designated to our project will be credited internally and the amount added to our project's donation at the end of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Millett, Secretary/Treasurer

7. Board of Trustees

2022 Members:

Harvey Gilmour (Chair)

Nancy Handrigan (Secretary)

Gary Dunfield (Treasurer)

Jim Dewar

Ian Godfrey

Jane McDonald

Scott Sweatman

Ex-officio: Rev. Don Sellsted, Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk (OVUC Council Chair)

The Board of Trustees is mandated to oversee the real assets of Orchard Valley United Church under the umbrella of the OVUC Church Council. It meets on the call of the Chair and works through its own meetings as well as a standing investment Committee. The Trustees are linked to the oversight of Covenanter Church through the appointment of a member to the Covenanter Committee. The Board of Trustees is also represented on the Facilities Planning Group.

The Board is grateful to new Trustees, Jane McDonald and Scott Sweatman, who willingly replaced outgoing Trustees Ned Chase and Debbie Selig.

There were two meetings of the Board in 2022, in February and May. Financial statements were reviewed, Jane McDonald was appointed as signing officer, Harvey Gilmour was appointed Chair for a one-year term, and Scott Sweatman was appointed Vice-Chair, to assume the role of Chair in 2023.

Regular transfers from Trustee funds to operating funds of OVUC and the Covenanter Church took place and the Board heard the annual presentation by Peter Miller regarding the investments held at ScotiaMcLeod.

Expenses were paid through Trustee accounts for the building project and the youth minister.

The Board heard an update from the Fundraising Committee regarding the funds raised for the church building.

Members of the Investment Committee are Gary Dunfield, Jim Dewar, Ian Godfrey, and Nancy Handrigan, with Peter Miller as ex-officio Investment Counsel. Rev. Don Sellsted and Harvey Gilmour represented Trustees on the Covenanter Church Committee. Gary Dunfield and Harvey Gilmour have represented Trustees on the Facilities Planning Committee.

Thanks are due to Gary Dunfield for his extensive work with the financial oversight as Treasurer and to Harvey Gilmour for his many years as Chair of Trustees. Trustees are grateful for their dedication to the leadership of this group.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Handrigan
Secretary, OVPC Board of Trustees

ORCHARD VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

March 20, 2022

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND CONSITUTION** – Jane McDonald welcomed the congregation in person and online and invited Rev. Don Sellsted to join in explaining voting online at 1:09 pm.
- 2. OPENING PRAYER** – Rev. Sellsted shared “who are we?” – We are Orchard Valley United Church... document and a prayer.

3. MOTION

MOTION: that adherents be granted voting privileges for this meeting

Moved: Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk **Seconded:** Frank Hartman **CARRIED**

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: to approve the agenda as circulated

Moved: Norma Mailman **Seconded:** Sarah Hartman **CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting

MOTION: to approve the minutes of the 2021 annual congregational meeting

Moved: Bill Simpson **Seconded:** Fran Turner **CARRIED**

6. Correspondence – none

7. Committee Reports

a) Affirming Church Committee

MOTION: on behalf of the Affirming Committee the acceptance of the enhanced vision and mission statement as presented on October 27, 2021 *To amend the Vision and Mission Statements of OVPC to be more inclusive*

Moved: Dale McArthur **Seconded:** affirming committee **CARRIED**

MOTION: on behalf of the Affirming Committee that Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge apply for membership to Affirm United and, if accepted, be designated an Affirming Church

Moved: Dale Macarthur **Seconded:** Thea Burton **CARRIED**

- b) Christian Development
- c) Communications
- d) Congregational Life
- e) Covenanter Church
- f) Facilities Committee
- g) Finance
- h) Ministry & Personnel
- i) Outreach
- j) Pastoral Care
- k) Property
- l) Stewardship
- m) Worship

8. Other Groups

- a) UCM
- b) UCW
 - i) Orchard Valley
 - ii) Wolfville
 - iii) Friday Morning Breakfast Club
- c) Inter-church councils
 - i) Wolfville & Area Inter-Church Council
 - ii) Kentville, New Minas & Area Council of Churches
- d) Valley Food Grains Bank Project
- e) Search Committee
- f) Region 15

9. Board of Trustees

MOTION: to accept the submitted reports as presented

Moved: Thea Burton **Seconded:** Bruce Tymchuk **CARRIED**

MOTION: accept the resignations of Trustees Ned Chase, Bryan Draper and Debbie Selig, with the Board's gratitude

Moved: Harvey Gilmour **Seconded:** Bruce Tymchuk **CARRIED**

10. Financial Statements

- a) General Fund - Financial Reports for 2021
 - i) Budget 2021
- b) Trustees
 - i) Financial Reports – 2021

MOTION: to accept the operating fund financial statements prepared by Bill Simpson and reviewed by Kelly Coombs CPA for 2021 as presented

Moved: Bill Simpson **Seconded:** Gary Dunfield **CARRIED**

MOTION: to accept the budget for 2022 with the addition of \$43,000 for rental costs while the building is being renovated

Moved: Bill Simpson **Seconded:** Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk **CARRIED**

MOTION: to accept the trust fund statements reviewed by Kelly Coombs CPA for 2021 as presented

Moved: Gary Dunfield **Seconded:** Bill Simpson **CARRIED**

11. Nominating Committee Report

MOTION: to adopt the nominating report with the following additions:

- Affirming – Susan Cater
- Christian Development – Thea Burton
- Worship – Cupido Daniels
- Pastoral Care – Vicki Dekker and Gerald Giddens
- Congregational Life – Brenda Parker
- Communications – Thea Burton (ex-officio)
- Ministry & Personnel – Cheryl Manzer
- Property – Cupido Daniels, Frank Hartman, Fran Turner, Bruce Tymchuk
- Outreach – Susan Cater, Julien Davis
- Region 15 Representative – Cheryl Sellsted

Moved: Norma Mailman **Seconded:** Betty Curry **CARRIED**

12. Clergy's Report

13. Report from the Chair –

MOTION: to accept the reports of Clergy and Chair of Council as presented

Moved: Seconded: CARRIED

14. New Business

a) Approve Auditor for 2022

MOTION: to approve the engagement of Kelly Coombs CPA as auditor for 2022

Moved: Gary Dunfield **Seconded:** Bruce Tymchuk **CARRIED**

15. **Closing Prayer** – Pastor Katie Logan offered a closing prayer

16. **Benediction & Adjournment** – *Rev. Sellsted offered a benediction*

MOTION: to adjourn the 2022 annual congregational meeting

Moved: *Bruce Tymchuk*

Meeting adjourned at 1:11 pm.

Nancy Handrigan, Secretary

ATTENDEES ONLINE:

Nancy Handrigan
Vange Leslie
Ned and Eleanor Chase
Peggy Jones
Donna and Dave Murphy
Jan Porter
Cheryl Manzer
Pat Foote
Jean Sutherland
Bruce MacArthur
Helen Hansford
Marion Buchan

In person attendees:

Name

Pat Godfrey
Anne Clattenburg
Ian Godfrey
Rebecca Godfrey
Richard Clattenburg
Joy Waterbury
Betty Curry
Susan Cater
Jean Millett
Helen Seymour
Debbie Selig
Irma Maxwell
Margaret Clarke
Johanna Rosolen
Betty Rockwell
Sheila Francis
Carol Dewar
Jim Dewar
Lyn Bolt
Susanne Sweatman
Scott Sweatman
Roger Bolt
Judy Gilmour
Harvey Gilmour
Helen Gill
Linda Draper
Angela Whiteway
Marilyn Whiteway
Gordon Whiteway
Jane McDonald
Bruce Tymchuk
Mindy Vinqvist-Tymchuk
Bill Simpson
Chris Seymour
Brenda Parker
Cheryl Sellsted
Sandra Bornemann
Julien Davis
Thea Burton
Wayne MacDonald
Sylvia Jacquard
Andrea Purvis
Cheryl MacDonald

Vicky Austin

Dale MacArthur

Lorna MacNeil

Peggy Smith

Fran Turner

Norma Mailman

Frank Hartman

Sarah Hartman

Cupido Daniels

One name I can't read.

Report from Region 15 to Orchard Valley Annual Meeting 2023

Orchard Valley has two representatives on the Regional Council those being myself, Jane McDonald, and Cheryl Sellsted. I will report on the work I am involved in and then Cheryl can update you on the work she participates in. As the Past President of the Region, I continue to sit on the Executive until May of 2023. After that I will be involved at least as Chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. I expect that being the type of person I am I will find another niche to fill unless Don finds something more for me to do.

The Region continues to strive being supportive to the needs of Communities of Faith throughout their journey. As we slowly and cautiously move towards opening our churches to pre-COVID status we are always aware that COVID lurks around the corner, so we are encouraged to be joyous in the call that we live out but with thoughts of continuing to protect those around us.

COVID has brought about changes to all levels of the United Church. We have discovered that we can meet successfully at a Region level but even as Orchard Valley we have successfully managed two Annual meetings. Less travel which supports a greener planet and less wear and tear on our people and property. The United Church of Canada held the General Council meeting this past year totally virtually. What was a 2-3 week meeting jam packed agenda in one place in this wondrous country we live in, became the longest running General Council 44 (GC44) meeting in history running from February of last year to August with the induction of our new Moderator.

The General Council meeting is where the whole of the church comes together to determine policy and changes needed to support various pieces of work that continue through our National office on behalf of each of us that call the United Church of Canada our faith home. Each region across the country sends representatives to attend the meetings and present proposals and vote on proposals and of course the budget under which we will strive to live for the next three years. All pieces of important work.

Region 15 contributed proposals to the GC44. I commend the thoughtfulness of our committees for standing up for those that struggle both globally and here at home. We presented proposals that Ministry staff taking maternity leave would have their salaries topped up and the funds would come from the National church coffers. Oftentimes young Ministry staff particularly women find themselves at a disadvantage when applying for positions. Congregations often consider that “we can’t afford to pay for two ministers while our minister is on maternity leave”, so they often are less likely to hire a young woman. This was passed at General Council so the playing field should become more even, and staff will be able to have a living wage while adjusting to life with a new member of the family.

With the new change in structure that came into being in 2019 it meant we, as the Region and the UCC had to again discuss how churches in Bermuda who have been in community with us will continue in community with us into the future. We have through the past 4 years been working with Bermuda to come up with a Memorandum of Understanding. All three parties agreed to the agreement. The Region sent the proposal to the General Council to accept the MOU so that we can truly be in relationship with Bermuda again. This relationship will be celebrated at our Annual Meeting scheduled for the first weekend of June in Bedford. On another note, we can now come up with a name to describe our Region and a logo. It is exciting times.

Another proposal that our Region's Justice, Mission, and Outreach Committee has been working on is the status of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and the stance that the United Church needs to take to support those being harmed by the ongoing conflict. I commend the passion and dedication of our JMO team on their continued work on this. The proposal was tabled at the General Council and the General Secretary, and the General Council Executive have authorized further study and to prepare educational materials that will allow members of the UCC to better understand the complexity of the issue. As the United Church we continue to work on becoming an antiracist organization. To this end there are committees within our region and at the National level that are working on helping us to understand what it means to be antiracist.

Communication and connection continue to be hot topics for the Region. How can we build relationship with each other and to also let Communities of Faith (CoF) know what is going on in the Region and what information CoF need to carry out the work they feel called to do. We are offering throughout the year webinars on topics that might be of interest to folks. We held one on governance in the fall and there will be more throughout the year. If you want to know what is happening in the Region, you can subscribe to the Weekly announcements. You can do so at this webpage: <https://ucceast.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=27a0e7b6822ea2f922c5e2e30&id=a63f38c7d6>

We continue to work with our Strategic Plan and discern what it is that the three Pillars mean to each of us as a Region, a CoF and as a member of the UCC. Think about what each of these Pillars means to Orchard Valley:

Discipleship – what does it mean to tell our story and welcome newcomers to our midst to travel the journey with us.

Mission or Call – What are we being called to do in this time and place in which we live. How can we be supportive to our communities that surround us?

Leadership – How can we, as a spirit filled community be a leader in the work we are called to do. How can we as individuals live out our passions to support and protect those less fortunate than ourselves.

And in the words and Strategic Plan of the United Church of Canada; How can we journey together into **BOLD DISCIPLESHIP, DARING JUSTICE, and DEEP SPIRITUALITY.**

As a congregational lay-person representative to Region 15, I (Cheryl) am navigating a lot of new information and concepts. I have joined the Faith Story and Community Covenant (FSCC) committee and am doing my best to get up to speed with the purpose and work of this particular committee. I have observed that the committee itself is also navigating its role in the new Region structure. I would ask for grace from all Communities of Faith (CoF) as we do our best to bring relevant, purpose-filled information and guidance to each CoF. We are presently developing a Self-Assessment Survey that will provide information vital for developing relevant supports. We are also streamlining workshops to bring to CoF with the goal of bringing a clear understanding of what is a Faith Story versus a CoF Profile which is required only when calling new ministry personnel. These workshops, both on-line and in-person offerings will clarify and give examples of how the Faith Story as a living document can help each CoF move forward in their respective ministries; and develop or re-examine their Mission Statement with an action focussed view of how they live out their mission and ministries for their CoF, community and world. I am enjoying the discussions held within the committee and even though I have never

participated in the greater church before, I feel I am contributing well. Asking a lot of “there are no dumb” questions to expedite my learning and meeting new ministry and lay people within our Region. Because of each of you and how our own CoF lives out our ministries, you have given me a lot of great examples to share and I believe you are a bright beacon of light within the United Churches in Nova Scotia!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane McDonald
Cheryl Sellsted
Orchard Valley Representatives to Region 15