

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Minister - Rev. Stephen Fram

Organist and Choir Director - Malcolm Bradley

Chair, Unified Board - Mark Hazen

Office Administrator - Thelma Blaikie

Grace United Church Annual Report 2021

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Minister's Report 2021

Grace United Church is an Affirming Ministry committed to transforming lives by living God's vision as an active part of the diverse community in the Heart of Dartmouth.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we journey together in faith as people, embracing every age, race, gender identify, sexual orientation, family composition, mental and physical ability, cultural background and socio-economic status in the life and work of Grace United Church.

Within the pages of this annual report you will get a sense of our shared work and ministry in 2021. This story and the story that you find behind the printed words continues to inspire and guide our common life as we seek to be the church in this time and place.

Last Sunday I arrived at the church to discover an empty oil tank and thankfully the building was still relatively warm (thirteen degrees) compared to outside. So after a call to our oil distributor for an emergency fill up and furnace start we decided that we would proceed with the service. Although it was a little on the chilly side those who gathered and bundled up were able to enjoy worship. As a precaution I called the folks who registered for the service to let them know about the temperature and most came anyway. For them gathering in this grand old building was special and it did warm their spirits. Ironically Malcolm Bradley had just changed the exterior sign to say "Come in for warm welcome."

The warm welcome experienced in this community has so much to do with how we treat one another in the name of Jesus Christ. Nearly two years into the pandemic we have embraced being a community of faith that has met in a hybrid fashion and we have found ways to be a faithful community in this new and challenging environment. The learning will continue and will have ups and downs but the key point is that we are a community of faith that seeks to be affirming and inclusive of all. Later this month the members of the Unified Board are meeting to do some strategic planning about what Grace will look like as we emerge from this pandemic. What are our values? How do we engage in faithful and transformative discipleship in light of the reality that we are and will continue to be a hybrid community?

In 2021 Grace navigated the pandemic fairly well. We were able to offer a meaningful ministry tempered by public health restrictions. Worship for the most part allowed for an in person options on most Sundays. In the fall and into December we enjoyed a full choir and a variety of in person options. As related to other aspects of our ministry I invite you to read this report to discover how the committee's and teams adapted to the shifting pandemic reality.

In closing let me express my gratitude for the ministry of the members of the Unified Board, its committee's, and groups. Their innovation, support, guidance and leadership is what makes our mutual ministry and mission effective and successful.

To our Supervised Field Student from AST Max Martin (January until April); our music director Malcolm Bradley; our administrative assistant Thelma Blaikie; and our caretaker Bill Busby; our rental manager Bob Tobin, I say thank you for your ministry and the opportunity to minister with you. A special thank you to the excellent ministry provided by the Rev. Wendy Kean during my sabbatical from September to December and to all those who supported her ministry and stepped up to fill the gaps that were created by having her on a half time basis.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Stephen Fram

Marriages

- August 05, 2021 - Trevor William Pike and Kristin Rosanne Arason
- August 21, 2021 - Keith Jeffrey Snow and Pamela Jean Desrochers
- September 18, 2021 - Nolan A. R. MacDonald and Sarah Victoria Bond

Deaths / Funerals / Memorial / Committal Services

- February 11, 2021 - Ronald Everett Hartley
- February 17, 2021 - Judith Elaine Seifried
- March 30, 2021 - William James DeWolfe
- May 22, 2021 - Lillian Claire Wall
- June 17, 2021 - Eugene Mortimer Harvey
- July 25, 2021 - Jerry Norman Smyth
- July 30, 2021 - John James MacDougall
- August 09, 2021 - Debra Joy Jonatanson
- August 19, 2021 - Frances Gonnella Wallace
- August 30, 2021 - Brian Hennen
- December 03, 2021 - Helen Juanita Grant

Some "People" Statistics - 2021

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Number of Households	265	263	259	249	245
Number of Persons	641	637	632	622	612
Membership, January 1 st	576	568	563	558	553
Received by Profession of Faith	0	1	1	0	0
Received by Transfer	0	2	0	0	0
Restored	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0
Members Who Died	8	7	6	4	7
Members Who Transferred	0	1	0	1	0
Removed At Own Request	0	0	0	0	0
Membership, December 31 st	568	563	558	553	546
Resident Members	398	393	388	383	377
Non-Resident Members and/or Inactive	170	170	170	170	169
Baptism					
Children (12 and under)	1	7	0	1	0
Adult	0	0	1	0	0
Marriages	1	3	1	0	3
Funeral/Memorial Services	10	12	13	4	6

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 07, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Pat Cleave, Chair of the Unified Board, called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at approximately 1:05 pm, on March 07, 2021. The meeting was held by Zoom. Sufficient members of the congregation attended the meeting to constitute a quorum (quorum is 20 members). The minister was present.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice of the Annual Congregational Meeting was:

- included in the Announcements that were e-mailed to those on the Congregational list on January 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26 and on March 5.
- posted on our Facebook page of events - created February 8
- listed in the "Lent in A Bag" - bags physically delivery to congregational families
- went live on the "Lent In a Bag" materials on our website on February 16
- included in slideshow on webpage starting February 20
- included in the Church PowerPoint before the service starting February 21
- announced from the pulpit during the services on February 21 and 28

DEVOTION

The Reverend Stephen Fram led the devotion. He asked the congregation to remember those of our members who passed away in 2020 as he read out each of their names. Following a moment of silence, he closed in prayer.

VOTING PRIVILEGES

MOTION: Moved by Mark Hazen and seconded by Ann Mugford that everyone, members and adherents, in attendance be allowed to vote at this annual meeting. Motion carried

APPROVAL OF THE ACTING SECRETARY

MOTION: Moved by Andrew Paton and seconded by Mark Hazen that Thelma Blaikie be approved as the acting secretary. Motion carried.

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 07, 2021**

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Mark Hazen and seconded by Jenny de Zoete that the Agenda be approved as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MOTION: Moved by Jill Thompson and seconded by Cindy Penney that the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS

MOTION: Moved by Ann Dent and seconded by Lorna Carter that the Annual Reports for 2020, with the exception of the Treasurer's Report 2020 and the Budget 2021, be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

Lynn Loder presented the Treasurer's Report. The detailed report is found on pages 42, 43, 44 and 45 of the 2020 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Darrell Blenus that the Grace United Church Treasurer's Report (Balance Sheet and Financial Statement) for 2020 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

2021 BUDGET

The Budget was presented by Lynn Loder. The proposed budget is on pages 43, 44 and 45 of the 2020 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Ann Dent that the recommendation for salaries, benefits and honorariums presented in the Grace United Church 2021 Budget be approved. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Jill Thompson that the Grace United Church 2021 Budget be approved as presented. Motion carried.

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 07, 2021**

MISSION AND SERVICE OBJECTIVE FOR 2021

Mission and Service objective for 2021 was proposed as twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00).

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Jenny de Zoete that the objective for the Mission and Service Fund for 2021 be twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00). Motion carried

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee consisted of: Shirley Hazen (Chair), Vicki Harvey, Blair MacKinnon and Ann Mugford.

Shirley Hazen presented the report of the Nominating Committee:

1. The position of Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually by the congregation.
Chair: Mark Hazen
Vice Chair: Wanda Baker-Hayward
2. New members to the Unified Board for a three (3) year term are:
Anthony Archibald
Joanne Hodder
John Menzies
Claire Munroe
Sara Napier
3. Members of Unified Board reappointed to a new three (3) year term:
Jim Connolly
Shirley Hazen
4. Members of Unified Board reappointed for an one (1) year term:
Jenny de Zoete
5. Elected to position of Chair of Committee for a three (3) year term:
Joanne Hodder - Chair of Innovation and Implementation Committee
6. Elected to position of Chair of Committee for an additional one (1) year term [three (3) year term as Chair was completed, no new chair was identified]:
Wanda Baker-Hayward - Chair of Christian Development Committee
Shirley Hazen - Chair of Communications Committee
7. Appointment as Lay Representatives of Grace United Church to Region 15:
Pat Cleave
Cindy Penney

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 01, 2020**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (continued)

8. Acknowledge the contributions of the following Board Members who are retiring from the Board:

Brian Foster
David Foster
Karen Foster
Connie Mack
Paul McKeown
Ron Shaw

9. Vacancies

There are two (2) positions available as Lay Representatives to Region 15.

Pat Cleave, Chair called for further nominations from the floor three (3) times.

MOTION: Moved by Shirley Hazen and seconded by Andrew Paton that nominations cease. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Shirley Hazen and seconded by Andrew Paton that we accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NORTH DARTMOUTH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTRE (NDORC)

Lynn Loder, Treasurer of North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre, reported that the congregation of Grace United Church continues to support the centre with generous donations of money and groceries. Several members of the congregation volunteer on a regular basis at the Foodbank.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Pat Cleave gave thanks to the staff, contract staff and student - Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley, Thelma Blaikie, Bill Busby, Robert Tobin and Max Martin. A Thank You to the Ministry and Personnel Committee for supporting the staff.

A Thank You to Frances Wallace for her role in Bookkeeping, to Harry Wallace for his role in Payroll, to Martin Walker for his role as Envelope Steward, and to Lynn Loder for her role as Treasurer. Committee Chairs and members of committees were thanked for their contributions. All congregation members were thanked for their support.

Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
March 07, 2021

TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE NEW CHAIR

Mark Hazen assumed the Chair as the incoming Chair of the Unified Board.

Mark Hazen extended a Thank You to Pat Cleave for her contribution to Grace during her term as Chair of the Unified Board.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Jenny de Zoete and seconded by Cindy Penney that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion carried.

BENEDICTION

The meeting was closed by Rev. Stephen Fram with the delivery of the Benediction.

Thelma Blaikie
Acting Secretary

Unified Board Annual Report 2021

Well here we are finishing off a second 12 months of international pandemic. It has been quite the roller-coaster ride of a year. When Pat Cleave handed me the gavel last March we all thought that things would likely be back to (some sort of) normal by autumn. And, in many ways it seemed in September like that might be true - then reality hit with Omicron. However, not to let any good crisis go to waste, Grace has persevered, learned and continued our ministry.

Steven and Malcolm have provided exceptional leadership in delivering (while pivoting and dare I say pirouetting) wonderful worship services - some on-line only, some in-person and most both. During Stephen's sabbatical last autumn Rev. Wendy Kean provided thought provoking and inspirational worship leadership. I wish to thank all of our worship leaders for helping us through this difficult year.

As the year has gone on, my main concern, as board chair, has become, how we transition out of this pandemic state and find our new normal. It was quite clear when we were able (for a short period) to have congregational fellowship that the church family is central to many members spiritual health and journey. This is not surprising, it was for the early church and disciples as well.

One of the ways we have tried to maintain this sense of community and family over the past year was through two congregation-wide outreach projects: Lent in a Bag (in March) and Advent in a Bag (in December). In both cases a bag of seasonal activities, letters and information was delivered to all congregational members. In the process we were able to update membership lists and information. The project pointed out some deficiencies in how we maintain contact with members. Something to work on.

I would like to thank all the committees, who have been working hard to maintain some sense of normalcy over the year. Vicki and Wanda put a lot of work into maintaining children's programming (online and, in the autumn, in-person). Along the way, the Sunday school moved to the rooms by the basement door. Shirley and her communications team have done wonders with our online presence. Joanne's I2 committee are building a program for "Reconciliation" in the New Year. Bob and the Property committee have almost finished the buttress and roof repairs and are well on the way to greening our physical plant - stay tuned for more information on that. Ann's Pastoral Care and Outreach continue to make our presence known in the Dartmouth community and support our social justice initiatives. Andrew's worship team has shown it can pirouette with the best in the world - I would especially like to point out their project to get recorded readings from as many of the congregation as possible (thank you Dick for that ministry). And, Blair's Giant Book Sales - We have only seen the tip of that iceberg!

Behind all of this great work is our staff! Where would we be without Thelma keeping us organized, taking reservations for services, building procedures etc. Bob Tobin, rebuilding our rental program. And of course Bill Busby continuously cleaning so that the building is ready for our programs and renters. I am continuously thankful for Lorna's Ministry and Personnel team's work supporting our staff.

So as this year comes to an end, and we look to the future, I think we are in a reasonably good place; financially we are in the black, and we have strong programs to take us forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Hazen, Chair

Members of Unified Board 2021

Minister

Rev. Stephen Fram (on Sabbatical September 13 - December 12)
Rev. Wendy Kean (Supply Minister September 13 - December 12)

Chair

Pat Cleave (January to March)
Mark Hazen (March to December)

Vice Chair

Mark Hazen (January to March)
Wanda Baker-Hayward (March to December)

Immediate Past Chair

Shirley Hazen (January to March)
Pat Cleave (March to December)

Clerk of Session

Andrew Paton

Treasurer

Lynn Loder

Envelope Steward

Martin Walker

Worship Committee

Andrew Paton, Chair
James Connolly
Martin Walker

Christian Development Committee

Wanda Baker-Hayward, Chair
Vicki Harvey
Mark Hazen (January to March)

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee

Ann Mugford, Chair
Sandra Foster
Patricia Mullooney
Claire Munroe (March to June)

Finance Committee

Blair MacKinnon, Co-Chair (January to March)
Connie Mack, Co-Chair (January to March)
Blair MacKinnon, Chair (March to December)
Lynn Loder

Members of Unified Board 2021 (continued)

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Lorna Carter, Chair
Jenny de Zoete
Jennifer Eames (January to September)
Jill Thompson

Property Committee

Robert Picco, Chair
Darrell Blenus
John Menzies (March to December)

Innovation and Implementation Committee

Brian Foster, Co-Chair (January to March)
Karen Foster, Co-Chair (January to March)
Joanne Hodder, Chair (March to December)
David Foster (January to March)
Paul McKeown (January to March)
Sara Napier (March to December)
Stephen Penney

Communications Committee

Shirley Hazen, Chair
Stephen Penney

Special Gift Fund Committee

Lynn Loder, Chair
Blair MacKinnon
Connie Mack (January to March)

Lay Representatives to Presbytery / Region 15

Pat Cleave (March to December)
Cindy Penney
Ron Shaw (January to March)

Trustees

Darrell Spencer, Chair
Lynn Loder
Blair MacKinnon

Members, Unified Board (Not on an Unified Board Committee)

Anthony Archibald (March to December)
Clifford Muise
Laura Muise

Worship Committee Annual Report 2021

The Worship Committee has responsibilities associated with the worship service at Grace United. This includes: working with the worship and music leaders of the church, engaging scripture readers for the Sunday service; organizing and serving communion; developing policies and seeking approvals for baptisms and marriages; making pulpit supply arrangements, and decorating the sanctuary for key seasonal events.

In 2021 the Worship Committee was comprised of Reverend Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley (Organist and Choir Director), Alice Baker, Dick Charlton, Jim Connolly, Martin Walker and Andrew Paton, Chair (and Clerk of Session). We held ten regular committee meetings during the year. All meetings were virtual (Zoom) in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our worship leaders, Reverend Stephen Fram and Malcolm Bradley, our organist and choir director, continued to serve in 2021. We are particularly thankful for this because of the ongoing challenges posed to our worship services and other aspects of church life, by COVID-19. The worship team also included Max Martin, our Supervised Field Education Placement from the Atlantic School of Theology (AST), who served with us from the fall of 2020 until the middle of April of 2021. Max participated weekly in the worship service and was responsible for the sermon on at least one occasion. As well, for a three-month period during the fall, the Rev. Wendy Kean served as our supply minister while Rev. Fram was on sabbatical. This sabbatical was initially planned for 2020, but because of the restrictions and changes required of church life during the early stages of the pandemic, Rev. Fram postponed his sabbatical. Rev. Kean led all the thirteen Sunday worship services during this time and we thank her for her marvellous ministry during this period especially in light of the extra obligations placed on the minister to prepare for live-streaming of services. In the summer, when Reverend Fram was on study leave, Shirley Hazen served in the role of pulpit supply and led the services on July 5th and 12th. Grace United is very fortunate to have congregation members, like Shirley, who can very capably lead a worship service and we thank her for this.

During 2021, as had been the case in the previous year, worship services at Grace United looked quite different because of COVID-19 and the restrictions government placed on public gatherings. The public health rules varied during the year in light of the pandemic situation at the time. This ranged from not being able to have a congregation at all, to restrictions on numbers, for example up to 50% of capacity limits. Since many congregation members were not yet comfortable with public gatherings, numbers remained low anyway. Mid fall was when we saw the greatest number of people in the sanctuary for a Sunday service. This was also when the choir was able to participate more fully in the worship service.

In-person attendance at a worship service at Grace in 2021 continued to be governed by the practices and arrangements established in 2020 in response to COVID-19 restrictions. This included having congregation members enter the building via one door (ramp) on Sunday morning, require each person to wear a mask, use the hand sanitizer provided, confirm/provide contact information, answer the public health required COVID-19 screening questions and then follow directions to their seat in the sanctuary which were socially distanced (6 feet) from other members of the congregation (not within their 'bubble'). Painters' tape was used to cordon off areas where people could not sit, though this was removed in the fall when some restrictions were lifted and individuals themselves had become accustomed to 'social distancing' as a matter of course. The public health requirements of congregations regarding singing and speaking during a worship service were not consistent throughout 2021, but rather, varied during the year from not being able to sing/speak at all, to only softly, to more natural volumes, depending on the COVID-19 situation.

Worship Committee Annual Report 2021 (continued)

In 2021, Grace United continued the practice initiated at the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020), to live-stream worship services and we are thankful for the role the AV team played in making this possible. Depending on the public health restrictions for a particular Sunday, services were live-streamed only or a hybrid of live-stream and in-person. The live-streaming of worship services has truly been a blessing in being able to keep connected with our congregation for this important aspect of our church's ministry. It has also required more preparation on the part of the worship team, particularly the minister, for example a detailed script for each service and coordination with the AV team.

Besides the minister or spiritual leader, others contributed to the worship service, in particular our organist and choir director. Malcolm regularly was the lead for the hymn singing (for our virtual congregation) and served in the place of the congregation, for example in responsive prayers. Overall music continued to play a vital role in our worship services, though musical offerings were often video clips of previous anthems sung by our choir, or in-person vocals by members of the choir by way of solos or small groups (eg quartet), so as to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. In the fall there was a period when pandemic restrictions were more relaxed and the full choir was able to once again take part in services, though they were sitting in socially distanced chairs at the front of the church rather than the choir loft. Another weekly contributor to the worship service was Jim Connolly, who provided a prayer at the beginning of each service. These prayers were offered either in-person or via a video clip, depending on the situation at the time. Scripture readings and biblical stories remained as central elements of the worship service. Congregation members continued as scripture readers, though in contrast to pre-COVID times, scriptures passages were read by congregation members in their own homes and then video clips of these, thanks to Dick Charlton, were shown as an integral part of the worship service. As well Shirley and Mark Hazen regularly provided video story dramatizations of scripture readings or biblical stories using Lego creations for the service. June and Dick Charlton also contributed some video clips of stories for inclusion in a worship service on a few occasions. Thanks to you all for your contributions to the worship services.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion took place during six worship services in 2021, including Easter and World Wide Communion Sundays. In light of continued restrictions due to COVID-19, prepackaged communion elements were used. This was to minimize contact between individuals during the service and avoid possibilities of COVID contamination of the elements during preparation.

In 2021 there were no children baptized at Grace United. However, three weddings associated with Grace United and involving Rev. Fram took place. One was in the Grace sanctuary (August), another at the Dartmouth General Hospital (September) to accommodate a dying parent and the third at the Brightwood Golf and Country Club.

Grace United celebrated its 168th Anniversary in 2021 and our Anniversary Service took place on Sunday, November 21st. The Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell, the Academic Dean at AST, was our guest preacher, and we thank him for his message. Also at that service, a video, entitled "A Year of Scripture Readers" was presented. This video highlighted the many congregation members that participated over the past year reading scripture from their homes for the Sunday worship services. Thanks to Dick Charlton for all his work on this project.

Easter and Christmas are two key points in the church calendar. COVID-19 restrictions affected worship services at both these times in some way. On Easter Sunday we were able to have an outdoor early-risers service at the Ferry Terminal Park and the regular 11:00 am worship service. However, the latter was quite different, with a rather limited in-person congregation and no large choir. Only a few choristers were permitted to be there in-person. However, the service also included special Easter music

Worship Committee Annual Report 2021 (continued)

that had been recently recorded by our choir. At Christmas, the customary children's Christmas Eve service (4:30) with the "Grumpy Innkeeper" story was not able to take place. Instead, the service from 2020 was rebroadcast on-line. The regular evening service at 7:00 was a hybrid service with very limited in-person attendance due to public health restrictions. Again, there was no choir although there was special pre-recorded Christmas music by Jennifer Eames, Martin Walker and Roger Stone. The Memory Tree, a recognition and honouring of loved ones in our church & community, also played an important part in that service.

The Worship Committee again this year organized special decorating of the Sanctuary for two occasions: Thanksgiving and Christmas. Regarding the former the worship committee itself handled these responsibilities, while for the latter, Eleanor Hall and Betty Lou Suddard took the lead role and are to be thanked for that.

Prior to COVID-19, Grace United provided a ministry of word and music at two places beyond our church sanctuary: at Oakwood seniors' complex in Woodside, on a rotational basis with other local churches on Sunday afternoons, and at Parkland at the Lakes (Baker Drive), for the residents, once a month on Wednesday afternoons. In 2021, no services took place at Oakwood, while at Parkland, after a hiatus since the beginning of the pandemic, services once again were permitted in the fall of 2021. Grace United lead three services during this time. Since Rev. Fram was on sabbatical and Rev. Kean was only serving on a 50% basis, two of our very capable and involved congregation members, Shirley Hazen (two services) and Dick Charlton (one service), led these services. We very much appreciate their ministry in this regard.

In 2021, the Worship Committee, with the approval of the Unified Board, updated and amended Grace's funeral guidelines. This was to address matters including the suggested honouraria for services provided, audio-visual requirements and COVID-19 restrictions.

In recent years the Worship Committee annually has sought out a project(s) that in some way enhanced the worship service and/or the sanctuary. In 2021 the committee had the three-chair set from behind the pulpit repaired and re-upholstered, to return them to their former glory. These chairs were originally gifted to the church about one hundred years ago and recently two of them were in storage because they were in poor condition and unsafe.

In closing, I thank all the members of the Worship Committee for their commitment and service during this second, very unusual, pandemic year. In particular, I recognize Reverend Fram for his spiritual leadership and Malcolm Bradley for his ministry of music. In addition, I want to extend a thank you, on behalf of the Worship Committee, to all those who gave of their time and talent to contribute to or make possible our worship services, including the choir & other singers/musicians, scripture readers, the AV team and greeters.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Paton
Chair of Worship and Clerk of Session

Audiovisual Annual Report 2021

The Audiovisual team continues to prepare early for each service, performing a run-through prior to going live, and keeps a positive attitude toward the technology even when the technology gives attitude back. At Grace we have a very sophisticated system and it is well maintained and performs extremely well.

Staffing for the booth is at an all-time high which is appreciated. There are three rotating 2-person teams made up of Mark Hazen with Paul McKeown, Darrell Harvey with Blair MacKinnon and the third team is comprised of three people; Anthony Archibald and two of his daughters, Anna and Grace, who take turns assisting. Ian Fraser and John Menzies are available as alternates and for post-production work.

The Sunday School classroom has once again been connected so that the volunteers and children can see and hear the live broadcast from the sanctuary when they want to during class. This was done using redeployed equipment.

An additional headset mic and transmitter body pack has been bought to expand capabilities and improve redundancy. These mics are excellent for speakers and soloists, providing the ability to carefully manage the sound level of the person as well as the music for the broadcast.

The new jib, also known as a camera boom, is working out very well in the corner of the sanctuary below the balcony. It gives an opportunity for an unobstructed camera view of the front of the church, adding to the camera options during the service which is very helpful with so much emphasis on streaming the service.

The Audio-Visual (AV) balance has been paid and the team is very appreciative of all support received. It makes a big difference to have these resources and the AV team will continue to get the most out of the system.

In response to a conversation during a recent board meeting the AV booth now has a tablet streaming the Youtube service to be able to monitor the quality and comments in real-time. This is being used to ensure that if there are any issues with the service link or sound not working correctly it can be corrected swiftly.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Archibald
Member of the AV Team

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2021

Director and Organist	Malcolm Bradley (since 1992)
Members as at December 2021	28 members (including two on leave)
Executive	President Eleanor Hall
	Treasurer Chris Wolfe
	Librarian/VP Ian Fraser
	Secretary Connie Mack & Margi Hennen
	Social Susan Forsyth
	Wardrobe Debbie Fram

Membership changes:

In September, we sang at Frances Wallace's funeral service, who passed away fairly suddenly on August 19th. Joining her unexpected was Brian Hennen on August 30th, and we hope to sing him to rest soon. We welcome Martin Walker, who besides playing the guitar would also like to sing.

Choir Mandate

To support the congregation in the singing of hymns and to enrich worship services with spiritual, inspirational, contemplative, and uplifting music with voices and musical instruments. The music genre includes sacred, classical, gospel, spirituals, modern African, and modern Western styles of composition and text.

Malcolm has been attending various workshops in the USA and Canada online this year, but due to COVID-19, could not pass much of the various choral techniques learned on to the choir.

Unfortunately, again this year, worship services, choir rehearsals, and choir outreach (services at Oakwood Terrace and Parkland) had been curtailed by COVID-19 restrictions as per Dr. Strang, Chief Medical Officer for Nova Scotia. A few services with some choir members were held at Parkland on Wednesday afternoon as permitted.

All worship services in 2021 were live-streamed with some in-person congregants in attendance, and when allowed, choir members sang solos, duets, or small ensembles in person. Many times, previous recorded anthems were included in the services.

Choir Events and recordings

On February 18 and March 31, Malcolm arranged for in-house recordings of hymns and anthems for online services and for Easter. Another recording was planned for May 5th, but was cancelled due to another outbreak of COVID-19 and associates.

The choir was allowed in-person rehearsals until end of April when COVID closed us down again, but with restrictions eased, we could resume by mid-September. At this time the choir was also allowed to sing at worship services seated in front of the altar, masked and distanced. The last service with choir participation was for Lessons and Carols on December 19, at which time a COVID-Omicron outbreak hit the region.

Guest musicians

We were fortunate to have had Cynthia Davis, Allison Roe-Smith, Debbie Miles accompanying the choir for the recordings and Lynn Pelton for rehearsals. Garth McPhee filled in for Malcolm on Boxing Day. Many thanks for their wonderful contributions to the Grace Choir.

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2021 (continued)

Many thanks also and appreciation to the choir members who attended rehearsals whenever possible in spite of the pandemic and especially to Malcolm for his musical expertise and dedicated work with this wonderful and gifted group of singers, listed below.

Sopranos

Sheila Haines, Elinor Benjamin, Alice Baker, Eleanor Hall, Jennifer Eames, Karen Leslie, Jill Thompson, Mim Fraser, H  l  ne Lemay, Shirley Cameron, Margi Hennen, and Sharon O'Driscoll

Altos

Debbie Fram, Jennifer Garvey, Ann Dent, Susan Forsyth, Connie Mack, Pat McCormack, and Christine Mair

Tenors

Chris Wolfe, Hugh Hall, Andrew Paton, Douglas Jones, Stephan Metivier

Basses

Ian Fraser, Terry O'Driscoll, John Menzies, Martin Walker

Choir socials

Still no socials, maybe next year?

In a normal year, choir rehearsals are Wednesday's from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at Grace United Church in the upper hall. Singing in a choir is a very rewarding commitment as it enriches the lives of both the singers and congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Mack
Choir Secretary

**Grace United Church
Choir
Financial Report 2021**

Balance Forwarded January 1, 2021 **\$ 7,510.24**

Receipts

Dues	\$ 260.00
Donations	\$ 60.00
Loan To Choir repayment	\$ 200.00

Total	<u><u>\$ 520.00</u></u>
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Disbursements

White Gift donation	\$ 50.00
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Total	<u><u>\$ 50.00</u></u>
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Closing Balance December 31, 2021 **\$ 7,980.24**

Respectfully submitted:
Christopher Wolfe, Treasurer
January 27, 2022

Christian Development Committee Annual Report 2021

Members: Wanda Baker-Hayward, Chair, Janet Bond, Rev. Stephen Fram, Vicki Harvey, Heather Mayka

We started off the year with Sunday School online and we finished in June with it still online. We did lots of great crafts like making Valentine Cards for shut-ins and decorating cookies for Valentine's Day and in June for Margaret's House. We followed the lectionary for the most part as long as it worked online. We tried to provide Shirley Hazen with pictures of crafts that she could put on our Facebook page and powerpoint to show the congregation what we have been doing. Sunday School started in person in October. The children and families loved that we were back in person. We continued until December 12 but starting December 19 we had to stop in person. That was the day we were supposed to decorate cookies again for Margaret's House. We pivoted to having families decorate them at home and delivery was made later in the week.

We also have moved the area where we have Sunday School due to the lower hall being used. We have set up the old daycare rooms for Sunday School. Vicki and I have cleaned and purged toys and books. There is still work to be done.

We put together Lent in a Bag for the whole congregation. Board members helped with the delivery. Congregation members seemed to enjoy getting these bags as a way to stay connected to the church.

Also we kept up the Kid's Corner on the United Churches for Dartmouth Facebook page with Wanda doing meditations and Shirley and Sir Winston doing crafts. Rev. Stephen did his share of Spiritual Reflections for United Churches for Dartmouth as well. Spiritual Reflections have continued but Kid's Corner finished in August.

We were able to do our Advent Event in person. We held it after church with Rev. Wendy Kean doing the devotional. We had about 30 people in attendance. People sat at tables and ate cookies and we sang some carols with Malcolm Bradley on the piano. Members of the congregation who attended seemed very happy to be there.

We also decided to do Advent Bags for the congregation. The board helped us out with this again. People seemed to be happy to receive these as well but there were some suggestions for improvement.

We also had a very successful stocking campaign again this year.

The Children's Christmas Eve Service had to be a rerun of last year's service due to the rising COVID numbers. We hope to be back to usual next year.

I would like to thank all those who helped to deliver the Lent and Advent Bags this year and those who helped to put together the bags. Thank you Vicki Harvey for all that you do for Sunday School and thank you to all the members of the committee - Janet, Heather, Vicki, and Stephen and guest helpers - Mark and Shirley.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Baker-Hayward
Chair

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee Annual Report 2021

Members of the Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee:

Eleanor Hall, Mary Walker, Pat MULLowney, Sandy Foster, Rev. Stephen Fram & Ann Mugford (Chair). Betty Lou Suddard and Donna Hull were also part of our team for part of the year. For personal reasons, they have taken a break for a while. Claire Munroe was with us for a short period of time before she moved to another province. We were pleased to welcome Sandy Foster, a new addition to our committee. We meet six times by Zoom.

Following is a summary of our efforts over the past year:

Pastoral Care

- **Visitation Coordination Committee** - Mary Walker has agreed to provide leadership for this committee for an interim period. Ten committed volunteers continue to reach out to twenty of our seniors by phone, by mail and some, in-person visits. The pandemic greatly reduced their ability to make more frequent home visits. This year Mary, along with the support of her husband, organized the delivery of twenty Christmas poinsettias to those who are homebound or have mobility challenges.
- **Card Ministry** - led by June Charlton. She reports that over the past year, a total of 38 cards were sent to members of our congregation - 11 for birthdays, 8 for illness and surgery, 3 for accidents, 2 for encouragement and 14 related to deaths.
- **Coffee Fellowship** - coordinated Ann Mugford. She reports that this year, due to COVID concerns and protocols, only four in-person coffee times took place. They were for special occasions that included Anniversary Sunday, Advent Event and farewell to our interim minister, Rev. Wendy Kean.
- **Sunday Greeters** - Eleanor Hall and Donna Hull shared the responsibility of organizing greeters for our Sunday morning worship services. When COVID restrictions permitted in person services, it was recommended that three greeters were necessary. Their responsibilities were modified to meet Pandemic protocols for worship services.
- **The Ambassador Program** - Donna Hull who gives leadership to this program reported that because of the Pandemic, this program went on pause. Donna worked with Eleanor to share the responsibility of organizing greeters for Sunday worship services.
- **Funeral Receptions** - coordinated by Mary Walker. She reports that because of COVID protocols and restrictions, only one reception was organized this year.

Outreach

- **Tree of Warmth** - In December, our congregation generously 'decorated' a Christmas tree with items that bring warmth to those in need. Despite COVID restrictions, our tree was decorated with one hundred sixty-eight items and \$435 cash was donated! This money was used to purchase 13 pair of winter boots for children, women, and men. Most items were donated to Holy Trinity Emanuel in North Dartmouth where volunteers operate a free clothing bank for those in need. A few pairs of men's boots went to Margaret's House and one pair went to a school student. We want to express our sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the Tree of Warmth.

Following is an itemized list of the donations:

Undergarments: 9 male & 19 female - this included regular/long underwear and undershirts

Neck warmers and scarves: 3 male & 4 females

Socks: 41 male and 14 female

Mittens and gloves: 22 male, 10 female & 5 children's

Knitted caps/hats: 24 male, 14 female, 1 child's

2 pair of Pajamas

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee Annual Report 2021 (continued)**Outreach** (continued)

- **Unified Board Contributions** - Each year, our Unified Board budgets \$3500 for Outreach contributions to charities in our community. In 2021, our Committee recommended the following donations that were approved by our Board:

Adsum House	\$200
Atlantic School of Theology	\$300
Benevolent Fund	\$400
Bryony House	\$100
Camp Kidston	\$1000
Dalhousie Chaplain	\$300
Food for Phoenix	\$100
Laing House	\$100
MOSH [Mobile Outreach Street Health]	\$200
North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre	\$500
Phoenix House	\$100
Stepping Stone	\$200

- **Christian Relief and Development Coalition [C.R.D.C.]** This committee supports Feeding others of Dartmouth at Margaret's House - also known as F.O.O.D. The coalition consists of representatives from fifteen churches of various faiths in Dartmouth. Ann Mugford is Grace's representative on this coalition.

A very special part of our commitment to F.O.O.D. at Margaret's House is the preparation of meals. Susan Forsyth coordinates this and has submitted the following report:

A dedicated group of community members (most but not all members of Grace United Church) have provided meals for Margaret's House over the last year. A meal is made for the third Friday of each month from September to May inclusive. We have 38 contributors, divided into three groups with an additional three people who are available as substitutes. Each member prepares a meal for 8 people and so we feed over 100 clients each time. Margaret's house is still functioning with a skeleton crew in order to conform to COVID restrictions which has been a bit of a challenge as we need to find disposable containers for each contribution. That being said, everyone is very willing and helpful when called upon. In the past year two long standing contributors are no longer part of this group - one retired and another, unfortunately, passed away. We are grateful for the support that Grace brings to this important ministry.

In addition to these meals, we contribute to special meals for occasions like Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This usually involves cooked hams and turkeys. Throughout the year, we check in with the staff about any specific needs they have and, when possible, respond accordingly.

Another part of our commitment is through regular Sunday giving and designated donations. In 2021, Grace members donated \$2709 to assist with the operation of Margaret's House. The annual fundraiser, Christmas Full of Caring Auction and Dinner which is traditionally held in December was canceled again this year, due to COVID protocols and restrictions. However, throughout the pandemic, we were thankful for folks in Dartmouth and surrounding areas for their generous financial donations as well as donations of food, takeout containers, clothing, personal care items and any need Margaret's House identified on their Website and Facebook page.

In 2021, a total of 37,348 meals were served to guests at Margaret's House.

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee Annual Report 2021 (continued)

Finally, our committee would like to express sincere appreciation to our Grace family, for responding so generously and thoughtfully to our many and varied requests - despite the challenges created by the Pandemic! We are truly grateful.

To each committee member, I would like to express gratitude for your leadership, commitment, and support for all our pastoral care and outreach endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Mugford
Chair

Ministry and Personnel Committee Annual Report 2021

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee of Grace United Church is responsible for all matters relating to the paid staff; in particular, salaries, working conditions and clarification of responsibilities. The members of our staff are: Rev. Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley (Director of Music), Thelma Blaikie (Office Administrator), Bill Busby (Caretaker), and Bob Tobin (Rental Manager).

In January, M&P provided the Finance Committee with recommendations for salary increases and related remuneration for all of the church personnel. This continues to be one of our annual responsibilities.

Also in January, members of the committee contacted the individual staff-members one-on-one, to explore how they were dealing with the stresses and uncertainties of the pandemic. It seemed everyone was coping, although not enjoying the "COVID times".

Rev. Fram's sabbatical, which had been deferred from 2020 because of the pandemic, was re-scheduled to take place September 13 to December 13, 2021, and so, the Sabbatical Search Team was re-activated. It consisted of Jill Thompson, Andrew Paton (Chair of Worship), and myself. We received invaluable assistance from Rev. David Hewitt, Regional Minister for Region 15. Through the spring, we were active with advertising the position, receiving and replying to letters of interest and interviewing. We also developed a "Welcome Kit" for the Supply Minister.

In June, the annual performance reviews and updating of contracts were completed by the rest of our committee - Jennifer Eames, Cathy Spencer and Jenny de Zoete.

In September, we were happy to welcome our Supply Minister, Rev. Wendy Kean, a recently retired military chaplain. I think all are agreed that her three months with us were very successful. I would like to acknowledge Rev. Fram's assistance in her orientation process, as well as Andrew Paton's support, and also Shirley Hazen's support, in coaching Rev. Kean in dealing with our live-streaming services.

To each of the members of M&P: Jenn, Jill, Cathy and Jenny, thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Lorna Carter
Chair

Communications Committee Annual Report 2021

The Communications Committee had another busy year as it sought to keep the congregation up-to-date on the current state of activities. The Committee undertook or supported activities that helped to keep the congregation engaged. As well, we worked on sharing our message with the larger community.

When the Pandemic happened in 2020, we expanded the use of some of our communications tools (Mailchimp - weekly mailout of Sunday events, Order of Service, announcements). As well we saw an increase in people accessing our internet/social media platforms. This growth continued in 2021:

- We have 228 contacts on our mailchimp list
- Facebook followers grew from 406 to 434
- Our website experienced a 24% growth in unique visitors.
- YouTube had 6 per cent growth in watch time as our videos got 23,942 views in 2021
- Instagram followers grew from 100 to 137

There were information needs about the ongoing changes brought on by responses to the pandemic and Stephen's sabbatical. The response to these changes absorbed considerable volunteer time; updating information on Facebook and our website so people could find the most current information about what was taking place and how one could worship and participate in Church activities. When other churches' websites and Facebook sites are examined, it is fair to say that Grace did better than average in responding to these challenges.

Beyond the information updating on Facebook and the website, the Committee undertook the following efforts to keep the congregation engaged and informed.

- PowerPoint slides were developed to provide necessary information for the 5-minute lead-up to the online Worship Service.
- A video on Men's and Women's breakfasts was produced
- Congregation letters in different formats (electronic distribution and social media format in addition to postal mailouts) were used to update the congregation.
- Support/materials were provided for Lent in A Bag and Advent in a Bag projects.
- #WesleyWednesday was instituted on Facebook to provide some thought-provoking quotations from John, Charles and Susanna Wesley - key people in the development of Methodism.
- " A video was produced of Church activity and events in 2021

The United Church of Canada is on a journey of reconciliation with the indigenous peoples of Canada. As part of that journey in the late spring and early summer of 2021, the Communications Committee highlighted daily a recommendation from the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Facebook. For the first National Truth and Reconciliation Day, the Committee added a section on Truth and Reconciliation on our website (link from homepage) and produced a video of the Commission's recommendations.

The Communications Committee's role to inform and engage includes the world beyond Grace. It was important to let the community know that although in-person worship might not be occurring, the Church was continuing its mission in the world. We highlighted our various projects, including our joint hosting with Christ Church Anglican of the Dartmouth South (provincial) and Dartmouth Cole Harbour (federal) All Candidates Forums. Using the theme of the Creed, we produced a background sheet with questions for the provincial election which we shared with the congregation and United Churches for Dartmouth. The national church plans to provide it as a resource example this year when the Faith and Politics section of the national church's website is updated. The questions were updated for the federal election.

Communications Committee Annual Report 2021

Malcolm Bradley continued his inspired ministry of providing pithy sayings on our sign that continued to engage the world around us and through the magic of Facebook and Instagram, the world beyond our little corner. Malcolm's sign "A Gay Christian is not an oxymoron a nasty Christian is" was our top post on Facebook (27,886 people after 235 shares) and Instagram (956 people reached). As well, people shared it on Twitter.

Facebook and Instagram are used to highlight our activities, providing visibility to our mission. We also use them to provide thought provoking posts to challenge people to reflect on their role in advancing the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Communications Committee is in need of additional people who have a passion for keeping people informed.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee, Joannie Veitch, Stephen Penney and Rev. Stephen Fram who rose to the challenge of being plunged into an unexpected environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hazen
Chair

Innovation and Implementation Committee Annual Report 2021

In September 2021, the Innovation and Implementation (I²) Committee resumed with the following membership:

- Chair: Joanne Hodder (Board member, Grace United Church)
- General Member: Sara Napier (Board member, Grace United Church)
- General Member: Stephen Penny (Board member, Grace United Church)
- General Member: Phil Brown (Community member, Dartmouth)
- Minister: Stephen Fram

The I² committee spent time during the fall on the following two activities:

- Working toward the National Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30, 2022, the I² committee began researching how we as a church community, and as individuals, may be partners in ensuring cultural safety is part of our greater community. We will work to use what we have learned thus far to support the needs of Minister Fram's research and outreach needs as we plan for the Church's journey toward the September 30, 2022, national day for reflection.
- Developing a survey seeking insights/input from the general membership of Grace United Church with reference to future projects that may be spearheaded by the I² committee. The goal is to release the survey in late winter, with a report of findings and recommendations presented to the Board for future I² Committee planning and action.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Hodder
Chair

Property Committee Annual Report 2021

The Property Committee activities were limited during the past year due the constraints arising from the COVID 19 pandemic. Regular maintenance activities and activities related to the rental program were carried out on an as required basis.

This year the following major and minor projects were completed:

- Explored options to reduce energy costs and to reduce the church's carbon footprint, including:
 1. Hiring a consultant to carry out an energy audit. Costs were recovered through a grant.
 2. Preparing applications for grants to replace the oil fired furnaces with electrically powered heat pump units. Grants to cover over 75% of the costs were approved.
- Completed of major repairs to the tower buttresses, including replacement of the shingles on the tower roof.
- Recaulking around the foundation.

Our group looks forward to continue our efforts to plan and complete projects that will maintain the physical integrity of the property, reduce energy costs and the carbon footprint, provide welcoming space for the community and a comfortable environment to carry out our programs and services.

I also take this opportunity to thank the other members of our group who worked tirelessly during the year to ensure that all the projects were completed in a timely and professional manner.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Property Group: Darrell Blenus, Darrell Harvey, Ian Fraser, John Menzies, Andrew Patton, Darrell Spencer and Martin Walker.

Bob Picco
Chair

Rental Manager Annual Report 2021

As we enter into another interesting and challenging year we look back at a year that, as we entered it, we believed that the worst was behind us in relation to issues caused by the pandemic. Most of our longer term renters had survived the ups and downs of 2019 relating to cancellations, lock downs, and market closures, quite well. They were positive about the future for their programs and new opportunities for them and us were beginning to appear.

Then in late February and early May, rumblings of further closures began to be heard and shortly government restrictions appeared again. But surprisingly our renters, those that could within the new regulations, continued with their programming. Kitchen renters stayed with their schedules. Youth related programs (Guides, Cubs etc) had to cancel and others (Martial Arts, Mindwell RX Academy, 360 Driving School etc) downsized to the allowed maximum number of participants and we moved forward.

We were helped in the summer with the addition of the Autism Summer Camp. While challenging in a number of aspects, it continued throughout the summer in the lower hall and was determined to be quite successful.

New programs during the year were the 360 Driving School, the Mindwell RX Academy, Urban Jars, Syd's Delicious, Original Italy Catering and the Autism Summer Camp. Unfortunately, late in the year we lost the Driving School and Urban Jars but hopefully new opportunities in 2022 will appear, to allow us to continue to operate successfully.

Perhaps the biggest roadblock to a smooth operation here in 2022 will be the loss of the post office parking lot next door. Rumblings are already being heard about parking difficulties and we have begun to look at solutions that may help.

Hopefully, positive actions by government officials coming over the next three months will remove mental and physical barriers surrounding the pandemic issue and soon we will be acting in a "new normal". Let's hope so.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Tobin
Rental Manager

Rentals 2021

Area	Usage Period	Renters	Operating As	Hours/Week	Total Hours (Approx)		
Kitchen	January to December	Sumie and Willie	PonPon Foods	6	300		
		Kelsea	Honest Kitchen	13	300		
		Sue	Buttered Bliss	casual	15		
		Claudio	Claudio's Kitchen	25	250		
		Nicoletta	Original Italy	5	150		
		Jason Woodburn	Jason Woodburn	casual	15		
		Shannon	Urban Jars	6	200		
		Sydney	Syd's Delicious	4	50		
		Halls - Upper/Lower	January to December	Darren	McLeod's Martial Arts	12	500
				50Jackie	Club Inclusion	8	200
Trent	Mindwell RX Academy			24	600		
Lower Hall	January to December	Alex	360 Driving School	13	600		
		Sheila	Pilates	20	80		
		Letitia	Zumba	12	12		
		Caitlyn	Autism Summer Camp	40	320		
Community Groups (No Charge)	January to December	Varied	Cubs, Guides, Brownies etc Other (N/C)	12	100 40		

Board of Trustees Annual Report 2021

The terms of reference for the Board of Trustees generally charges the Board with the responsibility for the management of the church property. Normally there are usually very few issues for the Board to address.

The sale of the Post Office Property presents a number of challenges for the Trustees. The main issue to be addressed is the encroachment of the King Street driveway on the Post Office property. The church driveway has been in its present location for more than 60 years. The Nova Scotia Limitations of Actions Act provided that if an encroachment has existed on Crown Property for a period in excess of 40 years, it creates an easement by prescription in favour of the church.

The Board is in regular communication with lawyers for the Developer. Once their preliminary plans are complete, the Board will be meeting with them to reach a resolution.

Darrell Spencer, after many years of faithful service, has retired as Chair of the Board of Trustees. A heartfelt thanks to Darrell for his service.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B/M', is written over a horizontal line.

Blair MacKinnon
Board of Trustees

Men's Breakfast Club Annual Report 2021

The Grace United Men's Breakfast Club was once again organized into monthly morning breakfasts each held at 9:00 am on the third Sunday of the month, fall, winter and spring, and all, because of the COVID restrictions, virtual, i.e., not in person but distanced, in fact, via Zoom, to our individual monitors at home.

However, even without the traditional knife and fork meal, coffee, juice and socialization, it worked well enough. We kept in touch and with shepherding by Martin Walker, the momentum of the monthly breakfasts continued. Always a lively and amiable gathering with numbers between six and ten. The year concluded with a carol sing in December conducted via Zoom from Malcolm Bradley on the piano in his apartment. We could sing carols unrestrained for half an hour with the words Malcolm teleprompted on our screens.

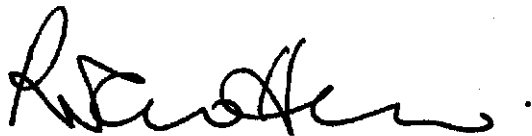
In our virtual breakfasts all men are welcome. Each is introduced and made comfortable, then, after a short meditation and prayer, there is a general topical discussion and a catch up on everyone's month. We finally close with a benediction around 9:45 am.

In 2021 our mornings followed this pattern,

<i>January 17th</i>	<i>Meditation: The Solid Rock: Matthew 27: 24-27</i>
<i>February 21st</i>	<i>Meditation: The Five Fingered prayer: Ephesians 6</i>
<i>March 21st</i>	<i>Meditation: God's Plan: Jeremiah 29:11</i>
<i>April 18th</i>	<i>Meditation: The Secret: Ralph Spaulding Cushman</i>
<i>May 16th</i>	<i>Meditation: Cat Bell's Plaque Inscription: Psalm 24: 1-2</i>
<i>September 19th</i>	<i>Meditation: Crisis: Danger/Opportunity: Philippians 4</i>
<i>October 18th</i>	<i>Meditation: Little Things: James 3: 1-5</i>
<i>November 20th</i>	<i>Meditation: Guidance (G.U.I dance): Psalm 32:8</i>
<i>December 19th</i>	<i>Meditation: Prologue: Zoomed Carols with Malcolm</i>

As we move into 2022 our breakfasts will continue, hopefully with knives and forks in the lower hall at some point. Meanwhile, all men are reminded to make note of the upcoming breakfast dates given in the Grace Bulletin, or on the Grace website, on the Grace Face Book page or on the streamed pre-service slide show. And as the year progresses we look forward to once again socializing over coffee, and lining up at the serving hatch for a plateful of the finest, but for the present, joining us Virtually is still easy, still fun and still a good start to Sunday.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Men



Dick Charlton

United Churches for Dartmouth (UCfD) Annual Report 2021

United Churches for Dartmouth is a venue for collaboration and sharing between congregations of the United Church in Dartmouth, NS. In terms of the new United Church structure it is an example of a "cluster". The group normally meets quarterly, rotating between the various congregations. However in this COVID year we met eight times by Zoom. In general, many of the members of UCfD are representatives of the congregational Boards, although all are welcome. During 2021 we had increased participation by clergy, and from the Lawrencetown-Lake Echo pastoral charge.

Ongoing UCfD initiatives like Spirit Café remained on hold due to pandemic public health policies. However, Spiritual Reflections (3 days a week until July, then weekly) by members of the clergy (and others) continued. Kids Corner was maintained until July (3 days a week). As children were back in school in the autumn KC was not restarted in September. Shared Adult education events were held in the spring and autumn.

The UCfD Facebook site for sharing inter-congregational and community events continued to provide a venue for sharing worship and congregational development activities. Weekly postings of services times (and venue) provided a common place for people to see what services congregational events (suppers and sales). The Facebook site aims to provide a venue to announce and share events between congregations and also to promote events of the larger Dartmouth community.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UnitedChurchesforDartmouth/>. Come check out what is going on.

UCfD has been working to promote common United Church projects, resources and sharing of costs. Two such projects were "Lent in a Bag" and "Advent in a Bag." In both cases congregations shared ideas for content and the cost of buying bags (and other materials) in bulk. These projects provided a tangible means to reach out to congregational members isolated at home due to the pandemic.

One of the main benefits of UCfD/DUF has been the opportunity for members of congregational boards to meet and exchange ideas. At every meeting there is an opportunity for each congregation to tell the others what their congregation has been doing and has planned for the next quarter. Other congregations then have the opportunity to ask questions and some amazing discussions have resulted. Often we have been able to share knowledge of resources for building repairs and other issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Hazen
Chair
United Churches for Dartmouth.

Region 15 Representatives Annual Report 2021

In 2021 Grace United had two regional council representatives - Pat Cleave and Cindy Penney.

Regions East web site for Region 15 is <https://uceeast.ca> and select Regional Council 15.

- Weekly newsletters for Region 15 are posted --- anyone can subscribe to emails.
- The 2022 AGM is scheduled to be held virtually from May 27-28, 2022 with hope of in-person celebration of ministries on May 29.
- General Council 44 will be held virtually. Commissioners begin work Feb 13, 2022 with main decisions starting July 21 and ending with installation of new moderator on August 7.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 AGM for Region 15 - Bermuda and Nova Scotia - was held over Zoom on May 28 & 29. The celebration of ministries scheduled for May 30 was cancelled as ordinands elected to wait until celebration could take place in person.

Pre-AGM webinars were held May 20 (Division Reports/Budget 2022 & Audited 2020 Statements) and May 26 (GC44 commissioner and president-elect nominees, Proposals, Strategic Plan).

The AGM was presided over by Region 15 President Janet Sallows and the Executive Minister for the region, Rev. Faith March-MacCuish. Regional Council reps for Grace and Rev. Stephen Fram attended the meeting. Minutes can be found on the Region 15 web site.

1. Remaining GC44 commissioners were elected.
2. President-elect, Sandra Tomsons, was elected.
3. Financials were approved. Budget basically the same as last year with some cost-of-living increases.
4. Proposal to R15 regarding climate justice was carried. Includes reducing energy consumption in church buildings and possible funding.
5. Proposal to GC44 regarding support for ministry personnel taking maternity and/or paternal leave forwarded with concurrence.
6. R15 Strategic Plan approved. Information about the 3 Pillars of the plan - Discipleship, Mission & Leadership - are on the R15 website.
7. Jane McDonald installed as the new President for Region 15 at end of meeting.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of R15 representatives,

Cindy Penney

Grace Initiatives Committee

The last two years have not been kind to our fundraising efforts. In spite of the challenges, in 2021 we were able to sponsor two successful book sales, the Memory Tree and the sale of Grocery Gift Cards.

We are in possession of a large inventory of books and as restrictions are eased in March we will start our fundraising activities with a series of book sales.

If the ease of restrictions continues as projected, we hope to have a perennials plant, new to you, and bake sale at the end of May or early June.

In spite of the challenges, we were able to meet and exceed our budget of \$15,000. Our goal for 2022 is \$17,000 and with the support of the Grace family we are hopeful we can meet and exceed this goal.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blair MacKinnon', written in a cursive style.

Blair MacKinnon
Grace Initiatives Committee

Envelope Steward's Report for 2021

Contributions of Grace United Church 2021

Month	Loose	Local*	M&S Fund	Building Fund	2021	2020
January	12	11,761	1,393	1,959	15,125	15,141
February	7	13,908	1,493	2,055	17,463	16,842
March	20	13,063	1,443	1,830	16,356	16,604
April	10	16,930	1,577	2,088	20,604	21,100
May		13,671	1,487	1,918	17,075	18,280
June		12,877	1,416	3,852	18,145	17,282
July		10,991	1,441	2,099	14,531	22,347
August	15	12,034	1,388	1,774	15,211	15,586
September	100	15,173	1,499	2,210	18,982	18,427
October	28	18,974	1,490	1,965	22,457	16,602
November	30	15,717	1,500	4,192	21,438	22,968
December	45	27,017	1,734	2,820	31,616	34,824
Total	\$267	\$182,116	\$17,860	\$28,758	\$229,002	\$236,005

* includes Easter, Thanksgiving, Anniversary, Christmas and Initial offerings.

Average Contributions

Year	Envelopes		Contributors without envelopes	PAR	Total	Receipts	Average
	Used	Not used					
2021	37	(9)	66	88	191	229,002	1,199
2020	41	(4)	56	91	188	236,005	1,255
2019	45	(10)	67	85	197	224,596	1,140
2018	56	(9)	58	80	194	208,509	1,075
2017	62	(3)	36	84	182	202,905	1,115
2016	59	(3)	29	81	169	232,962	1,378

Envelope Steward's Report for 2021 (cont.)**Contribution Range**

\$	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Unused	9	4	10	9	3
0.01 – 200	44	35	55	62	45
201 – 400	19	26	20	16	19
401 – 600	17	12	20	17	13
601 – 800	9	12	8	8	15
801 – 1000	7	8	9	11	10
1001 – 1200	12	9	12	17	13
1201 – 1400	15	21	16	14	11
1401 – 1600	7	4	8	5	12
1601 – 1800	8	15	7	10	5
1801 – 2000	5	6	6	6	4
2000+	48	41	36	28	33

Special Offerings and Other Contributions

	<u>Easter</u>	<u>Thanksgiving</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>	<u>Christmas</u>	<u>Food Bank</u>	<u>F.O.O.D.</u>
2021	6,100	6,020	3,320	8,251	6,067	2,709
2020	45		5,177	4,405	7,655	2,924
2019	2,545		2,541	8,416	5,361	3,003
2018	2,125		2,400	4,103	4,042	1,889
2017	1,310		2,061	2,415	2,796	1,664

Respectfully submitted,
Martin Walker – Envelope Steward

Finance Committee Report Year ended December 31, 2021

The year 2021 was a challenging one for Grace United Church, but with ongoing support from the congregation, strong rental revenues and some government COVID funds, the Church was able to finish the year with a small surplus. The Finance Committee sincerely thanks everyone who made this possible.

In 2022, the budget indicates a need to increase local givings by \$13,000 or 7% over the previous year. This is due to increasing expenses and predicted decreases in other types of revenues such as hall rentals.

During 2021, substantial work was done on the Church's roof, depleting the resources in the building fund. More work will need to be done on the roof in 2022. Also, the oil furnaces in the Church will be replaced with heat pumps in 2022 and although the Church is eligible for some green energy grants, there are still funds to be raised by the congregation. Please consider giving to these worthy causes.

As in prior years, we encourage everyone to consider PAR (pre-authorized remittances) as their method of giving to Grace. It helps regulate income, smooth out seasonal fluctuations, and predict the Church's cash flow.

Sadly, our much-loved bookkeeper, Frances Wallace, passed away in 2021. We thank her husband Harry for their services over the past number of years. We would also like to thank Connie Mack for quickly stepping up and taking over the position in an efficient manner.

The Finance Committee would like to recognize Thelma Blaikie for her support throughout the year, Martin Walker in his role as envelope steward, Bill Foster and Hugh Hall for completing the audit.

Blair MacKinnon, Chair Finance
Lynn Loder, Treasurer

Benevolent Fund Annual Report 2021

The Benevolent Fund is an emergency fund for supporting individuals in need. In most cases they come to the church asking for assistance. The Fund is administered by the minister and in most cases, depending on needs, individuals are directed to appropriate agencies before they are given gift cards.

In 2021 the fund started at \$115. The Unified Board provided \$400 for the year. \$350 in Sobeys/Presidents Choice gift cards and \$5 in cash were given to 11 individuals. Balance at end of 2021 is \$160.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Fram

Special Gift Fund Annual Report 2021

The Special Gift Fund is concerned with the publicizing of, administration of, and investment of special gifts including memorial funds which are both restricted and unrestricted as to use.

On the two following pages are the year end reports for the funds under the administration of Lynn Loder, Connie Mack and Blair MacKinnon. The reports were prepared by Lynn Loder.

We would ask that members of Grace United Church remember the Special Gift Fund of the Church when preparing personal wills and also for consideration for special donations at any time. Your continued support and generosity will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy worship and fellowship together here at Grace United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Loder
Treasurer

**Grace United Church
Special Gift/Memorial Fund
as at December 31, 2021**

		\$\$
	Fund balance at Jan 1 /21	98,398
<u>Receipts</u>	Donations - general	2,250
	Donations for Organ Fund	240
	Dividends	800
	Interest	732
	Unrealized gain on ManuLife shares at 12/31/21	998
	Total receipts	5,020
<u>Disbursements</u>	Total Disbursements	0.00
	Net Surplus at Dec 31/21	5,020
	Fund balance at Dec 31/21	103,418
Assets		
	Bank - CIBC	32,736
	Investor's Edge -cash	601
	GIC, 1 year cashable, .45% interest rate maturing April 25,2022	<u>38,000</u>
	Total Cash & GICs	71,337
684 shares	ManuLife (stock value at Dec 31, 2021)	<u>16,491</u>
	Total Cash at Dec 31/21	87,828
	Due to / from affiliated Funds	
	Due from Grace Operating fund.	14,490
	Due from Ministry Bursary Fund	1,100
	Total due from affiliated Funds	<u>15,590</u>
	Total Fund balance at Dec 31/21	103,418
	Notes to Fund balances	
	Unrestricted Cash Funds and due from Grace general fund & Bursary	67,442
Restricted funds	Supporting the youth of the church Note A	467
	Supporting youth music at the church Note B	755
	Funds held on behalf of the Organ Fund Note C	<u>2,673</u>
	Total restricted funds	<u>3,895</u>
	Total Cash Fund	71,337

Note A - for the general benefit of supporting the youth of the church

Note B - for the general benefit of supporting youth music at the church

Note C - Funds held on behalf of the Organ Fund

**Grace United Church
Ministry Bursary Fund
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**

This fund is available to assist candidates from Grace United Church for the ordained or diaconal ministry of the United Church of Canada.

The principal balance of \$5,000 is to be maintained in perpetuity as part of the conditions requested when it was originally donated. Only the interest earned from the principal balance is allowed to be disbursed.

Balance of Funds Available	\$\$	
for Disbursement - January 1, 2021	3,514	
Interest Income earned during the GIC term	23	
Funds paid out to Ministry Candidate	-500	
Balance of Funds available Dec 31,2021	3,037	
CIBC GIC with an annual interest rate of .45% with a term of 1 year maturing January 12, 2022	5,000	
Reinvested accumulated interest	4,136	
Total Invested	9,136	
Due to special gift fund	-1,100	
Total fund balance	8,036	

**Grace United Church
Organ Fund
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**

			\$\$
Organ fund started 1963	Fund Balance	Jan 1,2021	11,192
	Receipts - Donations		240
	interest income		101
	Disbursements		0
	Fund Balance	Dec 31,2021	11,533

Cash & GIC

Funds held by Special Gift fund	2,673
CIBC 1 year cashable GIC interest at .45% maturing April 25, 2022	8,860
Total Cash and GIC	11,533

Grace United Church
Comparative Balance Sheet

	As at 12/31/21	As at 12/31/20	Difference
ASSET			
Current Assets			
Investment Cash	10,101.01	10,193.60	-92.59
Bank - CIBC	35,934.37	50,631.01	-14,696.64
Short-term investments	15,225.00	15,000.00	225.00
Due To/From Memorial Fund	-14,490.12	-10,874.12	-3,616.00
Accounts Receivable	1,666.70	0.00	1,666.70
HST Recoverable	1,397.53	2,198.88	-801.35
Prepaid Expenses - Total	0.00	1,557.10	-1,557.10
Total Current Assets	<u>49,834.49</u>	<u>68,706.47</u>	-18,871.98
TOTAL ASSET	<u>49,834.49</u>	<u>68,706.47</u>	-18,871.98
LIABILITY			
Current Liabilities			
Accts Payable - F.O.O.D.	1,733.03	1,424.07	308.96
Accounts Payable	5,974.07	10,880.33	-4,906.26
Accrued liabilities	2,108.68	0.00	2,108.68
El payable	52.22	0.00	52.22
CPP payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inc Tax payable	1,441.07	0.00	1,441.07
CRA Source deduct payable	1,493.29	0.00	1,493.29
Deferred Revenue - Inclusive Choir	918.00	0.00	918.00
To/From A/V Sound System Fund	4,948.81	-7,374.70	12,323.51
Deferred Rev - Web Page Development	109.39	109.39	0.00
Deferred Revenue miscellaneous	500.00	500.00	0.00
Deferred Contributions	10,101.01	10,193.60	-92.59
Deferred Revenue - Total	16,577.21	3,428.29	13,148.92
Receiver General Payable	0.00	1,534.56	-1,534.56
Due to Mission & Service Fund	1,733.91	1,755.91	-22.00
Due to/from Library Fund	887.85	887.85	0.00
Rental Reserve Fund Hall & Kitchen	8,079.16	4,168.15	3,911.01
Due to/from Building Fund	-2,104.12	31,296.19	-33,400.31
Due to/fr Church Renew/partnership	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u>39,483.08</u>	<u>58,375.35</u>	-18,892.27
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>39,483.08</u>	<u>58,375.35</u>	-18,892.27
EQUITY			
Equity - General Fund			
Retained Surplus - General Fund	10,331.12	10,041.47	289.65
Current Earnings	20.29	289.65	-269.36
Total Equity - General Fund	<u>10,351.41</u>	<u>10,331.12</u>	20.29
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>10,351.41</u>	<u>10,331.12</u>	20.29
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>49,834.49</u>	<u>68,706.47</u>	-18,871.98

Grace United Church

Budget 2022, Actual and Budget 2021 and 2020

	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020	Budget 2020
Revenue					
Local budget offering	196,500	182,400	197,077	180,514	186,504
Hall rental	15,000	22,146	12,000	11,305	23,500
Kitchen rental	17,000	16,911	18,000	11,015	17,250
Other revenue	200	1,075	200	201	800
Covid-19 Wage Subsidy	2,000	7,490	0	1,749	0
Grace Initiatives Committee	17,000	19,017	15,000	18,967	19,000
Spirit Cafe & Interest earned	200	225	200	236	500
Subtotal Other Revenue	51,400	66,863	45,400	43,473	61,050
Total Revenue	247,900	249,263	242,477	223,987	247,554
Expenses and Disbursements					
Salaries & Honouraria	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Salary - Minister	83,619	82,546	82,546	80,769	80,769
Salary- Supply minister-sabbatical		7,952	7,800		7,800
Contract - Organist	18,909	18,666	18,666	18,264	18,264
Salary - Office Administrator	16,743	16,528	16,528	15,871	16,173
Honourarium - Christian educ	700	500	500	500	500
Honourarium - Bookkeeper	2,500	2,050	2,050	2,000	2,000
Honouraria - other	2,000	663	2,000	1,114	3,000
Honouraria - envelope secretary	2,500	2,050	2,050	2,000	2,000
Contract - janitor	14,214	14,032	14,032	13,680	13,730
Honouraria - Guest musicians	1,000	605	700	425	700
Contract - Rental Manager	9,600	9,477	9,477	8,114	9,273
Bonus - Rental Manager	0	1,674	0	0	0
Total Salaries & Honouraria	151,785	156,742	156,349	142,737	154,208
UC pension, CPP & other benefits	18,000	18,921	16,000	15,579	15,000
El expense	1,704	1,787	1,600	1,550	1,600
Study leave & book fnd-minister	1,500	1,559	1,474	1,442	1,442
Book fund Supply Minister		187			
Professional dev - organist	1,500		800		1,500
Subtotal payroll expenses	22,704	22,453	19,874	18,571	19,542
Total Payroll & Honouraria	174,489	179,196	176,223	161,308	173,750
Church Premises & Housing					
Power	6500	6,424	6,000	5,773	6,300
Water	1000	989	1,000	915	1,350
Heating fuel	10000	8,527	9,000	7,432	11,000
Repairs & maintenance	9000	5,092	9,000	9,962	8,000
Furniture & fixtures	1000		1,000	971	3,500
Computer o/l licenses & software	2000	763	2,000	1,541	1,500
Cleaning supplies & misc.	800	724	800	655	1,300
Total Church Premises & Housing	30,300	22,519	28,800	27,249	32,950

Grace United Church

Budget 2022, Actual and Budget 2021 and 2020

	Budget 2022	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020	Budget 2020
Church Administration					
Travel allowance - minister	500	322	1,000	452	1,800
Travel allow-supp min		200	200		200
Printing, postage & stationery	2,500	2,116	2,500	2,351	2,800
Telecommunications	4,500	4,149	4,500	4,225	4,500
Insurance	9,000	8,860	6,600	6,530	6,000
Bank charges & payroll s/c	1,500	1,369	1,700	1,652	1,500
Taxes (Hydrant)	125	115	125	124	125
UCC Assessment	9,586	8,929	8,929	8,929	8,929
Total Church Administration	27,711	26,058	25,554	24,262	25,854
Church Activities					
Choir - music	700	140	700	23	700
Grace Initiatives expenses		34	0		0
Christian education	1,200	1,197	1,000	487	1,000
Worship	2,500	3,324	2,000	2,867	2,500
Coffee, pastoral care, misc	700	655	400	131	700
Communication Com see Computer					
Misc / concerts / cleaning	100		100	91	200
Long-range planning 1 sq.	200	119	200	105	200
Total Church Activities	5,400	5,469	4,400	3,704	5,300
Allocations & Discretionary					
Outreach (discret. combined)	5,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Unified Board	1,000	1,250	1,000	896	1,200
Total Allocation & Discretionary	6,000	4,750	4,500	4,396	4,700
Total Expenses Before Reserve	243,900	237,992	239,477	220,919	242,554
Allocation to Rental Reserve	4,000	4,751	3,000	2,778	5,000
Transfer to Building Fund		6,500			
Total Expenses & Allocations	247,900	249,243	242,477	223,697	247,554
Net Income (Deficiency)	0	20	0	290	0

**Statement of Building Fund, Building Reserve, and Sound System
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**

	Building	Rental Res	Sound System
Balance, Jan 1, 2021	\$31,296	\$4,168	-\$7,375
Donations received / Allocations	\$29,318	\$4,751	\$15,850
Energy grant	\$4,313		
Transfer from General Fund	\$6,500		
Disbursements from fund	-\$73,531	-\$840	-\$3,526
Balance, December 31, 2021	-\$2,104	\$8,079	\$4,949

GRACE UNITED CHURCH
Audit Committee Report

We have audited the general operations balance sheet of Grace United Church as of December 31, 2021, and the general operations statements of revenue and expenses for the year then ended. Our audit was made in accordance with the Manual of the United Church of Canada. Accordingly, we approved and used the Grace United Church Audit Committee's "Self Audit Program" as originally designed by William Foster, CPA, CA

The committee conducted some random tests by tracing payments through accounts, reviewing the system of receipts and deposits of funds and posting to the General Ledger, and discussing the effectiveness of systems with those responsible. We did not have access to, nor did we examine, the accounts of various sub-committees and records of various fund raising programs, and portions of payroll managed through the United Church of Canada.

The committee found no irregularities and it is satisfied with the general operations of accounting systems used to compile annual financial statements.

The committee recognizes the significant effort and time spent by volunteers and officers who are responsible for the various aspects of the accounting and recommends that this be recognized by the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

X H. A. Hall
Hugh Hall

X 18/02/22
Date

X William Foster
William Foster

X Feb 18/22
Date