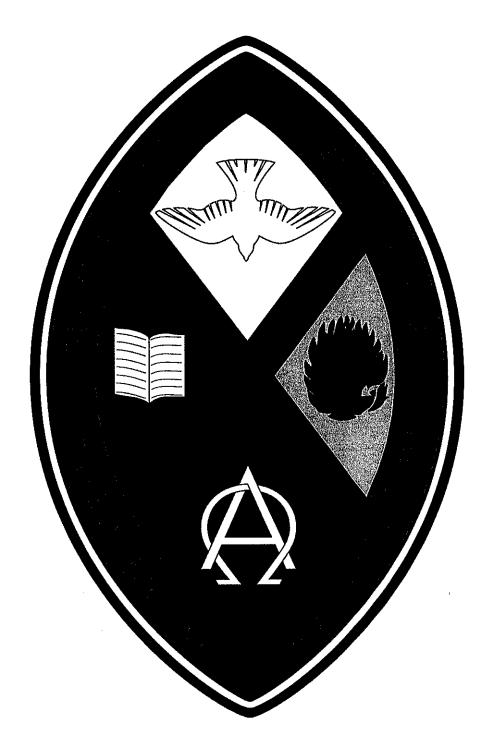
First United Church Mount Pearl



Annual Report 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2024

- ❖ Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting April 14, 2024
- First United Official Board Members
- ❖ First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council Annual Meeting June 7-9, 2024
- ❖ A Message from Rev. Ian March-MacCuish
- Report from Interim Minister, Rev. Karen Bursey
- ❖ Board of Management Report submitted by Joan Winsor, Chair
- ❖ Property Committee Report submitted by Kirk Howell, Chair
- ❖ Worship Committee Report submitted by Sara Case, Chair
- ❖ Peace Garden/Garden Café Report submitted by Carolyn Rice
- Christian Development Committee Report submitted by Allison Randell, Chair
- Sunday School Report submitted by Florence Morrissey, Judy Blackwood, Wanda Tiller
- ❖ Youth Group Report submitted by Rev. Faith March-MacCuish
- ❖ Book Club Report submitted by Pamela Morgan
- Quilting Group Report submitted by Pamela Morgan
- ❖ Bridges to Hope Report submitted by Bridges to Hope Board Chair, Ewan Cumming
- ❖ Ministry and Personnel Committee Report submitted by Brenda Andrews, Chair
- ❖ Board of Trustees Committee Report submitted by Nelson Harris
- ❖ First United Men's Club Report submitted by Kevin Martin, President
- ❖ First United Church Women Report submitted by Glenys Harris, Secretary
- ❖ The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Report submitted by Calvin Gibbons
- **Stewardship Report** submitted by Glenys Harris
- Statistics for 2024 (Baptisms, Marriages, Burials)

Minutes Annual Congregational Meeting First United Church April 14, 2024

The meeting began immediately following the morning worship service at 12 noon.

Rev. Ian called the meeting to order and started the meeting with a prayer. He then called for nominations for a Chair Person and Secretary for the meeting. Gary Gosse nominated Wayne Rideout as Chair and Joan Winsor seconded the motion. Wayne accepted the nomination and was elected to the position. Joan Winsor nominated Heather Sinyard as Secretary and Carolyn Rice seconded the nomination. Heather Sinyard accepted the nomination and was elected to the position.

There were 45 people in attendance.

Wayne opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance. He expressed his thanks to Rev. Ian and staff as well as the volunteers during the year. He also thanked all church members for their continued support.

Proposed Agenda – It was moved by Kyle March-MacCuish and seconded by Kevin Martin that the proposed agenda be adopted. **Motion Carried.**

The Minutes of the Congregational meeting of March 19, 2023 – It was moved by Paul Hillyard and seconded by Kyle March-MacCuish that the minutes of the previous congregational meeting be accepted. **Motion Carried.**

There was no business arising from or questions raised by the minutes.

Committee Reports – It was moved by Joan Winsor and seconded by Cynthia Burt that the committee reports excluding the Stewardship and Financial Reports be accepted. **Motion** Carried.

The Report from First Dawn Eastern Edge was supplied for information purposes only and did not require a motion to accept.

Minister's Report - Wayne asked Rev. Ian and the members present if there were any comments or questions on the report. There were none.

Board of Management – Board Chair, Joan Winsor had no further comments.

Wayne then proceeded to ask if any one had any further comments or questions on each of the reports.

- 70th Anniversary Committee Report
- Property Report
- Worship Committee Report

- Christian Development Committee Report
- Sunday School Report
- Youth Group and Youth Group Financial Reports

A Question: How much money was in the recycling account because it was not reported in the Financial Report. Pam Morgan replied that it was approximately \$2,000 and had in fact been requested in January of 2024 and will reflect in the 2024 reporting.

- Book Club Report
- Quilting Group Report
- Bridges to Hope Report
- Ministry and Personnel Report
- Board of Trustees Report
- Men's Fellowship Club and Men's Financial Reports
- First United Church Women and UCW Financial Reports
- General Protestant Cemetery Report

Stewardship Report – The Stewardship Committee/Financial Report was moved by Kyle March-MacCuish and seconded by Lilly Pope. **Motion Carried.**

Question: How much was raised in the shingles campaign? The specifics were not reflected in the report. Glenys advised that \$3,100 was raised and that it was included under the Building Fund Account. How much is still owing on the shingles? Advised that it is fully paid from Building Fund funds.

Question: Building Fund receipts and interest show \$1,695. That cannot be correct? Glenys confirmed that approximately \$39,000 was donated towards the Building Fund. Under Transfer from Operating Account \$27,752 donations received towards the loan payments and the balance was used for repairs and maintenance. It was suggested that there be a change in the way the reporting is done next year.

Wayne thanked the Finance Committee for their tremendous work over the past year.

Re-Election of Current Board Members and Election of New Board Members -

Wayne advised that the Church's Constitution requires that there must be a minimum of 14 duly elected representatives on the board. With the number we had departing, depending on

the number elected, it may be that that the required number will have to be adjusted down. If so, the Board would review the constitution and bring any changes required to a Sunday Morning Congregational meeting just to adjust the numbers of board members.

Wayne thanked departing members Gary Gosse, Len Sturge, and Kyle-March-MacCuish for their service on the Board,

Current members on the Board serving in their first two years did not require a new vote. They included Lilly Pope, Joan Winsor, Tony Tuck and Kirk Howell.

Wayne stated that those members in their third to fifth years required a vote. Those members were Heather Sinyard, Allison Randell, Sara Case, Jean Whelan, Brenda Andrews and Carolyn Rice.

Motion: That these people listed be re-elected to the Board, moved by Cynthia Burt and seconded by Kevin Martin. **Motion Carried.**

There were two are people who offered to serve on the board. They were Glenys Harris and Lisa Walsh.

Motion: That these people who volunteered be elected to the Board, moved by Cynthia Burt and seconded by David Barbour. **Motion Carried.**

Wayne then called for Nominations and/or Volunteers to serve on the board. (Repeated three times.)

Rev. Ian nominated four people: Kevin Martin (accepted), Jean Barbour (declined), Denis Manning (accepted), Cynthia Burt (declined).

Motion: That these people who accepted Rev. Ian's nomination be elected to the Board. Carried.

Election of Delegates to First Dawn Eastern Edge -

Janice Andrews-Ralph was stepping down as a delegate.

Brenda Andrews, Cynthia Burt and Kelly Tuck agreed to continue as our representatives. The fourth delegate position was now vacant. Wayne called for a nomination or volunteer to become a delegate to represent First at FDEE. (three times). There were no additional nominations or volunteers. A motion was made to accept those delegates. Moved by Joan Winsor and seconded by Kyle March-MacCuish. **Motion Carried**

Wayne asked that anyone interested in serving as a delegate or alternate to please speak with Joan Winsor.

Statistics for 2023 -

Rev. Ian read out the names of the seven infants baptized into our church.

Rev. Ian then read out the names of the 11 members for whom funerals were conducted. A moment of silence and prayer was held for the deceased members.

New Business -

Grant - Joan Winsor announced that we had received a \$25,000 Federal Government Grant toward the Peace Garden. These monies would be used to complete the payment outstanding, as well as allow for additional work to be completed. That additional work would include a Community Vegetable Garden.

Foster Parent Fund - Ralph Hiscock moved that using the excess funds showing in the year end statement a one-time donation of \$800 be made to help children. Seconded by David Barbour. **Motion Carried**

Some discussion continued about this topic. About how the funds accumulated in the past and more currently, as well, as how the funds are dispersed. We need to ensure that enough funds are in the account to cover the monthly payments. It was decided to allow the Board to determine how the funds would be allocated and reported back to the congregation.

Appreciation – Rev. Ian expressed thanks to Christina Manning, Peter MacDonald and Melissa Butt for all their work over the past year. The congregation express their thank with applause.

Proposed Budget and Expenses 2024 – This was missed when reviewing the Stewardship Report. Kyle March-MacCuish moved the acceptance of the Proposed 2024 Budget and was seconded by Mark Rice. **Motion Carried** after discussion.

Budget Discussion: Included pointing out that there was a deficit in 2023 and asking where additional funds were going to come from in 2024. Wayne pointed out the Other Income line in the Income Budget. Glenys advised that the Expenses Budget is made up first and then the Revenue budget is created to match the proposed Expenses.

Closing Remarks -

Wayne thanked the staff for their excellent job during the year. He thanked the Board members for their efforts. He thanked the group of volunteers who tirelessly give of their time and efforts.

Rev. lan concluded the meeting with a Benediction.

The meeting adjourned.

Heather Sinyard

Secretary

Wayne Rideout

Chairperson

FIRST UNITED CHURCH Official Board 2024

Minister Rev. Ian March-MacCuish

Interim Minister Rev. Karen Bursey

Chairperson Joan Winsor

Vice Chair Carolyn Rice

Secretary Heather Sinyard

Treasurer Glenys Harris

Stewardship Chair Vacant

Worship Chair Sara Case

Worship Member Kevin Martin

Worship Member Jean Whelan

Property Chair Kirk Howell

Property Member Kevin Martin

Christian Development Chair Allison Randell

Membership/Social Action Chair Vacant

Membership/Social Action Member Lisa Walsh

M&P Chair Brenda Andrews

Board of Trustees Chair Nelson Harris

UCW Rep Jean Randell

Men's Club Rep Kevin Martin

Board Member Tony Tuck

Board Member Denis Manning

Youth Board Member Lilly Pope

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA FIRST DAWN EASTERN EDGE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Annual Meeting June 7-9, 2024 Memorial University, St. John's, NL

When We Say Yes

Friday, June 7, 2024

REGISTRATION Registration

Members of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council registered online for the June 7-9, 2024 Annual Meeting of the Regional Council, being held at Memorial University in St, John's, NL. In preparation for the annual meeting, the Executive offered two webinars so that members were able to ask questions for clarification about matters that require decision making at the annual meeting. In person registration began at Memorial University at 9:00am on Friday morning for members to pick up registration packages and be assigned table groups.

ATTENDANCE - Appendix A

<u>Attendance</u>

Regional Council members in attendance at the meeting are included in Appendix A.

REGRETS - Appendix B

Regrets

Appendix B lists regrets received by members of the region.

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with Music

Members were gathered together with music, offered by Jocelyn Cook.

CALL TO ORDER

<u>Call to</u> Order

The President, Amanda Barnes, welcomed everyone to the sixth annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council and called the meeting to order. The President highlighted the Whole People's Covenant and Holy Manners, as printed in the docket of reports, as guidelines for the business proceedings. The President also highlighted the printed cards on the tables, which outline equity questions for the meetings.

WELCOME Welcome

Amanda Barnes, President, welcomed all to the meeting. The President extended warm welcome to the council members, clergy, lay, visitors, and special guests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Announcements

The chair of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, Nancy Mojica-Fisher, offered the announcements of the region.

QUORUM AND CONSTITUTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL Quorum

The President noted that there was a quorum present, and constituted the council in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church, for all the business that shall properly come before it.

Constitution of the Council

ACKNOWLEDGING THE LAND

Acknowledging the Land

The President began the meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather. We acknowledge that the island of Newfoundland is the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and Mi'Kmaq, and acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu and Inuit. We strive for respectful partnerships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation. May it be so.

Procedural Motion

PROCEDURAL MOTION

MOTION: (Nancy Mojica-Fisher/Cecil Noseworthy)

- That the Roll of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be (Manual 2024 C.1.1 and C.1.2):
- a) Members of the order of ministry within the bounds served by the regional council; and
- b) Other ministry personnel in a covenantal relationship with a community of faith within the bounds of the regional council; and
- c) The lay members who are members of the United Church who are not ministry personnel and who are elected by their Communities of Faith.
- d) Appointed members, lay members of the Regional Council Executive who have not been elected by their Community of Faith.
- 2. That the quorum be as indicated in Section C.4.3 of the Manual 2024;
- "The Regional Council may meet only if a minimum number of members is present... If there are 60 or more members, at least 20 members must be present; and that there must be at least one ministry personnel and one lay member who is not ministry personnel present. Corresponding members are not counted for this purpose."
- "That the bounds of the Regional Council meeting be Memorial University, St. John's Campus"
- 4. "That representatives of General Council; representatives of United Church organizations; ministry students not serving a pastoral charge; and any other registered visitors to the Regional Council meetings be Corresponding Members of this Council."
- 5. "That the agenda, as printed and distributed, be adopted as the agenda for this meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council, subject to such changes as may be adopted and such Orders of the Day as may be determined by the Council."
- That the business table be Nancy Mojica-Fisher, Kathy Brett, Cecil Noseworthy and Alison Piercey.
- That the minute secretary for the sixth (6th) Annual Regional Council meeting be Jennifer Taylor.
- 8. This meeting will be recorded for the purpose of the Record of Proceedings. Once the Record of Proceedings has been produced, the recording will be destroyed.
- 9. That any elections held during this meeting be by majority ballot.
- 10. That the Proposals Team be Paula Gale and Kathy Brett.
- 11. That the Table Group Facilitators for this meeting of Regional Council be as selected by the table groups.
- 12. That the following shall be Duty People for this session of Regional Council: Cecil Noseworthy (Head Duty Person), Brad Cole, Elizabeth Dawson, Shane Foote, Beverly Matthews, Emma O'Rourke, Randy Purchase, Hannah Sheppard, Jonathan Stevenson.
- 13. That the Chaplains/Pastoral Care providers for this weekend be Beverly Matthews, Liberty Matabire, Valerie Kingsbury and Karen Bursey.
- That the nurses/first aiders for Regional Council be Cynthia Burt, Pauline Dingwell and Kelly Tuck.
- 15. That the Process and Flow Support person for Regional Council be Paula Gale.
- 16. That the Friend in Council be Nancy Mojica-Fisher.
- 17. The President will chair the meeting, making any rulings necessary. The Regional Council will work together using the Whole People's Covenant and Holy Manners as its guide. The President will apply the Manual 2024 Appendix: Procedures for Holding a Meeting and Decision-Making. Bourinot's Rules of Order will be used as the authority should a question arise which is not answered by the Appendix. Speakers will:
 - start by identifying themselves (name, Pastoral Charge or Community of Faith)
 - · direct all discussion to the President
 - address the President only once about a motion; except the mover, who may speak both first and last
 - be allocated time as follows: The initial time allocated for the mover to address the
 motion be limited to three (3) minutes, and that all subsequent speakers be limited to
 two (2) minutes, including any reply by the mover of the motion
 - · make every effort to have discussion clear and concise, and deal only with the motion.

CARRIED

CONSENT MOTION

Consent Motion

MOTION: (Nancy Mojica-Fisher/Cecil Noseworthy)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council:

- Approves the Minutes of the Regional Council Meeting, May 12-14, 2023 (RC45-RC58) as circulated.
- 2. Receives and accept the following accountability reports:
 - a. President
 - b. Executive Minister
 - c. Division of Finance and Administrative Resources
 - · Financial Accountability Investments & Trusts
 - · Incorporated Ministries
 - d. Division of Regional Council Services and Support
 - · Communications
 - · Faith Formation, Christian Education & Leadership Development
 - · Justice, Mission & Outreach
 - Stewardship
 - e. Division of Communities of Faith Support and Planning
 - Mission Consultation & Accountability
 - · Future Directions in Ministry
 - f. Division of Human Resources
 - Licensing
 - · Pastoral Relations
 - Retiree Support
 - Nominations

INCLUDING THE NOMINATIONS REPORT AND THE 2024-25 REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

- Chaplaincy
- g. Tri-Regional Staff Support Committee
- h. Affirm Committee
- 3. Receives for information the following other reports:
 - a. Atlantic School of Theology
 - b. Centre for Christian Studies
 - c. Emmanuel College
 - d. Office of Vocation
 - e. St. Andrew's College
 - f. Ukulele Church

CARRIED

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome

The President, Amanda Barnes, extended special welcome to the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada, who will be the theme speaker for this annual meeting, and to Rhonda Parkes, General Council Director of Communications, Organizational Development and Strategy.

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES

Introduction of Candidates

Rev. Dr. Andrew Richardson, Office of Vocation Minister for the eastern regions, welcomed students and candidates for ministry to the council. Welcome and congratulations were extended to Alice Moores and Susan Sheppard; being Ordained; and to Liberty Matabire, who is to be admitted to The United Church of Canada, this weekend at the Celebration of Ministries service. The celebrants were welcomed to the regional council. Andrew Richardson also introduced candidate for ordered ministry, Katelyn Vardy; candidates for designated lay ministry, Heather Cronhelm and Corey Paul; and Admissions candidate, Deepak Yohan.

WELCOME TO NEW MINISTERS

Welcome to New Ministers

Heather Sandford, Regional Minister, welcomed new ministers to the region; Valerie Kingsbury, Deepak Yohan, Beverly Brazier, and Jason Boyd, with thanks for their new ministry among us.

Welcome to

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New Members

The President, Amanda Barnes, invited new members to the regional council to stand and be acknowledged.

Opening Worship **OPENING WORSHIP**

Opening worship was led by liturgy team members; Limon Daka, Deepak Yohan, Liberty Matabire, Kathy Brett, Gneid Lackey and Jocelyn Cook. Prayer, scripture and hymns were offered to help animate the theme *When We Say Yes*. The Moderator, Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne offered the reflection, based on a responsive psalm and scripture reading from Psalm 20 and John 6:66-68, and highlighted some of the many ways that the United Church has said Yes! in both the national church and at the local level. The Moderator asked the members gathered to consider what does it mean when we say yes to God? and what are we saying yes to? Music leadership was offered by Jocelyn Cook and Gneid Lackey, leading the selections *Uyai Mose(Come All You People)*, *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky, All the Way my Saviour Leads Me, and Be Not Afraid*.

In Memoriam

IN MEMORIAM

As part of the opening worship, the Regional Minister, Heather Sandford, led the in-memoriam video presentation. Regional Council members paused to remember those that we have lost since we last gathered, and celebrate all that they have given to us, and this United Church of ours. The Regional Minister offered prayer and asked for a moment of silence. Rev. Wayne Blackwood offered prayer and led members in the Lord's Prayer. Blessings were offered by Georgina Parsons.

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cecil Noseworthy, Annual Meeting Planning Team member, offered the announcements of the region.

Lunch and Grace **LUNCH AND GRACE**

Grace was offered through the singing of God Bless to us Our Bread, led by Jocelyn Cook.

Gathering with Music **GATHERING WITH MUSIC**

Members were gathered together in music led by Jocelyn Cook, Wayne Blackwood and Gneid Lackey.

General Council Representative GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

The President, Amanda Barnes, introduced the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, and Ronda Parkes, General Council Director of Communications, Organizational Development and Strategy, to the council. The Communications Director shared a video presentation with information and updates from the General Council, highlighting the upcoming centennial kickoff, and the Moderator's Flourishing series. The Moderator also brought greetings on behalf of General Council, and thanked the regional council for the invitation to be present. The Moderator will be in the province in November for the Flourishing workshop and clergy retreat.

Table Group Time TABLE GROUP TIME

The President invited members into table group time to introduce themselves and their pastoral charge, and to review the Holy Manners and Equity Self-Monitoring questions.

UPRC

UNITED PROPERTY RESOURCE CORPORATION (UPRC)

Miriam Bowlby, Director of Church Engagement of the United Property Resource Corporation, was welcomed to regional council. Miriam outlined the mandate of the URPC; offering faithful property advice for sustainable developments that meet the common good. Kindred Works is an affiliate of URPC, building rental housing that is sustainable, socially inclusive, and financially viable. The goal is to be carbon neutral by 2030. Kindred Works will work with communities of faith to develop a feasibility study and development plan for reimagining their property.

PRIORITY SETTING - Part I

Priority Setting

Regional Council Executive members Paula Gale and Elizabeth Dawson introduced the regional council members to the Priority Setting goals, as discussed by the Executive at the October 11-12, 2023 priority and planning session. Paula and Elizabeth used a kitchen table skit to introduce the priorities; Sharing our Faith Story, Inclusivity, Nurturing Communities of Faith; and Managing Resources. The priorities were further animated by Natalie Lacey, from Carol United Church, Labrador City, who shared her faith story; members of St. Matthew's United Church, Lewisporte, who shared a story of inclusivity; and Dean Sellars of Carbonear Pastoral Charge who spoke about pastoral units and cooperative ministries as ways of sharing our resources.

<u>BREAK</u>

Break

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Gathering with Music

Catherine Stuart highlighted the ministry of Ukulele Church, by gathering members together in music; with ukulele playing and song.

PRIORITY SETTING - Part il

Priority Setting

Paula Gale and Elizabeth Dawson were welcomed back to the council. Paula and Elizabeth highlighted the four priorities of the region, as identified by the Regional Council Executive. Youth were welcomed to the council and joined table groups. Members were invited to take time in table groups to prioritize the priorities presented; add one more action to each priority; and circle one action from each priority that members can take from here as a pledge and sign to say Yes! to the work that God is calling us to do.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS MOMENT

Health and Wellness Moment

Nancy Mojica-Fisher led the regional council members in a health and wellness moment to move and stretch.

Them<u>e</u>

THEME

The President introduced the 44th Moderator of The United Church of Canada, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne to the regional council. The Moderator was invited to the regional council to be theme presenter for the 6th Annual Meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council. The Moderator offered that, in the business of being church, we need to find ways to be bold in our discipleship. The Moderator shared her theological education journey and some of her experiences of what it means to be church and be in community with diversified and marginalized groups. The Moderator invited members to ground themselves and think about their association with the words mission and evangelism; while acknowledging our complicated past and working towards reconciliation. The Moderator challenged members as to how can we say that we are truly an anti-racist church when The United Church of Canada currently has over 70 (seventy) admissions candidates who cannot find placements. We struggle with what it means to be Christians in the 21st century. There are no simple answers to the struggles of the church. We need humble boldness and bold humility in order to have a sense of mission and make space for those who are marginalized.

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS

General Council Commissioners

Gneid Lackey, Chair of Nominations, introduced the council to the matter of General Council Commissioners to General Council 45 (GC45). Those nominated as General Council Commissioners attended a webinar on May 28, 2024, and were each given two minutes to speak to introduce themselves. It was noted that First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council is eligible to have 14 (fourteen) commissioners to GC45; five (5) Ministry Personnel; five (5) Lay members; 1 (one) Labrador Representative; and three (3) youth/young adult commissioners.

MOTION: (Gneid Lackey/Brian Hannon)

That Cynthia Burt, Adrien Cormier, Fred Douglas, Gloria Lefeuvre and Lillian Thorne be acclaimed as elected Lay Commissioners to the 45th General Council.

CARRIED

The President thanked those elected for putting their names forward to serve the wider church in this way.

(Nancy Mojica-Fisher assumed the chair)

Ballots were distributed to elected members for the vote for ministry personnel commissioners. Results of this vote will be announced once tabulated.

President

PRESIDENT

The President, Amanda Barnes, presented her report. The President thanked the members of the region for the privilege of serving as President. She shared that it has been an honour to be with congregations through their celebrations and closings throughout this year. The President thanked the members gathered for their spirituality, commitment and dedication to this United Church. The President thanked her family, home congregation, and staff for their support and encouragement.

(Amanda Barnes reassumed the chair)

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy Brett offered the announcements of the region.

Supper and Grace

SUPPER AND GRACE

Kathy Brett offered grace.

Gathering with Music

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Jocelyn Cook, Brian Hannon and Gneid Lackey gathered members together with music.

General Council Commissioners

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS - continued

The Executive Minister announced the results of the vote for the five (5) Ministry Personnel Commissioners to the 45th General Council. It was announced that Amanda Barnes, Paula Gale, Liberty Matabire, Stephen Matthews and Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald be the ministry personnel elected to General Council 45, and that Deepak Yohan, Oliver Dingwell, Jason Boyd and Alice Moores be named as alternates.

MOTION: (Faith March-MacCuish/John Maich)

That the ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

Executive Minister

EXECUTIVE MINISTER

The Executive Minister, Faith March-MacCuish, presented her report, included in the reports to the region on page R9-R12. The Executive Minister began her address to the council with thanks for the regional members gathered. The Executive Minister presented a process for the planned evaluation of the regional council structure as we approach the 5 (five) year mark of living into the new structure. The Executive has approved a process, a consultant and the evaluation question. The over-arching question that will form the basis for evaluation is: Does the Regional Council structure enhance the vitality and engagement of faith communities and leaders in the purposes laid out in The Manual C.2.4 and live into the covenants described in C.2.1? In other words: Is the Regional Council living into its potential for enhancing call and ministry as it is in relationship with communities of faith and faith leaders?

Rev. Dr. Jenny Stephens has been engaged as the consultant who will prepare three reports; one for each region, based on the results of interviews, questionnaires and focus group meetings with staff, members of the region, the Executive and divisions/committees.

The final report, with recommendations, as necessary, will be brought to the 2025 annual meeting of the regional council.

BOOKSTORE Bookstore

Leona Laundry, Bookstore Manager, was welcomed to regional council. Leona highlighted the resources available at the United Church Bookstore, and the contact information for on-line ordering. Leona also presented several new books and anniversary products that are available at the bookstore. The bookstore manager thanked the members for their continued support.

CLOSING VESPERS

Closing Vespers

Vespers

Heather Cronhelm, John Maich, Beverly Matthews, and Gneid Lackey led the evening vespers with prayer and quiet reflection on the day's events. A scripture reading from John 6:66-68 was shared with a time for prayer and blessing. Jocelyn Cook offered music leadership, including the hymns *In the Quiet Curve of Evening, and Spirit of the Living God.*

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION President's Reception

Amanda Barnes, President, hosted a reception, where a cake was cut and shared with members gathered, as a thank you from the region for this past year of presidency.

KITCHEN PARTY

Kitchen
Party

Mambara

Jocelyn Cook, President-Elect, hosted a relaxing and entertaining "kitchen party". Members signed up to participate and offered to share their songs, stories, poems, skits, and laughter to conclude the day of meetings.

Saturday, June 8, 2024

GATHERING WITH MUSIC Gathering with Music

Gneid Lackey, Beverly Matthews and Jocelyn Cook gathered members together in music.

OPENING PRAYER
Opening
Prayer

The President, Amanda Barnes, welcomed members back to the council and opened the meeting with prayer and with acknowledgment of the land on which we gather.

2023 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Roy West, Division of Finance and Administrative Resources chair, presented the 2023 audited financial statements. A detailed account of the region's finances was presented during a webinar on May 28, 2024. The chair led the regional council members through the audited financial statements, noting the importance of the auditor's declaration that the statements *present fairly the financial position of the Regional Council.* The chair thanked the Financial Accountability, Investments and Trusts Team for their valuable work on the review of the statements, and highlighted the total assets of region as \$9,455,739 (nine million, four hundred and fifty-five thousand, seven hundred and thirty-nine).

MOTION: (Roy West/ Bob Bennett)

That the 2023 audited financial statements for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

2023

Audited

Statements

BUDGET 2025 Budget 2025

Roy West, Chair of Finance and Administrative Resources, presented the budget for 2025. A detailed report on the budget was presented at the May 28, 2024 webinar. The chair highlighted several changes, which include a new budget line to detail reporting of investment interest income and broker and investment fees. The chair also highlighted the reduction of Mission Support from General Council in 2024 to \$180,000 (one hundred and eighty thousand). The chair reported that the budgeted amounts proposed for 2025 are relatively stable, as the region has lived into the new structure and has a better understanding of projected revenues and expenses. The chair noted that a surplus of \$480,139 (four hundred and eighty thousand one hundred and thirty-nine) is projected for 2025, indicating a strong financial position for the region.

MOTION: (Roy West/Bill Mercer)

That the budget for First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council for 2025 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

General
Council
Commissioners

GENERAL COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS - continued

Gneid Lackey, Nominations chair was welcomed back to the council. It was noted that First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council is eligible to have 14 (fourteen) Commissioners to GC45. The Nominations chair introduced the Labrador Representative nominee and Youth/Young Adult nominees for commissioner to General Council 45.

MOTION: (Gneid Lackey/Brian Hannon)

That Natalie Lacey be acclaimed as the Labrador Representative Commissioner to the 45th General Council.

CARRIED

MOTION: (Gneid Lackey/Marilyn Rees)

That Hannah Sheppard, Dorcus Annika Yohan and Chelsea Hodder be acclaimed as the Youth/Young Adult Commissioners and that Charlotte Powell, Norah Gidge and Rowson Hinchey be elected as alternates from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council to the 45th General Council.

CARRIED

President-Elect

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Gneid Lackey, Nominations chair, introduced the matter of the election of President-Elect. The chair introduced Rev. Elsie Squires as President-Elect nominee. The nominee for President-Elect was welcomed to the council and was given five minutes to speak to introduce herself to the members gathered.

MOTION: (Gneid Lackey/Jocelyn Cook)

That Rev. Elsie Squires be acclaimed as President-Elect of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council.

CARRIED

The Nominations chair thanked those members who have put their names forward and currently serve the various divisions and teams in the region, and asked that others consider serving and to please fill out an expression of interest form.

Future Directions

FUTURE DIRECTIONS I

Future Directions Team members Calvin Ginn and Corey Paul were welcomed to the regional council. The Future Directions Team presented a PowerPoint presentation on Pastoral Units. Geography would be a consideration in forming units, as the purpose is to connect with each other to support each other and share resources. A Pastoral Unit is not another level of governance, and no two pastoral units will look alike. It is the hope that with the introduction of pastoral units there would be less isolation and it would provide more encouragement and support for clergy and pastoral charges. The Future Directions Team believe that God is calling us towards a new vision; We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are. The Team asks that the members gathered consider working together to try something new that may offer consistent ministry and a way forward. Later today, members will be asked to sit in "pastoral units" to begin exploring this proposal.

Theme

THEME II

The Moderator, the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne was welcomed back to the regional council. The Moderator opened with prayer, and offered stories and thoughts to help animate the theme *When We Say Yes*. The Moderator shared her experiences and journey in discerning her own call and study of knowledge, affirming that our stories and theology matter; they are the roots and branches of Christianity.

Growth

Animator

The Moderator shared her own faith story and how she journeyed through desperation to peace and referred to the book The 5 Love Languages of God. The Moderator talked about the need to stay until the miracle happens. She stated that it takes courage to learn and humility to unlearn; to be open and willing to be transformed by others who are not like us; to be bold disciples and practice daring justice. The Moderator referred to the Bonhoeffer book Life Together, and Romans 15:7 to illustrate the need to be authentic, vulnerable and genuine, and be in community with others in order to let us be together in Jesus Christ. The Moderator suggests investing in the children and youth who are here, and say yes to the future. The Moderator closed her time with the members in prayer; in the hope that we head to the future as bold and humble. The President thanked the Moderator for her thoughtful presentation and for sharing her time with the region.

Break **BREAK**

GROWTH ANIMATOR

Sharon Ballantyne, Growth Animator, was welcomed to the council. A video presentation was shared in which the Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, Rev. Sherpherd Munikwa, offered a message of welcome for those who are new to Canada; promoting that The United Church of Canada is a safe landing space. Sharon Ballantyne brought greetings from the General Council, as she is deployed to the region from the General Council to support the work of growing communities of faith in this region. The Growth Animator challenged the members gathered to consider what is something to be celebrated in their community of faith and what is a worry or wish for the community of faith that they bring to this meeting space. The Growth Animator shared that our congregations have gotten stuck. We are caught up in the worry of closing buildings and empty pews. The Growth Animator challenges the members to consider what do we need to let go of, so that new life might emerge. How can we be open to the new ways that God is calling us to be. The Growth Animator highlighted the acronym: Welcome, Attract, Retain, Transform, and Send (WARTS), and challenged all to consider who is welcome, who is missing, and how can we open the doors wide and nurture everyone who comes through the door.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS MOMENT

Nancy Mojica-Fisher, Annual Meeting Planning Team chair, led the members gathered in a health and wellness moment.

Stewardship STEWARDSHIP

Roger Janes, Stewardship and Gifts Officer, highlighted the many resources and programs available to congregations in the region through a video presentation. Roger encouraged members to reach out with any questions, and thanked members gathered for their generous gifts through Mission and Service. Roger shared a video on Mission and Service, and asks that we continue to encourage one another to be generous.

GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME (GLI)

Marion Pardy, Provincial Coordinator, GLI Network, was welcomed to regional council. The GLI report is available on page R55-R57 of the reports. A video presentation was shared, and representatives working to secure a guaranteed livable income were introduced, including the Right Rev. Dr Carmen Lansdowne, Elizabeth Dawson and Shepherd Munikwa.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Mojica-Fisher, Annual Meeting Planning Team chair, offered the announcements of the region.

GRACE AND LUNCH

Gneid Lackey of the Liturgy Team offered grace.

GATHERING WITH MUSIC

Jocelyn Cook gathered the members together with music.

Guaranteed Livable

<u>Income</u>

Health and

Wellness Moment

<u>Announcements</u>

Grace and Lunch

Gathering with

Music

Justice, Mission and Outreach

JUSTICE, MISSION AND OUTREACH

Sherpherd Munikwa, Minister for Justice, Mission and Outreach, was introduced to the council. Sherpherd introduced members of the Justice, Mission and Outreach Committee, and spoke about work taking place in several of the working groups within the committee, using rooms within a house to outline the various groups of the committee and the relationships they have with each other and the community.

Children, Youth and Young Adults

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Catherine Stuart was welcomed to regional council. Catherine discussed her role as Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults, and highlighted some of the main pieces of work that she carries out in the three eastern regions, with the support of Mission and Service. Catherine highlighted the growth in youth registration this year, and thanked the members gathered for their support.

GO Project

GO PROJECT

Rebecca Pike, Youth Minister at Gower Street United Church, was welcomed to the council to highlight two upcoming mission programs for youth this summer; GO Project and Rendez-Vous.

VOWR

VOWR

Rev. Bill Mercer, Wesley United Church, shared that VOWR radio station is the oldest radio station in Newfoundland; celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. He extended an invitation for any pastoral charge to share a service on the radio and celebrate this ministry.

Future Directions

FUTURE DIRECTIONS II

The Future Directions Team were welcomed back to the council. Members were invited into table group time in their proposed Pastoral Units to consider the issues and challenges of the proposal. The team encouraged the members gathered to keep the *we can do it* attitude!

MOTION: (Calvin Ginn/Corey Paul)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council agrees to pilot Pastoral Units for 2024-25, and

that at least five (5) Pastoral Units be included in this pilot; and

that a recommendation regarding adopting Pastoral Units as a way of supporting ministry within First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council be brought to the 2025 Annual Meeting.

CARRIED

Affirming Ministry

AFFIRMING MINISTRY

James Ravenscroft, Affirm Committee chair, was welcomed to the council. Rev. Ravenscroft introduced members of the committee. Corrina Wentzel, committee member, joined by zoom, to lift up the priority of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council to create safer, braver spaces in the church as we prepare to determine if we can become an affirming region. The region's call statement was highlighted, and scripture was used to help animate that inclusion is God's will. Table groups were asked to take time to ponder what it would mean for this region to become affirming; taking time for personal reflection and to share their thoughts within groups. The committee shared that the region will take this year for further education and discernment before coming to the annual meeting in 2025.

<u>Courtesies</u>

COURTESIES

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee chair, Nancy Mojica-Fisher, offered thanks to all who participated, presented, planned and prepared for the annual meeting. In particular, thanks and appreciation were offered to Memorial University, our visitors, the tech support team, chaplains, workshop leaders, worship team, duty people, hospitality persons, staff and members who attended. Special thanks was offered to the theme presenter, our Moderator, the General Council Representative, Ronda Parkes, the Executive Minister, and to the President for chairing this annual meeting.

CLOSING MOTION

Closing Motion

MOTION: (Nancy Mojica-Fisher/Cecil Noseworthy)

That First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council designate to the Executive the power to act for the Region in all matters except those excluded by the Manual 2024; and that the sixth annual meeting of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council close at the completion of the Celebration of Ministries Service, Sunday, June 9, 2024; and that the seventh annual meeting be held on May 2-4, 2025, at Corner Brook, NL.

CARRIED

WORKSHOPS Workshops

A total of seven (7) workshops were offered to members on Saturday afternoon at 3:30pm. The workshops offered were: Diversity; Ukulele Church and Sunday School Resources; Forest Church; Affirming Ministry; Going Where we Have Never Gone Before: How Can we Hope to be Deep Bold and Daring?; Managing Church Finances and Selling Property; and How to Get There When You Don't Know Where You are Going. In solidarity with an ongoing protest for Just Peace in Palestine and Israel, and the wish to not cross the protest line, the workshops were condensed from the original schedule. Lunch and learn webinars will be scheduled in the fall to offer additional opportunities for the workshop presentations.

MILESTONES IN MINISTRY

Milestones in Ministry

A banquet celebrating the retirees and jubilarians, hosted by Heather Sandford, Regional Minister, was held at 6:30pm on Saturday, June 8, 2024. Amanda Barnes, President, offered grace. A slideshow and music highlighted the years of service of those who have offered their gifts and talents to The United Church of Canada and are celebrating milestone events. Celebrants in attendance were presented with a certificate and a small gift from the region, and were invited to say a few words.

Retirees

Mr. Raymond A. Case Rev. Nancy J. Mojica-Fisher Retirees

<u>Anniversaries</u>

<u>Anniversaries</u>			
The Rev. Joseph G. Burton	65 Years	The Rev. William G. Bartlett	50 Years
The Rev. Royden R. Reynolds	50 Years	The Rev. Russell L. Small	50 Years
The Rev. Lawrence C. Watkins	50 Years	The Rev. Calvin E. Ginn	45 Years
The Rev. Dr. Beverly Brazier	40 Years	The Rev. E.V. Faith March-MacCuish	35 Years
The Rev. Ian M. March-MacCuish	35 Years	The Rev. William Mercer	35 Years
The Rev. D. Scott Worsfold	35 Years	The Rev. Marion J. Davis,	30 Years
Mr. Glenn G. Jarvis	30 Years	Mr. Derrick E. Penney	30 Years
The Rev. Patricia A. Ritchie	30 Years	Mr. Raymond A. Case	25 Years
The Rev. Brian Hannon	25 Years	The Rev. Karen R.B. Thorne	25 Years

YOUTH WORSHIP

<u>Youth</u> Worship

The youth were welcomed back to regional council. The Youth led the regional council members in worship, offering music and prayer to help animate their weekend theme *When You Say Yes*. The youth offered a poem and skit by way of reflection of the message to live in the moment and take the opportunity to be in community with others. The youth asked the members gathered to grow in faith by saying yes to opportunity.

Music ministry was offered by the youth at region, including the hymns *Draw the Circle Wide*, *Here I am Lord*, and *Pharaoh*. *Pharaoh*. The service closed with prayer and a benediction.

Sunday, June 9, 2024

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

Celebration of Ministries

The Celebration of Ministries service was held at Memorial University, St. John's, on Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 10:00am.

The service was also live streamed so that all members who were unable to attend in person were able to witness this important milestone event. The President, Rev. Amanda Barnes, was the preacher. Alice Moores and Susan Sheppard were ordained as ministers in The United Church of Canada, and Liberty Matabire was admitted as a minister in the United Church. Jocelyn Cook was installed as the President of First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council. As a follow through from *When We Say Yes*, the newly installed President announced the theme for 2025, *What Do You Want with Us?* based on Mark 1.

Rev. Amanda Barnes President Rev. Faith March-MacCuish Executive Minister

A Message from Reverend Ian March-MacCuish Annual Report - 2024

Words can not describe the level of support I have received over the last couple of years from you, the family of First United Church. My health journey has taken me to places both mentally and physically. They are places that I know many of you have personal experience with. Through it all, prayer has sustained me through texting, emails, cards, gifts of food and conversations.

To all those who have served as pulpit supply, thank you. To Reverend Karen who has gone above and beyond in word and deed to offer a much-needed ministry here at First United, thank you. To the many volunteers working behind the scenes and those who took on extra duties and assumed leadership in so many areas, thank you.

June 10th, 2025 will mark the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. One hundred years requires a time of celebration. There will be a special worship service on June 8th at Gower Street United. This service is being planned by the General Council of the National Church. Our regional council is proud to be the location for this historical worship service. Stay tuned for further announcements.

Again, thank you all for your work, your faith, your love.

God is good.

Annual Report for 2024 From Rev. Karen Bursey, Interim Minister

Friends,

This has been a difficult year as the congregation switched from full-time to part-time ministry while Rev. Ian deals with his health issues. I have been happy to do what I could since August but, like you, I eagerly await his return.

As costs rise and greater demands are placed on our time and energy, the church struggles to meet its vital role within the community. The Board and various groups within the congregation have worked diligently to meet the budget, to provide a friendly, caring, environment for worship, fellowship and education, and to share our faith with the larger community.

It has been challenging, and I appreciate everyone's support and cooperation. I thank all of you who have served on the Board, committees and various congregation groups. Thank you to those who helped with worship, taught Sunday School and live streamed our services; those who participated in the Book Club, Choir, Garden Café, Men's Club, Quilt Group, UCW and Youth Group; those who nurtured flowers and vegetables for our enjoyment; those who volunteered at various events this year organizing, selling tickets at the door, providing and serving food, decorating the Sanctuary and basement for holidays and special events.

Our church lives through the love and work of you, its members.

Yours in Christ,

Karen Bursey

First United Church Board of Management Annual Report 2024

WOW, what a year! This year we had a few ups and downs. In the Spring, Rev. Ian reduced his working hours as he started chemo treatments, then surgery and more chemo treatments. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery. During the Spring and the Summer, we had a lot of help filling in the services, some on very short notice. Thank you to all who helped out! In late August, we welcomed Rev. Karen Bursey as our Interim Minister until Rev. Ian returns to work. Thank You Rev. Karen!

In May, we welcomed Gloria LeFeuvre to our church to do her SPM placement with us for May and June. Gloria has received her Diploma in Theology and Ministry from Queen's College and was completing an Associate in Theology. We wish Gloria all the best in her studies.

In the Fall, First United held two successful concerts - The Irish Descendants and Peter Halley and Shelly Neville. A great time was had by all!

Thank you to all who have given their time to provide leadership in the various groups within our church. Thank you to Peter and Melissa for directing our choirs with their musical talents.

I personally would like to thank Harold Sinyard and Gary Gosse for all the countless hours that they put in at First United. Whether it is fixing a leaky toilet or replacing a light bulb, they are always there when I contact them!

Thank you to our Office Administrator, Christina Manning, for putting up with me during this past year and going above and beyond to help out. Also, thank you to our summer student, Lily Pope, who helped fill in for Christina while she was on holidays.

Lastly, a big thank you to the congregation for all your support this past year!

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Winsor

Board Chairperson

PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024

First United was relatively quiet in terms of property issues this past year. While there were no major issues, there were many other housekeeping issues that arose from week to week that needed attention sooner than later. With no major issues, we were able to stay within our predicted budget. To attain this, there were many players needed to make this happen, and this was never a problem. Below is a list, but not limited to, of items attended to by the Property Committee.

- parking lot snow clearing by Jim Eales, Jr. as per agreement
- walkway snow clearing by Tom Cheeseman
- lawn-care by Nutri-Lawn
- annual furnace maintenance and service calls by Cooper's Heating Solutions
- regular building cleaning and janitorial services
- front door repairs by Armour Lock and Security
- painting around front entrance
- flower planters on main walkway
- ongoing efforts to deter our annual church-going gulls from nesting near the steeple
- handicap parking stalls reinstated
- replacement of toilet in accessible washroom upstairs
- repairs to minor bathroom leaks throughout the building
- annual fire protection and replacement of expired extinguishers

My apologies for any issues not listed.

As previously mentioned, this work could not have taken place without help from our volunteers. A very special thanks to Gary Gosse, Harold Sinyard, Wayne Rideout, Mark and Carolyn Rice, and Joan Winsor. My apologies if anyone else involved has not been mentioned. Your involvement did not go unnoticed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevi- Marks For

Kirk Howell Property Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2024

2024 has seen all services go fully back to "normal" functions after the past few years of Covid rules. This year saw the return of passing the collection plates in the pews, one of the final steps we needed to take. In response to this, weekly givings have gone up from what we were receiving when the plates were at the entry to the church. We also reinstated two Christmas Eve services – an earlier Family service and a later Communion service. Communion continues to be the first Sunday of each month and the last is set aside for baptisms, as requested.

First United has continued to live-stream the weekly services, as well as special services such as Christmas Eve and, although our viewing numbers and subscribers have dipped a little, our average view and watch times have risen.

- 1. From 2023 to 2024 our views dropped by 11%.
- 2. In the same time period, our subscribers dropped by 28%.
- 3. The average view time has risen by 13% while the overall view time rose by about 2%.

These statistics seem to be in line with services opening up more and people feeling more secure and safe about attending in person. That said, the YouTube channel still seems to be reaching people who are unable to attend or live in others areas.

We had 6 baptisms this past year, 1 wedding, 16 funerals, and 0 confirmations.

Our ushering teams have undergone a few personal changes but are full at the moment and working hard to cover all services, including special ones outside the times or regular Sunday worship.

We have had wonderful help from congregational volunteers with decorating the church for these special services, including Christmas and Easter. With the help of the Quilting Club, we were also able to have the new Burnt Orange colour for our Lectern and Altar Cloths made for Creation Time in the Fall.

Thanks go out to all the people who have agreed to be readers and servers for Communion over the past year. We have done our best to schedule these volunteers the month beforehand and send out readings, so everyone has plenty of time to prepare. Also, thanks to Rev. Karen for stepping up and filling in for Rev. Ian during this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Case Chair, Worship Committee

Peace Garden/Garden Café Annual Report 2024

Peace Garden

The Peace Garden was constructed in the summer of 2023. Throughout the spring and summer of 2024, there were a significant number of plants and shrubs donated and planted in the garden. New mulch replaced the old and constant weeding and watering was required and completed through the season.

The expansion of the Peace Garden included a raised vegetable bed and a small amount of lettuce, kale and green onion were grown. In addition, tomato plants were grown, giving a good yield. Member of the congregation availed of fresh tomatoes and lettuce as they exited church on Sunday mornings.

Garden Café

The Garden Café was introduced in May of 2024. This was meant as an extension of the Peace Garden – an indoor space that would complement the outside garden and provide an environment for social conversation. It is an informal pre-worship gathering for all who care to participate. Tea/coffee and a sweet treat is available each Sunday morning and, to date, has been very well received and attended. A freewill offering basket is available for those who want to contribute. Supplies are purchased from these funds.

Caroly Lice
Submitted by
Carolyn Rice

First United Church Christian Development Committee Annual Report 2024

First of all, I would like to start by thanking all volunteers that plan and organize the many groups we have at this church, which includes Sunday School, Youth Group, Book Club and Quilting Group. Our volunteers have worked hard at planning and integrating our worship to our meetings and to our congregation.

We continue to look for more youth and children to join our programs. If you are interested in bringing your child or youth to our programs, please see the Youth Group and Sunday School reports for fun activities that are provided throughout the year.

We look forward to new and exciting things coming in the near future!

Submitted by,

Allison Randell Chair, Christian Development

FIRST UNITED CHURCH **SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT 2024**

In January of 2024, Sunday School continued with small attendance. On Valentine's Day the children had a recitation prepared for the congregation and gave out valentines and chocolate. At Easter the children gave out chocolate again. Giving out treats meant so much to the children. Each Sunday we did crafts, read bible stories and some of the children painted rocks for the Peace Garden. We had a BBQ in the Spring which was enjoyed by all.

Sunday School started up again in October. Although enrolment numbers were low, the children attending enjoyed their time at Sunday School.

We read bible stories, celebrated birthdays, did crafts (always fun), had a marching band. Children told stories about school, daycare or even their siblings. Of note, Rev. lan's niece, Fleur, was very compassionate about making a special craft for him.

We continue to collect money for the Foster Children Fund and collect pop tabs for wheelchairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to be Sunday School teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Morrissey Judy Blackwood

Wanda Tiller

Youth Group Annual Report SNAC -2024

The Youth Group at First United Church, known as SNAC Sunday Night at Church, (because that is where you will find us, and you will also see us snacking among other things) has had another successful year.

We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated leaders. Thank you to: Jenny Noel, Pamela Morgan, Kelly Tuck, Tony Tuck, Sarah Walsh, Allison Randell, Emily March-MacCuish, Faith March-MacCuish, and Rev. Ian.

Our Youth Group is a small and mighty group, with five youth and nine leaders. We have been able to have wonderful programming and relationship building. We are an active group nurturing our Faith, connecting with each other, caring for creation and others. All of our activities have been based on creating a faith community that is nurturing discipleship for both our youth and our leaders.

Outreach Programs

Can Project:

This year we were pleased to have our Can Project. This is a project between the Church Board and the youth in which cans are delivered to each household and members are asked to fill their can through the Summer with change. The cans are returned in the Fall and funds realized are shared with the Church Board - 30% to the Youth and 70% for the church operations. The funds raised help to support the youth activities throughout the year. Thank you to all the members of our church for supporting our Can Project. "Together We Can".

Prison Joy Bags:

This year we contributed 250 Christmas bags for the inmates who are at Her Majesty's Penitentiary. It is important for our Youth Group because it always reminds us that we are all children of God and that all of us are capable of making mistakes, and we all have the potential for forgiveness and restoration.

Bake Sale:

This year we had a bake sale during a church concert, and we would like to thank congregational members for their help supplying baked goods and then help by purchasing baked goods. The Youth Group raised \$700.00 and then used \$500.00 to create the 'Joy Christmas bags' for the prison. Our ministry to the prison has been ongoing for many years, and we see this as part of our call to discipleship. "when I was in prison, you visited me". Matthew 35:26

Seniors Outreach:

This year we were fortunate to have been able make our Valentine cards and cookies for the seniors. We delivered them to residents and staff to Hill Crest, Pearl House, and CraDea. We reached out to some other homes but they did not get back to us, so we will try again next year.

Congregational Outreach:

Pumpkin Carving and Trick or Trunk – It was exciting to host our pumpkin carving and our trick or trunk. Thank you so much to all the congregation who came out to support our efforts with their decorated cars and Halloween treats. We served approximately 100 children which we consider a great success.

Breakfast with Santa – This year we took part in Breakfast with Santa with the help of the official Board. A good time was had by all.

Easter Breakfast – It was very exciting to host our Easter Breakfast again. The youth were at the church bright and early and started the kettles and the big pots boiling. We then went to the 8 am Communion Service and then back down to cook our eggs and toast. Thank you to all of the members of the congregation that came out to support the youth. This outreach project has been part of our support to our church community.

Good Friday Vigil:

We, as a group, also took part in the Prayer Vigil. It is one of the things the youth love to do, and it is important for us to have this time in prayers and to help continue a beloved tradition of our church. We are grateful that the congregation provides time for this intentional prayer (in a 24-hour time frame) and believe it to be modeled on Jesus' life and ministry when he took intentional time to be in prayer.

Worship Services:

The Youth Group were able to host the Vesper Service this year. Preparing for and leading this service holds so much meaning for our youth, and we believe also for our congregation.

Faith Talks:

Each year we take time to talk about our faith and study a topic that is meaningful to our youth.

Fun and Fellowship:

Our youth group provides a place for youth to come and feel comfortable, supported and safe. We play games, go bowling, watch movies, go curling, have sleepovers, play darts, ping pong, crafts, baking and much more. It is important for youth to have a place where that know they are valued, cared for and loved. There is no better place to do that than with their church family. We are also very fortunate to have a strong group of young adult leaders who give their time, support and love to our youth. Thank you to them for taking on more and more of the leadership. We truly are blessed.

Thank You:

Thank you to First United Church for all your support, to the UCW and Men's Clubs and the Official Board who support us and the whole congregation. Thank you to Rev. Ian, our Minister. Thank you to the youth for being such a great group of young people. We are so proud of you. Thank you to the parents who help and support the youth and get them to the church and events we are hosting and for being a support to all we do!! Thank you to all the leaders who give of their time for the love of our youth.

Submitted by

Jarji

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish for SNAC

First United Book Club Annual Report 2024

We have been a small group of four for the past couple of years but enjoy our get- togethers to talk over our books and life. Being a small and long-time group, we have been rotating houses rather than meeting at the church, which is a lot warmer than waiting on the church basement to heat up, not to mention cozier. We met from January to June and then broke for the summer, returning for September through December. This year, we went back to having a Christmas social at a restaurant, the first time since Covid.

The good books outweighed the bad this year, which is not always the case. As usual, we included a Canadian title and a Newfoundland title in the mix. Our books vary greatly and stretch at least one person from their typical reading. Our readings this year took us from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia to California, Kentucky, and Mississippi; from London to Sweden, Poland, Greece, and of course, Germany. We always seem to find ourselves reading a book set in one of the world wars. We renewed our acquaintance with two authors, and spent some time in history, not just with the war, but also horse racing and a fictional account of Charles Dickens' life. Besides Dickens' wife, we met a cooking show hostess, a slave/horse trainer, immigrants and librarians.

Below are our one-line book reviews for the past year:

2024-01-31 Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

	"Unintentionally feminist, humorous, and atypical; a good read"
2024-02-28	A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman
	"A nice story about a grumpy old man with a heart of gold"
2024-03-27	Horse by Geraldine Brooks
	"Don't let the title turn you offa good read"
2024-04-24	The Girl in a Blue Dress by Gaynor Arnold
	"What in the dickens is going on? Dickens of a way to treat someone!"
2024-05-29	The Girls in the Stilt House by Kelly Mustain
	"Two girls overcoming the storm surges of life."
2024-06-26	The Spoon Stealer by Lesley Crewe
	"The life of an extraordinary ordinary woman and her even more extraordinary
	dog"
2024-09-25	If I Cry, I'll Fill the Ocean: The Catherine Linehan Story by Ida Linehan
	Young
	"Filled with sadness"
2024-10-30	A Great Country by Shilpi Somaya Gowda
	"The grass is not always greener"
2024-11-27	The Keeper of Hidden Books by Madeline Martin
	"Booksyet another victim and weapon of war"
2024-12-18	The Little Liar by Mitch Albom
	"What is truth and what is lie"

Kim Majan

Submitted for the Book Club by Pam Morgan

First United Quilting Group Annual Report 2024

With about seven people on average attending each meeting and another half dozen or so on our email list, we finished off another fun-filled and successful year, meeting biweekly on the first, third, and fifth Monday evenings of each month. Most folks this year were working on their own projects rather than group projects, or helping beginners bring their first quilts to completion. As usual, we met throughout the summer, so long as at least three of us were available, relying on Monday morning emails to determine if the meeting was going ahead or not.

Our meetings always start with a show and tell of what people have finished since the last meeting, showing a work in progress that needs input on colours or technique, or pinning a pieced top that is ready for quilting. These Show and Tells are great fun and great learning experiences for all. "I would never have tried to put those colours together" and "how did you do that" are frequent comments.

We had two donations of fabric and pattern books from the congregation, (one a member of the group) as these two long-time quilters have had to reluctantly give up their sewing. Several pieces were claimed by members and other pieces have been put aside for future projects.

On the charity donations side, one member donated a couple of quilts to Ronald MacDonald House this year, while the victim of a Mount Pearl house fire was gifted a quilt on behalf of the Quilting Group. In addition, the group made an altar cloth and pulpit banner for our sanctuary for the new church season of "Creation".

Following on the success of last year's one-day retreat, we held two two-day retreats, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. Most people came for both retreat days and some only for one day. We brought treats for coffee breaks and ordered in lunches. The Fall retreat had many people focused on trying to finish off Christmas presents, while the Spring retreat saw people getting a good start on new or lingering projects.

This summer we tried a couple of new things. In July, two people headed to Bay Roberts for the Pigeon Inlet Quilt Guild's quilt show. We spent a wonderful afternoon viewing the wide variety of quilts on display and had a nice coffee break at, where else, the local Tim's. In August, we did a Shop Hop. Those who were available piled into a car, and we spent the day travelling to some quilting shops outside the metro area. We hit up shops in Clarke's Beach, Carbonear, Salmon Cove, and Whiteway with a delicious lunch in Carbonear. We all found some fabulous fabrics to keep us going for the next year or more. On the way back, we stopped at Gushue's Pond Park for a visit, surprising two of our members who were at their campsite and had been unable to travel with us.

We again went with ordering in supper for our Christmas social, and bringing in treats for dessert. It was a great social time, with Show and Tell before those gifts were wrapped and given away, lots of food, Christmas music, and a few games.

Submitted by Pam Morgan on behalf of the Quilting Group

Bridges to Hope 2024 Annual Report to our Supporting Congregations

The Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors would like to express our sincere thanks for the ongoing support of Bridges to Hope by our founding and supporting congregations. The importance of our core mission, to provide dignified, accessible, and culturally appropriate assistance to those experiencing food insecurity has unfortunately grown throughout 2024.

Operations: During 2024 we have seen a steady increase in visits to Bridges to Hope. We have increased the numbers of volunteers, and the volunteer group, along with staff, are working tirelessly again in the pantry as well as the kitchen. Volunteers provided nearly 7000 hours of their valuable time to help the community in 2024!

The limits of our facilities are becoming apparent, as we proceed, but we are finding ways to meet demand for the moment. The Wednesday evening openings that we commenced in 2022 are ongoing.

During 2024 we began collaborating with Food Banks Canada to bring our operations in line with their Standards of Excellence, which will build upon the quality and delivery efficiency of our services, and provide insight and guidance from other food support entities.

Staff: There was a significant transition in 2024, with the departure of Jody Williams in May, and the return of Lesley Burgess to assume the role of Executive Director. We thank Jody, not only for his years of dedicated service, but also for a collaborative transition process. Raylene Roche continues as our Intake Coordinator, while Emily Noel has moved into the new role of Volunteer and Program Coordinator. Sashika Dilshan was hired on as our full-time Marketing and Fund Development Coordinator. The team members work together in a collaborative and very supportive manner.

However, we did have some bumps in the road for the team, as Raylene went on medical leave prior to Christmas, and Sashika Dilshan has had to cease work while addressing immigration uncertainties. Both are hoping to be back with us soon, and we are missing their valuable contributions to our organization. We have had wonderful help from Peter Moore, hired to assist in their absence.

Demand: 2024 saw another dramatic increase in the number of clients coming to Bridges to Hope. Overall visits to our food bank increased by 31% from 2023! Of the 17,191 visits to our food bank in 2024, 3.5% of households were accessing a food bank for the very first time.

The largest demographic increase we saw in 2024 was among children (0-18 years). Children made up 5643 visits to our food bank last year, up from 3450 in 2023. This marks a 63.5% increase.

We continue to be open and supportive of all, regardless of religion, race, status or location.

Programs: Again in 2024, Bridges to Hope managed to offer valuable and essential programs and services to our clients. In addition to normal food support services, we had our Bags to School program in late summer. Thanks to the outstanding support of our donors, we were able to double the number of K-12 students we supported, meaning that 725 local students went back to class with all the tools they needed. We also continued with the distribution of Smart Snack Kits with healthy after-school snacks for school age children.

This year saw extra support from Rotary for our annual Christmas program. Their generous boost saw us provide \$75 gift cards for groceries from Colemans to 493 of our client families, supporting 1058 individuals.

Support: Bridges to Hope remains very grateful for support from our founding churches, during universally challenging times. We remain an Outreach Ministry of the United Church of Canada, with financial assistance from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of the United Church, as well as the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces. And of course, donations and volunteerism from congregational members remain crucial to our ongoing mission.

Individual and corporate donations remain a critical part of our funding, in addition to grants and funding from community service groups. In challenging times, the willingness of the community to support their neighbours is inspiring.

Food drives continued in 2024, and the number of people dropping by with food, especially during Christmas, was remarkable. The support from community fundraisers, some expressly organized for our cause, is heartwarming. Our Christmas campaign set a new level of success, despite the Canada Post strike! We continue to be blessed with a talented and dedicated community underpinning us all.

Bridges to Hope continue to build upon our Sustainers Circle core of monthly donors, which provides a level of core funding through the year. Congregational supporters who join the Sustainers Circle as regular monthly donors can have their donations reported as part of your Church's annual support of Bridges to Hope. Please contact Lesley (<a href="lesses-bulbe-lesse

For those with investment portfolios, it is also worth considering the significant tax advantages (re: capital gains in particular) of donating shares directly, instead of cash. Lesley can also provide guidance on how this works.

The Future: Bridges to Hope continue to work on the milestones in our 3 to 5 year strategic plan. We strive to build upon and enhance our core mission offerings, while adding new services and elements. However, we are realizing that our present infrastructure may be limiting our (increasingly needed) ability to meet the demand. We are consulting internally and

building collaborative relationships with similarly minded groups, including Food Banks Canada, to explore new ways forward, while staying true to our Mission, Vision and Values.

Submitted by:
Ewan Cumming
Board Chair, Member from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (M&P) ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Ministry and Personnel Committee respectfully submits our Annual Report. M&P representatives for 2024 were: Brenda Andrews (Chair), Eric Eveleigh, Ada Eveleigh, Janice Andrews-Ralph, and Cynthia Burt.

The M&P Committee acts under the guidance of *The Manual* of the United Church of Canada. The Committee functions around three roles, which are: the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for our staff and our community of faith with respect to any issues involving staff of our Church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The Committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of our community of faith.

If members of the Community of Faith have praise or concerns about staff, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the Committee. The issues will be considered confidentially by the Committee, who will recommend action.

First United Church is blessed with staff committed to their work, and we are thankful for this work in our Community of Faith. Our dedicated staff and volunteers help to ensure that we have meaningful worship services on a regular weekly basis, both in church and online.

During 2024, it became necessary for Reverend Ian to begin an extended medical leave. Our church family misses him greatly as he continues his journey to restore his health. We are keeping him and his family in our prayers. During the summer we were fortunate and blessed to acquire the services of several volunteers and local clergy to lead our Sunday services, and we are immensely grateful for their contribution. In September, we welcomed Rev. Karen Bursey who joined us as replacement ministry personnel. We are grateful for her inspiring spiritual leadership during Reverend Ian's absence. We also are very grateful to Peter MacDonald (Music Director) and Melissa Butt (Associate Music Director) for their awesome music leadership, and to Christina Manning who continues to provide excellent office support as our first point of contact for those who interact with First United.

During 2024, Avalon Cleaners provided cleaning services, as necessary, on a contractual basis. Mr. Jim Eales, Jr., provided snow-clearing services for the parking lot and Mr. Tom Cheeseman provided snow-clearing services for the thoroughfares and exits. Nutri-Lawn looked after the grounds-keeping during the summer. We are very grateful to all who have assisted in any way in keeping our church property safe and beautiful.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who have helped in any way with the ongoing operations of our Church and to those who volunteered to help maintain our beautiful Peace Garden during 2024. As well, of course, we continue to be very grateful for the excellent overall leadership and guidance provided for our churches by First Dawn Eastern Edge Region.

Many thanks to the M&P Committee members for their work and support over the past year!

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda andrews.

Brenda Andrews

Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee

First United Church - Mount Pearl

Board of Trustees – Annual Report 2024

The function of the Board of Trustees is to hold all of the property of our congregation, in trust, for the use and benefit of our congregation as part of the United Church, and, to liaise with the Official Board respecting any relevant matters which arise.

In the tradition of First United, matters related to the operation, the mission and the ministry of our church is handled by the entire Official Board which results in our trustees having little in the way of official business. However I, as chair, attended monthly board meetings in order to remain current on all church activities.

We are indeed grateful for all people who work together in fulfilling the mission and ministry of our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Meben Havis

Nelson Harris, Chair

Members: Carolyn Rice

Rev. Ian March-MacCuish

First United Church Men's Fellowship Club Annual Report 2024

First United Church Men's Fellowship Club is a group of men of the congregation who meet once per month, usually the first Monday of each month for worship, fellowship and a good meal. Several times a year, the Men's Club prepares meals for fundraising like supporting the UCW and assists the Board with other meal preparations when asked and raises funds for the general revenues of the church.

Many members of the club are also involved in various activities such as:

- delivery of envelopes, newsletters and other items to members of the congregation
- assistance with the sanctuary sound system
- various repairs and maintenance around the building
- taking part in church services and visitations in partnership with UCW members.
- cooking and cleaning for groups when asked
- many outreach programs such as Bridges to Hope and others

On February 5th, 2024, a meeting was held by the previous executive to discuss new leadership for the 2024 year. Mr. Kevin Martin was elected as the new Men's Club president while Mr. Mark Rice was elected as Vice-President and Mr. Denis Manning as Secretary/Treasurer. The new executive thanked the previous executive for their efforts over the years and hoped the coming year would be a successful one.

The Men's Club has slowly seen the men come back, and our regular meetings range from 19 to now 26 members. We have added two new members to our group of men. We have welcomed Mr. Glory Eruotor from Nigeria and welcomed back retired Rev. Hillier.

Mr. Lorne Squires and Mr. Nelson Harris perform our devotions before each meal, and these are very well thought out, and the men appreciate this very much. Birthdays are acknowledged each month and well wishes for many more birthdays are given.

There are three cook teams that alternate each month with Cook Team #1 led by Byron Button, Cook Team #2 led by Gary Gosse and Cook Team #3 led by Reg White. Each month we have a wonderful, cooked meal at a cost of \$10 and this includes dessert. Often, a second plate is available if your belly can accommodate it.

At the end of each meal, there is a prize to be won, and this can range from a \$25 gift card to a case of window wash. The cost per entry is a mere \$1. These funds are put towards the operating costs of the Club.

Cards are given out to our club members who are ill, and we recognize these men along with their wives/families. Often a free meal is provided to them as well as visitations on a regular basis.

The Club has raised \$2,000 for the church coffers in 2024 with more funds to be given in 2025. The men also have regular darts each Wednesday from 2-4 pm. All men are welcomed to come to this and our monthly meetings.

The Men's Club was deeply saddened on the loss of Mr. Eric Badcock in 2024. Our Club is just not the same without him. At his service, the Men's Club sat in the choir and shared stories and sang praises to him. We wish Millie and the family the very best. We also lost George Mutrey in 2024. George was a dedicated Men's Club member for many years. The Club would like to send condolences to his family as well.

Our Club is growing in numbers and our worship and fellowship is very strong. If you are a male member of First United Church or are a regular male visitor, you are always welcomed to join us the first Monday of every month and become part of the Men's Club family. May God bless and keep you and your family in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Martin President

First United Church Women......Annual Report 2024

First United Church UCW meets one Monday each month beginning at 12:30 pm. Ladies bring their own lunch with tea and coffee provided. Worship and business follow lunch. All ladies are welcome.

On March 29th we were able to have our Good Friday service and on December 8th our Christmas Lights service.

On May 11th we had a Morning Coffee and Cakewalk. This event was well attended and enjoyed by all. In the Fall we sponsored a Bakeless Bake Sale. Both events were very successful and we thank all who contributed.

In November we had our annual shower of personal care items. We filled and delivered 18 Christmas bags for residents of Carew Lodge and the remaining items were delivered to Stella's Circle and Iris Kirby House.

Outreach is also provided with our "Quilts for Comfort" project....ladies knit strips (according to a pattern), strips are knit together into a quilt. These quilts are distributed to give a little warmth where needed. This year we took seven (7) quilts to Carew Lodge and three (3) to Naomi Centre on Patrick Street. We thank all those who provided wool, knit the strips and to those who put the strips together.

The UCW continues to financially support the Chaplaincy Fund, Burry Heights Camp, Our Daily Bread Ministries, Mission and Service Fund as well as the Local and Building Fund of the church. In addition, this year instead of a Christmas gift exchange, we each donated to the Foster Children's Fund.

We express our thanks to all those who continue to support our many projects. Without you we could not do what we do.

We extend an invitation to all women of the congregation to join us in our faith journey as we share our time, talents and treasurers. We pray that God will continue to bless us and our work,

Glenys Harris, Secretary

The General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc. Annual Report for 2024

We continue to make improvements to our cemeteries each year. In addition to our regular maintenance at all three Cemeteries, we leveled and sodded a large number of graves and leveled a number of headstones in the General Protestant Cemetery and Mount Pleasant Cemetery. We install several thousand square feet of sods per year.

In Memorial Gardens we have installed continuous reinforced concrete bar beams under each row of monuments. This method has proven to be beneficial in reducing the overall maintenance cost around the monuments.

During the past year we had 218 burials in total and of these burials, 173 were cremations.

The following breakdown may be of interest:

Burials in:		
· 	2022-2023	2023-2024
The General Protestant Cemetery	29	3
Mount Pleasant Cemetery	131	172
The Field of Honor	20	13
Memorials Gardens Cemetery	22	30
Total Burials	202	218
Cremations Included	156	173

Your Board met 9 (nine) times during the past year.

All maintenance at Memorial Gardens, such as grass cutting, snow clearing etc., is done by our own staff. The maintenance for General Protestant and Mount Pleasant cemeteries is contracted out.

Memorial Services:

The Memorial Services for 2025 are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- 1) Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Monday, July 7, 2025, 7pm.
- 2) General Protestant Cemetery, Monday, July 21, 2025, 7 pm.
- 3) Memorial Gardens, Monday, July 28, 2025, 7pm.

I am pleased to place on record thanks to our cemetery staff. We have a dedicated staff, and the feedback from the public is excellent. We appreciate the work done by Bill, Vince and Graham. We operate six days a week, sometimes through difficult and challenging situations, especially during the winter season.

A personal thank you to the congregation of First United for their continual support. After 41 years as our church cemetery representative, I am resigning from this role as of the end of March, due to medical issues. It was a difficult decision as I found my involvement with the General Protestant Trustee Board, to be a very rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Calvin Gibbons

Calvin Gibbons
First United Church Representative
Vice Chairman, General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Inc.

Tel: 709 364 9733

Email: cgibbons@nf.sympatico.ca

Stewardship Report 2024

Our Stewardship Committee is indeed very grateful to all those people who have contributed in many ways toward the life and work of our church. Of necessity, however, our main focus in this report must be about the financial health of our congregation.

We are happy to report that all our financial obligations for 2024 have been met. For the last calendar year, however, there was an Operating Account (deficit) of \$12,322 and those obligations were met only because there was some money available from a few good years in the past when there were small balances to carry forward. That source is rapidly being exhausted and the question we all want answered is; what then?

Our Building Fund loan balance at year end was \$142,600 and we must be ever mindful of this responsibility as we plan for the ongoing operation of our church.

We believe that we have the resources within our community of faith to proceed with enthusiasm far into the future. As God has blessed us, let us prayerfully consider what our objectives must be and how we can individually help achieve those ends.

There are several ways to contribute; in-person collection (we love to see as many worshippers in the pews as possible), pre authorized remittances (forms available at the Church), E-transfer, just use the church email firstunited@nf.aibn.com or use post-dated cheques. Those may be suitable options when our folks are unable to attend regular worship services.

Once again, thank-you so much for all that you do. We pray for God's richest blessings on you and yours.

Respectfully submitted,

For Stewardship Committee

Statistics 2024

Baptisms: 6
Marriages: 1
Funerals: 16

Confirmation of Membership

December 31, 2023	1071
Added by profession of Faith	0
Added by Transfer	4
Removed by Transfer	2
Removed by Death	6
Removed by Request	0
Membership as of December 31, 2024	1067

Marriages in 2024

Raymond Allan Broderick and Cassandra Rose Menchions

Baptisms in 2024

Claire Laura Conway Joseph Noel MacDonald Harrison Harvey Joseph Greening Declan Maxwell Cleary Silas Eric Steele-Young Maci Marie Lake

Deaths in 2024

Adelaide Tucker John Taylor Mary Elizabeth Crewe Herman Howell Vida Clarke Annie Boland Gertrude March Marilyn Ada Simmons Chesley Sheppard Eric Badcock Raymond Bennett Alfred Keats Carl Strong Jeffrey Goodyear Alec Janes Elaine Luther