



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Report Approved by Governance Board  
November 18, 2021

Date Available to the Congregation  
November 26, 2021

Budget Presented/Approved by the Governance Board\*  
March 18, 2021

*\*see note on "Budget" cover page (near end of this Report)*

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# **Bridge Street United Church**

**Praising – Challenging – Nurturing**

***--Transforming in Christ--***

## **Values**

We value the power of Christ's transforming and redeeming love, which calls us to:

*Worship* to be creative, courageous and joyful in praise

*Hospitality* to be welcoming, inclusive and respectful

*Discipleship* to work together toward spiritual growth and maturity in faith

*Sacred Accompaniment* to walk compassionately with others along life's journey, in the presence of Christ

*Community* to live out Christ's mission in response to the world

## **Vision**

By God's grace, our faith community strives to be vibrant, inclusive and spiritually nurturing, inviting everyone into a mature, loving and sacred relationship with the living Christ.

## **Mission**

Our mission to live the Good News of Jesus Christ, reaching out beyond ourselves, to share the transforming power of faith by offering spiritual nurture within the congregation, and providing community-rooted ministries that serve the local area and outreach that responds to the needs of the wider world.



## **OUR COMMITMENT TO RESPECTFUL LIVING**

*We are a community of faith bound together by a shared belief in the teachings of Jesus.*

*We believe the bond we share as members of Bridge Street Church will be nurtured and strengthened by faithful and consistent adherence to the principles of our faith.*

*We therefore commit to striving for thoughtful and prayerful interactions as we go about doing the work of the church, mindful of our call to serve the needs of our faith community and the wider world.*

*And so, we lift up anew the values of Worship, Hospitality, Discipleship, Sacred Accompaniment and Community as important for defining and living out our roles and relationships within the context of the life and work of the Bridge Street United Church community.*

*More specifically:*

### **WORSHIP**

*Recognizing the differing needs we bring to worship, we commit to fostering optimism, joyfulness and hope; for this reason, we encourage various styles and forms of liturgy, prayer and music.*

### **HOSPITALITY**

*Recognizing the worth and uniqueness of one another, we commit to being civil, respectful and loving in our interactions.*

*We celebrate diversity and commit to being welcoming and inclusive in our attitudes and actions.*

### **DISCIPLESHIP**

*Recognizing the importance of Christ-centered living, we commit to listening and speaking with respectful intent and to considering our actions with prayerful discernment. By doing so, we honour and celebrate the many different expressions of active discipleship within our community of faith.*

### **SACRED ACCOMPANIMENT**

*Recognizing the deep need for spiritual companionship in the journey of life and faith, we commit to supporting one another with sensitivity, caring, compassion and grace.*

### **COMMUNITY**

*Recognizing that the Body of Christ is strengthened through authentic relationships, we commit to empathetic and open-hearted behavior that nurtures personal and spiritual growth.*

*On occasions when discord arises, we will work collaboratively to resolve our differences.*

Based on insights from the Honouring Differences congregational workshop (11/05/19) | Endorsed as policy by the Governance Board (17/10/19)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

This *In Memoriam* page records the names of those from the Bridge St. United Church congregation who died in the year 2020.

We remember the following:

Bettie Anderson

Edna Birchard

Vivian Britton

Bob Cruickshank

Betty Harns

Ruth Higgins

Frank Jefferson

Peter Kitcher

David McNaughton

Edward (Ted) Milliken

Leanne Moody

June Scarlett

Fred Stacey

**LISTING OF 2020 STAFF, GOVERNANCE BOARD, MINISTRY TEAMS,**  
**UCW EXECUTIVE, COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES,**  
**BRIDGE ST. UNITED CHURCH FOUNDATION DIRECTORS,**  
**QUINTE LIVING CENTRE BOARD MEMBERS**  
**AND**  
**MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF MINISTRY AFFILIATED WITH BSUC**

**CHURCH STAFF:**

**Intentional Interim Lead Minister** – Rev. G. David King  
**Minister (Voluntary) of Pastoral Visitation** – Rev. William (Bill) Perry  
**Music Director** – Mitchell Cox  
**Office Administrator** - Carol Leslie  
**Building Custodian** - Rob Woodall  
**Community Engagement Programs Manager** - Steve van de Hoef  
**Meal Program Supervisor** – Dianne West  
**Lunch Service Supervisor** – Lisa Morris

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**GOVERNANCE BOARD:**

**Preamble:**

*Note – “Kente Presbytery” is now constituted as the “East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) of the United Church of Canada”.*

***Excerpt from “Kente Presbytery Oversight/Review, March 2018 – May 2018”***

“That Kente Presbytery:

- Appoint a Commission to function with full authority of Presbytery from May 16<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This Commission will:
  1. Appoint a Chair to the Governance Board
  2. Appoint an individual to the Governance Board
  3. Appoint an intentional Interim Minister (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021) with an intention to review no later than June 30, 2020...

And that no new members be appointed to the Board other than those appointed by Kente Presbytery.”

... and that:

- In addition, the Commission will develop a Transition Group, consisting of Commission members and members of the congregation, to assist the Intentional Interim Minister, the Governance Board, the staff and the Congregation in defining and working towards a vision forward; one that lifts up the missions and ministries and supports all efforts to offer “living water” to the community and to Creation.

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***Commission Appointees to the Governance Board:***

*Rev. Richard Hamilton (Chair to October 22, 2020)*

*Rev. Steve Spicer (ECORC Rep. to October 22, 2020)(Chair beginning October 22, 2020)*

*Rev. Ryan McNally (ECORC Rep. beginning October 22, 2020)*

**2020 GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBERSHIP:**

Rev. Richard Hamilton (Chair)(to October 22, 2020), Rev. Steve Spicer (Chair)(effective October 22, 2020), Carolyn Cockerline, Gary Hannaford, Lynda Maier, Bill Mills.

***Plus clergy:***

Rev. G. David King (Intentional Interim Lead Minister)

Rev. Ryan McNally (ECORC Rep.)(effective October 22, 2020)

### **Governance Board Standing Committees:**

*Board Chair and Lead Minister ex-officio on all committees.*

➤ **Strategic Planning Committee -**

Committee Membership: Gary Hannaford (Chair), Frank Hiebert, The Rev. David King, Judy McKnight, Bill Mills, Susan Pine, Ian Sutherland.

➤ **Governance Monitoring and Support Committee -**

*On hold, per the Kente Presbytery Oversight Report, March - May 2018*

➤ **Fiscal Review Committee -**

*On hold, per the Kente Presbytery Oversight Report, March - May 2018*

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**ECORC TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERSHIP:**

Karen Cullen, Rosella Donaldson, Frank Hiebert, Carolyn Ketcheson and, representing the East Central Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada, The Rev. Richard Hamilton.  
~~~~~

### **MINISTRY TEAMS:**

#### **Administration -**

Carol Leslie (Office Administrator)

#### **Communications**

Team Leader -

Team Member - Veronica Leonard

Facebook & Twitter - Veronica Leonard

Photographer - Bob Freeland

#### **Community Engagement**

Team Leader - Ian Sutherland

#### **MEAL PROGRAM:**

*Meal Program Co-coordinators - Sue Catherwood, Rick Hammond, Ian Sutherland*

#### **KNITTERS UNITED:**

*Coordinator - Elizabeth Ewashkiw*

#### **UNITED SYRIAN FAMILY SUPPORT (BELLEVILLE) SPONSORSHIP GROUP:**

*Constituent Group Representative - Ian Sutherland*

#### **Faith Formation/Children, Youth & Adults**

Team Leader - Elizabeth Ewashkiw

Team Members - Cheryl Bough, Audrey Cowan, Elizabeth Ewashkiw, Liza van de Hoef (to March 9, 2020)

#### *Associated responsibilities:*

*Bible Study Coordinator - Audrey Cowan*

*Library Board - Cheryl Bough (Chair)*

*Children's Centre - Cheryl Bough*

*Cradle Roll - Elizabeth Ewashkiw*

*Birth to Four's - Elizabeth Ewashkiw*

#### **Finance**

Team Leader - Richard Woodley

Team members - Gary Hannaford, Glen Kennedy, Richard Woodley, Carol Leslie (Office Administrator)(ex-officio)



### **Hospitality and Fellowship**

Team Leader – Isabelle Hughes

Team Members – Ella May & John Attfield, Gary Botting, Jan Bowland, Marialice & Ted Fielding, Frank Hiebert, Isabelle Hughes, Glen Kennedy, Deanne Moring, Barbara Rath, Kay Summers

*Associated responsibilities:*

*Book Club* – Carol Wolfgarth (Coordinator)

*“Coffee Time”* - Isabelle Hughes (Coordinator)

- Jane Elson (*Supplies Coordinator*)

*Greeters* – John & Natalie Zandbergen (Coordinators)

### **Vocal Choir:**

Lenore Dixon, Jane Elson, Moira Forrester, Steve Forrester, Anne Freeland, Harriett Kean, Carolyn Ketcheson, Veronica Leonard, Ruth Mathieson, Judy McKnight, Bob Ord, Mary Rawlings, Sue Reid, Harvey Tremeer

### **Bridge Street Ringers Handbell Choir (to March 2020):**

June Boudreau, Heather Davis, Jane Elson, Moira Forrester, Connie Gallupe, Suzanne Koehler, Grace Lough, Judy McKnight, Sue Reid, Karen St. Germain, Denise Swan, Harvey Tremeer

### **Pastoral Care**

Team Leader -

Team Members - Dawn Allen, June Boudreau, Sue Reid, Karen St. Germain

*Associated responsibilities:*

Bud Rose Coordinator – Audrey Cowan

Prayer Team – unnamed to honour anonymity

“Special Friends” Flower Delivery Coordinator – Susan Pine (due to COVID-19, no flower deliveries in 2020)

### **Personnel**

Team Leader - Doug Miles

Team Members – Sharron Kennedy, Doug Miles, Karen St. Germain (to August 2020)

### **Property**

Co-Team Leaders – Joe Santoni & Reg McCurdy

Team Members – Ted Fielding, Jim Hemlin, Bill Maier, Reg McCurdy, Joe Santoni, Rob Woodall (Building Custodian)(ex-officio)

### **Stewardship**

Team Leader –

Team Members –

### **Worship & Music**

Team Leader – Bob Freeland

Team Members – David Alexander, Jane Elson, Bob Freeland, Judy McKnight, Mitchell Cox (Music Director)(ex-officio)

*Associated responsibilities of the Worship Team:*

*Music Committee* – Susan Fielding, Connie Gallupe, Veronica Leonard, Sue Reid, Harvey Tremeer

*Lay Reader Coordinator* – Ruth Mathieson

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### **U.C.W. EXECUTIVE:**

Leader – \_\_\_\_\_

Past President – \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President – \_\_\_\_\_

Recording Secretary – Shirley McLaren

Treasurer – Isabelle Hughes

UCW Executive Members:

Archives – Gail Botting  
In Memoriam, Sunshine & Shadow Secretary – Dawn Allen  
Membership & Recruitment – Dawn Allen  
Funeral Receptions – Larna McPherson  
Meals on Wheels – Gary & Gail Botting  
ECORC Contact – Sue Reid  
Members-at-Large – Jo Cooper, Maureen Dalrymple, Veronica Leonard, Cathy Newton,  
Sue Reid, Kay Summers  
Telephone Callers – Beth Campbell  
Ministry Team Representative – Isabelle Hughes  
Book Sale – Gary & Gail Botting  
Bazaar - -----

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**COUNCIL of TRUSTEES:**

Susan Pine (Chair), Richard Woodley (Treasurer), Bob Ord (Secretary), Jim Burr, Lynn Knudsen, Kay Summers, Rev. G. David King (Intentional Interim Minister).  
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**BRIDGE STREET UNITED CHURCH FOUNDATION DIRECTORS:**

Tom Britton (President), Bill Maier (Vice-President), Mike Seeger (Secretary-Treasurer), Elizabeth Ewashkiw, Margaret Finney, Bill Kean, Martha Robertson, Heather Seeger (to February 4, 2020), Rev. G. David King (*appointed as a Director by the Sub-Executive of the General Council of the United Church of Canada*).  
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**QUINTE LIVING CENTRE BOARD:**

John Miller (President), Glen LeClair (Vice-President), David Alexander, Gary Botting, Jan Bowland, Beth Campbell, Carolyn Cockerline, Anne Freeland, Sharron Kennedy, Veronica Leonard, Shirley McLaren, Rev. Richard Hamilton (Governance Board Chair)(to October 22, 2020), Rev. Steve Spicer (Governance Board Chair)(beginning October 22, 2020) Rev. G. David King (Intentional Interim Lead Minister).

TREASURER: Doug Miles

SECRETARY: Brian Smith (Administrator)

*Andrew McCreary serves as a staff support resource and property manager.*  
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**MEMBERS of the ORDER of MINISTRY affiliated with BSUC:**

Intentional Interim Lead Minister - Rev. G. David King,  
Minister of Pastoral Care -  
Minister (Voluntary) of Pastoral Visitation - Rev. William (Bill) Perry  
Voluntary Associate Ministers - Rev. Dr. Aruna Alexander, Rev. Gary Magarrell  
Minister Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Harold Wilson

# **STAFF REPORTS**

## **INTERIM INTENTIONAL LEAD MINISTER - The Rev. G. David King**

Friends of Bridge Street United Church,

May God's grace and peace be yours!

This 2020 Annual Report testifies, in great ways and small, to our congregation's fortitude and flexibility in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also bears witness to the unwavering financial commitment so many had/have to this community of faith and its efforts to follow the Way of Jesus.

Since the suspension of open invitation/in-person assembly, there has been but one emphasis for staff and volunteers alike. And that has been to ensure that BSUC continues to live out its mission, vision, and values in tangible and apparent ways.

While I could never possibly thank the many individuals who have contributed to this enterprise, I do so now via these clusters:

Our funders – members, adherents, and friends who have gifted us financially so that we could/can keep the lights on, the complex maintained, staff engaged, and our programs operating or available.

Our governors – members of the Governance Board who kept the 'big picture' in focus, while staff and volunteers attended to details and service delivery.

Our teams – those varied bodies of folk who are interested in (and support) particular aspect of the church's work and witness (i.e. Faith Formation, Worship & Music, etc.).

Our community volunteers – the scores of people who give of their time and talent because they identify with our programs' intentions and outcomes. Knitters United and Meal Program volunteers – your efforts absolutely make a difference in the lives of those with need for warmth and/or sustenance!

Our staff – those 7 (3 full-time, 4 part-time) individuals who consistently demonstrate care, concern, and commitment in the performance of their respective responsibilities. I count myself fortunate to have as my colleagues Carol, Diane, Lisa, Mitchell, Rob, and Steve. Thank you sincerely. It would be impossible to do what we do without, in the way we do it, if it were not for you.

All this said, I commend to your reading this insightful report. It tells the story of courage and caution, passion and purpose, longings and limitations. But above all that, it tells of a people and their commitment to meeting spiritual and nutritional needs and building community (both in-person and on-line).

Happy reading!

With gratitude for the privilege to serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. David King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

G. David King, B.A., M.Div., I.I.M. (U.C.Can.), C.G.R.S.  
Intentional Interim Minister

**BENEVOLENT FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Administrator: Rev. G. David King**

*These discretionary funds are maintained outside our congregational budget, and balances are carried over from one year to the next.*

|                                  |  |            |
|----------------------------------|--|------------|
| Balance on hand, January 1, 2020 |  | \$1,772.96 |
|----------------------------------|--|------------|

**Receipts:**

|                                  |          |  |
|----------------------------------|----------|--|
| Donations from Members/Adherents | 2,235.00 |  |
|----------------------------------|----------|--|

**Disbursements:**

|                             |                   |           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Discretionary Disbursements | <u>\$1,420.60</u> | \$ 814.40 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|

|                                    |  |                   |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Balance on hand, December 31, 2020 |  | <u>\$2,587.36</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|

**MINISTER of PASTORAL CARE**

In the absence of a Minister of Pastoral Care, we are indeed grateful to The Rev. Bill Perry, who performed visitation duties, when requested, in a voluntary position. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, these visits often took place by way of telephone calls.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR – Mitchell Cox**

2020 was certainly a year focused on re-learning how to do a job!

I realize I am not alone in this aspect of COVID adjustments, but I want to thank BSUC, Reverend David, each and every choir member and the congregation-at-large for your support this year.

My job was cut to less than half-time at one stage and now is at 13 hours per week (as opposed to the 20 hour, pre-COVID schedule).

The year began as “normal” with services in person. Murray Baer filled in for me one Sunday in February when I went to BC for my father’s 80th birthday celebration. The week before that, he gave a wonderful concert (with patrons and everything!) which was enjoyed by all. Sometime in March, our reality began to change. Concerts planned had to be postponed indefinitely or cancelled, and the musical variety we were beginning to produce was suddenly stopped. At the beginning of online services, I would perform hymns on the piano or organ, and Reverend David would record on a camcorder. It took some time to figure out how we could keep music going with more than myself in view, as the musical life in the church has always been so vibrant.

**BELL CHOIR**

We met for quite some time online until summer, but without bells in hand, we could only work on practicing rhythms in Zoom meetings. It was also a good opportunity to keep connected on a social and personal level.

**VOCAL CHOIR**

The vocal choir has been a rock throughout this year. There were quite a few frustrating moments as one technical glitch or another came up in the recording or rehearsing process, as we are all slave to whatever quality of internet reception we receive. The members have been stalwart and open to new ideas and methods -- we are still learning as we go; always trying to improve how and what we do. We have lost only two members, as the rigours of recording this way can be taxing and stressful. While there are occasional sound issues that crop up from time to time, the quality of recordings has improved throughout the year.

As is explained in the Choir Report (see Worship & Music Ministry Team Report), we began recording hymns using an app called “Acapella”. This allows for each choir member to record their part then send it on to the next to add their part to that one, and on and on. While this remains the best method for us to sing “together” week to week, there is nothing like having the live support of others singing your part, and I am so proud of how the choir members have dealt with these challenges.

We continue to work to bring you our authentic selves in order to keep a sense of who we are. We have not attempted to record for “perfection”, or doctor our sound, like we might if doing a music video. We have worked hard to sing with the spirit that the songs reflect in glory to God.

As COVID issues carry on, we in the Vocal and Bell Choirs are constantly looking for ways to serve the church. 2020 has shown proof to the adage of “where there’s a will, there’s a way”. I am happy to hear your suggestions and ideas, and if anyone has particular computer, recording or playing skills, I would love to hear from you!

Here’s to what we will discover about ourselves and our musical life in 2021!

Blessings to you all.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM MANAGER, Steve van de Hoef**

The Program Manager provides support for the Meal Program Co-Coordinator and leadership for the Meal Programs and various special projects undertaken within the mandate of the Community Engagement Team.

In 2020 the Meal Programs changed drastically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (see the Community Engagement Team’s report). These changes necessitated the addition of two, part-time, staff members – Dianne West and Lisa Morris – who have responsibility for volunteer coordination, meal planning, ordering and inventory management, and supervising meal service. Their skills and contributions to the Meal Programs have been essential to their smooth operation despite the challenges of the pandemic. The dedication and commitment of numerous volunteer and donors have made it possible to meet the food needs of many in our community during this uncertain year. I wish to extend a sincere and hearty “Thank you” to all who have been part of these Meal Programs in 2020.

Special projects undertaken in 2020 were:

- *Feasibility Assessment* of a permanent social research and planning program in the Quinte Region that would develop local knowledge to support evidence-based decision-making, and pursue community organizing and advocacy to promote community wellbeing. The project was conducted in partnership with the Community Development Council of Quinte with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and was completed in December 2020.
- The *Integrated Coordinated Access* project continued in 2020, the contract for which was awarded to Bridge Street Church by Hastings County in Fall 2019. The purpose of this project is to develop and implement a system of coordination for services and supports throughout Hastings County for people who are experiencing homelessness. Coordinated Access systems provide predictable and reliable processes for accessing service, assessing needs, and connecting individuals to services and supports that meet their particular needs. Coordinated Access systems also support community-wide planning to achieve sustained reductions in homelessness over time. This project will continue into 2021, with implementation of a Coordinated Access system by March 2022.
- *Enumeration of Homelessness in Belleville*. Planning for federally mandated homeless enumeration in the City of Belleville began in early 2020 to take place in April, with funding from Hastings County. However, the project was deferred to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **ADMINISTRATION - Carol Leslie, Office Administrator**

### **2020 STATISTICAL REPORT:**

|                                                                           | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b># of <u>HOUSEHOLDS</u> under Pastoral Care (member &amp; adherent)</b> | <b>220</b>  | <b>216</b>  |
| <b># of Baptisms</b>                                                      |             |             |
| - Adult (12 yrs. or over)                                                 | 00          | 00          |
| - Child (under 12 years of age)                                           | 00          | 00          |
| <b># of Marriages</b>                                                     | <b>03</b>   | <b>02</b>   |
| <b>Number of Funerals and Memorial Services</b>                           | <b>12</b>   | <b>4</b>    |
| ~~~~~                                                                     |             |             |
| <b>Changes in Membership:</b>                                             |             |             |
| <b>RECEIVED BY:</b>                                                       |             |             |
| Profession of Faith                                                       |             |             |
| - Under Age 18                                                            | 00          | 00          |
| - Age 18 or Older                                                         | 00          | 00          |
| Certificate of Transfer                                                   | 03          | 00          |
| Other                                                                     | <u>00</u>   | <u>01</u>   |
| <b>Total</b>                                                              | <b>03</b>   | <b>01</b>   |
| <b>REMOVED BY:</b>                                                        |             |             |
| Death                                                                     | 10          | 12          |
| Certificate of Transfer                                                   | 03          | 00          |
| Other                                                                     | <u>03</u>   | <u>02</u>   |
| <b>Total</b>                                                              | <b>16</b>   | <b>14</b>   |
| <b>Total Confirmed Membership</b>                                         | <b>274</b>  | <b>261</b>  |
| Resident                                                                  | 255         | 235         |
| Non Resident                                                              | 19          | 26          |

### **OFFERING STATISTICS:**

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Envelope Holders               | 53        |
| PAR Donors                     | 69        |
| Occasional Identifiable Donors | <u>25</u> |
|                                | 147       |

|                                                       | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| # of Identifiable Givers to Local Expense             | 143         | 130         |
| # of Identifiable Givers to Mission & Service Expense | 52          | 45          |
| # of Financially Supporting Households                | 139         | 126         |

### **2020 FACILITY USE REPORT:**

*Due to COVID-19, all facility usage by outside groups and non-essential meetings was suspended beginning March 16, 2020. Before that date, the following organizations used church space to further their own mission: Belleville Downtown DocFest, Drumantics Drum Circle, HIV-AIDS Regional Services (Kingston), Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers Executive, Quinte Deaf Fellowship, Quinte Field Naturalists, Veritus Winds.*

**GOVERNANCE BOARD**

**AND**

**STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE**  
**GOVERNANCE BOARD**



## **GOVERNANCE BOARD CHAIR**

Insomuch as the 2020 Chairperson of the Governance Board, The Rev. Richard Hamilton, concluded his service to BSUC many months ago and has since taken on responsibilities elsewhere within our denomination, I invite you to consult the 2020 Minutes of the Governance Board to learn of its activities and undertakings.

Should you wish an electronic copy of same, please contact our Office Administrator, Carol Leslie.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING STANDING COMMITTEE of the GOVERNANCE BOARD –**

### **Gary Hannaford, Chair**

In April 2019, on the recommendation of the Transition Team & with the approval of the Governance Board, the Strategic Planning Committee (“the Committee”) was reconstituted with the goal to develop a strategic plan as expeditiously as possible. The Committee has had a very busy 2020 as it worked tirelessly to prepare a Strategic Plan.

The Committee has continued to meet regularly with 12 committee meetings held during the year. While in-person meetings were discontinued because of the pandemic, the Committee continued to meet by videoconference. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, we have not been able to meet in person with the Congregation, so we have provided regular written updates.

The 4 broad options which remain in front of the Committee are:

1. Stay in the current building by developing a financially sustainable plan to moving forward, which may involve partnership(s) with the community;
2. Move to a location other than 60 Bridge St E (which could have an impact on membership);
3. Amalgamate with another United Church congregation or partner with another church in common space;
4. Walk away from the existing building and disband BSUC. (There was agreement that this should be considered as a last resort)

Although all 4 options remain available for consideration by the Committee, as do various combinations of the options, the focus of the Committee has been most strongly on the first option.

To help the Committee identify ways in which we might partner with the community, the Committee hosted two Community Roundtables, on December 4, 2019 and January 9, 2020. The purpose of these roundtables was to help us understand how BSUC might be more relevant to various stakeholder groups in the community. We were pleased that about 40 participants attended the roundtables, including representatives from a variety of organizations dealing with poverty and homelessness in the area, as well as certain governmental agencies, other United Churches in Belleville, other religious organizations, and Loyalist College, to name a few.

In addition, the Committee entered into an arrangement with EDGE, an arm of the United Church of Canada. EDGE aims to spur innovation, pilot new programs, support successful initiatives, create a learning network for faith communities, and support both new and renewing faith communities across the United Church.

In September 2020, we completed Phase I of our work with EDGE. At that time, we provided the Congregation a copy of the Phase I Executive Report of EDGE, along with a cover memo, a PowerPoint presentation and a series of six questions inviting feedback.

We received 34 separate responses to our invitation for feedback and included a summary of the feedback in NEWS from the BRIDGE in mid-October. The highlights of the feedback were:

- Complete agreement that status quo was not an option
- 5 marks of the church – worship, community and service were indicated as priorities
- Fairly good support for exploring a Community Hub, if financially viable
- Less support but still some interest for implementing affordable housing initiative

- Number of suggestions for other rental opportunities for the church
- Suggestions to explore merger/amalgamation with other UC
- Major drawback to some of these is lack of parking

In October, we began Phase II Stage 1 in earnest with support of EDGE. Also, we became aware of the fact that Habitat for Humanity was pursuing an affordable housing initiative in the former police headquarters on Dundas St. E. and held an informal chat with some of their senior representatives regarding its initiative to determine how we might collaborate with them.

A community workshop was held in November with members of the Transition Team and the Strategic Planning Committee along with representatives from various components of the wider United Church with experience and expertise in these areas.

Following the workshop we received a report which noted a number of suggestions:

- Critical to get handle a on building costs – important for Community Hub and other rental opportunities
- BSUC should consider opportunities to amalgamate with other United Churches in Belleville as well as partnership opportunities with other faith organizations in Belleville
- Need to consider long-term as well as short-term property options including a community hub, affordable housing and other rental opportunities.

In December, we began to develop work plans for a community hub initiative, an affordable housing project, how we might work collaboratively with other congregations, as well as financial issues.

It is our intention to complete our work in 2021 and present our report to the Governance Board after consultation with the Congregation.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge and thank the tireless efforts of Committee members Rev. David King, Frank Hiebert, Judy McKnight, Bill Mills, Susan Pine and Ian Sutherland, as well as EDGE consultant Bob Richards.

**EAST CENTRAL ONTARIO  
REGIONAL COUNCIL (ECORC)**

**AND**

**TRANSITION TEAM**

## **EAST CENTRAL ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE of the UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA (ECORC)**

Formerly known to us as the Bay of Quinte Conference (Belleville Presbytery), the East Central Ontario Regional Council (ECORC) came into existence on January 1, 2019. ECORC is 1 of 16 Regional Councils of the United Church of Canada. (A Regional Council is a decision-making body responsible to serve and support Communities of Faith within its bounds and provide necessary oversight).

The ECORC is composed of all ministry personnel within its geographic bounds; ministers of denominations within mutual recognition agreements while under appointment or call; and lay members elected by the Communities of Faith, respecting the balance of lay and ministry personnel where possible.

### **The ECORC also consists of:**

- the following Communities of Faith of the former Living Waters Presbytery of the former Toronto Conference: Trinity Pastoral Charge-Uxbridge, Sandford-Zephyr Pastoral Charge, Goodwood Pastoral Charge and Epsom-Utica Pastoral Charge;
- all pastoral charges in the former Presbyteries of the former Bay of Quinte Conference: Four Winds, Hills and Shores, Lakeridge, Kawartha Highlands, Kente, and Shining Waters; and
- several other entities in a covenantal relationship with the ECORC that gather to explore faith, worship, and service.

## **REPORT of the TRANSITION TEAM -**

PURPOSE: THE TRANSITION TEAM OF BSUC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENGAGING THE CONGREGATION IN GATHERING INSIGHTS, CLARIFYING UNDERSTANDINGS AND FACILITATING CHANGE, RELATIVE TO THE GOALS OF INTERIM MINISTRY.

Throughout 2020, and in spite of the challenges brought about by the pandemic, the Transition Team continued to meet monthly and work diligently on the 5 goals of Interim Ministry approved by the congregation in early 2019:

1. To enhance the experience of BSUC as a Christ-centred nurturing community;
2. To improve communication through regular information sharing;
3. To agree on a financial model;
4. To maintain the congregation's support of faith formation, outreach, music, spirituality and worship;
5. To undertake new partnerships with other United Churches.

Some of the accomplishments of the year include the following:

- The resumption of bible study, senior choir and selected teams in a virtual model (goal #1);
- Collaboration with the Strategic Planning Committee: Both committees have partnered to share information and keep each other abreast of their work. Both teams attended a workshop hosted by EDGE consultants to explore some options for BSUC as the Church explores its future. At the request of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Transition Team developed two documents: one on the "Vitality" of the BSUC congregation, and the other a "Restatement of Purpose", which reaffirms BSUC's mission, vision and values going into the future. These documents are meant to serve as a communication/information tool for the congregation to update members on current activities and leadership of the ministry teams, committees and governance, and are designed to support future decision-making of the Governance Board (goals 1 & #2);
- Facilitating on-going communication with the congregation: The TT has sponsored the weekly "News from the Bridge" newsletter to keep the members of our community of faith connected and informed of the "happenings" at Bridge Street. This continues to be a key mechanism to support and maintain a sense of community among the congregation (goal #2);

- A decision was made to delay the development of a financial model temporarily until the Strategic Planning Committee has more time to recommend a strategic plan to the congregation. The Transition Team intends to work with the Finance Team to prepare short-term, intermediate-term and longer-term financial models for approval by the congregation (goal #3);
- Leadership: Given that much church activity was preempted by the Pandemic and that some of the work entrusted to the TT had to be curtailed, the TT, with the support of the Governance Board, made the recommendation to extend Rev. David's contract as Intentional Interim Minister by two (2) years. This recommendation has subsequently been approved by Regional Council. The extension of Rev. David's term of employment will help to ensure continuity in the delivery of the current BSUC outreach programs and the provision of weekly online worship with ongoing involvement from the music program (goals #1 and #4);
- A plan was developed for the resumption of Team Leaders' meetings with the participation of a representative from the Transition Team to support the continuing work of the Ministry Teams throughout the pandemic (goal #4);
- Dialogue with other UC in Belleville: The Transition Team informally explored opportunities to connect with other UC in Belleville. However, it was felt that a more formal discussion on the strategic direction of various communities of faith might be more appropriate and so a recommendation was made to the Governance Board to formally explore the possibility of such discussions (goal #5).

The Transition Team looks forward to continuing its work with Rev. David into 2021.

## **COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES**

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## **BRIDGE STREET UNITED CHURCH FOUNDATION**

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## **QUINTE LIVING CENTRE**

## **COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES TREASURER'S REPORT for 2020 – Richard Woodley**

### **GENERAL**

For the year ended December 31, 2020, the General Fund transferred interest and dividends in the amount \$10,870 to the bank account of the church. No capital funds were transferred to the church.

In the General Fund, the bank investment savings account has a value of \$5,536 along with \$2,064 in cash.

Current value of our General Fund equity investments is \$151,452 on a book value of \$133,432.

Monthly Income Fund investments have a value of \$52,227 on a book value of \$49,758.

Fixed income investments have a value of \$28,340 on a book value of \$25,882.

The total market value of General Fund investments is \$239,620.

NOTE: \$186,227 of total capital is restricted and cannot be used for general purposes.

### **PARROTT TRUST**

Current value of our Parrott Trust equity investments is \$143,138 on a book value of \$133,971.

The monthly Income Fund investments have a value of \$86,860 on a book value of \$84,700.

Fixed Income investments have a value of \$34,464 on a book value of \$34,421.

The Parrott Trust investment savings account has a value of \$60,471. Accumulated dividends and interest earned up to December 31, 2020 amounted to \$20,471. The total interest and dividends earned for 2020 was \$13,797. An investment of \$40,000 matured in 2020 and the funds were deposited in the savings account for future cash flow purposes. No interest or capital funds were transferred to the Church from the Trust in 2020.

The total market value of the Parrott Trust is \$325,294.

|                                         |             |                 |                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| BRIDGE STREET UNITED CHURCH             |             |                 |                 |
| Trustee Administered Investments        |             |                 |                 |
| Financial Statement                     |             |                 |                 |
| Dec. 31, 2020                           |             |                 |                 |
| INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO                    | December    | Market Value of | Market Value of |
|                                         | 2020        | Investments     | Investments     |
|                                         |             | Dec. 31, 2020   | Dec. 31, 2019   |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| GENERAL INVESTMENTS                     |             | \$239,620.00    | \$239,046.00    |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Cash Balance, Dec. 31/19                | \$784.47    |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Interest & Dividends Received           | \$10,869.82 |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Paid to the Church                      | \$10,869.82 |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Investments Sold                        | \$55,000.00 |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Gifts & Bequests                        | \$2,700.00  |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Investments Purchased                   | \$57,592.50 |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Capital Transferred to the Church       | \$0.00      |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Cash Balance, Dec. 31/20                | \$891.87    |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| PARROTT TRUST                           |             | \$325,294.00    | \$314,881.00    |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Cash Balance, Dec. 31/19                | \$0.00      |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Interest & Dividends Received           | \$13,797.19 |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Paid to Church (Interest and Dividends) | \$0.00      |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Investments Sold                        | \$69,000.00 |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Investments Purchased                   | \$82,709.24 |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Capital Transferred to the Church       | \$0.00      |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| Cash Balance, Dec. 31/20                | \$87.95     |                 |                 |
|                                         |             |                 |                 |
| TOTAL                                   |             | \$564,914.00    | \$553,927.00    |



**FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP  
by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the  
BRIDGE STREET UNITED CHURCH FOUNDATION**

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The present Board of Directors was elected at the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Foundation on March 31, 2019. One resignation from the Board was received from Heather Seeger on February 4, 2020 and accepted with regret.

Officers elected at a meeting of the Directors held immediately following the March 31, 2019 Annual Meeting were:

President – Tom Britton  
Vice-President – Bill Maier  
Secretary-Treasurer – Mike Seeger

Directors served on the following committees of the Board:

**Grants:** Tom Britton (Chair), Elizabeth Ewashkiw, Margaret Finney, Rev. G. David King, Martha Robertson, Heather Seeger (to February 4, 2020).

**Investment & Finance:**  
Bill Maier (Chair), Mike Seeger (Treasurer), Bill Kean.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, one meeting of Directors was held in 2020, on February 4. The Investment & Finance Committee met on February 4, and circulated financial results and related information to all Directors on May 8 and November 12, 2020.

**Grants Committee** – Beginning in 2017, at the request of the Governance Board to take action to provide a sound financial foundation for a five-year period in preparation for the call of a new lead minister, the Foundation shall grant to the church up to \$100,000 of its net interest income per year for five years. As such, the moratorium imposed on grants to outside agencies once again affected the ability to award grants locally and nationally/internationally.

**Investment & Finance Committee**

The investments at cost at December 31, 2020 were:

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Current Assets  | \$ 57,018          |
| Bonds and GIC's | --                 |
| Equities        | --                 |
| Mutual Funds    | <u>2,900,136</u>   |
| Total           | <u>\$2,957,154</u> |

The original bequest from the Charlotte E. Sills Estate was \$1,000,000 and, in 1984, a further distribution of \$462,148 was received from the Estate. A third distribution of \$481,151 was received in 1989, and in December 1998, a final distribution in the amount of \$22,978 was received representing a grand total from the Sills Estate of \$1,966,277. In addition, individual donations have been received over the years.

It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that the Foundation is able to report on its 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary that the cumulative totals of all grants made by the Foundation from 1973 through to the end of 2020 are as follows:

|                                             | <u>2020 Grants</u> | <u>Cumulative Totals</u> |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Bridge Street Church (for operations)       | \$100,000          | \$ 439,063               |
| Bridge Street Church (for capital projects) | --                 | \$2,055,142              |
| Local Community Outreach                    | --                 | \$1,780,277              |
| National/International Outreach             | <u>--</u>          | <u>\$1,737,985</u>       |
| <b>Cumulative Totals</b>                    | <b>\$100,000</b>   | <b>\$6,012,467</b>       |

This Annual Report approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting on March 8, 2021.

## **QUINTE LIVING CENTRE – John Miller, President**

This past year of 2020 has been, as you can imagine, a very different year and one for the history books. Nonetheless, the Quinte Living Center has fared well. With the COVID-19 health regulations put in place early on and protocols being followed, there have been no cases of COVID-19 in the building. As well, a significant number of improvements were completed. Our Board of Directors' meetings continued through Zoom and business was carried out.

During this past year, members of the 2020 Board of Directors have been: David Alexander, Gary Botting, Janet Bowland, Beth Campbell, Carolyn Cockerline, Anne Freeland, Sharon Kennedy, Glen Leclair, Veronica Leonard, Shirley McLaren, and myself, John Miller. The Rev. David King and The Rev. Rick Hamilton are also ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. Doug Miles serves on the Board as Treasurer. The frontline workers directing the daily operations of the QLC are Brian Smith and Andrew McCreary. I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board and the staff members for their oversight and facilitation of the ongoing operation of the QLC. Without their input, direction and commitment to detail the QLC would not be the success that it is.

At the end of 2019, QLC re-engaged with the County of Hastings an operating agreement covering subsidized accommodation for low-income residents for up to 23 apartments. You may recall that the previous operating agreement covering subsidized accommodation expired in 2017 and it was not replaced. As a result, QLC financed the subsidized accommodation on its own for the past two years. (2018 & 2019). In December 2019, the County of Hastings approached the QLC Board of Directors with an offer to negotiate a new subsidized agreement between the county and the QLC. As a result, the QLC Board of Directors and The County of Hastings entered into a new five-year agreement which, during this past year, has been put into place and is now subsidizing the rents of seventeen of the residents of QLC. This number is growing and shortly all subsidized residents will be covered by the new agreement. This will free up significant funds for QLC to use in other aspects of its operation.

Over this past year, a number of major projects that had been ongoing since 2019 have now been completed over this past year of 2020. They are:

1. Roof Replacement contract which began in 2019 was awarded. Tremco Canada was hired to do a roof inspection, where it was discovered the roof condition was poor and leaking. This was the original roof and had served QLC well since the building was built. The roof was replaced in the early spring. Tender was awarded to Amherst Roofing at a total project cost of \$ 369,000.00
2. A new Make-Up Air System was installed in December of 2019, replacing the original unit (1982). This unit is one of the major HVAC components of the building that is used to heat the corridors. Total project cost \$101,913, but after receiving an incentive from Enbridge of \$31,350, the net cost for QLC was \$70,413.
3. Final section of heated sidewalk and parking lot upgrades was completed. The deteriorating interlocking brick driveway was replaced by a heated front circle and new light poles and LED fixtures were installed for added nighttime visibility in the northwest corner.
4. The solarium sky light roof was leaking and has been replaced with a metal roof.
5. The common area furniture: tables, stuffed chairs, chesterfields were all replaced with new furniture. As well, the old gas fireplace will be replaced soon as the new fireplace has already arrived and is now awaiting installation. A new stone facing will also replace the existing surface around the fireplace.

The QLC Board remains committed to continue the legacy of its original founding directors, and the Bridge Street United Church congregation as a whole, by providing affordable housing for seniors, especially during these times of seriously constrained supplies of affordable housing in Belleville. As a result, QLC continues to be in high demand and the current wait list is over one hundred. The turnover of apartments was low in 2020.

## **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

## **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS – Veronica Leonard (Social Media Coordinator)**

Although 2020 began like any other year with plans for concerts, a cabaret, special musical events, as well as many other church programs, it came to a grinding halt on March 12, when we were ordered by the Prime Minister to go home and stay there. Fortunately, our *Inn from the Cold* program concluded at the end of February, but no one expected the restrictions to last so long.

Unknowns surrounding the pandemic made communications very challenging. Rev. David King became the communications leader. He mastered the art of creating catchy *Doodly* Messages reassuring people in a humorous way that the staff and teams were still at the church, but we could not worship together until it was safe to do so. In that first month, he sent out weekly, pre-recorded telephone voice messages reassuring the congregation that the church was still available to assist, offering his phone number and that of the Voluntary Minister of Pastoral Care for personal support. "*News from the Bridge*" developed by Rev. King replaced weekly bulletins and kept parishioners up to date on church happenings.

It was clear that people needed worship services, so until Rev. King became comfortable with the technological challenges of creating online worship services, we promoted on Facebook the online worship services available from the Moderator of the United Church, the Right Rev. Richard Bott. Over Easter, we managed to have a beautiful musical and visual Maundy Thursday Service thanks to the combined efforts of Rev. David, Mitchell Cox (Music Director), and Mitchell's son, but it was clear that weekly services would need to be produced more affordably. Weekly *YouTube* services have been a big success.

Although our church was technically closed, the lines of hungry people at the daily take-away lunch program that began in April was its own form of advertising. It was also mentioned on our phone messages, our Facebook page, through the HelpSeeker App and covered extensively by local media. The work of Knitters United also received extensive media coverage.

Our public Facebook page received a lot of feedback from the community and many of those people also asked to join our church's private Facebook group, which now numbers 190 members. We have 618 followers on Twitter. All members of the BSUC group and followers on Twitter are screened by our social media administrator, Veronica Leonard, with a preference for people from the local area or who have a connection to the church, and whose social media postings follow acceptable social norms.

Our online worship services have attracted an average of 110 households/week. Interestingly, attendance at the premier is generally only 35 to 45, but the number increases over the week as people join the service at times convenient to their needs. Sadly, for people who do not have access or interest in computers, the lockdown has made it harder for them to stay in touch. "*News from the Bridge*" has been mailed out each week to those known not to have access to a computer, as well as those in seniors' residences and long term care.

In addition to the Bridge St. Church Facebook page and BSUC Facebook group, our church is a Facebook member of the Friends of Downtown Belleville Group. Also, we have representation on the Quinte Anti-Racism, the Belleville Neighbours, and the Belleville Farmers Market Groups. All of these are Facebook pages, and information of value to our congregants is shared on either of our Facebook pages.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

**MEAL PROGRAM** – Ian Sutherland, Co-Coordinator Liaison, Budget and Planning

*On behalf of Co-Coordinator Rick Hammond, Sue Catherwood; Supervisors Dianne West and Lisa Morris; Program Manager Steve van de Hoef*

### Introduction

1. An outreach food ministry at Bridge Street United Church (BSUC) began in 1990 and continues “To provide ongoing nutritional meals on a regularly scheduled basis for those in the local community needful of food security support”.

Bridge Street United Church’s meal programs – along with other meal and food programs in our community – are responding to the experience of poverty and food insecurity.

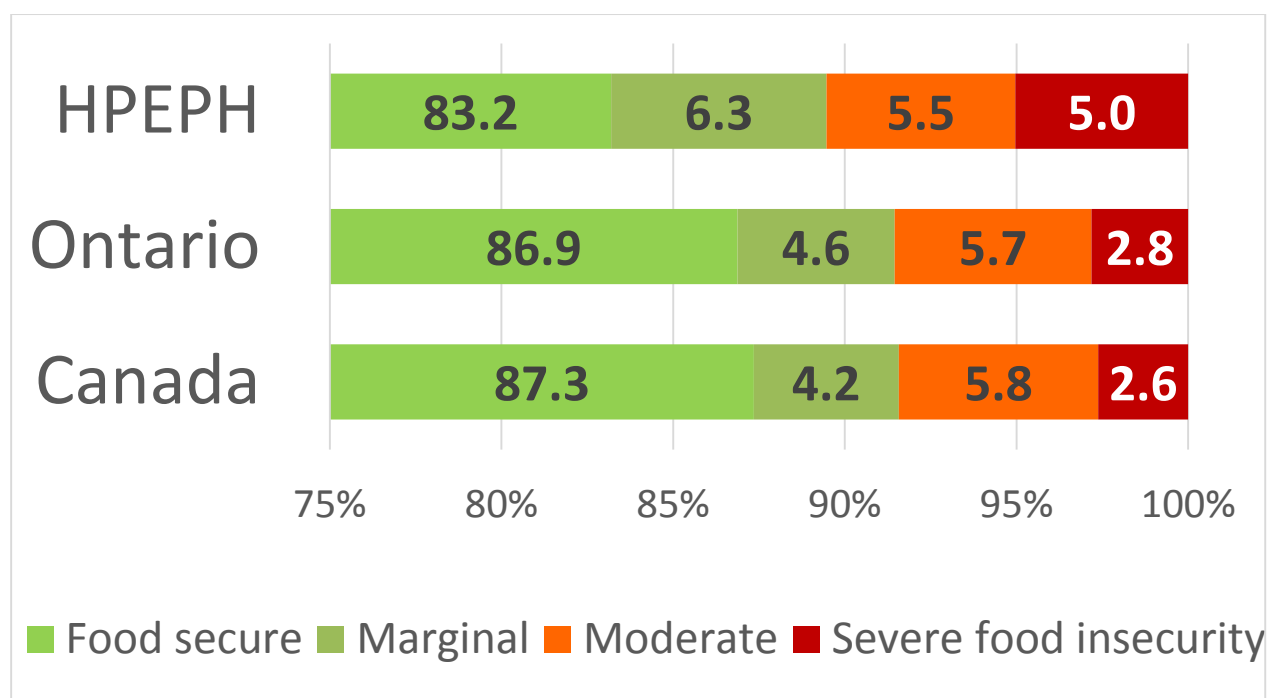


Table 1. Community Context: Household Food (In)Security – 2017/18\*

(\*Caution: HFI stats have a large confidence interval due to small sample size in the Canadian Community Health Survey [CCHS])

This is the most recent Canadian food insecurity data, from the 2017/18 cycle of the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS). The Hastings and Prince Edward public health region is consistently among health regions in Ontario with the highest rates of food insecurity.

For Hastings Prince Edward, the percent of households self-reporting food insecurity is: total 16.8%; moderate + severe = 10.5%. In the 2013/14 cycle, prevalence was just over 10% with confidence interval of 7-14%.

Nevertheless, the most recent rates of food insecurity in HPE are startlingly high, affecting 1 in 6 households (16%). In raw numbers, that means 4000 households with marginal food insecurity (at least worried about food; first year the data has been released at the Health Unit level), and more than 7000 households that are moderately to severely food insecure.

2. BSUC has offered meals to the neighbourhood through Thank-God-It’s-Friday since 1992 and through Inn-from-the-Cold since 2005. Meal numbers for the last 10 years are displayed in Table 2.

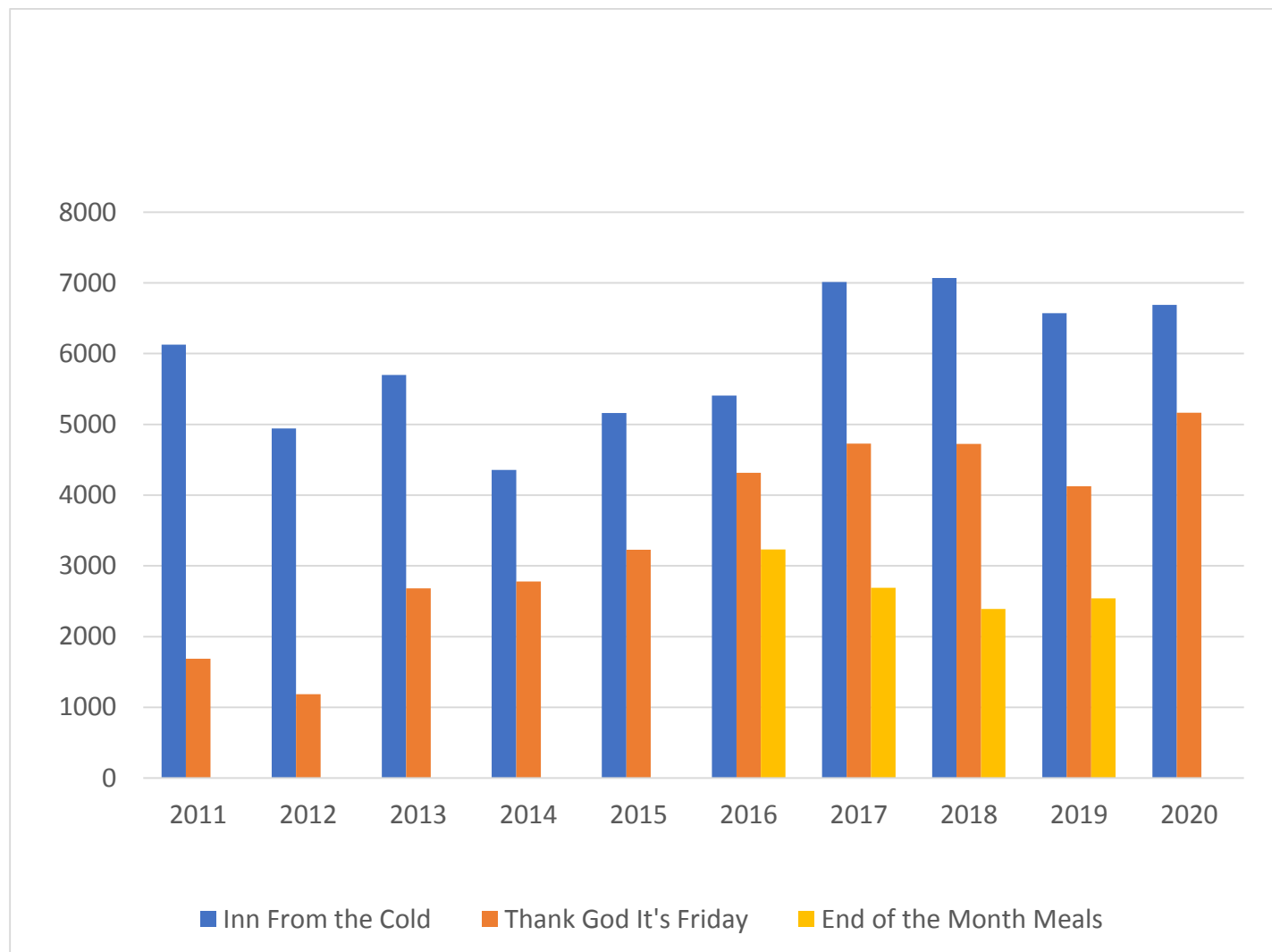


Table 2. BSUC Food Ministry/Meal Program Volumes 2011-2020; IFTC, TGIF, EOTM

The annual cumulative meal volumes of IFTC, TGIF and EOTM for the years 2016 to 2019 ranged from 13 to 14 thousand meals.

3.
  - a) The annual projections for 2020 are calculated by taking the average of the actual meals produced in the three meal programs 2016 to 2019, plus 5%. Total number projected meals to be produced and distributed in 2020: 14,451 (136.3 meals/serving day)
    - Inn-From-The-Cold: projected at 6,841 meals (162.9 meals/serving day)
    - Thank-God-It's-Friday: projected at 4,760 meals (108.2 meals/serving day)
    - End-of-the-Month: projected at 2,849 meals (142.5 meals/serving day)
  - b) Meal Supply Costs Projected for 2020.
    - Average projected supply cost/meal \$2.00
    - Projected operating costs for 2020 meal supplies and production: \$28,901.

## The Reality of the Pandemic Effect on the Meal Program 2020 (and continuing into 2021)

### 1. Annual meal volumes.

See Table 3.

From January to mid-March 2020, the Meal Program continued as in past years, with IFTC and TGIF producing and distributing meals in the usual frequency.

| Year | IFTC  | TGIF (March to December) | EOTM (March to December) | Lunches | Total  |
|------|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------|
| 2016 | 5,406 | 4,724                    | 3,543                    |         | 12,956 |
| 2017 | 7,015 | 4,730                    | 2,691                    |         | 14,436 |
| 2018 | 7,070 | 4,724                    | 2,390                    |         | 14,284 |
| 2019 | 6,571 | 4,125                    | 2,540                    |         | 13,464 |
| 2020 | 6,688 | 4,536                    | 0                        | 29,317  | 41,169 |

*Table 3. BSUC Food Ministry/M Meal Program Meal Volumes 2016 to 2020*

But with the declaration of the SARS Co-V2 pandemic by WHO on 10 March 2020, and the rapid implementation of public health mitigation and prevention measures, change was necessary. During mid-March 2020, COVID-19 associated restrictions and limitations in Belleville led to the suspension of all 4 existing low-cost and/or free mid-day meal programs in the community. Concurrently, the Bridge Street United Church Meal Program End-of-the-Month hot meal program was also suspended because of inadequate ventilation in the church gymnasium. That ventilation issue in the area in which hot sit-down meals were served and eaten would expose our volunteers and meal guests to an unacceptable risk of interpersonal SARS-CoV-2 virus transmission.

On 27 March 2020, the Meal Program initiated a daily takeaway lunch program in partnership with the Enrichment Centre for Mental Health. In November 2020, Christ Church Anglican joined the partnership. From that start, as of 31 December 2020, 29,317 lunches have been prepared and served from the BSUC kitchen. Of that total, 28,296 (96.5%) have been served from BSUC. One thousand and twenty-one lunches have been served through Gleaners (the local food bank), Grace Inn Shelter, and the itinerant Not Alone Team. The 7-day rolling average of lunches served as of 10 March 2021 is 146 lunches/day.

The BSUC Meal Program has obtained support from other granting sources to assist in meeting 2020 operational costs for: i) the pandemic lunch program through 2020 with continuation into 2021 and ii) personal hygiene resources for meal guests who are unstably housed or homeless.

## 2. Budget Implications of the Pandemic Lunch Program.

As of December 2019, the projected meal supply and equipment costs for the projected 14,451 meals in 2020 was \$28,901. The program was to continue on staffed by the volunteer cadre of more than 200 persons.

The increase in demand for nutritious takeaway lunches had budget implications. The actual cost of the meal program for 2020 with 41,169 meals, (including 29,317 daily lunches served from 27 March to 31 December 2020) was \$142,665.91. The Meal Program was fortunate in obtaining substantial support from both federal and provincial government pandemic-related funding sources, as well as receiving a number of large donations from private sources. A surplus of revenue over expenses for 2020 has been carried forward into 2021.

The 2020 operating surplus is being reserved for meal program expenses in the new fiscal year. The Meal Program operational plan is to continue the daily lunch program until 31 March 2021 (see 3 b).

The longevity of those federal and provincial revenue sources is pandemic-related, thus improbable to continue being resourced as generously after Q3-Q4 2021.

### 3. And the Present

- a) The pandemic lunch program - In mid-March 2020, COVID-19 associated restrictions and limitations led to the suspension of all 4 existing low cost and/or free mid-day meal programs offered by other organizations in the downtown Belleville community. On 27 March 2020, the Meal Program initiated a daily takeaway lunch program at BSUC in partnership with the Enrichment Centre for Mental Health (the former Canadian Mental Health Association). The Enrichment Centre provides soup and sandwiches 3 days weekly for the lunch program, Christ Church Anglican has provided hot soup for 150 once/week from November 2020 for the lunch program, BSUC Meal Program volunteers prepare the lunches 4 days/week.

TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) has continued to provide frozen meals weekly on Fridays, 4536 being distributed concurrently with Friday lunches throughout 2020. St Thomas' Anglican Church kitchen prepared approximately ½ of the frozen meals consumed in 2020, providing 120 frozen meals following each of 2 cooking days/month, a total of 2880 frozen meals for 2020.

| Monthly Lunch Totals |                  |                 |               |                        |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|
|                      |                  |                 | # lunches/day | 30 day Average         |
|                      | # lunches served | # to other orgs | Daily Average | 30 day rolling Average |
| March 2020           | 250              | 25              | 50            |                        |
| April                | 1963             | 515             | 65            |                        |
| May                  | 2257             | 172             | 73            | 72                     |
| June                 | 2727             | 97              | 91            | 79                     |
| July                 | 2803             | 19              | 90            | 91                     |
| August               | 3510             | 0               | 113           | 98                     |
| Sept                 | 3910             | 60              | 130           | 125                    |
| Oct                  | 3896             | 66              | 126           | 130                    |
| Nov                  | 3831             | 0               | 128           | 128                    |
| Dec                  | 3149             | 67              | 102           | 117                    |
| <b>2020 Total</b>    | <b>28296</b>     | <b>1021</b>     |               |                        |

Table 5. Pandemic Lunch Program Meal Volumes

From 27 March 2020 to 31 December 2020, 29317 lunches were prepared and served.



Our plan is to continue the daily pandemic lunch program through calendar 2021 until 31 March 2022.

- b) Ancillary support services with the Pandemic Lunch program - In late October 2020, the John M & Bernice Parrott Foundation awarded BSUC sufficient funds to install a specifically designed and engineered energy-recovery-ventilation system in the gymnasium. That installation, in conjunction with public health measures, will make the gymnasium an acceptable location in which to serve and eat meals. The same grant will also fund renovation and upgrade of space near the gymnasium with barrier-free access to showers, toilets and washer/dryers. On 27 October 2020, BSUC received approval from ECORC to proceed with the projects.

With COVID restrictions, the daily places of refuge, warmth and sanitation facilities in downtown Belleville have become quite limited, with access more difficult for some of the complex needs persons with whom we have become familiar. In response to these circumstances, many social support agencies in downtown Belleville (including the BSUC Community Engagement Team) have been advocating for a "Drop-in Centre" in the downtown. Following the award in October 2020 of the generous Parrott Foundation support, BSUC has initiated discussions with the John Howard Society, Hastings & Prince Edward Public Health, and Grace Inn Shelter on the planning and implementation of a Drop-in Centre, offering our soon-to-be COVID-19 ventilation safe space with its meal and hygiene facilities. On application by the BSUC Community Engagement Team, full operational funding for the Drop-In Centre from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 has been awarded to BSUC as the administrative lead agency.

The hiring and management of Drop-In Centre staff will be the responsibility of the John Howard Society. The assignment of a HPEPH Priority Populations Nurse has been agreed to.

For the Drop-In Centre, BSUC through its Community Engagement Team, will provide: i. the safe physical space for indoor meeting; ii. the hygiene area with barrier-free toilets, showers and washers/dryers; iii. daily lunches using the pandemic lunch format; iv. secure access to co-located "helping personnel."

#### **KNITTERS UNITED – Elizabeth Ewashkiw, Coordinator**

In the winter of 2008, a group of four women agreed to get together regularly to knit for the "Inn from the Cold" guests. The following year, they produced 148 hats, mitts, and scarves for free distribution. The foursome gradually became a larger and mightier group of forty active knitters by 2020.

One of our four founders, Sylvianne Baraly, passed away in June 2020. She had been a devoted member of Knitters United even as her health failed. We received an extremely generous amount of her yarn from Sylvianne's husband and her daughter. Her influence will continue on our needles for years to come. In December, Vivian Britton, a member of BSUC also passed away, having been an at-home knitter with us while living at Quinte Gardens. She, too, will be missed by each of us who knew her cheery smile.

This year, we donated 1,918 items to BSUC Meal Programs, Hastings and Prince Edward Learning Foundation, Keep Kids Warm, CAS, Gleaners, BQWCHC, BGH, Abigail's Learning Centre, and Three Oaks. Being a community group, word of mouth and a little publicity kept new knitters coming. More yarn, needles and patterns, mostly from people who were downsizing, kept our needles clicking. The group used donated yarn, provided donated labour, and produced donated products for Belleville and beyond, as well as building new and ongoing friendships. We invite knitters and want-to-be knitters or crocheters to join us!

2020 was indeed different for everyone, but our group kept right on knitting and crocheting from home, bringing completed items to and picking up additional yarn from the co-ordinator's home. We kept in touch by telephone, newsletters and emails, but greatly look forward to the time when we meet together once again. In the meantime, we carry on knitting and supporting each other.

## **UNITED SYRIAN FAMILY SUPPORT (BELLEVILLE) SPONSORSHIP GROUP –**

Ian Sutherland, Constituent Group Representative *on behalf of the USFS (Belleville) sponsorship group members*

### **1. USFS (B) Ongoing Support Activities 2020**

| # | IRCC Group                                                       | Responsible Groups | Arrival Date     | Sponsorship End Date |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Ahmad Al Mansour, Maysoun Mansour + Firas, Layth and Taym        | BSUC, St MUC       | 7 December 2015  | 6 December 2017      |
| 2 | Fawziah Al Jahjah (Mother of Maysoun & Bilal)                    | St JCC             | 10 October 2016  | 9 October 2018       |
| 3 | Bilal Mansour, Intisar Al Ghanem + Malek, Yaman and Wisam        | St JCC             | 14 October 2016  | 13 October 2018      |
| 4 | Mohamed Hamada, Raghda Al Mansour + Rima, Lina, Yaman + Yazan    | BEST (EUC, St CPC) | 28 December 2016 | 27 December 2018     |
| 5 | Yaser Al Mansour, Huda Hamada + Bayan, Mohamad, and Alaa         | BSUC, EUC, HRCC)   | 14 February 2017 | 13 February 2019     |
| 6 | Ziab Al Mansour, Aadla Hamada (Parents of Ahmad, Raghda & Yaser) | BSUC, StMUC        | 2 March 2017     | 1 March 2019         |

*Table I. Sponsorship Dates for the Six IRCC-Approved Refugee Sponsorships*

Table I notes the end dates for the second year of agreed sponsorship for the 6 separate approved sponsorship applications. These 23 Syrian newcomers had come as refugees to Canada through 6 separate sponsorships between the USFS (B) and Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada, having entered our homeland as Permanent Residents, arriving in Belleville between 7 December 2015 and 1 March 2017.

The practical result of the completion of the two-year sponsorship is that the newcomers have no longer been receiving regular/monthly financial support from USFS (Belleville) following the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of their arrivals in Canada. Calendar year 2020 is the first of the years during which the families have been in Canada that none received regular monthly financial support.

Through 2020, support when requested for the 4 families and 3 related grandparents was provided through individuals from the family-specific support groups, through educational facilities, and through the provincial Workplace Safety & Insurance Board.

### **2. Employment Update**

Employment. As of end December 2020, 1 of the 4 fathers of the families was working full-time with a local employer. Another father was rehabilitating from a serious vocational hand injury, expecting to return to the work force in 2021. A third father was seeking another employment situation. The father and mother of the fourth family continue to attend ESL; the father also having a predictable part-time job. Two of the mothers have part-time employment.

With their present work incomes plus Canadian Child Tax Benefits, all the families will be able to sustain financially independent lives in our community (for all but extraordinary post-secondary tuition fees, medical/dental fees, or unexpected vehicle-associated costs).

### 3. Educational Activities

- i. Loyola School of Adult & Continuing Education -  
ESL- Spring and Fall Semesters 2020- Grandfather Ziab, Grandmother Aadla, Ahmad, Maysoun, Intisar, Raghda and Huda continue to attend English as a Second Language.
- ii. Loyalist College of Arts & Applied Technology -  
Bayan Al Mansour (the eldest child of the fourth family) is enrolled in the second semester of the second year of the Biotechnology program, having obtained an honours average at the end of first year in June 2020. She is considering applying to enter a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the program in 2021-22. Her decision is awaiting information as to the timing and proportion of in-person schooling available in the program in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year.
- iii. Centennial Secondary School -  
Firas Al Mansour (the eldest of the three sons of the first family) graduated in June 2020 with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. He has worked full-time since then, intending to apply to enter the Computer Technician program at Loyalist College in second or third semester 2021.

Mohamad Al Mansour (the middle child of the fourth family) is enrolled in Gr 12. He will graduate with an Ontario Secondary School diploma in 2021 and intends to apply to enter a technical program at Loyalist College in the third semester of 2021.

Layth Al Mansour (second son in the first family) is enrolled in Gr 11.

Alaa Al Mansour (youngest child in the fourth family) is enrolled in Gr 8 at Centennial Secondary School.

Rima Hamada (eldest child of the third family) is enrolled in Gr 7 at Centennial Secondary School



*Figure 1. Firas Al Mansour with parents Ahmad Al Mansour and Maysoun Mansour Centennial Secondary School Graduation (outdoor, socially distanced) 25 June 2020.*

- iv. Sir John A Macdonald School -  
Six of the younger children from the four families are enrolled at their neighbourhood elementary school, all progressing with English acquisition and the relevant grade-specific subject curricula.
- v. Home Tutoring -  
Independent tutoring is being provided from within the sponsorship group, and/or is available for, all of the elementary and secondary school students.

#### **4. Update with respect to Canadian Citizenship.**

The in-country residency requirement for citizenship exam eligibility is 1095 days in any five year period (ie, 3 full years as a resident). All of the newcomers have been resident in Canada continuously since their arrivals. In addition to the residency requirement, a candidate for Canadian citizenship between the ages of 18 and 55 must have demonstrated, on examination, competency to Level 4 of 13 in both listening and in speaking one of Canada's two official languages.

- i. On Wednesday 23 October 2019, Ahmad Al Mansour and his wife Maysoun Mansour, wrote the Canadian citizenship exam successfully. At the time of application, Ahmad and Maysoun's three sons were 17, 15 and 9; all are eligible to become Canadian citizens from their father's success. Immigration Refugee & Citizenship Canada (IRCC) postponed and suspended citizenship swearing-in ceremonies since March 2020 - the Al Mansour family are still waiting at time of writing to be contacted.
- ii. Bilal Mansour and Intisar Al Ghanem of the second family have applied to write the citizenship exam, their 3 sons under 18 registered on their father's application for citizenship. Fawziah Al Jahjah, the mother of Bilal Mansour and his sister Maysoun Mansour, registered separately for citizenship. She will be exempted from the written, being over 55.
- iii. Raghda Al Mansour, mother in the third family, has applied to write the citizenship exam, her application including the three older children all under 18. Yazan the youngest of the family, is a Canadian citizen by virtue of his birth in Belleville in 2019. Mohammed Hamada, father of the third family, has Permanent Resident status in Canada, being "stateless" because of his father's stateless status in Syria at the time of Mohammed's birth. Citizenship options are being explored on his behalf.
- iv. Yaser Al Mansour and Huda Hamada, parents of the fourth family, were residency-eligible as of 14 February 2020. They have applied to write the citizenship exam, their application including the two younger children under 18 at time of application. The oldest child, Bayan Al Mansour, will apply separately to write the citizenship exam, being 19 at the time of her parents' application.
- v. Grandfather Ziad Al Mansour and Grandmother Adlaa Hamada were residency-eligible as of 28 February 2020. They have applied for citizenship and are awaiting responses from IRCC. They shall be exempted from the written examination as both are older than 55.

**5. USFS (B) Financial Statement as of 31 December 2020**

**i) Financial Transactions USFS (B) 2020**

| # | ITEM                                      | REVENUE | EXPENSE         |
|---|-------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1 | BSUC Donation                             | \$50    |                 |
| 2 | Medical- Ziab- 50% of invoice             |         | \$270           |
| 3 | Medical- Bayan- 50% of invoice            |         | \$60            |
| 4 | Dental- Bilal- 25% of invoice             |         | \$2,500         |
| 5 | Admin- revise error 2016                  |         | \$299           |
| 6 | PC repair- Ziab- invoice                  |         | \$158           |
| 7 | Chromebook Alaa- school                   |         | \$352           |
| 8 | IRCC Citizenship application Ziab & Aadla |         | \$1,284         |
|   | Subtotal                                  | \$50    | \$4,923         |
|   | <b>Total Transactions CY 2020</b>         |         | <b>-\$4,873</b> |

Table 2. USFS (B) Financial Transactions in CY 2020

**ii) Revenues and Expenditures at December 31, 2020**

| <b><u>Donations &amp; Fund Raising</u></b>                                                                                                           | <b><u>USFS (B)</u></b> | <b><u>St Joseph's CC</u></b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bridge Street UC Congregation .....                                                                                                                  | \$20,537.              |                              |
| Donations thru Bridge St UC + 2 Souqs + Concert.....                                                                                                 | \$43,401.              |                              |
| St Matthew's UC.....                                                                                                                                 | \$8,597.               |                              |
| Eastminster UC.....                                                                                                                                  | \$24,325.              |                              |
| St Joseph's CC total funds from all sources.....                                                                                                     |                        | \$98,770.                    |
| St Joseph's CC 6 Fundraising Events.....                                                                                                             | \$13,275.              | (13,275.)                    |
| <b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS through co-sponsors</b>                                                                                                       | <b>\$110,135.</b>      | <b>85,495.</b>               |
| <b><u>Grants Received</u></b>                                                                                                                        |                        |                              |
| Rotary Sunrise.....                                                                                                                                  | \$1,000.               |                              |
| Rotary Foundation.....                                                                                                                               | \$2,000.               |                              |
| Bridge Street Foundation.....                                                                                                                        | \$13,500.              |                              |
| Toronto Conference.....                                                                                                                              | \$5,000.               |                              |
| Parrott Foundation.....                                                                                                                              | \$40,000.              |                              |
| Lawson Foundation.....                                                                                                                               | \$5,000.               |                              |
| 100 Men Who Care.....                                                                                                                                | \$10,300.              |                              |
| Lennox & Addington UC Sponsorship group.....                                                                                                         | \$15,000.              |                              |
| <b>TOTAL GRANTS received</b>                                                                                                                         | <b>\$91,800.</b>       |                              |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS contributed to December 31</b>                                                                                                        | <b>\$201,935.</b>      | <b>85,495.</b>               |
| <br>Expenses for rent, furnishings, food,<br>clothing, sports, IRCC airfares, medical/dental,<br>education assistance, and Citizenship examinations. | <br>\$189,041.         | <br>\$85,495.                |
| <br><b>Funds on hand at December 31, 2020.</b>                                                                                                       | <br><b>\$12,894.</b>   | <br><b>\$0.</b>              |

*Table 3. USFS (B) Financial Statement as of 31 December 2021  
Submitted by Richard Lefler 14 January 2021 on behalf of the  
United Syrian Family Support (Belleville) Sponsorship Group*

**6. Summary Comment.**

The resettlement process has continued throughout 2020 for all of the newcomers. All of the families now own a vehicle; 3 of the mothers and 4 of the fathers have attained G2 Ontario Driver's Licences; the families are self-sufficient financially; all of the children are progressing with their education at rates consistent with their age-group peers.

Ongoing support and socialization will continue in 2021 between members of family support teams, otherwise known as friends, and the newcomer families and grandparents.

The families continue to increase in self-sufficiency, in familiarity with their new land, in a desire to become Canadian citizens.

Is there still some residue of the deprivations and dangers which all of them experienced, at family and individual levels, from the onset of the Syrian homeland war in 2012? In Syria, in refugee camps

in Lebanon, unpleasantnesses occurred. Telephone calls and texts from relatives left behind, money transfers to support those relatives are often a part of their days yet.

As was the wish expressed in the USFS (Belleville) annual report for 2019, modified now through necessity from the presence of COVID-19 among us; *"We look forward with anticipation in 2021 to celebrations with many new Canadians as they swear their oaths of Canadian citizenship."*

## **FAITH FORMATION/CHILDREN, YOUTH & ADULTS –** **Elizabeth Ewashkiw, Team Lead**

*This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!  
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!  
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine  
All the time, all the time, all the time!*

The role of the Faith Formation Ministry Team is to help ensure that quality faith programming is provided for the children, youth, and adults of the congregation, in keeping with the theology and ethos of the United Church of Canada. Meeting monthly or as needed, this team consists of Cheryl Bough, Audrey Cowan, Elizabeth Ewashkiw (Team Leader), The Rev. David King, and Liza van de Hoef. We endeavour to lead and demonstrate to our community that faith is a central part of enjoying living - with self, others, and God.

All programmes were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but beginning in March, we gradually transitioned into Zoom versions of our previous ventures. Children's Centre classes met the age-related learning needs of our children: newborn to 13 years! We were indeed grateful to Cheryl, Elizabeth, and the faithful caring assistants who contributed each Sunday to the spiritual growth of our children. Numbers were small and fluctuating from week to week, but there was always a meaningful learning experience, joyfully ready for each Sunday, with two volunteers for our combined class.

*Kids' Camp, Christmas Adventures, and Santa Claus Parade Snacks* did not take place in 2020. Each year, recruiting volunteers remains an ongoing challenge with our church's aging demographics. However, we had begun discussion with St. Thomas' Anglican Church about working with them for Professional Activity days for school children. We have been seeking someone to take the lead from BSUC to expand this program.

By working with one family grouping at a time, we presented a virtual *Christmas pageant* on Christmas Sunday, December 27, with those present donning costumes and taking their roles wholeheartedly.

The Rev. David King offered a virtual book study based on *Saving Jesus from the Church* by Robin R. Meyers, but not enough people responded to make it viable. We may revisit this at a later time. A Personality Dimensions workshop was also offered, but postponed due to a technical glitch. Five from BSUC attended the Spiritual Practices Workshop on January 11 (presented by Belleville area cluster of churches). The Belleville area Prayer Vigil scheduled for March 26 had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Lenten and Advent daily devotional readings were distributed to the congregation by The Rev. David King.

### *Associated responsibilities*

#### **BIBLE STUDY - Audrey Cowan, Coordinator**

More than twenty-five years ago, this Wednesday morning Bible study began meeting. Three of the dozen folk now attending were part of that original group. We sipped coffee together while reading and discussing the lectionary Bible readings on which the following Sunday's service was based. During the pandemic lockdown, this occurred virtually on Zoom, at 8:30 a.m. New faces and minds are always welcome to join us. (We normally meet from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. for 10 months of the year).