



# 2022 Annual Report

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I can't wait to see the many ways that the Lord will bless Byron United Church in 2023! While the pandemic has continued to weigh on all of our lives, I was filled with growing optimism and excitement through the fall of 2022 which continues to this day. Our Week of Prayer and Waiting last summer saw many people participate at home and in the sanctuary. As a result of seeking the Lord, the Prayer Team received valuable input from many of you about the future health and growth of our church family. This led us to the creation of our Church Growth Team in August, and our Spiritual Growth Team in September. The ongoing work of these two new teams has the potential to allow each of us individually, and the church family as a whole to take a giant step forward - growing both numerically larger and spiritually deeper.

Of the 14 new members who joined us in 2022, almost all of them had begun attending worship during the pandemic. Many other new attendees continue to worship with us, both in person and online each week, and we trust that more of them will join in 2023, along with the youth currently participating in our Confirmation gatherings.\

Our Elders and volunteers on our Phone Team did their best to ensure everyone felt connected and cared for through the year. Our Re-opening Team worked tirelessly through last year trying to accommodate requests to use the church building by both our own groups and by community groups. At the same time, they worked to ensure that safety protocols were in place to minimize the chance of any COVID-19 transmissions. Together with the Elders, we adjusted our pandemic protocols a number of times last year as the different COVID variants worked their way through Ontario. We fully acknowledge that we cannot satisfy everyone's health and safety preferences simultaneously, and we thank you for your Christian understanding and respect of differing needs and opinions.

Our Advent and Christmas season saw the return of some of our traditions, and we also tried some new things too! We brought back our in-person "Shattered Joy" Blue Christmas service, but instead of our 3-Choir Festival with St. Anne's and St. George, we kept it to a smaller gathering for carol requests on a Sunday afternoon. We also held our first ever outdoor caroling on the front lawn, which included our Stevie's Sliders Trombone Choir, along with other musicians and singers. With Christmas Day falling on a Sunday, we held two Christmas Eve services, as well as Christmas morning worship with Holy Communion. These pandemic years have certainly stretched our creativity and flexibility muscles!

Please join with me in thanking everyone who stepped forward to bless and uphold our church family and wider community through 2022.

We certainly give all of our gratitude and praise to the Lord for His unfailing grace and presence through these unbelievable times in which we live. With faith and hope, we rely upon Him to lead us into the new year ahead!

In His love,  
*Pastor Greg*



## *Congregational Designated Minister's Page*

For many, we hoped that 2022 would be the year when we all returned to normal. However, the pandemic persisted and Byron United Church continued to respond with imagination and resilience. Many thanks go to volunteers from the congregation who participated in the "Call the Church" campaigns and home deliveries of DVDs and print versions of BUC Wheat to those who did not have access to worship services. These are examples of how we responded to the needs of congregation members and adherents.

My role was a continuation of pastoral care through telephone, e-mail and some limited in-person visits. I was also grateful and blessed to be included in worship support roles on many occasions.

I continued to lead the Men's Study Group (MSG) throughout the year in partnership with Pastor Colin as Zoom host. Weekly attendance averaged 10. More information on the progress of MSG is in a separate report.

I was privileged to be included in planning groups and retreats held in 2022. Discussions continued on the needs of our church, all while seeking to follow God's will. I hope to be a help and support as we continue to grow in the future.

Family has been a wonderful strength during this pandemic. This has been true within the extended Graham family and within the Byron United Church family. I feel both privileged and blessed to serve and to be a member of the vibrant, loving congregation of Byron United Church.

*Ric Graham*

In the happy moments  
*Praise God*  
In the difficult moments  
*Seek God*  
In the quiet moments  
*Worship God*  
In every moment...  
*Thank God*



## THE LEADERS' BOARD

### CONNECT >>>> GROW>>>> SERVE!

This has been the focus of the Leaders' Board for our church family for the past several years.

- **Connecting** - worshipping together regularly in-person or via live-streaming, video or DVD and staying connected to others in our church family;
- **Growing** - participating in a small group in-person or via Zoom technology; and
- **Serving** - in one or several ways within our church and beyond.

We have been inspired by the dedicated perseverance and innovative approaches in all three areas, despite this being the third year of the pandemic. The Leaders' Board placed a priority on keeping us all connected to God and each other. New people saw our live-streamed or video worship services and decided to come and worship in-person with us. Some of them became new members. We found different ways to serve those within our church family and beyond our church walls. You will read more about how our church family has embraced these challenges throughout the remainder of this report. Thank you to all the volunteers and our staff who made these goals a reality.

The Leaders' Board oversees the work of all church teams and events. The Leaders' Board makes decisions, on behalf of Session, during the time between Session meetings, and recommends to Session items which require approval of the Elders. Members of the Leaders' Board include the eight Element Facilitators, the church Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, the Chair and the Senior Pastor.

In 2022, the Leaders' Board met six times, in alternate months, excluding summer months. In addition, six members of the Leaders' Board, plus our Church Administrator, continued to meet periodically as a *Re-Opening Team* to discuss and recommend how attendees at worship, church groups and rental groups could meet safely in-person within our building, in the midst of pandemic concerns. Those recommendations were forwarded through the Leaders' Board to Session for the Elders to discuss and make decisions. All these meetings in 2022 were conducted via Zoom conference calling technology.

At each regular alternate-month meeting, we continued to receive and discuss reports about our church activities and needs in each of the eight Elements, and progress on our *Growth Vision and Plan*. Despite the restrictions of the pandemic, we continued to find many things to celebrate in each of the areas of CONNECT, GROW and SERVE each time we met. This is a credit to the generosity of our church family in giving their time, talents and resources throughout the year. Thank you for your faithful ongoing support in all these ways.

The Leaders' Board is required to hold an 'evergreening retreat' at least once each year to review the *Growth Vision and Plan* for our church. In 2022 we held two planning retreats. In April we discussed the book ***8 Virtues of Rapidly Growing Churches*** and how those factors might apply to Byron United. From those discussions, a **Week of Prayer and Waiting on the Lord** was organized for late July. Our October retreat focused on "**Growth for our Church**", particularly in the "Under 50s" demographic. We included members of the two new teams for

**Church Growth** and **Spiritual Growth** that had been formed following input received during the summer Week of Prayer. At that fall retreat the Leaders' Board decided to experiment with a revised structure for our meetings in 2023. We now meet each month, and also invite members from some of the Element Teams, and one of the Growth Teams, to each of our meetings. At our January meeting, representatives from the Teams in the CONNECT Element attended for the first hour and provided input on how to give people a reason to come to our church, and a reason to come back. In February, we will invite representatives from the GROW Element, and in March from the SERVE Element. This cycle will repeat throughout 2023. The Growth Teams will consider the input received from each of these discussion sessions, as they plan for growth in the upcoming year.

The Leaders' Board plans the path for our continuing growth. However, it is through the work of the numerous teams within the Elements that we are actually moving forward in accomplishing our goals. The Leaders' Board wishes to thank the many men and women who lead or serve on those church teams. The generous sharing of your time and talents has been a major factor in making God's plan for our church become a reality.

The reports that follow are organized by groupings of Elements for **Connect**, **Grow** and **Serve** so that you can see some of the ways in which these groups of Elements share their specific focus. Please read the reports from these groups within this Annual Report. Those individual reports detail what Connecting/Growing/Serving really mean for our church family.

We also owe a huge thank you to all members of the Leaders' Board for their dedicated efforts and considerable additional time on behalf of our church family throughout this past year. The following people served faithfully on the Leaders' Board in 2022:

|                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chair                         | Linda Peck                           |
| Recording Secretary           | Brian Roth                           |
| Treasurer                     | Ruth Dean                            |
| Worship Element               | Shelley Scott (January to September) |
| Fellowship Element            | Barry Brigham (January to July)      |
| Community Connections Element | Marlene Law                          |
| Communications Element        | Dave Rusciolelli                     |
| Discipleship Element          | Angie Brawn                          |
| Ministry Element              | Anita Bacon                          |
| Mission Element               | -                                    |
| Assets & Finance Element      | David Tennant                        |
| Senior Pastor                 | Rev. Dr. Gregory Brawn               |

During October 2022 and continuing into 2023, we also appreciated the support of three "*Acting Facilitators*": Worship Element (Jennifer Tennant), Fellowship Element (Jan Harding), and Mission Element (Marilyn Walker). Your contributions during and between meetings enabled us to continue to have representation from all Elements for our discussions and decisions. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted by,  
Linda Peck, Chair of the Leaders' Board



## **SESSION**

Session is the governing body of our church. It is made up of all Elders, plus the Senior Pastor. Session makes decisions about all aspects of our church life, normally meeting in alternate months from September to May. Session met five times for regular meetings during 2022 and held two 'special' meetings. Those special meetings dealt with additional decisions regarding the various pandemic protocols for worship services and groups which meet in our church during the week. These were difficult decisions for our Elders, with long discussions, especially about masking protocols. In all cases, the goal as masking restrictions were reduced is that everyone will lovingly respect the decisions of others to either continue to mask or not as they deem best, and to respect people's personal space in all indoor settings. The Elders will continue to review remaining protocols.

At their regular meetings, the Elders receive information about the life and work of our church, and make decisions on behalf of the congregation. All Session meetings in 2022 were held via Zoom conference calling technology because of the pandemic.

Duties of Elders include visits to members of the congregation, delivery and discussion of the newsletters, and service during celebrations of Holy Communion. Because of the pandemic, Holy Communion has continued to be celebrated with personal sealed communion elements for each worship attendee. Most of our Elders have a visiting district. Because of COVID-19 restrictions this year, our quarterly newsletters continued to be distributed electronically, with most Visiting Elders following up by telephone contacts to the families in their visiting districts, rather than in-person visits. These contacts provided a personal opportunity to discuss how families were coping with the pandemic, as well as any church issues that should be brought to the attention of the church leadership. Copies of our newsletters, other periodic communications, and DVDs of worship services were delivered by volunteers to church members who lack Internet access to keep them connected to the life of our church.

Pastor Greg provides advice to Session during each of its meetings, and keeps the Elders informed concerning upcoming activities at our church and matters related to our Regional Council and the United Church of Canada. The members of Session have appreciated his time and commitment in advising us on matters affecting our church family. Brian Roth serves as secretary for Congregational meetings, Session meetings, and Leaders' Board meetings. We thank Brian for his dedication in preparing accurate minutes of these church meetings.

In 2022, *Antler River Watershed Regional Council* continued in its fourth year of the new governance structure for the United Church of Canada. Byron United Church continues to be entitled to elect annually up to four of its members as lay representatives to Regional Council, which discusses the needs of congregations within our Region. Regional Council met via Zoom for their three-day meeting in June because of the pandemic, and also online for their two-day meeting in October. Pastor Greg and most of our lay representatives attended these spring and fall sessions. We thank Barry Brigham, Bob Harris, Shirley Harris and Brian Roth for serving as lay representatives for Byron United in 2022.

This has been another year of improvising and flexibility. Session wishes to thank Ric Graham and Pastor Colin Lauchlan for their pastoral care support for our church family which continued in various ways throughout the pandemic, and their involvement in the new Growth Teams.



We also thank all members of our support staff: our church administrator Deb Farrell, our custodian David Smith, our music coordinator Tom de Gryp, and our coordinator of Sunday school and Sunday Youth programs Andrea Smith. Your adjustments to working under our pandemic protocol restrictions have allowed our church to continue to operate and offer our programs in different ways. Special thanks also to all the individuals who provided leadership in the many teams, ministries and activities that occurred throughout our church during 2022. **We celebrate what we have been able to accomplish in these unique circumstances, rather than focus on plans that could not go forward.** We continue to be blessed in so many ways. Your dedication to serving our Lord and His Church is sincerely appreciated.

With the change in our governance structure for Byron United Church in February 2015 the position of Congregational Chair was created. This person is elected at each Annual Congregational Meeting to chair meetings of the Congregation, Session and Leaders' Board. I thank all members of the congregation for your confidence in electing me to this position for the past eight years. It is a joyful privilege to serve our Lord in the leadership of His Church.

Members of Session at the end of 2022 were:

Anita Bacon  
Angie Brawn  
Ron Carruthers  
Bob Coates  
Paul Coates  
Sandra Collier  
Carol Connor  
Connie Constable  
Elaine Coutts  
Ruth Dean  
Tom Dean  
Wendy Dickinson

Gwen Estabrooks  
Deb Farrell  
Cathy Goetz-Perry  
Jan Harding  
Harry Huffman  
Helen Keenlside  
Marlene Law  
Jen McKay  
Diane Minshull  
Ken Minshull  
Mary Neely  
Linda Peck

Dean Radloff  
Jan Radloff  
Jerry Reid  
Brian Roth  
Dave Rusciolelli  
Don Scanlon  
Allison Stephens  
Crawford Stephens  
David Tennant  
Jennifer Tennant  
Dave Wagg  
Marilyn Walker  
Rev. Dr. Greg Brawn

Respectfully submitted by,  
Linda Peck, Chair of Session

*Leadership*

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees holds the legal title to all of Byron United Church property (land and chattels) on behalf of the congregation as part of the United Church of Canada.

The Trustees carried on business for 2022 by means of Zoom Meetings. The Board deals with a variety of matters including legacies left to the Trustees from estates. The Board is thankful and appreciative of those members, adherents and friends who think of their Church when making estate planning decisions.

The Trustees were pleased to welcome two new Trustees, namely Gary Coutts and Robert van Dam, both of whom were elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Tom Dean, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

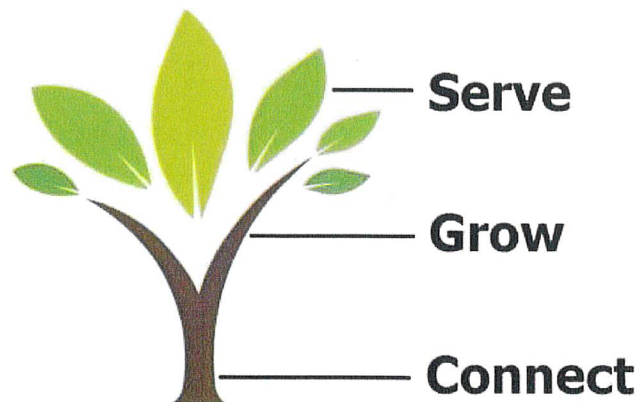
## GROWTH VISION & PLAN

In 2014, after several years of declining attendance, the Lord gave us a vision for a growing, vibrant congregation, and we developed a multifaceted plan to help bring that vision to life. We clarified our Growth process in 2016 when we streamlined our focus around Connecting, Growing and Serving. In 2019, we had the 20<sup>th</sup> highest attendance within the entire United Church of Canada. Despite the pandemic, we have continued to see new people joining us for worship and 14 became full members in 2022.

We experienced the Holy Spirit leading and inspiring us throughout 2022 as the Leaders' Board held a spring retreat and a summer Week of Prayer and Waiting - as we sought to listen to the Spirit show us how to grow the church family, in particular with younger adults and their families. As a result of these times of listening discernment, we created two new teams - the Church Growth Team, focused on drawing in new people, and the Spiritual Growth Team, focused on helping all of us grow closer to the Lord. These teams met monthly during the remaining months of 2022, and will continue to bring to fruition their visions for both numeric and spiritual growth.

Please pray for our Elders and all staff and leaders within our congregation that we may faithfully continue following the Holy Spirit's leading for us, both individually and together, that we may continue growing in every good way.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Pastor Greg







## WORSHIP ELEMENT

*Psalm 95:6* Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

The purpose of the Worship Element at Byron United Church is to plan and oversee worship services and prayer ministries. The Worship Team meets once a month to make decisions about upcoming worship services and review past services. We schedule greeters, elevator operators, soundboard and multimedia. We also prepare for Holy Communion, Baptisms and coordinate the planning for Christmas celebrations.

For much of 2022, the world was still affected by COVID-19. The Church was closed again on January 16<sup>th</sup> due to the pandemic and did not reopen until Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. With safe protocols in place, we had an average of 78 worshippers at our in-person worship services during the Spring months and an average of 82 during the Summer. All COVID-19 protocols were removed on September 21<sup>st</sup>, which resulted in increased in-person attendance during the Fall months. The 2022 overall average attendance was 88.

Pastor Greg continued to use technology to have the services online for those who were not comfortable returning to the Church because of COVID-19. New video cameras were installed to enhance the live-streaming online worship services. Additional people were trained to operate these and for multimedia as well. Each of us here at Byron United has the important ministry of keeping in touch with our Church family and beyond during these difficult days!

Two special sermon series occurred in the Fall. During October, the five-part series, "Living the Christian Life" included daily e-mail scripture and suggested activities. This was followed by a four-part series, "Living the Christmas Life" during Advent, with similar follow-up daily e-mails to involve us in this experience.

There was one Healing Service in 2022: a Shattered Joy Service on a Sunday afternoon in December, followed by opportunities to place a shard of broken glass on our Christmas tree. That opportunity was also provided on the following Monday outside in the Anniversary Garden.

An outdoor community caroling service with hot chocolate and cookies was enjoyed on a lovely December Friday evening. A Sunday afternoon indoor caroling service was also attended by many in our church family. Two services were held on Christmas Eve with approximately 280 in attendance.

Thank you to the following members of the Worship Team for their time and dedication; Pastor Greg Brawn, Tom de Gryp, Kane Erickson, Marie Sample, Shelley Scott (until September 21), Allison Stephens and Jennifer Tennant.

We pray that we continue to provide meaningful worship services for our Church Family and others, and we always welcome input from members of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Shelley Scott, Worship Facilitator and  
Linda Peck, Chair of Leaders' Board





## REPORT OF THE MUSIC COORDINATOR

It was another year of trials, triumphs and new hope.

As we did in 2021, we started the year in "COVID lockdown" with pre-recorded services till March 29<sup>th</sup> when we had the congregation return to in-person worship. From March 29<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed in-person worship for the rest of the year with the Praise Band joining us on alternate Sundays or whenever Don Baker was available.



Musically, we continued to be flexible in the type of music we chose as we needed to match the music to those available to sing.

### MASKS

Though many choirs are now singing without masks, we have chosen to wear the mask while singing. We felt that doing this, we could begin to include more singers in the Chancel and gradually return to some of our more challenging music. However, masks do come with challenges. Though they are designed to increase breathing room while providing a measure of protection, they do require more air of the singer. Not everybody feels comfortable singing in masks for up to an hour and  $\frac{3}{4}$  at a time. I can confirm this personally when I occasionally sing with the choir. I am so impressed with the determination and compassion (for one another) of our choir members to endure the challenge of singing in close quarters with masks. Consequently, a number of your choir members have decided to either retire from the choir or hold off until such time as we remove the masks all together.

In addition to the above, our numbers were actually with extended vacations and health/medical and family concerns. There was one Sunday when we actually only had one soprano available. Once again we drew on the flexibility and talent of some of our altos to balance the sound. The men also were flexible in responding to a reduction in their numbers as well. At this point we switched from Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass choir to a Soprano, Alto, BARITONE Choir. By doing this we have combined the men to sing a single part and they are doing a great job of it.

As it stands right now, we need more singers – men and women to cover the four parts that will bring us back to the SATB choir we have been for the past 25 years. If you are thinking about joining – don't hold back. It IS fun!!

### ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

Inspired by our outdoor music of two years ago, we arranged an outdoor Christmas Musical Social. With the support of our pastor, and the help of Steve on piano, Brian on drums, Dave the custodian, the Worship, Fellowship and Community Connections teams, the choir and the Stevie's Sliders Trombone choir we provided an evening of Carols, Cookies and Hot Chocolate to the broader community on the front lawn of the church. The whole front of the building was lit up with flood lights as we sang Carols and other songs of the season. – what fun!!

Two days later we sang the same music indoors along with the Trombone choir. Christmas Eve, following a very well attended 6 PM Praise Band family service, the choir participated in a full service of lessons and carols as was our tradition for many years.

## HYMN BOOKS

Please indulge me as I put a “plug” in for picking up the hymn books while singing. As opposed to responding to words as they flash by on a screen once and then gone, there is so much to be gained by seeing the words in a book. We can see the verses in context of a larger theme. We can look back and see the beauty and continuity of the poetry as the story unfolds. We can even glance back during the sermon to appreciate the message as it flows through the service. And that is just the lyrics. What about the notes! They help too. And the beauty of it all is that this is literally at your fingertips.

Blessings to all as we look forward to another year of renewal.

Tom de Gryp, Music Coordinator, Organist and Choir Leader

***“Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord” Ephesians 5:19***

## PRAYER AND HEALING MINISTRY



There are 20 members of the BUC Prayer Team. Five of them are Home-Prayers who do not attend regular gatherings, but who pray at home for the church and for requests received specifically from the Leaders' Board.

Ten other members meet weekly via Zoom at 11 AM every Tuesday; the other 5 are non-Zoomers, but they receive regular contact by way of e-mail. Each member commits a significant allotment of time to praying daily in their own homes for the approximately 32 individuals and their loved ones who have submitted prayer requests either through the Pastors or through direct contact with a Prayer Team member. An updated list is distributed monthly to all members and the Pastors via email. Several of the Prayer Team Members lead the Prayers of the People during regular church services.

This past summer the Prayer Team co-ordinated with Pastor Greg to hold a “Week of Prayer and Waiting on God”; asking members of the congregation to come to the Sanctuary and spend time with God, seeking His will for our church and how we move forward. Many of the Prayer Team members acted as greeters and supporters throughout the 45 hours, during which over 50 individuals came to pray in the Sanctuary. The Leaders' Board continues to explore ways of implementing the many suggestions that were received.

During December, we organized BUC's annual “Blue Christmas” service called Shattered Joy. The service is open to all who are grieving loss at Christmastime. People who have lost a loved one during the year are sent personal invitations to attend and to place a shard of broken glass on our Shattered Joy Tree in memory of their loss. This year 24 invitations were sent to bereaved persons. Over 60 shards were placed on the Tree in the Sanctuary and 20 were placed the next day on the Tree OUTSIDE in the courtyard. Prayer Team members “manned” the outside Tree from 9 AM to 7 PM.



Being a part of the Prayer Team is a joyful growth experience as we draw closer to God and to each other through our corporate Prayer times. It is a blessing to be trusted to intercede for the needs that come to us, and we thank our Lord for many positive answers to our prayers. If you feel led to become a participant, please contact any member of the team.

Members of the Prayer Team are

Susan Badcock (by Zoom from Newfoundland), Tina Birkholm, Cheryl Chambers, Helen Cooper (April to December), Steve Dobkowicz; Margie Ferguson, Pastor Colin Lauchlan, Joan & Ron Nicholls, Jerry & Val Reid, Don Scanlon, Donna Shortt, Jeanne Taylor Hopkins, Sally Waddell. In-Home Prayers are Gwen Estabrooks Jan Simmons, Jan Williams, Rick & Deena Young.

Respectfully submitted by,  
The BUC Prayer Team

### **DRAMA TEAM**

The Drama Team was not able to stage any plays in 2022. We look forward to productions in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Frank Hopkins



### **FELLOWSHIP ELEMENT**



During 2022 the Fellowship Team was unable to facilitate many events due to the continued COVID-19 restrictions. Happily, after the May 2022 Session meeting, we were able to begin serving coffee outside after worship. This was very welcomed by the congregation as well as our team.

At the September Session meeting, all the restrictions and protocols were removed allowing us to have coffee inside as no masking was required. Unfortunately, by the November Session meeting the Health Unit was predicting there would be rising numbers of COVID-19 cases throughout the Christmas and winter season. Therefore it was decided to suspend coffee after worship. We are hopeful that by spring we might be able to enjoy beverages in our fellowship time again.

We were able to serve hot chocolate with the Communications and Community Connections Teams on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the outdoor Carol Sing. A good time was had by all with delicious cookies and hot chocolate being enjoyed!

We look forward to resuming our events and social opportunities in the near future.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jan Harding  
Acting Fellowship Element Facilitator



## **NEW MEMBERS**

### **Received by Profession of Faith, Baptism and Re-affirmation of Faith**

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Charlie Aberhart   | J.D. Clarke        |
| Lema Azimi         | Ben Eaglesham      |
| Stephen Brawn      | Steve Howlett      |
| Kate Brawn         | Baran Ismail       |
| Beverly Carruthers | James Qadar        |
| George Carruthers  | Don Van Vliet      |
| Adrienne Clarke    | Mary Lou Van Vliet |



At the end of 2022, our number of members was 320 from 219 households, plus 72 adherents.



### **Welcomed into the Church by the Sacrament of Baptism**

David William Cunningham, son of Jordan & Rebecca Cunningham  
Emery Elizabeth Kantzos, daughter of Demetri & Heather Kantzos  
Finnley David Morton, son of Lance & Jennifer Morton  
Luke Rose Ullerick, son of Tyler & Barbara Ullerick

## **IN MEMORIAM**

People within our church family who passed away in 2022:

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Tony Pandur      | February 6  |
| Ralph Smithers   | March 12    |
| Garnet Aldrich   | April 5     |
| Carol Ellison    | May 1       |
| Marion Fahner    | May 20      |
| Sandra McCann    | May 21      |
| Mary Swindall    | June 17     |
| Ralph Neely      | July 24     |
| Dolores Thurston | November 5  |
| Betty Verheul    | November 12 |



## **FUNERAL LUNCHEONS**

Given the status of the pandemic last year and the public health safety measures, funeral luncheons were not something we considered. We did however offer refreshments for one luncheon that the family had catered.

At this time, we are considering how we might move forward. We recognize that our congregation is always so willing to contribute to this ministry. However, it occurs to us that this may not be in keeping with good public health measures considering the pandemic is ongoing. We are gathering information from local businesses to assemble a list of potential vendors for catering with the hope that this might offer a partial solution to families. You can expect more information in the coming months.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Allison Stephens

## CARD MINISTRY

Cards are sent to members in our church family when there are health problems, bereavements, special birthdays and anniversaries. We also send cards to our young people graduating from high school, college or university. We send Baptism cards and new members cards accompanied by photos. In 2022, we sent

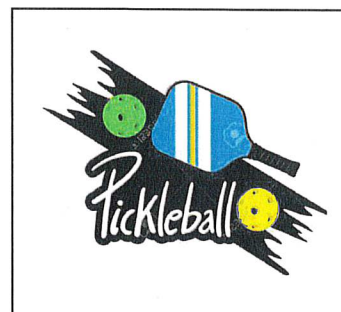
29 Birthday cards to those over 90  
45 Anniversary cards to those celebrating over 50 years  
23 Sympathy cards  
38 Get well and thinking of you cards  
1 Card for the birth of a baby  
5 Baptism cards with photos  
14 New members cards with photos  
7 Graduation cards  
38 Easter cards to our shut-in members  
45 Christmas cards to our shut-in members



Respectfully submitted by,  
Jan Williams

## PICKLEBALL

Pickleball resumed at BUC in October on Fridays from 2-4 PM in the gym. We have 6-8 regular players, but we welcome any new members to join us or learn more about the game. We have added new orange lines to the court in the gym making the boundaries more visible.



For those not familiar with the sport, it is a mixture of tennis, badminton and ping pong, played on a badminton sized court using paddles and a whiffle ball. According to a report from "The Pickler" it is believed that the number of players in the US jumped from 4.8 million in 2021 to 36.5 million in 2022. The same can be said for Canada and London where more gyms are offering pickleball every day of the week at multiple times! Players find improved fitness, balance and hand-eye coordination from playing the game. Most play with doubles and players change each game so one is always meeting new people. Keeping score and working to improving your game engages the mind and boosts your confidence.

A few facts:

- Pickleball addicts are called "picklers"
- 30 minutes of pickleball burns 250 calories (most play for 1.5 to 2 hours - 750 to 1000 calories!)
- Pickleball hopes to become an Olympic sport by 2028

Respectfully submitted by,  
Dave Wagg



## **AGELESS GRACE**

Ageless Grace is an exercise program that is done while sitting on a comfortable chair and moving to 60's music. These exercises help maintain flexibility and movement without placing stress on the body. Our group meets every Tuesday at 10 AM in the church gym. There is no cost to attend. Newcomers are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Cindy Knight, Instructor



## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS ELEMENT**

The purpose of the Community Connections Element is to plan and prepare events that will bring the wider community to BUC. It is our hope that through these events they will return and develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

This year with the pandemic still looming and other variants, our team felt outdoor events would be a better way to proceed. Our first event was September 25<sup>th</sup>, hosting a BBQ outdoors. Weather became iffy and we decided to set up tables well-spaced in the gym. We were entertained by Stevie's Sliders Trombone Choir. It was a great success as this reconnected on-line worshippers and members who attend each week in the sanctuary. Our team planned for 75, we purchased for 100, and nary a hotdog or hamburger was to be found by the end.

November 19<sup>th</sup>, we hosted an event for Ukrainian refugees and their host families. The purpose for this event was to introduce the Ukrainians to each other and to BUC and see if our church could help them with any struggles that they may be facing while living in London. It was a wonderful opportunity for all to meet one another and exchange information. Host families were able to meet one another and provide constructive feedback.

December 16<sup>th</sup>, the Community Connections Element was able to volunteer in conjunction with the Worship and Fellowship Elements. The outdoor Christmas Caroling Event was a beautiful evening of carol singing, accompanied by Stevie's Sliders and our own church choir. We are so blessed to have Tom de Gryp leading us in our music ministry, but also playing with the Stevie's Sliders. We had perfect weather, and hot chocolate and cookies were consumed throughout the evening. It truly was a "Better Together" evening and a great way to witness to the wider community at the corner of Boler and Byron Baseline Roads.

Our team looks forward to planning events in the near future that all will enjoy. For anyone looking to SERVE, we would welcome young and old to join our friendly and dedicated team. It is a great way to grow and connect with others in our church family and beyond.

Lastly, I would like to THANK everyone in the Community Connections Element and all who helped out at our events, barbecuing, welcoming church family, cleaning and setting up before and after events. It has been a joy and privilege to work alongside the many volunteers.

Community Connections Team – Mary Jayne Bambury, Jerry Reid, Pastor Greg, Marlene Law

Respectfully submitted by Marlene Law, Facilitator

## **CHURCH GROWTH TEAM**

In 2022, a new Team was created in the Community Connections Element—the "Church Growth Team." This team arose from discussions among Pastor Greg, Linda Peck and David Tennant as they worked on one of our Retreats based on the conversations we had at our last spring Retreat and feedback out of our Week of Prayer and Waiting participants.

The purpose of the Church Growth Team is to brainstorm and try various strategies and approaches to bring new people into the congregation. We felt it important to try and focus on the under 50 people. The Growth Team will not implement most of these approaches themselves but will make requests to existing Elements such as Communications, Fellowship, Community Connections and Worship. These elements would all work together in some way to help the Growth Team bring others to BUC, such as communicating on Facebook, Digital Sign, YouTube, phoning our church family over COVID-19 times, serving refreshments in the gym and holding events for non-BUC people.

Our latest event from Worship was our outdoor Christmas Carolling event and Worship, Fellowship and Community Connections all worked together to provide a wonderful evening of Music Ministry. It is our hope that our church will grow numerericaly and enjoy being part of the BUC congregation where Jesus Christ is Lord.

Members of our Church Growth Team

Pastor Greg

Ric Graham

Marlene Law

Jen McKay

David Tennant

## **Church Growth**



Respectfully submitted by,  
Marlene Law

## **TUESDAY YOUTH**

As the pandemic wore on for several years, we saw all of the Tuesday youth graduate from high school, and the group ceased to exist. Last summer, Andrea Smith and other adult volunteers provided weekly ball hockey gatherings in the church parking lot. We hope that 2023 will see our mid-week youth group resume, but it may need to be monthly rather than weekly due to the already busy schedules of the current youth.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Pastor Greg



## **MONDAY BRIDGE**

Monday Bridge was able to resume play starting in May. This is a mixed bridge which begins at 11:30 AM and ends about 3 PM. Seven rounds are played with the winning team moving to the next table and switching partners. There is an average of 30-35 players in attendance. This is a very welcoming group with an emphasis on friendship. Newcomers are always welcome and it is not necessary to have a partner. Pat Orcutt is in charge of the group. Margot and Dieter Franke look after the refreshment time and Ruth Dean remains as Treasurer. It has been wonderful to be playing again and renewing friendships.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Ruth Dean

## **FRIDAY AFTERNOON BRIDGE**

Men's social Bridge is held on Fridays from November 1<sup>st</sup> until April 30<sup>th</sup>. A good mix of Byron United Church members along with community players meet at 12:30 PM until approximately 3 PM for some fun, competition and fellowship over Bridge play. Coffee/tea and some light snacks are part of the current \$5 fee. The overall planning and week -to-week leadership is shared by a committee of the group members. This past season the Men's Bridge Group in addition to monthly donations to the church, made donations to the Byron Cares Food Bank including providing cookies for its Christmas Hamper program. This group will continue to review additional outreach support through the playing season.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Barry Brigham and Bob Coates

## **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

We had two A.A. Groups that met here at Byron United on a weekly basis when protocols permitted and lockdowns were lifted. One group met on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. A second group met on Wednesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:30 pm. Because of the pandemic, the church was closed to outside groups and the annual April "Byron Rally" which runs each year was not held.



## **84<sup>th</sup> LONDON SCOUT GROUP**

The Scouting program is slowly getting back on its feet now that the long COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns are over. Youth are starting to show interest and we have had many inquiries into our Beaver and Cub programs. Unfortunately, we still do not have any Scouter volunteer leaders for these sections and have had to turn them away.

For our Scout Troop section, we started in January 2022 with in-person meetings allowed but we were unable to meet in the gym. January and February were strictly outdoor meetings with a few

virtual meetings when it was too cold to meet. We went on several hikes, built snow shelters, went sledding and tried our hand at winter cooking over a fire. We finally got back indoors in the gym in March and took full advantage to make and race our Scout trucks. Other meetings covered the environment, camp skills, knots and compass work. We did get out to an outdoor spring camp where we tented at Sylvan Scout Camp. The weather was wonderful, and we had a great time.

Over the summer, the Scout Troop got together to go canoeing at Sharon Creek Conservation Area and conducted a "Bike Hike" peddling around the city and travelling approximately 45 km. In September, Scouting was returning things back to normal as regular activities from the past started to be offered again. The Scout Troop returned to regular meetings in the church gym. We had a fall camp tenting at Attawandaron Scout Reserve at the end of September. Again, we lucked out with the weather and had sunny days and star-filled nights among the colourful oak savanna.

We participated in Scout Canada's Dragon Trail Quest program and were able to conduct our traditional Apple Day weekend in October. We also took the 73<sup>rd</sup> London Scouts and Cubs out canoeing at Sharon Creek in October to experience being on the water. It's wonderful seeing youth experience things for the first time.

The Scouts discussed Community Service and why and how we can give back. With that in mind, the Scouts participated in the Byron Legion Remembrance Day parade and helped rake leaves at the church. We helped put together Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes and we also contributed to the Byron Cares Food Bank Christmas Hampers. We ended the year with our Pizza and Movie night.

We started January preparing for our "not-so-winter" Winter Camp on January 13-15 at Hidden Springs at Sylvan. No snow meant the regular winter activities had to be switched for other things, but the youth had a great time, again with wonderful sunny weather.

We would like to be able to open the Beaver and Cub sections so we can provide our program to those other age groups, but we are in desperate need of adult volunteers. If you have an interest in scouting or helping to provide youth with fun adventures, please contact me. Training is provided and you can learn right along with the youth.

I would like to thank Janet Taylor (the only other volunteer besides myself) for continuing to dedicate her time to Scouts Canada's mission "To help develop well-rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world."

The 84<sup>th</sup> Scout Group also extends their gratitude to the Byron United Church congregation for your continued sponsorship of our program and the gracious provision of facility time and storage space.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Robert van Dam  
84<sup>th</sup> Group Commissioner







## COMMUNICATIONS ELEMENT

In 2022, the Communications Element continued to provide the congregation's connection to events, services and each other, through a variety of social media platforms.

The Communications Team met regularly using Zoom technology, Facebook posts, quarterly newsletters and weekly BUC Wheat emails. In addition, as the pandemic continued to be part of our daily lives again in 2022, we received ongoing reports from the Re-Opening Team.

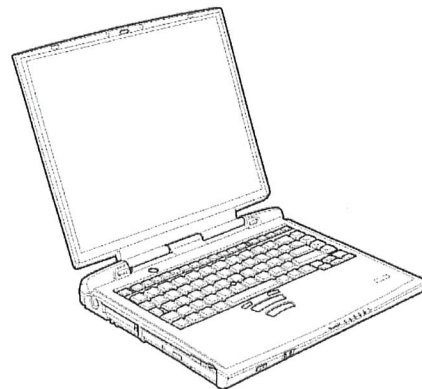
A primary source of communication continued to be our website: byronunited.ca. An average of 300-500 visitors per month viewed the latest worship sermons, blogs for parenting, newsletters and the most recent information concerning COVID-19. An important connection with church members and the London community, was created through our digital sign. Current and future church programs and events could be viewed regularly by both drivers and pedestrians as they passed through the intersection of Boler Road and Byron Baseline Road.

The live online broadcasts of each Sunday's Worship Service were available on YouTube again for church congregants and guests. These services were also posted on Facebook for viewing at any time during the week. Although advertising for the church and its activities continued to be quite limited due to the pandemic, the Byron Villager and Facebook were regularly used for this purpose.

Our Communications Team, supported by other volunteers, participated in the "Call the Church" initiative. Friendly phone calls were made to members of the Byron United Church community. Thank you to Barry Brigham for his leadership with this initiative and Deb Farrell for her ongoing office support again this year.

Pastor Greg continued to provide news updates and encouraging messages to the congregation in his weekly BUC Wheat emails. We thank him for his spiritual leadership through BUC Wheat and his use of technology throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Dave Rusciolelli, Communications Facilitator,  
Dave Wagg, Communications Team Coordinator,  
Pastor Greg, Bob Wardell, Barry Brigham, Communication Team Members





## **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Dave Chambers is our Church Photographer and during the year he faithfully records baptisms, new members, special events, along with the “ordinary moments” in the life of our Church family. He did take photos of our 14 new members and these prints were provided to Jan Williams for the card ministry and to Donna Shortt for inclusion in the photo archives. Dave looks forward to the congregation being together again and having the opportunity to take many more photos.







## **DISCIPLESHIP ELEMENT**

The Discipleship Element focuses on providing opportunities for all members of the church family to deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their Christian walk. In addition to Sunday School and Sunday Youth, various Bible studies, Christian video and book studies are offered throughout the year in small group and short term workshop formats. Everyone is encouraged to access the church library and RightNow Media to take advantage of a wide variety of resources for all ages and stages of faith formation.

We prayerfully began 2022, seeking God's wisdom and guidance for the year ahead, inviting the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds to His presence and to help each of us continue to grow in faith and maturity.

Some of our small groups began to meet in person throughout the year. Many continue to meet online and some offer a hybrid of both options. All continue to provide faithful support and growth opportunities for each of its members.

The Discipleship Element continues to be blessed by the many small group leaders and, of course, our Sunday School and Youth coordinator, Andrea Smith.



## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM**

In the summer of 2022, the Leaders' Board decided to hold a Week of Prayer and Waiting on the Lord. We opened up the sanctuary each day and encouraged members to stop by when they had time to sit and pray, asking God for guidance regarding how we as a congregation should be supporting people in their spiritual walk. We used people's gleanings from this time of seeking the Lord's guidance as the focus of the Leaders' Board's Fall Retreat.

As a direct result of this Week of Prayer and Waiting, two new teams were formed: the Church Growth Team – focused on strategies to invite people into the church family, and the Spiritual Growth Team – focused on strategies to promote the spiritual growth and maturity of everyone in the church family. The Team members are Pastor Greg Brawn, Rev. Colin Lauchlan, Don Scanlon, Andrea Smith and Angie Brawn. Our goal is to develop deeply committed followers of Jesus Christ.

The Spiritual Growth Team began meeting monthly in 2022, working together to discern and implement a number of initiatives. These include Sunday testimonies, sermon series on "Living The Christian Life", encouraging and promoting small group participation, asking parents to commit to five Sundays in a row for their children's attendance, setting out a selection of Christian books for people to take and read, and offering spiritual growth mentoring. Each of these initiatives has been met with encouraging reports of the positive impact on member's spiritual growth and understanding. We give thanks to our loving God for His blessed work in each member of our church family!

## **NURSERY**

After a number of years without offering Nursery care during worship Sunday mornings, we began the process to restart this ministry to young families. We are still in the planning stages but a number of people have volunteered and we look forward to the beautiful sounds of young children in the Nursery in the coming months.

All of our Nursery, Sunday School and Youth volunteers have up-to-date Police Record Checks and vulnerable sector screening. If you feel called to serve in this vital ministry, please contact the church office.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Angie Brawn, Facilitator

## **SUNDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

We began the 2022 year with Sunday Zoom meetings. We seemed to have a solid group of about four children who would come to these online lessons. These were the same children who had faithfully come to our in-person classes the previous fall on Saturdays.



Together we were studying the story of creation and learning how to listen for the Holy Spirit as we read the Word. We also started journaling to help us record our talks with Jesus in prayer, and to record stories of His faithfulness.

In the spring we received word from the leaders that we had permission to meet together at the church, and even during the Sunday service hours. Dale Cahill and Jeff Smith were brought on as co-teachers. This was when we began to meet a few new children. Masks were required and we met in Bethel so that we had the ability to open the windows.

Summer attendance was low most Sundays but each time there were one or two in the class. It allowed for real connections to be made with the kids. We saw these times as "God appointments" that He had set up for more intimate prayer and discipleship.

Sunday school children were invited to play road hockey through the summer weeks and we had a lot of fun doing that! One family decided to help out with snacks and drinks, making our time in the heat especially good.

As I talked to God about the fall and His plans for the children, He gave me two initiatives. He showed me that I should put out a family challenge, encouraging families to commit to five weeks of consistent church attendance so that we could cover a Bible series explaining the gospel. Three families took the challenge, with other families beginning to show up more often as well. Many of the children confessed their faith/belief in Jesus and showed a hunger to know more! The second initiative He showed me was to ask the adult/senior members of our church to consider coming to Sunday school with a specific skill or gifting or testimony for the children to



learn from. He said we had so much talent and experience in the adults that it was time for them to share these with this new generation, and in turn, the children could bless the adults with honour and get to know them.

- Dale Cahill taught the children how to make pickled beans.
- Mel Stiller taught the children how to “Be still” and quietly sit with Jesus.
- Pastor Greg taught the children how to juggle!
- Tina Birkholm came and showed the children her “Bibles for Buttons” lessons and subsequently came back, as a guest, to teach two or three more times.
- Chantelle Mills taught the children how to play the Christmas bells.
- Jim McGeough from Bethany House, L’Arche, accompanied our worship songs on his guitar.

I feel the Lord ended the year on such a high note! The mask mandate had been lifted. The class was up and running in a new and exciting way. The children were grasping the Gospel, and sensing God’s voice and presence in our times together.

To finish up 2022, we even saw the Sunday school children agree to help with the Christmas Eve service. They did an amazing job reading the scriptures! Praise the Lord! He is exceedingly faithful.



Respectfully submitted by,  
Andrea Smith,  
Sunday School & Sunday Youth Coordinator

## SUNDAY YOUTH

We began 2022 with petitions to the Lord about what could be done for the Sunday Youth.

The church's COVID-19 restrictions still in place meant that all communication with Sunday children and youth was going to have to be done online.

With the challenges that we encountered towards the last quarter of 2021, there were many obstacles to restarting Sunday Youth; not the least of these being the absence of any teaching volunteers as well as the church's vaccine mandates.

When restrictions began to ease and in-person Sundays resumed, we still lacked the volunteers to open up Sunday classes for the youth. What did end up happening was that personal invitations were made to youth who came on a Sunday to come and join the Sunday school children for lessons and activities. So, on occasion we saw some of our older children coming and helping out during Sunday school. This was a blessing to all of us. It certainly seemed like a possible solution until more teaching volunteers were available and allowed for some seeds to be planted of older mentoring the younger.

In the spring of 2022, as I continued to ask the Lord about the youth at Byron United, the Lord gave me a picture of kids out in the church parking lot playing road hockey.



This allowed us to reach out to the youth in the congregation and beyond as kids were encouraged to bring their friends and family. We began weekly road hockey games throughout the summer months. It was warm but we had a lot of fun!

As we continue to wait on the Lord for teachers for the youth, we realize that many of our Sunday school kids are actually entering their tween years and are forming the backbone of our Sunday children's ministry. Their interest in being Christ followers, learning believers, is so evident. We will continue to disciple these new youth and encourage them to help in the discipling of the younger and newer children that come.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Andrea Smith,  
Sunday School & Sunday Youth Coordinator



## **SMALL GROUPS**



We have had Small Group Ministries in Byron for many years. A variety of topics and Bible studies are explored depending on the interest and expertise of the group. The groups vary in size, ranging from six to thirty members each.

There are a number of groups who meet regularly. Some are open to everyone, some for women only, there is a men's group and there are a few couples groups. They all gather at different times of the day and evening with varied schedules of frequency and topic of study. As varied as the groups are, the common theme is the building up of relationships with one another and most importantly the growth in one's Christian Walk.

With the ever fluctuating status of the pandemic and the safety protocols individuals are comfortable with, some groups have chosen to return to in-person meetings. However, there are others who still prefer the Zoom gathering and even some who are doing a little of both. Although not ideal, technology has certainly afforded us the opportunity to stay in touch and study with one another.

Here are seven reasons to be in a Small Group:

(Excerpts taken from an article by Rick Warren Entitled "Why Start a Small Group")

1. You will understand the Bible better in a small group.
2. You will feel like part of God's family.
3. Prayer will become more meaningful to you.
4. You will be able to handle stress and pressure better.
5. You will have a natural way to share Christ with friends, relatives, and at work.
6. You will develop leadership skills you never knew you had!
7. You will deepen your understanding of worship.

If you are interested in joining a Small Group, please contact Allie Stephens at [stylistallie@gmail.com](mailto:stylistallie@gmail.com) or call 226-777-4934.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Allison Stephens

## **MEN'S STUDY GROUP**

During 2022, the Men's Study Group meetings continued in an online format (Zoom) under the shared leadership of Pastor Colin and Ric Graham. The men continued a project to read and study the entire Bible. The group completed the project in 2022 and continued with Bible Studies entitled Psalm 23, Post Christian, and Advent to complete the year. Topics were supported by the video series offered through RightNow Media.

The group met every Wednesday morning over the year with short breaks in the summer and at Christmas. Even while using the Zoom format, the men were able to sing, pray and participate in discussions.

The Men's Study Group continues to be a great way to share and grow in our Christian faith.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Ric Graham

## CHURCH LIBRARY

The contents of our Library, located across from the church office, continue to grow with donations from many generous church members.

We have worthwhile study guides and DVDs regularly donated by our church's many small groups. Resources are commonly borrowed and used by dozens of BUC members and small groups as well as folks from within the community.

The books and multimedia are arranged in the categories of Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Mission. We gladly accept all donations of Christian books and continue to be open to suggestions for materials you would like purchased, or ways in which the Library could better serve our church family. In 2022, Pastor Greg began encouraging people to read a Christian book each month. We know this has been a blessing to those who choose to participate.

If you would like to be part of the Library Team, please don't hesitate to contact the Church office. No experience required and the duties are quite light.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Angie Brawn, Discipleship Facilitator

## DVD MINISTRY

As the pandemic has continued, our volunteers have delivered videos of our worship services on DVD to people without the Internet (along with printed copies of my BUC Wheat e-mails). This ministry to people without the Internet will likely continue indefinitely.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Greg

## HEART AND SOUL

Small groups provide a meaningful way to connect with God and other members of our church family during the week. The **Heart and Soul** small group provides opportunities for women to meet for weekly Bible study throughout the year. We invite women from beyond our church family as well, to grow in our understanding of God's Holy Word. Prior to the pandemic, this group met in-person in Bethel for two hours each week with an average attendance of 25 or more. All that changed in March 2020 when those weekly in-person meetings ceased.



In the fall of 2020, a smaller number of Heart and Soul members began gathering via Zoom for an hour of Bible study each Wednesday morning at 10:30 AM. This continued throughout 2021 and 2022. Beginning in September 2022, we also offered an in-person Bible study group meeting on Wednesday in the church from 9:30 to 10:30 AM. Both groups study the same book of the Bible. During the fall of 2022, we discussed the book of **Ruth** from the Old Testament, and then Paul's letter to the **Philippians**. In January we began a study of John's Gospel, which will continue throughout 2023.

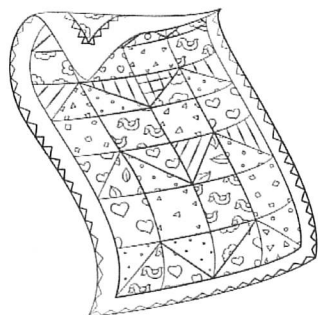


We are grateful for Deborah Hiley's leadership of the in-person group each week. Helen Keenlside co-leads the Zoom Bible study group with me. Each group averages 10-12 members for discussion and a time of connecting 'fellowship' with sisters-in-Christ. God remains our central focus and continues to inspire us through both methods of communicating with each other. We include a time of prayer for ourselves and others. It has been my privilege to lead the Heart & Soul group in earlier years and now co-lead the Zoom Bible study each week, experiencing the joy of connecting, growing and serving with sisters-in-Christ.

If you would be interested in joining either of our Heart and Soul groups, please contact me at [linda.peck@sympatico.ca](mailto:linda.peck@sympatico.ca).

Respectfully submitted by,  
Linda Peck

### **QUILTING PROJECT**



Did you know that Byron Heart and Soul ladies send quilts to Rotholme Family Centre? These are hand tied and given to families when they leave the centre. The numbers sent are fewer during the pandemic but we are still at it. Seventeen were sent this past year along with 6 baby blankets each and every year for our church's commitment to the food bank's program to supply layetts for new moms.

If anyone is interested in one afternoon a month to tie a quilt please contact Deborah Hiley or the church office. No experience needed and all scissors and needles are provided. Blessings as we continue to serve Jesus in this simple way.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Deborah Hiley





## MINISTRY ELEMENT

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*  
1 Peter 4:10, 11

The Ministry Element falls under SERVE, with a purpose to “guide and equip people for Christian service and leadership, and to encourage and support congregational Teams in their ministries.” Serving others is a simple way of serving God!

God calls each of us to use our God-given gifts to serve others. As you look at the back page of this Annual Report you will see once again that Byron United Church has been blessed by many who serve faithfully in various ways through our Elements and Teams, and in other areas. Thank you to those who have responded to the call to serve in new ways in this past year. THANK YOU to ALL who give of their time and talents to serve and lead our church in any way. May God continue to bless you as you serve Him faithfully.

Recruiting new volunteers can be challenging. We regularly pray that God is preparing the hearts of His people to serve in His church. We know that God has a place for everybody! Whether young or getting on in years, when God gives you the opportunity to serve Him, He looks at your heart, not your date of birth. As you read the pages of this year's Annual Report please prayerfully consider how you can use your time and talents in serving our Lord through His church.

The Ministry Element also has responsibility for monitoring and reporting on our congregational, denominational and government policies to ensure we are compliant, through the Governance Team. The Ministry & Personnel Team also reports to the Ministry Element. Reports from these Teams can be found following this report.

In His service,  
Anita Bacon,  
Ministry Element Facilitator





## **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL TEAM**

### **Purpose**

The Ministry and Personnel Team (M&P) is responsible for providing ongoing support and guidance for all our staff. The team is also involved in the hiring of new staff as needed, except ministry personnel, and for responding to any personnel related questions or concerns as they arise.

### **Membership**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest members, Connie Constable and Joan Estabrooks. We thank retiring team members Bob Harris and Jen McKay for the incredible support they gave to our committee as well as their dedication to Byron United Church. The current members of the M&P Team are Paul Coates, Doug Allman, Suzanne Simpson, Connie Constable and Joan Estabrooks.

### **Duties**

- Provide a consultative and supportive agency for staff and members of the congregation;
- Review working conditions and remuneration of staff and make recommendations to the Leaders' Board;
- Oversee the relationship of the staff to members of the congregation;
- Oversee the relationships between different staff members;
- Consult with all staff about plans for professional development and continuing education;
- Review and evaluate annually the effectiveness of staff; and
- Review regularly the responsibilities of all staff and revise position descriptions when required.

### **Recognition and Appreciation of Staff**

The M&P Team, on behalf of the congregation would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff for their work this past year. They supported the congregation by developing and maintaining health and safety protocols following the lead of local health officials. Their commitment and capabilities allow our church to be open and active in the community (as health protocols allow). We are blessed to have the operational support for a well managed schedule for face-to-face services, a building that is clean and well maintained and a vibrant music program which lifts us up week after week (both virtually and face to face). We are especially blessed to have such dedicated pastors, whose energy and passion is an inspiration to all. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Respectfully submitted by,  
The Ministry and Personnel Team

### **2022 STAFF**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Rev. Dr. Greg Brawn | Senior Pastor                            |
| Ric Graham          | Congregational Designated Minister       |
| Tom de Gryp         | Music Coordinator                        |
| Deb Farrell         | Church Administrator                     |
| David Smith         | Head Custodian                           |
| Andrea Smith        | Sunday School & Sunday Youth Coordinator |

## **GOVERNANCE TEAM**

Governance involves monitoring congregational, denominational and government regulations and policies for compliance by our congregation and staff, and advising church leadership of new requirements or of areas where our church needs to take action. A Governance Team, reporting through the Ministry Element is responsible for these ongoing government requirements. In some instances, the Governance Team will deal directly with the matter. In others, it may be the work of another Element. The main work of this team is with the Liability Plan, Occupational Health and Safety Act policies and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. See details below for each of these policies.

In compliance with the Antler River Watershed Regional Council policy requirements work was initiated in 2022 to create a Copyright Policy and a Privacy Policy for BUC; both are policies we have not had in the past. A new Copyright Policy was approved by the Leaders' Board in 2022. Work is underway to develop a Privacy Policy, beginning with the completion of a Privacy Audit through Element Facilitators.

The Governance Team began its work in 2019. ***We are looking to add new members to this Team to support the ongoing completion of this important work.*** If you are interested in serving on the Governance Team, please contact Anita Bacon, Ministry Facilitator for further information.

### **Accessibility Standards Policy for Ontarians with Disabilities for Byron United Church**

Our Accessibility Policy was approved in 2012 as required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Any reported issues regarding accessibility are reviewed by the Leaders' Board on an annual basis to ensure they have been appropriately addressed. All new volunteers who might interact with any persons with disabilities are required to complete training through an online video link provided.

### **Liability Plan**

On September 21, 2010, Session approved a Liability Plan for Byron United Church, with two main objectives:

- 1) To provide a safe and secure environment for the children/youth (newborn through age eighteen) entrusted to the care of Byron United Church
- 2) To provide a safe and secure environment for all who use our facilities and programs.

In 2019 the Liability Plan was reviewed to ensure we are in compliance with all legislation, relevant sections of the UCC Manual, and requirements of our Liability Insurer. The Governance Team will monitor this plan on an ongoing basis.

### **Occupational Health and Safety Policies**

There are currently three Occupational Health and Safety Policies required under the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) with which Byron United Church must be in compliance. These are

- Occupational Health and Safety policy for Byron United Church
- Workplace Harassment Policy for Byron United Church
- Workplace violence Policy for Byron United Church



These policies are in place to provide a safe and secure work environment where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, and to ensure that if a potential safety concern is detected, or an incident occurs, there will be a prompt and thorough process for investigating and addressing the matter. While these policies are mostly applicable to “workers” at Byron United Church, some aspects also apply to others who may be using our church facilities. A review of the Occupational Health and Safety Policies was initiated in 2022 to ensure ongoing compliance with legislative requirements. Workplace Health and Safety certification training was also successfully completed by relevant employees.

In His Service,  
Anita Bacon, Ministry Element Facilitator



## **MISSION ELEMENT**

At the heart of Mission and Outreach work here at our Church are the many individuals who give so generously of their time and resources to support those in need in the local community and abroad. It is easy to see the Holy Spirit at work in your lives and in the life of our Church.

While work in the Syrian Refugee and Haiti Medical Mission projects had wrapped up, many other important projects moved ahead. The Outreach Team continued to support a wide variety of programs and ministries, and to develop new partnerships and liaisons to move the work forward. The congregation approved a special contribution of \$10,000 to the Ukrainian Relief fund through World Renew (CRC). Please read the Outreach report submitted for this year.

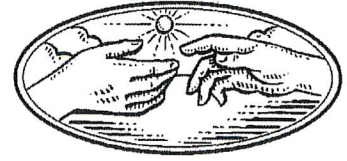
The Byron Cares Food Bank helped 207 local families (total of 643 persons) in 2022. 143 of those families were new to the food bank; 75% of those new families came in the last half of the year. Many were new to Canada, as Ukrainian families moving into the area needed assistance while getting established in their new homes. Strong community support allowed the food bank to provide Christmas food hampers for 54 food bank families for the first time. Members of Byron United Church were especially generous in 2022, despite increased demand and significant increases in food prices. Please read the Byron Cares Food Bank report submitted for this year.

In addition to monetary and in-kind donations, new volunteers offered their time and talents in Outreach and the Byron Cares Food Bank. We acknowledge with thanks the long service of persons who have retired from these ministries in the past year. We note especially Avril Keenlside after 20 years as the Sunday Samaritan. We also thank Sally Waddell, Donna Shortt, and Nancy Lane for their service to Outreach, and John Ketelaars of St. George Catholic Church who retired this year from his long service to the food bank because of additional responsibilities at St. Vincent de Paul. We have been richly blessed by their service and leadership, and realize that service to others remains in their hearts and prayers.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Marilyn Walker  
(Acting) Facilitator, Mission Element

## **OUTREACH TEAM**

Your Outreach Team appreciates the strong support and encouragement received from the congregation of Byron United Church. Once again you have helped so many people in our local area as well as throughout Canada and around the world. Your kindness and generosity inspire and encourage these ministries of Outreach.



### **Ontario Mennonite Central Committee Hygiene Kits:**

Lorilee and Bob Down delivered 65 full Hygiene Kits to the MCC distribution site in New Hamburg. These were probably shipped to Ukraine to be given to displaced victims of the war.

### **Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Campaign:**

There were 27 shoe boxes delivered to the depot on Meadowbrook Drive. A cheque in the amount of \$1,564 was forwarded to Samaritan's Purse to go toward costs associated with the Shoe Box Campaign.

### **Southdale Chaplaincy (aka 'Angel Tree'):**

Pastor Pam Cullen of the Southdale Chaplaincy attended BUC worship service on November 13<sup>th</sup> and gave a brief presentation on the work and witness of the Southdale Chaplaincy, including the challenges and the rewards of working with those less privileged. A cheque in the amount of \$2,400 was forwarded to Pam which was used to purchase gifts to be distributed to the children of the Chaplaincy program at their Christmas Parade. She expressed deep appreciation for the kindness of Byron United Church, stating that we are the only church supporting the Chaplaincy in this way, and the joy this brings to the families. Due to lingering COVID-19, the Angel Tree where the Outreach Team would typically invite members of the congregation to purchase a \$20 gift for a child, was replaced by a request for cash donations.

### **Ministry to Street People (aka 'Sock it to 'em and Undie Sunday'):**

Our special October campaign to collect warm socks and underwear for the homeless blessed us with a number of overflowing bins! \$1,160 was also donated to this ministry, which Ken Minshull has graciously volunteered to carry on. The Sunday Samaritan, Avril Keenlside, retired after 20 years of distributing warm clothing, sandwiches and her compassion and the love of Christ to those she found living on the streets. Ken Minshull, with the help of his wife Diane, have taken over the distribution of clothing, blankets and other items requested by Ark Aid and Indwell. Ark Aid provides the same services, except for the personal touch that Avril blessed so many with. Ark Aid also manages the "Out of the Cold" program to the homeless when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius, providing a warm place to sleep, usually in church basements.

Brian Roth, the Recording Secretary of the Session, has connected the Outreach Team with Ark Aid. Ark Aid have provided BUC with a bin for the collection of clothing, blankets, etc. that they are in short supply of. On a monthly basis, the congregation has responded with compassion and generosity to these needs.



**Canadian Foodgrains Bank:**

Byron United Church is a supporting member of the Caradoc Growing Project, which raises funds and awareness of increasing world wide hunger due to war, climate crisis, unstable governance and COVID-19. Famine is a reality in the Horn of Africa again, and there are 830 million people in the world who don't know where their next meal will come from. At the end of 2022, our loving and generous congregation increased their financial commitment to Outreach. In order to put this to good use, an additional \$3,800 was forwarded to Canadian Foodgrains Bank to feed the hungry of the world. God bless you!!

**Other ministries:**

There are many worthy causes that we support as a congregation. Please refer to the Outreach Team Budget for a full listing of these recipients.

**Members of the Outreach Team:**

Lorilee Down, Beverly Hamilton, Helen Keenlside, Nancy Long, Val Reid, Dave Rusciolelli and Gaye Whaley. Early in 2022 Helen Keenlside answered the nudging of the Holy Spirit to take on the leadership of the Outreach Team.

Three long term, faithful members retired at the end of 2021: Nancy Lane, Donna Shortt and Sally Waddell. Their expertise and commitment is missed and deeply appreciated.

Respectfully reported,  
Helen Keenlside, Team Leader

**IMPORTANT NOTATION:** At our last congregational meeting in March 2022, it was decided to donate \$10,000 to support Ukrainians. That donation was forwarded to World Renew (Christian Reformed Church), which is partnering with the Humanitarian Coalition and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to support Ukrainians in urgent need. Henry Reinders of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank responded to our donation, *"Please pass on my thanks to the congregation on behalf of Canadian Foodgrains Bank for this generous donation. World Renew and our other members working in Ukraine and neighbouring countries are all doing their best possible in very trying circumstances. Thanks for supporting this work."*



**OUTREACH MINISTRY EXPENDITURES FOR 2022**  
**AND SUGGESTED PLEDGES FOR 2023**

|   | <b><u>2022</u></b>         | <b><u>2023</u></b>    |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
|   | <b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b> | <b><u>PLEDGES</u></b> |
| <b><u>LOCAL NEEDS</u></b>   |                            |                       |
| L'Arche   | 1,500                      | 1,500                 |
| Ark Aid   | 3,000                      | 3,000                 |
| Daily Bread Layette Gifts   | 164                        | 200                   |
| ELUCO Camp sponsorship  | 2,000                      | 2,000                 |
| East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)                        | 1,500                      | 1,500                 |
| Indwell   | 1,500                      | 1,500                 |
| London Community Chaplaincy (LCC)                                 | 5,700                      | 3,500                 |
| LCC - Christmas Angel   | 200                        | 200                   |
| Mission Services of London  | 2,500                      | 2,500                 |
| Sunday Samaritans   | 2,142                      | 1,000                 |
| Teen Challenge  | 1,600                      | 1,600                 |
| Youth for Christ - Campus Life                                    | 2,500                      | 2,500                 |
| <b>LOCAL TOTAL</b>  | <b>24,306</b>              | <b>21,000</b>         |
| <b><u>REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEEDS</u></b>                         |                            |                       |
| Christian Horizons  | 1,000                      | 1,000                 |
| Cruxifusion   | 1,000                      | 1,000                 |
| Evangelical Fellowship  | 1,500                      | 1,500                 |
| Fresh Start Maternity Supports                                    | 2,300                      | 2,300                 |
| RBC (Daily Bread Readings)  | 200                        | 200                   |
| <b>REGIONAL &amp; NATIONAL TOTAL</b>                              | <b>6,000</b>               | <b>6,000</b>          |
| <b><u>INTERNATIONAL NEEDS</u></b>                                 |                            |                       |
| Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan                                   | 1,000                      | 1,000                 |
| Canadian Foodgrains Bank  | 5,300                      | 1,500                 |
| CEDASS (Canadian Economic Development Assistance for South Sudan) | 1,000                      | 1,000                 |
| Hope & Healing International (Christian Blind Mission)            | 1,500                      | 1,500                 |
| Latin American Mission (LAM) - Pieters                            | 2,000                      | 2,000                 |
| Samaritan's Purse   | 3,064                      | 1,500                 |
| Sleeping Children Around the World                                | 1,500                      | 1,500                 |
| Voice of the Martyrs  | 1,000                      | 1,000                 |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL TOTAL</b>  | <b>16,364</b>              | <b>11,000</b>         |
| <b>EMERGENT NEEDS: (Canadian Bible Society - Ukraine Relief)</b>  | <b>300</b>                 | <b>2,000</b>          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>   | <b>46,970</b>              | <b>40,000</b>         |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>  | <b>46,607</b>              |                       |
| <b>EXCESS RECEIPTS VS. DISBURSEMENTS</b>                          | <b>-363</b>                |                       |
| <b>RESERVE CARRIED FROM 2021</b>                                  | <b>3,556</b>               |                       |
| <b>RESERVE TO CARRY FORWARD TO 2023</b>                           | <b>3,193</b>               |                       |





Byron Cares Food Bank is a shared Outreach Ministry of four churches in the area: St. George Catholic Parish, St. Anne's Anglican, Byron Community Church, Family of Faith Christian Fellowship and Byron United Church. Representatives of the four churches met in September to review the food bank operations and discuss how we go forward together. Non-perishable food items and household and toiletries are contributed by all five churches. In 2022, several individuals and organizations from the community also made sizeable donations. In the summer of 2022, large donations of fresh produce were received from Church, community, and personal gardens. We were blessed to have plenty of refrigerator space available for storage of the over-abundance; excesses of fresh produce were taken to Ark Aid or Rotholme as required. Frozen bread and meat products were available on a few occasions.

COVID-19 precautions are still in place, in line with the Church's policy or recommendations. Clients are still not allowed inside the food bank room. Instead, families make their choices using different food lists for different size families. Items received extra to our regularly stocked inventory were placed on a separate table, and each family chose three additional items from that list. These were viewed as special treats.

The Food Bank helped 207 different families, (totalling 643 persons) in 2022. 143 of those clients were new to the food bank; 75% in the last half of the year. Many of those were Ukrainian families. Over half of the new clients needed short term help, ranging from 1 to 3 months duration. 66 of the families were regulars. We had a total of 639 visits in 2022. Bags of food were no longer recorded, as reusable bag sizes vary widely, and volumes were controlled through the family-sized food lists.

In late November, Byron Community Organization held a drive-through spaghetti dinner, with proceeds of \$2,400 donated to the Food Bank. The large White Gift Sunday donations added to that donation meant that Christmas Food Hampers were provided for the first time to 54 families. A donation from the Friday Bridge club was used to buy cookies for each of the hampers. A connection with Harvest Hands helped supplement the fresh produce. Scott Gunn Real Estate held skating and movie events that resulted in 2-1/2 pickup loads of food, plus some cash. Oxford Learning Centre held a food drive in late December in support of the Food Bank.

About 40 people volunteer on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. Despite increased demand in the latter half of the year, the food bank continued to be richly blessed with sufficient donations from the churches and the community.

Dick and I want to Thank You for the privilege of serving in this important ministry. We have been so touched by the generosity of the members of Byron United Church, and indeed all the churches and the community. To witness first hand the need in the community, and the response of our brothers and sisters in Christ has been both inspiring and humbling.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Marilyn & Dick Walker



## **ASSETS AND FINANCE ELEMENT**

The Assets and Finance Element is responsible for three areas.

- Finance Team chaired by Ruth Dean
- The Property Team chaired by Greg Thurston
- The Stewardship Team chaired by Gary Coutts

As in 2021, the Teams have worked under the restrictions of the pandemic which has not been easy.

- The Finance Team has completed the 2023 Budget after several drafts.
- The Stewardship Team has as one of its objectives to reach 100 families on PAR.
- The Property Team was somewhat inactive due to COVID-19.

I would like to thank the Chairs of these Teams for their dedication and service to our Church.

Respectfully submitted by,  
David Tennant , Assets and Finance Element Facilitator

### **PROPERTY TEAM**

The Property Team continued to feel the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and had a rather sluggish year. We did complete many of our usual tasks such as routine painting, leaf pick up, general yard work around the church, putting up and taking down decorations for various seasons. Much of our painting centered around the outside of the church, specifically around the entrance ways to the church.



One bigger job that we did complete was the cladding behind the big cross on the gym side of the church; a much needed improvement that requires very little maintenance. Upcoming projects include replacing the flooring in the food bank, redoing the bathrooms in the Sunday school wing and replacing the door on the tool shed attached to the church.

Our team has been reduced to just 4, Joel Dell, Terry Lane, David Smith and Greg Thurston. We are always on the lookout for new members, no experience or particular skill set is necessary. If you would be interested in joining this team please contact the church office. We generally meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 till 12:00.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Greg Thurston, Chair

### **MEMORIAL AND HONOUR FUND**

The Memorial and Honour Fund receives gifts in memory of individuals directed to the Church with no specific purpose designated by the donor. These gifts must be used to benefit the congregation in the long term and must also be of benefit to the entire congregation. The fund



started 2022 with a balance of \$25,334. During the year, the fund received donations in memory of Ruth Bothwell, Garnet Aldrich, Wayne Kaake, Don Mills, Marion Fahner, Mary Swindall, Wanda Scanlon, Dolores Thurston, Betty Verheul, David MacLeod, Denis Quayle, Midge and Earl Russell.

Painting of the sanctuary was approved by Session and the Trustees in the year. The total cost was \$7,772. A special thank you to all those involved in this project and the congregation for their patience and understanding during this project. The balance of the fund as at December 31, 2022 was \$22,931. Thank you for your donations to our Memorial and Honour Fund.

Respectfully submitted by, Deb Farrell

### **STEWARDSHIP TEAM**

The Byron United Church Stewardship Team consists of Sandra Collier, Ruth Dean, Ron Carruthers, David Tennant, Steve Dobkowicz, Gary Coutts (Chair) and Pastor Greg Brawn.

What is **Christian Stewardship**? It is defined as the faithful and effective use of all the gifts entrusted to us by God. It is a way of life, an attitude. Christian Stewardship is our partnership with God as we thankfully share life's abundant blessings. Christian Stewardship allows us to acknowledge our blessings and live out our ministry, to nurture our faith in Christ and serve the world God loves.

Our entire congregation is a Steward of Byron United Church. The Stewardship Team works to encourage all congregational members to step up and participate by giving the gifts that God has entrusted to you including your **time**, your **talents**, your **skills**, your **treasures** and your **physical resources**. **Thank you** for your continuing support of our many Church ministries in 2022, even during these challenging times.

#### The Stewardship Team

- updates projected ongoing budgetary restraints
- updates the "**Annual Stewardship Letter**"
- updates the **5-Year Budget "What If Projections"** in conjunction with the Finance Team
- updates/administers "**Planned Gifts Program**"
- updates the "**Byron United Church Synopsis**"
- promotes "**PAR**" participation (monthly pre-authorized donations)

Byron United Church has nurtured faith and acted on the teachings of Christ for over 162 years. Your continued Stewardship lays the foundation for this ministry to continue to thrive. Our congregational leaders continue to act as trustworthy Stewards of your faithful offerings. With God's help, the Stewardship of this ministry will continue stronger than ever.

*2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

**Thank you and God Bless you for your faithfulness and ongoing support.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
The Stewardship Team

## Byron United Church Synopsis of 2022

**Our Vision:** "A community where all find and live God's love, grace, and joy."

**Christian Stewardship:** It is defined as the faithful and effective use of all the gifts entrusted to us by God. It is a way of life, an attitude. Christian Stewardship is our partnership with God as we thankfully share life's abundant blessings. Christian Stewardship allows us to acknowledge our blessings and live out our ministry, to nurture our faith in Christ and serve the world God loves.

**Thank you** for your continued support of our many Church ministries in 2022. During the challenges of COVID-19, our church is blessed with so many faithful, caring members of the congregation who continue to **CONNECT**, **GROW** and **SERVE**. So many have stepped up to the challenge.

We faithfully endeavor to **CONNECT** with God and each other, to **GROW** in Christian understanding and discipleship, and to **SERVE** within our church family and beyond.

**Connecting:** These Elements help us to connect with God and each other as a family of believers.

**Worship** - Plans and oversees worship services.

**Fellowship** - Assists people in connecting with each other.

**Community Connections** - Reaches out to build connections with our neighbours.

**Communications** - Shares information and promotes our congregation and events.

**Growing:** Whatever our age or stage in life, we are called by the Lord to continue to grow in our Christian Faith and understanding.

**Discipleship** - Helps people of all ages to grow in their faith and Christian knowledge.

**Serving:** Our Church family members continue with Christian Stewardship by contributing hours of their time and talents to serve within our Church Leadership Teams. Countless other people serve in other ways, all for the betterment of our Church and community.  
Every single one of these ministries that your contributions support, provides a wonderful blessing to many, many people.

**Ministry** - Supports those in leadership and service and encourages our Church members to serve within the congregation in ways that use their God-given gifts and natural talents.

**Mission** - Invites people to serve, helping those beyond our congregation.

**Assets and Finance** - Oversees our building, property and finances.



## Byron United Church Synopsis of 2022

|     | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2022</u> |
|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| PAR | 60          | 63          | 69          | 85          | 89          | 86          |

**PAR Program** – 86 families contribute to the overall financial stability for the Church by using PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance).

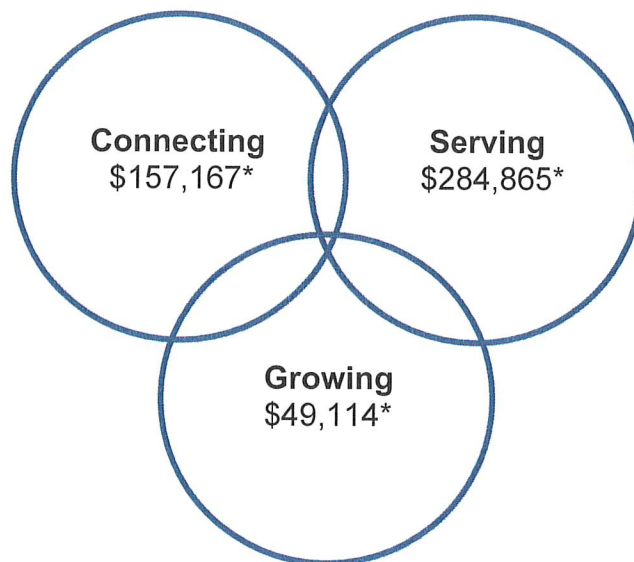
**Planned Gifts Program** – Byron United Church received no Planned Financial Gifts Donations in 2022.

Your Stewardship Team **Thanks You as a group of faithful Christians gathering to employ all your resources including your talents, your time, and your gifts to further God's mission.** We encourage everyone to continue to take part, by giving the gifts that God has entrusted you to prosper with the loving work of Jesus Christ.

### Byron United Church – 2022 In Summary

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Total 2022 Ongoing Givings and Receipts              | \$501,236 |
| Total 2022 Disbursements                             | \$491,146 |
| Non-cash Depreciation (amortization of fixed assets) | \$ 16,863 |
| Ongoing Givings and Receipts minus Disbursements     | \$ -6,773 |

Receipts and Disbursements include General Fund and Restricted Funds for 2022



\* Note: Includes proportional disbursement of salaries for all staff as presented in the 2022 Annual Report.

**God Bless you for the giving of your Time, Talents and Treasures.  
We are Blessed to be a Blessing!**

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INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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To the Members of Byron United Church

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Byron United Church (the organization) that comprise the statements of financial position as at December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the years then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

*Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Practitioner's Responsibility*

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on my reviews. I conducted my reviews in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

*Conclusion*

Based on my reviews, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Byron United Church as at December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

London, Ontario  
February 23, 2023

*Charles R. Summers Professional Corporation*

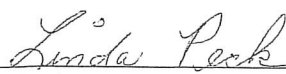
Authorized to practise public accounting by  
the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

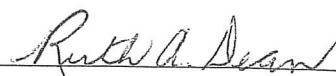


BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022  
(Unaudited)

|   | 2022         |                  |                | 2021    |
|---|--------------|------------------|----------------|---------|
|   | GENERAL FUND | RESTRICTED FUNDS | ENDOWMENT FUND | TOTAL   |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>   |              |                  |                |         |
| Bank and cash on hand   | 89,382       | 65,050           |                | 154,432 |
| Short - term investments (notes 2, 4)                           | 150,000      | 42,088           |                | 192,088 |
| Total bank and investments                                      | 239,382      | 107,138          |                | 346,520 |
| HST, interest and other receivables                             | 7,456        | 277              |                | 7,733   |
|   | 246,838      | 107,415          | -              | 354,253 |
| <b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b><br>(net of amortization - note 5) |              | 459,547          |                | 459,547 |
| <b>LONG TERM INVESTMENTS</b> (note 3)                           |              |                  | 58,600         | 58,600  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>   | 246,838      | 566,962          | 58,600         | 872,400 |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>                                     |              |                  |                |         |
| Accounts payable and accrued                                    | 5,965        |                  |                | 5,965   |
| Payroll deductions payable                                      | 4,343        |                  |                | 4,343   |
|   | 10,308       | -                | -              | 10,308  |
| <b>LONG TERM LIABILITY</b> (note 6)                             |              |                  |                |         |
|   | -            | -                | -              | -       |
|   | 10,308       | -                | -              | 10,308  |
| <b>FUND BALANCES</b>  |              |                  |                |         |
| General Fund - unrestricted                                     | 236,530      |                  |                | 236,530 |
| Capital Asset fund (note 2)                                     |              | 459,547          |                | 459,547 |
| Outreach Fund (note 2)  |              | 3,193            |                | 3,193   |
| Memorial Fund (note 2)  |              | 22,931           |                | 22,931  |
| Anniversary Fund (note 2)                                       |              | 41,480           |                | 41,480  |
| Benevolent Fund (note 2)  |              | 7,436            |                | 7,436   |
| Trustees Bequest Fund (note 2)                                  |              | 32,375           |                | 32,375  |
| Endowment Fund (note 2)   |              |                  | 58,600         | 58,600  |
|   | 236,530      | 566,962          | 58,600         | 862,092 |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>                    | 246,838      | 566,962          | 58,600         | 872,400 |

Approved by the Board:

  
Chair, Leaders' Board

  
Treasurer

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022  
(Unaudited)**

|   | 2022            |                       |                  |                  |               |                    |               |                           | 2021    |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------|
|   | GENERAL<br>FUND | CAPITAL ASSET<br>FUND | OUTREACH<br>FUND | MEMORIAL<br>FUND | ANNIV<br>FUND | BENEVOLENT<br>FUND | M & S<br>FUND | TRUSTEES' REQUEST<br>FUND | TOTAL   |
| <b>BALANCE - beginning of year</b><br>Restatement for forgiveness of CEBA<br>- note 6 | 222,707         | 476,410               | 3,556            | 25,334           | 41,440        | 8,912              | -             | 31,906                    | 868,865 |
|   | 222,707         | 476,410               | 3,556            | 25,334           | 41,440        | 8,912              | -             | 31,906                    | 868,865 |
| Receipts  | 427,883         | -                     | 46,607           | 5,368            | 40            | 17,277             | 3,592         | 469                       | 494,338 |
| Disbursements   | 414,060         | 16,863                | 46,970           | 7,771            | -             | 18,753             | 3,592         | -                         | 470,350 |
| Excess (shortfall) of receipts  | 13,823          | (16,863)              | (363)            | (2,403)          | 40            | (1,476)            | -             | 469                       | 23,988  |
| Change in net assets  |                 |                       |                  |                  |               |                    |               |                           | -       |
| <b>BALANCE - end of year</b>  | 236,530         | 459,547               | 3,193            | 22,931           | 41,480        | 7,436              | -             | 32,375                    | 868,865 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022  
(Unaudited)**

|  | 2022                      |                 |                     |                | 2021           |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
|  | GENERAL<br>FUND<br>BUDGET | GENERAL<br>FUND | RESTRICTED<br>FUNDS | TOTAL          | TOTAL          |
| <b>RECEIPTS (note 2)</b>                               |                           |                 |                     |                |                |
| General Fund   |                           |                 |                     |                |                |
| Envelopes  | 386,739                   | 413,568         |                     | 413,568        | 386,739        |
| Loose Collections                                      | 3,000                     | 1,009           |                     | 1,009          | 1,055          |
| Church School  | 250                       | 26              |                     | 26             | 102            |
| Rental Income  | 9,500                     | 9,843           |                     | 9,843          | 5,838          |
| Government Wage Subsidy                                | -                         | -               |                     | -              | 13,890         |
| Other Revenue  | 6,500                     | 2,500           |                     | 2,500          | 2,977          |
| Investment Income                                      | 900                       | 937             |                     | 937            | 1,088          |
| Restricted Funds Receipts                              | -                         | -               | 73,353              | 73,353         | 82,649         |
| <b>Total (A)</b>                                       | <b>406,889</b>            | <b>427,883</b>  | <b>73,353</b>       | <b>501,236</b> | <b>494,338</b> |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>                                   |                           |                 |                     |                |                |
| General Fund   |                           |                 |                     |                |                |
| Personnel  | 286,622                   | 277,226         |                     | 277,226        | 275,196        |
| Property   | 52,330                    | 56,814          |                     | 56,814         | 48,960         |
| Administration   | 19,035                    | 20,560          |                     | 20,560         | 14,820         |
| Worship  | 29,200                    | 28,275          |                     | 28,275         | 18,794         |
| Fellowship   | 2,600                     | 801             |                     | 801            | 643            |
| Discipleship   | 4,175                     | 1,956           |                     | 1,956          | 1,945          |
| Ministry   | 2,650                     | 100             |                     | 100            | 62             |
| Mission  | 15,317                    | 25,117          |                     | 25,117         | 27,732         |
| Community Connections                                  | 1,560                     | 249             |                     | 249            | 93             |
| Communications   | 4,000                     | 2,731           |                     | 2,731          | 2,469          |
| Stewardship  | 400                       | 231             |                     | 231            | 226            |
| Restricted Funds Disbursements                         | -                         | -               | 93,949              | 93,949         | 79,410         |
| <b>Total (B)</b>                                       | <b>417,889</b>            | <b>414,060</b>  | <b>93,949</b>       | <b>508,009</b> | <b>470,350</b> |
| <b>EXCESS RECEIPTS OVER<br/>DISBURS. (DEF) (A)-(B)</b> | <b>(11,000)</b>           | <b>13,823</b>   | <b>(20,596)</b>     | <b>(6,773)</b> | <b>23,988</b>  |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022  
(Unaudited)**

|  | 2022            |                     |                 | 2021          |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
|  | GENERAL<br>FUND | RESTRICTED<br>FUNDS | TOTAL           | TOTAL         |
| Excess (deficiency) receipts over disbursements    | 13,823          | (20,596)            | (6,773)         | 23,988        |
| ADD items not requiring an outlay of cash          |                 |                     |                 |               |
| Amortization                                       | -               | 16,863              | 16,863          | 16,863        |
|  | 13,823          | (3,733)             | 10,090          | 40,851        |
| <b>Operating activities</b>                        |                 |                     |                 |               |
| (Increase) decrease interest and other receivables | (1,859)         | 479                 | (1,380)         | 12,092        |
| Increase (decrease) in payroll deductions payable  | 4,343           | -                   | 4,343           | -             |
| Increase (decrease) in accounts payable            | 2,353           | -                   | 2,353           | 3,612         |
|  | 4,837           | 479                 | 5,316           | 15,704        |
| Cash flow from operations                          | 18,660          | (3,254)             | 15,406          | 56,555        |
| <b>Financing activities</b>                        |                 |                     |                 |               |
| CEBA Loan  | (30,000)        | -                   | (30,000)        | -             |
| <b>Net change in bank and investestments</b>       | <b>(11,340)</b> | <b>(3,254)</b>      | <b>(14,594)</b> | <b>56,555</b> |
| Bank and investments balance, opening              | 250,722         | 110,392             | 361,114         | 304,559       |
| Bank and investments balance, close                | 239,382         | 107,138             | 346,520         | 361,114       |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements



**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

**1 PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The mission of Byron United Church (the "Church") is to celebrate and share the good news of new life in Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and mission in this church family, our community and beyond.

The Church is an unincorporated *Pastoral Charge Under An Act Incorporating The United Church of Canada*. The Church is registered as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act and is therefore exempt from income taxes.

**2 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

These financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), the more significant of which are outlined below.

**Fund Accounting**

The Church follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions whereby assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures are segregated into specific funds depending on their purpose.

The General Fund accounts for the Church's program delivery and administrative activities.

The Capital Asset Fund reports the property and equipment of the Church and the related amortization.

The Endowment Fund reports resources contributed for investment to generate revenue to fund the operation and programs of the Church. The investments of the Endowment Fund are not available for use. Investment income earned on resources of the Endowment Fund is reported in the General Fund unless otherwise restricted by contributors of funds for endowment.

The Memorial and Honour Fund reports resources contributed as memorial and honour donations to be used for the benefit of the whole congregation in the long term.

The Benevolent Fund reports resources contributed for use at the discretion of the Pastor for the benefit of members and others in need.

The Anniversary Fund reports resources contributed through bequests from estates and donations from individuals and other sources to be used for the launching or expansion of programs and activities approved by the Leaders' Board and the Session.

The Trustee Bequest Fund reports resources specifically donated to the Church to be used at the discretion of the Trustees.

The Outreach Fund reports resources contributed to support local, national and international charities.

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

The Mission and Service Fund reports resources contributed that are specifically directed to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

**Cash**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less which are available on demand. These are carried on the balance sheet at face value.

**Investments**

Investments are cash held in term deposits with original maturities greater than three months. These are carried on the balance sheet at their market value.

Investments of the Endowment Fund are recorded as long-term investments because the funds will never be available for use by the Church.

Investments of other funds have maturities of up to three years, some with optional redemption dates. Management intends to redeem the investments at the earlier of the first redemption date or maturity. When this date is within the next fiscal year, these investments have been classified as current assets.

**Pension Plan**

The Church is a member of a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan with other entities within the United Church of Canada. The Church is solely responsible for making the required contributions as defined under the plan and has no benefit or liability if the pension plan is over or underfunded as regards to the defined benefits to be paid out. Because of this, the Church accounts for its pension plan as a defined contribution plan and records the pension contributions as expenditures as incurred.

**Revenue recognition**

Restricted contributions related to general operations are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. All other restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be recorded can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assumed.

Government wage grants are recognized as income in the period to which they relate.

Other income (rent, program fees, etc) is recognized as revenue when the services have been provided and there is reasonable assurance of collection.



**BYRON UNITED CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

**Financial instruments policy**

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

**Measurement uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit enterprises requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

**Contributed services**

Volunteers contribute time to assist the Church in carrying out its programs and services. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

**3 LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS**

|   | <u>2022</u>     | <u>2021</u>     |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sanderson Endowment   |                 |                 |
| Home Trust Company, 4.5%, due July 19, 2024   | \$25,000        | \$25,000        |
| Interest earned to be transferred to the General Fund and applied to Christian education in the Church. Interest received during the year was \$173 |                 |                 |
| McNiece Endowment   |                 |                 |
| Home Trust Company, 4.50%, due July 19, 2024  | 33,600          | 33,600          |
| Interest earned to be transferred equally between the Outreach Fund and the General Fund. Interest received during the year was \$233               |                 |                 |
| Total – Endowment Fund  | <u>\$58,600</u> | <u>\$58,600</u> |

**4. SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS**

|  | <u>2022</u>      | <u>2021</u>      |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| General Fund   |                  |                  |
| Bank of Montreal, RateRiser Plus GIC, 4.3 – 5.2%, Redeemable December 2023 or 2024 | \$100,000        | \$40,000         |
| Bank of Montreal, variable rate GIC, prime – 2.85%, Redeemable December 2023       | <u>50,000</u>    | <u>120,000</u>   |
| Total – General Fund   | <u>\$150,000</u> | <u>\$160,000</u> |

**BYRON UNITED CHURCH**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

|  | <u>2022</u>     | <u>2021</u>     |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Restricted Funds   |                 |                 |
| Anniversary Fund   |                 |                 |
| Bank of Montreal, RateRiser Plus GICs, 3.35 – 4.55%,<br>Redeemable August 2023 or 2024 | \$30,040        | \$10,000        |
| Memorial and Honour Fund   |                 |                 |
| Bank of Montreal, RateRiser Plus GIC, 3.35 – 4.55%,<br>Redeemable August 2023 or 2024  | 12,048          | 12,000          |
| Trustees Bequest Fund  |                 |                 |
| Libro Credit Union, GIC  | -               | <u>11,373</u>   |
| Total – Restricted Funds   | <u>\$42,088</u> | <u>\$33,373</u> |

**5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

The property and equipment are accounted for in the Capital Asset Fund. During the year, the Capital Asset Fund expensed amortization of \$16,863 (\$16,863 in 2021). This is a non-cash item. There were no additions or disposals during the year. Property and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Property and equipment is amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

|                                   |          |               |             |          |               |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| Buildings                         | 70 years | Straight line | Organ       | 50 years | Straight line |
| Furniture, fixtures and equipment | 10 years | Straight line | Sign        | 15 years | Straight line |
| Carillon                          | 20 years | Straight line | Parking lot | 25 years | Straight line |

At the end of the year the property and equipment is summarized as:

|             | Cost             | Accumulated<br>Amortization | 2022<br>Net Book<br>Value | 2021<br>Net Book<br>Value |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Land        | 700              | -                           | 700                       | 700                       |
| Buildings   | 767,199          | 410,138                     | 357,061                   | 368,023                   |
| Organ       | 121,766          | 38,960                      | 82,806                    | 85,241                    |
| Carillon    | 2,976            | 2,976                       | -                         | -                         |
| Sign        | 15,167           | 11,121                      | 4,046                     | 5,057                     |
| Furniture   | 162,601          | 160,916                     | 1,685                     | 2,246                     |
| Parking lot | 47,341           | 34,092                      | 13,249                    | 15,143                    |
|             | <u>1,117,750</u> | <u>658,203</u>              | <u>459,547</u>            | <u>476,410</u>            |



**BYRON UNITED CHURCH  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

**6. LONG TERM LIABILITY**

The Church applied for and received a Canada Emergency Business Account loan during 2020. This loan was repaid during the current year. According to the terms of the loan, \$10,000 was forgiven. Accounting Standards for Not-For-Profit Organizations (ASNPO) require that the forgiveness be included in income on receipt of the loan. The financial statements for December 31, 2020 have been restated by increasing revenue of the General Fund for the year and increasing the balance of the General Fund at the end of the year by \$10,000 and reducing the carrying value of the CEBA loan on December 30, 2020 by \$10,000.

**7. LEASE COMMITMENT**

The Church has a lease with respect to some of its office equipment. Future minimum lease payments as at December 31, 2022 are as follows:

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2023                 | \$ 2,496        |
| 2024                 | \$ 2,496        |
| 2025                 | \$ 2,496        |
| 2026                 | <u>\$ 2,496</u> |
| Total lease payments | <u>\$ 9,984</u> |

## **FOREWORD TO OUR 2023 BUDGET**

We began 2022 on a positive note with in-person worship on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Immediately following this, our church was once again in lockdown for seven Sundays and thankfully, we could worship online. Throughout the year, we relied on our members to get their offerings to the church in person, by mail or by the PAR program. We are very thankful for the faithful and generous support we received from our congregation. However, the year was not without financial challenges.

In March, our computer system was attacked by ransomware. No information was extracted from our system and no ransom was paid. This attack resulted in considerable unexpected expenses incurred to rebuild and restore our systems. Fortunately, the United Church carried insurance for this type of incident and we received \$3,074 toward some of our expenses.

By August, General Fund givings were down 5.8% from 2021 and it appeared that we would end the year in a deficit position. Then in the fall, we received some large, unexpected donations totaling \$45,000 and we ended with a surplus of \$13,823. Without the unexpected donations the deficit would have been \$31,177.

In 2020, the church had applied for and received a Canada Emergency Business Account loan in the amount of \$40,000 with the terms that if the loan was repaid by December 31, 2022 then \$10,000 of the loan would be forgiven. The loan was repaid in September and the \$10,000 was forgiven. A \$10,000 donation to World Renew for Ukraine Humanitarian Relief was approved at the 2022 annual meeting.

Last October when we started the budget process, we were optimistic that 2023 would see a return to our pre-COVID-19 church. Many of our long-term rentals had returned and many programs had resumed. Two Growth Teams had been formed – one to increase our numbers and one for spiritual growth – and were making exciting plans. However, we recognized that this year would not be without financial challenges.

A 4% increase in General Fund Givings is required to meet our ongoing expenses, e.g. salaries, utilities, maintenance, United Church assessment, etc. All staff will receive a salary increase of 4%. The budgeted amounts for the Growth Team to increase our numbers total \$34,500 and are shown with an asterisk in the budget.

The preliminary budget, with the 4% increase in givings, would produce a deficit of \$60,000. However, the Treasurer has spoken to the donors of those former large amounts and has learned that they plan to donate \$35,000 in 2023. This would reduce the deficit to \$25,000. While this is a large amount, we have a reserve of \$236,530 and an investment in growth will pay dividends in the years to come, not only financially, but, more importantly, in helping the congregation to Connect, Grow and Serve in Christ's love.

We thank you for your support in 2022. We encourage you to give prayerful consideration to our financial needs in 2023 and to respond in the Spirit and Joy of His Love.

Respectfully submitted by,  
The Finance Team



## PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET

|                                    | 2022 BUDGET    | 2022 ACTUAL    | 2023 BUDGET    |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b><u>REVENUE</u></b>              |                |                |                |
| Ongoing General Fund Givings       | 386,739        | 368,568        | 383,634        |
| Loose Collections                  | 3,000          | 1,009          | 2,000          |
| Church School                      | 250            | 26             | 150            |
| Other Revenue (sales, hospitality) | 6,500          | 2,500          | 5,000          |
| Rental Income                      | 9,500          | 9,843          | 11,000         |
| Investment Income                  | 900            | 937            | 4,500          |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>               | <b>406,889</b> | <b>382,883</b> | <b>406,284</b> |

This budget requires an increase in Ongoing General Fund Givings of 4%

### **DISBURSEMENTS - CONNECT ELEMENTS**

#### **WORSHIP**

|                                      |               |               |               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Musicians (band, soloists, pianists) | 19,500        | 15,410        | 16,500        |
| Music                                | 2,000         | 719           | 1,500         |
| Pulpit Supply                        | 800           | 675           | 1,200         |
| Soundboard                           | 2,000         | 538           | 1,000         |
| Decorations/Flowers                  | 1,000         | 242           | 700           |
| Multimedia                           | 1,100         | 9,664         | 500           |
| Instruments plus Maintenance         | 1,200         | 93            | 500           |
| Music Copyright Licences             | 350           | 359           | 350           |
| Communion/Baptism Supplies           | 200           | 283           | 300           |
| Banners                              | 150           | 0             | 300           |
| Special Worship Services             | 400           | 65            | 250           |
| Christmas Eve Gifts                  | 200           | 0             | 200           |
| Drama Team                           | 100           | 0             | 100           |
| New Initiatives                      | 200           | 227           | ~             |
| <b>WORSHIP TOTAL</b>                 | <b>29,200</b> | <b>28,275</b> | <b>23,400</b> |

#### **FELLOWSHIP**

|                         |              |            |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Refreshments & Meals    | 1,400        | 144        | 1,200        |
| New Members             | 500          | 317        | 500          |
| Card Ministry           | 300          | 340        | 350          |
| New Initiatives         | 400          | 0          | ~            |
| <b>FELLOWSHIP TOTAL</b> | <b>2,600</b> | <b>801</b> | <b>2,050</b> |

|  | 2022 BUDGET  | 2022 ACTUAL  | 2023 BUDGET   |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>                      |              |              |               |
| Media Campaign                             | ~            | ~            | 25,000 *      |
| Social Media Advertising                   | ~            | ~            | 2,000 *       |
| Advertising (magazine,paper)               | 3,000        | 2,263        | 1,800         |
| Web Site                                   | 600          | 468          | 600           |
| Printing                                   | 200          | 0            | 200           |
| Photography                                | 200          | 0            | 200           |
| <b>COMMUNICATIONS TOTAL</b>                | <b>4,000</b> | <b>2,731</b> | <b>29,800</b> |
| <b>COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS</b>               |              |              |               |
| Community Events                           | ~            | ~            | 5,000 *       |
| Youth Group                                | ~            | ~            | 2,000         |
| Mid-Week Youth (supplies)                  | 1,260        | 0            | ~             |
| New Initiatives                            | 300          | 249          | 0             |
| <b>COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS TOTAL</b>         | <b>1,560</b> | <b>249</b>   | <b>7,000</b>  |
| <b><u>DISBURSEMENTS - GROW ELEMENT</u></b> |              |              |               |
| <b>DISCIPLESHIP</b>                        |              |              |               |
| Nursery Worker(s)                          | ~            | ~            | 2,500 *       |
| Sunday School (all ages)                   | ~            | ~            | 2,350         |
| Alpha Course (food & child care)           | 300          | 0            | 1,000         |
| RightNow Media Subscription                | 900          | 863          | 1,000         |
| New Initiatives                            | 200          | 0            | 200           |
| Library & Periodicals                      | 150          | 87           | 100           |
| CD & DVD Ministry                          | 200          | 0            | 100           |
| Audio-Visual                               | 375          | 0            | 100           |
| Small Group Resources                      | 100          | 399          | 100           |
| Church School                              | 750          | 579          | ~             |
| Sunday Youth (Sr. & Jr. Youth)             | 400          | 28           | ~             |
| Women's Ministry                           | 300          | 0            | ~             |
| Soul Food (Community Garden)               | 250          | 0            | ~             |
| Ashram                                     | 250          | 0            | ~             |
| <b>DISCIPLESHIP TOTAL</b>                  | <b>4,175</b> | <b>1,956</b> | <b>7,450</b>  |



|  | 2022 BUDGET   | 2022 ACTUAL   | 2023 BUDGET   |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b><u>DISBURSEMENTS - SERVE ELEMENTS</u></b>   |               |               |               |
| <b>MINISTRY</b>  |               |               |               |
| Regional Council Annual Meeting  | 1,000         | 0             | 700           |
| Training/Supplies/Conferences  | 1,000         | 84            | 500           |
| Pastoral Care Travel (Pastor Colin)  | 300           | 0             | 300           |
| Police Record Checks   | 100           | 16            | 100           |
| New Initiatives  | 250           | 0             | ~             |
| <b>MINISTRY TOTAL</b>  | <b>2,650</b>  | <b>100</b>    | <b>1,600</b>  |
| <b>MISSION</b>   |               |               |               |
| United Church General Council  | 15,117        | 15,117        | 18,598        |
| World Renew-Ukraine Relief   | ~             | 10,000        | ~             |
| New Initiatives  | 200           | 0             | 200           |
| <b>MISSION TOTAL</b>   | <b>15,317</b> | <b>25,117</b> | <b>18,798</b> |
| Our financial support to Christian charities is not part of our General Fund expenses.             |               |               |               |
| Please see our Outreach report on page 33 for information on our Mission gifts totalling \$46,970. |               |               |               |
| <b>ASSETS &amp; FINANCE</b>  |               |               |               |
| <b>Administration</b>  |               |               |               |
| Financial Review   | 5,500         | 5,665         | 6,000         |
| Photocopier  | 4,600         | 3,017         | 4,900         |
| Office Supplies  | 3,500         | 2,931         | 4,100         |
| Computers  | 3,000         | 6,825         | 4,000         |
| Bank Charges   | 1,450         | 1,233         | 1,450         |
| Membership (CCCC)  | 505           | 505           | 530           |
| Postage  | 480           | 384           | 450           |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>   | <b>19,035</b> | <b>20,560</b> | <b>21,430</b> |
| <b>Property</b>  |               |               |               |
| Utilities  | 20,500        | 21,931        | 23,200        |
| Maintenance & Supplies   | 18,000        | 20,776        | 18,500        |
| Insurance  | 11,830        | 12,284        | 13,000        |
| Equipment (new/repair)   | 2,000         | 1,823         | 2,000         |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>   | <b>52,330</b> | <b>56,814</b> | <b>56,700</b> |
| <b>Stewardship</b>   |               |               |               |
| Printed Resources  | 400           | 231           | 400           |
| <b>Sub-Total</b>   | <b>400</b>    | <b>231</b>    | <b>400</b>    |
| <b>ASSETS &amp; FINANCE TOTAL</b>  | <b>71,765</b> | <b>77,605</b> | <b>78,530</b> |

|  | 2022 BUDGET    | 2022 ACTUAL    | 2023 BUDGET    |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>   |                |                |                |
| <b>Senior Pastor</b>   |                |                |                |
| Salary (includes housing)  | 81,189         | 81,189         | 84,437         |
| Continuing Education   | 2,500          | 1,023          | 2,500          |
| Travel Allowance (55¢/km)  | 300            | 96             | 300            |
| Employer's Share of Benefits   | 20,020         | 20,020         | 20,941         |
| <b>Congregational Designated Minister (1/2 time, 20 hours per week)</b>                      |                |                |                |
| Salary   | 28,923         | 28,923         | 30,080         |
| Continuing Education   | 850            | 0              | 850            |
| Travel Allowance (55¢/km)  | 500            | 0              | 500            |
| Employer's Share of Benefits   | 640            | 640            | 672            |
| <b>Support Staff (Office, Custodial, Music Coordinator, Sunday School/Youth Coordinator)</b> |                |                |                |
| Salaries   | 126,438        | 120,873        | 131,139        |
| Employer's Share of Benefits   | 22,562         | 22,761         | 23,937         |
| Gifts/Payroll Admin. Fee   | 1,700          | 1,103          | 1,700          |
| Continuing Education/Travel  | 1,000          | 598            | 600            |
| <b>HUMAN RESOURCES TOTAL</b>   | <b>286,622</b> | <b>277,226</b> | <b>297,656</b> |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>   | <b>417,889</b> | <b>414,060</b> | <b>466,284</b> |
| <b>REVENUE - DISBURSEMENTS</b>   | <b>-11,000</b> | <b>-31,177</b> | <b>-60,000</b> |
| <b>EXTRAORDINARY DONATIONS</b>   | <b>~</b>       | <b>45,000</b>  | <b>35,000</b>  |
| <b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR</b>  | <b>-11,000</b> | <b>13,823</b>  | <b>-25,000</b> |
| <b>TOTAL RESERVE AT DECEMBER 31, 2021</b>  |                | <b>222,707</b> |                |
| <b>TOTAL RESERVE AT DECEMBER 31, 2022</b>  |                | <b>236,530</b> |                |
| <b>*CHURCH GROWTH PLAN DISBURSEMENTS</b>   |                |                |                |



## **BYRON UNITED CHURCH**

### ***ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING***

***March 6, 2022***

Notice of this meeting was given via two of the Church's Friday email communication (BUC Wheat) and verbally during the video worship service two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

#### **MINUTES**

The duly-called Annual Congregational Meeting of Byron United Church was held via video conferencing on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 3:05 p.m. Linda Peck, as Chair of Session, acted as meeting chair in order that the following enabling motions could be made:

#### **Welcome – Process for voting on motions**

Chair Linda welcomed everyone, and along with Pastor Greg explained the online voting process to all attendees.

#### **Voting Privileges**

Chair Linda explained that the 2021 *Manual of The United Church of Canada*, provides specific rules regarding when adherents may vote.

- Adherents may vote at meetings of the congregation if the full members decide to allow adherents to vote.

Chair Linda stated that only members may vote on this first motion.

**MOTION:** Moved by Jen McKay, seconded by Frank Hopkins, that voting privileges be extended to all adherents present today. Carried.

#### **Motions to Elect Chair and Recording Secretary of the Annual Congregational Meeting**

For each of the following two motions, Chair Linda asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for either of these positions. There were none.

**MOTION:** Moved by Helen Keenlside, seconded by Carol Connor, that Linda Peck be elected as Chair of the Congregation and any Congregational Meetings up to the election of a Chair of the Congregation at the next Annual Congregational Meeting. Carried.

**MOTION:** Moved by Ric Graham, seconded by Anita Bacon, that Brian Roth be elected as Recording Secretary of the Congregation and any Congregational Meetings up to the election of a Recording Secretary of the Congregation at the next Annual Congregational Meeting. Carried.

Linda Peck then thanked the congregation for their confidence that she is able to fulfill the responsibilities of Chair for Congregational Meetings.

1. **Call to Order:** Linda Peck called the meeting to order at 3:16 PM.

2. **Opening Prayer:** Pastor Greg Brawn

3. **Accepting and Raising Reports for Discussion:**

**2021 Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 1 Minutes – March 7, 2021 (p. 50)**

**MOTION:** Moved by Carol Connor, seconded by Sandra Collier, that the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 7, 2021 be accepted as printed. Carried with one abstention.

**2021 Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 2 Minutes – May 2, 2021 (p. 53)**

**MOTION:** Moved by Jen McKay, seconded by Shelley Scott, that the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of May 2, 2021 be accepted as printed. Carried with two abstentions.

**Team and Group Reports**

Chair Linda noted that a revision of the Outreach Team's report on page 29 of the Annual Report had been forwarded to the congregation last week. Thus the motion refers to that amended report being part of the reports being approved.

**MOTION:** Moved by Brian Roth, seconded by Helen Keenlside, that the Annual Reports of the Groups and Ministries be accepted as printed and amended. Carried.

Chair Linda thanked the team leaders for preparing their reports, Ruth Dean for her artistic flare in the report, Deb Farrell for overseeing the whole process ensuring it was sent out on time, Pastor Greg for the electronic distribution and the volunteers who distributed hard copies of the Annual Report.

**2021 Financial Statements (pages 35-44)**

Ruth Dean provided an overview and highlights of the 2021 financial statement. She thanked the congregation for their generous support and Deb Farrell for her invaluable support. General Fund givings ended the year with an annual surplus of \$20,749 after the one time donation of \$16,800 to the Ark Aid Street Mission. Chair Linda commented that the Leaders' Board authorized Ruth Dean as Treasurer and Linda Peck as Chair of Leaders' Board to review and sign these financial reports prior to printing them in the Annual Report.

**MOTION:** Moved by Ruth Dean, seconded by Robert van Dam, that the 2021 Financial Statements be accepted as printed. Carried.

4. **Celebrating 2021:**

**Slide Show Presentation** – Due to technical issues during the meeting, Pastor Greg will include the slide show in Tuesday's BUC Wheat.



**In Memoriam** – Pastor Greg Brawn read the names of people within our church family who passed away in 2021. He then offered a brief prayer recognizing and thanking God for these individuals.

**5. Looking Ahead to 2022:**  
**Elections:**

**a) Session**

Chair Linda noted that Carol Brigham's name should be removed from the list of Elders. This name was removed prior to the motion being put forward.

**MOTION:** Moved by Frank Hopkins, seconded by Shelley Scott, that the members of the Congregation listed as Elders on page 56 (of the Annual Report Book), as amended, be elected as members of Session of Byron United Church. Carried.

A question was posed and clarification provided.

**b) Chair of Session**

**MOTION:** Moved by Helen Keenlside, seconded by Carol Connor, that the following member of the Congregation be elected as Chair of Session of Byron United Church: Linda Peck. Carried.

**c) Trustees**

**MOTION:** Moved by Ric Graham, seconded by Sandra Collier, that the members of the Congregation listed as Trustees on page 56 (of the Annual Report Book) be appointed as Trustees of Byron United Church. Carried with four abstentions.

**d) Members and Chairs of Teams**

Chair Linda noted that Carl Eyssen should be added to the Property Team. This name was added prior to the motion being put forward.

**MOTION:** Moved by Frank Hopkins, seconded by Shelley Scott, that the members and chairs of the Teams listed on page 56 (of the Annual Report Book), as amended, be elected to these Teams. Carried.

Chair Linda noted that there are many names with an asterisk after the name. The asterisk indicates new people who have joined these teams or groups since our last Annual Congregational Meeting. It is gratifying to see additional people offering to serve our church in these leadership roles.

**e) Treasurer**

**MOTION:** Moved by Deb Farrell, seconded by Diane Minshull, that the following member of the Congregation be elected as Treasurer: Ruth Dean. Carried with one abstention.

**f) Regional Council Representatives**

Chair Linda provided background information including the following: Congregations with more than 300 resident members can have four (4) lay representatives to Regional Council. We have 347 resident members. Bob Harris has been a representative to Middlesex Presbytery in 2018 and to Regional Council since 2019, and Barry Brigham for the last two years. Both have agreed to allow their names to be put forward to continue in this role. Two

additional members are interested in representing our congregation in this manner, Shirley Harris and Brian Roth.

**MOTION:** Moved by Don Scanlon, seconded by Helen Keenlside, that the following members of the Congregation be elected as lay representatives to Antler River Watershed Regional Council: Barry Bringham, Robert Harris, Shirley Harris, Brian Roth. Carried.

**g) Signing Officers**

**MOTION:** Moved by Brian Roth, seconded by Frank Hopkins, that any two of the following people be authorized to sign cheques and other account documents for the General Fund and the Memorial and Honour Fund accounts on behalf of Byron United Church: Stephanie Carruthers (Trustee), Ruth Dean (Treasurer), Linda Peck (Congregational Chair), Jim Sample (Finance Team Member), Crawford Stephens (Elder). Carried with two abstentions.

**Appointment of Accountant for Financial Review:**

**MOTION:** Moved by Deb Farrell, seconded by Ruth Dean, that Charles R. Summers Professional Corporation be appointed as the public accountant for Byron United Church to review the financial records of 2022. Carried.

**6. 2022 Budget:**

Ruth Dean presented the 2022 budget printed in the Annual Report on pages 46-49 noting that with the uncertainty caused by the pandemic budgets were based on the pandemic ending and things returning to normal. She commented that the General Council assessment fees will increase by an additional \$4,000 in 2022 and on the 1.3% increase to staff salaries as recommended by the United Church of Canada which didn't include the cost increase in benefits. She noted that this budget does not include an increase in envelope givings due to current inflation rates, and would result in a deficit budget. She noted that in past years deficit budgets were also approved and that in each case we ended up with a surplus at year's end.

**MOTION:** Moved by Ruth Dean, seconded by Jim Sample, that the 2022 General Fund budget of \$417,889 be accepted as printed as a commitment to the life and work of the congregation, recognizing the Leaders' Board's authority to adjust expenses within Elements. Carried, with four abstentions.

Chair Linda expressed the church's sincere gratitude to Ruth Dean and Deb Farrell for their diligent work for the past six months in preparation of this budget, and also to the Finance Team members who reviewed the draft budget prior to its final presentation to the Leaders' Board and then to Session.

**7. Recommendation Regarding Repayment of CEBA Loan and Donating Forgiven Balance**

Ruth Dean explained the original rationale for this motion and new information that has been learned since the Session meeting at which this motion was discussed.

**MOTION:** Moved by Don Scanlon, seconded by Anita Bacon, that in 2022 Byron United Church repay the \$40,000 CEBA loan and the \$10,000 forgiven balance be available for our Outreach Team to disburse to one or more registered Christian charities. Defeated, with four in favour, twenty-one opposed.



Chair Linda presented an alternate motion for discussion. Discussion ensued and a friendly amendment was approved by the mover and seconder prior to the vote.

**MOTION:** Moved by Helen Keenlside, seconded by Don Scanlon, that we donate \$10,000 from our 2021 surplus in the General Fund Account to provide humanitarian aid to Ukrainians. The Leaders' Board would have authority to designate the specific charity or charities. Carried. A question was posed and clarification provided.

**8. Community of Faith Profile Updates – 2022 – Required by Antler River Watershed Regional Council**

Linda explained the process of submitting these profiles started last year and how that process has changed this year. Pastor Greg explained the reasoning behind generating these reports.

**MOTION:** Moved by Shelley Scott, seconded by Don Scanlon, that the Living Faith Story Worksheet, Demographic Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet and Real Property Worksheet for Byron United Church for 2022 be approved as presented. Carried with one abstention.

**9. New Business:**

A question was asked about the repayment of the CEBA loan that was mentioned in the defeated motion. Chair Linda explained that the loan will be repaid in 2022 as Session has supported.

**10. Perspectives from the Pastor and Congregational Designated Minister:**

Ric Graham commented on the growth and strength of our lives at Byron United Church pre-pandemic. He went on to reflect on our church's continued versatility and strength during the pandemic when we had to adapt to the new reality of very limited personal contact. He also looked forward to the future and what it might hold. He suggested whatever it might be we will be in the "land of opportunity" in determining where our Lord will lead us next.

Pastor Greg thanked Ric and all of the staff for their work. He also commented on the strangeness of not seeing his congregation in person over the last two years but noted that he has been keeping in touch virtually and that the faith, resilience and love of the members continues to shine through. He also reflected on the joy to come in being able to worship in-person together again.

Thanks: Chair Linda thanked Pastor Greg and Ric Graham for their spiritual leadership and ongoing support to all of us. She reflected on the unpredictable nature of what we have all lived through over the past couple of years and our hope for a better future.

**11. Benediction: Pastor Greg Brawn**

**12. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.**

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Chair: Linda Peck

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Recording Secretary: Brian Roth

## 2023 Governing Bodies & Teams

### SESSION

Linda Peck (chair)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (secretary)

Anita Bacon  
Angie Brawn  
Barry Brigham  
Ron Carruthers  
Bob Coates  
Paul Coates  
Sandra Collier  
Carol Connor  
Connie Constable  
Elaine Coutts  
Ruth & Tom Dean  
Wendy Dickinson  
Gwen Estabrooks  
Deb Farrell  
Cathy Goetz-Perry  
Jan Harding  
Harry Huffman  
Baran Ismail\*  
Helen Keenlside  
Marlene Law  
Jen McKay  
Diane & Ken Minshull  
Mary Neely  
Dean & Jan Radloff  
Jerry Reid  
Brian Roth  
Dave Rusciollelli  
Don Scanlon  
Allison & Crawford Stephens  
Jeanne Taylor-Hopkins\*  
David & Jennifer Tennant  
Dave Wagg  
Pastor Greg Brawn

### TRUSTEES

Pastor Greg Brawn (chair)  
Tom Dean (secretary)  
Stephanie Carruthers  
Bob Coates  
Gary Coutts  
David Tennant  
Robert van Dam

### LEADERS' BOARD

Linda Peck (chair)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (secretary)  
Anita Bacon (Ministry)  
Angie Brawn (Discipleship)  
Barry Brigham (Fellowship)  
Ruth Dean (Co-Treasurer)  
Marlene Law (Comm. Connect.)  
Brian Roth (Co-Treasurer)\*  
Dave Rusciollelli (Worship)\*  
David Tennant (Assets\Finance)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Mission)  
Pastor Greg Brawn

### WORSHIP

Dave Rusciollelli\* (Facilitator)  
Tom de Gryp  
Kane Erickson  
Marie Sample  
Allison Stephens  
Jennifer Tennant

#### Prayer Team

Don Scanlon (co-chair)  
Sally Waddell (co-chair)  
Susan Badcock  
Pastor Colin Lauchlan  
Jerry Reid  
Donna Shortt  
Jeanne Taylor-Hopkins\*

### FELLOWSHIP

Barry Brigham (Facilitator)  
Jan Harding (spec. events coord.)  
Connie Constable  
Diane & Ken Minshull  
Marie Sample

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Marlene Law (Facilitator)  
Mary Jayne Bambury  
Jerry Reid

#### Church Growth Team\*

Pastor Greg Brawn\* (chair)  
Ric Graham\*  
Marlene Law\*  
Jen McKay\*  
David Tennant\*

#### Mid-Week Youth Team

Andrea Smith\*  
Pastor Greg Brawn

#### Communications Team

Dave Wagg (chair)  
Barry Brigham  
Dave Rusciollelli

### MINISTRY

Anita Bacon (Facilitator)  
Stephanie Carruthers  
Elaine Coutts

#### Ministry & Personnel Team

Doug Allman (co-chair)  
Paul Coates (co-chair)  
Connie Constable\*  
Joan Estabrooks\*  
Suzanne Simpson

#### Protection Oversight Team

Barbara Bentley  
Tom Dean  
Mary Neely

#### Governance Team

(no members at this time)

### DISCIPLESHIP

Angie Brawn (Facilitator)

#### Spiritual Growth Team\*

Pastor Greg Brawn\* (chair)  
Angie Brawn\*  
Pastor Colin Lauchlan\*  
Don Scanlon\*  
Andrea Smith\*

#### Sunday School/Sunday Youth

Andrea Smith (coordinator)

### MISSION

\_\_\_\_\_ (Facilitator)

#### Outreach Team

Helen Keenlside (chair)  
Lorilee Down  
Bev Hamilton  
Nancy Long  
Val Reid  
Dave Rusciollelli  
Gaye Whaley

#### Food Bank Team

Dick Walker\* (co-chair)  
Marilyn Walker\* (co-chair)

### ASSETS & FINANCE

David Tennant (Facilitator)

#### Finance Team

Ruth Dean (chair)  
Ron Carruthers  
Gary Coutts  
Deb Farrell  
Brian Roth\*  
Jim Sample  
David Tennant

#### Property Team

Greg Thurston (chair)  
Joel Dell  
Terry Lane  
David Smith

#### Stewardship Team

Gary Coutts (chair)  
Ron Carruthers  
Sandra Collier  
Ruth Dean  
Steve Dobkowicz  
David Tennant

Pastor Greg supports each team.



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, March 12, 2023 - 3:00 pm**  
**via Video Conference Calling**

Welcome – Process for voting on motions

Motion to extend voting privileges:

Motion: "That voting privileges be extended to all adherents present today."

Motions to elect Chair and Recording Secretary of the Annual Congregational Meeting:

Motion: "That Linda Peck be elected as Chair of the Congregation and any Congregational Meetings up to the election of a Chair of the Congregation at the next Annual Congregational Meeting."

Motion: "That Brian Roth be elected as Recording Secretary of the Congregation and any Congregational Meetings up to the election of a Recording Secretary of the Congregation at the next Annual Congregational Meeting."

1. Call to order
2. Opening Prayer - Pastor Greg Brawn
3. Accepting and raising reports for discussion
  - 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2022 (pages 54-58)
  - Team and Group Reports
  - 2022 Financial Statements (pages 39-48)

Motion: "That the Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of March 6, 2022 be accepted as printed."

Motion: "That the Annual Reports of the Groups and Ministries be accepted as printed."

Motion: "That the 2022 Financial Statements be accepted as printed."

4. Celebrating 2022
  - Slide Show Presentation – Pastor Greg Brawn
  - In Memoriam – Pastor Greg Brawn
5. Looking Ahead – 2023

Elections

a) Session

Motion: "That the members of the Congregation listed as Elders on page 59 be elected as members of Session."

b) Chair of Session

Motion: "That the following member of the Congregation be elected as Chair of Session:  
Linda Peck."

c) Trustees

Motion: "That the members of the Congregation listed as Trustees on page 59 be appointed as Trustees."

d) Members and Chairs of Teams

Motion: "That the members and chairs of the Teams listed on page 59 be elected to these Teams."

e) Treasurer

Motion: "That the following members of the Congregation be elected as Co-Treasurers: Ruth Dean, Brian Roth"

f) Regional Council Representatives

Motion: "That the following members of the Congregation be elected as lay representatives to Antler River Watershed Regional Council:

\*Angie Brawn      \*Robert Harris      \*Shirley Harris      \*Brian Roth."

g) Signing Officers

Motion: "That any two of the following people be authorized to sign cheques and other account documents for the General Fund, the Memorial and Honour Fund, and the Benevolent Fund accounts on behalf of Byron United Church:

\*Stephanie Carruthers (Trustee)      \*Linda Peck (Congregational Chair)  
\*Gary Coutts (Finance Team Member)      \*Jim Sample (Finance Team Member)."  
\*Ruth Dean (Co-Treasurer)

Appointment of Accountant for Financial Review

Motion: "That Charles R. Summers Professional Corporation be appointed as the public accountant for Byron United Church to review the financial records of 2023."

6. 2023 Budget

Motion: "That the 2023 General Fund budget of \$466,284 be accepted as printed as a commitment to the life and work of the congregation, recognizing the Leaders' Board's authority to adjust expenses within Elements." (See pages 50-53)

7. Community of Faith Profile Updates - 2023 - Required by Antler River Watershed Regional Council

Motion: "That the Living Faith Story Worksheet, Demographic Worksheet, Financial Viability Worksheet and Real Property Worksheet for Byron United Church for 2023 be approved as presented."

8. New Business

9. Perspectives from our Congregational Designated Minister and our Pastor

10. Benediction – Pastor Greg Brawn

11. Adjournment

**At the conclusion of our Annual Congregational Meeting, we will have an informal 'Social Time'. Everyone is welcome to remain connected on Zoom and interact with others whom you may not have seen for awhile.**