

GRACE UNITED CHURCH

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Minister - Rev. Stephen Fram

Organist and Choir Director - Malcolm Bradley

Chair, Unified Board - Mark Hazen

Office Administrator - Thelma Blaikie

Grace United Church Annual Report 2022

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Minister's Report 2022

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

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

Within the pages of this annual report you will get a sense of our shared work and ministry in 2022. This story and the story that you find behind the printed words continues to inspire and guide our common life as we seek to be the church in this time and place.

In 2022 Grace continued to navigated the pandemic fairly well. We were able to offer a meaningful hybrid worship, pastoral care and outreach. I invite you to read this report to discover how the committees and teams adapted to the shifting pandemic reality. Briefly I want to focus on few areas of this ministry. First I want to focus on our music ministry. Grace is one of the few churches in our region that has had an at capacity choir for most of the pandemic. This has been a blessing. The way the choir and Malcolm have adapted in these challenging times has been extraordinary. I feel that the capstone event for the choir was working with Tom Trenney in November. It highlighted the talent of our choristers and the skill and adaptability of our choir and its leadership. Second I want to highlight the work of our Innovation and Implementation committee that led our conversations about reconciliation and also invited the congregation to participate in a survey about future directions for Grace United. This work will be foundational as we continue our visioning and strategic planning as a post pandemic church. Third I want to focus on the ministry and support of those on our board and committees and the many volunteers who have adapted well to challenging times.

In closing let me express my gratitude for the ministry of the members of the Unified Board, its committees, and groups. Their innovation, support, guidance and leadership is what allows our mutual ministry and mission to thrive, guided by the Holy Spirit.

To our music director Malcolm Bradley, our administrative assistant Thelma Blaikie, our caretaker Bill Busby, and our rental manager Bob Tobin, I say thank you for your ministry and the opportunity to minister with you.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Rev. Stephen Fram

Marriages

May 17, 2022 - Erika Juli Reitan-Nordstrom and Renee Suzanne Savoie

Deaths / Funerals / Memorial / Committal Services

December 23, 2021 - Margaret Donalda Chittick

February 16, 2022 - Evelyn Marie MacRae

March 03, 2022 - Pauline Joyce Murdock

May 30, 2022 - Lynn Marsha Fraser

June 6, 2022 - Rev. Dr. Ronald Wayne Porter

June 25, 2022 - Daphne Susan Hurst

August 05, 2022 - Joyce Fay Irvin

August 15, 2022 - Treva Genevieve Cole

November 01, 2022 - John Bain

November 18, 2022 - Sonja Louise Edgar

December 25, 2022 - Bessie Bain

Some "People" Statistics - 2022

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Number of Households	263	259	249	245	239
Number of Persons	637	632	622	612	603
Membership, January 1 st	568	563	558	553	546
Received by Profession of Faith	1	1	0	0	0
Received by Transfer	2	0	0	0	0
Restored	0	0	0	0	0
Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0
Members Who Died	7	6	4	7	6
Members Who Transferred	1	0	1	0	0
Removed At Own Request	0	0	0	0	0
Membership, December 31 st	563	558	553	546	540
Resident Members	393	388	383	377	372
Non-Resident Members and/or Inactive	170	170	170	169	168
Baptism					
Children (12 and under)	7	0	1	0	0
Adult	0	1	0	0	0
Marriages	3	1	0	3	1
Funeral/Memorial Services	12	13	4	6	6

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 27, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

Mark Hazen, Chair of the Unified Board, called the Annual Congregational Meeting to order at approximately 12:19 pm, on February 27, 2022. The meeting was held by Zoom and In person. Sufficient members of the congregation attended the meeting to constitute a quorum (quorum is 20 members). The minister was present.

NOTICE OF MEETING

The notice of the Annual Congregational Meeting was:

- included in the Announcements that were e-mailed to those on the Congregational list on January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25
- also included In Notes from Board Chair - which was included in the Announcements on January 28
- posted on Website - under Our Schedule This month's activities - went up February 5
- included in This month's activities which went out on an e-mail to all people on our e-mail list on February 5
- posted on our Facebook page of events - created February 12
- included in the Church PowerPoint before the service starting February 6
- announced from the pulpit during the services on February 13 and 20

DEVOTION

The Reverend Stephen Fram led the devotion. He asked the congregation to remember those of our members who passed away in 2021 as he read out each of their names. Following a moment of silence, he closed in prayer.

VOTING PRIVILEGES

MOTION: Moved by Ann Dent and seconded by Wanda Baker-Hayward that everyone, members and adherents, in attendance be allowed to vote at this annual meeting. Motion carried

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 27, 2022**

APPROVAL OF THE ACTING SECRETARY

MOTION: Moved by Shirley Hazen and seconded by Pat Cleave that Thelma Blaikie be approved as the acting secretary. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Andrew Paton and seconded by Lorna Carter that the Agenda be approved as written. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MOTION: Moved by Pat Cleave and seconded by Dick Charlton that the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS

MOTION: Moved by Wanda Baker-Hayward and seconded by Andrew Paton that the Annual Reports for 2021, with the exception of the Treasurer's Report 2021 and the Budget 2022, be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

Lynn Loder presented the Treasurer's Report. The detailed report is found on pages 41, 42 and 43 of the 2021 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Pat Cleave that the Grace United Church Treasurer's Report (Balance Sheet and Financial Statement) for 2021 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

2021 BUDGET

The Budget was presented by Lynn Loder. The proposed budget is on pages 42 and 43 of the 2021 Annual Report.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Ann Dent that the recommendation for salaries, benefits and honorariums presented in the Grace United Church 2022 Budget be approved. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by John Menzies that the Grace United Church 2022 Budget be approved as presented. Motion carried.

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 27, 2022**

MISSION AND SERVICE OBJECTIVE FOR 2022

Mission and Service objective for 2022 was proposed as eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00).

MOTION: Moved by Lynn Loder and seconded by Wanda Baker-Hayward that the objective for the Mission and Service Fund for 2022 be eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00). Motion carried

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

Pat Cleave presented the report of the Nominating Committee:

1. The position of Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually by the congregation.
Chair: Mark Hazen
Vice Chair: Wanda Baker-Hayward
2. Members of Unified Board reappointed to a new three (3) year term:
Darrell Blenus
Lorna Carter
Ann Mugford
Andrew Paton
Jill Thompson
Martin Walker
3. Members of Unified Board reappointed for an one (1) year term:
Jenny de Zoete
4. Elected to position of Chair of Committee for a three (3) year term:
John Menzies, Chair, Property Committee
Cindy Penney, Chair, Christian Development Committee
5. Elected to position of Chair of Committee for an additional one (1) year term [three (3) year term as Chair was completed, no new chair was identified]:
Lorna Carter, Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee
Shirley Hazen - Chair of Communications Committee
Ann Mugford, Chair, Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee
Andrew Paton, Chair, Worship Committee
6. Appointment as Lay Representatives of Grace United Church to Region 15:
Pat Cleave
Cindy Penney

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
Grace United Church
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 27, 2022**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (continued)

7. Acknowledge the contributions of the following Board Members who are retiring from the Board (who retired during the course of the year or are retiring as of this meeting):

Jennifer Eames
Cliff Muise
Laura Muise
Claire Munroe
Bob Picco
Darrell Spencer

8. Vacancies

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

Mark Hazen, Chair called for further nominations from the floor three (3) times.

MOTION: Moved by Shirley Hazen and seconded by Jennifer Eames that nominations cease. Motion carried.

MOTION: Moved by Susan Forsyth and seconded by Ann Dent that we accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NORTH DARTMOUTH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTRE (NDORC)

Shirley Hazen reported that the congregation of Grace United Church continues to support the centre with generous donations of money and groceries. Several members of the congregation volunteer on a regular basis at the Foodbank.

Lynn Loder is the Treasurer.

In 2021, one hundred seventy (170) Hampers and Gift Bags were distributed prior to Christmas.

MOTION: Moved by Pat Cleave and seconded by Shirley Hazen that Wanda Baker-Hayward, Stephen Fram, Mark Hazen, Lynn Loder, Betty MacNeil and Cathy Spencer be appointed as members of the North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre Society. Motion carried.

Dale Knox and Martin Walker are retiring as Directors. Two (2) new Directors will be chosen by the Board of the Society from those names being submitted as members.

**Minutes
Annual Congregational Meeting
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Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
February 27, 2022**

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

BENEDICTION

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

Thelma Blaikie
Acting Secretary

Unified Board Annual Report 2022

2022; it was quite the year! Grace seems to be coming to a new normal with some relaxing of COVID protocols, the restart of Coffee Fellowship and congregational events. It has been so good to get our congregational family back together. The process of opening up; while respecting the diversity of members comfort levels, has not been easy - and so we continue with a variety of measures to try to provide worship and community that is open to all.

Stephen and Malcolm have, again, provided exceptional leadership in delivering wonderful hybrid worship services. I wish to thank all of our worship leaders, and the choir, for helping us through this difficult year. Whomever we find to fill Malcolm's position in the fall will have large shoes to fill. There are a couple of projects that I would like to highlight from the past year. First the move from oil to heat-pumps was completed in October. I would especially like to thank Bob Picco for sheparding this initiative to completion. We are still adjusting to how to best use the new system; but the more constant temperature in the Sanctuary has had the unanticipated benefit of improving the function of the organ. In addition, the improved electrical supply opens up the opportunity for other improvements such as sanctuary lighting etc.

Second, the Congregational Survey conducted by the I2 Committee will provide the basis for the board to look at a Strategic Plan for our future; and the updating of our Board/Committee structure to match our mission goals. I want to thank Joanne Hodder's team for putting the survey together and everyone who participated. A key output of the survey is the congregation's desire for more emphasis on Outreach and Pastoral Care.

I would like to thank all the committees, who have been working hard to maintain some sense of normalcy over the year. Vicki and Cindy put a lot of work into maintaining children's programming; re-organizing the library, etc. Shirley and her communications team have done wonders with our online presence. Ann's Pastoral Care and Outreach continue to make our presence known in the Dartmouth community and support our social justice initiatives while also hosting Coffee Fellowship and visiting our seniors. Andrew's worship team has shown it can pirouette with the best in the world. Blair's team has been very busy, three Giant Book Sales, the Perennial Sale (+ Open Street Dartmouth), Sea Glass and Yoga; weekly Gift card sales and of course the Memory Tree.

Behind all of this great work is our staff! Where would we be without Thelma keeping us organized, taking reservations for services, building procedures, etc. Bob Tobin, rebuilding our rental program. And of course Bill Busby continuously cleaning so that the building is ready for our programs and renters. I am continuously thankful for Lorna's Ministry and Personnel team's work supporting our staff. So as this year comes to an end, and we look to the future, although financially we have a modest deficit I think we are in a reasonably good place, and we have strong programs to take us forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Hazen
Chair

Members of Unified Board 2022

Minister

Rev. Stephen Fram

Chair

Mark Hazen

Vice Chair

Wanda Baker-Hayward

Immediate Past Chair

Pat Cleave

Clerk of Session

Andrew Paton

Treasurer

Lynn Loder

Envelope Steward

Martin Walker

Worship Committee

Andrew Paton, Chair

James Connolly

Martin Walker (January to May)

Christian Development Committee

Wanda Baker-Hayward, Chair (January to February)

Cindy Penney, Chair (March to December)

Vicki Harvey

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee

Ann Mugford, Chair

Sandra Foster

Patricia Mallowney

Finance Committee

Blair MacKinnon, Chair

Lynn Loder

Martin Walker (May to December)

Members of Unified Board 2022 (continued)

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Lorna Carter, Chair
Jenny de Zoete
Jill Thompson

Property Committee

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

Innovation and Implementation Committee

Joanne Hodder, Chair
Sara Napier
Stephen Penney

Communications Committee

Shirley Hazen, Chair
Stephen Penney

Special Gift Fund Committee

Lynn Loder, Chair
Blair MacKinnon

Lay Representatives to Presbytery / Region 15

Pat Cleave
Cindy Penney

Trustees

Darrell Spencer, Chair (January to February)
Blair MacKinnon, Chair (March to December)
Lynn Loder

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

Anthony Archibald
Clifford Muise (January to February)
Laura Muise (January to February)

Worship Committee Annual Report 2022

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

In 2022 the Worship Committee began the year with a membership comprised of Reverend Stephen Fram, Malcolm Bradley (Organist & Choir Director), Alice Baker, Dick Charlton, Jim Connolly, Martin Walker and Andrew Paton, Chair (and Clerk of Session). In February, Alice Baker, after many years of faithful service on the committee, stepped down and a few months later, Martin Walker transferred his service commitment to the Finance Committee. We thank them both for their contribution to the committee and to the Worship Service at Grace. The committee then actively sought new members and was particularly interested in beginning to address the gender imbalance on the committee. The chair asked a number of women to serve on the committee and June Filipkowski, who was both new to Dartmouth and our congregation, agreed to join our committee. Regrettably, June was drawn by a friend to another church in Dartmouth soon after and resigned from our committee. During 2022 the Committee held ten regular committee meetings and all meetings were virtual (Zoom).

Grace United continued to be served in 2022 by our worship leaders, Reverend Stephen Fram, our minister and Malcolm Bradley, our organist and choir director. In the summer, when Reverend Fram was on study leave, Shirley Hazen served in the role of pulpit supply on July 3rd and Max Martin on July 10th. We were particularly fortunate later in the year that Shirley Hazen once again agreed to serve in this capacity on October 9th and 16th when Rev. Fram was away and Rev. Wendy Kean, who was slated to be the supply minister, was unable to do so due to COVID-19.

Worship Services during 2022 continued to be impacted by the pandemic. At the beginning of the year Provincial public health restrictions for faith gatherings, including masking and social distancing, remained in effect, though by spring they were eliminated. Grace however continued a policy of recommending (though not requiring) that masks be worn while in the church. In the latter portion of the year the pews in half of the sanctuary were identified as a mask required section and the others as a mask recommended. Choir members remained masked during worship services throughout the year, though solo or small ensemble groups removed their masks when singing. For various reasons, pandemic related and otherwise, the choir is now regularly seated in chairs at the front of the sanctuary. Choir members have continued to participate in high numbers (regularly about 25 people) during these challenging times and have served as an important mainstay for Sunday morning services. For this we are very grateful. In order to better accommodate the choir and enhance participation in the worship service a couple of pews were removed from the front of the church this year. As part of the gradual reintroduction of past practices, an in-person Children's Time during the Sunday service was reinstated this year. Regarding the offering during the Worship Service, there continued to be no passing of the collection plate but rather the plate remains at the back of the church for members to drop off their offering. However, as a step in the reinstating of past practices, during the latter part of the year the collection plate was brought forward and a blessing given during the Worship Service.

All worship services in 2022 were hybrid services, that is both in-person as well as live-streamed. These on-line services were also available for later viewing on the Grace United YouTube channel.

There were six Worship Services in 2022 in which the Sacrament of Holy Communion took place. This included communion on Easter Sunday, World-Wide Communion Sunday (in October) and on the first Sunday of Advent. Pre-packaged communion elements were used again this year to minimize contact between individuals in light of continued COVID-19 concerns.

Worship Committee Annual Report 2022 (continued)

No baptisms took place at Grace United in 2022, however, Rev. Fram conducted one marriage ceremony which took place off-site at the couple's residence, due to their mobility and health concerns.

On Sunday November 20th Grace United Church commemorated its 169th Anniversary. This year's celebration was led by our choir and Tom Trenney, the Minister of Music at First Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, who joined us to do a weekend workshop with the choir. The service was one of music interspersed by scripture readings and including a reflection on "Love", by Mr. Trenney, a man of great faith, who is not unfamiliar with preaching. This was a wonderful service of celebration and it was well attended by the congregation.

Special services were held during the Lent/Easter and Advent/Christmas seasons, including, for the former, a joint Grace United / Christ Church Good Friday service held at Grace and on Easter Sunday an early-risers outdoor service at Ferry Terminal Park as well as the usual service at 11:00 am. For the latter, on the Sunday before Christmas (December 18th) there was a Service of Lessons & Carols, thanks to our Director of Music and the choir, while on Christmas Eve there was the "Grumpy Innkeeper" service for children at 4:30 pm and a more traditional service at 7:00 pm. The children's service in particular was very well attended. There was also a service on Christmas Day, which this year fell on a Sunday.

The Worship Committee endeavoured to keep the pulpit area provided with plants/greenery or suitable flowers to provide some added visual interest in the sanctuary especially since many are viewing the service on-line and the video often focuses here. In addition, the committee organized special decorating of the Sanctuary for two occasions: Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Worship Committee itself handled the former, while Eleanor Hall and Betty Lou Suddard took the lead role for the latter and this was much appreciated.

Grace United this year continued its ministry of word and music at Parkland at the Lakes (Baker Drive), on a rotation basis with other local churches, on the fourth Wednesday afternoon of each month. These services for Parkland residents were regularly led by Rev. Fram, although on one occasion by Shirley Hazen, with assistance from Malcolm Bradley and often included some members from our church choir.

In 2022, the Worship Committee updated the Marriage Policy to clarify some of the wording and amended provisions regarding fees related to AV requirements, in light of updates to AV fees previously approved by the Board.

One of the projects undertaken by the Worship Committee in 2022 was to update the small United Church crest decals in the church as well as add the Affirming Congregation decals. The three ground floor entrance doors to the church now have this pair of decals and the outdoor illuminated sign at the corner of King and Ochterloney will be updated with these once the warmer weather returns.

In closing, I truly thank all the members of the Worship Committee for their commitment and service in 2022, in particular, Reverend Fram for his spiritual leadership, Malcolm Bradley for his ministry of music, Dick Charlton for coordinating and often videotaping scripture readers for the Sunday services and Jim Connolly for his weekly prayer to open the Sunday service. As well, on behalf of the Worship Committee, I thank all those who gave of their time and talent to contribute to or make possible our worship services, including the choir & other singers/musicians, scripture readers, the AV team and greeters.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Paton
Chair of Worship and Clerk of Session

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2022

Director and Organist	Malcolm Bradley (since 1992)
Members as at December 2022	28 members (including one on leave)
Executive	President Eleanor Hall
	Treasurer Chris Wolfe
	Librarian/VP Ian Fraser
	Secretary Connie Mack & Margi Hennen
	Social Susan Forsyth
	Wardrobe Debbie Fram

Membership changes:

Pat McCormack, long-time alto, retired late in 2021 due to health reasons and wish her all the best. A memorial service was held on July 23 for the late Brian Hennen, our entertaining bass, who passed away suddenly in August 2021.

Choir Mandate:

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

In July 2022, our music director attended the Summer Institute of Church Music. It was originally to be an in-person session but because of continuing COVID concerns and a large increase in price for the facility that had been used for the past 50 years, all the sessions were once again held on line. There was an in-person choir that rehearsed each evening in Whitby, Ontario, and the rehearsals were live streamed.

Choir Activities:

With more relaxed COVID-19 restrictions, the choir was eventually allowed to sing in the sanctuary with masks and hold rehearsals in the upper hall again but wearing masks. All worship services in 2022 were live-streamed and also in-person, with more congregants in attendance. Choir members sang solos, duets, and small ensembles in person again at services.

COVID restrictions meant a delay in the resumption of rehearsals in 2022. Soloists led the hymns in the first two months with the choir returning to their leadership role on February 20. An April date was set for the visit of the American conductor Tom Trenney but that had to be postponed because of the reduced preparation time. To add a special touch to the spring session of the choir, a mini choral festival was held over three Sundays at the end of May and early in June. For one service, we had Debbie Miles and Lynn Pelton as guest musicians. The following week, we had Louise Grinstead as our guest accompanist and our own Heather Mayka accompanied the choir on the French Horn. The first Sunday in June, guest pianist Pamela Burton accompanied the King Street Band, and for the first time, we had backup singers and dancers drawn from the choir ranks.

The fall term for the choir was focused on preparing for the November visit of Tom Trenney, one of America's finest choral conductors and church musicians. A very busy week-end with rehearsals on Friday night, Saturday morning and afternoon, and an early call on the Anniversary Sunday. The event was truly inspiring musically and spiritually for each member of the choir. The choir performed a wide variety of music during the service to a very high level of achievement.

With just three rehearsals, the choir then prepared a Service of Lessons and Carols which was presented to the congregation on December 18.

Grace United Church Choir Annual Report 2022 (continued)

Another highlight of 2022 was that the anthem commissioned by Grace in 2017 to celebrate Malcolm's 25th year with the church, was published by Augsburg Press, a large Lutheran church music publishing company in the US. The piece was featured in a performance by the Summer Institute Choral Ensemble, conducted by Canadian choral conductor Mark Sirett, who was also the composer of this special anthem.

Guest musicians:

Pam Burton, piano; Heather Mayka, trumpet; Lynn Pelton, piano; Debbie Miles, violin; Alison Roe-Smith, flute; Cynthia Davies, piano; Hilary Brown, cello.

Additional choristers for Tom Trenney event were Bryan Crocker, Steven DeWitt, Joe Murphy, and Andrew Pelrine. Also joining us were former choir members Brenda Weir and David Fraser.

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

Sopranos

Sheila Haines, Alice Baker, Eleanor Hall, Jennifer Eames, Karen Leslie, Jill Thompson, Mim Fraser, H el ene Lemay, Shirley Cameron, Margi Hennen, Sharon O'Driscoll

Altos

Debbie Fram, Jennifer Garvey, Ann Dent, Susan Forsyth, Elinor Benjamin, Connie Mack, Christine Mair

Tenors

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

Basses

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

Choir social:

This was part of the Tom Trenney event during the weekend of Nov 18-20, with wonderful sandwiches, veggies, fruit, and sweets provided by the choir members and much enjoyed by all.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Mack, Choir secretary, and Malcolm Bradley, Choir director

**Grace United Church
Choir
Financial Report 2022**

Balance Forwarded January 1, 2022 **\$ 7,980.24**

Receipts

Dues	\$ 240.00
Donations	\$1,500.00

Total	<u><u>\$1,740.00</u></u>
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Disbursements

Accompanist	\$ 100.00
30th Anniversary of M. Bradley Celebration	\$ 24.99
T. Trenney Air Fare	\$1,237.11
T. Trenney Fee	\$3,459.20
T. Trenney Accomodations	\$ 671.92
Additional Musicians	\$ 835.00
Gift to T. Trenney	\$ 100.00
NS Choral Federation Dues	\$ 75.00
White Gift donation	\$ 50.00

Total	<u><u>\$6,553.22</u></u>
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Closing Balance December 31, 2022 **\$ 3,167.02**

Respectfully submitted:
Christopher Wolfe, Treasurer
January 11, 2023

Audiovisual Annual Report 2022

The AV team continues to improve processes, update and maintain equipment and seek solutions to anything that restricts a top-quality production every week.

Through 2022 there have been some adjustments to the weekly service, including a more frequent choir placement to the floor near the piano. In working with this the Audio/Visual team has been testing different microphone locations in order to capture the best sound for the live outgoing stream to YouTube as well as the recorded file which can be used to replay anthems in the future. We will continue to improve this, possibly placing discrete overhead mics in that part of the sanctuary - similar to the mics in the choir loft.

Some spotlights have been placed in the balcony to assist in brightening the room and reducing shadows. More work is required in this area and we will continue to look for ways to improve lighting for Video streaming and playback.

The team volunteers using a 3-week rotation and we meet and share new learnings often. Our system is extremely capable, and over time we are learning and implementing additional features. We appreciate the support from the Unified Board and the congregation as we continue to improve and learn.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Archibald
Member of the AV Team

Christian Development Committee Annual Report 2022

Committee Chair: Wanda Baker-Hayward (January - March), Cindy Penney (March - December)

Members: Janet Bond, Vicki Harvey, Heather Mayka, Rev. Stephen Fram

Meetings: Second Thursday of the month at 7:30pm by Zoom

Sunday School Coordinator: Vicki Harvey with co-coordinator Wanda Baker-Hayward (January-March)

Events for the Year 2022:

- Sunday School: met either in the new Sunday School Room or over Zoom as necessary
- Children's Time: Sunday School resumed in-person participation in service in the spring
- Valentine's Cards: Sunday School created cards that were delivered to members of the Grace family who have difficulty getting to church
- Lent in Bag: activities for lent were available February 27 - special thanks to Mark and Shirley Hazen for their contributions
- Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday: get together held over Zoom on March 1
- Effect: Hope (Leprosy Mission): Sunday School created banks placed in church on Palm and Easter Sundays (April 10 & 17)
- Easter Breakfast: Modified breakfast with fresh muffins in upper hall following service
- Celebration Sunday: June 19
 - o Sunday School closing for the summer with ice cream sundaes
 - o Thank you card and gift to Wanda Baker-Hayward for stepping in as Sunday School co-coordinator during the pandemic
 - o Cards of Appreciation presented to members of the congregation for their contributions to Grace over the past year
- Library: open during fellowship time, update of cataloguing and organization is ongoing
- Book Study: Five Little Indians - hybrid sessions held in September
- Congregational Picnic: September 18 with pizza and games indoors due to weather
- Godly Play: Vicki Harvey completed the training workshop held in October/November and incorporated into Sunday School activities during Advent
- Family Christmas Gift Stockings: Nov 20 - organized by Janet Bond - 75 stockings with \$800 gift cards for Veith House and \$500 gift cards plus children's clothing and toys for North Grove
- Advent Event: held November 27 during Fellowship time after the service. Cookies, carols and Circle of Hope interactive story were well received

Christian Development Committee Annual Report 2022 (continued)

Events for the Year 2022: (continued)

- Sunday School & Christmas: children participated in Advent Candle Lighting, Advent Event and Children's Christmas Eve Service. They made decorations for the King St Entrance. Cookies decorated at the Christmas Party on December 18 were delivered to Margaret's House
- Children's Christmas Eve Service: great participation from Sunday School with addition of children and adults from the congregation for the Grumpy Innkeeper story. Amazing attendance for the first in-person Children's Christmas Eve service since 2019
- Walk With Grace: In response to our human need for community and connection, Walk with Grace was created during the pandemic and has continued under the leadership of Shirley Hazen. Public Health restrictions meant no Walk with Grace in January 2022, but since then it has happened most Sundays, with exceptions due to bad weather and conflicting church events. Generally, the walk is around Lake Banook in the afternoon from mid Fall to late Spring. When daylight lasts longer and the days are warmer, it shifts to early evenings. Walkers happily stop at the Kiwanis ice cream stand for a treat when open. Attendance ranges from two to twelve, not all affiliated with Grace.
- Women's Early Risers Breakfast: coordinated by H el ene LeMay, met by Zoom on the last Sunday of the month until resuming in person breakfast on November 27 at 8:30 am

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Penney
Chair

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee Annual Report 2022

Current members of the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committee:

Eleanor Hall, Mary Walker, Sandy Foster, Ann Dent, Rev. S. Fram & Ann Mugford (Chair)

In October, Pat Mallowney resigned from our committee. We want to express our appreciation for her contribution to our team over the past years. In November, we were pleased to welcome Ann Dent to our committee.

Also, I would like to acknowledge two other people who are very committed to our PC&O projects. Susan Forsyth efficiently coordinates our monthly 'Meals for Margaret's House' and 'recruits' volunteers from the choir for coffee fellowship. June Charlton leads our card ministry, sending thoughtful messages to members of our congregation for a variety of occasions. For more details, see their reports below. We have a very devoted team who works to support all our activities and projects.

Over the past year, we meet six times by Zoom.

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

Pastoral Care:

- **Visitation Coordination Committee** - Sandy Foster provides leadership for this committee. Here is her report:
This committee has 9 volunteers. At the end of 2022, there were 18 people being visited either in-person, or by phone or mail. We are encouraging visits, when needed and if possible, be made by a team which can consist of friends or spouses. This can enrich the visit for all. Comments and observations by those attempting visits to persons in late stage Alzheimer's led to the decision to do their visits by card and notes. Christmas poinsettias were delivered to 14 folks this year and we have heard they were appreciated. If anyone wishes a family member or friend to be added to the visitation list, please let Rev. Fram or myself know.
- **Card Ministry** - led by June Charlton. Here is her report:
During 2022, a total of 24 cards were sent - 11 bereavement cards were sent to family members of those who have passed on, 9 birthday cards were sent to those over the age of 90, and 4 cards of encouragement were sent to those facing recovery of health.
- **Coffee Fellowship** - coordinated Ann Mugford. She reports:
This year, due to COVID concerns and protocols, in-person coffee fellowship was sporadic until regular organization began in March. We are still following pandemic guidelines when serving and partaking of refreshments for Sunday morning fellowship - i.e., volunteers serve folks and they sit at a table to enjoy their coffee and conversation. While some members are hesitant to return to coffee fellowship, we have willing volunteers to provide this valued part of Sunday worship.
- **Sunday Greeters** - Eleanor Hall organizes greeters for our Sunday morning worship services. She reported:
Had a group of volunteers who were willing to greet folks for in-person Sunday worship at the beginning of the year - even during the pandemic. We are gradually reducing pandemic protocols - now requiring less documentation. Greeters inform those who attend our services about a masked required section and suggested distancing requirements.

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee Annual Report 2022 (continued)**Pastoral Care** (continued)

- **The Ambassador Program** - Because of the pandemic, this program went on pause. Currently, we do not have any official volunteers but unofficially, members of our congregation regularly welcome any new members visiting our Sunday morning worship.
- **Funeral Receptions** - coordinated by Mary Walker. She reports: *Because of COVID protocols and restrictions, there have been only a few receptions this past year. We have decided to follow coffee fellowship guidelines when funeral receptions are requested.* [See Coffee Fellowship above]

Outreach

- **Tree of Warmth** - In December, our congregation generously 'decorated' a Christmas tree with items that bring warmth to those in need. This past Christmas it was laden with mittens, socks, caps, undergarments, scarves and pajamas for men, women and children. A total of two hundred forty-three items 'decorated' the tree - one hundred two items were designated for men: seventy-one for women and seventy for children. All items were donated to Holy Trinity Emmanuel Church, North Dartmouth, which operates a free clothing depot. In addition to this, we received financial donations totalling \$295. This donation was used to purchase thirteen pairs of winter boots for school aged children supported by SchoolsPlus. This program is a collaborative, inter-agency community outreach organization sponsored by HRCE to support students and their families in HRM. We want to express our sincere gratitude to all for your generosity. These donations will help folks in our community stay warm during the cold winter months.
- **Coverdale & Alice House** - In spring and fall, we requested our congregation to donate personal care items for Coverdale [an organization to provide support and services to women and girls experiencing the justice system] and for Alice House [safe second stage housing and supportive counselling for women and children in their recovery from intimate partner violence]. Both charities deeply appreciated the generosity of our congregation. Pat Mullowney and Ann coordinated these projects.
- **North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre** [Stairs Memorial United Church Foodbank]: The foodbank services saw an increasing number of households - 46 toward the end of December which included 80 adults and 26 children. Our congregation supports this foodbank in many ways - donating food, finances and volunteers. In 2022, our congregation donated \$6,436 to Stairs Foodbank. Currently, eight members of Grace volunteer at the foodbank
- **Unified Board Contributions** - This year, our Unified Board increased our budget to \$5,000 for Outreach contributions to charities in our community. In 2022, our PC&O Committee recommended the following donations that were approved by our Board:

Adsum House	\$200
Atlantic School of Theology	\$300
Benevolent Fund	\$400
Byrony House	\$100
Camp Kidston	\$1,000
Dal Chaplain	\$300
Dartmouth Learning Network	\$300
Food for Phoenix	\$100

Pastoral Care / Outreach Committee Annual Report 2022 (continued)

Outreach (continued)

Unified Board Contributions (continued)

Laing House	\$100
Mobile Outreach Street Health	\$200
North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Center	\$500
North Grove, North Dartmouth	\$300
Phoenix House	\$100
Shym YWCA	\$300
Stepping Stone	\$200
Ukrainian Support Committee - Christ Anglican Church	\$300
Wish YWCA	\$300

- **Christion Relief and Development Coalition [Feeding Others Of Dartmouth** at Margaret's House: This committee supports Feeding Others Of Dartmouth at Margaret's House - also known as F.O.O.D.]. The coalition consists of representatives from fifteen churches of various faiths in Dartmouth. Ann Mugford is Grace's representative on this coalition. A very special part of our commitment to F.O.O.D. at Margaret's House is the preparation of meals. Susan Forsyth coordinates this project and here is her report:

A dedicated group of community members (most but not all members of Grace United Church) have provided meals for Margaret's House over the last year. A meal is made for the third Friday of each month from September to May inclusive. We have 38 contributors, divided into three groups with an additional three people who are available as substitutes. Each member prepares a meal for 8 people and so we feed over 100 clients each time. Margaret's House is still functioning with a skeleton crew in order to conform to COVID restrictions/concerns which has been a bit of a challenge as we need to find disposable containers for each contribution. That being said, everyone is very willing and helpful when called upon. We are grateful for the support that Grace brings to this important ministry. In addition to these meals, we contribute to special meals for occasions like Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. This usually involves cooked hams and turkeys. Throughout the year, we check in with the staff about any specific needs they have and, when possible, respond accordingly.

Another part of our commitment is through regular Sunday giving and designated donations. In 2022, Grace members donated \$3359.74 to assist with the operation of Margaret's House. The annual fundraiser, Christmas Full of Caring Auction and Dinner which is traditionally held in December was canceled again this year, due to lingering COVID concerns. However, throughout the pandemic, we were thankful for folks in Dartmouth and surrounding areas for their generous financial donations as well as donations of food, takeout containers, clothing, personal care items and any need Margaret's House identified on their Website and Facebook page.

In 2022, a total of 41,103 meals were served to guests at Margaret's House.

Finally, our committee would like to express sincere appreciation to our Grace family, for responding so generously and thoughtfully to our many and varied requests - despite the challenges created by the Pandemic! We are truly grateful. To each committee member, I would like to express gratitude for your leadership, commitment, and support for all our pastoral care and outreach endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Mugford
Chair

Ministry and Personnel Committee Annual Report 2022

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

We started the year in January with fulfilling our annual responsibility of providing recommendations to the Finance Committee on pay increases for all of our church personnel, as well as on any related remuneration.

In the Spring, each of our committee members contacted a staff member to review and update their contracts. Then, in May, annual performance reviews were held with four of the five members of our staff. The process for the Rental Manager is slightly different, and so the chair of M&P and the chair of the Property Committee met with him for an annual review in June.

Our committee would like to express our appreciation to each member of the staff for their ability to work independently and yet to pull together as a team.

For 2023, a major focus will be the search for a new Music Director, to replace Malcolm Bradley, who is retiring on June 30, after thirty years at Grace. M&P has created a Selection Committee and they have begun the process.

Thank you to the members of the M&P Committee: Jennifer Eames, Jill Thompson, Cathy Spencer, and Jenny de Zoete.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorna Carter
Chair

Communications Committee Annual Report 2022

We would like to thank Joanie Veitch for her time on the Communications Committee. Joanie left the Committee in the fall. She was the only one with professional experience on the Committee. Although her professional life was centred around the printed word, the videos that Joanie did for us demonstrated her talent in this area.

The Committee would be interested in having additional members who may have some experience in social media but more importantly have an interest in keeping people informed about the activities of Grace United Church. Please speak to Stephen Fram or Shirley Hazen about opportunities.

On an ongoing basis, the Committee produces weekly pre-service PowerPoints, social media posts and website updates to keep the congregation informed about past and upcoming activities. With increased activity in the building, we have resumed a PowerPoint at the King Street entrance. We updated the welcome package. This year we were able to sign up for a free professional version of Canva, an on-line graphic design software that has enabled us to upgrade our products.

We were able to turn our historical pictures into a video near Anniversary Sunday and at the end of the year we created a Year in Review from some of our pictures from 2022. We welcome pictures (electronic and/or paper) of Grace and its events from past years. They show up in our Anniversary video and on "Throwback Thursdays" on Facebook.

We support the work of other committees. We provided online survey support to Innovation and Implementation Committee, designed the infographic for the Stewardship program, made posters for the Special Initiatives Committee and helped to support congregational mailouts.

With the shortage of resources, the People of Grace project has been put on hold.

We are called to shine forth our light so the Communications Committee is not only concerned about keeping the congregation aware of our message and activities. We seek to spread the message more widely through Malcolm's thought-provoking signs and social media posts. We took the opportunity to make a short video about our heat pump project to help publicize our actions to "live with respect in creation". This year for the Twelve Days of Christmas, we highlighted some musical offerings from Grace Choir and our associated musical groups.

This year, our Facebook posts reached 18,399 accounts resulting in 6,157 visits to our Facebook page. In terms of our "likes" on Facebook over 60% of our audience is located in HRM, most of it is 35 and older with about three-quarters being women.

Our Instagram "audience" is a little different. Only 18% of our followers are in Halifax-Dartmouth and they tend to be younger, with just over 60% women.

Our website showed increased usage this year. Both the number of visits (42%) and the number of unique visitors (61.1%) has increased.

I would like to thank Stephen Fram and Stephen Penney for their work on the Communications Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hazen
Chair

Innovation and Implementation Committee Annual Report 2022

During 2022, the I2 Committee was comprised of the following members:

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

The I2 committee spent 2022, implementing and reporting on the findings from a survey seeking input and insights from the general membership of Grace United Church; the emphasis of the survey was on who we are as a congregation and Heart of Dartmouth community member, and how we were doing two years into the Covid-19 pandemic. The findings for the survey were shared with the Board in early January 2023, in a report titled: Survey findings supporting strategic needs and priorities planning for Grace United Church.

As I finalize this brief report, I wish to acknowledge Sara Napier, member of the I2 Committee, who was the energy and vision behind the development and implementation of the survey. As Chair of the I2 Committee, I would like to acknowledge Sara's leadership and commitment; her work envelopes the essence of what makes Grace United Church a leader within the Heart of Dartmouth.

I would also like acknowledge Stephen Penney and Stephen Fram who provided guidance and editorial services throughout the development of the survey. Shirley Hazen, on behalf of the Communications Team, who was instrumental in ensuring the survey was issued online and in paper. As for the helping hands involved that I have not mentioned, as there are always those who work quietly in background, thank you for your unspoken contributions to this work. Quiet leadership is what makes Grace United Church a positive member of the greater Dartmouth community.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Hodder

Chair, I2: Innovation, and Implementation Committee 2022

Property Committee Annual Report 2022

2022 was not a time for large projects due to budget limitations however, the church finishes and painting, internally and externally are in serious need of attention. It would be hoped that a financial plan can be put in place so that in the next 5 years these outstanding works can be completed. The stair down to the lower hall and walls adjacent needs some TLC.

The works completed in 2022 were:

- Removal of the oil heating equipment and the installation of heat pumps, which was made possible after grants were obtained covering over 75% of the overall cost. This measure will reduce future energy costs and reduce the church's carbon footprint.
- Replacement of an area of roof shingles adjacent the tower. Unfortunately, the remaining area requiring replacement could not be done due to the cost. This will be considered in 2023.
- Replacement of the kitchen's very old defective dishwasher with a new dishwasher.
- Repainting of the main entrance doors.
- General maintenance associated with door controls and hardware, emergency lighting and miscellaneous repairs.
- Treatment for eradication of mice that became a significant issue. The intention is to have a continuing treatment throughout the year to maintain rodent control.

Planned works:

- A vehicle collided with a stair railing at the Ochterloney Street entrance last June. Due to contractor unavailability this has been postponed for completion to 2023.
- The upper hall floor is in need of refinishing however it required major releveling due to the uneven surface. The committee will look at the best option to keep costs to a minimum and give a durable finish. This is considered a priority.
- Lower hall floor strip and wax treatment. This is now overdue and will be prioritised.
- There are a number of other miscellaneous items that will need completion pending costing.

Our small team on the Property Committee has quietly completed a few essential tasks and I would like to thank Bob Picco, Darrell Spencer, Darrell Blenus and Darrell Harvey. Unfortunately Darrell Harvey has indicated he would like to stand down from the Property Committee. We still may need to lean on his knowledge and experience from time to time.

Respectfully submitted,

John Menzies
Chair

Rental Manager Annual Report 2022

In January 2022 we entered the year with the belief that the pandemic was over and that the economic outlook would be very promising. Our renters were feeling optimistic about their business possibilities and the struggles of the previous two years were behind them. To a degree we found this to be true. However there were still some doubts and a full recovery was very slow in developing. While the pandemic had slowed significantly, the general economy was constantly faced with lingering obstacles that presented themselves throughout the year. There were very real staffing shortages, many food service outlets had not survived, people were still reluctant to participate in group events and in general it was clear that society would take a long time to overcome the changes impacting small businesses during the pandemic years.

Early in 2022 we lost two kitchen renters who felt they could not continue, at least for the short term. Fortunately, we were able to replace them with new aspiring entrepreneurs who have continued with us throughout the year. We were encouraged by the expected return of previously successful dance and music programs. However, decisions were made not to return at least for 2022.

Our biggest renter loss for 2022 was the 3D Defensive Driving Course. It was a very successful program during 2021 and in fact it was too successful in that our facility was no longer suitable for their needs. However, this in many areas is actually why we are here, to provide umbilical opportunities to new and developing entrepreneurs to start and grow their business at a minimal and controlled cost until strengths and weaknesses are determined and the hoped-for next steps become obvious to them and they can move on

So, while we lost some participants, we did replace some of them with others and indeed, a number of our long term renters stayed the course and while some struggled a bit, they remained with us into 2023. The kitchen, as mentioned ended 2022 with the same number of renters as 2021. While we were unable to replace the Driving School (our most significant in terms of revenue) with a similar program, we did retain our next most significant program, Mindwellrx Academy, the 1st Aid training program which came to us August, 2021. In addition we did not replace the 2021 Autism Summer Camp which operated in the lower hall for two months. This program was a challenge both for the program and us. For them the challenge was to take down and set up every day necessitated by the number of other users of the lower hall. For us, the daily running of the Camp did challenge the daytime kitchen renters with access and noise levels. It requires us to reconsider how to make dual use of the lower level workable as we move forward.

Financially we had a banner year in 2021, due largely to multi day renters such as the Driving School, the 1st Aid Program and the Summer Camp. This was not replicated in 2022, although I anticipate we have retained the average yearly income of the years prior to 2021.

As we entered 2022 with concerns over the expected loss of the Post Office Parking lot, we face the same concerns this coming year. Some renters have already reduced their times over parking and travel cost concerns. Others are in a wait and see situation. Only time will tell the impact that will have on our operations.

So far, things look promising. Grace United Church committees have undertaken new programs that are intended to serve both the community and church members. In addition, interest from new kitchen renters has surfaced as well as requests for space for active programming in the rest of the building.

We plan to continue serving our mandate to provide opportunities for the aspiring entrepreneur and the community minded programmers to provide for their individual needs and those of their constituents. This is what is always expected of this Grace United Church and we shall continue to provide for those needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Tobin

Board of Trustees Annual Report 2022

The Board of Trustees is charged with the responsibility of managing church assets, including the church property.

The primary focus of the Trustees in 2022 involved dealing with the owner of the post office lands.

A survey of the post office land disclosed an encroachment of the church driveway on the post office land.

Given the fact that the encroachment has existed for in excess of 60 years, the Trustees took the position that we had an easement by prescription. This is more commonly known as "squatters rights."

Your minister, Chair of the Unified Board, a representative from the property committee and a representative for the Trustees had a series of meetings with the Developer.

As a result of these meetings the following motion was passed and approved by the Unified Board on the 29th of September 2022:

Grace United Church and the Developer agree that the Developer will:

- Provide Two indoor parking spots at the bottom of the first level parking garage ramp. Closest spots to church. And 24/7 access to them.
- Enough space, in addition to Grace property next to the Accessible Ramp, to allow a full third parking spot (min 9' wide) next to the Ramp.
- Provide 3 spaces of parking in the area during the construction period.
- Put down new surface in the alley.
- Install a rot iron-like fence/gate - key pad entry (part-way along alley, near window by ramp).
- Install security lights along the alley (and perhaps if we wanted, to illuminate the church).
- Create an inset for garbage trolleys at the end of the alley so trolleys are hidden from immediate view down alley from street.
- Indoor Parking spots will be provided so long as the Grace property remains a church.
- Provide enduring right of use to the portion of the resulting alleyway that is not currently owned by Grace. Grace will provide the Developer with access to the resulting alleyway for the purposes of maintenance, and forgo its right of use to the current 11' wide driveway (of which only 6' belongs to Grace).

The acceptance of this motion has been communicated to the Developer.

At the present time we are awaiting news from the Developer on the progress of their application for a Development Agreement with the City Planning Department. A part of the Application requires a series of Public consultations which all affected parties will have an opportunity to have input into the proposal.

Once we have been informed on the status of the Application, we will be reporting to the Unified Board.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Blair MacKinnon
Chair

Men's Breakfast Club Annual Report 2022

Once again, the Grace United Men's Breakfast Club organized monthly morning breakfasts, each held at 9:00 am on the third Sunday of the month, fall, winter and spring. However, because of the continued COVID restrictions, in 2021 the breakfasts had all been virtual. Distanced, but brought together via Zoom to each breakfaster's living room or wherever their monitor was.

While it had worked well enough in 2021 it was felt that for 2022 we should meet in person, and the room off the upper hall was chosen, with a simple serving of coffee and cookies. Martin Walker mailed round this new arrangement and managed to corral eight men for the first 'breakfast', January 15th. Then it was eventually agreed we come together for a 'real' breakfast on October 23rd, in the lower hall, as we used to. That day twelve gathered round the table for pancakes, sausage, pineapple, toast, coffee, juice and jam. At the next meeting, November 20th, we had about 20 men and a great meal. Wonderful.

At our breakfasts all men are welcome. We meet and greet with coffee and conversation, and after Grace is said everyone line up at the serving hatch for a plateful of finest cuisine. In 2022 we met six times

January 15 th	Meditation:	The Holy Spirit
February 20 th	Meditation:	Valentines and Priorities
March 20 th	Meditation:	St Patrick
May 15 th	Meditation:	Synergy
October 23 rd	Speaker:	Gordon Smith (Landscape architect)
November 20 th	Speaker:	Sam Austin (Deputy Mayor HRM)

As we move into 2023 the plan is for our breakfasts to continue as before. Meanwhile all men are reminded to make a note of the upcoming breakfast announcements given on the Grace Website or Face Book or on the pre-service streamed slide show.

Hope you can join us. Always fun and always a good start to a Sunday

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Men,



Dick Charlton

United Churches for Dartmouth (UCfD) Annual Report 2022

Churches included: Cole Harbour/Woodside, Grace, Port Wallis, Stairs, St. James, Woodlawn

United Churches for Dartmouth is now back to in person meetings. We have held two since September. We continue to work together to share resources as well as to let the other churches know of the events and programs held at our individual churches.

We are still doing the Weekly Wednesday Spiritual Reflections that are shown on the UCfD Facebook page and Grace's own Facebook page. The UCfD Facebook page is also a place to share the great things that the individual congregations are doing as well as what UCfD is doing as a group. Spirit Café is one initiative that is still on hold.

We are busy collaborating on ways to share resources. The individual churches are looking to compile a list of lay leaders in the different congregations who would be available to lead a service at one of the churches if circumstances should arise. We are also looking to compile a list of electronic and musical equipment that is not needed at one church but is still in good working order that others might need. We have also shared resources to go into a group buy for the bags for Lent in a Bag and also to share the resources used in the bags. Christian Education programs continue to be available to all the congregations. These included Christian Cliches and Five Little Indians in the fall.

One of the main benefits of UCfD has been the opportunity for members of congregational boards to meet and exchange ideas and issues. At every meeting there is an opportunity for each congregation to tell the others what their congregation has been doing and has planned for the next quarter. Other congregations then have the opportunity to ask questions and some amazing discussions have resulted. In particular in this past year we had a lot of discussion around reopening and re-starting congregational relationships.

In the new year UCfD is looking at sponsoring Anti-Spam seminars for seniors; shared Lenten programs; and shared outreach programs (like the StoneSoup Network). We are also hoping to bring the United Church Moderator to our area.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Baker-Hayward
United Churches for Dartmouth

Regional Council 15 Representatives' Report 2022

In 2022 Grace United had two regional council representatives - Pat Cleave and Cindy Penney.

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

- Weekly newsletters for Region 15 are posted --- anyone can subscribe to emails.
- The 2023 AGM (Theme: The Story of Our Discipleship) is scheduled to be held in person from June 9-11, 2023 at Mount St. Vincent University
- General Council 44 was held virtually. Commissioners began work February 13, 2022 with the full meeting held July 22-26, 2022. The new moderator, Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, was installed at a service in Vancouver on August 7. Video recordings from meeting are available on the United Church of Canada website - united-church.ca

Due to ongoing COVID-19 awareness, the 2022 AGM for Region 15 - Bermuda and Nova Scotia - was held over Zoom on May 27 & 28. The celebration service was held May 29 at Bedford United Church. April Hart and Rick Gunn were ordained and Sandra Tomsons was installed as the new president.

Pre-AGM webinars were held May 19 (Division Reports & Strategic Plan) and May 25 (President-elect Nominee, Budget 2023 & Audited 2021 Statements).

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

1. Shauna MacDonald was voted in as president-elect.
2. Financials were approved. Budget basically the same as last year with some required salary increases.
3. Dr. Anna Robbins, Dean of Theology at Acadia University spoke on the Theme of the meeting - We Are Not Alone: Reimagining Community.
4. The Ecological Justice Working Group presented a video on climate activities taken by communities of faith, including Mark Hazen presenting Grace's Heat Pump initiative
5. Murray Pruden, the Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries & Justice introduced the 6 theme words of the strategic plan for the United Church of Canada: deep spirituality, bold discipleship, daring justice.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of RC15 representatives,

Cindy Penney

Grace Initiatives Committee Annual Report 2022

Grace Initiatives is an active, but perhaps not entirely official, committee of the Board. The purpose of Grace Initiatives is to raise funds for Grace United Church. We do this by carrying out events and activities through engaging as many volunteers that show up and then throwing open the doors to the community. This formula has worked well.

In 2022 we rebounded back to a nearly full slate of projects. Overall, we raised a little more than \$18K and finished ahead of budget. The best result for the year was getting back to work with a sense of new normalcy. Some things have changed, but the fun we have doing them has not. Thank you to everyone for all of the help you've given over the past year.

2022 projects included:

- Bulletin sponsorship
- Book sales
- UCC calendar sales (thank you, Sheila H.)
- Bake table
- Grocery cards
- Yoga with Jacqueline Adams
- Celebration plates
- Memory Tree
- Plant sale and flea market
- Sea glass craft
- Loonies and Toonies

We are always looking for new ways to engage our community and help the top line at the same time.

Our core planning group meets frequently to talk and eat and enjoy each others' company.

- Lina and Blair MacKinnon
- Jennifer Eames
- Jean MacQuarrie
- Ann Mugford
- Debbie Fram
- Laura and Cliff Muisse
- Alice Baker
- Marsha Tinkham
- Mim and Ian Fraser (plant sale)
- Martin Walker

Envelope Steward's Report for 2022

Contributions of Grace United Church 2022

Month	Loose	Local*	M&S Fund	Building Fund	2022	2021
January		12,813	1,198	2,191	16,202	15,125
February		11,831	1,222	2,057	15,110	17,463
March	30	15,459	1,352	2,124	18,965	16,356
April	170	22,796	1,352	2,179	26,497	20,604
May		14,273	1,289	2,361	17,924	17,075
June	25	13,555	1,349	2,231	17,160	18,145
July	36	11,914	1,297	2,572	15,819	14,531
August		10,638	1,162	1,964	13,764	15,211
September	60	14,102	1,384	2,593	18,139	18,982
October	60	13,947	1,379	3,201	18,587	22,457
November	97	24,072	1,247	2,119	27,535	21,438
December	416	27,645	1,654	2,486	32,202	31,616
Total	\$894	\$193,045	\$15,885	\$28,080	\$237,905	\$229,002

* includes Easter, Thanksgiving, Anniversary, Christmas and Initial offerings. For 2022 Anniversary contributions were earmarked for the heat pump project.

Average Contributions

Year	Envelopes		Contributors without envelopes	PAR	Total	Receipts	Average
	Used	Not used					
2022	32	(4)	56	87	175	237,905	1,359
2021	37	(9)	66	88	191	229,002	1,199
2020	41	(4)	56	91	188	236,005	1,255
2019	45	(10)	67	85	197	224,596	1,140
2018	56	(9)	58	80	194	208,509	1,075
2017	62	(3)	36	84	182	202,905	1,115

Envelope Steward's Report for 2022 (cont.)**Contribution Range**

\$	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Unused	4	9	4	10	9
0.01 – 200	32	44	35	55	62
201 – 400	16	19	26	20	16
401 – 600	13	17	12	20	17
601 – 800	10	9	12	8	8
801 – 1000	7	7	8	9	11
1001 – 1200	9	12	9	12	17
1201 – 1400	17	15	21	16	14
1401 – 1600	6	7	4	8	5
1601 – 1800	9	8	15	7	10
1801 – 2000	5	5	6	6	6
2000+	51	48	41	36	28

Special Offerings and Other Contributions

	<u>Easter</u>	<u>Thanksgiving</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>	<u>Christmas</u>	<u>Food Bank</u>	<u>F.O.O.D.</u>
2022	3,575	125	9,414*	10,368	7,536	3,396
2021	6,100	6,020	3,320	8,251	6,067	2,709
2020	45	-	5,177	4,405	7,655	2,924
2019	2,545	-	2,541	8,416	5,361	3,003
2018	2,125	-	2,400	4,103	4,042	1,889

* earmarked for the heat pump project



Envelope Steward

**Finance Committee Report
Year ended December 31, 2022**

The year 2022 was another challenging one for Grace. Rental revenues decreased and local offering was below budget. The Church ended the year with a small loss of approximately \$2000. The Finance Committee sincerely thanks everyone for their support.

Also during 2022, the oil furnaces in the Church were replaced with heat pumps. Although the Church received two green energy grants and many generous donations, there is still a balance of approximately \$16,000 to be raised. Please consider donating to this worthy endeavor.

For 2023, the budget indicates a need to increase local givings by \$12,000 or 6% over the previous year due to increasing expenses in many areas.

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

We would like to thank Connie Mack for her bookkeeping services and Martin Walker for his services as envelope steward. These positions take time and energy throughout the year and are an integral part of our financial systems and controls.

The Finance Committee would like to recognize Thelma Blaikie for her support from the office, and Ann Dent and Sheila Haines for completing the audit.

Blair MacKinnon, Chair Finance
Lynn Loder, Treasurer

Benevolent Fund Annual Report 2022

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

In 2022 the fund started with a balance of \$160. Received from donations \$600* and Grace United \$400. Given out to 27 individuals were: \$900 in Sobeys/Presidents Choice gift cards and \$10 in cash. Balance at end of 2022 is \$250.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Fram

* donations have been made to the Benevolent Fund and the Treasurer holds that amount and distributes it to Benevolent Fund as needed.

Special Gift Fund Annual Report 2022

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Loder
Treasurer

**Grace United Church
Special Gift/Memorial Fund
as at December 31, 2022**

		\$\$	
	Fund balance at Jan 1 /22		103,418
<u>Receipts</u>	Donations - general		535
	Donations for Organ Fund		200
	Dividends		677
	Interest		172
	Other		412
	Unrealized gain on ManuLife shares at 12/31/22		<u>164</u>
	Total receipts		2,160
<u>Disbursements</u>	Total Disbursements		<u>0.00</u>
	Net Surplus at Dec 31/22		<u>2,160</u>
	Fund balance at Dec 31/22		<u>105,578</u>
Assets			
	Bank - CIBC		425
	Investor's Edge -cash		1,190
	GIC, 1 year cashable maturing December 29,2023		<u>50,000</u>
	Total Cash & GICs		51,615
684 shares	ManuLife (stock value at Dec 31, 2022)		<u>16,655</u>
			68,270
	Due from affiliated Funds		
	Due from Grace Operating fund.		35,208
	Due from Ministry Bursary Fund		<u>2,100</u>
	Total due from affiliated Funds		<u>37,308</u>
	Total Fund balance at Dec 31/22		<u>105,578</u>
	Notes to Fund balances		
	Unrestricted Cash Funds and due from Grace general fund & Bursary		101,243
Restricted funds	Supporting the youth of the church	Note A	467
	Supporting youth music at the church	Note B	755
	Funds held on behalf of the Organ Fund	Note C	<u>3,113</u>
	Total restricted funds		<u>4,335</u>
	Total Cash Fund		<u>105,578</u>

Note A - for the general benefit of supporting the youth of the church
 Note B - for the general benefit of supporting youth music at the church
 Note C - Funds held on behalf of the Organ Fund

**Grace United Church
Ministry Bursary Fund
January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022**

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

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

Balance of Funds Available	\$\$
for Disbursement - January 1, 2022	2,537
Interest Income earned during the GIC term	41
Funds paid out to Ministry Candidate	-500
Balance of Funds available Dec 31,2022	<u>2,078</u>
CIBC GIC , 1 year term	5,000
maturing January 12, 2023	
Reinvested accumulated interest	<u>4,178</u>
Total Invested	9,178
Due to special gift fund	<u>-2,100</u>
Total fund balance. Dec 31, 2022	<u><u>7,078</u></u>

**Grace United Church
Organ Fund
January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022**

		\$\$
Organ fund started 1963	Fund Balance Jan 1,2022	11,773
	Receipts - Donations	200
	interest income	40
	Disbursements	<u>0</u>
	Fund Balance Dec 31,2022	<u><u>12,013</u></u>
	 <u>Cash & GIC</u>	
	Funds held by Special Gift fund	3,113
	CIBC 1 year cashable GIC	
	maturing April 25, 2023	8,900
	Total Cash and GIC	<u><u>12,013</u></u>

Grace United Church

Comparative Balance Sheet

	As at 12/31/22	As at 12/31/21	Difference
ASSET			
Current Assets			
Investment Cash	0.00	10,101.01	-10,101.01
Bank - CIBC	31,066.63	35,934.37	-4,867.74
East Coast Credit Union	9,337.85	0.00	9,337.85
Short-term investments	15,225.00	15,225.00	0.00
Due To/From Memorial Fund	-35,208.49	-14,490.12	-20,718.37
Accounts Receivable	0.00	1,666.70	-1,666.70
HST Recoverable	8,424.38	1,397.53	7,026.85
Total Current Assets	<u>28,845.37</u>	<u>49,834.49</u>	-20,989.12
TOTAL ASSET	<u>28,845.37</u>	<u>49,834.49</u>	-20,989.12
LIABILITY			
Current Liabilities			
Accts Payable - F.O.O.D.	2,128.77	1,733.03	395.74
Accounts Payable	11,832.38	5,974.07	5,858.31
Benevolent Fund	400.00	0.00	400.00
Accrued liabilities	0.00	2,108.68	-2,108.68
El payable	52.98	52.22	0.76
CPP payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inc Tax payable	1,573.96	1,441.07	132.89
CRA Source deduct payable	1,626.94	1,493.29	133.65
Deferred Revenue - Inclusive Choir	918.00	918.00	0.00
To/From A/V Sound System Fund	2,117.99	4,948.81	-2,830.82
Deferred Rev - Web Page Development	109.39	109.39	0.00
Deferred Revenue miscellaneous	500.00	500.00	0.00
Deferred Contributions	0.00	10,101.01	-10,101.01
Deferred Revenue - Total	3,645.38	16,577.21	-12,931.83
Due to Mission & Service Fund	-276.47	1,733.91	-2,010.38
Due to/from Library Fund	967.85	887.85	80.00
Rental Reserve Fund Hall & Kitchen	5,460.75	8,079.16	-2,618.41
Due to/from Building Fund	8,817.42	-2,104.12	10,921.54
Heat Pumps Fund	-16,948.58	0.00	-16,948.58
Due to/fr Church Renew/partnership	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u>20,654.44</u>	<u>39,483.08</u>	-18,828.64
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>20,654.44</u>	<u>39,483.08</u>	-18,828.64
EQUITY			
Equity - General Fund			
Retained Surplus - General Fund	10,351.41	10,331.12	20.29
Current Earnings	-2,160.48	20.29	-2,180.77
Total Equity - General Fund	<u>8,190.93</u>	<u>10,351.41</u>	-2,160.48
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>8,190.93</u>	<u>10,351.41</u>	-2,160.48
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>28,845.37</u>	<u>49,834.49</u>	-20,989.12

Grace United Church
Budget 2023, Actual and Budget 2022 and 2021

	Budget 2023	Actual 2022	Budget	Actual 2021	Budget 2021
Revenue					
Local budget offering	198,500	186,458	196,500	182,400	197,077
Hall rental	16,000	12,023	15,000	22,146	12,000
Kitchen rental	17,000	16,546	17,000	16,911	18,000
Other revenue	500	1,260	200	1,075	200
Covid-19 Wage Subsidy	0	1,480	2,000	7,490	
Grace Initiatives Committee	18,000	18,426	17,000	19,017	15,000
Spirit café and interest	100		200	225	200
M&S- in		16,435		17,324	
M&S - out		-16,435		-17,324	
Donations to be paid out		13,899		10,096	
Donations paid out		-13,899		-10,096	
Subtotal Other Revenue	51,600	49,735	51,400	66,864	45,400
Total Revenue	250,100	236,193	247,900	249,264	242,477
Expenses and Disbursements					
Salaries & Honouraria	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$
Salary - Minister	86,964	83,619	83,619	82,546	82,546
Salary- Supply minister-sabbatical				7,952	7,800
Contract - Organist	19,665	18,909	18,909	18,666	18,666
Salary - Office Administrator	17,413	16,743	16,743	16,528	16,528
Honourarium - Christian educ	700	700	700	500	500
Honourarium - Bookkeeper	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,050	2,050
Honouraria - other	2,000	1,522	2,000	663	2,000
Honouraria - envelope secretary	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,050	2,050
Contract - janitor	14,783	14,214	14,214	14,032	14,032
Honouraria - Guest musicians	600	100	1,000	605	700
Contract - Rental Manager	9,984	9,600	9,600	9,477	9,477
Bonus - Rental Manager	0		0	1,674	0
Total Salaries & Honouraria	157,108	150,407	151,785	156,743	156,348
UC pension, CPP & other benefits	20,000	18,769	18,000	18,921	16,000
El expense	1,800	1,704	1,704	1,787	1,600
Study leave & book fnd-minister	1,543	1,497	1,500	1,559	1,474
Book fund Supply Minister				187	
Professional dev - organist	500	300	1,500		800
Subtotal payroll expenses	23,843	22,270	22,704	22,454	19,874
Total Payroll & Honouraria	180,951	172,677	174,489	179,197	176,222
Church Premises & Housing					
Power	15000	6,829	6,500	6,424	6,000
Water	900	634	1,000	989	1,000
Heating fuel	0	11,523	10,000	8,527	9,000
Repairs & maintenance	5000	4,804	9,000	5,092	9,000
Furniture & fixtures	500	54	1,000		1,000
Computer o/l licenses & software	1000	870	2,000	763	2,000
Cleaning supplies & misc.	800	645	800	724	800
Total Church Premises & Housing	23,200	25,359	30,300	22,519	28,800

Grace United Church
Budget 2023, Actual and Budget 2022 and 2021

	Budget 2023	Actual 2022	Budget	Actual 2021	Budget 2021
Church Administration					
Travel allowance - minister	500	483	500	322	1,000
Travel allow-supp min				200	200
Printing, postage & stationery	2,500	2,420	2,500	2,116	2,500
Telecommunications	4,500	4,242	4,500	4,149	4,500
Insurance	9,000	8,602	9,000	8,859	6,600
Bank charges & payroll s/c	1,800	1,724	1,500	1,369	1,700
Taxes (Hydrant)	128	115	125	114	125
UCC Assessment	11,121	9,586	9,586	8,929	8,929
Total Church Administration	29,549	27,172	27,711	26,058	25,554
Church Activities					
Choir - music	700	326	700	140	700
Grace Initiatives expenses		35		34	
Christian education	1,200	1,455	1,200	1,197	1,000
Worship	1,500	1,246	2,500	3,324	2,000
Coffee, misc	300	293	700	655	400
Pastoral care	600	297			
Misc / concerts / cleaning	100		100		100
Long-range planning l sq.	0		200	119	200
Total Church Activities	4,400	3,652	5,400	5,469	4,400
Allocations & Discretionary					
Outreach (discret. combined)	5,000	5,000	5,000	3,500	3,500
Strategic planning project	1,500				
Unified Board	1,000	809	1,000	1,250	1,000
Total Allocation & Discretionary	7,500	5,809	6,000	4,750	4,500
Total Expenses Before Reserve	245,600	234,669	243,900	237,993	239,476
Allocation to Rental Reserve	4,500	3,684	4,000	4,751	3,001
Transfer to Building Fund				6,500	
Total Expenses & Allocations	250,100	238,353	247,900	249,244	242,477
Net Income (Deficiency)	0	-2,160	0	20	0

Statement of Building Fund, Building Reserve, and Sound System
January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

	Building	Rental Res	Sound System	Heat Pumps
Balance, Jan 1, 2022	-\$2,104	\$8,079	\$4,949	\$0
Donations received / Allocations	\$27,596	\$3,684	\$500	\$9,514
Energy grants				\$59,913
Disbursements from fund	-\$16,675	-\$6,303	-\$3,331	-\$86,376
Balance, December 31, 2022	\$8,817	\$5,460	\$2,118	-\$16,949

Audit Committee Report

We have audited the general operations balance sheet of Grace United Church as of December 31, 2022, and the general operations statements of revenue and expenses for the year then ended. Our audit was made in accordance with the Manual of the United Church of Canada and we followed the Grace "Self Audit Program" prepared by William Foster, C.A.

On Monday, February 6, 2023, we conducted ten random tests by tracing payments through accounts, reviewing the system of receipts and deposits of funds and posting to the General Ledger, and discussing the effectiveness of systems with those responsible. We did not have access to, nor did we examine, the accounts of various sub-committees and records of various fund raising programs, and portions of payroll managed through the United Church of Canada.

We found no irregularities and are satisfied with the general operations of accounting systems used to prepare annual financial statements.

We, as the audit committee, recognize the tremendous effort and time spent by volunteers and officers who are responsible for the various aspects of the accounting and recommend that the congregation recognize this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Dent and Sheila Haines

Ann Dent
Sheila Haines