



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

April 14, 2024



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**Melville United Church
Annual Meeting Agenda
Sunday April 14, 2024**

(Please be sure to sign the attendance sheet)

1. Call to Order / Welcome / Opening Remarks
2. Devotion – Allan Hons
3. In Memoriam – Pastoral Care Committee – Alison Rainford
4. Election of Chairperson and Secretary
5. Approval of Agenda
6. Voting Privilege and Meeting Protocol

The members of a local church who are entitled to vote at all meetings are persons in full membership whose names are on the roll of that church. With the consent of those, adherents who contribute regularly to the support of the church may vote on temporal matters. (Section 5.2.2 of the United Church Manual)

7. Approval of the minutes of Sunday, March 26, 2023
8. 2023 Financial Report – Presented by Kaillie Rawn, Treasurer
9. 2024 Proposed Budget – Presented by Kaillie Rawn, Treasurer
10. Approval of Committee Reports
11. Nomination Report by Stewardship – Ralph Rainford (Nominations will be accepted from the floor.)
12. New Business
 - a.
 - b.
13. A time of reflection and thanks
14. Benediction – Rev. Loree
15. Adjournment

Notes to Congregation:

- I. Floor will be open for motions.
- II. There must be a mover and seconder before the motion is read. (Motion must be in written form.)
- III. The mover will speak to the motion first. There is a limit of 3 (three) minutes for each person to speak to the motion.
- IV. The mover will have the final opportunity to speak to the motion before the vote.

Steps to a Motion:

- 9 STEPS TO A MOTION
- 1. Moved – a proposal from the floor
 - 2. Seconded – another member’s interest
 - 3. Stated – by chair or secretary
 - 4. Discussed – each member can speak once to each motion
 - 5. A mended – changing the motion by:
 - a) Adding or deleting words
 - b) Replacing with different words (Each amendment has the same 9 steps)
 - 6. Called – Time to vote
 - 7. Restated – ensures everyone’s understanding of motion
 - 8. Voted – all in favour? Opposed? Abstaining?
 - 9. Declared – Carried or Defeated

Ministers' Message – Melville United Church Annual Report 2023

I have felt elated and inspired to be welcomed as a part of the Melville United Church community! Your warmth and appreciation is very kind and caring. My work at your church has been mainly in the area of Pulpit Supply. I have met some of the ministerial colleagues whom you have wisely chosen to lead worship – all of us retirees! What you have done during a challenging transitional time is to be creative and “go with the flow” as you involve several of us in rotation. We each bring our own gifts to leading worship, and have different approaches to preaching. It think it is very healthy for a congregation to experience several different perspectives on our shared Christian journey together. What I intend to continue bringing, as long as you might need me, is a sense of the beauty of the worship experience, especially through music. I am so pleased to work with both Colleen Weber and with Suzanne Flewelling! They are both talented and thoughtful musicians.

As well, I have been asked to support the Social Justice and Outreach committee. This dynamic group is one that again inspires me! There are so many creative ideas and projects happening at your church, initiated by this group, that I hope several will touch the hearts of many of you as you assist them with living out their mandate.

I wish for you many blessings as you continue in your journey of faith!

Rev. Felicia Urbanski

It's always a pleasure to come and lead worship at Melville United on a Sunday morning, and to work with Suzanne Flewelling and Colleen Weber who provide consistently wonderful music leadership. And thanks to everyone for offering leadership in the various ways you do to keep Melville a vital part of the Fergus community. I see Melville as a "people place with a place for everyone." May it continue to be that as the future unfolds.

Rev. Tom Watson

A new year is always an exciting time for a congregation. There are new challenges, new ideas and beginnings in every phase of Ministry. I have enjoyed Sundays with you over the past few months and look forward to sharing with you again as you move towards accomplishing those new challenges, ideas and beginnings with excitement.

May God's blessings be with you all as a congregation in the future.

Rev. Jeff Hawkins.

Greetings to all!

It is good to be back working among my Melville church family again. This past October it came to my attention that, because of Rev. Lynda's absence, Melville did not have a minister in place to provide pastoral care for those in need. Although I know that Alison and the Pastoral Care Team do a wonderful job of keeping in touch and visiting with people, I felt there was still a gap with no minister present apart from Sunday mornings. Thus, I was happy to offer my services to the good folks of Melville. During my 7 ½ years of serving the Melville congregation as minister, I came to know many of you fairly well and so I thought it would be fitting for me to step in to take on the role of pastoral care provider.

I am contracted to provide care where needed - visiting house-bound and hospitalized people, attending to palliative situations, officiating at funerals, weddings, etc. Please do not hesitate to call me if you, or someone you know, has a need to speak with a minister. I will be happy to respond if I can.

Blessings to all as we journey forward in faith together.

Rev. Marion Loree

2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes

Melville United Church Annual Meeting Sunday, March 26, 2023

There were thirty-eight people in attendance including Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint. This meeting was conducted in person in the Sanctuary after the Worship Service.

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:15 by Council Chair Allan Hons. He welcomed everyone and made his opening remarks.

2. Allan's devotion was based on the hymn "Jesus Loves Me".

3. In Memoriam: Alison Rainford, Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee read the list of members and adherents of Melville who have passed on during the 2022 year.

4. Election of Chairperson and Secretary for the meeting.

Motion 1. Moved by Mary Lloyd, Seconded by Susan Barth, that Allan Hons be elected as Chairperson for today's meeting.

Carried

Motion 2. Moved by Martha Duncan, Seconded by Jane O'Leary, that Ralph Rainford be elected as Secretary for today's meeting.

Carried

5. **Motion 3.** Moved by Lorna Bevcar, Seconded by Susan Barth, that the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

6. Voting Privilege and Meeting Protocol: The members of a local church who are entitled to vote at all meetings are persons in full membership whose names are on the roll of that church. With the consent of those present, adherents who contribute regularly to the support of the church may vote on temporal matters. (Section 5.2.2 of the United Church Manual)

7. Approval of the minutes of Sunday, April 3 2022.

Motion 4. Moved by Norm Porritt, Seconded by Graeme Chalmers, that the minutes of April 3, 2022 Annual Meeting be approved as amended.

Carried

8. Financial Report presented by Kaillie Rawn, Treasurer. Kaillie presented the financial report. A brief discussion followed. Kaillie reported that we had more rentals in 2022 and givings were stable. The Congregation thanked Kaillie for her hard work again for 2022.

Motion 5. Moved by Kaillie Rawn, Seconded by Alison Rainford, that the 2022 Financial Report be accepted as presented.

Carried

9. 2023 proposed Budget. Kaillie Rawn presented the proposed budget for 2023. Brief discussion followed. The budget is similar to 2022. United Church assessment is up as well as slight staffing costs. Susan Barth asked how will we survive with an \$78,000.00 deficit? Kaillie responded that it should be covered by grants, fundraising, community outreach, money from trustees and UCW. Norm Porritt asked how the shortfall of \$38,000 be covered? Kaillie responded that this will be covered by the general fund.

Motion 6. Moved by Kaillie Rawn, Seconded by Jane O’Leary, that the 2023 Budget be accepted as presented. **Carried**

10. Approval of Committee Reports.

Mary Lloyd presented a brief report regarding the proposed building adjacent to Melville Church by a local realtor. The next meeting with the Township will take place on April 19th. Richard Wright has been working on behalf of Melville to protect our interest. Mary thanked Richard for his hard work. More details will be shared when available.

Motion 7. Moved by Susan Barth, Seconded by Patty Foster, that the Committee reports be accepted as amended. **Carried**

11. Nomination Report by Stewardship. Ralph Rainford presented the slate of officers for the Church Council and Melville Committees. Brief discussion followed.

Motion 8. Moved by Ralph Rainford, Seconded by Brad Halls, that the Church Council and Committees list be accepted as presented. **Carried**

12. New Business

a. Halo Study. Allan Hons and Rev. Lynda reported on this new programme to assist Melville in moving forward. Halo is a consulting firm associated with the United Church but separate. They investigate ways to make better use of the church’s space and to best promote the church and the building, and offer alternatives such as housing and cooking classes. We are still in the investigating and collecting data stage. More details will be shared as the year unfolds.

13. A Time of Reflection and Thanks.

Allan thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication to Melville during this past year. Martha Duncan thanked many people by name (too numerous to mention) at Melville for their volunteer contributions.

Thanks was expressed by Millie Cumming to Brad Halls for his wonderful weekly piano concerts so well received by the congregation and the community.

Bunny Russell expressed her thanks on behalf of the congregation to Lorna Bevcar for all that she does here at Melville.

14. Benediction – Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

15. Moved by Susan Barth that the meeting be adjourned at 12:59

Church Council and Committees 2023

Executive of Council

Chair: Allan Hons
Past Chair: Mary Lloyd
Vice Chair: _____
Secretary: Ralph Rainford
Treasurer: Kaillie Rawn
Minister: Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Social Justice and Outreach

Chair: Jane O’Leary
Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Heather Halls
Shawna Dunsmore
Martha Duncan
Patty Duncan

Pastoral Care

Chair: Alison Rainford
Linda Porritt
Diane Maloney
Millie Cumming
Barb Gregory
Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Patty Foster
Clerk & Card Clerk - Lorna Bevcar

Faith Formation

Chair: Allan Hons
Martha Duncan
Jackie Parkin

Trustees

Chair: Neil Dunsmore
Norm Porritt
Eleanor Johnston
John Cuming
Richard Wright
Don Grant
Graeme Chalmers

Library

David Ogilvie

Property

Chair: Barry Rawn
Larry Broome
Bruce Parkin
Dale Murray

U.C.W.

Chair: Lorri Wright

Finance

Chair: _____
Kaillie Rawn (Treasurer)
David Gohn
Norm Porritt
Lynne Lamb

Stewardship

Chair: Ralph Rainford
Eleanor Johnston
Mary Lloyd

Fun, Funds & Fellowship

Chair: Lorna Bevcar
Linda Porritt
Margurite Ancliffe
Marg Frayne
Cecily Ricketts
Doreen Broome
Chris Hopewell
Marlene Murray
Patty Duncan / Betty Black

Worship & Music

Chair: Lillian Gohn
Alison Rainford
Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint
Suzanne Flewelling
Colleen Weber

Ministry & Personnel

Chair: Karen Smillie
Lara Johnston
Richard Wright
David Ogilvie / Neil Dunsmore

Western Ontario Waterways

David Gohn

Congregational Meeting Historic Roll – 2023

In Memoriam:

Jean Marion Alexander	* Dr. Leslie Edward Johnston
Deborah Lea Bodiam	Norma Margaret Martin
Thelma Jean Polne Boles-French	Dr. James <u>Bruce</u> Oldfield
* Ilse Jakelski	Vernon Trask

Note: An * asterisk means “Not a Member of Melville’s Historical Roll”

Welcome Through Baptism:

Victoria Grace Miner
Teya Jinx Miner

Welcome Through Confirmation:

Nil

Welcome through Affirmation of Faith:

Nil

Welcome through Transfer of Membership:

Nil

Marriages:

Daniel Joseph Ferris	and	Cassidy Eileen Allison
Jesse Michael Brown	and	Rachel Anne Brown

Church Membership Statistics – 2023

Total Membership January 1, 2023	309
New Members by Affirmation of Faith	0
New Members by Transfer	0
New Members by Renewal of Baptism (Confirmation)	0
Removed from Roll by Death	5
Removed from Roll by Own Request or Council Action	4
Removed from Roll by Transfer	3
Total Membership as of December 31, 2023	307
Number of Weddings	2
Number of Baptisms	2
Number of Funerals	6
Number of Identifiable Givers to Local Expenses	132
Number of Financially Supporting Households Represented by the Number of Givers	111
Number of Identifiable Givers to Mission and Service	47
Average Weekly Attendance (Including Children) on Sunday Services in Oct and Nov	83
(A: In Person = 52 B: Online = 31)	
Estimate of Number of Adherents (including children and youth) who regularly participate, but not included in membership numbers.	76

Past Chairs of Council

The following people have served as Chairperson of Melville Church Council since its inception in 1995.

1995	Sam Harrop
1996	Ruth Sproule
1997	Ted Ecclestone
1998	Alison Rainford
1999	Mary Lloyd
2000	Philip Brown
2001	Ralph Rainford
2002	Ralph Rainford
2003	Janet Johnson
2004	Alison Rainford
2005	Kirsten Boileau
2006	Dan Rooney
2007	Ken McManus
2008	Jane O'Leary
2009	David Gohn
2010	Ralph Rainford
2011	Patty Foster
2012	David Gohn
2013	Ralph Rainford
2014	Ralph Rainford
2015	Mary Lloyd
2016	Allan Hons
2017	Allan Hons
2018	Allan Hons
2019	Allan Hons
2020	Allan Hons
2021	Allan Hons
2022	Allan Hons
2023	Allan Hons

There are so many ways we can direct our efforts to make a difference.

Life is full of opportunities to offer.

Blessings to each one of these people who have offered their gifts and skills
to the life and work of Melville.

Church Council Report 2023

There's always change in life and the past year has been no different. Shortly after our annual meeting last year, Rev Lynda announced her desire to take a leave for personal reasons. Sadly, she has yet to return, but we pray for her health, that of her family and hope that someday we might see them again at Melville.

This has presented its own set of challenges, but the Worship and Music Committee has done a fantastic job at compiling a roster of thoughtful, diverse ministers to offer us compelling sermons and fulfilling Sundays. While this continues, there is a small but mighty committee working on options for securing a supply minister who can fill in on a more permanent basis. We are also very fortunate to have the services of Rev. Loree and Urbanski to help with Faith Formation and Pastoral Care.

The Faith Formation Team is looking to hire a new Kids Church Leader to take the reigns from Martha. That is no easy task for the Team or the perspective new hire. We can look forward to an exciting announcement on this front soon.

Challenges exist outside of our building as well. As our community struggles to increase housing stock a developer has purchased the property next door. Through many months of negotiations our Trustees have worked out a solution for us to do our part and welcome some intensification next door. We are not sure of a planned start or end date but we will have a paved parking lot, lawyers fees paid for and a sum of money to improve the building with. Also, some new neighbours which will have its own set of rewards and challenges.

While all of this takes place, I must thank our staff, volunteers and congregation for working together to support all the good work going on at Melville. Your continued hard work and generosity is powering Melville through all these changes and the changes yet to come.

I look forward to doing my part to move Melville along for another year. However, this will be my last year as Chair of Council. While I have enjoyed the challenge of the role and hope you have seen some positive changes around the building since I started, it is time for a new perspective at the head of the council table. I have given what I can and now ask you; are you willing and able to drive the change that Melville needs to reach 180 years in the community?

Allan Hons

Chair – Melville United Church Council

Canadian Bible Society - Centre Wellington Branch

2023 Annual Report

The Centre Wellington Branch (CWB) of the Canadian Bible Society (CBS) presently have six members of which four can attend meetings. This leaves CWB with representation at only four congregations within Centre Wellington and one congregation in Palmerston (five different denominations). We had one “in person” meeting in June with three people in attendance.

We promoted sport bibles for the summer sports camps at a couple of the churches, but the bibles requested were only received by one of the churches, application may have been made too late. We offered to volunteer at the CBS display at the 2023 International Plowing Match, but CBS did not attend due to lack of volunteers. We prepared and delivered the 2024 Bible Reading Guides to all twenty-seven churches in Centre Wellington though we were two weeks late for the new year due to a late delivery from CBS.

We transferred a few contributions given to the CWB to CBS head office as well as delivered a financial bequest willed to CBS from an estate. A financial statement is available upon request.

Thanks to the wonderful people that saved their used postage stamps 3 lbs of stamps were sent to CBS National Support Office (NSO) & sold to collectors. This work may seem trivial but if you ask the prisoners who received a 'Key to Freedom' bible from this effort you would learn it was life saving. We lost a very dear and dedicated used stamp gatherer for CBS in August when Sytske Drijber from Rockwood passed away at age 103. The last stamps she collected are part of this year's total.

We are presently recruiting volunteers. **Why join CBS??** Well in the thirty plus years of being involved with CBS in this area the following treasures come to mind:

- Planting seeds in the form of scripture portions (pamphlets), bibles, bible aids, story books and sharing our faith at churches, street displays and events, a well as at programs and events we may organize.
- The ecumenical aspect of this service (meeting, working, befriending, and sharing our faith with brothers and sisters from other denominations).
- Answering the call to serve the CBS mission (statement below) which aligns with the mission statement of our church as well as the Great Commission.

If that's not convincing how about all this stuff. CBS has many programs and materials available to promote the daily use of the bible. The following are only a few examples:

- **AUDIO BIBLES** available to residents of long-term care homes.
- **THE WORD FOR FAMILIES** - Each week a FREE Scripture Activity Booklet.
- **DAILY MANNA** – A beautifully coloured pamphlet with daily bible readings is available free.
- **BIBLE-BASED TRAUMA HEALING PROGRAM** - A tested and proven small-group method to assist people as they journey towards a trauma-free and more fulfilling life.
- **ENCOUNTER CHRIST** - Our program for youth at risk provides support to youth centres and organizations, helping young people encounter Christ and receive help to meet their spiritual, emotional, and physical needs.
- There are many videos, pamphlets, bible studies and programs available for church groups, Sunday schools and organizations. **See CBS website at: <https://biblesociety.ca/>.**

The Canadian Bible Society (CBS) exists to reach every man, woman and child with the life-giving Word of God. Our core mandates include translation, publication, distribution and engagement - encouraging the use of God's life-giving Word.

Sadly, Melville lost Thelma French in 2023 who was also your CBS CR (congregational representative); some tough shoes to fill. If you would like more information about the CBS, please don't hesitate to contact John Agar (cell: 519-820-7964; email: johnfourjc@gmail.com).

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."
Acts 13:47

Respectfully Submitted by Canadian Bible Society – Centre Wellington Branch

Faith Formation and Youth 2023

The past year has been a quiet one for the Faith Formation Team. With Rev Lynda on leave our traditional Advent and Lenten Studies have been on hold.

The Team has focused our efforts in securing a new Kids Church Leader to take the reigns from Martha. That is no easy task for us or the perspective new hire. We look forward to making an exciting announcement on this front soon.

Submitted by *Allan Hons, Chair*

Team: Lynda Goy-Flint, Allan Hons, Heather Halls, Jackie Parkin, Naomi Flint, Martha Duncan
(following report submitted by Martha Duncan)

Our Team did not meet many times, formally, but did discuss Kids' Church and Youth activities informally. Martha took over the role of Youth Leader when Naomi Flint went on sick leave (February). Attendance at Kids' Church ranged from none to 11. The Youth Group (Grades 6-10) met regularly with Youth from Hope Springs Church and Barb Smith-Young.

Faith Formation and Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint initiated a book study of the book Indian Horse during the month of January. Several books by BIPOC authors and books that deal with inclusion were purchased to add to the Melville Library.

We would like to thank Naomi Flint for her leadership with our Youth and Kaillie Rawn for helping with Kids' Church and other activities.

Summary of Melville Kids' Church and Youth Groups 2023

MONTH	Kids' Church Theme(s)	Special Activities and Outreach	Youth Group Grades 4-8/9	Youth/ Young Adults
January			* Epiphany Party	Zoom Jan. 31
February	* Black History	* Made large, paper "Underground Railroad" Quilt to display codes	* Played Games at Hope Springs Church (pm) Feb.19	
March	* Lent * Closer to God/reflect, focus, think of others and live love like Jesus	* Made Easter cards for seniors	* Youth Group March 19	Zoom March 28
April	* Easter * Earth Day * How can we help Creation?	* Planted Sunflower seeds	* Youth Group April 16	
May	* Who is my family? Church family?		* Youth Campfire	Zoom May 2
June	* Indigenous Peoples	* Made woven bracelets		Zoom June 27
July/August	* No Kids" Church		* Pool Party at one youth's home Aug.29	
September	* Creation stories * Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation		* Youth Group Sept. 17	Zoom Sept. 18
October	* Thankfulness for all creatures and all things in Creation	* Thankful trees	* Visited Wallace Cumming Park, Alma...Labyrinth, Disc Golf	
November	* Remembrance and Peace	* Poster * Made Christmas cards for Seniors and Shut-Ins	* Visited Food Bank * Collected donation during Elora Christmas Parade	* YAYA on Zoom Zoom. Nov. 7

December	* Advent * Christmas	* Worship service, skits. Legend of the White Gift, Origin of White Gift Sunday Dec. 10 * collecting White Gifts	*	
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* YAYA = Youth and Young Adults

Fun, Funds and Fellowship 2023

The members of our committee for 2023 were: Marg Frayne, Linda Porritt, Doreen Broome, Cecily Ricketts, Marguerite Ancliffe, Marlene Murray, Patty Duncan, Betty Black, Mildred Perkin, Chris Hopewell and Lorna Bevcars (Chairperson). A huge “Thank You!” to each of you for your help throughout the year, to make the following possible!

Our Friday Morning Coffee Hour continues to be well attended, with an average of 9 people. And our Sunday Coffee after the Service is always well received. Both are held in the Parlour. We are looking for help with these two events, and sign-up sheets are at the Parlour door, or see Lorna Bevcars.

On Good Friday, Apr 7th, Hot Cross Buns were served in the Parlour, following the Service.

On Sun Apr 30th, a Money Tree (a metal tree and little envelopes all over it containing cash or gift cards from ladies in the Congregation) and a bouquet of flowers were presented to Rachel Brown, after the Service and the cameras were turned off. The Brown family was present and were extremely pleased with our gifts. Rachel and Steven Brown were married on Sat May 7th at Melville.

Again, a Plant and Bake Sale was held 9-2pm on Sat May 27th, to coincide with the Fiber Festival that was taking place in downtown Fergus, right up to St. Andrew & Tower St. We set-up our tables and gazebos, in front of the Church, and at the top of the Parking Lot. It was a huge success! The Baking was well received, as home-baking always is, and we just can’t get enough of it! We also had Jewellery and Cold/Hot Drinks for sale, which was an attraction. Our Plants were a huge hit of the day! We are fortunate to have people on our team who know a lot about plants and share their knowledge. We were pleased to see \$2498 going into Melville’s bank account. And we sold out of UCW’s 170 frozen Meat Pies.

On June 1st, 2 boxes of Melville’s Photo Directories arrived! This has been a “huge” undertaking, which cannot be understood, unless you worked on it before! After getting Council’s OK to go ahead with the Directory, I went on as Co-ordinator, with Lorri Wright as 2nd Co-ordinator. We worked together on the last directory. I started booking photo sessions for 4 days in June, 4 days in July and one day in Sept ’22. The problems faced while producing this directory: nobody wanted to work on it

because they knew how much work it was in the past, constant juggling of appointments and no-shows, Covid circulating, shut-downs of Nursing and Retirement Homes, keeping up with your regular busy calendar schedule, keeping on top of address and phone number changes, the Christmas season, a need for a personal holiday, and I caught Covid! I'm extremely grateful to Marg Frayne who helped for 4+ long days in March, to pull all of the miscellaneous photos, etc. together, and get the lay-out off to IPC, our printer. A proof was agreed upon in April and followed by June 1st arrival. We are very pleased with the new Directory!

A Freewill South American Concert, "Eko-Gemah", was held on Sat June 10th at 7pm, lead by Rene Crespo and Suzanne Flewelling. The money was split with ½ going to their cause (Guelph Food Bank) and ½ going to Melville. Our share of \$283.75 was made to Melville's bank account.

A Giant Garage, Plant & Bake Sale was held Fri & Sat June 16 & 17th and 23 & 24th, 8-4pm in the Fellowship Hall and parking lot. We were exhausted, but extremely happy to see \$6248 going to Melville's Gen. Fund.

We helped with another Bake Sale which was held by the UCW at the front of the church on Sat Sept 9th from 10-2pm, to co-inside with the Steampunk Festival that was held downtown on St Andrew St W. It was a big hit, and the Steampunk costumes were really interesting to see! People were admiring our Sanctuary, and some were appreciative of our facilities.

Brad Halls' Piano Concert "Mid-day Music at Melville" started up again on Wed Oct 4th, Noon – 1pm. He plans to play every Wed until the end of April. We normally see 50 people come out to the Concert and approx. 10 of them are Melville members. On Dec 20th, we had Christmas snacks and punch at the back of the Sanctuary. The attendance was 80 that day. Brad took 2 weeks off at Christmas, and then started up again in Jan. The Concerts last spring and this fall have brought \$6544 of revenue to Melville. In appreciation, last April we presented Brad with a \$100 Gift Card for the Breadalbane Inn and a bouquet of flowers for Heather. Snacks and refreshments were also offered on the last day. We thank Brad and Heather for doing these concerts! Please come out and listen and support our accomplished pianist, Brad Halls, who gives of his time and talents, and enjoy an hour of relaxation. You'll learn from the information he gives us, before each song, as he takes us down memory lane. There is no admission, but a donation to help keep the lights on and the piano tuned is much appreciated.

A first since Covid: A Granny's Attic Treasures & Bake Sale was held Fri & Sat Oct 27 & 28th from 8-4pm. We were able to turn some of our nicest donated pieces into cash, which we had been storing for 4 years due to Covid. And the cash added up to \$2035 for Melville, as a result of our efforts. Oh "Yes" our Baking was a good part of that too!

We had Garry Wesley do a Tribute to Elvis Presley on Sat Nov 18th, at 7pm. Tickets were \$25 each and 89 attended. He was exceptionally good!!! And they want to come back again. We split the ticket money after expenses, so Melville saw \$1159 go to the Gen. Fund.

Our Memory Angels were well received this year, with 171 Angels gracing the Sanctuary, from Sun Dec 3-Jan 7th. These Angels were handmade by ladies of our congregation and were inscribed on the skirt with the names of both parties involved. They were decorating: the Christmas Tree on the stage, on the garland at both sides of the stage, around the whole balcony, and on the Christmas Tree at the back of the Sanctuary. For a minimum of \$5 each, they are placed in the Sanctuary, then stored away safely until next year. These Angels bring comfort to many in our Congregation, at a difficult time of the year for some. People like to do something in remembrance of their loved ones at this time, and what better way than at Church. We were pleased to see \$1040 going to Melville. We had some very generous donors. Thank you to all who took part in this meaningful project.

If you would like to join our team of “Fun”-loving workers, who like to raise “Funds” for Melville, “and” create “Fellowship”, please talk to me.

By Lorna Bevcar (Chairperson)

Ministry and Personnel Annual Report for 2023

Early in 2023 Rev. Lynda Goy Flint advised she needed to take a leave from Melville for health reasons. She moved to long term disability later in the year to continue with her physical and mental healing, along with that of her family. We know it has not been an easy process for Lynda, it is something that takes time. We hope for Lynda’s recovery where she can resume more normal activities again and hopefully return to Melville. We have been fortunate to have a great rotation of supply ministers fill in during Lynda’s absence thanks to Lillian Gohn and the Worship and Music Committee. The supply ministers are all very personable and quickly made everyone feel quite comfortable will ‘fill in’s’!

Unfortunately, Naomi Flint had to leave her position as Youth Leader early in the year as well after taking ill and requiring a lengthy hospital stay and recovery. We wish Naomi well and hope she will soon return to good health and that she is able to resume her studies. We were very grateful Martha Duncan was able to step in again and help with the Youth and Kid’s church. The kids and youth know Martha well and are very comfortable with her. Martha’s experience as a teacher is a great asset. I think the adults even learn something from children’s time, I know I do. We will continue our search for a new Youth Leader and hope we can get Martha a well-deserved rest a rest!

We are very fortunate to have Colleen Weber and Suzanne Flewelling, very musically talented ladies, to plan out and deliver a music program to Melville along with the Worship and Music committee. We enjoyed many Sundays this past year with the choir, the Spirit Sings Praise Band, and various guest musicians. We were treated to a number of special musical services including the Christmas

Cantata. We are very appreciative of the work Colleen and Suzanne put in as music is a very important and integral part of Melville's worship experience.

Lynda Rivet, our office administrator, will be with Melville 5 years later this year. She has been a great addition to our staff. It hasn't been the easiest year for Lynda with Rev. Lynda having to take a leave of absence. The weekly routine changed. Lynda had to adapt to no minister, and then to visiting supply ministers, all with a little different way of doing things. Lynda as always remained flexible and positive as she dealt with these new challenges. Managing the room rentals continues to take up a significant part of Lynda's time. There is a lot of communication, paperwork and follow-up involved. While she has spent a lot of time organizing the process, she continues to look for a more affordable and efficient software to help track the rentals. She is always thinking about better ways of doing every task. We appreciate the extra effort Lynda has put in the past year and her ongoing professionalism.

Thanks to Lara Johnston, David Ogilvy and Richard Wright and Neil Dunsmore, a returning member, for their work and support on the committee. Richard and Neil have many years of experience dealing with personnel issues which is immensely helpful.

Please take time when you have a chance to thank our dedicated staff for their ongoing commitment to Melville. All the best to everyone for 2024.

Karen Smillie
Chair, Ministry and Personnel

Melville Quilters Report 2023

The group of 5 or 6 quilters have hand quilted 2 quilts in 2023.
We have made 2 monetary donations, one to Melville Church and one to Aboyne Hospice.

Submitted by June Wallsten, Mary Wilson, Cathy Foster, Elizabeth McLaren, Marg Shortt, and Jennifer Hyland

Pastoral Care 2023

The Melville Pastoral Care Team is made up of every member of the congregation. Whenever you show love, care and prayer for one another, you are showing pastoral care. The P. C. Committee is made up of people who do the official work representing all of you. We visit, send cards and gifts, pray and keep our minister informed of needs.

This year, since Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint went on medical leave, we have been without our minister for support. I congratulate our committee members for keeping in touch with folks. In October, council approved the hiring of Rev. Marion Loree, our retired minister, to support the people of Melville with pastoral care and providing funeral support. This has been much appreciated by many.

Prayer shawls are still available for people who wish to take one to someone in need. Several were given out this year. These are knitted or crocheted by our willing volunteers who prayerfully work on each shawl. Anyone who is grieving or ill may find them a comfort. They are available in the sanctuary and in a storage bin in the library. They may be taken anonymously, or you can let a P.C. member know. There are also baby sized blankets for gifts at baptism.

Our prayer chain is done via email. There have been many requests shared to our group of people who are willing to spend some time in prayer for the person in need. These are always kept confidential when requested.

At Easter time, thanks to Millie Cumming, beautiful cards were distributed to those people on our care list, along with a chocolate cross. The balance of the 50 cards were shared with staff and anyone else we felt would be encouraged by a card. The congregation received a copy on email.

As special birthdays, anniversaries, bereavements, etc. come along, cards are sent by Lorna Bevcar. She is amazing at getting these cards to people and often includes a visit. Lorna also keeps the historical roll up-to-date. A separate report is included.

We decided to have Christmas cards printed. Again, thanks to Millie for her creative ideas and photographs, we sent out 50 cards. There were 22 cards that went with gift bags and the rest were mailed or hand delivered. Thanks goes out to the ladies who sewed the festive gift bags. There were treats included from "I Love Chocolate" and some baked goods. Some people received United Church calendars in their bags. Our 8 young people who are in post-secondary learning, each received a card with a Starbucks gift card. Martha Duncan kindly looked after this. Our staff members received a card as well as some of our members who couldn't receive the electronic cards via email.

Our committee members this year are: Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint, (until her leave), Rev. Marion Loree (October – December) Millie Cumming, Linda Porritt, Patty Foster, Marguerite Ancliffe, Lorna Bevcar (historical roll and greeting cards), Barb Gregory (secretary) and Alison Rainford (Chair).

Thank you to Bunny Russell who left our committee this year for family reasons. She has been an amazing support for many years. We also lost Ilse Jakelski when she passed away early this year. She also gave many hours as a member of our group. We welcome Marguerite who joined us this year.

Please remember to keep us informed of any and all needs.

Yours in service,
Alison Rainford
Chair of Pastoral Care Committee

Pastoral Care Report by Lorna Bevcar (Card Clerk):

A total of 171 All Occasion cards have been given out to our Congregation in 2023. With only 17 of them being mailed, 148 of them have been hand-delivered, which usually includes a short visit. The majority of them were 92 birthdays, 24 sympathy and 20 get well. The others were: anniversary, thinking of you, congratulations, etc.. The Congregation really appreciates our gestures!

Pastoral Care by Lorna Bevcar (Roll Clerk)

Melville's Historical Roll Book is kept up to date regarding: marriages, baptisms, deaths, transfers, name changes, address and telephone changes, removal by requests, etc. Names are added to the Roll Book when someone: becomes a member of Melville, transfers their membership to Melville from another church, is received by Confirmation (usually at 14 years of age), Adult Baptism, Affirmation of Faith. If you are not a Member of Melville and wish to become one, please speak with myself or our Office Administrator. We would be pleased to assist you with that.

Property Ministry Team Report 2023

Again, 2023 has been another different kind of year, as we step ahead beyond the shutdowns of Covid19 precautions. However, it has been a busy year at Melville in many ways. There were many volunteers involved in our work. Thank you for volunteering, and thank you, everyone, for your prayers and support.

With the support and assistance of the congregation, a few maintenance and improvement projects for facilities at Melville United Church were carried out in 2023. Without the involvement of many church members who donate their time and talents, the upkeep of the property and church building would be difficult.

A few improvements and upgrades were completed in 2023:

- Boiler:
 - Thank you, Phil Brown (one of the friends of the committee), and Dale Murray, who arranged for inspections and repairs to the boiler and valves, and monitored the boiler water with daily and regular testing.
 - An emergency repair was completed on the boiler in the fall, after the boiler was failing to start and remain operating consistently.
 - A large crack was welded in the boiler's central flame tube and the gas regulator was replaced. We were fortunate that this crack was in an accessible location to repair.
 - A new water softener to supply water for the boiler was installed.
- Painting:
 - With the consistent efforts of Ralph Rainford (one of the friends of the committee) and some helpers, several areas of the building were painted and spruced up again this year, including some areas of ceiling in the Sanctuary, the St. Andrew St. doors and the floor of the workshop, corridor and the boiler room. Thank you Ralph.
- Flooring:
 - Thank you, Ralph, for installing new flooring in the storage room beside the Heritage Room.
- Funding:
 - We submitted an application for, and were successful in receiving, a \$5,000 grant from the UP Fund (former Waterloo Presbytery) for the upcoming repair of the two mid-sized stained glass windows that face the parking lot. These windows are bowing inwards considerably and will be taken apart and repaired in 2024.
- Sanctuary TV Display Units:

- Two new 75" TV display monitors were installed in the Sanctuary in March, to replace the two projectors.
- Thank you, John Duncan and Neil Dunsmore, for painting the two projection areas of the wall prior to this installation, and Rowe Electric for completing the electrical work.

Unfortunately the Early On Centre did not renew their annual rental contract this year. They left Melville at the end of June. Since 2014 they have occupied our Heritage Hall to operate and offer their various programmes for infants, young children and their parents.

Weekly and periodic rentals of various rooms of the building have increased since last year. Melville rented various rooms for a few hours each week, to a diverse list of groups. The Blue Bonnet Lassies School of Highland Dance, Centre Wellington Children's Drama group, Yoga, Zumba, Pilates, Irish Dance, Celtic Thunder Music Workshops, Fergus Scottish Country Dancers, a children's dance class, a cheerleading group and the Fergus Cadets are among the groups who have made steady use of the Upper Auditorium and the Fellowship Hall with weekly classes.

The Centre Wellington Mobile Market has rented the kitchen, for a day or two weekly, and intend to remain at Melville. They provide a unique service to the community by making use of surplus food supplies and preparing meals for those in need. In December the CW Mobile Market donated a new larger electric stove to Melville, to replace the smaller of Melville's two electric stoves. They have received a grant for this appliance and we have accepted it in lieu of rental fees for a time.

Also as in the past, the VON held exercise classes for seniors twice per week in the Fellowship Hall. The Elora Singers and The Centre Wellington Singers were among those who rented and held concerts in our Sanctuary.

Thank you, Ron Anticknap, who for the first part of this year again consistently kept our sidewalks clear of snow and ice as an energetic volunteer. He also has set up tables and chairs for activities and assisted Suzanne with some of her duties. We wish Ron all the best as he retires from these appreciated tasks.

Thank you Lynda Rivet, Melville's office administrator, for managing and co-ordinating the rentals. Also thank you for co-ordinating other work such as the A/V and internet system upgrades.

Thank you also to our custodians, Bob Mitchell and Suzanne Flewelling, who continue to clean this large building. Their work revolves around the normal weekly activities of Melville, as well as the fluctuating schedules of the various rental groups. Your efforts are really appreciated.

At the end of June of 2023, Bob Mitchell retired from his duties as Melville's custodian. We thank him and wish him all the very best as he enjoys his retirement.

In July we welcomed Suzanne Flewelling as the main custodian, as she expanded her part time custodian work here. Suzanne had already been assisting Bob, to relieve him of some duties, primarily for the preparation for weekend rentals and for the Sanctuary for Sundays.

Upcoming priority projects for 2024 include repairs and repointing of stonework and painting of some of the building's exterior trim. These projects were again postponed during 2023. This work needs to be completed in order to prevent further deterioration of structural components of the building.

In a couple of years we expect we should replace the boiler, which will be a major undertaking.

There are other large projects to be undertaken in the future, including additional repairs and repointing of stonework and rehabilitation of the remaining stained glass windows.

Painting of various interior and exterior areas of the building will continue in the coming year. Work continues in clearing up various areas and providing storage space for ourselves and also for groups who use the church building on an ongoing basis.

Again this year, the members of the Property Ministry Team have appreciated the assistance and support they have received in carrying out its work. Several members of the congregation and the committee, as well as area residents have enabled us to carry out our work by volunteering their time and talents.

Blessings, for 2024.

Submitted with Thanks, by: The Property Ministry Team: Bruce Parkin, Dale Murray, Larry Broome, Barry Rawn (chair).

Social Justice and Outreach Report - 2023

In 2023, we continued our focus on providing support to needs within our congregation, our community and beyond. This support occurred through education, communication, actions and funding. We are grateful to be part of a congregation that continues to give generously of their time, talents and dollars to respond to local and global issues. Thank you for your wonderful support and encouragement.

Guided by Melville's Mission, Vision and Values Statements, our team was also inspired by the United Church of Canada's Call for Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice, and its Vision:

Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice.

Raising awareness for concerns is key to gaining support to address them. This team spent a great deal of time gathering and sharing information, and then organizing actions to address needs.

This year's highlights!

- Promoted **Mission & Service** concerns and scheduled Minute for Mission Readers.

- Promoted support for the **CW Food Bank**, shared the Most Needed List, and organized the drop-off of donated items.
- Promoted support for the **Christmas Gift Program** run by the CW Food Bank. We received donations of \$2,068, which we combined with our \$1,000 budget. Overall, Melville provided gift cards for 12 children in 5 families, to purchase gifts along with some food and necessities.
- Remaining donations and budget \$s were used for a final donation to CW Food Bank \$279, and The Grove Hub – Fergus \$300.
- Ran our first **Cozy Closet** campaign. We received tremendous response to the request for new or gently used outdoor clothing/footwear for children and adults. Three dates were set for folks to visit Melville and take what they needed ... for FREE. The remaining items were dropped off to The Giving Spot, in Fergus, which also provides necessities for free.
- Sponsored the **CW Mobile Market** so their rental fees, for the use of Melville’s kitchen, would be waived until June 30 2024. This was recognition for their valuable work in our community, and their donation of a commercial stove to Melville.
- Continued **Truth & Reconciliation** awareness and learning opportunities including Book Club activities, the Moose Hide Campaign, and online presentations from the Woodland Cultural Centre (located in a former residential school in Brantford).
- Sponsored the Cadet’s use of the auditorium at a reduced/waived amount.
- Loaned 40 chairs to the CW Black Committee for use at their community Fun Day.
- Ensured gift cards were on hand to respond to requests for assistance.
- Shared information and news about local organizations offering various forms of support.

Our SJ&O led services raised \$562 in 2023.

- **Feb - Black Heritage Month**; Speaker Millicent Gorden, CW Black Committee, raised \$192 for the CW Black Committee
- **Apr - Earth Sunday**; Speaker Linda Mae Ogilvie, raised \$245 for Melville’s Garden ‘Thyme with God’ which is part of the CW Community Gardens network.
- **May - CMHA Mental Health Awareness Week**; Speaker Neil Dunsmore, Author “Reflections in the Ripple: Steps to Stop the Silence of Mental Health, raised \$125 for The Grove Hub – Fergus.
- **Oct - Truth & Reconciliation Awareness**; Speaker Diane Wallace, Health Advisor in Ontario to the Canadian Red Cross, \$100 was donated to the UCC Indigenous Learning Fund.

Melville’s Mission & Service contributions reached \$16,826.86 for 2023. Well done, Melville!!

Our building provides visitors with a first impression of Melville, so it’s critical that it and our website reflect our commitment to live our mission: *We live as a loving, inclusive faith community actively welcoming and responding to needs within and outside of our church.*

Throughout 2023, we toured the building and identified ways to make our beliefs and commitments visible as folks enter the building and walk through the halls. Our community needs to know where Melville stands on key issues, and feel welcome to join in.

- To recognize Pride Month in June, we applied a variety of Pride Symbols throughout the church.
- Throughout the year, bulletin boards and key entry points were re-vitalized.

The coming year will be filled with more opportunities to learn and to serve. Thankfully, we welcomed a new member to our team in Nov 2023, Marguerite Ancliffe, and have received support from Rev. Felicia Urbanski while our ministry personnel issues are being addressed.

With thanks,

*Jane O'Leary, Martha Duncan, Patty Duncan, Shawna Dunsmore, Heather Halls, Marguerite Ancliffe.
With love, support and prayers for Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint.*

Stewardship Committee Report 2023

It has been an exciting and busy year again for Melville United Church. As our members age and some pass on, we still manage to keep going. Our church is being used by a good number of rentals and we are able to keep the building looking good and in good repair. We are managing to keep programs going even with fewer people to do so. The Stewardship Committee like all committees here at Melville play an important role in the work and ministry of the congregation. The tasks are explained fully in our constitution. It has been another busy, but fulfilling year for all our committees.

We continued to promote the PAR (Pre-authorized Remittance) program. We remind all members to examine their PAR contributions and if able, please add a little more. If you are not on PAR, please consider doing so. Our expenses continue even though you are away. Ralph Rainford is the PAR representatives if you wish to join or have questions.

A very important ongoing task of Stewardship is to assist committees in finding members. We are truly blessed here at Melville. Although our membership is diminishing, we are able to find people to fill most committees. Our Committee Chairs who make up our Church Council, continue to fulfill their job as Chair. For most they have been doing it for many years. Our Chairperson Allan Hons has also been in the position for many years. To these wonderful, caring people we say "Thank You."

Another role that we have is to look after subscriptions for the United Church magazine, "Broadview." We were quite successful and were able to almost maintain our number from previous years. Please consider signing up for this wonderful magazine.

Stewardship continues to work closely with the Property Committee again this year to paint and touch up several sections of the church. Through the generosity of our congregation, money for materials has been donated.

Stewardship also has the task of finding Sunday morning Welcomers to greet people as they arrive. To assist the Finance Committee we also look after finding Counters.

This has been an exciting year in many ways, and Melville people have constantly risen to the challenge. Hopefully, the pandemic is behind us. Attendance at Sunday morning worship has grown.

In December, we reached seventy attending Sunday worship and on Christmas Eve we had eighty-seven. We cannot compare these numbers to a past era, but Melville is doing well.

Many have given of their time, talents and financial support when asked. To you, we say “Thank you and keep up the great work.”

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Rainford, Chairperson

Along with Eleanor Johnston and Mary Lloyd.

2023 in the Garden - Thyme with God

Greetings from the Garden! Thank you to everyone who supports our garden with a special shout-out to everyone who took part in our fundraising. The money raised from our Mother’s Day bouquets and seedling sales helped with the cost of fertilizer, tools and supplies.

We grow as much as we can from seed, with many thanks to donations from West Coast Seeds (Kaillie). Other plants like herbs, spinach and lettuce are purchased to help get a jump-start on the season.

Our garden blessings were delivered to the CW Food Bank in Fergus from early June and continued weekly until Thanksgiving. Our seasonal harvest included: herbs, kale, rhubarb, asparagus, cucumbers, lettuce, peas, radishes, beans, carrots, tomatoes, peppers, onions, garlic, potatoes, raspberries and our amazing apple harvest. The Food Bank volunteers who greet us are always curious about what veggies we are bringing them. We often provide cut flowers (lavender) for their desk.

We love the reaction when we deliver our amazing garlic! We harvested over 200 heads of garlic in July, and after drying for two weeks, we trimmed and cleaned them all. We donated about 170ish heads of garlic to the Food Bank - they were thrilled! The remaining garlic was planted last fall for the 2024 season.

One of our biggest harvests last year was from the two apple trees that grow on the Tower Street side of the garden. In the past, we have received only a handful of apples but in 2023, we were blessed with a bountiful harvest! Some of the apples went to the Food Bank and the rest were shared with the congregation.

Mother Nature provided more rain this summer than we have seen in other years. This was great for the salad greens, beans and peas that we harvested all season long. The tomatoes, however, were not so happy. We continue to be creative with our plant locations as the encroaching trees are casting more and more shade on the garden areas.

Thank you again to everyone who donated their time and gifts. What a beautiful and special space and your donations help keep it going! We invite you to visit and enjoy the garden. It is a lovely area to sit in and spend a few moments of quiet reflection.

With the increased demand on our Food Banks, we are always looking for ways to increase our harvest. We welcome you to join us weekly for conversation, watering and just a little bit of weeding during the growing season.

See you in the garden!

Kaillie, Shawna, Karen, Barry and Linda Mae

United Church Women (UCW) report for 2023

UCW members spent some mornings or afternoons in the kitchen making meat pies - our major fundraiser. We sold the 1600 meat pies, butter tarts and home baking at several events partnering with Fun, Faith, and Fellowship. We also enjoyed the company and conversations with the members who were working on making the pies.

Several members crocheted or knitted poppies and time was also spent assembling poppies to display at the front of the church in honour of Remembrance Day. We had many compliments on our display.

Funds received from meat pies were used for a donation of \$5,000 to the church's general fund, \$2,000 to Mission & Service, \$600 to several local organizations, including the food bank.

We also continued to provide lunches for funerals and hosted a reception after a concert.

We supported the Centre Wellington Mobile Market who are using our kitchen and UCW supplies and equipment to make and store the meals they provide to folks in the community. This organization received a grant for a new stove which has been installed in our kitchen.

We have about 33 active members. The executive includes Eleanor Johnston, Lorri Wright, co-chairs, Peggie Dickie, Unit Faith, Marg Frayne, Unit Joy, Gwen Swift, Treasurer, Morven McQuorquodale, Catering.

Submitted by Lorri Wright

UCW FINANCIAL REPORT
Year End 2023

Balance as at Jan 1, 2023		\$	5,816.28
Income			
Donation	\$	225.00	
Bake Sale	\$	882.00	
Catering	\$	2,000.00	
Meat Pies	\$	8,220.45	
Total Income		\$	11,327.45
Expenses			
Catering	\$	367.04	
Meat Pies	\$	2,911.08	
Mission & Service	\$	2,000.00	
Donations to Local Groups	\$	600.00	
Presbyterial	\$	132.00	
Melville Church	\$	5,000.00	
Bank Cheques/Charges	\$	81.75	
Total Expenses		\$	11,091.87
Balance as of Dec. 31, 2023		\$	6,051.86
Bank Balance		\$	6,383.86
Minus O/S Cheque #217 & 225		-\$	332.00
Balance as at December 31, 2023		\$	6,051.86

*Submitted by Gwen Swift
UCW Treasurer*

Western Ontario Waterways Report 2023

Western Ontario Waterways is a Region within the structure of the United Church of Canada which includes Melville United Church which was located in the previous Waterloo Presbytery.

The semi -annual regional meeting took place by Zoom at the end of September. The occasion featured a presentation by our Indigenous partners in a rural setting.

Re: Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada.

The National Indigenous Council made a proposal to General Council 44:

“It is time for us to move towards a different relationship. It is time to set aside the notion of missions to the Indians and truly move towards being partners in Gods call to all the earth.”

This means a change in the structure for the United Church of Canada therefore necessary to initiate the Remit process. Rev. Felicia Urbanski facilitated two Learning Times for both Council members and members of the congregation to learn and discuss the proposal. Each Church Council is asked to vote on this proposal and the deadline for submitting responses is March 31st. No response is NO vote. The result of the votes of every congregation will be presented at the next General Council 45 for ratification.

Rev. Greg Smith-Young who has had a long ministry at Hope Springs United Church in Elora, has accepted a position at the General Council Office. Greg has been a help to Melville Church Council on several occasions in the past.

David Gohn

Worship and Music Committee Annual Report 2023

Another year has quietly swept away by times own hand, and once again we are assembling our Annual Report to review our past years activities.

The end of March we learned that our Minister, Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint would be taking some time off and therefore would be necessary for this committee to schedule in and search for Pulpit Supply.

We are grateful to the following Ministers who have led Melville’s worship services this past year:

Rev. Tom Watson, Rev. Felicia Urbanski, Rev. Jeff Hawkins, Rev. Ruth Brown and Rev. Marion Loree. The Melville congregation have received this change and are grateful for the excellent leadership and message that each one offers each time they come to Melville.

The work of our Social Justice and Outreach Committee is sincerely appreciated and be so gracious offering their leadership for 6 Worship Services this past year.

Melville Anniversary was celebrated the third Sunday in October with Rev. Jeff Hawkins offering Worship Leadership. Copies of an interesting paper written by Graeme Chalmers “What is in a Name” explaining how our church became known as Melville United Church were made available to the congregation.

November 4th, the poppy display was placed on the outside entranceways of the church and as part of the service on Sunday, the carefully crafted handmade poppies were blessed.

The time of advent began on December 3rd with celebrating the sacrament of Communion beginning the time of waiting with follow-up services to prepare and celebrate the birth of our Savior: White Gift Sunday facilitated by the children and the Social Justice Committee, Christmas Cantata prepared and presented by the Melville choral groups and Christmas Eve with the morning service focusing on family and the evening service featuring a Message for Christmas, Carols, Candles and Communion.

The final service of the year on New Year’s Eve with the Rev. Jeff Hawkins delivering an inspiring message challenging us with the question “How will Melville move forward with the Gift of God that we have received during the time of advent going forth into the New Year?”

2024 is leap year giving us one more day!!!.....**How will we use that extra day?**

Following the service, during coffee hour we celebrated the year end with a special time of fun and fellowship treating ourselves to a pizza lunch.

In closing, thank you to each one of the Melville Church Family for your dedication to Melville this past year. Your work is important as we care for each other and the Community of Centre Wellington.

We are now ready to move forward into 2024 and begin preparing for the year ahead and look to the future with renewed optimism and together we will achieve more.

Blessings

Worship and Music Committee

Lillian Gohn, Chair, Alison Rainford, Secretary.

Martha Duncan, Colleen Weber, Suzanne Flewelling.

Board of Trustees Annual Report - 2023

Members Neil Dunsmore (Chair), Eleanor Johnston (Secretary/Treasurer)
Richard Wright, Graeme Chalmers, John Cuming, Don Grant, Norm Porritt

Insurance

Insurer AIG Canada
Agent HUB International
Carrier General Insurance Plan for The United Church of Canada
Premium For church building, contents, etc.

Total insurance premiums for 2023	25,262
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Coverages

Limits of Liability - property of every description	8,970,000
Boiler and Machinery	5,000,000
Crime Insurance - total coverage	300,000
Commercial General Liability	15,000,000

Note: most insured items carry a deductible ranging from \$100 to \$5,000

Assets

Beatty Endowment	135,339
Housing Investment - Sale of Manse	195,051
Memorial Fund	33,700
Chequing Account	3,732

Total Assets at December 31, 2023	367,822
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Beatty Endowment

Balance as at January 1, 2023	197,556
Disbursements	(78,000)
Administration Fees	(2,877)
Increase (decrease) in market value	18,660

Balance as at December 31, 2023	135,339
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Housing Investment

Balance as at January 1, 2023	176,017
Disbursements - Housing Fees	(9,600)
Administration Fees	(2,649)
Increase (decrease) in market value	31,283

Balance as at December 31, 2023	195,051
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Board of Trustees Annual Report - 2023 - cont'd

Memorial Fund

Balance as at January 1, 2023	21,516
Donations	11,555
Interest	609
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Balance as at December 31, 2023	33,680

Chequing Account

Balance as at January 1, 2023	5,293
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Income

Housing Allowance	9,600
Beatty Endowment	78,000
Donations	235

93,128

Disbursements

Legal Fees	13,592
Housing Allowance - to Melville general account	10,400
Government Loan	39,996
Hub insurance premiums	25,268
Bank Charges	135

89,391

Balance as at December 31, 2023

3,737

Financial Committee Report For 2023

We are pleased to report that the CEBA loan of \$60,000 has been paid. There was a \$20,000 forgiveness if the loan was repaid by the Jan 18th 2024 deadline. This loan was provided by the federal government to assist business and churches that lost a large portion of their income during the pandemic to help keep the organization operating. The trustees provided the money to pay off the \$40,000 loan. This has allowed us to end the year with a \$31,819.86 surplus. If we did not have this money from the trustees, we would have had a deficit of approx. \$8,000.

The envelope and PAR income for 2023 reflects a decrease in giving's of \$15,491.50 from that amount in 2022. However, the increase in Special Events and Rentals almost offset that difference. Our rentals are back to pre-pandemic levels. Thank you to the Fun, Funds, and Fellowship committee for running fundraisers that brought in more money than budgeted. As you will notice, the General Maintenance, (#5350), budget amount has not been spent – a difference of approximately \$20,000. From April to September, we were paying Rev. Lynda's salary while she was on short term medical leave. We

received \$38,935.98 of her salary back from United Church of Canada, during this time. Once Rev. Lynda went on long-term disability, we have not paid her salary, as per the long-term disability rules.

The budget for 2024 is set for a deficit of over \$80,000. Please note that the salary amount includes the salary of a full-time supply minister for eight months of 2024. As well it has been budgeted for 12 months of supply ministers for Sunday service as well as for Rev. Marion Loree who is looking after Pastoral Care and Rev. Felicia Urbanski who is assisting the Social Justice and Faith Formation Committees.

At this point in time, it is difficult to accurately set the 2024 budget, depending on the amount that will be actually spent on General Maintenance and Ministerial Personnel.

In conclusion, I thank everyone for their financial support and all the volunteers for their continuing work in the success of Melville United Church.

Finance committee: David, Gohn, Norm Porritt, Lynne Lamb, Kaillie Rawn

Melville United Church
Balance Sheet
As at December 31, 2023

	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Chequing/Savings		
1100 · CIBC General Fund	49,462.01	61,584.59
Total Chequing/Savings	49,462.01	61,584.59
Other Current Assets		
1203 · Petty Cash.	105.75	100.75
1402 · HST Recoverable-	7,589.02	5,357.99
Total Other Current Assets	7,694.77	5,458.74
Total Current Assets	57,156.78	67,043.33
Other Assets		
1600 · Capital Assets		
1603 · Grand Piano	14,999.43	14,999.43
1605 · Yamaha Keyboard	529.00	529.00
Total 1600 · Capital Assets	15,528.43	15,528.43
Total Other Assets	15,528.43	15,528.43
TOTAL ASSETS	72,685.21	82,571.76
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
2000 · Accounts Payable	6,464.83	13,257.21
Total Accounts Payable	6,464.83	13,257.21
Other Current Liabilities		
2009-03 · Adopt A Family Christmas	0.00	0.19
2009 · Camp Funds		
2009-01 · Annual Congregational Camps	306.06	806.06
Total 2009 · Camp Funds	306.06	806.06
2014 · Mission & Service Fund	25.00	0.00
2015 · Leadership Fund	1,742.41	1,742.41
2016 · Building Fund	6,935.30	5,346.30
2700 · CEBA Loan	0.00	40,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	9,008.77	47,894.96
Total Current Liabilities	15,473.60	61,152.17
Total Liabilities	15,473.60	61,152.17
Equity		
2900 · Retained Earnings - Operating	46,803.75	85,380.24
2902 · Retained Earnings - Capital		
2902-10 · Organ Restorations	2,523.30	0.00
2902-11 · Flat Roof Repair	(38,648.22)	(38,648.22)
2902-4 · Capital Reserve	7,319.15	7,319.15
2902-5 · Garden	1,133.87	721.57
2902-7 · Stain Glass Windows	10,203.98	5,223.67
2902-9 · Audio System	(3,943.75)	0.00
Total 2902 · Retained Earnings - Capital	(21,411.67)	(25,383.83)
Net Income	31,819.86	(38,576.49)
Total Equity	57,211.94	21,419.92
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	72,685.54	82,572.09

Melville United Church
Income & Expense Budget Performance
December 2023

	Actual		Budget	
	Jan - Dec 23	Jan - Dec 22	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Revenue				
3000 · Givings - Received				
3010 · Envelopes - General Fund	116,233.63	131,725.13	130,000.00	115,000.00
3020 · One time Gifts	1,719.83	2,340.27	2,500.00	2,000.00
3040 · Miscellaneous Contributions	40.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
3050 · Memory Angels - Received	1,070.00	1,064.00	0.00	0.00
Total 3000 · Givings - Received	119,063.46	135,154.40	132,500.00	117,000.00
3100 · Givings - Not Received				
3110 · Loose Offering	1,468.67	656.45	500.00	1,000.00
3120 · Trustees	53,587.64	0.00	0.00	0.00
3125 · Trustees Housing Allowance	10,400.00	8,800.00	9,600.00	9,600.00
3130 · U.C.W.	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
3150 · Miscellaneous	90.90	106.70	0.00	0.00
Total 3100 · Givings - Not Received	69,547.21	13,563.15	14,100.00	14,600.00
3260 · Special Events				
3262 · Special Events - Other	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
3263 · Concerts	7,987.05	2,011.10	0.00	0.00
3266 · Church Calendar Sales	92.00	48.00	0.00	0.00
3268 · Coffee Hour	606.05	296.55	0.00	0.00
3271 · Garage Sale	9,251.65	7,810.20	0.00	0.00
3278 · Bake Sale	2,302.43	2,281.85	0.00	0.00
Total 3260 · Special Events	20,239.18	12,447.70	10,000.00	10,000.00
3300 · Operations Revenue				
3310 · Rentals	38,444.10	33,730.20	30,000.00	35,000.00
3320 · Broadview Magazine Receipts	0.00	525.00	0.00	0.00
Total 3300 · Operations Revenue	38,444.10	34,255.20	30,000.00	35,000.00
Total Revenue	247,293.95	195,420.45	186,600.00	176,600.00
Gross Revenue	247,293.95	195,420.45	186,600.00	176,600.00

Melville United Church
Income & Expense Budget Performance
December 2023

	Actual		Budget	
	Jan - Dec 23	Jan - Dec 22	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Expense				
4000 · Staffing Costs				
4010 · Salaries				
4010-01 · Music Leadership	21,190.00	19,450.00	19,375.00	20,500.00
4010-02 · Salary recovery	(38,935.98)	0.00	0.00	0.00
4010 · Salaries - Other	83,037.85	96,490.90	101,309.00	84,086.00
Total 4010 · Salaries	65,291.87	115,940.90	120,684.00	104,586.00
4013 · Custodial Service	20,033.70	15,765.61	19,500.00	19,000.00
4014 · Treasurer Honorarium	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	3,000.00
4015 · Sound System/Camera	1,015.95	0.00	0.00	850.00
4040 · Travel	384.45	205.44	500.00	400.00
4051 · Staff Telephone	600.00	780.00	720.00	480.00
4060 · Conference/Seminar&Training	0.00	418.75	1,893.00	1,400.00
4061 · Books/Subscriptions	23.05	121.21	200.00	0.00
4062 · Membership Fees	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
4070 · Supply Ministry	10,439.46	2,581.46	2,200.00	13,400.00
4080 · Music Supply	50.00	450.00	1,400.00	1,550.00
Total 4000 · Staffing Costs	100,238.48	138,683.37	149,497.00	144,666.00
4100 · Staff Service Costs				
4110 · Employment Insurance	1,703.08	1,828.07	1,944.00	1,754.00
4120 · C.P.P.	4,063.22	4,574.46	5,163.00	4,491.00
4140 · W.S.I.B.	583.65	454.92	700.00	600.00
4150 · U.C.C. Group Insurance	6,687.99	8,182.26	9,264.00	7,685.00
4160 · U.C.C. Pension	7,249.61	8,376.50	8,189.00	6,794.00
4170 · ADP Charges	762.19	721.17	750.00	750.00
Total 4100 · Staff Service Costs	21,049.74	24,137.38	26,010.00	22,074.00
4500 · Directed Expenses				
4510 · UCC Assessment	9,141.00	6,938.86	9,141.00	9,184.00
Total 4500 · Directed Expenses	9,141.00	6,938.86	9,141.00	9,184.00
5000 · Church Facilities				
5010 · Heat & Hydro	19,338.53	18,606.88	21,000.00	21,000.00
5030 · General Maintenance				
5030-01 · Church Fix ups	354.77	1,490.06	5,000.00	9,700.00
5030 · General Maintenance - Other	3,856.80	6,369.47	17,500.00	19,450.00
Total 5030 · General Maintenance	4,211.57	7,859.53	22,500.00	29,150.00
5040 · Boiler Maintenance	10,978.11	3,231.51	5,000.00	2,500.00
5060 · Custodial Supplies	5,750.03	4,320.50	4,400.00	4,800.00
5070 · Grounds Maintenance	2,960.33	4,958.76	5,500.00	5,500.00
5080 · Miscellaneous	0.00	45.00	0.00	0.00
Total 5000 · Church Facilities	43,238.57	39,022.18	58,400.00	62,950.00

Melville United Church
Income & Expense Budget Performance
December 2023

	Actual		Budget	
	Jan - Dec 23	Jan - Dec 22	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
6000 · Church Office				
6009 · Office Equipment	259.88	1,719.60	1,000.00	1,000.00
6010 · Equipment Lease	1,019.32	1,019.32	1,050.00	1,100.00
6020 · Copier Supplies	353.66	277.28	500.00	1,500.00
6030 · Telephone Service	1,628.59	1,718.29	1,800.00	1,700.00
6070 · Bank Charges	424.00	120.00	150.00	500.00
6090 · General Supplies	1,535.83	1,577.72	2,000.00	2,000.00
6110 · Postal Service	308.45	208.83	300.00	310.00
6130 · PAR Service Charges	293.00	296.00	300.00	300.00
6140 · Broadview Magazine Expense	0.00	600.00	750.00	0.00
6150 · Givings Envelopes	465.73	310.87	320.00	500.00
6180 · Internet	939.02	888.00	900.00	1,000.00
6190 · Software	317.80	262.35	500.00	930.00
Total 6000 · Church Office	7,545.28	8,998.26	9,570.00	10,840.00
8000 · Committee Expenses				
8010 · Music Supplies	1,182.98	571.24	1,906.03	500.00
8020 · Worship Supplies	1,426.52	1,164.86	950.00	2,350.00
8030 · Faith Formation	99.98	227.63	1,000.00	1,000.00
8040 · Organ & Piano Maintenance	2,933.82	1,846.33	2,580.00	3,080.00
8050 · Audio/Visual Maintenance	27.51	460.75	2,000.00	100.00
8070 · Council Executive	25,532.97	10,611.16	750.00	750.00
8100 · Social Justice Team				
8101 · Benevolent Fund	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8100 · Social Justice Team - Other	1,434.67	547.53	1,675.00	1,675.00
Total 8100 · Social Justice Team	1,634.67	547.53	1,675.00	1,675.00
8110 · Stewardship	369.34		250.00	300.00
8130 · Pastoral Care	286.86	351.72	500.00	500.00
8140 · Ministry & Personnel	154.08	260.27	400.00	350.00
8160 · Fun & Funds	612.29	175.40	250.00	750.00
Total 8000 · Committee Expenses	34,261.02	16,216.89	12,261.03	11,355.00
Total Expense	215,474.09	233,996.94	264,879.03	261,069.00
Net Surplus (Deficit)	31,819.86	(38,576.49)	(78,279.03)	(84,469.00)
Mission & Service	16,866.86	18,250.66	18,000.00	20,000.00

Melville United Church
Income & Expense Budget Performance
December 2023

Capital Projects	Organ Restorations	Flat Roof Repair	Garden	Stained Glass Windows	Audio/Visual System	Capital Reserve
Balance Jan 1, 2023	0.00	(38,648.22)	721.57	5,223.67	0.00	(25,383.83)
Funds In - donations/fundraising	5,990.00	0.00	585.03	500.00	0.00	7,075.03
Up Fund Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
Expenses	(3,466.70)	0.00	(172.73)	(519.69)	(8,943.75)	(13,102.87)
Balance December 31, 2022	<u>2,523.30</u>	<u>(38,648.22)</u>	<u>1,133.87</u>	<u>10,203.98</u>	<u>(3,943.75)</u>	<u>(21,411.67)</u>

Capital Projects Budget 2024	
Stained Glass Windows	15,800.00
Longterm Building Repairs Capital	3,000.00