

# THE NIAGARA UNITED MENNONITE CHURCH

*"Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community"*



## **82<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (2020 REPORTS)**

*NOTE:* Due to COVID-19 restrictions the date of the AGM is not set at this time.  
AGM Reports will be made available in printed form by request or they can be  
downloaded from the NUMC "AGM" page on our website.

# **Table of Contents**

	<b>PAGE</b>
Table of Contents	2-3
Introduction	4-5
Church Activities and Events	6-7
Church Records	8-9

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORTS**

<b>WITHIN NIAGARA UNITED MENNONITE CHURCH</b>	<b>10</b>
Lead Pastor's Annual Report	11-12
Associate Pastor: German Worship Annual Report	13-14
Youth and Young Adults Annual Report	15
Worship Coordinator Annual Report	16
Church Board Annual Report	17-22
Spiritual Life Ministry Annual Report	23
Engagement Ministry Annual Report	24-26
MOPS (Mother's of Preschool Children) Annual Report	27
Worship Ministry Annual Report	28-29
Education Ministry Annual Report	30
Red Brick Kids (Sunday School) Annual Report	31-32
Nursery Annual Report	33
Library Annual Report	34
Service Ministry Annual Report & Financials	35-36
Women in Service Annual Report	37
Helping Hands Annual Report	38
Serving Committee Annual Report	38
(Refugee) Sponsorship and Settlement Committee Annual Report	39
Facilities Ministry Annual Report	40

<b>2020 ANNUAL REPORTS: OUR COMMUNITY</b>	<b>41</b>
Available from the organization's web sites.	

<b>2020 YEAR-END UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>42</b>
Helping Hands Financial Statement	43
Sponsorship and Settlement Financial Report	43
Women in Service Financial Report	44

<b>2020 Audited Financial Statements</b>	<b>45</b>
Treasurer's Report	46
Balance Sheet	47
Auditors Report	47
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements	48-49
Statement of Revenue & Expenses	50-51
Statement of Members' Equity	52
Operating Fund	52
Capital Fund Financial Statement	52
Bequest Fund Financial Statement	53
Missions & Service Financial Statement	53
Deacons Fund Financial Statement	53
Refugee & Sponsorship Financial Statement	54
Student Aid Financial Statement	54
Youth Group Financial Statement	54
Other Funds Financial Statement	55
Disability Fund Financial Statement	55
Library Financial Statement	55
MCC School Kits Project Fund Financial Statement	56
Junior Youth Group Fund	56
CEBA Loan	56
Proposed Budget 2020	57
 <b>Motions to Ratify</b>	 <b>58</b>
Motions	59-60
 <b>Elections Sheet</b>	 <b>61-62</b>
 <b>Notes</b>	 <b>63</b>

## **Introduction to the Report Book for the year 2020**

The year 2020 ended with the COVID-19 pandemic at record levels, and not showing any signs of abating. We are starting a 28-day lockdown mandated by the provincial government. That lockdown may well be extended. We can't meet as a church in the fashion we are accustomed to hold our Annual General Meeting ("AGM"), so that the only format in which a meaningful AGM could be held would be through some form of videoconferencing. That would exclude some members' participation, likely leave us with technological glitches, and still lack personal feel.

We do not know the course of the pandemic, which makes it impossible to set a date for a traditional style AGM. We look instead at the purposes of the AGM, to see how many of those purposes can be at least partially met by other means.

The AGM is an opportunity to report on the activities of the last year, put the budget in place for the coming year, and set our goals for the coming year. Those include planning the expenditures to achieve them, as well as identifying the volunteers to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" to carry them out. And it meets the statutory requirement of holding the AGM.

Firstly, the COVID-19 legislation passed by the Ontario government suspended the requirement to hold AGM's until such time as the pandemic emergency is deemed by the government to have abated significantly that large in-person meetings become permitted.

Secondly, we can convey to the membership all the information which was typically conveyed in the AGM report booklet, provide an opportunity for input, answer that input and share the answers with the congregation.

So, in conclusion we have the following points:

1. No definitive date for the holding of an AGM can be set at this time;
2. We want to report to the membership the activities of Church Board and the various Ministries of the Church over the past year;
3. We want to place a budget before the church so that all members are aware of the fiscal direction which the Church Board will work towards;
4. We want to answer any and all questions which any church member may have, and share these answers as broadly as possible within the church Constituency, and;
5. We want to hold an AGM as soon as this can reasonably done, to confirm the direction in which Church is headed.

This AGM booklet starts off this process. It is available to church members electronically and by hard copy upon request.

Once the AGM booklet has been circulated, and for a period of two weeks thereafter, we solicit the questions which members may have. These questions can be emailed to the church office, dropped off in writing, or telephoned into the church office. We simply require that you attach your name to any questions you may ask, just as if the question were asked from the floor at an in-person meeting.

Church Board will undertake to publish the questions and answers in a fashion which is similar to the way in which this AGM booklet is distributed. Church Board will then carry on its duty to run the church in accordance with the budget set out in this booklet, and report to the membership on that progress. No votes will be held on anything at this particular time, however Church Board will affirm the slate of volunteers contained in this booklet. When we are in a position to hold an in-person AGM, the opportunity will be given to the congregation to approve the slate, approve or amend the budget, and fulfil the other duties of the congregation.

*Submitted by Peter Janzen, Church Board Chair*

## **CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS 2020**

Jan.18	The Great Winter Warm-Up- Quilt tying bee
Jan. 26	Art Display by Bianca Di Zio Sunday School Bible Dedication
Feb. 4	Annual Membership Meeting
Feb. 14-16	Youth Winter Retreat @ Hidden Acres with local MCEC cluster youth groups
Feb. 23	Guest Speaker Stephen Mortley
Feb. 25	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Mar. 8	Art Display by Lori Dyck
Mar.15	German Worship Service & Worship Service cancelled due to COVID-19
Mar.16	Programs and events cancelled or moved to online format until further notice
Mar. 22	Worship Service – online only
Mar. 29	Worship Service & German Worship Service – online only
April 5	Palm Sunday – online only
April 10	Good Friday – online only
April 12	Easter Sunday- online only
April 19	Worship Service & German Worship Service – online only
April 26	Worship Service -online only
May 3	Worship Service – online only
May 10	Mother's Day Worship Service – online only
May 10	Services broadcast on Cogeco 'YourTV' starting this Sunday
May 17	Worship Service – online only Guest Speaker David Martin
May 24	Worship Service & German Worship Service – online only
May 31	Pentecost, Worship Service – online only
June 7	Worship Service & German Worship Service – online only
June 14	Worship Service – online only
June 14	Big At-Home Picnic
June 21	Worship Service & German Worship Service – online only
June 28	Worship Service – online only
July 12	NUMC Worship Service broadcast through MCEC online
Aug. 23	Worship Service on the front lawn of the church
Sept. 11	Youth Kick-off- Socially-distanced campfire @ Froeses'
Sept. 13	Worship Service in the Sanctuary – NUMC Reopening
Sept. 20	German Worship Service in the Sanctuary – NUMC Reopening

Oct. 4	Sunday School Begins – online only
Nov. 15	Eternity Sunday
Nov. 29	First Advent & Communion German Worship Service
Dec. 6	Second Advent & Communion Worship Service
Dec. 13	Third Advent German Worship Service
Dec. 20	Fourth Advent Worship Service
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship Service online only
Dec. 27	Worship Service & German Worship Service online only

## **CHURCH RECORDS 2020**

Number of church members Dec. 31, 2020 ... **536** (560 last year 2019)

### **Members listed improperly:**

Alex Froese listed as a non-member, was baptized in 2013

### **Members received by Baptism:**

None in 2020

### **Members received through Confession of Faith**

None in 2020

### **Members Transfer In:**

None in 2020

### **Members transferred out to other congregations:**

None in 2020

### **Members withdrawn:**

Meagen Bergeron (Feb.10)  
Scott Vanderlee (Mar. 11)  
Vyonne Vanderlee (Mar. 11)  
Richard Bartel (Aug. 21)  
Becky Bartel (Aug. 21)  
Jeff Friesen (Sept. 14)  
Anita Friesen (Sept. 14)  
Chris Friesen (Sept. 14)  
Megan Friesen (Sept. 14)  
Werner R. Siemens (Dec. 17)  
Mark Bergen (Dec. 21)

### **Deaths**

**(\* not members)**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Age</u></b>	<b><u>Date Deceased</u></b>
Siegmund Bartel*	84	March 30 (Private Funeral - Jan. 8)
Epp, Jacob William	86	May 31 (Private Funeral – June 2)
Goerz, Eric	87	June 9 (Private Funeral – June 11)
Pries, Ernie	84	June 15 (Funeral held at Tallmans- June 25)
Dyck, Louise	92	July 20 (Private Funeral – July 22)
Fast, Susan	79	August 14 (Private Funeral – Aug. 21)
Nickel, Helene	99	August 23 (Private Funeral Aug. 27)
Fast, Mary Lena (Marlene)	83	August 28 (Private Funeral Sept. 4)
Gau, Reinhard	79	September 13 (Private Funeral Sept. 15)
Lamarre, Gerald (Gerry)	83	September 14 (Private Funeral Sept. 18)
Neufeld, Margaret	90	September 18 (Graveside Service Sept. 22)



Epp, Irma	88	September 25 (Graveside Service Sept. 29)
Neumann, Hertha	88	October 2 (Graveside Service Oct. 6)
Funk, Hans	95	November 23 (Graveside Service Nov. 28)
Schmidt, Elsa	79	December 3 (Graveside Service Dec. 8)

### **Births - Children born** (members underlined)

#### **Child**

Evelyn Katharina Sandra Dick (Feb. 4)  
 Benson George Baergen (Feb. 28)  
 Adriana Friesen (April 8)  
 Charlotte Claire Froese (July 23)  
 Carson Lobsinger (Nov. 7)

#### **Parents**

Greg Dick & Katiana Wiens  
Joshua & Marnie Baergen  
Matthew & Olivia Friesen  
Alex & Melissa Froese  
 Luc & Kaitlyn Lobsinger

### **Child Dedications:**

Thomas Kenneth Scott (Feb. 2)  
 Tobias Paul Doerwald (Feb. 9)  
 Luke Reginald Thwaites (Mar. 1)  
 Blair Isabella Metsa (Nov. 15)  
 Cole Fowler (Nov. 21)  
 Michaela Lucy Zappitelli (Nov. 21)  
 Charlotte Claire Froese (Dec. 6)  
 Lincoln Daniel Tiessen (Dec. 20)

### **Weddings** (Members underlined)

Danielle Redekopp & Rafael Aparicio (Jan. 4)  
Amanda Doerwald & Stephen Dykstra (Feb. 8)  
Victoria Redekopp & Trevor Groetelaars (Aug. 29 ceremony in Port Colborne)  
Austin Penner & Niall Paterson (Sept. 13 at an outdoor ceremony)  
 Kate-Lynn Dirks & Cody Palmer-Almond (Oct. 24 at Star of the Sea)

### **25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebrations**

Henry & Helga Rahn (March 25)  
 Jason Sebeslav & Marion Griesse (June 10)  
 Heiko & Esther Tiedtke (June 17)  
 Ron & Mary-Anne Pries (July 8)  
 Bruno & Dana Schmidt (October 14)

### **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebrations**

Abram & Helen Neufeld (July 12)

### **60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Celebrations**

Alexander & Olga Neufeld (May 21)  
 Hans Herman & Ingrid Dau (October 16)

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORTS**

Within Niagara United Mennonite Church

## **Lead Pastor's Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our Objective:**

To Encourage and Equip the people of God in the way of the Kingdom of God.

### **Who are we:**

Lead Pastor

### **How to do we do it?**

Preaching, Funerals, Weddings, Child Dedications, Communion, Committee and staff meetings, visiting and calling people

### **Key Activities and Dates:**

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What an interesting first year!!! Ha! A lot has happened! Firstly, we began the year as a newly forming staff group: Chris and myself being added as staff about half way through 2019, Rachael Peters joined in Jan 2019, but went on maternity leave in May and rejoined us on staff in September 2020. Ruth Willms came on to cover the worship planning end and finished up in May 2020. Thank you, Ruth Willms! A big thank to Renate Dau Klaassen and Emily Fieguth for helping me find all things that I needed and the things I did not know I needed, and for being invaluable sources of information.

In addition to that, we had a second major change that occurred this year in February, which was the switching to our new organizational restructure, the creation of a new Board comprised of the Ministry Chairs. It has been good! And it has been great watching us learn, grow, discern and live into entirely new roles and responsibilities.

However, if those first two changes and challenges were not enough upheaval for this year, a pandemic emerged. COVID-19 sent our church into lockdown in the middle of March with all our in person gathered activities coming to an abrupt end forcing many activities to move online - our services, committee meetings, staff meetings, etc...

Our church saw three major changes or shocks, if you will, this past year and what we have learnt is that we are resilient and adaptable.

We have learnt and are learning to worship in a different format, we have learnt and are learning to function organizationally differently than we have in the past, and we are getting to know one another in a new way because we have been forced to learn a new medium of connecting.

Now, we could have thrown up our hands and said, "we will see each other again, we will worship again, we will sort out how we organize ourselves when this all blows over. Frankly, it is all just too much to do together or at the same time while separated." By God's grace and your dedication to this body we found our feet.

We have found a way: to worship together, to celebrate communion, to bless children and parents, to hitch people together, and to mourn and celebrate those who have gone to be with the LORD.

Earlier on in the pandemic, I sent out a survey asking you which spiritual practices you had found encouraging and strengthening. You responded by saying that prayer, scripture, and connecting with Sunday morning worship were your regular practices that continued to ground you in your faith. Another frequent response was the importance of continuing to connect with one another.

Now, I doubt that this comes as a surprise to any of us. These practices of prayer, scripture and fellowship have always been core practices of all living faiths throughout history. We also know that they are most powerful when experienced together, like during Sunday morning worship services.

We can pray alone and read scripture alone, but it is something altogether different when we do it together. The Spirit does something in us that is different when we are physically gathered together than when we are separated.

Maybe our current situation has been given to us to remind us of the blessing that we have had all these years to easily gather to worship and work together. And maybe this time has also been given to us as a time of testing, have we been laying up enough stores in the “fat” years for this “lean” season? (Gen 41)

Thus, my goal and prayer for this coming year is to have these three practices: prayer, scripture and fellowship guide our church activities, that our meetings, events, services would increasingly be marked with and by prayer, scripture and fellowship.

As I write this, it seems that it has been a reoccurring theme for us as a church over the last years, the call to be persistent in prayer, encouraged by word, and refreshed in fellowship – so that we may embody more deeply the call to be servants of Christ to our community.

May God strengthen us for life and service in his kingdom, in our church and in our community this coming year. Amen.

*Submitted by Daniel Janzen, Lead Pastor*

## **Associate Pastor: German Worship Report 2020**

Although 2020 has been labelled by most as the year everyone would like to forget, it may be remembered at NUMC as the year that the church staff and volunteers collaborated like never before. In my task of giving leadership to the German worship ministry, I have come to appreciate that team effort tremendously, as we learned new ways of staying connected as a faith community through the isolating effect of the pandemic precautions.

Technical know-how has never been my strong suit, and I was managing pretty well with my limited computer skills to communicate via email, compose sermons, & such basics — and then COVID-19 hit! My husband Randy and I were stranded in Uruguay for a few weeks by the shutdown of airlines in March, while back here, the staff and a team of dedicated volunteers figured out how to share basic worship services online. Sitting under the shady trees at my cousin's farm in the country, I wondered how we would get home, and how I would be able to continue the German services. But even in my absence, the German preaching team had already risen to the challenge of video recording their messages to share online and at Pleasant Manor.

Being temporarily laid off because of the financial uncertainties in spring, and spending 14 days in quarantine when we finally made it home in late April, I had expected to be fairly idle. But then came an invitation from Alissa Bender, pastor at Hamilton Mennonite Church, to join her and Louise Wideman, pastor at Vineland United Mennonite, to present a 3-part message for a recorded worship service compiled by the Niagara Cluster of Mennonite Churches, to be shared on the Mennonite Church Canada website. So, I was thrown into the deep end of figuring out video recording basics! It was a great experience to be able to collaborate with these colleagues in ministry.

Not wanting to lose momentum with my ministry and faith family connections, I determined to continue in my roles in a voluntary capacity during the 3 months of layoff. That choice enabled me to maintain the learning curve required to keep up with developments as the staff and worship committee sought more creative means to use technology in the production of engaging pre-recorded worship services. Their can-do spirit gave me the courage to take on the personal challenge of combining preaching with my hobby of drawing and painting, resulting in a visual message, sharing my thoughts while creating a drawing of Christ's feeding of the five thousand. I'm so thankful for all the tech support from Emily Fieguth, Daniel Janzen, and others to help me keep up!

I'm also very appreciative of the congregation's generosity, despite the obstacles, that enabled my salary to be restored in July. You have shown that all our efforts are valued and that you have faith in our ability to meet the congregation's spiritual needs through these unprecedented times. That trust motivates us to continue developing ways of being the church under these ever-changing circumstances.

Early on in the lockdown, Emily became aware of Cogeco's offer of 30-minute segments for local churches to broadcast services on their cable channel 10, and snapped up the 10:30 - 11:00 slot for us. I deeply appreciated the worship committee's willingness to share this opportunity equally between English and German worship ministries. As a result, our German services have found a wide audience among folks at Pleasant Manor, Tabor Manor, Heidehof, and in private homes, who have no other opportunity to hear the Gospel shared in their spiritual-heart language. Members of St. Catharines UMC particularly appreciate this resource, as their German services, which had previously been maintained by our speakers doing double duty there, have not resumed since the first lockdown. In this way, our German worship ministry has become an unexpected, far-reaching, much appreciated outreach ministry.

Over the summer, Emily spearheaded the complex task of training & equipping us staff and a small army of volunteers in the necessary measures for safely holding gathered services in the sanctuary again. It was not easy for all us creatures of habit to adjust to the new protocols, and to be patient with each other as we learned these routines. Occasionally Emily became the target of some frustrated feelings. Emily, we owe you so much for the diligence and grace you demonstrated in making these gatherings possible. Now, as we have been required to shut down again, we realize how much those brief opportunities to reconnect with each other in person have meant to us. It is our hope that we can resume gathering for worship again soon.

Some of the volunteers that assisted with the in-church German services were folks that previously never attended them, and I appreciated their cheerful support. I immediately noticed that the interaction with ushers and greeters as people arrived injected a fresh, welcoming liveliness to our gatherings, a positive indicator of our connectedness as one congregation. That is a key vision that I strive to foster and promote. Thank you, volunteers!

To inject at least a bit of music into the gathered German services, Lolita Hale and I collaborated to record hymns with piano and violin, and for Advent, Ruth Lamarre joined us so that I could sing. Our recording session in the light of the beautiful Christmas tree was a worship experience in and of itself. I extend my gratitude to these musicians, as well as Kathy Rempel and Marlene Borzychowski, who provided prelude music for the German worship gatherings. Thank you for keeping the songs ringing in our hearts!

The German worship group lost several faithful members in the past year. Giving final tribute to loved ones became quite challenging with limits on assembly sizes, and restrictions on how funerals can be celebrated. We all deeply miss the singing that speaks God's comfort and hope into our hearts, especially in times of grief; and the customary socializing where we normally clasp hands or embrace to console the bereaved. For many families, burials took place in the absence of relatives who could not travel to attend. It was my honour to walk with the families of Helene Nickel, Reinhard Gau, and Elsa Schmidt in their time of loss. May God continue to walk with all those who are mourning loved ones who have passed from us, and whose wounds of grief are slow to heal because of as yet incomplete rituals of remembrance. May we as a faith family be alert to this pain, and seek ways of helping bring closure once an easing of restrictions allows us to mark these passings more completely.

As the year wound down, two members of the German worship ministry team have found themselves at a place in life that called for them to step aside from their participation in leadership. Gunnar Doerwald retired from his role as worship leader, and Udo Woelke stepped back from preaching while dealing with some health difficulties. We express our deep appreciation for both of them, and wish them God's guiding, healing presence. At this point, Ramona Neufeld, Joachim Dau, Hans Hermann Dau, and I are able to continue providing messages and leading worship on an every-other-Sunday basis. Time will tell how the German worship ministry will look once the pandemic is over. I am glad to serve alongside these dedicated volunteers, and in supportive collaboration with the rest of the church staff, as long as this ministry still meets a vital spiritual need in our community.

*Submitted by Renate Dau Klaassen, Associate Pastor: German Worship*

## **Youth and Young Adults Report 2020**

A repetitive theme that we're going to hear in our reports this year is how in 2020, we experienced an unprecedented series of challenges to "doing church." We had to re-think, re-imagine, and re-organize how we do faith community together.

One of the gifts we get from the young is that they really are experts in change. This is because they haven't yet had time to develop the habits, behaviours, and attachments that tend to build up over the years and make us afraid and, let's be honest, pretty grumpy about change. If you want to know how the world is changing, and how we need to adjust in order to keep in rhythm with what God is doing, the young are a huge key to this!

When COVID-19 hit in March of 2020, our Sr Youth were likely the quickest ministry to adjust. Prior to this, we had been running the Alpha course for teens and gathering for large indoor games at the church that were a lot of fun! But starting in March, meeting over Zoom call became our primary method of connection. Just like everyone else, our teens want to meet in person. But they're much better than the rest of us at realizing the potential that new technologies bring to create ongoing memories and experiences during a period of enormous culture shift.

We continued the Alpha course. People continued to invite their friends to check out our online gatherings. We experienced new games together. We continued to cook meals together. We continued to dream about how we can creatively serve and bless others in the community. We explored what our peace position means for Mennonites today by reflecting upon stories of how our ancestors struggled with questions of violence. We continued to pray for one another.

On occasion when the weather was good and lockdown was not so prevalent, we were able to gather outdoors for safely distanced games and hangouts together; including an 80's night that we did with Bethany Mennonite and St. Catharines UM.

Our Jr Youth program remains on hiatus, but I continue to stay in touch with our families, along with occasional gift packages for our Jr Youth.

Prior to COVID-19, our Young Adults went axe-throwing together and played some football. During COVID-19, we explored new ways to socialize and play games together online, and with the help of Rachael Peters, they were even able to get together safely to decorate the new giant Christmas tree within our sanctuary! In the new year, we hope to find ways to explore scripture together, do more projects together, and we hope to do an online music night where young people from our congregation might share of their musical worship gifts with all of us!

God is constantly doing new things through our Youth and Young Adult Ministries!

*Submitted by Chris Hutton, Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries*

## **Worship Coordinator Annual Report 2020**

### **This past year I have learned...**

This past year I have learned open-mindedness. When I returned to work following my parental leave in August 2020, the worship landscape looked vastly different than before my leave in May of 2019. Creating a meaningful worship experience in a virtual format is a new experience for the vast majority of our congregation, myself included.

Back in the spring, I was curious to see how churches were adapting to the online format. I was watching an online service put out by the Meeting House. In a time of transition between segments of their service, there was a short exchange between two church leaders about a scarf that one of the leaders was wearing on camera. She talked a little about it, and her scarf collection. The other leader asked her a few questions, and my first thought after watching this exchange was "How is this relevant to the service??" I was waiting for a scarf-themed scripture passage to come up on the screen, or some little known "Parable of the Scarves" but that was not to be!

It took me a little while to realize that the purpose of this short exchange really had nothing to do with a scarf. The leaders were creating connection. They were showing community. They were creating an atmosphere of ease, and friendliness, and welcome. Yeah, it might have seemed maybe a little corny or a little stiff, but the purpose was far greater than the topic of their conversation, and with a little bit of open-mindedness, I could appreciate it as an incredibly valuable addition to their worship experience.

When we lost the ability to gather in person, we not only lost our communal worship, but also our opportunities to connect. Our spontaneous conversations at the welcome centre, our whispers to each other in the choir room during practice, the sound of little ones in our presence, the waves from vehicles as we pull out of the parking lot. All of these small interactions are a valuable part of our Sunday morning church experience. So how could we incorporate a sense of community in our worship services?

This is where our Community Connection comes in, and this is where I learned open-mindedness. So, whether we're hearing a family update, touring a garden, learning about a local artist, watching a slideshow, or any of the other 40-some Community Connections we've put together in the last year, we are connecting. It's not what I thought a "normal" church service would include, but with a little open-mindedness, I've come to appreciate it, value it, and truly enjoy it too.

I think this barely scratches the surface of lessons I've learned this year, but for the sake of space, I'll save the rest for my novel!

### **Next year, I hope to focus on...**

For 2021, I hope to continue to find creative ways for our community to engage more deeply and personally with God and each other through our worship services. The online format makes us think outside the box, so I plan to continue petitioning God for his great creativity in finding ways that we can collectively worship him in new and exciting ways.

Additionally, with the release of the new hymnal, I'm very eager to find ways to incorporate some new worship music into our services.

*Submitted by Rachael Peters, Worship Coordinator*



## **Church Board Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our Objective:**

We strive to keep the process of Church Board moving smoothly, and the seamlessly and efficiently as possible. This means that we that we vet inquiries with which we are approached, and deal with some, directly as a committee, and others discussed by Church Board is needed, or deliver these to one or other of the Church Ministries who could respond most appropriately.

### **Who are we:** (\* Church Board Executive)

Church Board Chair- Peter Janzen\*

Church Board Vice Chair- Alan Teichroeb\*

Church Board Treasurer- Rob Neufeld\*

Church Board Secretary- Rob Neufeld\*

Lead Pastor - Daniel Janzen

Spiritual Life Ministry Chair: Joachim Dau

Engagement Ministry Chair: John Tiessen

Worship Ministry Chair: Katrina Metsa

Service Ministry Chair: Bill Devolin

Education Ministry Chair: Ramona Neufeld

Facilities Ministry Chair: Willi Pankratz

### **How do we do it?**

Between the regular meetings of Church Board, the executive meets as needed. These meetings may or may not involve the Lead Pastor, as the situation dictates.

### **Key Activities and Dates**

Church Board meetings, held monthly

Membership Meetings, held annually, and otherwise as circumstances require

I am pleased to submit the annual report of Church Board.

### **COVID-19**

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting all elements of our society, our church life and how we deal with the church business normally conducted at an Annual General Meeting ("AGM") is no exception. By law, generally, an AGM has to be held within three months of the year end; however because statutory changes, the timeline for the AGM to review the business of the congregations 2020 activities has to be held within 90 days after of the end of the pandemic emergency declared by the province.

However, the business of the church has to continue, and accordingly we are presenting to you this information booklet, presented largely as it would have been presented in other years, with a view to informing you as to the issues which have transpired and the business of the church as it has been run by the Church Board during the last fiscal year. At such point in time as an AGM is permitted to be held, it will certainly be the intention of the Church Board to hold one, but until then Church Board intends to be guided by the direction set in the enclosed information booklet, but welcomes any and all questions which members may have, and request that they be forwarded to Church Board, and they will be dealt with in a response will be provided.

The form which an AGM may take in the future is likely to have a component of “electronic presence”, likely in the form of a Zoom meeting or YouTube presentation, or otherwise. Stay tuned.

Church Board recognizes that we are losing an important element of “togetherness” when we lose our ability to meet as a congregation. Nonetheless, we are able to work together towards a common end, and demonstrate our congregational life in that fashion. The issue becomes for us not to focus on what we have lost, but what we are able to still do, and to pray that God will be with us as we set the goals for that action.

We will strive in this presentation booklet to give you more information, and more insight into the workings of Church Board which went into its creation.

Primary to the role of the Church Board in the presentation of this booklet is to prepare for the congregation the budget for the next year, and have it approved by the membership. While it does not seem feasible at present to hold the traditional vote on the budget, we present it as a budget which is recommended by Church Board, and will be followed as far as circumstances allow in the coming year. We welcome all comments, questions, criticisms and prayer. The comments, questions and criticisms which we receive will be considered for future Church Board action.

### **The Budget Process**

Pastor Schertzer left us with the “Nickels and Noses” measurement of church growth. Let’s use those to assess where we stand and the direction we should head as a congregation.

### **Nickels**

There’s been an overall trend within churches (and the average Mennonite Church is no exception), that church membership and church donations have been decreasing. Our congregation falls within this general trend.

As a Mennonite Church, we attempt to relate to:

- a) each other,
- b) similar congregations within the Mennonite community, and
- c) various other missions of like-minded folks.

The money that we invest in our Christianity follows our beliefs. So, each of the above areas roughly equates to our donations to:

- a) our local congregation;
- b) Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, (“MCEC”) which in turn supports Mennonite Church Canada (“MC Canada”) and their programs; and
- c) various other Mennonite or other charitable organizations which we choose to support as individuals.

We can, and do, track donations to:

- a) our local congregation; and
- b) MCEC;
- c) donations to other charitable organizations, which are made through church offerings of our members.

The information below does not include donations to other charitable organizations which were made through our church offerings. Those are omitted because they may well reflect more the donations which individual members of our congregation saw as appropriate Christian giving in their particular circumstances above and beyond their congregational giving. While they are

important to the individual donors, they are not seen as important to the issues in setting a congregational budget direction.

While tracking dollars can be done down to the last penny, in terms of setting policies, which is the role of the congregation, we need to be careful that we don't become people who "can't see the forest for the trees" by emphasizing minor differences and conclusions which could be drawn, but which are insignificant in the overall picture.

### **5 Year history of budget givings & expenditures**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$416,443</b>	<b>\$414,653</b>	<b>\$408,628</b>	<b>\$392,711</b>	<b>\$391,157</b>
Maintenance/Facilities	\$ 44,885	\$ 48,964	\$ 52,137	\$ 48,498	\$ 56,831
Office	\$ 17,124	\$ 17,167	\$ 17,145	\$ 18,149	\$ 14,127
Education	\$ 8,487	\$ 10,162	\$ 8,813	\$ 5,226	\$ 3,897
Worship	\$ 4,675	\$ 4,563	\$ 12,552	\$ 11,784	\$ 3,041
Engagement	\$		\$	\$ 5,129	\$ 4,756
Spiritual Life	\$		\$	\$ 250	\$ 0
Ministry Staff	\$250,269	\$213,533	\$176,076	\$271,715	\$262,119
Missions & Service	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
MCEC	\$ 81,000	\$ 76,500	\$ 76,500	\$ 38,250	\$ 35,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$416,443</b>	<b>\$380,891</b>	<b>\$353,275</b>	<b>\$403,623</b>	<b>\$389,772</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$ 33,761</b>	<b>\$ 55,402</b>	<b>\$ (10,911)</b>	<b>\$ 1,385</b>

#### Notes:

1. 2016 is the start of staff reduction as ministerial staff moved to other employment. 2017 & 2018 reflects the ministerial positions being filled, either on a half-time basis or not at all. In 2019, the ministerial staff became full-time, with Chris Hutton joining us in April and Daniel Janzen joining us in August. In 2020, COVID-19 hit, and there was a temporary layoff of some staff, and a reduction in hours of other staff. If every staff position were filled for an entire year ("Structural Budget Cost") the estimated cost for this line item would be approximately \$280,000.

## Stewardship within our Congregation

Over the years, the church has exercised its stewardship of God's financial gifts, and in addition to its annual budget giving as reported above, the congregation presently holds substantial funds as follows. The list may not be complete,

Fund	Balance @ Dec 31, 2020
Operating Fund – Note 1	\$126,680
Capital Fund – Note 2	\$ 17,470
Bequest Fund – Note 3	\$ 231,134
Mission & Service Fund – Note 4	\$ 1,348
Deacons Fund – Note 4	\$ 5,018
Student Aid Fund – Note 5	\$ 5,119
Refugee Sponsorship Fund– Note 5	\$ 5,342
Youth Groups Financial Fund –Note 4	\$ 4,966
Disability Fund – Note 5	\$ 478
Library Fund – Note 4	\$ 251

Note 1. This fund balance is essentially what is left from the various budget surpluses over the years, unless they were directed elsewhere by the congregation.

Note 2. This fund is used for various capital projects around the church, the last of which was the coffee centre.

Note 3. Members have contributed to this fund, often through their wills. There is a policy which governs how this fund can be used.

Note 4. These are funds which serve a variety of congregational purposes, and the balance represents unallocated funds as at December 31, 2020.

Note 5. These represent the present balance remaining in funds which were created, typically to serve a need which had arisen, some of which funds may be active and some of which may be dormant.

## Noses

The information which follows is based upon a snapshot in time, which more or less coincides with the date of January 1, 2020. Let's look at it for general trends and comments, and it is accurate enough for that purpose. It's the best information which was available to Church Board.

"Membership" refers to those people who are noted as such "on the books" of the congregation. "Congregants" refers to people were generally attending (at least prior to COVID-19 imposed changes). This category clearly includes non-members who participate in church activities to varying degrees, including children of members who have not yet been baptized. We start with 556 Members.

We can break this number up into the following levels of activity. These are general descriptions, and people within the group's do not necessarily meet all criteria, but they need to match at least one of the listed criteria.

Criteria	Percentage
Attend at least 50% of the time, involves some aspect of the church community, financial donor, and views our congregation as their church home	61.7%
Baptized in our congregation but have not been attending often, may be financial donors, not involved in the church community but family is still connected	8.6%
Lives locally but seldom attends, currently attending another church, or lives in a nursing home and no longer able to attend	7.7%
Lives outside the Niagara region, maintains membership for sentimental reason only	6.8%
Not been heard from in years, no current contact information.	18.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.6%</b>

However, we are concerned about the church community, and so we have the following information with respect to the church community or potential Congregants.

Category	Approx. Number
Child of a Member	216
Attending Non-Member	101
Spouse of a Member	142
Financial Contributor	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>471</b>

Lastly, we can look at the number of active church donors. For the information which follows, we have to remember that one donor number may be used by one married couple, so it might be more appropriate to consider this as a donor unit. Anyway, there are 196 donor units active in our congregation in 2020.

### **The role of Church Board**

There are many roles for the Church Board, but fundamental to this discussion is to come up with a budget and present same to the Church membership and provide the membership with accurate information as to the level of total congregational giving to the budget. Each individual member will make their choice as to the extent that they will support budget by contribution of their "fair share". Each congregant makes the choice on their own, presumably assessing the importance of charitable giving to their other lifestyle values and choices and income levels.

Should any individual members feel it appropriate to make budget pledges for the coming year, I'm certain that those would be received gladly. If this is a topic which you think is important, we would certainly welcome feedback from you, and seek to connect you with others sharing your viewpoint.

In 2020, we had the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the congregation has traditionally made the greatest part of its budget donations in the last quarter of the year,

and especially in the month of December. This makes budget planning difficult, and budget tracking more so.

Not all expenses which the Church Board authorizes in any year are drawn from the budget. Depending on the nature of the expense, where appropriate, some of the Other Funds may pay some bills.

I hope the information presented in this report is helpful as you make your stewardship decisions in 2021.

### **Servants of Christ**

The past year has taught us to rely on God, and to see His hand at work, on both long-term issues, as well as short-term crisis, and to pray for patience. Church Board ends its first year under the revised constitutional structure, and while it may not be without its problems, it was definitely a better and more responsive structure than the one that it replaced. So, thanks to past ministerial as well as lay members who worked on that Restructuring process, and especially, thanks for your patience in your work, and pray that we have the same patience as you showed as we seek to implement those changes. I think they went well, thanks to the work of current members of Church Board, who asked pertinent questions and provided insightful comments at just the right time. I am certainly not saying that we always got it right, and that we don't have issues yet to be dealt with, but the direction of Church Board functioning over the last year was certainly an improvement that was probably overdue. The administrative time taken to implement anything new was probably reduced, and the appropriate information was readily available from the Ministerial representative bringing that particular issue forward.

Next year we hope to complete the collection of "Organizational Documents" from each of the Ministries. These are the documents which are created by and from within each Ministry. It is hoped that as each Ministry works on these documents, it is a teambuilding effort which strengthens the Ministry and the work of the individuals within it, and it becomes a measurement point for the Ministry and the congregation. These documents are seen to be a "work in process", as the goals and methods of attaining those goals presumably change from time to time for an active Ministry. Further, we would work on a system to make these documents readily available to the public. The work of the ministries of the church is a light which we want to shine to the public, and not hide under a bushel. We are working on a process of full disclosure and transparency for the church administration, and that is the next step which is seen to be required in that process.

*Submitted by Peter Janzen, Church Board Chair*

## **Spiritual Life Ministry Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our objective:**

Spiritual Life Ministries aims to look after the spiritual wellbeing of NUMC.

### **Who we are:**

Spiritual Life Ministry is a small group consisting of a few elected members, sub-committee leaders and staff as required.

### **How we do it:**

At present this ministry has met on an as needed basis to discuss initiatives as need was identified.

### **Key Activities:**

Support to staff and members, visitation ministry.

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### **Reflections:**

This past year has been a difficult one in many ways. Not only did we begin with a new governance structure where this ministry had very little in way of preconceived plan of action, but one of the most effective ways of caring for one another – face to face – was not possible for obvious reasons. For much of 2020, this felt like an insurmountable wall. What were we to do? How were we to function? And how could we reach the people we felt needed the touch we could not give? This has been frustrating to say the least. When times were the bleakest, we would question why we existed. But glimmers of hope would flicker as an idea was expressed and took hold.

The focus for the next year will be to begin to look beyond COVID-19 to develop a better mission plan for this ministry. Spiritual Life Ministries was one committee that had no obvious action or “thing to do”. These were, by and large, taken care of by the other ministry groups, so to find that focal point to energize and enliven the work would be a primary task. With that under way this ministry could once again be a positive influence on the life of the congregation and beyond our four walls.

I have to personally thank Daniel, Chris, Renate and Emily who were often the instigators, planners and executors of the ideas that were put forward. Thank you for all the things you have done in this difficult time and the encouragement you have extended to the people around you.

May God grant us a truly spiritual 2021.

*Submitted by Joachim Dau, Spiritual Life Ministry Chair*

## **Engagement Ministry Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our objective:**

Engage the congregation with each other and with the outside community in order to deepen relationships, and provide opportunity to share our faith with one another.

### **Who we are:**

Chair: John Tiessen

Vice Chair: Erik Metsa

Pastoral Partners: Chris Hutton, Rachael Peters

Junior Youth: Chris Hutton – Currently no parents acting as advisors

Senior Youth: Chris Hutton – Kendra Sawatzky (Advisor)

Young Adults: Chris Hutton

MOPS: Erika Froese

Seniors Tea: Audrey Dau

Home Church: Chris Hutton, John Tiessen

German Advent Program: Renate Dau Klaassen – Lolita Hale (choir)

Website: Emily Fieguth, Jolien Carter (Support Resource)

Bulletin: Emily Fieguth, Rachael Peters

e-Blast: Emily Fieguth

Facebook: Emily Fieguth Jolien Carter (Support Resource)

Newspaper Advertising: Rachael Peters

### **How we do it:**

Junior Youth: Monthly events – Currently shutdown for COVID-19

Senior Youth: Weekly events, Friday Nights, For COVID-19 – outdoor/Zoom

Young Adults: Events on an ad hoc basis

MOPS: Bi-weekly led by Erika. Assistance with babysitting.

Seniors Tea: Monthly meetings. Either at Pleasant Manor or in church auditorium. Server tea/coffee/goodies. Usually have a speaker.

Home Church: Fall or winter sessions. 6 – 8 weeks. Run weekly. Can have people host in their homes with someone else leading. During COVID-19 running over Zoom.

Website: Hosted by a firm in Sarnia. Basic weekly updates done by Office Administrator

Newspaper Advertising: No changes on a weekly basis to keep costs down. Currently in the Lake Report.

### **Key Activities:**

No specific dates at this time

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### **Reflections:**

This past year was the first year there was a specific ministry devoted to what we are calling engagement. This ministry was formed by bringing together those programs whose missions were mostly geared towards bringing people together. We also took under our umbrella other items, such as the Website, Facebook, and Newspaper advertising, so that they would have an official owner.

The Website is one of those areas that needs constant attention if it is to be effective. In the Fall Jolien and Emily took it upon themselves to go through almost the entire site, clean it up and update it. This is a rather large task, so we are thankful for that.



I would also like to thank Emily and Rachael for their weekly efforts in putting together the bulletin. This is not an easy task, but their efforts are felt by everyone, as they read and see what is happening.

Obviously, as with all of the other ministries, we started off with some high hopes for the year, and then had to quickly readjust to the new circumstances of the year. I would like to thank Chris Hutton for all of the ways that he has found to keep the Senior Youth program going. He, and the youth, have been working together to come up with new ideas so that they can continue to meet weekly. The Junior Youth program has been on hiatus at the request of the parents, until such time as circumstances make it safer for them to meet. The Seniors Tea has also been put on hold until it is safe to once again resume.

The Young Adults has also been able to meet a couple of times during the year, including a time to gather and decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas, which was so very much appreciated by all those able to attend the in-person services.

The MOPS program ran as long as it could but was also forced to come to an end in March.

Lastly, we initiated the Home Church program in February. The initial sessions were conducted in the homes of Wendy and Peter Janzen, and Melissa and Alex Froese. But, once the lockdown was put in effect, one of the churches could not continue, and the other continued on Zoom. A second round of Home Church was also conducted in the Fall over Zoom. All those who attended were thankful for this opportunity to gather, even remotely, to share of themselves, to pray for one another, and to learn together. A new round of Home Church is expected to begin in early February of 2021.

An example of how the ministries can work together to serve and to engage was a candlelight stroll that we did through Pleasant Manor on third advent. Though organized by the Engagement Committee, it was the choir that came together, and walked around the various housing areas of Pleasant Manor singing Christmas Carols. Some were able to come out on their balconies, some opened windows, others were happy to just listen to us through the windows and sing along. We felt truly blessed to have the opportunity to share this small piece of joy with the residents.

Another example was the Big At-Home Picnic that was put together in June to replace our usual picnic. It was a blessing to see the various families doing their thing to celebrate one another and also being outside in God's creation.

Although it has seen no use, the coffee center in the front foyer of the church was completed this year. I would like to thank all who put their time and effort into that work. It is such an inviting area, that I am sure, when the time comes, it will become an integral part of how we welcome each other on a Sunday morning, and give us a space to be welcoming to those who walk through our doors for the first time.

There are also times when a single individual has an idea, and with encouragement and support that idea can come to fruition. In February, at the start of Lent, Ana Janzen wanted to bring us all together for Pancake (Shrove) Tuesday. So, under her guidance, we came together in the gym and had a wonderful time together as we prepared to being the time of Lent.

Sometimes people see something that they want done, and they just take upon themselves to get it done. Lani Gade and Kathy Rempel are two such people. They have not been a part of any

committee. But each quarter they have sought submissions and have put together the Life With Us periodical. We thank them for their efforts to bring us together through the written word, allowing people, whom we may never hear from in our community, to share of their lives and their faith.

I would also like to thank the team of individuals who put together our photo directory. The majority of the work was done in 2019, but the final product was released this year. Such directories have been an important part of the way that we interact with each other. We cannot always know everyone, and sometimes we see a name in the bulletin, or hear of someone who needs prayer, and it is helpful to look in the directory to put a face to the name.

The past year has been very hard on all of us. We have come to learn how important it is to us to be able to meet, share a hug or a handshake, see a smiling face, and bond while in close proximity. We have learned that we care enough about each other to put that need aside, and find other ways to support one another. We have also learned the value of rest, for many of us been able to stop because we were forced to, and recognize the importance of living in the moment, rather than constantly planning for the next event.

This coming year is expected to be one of transition. We hope to transition from the current state of affairs to something new. But we have no clue what that new thing will be. We have all been able to take time to ponder what is really important to us and what has been done out of force of habit. We have a better idea of what feeds us and what drains us. It is my hope, that in this coming year, we will take the time to listen to God, as he draws us back together and shines a light on what he knows is important. It is my hope that we will corporately review the past, as we move into the future, and look to God to understand how we can engage with each other and the community. The Worship Ministry has done an outstanding job of engaging within and without through the use of YouTube, the online service, and Cogeco. We do not know how much of an impact we are having, but God does. We do not know how we will be called to break out of our shell, but God does. Please pray individually and with each other, that we will be able to see God's leading, that we will draw strength from Him, and that in 2021 we will be able to engage in new ways that will draw our neighbours to His light.

As you can see, even though it has been a strange and difficult year, there has still been much done together in the name of the Lord, so I leave you with this passage from Hebrews 10:

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

*Submitted by John Tiessen, Engagement Ministry Chair*

**MOPS Ministry Annual Report 2020**  
(Mothers of Preschool Children)

The 2020 Mops year had a strong start following a strong Fall season 2019.

We enjoyed regular attendance from 6 – 10 moms at our bi monthly meetings. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and third Tuesdays of each month.

The Mops curriculum encompasses an engaging set of videos featuring Christian Authors who speak about the work they do. The topics chosen pertain to young mothers and the challenges they face raising children in this day. Focus is on understanding and discerning the 'ways of the world' and God's intention for us as we journey through the challenges of parenthood. Conversation is lively and interesting. We listen to each other, uphold each other and care for each other. We pray together.

This ministry cannot run without the dedicated volunteers who look after the children while the Moms enjoy some 'mom time' and grow in their relationship with each other and in Christ Jesus. Thank you so very much to Kathe Wiens for organizing the child care on behalf of the program. Thank you to the wonderful women who lovingly care for the children, and do so on short notice as we often don't know how many children will come.

The Mops program came to an abrupt end in March when the church was closed down due to the Corona Virus pandemic. Although meetings could have resumed through zoom, the essence of the ministry is connection and developing deeply rooted relationships. It was decided that we would take a pause and refresh.

*Submitted by Erika Froese, MOPS Lead*

## **Worship Ministry Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our Objective:**

Collaborate and plan engaging Sunday morning worship services.

### **Who are we:**

Chair: Katrina Metsa

Vice Chair: Brian Penner

Worship Coordinator: Rachael Peters

Lead Pastor: Daniel Janzen

German Service Representative: Renate Dau Klaassen

Worship Leader Representative: John Tiessen

Praise and Worship Representative: Peter Sawatsky

Music Committee Representative: Ruth Willms

Member at large: Jon Bradnam

### **How to do we do it?**

Meet monthly to plan and discuss creative ideas for Sunday morning worship both in church and online.

### **Key Activities and Dates:**

Good Friday, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, Pentecost, Peace Sunday, Eternity Sunday and more.

Additional activities involving worship including outdoor services, September Kickoff service, church picnic summer services a, Christmas events and much more.

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### **Reflections:**

This past year we have learned how to be adaptable. Along with all the church ministries, the Worship Committee was faced with the question of how to proceed in this new environment. Our first service cancellation was on March 15. Four weeks later, on Easter Sunday, we presented what is now our familiar "Red Brick Online" service. The month between the first cancellation and Easter Sunday was filled with emails bouncing around ideas, intentional prayer, and online brainstorming sessions to figure out how we were going to move forward.

We are so grateful to our staff and volunteers for being willing to put themselves out there, and work in our new virtual format. It can be surprisingly nerve-wracking to film oneself, and we're grateful to everyone who continues to put themselves out there every week, and participate in our online services. A very special thank-you to Mark Rauwerda who has generously donated his time and talents to compile our services every single week. The quality of service that we enjoy is hugely thanks to his professional eye and technological proficiency.

Along with some of the familiar service components, we were excited to experiment with a few new ideas in our services. The praise and worship band have adjusted to creating virtual performances, and we've introduced a brand-new component to the service, called the Community Connection. The intention of this new portion of the service is to create personal connections to the church community even when we're not gathering together in person. Perhaps it also represents the spontaneous conversations and interactions that happen in the foyer before and after the service.

Another notable addition in our online environment, is our “Church Online” platform, which provides a place for Sunday morning live viewings of the service. It has been a great place to connect online and chat and comment on the service as a group. Special thanks to Chris Hutton for spearheading this initiative, and for his willingness to host the group and facilitate conversation.

While we seem to have found our footing in the online environment, it has not been without its challenges. Most recently, our planned in-person and live streamed Christmas Eve service was cancelled just a few days before the 24th. We scrambled, but we were able to adapt relatively smoothly.

We are grateful to Ruth Willms for her leadership as interim Worship Coordinator at the beginning of the year, and for continuing to volunteer her time once she was laid off during the first lockdown. Rachael Peters returned to work beginning in August and continues to work on a part-time basis. We appreciate her dedication to coordinating the many elements of our services.

In September, we re-opened our church doors for in-person worship. This was a huge undertaking with much forethought and consideration. The church created re-opening guidelines, cleaning protocols, and the volunteer system was entirely re-vamped. A huge thank-you to Emily Fieguth for her guidance and leadership around the entire re-opening process. She juggled many responsibilities with energy, assertion, and skillfulness.

Beyond all these changes we, of course, continued to follow our church calendar. We celebrated Christ rising from the dead. We broke bread and shared the cup on more than one occasion. We recognized all the things for which we are grateful. We learned about how to be peace-makers. We remembered loved ones. We anticipated Christ’s birth, and celebrated Christmas. We did all of this and more, together. Together while apart.

We close the 2020 year with 38 online services under our belt. When we first closed, we couldn’t have imagined what was ahead of us for 2020. We are so grateful to God for showing us the way in these uncharted waters. The committee moves as a unified group, and the hand of God is present, if not palpable as we meet together virtually and in-person to listen for his guidance and direction.

As a group that meets to plan our worship services, we have adjusted to looking only one step ahead at a time. We don’t know what 2021 will hold, and so we’re making plans tentatively, knowing that God is in control and will guide us to what he desires for our worship experiences. We hope to be creative and find new ways to connect our community in worship. We want to be servants of Christ in our community by creating meaningful worship experiences that bring people together, and collectively point toward our creator.

*Submitted by Rachael Peters Worship Coordinator and Katrina Metsa Worship Ministry Chair*

## **Education Ministry Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our objective:**

The Education Ministry of NUMC endeavors to nurture, engage and educate our families across the generations, by offering practical opportunities to learn about the Good News of Jesus Christ, so that together we will become His lifelong followers and reflect His love in our communities.

### **Who we are:**

Chair: Ramona Neufeld

Ministry Team: Emma Thwaites (recorder), Anita Sawatzky, Debbie Peters

Red Brick Kids Organizer: Ellery Rauwerda

Library Team: Marlies Boldt, Debbie Fast, Joannie Penner

Pastoral Guidance: Chris Hutton

### **How we do it:**

The chairperson of the Education Ministry sits on Church Board, thus bringing the concerns of the Education Ministry to the attention of the Board and participating in the leadership of the church family. The chair also brings assignments from the Church Board to the Ministry team.

The primary focus of the Education Ministry is the education of all members of the church family. Red Brick Kids (Sunday School) is a program which is already in progress and receives support and guidance from the Education Ministry. We hope to initiate adult education in the near future. The Education Ministry is also involved in organizing and administering the Safety/Abuse Prevention policy for the church family under the professional direction of an organization called Plan to Protect.

The Library provides Christian reading materials, fiction and nonfiction, as well as CDs and DVDS for all ages.

### **Key Activities:**

We organize and offer Biblical Education for church attendees.

We completed the update of the Abuse Prevention policy for our church family and it should be completely up and running in the coming year. Chris Hutton is the key administrator of the Abuse Prevention policy.

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### **Reflections:**

This past year we learned to adapt and funnel our ideas through a different medium. The need to reach out to our congregation and help them stay connected and spiritually fed continued to be a priority. We were challenged to use methods that took more time and effort but still reached the goal of offering biblical education. This past year caused us to re-evaluate our approach to biblical education. We became more aware of the priority of seeking God's guidance for our plans. Although we focussed on the children during this past year, we will now expand our focus to also provide adult education. Most likely this will be an online adventure similar to our Red Brick Kids program, with a tangible and practical element. We hope that our combined efforts will bring blessing to the participants and glory to God.

*Submitted by Ramona Neufeld, Education Ministry Chair*

## **Red Brick Kids Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our objective:**

The Red Brick Kids Ministry of NUMC endeavours to nurture, engage and educate our children from birth through grade 5, by offering practical opportunities to learn about the Good News of Jesus Christ, so that together we will become His lifelong followers and reflect His love in our communities.

### **Who we are:**

We are a team of volunteers with a heart for working with kids. While our team has blurred a bit due to the changes in our structure this year, the volunteers most involved at present are:

Ellery Rauwerda – Red Brick Kids Coordinator & Zoom Gathering Facilitator

Joannie Penner – Red Brick Kids Coordinator

Debbie Peters & Family – Red Brick Kids Kit Assemblers

Jon Bradnam – Zoom Gathering Facilitator

Jolien Carter – Communications Coordinator

In addition, we have willing helping hands in a number of other active members of our church, including (but not limited to) Linda Pankratz, Ana Janzen, & Emma Thwaites.

### **How we do it:**

Our current model is the product of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have pivoted our ministry to function virtually, with monthly kits delivered door to door by volunteers. We use the curriculum called One Story, which is created by the Meeting House.

### **Key Activities:**

- 1) Weekly email sent to all families involved. Includes Zoom link, link to weekly video lesson, discussion questions, and some additional resources
- 2) Red Brick Kids Kits. Contains hard copies of the lessons for the month, along with the materials needed to complete activities, and a small treat. Kits are delivered monthly door-to-door by volunteers. We currently deliver to 19 families.
- 3) Weekly Zoom Gathering, facilitated by Jon Bradnam and/or Ellery Rauwerda, held from 9-9:30AM on Sunday mornings. These gatherings are open to all children and their families who wish to participate. Typical attendance ranges between 12-20 children.

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### **Reflections:**

This past year, I believe that God has been teaching us that He's got the whole world in HIS hands. That it's okay – even necessary – to let the "old ways" fall, that things must first be broken down before they can be rebuilt, and that God does His most amazing work when we surrender our plans and desire for control to Him (whether we chose to or whether a pandemic nudged us in that direction)! Amidst all of the disappointment and discomfort that this season has brought, God has shone through the cracks and illuminated the beauty that can be found in this time. It came as a surprise to us that the regular weekly participation in our Children's ministry has actually increased in this season. The online ministry has enabled families living as far as Toronto to participate in the community, and the engagement of the kids in the Zoom gatherings has been remarkable. One three-year old, upon seeing his Red Brick Kids Kit arrive, said, "Oh I LOVE my box!" and another said, "This is FABULOUS!" Our community has grown in a very special way in

this time, and that tells me that God is wrapping our community up in the love that we need and crave in our lives, no matter what the state of the world is around us.

Next year, we hope to focus on small ways to build connection with families who are participating. What this looks like practically speaking depends on what we are able to do as the year unfolds and the pandemic continues. One parent suggested a playdate on a weekday morning in the church gym – a casual space for children to play together and parents to chat. Another idea that has come up is pairing several families who live close to each other with one Red Brick Kids volunteer and creating an intentional connection point between the volunteer and the families (IE: meeting in the park together on a Sunday morning to do the One Story lesson for that week, making a phone call to check in or sending a card to the kids' families). In addition to finding some ways to build connections and relationships, we hope to continue with our current format of doing Children's ministry, recognizing that it has been an effective and viable option for families in this season, and may continue to be even as restrictions lift. Checking in with families via email and during Zoom gatherings will help direct our ministry to best serve families based on their needs.

*Submitted by Ellery Rauwerda, Red Brick Kids Coordinator*



## **Nursery Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our objective:**

The Nursery at Niagara United Mennonite Church endeavors to nurture and engage our children from birth through to age 6, by offering nursery care on Sunday mornings during our Worship Service.

### **Who we are:**

We are a team of dedicated and compassionate volunteers who love working with and caring for our younger children.

### **How we do it:**

Nursery services are provided to younger children and their families of our congregation and visitors, every Sunday from September to June during our Worship service.

The Nursery is comprised of two rooms, which can be utilized based on the parent and child's needs. The downstairs nursery room is staffed by a minimum of two volunteers, based on a volunteer schedule created by the Nursery Supervisor. We have 12 amazing volunteers helping out in the nursery room on a 1 in 6 weekly rotation. All volunteers undergo Safe Places training, and are certified under the Safe Places program at our church. A second nursery room is located at the back of the sanctuary, offering a self-serve nursery option for parents. This nursery room is glassed in so the parent and child can still see what is going on in the sanctuary, and there is a speaker in this room which provides audio from the service. This is a great room where parents and their little ones can sit and enjoy the service together.

### **Key Activities:**

Parents are able to drop off their child to a caring and safe space in the main nursery room, thus being able to enjoy the Sunday Service while their child is being cared for by our Nursery Volunteers. Our volunteers are proud to provide this service, which allows our Moms and Dads to enjoy a moment in the sanctuary to take in God's word during our Sunday church services.

Both nursery rooms have many toys, equipment, and supplies for children to play with and utilize while in the nursery, facilitating a comfortable time and experience for both children and parents while attending Niagara United Mennonite Church.

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### **Reflections:**

This past year, we had to unfortunately cease our nursery services, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We ran a fully operational nursery in the beginning of 2020, up until the church closed due to this pandemic. I would like to thank our Nursery volunteers for their time and dedication, and hope that we can resume providing nursery services to our church in the near future.

Once we are able to resume our nursery services, I encourage all young families to take advantage of the nursery during our Sunday services. We eagerly pray and look forward to when we are able to reopen to provide a safe and happy space for our young children to play and grow in God.

*Submitted by Emma Thwaites, Nursery Supervisor*

## **Library Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our objective:**

To provide quality Christian books and resources and to preserve the work of Mennonite writers.

### **Who we are:**

Chair: Marlies Boldt

Library Team: Debbie Fast, Joannie Penner

### **How we do it:**

We do it by purchasing books that our reads will enjoy. With non-fiction we hope to offer books for learning new insights.

### **Key Activities:**

Purchasing books, cataloguing and processing books for circulation, staffing the circulation desk, weeding the collection to keep it current and providing assistance with book selection.

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### **Reflections:**

This past year we have learned to simplify our life. It is important for people to be able to come to the library so we have made appointments to let people into the library.

Next year we hope to be open as in the past for people to be able to easily access the library.

In 2020 we had a budget cut to accommodate an increase in Sunday School expenses.

### **Statistics**

Current Stock – 4,490 books, 183 CD/DVD

	2019		2020	
	Books	Video/DVD	Books	Video/DVD
Circulation	884	89	576	16
Additions	143	1	115	0
Withdrawals	274	0	110	0

*Submitted by Marlies Boldt, Library Committee Chair*

## **Service Ministry Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our Objective:**

Inform the congregation about mission work and service opportunities at home and abroad and encourage participation.

### **Who are we:**

Chair: Bill Devolin

Charity Allocation: Rudy Enns, Wendy Janzen, Pam Teichgraf

MCC Representative: Greta Wiens

MDS Representative: Peter Dirks Jr

Benefit Shop Representative: Anneliese Pankratz

Relief Sale Representative: Esther Tiedke

Peach Salsa: n/a for 2020 due to COVID-19

Women in Service: Marg Goertz, Hedy Kopeschney

Westview: Kristina Nickel

### **How to do we do it?**

Charity Allocation – On an annual basis the Service/Missions committee disperses funds to various local and international charities. The source of funds includes: \$10,000 annual budget, carry-over from previous years, individual donations and special fund-raising events (e.g. Peach Salsa). This year due to COVID-19, the Peach Salsa event did not occur.

A funding summary and listing of the many charities NUMC supports is listed below. The summary includes details on NUMC's annual commitments to Westview and the Vineland Retirement home. A new charity in 2020 is the MCC Canadian Food Grains Bank (Niagara).

### **Key Activities and Dates:**

Peach Salsa – Salsa canning (March) and Peach Festival (August)

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### **Reflections:**

This past year, we have learned to be patient and adaptive to change.

Next year, we hope to continue our support for various charities and further NUMC's direct involvement. NUMC's direct involvement and support for charities is "good-for-the-soul" and evidences Christ's directive to love thy neighbor.

Below please find a financial summary of our efforts and charitable donations.

	2019		2020	
<b>Funding</b>				
Mission Budget	10000		10000	
2017 carryover	8760		4648	
Donations	650		2000	
Syrian Dinner	866			
Peach Festival proceeds	2172			
Funds available	\$ 22,448		\$ 16,648	
<b>Local ongoing</b>				
Vineland Homes	3500	20%	3500	23%
Niagara Life Centre	2000	11%		
Westview	5000	28%	5000	33%
<b>Local focus charities</b>				
Caribbean Off Shore Workers	750	4%	500	3%
Habitat for Humanity	500	3%	500	3%
Hospice Niagara	500	3%	500	3%
Westview - Women for women	500	3%	500	3%
Red Roof	500	3%	500	3%
Newark Neighbors	500	3%	500	3%
Niagara Grow Hope Grain growing project- MCC/Canadian Food Grains Bank			500	3%
Sub total	\$ 13,750	77%	\$ 12,000	78%
<b>Outward focused charities</b>				
MCC Generations at Risk	2,800	16%	2,800	18%
African Inter-Mennonite mission	500	3%		
Days for Girls	750	4%	500	3%
Sub total	\$ 4,050	23%	\$ 3,300	22%
Total	\$ 17,800	100%	\$ 15,300	100%
Balance	\$ 4,648		\$ 1,348	

*Submitted by Bill Devolin, Missions and Service Ministry Chair*

## **Women in Service Annual Report 2020**

*Our Motto is: Matthew 25: 40 - "Verily I say unto you, in as much as you have done it unto one of the least of my brethren you have done it unto me."*

### **WHAT IS OUR OBJECTIVE:**

Our main focus is to sew blankets for M.C.C.

### **WHO ARE WE:**

Co-Leaders: Marg Goertz and Hedy Kopeschny

Secretary: Lucy Harder

Treasurer: Mary Pompetzki

We are a group of between twenty and twenty-five women aged seventy-five years of age and up, mostly members of our church, who meet weekly during the winter months between September and April to sew blankets.

### **HOW WE DO IT:**

We have four committees: the program committee, purchasing committee, food committee and cheer committee. The program committee plans our weekly meetings and one or two special events through the year. The purchasing committee looks after all the fabrics, sets up the quilts and generally looks after anything to do with our quilting. The food committee takes care of any food related things, such as planning the food for special gatherings and clean up. The cheer committee sends cards to members who are in hospital or ill at home.

### **KEY ACTIVITIES:**

Our key activity is sewing blankets. We usually sew around three hundred blankets during the winter months. We also gather to have fellowship and support each other. We take time in the middle of our quilting activity to have a cup of coffee and refreshments prepared by two designated members. One of the members will have an uplifting devotional and we discuss the things that have come to our attention during the week, and take a collection.

At the end of the year, usually around Easter, we have elections and distribute the money collected. In the past we have supported various charities. This year we supported the Niagara Life Center, MCC relief kits, and MCC Child sponsorship. In the past we always supported our New Hamburg Pork on a Bun sale which was not held this past year because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The ladies in our group are getting older and are experiencing many health problems. Some have back problems and cannot spend the three hours hunched over the blankets. We thank God for the fifty plus years that this Women in Service Group (formerly called Verein # 4) has been able to serve God and our church through this ministry. Since we are #4 we note that three of the previous groups have ended their service. We would invite anyone that feels this would be a good service for them, to join us. Anyone would be most welcome! Even the smallest service for Christ is valued. Our weekly meetings were shortened this year because of the COVID-19 lockdown, and our last meeting was held on March 3rd, 2020.

*Submitted by Lucy Harder, Women in Service Secretary*

## **Helping Hands Annual Report 2020**

2020 has been the most unusual year!

With the restrictions and recommendations set out by the Health Department, it was decided that we would be unable to safely hold the funeral luncheons at church until we are once again able to gather in larger groups.

Knowing the value of the support our luncheons provide for our grieving Families, we will be monitoring things going forward into 2021 as to when we can safely restart serving our church community.

*Submitted by Esther Willms and Ann Neustaedter, Helping Hands Co-Coordinator*

## **Serving Committee Annual Report 2020**

The Serving Committee oversees the organization of events for our congregation and along with the Helping Hands Committee makes sure the church kitchen is looked after.

2020 started off with organizing coffee time for the MCC World quilting day in January. It was a joy to see the multiple generations quilting together. We had hoped to serve many more events this past year, but the turn of events did not work out that way for 2020.

Thank you to all the people that faithfully bring food when needed and who are willing to give us an extra hand for setting up or clean up. We look forward to the time when we will be able to fellowship together again.

*Submitted by Rita Pauls, Serving Committee Coordinator*

## **(Refugee) Sponsorship and Settlement Committee Annual Report 2020**

Do you know that slogan from Canadian Blood Services, "It's in you to give"? Well, that's how it is with the love of God. All that love, and a world that needs it.

Through the Sponsorship and Settlement Committee, we turn our hearts towards people who have fled their home country out of fear for their lives and then need to build up a new existence elsewhere. Usually, they will have crossed the nearest border, hoping to go home again as soon as possible, only to find that the conflict they left behind is not ending, and that their host country can't or won't offer them a chance to start their lives anew in a meaningful and dignified way. For these people, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) tries to find a "durable solution", meaning a place of stability where they can put down permanent roots.

Thanks to the generosity of the Canadian government, we as individuals and a church congregation have the privilege of participating in the Private Sponsorship of Refugees, a program designed to welcome and integrate refugee newcomers into our society.

There is an enormous amount of information about this program on the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada website. Potential sponsors can be church groups like ours, community organizations or clubs, and even independent groups of at least 5 individuals who are willing to support a newcomer family on their own. Our partner for assistance with the selection of persons to sponsor, and the necessary paperwork, is Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

The advantage of sponsoring refugees as a Christian community is that it makes our church visible as a place where servants of Christ put their faith and love into action by welcoming the stranger (Romans 12:13). A personal benefit for members, besides exposure to interesting people from different cultural and religious backgrounds, is that financial contributions towards sponsorship that are made through the church can be receipted for income tax purposes. Taking a broader view, we are agents of societal and economic change, the effects of which we will only see in hindsight.

I'm pleased to report that the last family we sponsored is doing very well. They are actually in the process of sponsoring more Syrians to come to Canada. Their independence – the ultimate goal of sponsorship – frees us to consider applying for another family that is waiting for the opportunity to become full citizens of a country like ours.

Sponsorship and Settlement is an ad hoc committee that operates under the umbrella of Missions and Service. This means that it exists primarily in the imagination until church members initiate a new sponsorship venture. Volunteers of any age are welcome to join the discussion and eventually put their ideas into practice. Overall church responsibility per family lasts about a year and a half to two years, including planning time and the 12 months of direct newcomer support. Individual participants commit their time and skills as they are able.

Our congregation is made up of people with diverse personal interests, so direct involvement in refugee resettlement is not going to be for everyone. However, support can come through a variety of means including prayer and words of encouragement. "... Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly ..." (Romans 12:6).

Those who share a passion for refugee work, and those who channel their energy into other projects, can still collaborate on the goal of being "servants of Christ in our community" by making that community a little larger.

If you are thinking, "Yes, that's something we can do!" I would be happy to hear from you.

*Submitted by Greta Wiens, Sponsorship and Settlement Committee Chair*

## **Facilities Ministry Annual Report 2020**

### **What is our Objective:**

To maintain the church buildings, parking lot and supporting infrastructure for the congregation to meet and worship.

### **Who are we:**

Chair: Willi Pankratz (Interim)

Committee members; Werner Pankratz, Alex Fast, Ron Baergen

Supported by many church members, i.e. Dick Heidebrecht, Don Willms, Peter Janzen(electrician), Zack & Nancy Dube (Custodians) etc.

### **How to do we do it?**

Through a collective effort by all our maintenance team, janitor couple, supporting members and various third-party contractors.

### **Key Activities:**

Maintenance and cleaning. No major renovations, unless others come up with minor renovations - i.e. demising wall in Board room, painting, flooring, etc. These additional small projects need board approval prior to executing the work.

*Submitted by Willi Pankratz, Interim Facilities Ministry Chair*



## **2020 Annual Reports**

### Our Community

Click on the organization to be redirected to their annual reports.

[\*Westview Christian Fellowship/ Westview Centre 4 Women\*](#)

[\*Radiant Care Pleasant Manor\*](#)

[\*CWOP\*](#)

[\*Christian Benefit Thrift Shop\*](#)

**2020**  
**YEAR-END UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Helping Hands, Sponsorship and Settlement Committee and Women in Service all have separate bank accounts and financial records that they maintain.

### **Helping Hands Financial Statement 2020**

<b>Balance Dec. 31, 2019</b>		<b>1,858.59</b>
2020 Donation Received		+ 14.25
Received for Memorial Service Fee		+ <u>75.00</u>
Subtotal		1,947.84
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Carnations	- -	
Memorial Service Fee (1)	75.00	
2020 Easter Flowers	- -	
Kitchen Supplies	- -	
Bank Fees	<u>10.35</u>	
Total Expenses	85.35	- <u>85.35</u>
<b>Balance Nov. 30, 2020</b>		<b>1,862.49</b>

### **Sponsorship and Settlement Committee Financial Report 2020**

#### Sponsorship and Settlement Committee Financial Report for year 2020

Opening bank balance Jan 1, 2020 **\$1,192.01**  
*(this does not include funds held in the church account)*

No Disbursements this year.

*Donations made towards refugee sponsorship are held in the main church account until they are needed.*

Closing bank balance Dec 31/20 **\$1,192.01**

*prepared by Greta Wiens*

## **Women in Service Financial Report 2020**

Balance as of December 10, 2019 **\$767.11**

***Income:***

Collections	\$1,129.00
Donations	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<b>\$1,129.00</b>

***Disbursements:***

Quilting Material	\$ 420.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 44.76
MCC Child Sponsorship	\$ 600.00
MCC Relief Kits	\$ 200.00
Niagara Life Centre	\$ 200.00
	<b>1,464.76</b>

Balance as of December 28, 2020 **\$431.35**

*Submitted by Mary Pompetzki, Women in Service Treasurer*

**2020**  
**YEAR-END AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Niagara United Mennonite Church  
Reporting & Budget Information

### **Treasurer's Annual Report 2020**

I would like to commend our church family and friends for coming through financially in 2020. Despite the fact that our worship and support services changed significantly in 2020 donations did not miss a beat. Church members and friends continued to support our programs financially by sending in their donations by mail, electronic funds transfer, direct deposit, and various other avenues of giving.

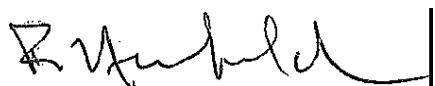
The government made financial assistance available to charities, as a result of the pandemic. Specifically, wage subsidies to assist in reduced revenues, and a Canada Emergency Business Account loan to help pay for operating expenses. The Church applied for these programs during the year.

Our church operates and manages different funds, which are all reported in the financial statements attached. If there are any concerns or questions please let me know.

The proposed budget for 2021 is \$418,520 (\$423,875 -2020).

God Bless our church family and friends and we pray for continued financial prosperity and a healthy New Year.

Robert Neufeld

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Neufeld', followed by a vertical line.

Treasurer

Niagara United Mennonite Church

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2020

	2020	2019	2018
<b>CURRENT</b>			
Cash and deposits	\$ 405,596.12	\$ 273,107.69	\$ 272,344.01
Term Deposit - Mennonite Foundation	32,297.66	32,297.66	32,297.66
	<u>437,893.78</u>	<u>305,405.35</u>	<u>304,641.67</u>
<b>CAPITAL, property, buildings and equipment</b>			
Caretaker's House	35,484.27	35,484.27	35,484.27
Kitchen	45,484.23	45,484.23	45,484.23
Land, Church, Foyer, Furniture	848,478.12	848,478.12	848,478.12
Roof -2019	91,602.35	91,602.35	-
Parking Lot	237,780.48	237,780.48	237,780.48
Ramp	46,357.28	46,357.28	46,357.28
Sunday School/Addition & Auditorium	138,652.39	138,652.39	138,652.39
	<u>1,443,839.12</u>	<u>1,443,839.12</u>	<u>1,352,236.77</u>
	<u>\$ 1,881,732.90</u>	<u>\$ 1,749,244.47</u>	<u>\$ 1,656,878.44</u>
<b>OPERATING FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted Bequest Fund	\$ 231,134.18	\$ 226,177.25	\$ 165,346.25
CEBA Loan	30,000.00	-	-
MCC School Kits Project Fund	10,086.87	(7,331.02)	1,319.98
Refugee Sponsorship Fund	5,342.48	5,232.48	5,172.48
Student Aid Fund	5,119.43	5,119.43	5,119.43
Deacons Fund	5,017.68	5,682.68	5,209.05
Junior Youth Group Fund	3,115.90	2,615.90	1,240.65
Senior Youth Group Fund	1,849.85	1,416.26	4,516.00
Mission & Services Fund	1,348.01	4,648.01	8,759.69
Disability Fund	478.09	478.09	978.09
Library Fund	251.11	24.02	9.25
Other Funds	-	(2,835.49)	1,321.51
	<u>293,743.60</u>	<u>241,227.61</u>	<u>198,992.38</u>
<b>MEMBERSHIP EQUITY</b>			
Operating Fund	126,680.16	58,253.39	89,164.62
Capital Fund	17,470.02	5,924.35	16,484.67
Property & Equipment	1,443,839.12	1,443,839.12	1,352,236.77
	<u>1,587,989.30</u>	<u>1,508,016.86</u>	<u>1,457,886.06</u>
	<u>\$ 1,881,732.90</u>	<u>\$ 1,749,244.47</u>	<u>\$ 1,656,878.44</u>

Auditor's Report

The above statements have been verified and found to be in balance.

Digitally Signed : Linda Friesen *Linda Friesen*

Digitally Signed: Ron Riediger *Ron Riediger*

Niagara United Mennonite Church  
*Statement of Receipts and Disbursements (Combined for all Funds)*  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

**Receipts**

Budget	\$ 378,125.14
Wage subsidies	60,317.58
Missions, MCC, Christian Witness, & Others	51,555.00
CEBA Loan	40,000.00
Capital Projects Fund	36,613.00
MCC School Kits Project	21,665.00
Rent	12,000.00
Missions & Service	12,000.00
HST rebates	7,435.73
Solar Income	6,427.66
Interest (Bequest Fund)	3,362.77
Youth Senior Ministry	2,340.00
Library	1,265.00
Bequest Fund Receipts	1,000.00
Women in Service	790.00
Miscellaneous	606.79
Youth Junior Ministry	500.00
Deacons Fund	335.00
Hall Rental	300.00
Other interest	125.02
Refugee Sponsorship	110.00
Cookbooks	60.00
	<hr/>
<b>Total Receipts, for the year</b>	<b>\$ 636,933.69</b>



Niagara United Mennonite Church  
*Statement of Receipts and Disbursements (Combined for all Funds)*  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Total Receipts, from previous page	\$ 636,933.69
<b><u>Disbursements</u></b>	
Budget	389,772.27
Capital Projects	32,503.06
Missions & Service	15,300.00
Bequest Fund Expenditures	5,833.50
MCC School Kits Project	4,247.11
Youth Senior Ministry	1,906.41
Library	1,037.91
Deacons Fund	1,000.00
Women in Service	790.00
Spiritual Equipping	500.00
	<u>452,890.26</u>
<b><u>Missions</u></b>	
MCC General	27,535.00
Westview Christian Fellowship	12,800.00
Christian Witness Council	6,670.00
MCC Food	2,795.00
Friends of Mennonite Centre Ukraine	1,065.00
MCC Health	420.00
Mennonite Disaster Service	220.00
MCEC	50.00
	<u>51,555.00</u>
<b>Total Disbursements, for the year</b>	<b><u>504,445.26</u></b>
<b>Excess of Receipts over Disbursements, for the year</b>	<b><u>\$ 132,488.43</u></b>
 <b>Bank Balance as at January 1, 2020</b>	 \$ 305,405.35
<b>Excess of Receipts over Disbursements, for the year</b>	<b>132,488.43</b>
 <b>Bank Balance as at December 31, 2020 (Bank &amp; Term Deposit)</b>	 <b><u>\$ 437,893.78</u></b>

**NIAGARA UNITED MENNONITE CHURCH**

*Statement of Revenue & Expenses*

*December 31, 2020*

	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2019 Actual</u>
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
Budget Donations	\$ 378,125.14		\$ 378,066.93
House Rental	12,000.00		9,000.00
Miscellaneous	606.79		-
Hall Rental	300.00		3,119.30
Interest	125.02		1,448.01
Choir	-		1,077.65
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 391,156.95</b>		<b>\$ 392,711.89</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
<b><u>Facilities (Maintenance)</u></b>			
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 21,148.05	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 19,389.78
Insurance	19,260.72	11,300.00	11,260.36
Gas	7,994.43	8,400.00	8,382.57
Hydro	3,595.99	5,100.00	5,049.63
Property Taxes	2,466.84	2,500.00	2,423.36
Water	1,500.24	1,200.00	1,204.30
Telephone	864.50	750.00	788.62
	<u>56,830.77</u>	<u>48,750.00</u>	<u>48,498.62</u>
<b><u>Church Board (Office)</u></b>			
Computer Software & Support	4,265.74	2,200.00	2,084.80
Copier Expense	3,988.63	5,000.00	4,978.46
Office Supplies	3,357.18	7,000.00	6,808.90
Bank Charges	2,515.58	2,300.00	2,359.94
	<u>14,127.13</u>	<u>16,500.00</u>	<u>16,232.10</u>
<b><u>Education</u></b>			
Resources (Education)	1,775.09	150.00	142.06
Sunday School (Red Brick Kids)	1,122.26	750.00	621.43
Library	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<u>3,897.35</u>	<u>1,900.00</u>	<u>1,763.49</u>
<b><u>Worship</u></b>			
Worship & Music	2,033.54	7,300.00	7,274.71
Honorariums (special speakers)	850.00	2,050.00	4,100.00
Choir	157.78	500.00	409.66
	<u>3,041.32</u>	<u>9,850.00</u>	<u>11,784.37</u>

**NIAGARA UNITED MENNONITE CHURCH**

*Statement of Revenue & Expenses*

*December 31, 2020*

	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2019 Actual</u>
<b><u>Engagement</u></b>			
Senior Youth	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Junior Youth	500.00	500.00	500.00
Young Adults	47.60	-	-
Mens/Womens Ministry (Senior's Tea)	396.31	500.00	590.70
Nursery	116.89	125.00	122.01
Advertising	1,695.00	500.00	1,917.16
	<u>4,755.80</u>	<u>3,625.00</u>	<u>5,129.87</u>
<b><u>Spiritual Life</u></b>			
Spiritual Life Ministries	-	-	250.00
Deacons Fund/Visitation Ministry	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250.00</u>
<b><u>Ministry Staff</u></b>			
Wages & Benefits	261,505.90	296,000.00	262,098.87
Staff Ministry Expenses (Books, Seminars, Travel, etc.)	614.00	2,250.00	1,902.83
Pastoral Search Expenses	-	-	7,512.97
Conference Expense	-	-	200.00
	<u>262,119.90</u>	<u>298,250.00</u>	<u>271,714.67</u>
<b><u>Service (Mission Support)</u></b>			
Conference Support	35,000.00	35,000.00	38,250.00
Missions & Services	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	<u>45,000.00</u>	<u>45,000.00</u>	<u>48,250.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 389,772.27</b>	<b>\$ 423,875.00</b>	<b>\$ 403,623.12</b>
<b>Budget Surplus (Deficit), before extraordinary items</b>	<b>\$ 1,384.68</b>		<b>\$ (10,911.23)</b>
<b><u>Extraordinary items</u></b>			
Wage subsidies received	60,317.58		-
CEBA loan - 25% forgiven	10,000.00		-
	<u></u>		<u></u>
<b>Budget Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 71,702.26</b>		<b>\$ (10,911.23)</b>

Niagara United Mennonite Church  
*Financial Statements*  
December 31, 2020

Statement of Members' Equity

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ 1,508,016.86
Revenue	
Budget Surplus	71,702.26
Capital Fund Receipts	44,048.73
Disbursements	
Capital Fund Expenses	32,503.06
Allocation to other funds	3,275.49
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 1,587,989.30</u>

Operating Fund Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ 58,253.39
Revenue	
Budget Receipts	378,125.14
Wage Subsidies	60,317.58
House Rental	12,000.00
CEBA loan - 25% forgiven	10,000.00
Miscellaneous	606.79
Hall Rental	300.00
Interest	125.02
Disbursements	
Budget Expenses	389,772.27
Allocation to other Funds	3,275.49
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 126,680.16</u>

Capital Fund Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ 5,924.35
Revenue	
Donations	36,613.00
HST Rebates	7,435.73
Disbursements	
Welcome Centre Upgrades	26,061.42
Church Office Upgrades	3,496.11
Fire Monitoring System	2,155.67
Stove for House	789.86
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 17,470.02</u>

Niagara United Mennonite Church  
*Financial Statements*  
December 31, 2020

**Bequest Fund Financial Statement**

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ 226,177.25
Revenue	
Bequests Received	1,000.00
Interest	3,362.77
Solar Income	6,427.66
Disbursements	
AV Upgrades	5,833.50
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 231,134.18</u>

**Mission & Services Fund Financial Statement**

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ 4,648.01
Revenue	
Donations	2,000.00
Church Budget	10,000.00
Disbursements	
Westview Christian Fellowship (General Budget Support)	5,000.00
United Mennonite Home	3,500.00
MCC (Generations at Risk)	2,800.00
MCC (Niagara Grow Hope Project)	500.00
Newark Neighbours	500.00
Red Roof Retreat	500.00
Habitat for Humanity Niagara	500.00
Days for Girls	500.00
Caribbean Workers Outreach	500.00
Westview Centre 4 Women	500.00
Hospice Niagara	500.00
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 1,348.01</u>

**Deacons Fund Financial Statement**

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ 5,682.68
Revenue	
Donations	335.00
Disbursements	
Westview Centre 4 Women	1,000.00
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 5,017.68</u>

Niagara United Mennonite Church  
*Financial Statements*  
December 31, 2020

Refugee Sponsorship Fund Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$	5,232.48
Revenue		
Donations		110.00
Disbursements		
Support payments		-
Balance as of December 31, 2020	\$	<u>5,342.48</u>

Student Aid Fund Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$	5,119.43
Revenue		-
Disbursements (Student Scholarships)		-
Balance as of December 31, 2020	\$	<u>5,119.43</u>

Youth Group Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$	1,416.26
Revenue		
Donations		340.00
Church Budget		2,000.00
Disbursements		
Youth Events and Retreats		1,906.41
Balance as of December 31, 2020	\$	<u>1,849.85</u>

Niagara United Mennonite Church  
*Financial Statements*  
December 31, 2020

Other Funds Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ (2,835.49)
Revenue	
Allocation from budget surplus	3,275.49
Cookbooks	60.00
Disbursements	
Spiritual Equipping	500.00
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ -</u>

Disability Fund Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ 478.09
Receipts	-
Disbursements	-
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 478.09</u>

Library Fund Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	24.02
Revenue	
Donations	265.00
Church Budget	1,000.00
Disbursements	
Books and Supplies	537.91
Transfer to Sunday School (Red Brick Kids)	500.00
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 251.11</u>

Niagara United Mennonite Church  
*Financial Statements*  
December 31, 2020

MCC School Kits Project Fund Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ (7,331.02)
Revenue	
Donations	21,665.00
Disbursements	
MCC - School Kits Project, supplies purchased	4,247.11
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 10,086.87</u>

Junior Youth Group Fund Financial Statement

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ 2,615.90
Revenue	
Church Budget	500.00
Disbursements	
Junior Youth Events and Retreats	-
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 3,115.90</u>

CEBA Loan

Balance as of January 1, 2020	\$ -
Receipts	
Government Advances	40,000.00
Disbursements	
Transfer to Budget - 25% forgiveness	10,000.00
Balance as of December 31, 2020	<u>\$ 30,000.00</u>



**NIAGARA UNITED MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**BUDGET 2021**

	2021 Budget	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	2019 Actual
<b>Facilities</b>				
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 21,148.05	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 19,389.78
Insurance	19,500.00	19,260.72	11,300.00	11,260.36
Gas	8,400.00	7,994.43	8,400.00	8,382.57
Hydro	5,100.00	3,595.99	5,100.00	5,049.63
Property Taxes	2,500.00	2,466.84	2,500.00	2,423.36
Water	1,200.00	1,500.24	1,200.00	1,204.30
Telephone	875.00	864.50	750.00	788.62
	<u>57,575.00</u>	<u>56,830.77</u>	<u>48,750.00</u>	<u>48,498.62</u>
<b>Church Board (Office and General)</b>				
Computer Software & Support	5,000.00	4,265.74	2,200.00	2,084.80
Copier Expense	4,000.00	3,988.63	5,000.00	4,978.46
Office Supplies	4,000.00	3,357.18	7,000.00	6,808.90
Bank Charges	2,500.00	2,515.58	2,300.00	2,359.94
	<u>15,500.00</u>	<u>14,127.13</u>	<u>16,500.00</u>	<u>16,232.10</u>
<b>Education</b>				
Sunday School (Red Brick Kids)	7,000.00	1,122.26	750.00	621.43
Resources (Education)	1,000.00	1,775.09	150.00	142.06
Library	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>3,897.35</u>	<u>1,900.00</u>	<u>1,763.49</u>
<b>Worship</b>				
Worship & Music	7,300.00	2,033.54	7,300.00	7,274.71
Choir	500.00	157.78	500.00	409.66
Honorariums (special speakers)	500.00	850.00	2,050.00	4,100.00
	<u>8,300.00</u>	<u>3,041.32</u>	<u>9,850.00</u>	<u>11,784.37</u>
<b>Engagement</b>				
Senior Youth	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Junior Youth	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Young Adults	500.00	47.60	-	-
Mens/Women's Ministry (Senior's Tea)	500.00	396.31	500.00	590.70
Nursery	125.00	116.89	125.00	122.01
Advertising	1,820.00	1,695.00	500.00	1,917.16
	<u>5,445.00</u>	<u>4,755.80</u>	<u>3,625.00</u>	<u>5,129.87</u>
<b>Spiritual Life</b>				
Spiritual Life Ministries	100.00	-	-	250.00
Deacon's Fund/Visitation Ministry	100.00	-	-	-
	<u>200.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250.00</u>
<b>Ministry Staff</b>				
Wages & Benefits	275,000.00	261,505.90	296,000.00	262,098.87
Staff Ministry Expenses	2,500.00	614.00	2,250.00	1,903.19
Pastoral Search Expenses	-	-	-	7,512.97
Conference Expense	-	-	-	200.00
	<u>277,500.00</u>	<u>262,119.90</u>	<u>298,250.00</u>	<u>271,715.03</u>
<b>Service (Mission Support)</b>				
Conference Support	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	38,250.00
Missions & Service	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	<u>45,000.00</u>	<u>45,000.00</u>	<u>45,000.00</u>	<u>48,250.00</u>
	<u><u>418,520.00</u></u>	<u><u>389,772.27</u></u>	<u><u>423,875.00</u></u>	<u><u>403,623.48</u></u>

Budget decrease from 2020 -1.26%

## **MOTIONS TO RATIFY**

Due to COVID-19 we have been unable to gather for the Spring and Fall 2020 Membership meetings. As such, the Ministries and Church Board have approved business items during the monthly Church Board meetings. These motions are printed here so the membership may review them and ratify the decisions made.

## **Motion #1 – January 7, 2020**

Foyer Coffee Area

Contractor hired for the project is D.J. Custom renovations. Est. \$13,9944 for construction, NUMC items be taken care of with cost of \$7,000 est., will bring us to the est. \$20,000. Work begins January 13th. Monies to cover this will come from the Bequest Fund and Capital Fund. Ron Baergen made a motion to move ahead, Kathe Wiens seconded, motion carried.

## **Motion #2 – July 7, 2020**

Plan to Protect or existing Safe places policy.

Implementation plan would be the suitable plan for us. Chris added that he contacted other organizations and they all said Plan for Protect. Recommend we do the implementation plan for 1 year \$1,495 update our policies and coordinate with our leaders to customize. Online and Live training provided. Recommended that it would get us up to speed. Year after that basis plan \$275 /yr. Rob spoke that it would it be allocated where board decides to. Chris would be the point person to start. Each annual membership you get 10 new training sessions included, \$20 for each additional training. Additional cost of \$29 per Police Background Check. Motion to accept the request from the Education Ministry to move forward with the Plan to Protect Program. Moved to accept by Ramona Neufeld, seconded by John Tiessen, carried by a show of hands.

## **Motion #3 – September 1, 2020**

Bequest Fund Request

Motion by Katrina Metsa on behalf of the Worship Ministry for the purchase of AV equipment for recording the worship service at approx. \$6,000. Requested that the funds come from the Bequest Fund. Seconded by John Tiessen. Carried by a show of hands.

## **Motion #4 – October 6, 2020**

Renovations to accommodate photocopier

Motion by Willi Pankratz to accept plans and proposal for \$2,000 estimated to put up the wall and create a copier room. Funds would come from the maintenance budget. Willi Pankratz motioned to accept the plans and proposal as presented, Rob Neufeld seconded carried by a show of hands

### **Motion #5 – October 6, 2020**

Renate Dau Klaassens' term was up September 30, 2020

In a normal year we would have gone to membership to vote on an extension. Church Board discussed and decided to keep the status quo (14 hours/week). Church Board will get feedback from membership on how this position will continue. Motion by Rob Neufeld to keep Renate Dau Klaassen on staff until October 2021, subject to feedback to the contrary and a conversation with Renate on her hours. Alan Teichroeb seconded. Carried by a show of hands.

### **Motion #6– November 3, 2020**

December 2020 One Time Worship Special Event

Motion for permission for an indoor and/or outdoor one-time event with increased capacity in our sanctuary with masked singing by the congregation. Alan Teichroeb moved, Rob Neufeld seconded to accept this motion. Carried by show of hands.

### **Motion #7 – December 1, 2020**

"Plan to Protect" Document Review

Ramona Neufeld moved to move forward with having Andre Lozano of Knights Law vet our Abuse Prevention Plan. John Tiessen seconded. Carried by a show of hands.

## **Elections Sheet 2021**

### **LEADERSHIP**

#### **Church Board**

* Peter Janzen, Chair	2022
* Alan Teichroeb, Vice Chair	2023
* Robert Neufeld, Treasurer	2023
* Harold Neufeld Board Secretary	2023
Service Ministry Rep- Bill Devolin	2021
Education Ministry Rep- Ramona Neufeld	2023

\* Church Board Executive

#### **Nominations**

Tina Runge	2023
Vacant Role	

#### **Counting Committee**

Henry Neudorf	2023
Werner Pankratz	2023

#### **Auditing Committee**

Nicole Tissen	2023
Vacant Role	

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Education Committee**

Committee Chair: Ramona Neufeld	2023
Ellery Rauwerda: Red Brick Kids Leader	June 2021
Joannie Penner: Red Brick Kids Assistant Leader	June 2021
Martha Di Zio	2023

#### **Library**

Debbie Fast	2023
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## ENGAGEMENT

### Serving Committee

Rita Pauls - Committee Chair	2023
Laurene Nickel	2023

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

### Worship Committee

Jonathan Bradnam	2023
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### Usher German Service

Henry Neudorf	2023
Viktor Vall	2023
Vacant Role	
Vacant Role	
Vacant Role	
Vacant Role	

### Ushers English Service

Elly Forbes	2023
Werner Janzen	2023
Vacant Role	
Vacant Role	

### Audio Visual

Kevin Schimdt	2023
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## FACILITY MINISTRY

### Yard Maintenance

Manfred Runge	2023
John Pentesco	2023

## SERVICE MINISTRY

### Missions and Service Committee

Bill Devolin- Chair	2021
Peter Dirks Jr.- MDS Rep	2023
Wendy Janzen	2023

## REPRESENTATIVES

### Pleasant Manor Auxiliary

Hedy Kopeschny	2023
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### Vineland Mennonite Home Auxiliary

Vacant Role	
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**Notes:**