



# **2017 Annual Report**

**Erindale United Church**

**1444 Dundas Crescent  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5C 1E9**

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Mississauga, Ontario L5C 1E9  
905-277-3656**

**[www.erindaleunited.church](http://www.erindaleunited.church)**

A Congregation of  
The United Church of Canada

**Mission Statement**

*"Erindale United Church is a people of God.  
We embrace, proclaim and practice  
the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
We seek justice for all people,  
striving to become a loving, nurturing  
ministering community."*

**Minister**

Rev. Brenna Baker  
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**Director of Music**

Robert Anderson  
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**Psalm 98 Coordinator**

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**Wedding Consultant**

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## From the Minister's Desk

Dear Friends,

What a great first year it has been at Erindale United! I am thankful every day for your faith, generosity and grace, and am challenged by the ways you love Christ and neighbour. While it has been a great year, full of trying new things and getting to know all of you, as many ministers will say, I am also glad the first year is over. Transitions can be challenging as two parties get to know one another and move forward - there can be missteps and miscommunication learning about the norms and expectations both sides bring to a relationship.

After a year, though, I feel settled and rooted both in our congregation and the wider community, and have been so grateful for your patience, support, and sense of humour as we've journeyed along together, and discerned where God might be calling us and how we can embody Christ's love together. We've supported each other through loss, welcomed new people to our congregation, and thought about how we can reach out to others and be more present in our community. Our EUC family, in the way we care for one another and our world, provides a beautiful glimpse of God's kingdom, and I'm looking forward to this coming year and seeing all that the Holy Spirit will do through us.

Below is a brief snapshot of some of the highlights from this past year in the style I usually use for my monthly reports to Council.

### **Worship**

Did you know we have an amazing worship committee? I hope you do! It has been a joy to serve as your worship leader this past year, in large part, because I never feel as though I'm alone. Our worship committee is a collaborative, creative, energetic bunch that plans and leads each Sunday service. Not only focusing on the nuts and bolts of worship, we also seek to think through the theology of worship and the different seasons of the year and incorporate those ideas into worship.

Highlights from this year for me have been the Children and Youth Sunday in May, summer evening services in the garden, and our Christmas Eve services. I'm grateful for the ways we're creating a "blended" Sunday service by utilizing the gifts of our band, Psalm 98, along with the traditional hymns and music of the Choir. Thanks especially to Rob Anderson, Jim Bright and Fraser Code for working to coordinate all of that.

I continue to strive to create worship experiences that connect us to the Spirit, and help us relate our faith to our everyday lives. We're also working on including children and youth more in worship so that they fully feel a sense of belonging here, and we're working on ways of making worship accessible to newcomers and those who may not have a faith background. Any ideas are always welcome.

## **Outreach**

In consultation with Jim Bright, over the summer we decided to stop meeting formally as an Outreach committee - with many thanks to the Mahabirs and Sarah for their help and support. Sometimes, when things are lacking energy, the best way forward is to change them up. So our approach since the summer has been to try to integrate outreach into other facets of our life together rather than compartmentalizing outreach into one committee. Our hope is that in disbanding a formal committee structure, more people will want to lead or participate in short term projects.

With that said, here are some of the outreach projects we've been engaged in:

- on-going support and volunteering at The Deacon's Cupboard
- Revitalizing the English Conversation Circle program with Erindale Presbyterian on Monday nights.
- Working with Peel Aboriginal Network to provide kitchen space for their cooking classes, and in exchange, learning about Indigenous spirituality and the work PAN does.
- Participating in The DAM's Coldest Night walk to raise funds for a great organization helping youth who are homeless or housing insecure in the city.

In the year to come, much conversation will centre around a relationship with the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship and whether our mission is served by forming a partnership with them. Space sharing, rental agreements, and shared outreach and Christian formation are all things we continue to discern in terms of our relationship with MMF.

Additionally, we continue to give generously to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church, and several members of our congregation serve on the constituency group sponsoring the refugees. The UCW continues to connect with many different organizations to provide financial support. Outreach, then, remains at the core of our identity, and I'm sure the upcoming year will bring many other opportunities to serve God and our neighbours. Maybe you will want to lead a new project!

## **Communication**

Another focus of this past year has been to reflect on and update our means of communication in order to first, connect more fully with the congregation and friends of EUC, and secondly, to be able to spread the word of what we do here into the community. As such, we've created a public Facebook page this year, started a bi-weekly enewsletter with upcoming events, and I've started a blog where I can reflect matters of faith and current events. Lots of thanks to Fraser Code who keeps our website up to date and makes it easy to find pertinent information. We know that the website of a church is now the "Front Door" - the place where people wondering about a church will make their first, immediate impressions. So we strive through all these means to authentically communicate who we are and invite others to join us.

## **Pastoral Care**

Lastly, I'll thank our amazing Congregational Care Committee and all the work they do supporting and caring for our congregation. From welcoming newcomers, to visiting those who are sick, to sending cards and delivering baskets, this team is the embodiment of Christ's love. I am particularly grateful to all those who have let me into their lives this year - whether through home visits, phone calls, or quick visits at the hospital. Please know I hold all of these experiences as sacred and feel it's an honour to act as the church's representative in this way. In the upcoming year, if there's more we can do to support you, please let us know, and if you're feeling a call to share the love with the congregation, maybe you'd like to join this amazing group.

As we head into this new year, then, I pray for sustained energy, creativity and courage - courage to take risks and be bold for Christ. As a faith community we have so many gifts to share with our world. As our mission statement says, let's get out there to embrace, proclaim and practice the Gospel of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Brenna Baker  
February 8, 2018

## Chair of Council

It's hard to believe that February 1<sup>st</sup> marked Rev. Brenna's first anniversary as Erindale's minister. Rev. Brenna is a wonderful ambassador for Erindale United, and we have benefited from her ministry which has covered areas such as worship leadership, community involvement, and congregational care. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with Rev. Brenna, as she settles into this new call and becomes a part of our church family. I was honored to represent the Erindale congregation at Rev. Brenna's wedding, which was held on May 26<sup>th</sup> at Black Creek Pioneer Village.

A Leadership Retreat was held October 20 - 21 to collectively draft a forward-looking vision for Erindale United, and draft up goals to support our mission in the community and around the world. The book "The New Parish" written by Paul Sparks, Tim Soerens and Dwight J. Friesen, was used to frame the retreat. Tom McIlwraith walked us through a historical presentation of EUC's surrounding community. Participants then walked around the community centre and surrounding area, observing who and how the facilities and programs were being utilized. With the knowledge gained from these activities, the retreat participants developed goals for the future. The only constant is change, and now is the time for fresh ideas and new ways of looking at our future. Success will only come if we all work together, and are not afraid to try.

Over the past year, Erindale has hosted sessions to review and discuss the 42nd General Council Remits. Erindale United has voted on 4 of the 5 Remits. Council decided that further discussions were required before a vote could take place on the final Remit, One Order of Ministry. Carolyn Smith, a lay minister at Applewood United Church, and Deborah Laforet, a diaconal minister at St. Paul's United Church in Oakville, met with Council and discussed questions and concerns around the One Order of Ministry Remit. This final remit will be voted on at the January/2018 Council meeting.

Erindale voted Yes on remits 1, 2, 3 and 4. Presbyteries and Pastoral charges voted as follows:

- Remit 1: Three Council Model
  - Presbyteries: Yes: 74 No: 7 Pastoral charges: Yes: 1,672 No: 222
- Remit 2: Elimination of Transfer and Settlement
  - Presbyteries: Yes: 74 No: 7 Pastoral charges: Yes: 1,792 No: 89
- Remit 3: Office of Vocation
  - Presbyteries: Yes: 69 No: 12 Pastoral charges: Yes: 1,681 No: 190
- Remit 4: Funding a New Model
  - Presbyteries: Yes: 70 No: 12 Pastoral charges: Yes: 1,472 No: 398

Did You Know?

- Gardner Hall – On October 29<sup>th</sup>, a rededication celebration took place for the newly renovated hall. This space will continue to service the needs of both Erindale and the wider community.
- Diabetes Red Clothing Box – Erindale receives approx. \$600 per year for allowing this box to be placed on the church property. These funds are utilized to support Outreach committee projects.
- Refugee Sponsorship – Erindale continues to partner with the Northwest Constituent Group. Although taking much longer than anyone anticipated, work continues to move forward with 4 applications.

Ralph Nott, Chair of Council

## **Reports of Standing Committees**

### **Christian Development**

#### **Mission**

To develop and sustain a nurturing environment for Christian Education programs that provide knowledge and understanding of God's word and meet the needs of all members and segments of the Erindale family and community.

#### **Mandate**

To develop the policies and programs for Christian education within Erindale, according to United Church standards, and to ensure there are resources, including financial, to carry out these programs with approval of Council. This includes support and guidance for Sunday School programs and teachers, adult education, youth ministry and any opportunities for spiritual growth.

#### **Achievements in 2017**

Christian Development looks forward to helping any person that is interested to start up a regular meeting/program at the Church for education, health or spiritual growth.

The Sunday School program has been ably and enthusiastically overseen by Sunday School coordinator Terry Wykurz and a dedicated group of teachers and parent volunteers. Thanks to all for your wonderful work. The Sunday School classes meet during Sunday worship services and the teaching encourages the learning of the Bible. The Sunday School continues to enjoy the two classrooms off Gardner Hall. This past year included the participation of the students and teachers in special worship services including Christmas Fest and a youth led service on Mother's Day. The graduation service and picnic were well attended and enjoyed by many.

### **Communications Committee**

#### **Highlights**

For two years, Fraser Code has acted as Chair of the Communications Committee, and assumed the prime responsibility for editing and managing the Church Website, using the web address [www.erindaleunited.church](http://www.erindaleunited.church). There are NO regularly scheduled meetings of this tiny Committee (we use email and regular conversations to keep in touch), and our activities are regularly reported to Church Council meetings. The Church Website is now an essential part of our internal and external communications system. The Home page is updated every few days.

We thank Wayne Irwin and the staff of *ChurchWeb Canada* for the advanced technical management of our website, and producing regular usage reports to assess its effectiveness. Aside from the entry point of the Home page, the next most used page is



the 'CONTACT US' page, demonstrating that the World-Wide Web has replaced the traditional printed telephone book. Our presence on the Web is now essential.

In 2017, we paused the publishing of our Church Newsletter, *The Grapevine*. This used to appear four times during the Church year, in both electronic and print form. We now use more timely and flexible all-digital publications.

There is a Blog post on our website written monthly by our minister Rev. Brenna Baker, available at the URL (<http://erindaleunited.church/Worship/Rev-Brennas-Blog> ). Sarah McEwing (our Office Administrator) and Rev. Baker use the MailChimp email service to broadcast a bi-weekly "Erindale United Enews" electronic letter to registered congregational members. Sarah also assembles the material for the Sunday Video Notices on the Narthex Display Screen.

Recently, our online donation service (provided by *Canada Helps*) has discretely placed a donation button on several pages of our Website.

We also thank Doug Johnston (a skilled photographer) and John Hurst (an IT guru) for helpful advice.

## **Membership**

**Chair** Fraser Code

**Others (ex officio):** Rev. Brenna L. Baker, Sarah McEwing

**Contact** Fraser Code

## **Congregational Care**

### **Mission**

Our goal is to develop and maintain a nurturing and enjoyable environment that will provide a knowledge and understanding of God's love.

### **Mandate**

In working towards our mission, we provide pastoral care through visiting, communicating, and welcoming visitors, members, and friends of Erindale United Church.

### **Committee Members**

Pauline Beagley, Jennifer Code, Dianne Drennan, Pat Jenkins, Margaret McCrae, Cindy Williams and Sandra Wiseman. Other members of our congregation who participate in the prayer activity are Duane McIlwraith, Ruth Nott, Marie Porter, and Pat Viau. Pauline Beagley, co-chair, took a leave of absence because of illness, and, passed on to be with her Lord on January 2, 2018. Her kindness, enthusiasm, and competence will be greatly missed.

## **Achievements in 2017**

We pray for anyone who requests our prayers, for members of the congregation and their families, and others whose needs come to our attention.

- A prayer request box is on a table in the Narthex. Anyone in need of prayer is encouraged to place their request in this box. All requests are held in confidence. You may also present your requests to any member of Congregational Care. Prayers were primarily for those facing illness, bereavement, and life changes.
- Continued to distribute and mail the Grapevine newsletter to our congregation. Rev. Brenna is developing new ways of communicating with the congregation including e-news which sends out announcements but if anyone wishes to edit the Grapevine, that job is open.
- Cindy Williams continues to mail our sympathy, get well, new member, thinking of you, new baby and 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of baptism cards. If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a pastoral care card, please contact Cindy or Sarah McEwing in the church office
- Jennifer Code took orders for subscriptions to the United Church Observer
- Each Sunday morning, a member of Congregational Care is available at the Welcome Table to meet and help visitors and to answer any questions. A welcome package is given to them and we invite them to join us for refreshments in Gardner Hall after the service.
- We helped with Christmas in a Minor Key on December 14, and served refreshments after the service. Rev. Brenna presented a supportive and peaceful service for the sixteen or so people who attended.
- Cards were mailed in December to each person in our congregation who was bereaved and to the parents who had their children baptized during 2017.
- Sandra again placed red roses on the name plates in the memorial garden just before Christmas. They looked beautiful against the white snow.

## **Pastoral Visitation**

- We visit some members in their homes, particularly those who are unable to attend services. We want to continue some group visits to retirement and nursing homes. This year we made Christmas baskets and delivered them to some members of the congregation. It was a pleasure to have Rev. Brenna join us when we assembled them.
- Several members of the committee and Rev. Brenna visited Evergreen Retirement Home in the spring and fall to celebrate a simple communion service and share refreshments with some Erindale members who are residents there. In December some of them brought their friends. Thanks to Rev. Brenna for her support of our committee. Thanks once again to Sarah McEwing for all that she does to make our work easier.

## **Plans for 2018**

- Continue to encourage new members to join our committee

- Continue to welcome and invite visitors to join us for refreshments after worship
- Regularly update the prayer requests and encourage feedback from those requesting prayer. People requesting prayers are encouraged to keep us informed about progress and changes so that we may know how to pray, and when prayers are no longer needed.
- Plan to organize further visits to senior homes.

**Contacts** Jennifer Code (Chair), Dianne Drennan, Pat Jenkins, Margaret McCrae, Cindy Williams and Sandra Wiseman

In loving memory of Pauline Beagley, Co-Chair

## **Finance and Property**

### **Mandate**

To ensure proper financial controllership and property management within the context of service to God, our members and our community. To create an environment within the Church where financial resources are spent to ensure the Church's future needs are met and accomplish future goals.

The Finance and Property Committee is concerned with tangible property and funds, and so the vision and the mission of the Committee get woven together.

### **Mandate Execution**

The Finance & Property Committee is responsible to manage the following activities:

- contracts for snow removal, outside maintenance, heating and cleaning
- manage the relationship with our renter, Tender Years
- general interior maintenance, painting & repairs
- financial analysis, annual detailed budget and 3 year plan
- safety & security, including contracts with companies supplying these services
- church bookings, rental arrangements (chess club and fitness group) being two examples
- offertory counting coordinator, large funding raising, trustee liaison
- treasury, envelop steward, congregational giving statistics and analysis, work with Stewardship Committee
- manage the capital budget

### **Achievements In 2017**

Lead a team to plan and oversee phase 1 of the Gardner hall renovations which included acoustic improvements, painting the hall, new hall flooring, install permanent sound system, repaired pocket door, removal of flood lights on stage and stage resurfacing. Installed

garden sprinklers at the back of the church. Coordinated various painting jobs and electrical improvements throughout the church. Initiated the move of monies and invested in Fiera Capital that should provide a higher rate of return than what we were earning. Provided support for the work on installing new speakers in the sanctuary. Welcomed a new member to the committee, Craig McLean in November.

### **Plans For 2018**

Coordinate the work planned in phase 2 of the Gardner Hall renovations which is complete the audio visual upgrades including monitors, stage drapes, cupboard at side of stage and window coverings. Begin negotiations with the school regarding the rental agreement as the current agreement expires March 31, 2019. Find a solution to the water drainage issue at the back stairs of Gardner Hall.

### **Committee Members**

David Drennan, Carolyn Hendricks, Craig Laferriere, Brian Longley, Barbara Manchur (Treasurer), Paul Sabourin, Steve Wykurz, Norma Macintyre, Bill McIntosh, Bob Rogers, Craig McLean, Joy Cunningham (Secretary), Janice Everett (Tender Year's Coordinator) and Sarah McEwing (Envelope Steward).

**Contact** Steve Wykurz, Chair

## **Stewardship**

### **Mission**

To assist each member and participant of Erindale United Church to, as is appropriate to them, give to the total mission and ministry of the Church.

### **Mandate**

To have full understanding of the givings and giving patterns of the congregation; to plan stewardship campaigns which will match the givings of the congregation to yearly budgets and targets for support of the church; to educate members and participants as to the givings that the church needs to continue its mission and ministry and to educate new members and participants as to how they may support the church with givings.

The Stewardship Committee meets on a regular (monthly) basis and works throughout the church year to ensure our mission and mandate are met.

In 2016, the Committee had five members: Paul Sabourin (Chair), Steve Wykurz and Laura Turner, Christian Hawn and Rev. Brenna Baker (as of March, 2017).

Our 2017 Stewardship campaign had two elements:

2) On Stewardship Sunday we had three brief presentation/testimonials with Arlene Stevens, Sarah Watson, and Caroline Hendricks. The low-key approach (as we didn't have a pressing budgetary need) was apparently well received.

3) We highlighted that the givings for 2017 were slightly below plan; and the budget for 2018 was projecting a modest shortfall. The ask for the congregation was to increase their givings and pledges.

The just completed stewardship campaign had the following results:

64 families pledged (70 last year),

Thank you to all the people who provided a completed pledge form.

In 2015 total givings amounted to \$232,900.

In 2016 the total for givings was \$223,075, a slight decrease from 2015 but \$8,075 over our projection of \$215,000.

Total givings for 2017 were \$207,438 versus a budget of \$210,000

Based on our calculations of Pledges, and additional PAR and loose offerings, our best estimate is that we should reach approximately \$210,000 in givings for 2018. We provided that number to F&P for the 2018 budgets.

**Contacts** Paul Sabourin (Chair), Steve Wykurz, Laura Turner, Christian Hawn, Rev. Brenna Baker

## **Ministry and Personnel**

### **Mission**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee provides a confidential setting for consultation with and support and assessment of all staff at Erindale.

### **Mandate**

M&P meets with staff and church groups when requested to ensure objectives are clearly understood and communicated as defined by Council. Once a year each staff member participates in a performance review with two committee members. Ongoing discussions provide both Staff and Council an opportunity to monitor progress and provide an opportunity for mutual reflection on accomplishments, performance against competencies, goals, and to make continuing education plans for the subsequent year.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is the human resources committee of the church. The committee provides consultation and support for the staff of Erindale United Church and for the members and adherents of the congregation. The committee works with members of staff to ensure they are supported from both an administrative and personal perspective and in a way that allows them to best carry out their responsibilities.

### **Achievements in 2017**

Performance reviews were conducted, personnel policies and procedures were reviewed and ad hoc issues were handled as they arose.

We have had a busy and rewarding year. Rev. Brenna Nickel joined the church in February, and in May became Rev. Brenna Baker when she married Jordan.

We look forward to working with, and supporting, Brenna as she develops her ministry with us. We are pleased that Marilyn Johnston joined the committee this year.

**Contacts** George Beagley (Chair), Doug Brien, Lowell Hendricks, Marilyn Johnston, and Jennifer Code

## **Outreach and Social Action**

### **Mandate**

The Outreach Committee of Erindale United Church, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will strive to serve our Lord Jesus, in Erindale, Mississauga, and the wider community of God, while seeking justice and equality for all.

### **Refugee initiative**

Erindale continued this year as a full partner of the Northwest Mississauga Constituent Group with Erin Mills, Streetsville and Eden United Churches. We are expecting our first refugee in the early spring 2018 and a second family in the fall of 2018.

### **Orthopedic Surgeon for Congo project**

This four year project was to put a young Congolese man named Bienvenu Silyanzabo through medical school in Goma, Democratic republic of Congo. Bienvenu successfully finished his program in orthopedic trauma and surgery at the University of Goma in the fall of 2016. At that time, we financed his move to Rwancola General Hospital in Bunia DRC where he assumed the role of specialist in orthopedic trauma surgery in early 2017. Bienvenu continues his work at the hospital to this day. He works long hours for low wages for someone in his position. This past Christmas 2017 Erindale United raised over \$300.00 at the Sunday School Christmasfest celebration to send Bienvenu and his family as a Christmas gift. Bienvenu continues to be in touch with us a few times a month and sends his regards and thanks! This project is now successfully completed. Outreach wishes to thank you all for your support of this very worthwhile project.



## **Board of Trustees**

### **Mission & Mandate**

The Board of Trustees of Erindale United Church holds all the property of our congregation for the use and benefit of the congregation as part of the United Church. As a result, the Board deals with property issues that would normally be associated with ownership although the day-to-day responsibility of property management belongs to Finance and Property Committee.

### **2017 Highlights**

- Continued work on collecting and organizing material in our church archives.
- Continued to employ the services of “Green Thumb” landscapers to maintain both the Memorial Garden and the garden to the east of the sanctuary.
- Updated the Investment Policy and Strategy for the Manse Fund to maximize our returns while ensuring that we maintain our underlying philosophy of low risk, capital preservation and high liquidity for this fund.
- Re-evaluated and updated our Investment Policy and Strategy for the Endowment Fund. Since this Fund is an investment to produce future revenue, we are able to take on moderate risk to achieve more growth over the longer term. This change represents a somewhat more aggressive investment approach.
- Established a small investment team of 4 individuals, accountable to the Board of Trustees, with the responsibility to manage the Investment policies for both the Manse Fund and Endowment Fund.
- Continued to assess our risks, prioritize them and communicate with the group concerned in order to manage or mitigate the risks.
- Acted as the interface on behalf of Erindale United Church on the bequest from the estate of Marjorie Smith.
- Approved an expenditure of \$4,000 from the Memorial Fund to pay for the new permanent sound system in Gardner Hall as part of the major upgrade program that was initiated in 2017.

We welcomed Rev. Brenna Baker to the Board of Trustees in 2017.

### **Plans for 2018**

- Continue to develop the plan and further engage the congregation in building our archives and documenting our institutional memory
- Will continue our work on risk assessments and present our findings to the appropriate group.
- Oversee the management and maintenance of the memorial garden and the twin garden to the right of the sanctuary.
- Monitor the performance of both the Manse and Endowment Funds.
- Initiate the planning process for a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the sanctuary in 2019.



## **Members**

Earl Cochrane (Chair), Doug Johnston (Vice Chair), Brian Longley, Eleanor McIntosh, Fred Williams, Priscilla Brandy, Tom McIlwraith, Mary Patterson, Garry Jenkins, Rev. Brenna Baker and Sarah McEwing (as non-voting Secretary).

**Contact** Earl Cochrane, Chair

## **Worship**

### **Mission**

Enable worship, which is open, inviting and involving to all to celebrate their faith; which reflects elements both traditional and new that can be shared by all members of our community, and is the basis for joyful praise, inspired action and deeper commitment.

### **Mandate**

- Co-ordination and supervision of all phases of worship
- Work with the Minister and Director of Music to co-ordinate, support and supervise all phases of worship
- Approve all activities which take place in the sanctuary
- Arrange for supply ministers and organists, as required, to provide pastoral care and conduct Sunday services

### **Achievements in 2017**

- A new phase of ministry: In February, we welcomed Rev. Brenna Baker and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her and her approach to planning for worship. She infuses our discussions with hope for our collective future, inclusion of everyone and a special place for children and youth. Her energy is infectious, with the "Hanging of the Greens" being a great recent example.
- Regular Worship Services: We continued to support active engagement of children and youth in worship, by inviting them to lead/participate in hosting of Baptisms, Communion, Advent candle lighting, as well as serving as Lector. For Advent I, we once again led Worship Service, being grateful for this privilege.
- Summer Services: Once again, Erindale hosted the congregation of the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship for joint Worship Services in July and August. We welcomed them back for the morning Service on Christmas Eve, which was shared by Rev. Brenna and Pastor Stephen Reist.
- Music Ministry: We continue to support the Choir, Psalm 98 and Music Director Rob Anderson in exploring integrated music ministry. As part of the UCW's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service, the Choir recruited additional voices from the congregation. This augmented vocal contribution was so joyfully received that we are looking forward to an encore. In December, we purchased enough copies of "More Voices" for the congregation's use. We

were delighted to have Psalm 98 return to monthly participation in worship services this fall and look forward to more joyful noise from all musicians in 2018.

- At Easter, we welcomed new antependia, made possible through a generous donation by the Crop Over Singers and the Neita Family. The Crop Over Singers were a group of EUC congregational members and their friends (all of whom were of Caribbean descent) who formed a choir and for many years hosted annual dinners and concerts. In addition, they sponsored two concerts featuring invited choirs. They received seed money from our UCW and decided to invest this into musical performances which in turn raised many more funds over the years.
- Protocols for knowledge sharing: this year, we updated or created new procedures for antependia change-over; running of the soundboard; and supporting baptism and communion services.
- Fellowship: The Committee hosted refreshment hours in the month of June.

### **Plans for 2018**

- Explore opportunities for enriched worship through contemporary formats, audiovisual supports and inter-faith opportunities
- Develop a “sound crew” that can work the new sound board
- Review policies on Baptism and Communion
- Continue to develop alternative bulletin covers using Erindale scenes/symbols
- Manage the summer schedule
- Continue to offer regular Services for Baptism and Communion

### **Acknowledgements**

The Worship Committee would like to thank the following people:

- The Choir and members of Psalm 98 for their inspiring Music Ministry. Special thanks to Jim for leading the band and joining our committee regularly to keep us all connected.
- Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott, Matthew Dawson, Jim Bright for working the sound board
- All Ushers for being an integral part of Erindale’s ability to warmly host our Sunday services
- Everyone who volunteered during the year as Lector
- Everyone who volunteered during the year as Refreshment Hosts, facilitating the deep connections among us all

## **Members**

Jutta Argao (chairperson), Angela Brien (head usher), Karen Bright (lector co-ordinator), Fraser Code (choir president), Carrie Code (band representative), Brian Crombie, Marilyn Johnston (to June 2017), Claudette Neita, Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott, Rev. Brenna Baker, Rob Anderson (music director)

**Contact** Jutta Argao, Chair

## **Senior Choir**

### **Mandate**

The Choir provides musical leadership for the congregation of Erindale United Church during worship services and special occasions (such as funerals and memorial services), periodically offering musical and cultural activities in the spirit of fellowship and Christian ideals.

### **Choir Membership in 2017**

The Erindale Choir is a dedicated group of about 15 singers, with a range of vocal abilities in both choral and solo settings, under the artistic leadership of Erindale's Director of Music, Robert Anderson. We gratefully acknowledge the appreciation and support of our musical work given to us by the congregation.

During the year, the weekly turnout for Thursday rehearsals and Sunday services has been variable, mainly because of travel and family commitments, as well as moves away and retirement. Fourteen was the maximum turnout, achieved on a number of occasions. We are pleased to report that Arlene Stevens, first soprano, has joined and promptly performed several solos. In recognition of the many years of leadership that Edward Neufeld has given to the Choir, this year, on the occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, the choir has designated him as its first "President Emeritus". Sadly, we report the passing of Carol Townsend, a joyful and talented soprano who sang with us for several seasons.

### **Musical achievements in 2017**

As in previous years, the Choir has concentrated on the service music, introits, and incidental music, and in 2017 has undertaken *a cappella* singing with increased frequency. Rob notes that the choir is better and better at holding its pitch, not to mention maintaining high standards of diction and harmony. This is an impressive accomplishment for a limited number of musicians.

We also continued to sing at all funerals and memorial services conducted in the sanctuary, as a support to bereaved families.

### **2017 – The Choir's Year in Review**

- The traditional service of Lessons and Carols took place on Epiphany Sunday January 8, 2017.
- Erindale's interim Minister, Rev. Don Parsons, departed at the end of January, leaving us with a legacy of meditative choral music from the Taizé Community, and an introduction to the music of the hymnal "More Voices."

- Rev. Brenna (Nickel) Baker, who took over pastoral care in February, has encouraged the use of a greater diversity of United Church hymns in our worship services.
- In June the Worship Committee hosted a special Music Appreciation Lunch for the Senior Choir, the Psalm 98 Worship Band, and the Director of Music.
- On June 11 for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service, the UCW invited women in the congregation to attend the Sunday morning Choir rehearsal, and then join with the regular choristers in the choir loft. We had more than twenty singers that day, and Arlene Stevens made up her mind to stay. Welcome!
- Summer worship services were again jointly held with the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship. In July music on piano and organ was provided by Rob Anderson; in August music on piano, guitar and flute was offered by the Mennonite Fellowship. For both months, the hymns were enthusiastically sung by the members of our combined congregations.
- In the autumn the President, Fraser Code, started sending to choir members email messages each Wednesday or Thursday including the service Bulletin for the following Sunday. This very useful initiative offered members an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the music prior to rehearsal, and is much appreciated.
- Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day were observed by traditional music and guest musicians.
- During Advent the Worship Committee launched a campaign to provide 100 "More Voices" coil-bound hymn books for use by the congregation. This will support the goal to enlarge the repertoire of hymns being sung in our services.
- Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday, resulting in three services being held the same day, an unusual challenge which Erindale met with creative energy.

### **Challenges and Prospects for 2018**

- Recruitment must be a priority. The Choir will consider having more special occasions when members of the congregation join us.
- We aim to do more *a cappella* singing.
- It is time to include Psalm 98 in announcements, one of what may become further initiatives to participate more closely with that group.

### **Membership**

**Soprano** Susan Bowman, Selina Campbell, Aileen Jamieson, Marilyn Johnston, Mavis Mahabir, Arlene Stevens, Dorothy Weston, Gladys Williams

**Alto** Ellen Dunlop, Barb Manchur, Dora Williams

**Tenor** Fraser Code, Doug Johnston, Edward Neufeld

**Bass** Don Lay, Tom McIlwraith, Fred Williams

### **Executive**

**Director of Music** Robert Anderson, **President Emeritus** Edward Neufeld,

**President** Fraser Code; Vice President – Vacant, **Librarians** Tom McIlwraith and Dora Williams, **Gown and Collar Custodian** Mavis Mahabir

**Contact** Fraser Code

### **Psalm 98 Worship Band**

Psalm 98 band is back after a year and a half hiatus. Currently we are simply four singers with one guitarist/singer but are actively recruiting for other instrumentalists to fill up the band pit. At the moment we are looking for proficient drummers, bass players and keyboard players however all instruments are welcome as long as you are reasonably proficient on your instrument. For auditions contact Jim Bright at [jimbright200@outlook.com](mailto:jimbright200@outlook.com)

Psalm 98 Music Director: Jim Bright

**Members:** Jim Bright, guitar and vocals; Cindy Mahabir, vocals; Harvey Watson, vocals; Linda Watson, vocals; Sarah Watson vocals.

### **Erindale Chancel Players**

This year the Erindale Chancel Players had the pleasure of presenting "*Gabrielle and the Shepherds*" by Christian Hawn and Doug Johnston at the early family service on Christmas Eve. The play presented a whimsical look at how the Shepherds might actually have reacted when the angel Gabrielle appeared to them to send them on an unknown journey.

The ECP also presented a dramatic reading based on Matthew 26:36-27:55 at the 2017 Good Friday service.

The ECP consists of Karen Bright, Garry Jenkins, Marilyn Johnston, Craig Laferriere, Claudette Neita and Doug Johnston. Pat Jenkins also participated this year, with other members of the congregation providing stage and scenery assistance, for which we are always thankful...and thanks to the congregation for their warm reception of our efforts.

Doug Johnston

### **Halton Presbytery**

Halton Presbytery is one of six presbyteries which make up Hamilton Conference and includes pastoral charges in Mississauga, Oakville, Burlington, and in the Waterdown, Carlisle, Milton, and Hornby communities. There are about thirty-five pastoral charges serving about 7,000 members. Halton Presbytery is very active within, and supportive of, Hamilton Conference. The Presbytery continues to be blessed with many skilled people who volunteer their time to Presbytery and who assist Congregations in a number of areas (some of which are described below).

General Council 42 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland August 2015 voted to condense our United Church from 4 courts to 3, with Regions replacing both Conferences and Presbyteries. Lots of details needs to be worked out and refined, and, until December 31, 2018, our Presbytery remains as it has been.

The process of Remits (the method by which we change our United Church Manual) has largely been completed and the Church (nationally) voted in favour of this restructuring. As part of this process, the new Funding Model to support the restructure was also passed. These remits were passed by over three quarters of all the Congregations. This was amazing and shows us that we are truly ready for what lies ahead of us. A Boundaries Commission was struck with the power to establish the new regions. Their first report was issued January 10, 2018, and has proposed 17 Regions to replace the 13 Conferences and about 90 Presbyteries. Regions 1 to 7 cover the West Coast to Northern Ontario. Regions 8 to 12 cover Southern Ontario. Regions 13 and 14 cover Quebec. Then Regions 15 to 17 cover Eastern Canada.

Region 10 is made up of Erie, Niagara, Hamilton, and Halton Presbyteries. Bruce and Waterloo Presbyteries are now in Region 9. There have been some other small additions to Region 10. So, the main part of Hamilton Conference is now region 10 with about 150 churches.

Presbyteries will now become collegial bodies to foster fellowship within smaller bounds than a region, especially for Members of Ministry. Presbyteries will last until December 31, 2018 and then we will adopt a new form (to be determined).

In 2016, I had the honour and privilege to participate in the Presbytery meeting which confirmed the call of our new Minister – Rev. Brenna Baker and we now celebrate a wonderful year with her presence and leadership at Erindale United Church.

The Presbytery Full Court met eight times in 2017 to review policy matters as well as to receive and act upon various reports and proposals. Full Court meetings are evolving as we have decided to discontinue Vital Congregation meetings in their present form, and now provide collegial and special activities for Presbytery members. This will end as of December 31, 2018 and our new Region will help with this type of activity.

Presbytery Executive meets ten or more times per year to facilitate ongoing administrative matters that require Presbytery approval or action. Presbytery Executive is comprised of a Chair, Vice-Chair (or Co-Chairs), Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and chairs or appointed members of each committee of Presbytery. Again, these activities come to a close at the end of 2018.

### **Highlights and activities for 2017 by the Court or its Executive include:**

- Regular receipt of, examination of, and appropriate action on reports from all Committees of Presbytery as well as receipt of, examination of, and formal action and approval on all recommendations made by the Pastoral Relations Committee with respect to Presbytery-accountable staff.
- Receipt of, and review of financial reports at quarterly points, review of long range financial plans (Finance and Property Committee), and approval of the Presbytery budget in November. The Presbytery continues to operate without an operating deficit as a result of approved budget planning.
- Presbytery has adopted a collegial form of Full Court meetings to provide a forum for education and communication for all Presbyters.

- Presbytery has shifted its focus for grants and now provides grants for new ministry initiatives from its New Ministries Fund (which is an equity fund designated for that purpose). Grants have largely been completed and have come to an end except for Mississauga Chinese congregation and Halton United Church Extension Council. These grants will take a new form in 2019.
- Halton United Church Extension Council (HUCEC) purchased a residence adjacent to Palermo United Church at the end of 2013 and the Council has rented the residence as it watches for redevelopment opportunities. Management of the residence has proven to be a challenge as it is a very old structure. In fact, the condition of the house was such that our tenant left (on good terms with us) and we have elected to demolish the residence. We are working with the City of Oakville on this proposal.
- John Hurst is currently the Treasurer for Halton Presbytery and the Treasurer for HUCEC. Mary Patterson is a member of the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee. Horace Neita is an active member of Presbytery and we welcome his presence and his talents. Walter Sowa remains a Member at Large of the Presbytery. John Hurst is a Commissioner to 42<sup>nd</sup> General Council which was held in August 2015 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, is a member of National Church Permanent Committee for Finance, a member of the Audit Committee, and is the Chairperson of the Hamilton Conference Finance Committee. Erindale is represented well beyond its normal means in the wider church and you can see that we are a stronger congregation for that participation.

In 2017, Rev. Brenna Baker and John Hurst were nominated by Halton Presbytery and elected by Hamilton Conference (on the weekend of Rev. Brenna's wedding) to be Commissioners to the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Council to be held in the City of Oshawa, Ontario. This will be an eventful meeting (because of the restructure) and we are both looking forward to attending the Council.

- Hamilton Conference conducts meeting every two or three years depending on need, and in 2017, this meeting was held at the CAW property in Port Elgin. The Celebration of New Ministries service is an integral part of the Annual Meeting. A Celebration of New Ministries service is also held in years when there is no Conference meeting.

Presbytery is a great place to contribute one's talents to the greater Church, to have an impact in and to assist in shaping our future, and to enjoy an immense learning experience. If you have a passion for our United Church and for its future, you may well enjoy volunteering your services to Presbytery. There are several self-employed and retired persons who volunteer for Presbytery, but if you are younger, can find time and wish to learn, this is a wonderful opportunity. There is only one more year for Presbyteries but there will be ample opportunity to volunteer at the Region Level in 2019 and beyond.

**Presbytery Representatives:** Mary Patterson, Horace Neita, and John Hurst  
**Presbytery Member-at-Large:** Walter Sowa

Report prepared by John Hurst

## **Erindale United Church Women**

### **Purpose**

To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

Erindale United Church Women (UCW) has been an active and vibrant group within our congregation for many years, due to dedicated leaders and an enthusiastic membership. All women of the congregation are invited to attend any meeting. The UCW activities are printed in the Sunday bulletin, the Grapevine, and the church website. There are two units which meet monthly.

### **Mary and Martha Circle**

This group usually meets monthly on the third Tuesday afternoon for fellowship in the McGill Room, under the leadership of Dianne Drennan. Over the year the programmes included: Word Search puzzles; Easter Egg traditions; Scripture Cake; June luncheon at the Glen Erin Inn; the preparation of 60 Christmas baskets for the Deacon's Cupboard; and a December luncheon at the Symposium restaurant.

### **Friends in Faith**

This group usually meets monthly on the third Tuesday evening for fellowship in the McGill Room, under the leadership of Ruth Nott. The programmes are planned by members either leading themselves, or arranging for a speaker or video. Programmes this year included: a discussion of "Why we go to church"; a presentation by an art expert, Velda Vasilaros; a pot-luck dinner in June; a viewing of the video, "Exodus-Journey to Europe"; a report from Ruth Nott, who attended the National Celebration of the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UCW held in Vancouver; a December luncheon at the Living Arts Centre.

In February 2017 the 2 units met together for the Annual Meeting. It was decided to hold the Annual meeting in February, instead of June, to correspond with the church's fiscal year. The business portion of the meeting included the 2016 UCW Income Statement and the 2017 UCW Budget presented by Norma Macintyre, the UCW Treasurer. Ann Edge, Past President, presented the Nominations report and the new slate of officers, including Marilyn Johnston as Vice-president and Sandra Wiseman as Member at Large.

A welcome gift basket was presented to Rev. Brenna.

Refreshments and a social time was followed by a presentation by Friends of the School House, entitled "Echoes of the Past, Rural One Room Schools of Peel County", which was based on a book written by this group.

World Day of Prayer Service held at the Thomas a Beckett Anglican church on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, was attended by several Erindale members. Pat Jenkins, Susan Lyons and Ruth Nott participated in the service which was prepared by the women of the Philippines.

Also in March, 4 members went to the Darling Home for Kids in Milton, to prepare some meals for the busy March Break week at the Home.



In June the Annual Social was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>, attended by approximately 36 people. A delicious buffet supper was enjoyed by all. The guest speaker was Tara Monks, from Armagh House, a second-stage home for abused women and their children.

We acknowledge the support of the congregation for our special projects – donations to the Breakfast programme operated by Erin Mills Youth Centre; the Fellowship of the Least Coin; sale of tourtières and other savoury pies; sale of United Church calendars; the used book sale; and the Festive Frosty Fare in December, which generated almost \$1,500 this year.

The UCW executive approved an increase of \$1,000 this year to our annual discretionary givings to a total of \$6,000. This included \$1,000 to Erindale United Church, \$1,500 to the United Church of Canada, donations to 10 local organizations, and 4 national or international organizations.

The UCW funded the McGill Room renovations this year which included painting it a fresh light blue colour, updated LED lighting and new window blinds.

A successful spring garage sale was held on Sat. April 22, and raised \$1,917.50. In November the Used Book sale raised \$165. Both these events were organized by Marilyn Hurst.

On Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> the UCW coordinated a special church service to celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national UCW formation. Several members of the UCW participated in the service, and the choir was augmented by several UCW members and other women from the congregation.

Members of UCW along with other women of the congregation catered several funerals, a birthday celebration, and a farewell reception for Rev. Don Parsons this year.

The UCW continues to provide coffee and cookies for the Sunday coffee hour, held in Gardner Hall after church every week.

The kitchen is maintained, ie. regularly cleaned, appliances checked and replaced as needed. The kitchen is occasionally used for special events by outside organizations and rental groups. A request to use our kitchen was made by the Peel Aboriginal Network (PAN) this year, until their facility is fitted with an industrial dishwasher and other public health requirements. In exchange for use of the kitchen 1-2 times monthly, the group will provide educational opportunities for our congregation.

Our visitation convenor, Dorothy Weston, diligently contacts shut-ins and delivers flowers at Easter and Christmas. Cards are sent to recognize special occasions, bereavement and illness. This year Dorothy coordinated her visits with the Congregational Care committee, who made up 15 Christmas baskets to deliver to members of EUC who are unable to attend regularly, and/or are suffering from serious illness.

Members of Erindale UCW support functions planned by other courts of the church. We were represented at Halton Presbyterial UCW Annual Gathering, Hamilton Conference UCW Annual Gathering, and the Hamilton Conference UCW Fall Retreat held at Five Oaks.

## **Vision**

Our vision as United Church Women is: we believe that as Christian women of faith, we nurture spirituality by reaching out with commitment and devotion to all God's people in promoting

truth, justice, peace, caring, and sharing with respect for all in the community and wider world; in loving God and others by living generously and giving joyfully; and in affirming and strengthening ourselves creatively in study and witness through music, laughter, and solitude. (from United Church Women Guidelines)

### **Erindale United Church Women 2017-2018 Executive**

President	Pat Jenkins
Vice-President	Marilyn Johnston
Secretary	Pat Viau
Treasurer	Norma Macintyre
Past President	Ann Edge
Church Council representative	Eleanor McIntosh

#### **Convenors:**

Kitchen	Marilyn Hurst
Publicity	Ann Edge
Receptions/Social	Susan Lyons, Joyce Murdoch
Garage Sale	Marilyn Hurst
Visitation	Dorothy Weston
Member at Large	Sandra Wiseman

#### **Unit Leaders:**

Mary and Martha Circle	Dianne Drennan
Friends in Faith	Ruth Nott

Report prepared by Pat Jenkins, President

### **Book Club**

For those who love to read, this is the place to be. We meet once a month (excluding December and summertime) on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at the church at 7:30 pm. We discuss the selected book of the month. The books are selected by a vote of the participants from a list of suggested books at the last meeting of the year in June. At this meeting we all share a food contribution and share the hosting responsibility.

At regular meeting discussions are usually lively and varied and full of insight. This group is a wonderful place to meet new authors (so to speak) as well as getting to know the members at a deeper level. This year we had the author of "Tarnished" join up for our meeting. It was truly wonderful to ask the author questions and understand her passion for her book.

The book club is for all members of Erindale. Two of our members died this year; both Carol Townsend and Brian Duckett will be sadly missed.

One of the strengths of our club is the fact that we meet at the church and that food and refreshments are not part of our regular meetings. This cuts down on the pressure of hosting a meeting and "competing" with each other for the yummiest treats. Members have said that what they like best about the group is the friendships and that they have been challenged to

read books that they would never have chosen for themselves. It certainly keeps us from getting into a rut and exposes us to new and different ideas. All in all, a perfect combination to enhance our always lively, interesting discussions.

Books read this year are:

- The Disappeared by Kim Echin
- Being Mortal by Atul Gawande
- Tarnished by Lesia Annastasia Chytra
- The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown
- Deafening by Frances Itani
- The Piano Maker by Kurt Palka
- Amazing Grace by Lesley Crewe
- Bear Town by Fredrik Backman

### **Members**

Melanie Blake, Anne Carpenter, Cynthia Carr, Jennifer Code, Joy Cunningham, Sandra Butcher, Pat Jenkins, Sue Lyons, Marilyn Johnston, Duane McIlwraith, Horace Neita, Ruth Nott.

**Contact** Marilyn Johnston, Co-ordinator

## **Friday Morning Coffee Group**

### **Activities**

We are a friendly group of 8 - 20 folk who have been meeting since about 2013 during the months of September – June in the McGill Room each week for an “hour” or so (10 am to 11:30 am +) of fellowship over coffee, tea and light refreshments. The things we chat about range from life events, Church topics, current events, to arts and culture. We share experiences by telling stories, jokes, and recalling the history we lived through. This leads to meaningful memories and insights into life’s challenges. Sometimes, often when our minister is present, we also discuss questions on religious topics.

Many ideas for Erindale United Church activities begin with discussions at this Friday Morning Coffee Group. Come and join the conversation, and stay young at heart.

### **Membership**

Open to anyone on a drop-in basis

### **Contact**

Fraser Code

## **Craft and Conversation**

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for this group that meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 at the church. It is a group that loves to do handiwork. Members bring a bit sewing, knitting, crochet or even beadwork and spend a few hours working together and sharing conversation. It is a wonderful way to unwind and destress. There is always someone to ask a question if you get stuck. If anyone wants to learn some of these crafts they are welcome to come and join in the fun.

**Members** Ann Edge, Kathy James, Marilyn Johnston, Mary Anna King, Ruth Nott, Linda Watson, Sandra Wiseman

Submitted by Marilyn Johnston

## **Egg (Erindale Growing Group)**

### **History**

In 1982 when I came to Erindale there were several groups called EGGS. They were scrambled once every two years from lists of people who signed up. The groups were made of 12 people who met in people's homes on a monthly basis. There were spiritual and social groups. The program for the EGG meeting were set by the monthly host. In the spring of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year there was a social dinner at the church of all the EGG groups with skits and good food. Then the EGGS were scrambled again to begin once more in September.

This program had been going for several years when I joined. A crisis in leadership arose as there was no one who wished to take on the challenge of coordinating the EGGS. Thus, the program was abandoned.

### **Present Day**

EGG is 18 people strong. We have continued to meet most months and turns by members are taken to host. Each year in January we ask the question, "Do we want to continue with EGG" and so far the answer has been yes.

This year two of our members passed away, Vera Jenkins and Brian Duckett. I know that I express the feeling of everyone in the group when I say that they will both be sadly missed. Personally, I think the group is important. I think this group has helped us grow in faith. We care and cherish each other and the church. We believe that small groups strengthen the church family because we get to know everyone just a little bit better and reinforce our shared values.

The program this year provided by the EGG hosts, was varied from a single question being asked, to pot luck dinners, and a summer drive to Woodstock. Other times it was just conversation, coffee and dessert.

### **Future**

Maybe it's time to begin again, to resurrect EGGs at Erindale. If there is sufficient interest maybe we could help get you started.

## Members

Angela and Doug Brien, Jim and Karen Bright, Marg Duckett, John and Marilyn Hurst, Pat and Garry Jenkins, Marilyn and Doug Johnston, Tom and Duane McIlwraith, Ruth Nott, Barb and Rick Owen, Lois and Doug Patterson

Submitted by Marilyn Johnston

## Roll Report

The statistics below reflect data required by the United Church of Canada.

	2016	2017
Number of Households under Pastoral Care	238	230
Number of Adult Baptisms	0	0
Children Baptised	6	3
Members received		
a) under 18	0	0
b) 18 or older	0	0
Members received by Transfer or otherwise	1	2
Members removed by Death	5	5
Members removed by		
a) Certificate of Transfer	1	1
b) Otherwise	5	3
Total Confirmed Membership	284	277
Total Non-resident Members (included above)	23	22

## Baptisms

### *Children:*

Evan Michael Alexander Klimsiak      Everley Lillie-Anne McLean  
Omar Raul St. Andrew Graham Jr.

*Adults:* None

## Two Members Received by transfer or otherwise One Member Transferred Out

## Weddings

Jordan Robert Dean Baker/Brenna Lea Nickel - off site  
Anthony Harris Myers/Nerissa Rose Lizares  
James Howard Sherwood/Kennedy Lynne Baker - off site  
Warren Stanley Fanaken/Parmita Pal

## In Memoriam

Marjorie Hayter (Member)	Keith McEwing
Kay Braithwaite (Member)	Carol Townsend (Member)
Laurie Stark	Vera Jenkins
Barbara Prest (Member)	Fay Sproule (Member)

**Erindale United Church, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada**  
**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday March 26, 2017**

Prelude, in the church sanctuary

Welcome and the Life of the Church - Ralph Nott

Lighting the Christ Candle, followed by the Introit sung by the choir, "Come into His Presence."

Call to Worship

Hymn of Praise: "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" (#326)

**Annual Meeting is called to order – Part One**

1. Opening Prayer was followed by singing of The Lord's Prayer – Rev. Brenna Nickel.

2. Election of Chairperson and Secretary – Mary Patterson.

**Mary Patterson moved that Ralph Nott, Chair of Church Council, chair the Erindale Annual General Meeting and that Duane McIlwraith be recording secretary for the Erindale AGM. Seconded by Christian Hawn. All in favour. Carried.**

The regular worship service continued with the Youth Hymn, (#605) "Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold." In her conversation with children and youth, Rev. Brenna talked about movies, TV. shows, and books that we watched or read over and over and said that the AGM today was one of the things that our church repeated every year. She told the children that the blind man in our Gospel reading today was a Lenten character who also had to repeat his miracle over and over.

After a prayer the children left for Sunday School.

After the prayer for illumination, The Chair read a New Testament passage from the Gospel of John, Chapter 9, verses 1-23. The congregation sang the first verse of Amazing Grace (#266) and then Ralph continued reading John 9: 24-41. Following the Lenten Anthem, "Lamb of God" (Richard Shepard), Rev. Brenna delivered her sermon entitled "Open Your Eyes."

During the sermon, she told us about the importance of not just focusing on one aspect of life but, rather, that it is important to be aware of all things going on around us. Are we missing anything that God is leading us to? EUC should move into the new year with eyes open and fresh energies. Let us not be spiritually blinded to new ideas and let us observe what God is leading us towards.

3. Profession of Faith.

A New Creed (#918) was repeated by the congregation and followed by the Hymn of Response, "Open Mine Eyes, That I May See," (#371) and the Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Congregation in which Rev. Brenna remembered, by name, all the people who had left us in 2016 and the babies who had been baptised here.

4. Council Report for 2016-2017 – Ralph Nott, Council Chair.

It has been wonderful to observe the Holy Spirit in action at Erindale. There are signs of a vibrant congregation willing to adjust and embrace an unknown future that comes when there are changes in ministerial leadership.

We have been blessed with Erindale United Church staff and volunteers who offer their gifts to our congregation; Rev. Don, who guided us through our time of transition while the Joint Search Committee went about their work of finding a minister to call; Rev. Brenna who has accepted the call to Erindale, settling in, listening, observing and attending various committee meetings to understand better the culture of Erindale to aid in future planning; Rob Anderson and the choir, who week after week enhance

our worship experience; Steve Code for overseeing Psalm98; Sarah McEwing, our Office Administrator, who works tirelessly behind the scenes to keep church operations running smoothly, and providing support to our committee chairs.

I would like to express my appreciation to Jan Everett for taking on the role of liaison with Tender Years executive. This is an important role, ensuring open lines of communication to ensure a harmonious relationship. The Finance and Property committee developed a job description and executed a search for an hourly paid handyman/project manager, but was unable to find a suitable candidate. Fraser Code stepped in to recreate our wonderful new website. He keeps it constantly up to date with many, many hours of work each week. If you haven't visited it recently, do be sure to take the time to pause there.

The Joint Search committee, under the very able leadership of Mary Patterson, has worked tirelessly to find a ministerial candidate that would be a good fit for Erindale. Working with the JNAC, and listening to the feedback from our Presbytery representatives, and Rev. Don, the committee was successful in issuing a call. I would like to acknowledge Mary Patterson, John Hurst, Carolyn Hendricks, Rachel Nott, George Beagley, Christian Hawn, Susan Lyons, Doug Johnston, and our Presbytery representatives Paul Lamont and Rev. Sheila Murray as the team who worked in the best interests of the Erindale congregation.

The fall and winter have been full of wonderful activities that would not have been possible without volunteers ready to lead and develop each activity, and the support of our Erindale family. These activities include:

- **Erindale Emporium** – On October 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 3pm, the church was filled with artisans selling hand crafted goods, a silent auction, art in the Board room, a tea room, music in the sanctuary, BBQ and an ice cream truck just outside the front doors of the church. The sounds of conversation and laughter filled the air, and the smiles on everyone's face validated that this event was a success.
- **Organs & Octaves Concert** – On November 12<sup>th</sup>, an evening of music, and an opportunity to formally dedicate the organ took place in the Erindale sanctuary. Shawn Grenke stepped in as the feature organist when Rob was sidelined, and Roselyn Brown showcased her talent by playing several pieces on the flute, alto saxophone and soprano saxophone.
- **Chili Dinner** – On February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Gardner Hall was filled with the wonderful smell of chili. We were tempted by regular chili, veggie chili, venison chili, and moose chili. After a time of fellowship and food, Psalm98 treated us to musical entertainment.

As we look beyond our congregation, Erindale has provided wonderful support to the Refugee Sponsorship program. Although the plans have not worked out quite as expected, the team has continued to pursue two refugee applications. This is an important outreach endeavour, affecting the lives of people in need, and something we should feel proud to be associated with.

##### 5. Commissioning members of the EUC Council and Committees for 2016.

"Table of Organization for Council and Committees" was included in the service bulletin. Rev. Brenna invited parishioners listed to come forward and be recognized, and thanked them for their commitment to the life of the church through 2016. She asked the volunteers the following covenant question:

"As a disciple of Jesus Christ, will you continue to live out your faith with praise and thanksgiving?

Will you carry out your responsibilities in this congregation with integrity and joy?"

"**I will, God being my helper**" was the reply by all.

Then the congregation was asked:

“Will you the members of Erindale United Church honour the leadership of these people? Will you assist them through daily prayer, generous support, and personal example, so that, together, we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ?”

**“We will, God being our helper.”**

**Moved by Karen Bright, and seconded by Christian Hawn, that the “Table of Organization for Council and Committees” be approved as printed. All in favour. Carried.**

Rev. Brenna gave the Blessing and Commissioning for the Council and Committees for 2017 as the volunteers joined physically together.

6. Presentation of Our Offering was followed by the Sending Hymn “Your Hand, O God Has Guided.” (#274) Rev. Brenna gave a blessing for the lunch and food prepared for the congregation; this was followed by the Benediction. The choir sang the three-fold amen, and Rob played the postlude as the congregation recessed about 11:40 AM. to Gardner Hall for light refreshments and conversation.

## **Annual Meeting is called to order – Part Two**

Ralph Nott reconvened the AGM in Gardner Hall at 12:00 noon. He thanked the helpers for setting up the tables and chairs in the hall. He thanked UCW for arranging lunch refreshments, Jim Bright for setting up the sound and AV systems and Steve Wykurz and his team for leading us through the financial presentation.

7. **Earl Cochrane moved the approval of the minutes of the AGM held on Sunday March 26, 2016** (pgs. 31-33). **Seconded by Tom McIlwraith. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. **Barbara Manchur moved approval of the minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday October 30, 2016, to accept the Joint Search Committee Report** (pgs. 34-35). **Seconded by Doug Brien. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the minutes.

9. **Laura Turner moved acceptance of the reports of the standing committees** (pgs. 8-21). **Seconded by David Drennan. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the reports.

10. **Nadia Lay moved acceptance of the report of Halton Presbytery** (pgs. 22-23). **Seconded by Earl Cochrane. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the report.

11. **Joyce Murdoch moved acceptance of the report of UCW** (pgs. 24-25). **Seconded by Ann Edge. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the report.

12. **Doug Brien moved approval of the Congregational Statistics Report as amended to include the additional baptism of Vesper Oke Lillian Johnston** (pg. 27). **Seconded by Linda Watson. All in favour. Carried.**

13. Steve Wykurz, Chair of Finance and Property, acknowledged the very important work by Barbara Manchur and Norma Macintyre, and also Paul Sabourin. He shared good news and a very optimistic budget report. EUC has a positive balance right now. Steve informed the congregation that F & P has a limit of \$3,000 to spend on individual projects; larger amounts must receive approval from Council.



Steve presented and narrated the financial statements, projected on a big screen. These had previously been circulated to the congregation. The statements included the 2017 Operations Budget and Three-Year Plan (to 2019). He explained the use of the various funds, both working and such designated ones as Memorial, Manse, Endowment and Capital. The finance committee anticipates a surplus in 2017 and perhaps 2018, provided our givings remain solid, but they warn that there could be a deficit by 2019.

**Norma Macintyre moved that the 2017 budget be accepted as presented. Seconded by Fraser Code. All in favour. Carried.**

Doug Johnston complimented Steve Wykurz on his very clear presentation. Everyone certainly agreed by clapping heartily.

**14. Barbara Manchur moved that the firm of Bazar McBean, Professional Chartered Accountants of Oakville, be appointed auditors for 2017. Seconded by Jim Bright. All in favour. Carried.**

15. There was no other business to discuss.

16. At 12:40 PM. the Chair called for a motion to adjourn. **Garry Jenkins so moved. Seconded by Laura Turner. All in favour. Carried.**

17 Benediction by Rev. Brenna.

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Secretary: Duane McIlwraith

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Chair: Ralph Nott