



2016 Annual Report

Erindale United Church

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

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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. Don Parsons
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Director of Music

Robert Anderson
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Psalm 98 Coordinator

Steve Code
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Office Administrator

Sarah McEwing
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Wedding Consultant

Joyce Murdoch
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From the Minister's Desk

Dear Erindale friends:-

As my modest ministry here at Erindale comes to a close, I want you to know what a great privilege it has been for me to share ministry with you.

I am grateful that 2016 has been far more than a "marking time" kind of year here at Erindale. We have enjoyed a deepening spirituality that has manifested itself in strong support not only in worship Sunday by Sunday, but also for the several special reflective services we have shared with each other:- "Christmas In A Minor Key", Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday worship opportunities in Lent.

We have had the privilege of hosting several weddings this year, welcomed infants into the Christian family through the Sacrament of Baptism, gathered frequently at the Lord's Table for the nourishment of grain and grape, and poignantly gathered to be with families and friends who were going through the valley of the shadow. Through caring telephone calls, gentle prayer and everyday kindnesses we have tried to care for each other, and thereby ease another's heaviness.

We enjoyed a Taize workshop together, revamped the Erindale web site into something of which we can be proud, and continue to anticipate the arrival of two refugee families.

During the autumn season the Erindale Emporium was "a great church party", complete with great food, lots of laughter, and all sorts of cool stuff for sale. And the Organs & Octaves concert offered us a first-class evening of beautiful music.

No one can accuse us of putting our congregational life on hold while the Search Committee continued its very careful work. Thank you for all the ways, significant and modest, you have encouraged, supported, and enlarged this congregation's ministry and mission.

On your behalf I express sincere thanks to Margaret McCrae and Ralph Nott for their leadership as Chairs of Council. I am also grateful for the faithful ministry of my staff colleagues Sarah McEwing and Rob Anderson.

Above all, I am grateful for the gift that is you. Your presence at worship, faithful stewardship, generous involvement, and warm friendship has strengthened and enriched our life together this past year. I am profoundly grateful...

(Rev.) Don Parsons
January 31, 2017

A Letter of Gratitude for the Annual Meeting

March 26, 2017

Friends,

It is so good to be here, to be ministering alongside of you, to be journeying with you toward whatever God has in store for us next. On this Annual Meeting Sunday, we give thanks for the firm foundation on which Erindale United stands, and we look ahead toward the future. While ministers only parachute in and out of a congregation's life for a certain period of time, I am thankful for the years of faithful, Christian service that have ushered our congregation to this present place -- open, trusting in God, and willing to be creative as we determine how we are going to be church for one another and the community.

As a faith leader, I often put myself in the camp of people like Moses - wary of the enormity of the calling, and unsure of why I, in particular, have been chosen for a holy task. Well, while I know I am not perfect, and no one minister can do it all, I have no concerns about what we will be able to achieve together in the coming months and years as long as we keep our hearts open to the Spirit in our midst. God has equipped us with all we need to do Christ's work - faith and commitment, a willingness to listen and forgive, space in which to do this work, and very importantly, a sense of humour.

I will never be able to express enough how grateful I am for this opportunity to serve you, and to grow and learn with you. Every day I am here, I am amazed by your generosity of spirit, and the time our members give to loving God and neighbour. While things are changing around us, while we may still be getting to know one another, and while confounding things are happening in North America and throughout the world, I remember Jesus' words to his disciples, "Do not be afraid. I am with you."

My prayer for us this year is to continue to go forward, boldly, without fear, certain that Christ is with us. During the next year, I hope we can all find ways to connect with one another, to listen to ideas and share concerns. Please know I am always available for a phone call, chat over coffee or home visit (seriously, I love home visits, and believe me, my house is messier than yours if that is a concern for you.)

I am so thankful to all of you for welcoming me into this community and helping to make my first month so meaningful. Especially, though, I want to thank Sarah and Rob for taking time to "break me in" to all of the goings on at EUC. I'm also thankful to all the committees and chairs for explaining how they operate and introducing me to their groups.

As we go, then, may Christ's light be ever around us and ahead of us. May God be our strength and guide. Amen.

Blessings,

Rev. Brenna

Past Chair of Council

This past year has been a year of change and has proven that Erindale United Church is a strong faith community in Mississauga, where people support one another and reach out to our neighbours. As part of our Creed we believe that we are not alone – God is indeed with us.

We are sad to say that some long time members have passed away this year and we will indeed miss them. We are grateful for their presence at Erindale and for their participation over the years.

Rev. Neil Young accepted a call to St. Andrews United Church in Toronto after ministering to our congregation for 16 years. In June we held a special time of fellowship to thank Rev. Neil and to wish him God's blessing in his new pastoral charge.

A Congregational Workshop was held at Erin Mills United Church to discuss our needs for Erindale. Moving ahead with the information gathered, Mary Patterson, Ralph Nott, Peter Keller and I interviewed candidates who would be willing to minister with us until a suitable candidate answered the call to come to Erindale. We were blessed to have Rev. Don Parsons accept our invitation to be the half time supply minister at Erindale. A Joint Needs Assessment Committee was formed and the report that they compiled was submitted to Presbytery for approval. Many hours went into this report and we thank the members of that committee for their dedication to attend meetings over the summer. The JNAC report can be found on our church website. A Joint Search Committee was formed and the full time position for an ordained minister was advertised in the Observer. At the time of writing the Search Committee is reviewing applications.

Erindale is a Partner for Life representing Central Ontario in Blood Donor Clinics in Mississauga. Thank you to the four donors from Erindale who have donated the Gift of Life this year. We encourage all who are able, to donate blood at local clinics and to mention Erindale's ID number when you register at the reception desk. ERIN436289

Erindale is partnering with two other churches in Mississauga to sponsor a refugee family. Our goal at Erindale is to raise at least \$15,000. Jim Bright is the Chair of the Refugee Sponsorship and we appreciate his leadership. Your help in this endeavour would be appreciated.

It has been a pleasure to work with Rev. Neil, Rev. Parsons, Rob Anderson and Sarah McEwing. I am grateful for their support over my 2 year term as Chair of Council. Ralph Nott will be Chair of Council as of September 2016 and we thank him for his leadership at Erindale.

Respectfully submitted
Margaret McCrae

Current Chair of Council

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.

The fall and winter have been full of wonderful activities that would not have been possible without the support of our Erindale family. These activities include:

- **Erindale Emporium** - On October 15th, 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.
- **Full court meeting of Halton Presbytery** - On October 25th, John and Marilyn Hurst hosted the event, setting up the sanctuary for the meeting, and providing refreshments for the break. On behalf of Erindale, I welcomed the presbytery members to Erindale, and provided a brief update on what was happening in our church.
- **Joint Search Committee Recommendation** - On October 30th, a congregational meeting was held to receive the report from the Joint Search Committee, and to vote on the recommendation to call Rev. Brenna Nickel as Erindale's minister.
- **Organs & Octaves concert** - On November 12th, 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 11th, 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.
- **Farewell to Rev. Don** – On January 29th after the Sunday Worship service, a celebration of Rev. Don's ministry at Erindale took place. The UCW hosted a luncheon, members of various committees provided a retrospect on Rev. Don's ministry, Rob and the choir who augmented the event with music, and the Erindale family who came out to offer their good wishes.

On February 1st, Erindale welcomed Rev. Brenna as our full-time minister. Rev. Brenna comes to Erindale with new ideas and perspectives, and I look forward to working with her, as the Erindale congregation works to live out its mission in our community, and around the world.

Looking to the future, the 42nd General Council made major decisions to transform the structure of The United Church of Canada. Published on February 23, 2016 and last modified on September 19, 2016, the eight remits approved by the 42nd General Council that could transform the church are now on the [GC42 website](#).

Erindale United must vote on 5 of the remits. Congregational information sessions will be held to provide background on each remit, and to provide an opportunity for open dialogue and feedback. The Erindale Council will provide the vote on behalf of Erindale United Church.

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 2016

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 was well attended and enjoyed by many.

Communications Committee

Highlights

This year Fraser Code agreed to become Chair of the Communications Committee, and assume the prime responsibility of editing the Church Website. There are NO regularly scheduled meetings of this tiny Committee (we use email), but I report to Council at every one of their meetings. Our website is now an effective part of our internal and external communications. We thank Wayne Irwin of ChurchWeb Canada for his assistance in reformatting our old Church website.

We publish the Church Newsletter, *The Grapevine*, four times during the Church year, in both electronic and print form. Rob Anderson, our Music Director, is the editor of *The Grapevine*. Sarah McEwing, our Office Administrator, assembles the material for the Video Notices on display each Sunday in the Narthex, and sends e-mail "blasts" to the congregation when indicated. We also thank Doug Johnston and John Hurst for being helpful advisors.

Membership

Chair: Fraser Code

Others (ex officio): Rob Anderson, 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 the members and friends of Erindale United Church.

Committee Members

Pauline Beagley, Jennifer Code, Dianne Drennan, Pat Jenkins, Margaret McCrae, Eileen Roberts, Cindy Williams and Sandra Wiseman. Other members of our congregation who participate in the prayer activity are Duane McIlwraith, Ruth Nott, and Marie Porter. Eileen Roberts, who served as our secretary for so many years, returned to England to be near her sister. Pauline Beagley, co-chair, has taken a leave of absence as she deals with illness.

Achievements in 2016

- Continued to distribute and mail the Grapevine newsletter to our congregation four times a year. Many members of the congregation now view the Grapevine on the church web site. If you have not already given the office your email and would like to read it electronically please notify us at churchoffice@erindaleunited.church. You will be notified by email when a new issue has been posted. Thanks to the couriers who help in the delivery of the Grapevine and to editor Rob Anderson and to Doug Johnston.
- Cindy Williams continues to mail our sympathy, get well, new member, thinking of you, new baby and 1st 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 organized and hosted Christmas in a Minor Key on December 6. Rev. Don Parsons conducted a service which was peaceful, reflective, and supportive. He was assisted by

his friend and fellow minister, John Ambrose, who played the piano. The service ended with us sharing the flame of the minister's candle, so that the darkened sanctuary was aglow with candles. Refreshments were served after the service. More than 40 people were in attendance.

- Cards were mailed in December to each person in our congregation who was bereaved during 2016.
- Sandra placed red roses on the name plates in the memorial garden just before Christmas. They looked beautiful against the white snow.
- A prayer request box remains 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.

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
- Several members of the committee and Rev. Don visited Evergreen Retirement Home in the spring and fall to celebrate a simple communion service and share refreshments with some Erindale members who are now residents there. Rev. Don used communion vessels which he had brought from a visit to the Taizé community in France.

Thanks to Rev. Don for pastoral visits made throughout the year and for his support of our committee. Thanks also to Sarah McEwing for her cheerful, efficient, and prompt support. She even anticipates our needs.

Plans for 2017

- 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 Grapevine lists
- 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 Pauline Beagley and Jennifer Code, Co-Chairs

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 2016

Provided leadership and coordination to make the first Erindale Emporium in October a huge success. The objective of the Emporium was to get members of the church involved, have fun and raise money. We had over 55 volunteers all proudly wearing their bright yellow tee shirts, the BBQ, tea room, ice cream truck and music all added to the festivities and over \$6000 was raised. Highlights of work completed by the committee - installed a new water line, procured an air conditioning unit for the school, bought a new copier for the office, replaced lights in the sanctuary, installed new railings in the back entrance, coordinated plumbing improvements, fixed concrete & tiles for the school, painted the minister's office and did some furnace repairs.

Plans For 2017

Organize a Christmas themed fund raising event scheduled to take place on November 4. Project manage Gardner Hall renovations to improve sound (noise reduction), paint and possibly replace flooring and fix up the stage area.

Committee Members

David Drennan, Carolyn Hendricks, Craig Laferriere , Brian Longley, Barbara Manchur (Treasurer), Paul Sabourin, Steve Wykurz, Norma Macintyre, Bill McIntosh, Bob Rogers, 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 three members: Paul Sabourin (Chair), Steve Wykurz and Laura Turner. Christian Hawn agreed to join the group in December but his first official meeting was not until January 2017.

Our 2016 Stewardship campaign had three elements:

- 1) We continued with a monthly bulletin insert that included a "Stewardship Thought", and a "pay-a-bill" prompter. Both were well received, and a number of bills were paid as a result, in addition to the payers' regular givings.
- 2) On Stewardship Sunday we had three brief presentation/testimonials with Christian Hawn, Doug Johnston and Craig Laferriere as the presenters. The low-key approach (as we didn't have a pressing budgetary need) was apparently well received.
- 3) We highlighted that the budgets for 2016 and 2017 looked like we would have surpluses (as a result of lower minister costs), so the simple "ask" for the congregation was to stay the course on their 2016 givings.

The just completed stewardship campaign had the following results:

70 families pledged (up from 65 last year),

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

Based on our calculations of additional PAR and loose offerings, our best estimates is that we should reach approximately \$215,000 in givings for 2016, and we provided that number to F&P for the 2016 budgets.

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.

Contacts Paul Sabourin (Chair), Steve Wykurz, Laura Turner

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 continuing education plans for the subsequent year.

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is the human resources committee of the church. The committee provides a consultative and supportive agency 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.

Performance reviews were conducted, personnel policies and procedures were reviewed and ad hoc issues were handled as they arose. 2016 has been a busy but productive year for M & P.

2017 will be the beginning of a new journey for our Erindale congregation, as the Rev. Brenna Nickel joins us to share her ministry and spiritual leadership. We look forward to working with, and supporting, Brenna as she develops her ministry with us.

Contacts George Beagley (Chair), Peter Keller (Interim Vice Chair), Doug Brien, Lowell Hendricks 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.

Achievements in 2016

- We collected used eyeglasses to support those in need in foreign lands. Used eye glasses were distributed through the Lions Club International of Mississauga.
- We supported the Deacon's Cupboard Food Bank as it continues to serve the community faithfully, providing monthly food supplies 11 months of the year. The guest list increased in 2016.
- The Outreach Committee started working on a new speaker initiative to run in conjunction with St. Peter's Anglican and Erin Mills United Churches. The first seminar is scheduled for early 2017.
- Bienvenu Silyanzabo, our Congolese medical student completed the final internship on his journey to become an orthopedic surgeon. He is now employed full time at Rwancole Hospital in Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This file remains active as he struggles to establish a living wage for himself. We have supplied emergency financial assistance to Bienvenu as the hospital salary as proven inadequate.
- We, as a committee, provide loose oversight of the Northwest Mississauga Constituent Group (NorwestCG). This group is a joint formal effort between Erindale United Church, Erin Mills United Church and Streetsville United Church to sponsor a Syrian refugee family to the Mississauga area. The group also receives informal support from Eden United Church. Our first effort this year was unsuccessful as entry to our refugee family was denied by Canadian authorities. Currently NorwestCG has applications submitted to sponsor a single Syrian man as well as an application to sponsor a Syrian family of four people.

Your Outreach Committee is thankful and proud of Erindale's generous response to these major projects. We are amazed and grateful that with God's help and guidance, a small community church such as ourselves, half a world away from Eastern Congo and Syria can make such a huge impact. We ask for your prayers and continued support as we move forward with these projects and as discern where else we might be able to do God's work in the coming year.

Outreach Committee wishes to thank Al Cedrez and Byron Bright for their ongoing assistance in French translation and communication with Bienvenu.

Plans for 2017

- Possible support for Rwandale Hospital in East Congo.
- Syrian Refugee Sponsorship
- Deacon's Cupboard Volunteers
- Used Eyeglasses

Members Jim Bright (Chair) and Mavis Mahabir, Frank Mahabir, Sarah McEwing

Many thanks to all those others who took on volunteer roles in these programs, without your help Erindale's Outreach programs could not have happened.

Contact Jim Bright, Chair

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 of Trustees 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.

2016 Highlights

- Work continued collecting and organizing material in our church archives.
- We continued to employ the services of "Green Thumb" landscapers to maintain both the Memorial Garden and the garden to the east of the sanctuary.
- We managed and controlled the Memorial and Manse Funds.
- We facilitated 2 interments in the Memorial Gardens and arranged for the engraving and placing of the memorial stones in the gardens and memorial markers at the door leading to the gardens.
- We continued to assess our risks, prioritize them and communicate with the group concerned in order to manage or mitigate the risks.
- We acted as the interface on behalf of Erindale United Church on finalizing the bequests received from the estates of Kelvin Hannah and Jim Watson.

The Board of Trustees wish to thank Rev. Don Parsons for his thoughtful insights and well-informed commentary over the past year and a half.

Plans for 2017

- We will continue to develop the plan and further engage the congregation in building our archives and documenting our institutional memory
- We will make a recommendation to Church Council on how we should invest the proceeds from the 2 bequests we have received.
- We will reassess our investment policies for both the Manse Fund and the Endowment Fund with a view to increase our returns while still minimizing the risks.
- We will continue our work on risk assessments and present our findings to the appropriate group.
- We will continue to oversee the management and maintenance of the memorial garden and the twin garden to the right of the sanctuary.

Members Earl Cochrane (Chair), Doug Johnston (Vice Chair), Brian Longley, Eleanor McIntosh, Fred Williams, Priscilla Brandy, Tom McIlwraith, Mary Patterson, Garry Jenkins, Rev. Don Parsons 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 2016

- Spiritual renewal through Interim Ministry: There is no doubt that the highlight for 2016 was the privilege of enjoying the care and leadership of Rev. Don Parsons. We supported him in offering a Taizé workshop; reintroducing Maundy Thursday Service to our Easter journey; and continuing to give children and youth an active voice in Worship. We are grateful to his guidance and wish him and his wife Marg nothing but blessings as they leave Erindale.
- Regular Worship Services: We supported 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 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. Our Mennonite friends offered a series of Services with the theme "Them and Us – Which are We?"
- Music Ministry: We supported the Choir's request for new robes, which were introduced to the congregation in time for Thanksgiving. We continue to support the Choir, Psalm 98 and Music Director Rob Anderson in exploring integrated music ministry.
- Organ Concert: With support from Council, we established a work group which planned and hosted a beautiful organ concert, "Organs & Octaves" in November. Marilyn Johnston, Laura Turner, Carolyn Hendricks and Barbara Manchur coordinated an uplifting musical evening.
- Protocols and contingency plans: protocols for addressing medical and fire emergencies during Services; safeguarding copyright; and cancelling Services due to inclement weather or public emergencies were developed.
- Christmas Sanctuary decorations: We replaced a few wreaths in the Sanctuary as well as the Angel in the Narthex.
- Fellowship: The Committee hosted refreshment hours in the month of June.

Plans for 2017

- Welcome and work with Rev. Brenna Nickel
- Develop a "sound crew" that can work the new sound board
- Document for knowledge sharing purposes, the procedures that support Worship, e.g. antependia change-over; Communion set-up and clean-up; Baptism preparation and follow-up; Christmas and Easter decorating and transitions
- Continue to develop alternative bulletin covers using Erindale scenes/symbols

- Continue to support the music director in the enhancement and integration of all music programs into the Worship Service
- 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
- 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), Steve Code (Band Leader), Brian Crombie, Marilyn Johnston, Claudette Neita, Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott, Rev. Don Parsons, 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.

Introduction

The Choir is happy to welcome a new alto, and is fortunate to have a reasonable number of singers attending our worship services. We continue to produce fine music under the direction of Robert Anderson, and gratefully acknowledge the appreciation and support of our work by the congregation.

Changes in the Choir in 2016

There hasn't been a Junior Choir in the congregation for some time, so this year we started referring to ourselves simply as the "Choir" (rather than the "Senior Choir").

Because most of our members are well into retirement age, we are not readily able to sponsor major projects such as congregational dinners and the pre-Christmas sale of baked goods. We are thankful to the UCW and others within the church that have stepped in to continue these activities.

Achievements in 2016

The Choir concentrated on service music/introits/a cappella singing, endeavouring to maintain high standards of diction and harmony during anthems. We also sang at all funerals and memorial services conducted in the sanctuary, as a support to bereaved families.

We bought the "More Voices" hymn book for Choir members, introducing a selection of new songs from it. We also sang some Taizé meditative chants from "Voices United" as inspired by Rev. Don Parsons. We did not, however, prepare Fauré's "Cantique de Jean Racine" as intended for a new music goal for 2016. Solo performances continued at approximately the same frequency as in 2015.

2016 – A Year in Review

The Choir presented a full church year's selection of music for each of our main worship periods. On January 10, we led a service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany. During Lent, we participated in a Taizé workshop for the congregation led by Rev. Don Parsons following the Sunday service on February 28th. We provided special music through Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

Regular Thursday evening choir rehearsals paused at the end of May. We had a "pick-up choir" for the month of June, choosing appropriate music each Sunday for the voices present at the pre-service rehearsals.

During July and August, we held joint worship services with the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship in the EUC sanctuary. In July, the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship provided the music (with enthusiastic congregational singing) and led the worship services. It was wonderful to be reunited with our Mennonite friends again this summer. Rev. Don Parsons preached in August, and Rob Anderson led the service music (except for when he attended a convention for organists).

In the fall, a special congregational committee was formed (under the leadership of Marilyn Johnston from the Choir) to present the inaugural concert of our new Allen Bravura L341 organ. Unfortunately, illness forced Rob Anderson to withdraw from this concert. Although Rob's health was our foremost concern, a successful program was delivered on November 12 by guest organist Shawn Grenke of Toronto and wind instrument player Roselyn Brown – a longtime friend who grew up in our Erindale congregation.

The Remembrance Day program (arranged and produced by Robert Anderson) inspired us with bagpipe (Jim Caddis) and trumpet (Jennifer Peace) music, along with the assistance of organist Rev. George Dunkley. The next few Sundays were covered by supply organists Rev. George Dunkley and Dr. Lorrie Dollof. Once Rob was well on the road to recovery, we resumed our final Advent music schedule. We presented full Christmas Eve (with soloist Susan Bowman) and Christmas Day programs. Those performances provided a well-rounded conclusion to this year's vocal music.

Prospects for 2017

The Choir – and particularly our Music Director Robert Anderson – will begin in February to work with our new full-time minister, Rev. Brenna Nickel. We hope to enrich and refresh the musical liturgy of our services, and promote congregational singing. The challenge continues, as in recent years, to blend and balance four-part harmonies in a group that rarely numbers more than a dozen voices. Enthusiasm is high and commitment is strong for the members of the Choir. We look forward to singing harmonious music, and to strongly supporting of our new minister on her arrival. As always, new choir members, in all voice ranges, will be most warmly welcomed!

Membership

Soprano: Susan Bowman, Salina Campbell, Aileen Jamieson, Marilyn Johnston, Mavis Mahabir, Carol Townsend, Dorothy Weston, Gladys Williams

Alto: Ellen Dunlop, Barb Manchur, Shirley Saull, Dora Williams

Tenor: Fraser Code, Doug Johnston, Edward Neufeld

Bass: Don Lay, Tom McIlwraith, Fred Williams

Executive

Director of Music: Robert Anderson

President: Fraser Code **Past President:** Edward Neufeld

Librarian: Dora Williams **Gown and Collar Custodian:** Mavis Mahabir

Contact Fraser Code

Psalm 98

About Erindale's Worship Band

Psalm 98 is made up of dedicated volunteers of all ages. We draw from a wide variety of musical styles including pop, rock, jazz, country, classical and gospel. We aim to encourage participation in worship through music.

Membership

Randy Ali; drums
Scott Ali; bass
Steven Ali; keyboards
Jim Bright; guitar, vocals
Carrie Code; percussion
Steve Code; bandleader
Matthew Dawson; audio
Cindy Maharaj; vocals
Harvey Watson; vocals, flute
Linda Watson; vocals
Samantha Watson; vocals
Sarah Watson; vocals

"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things." – Psalm 98:1

Contact Steve Code

Erindale Chancel Players

This year the Erindale Chancel Players had the pleasure of presenting "*Is Gabrielle Lost...?*" by Doug Johnston at the early service on Christmas Eve. It describes the scene that takes place in a Mississauga coffee shop on Christmas Eve, when the angel Gabrielle turns up. The ECP also presented a dramatic reading at the Good Friday service.

The ECP consists of Karen Bright, Brian Crombie, Gary Jenkins, Marilyn Johnston Craig Laferriere, Claudette Neita and Doug Johnston. Pat Jenkins and Duane McIlwraith 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 7,500 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 provide assistance to 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, for the moment at least, our Presbytery remains as it has been.

This year, a process of Remits (the method by which we change our United Church Manual) began in Presbyteries and Congregations. Halton Presbytery voted in favour of this restructuring. Now this work comes to Congregations, and Erindale United Church will be dealing with Remits in 2017.

A Presbytery is responsible for the basic oversight of the pastoral charges in the Presbytery as well as the presbytery-accountable staff (members of Ordered Ministry and Designated Lay Ministers). Membership in the Presbytery is made up of all Ministry staff, all past Chairpersons of Presbytery, all past Presidents of Conference within the bounds of Halton Presbytery, elected Lay Delegates from the pastoral charges, approximately ten Members-at-Large who are appointed to carry out specific responsibilities, and appropriate representatives from several church organizations. The Presbytery is also responsible for students and candidates for Ministry within its bounds, to supervise candidates, and to make recommendations to Conference for each candidate upon completion of their educational requirements.

I had the honour and privilege to participate in the Presbytery meeting which confirmed the call of our new Minister – Rev. Brenna Nickel as well as to be a member of the joint search committee during 2016.

The Presbytery Full Court met eight times in 2016 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 had earlier decided to discontinue the 4th at 4 meetings. Both meeting formats seem to have run their course. We are looking for new ways to provide collegial activities for Presbytery members.

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.

Highlights and activities for 2016 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). Currently we are providing new ministry grants for St. Paul's Milton Satellite Ministry.
- 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.
- 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. Walter Sowa remains a Member at Large of the Presbytery, and last year, we gladly welcomed Horace Neita as a new Presbytery Representative. We are delighted and thankful for his talents. John Hurst is a Commissioner to 42nd General Council which was held in August, 2015 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, is a member of National Church Permanent Committee for Finance and is a member of the Audit Committee as well. 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.
- Hamilton Conference conducts meeting every two or three years depending on need, and in 2017, this meeting will be 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.

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 and the Grapevine newsletter. There are two units which meet monthly.

Mary and Martha Circle

This group usually meets monthly on the third Tuesday for fellowship in the McGill Room under the leadership of Dianne Drennan. Over the year the programmes included: an afternoon of fellowship with the theme of "Aprons"; a visit to the Darling Home for Kids; making up 49 Christmas baskets for Deacon's Cupboard; and a Christmas luncheon at "Michael's Back Door".

Friends in Faith

This group has some meetings during the daytime if an "outing" is planned. Other meetings are on the third Tuesday evening, in the McGill Room with Ruth Nott as leader. During the year the programmes included: fellowship evening with the "Aprons" theme; a visit to the Darling Home for Kids; a beaded bracelet workshop led by Marilyn Johnston; a Christmas luncheon at the Living Arts Centre; collected hats, mitts, socks and gloves for the Open Door; and a "Games" evening where both new and old board games were enjoyed by all.

In February the units met together for our Financial Annual Meeting (held then in preparation for the Erindale Congregation Annual Meeting), and enjoyed a DVD of Gospel Music presented by the Mary and Martha Circle.

The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers was held in June along with a social time, dinner and guest speaker. This year our speaker was Melody Jackson from the Darling Home for Kids. As Development Manager, Melody gave us insight into this centre for medically fragile and technologically dependent children.

World Day of Prayer in March was attended by several of our congregation. Ruth Nott, Susan Lyons, and Rachel Nott participated in this service prepared by the women of Cuba.

We acknowledge the support of the congregation for our special projects – donations to the Breakfast programme operated by the Erin Mills Youth Centre; the Fellowship of the Least Coin; sale of tortierres and other savory pies; sale of United Church calendars; and the Festive Frosty Fare in December which generated \$1,375 this year.

A donation of \$1,000.00 is budgeted for the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church, and donations are made, as necessary, to special needs and projects of the congregation. At the end of 2016 discretionary disbursements were made to the following: Armagh; Canadian Red Cross- Fort McMurray; DAM-Meadowvale Drop In; Darling Home for Kids; Deacons Cupboard; Doctors without Borders; Erin Mills Youth Centre Breakfast Program; Heart House

Peel; Ian Anderson House; Interim Place; Open Door; Our Place Peel; Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre; Sleeping Children around the World. We contributed to the Syrian Refugee Fund through the United Church of Canada, and also made a donation to the Syrian Refugee Family Sponsorship in which Erindale is participating. We co-operated with the Finance and Property committee during the spring Garage Sale. Several members of the UCW participated in the Erindale Emporium in the fall.

Members of UCW, along with other women of the congregation catered several funerals. The UCW furnishes and maintains the McGill Room and kitchen. This year a sub-committee of the executive is working with F&P to update the lighting and provide fresh paint for the McGill Room. The UCW supplies the coffee and cookies that are enjoyed by all at coffee hour after Sunday service.

Our visitation convener, Dorothy Weston, diligently contacts shut-ins and delivers flowers at Easter and Christmas. Cards are sent to recognize special occasions, bereavement and 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 2016-2017 Executive

President	Pat Jenkins
Treasurer	Norma Macintyre
Secretary	Pat Viau
Past President	Ann Edge
Conveners:	
Kitchen	Marilyn Hurst
Publicity	Ann Edge
Receptions/Social	Susan Lyons, Joyce Murdoch
Garage Sale	Marilyn Hurst
Visitation	Dorothy Weston
Church Council representative	Eleanor McIntosh
Unit Leaders:	
Mary and Martha Circle	Dianne Drennan
Friends in Faith	Ruth Nott

Report prepared by Pat Jenkins, President

Fraser Code's Bible Seminar

Synopsis

It has been some time since an adult Bible study series has been offered at Erindale United Church. I volunteered to lead eight different seminars once a month from September 2015 to May 2016, except for November 2015. Entitled "A Bible Seminar for the 21st Century", the seminars were based on the way I have personally approached the Bible for years, without any reference to superstition or the supernatural. The contents of this seminar have been transcribed by myself and do not necessarily represent any official opinions of Erindale United Church or the United Church of Canada.

For the supporting textbook, I chose Northrop Frye's "The Double Vision: Language and Meaning in Religion" (1991). I came to regret this choice, because Frye often assumes his readers already are familiar with the many books he has read, and does not supply explanatory footnotes for his cryptic allusions to the many nowadays obscure works of English literature he was thinking about. Many people found this book impenetrable, and did not want to "return to University" simply to participate in an adult Church Bible study program.

For those who may want to pursue this lonely approach with me, I have archived the transcribed contents of my course presentations and the seminar discussions on my own website, with a link to it from our Church's site. It is complete, with many linked web references (mainly the original recorded lectures by Northrop Frye, a true "Hero" of our United Church of Canada).

At the end of the Seminar, I was outvoted (9-1) with respect to my skepticism about the traditional view of an afterlife, despite there being no evidence from contemporary physics for its existence. Nevertheless, I found it a rewarding exercise to write down my own inner beliefs, and try to communicate them to my friends in our church.

Membership Open to anyone available when offered

Current Status Suspended, but web-archived

Contact Fraser Code

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 4th 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 contributions 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. The book club is for all members of Erindale. Ideally the size of the group is 15 to 20 participants

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 covenant by Naomi Ragen
- Sweetland by Michael Crummy
- Bury your Dead by Louise Penny
- Years of Wonder by Gwendolyn Brooks
- Motorcycles & Sweetgrass by Drew Hayden Taylor
- The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
- The Blue Castle by L.M. Montgomery
- The Children Act by Ian McEwan

Members Anne Carpenter, Cynthia Carr, Jennifer Code, Joy Cunningham, Sandra Butcher, Brian Duckett, Pat Jenkins, Sue Lyons, Marilyn Johnston, Duane McIlwraith, Horace Neita, Ruth Nott, Carol Townsend

Contact Marilyn Johnston, Coordinator

Friday Morning Coffee Group

Activities

We are a friendly group of a dozen or so folk (seniors) who have been meeting for the past several years during the months of September – June in the McGill Room each week for an “hour” or so of fellowship over coffee from 10 am to 11:30 am. The things we chat about range from life events, Church topics, to current events, arts and culture. Sharing experiences by telling stories, jokes and recalling memories of the history we were part of can lead to meaningful moments and insight into life’s challenges. Sometimes, when the minister is present we also discuss religious topics. Drop in and join us in conversation and become young at heart.

Membership Open to anyone anytime on a drop-in basis

Contact Fraser Code

Craft and Conversation

This new group began in September 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, Marilyn Johnston (Coordinator), Mary Anna King, Ruth Nott, Linda Watson, Sandra Wiseman

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 peoples' 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 2nd 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

Some survivors of the EGGs didn't want to give up on the group and continued to meet once a month. Over the years, people have moved away or left the group. New people were added and the current EGG is 19 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. Personally, I think the group is important. As I looked around the church on January 1, 2017, I could see that most of the EGG attended the New Year's Day service. 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, Brian and Marg Duckett, John and Marilyn Hurst, Pat and Garry Jenkins, Vera 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.

	2015	2016
Number of Households under Pastoral Care	240	238
Number of Adult Baptisms	1	0
Children Baptised	3	6
Members received a) under 18	0	0
b) 18 or older	1	0
Members received by Transfer or otherwise	1	1
Members removed by Death	5	5
Members removed by a) Certificate of Transfer	2	1
b) Otherwise	6	5
Total Confirmed Membership	290	284
Total Non-resident Members (included above)	24	23

Baptisms

Children:

Auroura Susan Baverstock	Eden Madeleine Mahabir
Madison Dawn White Nadon	Joshua Rogelio Proctor
Kalum Alexander Rupert	Jacob Alexander Storozuk

Adults: None

One Member Received by transfer or otherwise

One Member Transferred Out

Weddings

Aaron Csatory/Nicole Arnett-off site
 Robert Colgan/Deirdre Skol-off site
 Roy Tshibangu/Sandrine Katende
 Christopher Cordeiro/Ricki-Lee Baxter
 Brian Nguyen/Thimalshini Wijesinghe
 Stephen Fargey/Magee Druce-off site

In Memoriam

Joan Allen (Member)	Margaret Jackson (Member)
Frances Morden (Member)	Mary Logan
Anita Kelly (Member)	Ken (William) Derrrough
John Shores (Member)	

Erindale United Church, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday March 6, 2016

Prelude, in the church sanctuary

Welcome and the Life of the Church – John Hurst. John invited Steve Wykurz to come forward to announce EUC's event of October 15, 2016. Sarah McEwing won the prize for naming our event "Erindale Emporium."

Hymn #325. "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

Invitation to Worship – Rev. Don Parsons

The Fourth Symbol for our Lenten Pilgrimage – the Cross – brought forward by Cynthia Carr

Annual Meeting is called to order – Part One

1. Gathering Prayer; The Lord's Prayer – Rev. Don Parsons

2. Election of Chairperson and Secretary – Rev. Don Parsons

Rev. Parsons suggested that Margaret McCrae, Chair of Church Council, chair the Erindale Annual General Meeting. **Moved by Terry Wykurz, seconded by Duane McIlwraith, that Margaret McCrae chair the Erindale AGM. All in favour. Carried.**

Rev. Parsons suggested Duane McIlwraith be recording secretary for the Erindale AGM. **Moved by Garry Jenkins, seconded by Marlene Thompson, that Duane McIlwraith be recording secretary for the Erindale AGM. All in favour. Carried.**

The regular worship service continued with Hymn #509 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky." In his conversation with children and youth, Rev. Don talked about the cross brought forward earlier in the service and its importance as a symbol of Christian worship in both life and death. He asked the children to point out crosses visible in the sanctuary. After a prayer the children left for Sunday School.

John Hurst led the reading, first with a prayer for illumination, and then a New Testament passage from the letter of Paul to the Colossians, Chapter 3, verses 15 to 17. Following a Lenten anthem, Rev. Don invited parishioners to contemplate that "we are God's living story" and that Erindale's annual report is a "scrapbook of our life together." Christians need the occasional "jolt from comfort and complacency." When Rev. Don invited them, members of the congregation called out words of gratitude for their life at Erindale, an act that led into collection of the offering.

3. Affirmation of Thanksgiving for the Life of Our Church. The statement on the back of the bulletin was read responsively by the congregation.

4. Commissioning members of the EUC Council and Committees for 2016. "Table of Organization for Council and Committees" was included in the service bulletin. Rev. Don invited parishioners listed to stand and be recognized, and thanked them for their commitment to the life of the church through 2016. **Moved by Dianne Drennan, seconded by Irwin Kelly, that "Table of Organization for Council and Committees" be approved. All in favour. Carried.**

5. Closing Hymn #569: "You Call Us Out."

6. **Council Report for 2015-2016 by Margaret McCrae, Council Chair:** Margaret thanked EUC staff members for their gifts to our church: Rev. Don for his spiritual nourishment; Rob Anderson and the Choir for their ministry of music; Steve Code for Psalm 98; and Richard Hancock for directing the Open Stage. Sarah McEwing, office administrator, keeps things running smoothly in a calm and steady way. Margaret thanked those who have come forward to fill vacancies on Council and on various committees, reminding the Congregation that a few vacancies remain.

Regarding staff positions, Joyce Murdoch has offered to take on the role of Wedding Coordinator. As a result of the diminishing availability of strong young men to take on strenuous jobs, Finance and Property Committee will prepare a job description for hiring an hourly paid handyman/project manager to serve part-time as needed. Also, EUC seeks a liaison person to maintain regular contact with Tender Years school officials. Margaret thanked George Beagley for his years of dedication in both of these areas. Ever tireless, George has this year taken the Chair of Ministry and Personnel.

Margaret asked for continuing prayerful support for the Search Committee as it continues its quest for a pastor for the EUC congregation. She thanked the congregation for the wonderful support it has given the Refugee Sponsorship Programme; contributions as of February 29th were \$19,970. She closed by thanking the Congregation for its role in ensuring that Erindale continues to be an active vibrant church in the Mississauga community.

Rev. Don gave the Commission and Benediction. Choir sang the Stainer seven-fold amen, and Rob played the postlude as the congregation recessed at 11:33am to Gardner Hall for light refreshments and conversation.

Annual Meeting is called to order – Part Two

Margaret McCrae reconvened the AGM in Gardiner Hall at 11:55am. She thanked the Search Committee for setting up the table and chairs in the hall after their meeting on Saturday morning. She thanked Susan Lyons and her team for arranging lunch refreshments, and Steve Wykurz and Paul Sabourin and the team for setting up the financial presentation.

7. Paul Sabourin moved approval of the minutes of the AGM held on Sunday March 1, 2015 (pgs. 28-30). Seconded by David Drennan. All in favour. Carried. There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. Thomas McIlwraith moved approval of the minutes of the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday October 25, 2015 (pgs. 31-32). Seconded by Marilyn Johnston. All in favour. Carried. There was no business arising from the minutes.

9. Dianne Drennan moved acceptance of the reports of the standing committees (pgs. 6-22). Seconded by George Beagley. All in favour. Carried. There was no business arising from the reports.

10. Barbara Manchur moved acceptance of the report of Halton Presbytery (pgs. 23-24). Seconded by Pauline Beagley. All in favour. Carried. There was no business arising from the report.

11. Ann Edge moved acceptance of the report of UCW Presbytery (pgs. 25-26). Seconded by David Drennan. All in favour. Carried. There was no business arising from the report.

12. Duane McIlwraith moved approval of the Congregational Statistics Report (pg. 27). Seconded by Barbara Manchur. All in favour. Carried. There was no business arising from the report.

13. Paul Sabourin, Chair of Stewardship and member of Finance and Property, presented and narrated financial statements projected on a large screen. This material was for information only, based on committee discussion and approval during the past year; there were no resolutions on which to vote. Copies of financial statements are available upon request.

Paul reviewed the projected and actual statements for 2015 and the projections for 2016-2018. 2015 has been a very good year financially for Erindale, in part because the clergy salary item was lower than normal in the interim between permanent ministers. He cited the importance of a “healthy”

surplus, stressing the importance of it in order to face unanticipated emergency expenses and keep the Congregation's aging building in good repair.

Paul's review of designated funds was particularly informative. The Manse Fund was topped out at \$117,500 in 2015 and is a reserve that can be drawn upon for major capital items. However any withdrawals must be paid back in time. The Capital Fund is intended for short term projects. The Endowment Fund is a resource in perpetuity of which 4 per cent must be incorporated into the EUC operating budget each year. The Memorial Fund is held by the trustees, to be used at their discretion; in 2015 \$13,198 was spent to refurbish the board room. John Hurst (Presbytery representative) interjected with the comment that Erindale is in far better financial shape than a great many other churches in Halton Presbytery. Paul responded by cautioning that one must plan thoughtfully and conservatively.

Special funds are monies directed to particular causes and will typically cycle in and out during the year; such is the case with the Deacon's Cupboard. The Congo student fund is a commitment of \$200US per month to wind up in August 2016. Syrian Refugee funds likewise have a finite duration.

Congregational givings have been flat and unchanged for several years, but the threat of decline is ever in mind, with more people leaving EUC than joining each year. Because many parishioners are on the PAR program, the year-round cash flow is fairly steady; seasonal irregularities are largely non-existent. Rev. Don advised that prospective ministers may be expected to look at a congregation's givings to Mission and Service because they feel that this is a good indicator of the congregation's overall health. Candidates should not be expected to understand the special funds, however, even if EUC perceives these also to be part of outreach. John Hurst reported that pending reorganization of the National Church will include a system of assessments of individual churches. In the meantime, he recommends that Erindale maintain its M & S fund as it is.

The Chair thanked all members of F&P for their expertise, and commended Paul Sabourin for his clear presentation.

14. Barbara Manchur moved that the firm of Bazar McBean, Professional Chartered Accountants of Oakville, be appointed auditors for 2016. Seconded by Bill McIntosh. All in favour. Carried.

15. Other business:

Dallas Lowe asked how EUC advertises for people or groups that might wish to rent church space. George Beagley reported that at the present moment there was no space available, but agreed that advertising is an option that might have to be considered in the future.

Fraser Code asked that various congregational activities not mentioned in the 2015 Annual Report be recorded for information. Activities include the monthly adult Bible seminar, the Friday morning coffee hour, a long-continuing EGG group, a monthly book group, the McGill Room 'Used Book Exchange', and the Open Stage evening every second month. **Moved by Fraser Code, seconded by John Hurst. All in favour. Carried**

16. At 12:45pm the Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Marilyn Johnston so moved, seconded by Dianne Drennan. Carried.

17. Prior to offering the benediction, Rev. Don noted that never before in his ministry had he held an appointment described as, in Paul Sabourin's words, an "episodic event." The benediction followed a ripple of laughter.

Secretary: Duane McIlwraith

Chair: Margaret McCrae



Minutes - Erindale Congregational Meeting - Joint Search Committee Report

October 30, 2016
11:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Sanctuary, Erindale United Church

Chair:	Mary Patterson/John Hurst
Attendees:	Paul Lamont, Carolyn Hendricks, Ralph Nott, Rachel Nott, George Beagley, Christian Hawn, Susan Lyons, Doug Johnston, Erindale United Church Voting Members
Regrets:	Rev. Sheila Murray
Guests:	

1. Mary Patterson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance, and provided some opening remarks. The congregation was reminded that only members of Erindale United Church are eligible to vote at this meeting.
2. **Introduction of Halton Presbytery Representative:** Mary introduced Paul Lamont to the congregation, as the Halton Presbytery representative on Erindale's Joint Search Committee. Paul will run the remainder of this meeting. Rev. Sheila Murry was the other Presbytery representative, but was unable to attend.
3. **Appointment of a Recording Secretary:** Paul called for names to be presented for a recording secretary. Ralph Nott was presented as a candidate by Mary Paterson, seconded by John Hurst. Ralph accepted the request and agreed to be the recording secretary for this meeting. Vote called by Paul, motion was carried.
4. **Opening Prayer:** Rev. Don Parsons provided the opening prayer for this meeting.
5. **Discussion of the JSC Report:** Mary Patterson presented the report of the Joint Search Committee to the congregation. Mary provided some background on the challenges the search committee encountered in finding a suitable minister to call to Erindale. Mary thanked Rev. Don Parsons for his ministry to Erindale while the search committee worked to find a suitable minister to call. Mary indicated that the Joint Search Committee is recommending the call of Rev. Brenna Nickel to Erindale. Rev. Brenna's background was provided, and Mary indicated that Rev. Brenna is eager to begin her ministry at Erindale. Mary outlined the terms of the call.

6. **Motion:** That Erindale United Church accept the report of the Joint Search Committee that Rev. Brenna Nickel be called as Minister, with the following terms of the call which are: Salary - \$68,000 per annum; Continuing Education - \$1,800 per annum; Basic Telephone - \$750 per annum; and all other requirements of The Manual. Effective date of call, February 1, 2017. The motion was moved by Mary Patterson, and seconded by Christian Hawn. Paul asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, Paul called for the vote. The motion was carried, all in favor, no against or abstained.
7. **Motion:** That Erindale United Church, having received the report and recommendation of the Joint Search Committee requests that Halton Presbytery approve the call of Rev. Brenna Nickel to this Pastoral Charge. The motion was moved by Mary Patterson, seconded by John Hurst. Paul asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, Paul called for the vote. The motion was carried, all in favor, no against or abstained.
8. **Motion:** Motion to approve having the secretary sign the necessary forms on behalf of the pastoral charge. The motion was moved by Mary Patterson, seconded by Doug Johnston. Paul asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, Paul called for the vote. The motion was carried, all in favor, no against or abstained.
9. **Motion:** Motion to disband the Joint Search Committee with thanks, after the Covenanting Service. The motion was moved by Mary Patterson, seconded by Joanne Stewart. Paul offered words of thanks from presbytery on the hard work the search committee performed. Paul specifically identified, Ralph Nott – JNAC Secretary, John Hurst – Candidate Communications and Mary Patterson – Committee Chairperson, and thanked them for their individual contributions. Paul asked if there was any further discussion. With no further discussion, Paul called for the vote. The motion was carried, all in favor, no against or abstained. Mary thanked the Joint Search Committee for their dedication and hard work.
10. Mary requested the congregation to refrain from speaking to members of Maple Grove, and not to post details of the new minister until Rev. Brenna has had a chance to inform her congregation.
11. **Motion to Adjourn:** Paul called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Doug Johnston, seconded by Christian Hawn. Carried.
12. **Closing Prayer and Benediction:** Rev. Don Parsons closed out the meeting with a prayer, and offered a closing Benediction.