



2018 Annual Report

Erindale United Church

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

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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

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Psalm 98 Coordinator

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Office Administrator

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From the Minister's Desk

Minister's Report

Prepared for the 2019 Annual General Meeting

Dear Friends,

As I write this report in the early weeks of January, 2019, the United Church of Canada has officially entered a new era with a new governance structure. Presbyteries and Conferences are gone and in their place are new regions. We are in Horseshoe Falls (Region 9) along with all the United Churches along the lake down to Niagara, and we are all discerning how to do church in this new thing God is calling us to.

Over the past weeks, I've been reflecting how in some ways, everything feels different in wider church work. I don't know who to call when I have polity questions. We ministry personnel don't know what to do with ourselves in the time that used to be for Presbytery meetings. But, at the same time, everything is the same. Churches are gathering each Sunday for worship. Mission is continuing and we are caring for one another. Even in the midst of one or two crises, we've done what we know how to do – come together with love and compassion to find a way forward.

Resiliency is a word I've heard in several places throughout this past year. Resilience is our capacity to recover from difficulties, our strength in the face of pain and uncertainty. When I think of this quality, I think about Jesus as he's in the boat with the disciples during a storm. In Mark's account, the group is sailing to the other side of the Sea of Galilee when a great storm arises. Jesus is sleeping through the entire thing until the disciples wake him, shocked that he could be asleep while they seem to be in so much danger. With three words, "Peace! Be still!" Jesus is able to calm the storm. He asks the disciples a challenging question, "Why are you afraid? Don't you have any faith?"

In this story, Jesus is resilient. He knows when he can sleep and when he can respond. The disciples, though, they need some resiliency. When the storm comes up, they cannot recover from their fear. They need more time and practice to attain the peace that Christ embodies. But, they will get there. The history of the early church points to leaders in the faith with great resiliency who are able to bring peace and healing into very challenging circumstances.

Friends, this past year, we have done much to build up our resiliency. We have tried many new things and even failed at some things, which is important in growing and learning for the future. We've gone through a process of welcoming the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship to share space with us, and have looked at welcoming other groups. We've increased our involvement in the community through partnerships with The Dam and Peel Aboriginal Network, and we've tried some new things in worship. We are increasingly involved with other faith communities building up our capacity for tolerance and understanding, seeing God at work in many places outside our congregation.

In all of these endeavours, we build up the ability to know how and when to respond to the storms of life – when it's actually okay to rest, and when we need to stand up and call for

peace. What Jesus reminds us, though, is that faith is the foundation of our resiliency. When we have faith in God's presence, faith in God's love for us, and faith in God's ability to carry us through the storms, then we can be at peace – even in the midst of trying situations.

Friends, as we face a new year with new challenges and uncertainties, as we try new ministry endeavours, and welcome new people into our midst, we sail with resiliency and with faith, knowing that Christ grants us peace even in the most challenging storms.

I look forward to sailing on with you.

Blessings,
Rev. Brenna Baker

Chair of Council

“We have everyone we need, and we need everyone we have”. This is a statement Rev. Brenna recited in our January 20th service, and something that has stuck with me, and best describes how Erindale United is able to live out its mission.

As I look back over the past year, our journey together has produced wonderful results. I would like to share with you a few highlights of our great works.

42nd General Council Remits:

The 41st General Council recommended major changes to revitalize ministry, simplify governance, and enable the church to live within its resources. The five remits are meant to bring about substantive, denomination-shaping changes to our church.

These remits are designed to achieve more than financial savings. The hope is that more of our time, talent, and treasure will be devoted to mission and ministry and less toward bureaucracy, forms, and procedure. Commissioners at the 42nd General Council agreed that assessments should be shared “equitably across the whole church,” plus we must “encourage sharing of all resources across the church.” We must only spend what we receive (as opposed to balancing budgets by depleting needed reserves).

A remit is the middle step of a three-step process required to change the Basis of Union, and hence the church. The first step is that General Council must approve a remit for a proposed change. The remit question is then put to presbyteries and possibly pastoral charges, which must approve it with an absolute majority. If that approval is given, the third step is for the next General Council to also agree to the proposed change. According to *The Manual, 2013* (F.2, page 125): a remit is “a vote by presbyteries or by presbyteries and pastoral charges to change the Basis of Union.” The Basis of Union is the document that was drawn up when The United Church of Canada was founded in 1925.

Erindale voted Yes on remits 1, 2, 3 and 4. Erindale voted No on remit 6. Below is a summary of how the Presbyteries and Pastoral charges voted:

- 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
- Remit 6: One Order of Ministry
 - Presbyteries: Yes: 26 No: 50 Pastoral charges: Yes: 713 No: 950

Activities are now underway to implement changes to support each of the remits that were passed. Presbytery has officially disbanded, and a new Regional Council is being formed. Erindale United will be part of the Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Hurst, Mary Patterson and Horace Neita for their dedication as Erindale's Presbytery representatives, and the hard work they have performed for the wider church on various Presbytery committees. They have been great ambassadors for Erindale.

Refugees Have Arrived in Canada

Erindale has been a key contributor in the Northwest Mississauga Constituent Group, to bring Syrian refugees to Canada. We have patiently waited for the government procedures to approve our application submissions. This patience has finally paid off with Tarek Youzbashi, a 30 year old Syrian refugee arriving in Canada on May 24th, and the Nadaaf family arriving on June 28th, just in time to celebrate their daughter's 5th birthday.

Both Tarek and the Nadaafs have been adjusting well and received good news from the World Education Services that their degrees have been certified as Canadian Equivalent, which means their degrees are fully recognized in Canada.

Expenses to support Tarek and the Nadaafs while they work to become self-sufficient have been higher than originally budgeted. Erindale once again rose to the challenge, raising over \$12,000.

Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship

Having worshipped together in the summers for several years, Erindale United and Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship have prayerfully discerned a means of growing that partnership through Sunday morning space sharing. We hope this relationship will help each congregation to grow in their unique ministry, and that it will afford opportunities for shared mission and Christian fellowship

A Sunday worship trial took place on April 15th, which received positive feedback. This led to a 2-month trial through November – December. This extended trial ran through Advent, a busy time in the church calendar, and did not highlight any issues or concerns that would prevent a longer term arrangement.

After an assessment by both Erindale and MMF, it was agreed to proceed with Sunday morning space sharing from March 2019 to August 2020. I look forward to this new relationship and the opportunities that will unfold for both congregations.

Skylight Festival

The Skyclight Festival was held at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre over the July 27th weekend. The Skyclight Festival's mission is to Nurture a narrative of hope, joy and transformation as a celebratory and creative space where diverse communities connect to explore arts, faith, peace and justice.

Skylight Festival began in 2013 when a group of United Church of Canada leaders and a group of Mennonite Church Canada leaders both attended the Greenbelt Festival of faith, justice and arts in the U.K. In 2014, a group of United Church folk who attended the Wild Goose Festival of arts, spirit and justice connected and were inspired to brainstorm ideas for a Canadian version. So by early 2015, there was a movement to create a similar festival in Canada, and there was so much passion that that festival materialized in the summer of 2015. Festivals have occurred every summer since, the first three at the Paris Fairgrounds, and in 2018, at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre. This new partnership with Five Oaks is celebrated, and it has become integral to our vision moving forward.

Erindale had a unique advantage for learning about the Skyclight Festival in 2018 as Rev. Brenna was part of the steering group for the Festival. There were many very interesting speakers addressing a variety of topics. Drew Brown, a well-known musician, performed for the attendees during the weekend-long festival. Erindale also provided financial sponsorship for this festival.

A final offering of Halton Presbytery

On November 20th, Halton Presbytery identified an opportunity for congregations seeking support for renewal, community engagement, reimagining of their vision, and seeking financial sustainability. Services are paid for by Halton Presbytery, through Strategic Mission development Committee while funding lasts.

Rev. Brenna developed a response to this opportunity with a proposal from Erindale United for a Community Round Table followed by congregational Table Talks. While we know we would have work to do following that, it would give Erindale United a start in focusing our purpose and being able to communicate it. Erindale United would begin these initiatives in mid-late spring, 2019, allowing time to get organized and have leadership in place to support the plans and communicate with the congregation.

Halton Presbytery has approved Erindale's proposal, allocating funds and EDGE network participation in 2019 to implement. This will be a prime focus of Erindale's council through 2019, and a great way to live into our mission over the upcoming year.

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 2018

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 the past three years, Fraser Code has acted as Chair of the Communications Committee, and maintained the Church website www.erindaleunited.church. Our website is updated at least three times a week. Just in the past year, two other members have joined this fledgling committee, and have started informal meetings. In late November of 2018, ChurchWeb Canada (the provider of our web services) migrated our website to a totally new type of web hosting software. This process introduced some formatting and omission errors into the content of our website. Most of these were promptly corrected. The new web hosting software allows our content to display naturally on all platforms: cell phones, tablets, and laptops. It also has some great advantage of being much easier to edit. We are now in the process of updating our website to exploit all the features of the new "multi-screen site" web hosting system.

We have continued sending out a bi-weekly enewsletter this year using the Mailchimp platform. To date, we have about 150 subscribers, and a high (according to Mailchimp) open rate of about 66% most weeks. The congregation is always welcome to submit announcements, updates or photos for the enews.

In addition to our Facebook pages – one private and one public – this year, we've created an Instagram account for the church. Instagram is a social media tool where we can share images and text, much like on Facebook, but because of the searchable hashtag feature, we are more easily found by others than we might be on Facebook.

Instagram allows the Church to reach a broader audience. As the platform is used by teens, millennials and parents with young children, the church can increase their engagement with these demographics.

Instagram can be used to increase Erindale's visibility in the community. The social media application can be used to increase our interfaith partnerships. Through the posts, we can demonstrate the core values that Erindale espouses. With a global reach, our posts can reach an audience that will likely never attend a church service in Mississauga. The benefit of this engagement is to offer positive news, hope and spiritual guidance.

Instagram posts can give local residents a glimpse inside our church! By showing pictures of the building, different social gatherings and activities, newcomers might feel that their experience is more comfortable and less frightening. Our hope is that people feel inspired to come to a service and see if Erindale United is the right fit for them and their families.

In the coming year, we welcome ideas for content for all of our communications as well as photos from the congregation of church events. We will be sending photo release forms when photos involve people.

We also thank Doug Johnston (photography) and John Hurst (computer hardware and software) for helpful advice.

Membership

Chair and Contact Fraser Code

Others Rachel Nott, Jean-Louis Voyer. **(ex officio):** Rev. Brenna L. Baker, Sarah McEwing

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

Jennifer Code, Dianne Drennan, Pat Jenkins, Margaret McCrae, Joanne Stewart, Cindy Williams and Sandra Wiseman. Duane McIlwraith, Ruth Nott, and Pat Viau join us at home in praying for those on our prayer list.

Achievements in 2018

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. Past prayers have been primarily for those facing illness, bereavement, and life changes.
- 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.
- Our committee organized and hosted the reception for new members in April.
- We helped with Christmas in a Minor Key on December 13, and served refreshments after the service. We had one visitor, who learned of the service from the church web site. Those in attendance appreciated Rev. Brenna's peaceful, meditative service.
- Cards were mailed in December to each person in our congregation who was bereaved and to the parents who had their children baptized during 2018.

- Sandra again placed red roses on the name plates in the memorial garden just before Christmas. She placed a Canadian flag on the memorial stone of John Lee, who served in the air force, for the Remembrance Day service.
- 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 again 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.
- A new initiative this year was a luncheon in May for members over eighty years of age. This was well attended and so successful that we are planning another for this year. It was made even more memorable by the crew who arrived to pave the front drive just as the guests arrived. Thanks to Marilyn Johnston who spearheaded and coordinated this event.
- We thank Rev. Brenna for her support of our committee, and thank you once again to Sarah McEwing for all that she does to make our work easier.
- Thanks also to George Beagley, who gave each of us one of Pauline's scarves to wear in her memory. Pauline is sorely missed.
- **Plans for 2019**
- 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.

Contacts Jennifer Code (Chair), Dianne Drennan, Pat Jenkins, Margaret McCrae, Joanne

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

As a committee we decided what project to take on by prioritizing each project as it related to safety, need to run the church & rental school effectively and nice to have. From a safety perspective we did the front concrete work as it was uneven and the concrete steps at the back of Gardner Hall as steps were in poor repair. To run the church and school we did some tile repairs in the school, had to replace an air conditioner unit, replaced and fixed some baseboard heaters and replaced eight windows. For nice to have we fixed potholes in the driveway and asphalt sprayed sealing it and added two speed bumps to encourage non church people not to use our property as a short cut. At the end of 2018 and the first part of 2019 we have come to a tentative agreement with the school regarding the rental agreement. More to come at the AGM.

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, window coverings and Phase 3 new chairs and tables. We also plan to coordinate the efforts to install monitors and speakers in the sanctuary that will give us the ability to make presentations without having to drag the screen and the projector into the sanctuary.

Committee Members

David Drennan, Carolyn Hendricks, Craig Laferriere, Brian Longley, Barbara Manchur (Treasurer), Paul Sabourin, Steve Wykurz, Norma Macintyre (Controller), 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 time, money and energy 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, of time and money.

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

In 2018, the Committee had five members: Paul Sabourin (Chair), Steve Wykurz and Laura Turner, Christian Hawn and Rev. Brenna Baker. At our December meeting, Steve Wykurz retired from our committee after 5+ years of thoughtful service, and we thank him for all his contribution over the years.

Beginning February 2019, Carolyn Hendricks has agreed to join our committee.

Our 2018 Stewardship campaign focused on the IMPACT that EUC has in our own community, within our church, with external groups, and the wider Mississauga faith community. Reverend Brenna shared "a week in the life of our Minister", and we enumerated how many different ways and people that EUC impact on a daily, weekly and monthly basis – and we tried to emphasize that the financial stewardship of our congregation is much more than making sure the Church has heat, light and power. I believe our 2018 campaign was positively received.

Last year (2017) we had indicated that we were slightly behind plan for 2017 givings, and we had presented a modest shortfall for our 2018 financial budget, so we asked our members to

increase their givings for 2018 to make up the shortfall I am pleased to report that our financial goals *were* decently well met with increased givings, so our “ask” this year was relatively low key. Our financial Stewardship message continues to be: stay the course – but when we need to ask more stridently, we will!

The just completed stewardship campaign had the following results:

62 families pledged (64 last year, and 70 in 2016)

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

In 2016 total givings amounted to \$223,075.

In 2017 givings were \$207,438, a decrease from 2016, against a 2017 budget of \$215,000

Total givings for 2018 were \$221,003 versus a budget of \$210,000, which we think was a good response to our ask.

Based on our calculations of Pledges, and additional PAR and loose offerings, our best estimate is that we should reach approximately \$214,000 in givings for 2019. We provided that number to F&P for the 2019 budgets.

Contacts Paul Sabourin (Chair), Laura Turner, Christian Hawn, Carolyn Hendricks, 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 and congregants 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 in a way that allows them to best carry out their responsibilities.

Achievements in 2018

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

We have presented our goals and initiatives to Church Council, have completed all salary reviews and presented them to Council for approval, increased our liaison with the Worship Committee, started the review of our policy and procedures relating to those requiring Police Records Checks relating to our varied EUC activities; we also plan to have more communication with EUC Committees and the congregation.

We look forward to continuing working with, and supporting, the Rev. Brenna as she continues her ministry and leadership of our congregation. We wish to record our sincere thanks to Doug Brien, for his long and valuable service on our committee. Doug decided to resign from M&P late last year to pursue other opportunities. Also, we give a warm welcome to Cathy Stone, who is now a new member of our committee. We still have one position to fill on the M&P Committee, if you feel you would be able and interested in serving our church in this capacity, please feel free to contact any of our members listed below, for input on our function and the time commitment.

Contacts: George Beagley (Chair), Jennifer Code (Secretary), Lowell Hendricks, Marilyn Johnston, Cathy Stone.

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.

In 2018, we broadened our scope of local mission and outreach. In February, we participated in our first ever Coldest Night of the Year walk to benefit The Dam. We had 16 walkers and raised over \$2600. Our relationship with The Dam also grew in that we provided an Easter meal for youth without a place to celebrate the holiday, and provided Christmas gifts to two families. The Dam provides mentorship, socialization and support to youth throughout the city, and have started offering programs within the schools. They do all this from a Christian perspective of grace and love.

We also grew in our relationship with Peel Aboriginal Network this past year – hosting them several times in our kitchen for their cooking class as well as participating in a drum ceremony at their location. At Christmas, we offered them a gift card for \$150 for their youth to have a special meal.

The Deacon's Cupboard continues to be an important piece of our local ministry. We have several members who volunteer regularly, and Rev. Brenna drops in several Wednesday

mornings throughout the year. In September, we sent 15 new backpacks to the DC for their children and families to use as they started school.

Lastly, we supported the Skylight Festival in 2018 with a \$250 donation. This helped the festival remain affordable and supported them in a move to Five Oaks. There were many new people at the festival this year – including many who are discovering the United Church of Canada and drawn to its commitment to justice.

Refugee initiative

Erindale continued this year as a full partner of the Northwest Mississauga Constituent Group with Erin Mills, Streetsville and Eden United Churches. Our refugees arrived this past year. The single man arrived at the end of May and the family of four arrived at the end of June. They are all doing well as we approach the midpoint of our commitment to sponsor each for a one year period. Both have received certification of Canadian equivalency for their existing university degrees. The father of the family of four found employment as an IT specialist shortly before the end of 2018. The single man continues to seek employment as a translator/counsellor. He continues to upgrade his education to broaden his employment opportunities as well as volunteering his time and translation services at the United Church Sponsorship Agreement Holder office in Toronto. He is kept busy there translating documents for incoming Syrian refugee applications.

As we continue to have ongoing expenses such as dental work and airfare repayment. It became necessary at the end of 2018 to have a Christmas Refugee fundraiser. Erindale responded in its usual generous fashion raising over \$13,000 with another \$2,000 incoming. I thank you so much for your generosity. The fund remains open as we are hoping to raise yet another \$5,000 to reach our goal. Donations to the refugee fund can be left in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. Cheques are to be made out to Erindale United Church with a comment in the "memo" location on the cheque noting "refugee fund".

Jim Bright, Northwest Mississauga Constituent Group, Erindale 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.

2018 Highlights

- The vertical venetian blinds that cover the windows surrounding the memorial garden on 2 sides, were old, discolored and, in many cases, with broken or missing vanes. In December the Trustees replaced them with new blinds paid from the Memorial Funds. The old ones had lasted for 30 plus years.
- In 2018, a major remake of the Memorial Garden and the companion garden took place. All the day lilies that were overrunning the gardens were removed. With the kind assistance of Janice Everett, some initial planting took place late in the year.
- We moved some money from the low yield Money Market Funds into cashable and non-cashable GIC's with higher interest rates for both the Manse and Endowment Funds. In addition we remained invested in a mutual Fund with Fiera Capital for a portion of the Endowment Fund.
- 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
- Preliminary planning was undertaken for the 50th anniversary celebration of the opening of the sanctuary in 1969.
- Initiated scanning of old Council and Official Board documents from the 1990s and earlier to create a digital duplicate of the hard copy set we currently have.
- Tom McIlwraith reorganized the music library and in addition updated the music inventory catalog on a spread sheet providing direction by title, composer, and church season, correcting irregularities in the music numbering system, cataloging recent acquisitions and deleting entries of old music.

Plans for 2019

- In 2019, further planting will be done in the Memorial Garden and the companion garden with the goal of creating more color.
- Continue our work on risk assessments and present our findings to the appropriate groups.
- Monitor the performance of both the Manse and Endowment Funds and manage the portfolios.
- Plan and organize a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the sanctuary. A Congregational Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 26 and a Dedication Service on Sunday, October 27.
- Continue work to digitize official church documents.

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

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 2018

- In 2018, we looked for ways in which to expand our expression of Christ-centred faith through different worship formats. Those included supporting Rev. Brenna in delivering a short family service following Shrove Tuesday's pancake supper, "Ash and Dash" prayer

stations mid-day on Ash Wednesday, recognizing new church members on Christian Family Sunday, and special Advent services. In addition, we supported Rev. Brenna to project photographs, artwork, hymn lyrics and prayer and scripture text on a large screen on several occasions such as Black History Month, Christian Family Sunday and during Advent.

- We also looked for ways in which to enrich worship through music ministry. Almost every service in 2018 included hymns from our new *More Voices* hymnals, bought in late 2017. Typically, two services per month will feature both the Choir and our worship band Psalm 98 sharing in music ministry. In the fall, they began to rehearse together regularly, which is resulting in beautifully complementary and integrated music. Several times this year, we enjoyed the augmented choir, with their gospel singing during Black History Month perhaps standing out as a great example of our aim to introduce new elements to worship while honouring traditions.
- Throughout the year, committee members actively supported worship by serving communion, assisting with baptisms and making sure the antependia are changed in accordance with the church seasons. We considered it a privilege to lead worship services on two occasions this year, with Rev. Brenna having equipped us with a clear service outline.
- As in prior years, Erindale hosted the congregation of the Mississauga Mennonite Fellowship for joint Worship Services in July and August.
- We developed a revised Baptism policy which is available on the church website and as a pamphlet in the Narthex. It is provided to prospective baptism families and individuals to explain the meaning and principles upon which baptism at Erindale is founded.

Plans for 2019

- Support a Music Task Force to refresh the vision for music ministry at Erindale
- Develop a “sound crew” that can work the sound board and a group that can manage the logistics of opening and closing the church during summer months
- “Clean up” the band area in the Sanctuary so it appears more permanent and is more functional
- Manage the summer schedule
- Continue to offer regular Services for Baptism and Communion

Acknowledgements

It takes many hands to support worship every week. The Worship Committee thanks everyone for their part, including:

- Rev. Brenna for always looking ahead, devising uplifting worship themes and finding an effective balance between tradition and innovation
- Rob, the Choir and members of Psalm 98 for their inspiring Music Ministry

- Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott, Matthew Dawson, Jim Bright for working the technology: sound board, microphones, computers and screens
- Sarah McEwing for preparing bulletins every week – and for countless other “behind the scenes” things
- Ushers for warmly welcoming everyone on Sundays and making sure the church is open, bulletins are handed out and people’s needs are met
- Everyone who volunteered during the year as Lector
- Everyone who volunteered during the year as Refreshment Hosts after worship

Members Jutta Argao (Chair), Angela Brien (Head Usher), Karen Bright (Lector Co-ordinator), Jim Bright (Band Leader), Fraser Code (Choir President), Carrie Code, Brian Crombie, Claudette Neita, Rachel Nott, Ralph Nott, Jean-Louis Voyer (joined in November), Rev. Brenna Baker, Rob Anderson (Music Director)

Contact Jutta Argao, Chair

Choir

Mandate

The choir provides musical leadership for the congregation of Erindale United Church during worship services and related occasions such as funerals, memorial services, and various special services arranged for Advent, Christmas and Easter.

Choir Membership in 2018

This year the Erindale choir has increased in size to about 18 singers, adding voices in the soprano and alto sections. We are a dedicated group with a range of vocal abilities in both Choral and Solo arrangements. Our vocal abilities have steadily improved thanks to the artistic leadership of Erindale’s Director of Music, Robert Anderson. We also gratefully acknowledge the appreciation and support of our singing that has been given to us by the congregation.

The turnout for our weekly Thursday rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services varies between 10 and 16 choristers. Our director is flexible in presenting anthems that match the vocal range of the choir members that are actually in attendance.

Musical achievements in 2018

- The senior choir traditionally concentrates on service music and anthems for Sunday morning worship. We now have an overlap of Thursday night rehearsals with Psalm 98. Psalm 98 participates in worship services at least twice a month. Both the choir and Psalm 98 regular sing hymns from the contemporary “More Voices” coil-bound hymn book.
- For several years we have been challenged in rehearsals to sing “a cappella”. This exercise builds our confidence especially in holding the key of the melody true from beginning to end (without starting to sing flat).

- We continued the practice of having augmented choir occasions several times a year. Usually these involves special music and new singers from the congregation. Some of these short-term newcomers have continued as members of the regular choir.
- We presented a major piece of Advent music: Healey Willan's "Lo, in the time appointed". This was a musical work-out for our choir, and we were fortunate to be joined by Dave Vernon and Sue Morris as additional leading singers for the tenor and soprano sections.
- Our music librarian, Tom McIlwraith, has reorganized the music cupboard to make more efficient use of that space. He has transferred much of the music in the library from old cardboard boxes on shelving into labeled file folders in metal file drawers. He has updated the anthem index to account for new music and deleted listings of anthems no longer in use. There are a few more steps to be completed in 2019.

Challenges and Prospects for 2019

- The recruitment of new members remains a priority
- We will sponsor additional occasions for the use of an augmented choir with volunteers from the congregation
- Blended services involving both the choir and Psalm 98 will be encouraged.

Membership

Soprano Susan Bowman, Norma Brown, Selina Campbell, Aileen Jamieson, Marilyn Johnston, Nadia Lay, 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, **Librarian** Tom McIlwraith

Gown and Collar Custodian Mavis Mahabir

Contact

Fraser Code

Psalm 98 Worship Band

Psalm 98 added one vocalist to our group this year and began playing regularly in combined services with the choir. Our rehearsal day as shifted to Thursday evenings to allow for combined practice time with the choir. We have been pleased with this new schedule and look forward to combining forces with the choir in even more worship services. Psalm 98 played for the early Christmas Eve service this past December as well as some additional evening services thus past spring and fall.

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

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 presented several reflections on the Bible story from Mary, Joseph, a shepherd and a wise man on Christmas Eve. The group also staged readings "from the congregation" for the 2018 Good Friday service.

The ECP consists of Karen Bright, Garry Jenkins, Marilyn Johnston, Craig Laferriere, Claudette Neita and Doug Johnston, with help from Pat Jenkins and Duane Mcilwraith. Other members of the congregation provided audio and staging assistance, for which we are always thankful. We also appreciate the warm words of support for our efforts.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in future dramatic presentations, please let me know.

Doug Johnston

Halton Presbytery

The United Church of Canada in its General Council meeting in Oshawa, ON in July, 2018 voted overwhelmingly to restructure the church into Three Courts starting in 2019 instead of Four Courts (from inception in 1925 to the end of 2018). Halton Presbytery no longer exists, and it passed a motion at the end of 2018 to amalgamate with Region 9 now Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. The Region is comprised of:

All pastoral charges in Erie Presbytery
All pastoral charges in Halton Presbytery
All pastoral charges in Hamilton Presbytery;
All pastoral charges in Niagara Presbytery
And the Pastoral Charges of Norval, St. John's PC (Georgetown), St. Andrew's Georgetown, and Acton.

Most of the work done by Halton Presbytery Executive during 2018 was geared toward winding up the Presbytery.

Notably, the work of the Strategic Mission Development Committee continued, and the committee worked with Finance and Property Committee and the Executive to secure a grant from Glenco Nursing Trust for \$33,000 for Fresh Expressions work in Halton Presbytery congregations during 2019 which will be supported by the Edge Network of the National Church. Erindale United Church will be a beneficiary of this work.

Pastoral Relations carried out the work it needed to do in support of Halton Presbytery congregations and then closed out whatever files it could.

First United Church and Christ Church voted to amalgamate in the Christ Church building under a new name (yet to be determined). Nelson United Church amalgamated with Tansley United Church and the Nelson building was sold.

Now we turn to the work of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and a new way of working with the higher court will come upon us.

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 on 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 past year the programmes included: fellowship and planning; Word Search puzzles; a book study; a lunch out in June and December; and the preparation of Christmas baskets for the Deacon's Cupboard in December.

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 Bible study – “Bad Girls of the Bible”; a travelogue; games night; fellowship and dessert at a member's home; an evening of sharing our “roots” through picture and story; a video by Heritage Mississauga about the history of the Erindale community; a lunch out in December; and an outreach project of providing items for a family associated with the Dam organization.

On February 20th 2018 the 2 units met together for the Annual Meeting. The business portion of the meeting included the 2017 UCW Income Statement and the 2018 UCW Budget presented by Norma Macintyre, the UCW Treasurer. Ann Edge, Past President, asked for nominations from the floor, none were given, the slate of officers stood as reported. Eleanor McIntosh was thanked for her many years of service on the UCW executive.

Refreshments and a social time was followed by a program which included the showing of a film, titled “We are still here”. The film is about the experiences of several women who spent time at residential schools in Canada, and how it affected their whole families. Marilyn Johnston read “The Welcome” from Shingwauk's Vision.

World Day of Prayer Service was held at St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, on Friday, March 2nd at 1pm. Several members of UCW attended and participated in the service.

A special concert was organized by the UCW this spring. The Eden Bells aPeel Concert was held on Sunday, Apr. 8th at 2pm. A total of 56 people attended, and a profit of \$690 was raised.

Erindale's annual Garage sale was held on Saturday, May 5th, and a profit of \$1696 was made.

In June the Annual Social was held on June 5th, and attended by approximately 30 people. A delicious buffet supper was enjoyed by all. The guest speaker was Cheryl Raycraft who gave

an interesting and informative speech on her Medical Mission to Guatemala. She was thanked by Ruth Nott, and \$200 was given for mission work in Guatemala.

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 United Church calendars; the used book sale; and the Festive Frosty Fare in December, which generated \$1,834.00 this year.

The UCW executive approved a total of \$5,841 to be given for discretionary disbursements. This included \$1,000 to Erindale United Church; \$500 to the Refugee sponsorship/support; \$1,000 to Mission and Service; donations to 10 local organizations, and 4 national or international organizations.

In May, the UCW executive voted to donate \$500 to the Red Cross for the New Brunswick Flood Relief programme.

On Sunday October 21st the UCW coordinated a special church service to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada. Several members of the UCW participated in the service, and the choir was augmented by several UCW members and other women from the congregation. \$559.36 was raised for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, an organization which is supported by the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada.

Members of UCW along with other women of the congregation catered three funeral receptions; lunch for the Annual Meeting on March 18th; refreshments after the Bell Ringers concert on April 8th; dinner for the UCW Social on June 5th; and refreshments after the special UCW church service on Oct. 21st.

The UCW continues to provide the 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.

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 18 Christmas baskets to deliver to members of EUC who are unable to attend regularly, and/or are experiencing serious illness or bereavement.

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 2018-2019 Executive

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President
Church Council representative

Pat Jenkins
Marilyn Johnston
Pat Viau
Norma Macintyre
Ann Edge
Marilyn Johnston

Convenors:
Kitchen
Publicity
Receptions/Social
Garage Sale
Visitation
Member at Large

Marilyn Hurst
Ann Edge
Susan Lyons, Joyce Murdoch
Marilyn Hurst
Dorothy Weston
Sandra Wiseman

Unit Leaders:
Mary and Martha Circle
Friends in Faith

Dianne Drennan
Ruth Nott

Report prepared by Pat Jenkins

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 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.

One of the strengths of our club is the fact that we meet at the church and 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:

- Do Not Say we have Nothing by Madeleine Thien
- The curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

- A Man called Ove by Fredrik Backman
- Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende
- Tis, a Memoir by Frank McCourt
- Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel
- The Silent Wife by A.S. A. Harrison
- The Other Side of the World by Stephanie Bishop

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, Lois Short.

Submitted by 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 about 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 3rd 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 answer 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 Selina Campbell, Ann Edge, Kathy James, Marilyn Johnston, Mary Anna King, Aileen Jamieson, Ruth Nott, Linda Watson, Sandra Wiseman

Submitted by Marilyn Johnston

Egg (Erindale Growing Group)

This group was formed in 1982 when 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 and still are 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.

The coordinated multi EGG initiative has long since wound down but this one current group has continued to this day. Of course some members have left and others have joined but a large portion of the membership does indeed date back to this first group.

EGG is currently 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.

Discussions at these gathering are largely informal and whole group discussions occur maybe only about half the time. Topics are wide ranging but almost always centre around Erindale church life, Christianity and how we relate that to our daily life. Sometimes in informal discussions a question will come out of one corner and all will join in with their thoughts. Discussions are always amicable, thought provoking, respectful and enjoyable.

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 or understand and respect our differences.

This is not an exclusive, "invitation only" group. Currently there are 18 members and we have talked on occasion of splitting up the group as it can be a challenge sometimes to accommodate everyone if all show up for a meeting. Perhaps we should use this group as a springboard for others? Perhaps we should splinter this group as a seed for a new group?

If you are interested in being part of this group please do not hesitate to ask any of our members as there is no official leader.

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 Jim Bright

Roll Report

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

	2017	2018
Number of Households under Pastoral Care	230	229
Number of Adult Baptisms	0	0
Children Baptised	3	7
Members received a) under 18	0	0
b) 18 or older	0	0
Members received by Transfer or otherwise	2	8
Members removed by Death	5	5
Members removed by a) Certificate of Transfer	1	0
b) Otherwise	3	1
Total Confirmed Membership	277	283
Total Non-resident Members (included above)	22	21

Baptisms

Children:

Bryce Christian Ireland	Thomas Owen Wood
Analiese Kilani Mendonca-Pineda	Tristan Takeo Oki
London Chanel Rose	Jackson William Garrett
Jillian Alma McIntosh	

Adults: None

Eight Members Received by transfer or otherwise
Zero Members Transferred Out

Weddings

Richard Cabral/Sandra Toste
 Gary Douglas Parsons/Karen Marie Bileski
 Lance Stephen Daniels/Brittany Beverly Lynne Bowles

In Memoriam

Pauline Beagley (Member)	Ron Elliott (Member)
David Gordon (Member)	Joan Butler (Member)
Gennaro Anzivino	Betty Bull
Jane Bray	Frances Wong-Wu
Jack Stark (Member)	

Erindale United Church, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday March 18, 2018

The Call to Worship and the Opening Prayer was followed by singing of “Let us Build a House” – *More Voices*, #1

Annual Meeting is called to order – Part One

1. Election of Chairperson and Secretary – Fraser Code.

Fraser Code 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 Jennifer Code. All in favour. Carried.

The regular worship service continued with the Prayer for Illumination and the Gospel Reading from John 12:20-26. The choir sang the Lenten Anthem “When I survey the Wondrous Cross” and in her conversation with the children and youth, Rev. Brenna introduced Ralph Nott. She and Ralph talked about the role of Council for the church. After the Youth Hymn, the children left for Sunday school.

Rev. Brenna delivered her sermon entitled “Impact.” She told the congregation about the importance of talking to each other about our experiences with Jesus. We all wish to know Jesus better but often we hesitate to express how we see him and his work throughout the congregation. But just think about EUC’s work with the Deacon’s cupboard, the DAM walk, and the Prayer Chain lists. It is hard to measure the impact on others but then numbers are only the vehicle and not the destination. Rev. Brenna encouraged the congregation to be inclusive and with God’s help to show how to plant, nurture and grow and share the gifts that we have.

The congregation then read aloud the mission statement for Erindale United Church, and recited The New Creed (#918). The Hymn of Response, “Here I am Lord,” (#509) and the Prayers of Thanksgiving for the Congregation followed.

2. Council Report for 2017-2018 – Ralph Nott, Council Chair.

As I reflect on Rev. Brenna’s sermon from last week, one word kept swirling in my mind: ‘disruptions.’ Rev. Brenna indicate that we should not take disruptions as negative, rather to embrace and rise to the challenge.

Over the past year, the work of Council has been centred around how we deal with disruptions, focusing on the opportunities they bring to our faith community. We began the year, studying the 42nd General Council Remits. Nora Sanders’ letter to the pastoral charges opened with the following statement: **“Ever since its inception in 1925, The United Church of Canada has embraced change as it strives to better serve its members. Accepting new ideas is in keeping with the Bible’s teaching, which instructs us to “Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).”** Erindale’s response to this ‘change,’ or ‘disruption’ was to conduct information sessions, listening to participants, and gathering feedback from all, to thoughtfully respond to the remits with Erindale’s vote. One remit, ‘One Order of Ministry,’ required several discussions, including input from individuals in each type of ministry, to become comfortable voting. Erindale voted ‘Yes’ to the Three Council Model, Elimination of Transfer and Settlement, Office of Vocation, and Funding a New Model. Erindale voted ‘No’ to One Order of Ministry. The results from voting presbyteries and pastoral charges were aligned with Erindale’s vote.

A Council retreat was held in October, utilizing the book, *The New Parish*, as the focus. Christine and Tom Sine from Mustard Seed Associates state: **“A must-read book for those who are looking for**

creative ways to join with others in becoming a life-giving presence in your neighbourhood in these uncertain times. Council was challenged to vision what an ideal community would look like, and then walk around the South Common Community Centre to observe this community, its membership and the activities and events taking place in the community. Council then developed goals for Erindale, considering what was discussed, utilizing insights gained from the book *The New Parish*, and observations around the community.

On February 24th, Christ Church hosted an Edge-sponsored gathering of all Mississauga United churches to look 10 years ahead. Questions raised included: Who and what might be still here in 10 years?; What would we like to see in place 10 years from now, that might take us that long to put in place?; How do we strengthen existing congregations for the long-haul?; Are there new expressions of mission & ministry to which Christ is calling us? Members of Council attended this event and will be discussing the event in more detail at our next Council meeting.

All these disruptions/challenges/changes will help shape the future of Erindale. We should be encouraged that discussions are taking place, and that Erindale continues to look for ways to be relevant and broaden its ministry to the wider community.

The Outreach committee is no longer formally meeting, but outreach to the wider community is very much a priority of Erindale. With the elimination of a formal structure, the expectation is that people will feel called to lead or participate in short term projects.

Two key Outreach projects that Erindale supports are the Refugee Sponsorship and Orthopedic Surgeon for Congo. Our patience for the refugee sponsorship is about to pay off, with the first refugee scheduled to arrive in the early spring, with a second family in the fall. While we wait for the process to unfold, Erindale is working to provide support to new Canadians to practice their English in a safe, fun environment, through the English Conversation Circles at Erindale Presbyterian.

The Orthopedic Surgeon project has officially ended, but Dr. Bienvenu now finds himself in the middle of a war zone. Dr. Bienvenu is working round the clock, treating survivors of the conflict in the Bunia area. The economy, such as it is, has pretty much collapsed. The market that all rely on for food has shut down. The hospital is closed for the most part and no one is getting paid. It appears that the people from the West that administer the hospital have left because it is too dangerous. Erindale has sent some funds to Dr. Bienvenu to help him cope through this horrific time.

I hope you have had an opportunity to read through the annual report. It is full of wonderful information on the life and work of Erindale. None of this would be possible without the support of our staff, and numerous volunteers who work behind the scenes.

3. Table of Organization – Ralph Nott.

Moved by John Hurst and seconded by Jim Bright that the Table of Organization for “Council and Committees” be approved as printed. All in favour. Carried.

4. Commissioning members of the EUC Council and Committees for 2018.

Rev. Brenna invited the parishioners listed on the “Table of Organization for Council and Committees” (which was included in the service bulletin) to stand and be recognized, and she thanked them for their commitment to the life of the church. She gave the Blessing and Commissioning for the Council and Committees for 2018 as the volunteers and members of the congregation joined physically together.

Psalms 98 offered music during the offertory; the sending hymn “Blest be the Tie that Binds.” (#602) followed. Rev. Brenna gave a blessing for the lunch prepared for the congregation; this was followed by the Benediction. Rob Anderson played the postlude as the congregation recessed about 11:35 AM. to Gardner Hall for light refreshments and conversation.

Annual Meeting is called to order – Part Two

5. Call to order – Ralph Nott.

Ralph reconvened the AGM in Gardner Hall at 12:00 noon. He thanked the helpers for setting up the hall. He thanked the UCW for arranging lunch refreshments, the finance committee and Norma Macintyre for preparing the financial presentation. Ralph pointed out the great environment we had for this meeting with the newly-renovated Gardner Hall and the new sound system.

6. Approvals.

a) Earl Cochrane moved the approval of the minutes of the AGM held on Sunday March 26, 2017 (pgs. 30-33). **Seconded by Dianne Drennan. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the minutes.

b) Paul Sabourin moved acceptance of the reports of the standing committees (pgs. 8-21). **Seconded by Bill McIntosh. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the reports.

c) John Hurst moved acceptance of the report of Halton Presbytery (pgs. 21-23). **Seconded by David Drennan. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the report.

d) Angela Brien moved acceptance of the report of UCW (pgs. 24-26). **Seconded by Marilyn Johnston. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the report.

e) Sarah McEwing moved acceptance of the other reports (Bible Seminar, Book Club, Friday Morning Coffee Group, Craft and Conversation, EGG (Erindale Growing Group) (pgs. 26-29). **Seconded by Harvey Watson. All in favour. Carried.** There was no business arising from the reports.

f) Nadia Lay moved approval of the Congregational Statistics Report (pg. 29) **Seconded by Barbara Manchur. All in favour. Carried.**

Sarah McEwing explained how people transferred their membership from another church or from adherent to member. Rev. Brenna reminded those present that new members used to be very formally accepted into the church. She mused on how best Erindale United Church could welcome these people in these less formal times.

7. Presentation of the Financial Statements – Paul Sabourin.

Paul, Chair of Stewardship within F&P, acknowledged the very important work by Norma Macintyre, who put together the PowerPoint slides with the numbers and graphs, and by Barbara Manchur and Sarah McEwing. The detailed statements had previously been circulated to the congregation and Paul discussed the slides as projected on a big screen.

The statements included the 2018 Operations Budget and Three-Year Plan (to 2020). Paul explained the use of the various funds: Memorial (mainly bequests used for transformational needs), Manse (long term fund for big capital expenses), Endowment (administered by the trustees and invested in the longer term), Capital (used on a regular basis for ongoing maintenance), and Benevolent (used within own church family for such things as Christmas baskets for isolated people, or by Rev. Brenna in conjunction with Congregational Care).

The finance committee anticipates a balanced budget in 2018 provided EUC's givings remain solid. Paul emphasized that EUC parishioners are the sole source of money for running the church, and it is essential to maintain our church givings.

Dallas McLean asked about the money for the Refugees who are expected shortly and was advised that the churches sponsoring them have the money in hand and it is not part of EUC's budget.

Norma Macintyre moved that the 2018 budget be accepted as presented. Seconded by Garry Jenkins. All in favour. Carried.

8. Auditors.

Paul Sabourin thanked Barbara Manchur for her dedicated work with the accountants during 2017.

Barbara Manchur moved that the firm of Bazar McBean, Professional Chartered Accountants of Oakville, be appointed auditors for 2018. Seconded by John Hurst. All in favour. Carried.

9. Any other business.

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment.

At 12:48 PM. The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Jim Bright **so moved. Seconded by Barbara Manchur. All in favour. Carried.**

Benediction by Rev. Brenna.

Secretary: Duane McIlwraith

Chair: Ralph Nott