

CHEMAINUS UNITED CHURCH



2021 ANNUAL REPORTS

CHEMAINUS UNITED CHURCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES February 23, 2020 at 11:30

The Board Chair, Jamie Stephen opened the meeting at 11:30

1.0 Welcome and Opening Prayer – Rev. Eric Stephanson

2.0 Opening Motions:

2.1 Selection of Chair and Secretary for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) from the floor

- **MOTION:** That Jamie Stephen act as Chair for the February 23, 2020 AGM
Moved by Rene Smith. **Second** by Joyce Cloakey. **Carried.**
- b. **MOTION:** That Angela Hulbert act as Secretary for the February 23, 2020 AGM
Moved by John Silins. **Seconded** by Helen Stephen. **Carried**

2.2 Confirmation of quorum: By members' show of hands. Quorum confirmed by Chair.

2.3 Adoption/Amendments of Agenda:

- **MOTION:** That the Agenda be accepted, as presented or amended.
Moved by Helen Stephen. **Seconded** by Maureen Kostin. **Carried**

2.4 Enabling Motion from floor to give adherents the authority to vote in the AGM

- **MOTION:** That adherents be given voting privileges for the February 23, 2020 AGM
Moved by John Silins. **Seconded** by Sally Urton. **Carried.**

2.5 Voting by show of hands or secret ballot

- **MOTION:** That voting be done by a show of hands except in the case of an election between two or more nominees for executive positions on the Board, to wit: the Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, in which case, voting will be by secret ballot.
- **Moved** by Helen Stephen. **Seconded** by Bob Merriam. **Carried.**

3.0 Adoption of 2019 Annual Report, including the Minutes of the March 3, 2019 AGM

- **MOTION:** That the 2019 Annual Report be accepted, as circulated.

3.1 Adoption of the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of July 7, 2019 as circulated or read by the Chair.

3.2 Adoption of the Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of August 11, 2019 as circulated or read by the Chair.

- **Moved** by John Silins **Seconded** by Ken Graham. **Carried**

4.0 Budget for 2020

- **MOTION:** That the 2020 Budget be accepted as presented by Elaine Cann.
Moved by John Silins. **Seconded** by Maureen Kostin. **Carried.**

Elaine explained the balance sheet dating 12/31/2019.

The investments and total assets are \$549,000.00.

Jamie commented that we are in the black and that is very good for a small Church like us. He also encouraged an increase in contributions, given the anticipated extra costs once a new minister has been hired.

Then we looked at the Budget and Jamie asked for any questions from the floor.

Maureen noted an increase in the Maintenance budget. Jamie explained that we are having plumbing problems all over the building, especially the bathrooms. Also the building exterior will be painted this year and some work may have to be contracted out.

There was a question about the Sunday school expenses and Margaret replied that we need to hire someone and the Worship committee is looking.

Elaine explained that the \$3000 discrepancy in the Smart Fund is accumulated interest.

Bruce remarked on the balanced budget and thanked Elaine and Cindy. He asked if the budget has been audited or reviewed. Elaine said not in 2019.

5.0 Nominations for Coordinating Board

Members were encouraged to contemplate their own leadership abilities and present their candidacy to the congregation, also nominations from the floor were welcomed. Members of Standing Committees will choose their own Board representative and/or leader and recording secretary, usually at their first meeting. Jamie explained about committees and voting and Bruce explained UC by-laws re. electing members. Discussion ensued.

Remaining on the Board or Committee

Chair- Jamie Stephen

Secretary — Angela Hulbert

Treasurer – Elaine Cann

Vice Chair - John Silins

Worship – Margaret Ormond, Karen D, Ginny V, Wilma R

Outreach – John Silins, Elaine C, Angela H

Pastoral Care - Rene Smith, Carol C, Wilma R, Helen K, Rosemary J, Edna H, Janice Mc, Marg M

Ministry and Personnel — Joan Murray, Maureen K, Bob M

Communications and Publicity -Helen Stephen, Janice R

Maintenance — Jamie Stephen, Peter L, Bruce O, Roy H, Ken G

There was a call for nomination from the floor for each of the following positions.

The following nominees accepted positions as indicated:

Cluster Liaison — Maureen Kostin, Marion F, Elaine C

Christian Education —Marion Flinton

Stewardship — Bruce Oliphant

Host Volunteer Coordinator – Helen Stephenson (in absentia) to be confirmed at future Board meeting

- **MOTION:** That the individuals identified for the Board positions either elected or appointed from the floor or in the absence of an election, noted above be accepted as nominated and confirmed in their roles. **Moved** by John. **Seconded** Elaine. **Carried.**

5.1 Election of Trustees

Trustees: Bruce Oliphant, Shirley Graham, Alice Lavigne. By show of hands. **Carried**

Finance: Esther Craig, Shirley Graham, Ginny V., Sheila, Rene Smith, Joan Murray, Cindy Popplestone. By show of hands. **Carried**

6.0 Signing authorities for the CUC bank account

- **MOTION:** That Janet Coles be removed as a signing authority from the Chemainus United Church Island Savings bank account and that the elected Board Chair, Jamie Stephen, be added as a signing authority. Elaine Cann, Cindy Popplestone and Rene Smith will remain.

Moved by Bob Merriam. **Seconded** Marion Flinton. **Carried**

7.0 Reflections by Rev. Eric Stephanson

8.0 Congregational thoughts, arising from the floor (code for 'grass roots' ideas,

suggestions, dreams etc.). Rene encouraged congregants to use PAR when donating to the Church. Sharon B encouraged people to support Sunday school teachers by going in the Sunday school room during session. Maureen asked about offering receipts being issued quarterly — was this necessary? Ruth stated that scripture readings are too long during service; discussion followed with some agreeing and others not. Bruce told encouraged everyone to pat themselves on the back and said thank you to Lynn and Eric for guiding us in this year of transition with support and love.

The Board thanked Cindy for her many hours spent to assure the smooth running of our Church.

9.0 Closing Motion by Bob Merriam

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned at 1:30 by Bob Merriam



Sunday Service held downstairs – see next photo!!!

CHEMAINUS UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

February 13, 2022

1.0 Welcome and Opening Prayer – Rev. Elise Feltrin

2.0 Opening Motions:

2.1 Selection of Chair and Secretary for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) from the floor

a. **MOTION:** That Jamie Stephen act as Chair for the February 13, 2022 AGM

b. **MOTION:** That Lynn James act as Secretary for the February 13, 2022 AGM

2.2 Confirmation of quorum: By members' show of hands

2.3 Adoption/Amendments of Agenda:

MOTION: That the Agenda be accepted, as presented or amended

2.4 Enabling Motion from floor to give adherents the authority to vote in the AGM

MOTION: That adherents be given voting privileges for the February 13, 2022 AGM

2.5 Voting by show of hands

MOTION: That voting be done by a show of hands

3.0 Adoption of 2021 Annual Report, including the Minutes of the February 23, 2020 AGM

(Note: The February 28, 2021 AGM was cancelled due to Covid 19 pandemic related restrictions.)

MOTION: That the 2021 Annual Report be accepted, as circulated

4.0 Budget for 2022

MOTION: That the 2022 Budget be accepted as presented or amended.

5.0 Review of the new Governance Structure & Terms of Reference, approved by the Board, September 2021

Nominations for Coordinating Board: Note that while some incumbent Board members may be willing to consider remaining in their present roles, you are encouraged to contemplate your own leadership abilities and, if you believe you have the ability and calling, arrange that your candidacy also be presented to the congregation; **nominations will be welcomed from the floor**. Members of Standing Teams will choose their own Board representative and/or leader and recording secretary, usually at their first meeting.

Willing to consider remaining on the Board or Team, shown in parentheses:

Chair-

Vice Chair -

Secretary of the Board — (Lynn James)

Financial & Stewardship Team – Treasurer (Chair) – (Elaine Cann)

Standing Team Opportunities

Property Team (*Maintenance*) – (Jamie Stephen)

Ministry and Personnel Team -Outreach
Team – (John Silins)

Congregational Life Teams – One Board Chair elected from one of the three Teams:

- Worship Team
- Spiritual Development Team (*Christian Education*)
- Pastoral Care Team

Regional Representative —

MOTION: That the individuals identified for the Board positions, either elected or appointed from the floor or in the absence of an election, noted above be accepted as nominated and confirmed in their roles.

5.1 Election of Trustees

Remaining Trustees: Alice Lavigne (2017-2022), Shirley Graham (2019-2023), Ginny Van Allen (2021-2025), Joyce Cloakey (2021-2025)

New Trustees:

6.0 Signing authorities for the CUC bank account remain the same:

Board chair (), Elaine Cann, Rene Smith, Cindy Popplestone

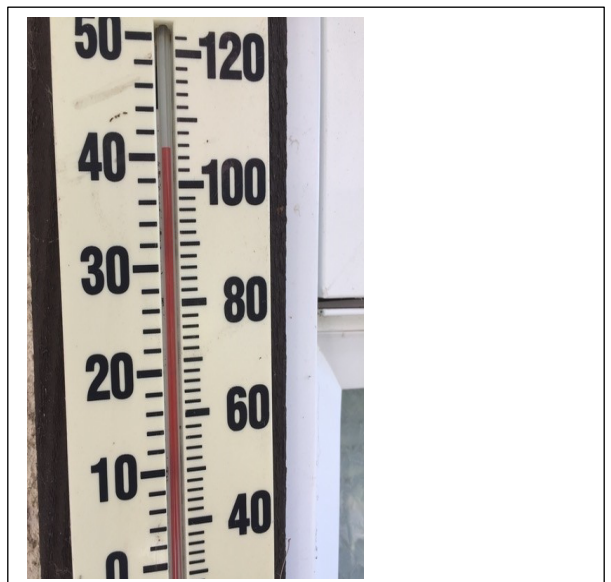
7.0 Reflections by Rev. Elise Feltrin

8.0 Congregational thoughts, arising from the floor (code for 'grass roots' ideas, suggestions, dreams etc.).

9.0 Closing Motion:

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned

It was a wee bit too hot to hold
the Sunday service upstairs!



Minister's Annual Report: January 2022
Rev. Elise Feltrin: Chemainus United Church

"No one uses a piece of new cloth to patch up an old coat, because the new patch will shrink and tear off some of the old cloth making an even bigger hole. Nor does anyone pour new wine into used wineskins because the wine will burst the skins and both the wine and the skins will be ruined. Instead, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins."

Mark 2:21-22

A full year of doing ministry during a pandemic has gone by – something that was never taught in seminary! Learning to adapt and be flexible – like supple new wineskins - are increasingly important skills for all of us. Making plans and then having to change them at the last minute due to new health regulations or extreme weather became the norm in 2021. Our church was no exception!

Worshipping online from January to June became an opportunity for creativity and exploration. I enjoyed taking my portable iPad 'on location' and filmed services in front of our famous Chemainus murals, in the forest and on the shore. I was able to include a great selection of diverse music as Ken Lavigne skilfully cobbled together the variety of videos I selected or recorded each week. Folks were pleased with the results; professional looking and interesting church services which were also shared with others across the country and even down to Florida. For those without computers, printed sermons, bulletins and newsletters kept them in touch. By July we returned indoors and experimented with new forms of 'slow church' and themed worship focusing on Creation Time.

Zoom became another new essential ministry tool. We all became used to seeing each other's faces in little boxes onscreen – whether gathering for meetings, book clubs and studies, or Coffee Hour after the online service. Even pastoral visiting was possible like this – including virtual prayer!

Revising some of our policies and structures was another example of how we worked to renew ourselves as a congregation. We formed a Stewardship Team who learned so much about appreciating and inspiring congregational giving, we re-structured and streamlined our governance to include a smaller Board, the Trustees created an Investment Policy and we implemented a new weekly e-newsletter to improve communications.

Innovative new ways of fundraising emerged – from weekly mini garage sales in the summer (bolstered by online sales of larger items on 'Marketplace'), to delicious homemade frozen meals and sweets. An Advent concert featuring our talented new Music Director Liam Pistor, was a financial success and a musical delight.

Other new initiatives bubbling up like fresh wine this past year include a labyrinth workshop, a beginner's ukulele group and mini training sessions for the Pastoral Care Team. The weekly Prayer Group learned various spiritual practices and did an in-depth study of the Lord's Prayer and the Beatitudes in their original Aramaic language. Outreach projects included raising awareness around Indigenous issues by participating in the 'March for the Children' and National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. In the fall, connections started being forged with new community groups such as Food First Chemainus and the local Forest School. Who knows where these partnerships might lead?

Sometimes, the arrival of new wine is of our choosing, while other times, it is unexpectedly thrust upon us. By being flexible and responsive - ready to receive - we not only survive but are able to thrive. Whereas old wineskins crack and split their seams when filled with fresh wine or new ideas – new wineskins are molded and shaped by what is poured into them.

With this and each new year, may we be malleable, willing and receptive to the new forms of God's ever-flowing Spirit! Cheers!

With blessings to you all, Rev. Elise



From the Board Chair

WCMD

Don't worry about the acronym — it'll reveal itself as you read.

Right now, let's go on a journey — a way back in time to the edge of an abandoned farm in Chemainus. If you look just over there, you'll see an old machine shed in the corner and a barn a bit to the south. Yes, and look over there — see the apple trees further to the west. Can't see them? Well, next time you're in church, have a look out the windows of the CE Hall and behold, there they are.... the very same trees — only a little older, like you and me.

You probably guessed that the farm lay at the intersection of Alder and Willow Streets and maybe you knew that HR MacMillan, one of our early parishioners, donated his property for an important cause, which you've probably guessed as well. That's right — within a few months, United Church townsfolk began the back breaking work of excavating and preparing the foundations for the church that today, we call our own. But they didn't stop when the building was framed and functional; no ma'am, those dedicated men and women kept right on working, building community...and pews. Because there wasn't much use singing, "**come in come in and sit down**"...if there was standing room only. So members with joinery skills assembled slabs of straight grained fir in the downstairs hall — and fashioned the pews we sit and sometimes fidget in today. Men and women with a vision, that's what they were — they had a conviction that theirs were the hands and feet of Christ, preparing to do his work. Today over 70 years later, we too need a vision — and a conviction that, "**we can make a difference**" — In Chemainus and in the world.

2021 has been tough, no doubt about that and we have ended the year with a serious deficit. Remember that please when you stumble into a fortune. And in the interim, let your Board know if you have a clever idea — like a planned legacy? Think about it, and imagine — a 'living' gift in your name that keeps doing Gods work long after you've gone. Decades after the sod was turned by our predecessors, new generations continue to worship and in spite of increasingly complicated Covid mitigation orders — your tenacious church still does its best to do good for others what they cannot do for themselves. I'm grateful for your steadfast persistence and attendance, especially in these discouraging times..."for whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them". Your faith helps sustain my own, now and for our future.

After 3 years, this is my last report as Chairman of the Board. Soon, you'll choose someone else as your Chair, and others who will assist in defining our vision for the years to come. We're fortunate that the Spirit is very much alive at Chemainus United Church (CUC) and that we have several experienced leaders who have agreed to continue to serve on the Board. But, as good and willing as they are, they're not enough, so I want you to look into my eyes because I have a serious request — your church needs you. Don't look away and please, don't leave it to somebody else — **it's you who is needed!**

I'm sorry that we no longer have throngs of Sunday school children in their old classrooms downstairs — but the silver lining is that we have that same space to accommodate our local food bank, and other civic groups. Yes, CUC has so many blessings; like Elise in the pulpit, Liam on the keyboards and Cindy managing the office — and each of you as allies and members. But don't imagine that the church can continue without you; we need your support as much now as

our forebears needed each other in the 1950s. Together we have so much potential with Christ as our guide.

For your perseverance and patience, as we endure the pestilence, thank you.

As daylight gains and winter wanes, blossom buds are swelling; it's the dawn of a new year — let's "go make a difference; **we can make a difference**". **You** can make a difference.

Jamie



WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

I took over the Worship Chair position from Margaret Ormond for the April 27.21 Worship Meeting. March and April 2021 proved to be difficult months re cases of covid-19 doubling in numbers, putting great pressure on our health care system.

Former Chair, Margaret Ormond had ended her 2020 Worship Committee Report with these words: “We look forward to the time when the pandemic ends.” Well, 2021 proved to be every bit as difficult as 2020 with the variants Delta and Omicron, especially Omicron, proving to be highly transmissible, even to the point where those who had been triple vaccinated were contracting the virus. At the end of 2021 there was no sign of the pandemic ending.

Dr. Bonnie Henry, closer to Holy week, said no to us meeting in person inside Chemainus United church because of the risks and the new variants. The Good Friday service on April 2.21 went ahead, being taped for youtube by Reverend Elise Feltrin with the much-appreciated help of Ken Lavigne.

Sunday, April 4.21, Easter Sunday, was taped in the church’s side garden with Reverend Elise’s splendid message of hope for the world.

April 18.21, Earth Sunday (Earth Day, April 22), Reverend Elise spoke in her reflection about what we can do to save our beleaguered planet.

May 18th worship meeting found covid restrictions continuing until after May 24th long weekend, when Dr. Bonnie Henry will review situation and hopefully, we will be able to get back to worship in the garden.

June 8th worship meeting – we had planned to have indigenous chief join our Sunday, June 20th (National Indigenous Day) service, but tragedy of finding 215 former residential school children’s graves at former Kamloops residential school, ended this idea. Out of this tragedy came a march in Chemainus of “orange Shirted” people to give their support to indigenous people. Reverend Elise had bookmarks printed with information about residential schools and the story of the “orange Shirt.” The worship committee delivered the bookmarks to many in our congregation, with help from the pastoral care committee. Ginny Van Allen, chair of M&P committee, and her team were busy looking for a new choir director. Margaret Ormond filled in each Sunday and the worship committee was so grateful for her skills on the piano and organ.

There were no board meetings in July and August, and the worship committee did not meet in these months.

Worship meeting on September 14.21 saw no major changes in covid update and protocol review. The only change was the vaccine passport needed to get into certain places i.e., restaurants, concerts, sporting events etc. Vaccine passport not needed yet for worship services.

The M&P committee hired a new choir director who started in September. Liam Pistor had a very impressive resume and started rehearsals with the choir on Wednesdays at 10 am and played for Sunday services. The feedback was positive.

There was a discussion about finding readers and greeters. there was a problem finding consistent volunteers.

Covenanting service for Reverend Elise and celebration of her 1-year anniversary as Minister of the congregation is coming up in October (she arrived in Chemainus October 1.20).

Discussion about paper bulletins resulted in agreement that they are not necessary when the overhead screen is used.

Worship meeting on October 12.21 – still following covid protocols. Covenanting service for Reverend Elise set for October 24.21. Rev. Elise has written the service, and it will be presided over by Rohana Laing (retired UC minister) as a representative of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council.

Committee discussed arrangements for advent and Christmas services.

Worship Meeting on November 16.21 – Still following covid protocols. Those people past a certain age, and others with compromised immune systems, are now eligible for a booster shot. Others will have to wait approximately 6 months after their last vaccination to get the booster shot.

November 21.21 – Reign of Christ Sunday - end of church year.

November 26.21 – Greening of church – 4 pm.

November 28.21 Advent 1, service of Hope, which included speaker, Elder, Jill Harris on Truth and Reconciliation.

December 5.21 Advent 11, Concert – “A Musical Adventure for Advent,” with Liam Pistor and Elena Alina. Audience of congregational members and some from other communities gave the duo a standing ovation.

December 12.21 – Advent 111, JuBellation Bell Choir.

December 19.21 – Advent 1V, Regular Advent service theme of “love”.

December 21.21 – A Quiet Winter Solstice – 7 pm.

December 24.21 – Christmas Eve with Communion – 7pm. Lighting of candles.

December 7.21 – Last Worship Meeting of the 2021 year. Following covid protocols. A new variant, Omicron, is causing some concern and anxiety as highly transmissible.

November 26.21 Greening of the church went well with about 14 people turning out. After all the work, we enjoyed sitting down with a couple of slices of pizza.

The issue of how readers and greeters are found, came up, and if readers need further support with pronunciation of words, etc. It was agreed that there are problems finding volunteers for many positions.

Looking forward to AGM in February 2022, there was some discussion about vacancies on the Worship Committee. Karen Devlin stated her need to resign as Chair, but will remain on the committee after AGM, as will Rohana Laing.

Margaret Ormond will be retiring from the committee and Patricia Johnson is relocating to Victoria, so we will need new members. It was discussed and suggested that some of the newer church attendees be approached to serve on the Worship Committee. Karen volunteered to do this.

I have enjoyed my time as Worship Committee Chair and my time with the Worship team at our monthly meetings in 2021.

I wish Patricia well in her new home in Victoria.

I want to thank Margaret for her dedication and hard work as a member of the Worship Committee, including 3 years as Worship Chair before I took over the position. I wish you peace and happiness in your retirement from the Worship Committee.

Here's hoping that 2022 sees the end of the pandemic and the deaths and suffering it has caused in the world. It seems that the variants are getting weaker, but that could just be wishful thinking.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Devlin, Worship Committee Chair



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

Joan Murray and Maureen Kostin assisted me with Ministry & Personnel work this year.

Covid has continued to be a challenge! During the winter of 2020-2021 online services and Zoom coffee hour chats were very successful. Reverend Elise played an impressive role in producing online services with the technical assistance of Ken Lavigne. When the Covid regulations allowed in the late Spring we did a pivot, and in-person services resumed. With the help of our Covid Covenant we have been able to continue them, with Zoom for some small groups/meetings.

Joan worked with Cindy Popplestone to complete a review and documentation of job descriptions and procedures for our Office Manager and Janitor positions. We continue to benefit from Cindy's cheerful assistance and knowledge. Apparently she has been working at CUC since 1988!

It became apparent that we had a huge hole in the area of music when we resumed in-person services. A highlight of the year was hiring a new Music Director. Liam Pistor joined us in September 2021, in this role and we have been enjoying his musical talents during choir practice and services. Thanks again to Shirley Graham and Maureen Kostin who assisted me with this process.

The Board updated the Governance Structure document for Chemainus United Church, resulting in a slightly reduced number of Chair positions reporting to, and attending Board meetings. (*We now have a Congregational Life Team, composed of Worship, Spiritual Development, and Pastoral Care Teams. Only one Chair needs to attend Board meetings.*)

The Board also approved an updated fee schedule for room rentals at the Church, with a few modest increases to reflect increased costs.

Thank you, John Silins, for assisting me with the Nominating Committee work, which is still in process.

It has been a pleasure to work with congregants, Board members, and staff of Chemainus United Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Van Allen, Chair

CHEMAINUS UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CARE TEAM
ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 20, 2021

January 2021 began with the COVID19 Pandemic in full swing. The church was closed. This put a limit on all in-person gatherings.

Our Pastoral Care Group had seven members led by our Reverend Elise Feltrin. The members were Carol Coles, Edna Hirst, Rosemary Jones, Helen Kanski, Marg Merriam, Joan Murray, and Rene Smith (chair).

We began to cook soup in our homes to hand deliver to ill shut-ins as the pandemic continued. Our team put in a great effort to call our congregants more often to give some companionship and or cheer. Cindy provided us with a current phone list which we divided between us for the emergency call list.

Rene wanted to step down as Chair of the pastoral Care after two years but no one wished to run so she stayed on for another year. In February 2021 Carol Coles and Rosemary Jones decided to leave our group. We then welcomed Marjorie Coakwell as a new member. We had to revise the emergency call list. All future planned events were postponed or cancelled. Our team was asked to make more phone calls or send out cards to people so we were very busy. Marg Merriam had been sending out birthday, sympathy, thinking of you cards for many years and wished to be relieved of this task. Many thanks Marg for you years of service. We are really grateful to you! Marjorie Coakwell graciously volunteered to take her place. Thank you Marjorie!

The church had our first Zoom meeting in April 2021 so this was a new learning curve for most of us.

Rev. Elise provided our team with hand-outs on "Active Listening and Self-Care". She coached us using role-play. We practiced this at the beginning of each meeting using our "Lemons and Cherries" exercise "

For Easter, under Rev. Elise's direction we made up 80 Palm Sunday post cards which provided details of The church services at this time. We hand delivered most of these as the church was still closed. Our congregants seemed to appreciate this and were happy to see our smiling faces. The weather was much warmer now so we held our first outdoor service in the grass beside the church Ken Lavigne sang a beautiful solo on this occasion. We were truly blessed. Seventeen people attended.

No meetings are held in July and August as most people are on holiday or taking a break from meetings. In September COVID variants raged on so the church was still closed.

The last meeting was held September 14, 2021. Our Pastoral Care Team sent out 195 cards, made 179 phone calls, sent 162 emails, and made 51 visits.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to accomplish this. As the Pandemic continues more of us will emerge from our homes to re-enter society again. What other choice do we have? Remember Dr. Bonnie Henry's words "**Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe.**"

Respectfully submitted by: Rene Smith
January 23, 2021

Outreach Report 2021- 22

Pandemic restrictions have had a substantial impact on outreach activities. Nevertheless, some did take place.

1. We participated organizing 100 Debates, sponsored by United Church. A Zoom broadcast took place at Duncan United Church. The debate was among federal party candidates on their platforms relating to climate change and environment, prior to the most recent federal election. It could be viewed live or subsequently on YouTube.

2. Together with Chemainus Climate Solutions Group we had an information booth on two occasions at the Chemainus Market. The booth contained material related climate change impacts and was designed to promote discussions. About 50 persons were engaged in conversations.

3. Together with Chemainus Climate Solutions group we had an information booth at the Duncan Climate Strike organized by Earth Guardians, a youth group actively involved in environmental stewardship.

4. I participated in a recent Zoom meeting titled, 'Just Conversations' (an announcement about 'Just Conversations' Zoom series was sent to our congregants) organized by Jane Dawson, Justice Minister, PMRC. Subsequently, Jane asked for volunteers to form a group to, '....explore ways PMRC can envision / coordinate our environmental justice work and ministry.' I volunteered.

Future activities

It is difficult to plan in person meetings, given the current restrictions. It is, however, likely that these will ease in the coming weeks. In the meantime tentative arrangements are being made discuss the following topics at public meetings:

- Local climate impacts and how they are being addressed in North Cowichan's Official Community Plan.
- Climate impacts on human health
- Local reconciliation activities

Respectfully submitted by:
John Silins
January, 2022



Christian Education Report

Like most aspects of church life this was affected by the limitations Covid imposed.

A book club was begun again. Interesting book titles were shared and a little about each person's suggestion.

A group met in Advent to read and discuss the devotional Draw Near.

The prayer group did some short studies on different ways to pray and practiced some of them.

Elise did a community workshop on the labyrinth after the prayer group had walked it in the summer. There were often people interested in it and what it was.

May we find ways to draw nearer to God and share God's love in the coming year.

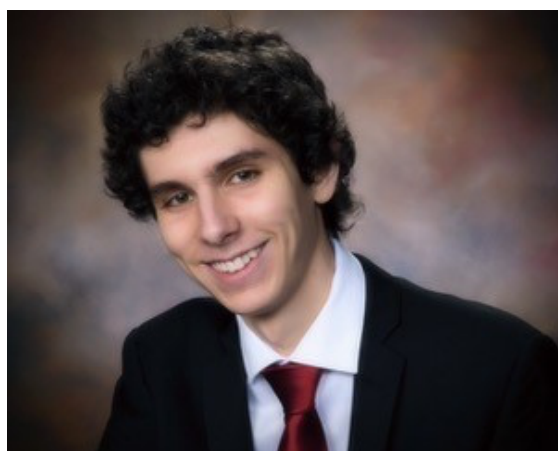
Respectfully submitted
Marian Flinton



Chemainus United Church Choir - Annual Report

Thank you for welcoming me as the new Chemainus United Church music director! Since September, I have been working with the choir every Wednesday morning from 10 to 11. Although the number of choristers has fluctuated, due to the weather and Covid concerns, a few dedicated choristers have continued to meet. Together, we practice traditional hymns and prepare special anthems to sing at Sunday services. We have a very good time, learning together and sometimes having Ken play along on the drums. Although we must currently wear masks while we sing, we hope that requirement will change soon, and former choristers will return to the fold, and new choristers will join. It would be great to once again have a balance of vocal ranges in the choir. In the meantime, I would like to thank everyone at the United Church for welcoming me. I am so thankful to have had the privilege to work with the choir and everyone at the church!

Liam Pistor



2021 ENVELOPE SECRETARY REPORT

A total 19 envelopes were in use by the end of the year (33 in 2020).
32 persons give through direct banking (PAR) (27 in 2020)
1 with no number

Total givings through par and envelopes **\$87,490**

Local totaled **\$77,983.00**

M & S totaled **\$9,507.00** (27 persons gave regularly to M&S)

Other receipted donations totaled **\$2,945.00** (G747040 to # G747062)

Break down of offering:-

0 – 500	7	3001 – 4000	3
501 – 1000	9	4001 – 5000	3
1001 – 2000	19	5001 - 6000	1
2001 – 3000	8	Over 6001	1

Submitted by
Sheila Loeffler



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Our new Stewardship Team consists of Elaine Cann, Elise Feltrin, Laurie Desmarais and Shirley Graham.

We started our new adventure with an online workshop “Called to be Church”, which we all found to be very encouraging. Our goal is to sustain Chemainus United as a place where the community feels engaged and welcomed so that healthy relationships flourish, life giving connections are formed and the common good is served.

Over the last 5 years, there have been both surpluses and deficits as giving has some years exceeded expenses and other years, not.

Our first campaign was offered in October of 2021 and we look forward to reaching out to everyone in our community again in the new year and our team is also looking forward to the second workshop of Called to be Church which is to held in June.

Trustees’ Report 2021

The Trustees of Chemainus United Church are: Alice Lavigne, Elise Feltrin, Ginny Van Allen, Joyce Cloakey and Shirley Graham. Ginny Van Allen is the Secretary and Shirley Graham is Chair of the committee. The Trustees met three times in 2021; once in person and twice by Zoom.

In 2021, the Trustees drafted an Investment Policy for Chemainus United Church. The policy was approved by the Board and then approved by the congregation at a general meeting in November. The Trustees spent time this year researching investment opportunities that would follow the guidelines of the new Investment Policy.

Shirley Graham,

Chair

Maintaining the Church

I'm sure everyone is familiar with the idiom which begins, "For want of a nail....", and I'm confident that you will appreciate that a little neglect can have grave results — hence, you check the oil level in your car (unless it's electric!). The point is, it's important to look after an asset whether a horseshoe or a church. Logically then, we have to accept the costs to undertake some significant, preventative maintenance this year that will preserve the integrity of our building for the future:

- (1). Paint or otherwise restore fascia boards, l/c some adjacent to the main Willow Street entrance that are high elevation (high ladder work, hence a contract expense);
- (2). Paint or otherwise restore the siding along the south side of the CE hall (we could do this with a work party some spring week-end);
- (3). Restore the eaves troughs on the south side of the CE hall (contract expense);
- (4). Verify the function and effectiveness of the heat/smoke alarm system within the building (contract expense).

Wish there was sugar — or maybe a big fat grant — for the medicine we have to swallow.

Jamie
But One of the maintenance volunteers
Chemainus United Church



2021 Annual Report Communications and Publicity

The year has been relatively quiet compared to other years. During the Spring, until the end of June, our services were on-line and posted each week on Facebook. At the beginning of July, in-person services resumed with the sermon emailed out by Elise, to those who requested a copy.

In the late Spring a decision was made to send out an E-news bulletin every Thursday. This was to provide information regarding up-coming events, services, congregants birthdays etc. There was some concern as the weeks went by as to whether this was being read a large portion of recipients. I believe people are now in the habit of looking for it each Thursday referring to it for pertinent information. This is produced by Elise and Cindy.

We used a number of local Shout Out pages on social media to advertise our mini garage sales, online sales and the big Christmas sale. This proved to be the very best way of advertising although with the positive, came the negative aspect of comments by the public. Those that had an agenda regarding vaccinations and mask wearing felt this was an opportunity to have their voices heard.

Don Bodger, editor of the Chemainus Valley Courier, continued his support of the church with writes up when appropriate. We took out an expensive ad for our Christmas services and I think, particularly for the Longest Night Service, this was successful in reaching members of the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Stephen



2021 Annual Report

Garage Sales, Online Sales, Christmas Sale, Mending and Advent Concert

During the year I continued to sell much of the stored items online. This really did seem to be very successful and certainly raised more money than we would have if an item had been sold at a garage sale price. Buyers were happy to send me an e-transfer for the money and I found it easier to focus on a limited number of items at one time, selling them directly from our house. This avoided having to go down to the church to show an item. Most of the larger items were sold directly from the church. In early July, a Community Garage Sale day was held in Chemainus. The organizers welcomed our participation and by joining in with the group we benefited from the extensive advertising, therefore reaching more people. We set up on the Friday and had a very successful sale on the Saturday. We limited the number of items put out and because of the good weather, we were able to set up both inside and out. For the rest of July, we had, what we called, mini garage sales held in the basement. We were able to advertise that we were bringing out new items that had not been displayed previously each week and this was appreciated by the public. These mini garage sales were much easier to deal with as there was not the large amount to be put away at the end of the day. We took time to re-evaluate what we had before packing up and either got rid of things or passed them on to the Thrift Shop if we were confident that they would be able to sell them.

Our Christmas Sale was held on November 20th and was very well attended. We had a few boxes already in storage waiting for this sale, but many people took the time to go through their Christmas decorations and make donations for that day. Sales of shortbread, mince tarts and marmalade occurred during December.

Thank you to those who came to help at these sales and especially to those who packed up at the end of the day. This assistance was greatly appreciated and really made the job much easier with so many helping. A very special thank you to Sharon Russell-Ricciardi for all her help throughout the year. It would be difficult to find anyone more willing to do all those little background jobs that make any sale a success than Sharon. She and I are working methodically at organizing our sale items along with the Christmas Season decorations on the stage and in the choir room. This is an on-going project. Our hope is to have it completed prior to the start of our sales in the summer. As you do your spring cleaning this year, please keep the church in mind for donations that are in good repair. Please check with Helen Stephen or Sharon Russell-Ricciardi before bringing items to the church for storage. We are grateful to those who have made donations of value that we have been able to successfully sell at market price such as jewelry, antiques or near new electronics.

In the Fall, Marjorie Coakwell extended an offer to do mending for members of the congregation. Her expertise in darning was particularly well received. The donations that she received were turned over to the church. Many thanks Marjorie.

In early Advent we were given the honour of an exceptional afternoon concert featuring our Musical Director, Liam Pistor and local Violinist, Elena Ilina. Due to the Provincial Health Regulations for Covid, we had to limit the number of people in the church to fifty. This concert was so well received, we are hopeful that there will be others in the future. The revenue received was split fifty fifty. Fifty percent was given to the performers to divide between themselves while the remaining fifty percent was kept by the church.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Stephen

Annual Report Plant Sale, Food Sales, Kitchen

Plant sale was held on various week-ends from Esther's garden. Thanks are extended to the congregants who assisted moving pots from the back yard to the boulevard and those who donated plants. Net funds raised \$ 641.00

Food sales both at the Church and at the Chemainus Market are progressing well. A number of congregants find the prepared items handy and wholesome. Funds raised are reported on the Income Statement in Miscellaneous Income. Market Proceeds given in our donation envelopes.

Kitchen: During the year we were able to hold Coffee time after Service when Covid19 Restrictions allowed. This time is very much appreciated and enjoyed. Donations to the coffee Can \$269.40 – exp. 69.15 Net \$ 200.25

Respectfully submitted
Esther Craig



