



wellington  
square

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2020**

**Our MISSION:**  
Making and Maturing Disciples of Jesus.



**Our VISION:**  
We are a vibrant, diverse community of disciples, engaged in advancing the Kingdom of God.

## Board of Directors

Wendy Alexopoulos (co-chair)

Joined Sept 2019

Penny Bailey (co-chair)

Joined March 2015

Gary Brown

Joined Dec 2020

Nancianne Chin

Joined Jan 2020

Lynn Kaspyrzyk

Joined Oct 2019

Ben Petrie

Joined March 2019

Mardi Vickers

Joined Sept 2020

Rev. Glen Wells

## Board of Trustees

Ron Harper (chair)

Joined March 2017

Margaret Ingram

Joined April 2009

Rev. Glen Wells (ex-officio member)

## Staff

Rev. Glen Wells - Minister

Kim Belanger - Children's Ministry

Adam Cresswell - Youth Ministry

Joy Magwood - Adult Faith Ministry

Lisa Lunski - FNC/Meal Bag Ministry

Lorretta Helwig-Fischer - Music Ministry

Dave Skoric - Sound/Tech Ministry

Paul Pincante - Finance

Catherine Wagg - Admin

Brian Jones - Custodian

Ed Rodriguez - Custodian

Raven Staniforth - Custodian

## Minister's Message

As I pondered the year 2020, it did not go as planned. Not even close. My hope was to take our newly minted mission statement of making and maturing disciples of Jesus and to get to work. To sit down with you and discuss what helped you come to faith and grow in Jesus. The plan, that this would happen with a few others around a nice meal. A time for me to get to know your faith story and listen for wisdom to living out this mission together. Amazing, how quickly everything shifted with the coming pandemic.

Yet, by God's grace, we pivoted quickly as a community. Online services were produced, uploaded to Youtube week by week and in time go out even further through a slot on Cogeco TV. A team of callers then go to work to connect with one another. The Friday Night Community saw a growing need to help with food security during the pandemic. They shifted to providing Meal Bags, for all in need. Soon the ministry grew to providing, with amazing community partnership, over 1000 meals per week. They also provided emotional support through a dedicated core of volunteers calling those in the community. Small group ministries moved to virtual. All these ministry changes occurred in the context of ever-shifting safety protocols.

I saw a staff team, working week by week to listen for the needs of the community and digging down deep to meet them. We upgraded both the audio and sound in the sanctuary to help with the online services and launched a newly designed website. In it all I wondered how we could weather this storm financially, with so many losing their employment and not having in person services. Yet, we saw God's hand at work as our investments stewarded by the Trustee's grew by 13 per-cent and an end of year deficit of just over \$50,000. Although, no one wants a deficit, but given the circumstances, I'll take that as a win and give God thanks for His provision.

The year was made even more challenging as we managed it being short handed, with the retirement of Rev. Katie Southon, Karen Guyatt and our part time office administrator Martha. We all dug in and kept on keeping on. Our hearts would need to minister, often very heavy as we grieved the loss of so many precious pillars of Wellington, who died during the pandemic, Noel Henderson and Fran Gray, to name a couple in a long list.

Throughout this year, it was like a page out of the bible. I felt like we were like the disciples who rowed hard through a stormy sea through the night, they were in serious trouble. I think they wanted to give up. Yet, it's precisely here that Jesus sees their struggle. He then walks on water to them, over the troubled waters. As He gets to them, He reminds them, "Do not be afraid! Take courage! I am here!" Then He climbed into the boat, with that the wind stopped. OK, so I'm waiting for the pandemic to stop and things to come back to the 'new' normal. But I can't help but read ahead, you see after the storm in Mark's account we find they successfully crossed the lake and climbed out. Then what followed was amazing. "Wherever Jesus went in villages, cities, or the countryside, they brought the sick out to the marketplaces. They begged him to let the sick touch at least the fringe of his robe, and all who touched him were healed." (Mark 6:56)

So, I'm so thankful to the Staff, Board, Trustee's and all who are in the Wellington Square faith boat! We've had to row hard together through a difficult year. Yet, we've had Jesus with us, reminding us time and time again, to not be afraid, to take courage and to know He is with us. I trust that we'll get to the other side of this pandemic and that amazing ministry is just around the corner.

Thank-you for remaining faithful during this difficult year!  
Yours In Christ,

Rev. Glen Wells

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

## **Report from the Trustees**

It is my pleasure to be able to report on behalf of our Trustee team. The last year has been a challenge for all of us, and the disruption through 2020 and the pandemic has forced our Trustee meetings to take a different meeting method. Whereas there was not a significant activity on the Trustee team this year, we watched our church investments closely to ensure that they were meeting our objectives and future needs. I am happy to report that through the downs and then ups of the markets in 2020 our investments performed well, and at last review at the end of 2020 our total portfolio was up over 10% from January 2020. Additionally, work has gone into ensuring alignment with the Trustee activities and the Board of Directors during this time, and making sure that we performed our governance responsibilities well, and to the best of our ability. This work and alignment will continue into 2021.

As a final note, the Trustee team has important responsibilities within the Church, and even though most work is behind the scenes it is very important, and I would like to thank our team. Bruce Hillyer, and Michael Morgan retired from the Board this year and I wish to express thanks for their dedication and long service on the Trustee team. We are searching for a couple of new members, so if you have interest in joining the trustees, please contact me. A special thanks as well to long term trustee Margaret Ingram for her dedicated service.

Many thanks  
Ron Harper, Board of Trustees Chair

## Report from the Board

To say 2020 was a challenging year for Wellington Square would be an understatement. However, we are so grateful for God's provision during this past year and His continued faithfulness.

Early in the year we needed to immediately look at changing our service format as we went into COVID lockdown and a team was put together to deal with the ever-changing protocols and regulations to ensure safety and protection of all staff and volunteers. We provided the support and approvals needed to move the service to online as quickly as possible so that we could all still be connected and hear God's word. As FNC moved quickly to understand the needs of the community and change to The Meal Bag program, the board was available to support and sign off on grants to help ensure needs were met and continue to do this.

The Board continued to have our regular monthly meetings and work on the ongoing needs of the church. The Board provided high level oversight with a number of staff and committee member changes throughout this past year. We also experienced more Board member changes in 2020 with Tony Wilson stepping away and we have been blessed with the addition of Mardi Vickers and Gary Brown.

The Board was consulted in the ongoing communication regarding the development and then approval of our new website which launched early 2021. We have also been providing more regular communication and updates to our congregation through the e-blast bulletins and with our video messages of welcome and spotlights that started in 2021.

We also have been working on the revamping of the Congregational Care program and are so appreciative of those that have stepped in to help us call and connect to our members and stay in touch during these difficult times.

The Board was involved in the reopening of the sanctuary in the fall until just before Christmas, again adhering to COVID protocols. We will continue to work with Glen and the staff in making the right decisions to ensure everyone's safety as we decide when we can resume live services. We are looking forward to when we can all gather together in the sanctuary and worship.

In closing, the Board would like to extend our gratitude to Glen, our wonderful staff for their leadership, for all the extra time and effort during this past year in preparing our online services and looking at ways to connect and shine the light of Jesus to and through our congregation, as well as our servant volunteer leaders who devote their time and talent in helping us advance God's kingdom. We also want to extend thanks to our congregation for their continued faithfulness and support and continue to pray thanksgiving and blessings on all.

Regards,  
Wendy Alexopoulos - Board Co-Chair  
Penny Bailey – Board Co-Chair

## Minutes from Wellington Square United Church AGM Sunday March 1, 2020

**Welcome** – Tony Wilson

**Opening Prayer** – Rev. Katie Southon

**In Memoriam** – read by Rev. Katie Southon

**Motion** that Catherine Wagg be appointed recording secretary.  
Made by John Crusoe. 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Butler. Motion Passed.

**Motion** that the Minutes of the 2019 Congregational Meetings and the Annual Report be approved.  
Made by Pam Butler. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat McTaggart. Motion passed.

### **Ministry and Personnel Update-** John Crusoe

Announced that Rev. Katie Southon will be retiring. Her last day will be Sunday May 11, 2020. There will be more discussion going forward and M&P will work with Katie, Glen and the rest of the staff to develop a plan. M&P will be sourcing the next steps required due to the change from Presbytery to Regional governance. We will be prayerfully discerning the next steps and will bring everyone back together when we have answers.

### **Vision in Action Team Update** – Bruce Magwood

**Motion** to accept the new Board of Directors.  
Made by Diane Thompson. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Couse. Motion passed.

### **Financial Results 2019**

Tony Wilson presented the 2019 financial results and the 2020 budget.

### **Questions:**

**Jeff Weir:** What 1 or 2 things can the congregation take away from this?

**Tony Wilson:** We can celebrate the money that has been coming into Outreach projects/ministries. The \$110,500 cash balance is tight. It covers two months of expenses. We don't want to take away from other areas to support running the church.

**Motion** to accept the 2019 financial results. Made by John Butler. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Smith. Motion carried.

### **Budget Questions**

**Janelle Eade:** is there a growth strategy for the congregation?

**Tony Wilson:** Yes, we do. Details to be worked on and will happen over time. It will be based on GRACE, and our new Mission and Vision statements.

**Rob Irish:** What % are most of us giving?

**Tony Wilson:** Looking at the median income in Burlington as a base, our congregation is average 2.5% in givings.

**Rob Irish:** What increase would we need?

Tony Wilson: If we were to double that to 5% we would be in a positive position.

**Rob Irish:** What is the strategy to call the congregation into action?

**Tony Wilson:** Awareness. This is the first year that we are creating an awareness of the balance sheet. There will still need to be a lot of prayer and talks.

**Lisa Lunski:** Does the other designated amount include Rotary donations etc.?

**Tony Wilson:** Yes. There is a schedule of the 89k by project. FNC was not the majority of the amount.

Motion to accept the 2020 Budget. Made by Penny Bailey. 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Brown. Motion passed.

**Courtesies** - Penny Bailey

**Motion** to close the meeting made by John Crusoe. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michelle Guest. Motion passed.

**Closing Prayer** – Rev Glen Wells

## In Memoriam

Noel Henderson

Meg Gray

Gloria Wells

Betty Scarlett

Jim Zmudczynski

Marjorie Nelson

Fran Gray

Fran Travis

Andy Blew

Keith Munro

Dorothy Lawless

## New Members

Shirley Hoffman

Angela Kerr

Shelby McMurchy

## Marriages

Adam Consoli and Lindsay Jevons

Kyle Lessard and Adrianna Crusoe

Kenneth Bailey and Suzanne Minnett

July 15, 2020

July 18, 2020

August 30, 2020

## Ministry and Personnel Committee

Looking back in hindsight, to suggest that the year 2020 was a “season of change” may be one of the greatest understatements of all time....

Thankfully, the amazing staff team at Wellington Square United Church have consistently answered the call and found creative ways to deliver engaging programming and safely manage the flow of people at the Church. With Glen’s thoughtful, prayerful leadership, Kim and Adam’s creativity and Dave’s video and sound editing genius, the online services have filled everyone’s spiritual needs. Adding Lorretta Helwig-Fischer to our staff team as the Director of our 9 am and 11 am music ministries with her passion for Jesus and vocal and musical skills has been a great addition to our music programs and the quality of our Sunday services.

Thanks to Joy Magwood our Adult Faith Community continues to thrive and Lisa Lunski’s leadership of the Food Bag Program provides much needed spiritual and physical support for so many that are in need of some assistance.

With so many changes taking place around us, literally on a daily basis, we are so thankful for Catherine’s leadership and dedication to keep the Church on track with meeting and exceeding all health and safety requirements, keeping our staff and visitors safe and healthy. The relentless cleaning being done by our first-rate custodial staff is so greatly appreciated – thanks to Brian, Raven and Ed. Keeping track of our finances in such uncertain times has become more important than ever and we so greatly appreciate the job Paul is doing to keep us in balance and on track.

After 40 inspirational years of Ministry leadership and service, the last 15 years at Wellington Square United Church, Reverend Katie Southon retired in May. We are so thankful for all she has done for us over the years and wish her and Michael many happy years together enjoying their time with their children and grandchildren.

Thank you to ALL of our amazing staff – Glen, Kim, Adam, Lorretta, Joy, Lisa, Catherine, Paul, Brian, Raven and Ed. Thank you for the unique way that you care for us all – as individuals, and as the great staff team that God has gifted us with! You are absolutely remarkable, resilient and faithful in each of your roles. We are SO appreciative for all you do each and every day!

Our M&P team evolved as well this past year as Mardi and Gary transitioned into new roles as Board members at Wellington Square United Church and Anne found another volunteer opportunity to serve Jesus’ ministry. We thank them for their many years of service and dedication to our Church.

## Property Report

This past year for property saw us focused on maintenance with a few improvements.

Early in the year, prior to the church being closed, a significant portion of ACM ceiling tiles were removed from the kitchen, St. Paul's Hall and the Graceland corridor. There was a collaborative effort, of over 20 people, to install new ceiling tiles in these areas. Also in St. Paul's Hall, half the bulbs were changed to LED lighting. The LED lights improve the lighting, cut-down on energy consumption, and reduce the frequency of replacing light bulbs from a ladder.

In past years, we have come together, in the spring and throughout the year, to work on various projects and maintain the grounds. Although this did not happen in 2020, we were blessed with a few dedicated couples and individuals that continued to maintain the gardens and lawns, to bridge the gap to 2021.

At the end of 2020, Dee Glover took over the role of Property Chair as I moved into more of a supporting role.

Property Chairperson  
Alvin Kiers

## Adult Faith Ministry

The cross reminds us that after Jesus grew up, He died on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of others even though He never sinned Himself. He died in our place so that everyone who believes in Him can have eternal life. (John 3:16). Our mission statement, for our Adult Faith Ministry fits in beautifully with our mission statement for Wellington Square- "Making & Maturing Disciples". We want & desire to live out the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:37-39) & the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). To live this out, we aim to be cognizant of FELLOWSHIP (Acts 2:46), DISCIPLESHIP (ACTS 2:42, Matt. 28:20), SERVING (Acts 2:45, Matt 22:39), OUTREACH (Acts 2:47, Matt. 28:19), & WORSHIP (Acts 2: 42-47, Matt. 22:37). Our MISSION is to share this "GREAT NEWS" & see lives transformed.

This past year has been a year like no other year & it now continues into 2021. It has turned everything upside down---- yet, having a strong network of leadership at Wellington, strong small groups, & a network of sisters & brothers in Christ, we are weathering this storm together! We are ALL looking forward to the time when we can worship together again in person.

We will PRAISE Him with the tambourine & dancing.

We will praise Him with the strings & flutes!

We will praise Him with the clash of cymbals.

With all our breath, we will praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! (Psalm 150)

In the meantime, with our strong leadership team, we have been doing the BEST WE CAN FOR OUR LORD! Our GROUP LEADERS are angels in our midst – so many without missing a beat, embraced the challenge of going online with their small group! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Some have not been able to go online virtually & we respect that. Through phone calls, emails, & small acts of kindness, we have endeavored to stay connected with each other. ENTHUSIASM is contagious & no matter what the circumstances, we encourage one another & stay committed to sharing the GOSPEL of the GOOD NEWS!

With God as our ROCK, we will KEEP PRAYING, KEEP LOOKING UPWARD, & LEANING into our LORD for HELP! Thank-you Father, for all the wonderful things that are still happening in your church to spread the GOOD NEWS; small groups on ZOOM, prayer walks, virtual coffee hours, a new SQUARE ROOT pilot group, staff meetings, cluster meetings, online webinars, tailgate parties, the Christmas Eve drive-through, the "CASE for CHRISTMAS" study groups, "THE STORY" small groups, & our "2 x 2 initiative.

During this most challenging year, we have also lost so many of our sisters & brothers in Christ. We say GOOD-BYE but know that we will meet again in the beautiful throne room of God!

As we move forward, we FULLY TRUST GOD to lead us. We link hearts & arms together to unite & continue to build God's Kingdom here on earth, serving our God with a humble heart, praise & blessings! We will keep looking upward!

With love,

Joy

## Children's Ministry

It's weird to look back over the past year, especially when so much of it feels like a blur! What a year it has been with Covid...while there have been moments we'd rather leave in the past and allow them to be part of our "Remember when Covid didn't allow us to...", there are also many things we can celebrate and thank God for!

This past year has been one where creative ministry has become incredibly important. Finding ways to be innovative and inclusive can be difficult—who has time or energy left to connect through technology, especially when every other chapter of our lives seems to exist only virtually, too. BUT we've done it! God has blessed us with imaginations, ideas, and craziness that has allowed us to continue to connect as a church family.

Vacation Bible School was online this past summer, and for the first time in my ministry, it became a time for all family members to connect and to "go" to VBS together. Each day we would all sign on to YouTube from our homes and celebrate God's power! SO GREAT!! We had a Tail-gate Party, Halloween Zoom Calls, Family Advent Bags, The Kim and Adam Advent Show, the Christmas Eve drive-through, competitions, contests, and so much more.

There is no way I would have made it through this past year without fabulous, loving, and supportive co-workers. They are constant prayer partners, encouragers, and friends. My team of volunteers have steadily been cheering me on and pushing me to keep being a little wild and crazy at times. You, our congregation, have reached out to share about messages that have resonated with your heart and really filled my heart with such incredible love and acceptance. And to my own family, who have helped stuffed and delivered bags, tried to be quiet through recordings, not been too embarrassed by the often-outrageous things I come up with, and for always being there to cheer me on to take the next steps. God has blessed me with incredible people in my life and ministry, and I am deeply humbled and grateful.

What a privilege it has been to serve in ministry with all of you at Wellington Square United Church! Thank you to all of you for accepting me, even when I ask you to do off-the-wall things and thank you for your grace and love. What a blessing you all are to me...God has revealed to me over and over again my place in the Wellington Square family!

Wellington Square is an amazing example of a church that is continually growing and trying new things, never being afraid to step outside the 'box', and it is exciting to be a part of that. My hope and prayer is that we may all feel God's love and accept His grace in the coming year. And may we continue to be open to God's voice as we are led to new and wonderful things! The Spirit is moving and dancing alongside us, and for that I give thanks...and I hope we all learn to dance together in creativity, love, and acceptance.

I thank God for the gift of sharing in ministry with each of you—in person and virtually. I look forward to the road ahead of us, trusting that God continues to lead us every step along the way. Let us be open to His voice as we carry His light into our world.

Blessings and love,  
Kim Belanger

***Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another,  
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.***

## Pastoral Care

### PASTORAL CARE in a Pandemic

A year like no other.

As we reflect on this time, we have become very aware of how much Pastoral care goes on during a Sunday morning.

- Just sitting in the Presence of the Lord, in the Sanctuary
- The nourishment of singing His Praises
- Considering together, what we have learned about God's Word
- The warm hugs and laughter
- The sharing of life, with our brothers and sisters in Christ
- The support for each other in difficult times
- The touch of a hand and prayers spoken within the hearing of one another

We have missed the "in person" experience and we all pray to God for a new season when we can safely come together, especially on a Sunday morning.

We miss the pastoral care that naturally happens in small groups and we give thanks to those who continue to do their classes online, it is not the same, but it is still, especially important, to connect with one another.

Pastoral care also happens in the context of "serving one another". The Meal Bag program provides such opportunities through preparing and delivery of meals. The people lining up for food, see that they are not alone in their suffering, and although people must keep a 6' distance from each other, God Himself, closely surrounds them with His Love.

Pastoral care happens in the context of "pray for one another". The prayer team met outside under the canopy at the front of the church, sitting on their own lawn chairs, 6' feet apart and wearing masks. We worshipped and prayed and took communion for the church. When the cooler weather came, we moved indoors and sat in the Narthex, the entrance to the church. It was peaceful and sunny place, and we could so feel His Presence. Now, we continue prayers through weekly emails. We hope to come together again, as the weather warms up. The prayer books are full, the pages reflect the great difficulties of this time.

Pastoral care calls or sometimes texting or emailing is another active form of connecting in this time. We have attempted to connect callers, with those who are in need. We want to thank the many callers who have served for a time and now need a rest. New callers are stepping into their positions, it is taking time to listen and discern from the Lord who should be connected. We acknowledge Lord; that You know every name and every need, we depend on You to gather the right people together, at the right time.

Respectfully submitted, by Penny Bailey

## Music Ministry

Worship ministry at Wellington Square is what it is because of the talented volunteers who, week after week, show up and give of their time and talent to bring the message of music into each service. I must give a big thank you to all the volunteers that help make the services happen. Thank you to all our musicians, your willingness is greatly appreciated. We have a highly skilled team of musicians with great hearts for God.

I have come on staff at Wellington in June of 2020. Worship ministry is much different during a pandemic with various stages of lockdowns and /or gradual reopening. As many churches had to reinvent worship services and quickly move what was once a live service into a recorded format to be played online, Wellington did not skip a beat and online services have been produced every week since the beginning of CoVid lockdowns.

During the first phase of lockdowns, music for the online services was recorded in a Warehouse location and then before September we transitioned to recording music in the sanctuary. This has been a time of great flexibility and change. I am grateful and so very fortunate for the ability of the music volunteers as we meet to rehearse and then immediately record.

The January "Stay At Home" order brought more challenges to finding content for services, but once again volunteers offered to be involved as they were able. As of March, 2021 we are back to recording music in the Sanctuary for online services. As we continue to step through the reopening process, and as current restrictions start to be lifted, worship ministry will be able to grow and offer more opportunity to those who are interested in being a part of the Service.

In September 2020 we have also started to bring the Traditional service online as well. Bringing together music for a service that prior to the pandemic had use of groups of musicians such as the choir, is certainly a challenge. As we continue to move forward with planning and building the traditional online service, we will creatively find ways to bring in musicians to sing or play and add to the service.

I am also grateful for the patience and understanding of many as church music as they once knew it has changed due to the challenges of recording for online services while following the restrictions for CoVid. It has changed for those watching the services at home on a screen, it has changed for the volunteers who once used their talent to lead a congregation in the Sanctuary. I look forward to the day that we can worship in person with Wellington Square and grow from there.

Lorretta Helwig-Fischer

## Meal Bag Program (FNC)

In this time of fear and uncertainty, we believe that compassion is as important as ever. As a community we are choosing to share what we have with those around us who may be scared, hungry and alone.

When COVID-19 hit in March 2020 we pivoted from our weekly Friday Night Community meal to providing an Emergency Meal Bag Program, flipping our church into a 5 day a week operation serving food and providing telephone support to thousands of community friends. With the help of churches, community partners and neighbours, we have served as a nutritional, social and spiritual lifeline for many through the cooking and distribution of over 1200 meal bags each week. Meals bags include prepared dinners, produce, bread, dairy as well as any hygiene and baby items available and are accessed through pick-up and delivery to isolated community members. We also provide close to 100 snacks bags each week for children attending in-person schooling.

Friends receiving food support include those living below the poverty line and food insecure as well as those living transiently or in insufficient housing. We assist isolated seniors, folks with physical and mental health challenges, those quarantining or Covid positive as well as friends who require wrap around support due to a death in the family. Most recently we are assisting those who are undergoing financial hardship due to job loss or situational change.

With the help of United Way funding, we were able to secure two contract positions called 'Food Coordinator' and 'Operations Manager,' in order to help in running this essential community food support program.

What a blessing that we had the opportunity to wrap around our community in what was a challenging Christmas for many. Together with our food partners, local churches, community organizations, neighbours and friends we provided Christmas dinner, produce, breads and gifts to over 1000 individuals. We are thankful that we were able to show hope, kindness and God's love during this difficult time. In addition, we filled stockings for close to 400 children who are a part of the Meal Bag Program.

Thank you for your continued food and financial support and prayers that have allowed us to wrap around and care for our community during this uncertain time.

With thanks,  
Lisa Lunski & the Meal Bag Team

*"I am blessed to have you in our life. It wouldn't be possible to survive without your help with us and to all the people in the Ministry. We want to thank all of you personally in all your kindness and care. It is very tough and depressing at times but because of your help we keep going."*

*"Our clients love the sincerity, nonjudgmental and discrete way their food is delivered. They enjoy the contact with the people supporting them through the process."*



## Reaching Out

Your commitment through weekly givings, additional donations, and Prayers make a difference in the lives of many people, both here and in other countries.

### Global Initiatives

**Foodgrains** In the last few years, we have been supporting our local growing project, Seeds of Life, in Alberton, Ontario. Last year our donation of \$5000 supported 10 acres of the 72-acre farm. They had a very successful crop and after expenses they were able to send \$78,000 to the Canadian Food Grain Bank. In the spring of 2021 Scott Brooks will advise me what donation amount will be needed to grow and harvest the winter wheat. Covid has made it very difficult for everyone. Due to the duration of this pandemic, the availability and distribution of food has been severely impacted worldwide. As a church community, we will continue to partner with the Canadian Food Grains Bank and support their goal to **End Global Hunger.**



**Malawi** Thank you to everyone who supported our friends in Malawi during this difficult past year. With your generosity, we were able to support: Efrida's Kidz Klub with a new roof for their school building; Pastor Moses and his community with crop protection and farming training.

Prison Fellowship Malawi's projects including fully funding "Frannie's Kitchen" to be started in the spring of 2021. This special project will provide kitchen facilities and safe food for 800 inmates in the Mzuzu Prison. And ongoing support for the training and apprentice programs at the Halfway House.

In addition, we supplied soap and buckets to several communities for sanitization against covid spread. Together, we are making a very big difference in the lives of the marginalized and rural communities in Malawi! Zikomo!

**Mexico** Wellington Square had assembled a team to visit YUGO ministries on a community building initiative in April 2020 but decided to cancel at the onset of the pandemic. When travel was shut down internationally, no teams could visit the YUGO campus or participate in the house building ministry. Through the generosity of partner church donations, 68 homes were still constructed by the local staff. In December, a difficult decision was made to lay off most of the Mexico National staff due to lack of funding. Although YUGO was designated as an essential service, teams have still been hesitant to travel to Ensenada. Several of the national staff chose to stay on as a missionary, depending on sponsor support to be able to continue the valuable house building and community ministries. We are looking into how we can best support the staff and our partner church during this challenging time. We continue to pray for the ministry, and that God will create a path for us to visit in 2022.



**Wellington Orphanage Sierra Leone** When Covid first broke out in Freetown, where the main orphanage is, Pastor Mansaray took all 90 children to Mercy Ships, a walled compound, two hours north of Free town. The school aged children returned to the Orphanage in Freetown in September, to attend the “free” government school. On top of the threat of covid, there was a malarial outbreak in the orphanage in June and most of the children were sick. In addition to our monthly food donation of \$1,000 a month, we were able to send enough funds to purchase anti-malarial nets for every child. We also sent \$600 to replace the big iron cooking pots. We continue to be so grateful to our monthly

sponsors, we know that these regular and dependable funds help the staff to plan more effectively for the food supply. During this time of Covid, the food costs have increased significantly. We did have one scare with a young boy who contracted covid. By the Grace of God, no one else in the Orphanage contracted the virus.

Thank you to all our faithful supporters, who have made a real difference in the lives of these orphans...they are so grateful to you.

## Local Initiatives

Our local initiatives include our longest running group, “Dot Gow”, whose volunteers have been cutting, stuffing and sewing for over 25 years and send approximately 600 dolls a year to McMaster Children’s Hospital. Our monthly lunch in Aldershot offers seniors a time to socialize without leaving their own building. On Monday afternoons, you will find a group of young people in the Wellington Square kitchen learning to cook nutritious meals for themselves and their families.

Unfortunately, due to COVID this past year these local initiatives were unable to run after March 17, 2020. We look forward to having these groups meeting again as soon as it is safe.

The Hamilton street Mission has continued throughout COVID and we have continued to support them.

Angel Wings was again able to ensure that women and children from Halton Women’s Place and teenagers who are unable to be with their families, had a much brighter Christmas. Things looked a little different due to COVID, but we were able to adapt with an online system to support the Angels. Thank you for your support of this program.

## Youth Ministry

Well, it's not secret that 2020 was a tough year with a lot that was unexpected and a lot of changes! With COVID we have had to completely reimagine youth ministry. We want to say first of all how grateful we are for the grace of our youth, parents and congregation as we've had to adapt multiple times over the past 12 months. We don't always get it perfect and it means so much to us that we have a community that is always supporting and cheering us on no matter what!

### **Things have transformed, and that's ok!**

One thing we know for sure: Youth Ministry will look different even after the pandemic has subsided. There's no going back to the ways things were completely but the good news is that's ok! Jesus doesn't invite us to stay the same but be transformed and we believe that youth ministry (not just at Wellington but everywhere) is going to undergo a big transformation that will help youth better connect with Jesus in their lives. What we've found is that the pastoral care element of youth can take a bigger focus going forward and we hope to have the ability to continue that after the pandemic has subsided.

### **'Something for everyone' – A diverse set of programming**

Everyone has different levels of comfort and stamina when it comes to screen-time so in 2020 we worked hard to develop a diverse set of programming that could appeal to our diverse community of youth. And because screen fatigue sets in easily we have intentionally been inserting new programming depending on the "semester" in order to keep things fresh and interesting during a time where everyday can feel the same! Depending on the season (and COVID situation) this included both big special events and recurring events:

- Rubber Chicken Night (special event)
- Youth Discipleship walk (special event)
- Fusion Outdoors Events (recurring)
- Edge Outdoor Events (recurring)
- The Kim and Adam Advent show on Sunday mornings (recurring)
- Weekly Advent contests (special event)
- Squarebucks Drop-in (recurring)
- Pastoral Care Huddles (recurring)
- Justice and Faith for Teens (recurring)
- Inter-Youth Group online events (recurring)
- Burly Sub Youth leadership group (recurring)
- Halloween Pumpkin Carving contest (special event)
- The Hub Christmas Service (special event)
- Youth Christmas Party Kits (special event)
- Fusion Online nights (recurring)
- The Kim and Adam Lenten show on Sunday mornings (recurring)
- Weekly Lenten Contests (special event)
- Ask-A-Away Season 1 Webshow (recurring)
- Rockpile Daily Takeout Curriculum (recurring)
- Edge Daily Takeout Curriculum (recurring)

### **Lots of youth and lots of great team members!**

One of the things we're most grateful for is how dedicated our youth are! In 2019 we were thrilled to see a population explosion and we're happy to report that population has stayed relatively intact through this time. When Adam arrived back in 2017 we had about 11 core youth, and even through COVID our roster has stayed solid and we currently have over 50 teens between the ages of 12-18 coming out to different types of programming throughout the year. In a pandemic this is a huge

blessing from God that we have this kind of a youth population and this has everything to do with God's goodness and the hard work of the youth team and dedicated parents and youth who support us! Our desire to further build up that youth team was unfortunately set-back and the plans we had have been put on hold due to the pandemic but we have had INCREDIBLE support from that team during both in-person events and our online programming. This team includes over 18 people (some parents, some youth supporters, some young adults and former youth) who serve in various capacities. And we also want to celebrate the incredible partnership of Kim and the Children's ministry. It has been an absolute joy to team up with Kim for various events and programming. Whatever is in store for us next we know that amazing people are surrounding these youth, and that as always: God is good!



*We were grateful to kick off the year in-person at our lawn-ch party!*



*The Potato hunt was bigger than ever in it's 4<sup>th</sup> year!*



*The Kim and Adam show has been a great chance to partner with children's ministry!*

*A tough year ended with a bang at our online Christmas party!*



# Finance Report 2020

	<u>2021 BUDGET</u>	<u>2020 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2019 ACTUAL</u>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Givings	657,800	627,039	648,400
Facility Rentals	6,000	7,686	30,400
Interest Earned	-	53	100
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>663,800</b>	<b>634,778</b>	<b>678,900</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel	459,567	459,776	479,100
Outreach	1,000	90	500
Property	83,705	69,728	76,500
Admin & Finance	27,688	26,589	39,300
Presbytery	22,237	22,237	22,200
Christian Development	13,425	10,130	13,000
Worship	22,400	12,922	7,800
Stewardship	1,000	-	4,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>631,022</b>	<b>601,472</b>	<b>642,900</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS FROM GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>32,778</b>	<b>33,306</b>	<b>36,000</b>
<b>LESS:</b>			
Allocation to Special Projects Funds	37,485	65,704	43,000
Allocation to Capital Reserve Funds	-	17,859	18,300
<b>NET DEFICIT</b>	<b>-4,707</b>	<b>-50,257</b>	<b>-25,300</b>
<b>NET BANK ASSETS</b>			
General Fund		63,818	114,075
Special Projects		291,283	212,155
Crisis Care		32,290	30,062
Capital Reserve Fund		140,943	137,721
		<b>528,334</b>	<b>494,013</b>
<b>SPECIAL FUNDS</b>			
Trustee Managed Funds		718,864	670,493