



2020 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

JUNE 2021



WESLEY UNITED CHURCH
3913 Hillside Street, Regina SK, S4S 3Y6
www.wesleyunitedregina.ca
wesleyuc@sasktel.net

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From your Council

A Message from the Council Vice President.....	1
A Message from the Council Secretary	2

Statistics

2020 Statistical Information.....	5
-----------------------------------	---

Program Reports

Administration & Finance Division.....	6
Christian Education Division.....	10
Pastoral Care Division	12
Ministry & Personnel Division.....	15
Worship Division.....	16

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Affirming Ministry	19
WUC / UCAS Partnership Liaisons	20
Blueberry Sale	21

A Message from the Council Vice President

Wesley community:

It's the time of year when we would normally gather as a congregation for our annual program meeting. Although once again we cannot meet in person for this gathering, council has decided to provide written committee reports, allowing us to share an update on the year's events and activities with the community.

The June program meeting is also a time when we would usually look to our community for interest in joining the Church council or committees. While we look forward to being joined by new members and some fresh ideas, the current members of Council have kindly agreed to carry out their positions throughout the summer until we are able to meet face-to-face to renew our leadership team.

Wishing you a happy and healthy summer,

Elaina St. Onge, Vice President, Wesley Church Council

A Message from the Council Secretary

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a year like no other. The year started normally. Wesley Council hosted Eastside United Church Council to a potluck dinner and joint meeting. Members from Wesley were participating in the Regina area cluster meetings. Work was progressing to complete our Community of Faith Profile. Porterage at Wascana Hospital was continuing. A February 9th church table service yielded good discussion on the path forward for Wesley. The men's club hosted a very successful Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. A proposal to sponsor an LGBTQ2spirit refugee was under consideration. The annual financial congregational meeting was held on February 23rd.

Then the Pandemic struck! March 18th was the last in-person Council meeting. At that meeting an Emergency Preparedness Committee was formed, in-person church services were suspended and all user group rentals at the church were cancelled. Worship services, Council and committee meetings began to be conducted by Zoom. Weekly Zoom prayer meetings on Tuesday evening and coffee and check-in on Friday mornings have been ongoing and have allowed some social contact among folks at Wesley. A phone tree was set up to maintain contact, especially with those who may not be comfortable with Zoom.

Although no longer able to host teas and events at the church, the Pastoral Care Committee has continued to be in regular telephone contact with over 40 Wesley folks. Cards are sent to those who are ill or have suffered loss. Instead of the usual Christmas hampers of fresh baked cookies, the Committee delivered 30 packages of cards and wrapped chocolates.

Virtual summer services were shared among Wesley, Sunset and Lakeview churches.

Applications for COVID financial assistance went forward to the Government of Canada and much needed funds were received. Wesley's sponsored refugee family, the Fattal family were given some short-term financial assistance.

Fundraising during the Pandemic became a challenge. The annual Garage Sale in April was postponed until the fall, then later cancelled altogether. The fall church Boutique was cancelled. On a bright note, the Blueberry Sale proceeded in July,

with all public health protocols in place. Incredibly, the sale raised almost \$7,400 for the church.

As COVID case numbers declined over the summer, consideration was given to whether and when Wesley might re-open for in-person worship services. A survey went out to the community of faith. A building re-opening plan following all public health guidelines was developed. In-person worship services commenced on September 20th with the services being live-streamed so they are accessible to all.

Our tenant, the iDiscover Playschool re-opened in September. We were also happy to welcome back TOPS when they resumed weekly weigh-ins.

In spite of these strange times, the life and work of the church has continued. A weekly discussion group facilitated by Rev. Cindy moved from in-person to Zoom meetings. The group studied *Say To This Mountain: A Study of the Book of Mark and The First Paul* about the life and writings of Paul. The weekly announcements are full of church news and learning opportunities by zoom or webinar. The ordination of Deb Anderson-Pratt was conducted at Wesley with a limited number of attendees in accordance with public health protocols.

Discussions with the Uganda Canadian Association of Saskatchewan (UCAS) blossomed into a proposal for a partnership with Wesley. This proposal was put to a vote at a congregational meeting held in person and by Zoom on October 25th and was enthusiastically approved. This partnership was formed to give UCAS a permanent home for its activities, for shared use of our building and is fully in keeping with Wesley's Mission and Vision Statements.

Unfortunately, rising COVID case numbers in the fall led to the conclusion that in-person services were no longer safe. In the latter part of November, the decision was reluctantly made to discontinue in-person services. Live streaming of the weekly worship has continued to this date. Although church choir had to discontinue at the start of the pandemic, our music director Lee Stubbe has worked very hard to offer music at every Sunday service and to pull together the choir for Christmas music using Zoom. The handbell choir also performed by Zoom.

We offer a huge thank you to our dedicated staff and many volunteers who have worked so hard during these trying times.

The year came to close on an unhappy note with the news that Rev. Cindy Bourgeois wished to make a change in pastoral relations and left at the end of January 2021. After much careful thought, we have decided to proceed with Intentional Interim Ministry and will soon be moving ahead with this next step.

While 2020 was not the year our community of faith hoped for in many ways, we have remained resilient and look forward with cautious optimism to 2021. We look forward to being together in person as soon as we can safely do so.

Al Goudie, Secretary, Wesley Church Council

Wesley United Church 2020 Statistical Information

Deaths

6 (4 Members)

Transfers to Wesley

0

Transfers from Wesley

1

Confirmations

None

Baptisms

None

Prayer Shawl Ministry

0 Donated to the church

2 Presented to a person

Administration & Finance Division Report

“Under the general direction of the Council, to administer the financial, property and stewardship affairs of the congregation and church office services in accordance with established policy and authority delegated by the Council.” Wesley Policy A13

The Division is comprised of the Treasurer, the Property, Stewardship, Finance and Fundraising Committees chaired by the Coordinator; the Core Committee is comprised of the Convenors of the Committees, the Treasurer, the Accounting Convenor and Assistant and the Coordinator. (See Lay Ministerial Leadership List)

A key function of the **Division** is collection of the budget proposals from all Divisions to begin the process of building the Budget for 2021. This was completed in November 2020 and presented to Council for approval in January 2021.

Following past practice, expenses are estimated as realistically as possible; revenues are based on pledges plus the previous years' experience. The result is often a deficit budget because we cannot estimate with certainty the future gifts of our congregants. Once again we are anticipating about a \$15,000 deficit (6%), recognizing that most years we finish the year quite close to a balanced result (small surplus of \$17,000 in 2020).

The Administration & Finance Division had a busy year in spite of the reduced facility use due to the pandemic restrictions. The Division's strength is its dedicated Committee Convenors and members. I want to express my sincere appreciation to each of them for their past and ongoing support of the Division, their committees, each other and me.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

From the property and building management perspective, 2020 was a year to remember for sure. Life was proceeding as normal and then Covid-19 emerged on the scene, resulting in changes that nobody could have envisioned.

Commencing in March, and for the remainder of the year, rentals and usage of the building declined considerably due to the many Covid-19 health and safety restrictions. From a high of \$26,646 in 2019 for building use revenue, we went

down to \$14,962 in 2020. We were fortunate that the Preschool was allowed to resume operating in the fall, otherwise the building was mostly empty from March onwards. Aside from the provincial public health orders and safety measures that were in place, Wesley implemented its own Covid 19 Health & Safety Guidelines and policies for all outside building users. These were developed together with Wesley's Emergency Preparedness Committee and they played a key role in ascertaining which limited activities or events could take place in the church.

From the building expense side, our utility and supplies costs were well under budget, which can be attributed to the lower usage of the building for most of the year. However, repair and maintenance costs were up, largely due to painting expenses and other repairs.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a profound effect on the operations at the church, but there was a silver lining. With the building sitting empty for a good part of the year, it provided the perfect opportunity to do extensive interior painting. Thanks to government Covid assistance programs, we were able to retain our Caretaker (Jonathan Weichel) on staff. So, from March onwards, we commenced painting. I want to emphasize our deep appreciation for the dependable and dedicated work of our caretaker who keeps our church and property clean and tidy, which was even more important last year with the additional requirements for cleaning and sanitizing.

Following is a list of the key tasks, projects and accomplishments in 2020:

- Repaired the refrigerator in the storage room next to the Chancel.
- Replaced a section of downspout on the north side of the church.
- Installed cable and other equipment for hard wired internet at the back of the church.
- Installed a Christie LX505 ceiling mount projector at the front of the church.
- Fixed the dishwasher (fill valve) that had malfunctioned due to sitting too long without being used.
- Facilitated the installation of Business Internet 50 at the church so that we could do live streaming of church services.
- Replaced the light bulbs in the chapel and choir loft with LED's.

- Built additional shelving in the large closet of the kitchen lounge.
- Negotiated a new two-year (July 2021-June 2023) lease agreement with the preschool.
- Cleaned and/or painted a large number of the red bricks in the auditorium and hallway.
- Placed a new cabinet in the South hallway for used eye glasses, ink cartridges, toiletries, etc.
- Painted ceilings, walls, doors, cabinets and cupboards in the library, room 107, room 104 and all of the hallways. Many thanks to Jonathan and to the Barbers for their painting assistance.
- Coordinated with the Emergency Preparedness Committee to develop and implement Wesley's *Covid-19 Health & Safety Guidelines* and Wesley's re-opening plan.
- Ensured that our building was compliant with all UCC and government Covid-19 Public Health and Safety measures. Implemented the appropriate policies and procedures as required.

*Submitted by Darwin Roske
Convenor, Property Committee*

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We began the 2020-21 Stewardship campaign in the brief window of time last fall when we were meeting in person. The response was somewhat less than most years, but we still see financial support for our community continuing. Since that time we have sent several letters to remind folks that we still need your money but, more importantly, to express our gratitude for the ongoing gifts to our congregation and to the wider church and its ministries. Fall will be here before we know it, so our committee will be meeting soon to plan for the next campaign. In the meantime, we and all of you, need to remember that Stewardship is a year-round commitment of everything we do with everything we have.

*Submitted by Linda Gunningham
Convenor, Stewardship Committee*

FINANCE COMMITTEE

“To recommend, and when approved, carry out policy and activities relative to the receipt, deposit and recording of all income. “

Wesley Policy AD1

The Finance Committee counts, records and deposits the monies received by Wesley each week; the Convenor provides monthly reports of the income received/deposited to our bookkeeper. Quarterly statements of contributions are made available to our donors. The Convenor records annual pledges, maintains the data base for PAW contributions and produces and distributes annual T4 slips.

June Blau

Convenor, Finance Committee

Many thanks to all the members involved in this Division, especially during this unique and sometimes difficult pandemic year. You know who you are; you are very much appreciated!

June Blau

Co-ordinator, Administration and Finance

Christian Education Division Report

The purpose of the Christian Education Division is to provide a continuing program of Christian Education, nurturing and witness, for all members of the community of faith and for others in the city.

Members of the Christian Education Committee are Kendra Patton, Maureen Kolot, Amy McGregor, Hannah Dove and Frances Goudie.

- Amy McGregor was the Church School Convenor for September 2019 until June 2021. She worked with our teacher and Youth Coordinator Hannah Dove to adapt our church school classes and activities to the interests of current students. Church School was not held after March 2020 when in person church services were cancelled.
- There were lots of volunteers to help at the 2019 Christmas Market tables of Church School. The children baked and made coasters. Sales totaled \$189.75 which was a birthday present to Wesley. The Children's Shopping Spree was popular with folks who came to the Market.
- Sunday School prepared the White Gift service in 2019 with performances from children and the story of the first Christmas.
- Talented and dedicated teachers for Church School were Scott Dyck, Genevieve Blais, Kim Newsham, Crystal Dodds, and Barb Hendrickson. Hannah Dove led music and also met with the senior Church School class.
- Teachers used primarily online resources for class curriculum.
- Easter baskets were prepared by the Christian Education Committee and distributed to 27 registered members of Church School for Easter 2021. Maureen Kolot chose books for the younger children and Hannah Dove filled baskets for the older children and everyone got a chocolate treat, resurrection rolls recipe, a palm and instructions for a palm cross.

In the fall of 2019, Elaina St. Onge and Naomi Beingessner proposed a speaker/workshop series on environmental stewardship issues targeted toward

parents. CE was pleased to support the Green Parenting Series which started in the fall of 2019 and sessions were set for March and April of 2020. The series was well received.

The *Broadview*, formerly *The Observer* magazine, is provided to interested members who make a minimum donation to the Wesley Community of Faith. The CE Division encourages members to donate to cover the associated costs.

The CE Division supports Lumsden Beach Camp with financial donations from the Division. Unfortunately, our tradition of 'Sunday Sundaes' on Camp Sunday could not be held in the past two years. A donation was made to St. Andrew's College to support their important work. There is money in the budget to support Lay Continuing Education.

A Discussion Group continued to meet on Zoom throughout the pandemic. Cindy Bourgeois was our very able facilitator for 2019-2020. The First Paul by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan and The Untold Story of the New Testament Church by Frank Viola were our discussion choices.

The Sunday morning Study group met until Wesley was no longer holding in person services. The Potluck and Play Group met last in November of 2019.

The CE Committee has been working on a report on Membership at Wesley in response to a motion at the June 2018 Program meeting and direction of Wesley Council.

*Respectfully submitted,
Frances Goudie, CE Convenor*

Pastoral Care Division Report

Let me start this report by introducing the whole committee. Although many of have not been active this year, we have been faithful members of Wesley and helped so much in the past. Wesley is a church we love, and we look forward to the days when we can join together and resume all our activities.

Mel Turner and Amber MacLeod obtained greeters for the church services. Sharon Mark was our Newcomer co-ordinator. Lee Beck organized the Sunday coffee hours over the year and played a part in convening our Curling events, along with hubbie Gordon Beck, and others. Darwin Roske was the Men's Club Convener. We miss those garage sales so much too, and the BBQ in June. We will miss so much Norma Quinn's leadership as Convener and Secretary of our Women's Club for so many years. Can you ever be replaced, Norma? We wish you and Trevor well and a happy life in North Battleford. Carolyn McBean has been out of her volunteer work at Wascana Hospital organizing church meetings there. Hopefully, soon those will start again.

Some of us have still been able to work and enjoy Pastoral Care. Bobbie Nyhus has been the prime planner for delivering Christmas Chocolates and cards to over 40 of our less mobile congregants, along with Val Stimpson, Yvonne MacPherson and Linda Paul, as well as cards and greetings at Easter. Bobbie is an ardent phoner and keeps us at that. What a pleasant way of saying hello by telephone too.

Linda Paul continues to send cards - Get Well, Sympathy and Special Occasions - to members of the congregation. Please let her know when someone needs a card.

Thanks to June Blau who represents United Church Housing at Pioneer Village and Hewitt Place with care and concern, and Barb Schmuland who has represented Clare Parker House with love and great interest.

As Pastoral Care Chair, I have been busy of late, trying to organize and plan emergency pastoral care for the services among four churches in the south end over the summer. That is coming around and soon we will be able to have all that set up for the summer months. We thank Darrell Reine and Christa Eidsness and Pam Thomas for volunteering in that position in the past months.

I have also really enjoyed attending virtually, and in the past, in person, the Church Council Meetings. It is a great way of keeping in touch with other Chairs and the Executive and to learn firsthand what our church, Wesley United, does on a regular basis. Thanks to Tina Blair and Lee Stubbe for their work as office co-ordinators. They really do keep our church co-ordinated!

I have really enjoyed being Pastoral Care Chair over the past few years. Being Chair of a Committee means one can attend Church Council Meetings. This is a great way of meeting other chairs, the church executive, and getting to know the intricate activities of the church and what is needed to plan and organize all the activities. I highly recommend it.

Linda Paul, Coordinator

CLARE PARKER HOMES INC.

2020 Annual Report to Congregations



2020 was an unprecedented year for our community, Clare Parker Homes included. We as agency [sic] able to come together and provide excellent support to the people we serve, our families and community partners.

CPH did not see much expansion in 2020, we did have stretch [sic] ourselves to be proactive and innovative to provide a quality services [sic] in our newfound reality. We found ways to stay connected to our community and family virtually and from a distance. With all of these restrictions we were able to open a new home on Athol Street and provide individualized services to a wonderful man at this location.

CPH experienced a couple losses [sic] in 2020. Our agency gained a few new people needing services. We were blessed to welcome 5 new people to our various support services in 2020.

CPH continues to promote and strengthen the focus on person-centred care in the agency and in the community to increase quality of life for the people experiencing disability and develop a greater community presence.

Currently we have 125 employees, support 37 people in 24-hour residential care, have 29 in day program and fee for service (8 do not reside with us), 9 group

homes, 1 further day program, and 1 enhanced supported independent living program. We are fortunate to have a 1% staff turnover, with a good mix of new & long-term staff.

The broad mix of professional, church, family and community board members ensure that all aspects of issues are considered, with spirited discussion lending itself to sound decision making. Heading into 2021, CPH will be looking forward to reviewing our strategic plan and determining the steps for our services.

Barb Schmuland

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CPH Inc

PANDEMIC PHONING TREE

In March of 2020 Cindy asked if a Wesley phoning tree could be established to help Wesley people stay in touch. We had no idea how long this would be needed but 1 1/4 years later we are still coping with covid 19. A big thank you goes to Lee Beck, Lenore Bewcyk, Shirley Dodds, Francis Goudie, Linda Gunningham, Barb Jones, Cintra Kanhai, Sharon Mark, Bobbie Nyhus, Val Stimpson and Kent Stewart who have made countless phone calls. If you were missed, we are sorry we tried to reach out to everyone to remind them that **“We Live In God’s World We Are Not Alone”**. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone.

Lee Beck

Ministry and Personnel Division Report

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Division is a consultative and supportive division which helps to clarify the roles and function of the minister and staff, and build positive, trusting relationships. This division oversees relationships between the staff members, and between them and the Wesley congregation.

We recommend to Council the annual salaries of the staff.

In the spring of 2020 the committee (Alison Purdy, Catherine Maloney, Tessa Whyte) reviewed the work of the church staff, with help from the congregation.

We revised the job description of the minister.

In the fall of 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, coordinators of committees and divisions carried over their positions for another year. This year Tessa Whyte is the only member of the M&P Division, as the other committee members retired after their term was up. Nobody came forward to take their place. We do need members on this committee, so please think about joining it.

The committee was sorry to accept the resignation of our minister, Cindy Bourgeois, at the beginning of 2021. We miss her and thank her for her ministry of seven and a half years here at Wesley. She was a significant presence in our community. We now await the arrival of an Intentional Interim Minister.

I want to thank all the church staff for their work during the past years: Tina Blair, Office Coordinator, and Lee Stubbe who filled in for her when she was sick and at other times; Jonathan Weichel, Caretaker; Lee Stubbe, Music Director; Carol Chernishenko, Handbell Director; Hannah Dove, Children and Youth Coordinator; and Kiera Eastley, Event and Program Coordinator, with her great technical skills. We do appreciate your work.

Thank you too to Alison Purdy and Catherine Maloney for your committee work.

Don't forget that the M&P Division is here and willing at any time to receive your messages of appreciation or concern about the work of Wesley staff. Tell me!

Please let me know if you are willing to join the M&P Committee or would like to find out more about it. Your interest is welcome and needed.

Tessa Whyte
Coordinator

Worship Division Report

Without a doubt this has been an interesting year to be a member of the Worship Committee planning worship services for Wesley. In the wake of the Covid-19 global pandemic people have come together to fight this disease and work towards a more healthy community for all. It has been about teamwork. For the Worship Committee it has been about teamwork as well, caring for ourselves and others, working to provide safe and meaningful worship services for the Wesley congregation.

Our committee members include Wilma Bell Wessel, Tessa Whyte, Naomi Beingessner, Lee Stubbe, Keira Eastley, Cindy Bourgeois, and myself. All of our meetings were held via Zoom.

Due to Covid health restrictions we started the program year with virtual tri-church services with our partners Sunset United and Lakeview United. The committee planned for in-person services starting after Labor Day in September. We worked with the Emergency Preparedness Committee, Property Committee and Jonathan to ensure a safe space and a “procedure” for attending worship. (Who would ever have thought a procedure would be necessary to hold a worship service.)

However in-person services proved to be short lived as the second wave of Covid-19 hit our city. With cases soaring a decision was made to live-stream our services and no longer meet in person. With the technical expertise of Cindy, Kiera and Lee, people, if able, could view our service live on YouTube or watch it later at their convenience. Usually a choir member would volunteer to lead in the singing of the

hymns. As a congregation we cannot thank these people enough for making our church services a virtual reality.

As in past years we held some special services throughout the year. During Advent Cindy offered a Blue Christmas service. The Affirming Committee planned and led service around the celebration of PIE day in the United Church. One Sunday there was a city wide United Church service with participation from all united church congregations in the city. During Holy week we held combined services with Sunset led by Christa Eidsness and Tricia Gerhard. Our most recent special service was led by Vicki Nelson to promote Camp Sunday and Lumsden Beach Camp ministry. We also had a farewell service for Cindy on her last Sunday with us that was planned and arranged by Hannah Dove and Kent Stewart. From time to time the services had special music arranged by Lee. This was a very involved process that saw the choir individually sing their parts while being videoed and maintaining Covid restrictions. Lee then combined all the music and videos to provide a beautiful anthem that you witnessed during the service. We were grateful to Lee for his technical expertise to make the choir sound and look like the “Fabulosos”.

With Cindy’s change in pastoral relations, the Worship Committee was unsure what the plan forward would be for the congregation. However we did know future immediate Sunday services would need to be planned. We made the decision to plan until the end of summer. We looked to the “pulpit supply list” and inquired by word of mouth who might be available to serve. We were very fortunate that when we asked, people were more than willing to help out. We were able to book some people for blocks of Sundays and others for just a single service. Many had never done a virtual service before and were not accustomed to speaking to an empty sanctuary. They had to liaise with Tina in the office, Kiera for technical information and Lee about music. Some were nervous, but all were willing and capable. Again service planning involved a new dimension of teamwork. The Worship Committee was very grateful to Hazel Arbon, Christa Eidsness, Bev Diduck, Peter Gilmer, Vicki Nelson and Mary Beth Nicks Barbour for their service leadership over these past months.

As we approach mid-June Wesley will again be celebrating services with other congregations throughout the summer. We are again partnered with Sunset and Lakeview but we have a fourth addition to this partnership as Eastside United will be joining us. We are calling it Shared Summer Services and each church is responsible for three services. Wesley's Sunday's will be the last three in July. We are excited about this joint venture.

On behalf of the Worship Committee I would like to thank all of the people who have helped in planning or taking part in services this past year. We would also like to acknowledge Cindy's leadership within the committee over these past years as we have continued on our faith journey. Lastly I would like to thank Tina, Jonathan, Kiera, Hannah and Lee for their expertise in making the service presentable to you. It has very much been a team effort.

As we look to the future the Worship Committee is anticipating an end to Covid restrictions. We are very much hoping to attend worship services in person with people feeling safe to gather in community, to be close to one another and to sing together! We are awaiting the Transition Team's recommendation to fill for our new interim ministry position and are excited for what that will mean for worship.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Roske

Ad Hoc Committees

AFFIRMING MINISTRY REPORT



Despite the limitations imposed by COVID, we continue to be mindful of our ongoing commitment to inclusion and diversity.

Our Sunday service on March 14 was led by our Affirming Team. Wesley joined with hundreds of other Affirming Ministries from across Canada to commemorate National Affirming/PIE Day. It was an opportunity to celebrate with special words of praise and music. Yes, All Are Welcome!

Our thoughts then turned to the ongoing debate around banning so called “conversion therapy” in the City of Regina. Wesley along with other faith communities, organizations and individuals, made a presentation to the Community Wellness Committee and Council supporting a bylaw banning the practice in Regina. We also voiced our support for the Mayor to send a letter to the Federal Government supporting criminalizing such practices in Canada. We will continue to advocate and anticipate that a bylaw will come before Council in July.

Now that we are well into summer, we look forward to all of the activities normally associated with Queen City Pride week. Many of the activities are virtual but we continue our support for all the special activities celebrating “Pride”. We look forward to joining our United Church partners outside Knox Metropolitan Church to view the parade, display our banner and show our support.

*Respectfully submitted by Kent Stewart
Affirming Ministry Co-chair*

WESLEY UNITED CHURCH / UCAS PARTNERSHIP LIAISONS REPORT



In November, 2020 Wesley United Church (WUC) entered into an agreement with the Ugandan Canadian Association of Saskatchewan (UCAS) which provided dedicated space for the UCAS office and access to other space for their program activities. UCAS now occupies the additional office in the administrative area of the church office. The space commonly referred to as the library is now shared space which includes 3 work stations. The UCAS drums are stored in Room 105. We are pleased to report that UCAS is now fully operational conducting administrative and program activities in this space.

The Wesley members of the Liaison Committee are June Blau, Kent Stewart, Wilma Wessel, John Whyte and UCAS representative Christine Lwanga. The Committee's goal is to provide a mechanism for ongoing communication in relation to issues of mutual interest and at the same time, sustaining and enhancing the partnership.

The Committee has met on several times. We first met in February 2021 and our discussions touched on a number of areas of mutual interest. Christine provided an update of recent activities and future plans. We also spoke of the need for communication particularly in relation to booking space. We also spoke of potential opportunities for collaboration in future ie: LGBTQ refugee sponsorship, mutual speaking engagements, spiritual connections ie: drumming as a part of our service, media presentations ie: Broadview. We agreed that things were going fairly well and as expected, there were "hiccups" along the way which were easily managed.

Another meeting was held in May 2021. The meeting included discussion of property issues, but there was a range of other matters discussed. We agreed of the need to reinforce booking requirements. We believe that any concerns are being dealt with informally by UCAS and the Property Committee. We also spoke of the potential for creating a direct entry (door) to the UCAS office (formerly the east ministerial office) from the UCAS/Wesley Work Room (formerly the Library). This

appears to be a priority and Christine agreed to get an estimate for renovations as part of their commitment under the Partnership Agreement to fund costs associated with renovations. The Liaison Committee however, remains ready to offer support to ensure the renovations occur.

An option proposed to Council by WUC Committees members was that WUC consider paying for this construction as both a sign of our good will concerning the partnership and as a benefit for the administrative functioning of both WUC and UCAS. Council considered this request at its May meeting and the decision was made to ask the Administration and Finance Committee to consider the issue and if needed, make a recommendation to Council after consultation with the Liaison Committee. We look forward to working with the Administration and Finance Committee and in due course, addressing this issue which is an important step in our relationship.

In the meantime, in spite of COVID restrictions, the partnership is growing. UCAS partners report an improved sense of belonging, recognition and participation through the partnership. As an example, in late 2020 UCAS was able to access United Way Emergency funding through this partnership for Ubuntu (shared humanity) program activities. This information/educational project with singing, drumming and dialogue was successfully completed in December through March 2021 in collaboration with WUC members. Wilma Bell Wessel plays an active leadership role. Kent Stewart has also been involved in a leadership development program recent offered by UCAS.

We are pleased to report that the Partnership is working well. We look forward to continuing this collaboration which we feel enriches the life and work of both parties.

*Respectfully submitted by the WUC/UCAS Partnership Liaison Committee
John Whyte, Wilma Bell Wessel, Kent Stewart, June Blau, Christine Lwanga*

BLUEBERRY SALE REPORT

We are an ad hoc committee which formed three years ago to fund raise for Wesley and have fun in doing so. What a good combination.

I would like to introduce the committee, past and present and outline their positions. All are active and great planners, and it has been so enjoyable getting to know them and learn how they work over the past three years. Fran Goudie and Linda Paul actually thought of this committee at a Church Council Meeting when Wesley was slightly short on its budget. From there, the Blueberry Committee formed and grew.

Basically, everyone we asked to join us did so. What a surprise. Al Goudie became secretary. He takes notes and basically writes his minutes during the meetings with a little correcting afterwards, no doubt. Obviously, he chimes into the conversation as needed as do all the committee members. Dale Weisbrot thought of and organized the E-Transfers and set up the program to do that. What a bonus. Much of our sales occur virtually. Brenda Weisbrot organizes all the publicity from posters to advertising at Wesley and the Whitmore Park Sign. Jim Chernick looks after and gathers supplies from aprons and directional posters on the day of the sale to signs drawing people to the church. Shirley Chernick and Sheila Roske have looked after organizing paper tickets, sending our newsletters to the church, working on recipes and instructions the cleaning of berries etc., (Shirley), keeping on top of Covid protocols as well as paper tickets (Sheila).

Brian Eastley set up the system for keeping tabs on all ticket sales. We know who has bought them, their phone numbers, and can phone them on the day of the sale if they do not show up. Karen Stoddart has now taken over that important job. June Blau keeps tabs on all the money brought in as she does for church collections on Sunday. What a job! She joined the committee last year. Tina Blair, as office co-ordinator, and Lee Stubbe was last year, sit in on the meetings so they know what is going on, make suggestions and keep on top of things. How useful. Johnathan, our wonderful janitor, puts up the Wesley sign and basically cooperates in any way he can. And Fran Goudie and Linda Paul chair the meetings and do the initial overall planning and oversee sales.

It is a great committee, and two years ago we brought in over \$6,000 to Wesley, last year, over \$7,000. Can we hit \$8,000 this year??

Go Wesley, Go.

Remember and dream of and buy blueberries, Wesley members. Our sale this year is July 17. We will need more volunteers on the day of the sale and also many people to buy tickets and sell them to others. Thanks to you all.

Submitted by Linda Paul