

St. Paul's Anglican Church

10127-145 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5N 2X6

Annual General Meeting 2022: Formatting

“Connecting people with God and each other”



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**St. Paul's Anglican Church
Annual General Meeting 2022
February 6, 2022**

Agenda

Annual General Meeting

1. Signing of the Canonical Declaration (through Zoom Chat) – (Canon 5.90-91)
2. Call to Order and Opening Prayer (Myron Penner)
3. Appointment of RJ Chambers as Recording Secretary (Myron Penner)
4. Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting, February 7, 2021
Motion: That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of February 7, 2021 be accepted as presented.
5. Rector's Report (Myron Penner)
Motion: That the Rector's report be accepted as presented.
6. Presentation of Reports (Myron Penner)
Motion: That all ministry reports be accepted as presented.
7. Accounts Examiner Report: Financial Statement for 2021 Fiscal Year – (Jason Spoor, Accounts Examiner)
Motion: That the 2021 Financial Statements be accepted as presented.
8. Presentation of 2022 Budget (David Heritage, Treasurer)
Motion: That the 2022 Budget be accepted.
9. Kitchen Renovation Project Updates (Peter Jackson)
10. Motion to Adjourn
11. Closing Prayer – The "Grace" (Myron Penner)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all forevermore. Amen.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, February 7, 2021

St. Paul's Anglican Church
Annual General Meeting
February 9, 2020

1. Agreeing to the Canonical Declaration (through Zoom chat) – (Canon 5.90-91)

49 people indicated their agreement of the Canonical Declaration.

2. Call to Order and Opening Prayer (Myron Penner)

The meeting was called to order at 12:37PM by Myron Penner. Myron opened the meeting with prayer.

3. Appointment of RJ Chambers as Recording Secretary (Myron Penner)

Myron Penner appointed RJ Chambers as recording secretary.

4. Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting, February 9, 2020

Motion: That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of February 9, 2020 be accepted as presented. (Myron Penner/Abigail Harding) Carried.

5. Rector's Report (Myron Penner)

Rev. Myron spoke about the struggles of this year during the Covid pandemic. However, there is still hope in all of this. Even though we are not out of the woods with the pandemic, this gives us an opportunity to live our faith in a unique way.

Myron summarized key points in his written report. Myron thanked Carol, Deanna, and Peter for their service on Vestry and welcomed Paul into the role as Rector's Warden. Myron thanked Margot for her continued service as People's Warden. Myron thanked all of those involved in helping with the transition to online services.

Myron thanked all of those that have enabled worship to continue through this time including all of the music teams, live stream equipment runners (particularly John Green), and Altar Guild. Myron thanked those who were involved in starting new ministries during Covid closures including Laura for the Card ministry, Terry for the Care and Concern ministry, Margot for the Food Pantry and Mask Making ministries, and those involved in Dan Lowe's Discernment Team.

Myron spoke about staffing. Abigail Harding has moved from Children's Ministry to Youth Ministry and Michelle Schurek started in the role of Director of Community Outreach. RJ Chambers continues to work as Office Administrator.

Myron concluded with an encouragement to the parish as we continue on our faith journey.

Motion: That the Rector's report be accepted as presented. (Myron Penner/Lorianne Johnson) Carried.

6. Presentation of Reports – Please refer to distributed AGM Package (Myron Penner) **a. Director of Community Outreach (Michelle Schurek)**

Michelle Schurek spoke about the pen pal initiative that has been happening between the children and adults. There is great interest for us to maintain or make connections with others in the parish and Michelle has encouraged the parish to get involved even if there are anxieties about how you might be able to give of your time or yourself. Michelle has also asked people who have been encouraged or discouraged to reach out to her.

Motion: That all ministry reports be accepted as presented. (Myron Penner/Andrew Whistance-Smith) Carried.

7. Accounts Examiner Report: Financial Statement for 2020 Fiscal Year – (Jason Spoor, Accounts Examiner)

Jason Spoor presented the statement of Inflows and Expenses. St. Paul's had a very good year financially.

Jason then presented the Balance Sheet. We have a large receivable on the books which is the expropriation money from the sale of land that will have to be used on capital projects.

Jason then presented the fund balances and summarized what each line means. Since RJ and Abigail were moved from Contracts to Salaries, there will be a shift in those lines going forward.

Answers to Questions: Statements are based on December 31, 2020 numbers. All funding received from the government was grant funding (versus loan) and does not need to be repaid. The solar panels were installed last year and the church is using solar panel for most of our electricity usage.

Motion: That the 2020 Financial Statements be accepted as presented. (Myron Penner/Carol Rudat) Carried.

8. Presentation of 2021 Budget (David Heritage, Treasurer)

David Heritage presented the 2021 budget. Salaries/Benefits has increased with Contracts decreasing as RJ and Abigail were moved from Contracts to Salaries and Michelle's position is a new salaried position. Most line items have not adjusted at all or very minimally. Interface is a new line item. Benevolence is also a new line item that was contained previously under Within the Community but due to the circumstances of this year, it was important to identify those items specifically.

Question: Is a 15% increase in Envelope Giving realistic? Answer: It is the number required to have program expenses where they are currently budgeted. We do have a healthy bank balance in case we do not hit those income numbers.

Question: There is a significant increase in anticipated expenses. Is that realistic? Answer: Most of the anticipated expense increase is the new Director of Community Outreach role (it was only funded for a few months in 2020 and will be funded for the full year in 2021).

Question: What do we still pay for in the Contract line? Answer: Cleaning services and pulpit fill mostly.

Question: Does the Salaries line include Covid program granting from the government? Answer: No. When the budget was formed, we were not sure how much money would be available in such grant programs.

Question: Why is there so much money in the bank? Answer: It is just how things have worked out with surpluses in the last couple of years and trying to keep money there for operations in case our revenues dry up.

Motion: That the 2021 Budget be accepted. (David Heritage/Gene Wannamaker)
Carried.

9. Kitchen Renovation Project Proposal (Peter Jackson)

Myron spoke first about how our current kitchen does not have commercial certification which prevents us from doing many types of food ministry. Since the building is mostly closed at the moment, this is an ideal time to pursue a capital project. Also, we have an expected \$105k-ish available from the expropriation process that must be spent on capital projects. We do know that asbestos abatement must be done which would be a fairly significant part of the expense of this project. There is a committee (Peter Jackson is chairing) formed to look at possible renovation plans.

At this point, the plan would be for the committee to put together a full proposal which would then go to Vestry for approval and then go out to the Parish for approval.

Peter spoke about the plan developed nine years ago for development of the kitchen as the drawings have already been done and will work for the space we currently have. The asbestos abatement quote is in Peter's report but we will be seeking out other quotes in the hope that the price would be lower. We also have quotes coming in from a cabinet maker and a contractor. We have considered other plans but the current set up does not allow for configurations outside of our current plans.

Renovation would likely be around \$150k. This is still a very early estimate though. Internal walls need to be replaced to enlarge the space. Drywall needs to be added. Venting needs to be built in for new stove. Plumbing and flooring would also be replaced (including for the washrooms adjacent to the kitchen). The room above the washroom would no longer be there in the plans.

If there is any damage from the LRT expansion, the City would be responsible for damage caused by the LRT project.

10. Election: Nomination for one Vestry position and Nomination for Accounts Examiner

Deanna Kalles and Carol Rudat have both reached the end of their three-year term as Vestry members.

Vestry has put forward the following individuals for Vestry/Corporation:

- Connie Pistawka as Vestry Member
- Jason Spoor as Accounts Examiner

Motion: That Connie Pistawka be elected as a member of Vestry (Myron Penner/Andrew Whistance-Smith). Carried.

Motion: That Jason Spoor be elected as Accounts Examiner for 2021 (Myron Penner/David Heritage). Carried.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the meeting (RJ Chambers/David Heritage). Carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:10PM.

12. Closing Prayer – The “Grace” (Myron Penner)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all forevermore. Amen.

Rector's Report

Introduction

The ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic has not, despite our hopes, made the year 2021 any easier or less challenging than 2020, our first full year of the pandemic. In fact, as the pandemic has worn on it has become more difficult to manage – both from public health and psychological standpoints. It has also continued to place strains and challenges on parish life at St Paul's, as we seek to live out our baptismal calling together and figure out how to love each other, our community, and the world, with the love of Christ. As I mentioned last year at this time, the challenge has been for us at St Paul's to continue to “connect people to God to each other” (our Narrative Statement of Identity) in the midst of an infectious disease crisis that continues on past what we (at least many of us) expected, and to reach out to others within and outside of our community with the love of God in Jesus Christ. I think we have done a pretty amazing job of that!

If I found 2020 was frustrating and disappointing as the pandemic waged on, 2021 was even more so! However, I am extremely grateful to God for continued good health of my family and me, as well as for the scientists, doctors and medical professionals, and public health officials, who developed vaccines, cared for all of us, and worked tirelessly to keep us safe in these difficult times. We at St Paul's have come through this reasonably well and I am so grateful to God for that and for each one of you – our parishioners – who have been patient and committed to serving Christ and each other through this year. Thank you! I need to reiterate that we are not out of the woods with this pandemic yet, but I do believe we will continue to meet the challenges it brings and to thrive once we are on the other side of it.

The Corporation and the Vestry of St Paul have also continued to do an incredible job of managing the affairs of the Parish and assist me in the affairs of the parish. I am blessed by them and I thank each one of them for their service to the Parish. Paul Dowie has remained as Rector's Warden and is an incredible support to me. Thank you, Paul! Margot Byer also has continued this past year as People's Warden and is an incredible service to the parish in that role. Thank you, Margot! We have seen change at the Parish Administrator's position as RJ Chambers resigned the position at the end of November, 2021, and was replaced by Asher Hebert. RJ, as everyone knows, was extremely efficient and accomplished in the administration of the Parish, and he performed his duties in an exemplary way. Thank you RJ! But I am very happy to welcome Asher as our new Parish Administrator! Asher brings a lot to the position and we have moved from strength to strength. I am very excited to work with him in the upcoming year! Finally, we also expanded Michelle Schurek's role as Director of Community Outreach. Michelle's enthusiasm and love for our parish and community has made working with her a delight and she brings a lot of added value to the Parish. Thank you, Michelle, for all you do to love and serve us!

In many ways, this has been a very difficult year and it is really an accomplishment just for us to reach the end of the year without a major melt-down! But we have done more than that; we have thrived! I am amazed and blessed at God's grace to us, to me, to our family, and your incredible capacity to persevere in faith and love. I truly look forward to what God will do in and through our parish in 2022!

Ministry Overview: The year 2021 saw us continue to have to deal with restrictions to worship due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, but we did not ever have to close completely again for in-person services for an extended period of time. We continued to follow all the Health and Safety guidelines and restrictions from the Alberta Health authorities and the Synod Office of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton. In June of 2021 the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton elected a new Bishop, the Rt Rev Stephen London, as Bishop of Edmonton. Bishop Steve's approach to the pandemic left individual parishes to follow their consciences as how best to follow the directions of the Alberta Health authorities as to keep their communities safe. Because of the great work we had done – thanks mostly to John Green! – setting up our capacity to livestream services from St Paul's with a fairly high quality, we continued to livestream all of our in-person services. We also returned to doing funerals and weddings in-person, and I did several funerals off-site at Westlawn Funeral Home. Michelle continued to expand our ministry in our surrounding communities, as well as within our parish community, with both online and in-person events. We were also very pleased and excited to welcome several new members to our Parish! We had the blessing to add to our numbers during the pandemic of 2021, which is something I praise God for!!

Worship: Our worship teams met to reorganize and restructure in Fall 2021. We had at least one new member join music ministry, Catherine Daniels, who is a welcome addition! Welcome, Cathy! John Green continued to lead the tech teams for sound and livestreaming, with Yohana Rihana and Jodi Penner helping, and Asher and Lauren Hebert joined them. As mentioned above, we were able to meet mostly in-person on Sundays in 2021 for Services of Holy Eucharist, with pandemic protocols in place. Beginning in Advent a small group of us began to meet daily for Morning Prayer on Zoom each day Monday-Saturday, and in-person on Thursday. This has been a great source of encouragement to me and those who meet and we are continuing in 2022.

The Altar Guild, led by Kjeryn Allard, deserves a lot of thanks as they resumed their important work of setting up our worship services. This is incredibly selfless work and it is so important to our community. Thanks to each one of you who serves us and Christ in this way. This work prepares our worship space and makes it a beautiful expression of God's presence. Thank you!

Community, Service, Pastoral Care: This year I was able also to resume in-person pastoral care in most scenarios, but I also continued to use online forms of pastoral care in some situations. Our small groups coordinator, Pat Stretch, will report on small groups, but we did continue some of those via Zoom and some in-person. Laura Rogers continued her card-making and giving ministry this year, which continued to play a large role in keeping us all connected. Terry Berard continued with the Care and Concern Team faithfully connected with people and provided and/or arranged for support for those of us who needed that. We also continued to help folks with their food security needs, and Michelle oversaw the distribution of grocery cards and food and items collected from the Parish.

Staffing: Once more there are changes to our staff at the Anglican Parish of St Paul: Michelle Schurek Community Outreach Coordinator was increased to 0.75 time in that role and Vestry created a 0.25 position of Indigenous Ministries Support Person, which Michelle also currently fills. The Indigenous Ministries Support role is an important response to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's Call to Action for Anglican parishes. Michelle continues to do incredible work among us and our community. As mentioned already, December 1, 2021, Asher Hebert replaced RJ Chamber's

as Parish Administrator. I am very grateful for RJ's service and look forward to continuing to work with Asher. He already has brought many blessings to the Parish

Concluding Remarks

As we look ahead to 2022, we are anticipating over the course of the year a decrease in the intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions that have come with it. This is a hopeful prospect, which might be hard to feel right now, as we are still in the throes of the pandemic. So, I want to encourage you to stay strong and conscientiously guard yourselves and others against a too-early celebration of the end of the pandemic. We are not there quite yet and we need to be vigilant! But I also want to remind you that God is still *our* God, that we are God's people, and that God has not abandoned us and is still working in us, through us, and in our world.

I take heart when Paul, our patron saint, writing to the Roman church in the seat of a hostile, global power that had no love for them or for Christ, refuses to acknowledge that anyone else is in charge of them or the world other than Christ. He then blesses them saying, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom 15.13)." This is my prayer for us, for you, this year in 2022. May we know the joy and peace of Christ as we overflow with love and serve Him and each other by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted: The Rev Dr. Myron B. Penner, Rector

Warden Reports (Rector's Warden and People's Warden)

2021 continued to provide challenging times for all of us personally and for our community. We appreciate how many continue in so many ways to minister to the needs across the community and seek to overcome the barriers that COVID continues to put up. Generosity, connecting and caring for each other remain at the heart of St. Paul's parish.

Both Wardens approach their roles and responsibilities as important ministry and value the ways that Vestry and Corporation work so well together.

As People's Warden, Margot has brought forward several concerns and observations noted by parishioners for respectful consideration by Vestry and Corporation. She welcomes thoughtful input and feedback. It has been a privilege to represent the people of St. Paul's during this past year.

Paul Dowie's first year as Rector's Warden has been relatively uneventful but educational (from kitchen renovation Diocesan approvals to casting a vote for a new Bishop for the first time). Paul will continue to support Myron as needed in his demanding role as Rector and it has been a privilege to serve in this way.

Respectfully submitted by Margot Byer, People's Warden and Paul Dowie, Rector's Warden

Administrator's Report

I consider myself one of the most fortunate individuals this year with getting to begin working at St. Paul's as the new Office Administrator. There has been a learning curve and couple small bumps along the way, but all-in-all very positive. A HUGE "Thank You" to RJ for his expertise in setting up the church to run smoothly, for the hours spent training me, and for continuing to check in and make sure everything keeps running smoothly!

Office Hours: I have been fortunate to work primarily from the office as I am learning and adjusting to this new role. I find it important to be in person so that I can access everything as needed. I have the office open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30am and am happy to welcome visits. That said, with cases rising and difficult weather, I am grateful for the systems that enable me to work from home as needed.

Bulletin Submissions: I have been more relaxed with bulletin submissions than RJ was, due in part to RJ's efficiency and my inability to keep up to his pace. However, it is appreciated when bulletin items are submitted by 10:00AM on Tuesday to ensure inclusion for the coming week. I have learned that bulletins are not as simple as I expected them to be, and they take time and coordination; especially to make sure that those accessing services online have everything they need to participate

Bookings: Not surprisingly, bookings have been rather fluid as choir groups are being cautious and churches are adapting. We still have the IRM church using our facilities weekly, as well as two choir organizations that regularly use our building, plus more expressing interest but are figuring out best practices. As well, we have opened our building to be used by Kids on Track's Character Clubs program which was set up by Michelle in coordination with Grovenor School.

It has been wonderful learning more about all of the different work and programs that our church is doing for each other and our community. And I'm enjoying and looking forward to my role in all that goes on in St. Paul's!

Respectfully Submitted by Asher Hébert, Office Administrator

Community Outreach and Indigenous Ministries Support Report

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Director of Community Outreach since September 2020, and much has happened in the past year. The position grew from half-time to three-quarter time by April 2021, and Indigenous Ministry Support was added as a one-quarter time position in September 2021. Despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing COVID pandemic, we have seen diversity in service and growth in a number of areas, and have opened up connections to the community of Grovenor and beyond. It is hard to believe that we have done so much with so little in such a short period of time.

I encourage and commend all of you, as you have continued to find ways to serve your families and communities, to show solidarity in spirit when being physically present has proven difficult. Within our parish, to kick off 2021, several of our more senior parishioners partnered with the youth group (and subsequently Kids Club) in a pen pal activity over eight weeks that was well received. I thank each of the pen pals who participated, as you were a delight to one another and a source of inspiration to me. We spent the evening of Shrove Tuesday together through a virtual "Silly Supper". Many parishioners participated in our online, stay-at-home Church Retreat in April, which included a fun photo hunt put together by Terry Berard. In the fall we had another fun event with the Great Edmonton Race, courtesy of Carol Rudat. Each week, Community Corner highlighted three points of interest both on our website and in the Sunday Bulletin.

In 2021 we sought to emphasize the volunteer work that parishioners do in many areas of the city, to explore the outreach that was already happening within our church. The REACH Grant grew out of the funds remaining from the REACH campaign several years ago, and we partnered with parishioners to provide financial support to several charities serving citizens of Edmonton. Any agency receiving a grant was also given a special spotlight in a Sunday morning service, which highlighted their work. This broadened our collective understanding of the different agencies that work hard to meet people's needs and enhance their lives within our city.

Outside our immediate congregation, more connections were made with Grovenor Elementary School, culminating in the delivery of Christmas Hampers from St Paul's to five families with students at the school. We have become more familiar with several social agencies serving citizens in the West End, board members of the Grovenor Community League, and are in the early stages of developing a working relationship with the Stony Plain Road Business Association, as well as some other neighbouring churches. There were a number of initiatives that helped us become more visible in Grovenor, including our Monday Night walking group as well as "Popsicles on the Patio" during the summer months. We partnered with Kids on Track and will be hosting their "Character Club" in the near future. We also received a grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada to run a kids/family program in 2022.

Indigenous Ministry Support was formalized in a quarter-time position starting in September 2021. Key areas in this role included deepening St Paul's response to the TRC Calls to Action, to assist the parish in becoming wholeheartedly involved in the work of reconciliation, to support the health and wellbeing of Indigenous ministry workers and to be a source of support and learning for Vestry and parishioners. There have been several learning initiatives within the congregation, such as the group reading of "21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act" by Bob Joseph; visit to Indigenous People's Exhibit at Fort Edmonton; highlighting websites and online learning in Community Corner; bulletin board information; etc. Beyond this, there has been direct support to Rev. Lori Calkins through chairing the Indigenous Birth Work Committee, a fundraiser in partnership with Focus on Missions to fund two months of her salary, and the creation of 12 layettes, under the leadership of Laura Rogers, for clients of Indigenous Birth of Alberta.

Our Parish has sought to remain open as much as possible during COVID, acknowledging the comfort that in-person attendance provides while also offering the weekly service online. We remain committed to meeting each person where they are at, in person whenever possible. In the coming year, Community Outreach will continue to focus on the development of relationships within the parish, community and along Stony Plain Road; to edify the ways in which parishioners care for others; and, to increase tools available to parishioners to enhance their own growth in these areas.

In many ways, these reports follow the same rhythm year-to-year, reflecting on what was done in the past year, goals for the next year, and gratitude for ongoing prayers, commitment and support. It has been a wonderful year along side Myron, RJ, Asher, and Abbi as we have worked diligently to ensure some measure of consistency for parish life. I am optimistic our parish will emerge stronger and wiser from the lessons of this pandemic. I believe that strongly, having seen the incredible commitment of our parishioners and their dedication to faith, one another, and their neighbours. I am very grateful to be able to serve, work and live along side you, and I thank you for the prayers, support and understanding you have extended to me as I continue to learn and grow.

In His service,

Submitted by Michelle Schurek, Director of Community Outreach and Indigenous Ministries Support

Sunday School Report

We continue to offer regular Sunday school ministry with the Dig In program. Dig In offers several different theme streams, and the focus for 2021 has been on “Foundations of Faith” and “Epic Teachings of the Bible”. Thankfully this is a program that is easily adaptable for either in-person or virtual delivery and provides numerous customization options to match the interests of our children. We have been able to offer in-person ministry throughout much of the fall of 2021, while pivoting (dare we use that word?!) to online learning when necessary for the remainder of the year. Attendance varied from week to week with 1 – 7 students.

We’ve also introduced something we call- Kid’s Club Fireside. The intention of these gatherings is to connect with our St. Paul’s children by organizing activities they can take part in outside of church. Our first event took place at Laurier Park where kids enjoyed various games, a marshmallow roast, and a devotional around the fire. We’re hoping to expand these activities to include tobogganing, skating, hiking, and more fireside gatherings.

Margot B., Renee J., Carol R., and Ryan Y. rotate teaching duties and love to support and encourage the children of St. Paul’s to “know, love and serve Jesus”.

Respectfully submitted by Margot Byer, Renee Jackson, Carol Rudat, and Ryan Young

Youth Ministry Report

I know none of us need to be reminded of how we lived most of 2021 through a screen, and how exhausting and ironically disconnected it felt. The youth certainly don’t need to be reminded. Spending the year swapping between online and in-person learning was mentally exhausting. I read several articles and saw how the pandemic put severe strain on the mental health of adolescents. This was mostly from the loss of not being with their peers in a community where they are able to foster relationships. Relationships that are foundational for how we conduct ourselves forming future ones in adulthood. Reading the book Kids These Days by Dr. Jody Carrington really put this into perspective for me. Carrington is an Alberta based Psychologist who often appears as the guest speaker for Edmonton Public School PD (Professional Development) Days. The point she has been most clearly emphasizing this year is ‘Reconnection.’ Reading her book, I realized that the Youth Group was in a special position where we could be that place of in-person reconnection for the youth. My goal entering this school year was therefore to base our programming around these three points: (Re)connecting to our faith, each other, and our church community.

To facilitate connecting with one another the Youth have tried to meet in person however possible. From January to June last year, while still meeting online on Sundays, we were able to meet in person almost every other Saturday for some kind of outdoor physical activity or bonfire. Starting September, we’ve blessedly been able to meet in person for both Sunday and Saturday gatherings. The shift to in-person has been even more encouraging, showing how much we missed out on, and feeling like things were ‘back to normal.’ At the time of writing this in mid-January, the youth we have just spent the last two weeks back online and it revealed just how burnt-out we are dealing with online rather than meeting in-person. It affirms that the youth need a space to be able to just be together. Our Sunday morning sessions have continued with this theme as well. The portion of our Sunday gatherings spent online last year was encouraging, the engagement of the youth exemplified their need for their church community. Since September we have slowly made our way through the Can I Ask That? Series. Each session focuses on discussing a question that youth tend to ask themselves

but may feel too shy or awkward to voice. Posing the question out loud, and discussing the different viewpoints people have within the church and denominationally has fostered some interesting discussions among the youth. One way of engaging with our church community has been through doing Youth Sunday services, where the youth take on the roles of the worship leaders. These have been an exercise of growth for our youth, but I'm happy we continue to do them for their participation in the Sunday liturgy. It is also a wonderful way for the youth to share their talents with the parish and partake with the parish in a different way than they do on other Sundays.

A further goal of mine for this year has been to have a youth retreat centered on the theme of reconnection. This retreat would be for youth to have the opportunity to grow together and explore questions of faith in a devoted and isolated setting. I am happy to announce that the youth plan on going to the Young Sojourners Retreat at Sorrento Centre in May. As a member of the Board of Directors at Sorrento, I had a hand in coming up with the theme of the retreat, 'Better Together - Connecting Youth.' The annual Young Sojourners Retreat is part of the British Columbia and Yukon Anglican Youth Movement (BCYAYM), including Alberta more and more in recent years. I look forward to this event and the opportunities it will provide for our youth to gather with others from all over BC. I personally remember going to BCYAYM events and remember the positive impact they had.

It is my prayer that this year can be one of relationship for the youth with one another and their community. We all know the harm the pandemic has had on our relationships, and so I would appreciate your prayers for the youth, who continue to discover what relationship is, how we have it with our God, each other, and our parish.

Respectfully Submitted by Abigail Harding, Youth Leader

Small Group/Fellowship Group Report

Due to Covid, our small group dynamic has changed quite a bit. The men's group that used to meet for coffee every second Tuesday afternoon collapsed with Covid. Other groups are meeting with zoom. Thankfully we have zoom to make this possible.

Currently our groups are:

1. Ladies Bible Study, alternate Thursday mornings, meeting using Zoom. Currently we are doing a series on Women of the Bible, which will conclude in February. It is interesting, challenging and thought provoking. A contact person for that group is Pat Stretch, 780-453-3339 or gordonstretch733@gmail.com
2. Daughters of the King also have continued through the pandemic, meeting with Zoom. They meet every Tuesday afternoon. The contact person for that is Kjeryn Allard, 780-451-4855, email kjerynallard@gmail.com
3. George Jakeway continues his small fellowship group at his home weekly on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. They catch up with family matters, discuss the readings for the coming Sunday, and pray. In 2022 they will be studying Hebrews weekly as well.
4. Journeying Together: has continued to meet monthly during the pandemic using the zoom platform. The group is led by Nancy Whistance-Smith and there are six regular members (about half who regularly attend St. Paul's) as well as one who is unable to attend online. Our

format is very flexible with sharing and encouragement being our primary focus. We are always happy to have new people join us as we Journey Together in our Christian walk. Nancy's contact information is: nancyjws@gmail.com; phone 780-999-9704

To my knowledge, that is all the group meetings for now.

If anyone is interested in re-starting a discussion group pertaining to the following Sunday's scripture readings, that would be possible. The person who organized it before found that he didn't have the time to give every Wednesday evening to leading it. He expressed an interest in leading it again if he had a person or couple willing to share the leadership with him. Arrangements would have to be discussed and set up, so please contact me at 780-453-3339 gordonstretch733@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted by Pat Stretch, Small Group Coordinator

Focus on Missions Report

Focus on Missions (FoM) helps St Paul's live out its identity and share God's love locally and around the world by prayerfully and financially supporting missionaries and special projects. In 2021 our team consisted of six members: Wendell James (chair), Nora James, George Jakeway, Gay Gering, Lauren Hebert and Deanna Kalles. We were fortunate to have John Green serve as our interim Vestry representative. Monthly meetings continued virtually, with each including time to pray for specific needs of our supported missionaries and projects.

The table below shows the missions agencies for which financial support was provided quarterly. After NGCC ceased operation in June, support was redirected to Embrace Rwanda, a Vancouver-based Christian charity that helps bring sustainable change to Rwanda's rural communities (<https://www.embracerwanda.org/>). The level of financial support required for the listed agencies (\$27,880 per year) was provided through a combination of St. Paul's missions budget and donations to the Saint John's Legacy Foundation Ezra Missions Fund. The Foundation provided a matching grant of \$26,754 to the Ezra Missions Committee, of which \$17,835 was directed by St. Paul's representatives to support three additional charities: Ratanak International, Hands at Work (Canada) and Salvation Army.

Agency	Missionaries or Representative
Palm Ministry Association	Bachmanns
The Navigators	Brimacombes
Northern Gateway Community Chaplaincy (Jan-June)	Lorraine Packo, Chaplain
Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF International)	Howells
Embrace Rwanda (July – Dec.)	Hilary King, Executive Director
Diocese of the Arctic, Arthur Turner Training School	Bishop Joey Royal, Director

Regular Missionary-of-the-Month presentations and blogs provided updates about our current projects and encouraged parishioners to support and pray for our missionaries.

In support of indigenous ministries, FoM helped our community outreach coordinator plan an Advent Project to raise support for Lori Calkins' reconciliation ministry as an indigenous cultural birth helper.

In response to concerns about global refugee crises, a special donation of \$3200 was provided to the All-Nations Centre to assist a local Syrian refugee family.

Rwanda projects also continued despite challenges imposed by COVID-19. Youth Education allowed thirteen sponsored students to continue classes according to an adjusted schedule. They all advanced in their programs; one graduated from Senior 6 and intends to go to university. St. Paul's Youth have continued their letter-writing exchange with these students. The RDIS Housing project – designed to assist most needful families in Shyogwe and Cyangugu dioceses -was once again successful, with two new homes completed within established timelines and budget. Although Microfinance projects continued to face hardships due to restricted travel between districts, the most recent report shows that loan recovery is improving and that the program has expanded to seven new groups. No additional funds were sent in 2021, so this encouraging report suggests that the program is moving toward the intended goal of becoming self-sustaining.

Please continue to pray for our missionaries and projects, and for wisdom and discernment regarding transitions to new activities. Feel free to contact anyone on the committee if you have questions or would like to become more involved.

Respectfully Submitted by Wendell James, Focus on Missions Chair

Altar Guild Report

Altar Guild is a behind the scenes ministry consisting of six faithful servants who prepare our banquet table for Eucharist each week. Through Covid we have been short a few hands as some members have not been able to participate. We look forward to their return when restrictions permit. We are always open and welcoming to new faces who would be interested in joining our team. No experience or training required. We train new members as we go. If you are interested, please speak to Kjeryn Allard after Sunday worship or contact her by phone at 780-451- 4855.

In His love and Service,
Respectfully Submitted by Kjeryn Allard

Property Committee Report

This committee is made up of the following members: Rick M., Laurier B., Gene W., and Peter J.

A. General Condition of buildings & other information:

- St. Paul's has done a good job in maintaining its infrastructure and there are no major issues at this time. There have been some furnace problems but those have been solved.
- Solar panels continue to be in good shape that help us lower electricity costs.
- A younger, more energetic contractor has been hired for snow removal.
- The City of Edmonton purchased about five feet of the church's land bordering Stony Plain Road. Several trees have been cut down along the road and eventually the St. Paul's and Young Life signs will have to be replaced at the City's cost.

B. Kitchen Renovation Project under a sub-committee with Rick Mickelson, Rev. Myron Penner, Michelle Schurek & Peter Jackson.

As you recall, the funds from the sale of the land to the City for the LRT are held in trust for St. Paul's and can only be used for capital projects. The Property Committee has been delegated by Corporation and Vestry to move ahead with renovating the kitchen area and upstairs hall washroom.

The original time line was to complete this project in early 2021 while no one was able to use the hall during Covid. That all remains true although the date has changed to **2022** for a variety of reasons and Covid is still with us!

Like all good construction projects, the kitchen at St. Paul's turned out to be not that simple. It wasn't simple to obtain permission from the diocese or for the contractor to fit into our lack of approval in 2021 for his schedule and then there was an HVAC issue that no one expected.

However, progress has been made and the expectation is for construction to **start in February with completion in 2022**. To date:

- Demolition was completed in the late summer of 2021 at a cost of about \$16,000.
- An HVAC engineer had to be hired at a cost of \$4,000 in the fall of 2021.
- The general contractor was paid about \$14,000 in December of 2021.
- In 2022, the contractor will receive a balance of about \$125,000.
- The cabinet maker will be paid \$48,000 for making and installing cabinets in 2022.
- Appliances will be purchased for \$16,000 in 2022.

It will definitely be celebration time when the project is completed. Covid will have to take a holiday so that the congregation can come together and break bread in the hall with a superb meal prepared in a shiny new kitchen!

Submitted by the Peter Jackson on behalf of the Property Committee

Financial Reports

To Be Added When Ready

2022 Proposed Budget

To Be Added When Ready