

REVISED

2021 Annual Report

Brechin United Church

www.brechinunited.ca

CORE VALUES STATEMENT

As people loved by God and as followers of Jesus

We seek to:

- welcome and accept all who come to Brechin**
- grow in our Christian faith through meaningful worship, music, prayer, and learning opportunities**
- nurture our faith community
with genuine acceptance,
through mutual respect, commitment,
honesty, forgiveness, and gratitude**
- reach out with love and justice
to the local community
and to the world.**

(adopted October 2018)

MISSION STATEMENT

**“At Brechin United Church,
we seek to know Holy Mystery
as shown to us through the life and teachings
of Jesus Christ.**

**On our faith journey, we endeavour to nurture
spiritual development and growth
and to be a just and loving example
of service and discipleship
that reaches out to community and all creation.”**

(October, 2018)

“As a designated Affirming Ministry we boldly declare that we fully welcome and include the full participation of all people in the life and work of the Ministry as we journey together, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, marital status, mental or physical ability, beliefs, cultural backgrounds, or economic circumstance.”

Please bring your copy of the Annual Report to the A.G.M.

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MINISTER'S REPORT

Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes includes a sampling of the contrasting conditions we live with here under heaven. I find it so poetic; comforting, throughout the many wax and wane, ebb and flow cycles of our days. It's so good to be reminded that for every time to weep, there is—somewhere--a time to laugh. For every time to tear down, there is a time to build up.

A 2021 edition of this passage would not be hard to write. The zigs and zags of life have been many. In amongst it all, God was with us. Personally looking back over the last year I see a long running thread of illness, surgery, and adjusting to managing a chronic condition. I am very grateful to our M and P team, our council and leadership teams, Rev. Randy Antle, and everyone whose prayer and thoughtfulness ensured not only that I felt cared for in my exhaustion and eventual Restorative Care leave, but that our community and our ministry continued to flourish.

A few highlights, attempting to avoid repeating other reports:

- Jennifer and Murray offered such wonderful leadership of our 4 region-required FreshStart sessions. Throughout the year, myself and several Brechin members attended workshops and trainings on a wide variety of topics including stewardship, leadership, and being an Affirming ministry. I hope these will continue to nourish and inform our practices
- The Tuesday afternoon check in group has continued on Zoom, providing fellowship and a moment of connection in addition to worship and all our in person or online groups
- I do not have a full report to offer on the work of Camp Pringle but I can say there's lovely folks working extraordinarily hard to ensure this UCC camp endures to see another generation of campers exploring their world and their faith
- The Mid Island ProVision grant committee has fulfilled our mandate and disbanded, and remaining funds will continue to be distributed at the Region level. Since 2012 the committee distributed 113 grants totalling \$1,092,298.

We have recently been enjoying worship resources from Enfleshed. They conclude a prayer for Ecclesiastes 3 with the following, which leads us into 2022 quite well:

May we listen our way into and out of each season,

With wisdom as our guide,

Forcing nothing outside of its time,

Receiving everything for what it is,

Trusting Love's companionship,

Laboring toward liberation together.

May it be so. There will be a time for detailed lists of tasks and objectives for 2022 but here in this space, I offer simply the overall intention to journey with you into this next pocket of wilderness with curiosity, hope and gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Tif McNaughton

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – 2021

2021 – The word of the year for all of us was “COVID”.

It seems that everything we planned to do this past year was defined by “What does Dr. Bonnie Henry say?” Council appointed a three person Brechin safety committee to review all the plans that groups made for in-person activities to ensure that as much as possible, everyone remained healthy and safe. We have done well, and I am so grateful to those who have followed the science and with faith and understanding have cared for one another.

We have managed a few in person gatherings – a couple bring-your-own-food-and-drink picnics, some teams meeting outdoors when the weather permitted, and an afternoon worship service at Sands on Christmas Eve.

We have continued to worship and to do our other important work on Zoom. We have so enjoyed seeing those who log on from afar, as well as our faithful flock here in the Nanaimo area.

Our sense of community has remained strong as we have connected remotely, by phone calls or, when allowed, in small groups. I am thankful that the leadership teams have each been intentional in working to keep us a cohesive, caring community of faith.

Once again, we have faced challenges in the building of our new housing and worship space. The details of this are reported by the Redevelopment Team. Letters were sent to the congregation keeping them updated on the current progress of the construction. I am confident that we are a strong congregation, committed to the successful completion of this project. Although none of us knows what the future holds, I believe that, like the Hebrew people of old, our Exodus experience will lead us to our promised land.

Please read the annual reports of our various teams and appreciate all they have done to support the work of Brechin throughout this second year of pandemic.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your love and support as I have navigated the journey of Council Chair. I know that I can rely on all of you to support the new Council Chair and leadership teams as you have supported me the past two years.

Blessings to you all in 2022 as we move forward with renewed faith and hope.

Kathy Torhjem
Chair, Brechin United Church Council

HOPE

In the year that is coming,
Let's plant some seeds.

Seeds of hope.
Seeds of equity.
Seeds of justice.
Seeds of love.

Let's plant seeds that will germinate
And grow,
And produce beautiful flowers,
In this season, this year.

Let's plant seeds that will start,
This season,
But will need a year or two to grow,
Before they produce their fruit.

Let's plant seeds that will germinate,
And break through the ground,
Seeds of trees that will grow,
Tall to the sun.
But not in our lifetime –
These are the seeds for generations
To come.

This year, let us bear witness
To the seeds of past plantings –
The ones we planted
That are just bearing fruit;
And the ones our grandparents sowed,
So many years ago.

And as we sow,
As we harvest,
As we simply sit in the shade,
Let us give thanks...
For what was,
For what is,
For what is yet to come.

Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator, United Church of Canada

TRANSFERS OF MEMBERSHIP

Transfers In: NIL

Transfers Out: NIL

REAFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH/ SPECIAL PERMISSION/CONFIRMATION

NIL

MARRIAGES

NIL

FUNERALS CONDUCTED

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Service Date & location:</u>
Veronica Baird	July 17, 2021	July 24, 2021 - Cedar Valley Memorial, Nanaimo
Irene Viola (Frost) (Biggs) MacDougall	November 25, 2020	September 25, 2021 – 6861 Schook Rd., Nanaimo
Alastair Angus	November 21, 2021	November 29, 2021 – Sands Funeral Chapel

IN MEMORIAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Nancy Hohnsbehn	January 9, 2021
Phil Huffman	December 7, 2021

CHURCH STATISTICS

Membership

Church Membership (active - on roll)*

Worship

Infant Baptisms

Adult Baptisms

Marriages

Funerals (by Brechin)

Services of Communion 10:30 a.m.

Outside Services (Eden Gardens/Berwick/Wexford)..

Average Attendance (Sept. & Nov.) (10:30am) ...

Range of Attendance (Sept. & Nov.) (10:30am) ...

(all services on Zoom, no service last Sun. of month – Sept.; plus U-tube views)

Stewardship

Identifiable Givers:

 General

 Mission and Service

Number of Households represented

Group Enrollments

Church School (including teachers)

Choir

Women’s Friendship

Prayer Circle

Pastoral Care

	2019	2020	2021
Church Membership (active - on roll)*	130	147	147
Infant Baptisms	0	0	0
Adult Baptisms	0	0	0
Marriages	2	3	0
Funerals (by Brechin)	2	7	3
Services of Communion 10:30 a.m.	12	9	12
Outside Services (Eden Gardens/Berwick/Wexford)..	29	6	3
Average Attendance (Sept. & Nov.) (10:30am) ...	79	59	53
Range of Attendance (Sept. & Nov.) (10:30am) ...	64-94	32-84	0-78
Identifiable Givers:			
General	108	102	92
Mission and Service	68	56	46
Number of Households represented	108	102	92
Group Enrollments			
Church School (including teachers)	0	0	0
Choir	30	25	14
Women’s Friendship	28	35	28
Prayer Circle	4	2	2
Pastoral Care	12	12	10

ROLL MEMBERSHIP *(in detail)

Members Active (December 31, 2020)	147
Non-resident members.....	5
Transfers in	0
Received by Profession of Faith	0
Received by Confirmation/Adult Baptism/Special Permission ..	0
Transfer from Inactive File to Active	<u>1</u>
.....	153
Members Temporarily Living Abroad	3
Removed – Other (correction of Historic Roll record)....	48
Transfers Out	0
Removed by Death	<u>3</u>
.....	54
Total Active Membership December 31, 2021	99

BRECHIN UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Via Zoom

February 7, 2021

Call to Order – Kathy Torhjem called the meeting to order at 10:59 am. There were 55 in attendance. Kathy Torhjem acknowledged that we are gathered on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

Presented to you as information:

An adherent of Brechin United Church is a person who has contributed to the life and work of Brechin for a period of at least three (3) months.

Motion: That all adherents and members may vote on all matters brought to the congregational meeting today. M/S Kris Jensen / Linda Braid **Carried.**

Approval of Agenda – **Motion:** M/S Lynn Burrows / Barb O’Neill. **Carried.**

Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2020 Annual General Meeting – Page 11-12 – **Motion:** M/S Gloria Le Gal / Linda Braid that the minutes be approved. **Carried.**

Confirmation of the Special Congregational Meeting held March 15, 2020 to approve Susan Ward as our second representative, and Linda Braid as an alternate, to Pacific Mountain Region – **Motion:** M/S Grace Skomorowski / Pam Atkinson-Brown. **Carried.**

We would like to extend our thanks to Diane Thomas for her many years of hard work as Team Leader of the Worship Team. We also wish to thank Barb O’Neill for her many years of hard work as Team Leader of the Pastoral Care Team, especially for organizing the regular calling of members of the congregation to maintain contact during this time. Also, we wish to thank Martha Hardy for her hard work on the website.

Redevelopment: Things are moving ahead. Installation of the drywall will be starting this week as the electrical system is roughed in. Completion is expected by the end of the year. Any weather damage which may have occurred has been remediated. The new general contractor, TL Housing Solutions, have brought the construction up to their standards as they will be warranting the complete building.

Receipt of Reports: See the Table of Contents, page 3.

Minister’s Report (Page 4-5)

Council Chairperson (Page 6)

Loaves & Fishes (Page 13)

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Mission & Outreach (Page 22-23)

Refugee Report (Page 23-24)

Reaching “out” – Brechin United LGBT2Q and Allies report (Page 24-25)

Website Report (Page 25)

Facebook (Page 25)

Redevelopment (Page 26)

Stewardship & Finance (Page 26-27)

Pacific Mountain Region (Page 27)

Fundraising (Page 28)

Cookie Walk (Page 28)

Motion: M/S Kris Jensen / Val Neilson that the reports be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

All teams are to be commended for their time and efforts, especially during these difficult times.

Nominations Team Report (Page 30) – Reported by Anne Manikel. **Motion:** That the council members be accepted as presented. **M/S:** Anne Manikel / Gloria Le Gal **Carried.**

Council Team Membership (Page 31) Add Keith Allen to the M & P Team; Nelson Skomorowski to the Property team; Anne Harris-Freed and Christina Snow to the Pastoral Care Team and Kris Jensen and Ken Duncan to the Property team to assist in the area of policies regarding community involvement and rentals of our new building.

Church Teams / Groups (not on council) (Page 31) Add Marilyn Huffman to the Communications Team to oversee the bulletin.

Trustees (Page 29)

Financial Report: (Page 32-37) – **Motion** M/S John Oh / Blaine Wilkins that the 2021 report be approved as presented. **Carried.** Thanks to Randy Manikel for his many years of hard work and excellent management of Brechin’s finances. Deficits are currently being covered by our transitional fund, and there will still be enough money left to cover the necessary items when we move in. We have taken advantage of the Federal wage subsidy.

2021 Financial Budget (Page 33) – **Motion** M/S Lynn Burrows / Linda Braid that the 2021 budget be approved as presented. **Carried.** After we have occupied our building for 15 months, we will receive \$30,000 per year from the building and we will also have group rentals.

2021 Mission & Service Fund Goal– **Motion:** M/S Anne Manikel / Nelson Skomorowski that the 2021 covenant for donations to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada by Brechin United Church be \$25,000.00 **Carried.**

Thanks to Anne Nesbitt for her groups, knowledge and expertise which have been enjoyed by many around the world via Zoom. Thanks to Tif, Council and our volunteers for all their hard work. “We may not have a building, but we definitely have a church.”

Rev. Tif closed the meeting with a prayer.

Motion of Adjournment – **Motion:** Moved by Gloria Le Gal at 11:37 am. **Carried.**

Kathy Torhjem, Chair

Christine Robertson, Secretary

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – 2021

Highlights (or summary) of the year:

The PMRC held online town hall meetings twice a month for most of the year. These were informative and helpful events always with a Brechin participant present. BUC completed four Fresh Start modules facilitated by Rev. Ferguson and Rev. Groom. These events were well attended and appreciated. The General Meeting of PMRC was held virtually over three days in June with several Brechin folk attending. Throughout the year Treena Duncan has offered COVID guidelines for Communities of Faith that meet or exceed the provincial health orders. Our required BUC self assessment was submitted and we received a positive response from the Region regarding its contents.

Goals for the coming year:

To attend as many offerings by the Region as possible and to share information on relevant events and activities to our leadership teams.

Report of financial activity: None

Members:

Val Neilson and Susan Ward

Submitted by:

Val Neilson

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM REPORT - 2021

The communications team consists of four individual positions of responsibility each operating independently. These positions of responsibility and the individuals are:

Facebook - Ian Gartshore

Bulletin - Marilyn Huffman

Audio visual - Ken Duncan who is looking forward to seeing the new av equipment and what can be done with it to enhance the Brechin experiences.

Website - Doug Cochrane - details in website report.

Submitted by:

Doug Cochrane

BRECHIN ON SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – 2021

Brechin has two Facebook pages; one is a public page and the other is a private discussion group for we Brechin folk. The public Facebook page is reaching about 300 people, an increase of 75% over a year ago. Many of these are following us out of interest in the building progress reports.

This URL is <https://www.facebook.com/Brechin-United-Church-471232419628432>.

One does not need to have a Facebook account to view it.

The in-house discussion Facebook group can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/583678995687124>. There are currently 22 participants.

Feel free to join us!

Submitted by:

Ian Gartshore

WEBSITE AND ONLINE DIRECTORY REPORT - 2021

<http://www.brechinunited.ca>

The website is functioning quite smoothly with most contributors thankfully having their information in a posting ready format.

The online directory as you may have noticed has been removed from the website since the company we contract our website services from has stopped supporting it. With no support from our service providers we began to have many attempts by hackers to gain access. We therefore decided it was too dangerous to leave on the website.

Submitted by:

Doug Cochrane

COVID SAFETY TEAM REPORT – 2021

Highlights (or summary) of the year:

We reviewed and approved plans for the accessibility of Brechin House, several groups and in-person worship services and provided guidance for other gatherings.

Goals for the coming year: Not to be needed.

Report of financial activity: None

Members:

Kathy Torhjelm, Christine Robertson, Anne Manikel (retired), Grace Skomorowski

Submitted by:

Christine Robertson

FAITH FORMATION & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT – 2021

In January I attended a three-day zoom course on The Art of Children and Youth Ministry. It was very informative.

The Broadview Discussion Group was restarted in March via Zoom and runs usually on the third Thursday of the month at 4 p.m. Check the bulletin to confirm the date and time along with the Zoom invitation if interested.

Our Church School Program is still on hold until we have in-person worship and most likely in our new building.

In August we had a small out-door retirement party for Mary MacLachlan to thank her for the many years of service she provided to Brechin and the children.

The Spiritual Growth Fund remains available to help with costs associated for Brechin members to attend workshops, and other related Spiritual growth opportunities.

Members are Darlene Darby (Chair), June Mountney, and Gwen Boyd.

Respectfully Submitted:
Darlene Darby

BROADVIEW DISCUSSION GROUP REPORT - 2021

Highlights of the year: In 2021 we met on Zoom on a Thursday afternoon in March, May, August, September, October, and December, typically in the month following receiving the magazine. Notification of the meeting was put in the Friday announcements the week before the meeting.

A small group gathered for lively discussion, with each of us commenting on articles that were particularly meaningful.

Goals for the coming year: We plan to continue to meet as we have in the past. We encourage others to participate.

Report of financial activity: There is no cost for this group.

Submitted by:
Kathy Torhjelm

LABYRINTH, GOING DEEPER, TAI CHI & HEALING HANDS REPORT - 2021

Highlights (or summary) of the year:

We hosted weekly Zooms with The Labyrinth and Going Deeper last winter, spring and fall. Tai Chi Group met weekly for Walking with Chi outside the Kin Hut at Departure Bay last spring and fall. There was no Healing Hands due to Covid. Last winter the Going Deeper group focused on Practising Presence and last fall they discussed the book, Sand Talk.

Goals for the coming year:

The Labyrinth and Going Deeper Zooms will resume towards the beginning of February. I can't do the Walking with Chi for a while due to my operation. Healing Hands will resume after Covid is over.

Report of financial activity: None

Members: We had 52 participants in the programs. They were from England, Panama, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Salt Spring Island, Ladysmith, Gabriola Island and Nanaimo. 20% of the participants were from Brechin United Church.

Be well & safe.

Submitted by:
Anne Nesbitt

LIBRARY – 2021

Highlights of the year:

Since COVID-19 began, library matters have been on hold.

We look forward to our new space in our new church building, and/or when vaccines free us to getting back into full swing where, once again, we can all browse and borrow from our collection.

Submitted by:
Marilyn Matson

MAKING SPACE REPORT - 2021

Highlights (or summary) of the year: This small group did not gather in 2021.

Goals for the coming year: Gathering again in person indoors or outdoors will be considered in 2022 based on the needs of the community.

Submitted by:
Rev. Tif McNaughton

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL REPORT – 2021

I would like to thank team members Keith Allen, Leah Caitlin, Eileen & Chris Carolan and Rob Russell for their support this year, one that proved to be yet another challenging twelve months with Covid restrictions. Although we were only able to meet in person on one occasion, we continued to communicate on Zoom, conference calls and online (emails).

The M + P team is very grateful to our staff (Rev. Tif, Cindy Gillespie) and contractors (Lonnie Moddle, Ron Klusmeier, Tonnie & Bill Leatherdale) who ensured the life of Brechin continued on a daily basis by providing the spiritual, musical and administrative structure and support. Thank you to everyone!

In the spring, Rev. Tif dealt with medical challenges that resulted in a surgical procedure. Following this, under the direction of her medical team, Tif began eight weeks of restorative leave, commencing on November 24, 2021. We continue to keep Tif in our prayers and look forward to having her back with us in January, 2022.

Following Tif's announcement, M & P searched for a part time minister and were very pleased when retired minister, Randy Antle, answered the call. Many Brechin members remembered Randy as our Interim Minister from 2010 – 2012. We are pleased to have him with us again.

M + P wishes to thank Diane Thomas for her years of service as Cindy's replacement in the Brechin office. When Diane retired, we welcomed Christine Robertson into this position last June, 2021.

Goals for 2022:

1. Conduct annual assessment discussions with the staff and contractors.
2. Renew contracts with the Music team and custodians.
3. Offer support to all members when we move into the new facility.

Respectfully submitted:
Linda Braid, M + P Team Leader

MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM REPORT – 2021

Despite Covid – throughout 2021, our Mission & Outreach Team kept busy with 3 main interests – Reconciliation, Social Justice and Climate Action.

For Fall 2021, we had 3 “in-person” Reconciliation workshops scheduled and financed via a UC Justice & Reconciliation grant and a City of Nanaimo Culture & Heritage grant. Due to the state of Covid-19, we decided to carry through with only the Paddling Together workshop November 8th. This was follow-up to the Building Bridges workshop held January 30th, 2020 but was cancelled/postponed due to concerns re Covid. For the November 8th, 2021 workshop, we kept the participant number to 20 - much lower than usual, and observed our strict Brechin safety protocols. To have the greatest impact in Nanaimo, participants were primarily service providers.

Over the course of the year, our team was involved with various workshops on-line re reconciliation, social justice, climate action, etc. Following an October workshop two of our members John Bullas and Julia Roberts drafted a Brechin Climate Action Plan that will hopefully be accepted and endorsed by our Brechin congregation. We have also requested that there be an addition to our Brechin Mission statement: “Care for Creation and work as a community of faith to address climate change through education and action”. This will be voted on at our Brechin AGM in March. Julia Roberts also initiated the Nanaimo Green Faith Circle – part of a worldwide multi-faith climate and environmental movement whose vision is to grow a supportive community caring for our earth through impactful spiritual connections and stewardship activities. Several actions/gatherings took place during 2021.

Education & awareness activity has been a focus as well in 2021 for our Team, namely the Brechin congregation via the Minute for Mission & other vignettes/segments in worship & bulletin information items.

Towards the end of the year, we set the groundwork for 2 series of Reconciliation workshops in 2022. These are scheduled for March 30th/April 20th at Beban Park Social Centre and October 19th & November 16th hopefully in our new church building! Kathi Camilleri will continue doing the facilitation with support again from Tsow-Tun Le Lum elders.

One of our team members moved from Nanaimo and since our group number was quite small (John Bullas, Colleen Crossland, Julia Roberts, Marg Barrie & Lynn Burrows) we canvassed Brechin members for help and are delighted that John Oh, Pauline Johnson and Shelley Serebrin have joined the M & O Team. Huge thanks to John Oh for volunteering to be our M & O treasurer!

We are all looking forward to new beginnings in 2022!

Respectively submitted:
Mission & Outreach Team
via Lynn Burrows, Chair, M & O Team

LOAVES & FISHES AT NANAIMO ALLIANCE CHURCH REPORT – 2021

Highlights of the year: In 2021 we continued our pandemic safety distribution by providing pre-packaged bags to clients mostly out doors, until the Fall when we returned indoors and allowed a few clients inside at a time to choose their own food as they had done before the pandemic. Some of the highlights of the year include:

- We provided food to 1,261 unique households. There were 5,950 client visits to Brechin at Alliance (up a little from 2020). During the Pandemic we continue to observe that many people are unable to meet their food needs without making use of Loaves and Fishes and that there were many new clients attending our depot.
- The grocery stores continue to be exceedingly generous in providing us with food. There is an abundance of bread, meat and vegetables, as well as staples. The clients are, without exception, extremely grateful for all that is provided to them.
- At Christmas, Hamperville returned to the Alliance Church where clients, by appointment, received a varied and generous selection of foods.

Goals for the coming year:

- The Brechin co-ordinators, Linda Braid, Kathy Torhjelm and Doug Cochrane will continue to work with Loaves and Fishes to provide food and hospitality for those in need in Nanaimo. Hopefully we will be returning to our Brechin site by mid 2022.

Report of financial activity:

- Brechin members generously donated \$7,292.00 to Loaves and Fishes in 2021.

Members: The number of willing volunteers is very heart-warming. Currently we have 22 dedicated volunteers who while wearing masks ensure that clients (also masked) receive a wide and generous selection of nutritious foods. We would happily welcome anyone who would like to help.

- Special thanks go the people of Nanaimo Alliance Church who have so willingly opened their space and their hearts so we can continue this important outreach work.
- In summary, I would like to commend all the volunteers for their kindness to everyone who comes, and thanks to all the clients, whose cheerful presence adds so much to every Tuesday afternoon. I have so appreciated the resilience and patience of everyone involved as we live in these interesting times. It is such a pleasure to be there!

Submitted by:
Kathy Torhjelm

REACHING 'OUT', BRECHIN UNITED LGBT2Q+ AND ALLIES REPORT - 2021

Reaching Out is now in its 6th year of operation. It is a community of LGBTQ2+ individuals and their allies, that started as an outreach social support group of sorts, just after Brechin became an affirming Congregation. It is our desire to foster friendship and community amongst LGBTQ2+ and those who consider themselves our allies. Many precious friendships have formed over the period of the past 6 years, and we are so very grateful for all who participate.

Many in the LGBTQ2+ community have had serious repercussions from past treatment of Churches and Religious organizations. We are ever careful to build trust, endeavoring to heal those past hurts, so we've deliberately kept our content for the most part non-religious. We desire to be a conduit of healing and wholeness, and to find ways to foster unity amongst the greater LGBTQ2+ community. Brechin has come along side of us, understood our concerns, and have stood with us, faithfully showing nothing but love and support. Many in the group have attended and continue to attend Brechin's services because they have felt accepted and welcomed by the church.

We continue to meet the first Wednesday of the month via Zoom. It seems to be the safest way for us to meet. We did try a few 'picnic in the park' evenings last summer, which were very well attended. Everyone raved about how lovely it was to be together again... even if we had to sit 2 meters apart.

Our monthly meetings are well attended, with about 20-25 people attending each meeting. We've had some wonderful guest presenters throughout the year either telling their story, or sharing their support for the LGBTQ2+ community, or helping to educate us on indigenous issues in our community. From time to time we are able to have someone share their 'coming out' story – that's always a big hit.

Personally, I am very grateful for a great Planning Committee who helps to plan each monthly meeting. They are indeed, a group of talented, and capable individuals, whom I have certainly grown to love and appreciate very much.

Respectfully submitted:

Tim Weger (Facilitator, and member of the Planning Committee)

PASTORAL CARE TEAM REPORT – 2021

2021 once again saw us meeting by Zoom, ably hosted by Gloria, and seemed to work well. We continued with our Callouts to the congregation approximately every six weeks except over the summer. In the fall, we switched our phoning lists around and while we were sad to not talk regularly to folks on our first list, have enjoyed getting to know a whole new group of people greater. Thank you to Gwen Boyd, Darlene Darby, Peggy and Kris Jensen, Anne Manikel, Grace and Nelson Skomorowski, and Judy and Henry

Wiebe, who also stepped up to assist in our Callouts. This has been a good way to stay connected and we look forward to the day when we can be together again in person.

We have continued to send out cards when we have been alerted to someone that we would do that for and have continued with special prayers for those in need. Sadly, Betty Avaiki and Carol Hayashi have stopped doing the Prayer Circle and we thank them for their many years of faithful service in this most important mission. At time of writing, no one has stepped forward but we are hoping there will be other folks willing to step in to take this up. Thank you to Christina Snow and Anne Harris-Freed who have also left our team, we will miss you as well!

As Covid permitted, we were able to do very limited home and hospital visiting. Rev. Tif and assistants managed to do one or two services at Eden Gardens at the end of the year. Our Team assisted in sending out the Christmas message and the Christmas Eve service at Sands.

As this year progresses, we will continue to do what we've been doing and as Covid permits, hope to do some fundraising. Once we are able to meet in person again, we hope to plan another Newcomers event....in our new building!

Our monthly meetings are now the FIRST TUESDAY of the month and we would encourage more people to join our team.

Going into the New Year our team will include myself as Team Leader; Gloria Le Gal as Co-Team Leader; Rev. Tif McNaughton; Barb O`Neill; Linda Braid; Mary Boyd; Jackie Little; and Susan Ward.

Respectfully submitted:
Marilyn Huffman

MEN'S GROUP REPORT - 2021

Highlights (or summary) of the year:

The men's group is a men's social activity group with a service component, usually meeting monthly, with no age or circumstance restriction. Membership is open and flexible. Facilitation is shared and rotated among the group.

No meetings were held in 2021 as a result of Covid-19.

Future activities of the men's group will depend on BC Health orders and Brechin policy related to Covid-19. No activities are planned at the moment. The group will resume when it becomes practicable.

Submitted by:
John Bullas, current co-ordinator

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP REPORT - 2021

Regrettably, Covid-19 and variants have once again prohibited us from our monthly meetings. We have continued to call all of our members monthly except for the summer months and stayed connected that way. Our sub group "Ladies Who Brunch" have been able to meet at Ricky's the second Tuesday of the month as Covid and vaccinations permitted and enjoyed being together. That group ranged from six to sixteen with an average of ten attending with a number of attendees being ladies new to our congregation and community. We are always ready to welcome newcomers!

Our goal is to be able to resume meeting in person at some point this year and hopefully, that will include being in our new building!!

Respectfully submitted:
Marilyn Huffman

PRAYER CIRCLE REPORT - 2021

See Pastoral Care Report

YOGA REPORT - 2021

There were no Yoga classes in the Winter or Spring of 2021 due to Covid regulations.

In September we started classes again at Wellington Hall. These classes ran until mid- December. Classes had 10 participants or less and followed Covid guidelines.

Students were a mixture of Community attendees and Brechin members.

Yoga and Drumming together raised \$980. from donations which were given to Brechin United Church.

Thanks to all who attended and much gratitude for their support.

We look forward to continuing Yoga in our new building.
We hope to again offer 2 Yoga Classes - Yoga for Seniors and Chair Yoga.

Submitted by:
Anne Harris Freed

PROPERTY TEAM REPORT - 2021

Work around Brechin House in 2021 included grass maintenance, pruning, snow removal and small repairs inside the House.

Team members include Keith Allen, Jeff Hawker, Marilyn and Rob Russell, John Ward, and myself as Team Leader--Tom Gray. I will remain on the Team as I congratulate Keith Allen as he will be assuming the role of Team Leader in 2022.

Submitted by:
Tom Gray

REDEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT - 2021

Highlights (or summary) of the year: There has been steady activity since the 'construction startup date' of **March 22**, 2021 with Atcorr as project manager and TL Housing Solutions as contractor. Don Evans invited expressions of interest for those wanting to consider residency in the new apartments. In **April** the team had a site tour and fine-tuned the audio/visual requirements for the space. We had a virtual town hall for the congregation in **May** with a Q & A opportunity with Don Evans and Treena Duncan. Slower paced construction in **September** was due to shortage of skilled trades, challenge in receiving supplies and materials, and additional measures due to 'passive house' building codes. **December** brought the very difficult news that a shortfall in funding could result in BC Housing stopping the church construction. After several challenging conversations and negotiations, the Community Renewal Society (of PMRC) agreed to take on the mortgage to ensure completion. The details of this interim measure have yet to be resolved, but the understanding is that the repayment of this mortgage will be shared by the Region, the Community Renewal Society and the Brechin congregation. The Region acknowledges Brechin's present difficult financial situation, but as space rentals and fund-raising revenue increases in the next few years, there is the expectation that Brechin will be able to make a contribution to the repayment of this mortgage.

Goals for the coming year: The obvious goal is to see the completion of our new space and moving in! We hope to forge partnerships with community user groups in order to realize revenue and build relationships starting with a celebratory opening. We will continue to plan and implement a major donation program that will target the entire community. This initiative involves a "Friends of Brechin" donor wall in our new church.

Report of financial activity: None

Members: Randy Manikel, Val Neilson, Tif McNaughton, Kathy Torhjelm, Linda Braid, Jeff Hawker, Keith Allen

Submitted by:
Val Neilson and Randy Manikel

REFUGEE REPORT – 2021

We are into our seventh year of co-sponsoring refugees along with members of the wider community. We continue to focus on LGBT refugees under the umbrella of “ROAR” (Reaching Out Assisting Refugees) which is chaired by Blaine Wilkins. Anne Manikel also serves on ROAR as liaison between Brechin and the SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holder), The United Church of Canada.

Sadly, due to Covid-19 and the inactivity of the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) and Canadian government, there has been a freeze on refugee arrivals. The couple (#4 & #5) with whom we were matched in late 2019, continue to languish and be persecuted in a refugee camp in Africa. We are hopeful that their paperwork and flight to Canada will happen in the next few months.

A new sponsorship group has been formed and matched with another African refugee (#6). This sponsorship, as well as future sponsorships, will be administered through the Inter-Cultural Assn. of Greater Victoria in order to reduce the administrative work done through Brechin. Brechin’s ongoing involvement will continue as a fundraising vehicle that supports ROAR through the administration of tax receipts and the involvement of Brechin volunteers.

Fundraising throughout 2021 has continued to exceed expectations with \$25,608.30 raised through an online Facebook auction and a Year-end Matching Fundraiser made possible through a \$5,000. anonymous donor. We have now raised all of the money necessary to cover the sponsorships of #4 & #5, #6, and roughly half of the \$24,000. required to sponsor a 7th refugee. A new sponsorship group is being formed to bring a female refugee to safety in Canada. All members of Brechin are most welcome to join this sponsorship group by talking with Blaine or Anne.

ROAR continues to be very grateful for the caring people of Brechin and the partnership that has proven so life-saving to many.

Respectfully submitted:
Anne Manikel, Brechin Refugee Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – 2021

During the summer, five members of the Brechin congregation attended a wonderful online workshop series entitled “Called to be the Church: The Stewardship Journey”, led by an accomplished and inspiring facilitator, Vicki Nelson, from Regina.

The five weekly sessions took us through all aspects of the stewardship journey. We learned ways of cultivating generosity and gratitude. We learned that stewardship is really discipleship and refers to all aspects of engagement in the life and mission of the church. It refers to giving of all sorts, of our time and our talents as well as giving financially. We came away with many terrific ideas for increasing involvement and raising money through fundraising.

Now we need to assemble the Stewardship Committee and embark on a stewardship strategy. However, currently, the committee does not have a chairperson and we are hoping that someone volunteers to fill this important role, especially this year as we move into our new facilities.

For the past fourteen months, I have recorded a “Stewardship Moment” video message which is included in online church services. I have tried to shine a light on various aspects of church life and at the same time, keep donations coming in during a pandemic where we cannot meet face-to-face. Although I have enjoyed doing this, I am really hoping someone else steps up to take over delivering a regular stewardship message to the congregation.

Respectfully submitted:
Blaine Wilkins

COOKIE WALK & FUNDRAISING TEAM REPORTS - 2021

Due to the pandemic, it was another disappointing year with the cancellation of fundraising activities and events, but do not despair! Save your ideas and Christmas treat recipes for our new church. Stay tuned! 😊

Submitted by:
Linda Braid

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT – 2021

In 2021, we met the first Wednesday of every month at 2:00 p.m. The majority of our meetings were on Zoom but we did have some lovely sessions at the homes of Diane Thomas, Val Neilson and Gwen Boyd. We enjoyed our fellowship as we planned worship. We reviewed past services, taking note of constructive suggestions and doing our best to rectify things to make them more acceptable or better and more inclusive. Great effort was made to make the music and worship meaningful. We are so grateful for the music our own choir was able to give us. Gratitude expressed to all the choir members, Lonnie, Ron and Christina for their efforts.

We purchased “Beguiled by Beauty” and “Enfleshed” to help with service planning but were still able to stay within our budget.

Val Neilson played a major part in our completing “Fresh Start” requirements.

Under the leadership of Peggy Jensen, we had several outdoor picnics in parks around the city. Following all Bonnie Henry’s guidelines; we were still able to have a wonderful time. It was psychologically positive for all of us, and getting together was a real blessing. Even though the weather affected our attendance, the December 24, Christmas Eve Service at Sands Chapel was very worthwhile. It provided worship for some of the people who do not have computers and/or do not access Zoom. Unfortunately, Rev. Randy Antle, who had put this service together, was one of those unable to attend because of the weather.

Who would have imagined how this pandemic was going to last so long and how it would affect our worship? We will continue to plan worship. It has been a bit of a challenge while Rev. Tif has been off on restorative leave. I am so grateful to my volunteer team members and how they have contributed in this stressful time. We are so grateful for Rev. Randy’s leadership during this time.

What is in our future? We look forward to moving into our new sanctuary and getting back to in-person worship. Any safe opportunity for in-person services will be appreciated. Because of the new variant, we were unable to follow through with our plan to have an in-person service at Beban Centre on January 30 but hoped to organize one for February or March. Whether we are at Beban, at a park picnic or in the new sanctuary we will continue to follow the government protocols to keep everyone safe.

Team members 2021 were: Rev. Tif McNaughton, Grace Skomorowski (Team Leader), Peggy Jensen (Recording Secretary), Val Neilson (Statistician), Lonnie Moddle (Music Director), Gwen Boyd, and Diane Thomas. Brian Pankratz was with us for a few months but had to resign as work load and studies became arduous.

Respectfully submitted by:
Grace Skomorowski

MUSIC REPORT – 2021

Well, it has been another challenging year for us all, has it not?

No different for Ron & I as the Music Team and the choir at Brechin. We continue to have on-line services with the recording choir offering their time and talents by recording hymns as needed each week. We have been building our “library” as a result, and have been quite happy to have started sharing some of our “choral offerings” to Trinity UC on occasion this fall. We, of course, have not been able to rehearse in-person, but have had some Zoom rehearsals to practice an upcoming anthem. The choir did have one in-person gathering this past summer again, in Diane Thomas’ garden. It was great to actually see some folk in real life!

Advent saw the addition of a Prelude each week, which has been much appreciated. Ron is supplying a piece each week, enhanced by the wonderful creative talents of Christina in providing the visuals.

Many thanks to Ron, who always makes our choir sound fabulous with his wonderful accompaniments and talents on the mixing board! And to Christina, who adds text and visuals to readings and hymns. A talented team indeed!

We are looking forward to worshipping in-person in the near future, and to celebrating returning to our new worship space.

Respectfully submitted:
Lonnie Moddle (Music Director)
14 active members in the Recording Choir

BRECHIN UNITED CHURCH TRUSTEES – 2021

Lloyd Robert Russell
204-5620 Edgewater Lane
Nanaimo, B. C. V9T 6K1
(250) 758-4084

Beverly Diane Thomas
6861 Schook Road
Nanaimo, B. C. V9V 1A1
(250) 390-1899

Kathleen Winona Torhjem
945 Highview Terrace
Nanaimo, B. C. V9R 6K5
(250) 753-5778

Judith Anne Wiebe
5212 Fillinger Crescent
Nanaimo, B. C. V9V 1H7
(250) 729-0680

Council Team Members:

Faith Formation & Spiritual Development - Darlene Darby, Gwen Boyd, June Mountney, _____

Ministry & Personnel – Linda Braid, Leah Caitlin, Chris Carolan, Eileen Carolan, _____

Mission & Outreach – Lynn Burrows, Marg Barrie, John Bullas, Colleen Crossland, Julia Roberts, John Oh, Pauline Johnson, Shelley Serebrin

Pastoral Care – Marilyn Huffman, Gloria Le Gal, Linda Braid, Barb O’Neill, Susan Ward, Mary Boyd, Jackie Little, Vickeri Cochrane, Marilyn Russell

Property – Keith Allen, Jeff Hawker, Rob Russell, John Ward, Nelson Skomorowski, Kris Jensen, Ken Duncan, Tom Gray, _____

Stewardship & Finance – vacancies, Blaine Wilkins (Treasurer)

Worship – Grace Skomorowski, Diane Thomas, Gwen Boyd, Peggy Jensen, Val Neilson, _____, Lonnie Moddle (Music Director), Tif McNaughton (Clergy)

Other Teams &/or Contact Persons:

Communications – Doug Cochrane (website), Ian Gartshore (Facebook), Ken Duncan (AV), Marilyn Huffman (Bulletin)

Library – Marilyn Matson

Loaves & Fishes Foodbank – Kathy Torhjelm, Linda Braid, Doug Cochrane

Men’s Group – John Bullas

Reaching Out – Tim Weger

Redevelopment Team – Randy Manikel & Val Neilson (Co-Chairs), Keith Allen, Linda Braid, Jeff Hawker, Kathy Torhjelm, Tif McNaughton

ROAR (Reaching Out Assisting Refugees) – Blaine Wilkins, Anne Manikel

Women's Friendship Group – Marilyn Huffman

Yoga – Anne Harris-Freed

PLEASE NOTE: All of our teams are working extremely hard and would welcome fresh hands and hearts to carry out the various ministries of Brechin United Church. Please consider where your gifts and interests lie, then contact the Team Leader with your questions or offerings of support.

**Brechin United Church
Balance Sheet As at 12/31/2021**

ASSET

Current Assets

Petty Cash	121.40	
Saving Bank Account	0.00	
Chequing Bank Account	<u>6,310.48</u>	
Total Cash		6,431.88
Investments		182,500.00
GST Receivable	<u>652.01</u>	
Total Receivable		652.01
Prepaid Expenses		<u>485.77</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>190,069.66</u>

***Note 1**

Capital Assets

Property		<u>347,000.00</u>
Total Capital Assets		<u>347,000.00</u>

TOTAL ASSET

537,069.66

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable		675.00
Total Current Liabilities		<u>675.00</u>

Total Trust Funds

163,003.18 ***Note 2**

Total Current liabilities		<u>163,003.18</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITY

163,678.18

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings - Previous Year		373,391.48
Current Earnings		<u>0.00</u>
Total Retained Earnings		<u>373,391.48</u>

TOTAL EQUITY

373,391.48

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

537,069.66

Comparison of Revenue and Expenses

	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021
Revenue					
Donations to Local Expenses & Open Offerings	140,104	132,844	135,123	126,065	115,050
Bequests		15,000	20,000		
Facility Rentals, Fundraising and Other Revenue	40,473	23,246	19,458	27,754	28,386
Total Operating Revenue	180,577	171,090	174,581	153,819	143,436
Revenue from Fund Accounts	3,000	40,202	25,471	29,930	45,828
Total Revenue	183,577	211,292	200,052	183,749	189,264
Expenses					
Overhead	41,008	52,542	39,570	37,731	35,932
Payroll	141,352	145,029	148,140	140,132	145,845
General & Administrative	11,011	11,568	12,342	5,886	7,488
Total Operating Expense	193,371	209,139	200,052	183,749	189,264
Expense Paid from Funds		2,153			
Total Expense	193,371	211,292	200,052	183,749	189,264
Surplus or Deficit	-9,794	0	0	0	0

Donation Details

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
# Identified Donors to Local Expenses	126	106	108	102	91
# Donors enrolled in Preauthorized Remittance	52	53	53	51	51
Bequests Received		15,000	20,000		
Donations to the Mission & Service Fund	25,238	24,712	26,023	24,177	18,301
# Identified Donors to the Mission & Service Fund	71	66	68	56	45
Donations to Loaves & Fishes Food Bank	8,287	8,360	10,745	10,132	7,852

Comparison of Actual Revenues & Expenses 2020 & 2021 & 2022 Budget

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
REVENUE			
Revenue			
Local Contributions	125,607	115,050	114,000
Open donations	458	0	2,500
Weddings and Funerals (Net of Expenses)	-100	200	200
Special Events & Fundraising	670	0	10,000
Donor Wall	0	0	10,000
Bequests	0	0	25,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	1,498	258	200
Facility Rentals	0	0	6,000
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidies	21,845	27,315	*Note 3 0
Investment Income	3,841	613	300
Restorative Care Program	0	0	6,500
Total Operating Revenue	<u>153,819</u>	<u>143,436</u>	<u>174,700</u>
Revenue from Transitional Expense Fund	<u>29,930</u>	<u>45,828</u>	*Note 4
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>183,749</u>	<u>189,264</u>	<u>174,700</u>
EXPENSE			
Overhead Expenses			
Moving & Temporary Space Expense	19,848	18,724	9,000
Electricity	2,474	2,406	1,500
Equipment Service & Agreements	1,624	1,151	1,500
Insurance	2,688	3,379	5,675
Janitorial Supplies	0	0	500
Contract Janitorial Services	700	600	3,300
UCC & Region Assessments	8,201	7,455	7,230
Telephone & Internet Expense	2,195	2,216	3,200
Total Overhead Expense	<u>37,731</u>	<u>35,932</u>	<u>31,905</u>

Payroll Expenses

Wages, Salaries & Benefits	115,431	120,345	125,928
Contracted Music Services	22,817	23,300	27,150
Pulpit Supply	1,884	2,200	2,260
Total Payroll Expense	<u>140,132</u>	<u>145,845</u>	<u>155,338</u>

General & Administrative Expenses

Newspaper Advertising expense	826	0	1,000
Bulletins, Inserts & Service Supplies	44	124	200
Website Expense	565	214	580
Envelope & Stewardship	453	476	400
Sunday School & Christian Develop't	328	340	700
Office Supplies	1,753	1,394	2,600
Bank Charges	0	422	444
Broadview Magazine Expense	10	150	300
Fellowship Pastoral Care	28	0	150
Redevelopment Team Expense	0	0	250
M&P Expenses	54	0	100
Miscellaneous Expense	285	2,796	3,000
Music Expense	379	387	500
Mission & Outreach Committee Exp.	100	100	300
Subscription Expense	139	164	100
Bookkeeping Expenses	923	923	1,200
Total General & Administrative	<u>5,887</u>	<u>7,488</u>	<u>11,824</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>183,749</u>	<u>189,264</u>	<u>199,067</u>
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NET INCOME	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>-24,367</u></u>
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***Note 5**

Notes to 2021 Financial Statements

Note 1-Investments

Opening Balance Jan. 1, 2021	\$216,080.28
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Redeemed or Matured Investments	\$398,580.28
New Investments Purchased	\$365,000.00
Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2021	\$182,500.00

Type of Investment	Maturity	Rate	Amount
Cashable 1 year GIC	Jan 25 2022	.40%	\$125,000.00
Cashable 1 year GIC	Nov 22, 2022	.55%	\$50,000.00
Cashable 1 year GIC	Dec 29 2022	.55%	\$7,500.00
Total Investments			\$182,500.00

Note 2 -Trust Funds

	Opening Balance Jan. 01, 2021	Receipts to fund	Withdrawals from fund	Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2021
Permanently Restricted Fund*				
Legacy Fund	14,871	0	0	14,871
Temporarily Restricted Funds**				
Building Fund	55,991	784	0	56,775
Memorial Fund	4,693	0	0	4,693
Spiritual Growth Fund	1,936	0	864	1,072
Workshop & Event Grants Fund (formerly Provision)	9,508	5,807	5,859	9,456
Refugee Fund	45,086	26,765	25,574	46,277
Ladies Fellowship Fund	39	18	0	57
Mission & Service Fund	0	20,064	20,064	0
Loaves & Fishes Fund	0	8,432	8,432	0
Transitional Expense Fund	73,050	0	45,828	27,222
Unrestricted Fund***				
Pie Makers' Fund	2,579	0	0	2,579
Total Trust Funds				163,003

Fund Definitions

***Permanently Restricted:** The principle of the fund will remain as an investment forever. Upon the principle reaching a determined total, the interest may be used for designated purposes.

**** Temporary Restricted:** These funds may be restricted by purpose or time, but the restrictions are not permanent.

*****Unrestricted Fund:** These funds are donations that are available to use toward any purpose.

Note 3 - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Rent Subsidy

Brechin United Church was eligible again in 2021 for this federally funded program as a result of total revenue reductions in 2021 compared to similar periods in 2019. During the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, subsidies totaling almost \$50K were received. This program ended in November 2021.

Note 4 - Revenue from Transitional Expense Fund

The agreement between Brechin United Church and the Pacific Mountain Region Property Development Council of the United Church of Canada included a Transition Expense Payment of \$166,500 to Brechin. The purpose of this payment was to provide financial assistance to the congregation during the construction of the new church space. Since 2018, the fund balance has been reduced each year. In 2021, the balance was reduced by \$45,828, the amount of our operating deficit for the year. This leaves a December 31, 2021 balance in the Transitional Expense Fund of \$27,222.

Note 5 - 2021 Projected Deficit and Expenses Related to Moving to New Building

The 2022 operating deficit is projected to be \$24,367. This deficit will be funded from the Transitional Expense Fund. Notably, this will nearly exhaust this fund. As new church space is projected to be completed in July or August 2022, we will require approximately \$35,000 for furniture and equipment as well as moving and service connection expenses. These expenses will be covered by funds from the Building Fund with funds from the Memorial Fund as a cushion. The December 31, 2021 balance in this fund is \$56,775. This will leave approximately \$21,775 which will be available for Operational Expenses going into 2023.