

2022 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**
- to care for creation and work as a community of faith to address climate change through education and action**

(adopted March 2022)

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)

Affirming Vision Statement: As an 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. We are dedicated to being good stewards of God's world, working and living towards justice and wholeness for *all* God's people.

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

Table of Contents

Page

Core Values Statement.....	1
Mission Statement.....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Minister's Report.....	4
Council Chairperson's Report.....	5
She Comes Sailing on the Wind.....	6
Transfers/Reaffirmation of Faith/ Special Permission/Marriages/Funerals/In Memoriam.....	7
Church Statistics.....	8
2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2022	9-11
Pacific Mountain Regional Council Report.....	12
Communications Team.....	12
Bulletin Assistant Report.....	12
Brechin on Social Media.....	13
Website & On-Line Directory Report.....	13
Communicable Disease Prevention Plan Team Report.....	14
Faith Formation & Spiritual Development Team Report.....	15
Broadview Discussion Group.....	15
Going Deeper, Labyrinth, Tai Chi & Healing Hands Report.....	16
Library Report.....	17
Making Space.....	17
Ministry & Personnel Report.....	17, 18
Brechin 4 Action (formerly Mission & Outreach) Team Report.....	19, 20
Brechin Loaves & Fishes at Nanaimo Alliance Church Report.....	20, 21
Reaching 'Out', Brechin United LGBT2Q and Allies Report.....	21, 22
Refugee Report.....	22
Pastoral Care Team Report.....	23, 24
Men's Group Report.....	24
Women's Friendship Group Report.....	24
Prayer Circle Report.....	25
Yoga Report.....	25
Community Drum Circle.....	25
Property Team Report.....	26
Redevelopment Team Report.....	26, 27
"Friends of Brechin" Wall Report.....	27
Fundraising Team Reports.....	28
Worship Leadership Team Report.....	28, 29
Music Report.....	30
Trustees 2022.....	31
Nominations Report for 2023.....	32
Council Team Membership.....	33
Other Teams & Contact Persons.....	33, 34
Financial Report and Budget.....	35-40

MINISTER'S REPORT

I returned from Restorative Care Leave slowly in 2022, endeavoring to re-set my relationship with this vocation in a way that made it viable long term, in balance with managing my health. My gratitude to Rev. Randy Antle, our M and P team, and everyone who held pieces of my role in our community in my absence. Our summer 2022 was largely shaped around preparations for arriving in the new building; similarly, the fall was more of the same in an increasingly tangible way. The official, archived story might talk about December 18th, 2022 as a delightful first worship service back at the corner of Brechin and Estevan, which it was! The official, archived story will lift up our grand opening in spring of 2023 -- which will be delightful too. There were also the months of prayerful learning, yearning, stretching and work which so many were involved in to get us there. Our annual report is (among many things) a place to hold this with tender gratitude.

At Pentecost, we celebrated new members, and transfers of membership. It is exciting to think about how with every new person that comes or goes from here, we are a new community!

Every Monday morning, starting in the summer, we walked from 945 Waddington to 2020 Estevan; we walked the same route each time, and noticed the seasons' changes along the way. We watched the building's last details being completed, and physically experienced the long, slow, repetitive nature of arrival.

This fall we took time to reflect on what it means to emerge from the wilderness. How do we reflect when it's still so fresh, when the uncertainty and hopes and changes are all still present? How do we live in to those post-wilderness desires to see our dreams for 'arrivedness' blossom? How do we gain a sense of what those dreams are, collectively, when it's been so long since we've had a place to be 'spiritual roommates' as we are again now? When that long, slow, repetitive nature of arrival is wearing on us, where does our help come from? How do we claim space to simply be in awe of all that has taken place, and breathe the fresh air of these fresh times? I know these questions will continue. Spirits movements have been more-than-sufficient, and thoroughly amazing, in this past year. I know this will continue too.

On our last Sunday at Sands Funeral Chapel we gave thanks for that space, and processed out with all our belongings; we took them over to 2020 Estevan, and piled most of them at the back of the Birch room so they were easy enough to find as we settled in. In even this mundane task a sense of the holy, and a sense of all we are as a community was present... it's practically a theme of 2022, to know that even schlepping boxes might be sacred! Thanks be to God!

Wider church work:

Brechin connected with two ministry students in 2022: Brian Pankratz, who has been studying with Vancouver School of Theology as a candidate for ordination, and Allison Abuloc, who has been studying with the Centre for Christian Studies as a Diaconal candidate. Accompanying them in their journeys has been a delight.

Pacific Mountain Region meeting: The meeting was held in person in Prince George, and online, and featured Jeff Chu as their keynote speaker. Among those commissioned and ordained was Melanie Ihmels, who has done some pulpit supply for Brechin in recent years.

In 2022, I continued my role as a director on the board for Camp Pringle. Camp Pringle continues their own emergence from COVID's impacts, and 2022 was difficult for an organization that depends so much on people gathering. This year saw the sibling challenges of navigating basic operations, and a deep need for visioning and planning with their partners at Sylvan United and the community. Let's continue to hold camp ministries in our prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Tif McNaughton

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – 2022

This past year has been one of many ups and downs at home in Nanaimo and around the world. The Pandemic has loosened its grip on most, but still seems to follow us like a lingering shadow. The world economy has been shaken by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and we have all seen many examples of how these activities influence many aspects of our daily lives. All of us have seen shortages and price increases blamed on supply chains and climate change. The old proverb "may you live in interesting times" has never been more apt!

Last March, Kathy passed over the Council chair baton after a couple of challenging years dominated by Covid-19 and Brechin's redevelopment construction. While we continued to worship on Zoom and then in person again at Sands through the spring, summer and fall of 2022, construction completion dates at 2020 Estevan Road seemed to waiver in and out of focus. We had several fun outdoor picnics and gatherings during the summer and fall, however, to keep us focused. Unfortunately, we had to bid farewell to our music team of the last several years at the end of August as well, and the Ministry and Personnel team had to find a new musician for Brechin during the fall. We welcomed Tim Weger as our new musician in November.

We finally heard that our building was nearing completion and we could move in at the beginning of December! We packed in boxes and chairs during the first week and were able to hold Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 10 in the Cedar Room - our first fundraiser in the new space! December 18, 2022 was a huge day, with Rev. Tif leading our first ever service in the new Sanctuary and Dave Bodaly welcoming us to the new building as a knowledge keeper of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. We were in our own building and very excited to be here, despite some glitches with confusing equipment and electronics! Thanks to the many who have spent countless volunteer hours unpacking and organizing and troubleshooting on behalf of us all!

As you will note when you read all the reports of teams and groups from the past year, much has been accomplished in 2022, and we are all looking forward to our future together as we explore possibilities in 2023. If you haven't put your name forward to be on a team or committee and would like to contribute, please contact a team chairperson - we could certainly use your talents and ideas! If you are still hesitant about in-person worship, we will continue to livestream or Zoom our Sunday services, but feel free to drop by to see our new building in person some time, to see what we have all been working toward for so long!

Blessings to you all and Best Wishes for a healthy and invigorating year ahead!

Rob Russell, Chair,
Brechin United Church Council

She Comes Sailing on the Wind

(Words & Music: Gordon Light 1985, arr. Andrew Donaldson 1994

Words & music © 1987 Common Cup Company. Arr. © 1994 Andrew Donaldson

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Refrain:

She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun,
she flies on.

And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light,
she flies on.

1. Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved up on the earth,
like a mother breathing life into her child.

2. Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,
and then down the ages still she flew on.

(Refrain)

3. To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.

4. Flying to the river, she waited circling high
above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace.

(Refrain)

5. Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.

TRANSFERS OF MEMBERSHIP

Transfers In:

Bonnie Haapala

June 5, 2022

Transfers Out:

Joan Taylor

January 24, 2022

Norman Taylor

January 24, 2022

Christina Snow

June 17, 2022

REAFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH/PROFESSIONS OF FAITH **SPECIAL PERMISSION/CONFIRMATION**

Gloria Le Gal

Professions of Faith

June 5, 2022

Brian Pankratz

Professions of Faith

June 5, 2022

MARRIAGES

William Lloyd Lymer & Sheena Patrick Montgomery

June 10, 2022

FUNERALS CONDUCTED

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Service Date & location:</u>
Philip Fletcher Huffman	December 7, 2021	April 16, 2022 – Hope Lutheran Church, Nanaimo; interment – April 18, 2022 – Cedar Valley Memorial, Nanaimo
Eleanor Ann Chapman	February 27, 2022	June 29, 2022 – Hope Lutheran Church, Nanaimo

IN MEMORIAM

Name

Barbara Lasser

Faye Boggs

Robert Ross McCormick

Date of Death

2022

October 20, 2022

December 29, 2022

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

2020	2021	2022
147	147	100
0	0	0
0	0	0
3	0	1
7	3	2
9	12	12
6	3	5
59	53	54
32-84	0-78	48-61
102	92	96
56	46	45
102	92	96
0	0	4
25	14	13
35	28	46
2	2	4
12	10	12

ROLL MEMBERSHIP *(in detail)

Members Active (December 31, 2021)

Non-resident members

Transfers in

Received by Profession of Faith

Received by Confirmation/Adult Baptism/Special Permission ..

Transfer from Inactive File to Active

.....

Members Temporarily Living Abroad

Removed – Other (correction of Historic Roll record)....

Transfers Out

Removed by Death

.....

Total Active Membership December 31, 2022

100

5

1

2

0

0

108

2

0

3

3

8

100

BRECHIN UNITED CHURCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Via Zoom

March 6, 2022

Call to Order – Kathy Torhjelm called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. There were 52 in attendance. Kathy Torhjelm 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 Kathy Torhjelm / Kris Jensen **Carried.**

Approval of Agenda – **Motion:** M/S Gloria Le Gal / Diane Thomas. **Carried.**

Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2021 Annual General Meeting – Page 9-10 – **Motion:** M/S Darlene Darby / Grace Skomorowski that the minutes be approved. **Carried.**

Kathy Torhjelm explained that the order of the reports in the Annual Report follow the order in which the teams report at the monthly Council meetings. The group reports follow the reports of the teams whose umbrella they are under.

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

- a. Minister's Report – Page 4
- b. Council Chairperson – Page 5
- c. Pacific Mountain Regional Council Report – Page 11
- d. Communications Team – Page 11
 - i. Brechin on Social Media – Page 12
 - ii. Website and Online Directory – Page 12
 - iii. Covid Safety Team – Page 12
- e. Faith Formation & Spiritual Development Team Report – Page 13
 - i. Broadview Discussion Group – Page 13
The discussions are always interesting and lively.
 - ii. Labyrinth, Going Deeper, Tai Chi & Healing Hands Report – Page 14
 - iii. Library Report – Page 14
 - iv. Making Space – Page 15
- f. Ministry & Personnel Report – Page 15
We welcome Rev. Tif back from her restorative leave.
- g. Mission & Outreach Team Report – Page 16
 - i. Loaves & Fishes at Brechin Report – Page 17
More volunteers are needed to help cover more shifts.
 - ii. Reaching 'Out', Brechin United LGBT2Q and Allies Report – Page 18
 - iii. Refugee Report – Page 18-19
The group needs women on the team for the Lesbian refugee they are sponsoring.

h. Pastoral Care Team Report – Page 19-20

Many thanks to the team for maintaining contact with the members of the congregation.

i. Men's Group Report – Page 20

ii. Women's Friendship Group Report – Page 21

iii. Prayer Circle Report – Page 21

iv. Yoga Report – Page 21

i. Property Team Report – Page 22

j. Redevelopment Team Report – Page 22

Jeff Hawker has moved to Victoria so will no longer be on the team.

k. Stewardship Committee Report – Page 23

Active members are needed on the team.

i. Cookie Walk & Fundraising Team Reports – Page 23

l. Worship Leadership Team Report – Page 24

Many thanks to Ken Duncan for his PowerPoint work at in-person service in February. Thanks to Ian Gartshore for his work with the Zoom services during Rev. Tif's absence.

i. Music Report – Page 25

Thanks to Ron Klusmeier and Christina Bogucki for all their efforts on the music and recorded sections of the services and thanks to the choir members who participated in the recorded hymns and anthems. Also, thanks to the Worship team members and the music teams for their work recording sections of the services.

M/S Linda Braid / Gloria Le Gal that the reports be accepted as presented. **Carried.** All teams are to be commended for their time and efforts, especially during these difficult times.

Trustees 2021 – Page 26

Nominations Report for 2022 – Page 27-29

Motion: *"To temporarily waive the requirement that all members of Council must be full members of Brechin United Church until a reception of new members service can be scheduled."* **M/S** Linda Braid / Darlene Darby **Carried.**

Thanks to Tom Gray for his work as Team Leader for the Property Team. As Jeff Hawker has moved to Victoria, he is no longer on the Redevelopment and Property Teams.

Motion: M/S: David Fearon / Susan Ward that the Nominations Report be accepted as presented. **Carried.**

Council Team Membership – Page 28

Other Teams & Groups – Page 28-29

Financial Report and Budget – Page 30-35

Motion: *“Given the present and on-going financial deficits experienced by Brechin United Church, it is moved that funds currently held in the restricted Legacy Fund, no longer be restricted and made available to use for church operations.”*

M/S: Diane Thomas / Rob Russell **Carried.**

Motion M/S David Fearon / John Oh that the 2022 Financial Report be approved as presented. **Carried.**

Thanks to Randy Manikel and Blaine Wilkins for their hard work and excellent management of Brechin’s finances.

2022 Financial Budget – Page 32–33 – **Motion M/S** Blaine Wilkins / Lynn Burrows that the 2022 budget be approved as presented. **Carried.**

2022 Mission & Service Fund Goal – **Motion: M/S** Grace Skomorowski / Anne Manikel that the 2022 covenant for donations to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada by Brechin United Church be \$25,000.00 **Carried.**

Other Business: - Mission and Outreach Team motion: *To add to Brechin United Church Core Values Statement “Care for Creation and work as a community of faith to address climate change through education and action.”* John Bullas gave a presentation explaining why the team is presenting the motion. **M/S:** John Bullas / Lynn Burrows **Carried.** “I am the river, and the river is me.”

Thanks to the outgoing Council and team members and welcome to the incoming Council and team members and thanks to all our volunteers for all their hard work during the pandemic. Thanks to Tif for all her hard work and wishes for speedy continuing recovery.

“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 David Fearon at 11:45 am. **Carried.**

Kathy Torhjem, Chair
Christine Robertson, Secretary

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – 2022

Highlights (or summary) of the year: Six Brechin members attended the Cup of Hope event on line and led a worship service based on learnings *** My participation in a LeaderShift event in Vancouver in April focused on future offerings by the Region *** Attending the General Meeting on line in June *** Introduction of the UCC Strategic Plan in November as well as a new book geared to membership called 'Becoming Beloved Community: Call and Vision'.

Goals for the coming year: To attend town halls and other relevant events offered by the Region throughout the year. To attend the PMRC General Meeting from June 1-4th (hopefully in person) and vote on behalf of Brechin United Church on proposals.

Report of financial activity: None

Members:

Susan Ward - second representative
Linda Braid – alternate

Submitted by:
Valerie Neilson

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM REPORT - 2022

COMMUNICATION - BULLETIN ASSISTANT REPORT 2022:

Once again I have enjoyed working with Cindy to sort through announcement requests for the bulletin, deciding if, how much and how often these would be included. We have tried to keep the announcements current, short and timely and I have very much appreciated the cooperation I have received when calling people with requests regarding their announcements. By putting limits on the length and number of inclusion times, we have managed to cut down the number of pages of announcements which, hopefully, encourages more people to read through them. Also, by requesting all announcement requests be received by 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, this has made Cindy's job...and mine, easier to get the bulletin out by Friday in a timely manner with undue stress and we thank you all for that!

Respectfully submitted:
Marilyn Huffman

BRECHIN ON SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT – 2022

Not surprisingly the demographics of our public Facebook page (www.facebook.com/100064565806758) closely matches the makeup of our congregation (mostly seniors, mostly women), but shows signs of reaching some of the younger folk.

Understandably our posts reached far more people around the time we began to worship in our new building, with one post that was shared on the popular “A Better Nanaimo” page reaching 2,457 people. By contrast most of our posts reach only about 100 people. Much more could be done to extend our average reach, especially if there were regular posts.

Interestingly, some of the more popular posts are not about us, per se, but about how Christians can be loving/accepting/broad minded. There is a real hunger out there for this Christian dimension.

I used the new building updates as a way to draw positive attention to Brechin, and as a result quite a few more people in Nanaimo know about us and see us in a favourable light.

We also have a private Brechin Discussion page (www.facebook.com/groups/583678995687124) that is seldom used. It has the potential to be useful for the Library (say, new or featured books), Stewardship (“How can we Brechinites better use our gifts?”), Brechin 4 Action (“How could we Brechin folk touch the lives of others?”) and Christian Development as a possible way to involve more of our people.

Sincerely:
Ian Gartshore

WEBSITE AND ONLINE DIRECTORY REPORT - 2022

<http://www.brechinunited.ca>

The website is functioning quite smoothly with most contributors thankfully having their information in a posting ready format. We are still having difficulties with placing photos on the website as our service provider’s policies are quite physically restrictive.

Submitted by:
Doug Cochrane

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN TEAM - 2022

(formerly known as COVID Safety Team)

Highlights (or summary) of the year:

We provided updated plans for Brechin House, Sands, and our new space at 2020 Estevan Road.

Goals for the coming year:

Not be required in the future.

Report of financial activity: N/A

Members: Kathy Torhjem, Grace Skomorowski, Christine Robertson

Communicable Disease Prevention Plan for Brechin United Church – 2020 Estevan Road – December 15, 2022

The BC Center for Disease Control no longer has any restrictions on mask wearing, group size or immunization requirements for Communities of Faith.

The focus is no longer on the prevention of COVID19, but on the prevention of all communicable diseases.

Good health practices are encouraged at all times. These include individuals taking responsibility for their own health and only attending group gatherings when they are in good health.

Good health practices also include frequent hand washing, thorough cleaning of premises and diligent food safe practices.

As caring members of our Community of Faith, we will support all those who wish to continue to wear masks when meeting with others in a group setting.

Because the new building at 2020 Estevan has high ceilings and good air circulation, we feel we no longer need to be as restrictive as we were when worshipping at Sands. Therefore, the safety policy at Brechin will be as follows:

- Everyone attending an event at Brechin United Church must be in good health.
- All those attending must take responsibility for their own good health, including vaccination status, mask wearing and physical distancing as they feel appropriate.
- Good health practices also include frequent handwashing, sneezing/coughing into your sleeve, and safe food handling practices.

Submitted by:

Christine Robertson

FAITH FORMATION & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT – 2022

Highlights (or summary) of the year: Another quiet year due to Covid concerns and the lack of our own building. The highlight of the year was moving into our new building in December.

We had one Sunday School Class on December 18th with one teacher and 3 students before we took a break for 2 weeks for the holidays.

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

Brian Pankratz offered to lead a study group starting early 2023 on the book “Building Gods Beloved Community” edited by Taylor Crossant, that takes new members and seekers through traditions and beliefs of the United Church. Initial interest was very encouraging.

Goals for the coming year: To build our Sunday School Program with an engaging curriculum. To offer a variety of opportunities for adult spiritual development, including supporting Tif’s “Star Words” curriculum. To build up our team membership.

Reports of financial activity: None

Members: Darlene Darby (chair), Anne Manikel, Suzanne Sykes, and Gwen Boyd

Respectfully Submitted:
Darlene Darby

BROADVIEW DISCUSSION GROUP REPORT - 2022

Highlights of the year: In 2022 we met on Zoom on a Thursday afternoon in February, March, May, June, August, October, November, 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 gathers 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

GOING DEEPER, LABYRINTH, TAI CHI & HEALING HANDS REPORT - 2022

Going Deeper:

We hosted weekly Zoom discussions on the book, *Sand Talk*, in the winter and spring. In September, The Brechin 4 Action team initiated the Zoom discussions on the book *Braiding Sweet Grass*.

Goals for the coming year: The Braiding Sweet Grass Zooms will resume from January to May 2023.

Report of financial activity: None

Members: We have 17 participants in the Zooms. They were from Brechin United Church, Nanaimo, Gabriola Island, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

Labyrinth:

We hosted weekly Zooms last winter, spring and fall.

Goals for the coming year: The Labyrinth Zooms will resume from January to May 2023. We have requested a booking for the room with the labyrinth for weekly, in-person, labyrinth walks.

Report of financial activity: None

Members: We have 52 participants in the Zooms. They were from England, Panama, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Ontario, Salt Spring Island, Ladysmith, Gabriola Island and Nanaimo.

20% of the participants are from Brechin United Church

Tai Chi and Healing Hands:

We have not met due to Covid restrictions.

Goals for the coming year: We are waiting to see how the Covid situation will progress.

Report of financial activity: None

Members: None

Submitted by:
Anne Nesbitt

LIBRARY – 2022

Highlights of the year: Picking out the book shelves with the help of Brechin Council and building them and loading them with books packed up from Brechin House with a wonderful team of volunteers. We had chairs/tables/plants, and a couch provided by church members and their families to make our library a room everyone could enjoy. Suzanne Sykes has taken on the role of Head Librarian.

Goals for the coming year: Suzanne will organize and widen our book selection with a team of volunteers able to assist her when called upon. We all look forward to using our inviting library space and to enjoy our wonderful selection of books. More information to come on a possible new check out system in the spring.

Submitted by:
Darlene Darby

MAKING SPACE REPORT - 2022

No report.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL REPORT – 2022

To admit that 2022 was a challenging and busy year for the Ministry & Personnel team is an understatement! Thanks to the hard working efforts of my team, Leah Caitlin, Chris & Eileen Carolan, and Kathy Torhjelm, along with the support of Brechin Council, our members, and retired clergy, the team ended the year on a positive note.

Rev. Tif began her six months of Restorative Care leave on November 24, 2021 and returned, full time, on May 23, 2022. During her absence, we were very grateful for the support from several retired ministers, especially Rev. Randy Antle. We were delighted to have Tif back with us in May. Since returning, her fulltime schedule has included Sunday worships, team and Council meetings, Pastoral Care visits and telephone calls, Continuing Education study programs, supporting a ministry student through his 200 hours of field placement with Brechin and weekly walks, with members from Brechin House, to our new church site. Thanks for your enthusiasm, compassion, and energy, Tif!

The Music team (Lonnie Moddle and Ron Klusmeier) signed short term contracts for July and August. Following this, they were presented with a six-month legal contract on August 10, 2022. As an agreement couldn't be reached with them, Lonnie and Ron chose not to sign their contracts, thus ending their professional relationship with Brechin United at the end of August. A letter of thanks and appreciation, along with a monetary gift, was sent to each musician.

M+P was very thankful for the music provided by Joanna Hibberd, Sonya Parkin and Tim Weger during September and October while the team advertised for and interviewed candidates for our Music Director and Choir Leader duties. Tim Weger was selected for both positions. To date, the congregation and choir members are very pleased with Tim's enthusiasm and talent. He has proven himself to be a good team player.

In addition to her regular office administrator duties, Cindy Gillespie, was a valuable staff member who provided support to several substitute ministers, while Tif was on leave. She prepared guidelines and trained a Brechin member to replace her during her summer leave. Cindy updated Historical and Adherent digital records. In preparation for the Friends of Brechin Wall in our new building, Cindy created the mail out list, organized a record of donations and sent a letter of acknowledgement to each donor. M + P appreciated Cindy's flexibility and calm demeanor as she readied herself for a move into our new building.

In November, the team prepared a six-month contract for Allison Abuloc, an Ontario student with the Centre for Christian Studies and a candidate for diaconal ministry. As she moved to Vancouver Island in the summer, Allison expressed an interest in completing her field placement with Brechin. She has begun to assist with weekly PowerPoint preparation for Sunday worship.

After a fifteen-year association with Brechin United, our cleaning contractors, Tonnie and Bill Leatherdale, chose to retire in December, 2022. A card of thanks and a monetary gift were sent to them, along with our best wishes.

Expenses: The Ministry & Personnel team spent approximately \$60 this year for staff and contractors' Christmas gifts.

Goals for 2023:

1. Conduct annual assessment discussions with the staff and contractors.
2. Update the Office Administrator's contract.
3. Continue to work closely with Rev Tif, Cindy Gillespie (Office Administrator) and Tim Weger, our Music Director/Choral leader.
4. Plan and host a fund raising event for Brechin United.

Respectively submitted by:
Linda Braid

BRECHIN 4 ACTION (FORMERLY MISSION & OUTREACH) REPORT - 2022

This has been an exciting year for our Brechin 4 ACTION team. Throughout 2022, we were again kept busy with 3 main interests – Reconciliation, Social Justice & Climate Action

- **Team name change:** In order to move away from the negative connotations of using the word “*mission*”, and with Brechin Council’s approval, we changed our team’s name from *Mission & Outreach* to **Brechin 4 ACTION**. The “4” stands for the following points of action: Social, Racial, Environmental and Economic.
- **Climate Action:**
- **Core Values:** In 2022, we added the following phrase to our team mission statement core values and, at the 2022 AGM, to Brechin UC’s Core Values: “*to care for Creation and work as a community of faith to address climate change through education and action*”.
- Team members (John Bullas, Julia Roberts & Shelley Serebrin) designed our **Brechin Climate Action Plan** which was approved at Brechin’s 2022 AGM. We moved forward with action in 2022 including an excellent Heat Pump webinar (still available on our website archives) and developed plans for 2023.
- Our team developed the April 24th **Earth Sunday service** high-lighted by John Bullas’ thoughtful Reflection.
- **The Nanaimo Green Faith Circle:** In 2021, our team member, Julia Roberts, 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. Our team continued participating in local actions throughout 2022.
- **Theme time:** During 2022 we continued presenting a monthly UC “Minute for Mission” as part of the 3rd Sunday service.
- **Reconciliation:** We held **3 successful Reconciliation workshops** facilitated again by Kathi Camilleri. These were financed by grant dollars from the UC Justice & Reconciliation Fund. The spring Building Bridges workshop (held at Beban Park) had 20 participants and evaluations were highly positive. The follow-up Paddling Together workshop was cancelled due to insufficient registration. This was disappointing but it meant that we had sufficient Grant funds to cover our 2 fall workshops, our best workshops since Fall 2018. Indigenous elders from Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society continued to provide great support.
- **Grant funding:** In 2022, we decided to focus on grant application for only a Fall series of Reconciliation workshops facilitated again by Kathi Camilleri. We also explored other ways to connect with, and learn from, Indigenous people.
- In early Fall 2022, we unsuccessfully applied for a **City of Nanaimo Social Planning grant** to assist with 2023 Fall Reconciliation workshops.
- **Team treasurer:** Many thanks to John Oh for taking on the role of our team treasurer for 2022.
- **New members:** Anne Nesbitt joined our Team. The Labyrinth Zoom gatherings, facilitated by Anne are now part of our B4A group due to their community outreach. We would still benefit from having 2 or 3 new team members.

(members 2022: Marg Barrie, Julia Roberts, Colleen Crossland, John Bullas, Shelly Serebrin, Anne Nesbitt, Pauline Johnson, John Oh and Lynn Burrows)

Respectively submitted:

Lynn Burrows, Chair, Brechin 4 ACTION team

BRECHIN LOAVES AND FISHES AT NANAIMO ALLIANCE CHURCH – 2022

Highlights of the year: In 2022 we returned to our pre-pandemic method of distributing food – clients registered outside, shopped for produce and bread and then came into the church foyer to shop for their staples, dairy and meat.

Some of the highlights of the year include:

- We provided 5,586 food hampers to 3,145 households. There were 6,575 clients served (a significant increase from the previous years). We continue to observe that many people are unable to meet their food needs without making use of Loaves and Fishes, and that every week there were new clients registering for food.
- The grocery stores are 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 Torhjem and Doug Cochrane, will continue to work with Loaves and Fishes to provide food and hospitality for those in need in Nanaimo. The exciting news is that as of January 2023, we are distributing from our new church and the Alliance folk are operating a depot on Wednesday afternoons.

Report of financial activity: Brechin members generously donated \$5,830.00 to Loaves and Fishes in 2022.

Members: The number of willing volunteers is very heart-warming. Currently we have 32 dedicated volunteers who ensure that clients receive a wide and generous selection of nutritious foods in the Birch Room and hospitality in the form of a warm welcome, coffee and a sweet in the Arbutus Room. We would happily welcome anyone who would like to help. Training is provided.

Special thanks go to the people of Nanaimo Alliance Church who so willingly opened their space and their hearts to us in the past 4½ years so that without interruption we continued 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 times of extraordinary change. It is such a pleasure to be there!

Submitted by:
Kathy Torhjem

REACHING 'OUT', BRECHIN UNITED LGBT2Q+ AND ALLIES REPORT - 2022

Reaching Out, is well into its 7th year of operation. It continues to be a social group of LGBTQ2S+ people, and our allies, who gather every first Wednesday evening of the month for discussion, guest speakers, 'coming-out' stories, etc. We have been anxiously awaiting the availability of the new church facility so that we can meet together again, in-person. That being said, we have had a few, 'Picnics in the Park' at Mansfield Park – which is a great, central location with facilities nearby, and trees to sit under. These were fairly well attended, some more-so than others. We also, had a bowling night with about 16 people showing up, and others sending their regrets because they really wanted to come, but had other commitments. We will be doing that again. We enjoyed a 'pot-luck' Christmas dinner using the Nanaimo Unitarian Facility in December with about 20 people participating on that wet and windy night.

Our meetings have been via Zoom, we still get people attending from Victoria, Duncan, Ladysmith and Port Alberni, so even when we do get into the new building we need to figure out a way to include those who find RO to be a real life-line.

Our attendance varies from month to month – anywhere from a dozen or so people up to 25 attending. We continue to have guest speakers, some able to join us via Zoom from elsewhere throughout the Country. We, enjoy discussions, ice-breakers, where everyone has an opportunity to tell a bit of their stories, and/or experiences, usually centered around a theme for the month/meeting.

We lost a dear ally, and member of our Planning Committee this year, when Pat Stewart passed away. She is terribly missed, as she was such a sweet person, and dedicated to Reaching Out and our community.

Our Planning Committee (Tim Weger-facilitator, Blaine Wilkins, Jane Osbourne, Pat Newton, Holly Smith, Evangelina Schultz, Daniel Collins) meet every second Wednesday of the month to plan the next meeting, and discuss the workings of RO. We are so very grateful for their commitment to working together to make Reaching Out the vibrant community that it is.

We continue to try to remain a 'social group', purposely staying away from 'religious' topics. Many in the LGBTQ2S+ community have been severely hurt by 'Church', in the past, and it is our intent to bridge the gap that exists. We are so very grateful for the commitment of the allies who faithfully, 'show-up', and become 'one of us'. I was so very blessed when at our first service in the New Building, on December 18th, one of our

Indigenous members, Dave Bodaly offered a 'welcome', and requested that anyone that considered themselves a part of Reaching Out, join him at the front. So many of our LGBTQ2S+ members, along with dedicated allies – showed up!

We look forward to meeting in-person, and via-Zoom (hybrid) starting in March '23, and we are planning more of the same, as well as some social get-togethers, for just fun and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted by:
Facilitator, Tim Weger

REFUGEE REPORT – 2022

Brechin United Church continues to be involved in sponsoring LGBTQ refugees through our affiliation with ROAR (Reaching Out Assisting Refugees). Blaine Wilkins continues to serve as Chairperson and Anne Manikel as Brechin Refugee Coordinator liaising with the SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holder), The United Church of Canada.

There is a backlog of refugee arrivals due to Covid having halted the work of the UNHCR (The United Nations High Commission for Refugees) and the IRCC (Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada) over the last two years. The couple (#4 and #5) with whom we were matched in late 2019 continue to suffer abuse in a refugee camp in Africa, in part due to the homophobic attitude of the local government. We are more hopeful that their arrival papers will go through in the spring.

Refugees #6 and #7 from Africa and Afghanistan will also hopefully arrive in 2023. We are desperately trying to build a sponsorship for an 8th refugee and would appreciate everyone's help with recruitment of five or six people from Brechin and the wider community.

Financially, ROAR is in a very good position with funds largely being held in the Brechin Refugee account. Its use is restricted for that particular purpose. The balance in the Refugee account at year-end is \$68,893.89. In addition, the amount of \$27,752.00 was sent this year to The Inter-cultural Association of Greater Victoria who will be handling the disbursements for refugees #6 & #7. These funds were mostly raised through three major fundraisers in 2022; the On-line Auction, the Picnic en Blanc and the ROAR Matching Grant Campaign.

On behalf of ROAR, we wish to extend our utmost gratitude to the people of Brechin United Church and the wider community who faithfully contributed to our fundraisers and supported these newcomers through their prayers.

Respectfully submitted by:
Anne Manikel, Brechin Refugee Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE TEAM REPORT – 2022

Our team continued to meet on Zoom throughout the year with July and August off. Mary Boyd coordinated reigniting the Prayer Circle in the fall with a monthly in person meeting; Peggy Jensen, Diane Morris and Marilyn Huffman make up the rest of the group.

49 cards were sent out, and 16 prayer shawls given out by our team and other congregational members. We also continued the Callouts to all congregational members about every six weeks during the year and have really enjoyed getting to know people better. Special thanks to all those who are not a part of our team who also assisted in these calls.

We were happy to have student Ministers Brian Pankratz and Allison Abuloc work with us at different times of the year and attend some of our Zoom meetings as well as assist with some Pastoral Care Visits.

We revised the guidelines for Memorial Receptions to be included in the brochures and hosted receptions for long time members Phil Huffman and Eleanor Chapman, with grateful thanks to the people of Hope Lutheran church who so kindly allowed us to use their space.

Services at Wexford and Eden Gardens resumed in the fall when Covid restrictions were somewhat lifted.

Some members of our team met to attend to the addressing and mailing out of the Christmas letter that Rev. Tif and Rob Russell had prepared to send with cards.

Our team joined with the Worship, and Faith and Formation teams to put on two Trunk Treasures Sales at the Beban Park parking lot which were very successful in raising some money to bolster Brechin's finances. Then we were so excited to be able to facilitate the annual Cookie Walk in our own NEW building, when it had to be postponed at Hope Lutheran because of ice and snow! This event was once again very successful in spite of change of date, place and time of day and we look forward to it being even bigger and better next year!!

Once we moved back to Estevan Road, the need for more greeters, then coffee servers became a reality again. We are encouraged by the response we've had to clip board sign up sheets being passed on Sundays for greeters, and for people signing the coffee servers' book at the kitchen. Both of these things are a great way to get to know our congregation and we've had many new people starting to come whom we would invite to sign up also.

While we didn't use our entire budget this year, we hope to be able to do more events and other things in the coming year. Having our building space available opens up more opportunities!

Team members for 2022 have been: Rev. Tif McNaughton, Co Leader Gloria Le Gal, Barb O'Neill, Susan Ward, Mary Boyd, Jackie Little, Linda Braid, Diane Morris, Marilyn Russell, Anne Harris-Freed, Vickeri Cochrane, and Marilyn Huffman. Our thanks to Vickeri for her time and contributions to our team, we are sorry that she will be leaving our team and invite others interested in Pastoral Care to join our team.

Respectfully submitted:
Marilyn Huffman Team Leader

MEN'S GROUP REPORT - 2022

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 free, open and flexible.

No meetings were held in 2022 as a result of Covid-19 and other considerations. The group will re-convene in 2023.

Submitted by:
John Bullas, co-ordinator

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP REPORT - 2022

We kept up with monthly phone calls to our original members except in July and August and Susanne Body continued to organize the Ladies Who Brunch each month. All women who indicated an interest were invited to attend the Brunch each month; there were 24-28 ladies on that list and an average of 11 attended. Between the two lists, there are 46 names.

The goal for the coming year is to resume our monthly meetings which we have missed throughout Covid 19, and look at new possibilities!

Respectfully submitted:
Marilyn Huffman

PRAYER CIRCLE REPORT - 2022

Brechin's Prayer Circle was reinstituted this past fall. Marilyn Huffman, Diane Morris and Peggy Jensen generously volunteered to be part of the Prayer Circle. Our Team offers prayers of support, strength, compassion, encouragement, love and concern on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Over the past several months, we have met by Zoom, in person at Brechin House and now in Reverend Tif's office at Brechin United.

Thank you to everyone who has contacted one of our Team with personal and community requests for prayer. We will continue to hold members of Brechin and our extended family in our prayers, along with those in our wider community here in Nanaimo and beyond.

Respectfully submitted:
Mary Boyd, Coordinator, Prayer Circle

YOGA REPORT - 2022

There were no regular Yoga classes in 2022 as Anne took a leave for new family responsibilities.

There were a few backyard classes in the summer.

The Yoga Community is looking forward to having regular classes in our new building. We are now offering in 2023 -- 2 classes -- Seniors Yoga and Chair Yoga.

Submitted by:
Anne Harris-Freed

COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLES – 2022

In the year 2022 we did a couple of Community Drum Circles at Wellington Hall in the spring. Attendance was low as most people were still not comfortable with meeting indoors. We also did one in our back yard with more people coming. We then decided to wait until the new Brechin space was available and we had our first one in January 2023.

Namaste
Richard

PROPERTY TEAM REPORT - 2022

Summary of the year: As most of the activities for the 2022 year were at Brechin House the property team activities consisted of maintaining the grounds, doing minor repairs, clearing snow as necessary.

The team assisted in Fund Raising activities by transporting tables to two sale events at Beban Park, participated in the receiving and storing of chairs for the new building at the end of September and assisted in moving into the new building in December. Much of December was spent learning about the new systems in the new building and trouble shooting problems with the new construction and building systems.

The Team Leader liaised with HUB Insurance to maintain and update our insurance coverage.

Goals for the coming year:

- Review insurance coverage at renewal time.
- Develop user rates and policies for Brechin community and the wider community use.
- Continue the sorting and storing of church owned items.
- Liaise with management of The Residences at Brechin
- Update the inventory of furniture, appliances, AV equipment, etc.
- Liaise with the cleaning contractor to ensure building maintenance is managed satisfactorily.

Members: Keith Allen (Team Leader), Rob Russell, John Ward, Nelson Skomorowski, Kris Jensen, Tom Gray

A special thank you to Tom Gray and Nelson Skomorowski for their valued service on the team over the years.

Submitted by:
Keith Allen

REDEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT - 2022

Highlights (or summary) of the year: We spent most of the year moving closer to completion which included meetings to make final decisions about our new space. The occupancy permit was issued in late November followed by the building hand over. Our first invitation to the public in our new space was the Cookie Walk on December 10th. Our first worship service in the new space was held on December 18th. In mid-December we vacated Brechin House as our temporary office space and moved everything to 2020 Estevan Road. It was a real highlight to hold our Christmas services in our new church home.

Goals for the coming year: To live into our new church home and work out the kinks and deficiencies of the space. We hope to integrate more with the wider community and the residents who will be moving into the apartments. We plan to have a celebration and grand opening in the early spring.

Report of financial activity: None

Members:

Randy Manikel (co-chair), Val Neilson (co-chair), Kathy Torhjelm, Linda Braid, Keith Allen, Tif McNaughton

Submitted by:

Valerie Neilson

“FRIENDS OF BRECHIN” WALL REPORT - 2022

In the fall of 2021, plans were implemented and approved by Council to install a wall mural in the new church building. It would serve the dual purpose of remembering all of those members who, over the decades, have contributed to the life and work of Brechin United, as well as receiving a special donation in support of the on-going ministries of our church in the community. As soon as there was access to the new building in December, 2022 an artist from Chemainus, Cim McDonald painted an arbutus limb around which leaf plaques would be installed.

Applications for names on the wall, along with a cover letter and brochure about Bequests were mailed out in September to all people who might have at one time considered Brechin to be their church. A new Revenue Account was created and the balance in the account at year-end was \$11,395. This represented donations for approximately 35 plaques which were installed on the wall mural.

It is hoped that this Wall of Friends continues to grow and the names of all of the “saints of Brechin” will be preserved in perpetuity.

Respectfully submitted by:

Anne Manikel on behalf of the “Wall” Team

FUNDRAISING EVENTS REPORT – 2022

Hurray! The “fun-raising” events returned, thanks to many talented folk in our church and community who performed and/or participated in a number of events that included the following:

1. On March 11, 2022, approximately 100 gathered at Wellington Hall to listen to and to enjoy “**Mood Swings & Dance**” as well as “**A Capella Plus**”. Thanks to these performers, \$2,000 was raised for Brechin that evening. Well done!
2. The Worship team, along with Pastoral Care, Property and Faith Formation, hosted three successful “**Trunk Sales**” outdoors at Beban Park (April 9th & September 10th) as well as in a member’s garage on September 17th. Despite the cool temperatures, we attracted many curious buyers. In total, \$4,700 was raised at those 3 events. Great work, everyone!
3. On November 4th, Sheila Norgate returned for a performance at the Unitarian Centre and entertained us with her witty presentation entitled “**Mrs. Frank Hokum Fights a New Pandemic.**” Our thanks to Sheila and the audience for raising \$1,300 for Brechin. Bravo!
4. Lastly, despite the change of date, time and venue, we hosted our **Brechin Cookie Walk** on December 10th, in the new church building. Within the hour the delicious Christmas baking “disappeared” thanks to many who anxiously filled their containers and paid for their treats by weight. Approximately \$1,100 was raised that Saturday.

Thanks to everyone who shared in the fun by performing, participating, baking, purchasing, selling & collecting tickets, counting money, and setting up and taking down chairs and tables. Well done! ☺

Submitted by:
Linda Braid

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT – 2022

In 2022, we met on the Wednesday following the last Sunday of the month. We met on Zoom for January and February. We did have our March 29th meeting at Brechin House. The majority of our meetings were at the home of Diane Thomas. 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 and more inclusive.

At the beginning of the year, Rev. Tif continued on restorative leave. Rev. Randy Antle continued to lead during this time. Rev. Tif began gradual return to work in February.

We had an in-person service at Beban Social Center on February 27th. It was so good to see so many people we hadn’t seen for months.

In March, Rev. Peggy Jensen was authorized to solemnize marriages.

A new Brechin sandwich board with our new logo and worship information was purchased in March. It is much lighter and easier to transport wherever we want to use it.

April 3rd we worshiped at Sands Chapel and continued to do so until our exit service on December 11th. We are so grateful to the staff of Sands for all their loving kindness to us. We are also grateful for Ian Gartshore and his group of helpers for making it possible for us to continue serving those online.

Worship furniture for the new church was designed and produced by West Coast Modern Designs. They used reclaimed western maple. In May, Walter Svandrik designed and built a cross for the communion table.

On June 5th we officially welcomed Brian Pankratz, Gloria Le Gal and Bonnie Haapala into the Brechin family. This service was followed by a celebratory picnic at Bowen Park Picnic Shelter. We had another picnic on July 31st and a wiener roast on October 23rd. These social events were very well attended and so much fun.

We, aided by Pastoral Care, Faith Formation and Property Teams, had successful Trunk Treasure Sales: Beban Park April 9th and September 10th and at Kris & Peggy Jensen's on September 17th.

At our November 30th meeting we welcomed Allison Abuloc. Allison is serving a student placement with Brechin and is also preparing our PowerPoint presentations.

December 18th, 4th Sunday of Advent was our first service in the new Brechin. The team would like to thank all those who worked so hard to get us into our new worship space; Kudos to all of you.

We had services on both Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

What is in our future? We will continue to strive to provide a safe and meaningful worship experience for all who attend Brechin United Church, both in person and from home. In whatever way you join us know that you are loved and most welcome.

We will continue to have picnics and wiener roasts. They are a vital part of getting to know one another better. We will continue to help with fund raisers. They are hard work and necessary but also a lot of fun.

Team members 2022 were: Rev. Tif McNaughton, Grace Skomorowski (Team Leader), Peggy Jensen (Recording Secretary), Val Neilson (Statistician), Tim Weger (Music Director), Gwen Boyd, Diane Thomas and Allison Abuloc (Student)

Respectfully submitted by:
Grace Skomorowski

MUSIC REPORT – 2022

Well, it has been a year of transition for sure! With much anticipation for entering the new facility, and all that Endeavour would entail, as in leaving Sands Funeral Chapel after almost 5 years of calling it 'home'. Then, the end of August brought to end the tenure of Lonnie Moddle (Music Director) and Ron Klusmeier (pianist), both very accomplished, and talented in their field of expertise. We are so very grateful for their gifts and contribution to BUC, over the past few years, and their commitment to a vibrant music platform even in the midst of the COVID pandemic which created challenges unimaginable.

I came on the scene in September, filling in on the piano, along with Joanna Hibberd, and Sonya Parkin. During the months of September and October, M & P advertised for a new Music Director and Choir Director, positions for which I was considered, and ultimately chosen. That started my tenure with Brechin as Music Director and Choir Director, November 1st.

It has been exciting to say the least – preparing for entering the new building and worship space. Navigating what works best in terms of seating, sound and optics. Starting with choir rehearsals once again – many thanks to Val Neilson who opened her home for our choir practices, until we were able to meet in the new church.

The choir essentially leads the congregation in the singing and endeavors to provide an anthem at least once a month, perhaps more often as we get used to the new surroundings, etc. My style and expertise is different, so this is an adjustment for all of us. However, I am so very grateful for such wonderful people who have embraced the transition and allowed themselves to be stretched, and challenged with such enthusiasm and grace.

The choir is growing, though, we're always looking for more people – especially men right now – we need more tenors, and some basses. We are encouraged, and blessed by some percussion provided by John Bullas at times, and by Richard Freed who has really stepped up to the plate. Colleen Crossland has embraced the tambourine, which adds so much. It is my goal to encourage the talents and abilities of those amongst us. I learned in church, as did many of the Musical Celebrities (Elvis, Whitney Houston, etc.) we have enjoyed over the years. Brechin is no different in providing a platform for the gifts and talents amongst us.

We look forward to the future, excited to bring a mixture of music including, but not exclusively, traditional hymns, Southern Gospel, modern worship, etc. My goal is to provide a variety of tastes in music so that all can relate in some way. What an exciting time to come on the scene!

Respectively submitted by:
Tim Weger (Music Director)

BRECHIN UNITED CHURCH TRUSTEES – 2022

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

Beverely 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

NOMINATIONS REPORT– 2023

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Term Expires End of:

Chairperson – Rob Russell	2023
Vice Chairperson – Gloria Le Gal	2023
Secretary – Eileen Carolan	2023
Treasurer – Blaine Wilkins	2023/2026
Pacific Mountain Region Reps:	
– Val Neilson	2023
– Susan Ward	2025
Alternate: - Kathryn Baverstock	2023/2026

Team Leaders:

Faith Formation & Spiritual Development - Darlene Darby	2025
Ministry & Personnel – Linda Braid	2025
Brechin 4 ACTION – Lynn Burrows	2024
Pastoral Care – Marilyn Huffman	2023/2026
Property – Keith Allen	2024/2027
Stewardship & Finance – Anne Manikel	2023/2026
Worship – Grace Skomorowski	2023/2026

Trustees: - Kathy Torhjelm, Rob Russell, Diane Thomas, Judy Wiebe

Council Team Members:

Faith Formation & Spiritual Development - Darlene Darby, Gwen Boyd, Anne Manikel, Suzanne Sykes

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

Brechin 4 ACTION – Lynn Burrows, Marg Barrie, John Bullas, Colleen Crossland, Pauline Johnson, Shelley Serebrin, Anne Nesbitt

Pastoral Care – Marilyn Huffman, Gloria Le Gal, Linda Braid, Barb O'Neill, Susan Ward, Mary Boyd, Diane Morris, Marilyn Russell, Anne Harris-Freed

Property – Keith Allen, Rob Russell, John Ward, Kris Jensen, Randy Manikel, Rob Stredulinsky

Stewardship & Finance – Anne Manikel, Terri Donaldson Blaine Wilkins (Treasurer)

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

Other Teams &/or Contact Persons:

Communications – Ian Gartshore (Facebook), Ian Gartshore (AV), Marilyn Huffman (Bulletin)

Library – Suzanne Sykes

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, Kathy Torhjelm, Tif McNaughton

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

Women's Friendship Group – Marilyn Huffman

Yoga – Anne Harris-Freed

Drumming – Richard Freed

Ukulele – Richard 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 12/31/2022**

ASSET

Current Assets

Petty Cash	121.40	
Chequing Bank Account	<u>17,433.52</u>	
Total Cash		17,554.92
Investments		211,903.42
GST Receivable	<u>1,834.76</u>	
Total Receivable		1,834.76
Prepaid Expenses		<u>499.34</u>
Total Current Assets		<u><u>231,792.44</u></u>

***Note 1**

Capital Assets

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

TOTAL ASSET

578,792.44

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	550.00
Total Current Liabilities	<u>550.00</u>

Total Trust Funds

204,850.96 ***Note 2**

Total Current liabilities

204,850.96

TOTAL LIABILITY

205,400.96

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

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

TOTAL EQUITY

373,391.48

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

578,792.44

Comparison of Revenue and Expenses

	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Actual 2022
Revenue					
Donations to Local Expenses & Open Offerings	132,844	135,123	126,065	115,050	111,155
Bequests	15,000	20,000			
Facility Rentals, Fundraising and Other Revenue	23,246	19,458	27,754	28,386	46,068
Total Operating Revenue	171,090	174,581	153,819	143,436	157,223
Revenue from Fund Accounts	40,202	25,471	29,930	45,828	44,239
Total Revenue	211,292	200,052	183,749	189,264	201,462
Expenses					
Overhead	52,542	39,570	37,731	35,932	36,929
Payroll	145,029	148,140	140,132	145,845	155,085
General & Administrative	11,568	12,342	5,886	7,488	9,448
Total Operating Expense	209,139	200,052	183,749	189,264	201,462
Expense Paid from Funds	2,153				
Total Expense	211,292	200,052	183,749	189,264	201,462
Surplus or Deficit	0	0	0	0	0

Donation Details

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
# Identified Donors to Local Expenses	106	108	102	91	96
# Donors enrolled in Preauthorized Remittance	53	53	51	51	48
Bequests Received	15,000	20,000			99,261
Donations to the Mission & Service Fund	24,712	26,023	24,177	18,301	15,426
# Identified Donors to the Mission & Service Fund	66	68	56	45	45
Donations to Loaves & Fishes Food Bank	8,360	10,745	10,132	7,852	5,830

Notes to 2022 Financial Statements

Note 1-Investments

Opening Balance Jan. 1, 2022	182,500
Redeemed or Matured Investments	627,582
New Investments Purchased	656,985
Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2022	211,903

Type of Investment	Maturity	Rate	Amount
GIC 066	July 29, 2023	4.00%	50,000
GIC 067	July 29, 2023	4.00%	50,000
GIC 068	July 29, 2023	2.25%	10,935
GIC 069	July 29, 2023	2.25%	100,968
Total Investments			211,903

Note 2 -Trust Funds

Restricted Funds	Opening Balance Jan. 01, 2022	Receipts to fund	Withdrawals from fund	Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2022
Mission & Service Fund	0.00	15,426.00	15,426.00	0.00
Loaves & Fishes Fund	0.00	5,830.00	5,830.00	0.00
Nanaimo Community Refugee Fund	46,277.49	51,037.27	27,870.87	69,443.89
Total Restricted Funds				69,443.89

Unrestricted Funds	Opening Balance Jan.01, 2022	Receipts to fund	Withdrawals from fund	Closing Balance Dec. 31, 2022
Building Fund	56,774.77	684.00	28,939.38	28,519.39
Legacy Fund	14,870.93	99,261.31	17,016.53	97,115.71
Transitional Expense Fund	27,222.65	0.00	27,222.65	0.00
Memorial Fund	4,693.20	175.00	0.00	4,868.20
Spiritual Growth Fund	1,071.94	0.00	100.00	971.94
Mission & Outreach Fund	9,037.62	1,300.13	7,315.22	3,022.53
Workshop & Events Fund	418.24	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pie Makers' Fund	2,579.39	0.00	1,727.04	852.35
Ladies' Fellowship Group Fund	56.95	0.00	0.00	56.95
Total Unrestricted Funds				135,407.07

Trust Funds held separately from Brechin operating funds

Restricted Funds:

Donations made for specific purposes which are collected and regularly forwarded to other charitable organizations.

1) **The Mission & Service Fund.**

Donations received are forwarded monthly to the United Church of Canada.

2) **Loaves & Fishes Fund.**

Donations received are forwarded monthly to the Loaves & Fishes Community Food Bank (Nanaimo).

3) **Nanaimo Community Refugee Fund.**

Donations received must be held in trust and are currently used exclusively for the support of LGBTQ refugees through Brechin's affiliation with ROAR (Reaching Out Assisting Refugees).

Unrestricted Funds:

These are funds which have been received by donations, grants, gifts or bequests that are held for use as directed by the Council and Trustees of Brechin United Church:

1) **The Building Fund:**

This fund originated many years ago as a way to finance repairs to our old church building. The Council designated a budget of \$35,000 from this fund to be used for the purchase of furniture and equipment, and moving costs into our new space. **In 2022, a total of \$28,939.38 was spent for sanctuary seating, sanctuary furniture, library equipment and communication equipment.** Going forward, there will be additional purchases to be made from this fund. Any unspent money in this fund can be used for operating expenses in the future.

2) **The Legacy Fund:** Originally established as a permanent trust that envisaged the principal being held in perpetuity and upon reaching a pre-established amount that interest earned could be used for directed purposes. Following a vote of the congregation at the 2022 AGM, this restriction was removed as a result of our congregation's need to address significant annual deficits. In 2022, this fund received a large bequest from the estate of a former member.

In order to fund the 2022 deficit, an amount of \$17,016.53 was taken as operating Revenue.

3) **Transitional Expense Fund:** The agreement between Brechin United Church and the Pacific Mountain Region Property Development Council provided for a transitional expense payment of \$167,500 received in 2018. The purpose of this payment was to provide financial assistance to the congregation during the construction of our new church space.

In 2022, an amount of \$27,222.65 was also taken as operating revenue.

This fund is now completely depleted.

4) **The Memorial Fund:** This fund was established to receive gifts in memory of departed members that could be used primarily for the purchase of permanent items in our church.

5) **The Spiritual Growth Fund:** This fund was formed by a family gift to be used to allow congregation members to study or attend special events pertaining to spiritual growth.

Note 3 – Restorative Care Plan (RCP)

The RCP is a United Church of Canada program which supports individuals during an illness or injury while they recover and prepare to return to their work safely. If an employee cannot work due to illness or injury, the church continues to pay them while they recover however using the RCP, the church is reimbursed 85% after the first 2 weeks for a period of up to 6 months while the employee recovers or gradually returns to work. Brechin used this to help defray the costs of employing a temporary part-time minister.

Comparison of Actual Revenues & Expenses 2021 & 2022 & 2023 Budget

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
REVENUE			
Revenue			
Local Contributions	115,050	109,494	125,000
Open donations	0	1,661	3,000
Weddings and Funerals (Net of Expenses)	200	872	1,000
Special Events & Fundraising	0	8,943	12,000
Donor Wall	0	11,395	5,000
Bequests	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	258	467	500
Facility Rentals	0	0	12,000
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidies	27,315		0
Investment Income	613	1,561	1,500
Restorative Care Program	0	22,830	0
Total Operating Revenue	<u>143,436</u>	<u>157,223</u>	<u>160,000</u>
Revenue from Transitional Expense Fund	45,828	27,223	*Note 2
Revenue from Legacy Fund		17,016	
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>189,264</u>	<u>201,462</u>	<u>160,000</u>
EXPENSE			
Overhead Expenses			
Moving & Temporary Space Expense	18,724	20,118	1,000
Electricity	2,406	2,215	2,500
Equipment Service & Agreements	1,151	918	2,000
Shared Space Expense			1,000
Insurance	3,379	3,608	12,000
Janitorial Supplies	0	316	450
Contract Janitorial Services	600	660	15,000
UCC & Region Assessments	7,455	6,512	5,108
Repair & Maintenance Expense			500
Misc. Building Exp & Equipment			1,500
Telephone & Internet Expense	2,216	2,582	2,000
Total Overhead Expense	<u>35,932</u>	<u>36,929</u>	<u>43,058</u>

Payroll Expenses

Wages, Salaries & Benefits	120,345	131,509	122,625
Vacation Relief		955	1,000
Casual Relief			1,800
Contracted Music Services	23,300	20,295	20,000
Pulpit Supply	2,200	1,989	2,320
Worksafe BC		137	150
Weddings & Funeral Compensation		200	500
Total Payroll Expense	<u>145,845</u>	<u>155,085</u>	<u>148,395</u>

General & Administrative Expenses

Newspaper Advertising expense	0	367	1,000
Bulletins, Inserts & Service Supplies	124	291	500
Website Expense	214	207	350
Envelope & Stewardship	476	486	0
Sunday School & Christian Develop't	340	0	1,750
Benevolent Expense			250
Office Supplies	1,394	2,493	2,600
Bank Charges	422	442	450
Broadview Magazine Expense	150	15	300
Fellowship Pastoral Care	0	55	100
M&P Expenses	0	73	100
Miscellaneous Expense	2,796	2,724	3,000
Library Expense			400
Music Expense	387	429	500
Mission & Outreach Committee Exp.	100	100	100
Subscription Expense	164	76	100
Bookkeeping Expenses	923	1,690	1,700
Total General & Administrative	<u>7,490</u>	<u>9,448</u>	<u>13,200</u>

TOTAL EXPENSE

<u>189,264</u>	<u>201,462</u>	<u>204,653</u>
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NET INCOME

<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>-44,653</u></u>
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Respectfully submitted by:
Blaine Wilkins
Treasurer