

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

 **Clarkson Road**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*
~ Romans 15:13



CLERK OF SESSION:

Ron Fleck

TREASURER:

Megan McLean

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:





Karen Pérez



CLARKSON ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reflection from Rev. Gale Macdonald.....	2
Reflection from Rev. Jacqui Foxall, Interim Moderator	3
 PRAISING GOD!	
Variety of Music Styles.....	4
Music Students and Others.....	4
Congregational Participation	5
Online Worship	5
 FAITH FORMATION	
Connecting with Children & Youth	6
Nurturing the Faith of our Adults	7
 FAITH IN ACTION	
The Compass	8
Local Charities	8
Compassion Child.....	9
Refugees	9
Other Ministries	9
 BUILDING COMMUNITY	
4th Clarkson Scout Group.....	10
Ecumenical Relationships.....	11
Walden Circle Worship	11
Coffee Hour	11
Celebrating 12 Years Together	11
ADDITIONAL REPORTS	
Session.....	12
Board of Managers	14
Trustees.....	15
Property Committee	15
Building a Legacy	
Endowment Fund.....	16
Memorial and Bequest Fund	16
Financial Statements	
Consolidated Balance Sheet.....	17
Consolidated Statement of Receipts, Expenditures and Cash Flow	18
General Operating Funds Statement of Receipts and Expenditures.....	19
Statement of Receipts, Expenditures and Cash Flow for:	
Memorial & Bequest Fund	20
Endowment Fund	20
Notes to Consolidate Financial Statements.....	21
Volunteer Auditor's Report	21
Agenda	22
Minutes of the 66th Annual Congregational Meeting, March 3, 2024	23



REFLECTION



Dear Friends:

2024 was a year with some big surprises for us. When I entered the new year with my star word, “*Celebrate*”, in hand and perched in a place of prominence in my home office I never imagined that it would mean celebrating the conclusion of our 12 years of ministry together, but that’s in fact what was in store for us. It was truly my honour and joy to serve as Clarkson’s minister for all these years. I trusted the Lord when I was called to Clarkson, and I trusted the Lord again when I felt the Lord calling me to something new.

You are a great community of faith, and I give God all thanks and praise for the opportunity to be part of this community for all these years. I’m so thankful for the way worship is the heartbeat of Clarkson and the way that everything else that is done flows from the way you praise God and grow in your faith. I’m so thankful for the ways you love music and your openness to trying new things and singing new songs. The Bible studies and discussions we shared, challenged us to ask meaningful questions so we could go deeper in our faith and consider how to put our faith into action.

I’m so inspired by the ways you love people of all ages from those you know and worship with week after week, to those that you don’t know at all but know that they have special needs. It’s amazing all that our little congregation does for The Compass, Angel and others. God knew you had a special heart for those who are new to Canada, and it was a delight to be part of welcoming some new people to Canada this past year and be part of the congregations’ efforts to help them find ‘home’ in a new land.



Under the leadership of Session and the Faith in Action Team, you really focussed on building and expanding the Clarkson community. This really mirrors the way Jesus expects us to invite in and include people. It was so inspiring to see the creative ways the community of faith put their faith into action, and invited others to join in.

It was a privilege to join the members of the Prayer Team (Gerry Binnie, Marion Gardiner, Maureen Read and Kelta Fleck) each week to bring prayers of thanksgiving and intercession to our Lord. I know they continue to faithfully pray for you, the congregation and the world.

I want to thank the staff for all they do to keep things going. Karen and Megan are an awesome team! We would be totally lost without Karen, and I’m so thankful that she continues to serve God by working at Clarkson. And a big thank you to those who serve on the Session and Board. During the vacancy, the Session especially carries a big load and I’m so grateful that God has placed exactly the right group of people on Session to serve in this season of change and transition.

Stuart and I hold you and your Interim Moderator, the Reverend Jacqui Foxall, in our prayers and we wait expectantly to see what the Lord has planned for you next. The following verse became a touchstone for me while I was at Clarkson and so I leave it with you.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

~ Romans 15: 13 (NRSV)

In Christ’s Service, and with love and friendship,
Rev. Gale

REFLECTION



On Sunday November 3rd, 2024 I had the privilege of leading worship at Clarkson Road Presbyterian Church, during which I preached the pulpit vacant as your newly appointed Interim Moderator.

But that wasn't my first time meeting you all, having already attended the farewell dinner celebrating Rev. Gale's ministry, and a casual get-together with the Session, graciously hosted by the Flecks.

After worship on November 3rd, we stayed together and prayed - asking God to give us vision and courage for this next chapter. It was a powerful experience of collective tenacious faith, and I was already in love with your congregation by the time I drove out of the parking lot that day.

The next few months would be challenging, but God was very present, and the Spirit had a handle on all of us. Guest preachers came and went over the last 8 weeks of the year, moving through Advent to Christmas. The Session met and prayerfully began the early stages of working on a Congregational Profile. Outreach carried on, as did fellowship, study, and worship.

As we closed out 2024, our face was set: God would be calling CRPC to something new in 2025; something exciting, faithful, and vibrant.

It has been a pleasure being on this journey with you all. You are a strong and faithful congregation, with a heart for outreach and mission. I'm excited to see your next chapter unfold.



In Christ's service,
Rev. Jacqui Foxall
Interim Moderator

**“For everything there is a season
and a time for every matter under
heaven:**

**a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck
up what is planted; ...
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to
dance...”**

(Ecclesiastes 3)





PRAISING GOD!

Over the past year, we have witnessed God's faithfulness through both the challenges and triumphs. While both our minister, Rev. Gale, and our Music Director, Rachelle, moved on from Clarkson Road to explore new career paths, God's presence has remained with us, continuing to guide us through this time of transition.

VARIETY OF MUSIC STYLES

- In 2024, we presented a variety of musical styles, featuring special choir arrangements, solos, and contributions from our praise band.



MUSIC STUDENTS & OTHERS

- We've connected with music students at the local arts high school who continue to participate in our music ministry throughout their university years.
- We've also benefited from the musical contributions of Bob Barlow and Jennifer Li



**"Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord,
all the earth."**

~Psalm 96:1

PRAISING GOD!



CONGREGATIONAL PARTICIPATION

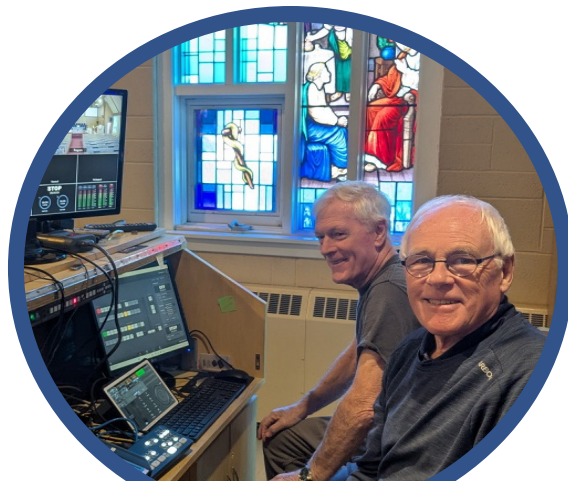
- We continue to encourage congregational participation in all facets of our service, from scripture readings, to greeting to AV support and leadership throughout.
- Preparing for funerals, receptions & coffee time requires the help of many volunteers. A heartfelt thank you to all who contribute their time and effort!



“Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord ...”
~ Colossians 3:23

ONLINE WORSHIP

- Thanks to our dedicated AV Team, we are able to livestream and record our worship services each week.





FAITH FORMATION

As a faith community, we provide a range of opportunities for individuals of all ages and stages to grow in their faith. These events and activities allow people to deepen their relationship with God and learn how to live as disciples of Jesus.

CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

We understand that, in today's culture, children and youth may not always be present in church and Sunday school. We are committed to reaching them where they are.

- ◆ We prepared Easter gift bags for each child
- ◆ We provided lessons and care during our service for families who attend on Sundays
- ◆ Rev. Gale met with some of our high school & university students to provide spiritual guidance and support.



- ◆ We hosted an all-ages "Christmas Cafe" event at the beginning of Advent last year, which was held on a Saturday afternoon to accommodate families





NURTURING THE FAITH OF OUR ADULTS

- ◆ Adult Bible and book studies were held several times throughout the year.

During Lent, Rev. Gale led a discussion centered around the “Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Faith with Peter” devotional.

We were blessed to have Kelta Fleck host an Advent Bible study by J.D Greear



- ◆ The concerns of our individual, community and prayer needs continued to be supported by an ongoing prayer circle which meets weekly.



GOD
is faithful

**“Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in
Christ Jesus.”**

~ Philippians 4:6-7



FAITH IN ACTION

This year, as always, we put our faith into action through a variety of food drives, fundraisers, and by warmly welcoming newcomers.



SUPPORTED THE COMPASS OUTREACH CENTRE

- Partnered with the Compass to provide needed items for clients
- Provided “Birthday Party in a Bag” kits for Compass families
- Participated in the Walk for the Compass fundraiser
- Focused on the needs of unhoused clients (warm socks are a priority item)
- Prepared “Christmas in a Bag” kits for Compass families



SUPPORTED LOCAL CHARITIES

- Used our robust Endowment fund to support local charities and meet needs of the community.



“Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.”

~1 John 3:18





CONTINUED TO SUPPORT OUR COMPASSION CHILD

- Supported Angel, a child from Kenya, through Compassion Canada



SUPPORTED REFUGEES

- Provided support for recent refugees who have begun to call Clarkson Road their church home. This included tangible daily support, as well as events such as a “First Easter in Canada” potluck dinner.



SUPPORTED OTHER MINISTRIES

- We held a “High Tea Party” which highlighted, and raised money for Arise Ministry, with a focus on human trafficking. This sold-out event brought together our wider community, with representation from the neighbourhood and 8 different congregations.





BUILDING COMMUNITY

Building community, both inside and outside of the congregation, is important as we move into our future. There are many opportunities to build connections with those who are part of the Clarkson Road family.

“Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”

~1 Thessalonians 5:11



4TH CLARKSON SCOUT GROUP

Our wide circle includes a strong connection with 4th Clarkson Scouts who use our building throughout the week, and who participate in some of our worship services.

They are supportive of our mission and help maintain our building and support our Faith in Action initiatives.

Many of our Scouting families consider Clarkson Road their church home, which further reinforces our reach into the community.





ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

We foster our ecumenical relationships in our community with ongoing shared worship with other churches in our neighbourhood during Lent & Advent.

This year we participated in an Easter morning sunrise service with Clarkson Community Church.

A joint Quiet Christmas service was held at CRPC. Ministers from St. Bride's Anglican Church, Clarkson Community Church and our Interim moderator, Rev. Jacquie Foxall led the service.



WALDEN CIRCLE WORSHIP

We continue to hold monthly worship services at Walden Circle Retirement Community.



COFFEE HOUR

Our after-service social time is extremely popular and provides opportunity to converse and connect.

CELEBRATING 12 YEARS TOGETHER

In October, we gathered to celebrate the 12 years that Rev. Gale and Stuart spent with us. The banquet, complete with a beautiful photo display showcasing our journey, was filled with cherished memories, laughter, tears, and delicious food.



SESSION

In October 2024, our minister, Rev. Gale Macdonald, left to pursue a new career path in response to God's calling. Since then, the members of Session have been acting as a Search Committee, together with our Interim Moderator, Rev. Jacqui Foxall, to select a new minister.

1. CHURCH INFORMATION

Membership:

- Members recorded as of December 31, 2023 115
- Members removed from Roll by:
 - ◊ Death..... 8
- Members added to Roll by:
 - ◊ Profession of Faith..... 5
- Members recorded as of December 31, 2024 112
- Number of Households as of December 31, 2024 102

Bereavements:

It was with sadness that we mourned the following deaths in 2024:

Bev Philips	January 4
Fern Rutherford	February 8
Charles Barber	March 5
Bob Sinclair	April 9
Barbara Taylor	July 5
Barbara Davenport	October 13
Rajah Haddad	October 29
Ann Tjalsma	November 10

We pray that all who have lost loved ones have found comfort and support in their faith and in our risen Lord.

**“For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.”**

~ Jeremiah 29:11

SESSION

2. SESSION INFORMATION

- Number on Session as at December 31, 2023 7
- Number on Session as at December 31, 2024 7

Elders:

Currently Serving on Session:

Ruth Durward	Colin Gardiner	Marlene McKenzie	Noel Puype
Ron Fleck	Harry Gregg	Megan McLean	

Sustaining Elders:

Christine Billings	Shirley Judd	David Onuoha	Glenn Thompson
Kelta Fleck	Joanne Krauser	Maureen Read	Rimmer Tjalsma
Eleanor Garbutt	George McLean	Barbara Sypher	Siem Vandebroek
Jean Hansuld	Peter McLean	Ron Sypher	

Officers:

Interim Moderator	Rev. Jacqui Foxall
Clerk	Ron Fleck
Presbytery Representative	Ron Fleck
Roll Clerk	Karen Perez

3. BOARD OF MANAGERS

Chair	Bruce Murray
Treasurer	Megan McLean
Finance	Bruce Murray
Property	Cam Hansuld
Technology	Peter Barber
Renters & Insurance	Joan McInnes
Session Liaison	Colin Gardiner

BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers would like to thank the congregation for their financial support and thank those who donated their time to maintenance activities in 2024.

While we await the results of our search for a new minister, we are pleased to inform you that both our revenue and givings were up in 2024. The financial report has been included in this document.

Thanks to Megan McLean, Treasurer, who excels at having reports ready for each Session and Board meeting so that those in leadership can keep on top of the financial situation for the congregation. There is a tremendous amount of behind the scenes work that goes into the Treasurer's role and we're grateful for all that Megan does.

Our property rentals were also above budget in 2024. The income from rent is key to our ability to fund property maintenance. We continue to pursue other rental options to ensure our building is used effectively and efficiently. A big thank you is owed to Joan McInnes and Karen Perez for their ongoing work to manage our renters. Joan also serves the Board, and helps with managing contracts and insurance matters.

The property continues to be well managed by our Board member, Cam Hansuld. However, as our facilities are now over 70 years old, unexpected maintenance issues are arising. You can read the property report for details.

The 2025 budget was endorsed by both the Session and the Board earlier this year. We anticipate lower expenses as we search for a new minister, although these costs will rise once a new minister is appointed.

The Board would like to thank others in the hard-working support team:

- ⇒ Karen Perez, our Church Office Administrator, provides excellent support of the church staff, congregation, projects and events including maintaining the website and preparing graphics for weekly online services. Karen keeps us all in line and we would be lost without her.
- ⇒ Teresa Mercurio is our diligent cleaner who comes in at all hours to make sure our property is tidy, clean and operational.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Murray, Chair

2024 Board of Managers with role, and current terms:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| • Bruce Murray | Chair | February 2027 |
| • Colin Gardiner | Session Liaison | n/a |
| • Cam Hansuld | Property | February 2026 |
| • Peter Barber | Chair, Technology, HR | February 2025 |
| • Joan McInnes | Renters & Insurance | February 2027 |
| • Bruce Murray | Finance | February 2027 |

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Trustees

Colin Gardiner	(3 years)	February 2025**
Cam Hansuld	(3 years)	February 2027
Bruce Murray	(3 years)	February 2025**

***Members standing for re-election*

Property Committee

Throughout the year, essential maintenance was carried out to ensure the church remained fully operational, including repairs to the building, systems inspections and maintenance, and upkeep of the grounds, all of which are crucial for the continued smooth functioning of our services and community activities.

We renewed our snow-clearing contractor as well as our lawn-care contractor in 2024. Thank you to the 4th Clarkson Scout Group and many volunteers who looked after our gardens and came out in November to rake leaves. A big thank you to the person responsible for raking before and after the big cleanup day.

Our cleaner, Teresa, has done a wonderful job of keeping things clean and well supplied. A big thank you to Karen Perez, our office administrator, for her support; particularly on the administrative side—researching contractors, notifying us of property-related concerns and scheduling maintenance items.

Our parking lot remains a significant issue, with the high replacement costs preventing us from moving forward with this work.

The drain survey camera revealed a plumbing issue where the drain pipe has shifted, causing partial damage and disconnection. We will be obtaining contractor bids in 2025 to address the repair.

The refreshment of the Margaret Terry Room remains an ongoing topic of discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Cam Hansuld



BUILDING A LEGACY

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund provides funds to Mission and Charitable Ministry needs in our community on behalf of our church. The Funds are invested with Murray Wealth who have been excellent stewards of the portfolio. Contributions to the fund are welcome and we encourage you to consider donations from your estate or other sources.

Our policy is to distribute 5-7% of the year-end balance to worthy recipients in our community. We also welcome applications from any community needs. Please advise us of any needs you may be aware of in the community that we can consider. Applications can be obtained through the church office.

Our report for 2024 is as follows:

Market value of investments:

Opening balance at January 1, 2024.....	\$387,354
Distributions for 2024	<u>\$10,465</u>
Closing balance at December 31, 2024.....	\$459,001

2024 distributions are as follows:

⇒ SAGA Summer Camp.....	\$5,500
⇒ Dixie Presbyterian Church for Camp Cairn	\$765
⇒ Refugee Assistance	\$700
⇒ 4th Clarkson Scout Group (Venturers)	\$1,000
⇒ Musical Instruments for Homelands Sr. PS.....	\$2,500

Total Distributed: **\$10,465**

Amount available for distribution in 2025 is \$22,951 - \$32,131 (based on 5-7%)

Respectfully submitted,
Harry Gregg

Memorial and Bequest Fund

The Memorial and Bequest Fund provides a means to honour the life of deceased members and adherents in a tangible way.

In 2024, a total of eight beloved members passed away. Memorial donations were received on behalf of Bev Philips, Rajah Haddad & Ann Tjalsma.

We have a considerable amount of money in this fund which has been earmarked to update the Margaret Terry Room. The Board and Session have put these funds on hold until our future pathway is clear.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Durward & Marion Gardiner

AGENDA

1. Constitute Meeting
2. Appointment of Secretary
Motion: That Cam Hansuld be appointed as secretary.
3. Adoption of Agenda
Motion: That the Agenda be adopted.
4. Adoption of 66th Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
Motion: That the minutes of the 66th Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, March 3, 2024 be approved as written.
Approved.
5. Business arising from Minutes
6. Annual Reports for 2024 (excluding the Treasurer's Report):
Motion: To receive, consider and approve the 2024 Annual Reports other than the Treasurer's Report.
7. 2025 Plans
8. Property Report - 2024 accomplishments and 2025 plans
9. Treasurer's Report for 2024
 - a) Motion: That we receive and consider the Treasurer's Report for 2024.
 - b) Motion: That the Treasurer's Report for 2024 be approved.
10. 2025 Budget Presentation
Motion: That the 2025 budget be approved.
11. Endowment Fund
12. Election of Board of Managers
13. Election of Trustees
14. Appointment of the Auditors
Motion: That the Board of Managers be responsible for selecting Auditors for 2025.
15. New Business
16. Motion to Adjourn Annual Meeting

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE 66th ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

Number of Members in Attendance: 41
Number of Households Online: 8

This year's AGM was held in conjunction with the Sunday Worship Service, facilitated by Rev. Gale Macdonald with prayers and praise as follows:

Agenda:

Moved by Noel Puype and seconded by Leon DeBeer that the Agenda be adopted: Carried

Secretary:

Moved by Colin Gardiner and seconded by Lois Goodwin that Joan McInnes be appointed as Secretary: Carried.

Minutes:

Moved by Shirley Judd and seconded by Maureen Read that the minutes of the 65th Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, March 5, 2023 be adopted as written: Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes: None

Annual Reports for 2023 (excluding the Treasurer's Report):

Moved by Paul Welsh and seconded by Christine Campbell to receive, consider and adopt the Annual Reports other than the Treasurer's Report: Carried.

Endowment Fund Report:

Harry Gregg provided an overview of the Endowment Fund's mission and how it supports our community. Donations in 2023 were made to the SAGA summer camps program; Story Garden Literary Centre and Musical Instruments for Homelands Sr. P.S. Additionally a portion of the allotted funds were used to help support the purchase of additional AV equipment and music stand for the Sanctuary.

Please keep the Endowment fund in mind when planning your charitable givings.

Motion for new member to Endowment Fund Committee:

That Christine Campbell be elected as a member of the Endowment Fund Committee.

Moved by Glenn Thompson and seconded by Jack Gaulton.

2023 Treasurer's Report Highlights:

Megan McLean presented the Treasurer's report as outlined on pages 25 to 29 of the 2023 annual report. Megan provided a high level overview of the year's receipts and expenditures. We ended the year with a deficit of just under \$5,000 which was a remarkable achievement given the budget projections. Our expenses increased over the prior year but were either lower or in line with budget. Revenue increased over the prior year, both through congregational offerings and increased rental income.

Noel Puype moved and Maureen Read seconded that we adopt the Treasurer's Report for 2023: Carried.

2024 Proposed Budget Highlights

The proposed budget for 2024 was presented by Megan McLean, highlighting the ways we are investing our money in the four pillars of our congregation (Praising God, Faith Formation, Faith in Action, Building community). Our projected deficit is again a significant amount at \$37,000, given a projected steady level of income but with increasing expenses. As a congregation we need to keep this projected deficit in mind as the year progresses, and consciously address ways to decrease it.

A motion to adopt the 2024 Budget was moved by Glenn Thompson and seconded by Marion Gardiner: Carried.

2024 Plans:

Rev. Gale thanked everyone for their generosity and support throughout 2023. In 2024 we will continue with community building by:

- Supporting 4th Clarkson Scouts
- Arise Ministry with a special "High Tea"
- "Breakfast" in support of our Compassion Child - Angel

Additionally, Our Faith in Action outreach will continue with supporting the Compass Food Bank and Outreach Centre with food donations, Birthday Bags for children, and winter socks.

MINUTES

We will again host a Fall Fair at CRPC as well as the Christmas Joy Event, both were enjoyed by everyone, including our neighbours in the community.

Throughout 2024 we plan to continue with a varied music program provided by Rachelle Risling our new Music Director; Bible and book study groups; shared services during the summer months and by providing a monthly worship service to the residents of Walden Circle.

Rev. Gale provided the congregation with an update regarding the Memory Care Project. Unfortunately over the last 5 years there has been numerous delays and setbacks (especially COVID) that have contributed to our ability to bring this project to fruition. We will continue to explore other options to help with our operating costs.

Elections:

Peter Barber, Board of Managers, Chair, also thanked everyone for their financial support and to those who donate their time to the maintenance of CRPC.

The building (inside and outside) has been well managed by Cam Hansuld.

Many thanks are extended to Megan for her dedication and diligence in keeping the CRPC financial reporting in good standing. Megan provides regular and timely updates on our financial status and budgets that are critical to prudent management of our resources. This is evident, in particular by the internal Auditors, who are charged with reviewing CRPC's receipts and disbursements to ensure they were accurately recorded and documented.

Our thanks also to Karen Perez, our Office Administrator for her excellent support of the church staff and congregation; additionally Karen has maintained the website and prepared graphics for our weekly online services. Thanks also to Teresa Mercurio, who joined our team this year as our diligent caretaker; Teresa ensures our property is tidy, clean and operational.

Motion for Re-Election of the Board of Managers:

The following individuals were proposed for re-election to the Board of Managers:

Joan McInnes—3 year term
Bruce Murray—3 year term

Moved by Marlene Mackenzie and seconded by Paul Welsh: Carried.

Motion for Re-Election of Trustee:

That Cam Hansuld be re-elected as a Trustee for a 3 year term.

Moved by Lois Goodwin and seconded by Glenn Thompson: Carried.

Appointment of Auditors:

Helen Leighton moved and Fathia Kalif seconded that the Management Board will be responsible for selecting Auditors for 2024: Carried.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment:

Harry Gregg moved the adjournment of the meeting: Carried. Rev. Gale Macdonald closed the meeting with prayer.

The next Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in 2025—date TBD.

**“O give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name,
make known his deeds
among the peoples.”**

~ Psalm 105:1

