

VALOIS UNITED CHURCH

Annual Report - 2023



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MISSION STATEMENT VALOIS UNITED CHURCH

**Valois United Church seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.
Through our strong sense of community with parishioners of all ages, we do things together.
Pray and sing, laugh and mourn, eat, and rejoice.
Valois is a friendly place to worship that welcomes new members.
We strive to grow and prosper through God's love,
and share this love with each other and those around us.**

IN MEMORIAM 2023



*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."*

John 11:25

Alice Georgina ``Jo`` Olmstead

Deborah Bromilow

Frederick Davis Maheu

Joan Parker

Frank Szabo

Michelle Pagé

Janice Lunan

Gail McKenzie-Saloranta

Lois Wadsworth

Frances Harrison

Georgina Schatschneider

Warren Thomas

Marjorie Burrows

GUIDANCE BOARD COMMITTEES

GUIDANCE BOARD CHAIR: Debbie Dixon

Worship	Catharine Calderone
Sunday School	Catharine Calderone
United Church Women	Donna Kane
Visitation and Membership	Donna Kane
Trustees	Paul Findlay
Finance & Investment	Debbie Wainwright Dixon & Jamie Dixon
Mission and Service	Elizabeth Ballantyne
Personnel	Debbie Dixon
Presbytery/Regional Council	Open

REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2023

MINISTER'S REPORT

Reflecting on year gone by, it is wise to recall the broader picture to get our bearings – as our memories are notoriously short: The year 2022, began with our church family in “online only mode” – government restrictions, Vaccine Passports were required, closed schools, closed nursing homes, no visiting at hospitals, Grocery Stores were closed on Sundays, people were working at home, vaccinations were available and expected, there was talk of a new health care tax on the unvaccinated, and Covid 19 infections were again at all-time highs. Things remained “on pause” through January and February. We then began to move back to “in person worship” during the rest of the year and started to re-establish normal church patterns throughout that year – with some services still remaining as online gatherings. It was during this year that some of our folk in leadership positions moved away – as did some clergy in churches around us - their lives had been “on pause” since Covid 19 shut down most aspects of church, commerce, and civic life from 2020 intermittently on. Several of our church members celebrated 100th birthdays or changed location in 2022. There were changes in daily life - food security issues in our community presented as food prices skyrocketed with “inflation” – and in response we had several “food drop off” days at the church to collect food – meeting needs that we were familiar with – but done differently – since the Christian Action Food Bank (which our church had helped establish 30 years prior) had closed due to insufficient numbers of volunteers – and we began supporting The West Island Mission (who were addressing food security issues). Church “Clusters” were created by the United Church of Canada – connecting churches in smaller groups. There were also changes in our own service formatting – “online” was temporarily “retired” by the Worship Committee to help folk choose to “gather” – feeling that this would help to encourage mental health among our members. Once permitted, we began to promote more “in person group participation” – there was the choir – led by Judy – singing and leading worship as a group - without masks; communion – first with grapes and wafers – then with juice and bread; readings and litanies done by a variety of people; candle lightings; Advent festivities; belated Annual Meetings; passing of the Offering Plate; Coffee Hour – which was sometimes by Zoom during Pandemic days – took place in person – occasionally – then more regularly, lemonade was even served on the lawn by our ladies after a summer service to which the other local United Churches in our cluster came. There was use of hymnbooks and Bibles – which were once again back in pews for use. The Sunday School recommenced and the Pageant was “in person”. Initiatives like “100 envelopes” restarted. Inclusion of names in prayers and periodic reading of “Minute For Mission” during services had always happened – even throughout the pandemic. Rental of the building began to increase. In the larger picture of the world around us, during 2022 – Russia invaded the Ukraine. On our world stage, of note - Queen Elizabeth died and King Charles was declared. His coronation took place May 6, 2023. In 2023, Israel also went to war with Hamas – after Palestinian militant groups launched a surprise attack on southern Israel from the Gaza Strip on October 7th – starting the most significant military escalation in the region in 50 years. The Bank of Canada raised interest rates at great speed in 2023 – housing and rent quickly became issues of concern for many – with food, gas and other costs still at inflated levels.

2023 saw further re-establishment of what we had known as “normal” – the patterns of church life together (Covid still exists – but is being kept in check by vaccine) - worship services, events, in person

pastoral care, weddings, baptisms, funerals, Sunday School availability, U.C.W. events, church cluster groups and general participation. There was only one wedding and one baptism – but 11 funerals. Additionally there was a passing at the end of the year in Kingston – where 2 of our dear members had moved to be closer to family – a funeral for a ministry colleague's wife – just 30 years old – who died from breast cancer – and the passing of a volunteer on our Finance Committee – Warren is very much missed. Generally, we have had more even distribution – and there are already 4 weddings booked in the next months and a baptism too – but these moments come as they come. One of our beautiful young families departed for Edmonton – a professorship at the University of Alberta calling them into their future. I have spoken with the Minister of Family Life at their new spiritual home – where they have settled – they will also be treasured and tended there. During 2023, various Committees continued to meet ``in person`` and share in the tasks of church. I thank the various Chairs of Boards - and their members and volunteers - for their work in this past year – as well as the Chair of our Guidance Board, Treasurer and Secretary – Deb Dixon – who wears so many hats. I thank our musician, Dr. Judy Hung, and the Choir – for dedication and devotion to their roles. Judy has also taken on the chore of refurbishing the Valois Concert Series. There has also been extensive development of rental agreements for use of the church facility. I thank Paul Findlay for his work on this. I thank Jamie Dixon for endeavors with our investments – amalgamating and securing them. The Worship Committee continues to explore development and use of electronics in the sanctuary – visual and sound – helping also with many other ministry-related and educational activities – together we thank them and Catharine Collard. We also thank Donna Kane and all the ladies of the U.C.W. – and appreciating their gifts and ministries too. Of note – this past year – the men in our congregation worked very hard together replacing and installing new lights, repairing the floor in the sanctuary and various other projects. We express our thanks and appreciation to them. I also thank Claire Dewar who diligently prepares Communion – and often serves it with Ken - assisting in many different capacities in our church family. I also thank all the other volunteers who assist in various roles and ways in our church family.

A few words – just to remind of some of the various things we shared in: services, meetings, clusters, Wellesley Residence, Prayers of the People, Communion, readings, Advent and Christmas Eve candle lightings, passing of the offering plate, counting, deposits, cheque writing, rental agreements, martial arts, concerts, Tai Chi, Jesus is Lord Church, Coffee Hour, hymns, carols, Christ Candle, Bible, Responsive Psalms, Prayers of Confession, Glorias, Sermons, Sung Blessings, decorating the sanctuary, Carols and Lessons, Pageant, Litanies, The Remembering Tree, Quintessence, White Gift, Toy Drive, food baskets, The Missions, Colca, Mission and Service, The Mitten Tree, Ash Wednesday handwashing and blessing, Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week – Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Easter, Lilies, Pentecost, Sunday School, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Youth Upliftment, Country Bazaar, Book Bake and Craft Sale, Hugh Duncan Bursaries, Zoom meetings, meals, Coffee Hour, Garden Party Music, Region, Remits, readings, Annual Meetings, Thanksgiving, harvest communion table display, anthems, Truth and Reconciliation, All Saints, Remembrance Day, wreathes, refurbished minister's washroom, floor tile in the ladies washroom, Dmitri and Olga, Dr. Wayne Johnson, Justin Bourne and Jazz, The Olden Days, Favourite Carols by choice, Quilting and Sewing, crafts, fixing, garden, website, watering, Christmas Eve, Candy Canes, Voices United, Summer Services, cards, care, hope, joy, meals, community, 100 Envelopes, love, God...and much more.

Notably, this past year marked our 100th birthday as a congregation. It was celebrated in worship - on June 4, 2023 in an Anniversary Service – honouring our 100th Anniversary – in which the minister wore

traditional garb of clergy in 1923 – descriptions of 1923 – our world and a brief reminiscence our church family in it using some of Debbie Wainwright-Dixon's materials - shared in the service - and two hymns from the dedication of our building in 1929 (as well as a choir piece "We Love The Place, O God") that were affirmed by The Worship Committee - were also included as part of our celebration. The sermon had Anniversary themes and references – it was also "Trinity Sunday".

There was also a well-attended 100th Anniversary Catered Dinner - held later in the week following - on Saturday June 10th. A wonderful meal was shared by a large number of folk - after Grace was offered by the minister – many thanks to the Dixons (who acted as M.C.'s for the event), the Findlays, and all those who arranged, served, decorated and prepared for this celebratory evening. There were pictures of people from all eras in our church family on the walls, photos on the placemats of groups over time, documents, as well as a very well-prepared video was watched during dessert that Debbie had put together with 1920's music in the background – depicting our church history with introductions to family names, the local time period and happenings. It was a very "loving event" – as one person described it - it was light, lively and meaningful – with many leaving afterwards smiling and talking about their connections in Valois United Church. Again – many thanks to those who planned and shared of themselves through our 100th Anniversary Celebrations of the Life and Ministry of Valois United Church (originally "Valois Union Church").

We look forward to the year ahead – ready to plan, serve, care, invite others into our community and grow together into God's future. It is going to take work, time and commitment to regrow our community. I thank you all for your service, support and involvement in our church's life in the past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Scott Hunter

GUIDANCE BOARD

Committee Members: Debbie Wainwright Dixon (Chair), Donna Kane (UCW, Visitation & Membership), Paul Findlay (Board of Trustees), Jamie Dixon (Finance & Investment Committee), Catharine Calderone (Worship, Christian Education), Rev. Dr. Scott Hunter (Minister), Dr. Sandra Wainwright (Note-taker)

Although the spectre of Covid and now RSV continues to lurk ominously in the dark corners, so much hard volunteer work in the last few years have brought the workings of this church to a place of relative rest. It appears we have reached a more comfortable place to collect our thoughts, organize and plan ahead, without sudden and unexpected challenges. (Fingers crossed). Possibilities lie before us.

Early in the year we realized that our church, quite literally, had been born one hundred years ago on June 3, 1923. A bit of research uncovered more and so to celebrate, in June 2023 a congregational dinner was held. Historic photos and artifacts were brought out, and stories told of those first families who settled in Valois, looking to continue their Christian traditions of Bible reads and Hymn sings in the community. It

was a delight to once again sit together, shoulder to shoulder, relax, and laugh. In a way, it felt much like those first families must have felt, so long ago.

Some important tasks were accomplished in 2023. We appreciate the hard work of Dr. Judy Hung, who worked tirelessly to find a way to repair our beloved piano, and when repair options were deemed too costly and uncertain, travelled around the Montreal area, trying out pianos. We are very grateful to her for putting so much time and effort into finding the piano that we now have.

Two major projects were completed in 2023 as well: new LED lighting was installed in the Sanctuary, bringing brighter lights for everyone to see better, donor-sponsored and expertly installed with the help of a team of volunteers. The gym floor also needed refinishing, and to pay for it, donated office furniture was sold and we are thankful to those who put in so much hard work to make this fundraiser such a success.

All of these accomplishments share a theme: As a church family we come together not just to keep our little church going, but to make it better—planning fundraisers and dinners, thinking up new crafts and quilt projects, stacking/unstacking tables, washing dishes, serving coffee and tea, kneading and baking, rehearsing for music and concerts, counting coins, delivering food, reading passages in church, decorating for the seasons, troubleshooting lawn mowers, raking leaves, building sheds, painting walls, visiting, babysitting, repairing floors, planting flowers, lighting candles, putting up Christmas trees and signs and of course, taking them down again. When we do these things together, there's laughter and love, and it just feels good.

And, as our youth so wonderfully reminded us at this year's Christmas pageant, WE ARE HOPE.

Now, as we draw to the close of one year, it's time to remember to look, not just back to what was accomplished, but also forward—in this moment we are just like those first families 100 years ago, who looked to the future and saw only possibilities.

Let's chase the possibilities.

Thank you all for your awesome support and cheerful smiles. Thank you to our Guidance Board leaders for their tireless work, our minister Rev. Scott for inspiration, the talented Judy Hung for her beautiful music and passion, and to all hardworking committee members, volunteers and families for your valuable time, support and commitment to the life of our church. May 2024 bless us all.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Wainwright Dixon

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

All meetings were held again Sunday after the service, as it was before the pandemic. For Lent, Ash Wednesday was on Feb. 22. Rev. Scott posted videos for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday online. This gave the congregation more flexibility when it came to participating in these important moments in the Christian calendar. Thank you Rev. Scott.

The Sanctuary was decorated for Easter with bunnies and flowers. Instead of lilies for Easter, Valois had a selection of spring flowers. Worship wishes to thank Debbie Dixon for all the beautiful choices.

June marked a 100th anniversary for Valois. A special service was held on June 4. Hymns were included in the service that were also used in the bulletin for the official dedication. The choir sang the anthem "We Love the Place O God". Rev. Scott brought us through all the events of the past 100 years. An anniversary cake was brought to coffee time. Coffee and tea were served.

Summer services were held in July, with Valois hosting the cluster on July 30th. August the church was closed for summer break. Services started back on September 3 with Sunday School back on September 10th. Regular fall special services were held: Thanksgiving, All-Saints, Remembrance. Minute for Mission was read monthly by Rev. Scott.

For Advent 2023 the theme was "The Olden Days". The sanctuary was decorated as before the pandemic, candle lighting litanies were read, pick-a-carol, Lessons & Carols, Sunday School. The acappella group Quintessential also came and sang once again. Thank you Allison. Since Advent IV and Christmas Eve fell on the same day, it was decided to begin Advent celebrations one week early. That meant that on Christmas Eve there would be only one service in the evening. It was a candlelight family service at 7:00pm. There was no service held at Valois on December 31st. However, there was a cluster service that was available to anyone wishing to go.

Carol Carlson reached out to members we have not seen in a while via phone calls and emails. Some families were still wary of covid so this had to be acknowledged. Thank you Carol for reaching out.

Jennifer Olmstead purchased some much needed bins for the two Christmas trees that are used in the sanctuary. Thank you Jennifer.

New lights were installed in the sanctuary. This was a big improvement. Worship wishes to thank the Trustees for all their hard work and the donations that were made to make this project possible.

Communion was held throughout the year. It was back to being all traditional. Thank you Claire. Worship along with Trustees continued to deal with the sound weaknesses in the sanctuary.

Judy Hung has started up the Valois Concert Series once again. The first two concerts since the pandemic were held in the fall. Thank you Judy for beginning this once again.

Since we no longer have a presbytery, the wider church has cluster groups instead. The Cluster group in our area is called Riverside. They connect through ministry and have shared services once in a while. Valois hosted a service in the summer.

Cookies and sweets returned to coffee time once again. Packaged cookies were served at first; however this grew into homemade treats as it was before the pandemic. Everyone was very appreciative. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this possible.

Many discussions were held throughout the year on re-establishing community life and how to connect with people.

The worship committee wishes to thank our secretary Marge Bider for her many years of service. She will be passing the task over to Jennifer Olmstead. Thank you Jennifer. Thank you to everyone on the worship committee and to those who continued to help out with our services. It takes many hands to make everything run smoothly. It is much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Catharine Calderone, chairwoman

Members: Carol Carlson, Marge Bider, Jennifer Olmstead, Heather Yorston, Judy Hung, Rev. Scott Hunter

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Since the covid pandemic is now under control, Sunday School attendance has changed dramatically. Attendance by regular members was next to non-existent in 2023 and there were no new young families attending church. This has left the Sunday School in a strange position of having teachers but no children.

However, Rev. Scott still had a conversation for the young and young-at-heart every Sunday. Heather Yorston and Jennifer Olmstead gathered some of the older children along with Haley Yorston and Eline Collard and we were lucky enough to have a Christmas pageant. The time and effort that they put into this special event was much appreciated.

Our question now going forward is just that; how to go forward. We hope and pray that there will be a positive solution; not for the present and future teachers and volunteers but for the children of generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Catharine Calderone

VISITATION & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Maintaining contact with and reaching out to members of the congregation who are unable to participate in activities at the church is an important mission of the Visitation and Membership Committee at Valois United. The committee is very grateful to Rev. Scott Hunter and the members of our congregation who took the time to make these connections through phone calls, visits or cards in 2023.

Easter cards (thirty-two) and Christmas cards (thirty) were mailed to the members of the congregation who were shut-in, hospitalized, in long-term care facilities or struggling with isolation during the year to let them know that the church is thinking of and praying for them. Either the latest newsletter or a message from Rev. Scott was included with the cards. On behalf of the congregation, Annie Thurn sent out cards during the year to those who were ill sending our well wishes and to those who were mourning a loss extending our condolences. Many thanks to Annie for so willingly taking on that responsibility and for assisting with the holiday cards.

There were several services of Baptism scheduled during the year, but the assistance of a committee member was not requested.

Thank you to those in the congregation volunteering to take care of the Coffee Time following the Sunday Service. The signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall and, if a helper is needed, contact the committee chair. The best part of Coffee Time is the Fellowship...a time to chat to get to know each other a little better while enjoying some light refreshment.

The Consolation Group was pleased to assist with the receptions following the Celebration of Life services for Jo Olmstead and Joan Parker.

The Visitation and Membership Committee is always looking for volunteers to assist with activities such as baptisms, funeral receptions, Coffee Time and sending out holiday cards. If you would be willing to add your name to one or more of these lists, please contact the church office or the committee chair. It is always reassuring to know there are members of the congregation willing to help when needed with the work of the Visitation and Membership Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Kane, Chairperson

Visitation & Membership Committee 2024
Donna Kane, Annie Thurn
Rev. Scott Hunter (Ex officio)

ADMINISTRATION

Administration operates with volunteers, and the office is currently open weekly Thursday mornings, however you can contact administration anytime by email at admin@valoisunited.ca.

Rev. Scott Hunter can be reached at minister@valoisunited.ca (or office telephone at 514-697-0651).

More volunteers are needed—tasks might include maintaining member lists and addresses, or just a presence in the office on additional days for a few hours to answer phones, keeping our bulletin boards up to date, help with reviewing and archiving files and scanning photos/old documents for electronic storage. Someone to manage social media and website is also welcome, tasks that are occasional, and can be done remotely.

A new copier, along with 3 toner cartridges was donated by Warren Thomas, and we are thankful for this generous gift. In 2023 the office shelves were rebuilt to accommodate a wall of file cabinets, which now store records previously kept in other spaces around the church. Reviewing and organizing storage boxes are an ongoing project that is about 70% complete.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Wainwright Dixon

2023 Families - Member/Adherent

	MEMBER		ADHERENT		TOTAL	
	<u>HOUSEHOLDS</u>		<u>HOUSEHOLDS</u>		<u>HOUSEHOLDS</u>	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
In Province	147	140	66	64	213	204
Out of Province	11	13	4	5	15	18
Currently Active	56	54	21	21	77	75

	MEMBERS/ADHERENTS	NON-MEMBERS/NON-ADHERENTS
2023 Baptisms	0	1
2023 Weddings	1	1
2023 Burials	6	5
2023 New Members/Adherents	0	0
2023 Transferred Out	0	0
2023 Transferred In	0	0

MISSION AND SERVICE REPORT

Minute for Mission continues to be read at worship services each month – on the third Sunday of each month.

Monies collected for Mission and Service through Sunday envelopes was sent - for mission work through our denomination - \$5,634.00

Youth Upliftment and its needs at the School in the Dominican Republic - continues to be supported by giving profile to the school. We thank Heather Yorston and others for sharing its needs via Facebook.

Food Bank requests for non-perishable goods and outdoor “Drop off” Food Drives have been made known to our congregation and community. It has been well-supported by food donation. The items collected were then forwarded. We thank both the Dixons and the Dewars for both promotion and taking goods to their destinations. As most know - the closure of CAC Food Bank – brought to conclusion a church-based community initiative – a conglomeration of West Island Churches that addressed Food Security issues together for more than 30 years on The West Island of Montreal. A sad day – but we celebrate those 30 years of “ministry in our community” as the work of addressing Food Security issues is now being done by both The West Island Mission and On Rock Ministries. Our collected non-perishable food gifts at Christmas were entrusted to The West Island Mission. We are grateful that Walter Brown and Susan Difiore have coordinated our food drive and have taken our food gifts there - to care for those who need our care. No doubt – with sky rocketing costs for food and rent – basic care of neighbour will become even more crucial in the days that lie ahead.

White Gifts and other collected foods were forwarded to other organizations this year. COCLA and Montreal City Mission continued to be supported. Gifts being ‘topped up’ at the suggestion of our Treasurer and approved by the Guidance Board. The Mitten Tree also continued this past Christmas Season – providing care for cold hands in our community.

Promotion of “Stamps for Leprosy Mission Canada” continues – they are collected on a table at the back of the sanctuary - we thank Marilyn Rice for doing this.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Ballantyne.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

In 2023 there were no volunteers to manage ministry & Personnel. Until a qualified volunteer can be found, payroll is being managed by Debbie Dixon. Please see Finance & Investment report for payroll details.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debbie Wainwright Dixon
Guidance Board Chair

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT REPORT

Finance & Investment Committee Report

Committee Members: Jamie Dixon (Chair), Brian Bourne, Bill Rose, Malcolm Parker, Claire Charpentier, Rev. Dr. Scott Hunter (ex officio), Debbie Wainwright Dixon (Treasurer, notetaker). Treasurer duties in 2023 were overseen by Debbie Wainwright Dixon, Claire Charpentier

Thank you to Finance committee members for their continued wisdom in helping to oversee/manage this very important church function. The Finance Committee met 4 times via Zoom in 2023 to discuss matters pertaining to the financial management of the church and to monitor ongoing finance/investment activities.

In June we were very saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Warren Thomas, who faithfully attended all of our finance meetings and was regularly contacted for advice on bookkeeping and other finance matters. He often brought helpful suggestions to us, and he is dearly missed.

Volunteers Needed: We welcome nominations for someone who can manage Payroll: must be knowledgeable on computer, ideally with a working knowledge of payroll matters and French language. Three actions are required in the year: submit payroll changes into ADP (via computer in December), CSST (via computer in March) and Revenu Quebec (via mail in February). We also require someone to review our books at year-end. This person should not be part of the church. Either a qualified person to audit, or alternately someone with knowledge of accounting procedures, who can review the books and confirm that proper accounting procedures were followed.

Finance Report

INCOME: Individual donations fell below budget targets; building use/rentals exceeded budget targets. 100 Envelope campaign raised \$2,477 in donations and fundraising slightly exceeded budget.

EXPENSES: Expenses ended the year slightly better than targets, due in part to unspent committee budgets, the donation of a photocopier/printer by Mr. Warren Thomas, and a drop in heating fuel.

PAYROLL: As required by the United Church of Canada cost-of-living minimum salary increases for ministry personnel, payroll increases were incorporated into the 2024 budget at 6%. Guidance Board approved the increase at its November 2023 meeting. Understanding that significant increases are a heavy burden on most churches, the United Church of Canada will be reviewing its' current model for determining Cost of Living (COL) in the coming year(s).

Investment Report

2023 market activity moved slightly up and down throughout the year, ending higher in December than opening as fuel costs fell slightly and inflation and interest rates stabilized.

\$10,000 of UCW matured GIC funds and \$1,358 of donated Memorial Funds were newly invested in July 2023 into RBC Canadian Dividend Fund. Here are the opening/closing balances in 2023, by FUND:

	Opening Balance	New or	Closing Balance	
	2023	Realized Funds	2023	Difference
Memorial Funds	\$74,020	\$1,358	\$82,997	\$8,977
General Funds	\$1,611	\$0	\$1,754	\$143
UCW Funds	\$10,049	\$10,000	\$21,186	\$11,137
Building/Cap Imp Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Investment TOTALS:	\$85,680	\$11,358	\$105,937	\$ 20,257
Housing & Allowance				
(HAL) FUND	\$89,477	(\$18,804)	\$78,022	(\$11,455)

Housing & Allowance Fund (HAL) 2023: The HAL Fund rose 8.2% (excludes monthly Housing Allowance withdrawals totaling \$18,804).

Respectfully submitted by,

Debbie Wainwright Dixon & Jamie Dixon

Valois United Church 2023 Annual Report

Valois United Church 2023 Statement of Revenue and Expenses					
February 9, 2024 10 am					
INCOME	Year Ending 2023 Dec 31	Year Ending 2022 Dec 31	Year Ending 2021 Dec 31	Year Ending 2020 Dec 31	
LOCAL envelope donations (incl Loose/cda/helps)	\$ 71,319.34	\$ 75,233.38	\$ 75,939.34	\$ 68,444.64	
LOCAL special givings	\$ 13,398.00	\$ 11,729.25	\$ 13,901.56	\$ 11,823.00	
Gift In Kind Donations	\$ 493.67	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
Building Donations/Campaigns (incl Finish the Floor)	\$ 17,266.98	\$ 388.00	\$ 29,034.80	\$ 10,764.51	
Outreach and Social Ministry (White Gift/Food Drive)	\$ 371.50	\$ 1,049.00	\$ 1,353.00	\$ 570.00	
Memorial Fund Donations	\$ 1,558.00	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,100.00	
Mission & Service Donations	\$ 5,623.75	\$ 5,222.00	\$ 5,433.00	\$ 5,889.00	
UCW Green Envelope/Support Donations	\$ 106.00	\$ 410.00	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 815.00	
Fundraisers (local and UCW)	\$ 21,666.50	\$ 18,170.25	\$ 13,358.48	\$ 9,338.98	
Rent & Building Use	\$ 57,941.50	\$ 36,066.25	\$ 18,795.00	\$ 12,965.00	
Thru Fund Purchases (Broadview Mag/Lilies/100 Ann Dinner)	\$ 1,971.50	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
Other Revenue	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,160.34	\$ 13,371.26	
HAL Fund Transfers	\$ 18,804.00	\$ 18,804.00	\$ 18,804.00	\$ 18,804.00	
Fed Govt Payroll Subsidy NR (Covid Relief)	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,667.57	\$ 17,540.63	\$ 18,162.95	
TOTAL INCOME:	\$ 210,520.74	\$ 174,014.70	\$ 201,589.95	\$ 171,348.34	
EXPENSES	2023 Dec 31	2022 Dec 31	2021 Dec 31	2020 Dec 31	
PAYROLL					
Salary ADP Payroll & Employer Cost Benefits/taxes	\$ 93,485.70	\$ 90,237.19	\$ 87,867.23	\$ 85,919.41	
Other Payroll Costs (crest/tax adj/ADP service/covid rebat	\$ 398.12	\$ 906.33	\$ 126.68	\$ (776.32)	
COMMITTEE EXPENSES					
Administration Church	\$ 2,036.89	\$ 1,103.40	\$ 1,281.44	\$ 927.54	
Christian Education Committee	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
Finance Committee	\$ 571.90	\$ 513.58	\$ 604.55	\$ 661.85	
Guidance Board (incl. UCC assessment fees)	\$ 6,080.00	\$ 4,956.00	\$ 5,330.00	\$ 5,355.00	
Visitation & Membership	\$ 84.42	\$ 144.67	\$ 212.60	\$ 56.52	
Trustees Committee Expenses **	\$ 68,159.24	\$ 53,817.77	\$ 44,206.38	\$ 40,925.66	
Outreach Social Ministry Committee (white gift/food drive	\$ 796.50	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,358.00	\$ 630.00	
Worship Committee *	\$ 21,178.20	\$ 12,111.76	\$ 11,785.21	\$ 11,636.64	
FUNDS REMITTED					
Thru Fund Remittance (Broadview Mag/Lilies/100 ann. dinner &c	\$ 1,917.23	\$ 100.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 100.00	
M&S Remittance to UCC	\$ 5,633.75	\$ 5,222.00	\$ 5,433.00	\$ 6,119.00	
Memorial Fund Remittance to Investment	\$ 1,358.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 0.00	
UCW Green Envelope Remittance to UCW	\$ 106.00	\$ 410.00	\$ 5,315.00	\$ 750.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 201,806.95	\$ 170,772.70	\$ 166,743.09	\$ 152,335.30	
Net 2023 Equity:	\$ 8,714.79	\$ 3,242.00	\$ 34,846.86	\$ 19,013.04	

* Piano purchase applied to Worship Committee Expenses

** Floor Refinishing/Lighting applied to Trustees Committee Expenses

Valois United Church 2023 Annual Report

Update: Feb 9 2024

Valois United Church YEAR END 2023 Balance Sheet				
ASSETS		Dec 31 2023		Dec 31 2022
1000	Operating Revenue Bank	\$	60,098	\$ 52,112
1040	Petty Cash	\$	48	\$ 48
1240	GST/QST Refunds Due	\$	2,292	\$ 1,564
1500	Investments (General Fund/Memorial Fund/UCW/Building)	\$	105,938	\$ 85,681
1520	Investments (Housing & Allowance (HAL) Fund)	\$	78,022	\$ 89,478
TOTAL ASSETS		\$	246,398	\$ 228,882
LIABILITIES and EQUITY FUNDS		Dec 31 2023		Dec 31 2022
2100	Accounts Payable		-	-
2400	Short Term Line of Credit		-	-
3000	GENERAL OPERATING Funds	\$	52,282	\$ 48,165
3110	BUILDING Funds (cap imp/floor/garden/defribul	\$	8,112	\$ 3,710
3100	COMMITTEE Funds (music/Consolation/Education/UCW)	\$	669	\$ 683
3300	DESIGNATED Fund M&S		-	-
	INVESTED Funds (General/Memorial Fund/UCW/HAL)	\$	107,313	\$ 86,856
3370	Outreach Funds (Youth Upliftment/Benevolence/White Gift)		-	-
3400	Through Funds (Magazine/Fundscrip/Lilies)		-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUNDS		\$	246,398	\$ 228,882

Valois United Church BUDGET 2024

February 9, 2024

LOCAL FUND INCOME	2022 ACTUALS	2023 ACTUALS	2024 BUDGET	LOCAL FUND EXPENSES	2022 ACTUALS	2023 ACTUALS	2024 BUDGET
Envelope Collection LOCAL	\$71,448	\$68,123	\$69,000	Payroll & Benefits (A)	\$91,144	\$93,884	\$98,800
Special Giving Donations LOCAL (1)	\$14,053	\$11,240	\$14,000	Trustees	\$53,318	\$51,868	\$56,570
HAL LOCAL	\$19,984	\$18,804	\$18,804	Worship (B)	\$12,112	\$12,302	\$13,300
Loose LOCAL	\$1,462	\$1,855	\$2,000	(unbudgeted) Piano		\$8,876	\$0
Rent/building use LOCAL	\$36,066	\$57,942	\$56,000	Visitation & Membership	\$145	\$84	\$300
Fundraisers LOCAL	\$18,170	\$21,667	\$20,000	Sunday School, Education	\$0	\$0	\$500
Gov't Covid-relief support (2)	\$5,668	\$0	\$0	United Church Assessments (C)	\$4,956	\$6,080	\$6,730
SubTotal LOCAL INCOME	\$166,851	\$179,629.84	\$179,804	Administration	\$1,104	\$2,037	\$1,500
				Finance (D)	\$514	\$572	\$950
				Subtotal: LOCAL EXPENSES	\$163,291	\$175,703	\$178,650
DESIGNATED FUND INCOME	2022 ACTUALS	2023 ACTUALS	2024 BUDGET	DESIGNATED FUND EXPENSES	2022 ACTUALS	2023 ACTUALS	2024 BUDGET
BUILDING FUND	\$388	\$496	\$2,000	BUILDING Funds	\$388	-	\$2,000
(4) Floor/lighting Income	-	\$20,271	\$3,980	Floor/Lighting Expenses (E)		\$16,291	\$3,980
M&S FUND	\$5,222	\$5,624	\$5,000	M&S FUNDS	\$5,222	\$5,634	\$5,000
MEMORIAL FUND	\$1,459	\$1,558	\$1,200	MEMORIAL FUNDS	\$1,459	\$1,358	\$1,200
UCW, Social Action, Outreach	\$1,175	\$478	\$1,000	Outreach/UCW/Social Action remitted)	\$1,175	\$903	\$1,000
Thru funds (mag, flowers, dinner tix)		\$1,971		Thru fund Remits (mag, flowers, dinner tickets)		\$1,917	
Gift In Kind (photocopier & toner)		\$494					
Subtotal: DESIGNATED INCOME:	\$8,244	\$30,891	\$13,180	Subtotal: DESIGNATED EXPENSE:	\$8,244	\$26,102	\$13,180
TOTAL ALL INCOME	\$175,095	\$210,521	\$192,984	TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$ 171,535	\$ 201,806	\$ 191,830

NOTES Budget INCOME 2024:

- (1) SPECIAL DONATIONS included 100 Envelope Campaign
- (2) Covid Government Programs Ended in 2022
- (3) Photocopier also recorded as an expense in 2023 Administration Budget
- (4) Donations & Fundraising Income to Replace lighting/finish the floor.

NOTES Budget EXPENSES 2024:

- (A) Payroll: 6% salary increase, 5.7% total compensation increase.
- (B) Worship: 6% increase Music Director Contract renewal (\$13,050 (+\$738))
- (C) Guidance: 2024 UCC Assessment is \$6,730
- (D) Finance: ADP \$350 payroll costs moved from Payroll into Finance for 2024.
- (E) Finish the Floor Campaign ended 2023 with available surplus of \$3,980

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Valois United Church Board of Trustees is comprised of Malcolm Parker, Bill Rose, Ken Dewar, Aileen Dyer, Grant Girard, and Paul Findlay.

2023 was a year whereby all members and partners of Valois United Church were able to function normally without the restrictions of the COVID pandemic. The building was extremely active with the return of all our partners / renters, including some new groups, to Valois United Church to run their various community programs.

As usual the members of the Board of Trustees rose to the occasion and were able to collectively maintain our building complex.

The YTD expenses as of December 31st, 2023, were \$67,642. This includes the cost of the Sanctuary lighting revitalization project and the Fellowship Hall floor refinishing (\$16,502). Since these projects were funded outside the 2023 budget through donations and fundraising, the actual **YTD expenses for YTD December are \$51,139.**

The plan for 2023 was \$54,500.

Planned budget for 2024: \$56,570 (see appendix 1)

The excellent accomplishments, summarized below, are the result of the important contributions of the Trustee dedicated individuals, working together in fellowship, to ensure the sustained viability of the Valois United Church property and buildings.

Improvements to the Valois United Church buildings include:

1. **Boiler upgrade / repair:** Three companies provided quotes for a new boiler and inspected the current equipment to provide a recommendation on whether the boiler should be repaired or replaced. After analyzing the reports, the Trustees decided to move forward with repairs to the boiler and not purchase a new unit. Kolostat executed the repairs. The technician found several issues with the boiler that was impacting the efficiency of the boiler.
 - the boiler has two stage burner capabilities but was only operating using one stage. This was corrected and is now working on two burners.
 - the thermostats were not communicating to the mixing valves and boiler. This resulted in the boiler running at full capacity all the time. The thermostats were cleaned, and mixing valves calibrated allowing the system to run more efficiently.
2. **Sanctuary Lighting:** Older florescent tubes and ballasts were removed and replaced with modern direct wire LED tubes (84 LED lights in total).
Floor repairs were also completed while the pews had been removed for the lighting work. A new anchoring system was installed on the first 3 rows of pews in the front of the sanctuary (both sides) to allow easier removal for music concerts.
3. **Stage Lights installed in the sanctuary:** A set of four (4) LED spotlights were installed above the alter to enhance lighting for concert performances. A cabinet to hold the controller for the lights, as well as future sound equipment, has been installed at the back of sanctuary in front of quiet room.

4. **Secretary Office Renovation:** Lower shelves/cabinets were removed. Three filing cabinets were installed. The ceiling, walls, and trim were painted. The old track light was removed, and a new LED globe was installed with a new light switch with dimming capabilities.
5. **Ministers' Office and Bathroom Renovation:** The cement under the tiles cracked and heaved causing a safety issue in the office. The cracked tiles were removed in the office and washroom. The damaged cement floor was repaired, and new tiles were installed (behind the desk, in the center of the room and the washroom). The washroom was overhauled by replacing the toilet, sink taps, faucet shut off valves, and P-trap. The window was repaired and painted. The whole washroom was also painted. A plumbing inspection panel was installed in the closet of the office.
6. **Fellowship Hall Floor Refinishing:** The floor was sanded and refinished in August by Gymnase Laforest at a cost of \$12,800. A fundraising event was organized to pay for this project. Donated office furniture was sold to raise funds. A total of \$16,600 was raised. The surplus money has been dedicated to the Building Improvement Fund.
7. **Women's Washroom floor repair:**
Broken ceramic floor tiles were removed, heaving concrete below chipped out, new cement installed and leveled. Replaced ceramic tiles and grouted.
8. **Men's' Choir Room Converted to a Storage Room for Jesus Is lord Church:** The room has been cleaned out and all the filing cabinets have been removed. The files have been sorted and have been placed in the filing cabinets in Secretary's Office where archives are now stored. Music books will be put into archive boxes and will be stored in the music room. This room is now fully used by Jesus Is Lord as a storage room for their music equipment.
9. **Telephone & internet contract:** A new 5-year contract was signed with Videotron with a renewal date of Dec 12, 2028.
The internet speed was increased from 200 MB/s to 400MB/s and another pod was added in the gym to improve internet receptivity. Monthly cost is \$139.77 plus taxes which is approximately \$1 more than the previous contract.
10. **Fire Extinguisher and Emergency Light inspections:** Fire extinguishers and emergency lights were inspected in June.
11. **Lower Hamilton Hall:** Fluorescent ceiling lights changed over to LED
12. **Chair Storage Units:** To provide more space in the Fellowship Hall, two rolling coat racks have been converted to store 40 chairs each. These storage units will be placed in the old nursery in Lower Hamilton Hall to free up space in Gym. Approximately 30 chairs will remain in Gym and Lower Hamilton Hall for regular use.
13. **Queen's Road Insulation in Storage Cupboard:** The storage cupboard in the Old Church (part way up the stairs) was renovated. The ceiling was insulated (with 3" batts of pink fiber insulation), a vapor barrier was added and then closed in with some plywood. This insulation upgrade should improve the situation with ice dams on the roof in the winter.

Rentals:

- One new badminton group joined Valois United Church this year.
- Groups using the building facilities on a contractual basis have contributed in a positive manner by increasing community activities in our buildings and by providing revenue to support the continued maintenance of the facilities. Revenues emanating from the various groups using the building amounted to **\$56,454. This is a record high in terms of revenue form rental space.** This revenue covers the cost of maintaining the build for the year.

Valois United Church 2023 Annual Report

- **Our partners include** RPM fitness, ICT Tae Kwon Do, West Island Orchestra, Autism Karate (for Autistic children), Cabaret Kids Theatre group, Jesus is Lord Church, Dojo Montreal Shotokan Karate, Coro Vivo Choir, Institut de Taoisme Fung Loy Kok, Hits & Giggles Badminton group and Yoga, as well as various support groups benefiting from the facilities.
- With the addition of a new piano and new lights in the sanctuary, 13 groups, including the Royal Conservatory of Music, used the sanctuary for music events throughout 2023. This resulted in \$4,320 of revenue for VUC. The goal is to attract more groups for 2024.

Insurance Policy 2023-2024:

- Insurance for the building and for Physical & Sexual Abuse was renewed on September 1st, 2023.
- Cost of Insurance increased 9%
 - Building \$12,128
 - Physical & Sexual Abuse \$1,678
 - Total \$13,807
- The renewal date for the insurance policy has been moved from June to September. The plan is to have the renewal date eventually moved to January to facilitate the budget planning process. This change will take place in 2024.

The Trustees are grateful for the support from the congregation and look forward to new challenges in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Findlay, Chairperson

Appendix 1: Trustee Budget 2024

Cost Center	2023 Budget	2023 Act YTD Dec 31	2024 Budget
Maintenance / Repairs	\$5,000	\$22,019.98*	\$7,500
Cleaning Supplies	\$330	\$671.68	\$350
Cleaning Services	\$8,640	\$10,641.23	\$10,920
Insurance	\$12,830	\$12,958.01	\$14,600
Heating	\$22,700	\$17,089.29	\$18,000
Hydro	\$3,000	\$2,702.60	\$3,200
Tel / Internet	\$2,000	\$1,558.90	\$2,000
Total	\$54,500	\$67,641.69	\$56,570

Notes:

2023

- *Sanctuary light project & gym floor refinishing were funded from non-budgeted income for a total of \$16,502.38 (Sanctuary: \$3,711.42 & Gym: \$12,790.96). **Total building repairs excluding these projects was \$5,517.60.**
- **Total Trustee expenses without these two projects was \$51,139.31**

2024:

- **Maintenance / repairs:**
 - General: \$4,000

- Fellowship Hall LED light upgrade: \$3,500
- **Cleaning services:**
 - Monthly: \$850
 - Added an extra day of cleaning for Jan, Feb, Mar \$720
- **Insurance:**
 - **Jan-Aug: \$9,736 (current rate of \$1,217/mo.)**
 - **Sept-Dec: same rate. An extension to Dec will be granted at the current rate.**
- **Heating:**
 - Heating cost projections are weather dependant.
 - Current monthly installments are \$1,758. Based on consumption history, average temperatures (5 yrs.) and natural gas price fluctuations. The average price for Jan-Apr 2023 was 19.684 cent/m³. The current price of gas is 13.451 cents. The gas price accounts for about 33% of the total Energir bill. For the 2024 budget we will assume the average price will be 15 cents.
 - Will assume the upgrades to the boiler will increase the efficiency of the boiler resulting in a reduction of consumption.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The purpose of UCW is to provide opportunities for fellowship and mutual support for the women of the Valois United congregation, for growth in Christian faith and experience and for active participation in all phases of our church's life.

Our hearts were deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friends, Fran Harrison, Lois Wadsworth and Marjorie Burrows in 2023. We do remember them with much love and affection and recognize their years of dedicated involvement in the UCW.

The UCW began January 2023 with twenty-nine members and two associate members. The Annual General Meeting was held on January 23 and during the year there were five business meetings and two social get togethers. The Valois UCW generally meets every second month on the fourth Monday at 1:30 pm at the church. A very small but nonetheless significant sign of returning to pre-COVID days was that our last meeting of the year was held in the comfort of Cameron Lounge.

Once again Aileen Dyer kept the group entertained at the end of year potluck June Luncheon with her well thought out and clever games.

The Welcome Back Coffee Party in September gave everyone a chance to do some catch up on news and to share their summer experiences.

The ladies in the Craft Group enjoyed chatting and laughing Thursday afternoons as they pooled their creative juices to produce a variety of unique items for the various sales.

With the monies raised from the Book, Bake & Craft Sale, the Spring and Fall Rummage & Bake Sales, the Window Shop, the Christmas Bazaar, a Craft & Quilt Sale at the Wellesley and the sales of Meat Pies, the UCW was able to provide the Valois United Church General Funds with a substantial contribution of \$19,000. The Financial statement for 2023, Budget for 2024 and Investment report for 2023 are

Valois United Church 2023 Annual Report

attached. The GIC of \$10,000 that matured in May was turned over to the Investment Committee to be invested on behalf of the UCW.

If it was not for the help of many from the congregation and the community this success would not have been possible. We thank all those who answered our calls for assistance, whether it was for set up or clean up or manning tables or rolling coins, each and every contribution, big or small, helped. A special thank you to Jamie Dixon who helped us once again navigate through each event from start to finish!

It is our hope that more ladies in the congregation will consider joining the UCW as together we continue to serve God and our church with willing hands and hearts. The welcome mat is always out for you.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Kane, Co-ordinator

2024 Officers :

Co-ordinator: Donna Kane

Kitchen Convenor: Susan Di Fiore

Secretary: Aileen Dyer

Publicity: Donna Kane

Treasurer: Claire Charpentier

VALOIS UNITED CHURCH WOMEN			
FINANCIAL STATEMENT			
JANUARY 1, 2023-DECEMBER 31, 2023			
Balance carried forward December 31, 2022			\$ 14,873.46
INCOME			
UCW Support	\$	106.00	
Ham Supper	\$	-	
Book, Bake & Craft Sale	\$	2,304.25	
Spring Rummage	\$	2,894.65	
Fall Rummage	\$	3,620.20	
Bazaar	\$	11,117.55	
Window Shop	\$	181.50	
Wellesley Sale	\$	699.05	
GIC	\$	10,000.00	
Interest on GIC	\$	90.19	
			\$ 31,013.39
			\$ 45,886.85
DISBURSEMENTS			
UCW Support	\$	-	
VUC Mission & Service	-		
VUC General	\$	19,000.00	
Book, Bake & Craft Sale	\$	339.70	
Bazaar	\$	1,221.70	
Spring Rummage Sale	\$	570.00	
Fall Rummage Sale	\$	570.00	
Outreach	\$	500.00	
UCW Expense	\$	186.18	
Window Shop	\$	32.95	
Wellesley Sale	\$	32.95	
Investment	\$	10,000.00	
			\$ 32,453.48
Balance as of December 31, 2023			\$ 13,433.37

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VALOIS UNITED CHURCH WOMEN 2023 INVESTMENT REPORT	
Closing Balance, Saving Account - Dec. 2022	\$ 729.90
Closing balance as of Dec. 31, 2023	\$ 729.90
Investment as of December 31, 2023	
RBC Global (Invested with VUC investment Committee)	\$ 21,186.00

VALOIS UNITED CHURCH WOMEN PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024						
Receipts	2023	2024		Disbursements	2023	2024
				Valois United Church	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
UCW Support	\$ 150	\$ 150		Mission & Service	\$ -	\$ -
UCW Projects	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100		Outreach	\$ 200	\$ 200
Interest from Investments	\$ 50	\$ 50		Presbyterial	\$ -	\$ -
Special donations	\$ 100	\$ 100		UCW Expenses	\$ 200	\$ 200
	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,400		Contingencies	\$ -	\$ -
					\$ 4,400	\$ 4,400
OUTREACH DISTRIBUTION 2024						
Charities	2023	2024				
Saint Columba House	\$ 200	\$ 200				

PRESBYTERY/REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE

In 2023 there were no volunteers to manage this committee, and so Regional Council matters are being managed through Guidance Board in the interim.

VALOIS UNITED CHURCH QUILTERS

Our group meets once a week for an afternoon of fellowship, cutting, piecing and sewing together quick quilts. At present we have 9 members.

In 2023 the group worked hard to complete 35 quilts, 6 table toppers and 2 table runners.

Throughout the year we managed to sell 28 quilts, 7 table toppers and 2 table runners. These items are sold by word of mouth as well as at the Church sales.

We made a donation to the Church save the floor fund of \$600.00 during the year.

Our group always appreciates any donation of cotton fabric as well as knitting worsted wool.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Corbett

