

# **Cochrane Street United Church**

## **Annual Report 2023**



**Minister: Vacant**  
**Minister Emeritus: Rev. Eric Hillier**  
**Minister of Music: Patricia Young**  
**Music Director: Tristan Cleveland-Thompson**  
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## CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

Chair:	Tim Reynolds
Vice-Chair:	David Peters
Past Chair:	Stephen Jewczyk
Secretary:	Tara Bishop
Treasurer:	Karen Critch
Property:	Vacant
Ministries:	Vacant
Worship and Pastoral Care:	Paula Reynolds
Ministry & Personnel:	Judy Kay
Director at Large:	Sandy Stavlo
Director at Large:	Blair Bradbury

### Board of Trustees

Jean Brown	Lloyd Brown	Geoff Budden
Jim Oakley	Ted Howell	Susan Windsor

### Community Outreach Representatives

General Protestant Cemetery:	Karen Critch		
Bridges to Hope:	Cheryl Sullivan-Critch		
Guide to the Good:	Brian Butt		
Cochrane Centre:	Jim Carscadden	Susan Windsor	Vacant
United Community of Faith	Stephen Jewczyk	Tim Reynolds	

**COCHRANE STREET UNITED CHURCH STATISTICS 2023**

**BAPTISMS**

Maria Joan Johnson, daughter of Kathrine Victoria Aylward and Michael George Logan Connor Patrick Strickland, son of Kristan Strickland and Joseph Whelan

**IN MEMORIAM**

Ann Marie Butt  
Walter Snedden  
James Gordon Wilson  
Kathleen Woodford  
Karen (Percy) Ryan  
Ted Howell

**MARRIAGES**

None

**TRANSFERS OUT**

Susanne Hawkins  
Nancy Moore (Scollon)  
David Tucker

**TRANSFERS IN**

none

**CONFIRMATION**

None

**Cochrane Street United Church Annual Congregational Meeting**

Meeting held at Cochrane Centre  
81 Cochrane Street, St. John's, Newfoundland

April 23, 2023

Attendance: A registration sheet was distributed during the meeting and provided to the ACM Secretary (see copy). There were 25 people in attendance.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:48 by Rev. Oliver Dingwell.

**2. QUORUM**

An attendance sheet was circulated to the congregation by Tara Bishop. There were 24 people in attendance plus Rev. Oliver. Rev. Oliver noted that there were sufficient members in attendance for quorum.

**3. OPENING PRAYER & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Rev. Oliver led the congregation with a prayer, followed by a moment of silence.

**4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Land Acknowledgement was verbally presented by Rev. Oliver.

**5. ELECTION OF CHAIR OF CONGREGATION AND ACM SECRETARY**

Rev. Oliver opened the meeting with the election of the Chair of the Congregation (Chair) and Secretary of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

**Motion: To elect David Molyneux as Chair of the Congregation for the ACM. Moved by Robyn McMaster / Heather McMaster. Motion Carried.**

**Motion: To elect Tara Bishop as Secretary for the ACM. Moved by Robyn McMaster / Heather McMaster. Motion Carried.**

**6. NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Chair noted that Notice of the Annual Congregational Meeting has been in the church bulletin and in the email to congregation every week since April 9, 2023.

The Notice of the ACM has also been announced during Worship Service every Sunday since April 9, 2023. The annual report was made available electronically during the week of April 9, 2023 and hard copies of the draft report were available at the April 9 and April 16, 2023 Worship Service and electronically.

David thanked the congregation for the privilege of chairing the Annual Congregational Meeting.

**7. LENGTH OF MEETING**

Chair to advise the congregants that if the ACM is not completed within 2 hours of its start, unless a **motion to continue is made**, a congregational meeting to complete outstanding items will be held at earliest next date.

**8. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was available at the beginning of the meeting for the congregation.

Stephen suggested an addition to the agenda as follows:

*9. b Approval of MAP Congregational Meeting Minutes October 16, 2022.*

**Motion: To approve Agenda as amended. Moved by Stephen Jewczyk / Judy Kay. Motion Carried.**

**9. APPROVAL OF ACM MINUTES OF May 15, 2022 AND MAP CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES OF Oct 16/22**

**9. a Motion: To approve Minutes from ACM of May 15, 2022. Moved by Stephen Jewczyk / Heather McMaster. Motion Carried.**

**9. b Motion: To approve Minutes from MAP Congregational Meeting of October 16, 2022. Moved by Heather McMaster / Stephen Jewczyk. Motion Carried.**

**10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

No other business to report.

**11. ACCEPTANCE OF 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

CSUC Council's Treasurer, Karen Critch, presented the report to the congregation.

Karen thanked all who contributed their time, talents and monetary contributions to CSUC over the past year. She also expressed thanks to the Bookkeeper and the other members of the Financial Committee, Tim Reynolds and Harold Grandy, for their support and time.

Karen provided some highlights from the 2022 Financial Statements:

- Regular givings were a little higher last year
- We received a grant of \$9800 from the New Horizons for Seniors which is used for our choral scholars
- Fundraising proceeds were a little lower. Fundraising initiatives included two plant sales, spring flower memorial purchases, and a candlelight service.
- CSUC received a grant of \$2000 from the City of St. John's to help with the expenses of our Christmas at Cochrane service with First Light
- Employee expenses are down since our minister left last June (i.e., 6 months of salary savings)

- Insurance has doubled
- Professional fees with M&P have increased slightly
- Overall, revenue exceeded expenses, with a net income of \$26,539 for 2022  
We paid off the remaining balance of our loan with the United Church of Canada (\$6,400) which means CSUC is now debt-free.
- Net assets increased from \$25,938 in 2021 to \$52,477 in 2022
- Peter's Organs fund balance was \$53,668 in 2022. Two paid invoices were reinvested back into the account to accrue interest.
  
- In response to a question about our insurance coverage, Karen noted that the UCC requires us to have liability insurance. We are currently with Steers Insurance. Karen noted that our payments increased by approximately \$200 last year.

**Motion: To approve 2022 Financial Statements, Moved by Karen Critch / Stephen Jewczyk. Motion Carried.**

**12. APPROVAL OF 2023 BUDGET**

CSUC Council's Treasurer, Karen Critch, presented the 2023 Budget to the congregation. She highlighted the following items:

- Regular PAR givings is down slightly down (\$57,000)
- Received grant for New Horizons (\$9,800)
- Received grant from the City of St. John's (\$2000)
- Anticipating approximately \$31,000 net income
- Projected Budget of approximately \$60,000
  
- Stephen commented that if we were currently paying a full-time minister's salary, CSUC might be in a deficit

**Motion: To Approve 2023 Budget, Moved by Karen Critch/Tim Reynolds. Motion Carried.**

**13. APPROVAL OF AUDITORS FOR 2023**

**Motion: To approve MNP as Official Accountants for 2023 moved by Karen Critch / Tim Reynolds. Motion Carried.**

**14. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS IN 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Motion: To approve all reports. Moved by Stephen Jewczyk / Brian Johnston. Motion Carried.**

Stephen noted that CSUC persevered during the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic and recently without having a full-time minister. It was a rewarding time to work closely with our Council members on exciting initiatives including Outreach; a thriving music program; welcoming our new Music Director, Tristan; M&P, etc.. He feels proud to have been a part of such a strong team.

Our relationship with First Light has been very positive over the past year. CSUC is proud to have partnered with First Light for two successful events:

- Residential School Workshop which was led by Charlotte Jewczyk and hosted by CSUC. Attendance was comprised of approximately half indigenous individuals / half CSUC congregation. This was a very powerful and reflective event.
- Christmas at Cochrane – “Songs and Stories of Labrador”. Approximately 150 people were in attendance, including people from the neighborhood.

Our operations with First Light is improving as well. Natasha and Robyn engage in weekly meetings.

Stephen expressed his gratitude to four Council members who have been helping to lead Council over the past number of years. These individuals will be stepping down this year:

- Robyn McMaster
- Brian Johnston
- Fraser Ellis
- Faith Roberts Pike

Although stepping down from Council, Robyn will provide occasional support for the Secretary role if/as needed and Brian will continue his work with the Historic Roll initiative and. Brian noted that he will require some further assistance with this project. He will prepare a list of the remaining names on the roll and will be seeking input for those names without any contact information.

Stephen congratulated and gave thanks to the following members of the MAP team for their amazing accomplishments: Tim Reynolds, Heather McMaster, David Peters, Charlie Pope, Blair Bradbury, and with support from Rev. Ian March-MacCuish. The team achieved their goals very effectively and efficiently. Regional Council were impressed by the proposal for this interesting new approach and approved the initiative very quickly. The collaboration with another church through the MAP initiative will allow us to consider other opportunities for our congregation such as Men’s Club and UCW.

Stephen expressed heartfelt thanks to Rev. Oliver for being our Pastoral Care Supervisor since our minister position has been vacant. He thanked everyone on Council and within the congregation for their support over the past 6.5 years as Council Chair. He feels privileged to have been a part of this leadership team.

**Motion: To Approve the 2022 Chairperson Report. Moved by Stephen Jewczyk / Brian Johnston. Motion carried.**

Heather thanked Stephen for his leadership at CSUC over the past several years.

## 15. MISSION ARTICULATION PLAN (MAP) UPDATE

Tim Reynolds provided an update to the congregation for information purposes only:

The MAP proposal was approved late fall 2022 by Regional Council. In January 2023, an invitation was sent to each United Church congregation within St. John’s to gauge interest in a collaboration with CSUC. By early February, three churches had expressed interest: Cowan Heights United Church, St. James United Church and Gower St. United Church. During a subsequent meeting with representatives from these churches, each identified similar challenges within their churches and indicated that the MAP document reflected their own situations.

Three subsequent meetings have occurred with Cowan Heights United Church and St. James United Church (Gower Street United Church did not attend). These meetings were very optimistic and productive with much discussion regarding what a collaborative partnership could entail. It was



recognized that a collaboration between three churches would be very difficult, therefore, there will be a plan to partner with one church at this time.

CSUC requested the three churches submit proposals to the MAP Implementation team by April 26/23 with a suggested plan for how the two churches could collaborate and work together. The team will review these proposals to determine which is the best option for a collaboration/partnership with CSUC and will seek clarification if needed. By the end of May, the MAP Implementation Team will present to Council with a recommendation for partnership with a specific church. Council will then bring the recommendation to the congregation for approval; District Council will have to approve this as well. A one-year pilot is suggested for the partnership, starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August or September 2023.

Tim and Stephen also met with a representative from George St. United Church last week. George St. United Church will also have the opportunity to submit a proposal by April 26<sup>th</sup>. Their church council will be meeting this week and will let CSUC know if they plan to submit a proposal. If needed, extra time can be provided for them to do so.

Tim highlighted that CSUC will not be *amalgamating* with another church; rather this is a plan for *collaboration* with another ministry. We need to find ways to do things better, be more efficient and have more fun. Tim referred to the success of our collaboration several years ago with the Seven Day Adventist Church. Brian commented that today's church service was a great example of what our collaboration with another church could look like: a total of 57 people from both CSUC and Cowan Heights United Church came together for worship and fellowship.

Stephen thanked Tim for his leadership throughout the MAP initiative.

## 16. ELECTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2023

A nominations report was presented to the congregation with names of nominees for the various individual positions. There were no further nominees from the congregation for any of the positions on the 2023 Council.

**Motion: To approve Nominations for 2023 Church Council, moved by Brian Johnston / Karen Critch. Motion Carried.**

**Motion: To acknowledge that certain members elected to Council exceed the time limit to be on Council as outlined in the CSUC Manual and that as a congregation the persons so elected are endorsed to be the Council for 2023. Moved by Stephen Jewczyk / Paula Reynolds. Motion Carried.**

Congratulations were extended to Blair Bradbury, David Peters, and Sandra Stavlo for their appointment as Directors at Large with the CSUC Council.

## 17. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Heather McMaster asked the church council to consider ways to ensure that the steps were cleared of snow and ice on Sunday mornings after weekend storms. She suggested that a letter be sent to First Light with this recommendation.

**ACTION: Council to discuss.**

2. Stephen noted that Council members will discuss how we will move forward in the absence of a Chairperson and will inform the congregation of the plan. An option is to have a rotating chairperson until the position is filled.

3. Rev. Oliver announced that he will be sending a letter of resignation to the Regional Council for the Pastoral Care Supervisor position that he has been filling for CSUC. He is doing so in fairness to CSUC given that he would be in a conflict of interest as his church (Cowan Heights United Church) is planning to submit a proposal for collaboration with CSUC in the MAP process. In the meantime, Rev. Oliver will continue to provide ministerial support as needed at CSCU for funerals, baptisms, etc. Rev. Oliver has already spoken to Regional Council about this and they have provided assurances that there will be no delays in the MAP process as a result of his resignation.

Rev. Oliver indicated that it has been his pleasure and privilege to help the CSUC congregation during the past year in his position as Pastoral Care Supervisor. He will support CSUC in their MAP process regardless of the outcome.

**18. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Motion: To adjourn meeting. Moved by Robyn McMaster / Heather McMaster. Motion Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

**19. CLOSING PRAYER**

Rev. Oliver closed the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes submitted by Tara Bishop, Church Council Co-Secretary



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David Molyneux  
Congregation Chair



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Tara Bishop  
Co-Secretary

**Cochrane Street United Church Congregational Meeting**

Meeting held at CSUC Sanctuary  
81 Cochrane Street, St. John's, Newfoundland

November 12, 2023

Attendance: A registration sheet was distributed during the meeting and provided to the ACM Secretary (see copy). There were 32 people in attendance.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:39 pm by David Molyneux, Meeting Chair.

**2. OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Peggy Johnson led the congregation with a prayer.

**3. QUORUM**

An attendance sheet was circulated by Tara Bishop. There were 32 people in attendance plus Rev. Peggy Johnson. David Molyneux noted that there were sufficient members in attendance for a quorum.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was sent to the congregation prior to the meeting. Copies of the agenda were also available at the beginning of the meeting.

**Motion: To approve the Agenda as amended. Moved by Sandy Stavlo / Karen Critch. Motion Carried.**

**5. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Land Acknowledgement was verbally presented by David Molyneux.

**6. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE LAST CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 18, 2023.**

There were no suggested additions or revisions of the minutes.

**Motion: To approve the Congregational Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2023. Moved by Stephen Jewczyk / Heather McMaster. Motion Carried.**

**7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**a. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MOU WITH ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH**

Tim noted that a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was either mailed or emailed to the congregation in advance of this meeting.

Tim provided a summary of the MAP process to date which led to the MOU between Cochrane St. United Church (CSUC) and St. James United Church (SJUC):

The MOU resulted from a lot of work over the past few years. The members of the original MAP Committee were Charlie Pope, Heather McMaster, Blair Bradbury, Stephen Jewczyk, David Peters, and Tim Reynolds. The Map Committee developed a proposal for a cooperative ministry with another united church congregation in St. John's.

During the process, 4 united churches in St. John's expressed interest in a collaborative approach. 3 proposals were submitted. The MAP Committee decided that the proposal from SJUC was most advantageous for CSUC. The proposal was approved during the CSUC congregational meeting on June 18, 2023.

Stephen Jewczyk, David Peters, and Tim Reynolds were members of the CSUC MAP team. The MAP team developed a MOU for a partnership ministry with SJUC as a one-year pilot project. As the MOU was being developed, the MAP team from both churches realized that a one-year trial period would not be sufficient to complete an evaluation of the partnership. It was decided to extend the pilot project for 18 months. If District approval is received for the 18-month pilot project, it will extend from January 1, 2024, until the end of June 2025. A formal evaluation of the pilot would begin at the end of March 2025 so that it would be completed at the end of June. At that time, the MAP team will return to District with their recommendation for continuing the partnership.

The MOU outlines the ministries and how it will be carried out. SJUC has 1 full-time minister and 1 part-time/associate minister (SJUC is in the process of hiring a part-time minister):

- ½ of the part-time minister will be for CSUC
- ½ of the part-time minister will be for SJUC

The MOU outlines responsibilities for the various ministries which we would like to continue to deliver for both churches.

**Order of Worship (for CSUC):**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month: Service of Communion at CSUC, led by Rev. James
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month: Service at CSUC, led by the part-time minister
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month: Service at SJUC for a CSUC service. This will be our service, our bulletin, and our choir. SJUC choir will participate in the service as well.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month: Service at CSUC, led by a lay leader or minister. This will be organized by our Worship and Pastoral Care Committee
- \* potential 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month: organized by the CSUC Worship and Pastoral Care Committee

As the pilot project proceeds, the above-proposed schedule will be evaluated. Changes can be made if needed. Tim asked the congregation if there was any interest in having the 4<sup>th</sup> service on another weekday. The congregation overwhelmingly decided to maintain services on Sundays at 11:00 am.

**Music:**

Music is a focus for CSUC. It is through the music and choirs that our partnership will develop. Both CSUC and SJUC have good choirs, and there will be lots of opportunities for us to have a great joint choir. The recent service at George St. United Church with the George Street and CSUC choirs was an indication of the beautiful music of ministry when our choirs join together. We have great potential to expand our music program. We are looking forward to seeing how this develops in the pilot.

**Governance:**

Each church will maintain its own councils and each will have a pilot committee. If the MOU is approved, the CSUC pilot committee will likely consist of David, Stephen, and Tim. The committee

will ensure that all of our interests are covered and we are an equal partner. Both pilot committees will meet regularly.

If something changes with the pilot, the congregation will be informed. The AGM will be the first opportunity for the congregation to be informed of how the pilot is working out.

**Responses to questions from the congregation:**

1. CSUC will be worshipping with SJUC on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month
2. Parking will not be an issue at SJUC; in fact, SJUC has more parking availability
3. SJUC is not yet actively involved in the process of hiring an associate (part-time) minister. Once the MOU is agreed upon and signed, the request will be submitted. SJUC may already have an interested candidate for this position. If they get approval from District, Tim anticipates the position will be filled quickly.
4. Cooperation and coordination of the administrative staff for both churches will be important during the pilot project
5. Once the MOU is up and running, it is hoped/anticipated that the SJUC congregation will attend services at CSUC
6. We will wait and see how we will deal with the schedule of services when the SJUC ministers take their annual leave during the year
7. The aim of the pilot project with SJUC is for an equal partnership. Tim noted that all united churches in the St. John's area are grappling with changes, including low attendance and low revenue. As we know, George St. United Church recently closed its doors. We are all struggling with how we continue our ministries together. CSUC is further along; we are willing to look at things in a different way. We are leading this process.

**Comments:**

Tim commented that the SCUC congregation has demonstrated leadership and flexibility over the years. We are as strong, if not stronger than when we started this process.

Stephen noted that a lot of churches are experiencing common challenges, including the lack of youth attending church. He feels very proud of the work CSUC is doing, proud to be a part of the MAP team, and proud of the congregation to be supporting this partnership.

He noted that part of the appeal of this partnership with SJUC is that the associate minister will be involved in pastoral care and the pastoral relationship between the minister and congregation. This is a goal for both churches.

Stephen commented that if we find this pilot project is not working for us in 18 months, we have the opportunity to provide feedback or step away.

Patricia Young informed the congregation that although she is very sad to leave Cochrane St. United Church, she will be moving to Gower St. United Church (GSUC) in the coming months. She noted that she has a connection with GSUC for various reasons, including having the GSUC choir singing at her husband's funeral and her children being a part of the GSUC Band.

Charlie Pope expressed his sincere congratulations to the MAP team for their time and efforts in developing this MOU.

**Motion: To Approve the MOU with St. James United Church. Moved by Tim Reynolds / Charlie Pope. Motion carried.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Stephen responded to Patricia Young's comments earlier during the meeting when she stated she would be joining the Gower St. United Church congregation. Stephen thanked Patricia on behalf of the CSUC congregation for the beautiful music of ministry which she has provided to Cochrane St. United Church over the years. Patricia will be dearly missed by the CSUC congregation and we wish her well on her spiritual journey.
2. Tim polled the congregation to determine interest in reinstating coffee/tea time after our church services. The majority of those in attendance were not interested in reinstating coffee/tea time.

Suggestions from the congregation included:

- Consider looking into how coffee is provided; is there an alternate way to using the coffee carafes?
- Consider offering it less often, e.g., once a month
- Offer coffee/tea time before the church service instead of after

Tim noted that the Council will discuss this further.

**9. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT**

Closing Prayer For Guidance was read by Rev. Peggy Johnson

Adjournment 1:38 pm.

**Motion: That meeting be adjourned. Moved by Stephen Jewczyk / Heather McMaster.**



*Tara Bishop*

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David Molyneux, Congregation Chair

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Tara Bishop, Secretary

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORAL CHARGE SUPERVISOR

These past ten months as your Pastoral Charge Supervisor have been a very meaningful time for me. I have shared your joys and your sorrows; attended your Council and Congregational meetings; saw the completing of your MAP and celebrated with you the endorsement of the Proposal that, when implemented, would see a shared ministry with St. James congregation. Through all these multiple activities, I have observed with 'awe' the phenomenal commitment of the dedicated few who keep going 'the second mile' to maintain the viability of your congregation. The Proposal for shared ministry carried with it great potential for revitalization and it is certainly disappointing that unforeseen circumstances have slowed the process of seeing those plans being fully implemented. I have thoroughly enjoyed the worship services we have shared. Through the meaningful relationships we have developed, I am beginning to feel like family. It is a pleasure for me to have had the opportunity of sharing your spiritual life. Your congregation may be small but there is an immense spiritual connection, facilitated in a wonderful way through your music.

Every Sunday your worship service closes with the 'Prayer For Guidance'. This prayer seeks God's help in showing us new ways in moving forward to maintain the viability of this congregation. I am convinced that God has indeed spoken to you through the tremendous work of those who, with your support, developed the Mission Articulation Plan (MAP). God may indeed have already done God's part. But to use a well-worn adage, "God had no hands but our hands to fulfill His will" Even when the Proposal comes to fruition, many hands are needed to carry out the day-to-day work of the congregation.

As Council Chair, Tim Reynolds noted in his Easter Message, the dedicated core who have been carrying multiple responsibilities for a long period of time are growing tired. Regardless of how much we feel inspired, human nature has its limitations, particularly as we get older. It is my prayer that many of you, reading this, will feel the call of the Holy Spirit to step forward and help shoulder the multiple responsibilities of maintaining Cochrane Street congregation as a viable community of faith.

The legacy of Cochrane Street congregation has been historically noteworthy within the context of the United Church community. It is my hope and prayer that a sufficient number of dedicated volunteers will come forward to help create a new legacy for future generations.

Yours in Christ's Service,

*Peggy*

Rev. Peggy Johnson

## CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

2023 has been another very busy year for your church. Your Church Council has met monthly throughout the year dealing with the many matters affecting the day to day running of our church. Thank you to Tara Bishop, our secretary, Blair Bradbury, Karen Critch, our treasurer, Stephen Jewczyk, Judy Kay our chair of ministry and personnel, David Peters, Paula Reynolds and Sandy Stavlo who have worked tirelessly to keep our church functioning. We were assisted by two very capable minister's firstly, Rev. Oliver Dingwell and then Rev Peggy Johnston who have provided thoughtful guidance and support all along the way as our Pastoral Relations Supervisors. They have participated in all our council and congregational meetings and were available to handle any pastoral emergencies that arose throughout the year. Finally, a sincere thank you to Robyn McMaster, our office administrator, for her ongoing work in supporting our various ministries.

Of paramount importance has been the continuing development of our Mission Articulation Plan (MAP) which we started in 2022 with the departure of Rev. Miriam Bowlby. Our Plan was approved by Regional Council in December 2022 and in 2023 our MAP Engagement team (David Peters, Stephen Jewczyk and myself) lead discussions with other United Church congregations on how we could collaborate and work together in the future. We had discussions with Gower Street, George Street, St. James and Cowan Heights. We evaluated all of the proposals and at a congregational meeting in June we selected St. James as the congregation we would develop a collaborative partnership with. Since that time, we have been busy preparing the memorandum of understanding and the other documents that were required to support this collaborative ministry between the two congregations. We recently received Regional Council approval to proceed and so, our pilot project will finally commence on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and will run for 18 months. This has been a long journey in the life of our church, but I personally believe it holds much promise for our success as a congregation going forward.

Without our own full-time minister, the task once again fell to Paula Reynolds and the Worship and Pastoral Care committee to find clergy and lay leadership that could lead us in weekly worship. They did a masterful job. We did not miss one weekly service throughout the whole year because they couldn't find a leader for the service. Not only that, in my opinion, our services were consistently of very high quality and offered a variety of insights and perspectives depending on the leader. A wide selection of ministers in addition to a number of lay leaders from both within and outside our congregation contributed to this success. Thank you everyone, for a job very well done. Our Choir and Music Director consistently contribute every week to the success of our worship services. Music has always been an integral part of our worship and that remained true in 2023. Thank you to Tristan Cleveland-Thompson our music director, our choral scholars and other choral members who faithfully share their ministry of music with us each week. I would also like to acknowledge the Federal New Horizons for Seniors grant that we received to help pay for our choral scholars.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our ushers who help weekly with the setting up and putting away of our worship support materials and preparing our collection plate bank deposits. They along with Harold Grandy, who records all of our donations for our yearly tax slips, help keep our church functioning.



Weekly worship is an important component of our ministry here at Cochrane Street and a large number of our members now watch our services online either through our face book or you tube links from our website. COVID has certainly changed the lives of many of our members and I appreciate the support and weekly dedication of John Williams, from Jackabon Media who sends our feed out through the internet so that all our members can remain connected.

Another large project initiated by your church council is the updating of our historic role. This project has been a huge undertaking and I want to thank Brian Johnson and his team of Mary Johnson, Linda Bowden and Sandy Stavlo, with administrative support from Robyn McMaster, for their meticulous efforts at verifying and updating our files. The last update to our historic role was in 1979 and so as you can imagine there was a large number of names that needed to be verified. As I write this report your council has just received their final report so I'm hopeful that this project will soon be completed.

In 2023 we once again partnered with First Light in our Christmas at Cochrane and First Light's Songs and Stories of Christmas in Labrador service. This event continues to grow in size and attendance and offers a template on how we could cooperate with other services with First Light. I would like to acknowledge the City of St. John's for their financial support for this event. I've just finished putting every member's tax receipt in an envelope and in the mail. When you complete a task like this you get a full appreciation of how our members financially support our church. It's quite inspiring actually. We are a small congregation, and we all give a different amount, some larger than others, but it demonstrates that together, Cochrane Street United can still make a difference. Some of you supported one of our 4 fundraising activities (flower service, spring plant sale, fall harvest and plant sale and candle service) and/or you supported one of our outreach ministries such as Bridges to Hope, the Cemetery Fund, Cochrane Centre, First Light and the M & S fund. Every donation helps these ministries be more successful in what they do, and I thank you for contributing to our church's impact.

As I conclude this year's annual report, I can't help but notice that we have entered the season of Lent. Easter and the power of resurrection will be in a few weeks. I'm hopeful that our new pilot collaborative project with St. James United will facilitate our own congregational resurrection as we move forward in the life of our church.

God Bless,



Tim Reynolds  
Chair, Church Council  
February 17, 2024

## **WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE**

**Purpose:** The Worship and Pastoral Care Committee usually meets quarterly to plan and co-ordinate worship services and to support and enhance Pastoral Care.

In 2023 our committee met four times: February, May, October, and November.

**Members:** Tristan Cleveland - Thompson, Patricia Young, June Knight, Karen Critch, Sandra Rowe, Paula Reynolds (Chair)

**Pastoral Care:** Congregational mailouts were sent out five to six times this year to keep all members and adherents up to date on all church business and information.

-In 2023, we were finding a continued drop in church attendance. Still with the fears of Covid 19, many of our members were not coming out to church. Givings were approximately the same, but with our congregation growing older, many, we feel, preferred to watch church through live streaming.

-We are working closely with our Music director, Tristan Cleveland – Thompson who is a great asset to our committee helping with music and choir every Sunday.

-Pastoral care is lacking in our church. With the absence of a minister our small committee cannot perform the duties we should be performing without a minister's guidance. All our duties are concentrated primarily on finding Pulpit Supply from week to week. and working with our music director.

**Worship:** Many individuals and groups have willingly contributed to our worship services. We are especially grateful to the following:

- The Senior Choir, including our Choral Scholars, and musician Maggie Power, and all extra singers that enhanced our services throughout the year.
- Rev. Karen Bursey, Bert Riggs, David Peters, Tim and Paula Reynolds, Charlotte and Stephen Jewczyk, Rev. Oliver Dingwell, Rev. John Maich, and Rev. Peggy Johnson who took over as our Spiritual Advisor when Rev. Oliver Dingwell had to step down.
- John Williams for live streaming our services.
- The different individuals that helped decorate the church for Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Our ushers

This year continued to be a very trying one for our committee. With no minister, except for the help of Church Council and our Spiritual Advisors, Rev. Oliver Dingwell, and Rev. Peggy Johnson, we were trying to keep Sunday worship as organized as possible. We are continuing with our Mission Articulation Plan and have made plans to come together with St. James United Church for some of our services for 2024. Our committee has organized pulpit supply for all of 2023 and will probably continue to do so until our present situation with St. James can be planned and organized

As mentioned, we were very lucky in acquiring Tristan Cleveland – Thompson in September 2022. In this regard our music continues strong with our choral scholars and senior choir.

Our sanctuary has permanently reopened for services. John Williams of Jackabon Media continues to live stream our services every Sunday.

It is also important to note that for Cochrane Street United Church for 2023 there were:

2 Baptisms  
0 Marriages  
0 Candidates for Confirmation  
3 Transfer of Membership out  
6 In Memoriams



Submitted by:  
Paula Reynolds (Chair)

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

2023 has now come to an end and with it many musical memories resonate with me and the choir. It was my first full year in position, and we made so many impacts in and outside of Cochrane United Church family.

For the year 2023 we welcomed Jenna Maloney as our Alto/Tenor choral scholar (of NL Music Award nominated band Port aux Poutines) and welcomed back Anne Jewczyk and Ben James for the year. In October 2023 we welcome Miriam Woelfel as Alto Choral Scholar and had a full quartet for the latter half of 2023. They all add so much to the sound of the choir and give us an incredible foundation to our choral music.

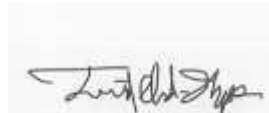
The year also saw us move into the event space (former church hall) for the majority of 2023, with the furnace not working to heat the sanctuary, which saw us transition to piano and an intimate setting together with the congregation. We quickly adapted and enjoyed the space as it allowed the choir and congregation to be much closer together and inspired the church to encourage us to sit closer together in the sanctuary upon returning in the Fall.

One of the highlights from the Lent season of 2023 was hosting the Good Friday service as the Cochrane congregation based out of Cowan Heights United Church. We hosted the music out of Cowan and even had a quartet of scholars perform a rendition of Were You There by Bob Chilcott. It was lovely to be with our fellow United Church congregations and share our ministry with the city. The following Sunday on Easter Sunday, we welcomed June's daughter and Tristan's childhood Boy Choir conductor Pam to the choir to help support our anthem.

The other highlight that stands out was supporting our family of churches in the closure of George Street United Church in the Fall. Although a somber service, and not a moment to celebrate, we were able to support the choir of George Street and sing side by side with them. The Choir of George Street wasn't sure they'd be able to sing through everything without letting the emotions get the better of them, and our church council reached out to offer support, to which they gladly accepted us into their ranks. The service was beautiful, filled with a lot of emotions, and a sharing of incredible memories, which saw the church filled to the capacity with people there to support this incredible congregation.

The choral church year concluded with our Lessons and Carols service at Cochrane, back in the sanctuary sung by the piano. We welcomed back friends new and old, and this year had all our choral scholars there for the service, which is partially why we moved the service a week earlier than normal. It was beautiful service filled with music and readings to tell the story of the season. This is an annual tradition that we know will continue no matter where we are.

As our new partnership in 2024 with the pilot project with St. James United starts, we are excited for some hopeful collaborations with their music team, and choir. We know that no matter where we are sharing music, that we will be able to contribute in a meaningful way to the worship and life of Cochrane United.



Tristan Cleveland-Cleveland-Thompson  
Music Director

## ARCHIVES 2023

Our records and other material continue to be housed in the storage unit. It is unlikely that the Archives will be moved back to the church building in the near future.

The work of the Archives continues. I have undertaken searches for baptisms, marriages and burials in our registers from requests which come through the church office. Robyn then facilitates informing the inquirer of the information or issuing certificates, as necessary.

The Historic Roll has been the main area of work in the past year. Transfers from the congregation and deaths of members of the congregation have been so noted in the Roll. In addition, I have found deceased members of the congregation with no longer a relationship with the congregation. Their deaths have been noted next to their names in the Roll.

The updating of the Historic Roll, previously updated in 1979, started in 2022 and continued throughout 2023. This is a complex, cumbersome and time-consuming project. I have assisted Brian Johnston who undertook the lead on this effort by providing raw data of persons on the HR, research online, as well as personal knowledge of some of those listed. Brian was helped by several members of the congregation by providing information about some persons on the roll and contacting some as to their wish to be on the roll or not. Their assistance is acknowledged with much gratitude.

The following is a repeat of a portion of last year's report for context:

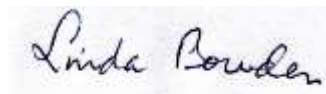
"The Roll lists hundreds of names and due diligence must be undertaken before Council, which has the authority to do so, decides to indicate in the Roll that some persons are no longer members of Cochrane Street congregation. The reasons for removal may include having no relationship with the congregation for some time or living far enough away to be unable to be involved in the congregation.

Living away from the city is, in itself, not a reason for removal. If a member can be contacted and wishes to remain on the Roll, then Council could decide that they will. This also applies to those who do not have a relationship with the congregation at the present time but still consider themselves a member of the United Church of Canada through Cochrane Street United Church.

As many persons as possible are being contacted to obtain their wishes as to their membership. Unfortunately, because of the number of years that have passed, a large number of persons are either unknown to us and / or untraceable. This would be another reason for indicating a removal from the Roll. "

Going forward, it is hoped that the Roll will be finalized in 2024.

I have been culling duplicate material in the Archives and shredding the material where necessary. Because of the inability to display artifacts or hang photographs in the church building, an effort will be made in 2024 to return donated items to family members if they so wish or find a more appropriate home for some of our holdings.



Linda Bowden  
Volunteer Archivist

## **Bridges to Hope 2023 Annual Report to our Supporting Congregations**

Once again, the Staff, Volunteers and Board of Directors would like to express our sincere thanks for the ongoing support of Bridges to Hope by our founding and supporting congregations. The importance of our core mission, *to reduce the effects of poverty on individuals and families through access to essential food, and other programs that help empower our clients*, has unfortunately grown within 2023.

**Operations:** For the most part, 2023 has seen us operating under post-pandemic conditions, with volunteer levels at pre-Covid levels and clients re-entering the waiting area. Our dedicated volunteers are performing yeoman service again in the pantry as well as the kitchen, and over the year we have added some additional volunteers and increased our food preparation activities.

**Staff:** Our new staff structure has carried through 2023, with Jody Williams as our Executive Director, Lesley Burgess as our Operations Manager, Raylene Roche as Intake Coordinator, and Emily Noel as Food Support Worker. We have a wonderful core team. We had an addition to the team mid-year, with Federal grant money providing one year funding for a dedicated Fund Development Coordinator. Sashika Dilshan has proven to be a great asset in building public and corporate awareness of our organization and its' mission.

**Demand:** 2023 saw continued increases in the number of clients coming to Bridges to Hope. We believe that this is primarily as a result of rises in the cost of living from inflation, but we are also seeing increased numbers of new Canadians and international students. We provided support to over 13,100 people in 2023, including 3448 children and 2214 Seniors. This is almost a 20% bump in the number of clients over 2022. The Wednesday evening openings that we commenced in 2022 are ongoing, no surprise in light of present socio-economic conditions.

We continue to be open and supportive of all, regardless of religion, race, status or location.

**Programs:** Again in 2023, Bridges to Hope managed to offer valuable and essential programs and services to our clients. In addition to normal food support services, we had our Bags to School program in late summer, which distributed 468 Back Packs full of quality curriculum based, age appropriate, school supplies to students of all grades. We distributed Smart Snack Kits with healthy after-school snacks for school age children, and through our annual Christmas program, funded by Rotary, we distributed \$75 gift cards for groceries from Colemans to 315 of our client families, supporting 662 individuals.

**Support:** Bridges to Hope remains very grateful for support from our founding churches, during universally challenging times. We remain an Outreach Ministry of the United Church of Canada, with financial assistance from First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council of the United Church, as well as the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces. And of course, donations and volunteerism from congregational members remain crucial to our ongoing mission.

Individual and corporate donations remain a critical part of our funding, in addition to grants and funding from community service groups. It is remarkable how much the caring people of our province have supported our mission, even as their own costs of living increase. In 2023 Bridges to Hope continued to add to our Sustainers Circle core of monthly donors, which provides a level of core funding through the year.

It is important to note that congregational supporters who join the Sustainers Circle as regular monthly donors can have their donations reported as part of your Church's annual support of Bridges to Hope. Please contact Jody Williams ([j.williams@bridgestohope.ca](mailto:j.williams@bridgestohope.ca)) to arrange.

Food drives continued in 2023, with a gradual post-Covid increase. We had a major fundraiser in the form of our Songwriter's Circle event in March with Music NL, at Gower St. United Church, as well as numerous other events in support of Bridges to Hope. We are blessed with a talented and dedicated community underpinning us all.

**The Future:** Bridges to Hope has continued to advance the milestones in our 3 to 5 year strategic planning exercise conducted in 2022. We strive to build upon and enhance our core mission offerings, while adding new services and elements. We are building collaborative relationships with similarly-minded groups.

*Submitted by:*

Ewan Cumming

Board Chair, Member from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church