

## Church Council 2021 Annual Report

Greetings Friends

When we last met for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation in February 2021, we were not expecting that in one year's time we would still be grappling with Covid-19 and precluded from in-person worship and in-person meetings.

Fortunately, at our 2021 annual meeting we set up a task group to guide us on the path to being able to provide on-line real-time coverage of worship services. This work was successfully completed and implemented with the first real-time live streaming of worship being provided on Nov. 28, coincident with the short-lived return to in person worship, (Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, and 19) In-person worship was curtailed by council at a special meeting on Dec. 23, on the advice of the Covid Protocol development Team, due to the rapid spread of the Omicron virus.

The design and implementation of the measures to make livestreaming available was undertaken by a group of willing and talented volunteers, many of whom continue to provide weekly staffing of the technical crew, without whom livestreaming is not possible. We are now well positioned to provide on-line worship and other events – a job well done.

In-person worship on Christmas Eve was held outside under a tent. Despite the weather it was well attended and appreciated by the attendees. Thanks, Nancy, for your original thoughts and organization skills.

At the 2021 annual meeting we also appointed a group of members to prepare the documentation necessary to move ahead with a search for a minister to replace Rev. Bill Cantelon on his retirement. This work was carried out and the documents were approved by the congregation at a special meeting on June 6, where the search team was appointed, Approval was granted from the UCC Pacific Mountain Region to proceed with a search. The team has been working diligently at its task but has not yet been able to bring a recommendation to the congregation. Their work continues.

The congregation was fortunate in obtaining funding from the Government of Canada under its Summer Employment Program. This enabled the hiring of Leslie Moffat for the summer months, where she made a great contribution during her tenure.

Thank you to our ministers – Rev. Bill Cantelon for his exceptional spiritual leadership and pastoral care, and Nancy Walker for her unique gifts in worship leadership as well as leading our children, youth and young adult's program, and AWE worship. Thanks also go to Jane Shumka who does a remarkable job keeping the church office organized and attending to the myriad of tasks this involves.

Thanks are due to the members of your Church Council who have worked so hard on your behalf over the year and provided me with guidance, support, and sage advice.

What awaits us as we venture into 2022? We are walking on a new trail - there are few landmarks to guide us, but we tread it in faith. The Apostle Paul has a nice definition of faith in Hebrews 11.v1. "Faith means we are confident in what we hope for, convinced of what we do not see." That is why we refer to ourselves as a "community of faith". I hope you will support the Church Council as they venture forward in faith into the years to come, one year at a time, starting right now in 2022.

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you for your generous contributions of time, talents, and financial resources in support of Cordova Bay United Church in 2021. You are the key to our success.

*Bill Walker*

*Chair, Cordova Bay United Church Council*