



FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A BUDDING FUTURE

BEING A GARDENER IS, by definition, being hopeful. Even a dreamer.

Gardeners know the hard work of designing and nurturing a garden to life. They enjoy the pleasure of the outcomes of their labour: the bounty of their harvest, new growth, and the beauty and peace that their created space provides. A gardener plants for the future, ensuring future generations reap the healing power of calming space.

We at Fairlawn have been faithful gardeners. During the months of COVID hibernation, we took care of our assets and community of faith—stewarding the benefits of past harvests and investments. Staff and lay leaders supported wonderful music, online services, and multiple programs. We used this time for reflection, for dreaming, and for visioning what new plants could be seeded, planted and nurtured. We began to envision how God’s mission could flow into our neighbourhoods and transform church spaces for our community’s well-being. We readied ourselves to unearth a new day.

In 2023, we were replenished, ready to grow. The bud of new life was nudging us further. And thanks to the energy and sheer hard work celebrated in this *Annual Report*, we now find ourselves on the verge of blooming. What we have created is now in the light of day, a promising turn towards the sun.

—Reverend Dr. Cameron Watts, Minister, and Mary Ellen Richardson, Past Chair, Governing Council

This is what we are about:

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

—Excerpt from *A Step Along the Way* by Bishop Ken Untener



REFLECTION

TENDING THIS RICH GARDEN

"[Paul] planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." (1 Corinthians 3.6)



When I arrived at Fairlawn—the name, I noticed, already suggests something growing and needing tending—I found the scattered seed packets of the hard work of maintaining a vital community, including its sense of care for each other (and others), its celebration in worship and music.

I also found the largely unopened fertiliser bags of past studies designed to help this community of faith discover and embrace its future. I was grateful for the former and, after reading those reports, set them aside. Not because they had no value. But because I wanted to know what was important to Fairlawn in the moment and how much energy folks had.

In effect, I turned on the sprinkler to water what you, with Mary Ellen's leadership, had already planted. To see what was thirsty, what was thriving, what was popping up in unexpected places. That, ultimately, became the focus of a visioning exercise I shared with some of the church leaders in January 2024. You'll hear more about that.

From September through December, I think we washed away some fatigue. I think we (at least I) discovered some deeply rooted and thriving aspects of what we do (Tuesday Walk-in Support and our Music come immediately to mind). Joanne is a Godsend, showing me where to find the hoes and rakes and occasionally resisting the temptation to knock some sense into me with a shovel. Jean is a natural gardener, coaxing new life out of us and introducing us to new blooms. Jimena is the sunshine spread around the building when she is here.

We had to deal with the recurring weed of COVID but there is a resilience to us that handles it well. I put some energy into washing off some of the dormancy that clung to us.

And so here we are. Can you smell Spring?
—Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts



GOVERNING COUNCIL

PLANTING SEEDS OF PROMISE

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

*It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,
a step along the way, an opportunity
for God's grace to enter and do the rest.*

*We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder
and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.*

—Bishop Ken Untener

I had the privilege of chairing Governing Council and co-chairing the Fairlawn Forward team through the first half of 2023. Looking back at this time, in the rear-view mirror, I am very pleased and grateful for the work that was accomplished. The work of these leadership teams supported a fruitful 2023.



Forward team and our lead minister, left us for new ventures and dreams. Those of us who came to know Douglas—to listen, to receive a kind email, to benefit from a pastoral visit, to work alongside, and to learn from his tremendous theological and organizational knowledge and creativity—will miss him. He left us better than he found us.

The work done in 2023 by Governing Council to keep operations running allowed us to dream and experience God. We have created a new story, together. This is a gift that we now must—and we will—steward with care, to invest in our future and support our vision of what this church can achieve to support the communities we serve.

I am proud to have been a part of the Fairlawn story over the last three years,

and I want to thank this community of faith for allowing me to be part of that journey. And now we can look through our front *windshield* with hope and optimism for what is in our future.

— Mary Ellen Richardson,
Chair of Governing Council for
the first six months of 2023 and
Co-Chair of the Fairlawn
Forward team

Tending our existing garden

Through the hard work of the Governing Council and the Trustees, and with the support of many committee members and congregants, we continued to carefully steward our financial and building assets and provide opportunities for the Fairlawn community to explore their faith, to be together and to support many third-party agencies.

Planting the seeds of our future together

The Fairlawn Forward Team created and received congregational approval of a Living Faith Story, the Community of Faith Profile, and a Position Description for our new minister. The work opened us up to new ideas and enabled a refreshed way to use our existing assets to build and extend our missional call. I acknowledge the Fairlawn Forward team of Philip Blackford, Maureen Davey, Steve Dunk, Morrey Ewing, Amanda Hancox and Douglas du Charme with support from John Cowan.

The Fairlawn Forward work gave us the framework to launch the Search Committee, with Doug Crozier as the ideal Chair. We owe Doug and his team much gratitude for their wonderful work that led to the hiring of a terrific new Minister. The Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts joined Fairlawn in September 2023. I want to extend sincere thanks to all the members of the Search Committee for a job well done and to recognize their many hours of work.

The end of June 2023 also brought a farewell, as the Rev. Douglas duCharme, my co-chair of the Fairlawn



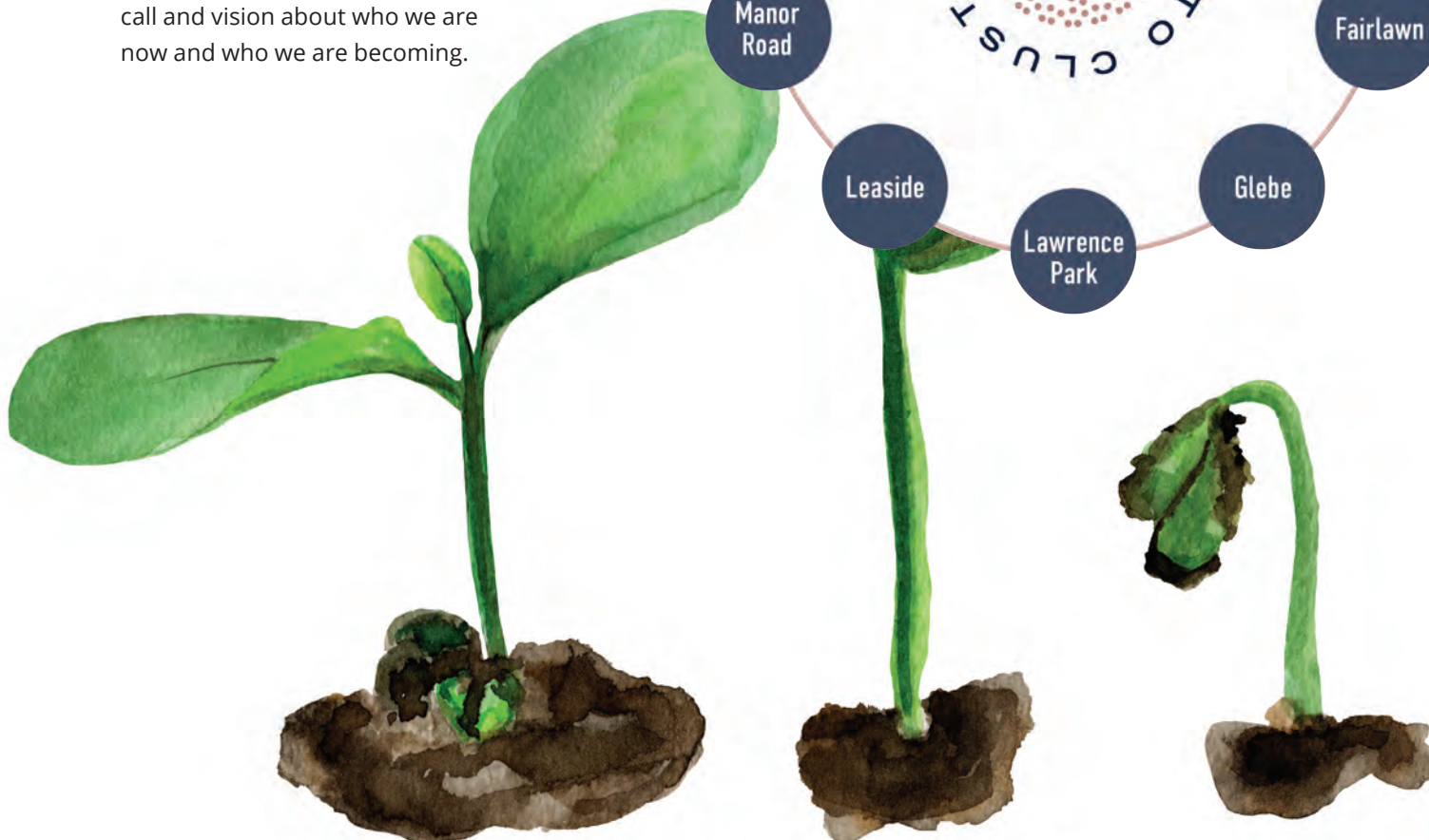
NORTH TORONTO CLUSTER OF CHURCHES

The North Toronto Cluster of nine United Church churches, as well as with other churches in the Shining Waters Region and across Canada, acts as an anchor in Fairlawn's pursuit of innovation and collaboration to be more impactful in our neighbourhoods. Our church and the Cluster continue to seek more ways to share our faith journeys with each other and increase the impact of our service to the community. We do this through our welcoming spaces and outreach activities, including volunteering, supporting anti-poverty actions to help those in need and advocating to address the root causes of injustice.

Activities during 2023 included:

- providing North Toronto Cluster household goods baskets for the homeless receiving housing;
- continuing advocacy for adequate shelter spaces, especially for refugees arriving at the airport;
- the Cluster holding a common service at Rosedale United to hear Moderator Carmen Lansdowne speak on "Living in the Moment" and our call and vision about who we are now and who we are becoming.

- different combinations of churches working together on collaborations like the Gibimishkaadimin canoe trip and reunion, summer service coverage, the Water Walk, Blue Christmas service and exploring other opportunities to increase our impact in North Toronto. — Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts and John Ryerson, Fairlawn Representatives to the North Toronto Cluster of Churches



EXPLORE SPIRITUALITY MINISTRY

A PLENTIFUL BOUQUET

Christians today are hungry for meaningful worship and spiritual exploration. Satisfying that hunger in a variety of ways is the goal of Fairlawn's ES Ministry.

Endings and beginnings

In June we said farewell to Rev. Douglas duCharme with a special service and reception. We are so grateful to Douglas and his wife, Elaine, for all they did for Fairlawn during their time with us. In terms of the ES Council, Douglas encouraged us to be creative and innovative, to include elements that spoke to all five senses. We are indebted to Elaine for devoting her time and skills to our online services.

In September we welcomed Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts as Minister of Pastoral Care, Word and Sacrament, and celebrated his Covenanting Service in November, which was presided over by Rev. Norm Seli. Cameron brings new insights to our Council discussions and planning, challenging us to look beyond ourselves, to reflect and consider how others experience spirituality, transcendence and the Holy in worship and further opportunities.

The average weekly in-person attendance for worship services was 65. On average, 113 people watched the online service and standalone musical offering created by Eleanor Daley. With masking protocols ending in the summer, in-person attendance increased while online viewing decreased. At the May 7 service in tribute to Eleanor, 223 attended and 516 watched online. Summer service in the Assembly Hall averaged 25 people weekly.

As well as Sunday worship there are special services throughout the year. In 2023 these included a Taizé-based Ash Wednesday service, an innovative Maundy Thursday gathering, a moving Good Friday service, Advent's Lessons and Carols, and The Longest Night, a service of comfort and hope.

Music is a vital part of life and worship at Fairlawn and we are so grateful to Eleanor Daley and our choir for providing an exceptional music experience throughout the year.

Small-group ministries

Growth and maturity of ES can be seen in the continued success and engagement of the small-group ministries. These ministries offered intimate opportunities to discuss, learn and explore.



Rev. Jean Ward's quarterly series sessions: Through readings, poetry, music and shared experience, these offerings challenged our thinking, opened our hearts, stimulated deep discussion, and brought us together in community.

- *Wintering Into Spring*, an exploration of how our northern spirits are shaped by the rhythm of our seasons.
- *Awakening Wonder in an Anxious Age*. How we might move through life with curiosity and tenderness, sensitized to the subtle magic all around.
- *Exploring Sacred Bonds*. Participants explored the sacred bonds of belonging, relationship and reciprocity through two books, *Braiding Sweetgrass* by R. Kimmer and *The Woman Who Went to the Moon* by poet and Fairlawn member, Rosemary Clewes.
- Jean invited us into the spirit of Advent with *All Creation Awaits*, a study of stories and readings.

Fairlawn also supports:

- Two monthly Women's Spirituality Groups (six and 11 members);
- A monthly Men's Group (nine members);
- A weekly Christian Meditation Group (eight participants).

The second annual *Carols Around the Crèche* was another Re'Sounding' Success. At twilight of the first Sunday in Advent, Fairlawners and the local community gathered on the lawn to sing carols and enjoy the lighting of our Crèche scene. Neighbourhood interest and response was positive, contributing to increased attendance this year.

Worship support duties such as welcoming at the door, sanctuary support and Communion preparation and set up, are now coordinated, with volunteers able to sign up via the website. Many thanks to John Cowan for facilitating this important opportunity to serve.

—Amanda Hancox, Chair



Christmas Eve Services

MUSIC MINISTRY

A JOYFUL NOISE BLOSSOMS ONCE AGAIN

Music continues to bring comfort and joy to Fairlawn! The full senior choir returned at the end of 2022 and we haven't looked back. It now numbers 28 members, including the return of four former soprano choristers and two brand new tenors. Willis Bote, tenor section lead, stepped down in June, 2023 though he continues to sing with us when he can, and we welcomed Mark Wood-Salomon in October.

2023 saw the return of Holy Week and Easter services, complete with brass and percussion, as well as Lessons and Carols and two Christmas Eve services. Special music offerings included the Canadian premiere of Mark Hayes's *Te Deum* with chamber orchestra in April, and Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata* with brass quartet and organ in December.

We are regularly treated to outstanding guest musicians, including our own piano duo of Anne Fraser and Doreen Uren Simmons, and the occasional appearance



by our home-grown tenor soloist, Kevin Doe. In the coming year, we look forward to more outstanding music, including Mark Hayes's *Requiem* with chamber orchestra in April and the Canadian premiere of Taylor Scott Davis's *Magnificat* during Advent.

—Eleanor Daley and Kathy Salisbury



CELEBRATING ELEANOR!

Recognition of Eleanor’s achievements keep on coming! In 2022 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for her “contributions to Canadian music and choral culture as a renowned composer and accompanist,” followed by an honorary doctorate from her Alma Mater, Queen’s, and that university’s Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in 2023.

To celebrate Eleanor’s achievements and all that she means to our Fairlawn family, a special Service of Celebration took place at Fairlawn on May 7. Musical offerings were all Daley compositions. We had a guest organist, Chris Dawes; guest pianist, Anne Fraser; guest speaker, broadcaster and former Fairlawn chorister, Tom Allen; and guest conductors, Lydia Adams and Willis Bote.

Close to 50 returning Junior, Intermediate and Senior choristers joined the mass choir to end the service, singing Eleanor’s *O Be Joyful*. Scot Denton and Elaine Perkins created a very moving montage of videos of appreciation featuring current and former choristers and a special ‘Angel’ cake created by Rebecca Whelan, former soprano section lead, sweetened the day.

—Jill Klaehn and Kathy Salisbury



FAIRLAWN



Service of celebration for Eleanor Daley



Fairlawn's Prayer Shawl Ministry

EXPERIENCE BELONGING SUPPORT AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES

CULTIVATING BONDS OF HOPE AND COMFORT

Fairlawn is a community of faith, bound together by our shared values and commitment to serving others. Experience Belonging Support Ministries, along with individual acts of kindness towards others, offer hope and comfort to those in need and serve to strengthen the bonds that connect us.

The **Pastoral Visitation Team** helped Rev. Douglas duCharme and Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts provide pastoral care to our senior seniors – many of whom are not able to come to church – by remaining in regular contact with them and providing a listening ear. Communion services were held at The Teddington at Easter and Christmas for Fairlawn members living there and other interested residents.





Basketball Comradery

The long-standing **Breast Cancer Friends** and newer **Widows Support Group** offered mutual support and understanding to members of the congregation and the community as they met on Zoom and in each other's homes, respectively.

Prayer Shawl Knitters distributed 40 shawls, warm symbols of love and comfort, and continued to meet monthly for knitting, tea and friendship.

In lieu of the annual **Visitation Tea** when our senior seniors are invited to the church for a communion service and time of fellowship, a lovely gift of tulips was delivered to them.

Fairlawn's Experience Belonging and Social Ministries offer opportunities to nurture personal relationships and have fun together.

The **Basketball Group** enjoyed weekly Zoom meetings, as well as their three traditional celebrations throughout the year: Christmas in January, a BBQ in June and a cottage weekend in September.



Basketball Group summer 'retreat'



Long lineup for Fairlawn's Book Sale

Fairlawn's **Annual Book Sale** returned to its usual spot at the end of April and took in \$20,000, thanks to incredible support from the congregation, Fairlawn staff and our community.

The **Broadview Discussion Group** continued to meet monthly on Zoom to talk about articles of interest in the United Church's magazine.

Monthly meetings of the **Craft and Chat Group** enabled members of the congregation and the community to come together in friendship as they worked on their projects.

The **Men's Group** enjoyed lively, in-person, discussions each month on a wide range of topics.

Those who joined the **Tuesday Lunch Crowd** monthly Zoom meetings were treated to a variety of interesting presentations by members of the congregation and the wider community.

These groups would welcome new members. Feel free to join one that interests you – or start a new one. Contact eb@fairlawnavenueunited.ca for more information.

—Jan Schlee



Pastoral Care Christmas Poinsettias



Fairlawn BBQ



AFFIRM MINISTRY

A SAFE, INCLUSIVE SPACE IN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

During 2023 we continued to broaden our collective understanding of gender and sexuality, as part of our efforts to change the conditions that continue to spark discrimination and inequality for 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Our efforts are a manifestation of our Affirm ministry commitment to create a safe, inclusive space in our community of faith.

In 2023, Fairlawn was chosen to host the only public GTA event for International Day of Pink (IDOP). IDOP is an anti-bullying, anti-hate organization dedicated to raising awareness of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and their rights, and to supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ students.

Our event attracted 160-plus attendees from the Fairlawn community and many other allies. It was an important public testament to our ministry.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to my Fairlawn friends. The work we are doing together is important.

—Kevin Doe, Chair



International Day of Pink



Pride Service



Orange Shirt Day - Water Walk and Feast



EMBRACE ACTION MINISTRY

GROWING COMPASSION AND COMMITMENT

We strive to make the world a better place through empathy, compassion and commitment by:

Strengthening support and relationships with our partners

With the assistance of Rainbow Railroad, our sponsorship team welcomed our fifth private refugee in March.

With the help of the Fairlawn community, we collected household items/clothing for homeless persons transitioning to housing; toys/new clothing/grocery cards for families temporarily housed at the Red Door Shelter; and personal care products for individuals supported by Street Health.

Donations distributed to various community partners through the EA fund totalled \$48,367.67 for 2023. We continued to offer financial and in-kind support to L'Arche, Street Health, Red Door and St. Luke's *Out of the Cold Meals Program*. In addition, we provided start-up funding to Fred Victor's innovative *Steps to Success* afterschool program designed specifically for young people affected by poverty to provide mentoring, build resilience, and promote emotional and overall well-being.

Increasing volunteerism

Building community through volunteering is an important part of all EA projects. Walk-In Support has a dedicated crew of 16 which includes one newcomer. The decision to serve our guests at tables was well-received, hosting an average of 50-plus people on the first Tuesday of the month. Our new TRC (Truth and Reconciliation) Remembrance Garden had 10 individuals from Fairlawn and the surrounding community hauling bags of soil/mulch, pulling weeds and planting our new Indigenous Garden beds.

Mission Moments in Sunday Services and contributions to *Greetings!* continue to highlight the work of EA and encourage greater volunteer participation.



Delivering campaign donations to EA partner Street Health



Delivering campaign donations to EA partner Red Door Shelter



EA partner *Out of the Cold* St. Luke's Rafi Aaron



EA Gardening Team, TRC (Truth and Reconciliation) Remembrance Garden

Enhancing learning

Fairlawners kept informed about current social justice issues through special service speakers such as Rafi Aaron, a partner with St. Luke's *Out of the Cold* program, on Social Justice Sunday, and a collection of articles, videos and presentations sent quarterly to the 34 individuals who participated in the *Change from Within – Issues in Equity, Equality and Inclusion* webinar series. A new initiative called *Fairlawn Goes Exploring* had seven members participating in the *Water Walk* at Evergreen Brickworks and in a private tour of the Aga Khan Museum's Rumi Exhibit. Additional excursions are planned.

Our TRC commitment has continued with increased participation in the *Gibimishkaadimin (Paddling Together by Boat) Reconciliation Canoe Trip*. This year, Fairlawners assisted with the Toronto Camp Reunion in February. UCC Moderator Carmen Lansdowne attended as one of the campers and four Indigenous youth became Leaders in Training. We happily anticipate a continuation of the program in 2024.

—Sandy Giles Byrne and John Ryerson, Co-Chairs



August 28, 2023: The *Gibimishkaadimin (Paddling Together by Boat) Reconciliation Canoe Trip* provided fun and comradery for 22 participants (13 Indigenous and nine non-Indigenous youth). Our Indigenous campers were from across Canada: two from Saskatchewan, four from Manitoba, two from Nunavut, three from Ontario, one from Northwest Territories, and one from Newfoundland and Labrador. The non-Indigenous campers were all from the UCC region of Shining Waters. There were also four Indigenous youth leaders-in-training and eight Indigenous knowledge keepers or elders, including Carmen Lansdowne, the United Church of Canada's current Moderator. All but two of the participants were able to return to Toronto for a three-day reunion March 23-25.

FAIRLAWN MEMBERS – 2023 IN MEMORIAM

Connie Allan	January 9, 2023
Joanne Callander	January 25, 2023
Mary Salisbury	April 9, 2023
Gwen Oakden	June 6, 2023
Brad Jones	November 9, 2023
Zenovia Skibinski	November 23, 2023
Anne James	December 24, 2023
Gordon Winch	December 25, 2023



REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP MINISTRY

FAIRLAWN'S LIFE-SAVING WORK CONTINUES

Emmanuel, Fairlawn's latest sponsored refugee, arrived in Toronto from Cameroon on March 24. We worked with Rainbow Railroad and the United Church of Canada for over three years prior to his arrival. Emmanuel initially stayed with members of his support team before they secured a bachelor apartment for him. He took ESL classes and completed a training program in construction

to prepare for his job search. Members of the church stepped up to provide social outings for Emmanuel and his support team worked diligently to help him adjust to his new life.

We are awaiting two more cases: a Syrian family of six and a single young man (son of our first Syrian newcomer). Unfortunately, processing times are very slow. We hope they will arrive in 2024.

Thank you to all who have supported newcomers and contributed to the Refugee Fund. It is life-saving work!
—Kathleen Magladry, Chair

PROPERTY COUNCIL

ON THE CALL WITH MANY ISSUES

The Property Council saw some real success in 2023. By year-end, the multi-year project of bringing our building into compliance with the Fire Code was completed (save for the addition of two doors we were waiting on). We were ready to call for an inspection by the Fire Department to approve the new Fire Plan.

Meanwhile, we learned that our Fire Alarm Panel (which shows the location of a fire) was obsolete and its failure could close the building until it was replaced. We consulted with other churches undertaking the same work but heard of long delays and little success. We again retained consultants IFI Innovative Fire Inc. and by year-end the necessary drawings had been prepared, submitted to the city, and readied to go out for tender.

These two projects were absolutely critical and urgent, not only for the safety of our staff and congregation but also for tenants.

Other issues that arose to test our mettle included:

- A roof leaking down on the Music Director and her piano;
- A cloud of insects falling from the ceiling on the people below;
- A flood on the lower level due to a failed drain;
- A failed circulating pump in the heating system;
- An auditorium floor that did not strip as hoped; and
- Removal and disposal of pews to make room for serving coffee.

On a brighter note, we were happy to freshen up the minister's office to welcome Rev. Dr. Watts.

We must thank Joanne who, in the absence of a full-time custodian, has taken responsibility for things such as meter readings, required monthly inspections of fire equipment and monitoring our service contractors when in the building.

Looking forward, the Council has a long 'to do' list and welcoming a tenant will no doubt prioritize some items while a renewed source of income will help with other projects.

—Vicki Stuart, Chair, and Iliff Peck, Secretary



HUMAN RESOURCES & RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

Our committee added several new members to support Fairlawn's staff and congregants. Margaret Harper, Jill Klaehn and Janet Nestico joined Barbara Steep and Allan Hux in the spring. Margaret and Jill have experience on previous Ministry and Personnel Committees at Fairlawn. Janet is a member in the Lawrence community and brings business experience to our group's reflections.

We were delighted to welcome Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts to Fairlawn and to work closely with him. In the fall, the committee hosted a lunch so that staff and committee members could get to know one another and share information and concerns. Also in the fall, Rev. Jean Ward's call was extended from June 30 to December 31, 2023, and again to June 30, 2024. We are very pleased to have Jean continue to support our spiritual and worship journeys.

In 2024, we expect to add some new part-time staff to support our technical online worship services and social media outreach to the broader community. Please help us welcome and support these people when they arrive at Fairlawn.

—Allan Hux and Barbara Steep, Co-Chairs

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fairlawn's trustees hold the building at 28 Fairlawn Avenue in trust for the congregation and oversee the congregation's investment portfolio of roughly \$3.3M. This includes funds set aside for specific purposes (for example, Social Justice and the Lucas-Sanders Fund, which provided \$500 to each of five students to help with their post-secondary expenses) as well as the support of Church operations through our Legacy Fund. The overall portfolio grew in 2023, despite transfers to Church operations exceeding bequests received during the year.

2023 saw the United Church of Canada transition us to a captive insurance program, with almost identical coverage but at lower cost.

In March the Trustees entered a listing agreement with Royal LePage Real Estate Services to provide services through their agent, Susan Iriarte, who is a specialist in advising churches. Steve Dunk and Vicki Stuart spent many hours in touring the building with the agent, debriefing after viewings, and meeting with prospective tenants. In the fall, revisions to the listing agreement were approved by the Trustees. This led to us concluding a lease for a portion of our building, effective March 1, 2024.

Steve received input from the Negotiating Team which had been struck in 2022 and consisted of John Wilkinson, Tom Salisbury, Kathy Salisbury, John Kimmel and Morrey Ewing. The Negotiating Team provided support to Steve and Vicki throughout the process.

Major bequests to the Legacy fund totalled roughly \$365,000 this year. These individuals will all be acknowledged at the AGM, and we are deeply grateful to them. Please do consider the possibility of leaving a bequest to Fairlawn, as part of your own estate plan.

—Tom Salisbury, Chair



SEARCH COMMITTEE

GROWING INTO A DYNAMIC FUTURE

In October of 2022, the Search Committee was given a mandate to recruit a new minister who could inspire, support and challenge us as a congregation. In May of 2023, the Search Committee successfully converted that mandate into reality.

Over the course of 21 meetings in about seven months, the Committee:

- reviewed the profiles and performances of 128 potential candidates;
- evaluated 32 applications against a rubric/criteria guide created to help us evaluate each candidate's strengths against our needs; and
- conducted four initial interviews via Zoom and three second interviews on an in-person basis.

Each of Jim Barr, Doug Crozier, Maureen Davey, Sandy Giles Byrne, Jill Klaehn, Susan Vincent, and Derek Wishart contributed to the result that saw our community of faith call Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts to Fairlawn in late May. Cam's time with us started in September and over the balance of the year he and the congregation began the process of getting to know each other. We look forward to a collaborative partnership as we grow out of the COVID years and into a dynamic future together.

—Doug Crozier, Chair



Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts's Covenanted Service

Thank you, all Fairlawners, for the seeds you have sown

The Dream

Let us dream of a church
in which all members know surely and simply God's great love,
and is certain that in the divine heart
we are all known by name.

A church in which
worship is lively and fun as well as reverent and holy;
and we might be moved to dance and laugh;
To be solemn, cry or beat the breast.
Where people know how to pray and enjoy it
frequently and regularly,
privately and corporately,
in silence and in word and song.

Let us dream of a church
without the answers, but still asking the right questions;
with a radically renewed concept and practice of ministry
where there is no clerical status and no classes of Christians
where members, not dependent on professionals,
know what's what and who's who in the Bible.
And all sheep share in the shepherding.

A church so deeply rooted in gospel and tradition
that like a living tree it can bend in the wind
and surprise us with new blossoms
where there is a wild sowing of seeds
and much rejoicing when they take root,

A church so hope-filled that its worship,
in quality of caring,
in eagerness to reach out to those in need
cannot be contained;
so salty and yeasty that it really would be missed
if no longer around.

An open, caring sharing household of faith
where all find embrace, acceptance and affirmation;
truly loving what the Lord wants
and desiring that promise.

And finally, let us dream of a people called
to recognize all the absurdities in ourselves
and in one another
serious about the call and the mission
but not very serious about ourselves
who, in the company of our Clown Redeemer
can dance and sing
and laugh and cry
in worship, in ministry, and even in conflict.

By the late Bishop Wesley Frensdorff (1982)



FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Fairlawn had an interesting financial year in 2023.

The Operating Deficit for the year was \$(240,406). The budgeted deficit was \$(249,225). The offerings were down \$16,754 from budget and \$35,769 from the prior year. We budgeted \$30,000 in rental revenue which did not materialize. We had a very successful Book Sale that raised \$19,780 versus a budget of \$14,000. Thanks to Jan Schlee and her very large team of volunteers. Expenses were under budget by \$48,203.

When consolidated with the Trustees accounts (which included two large bequests) and changes to the restricted funds, the excess of revenues over expenses for 2023 was \$149,133.

Thanks to all of the Fairlawners who continue to support our Ministry. The Operating highlights are as follows:

	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL
Congregation Offerings	\$365,000	\$348,246
Rental Revenue	30,000	1,555
Other Income	17,500	23,315
Total Revenue	412,500	373,116
Total Expenses	661,725	613,522
OPERATING DEFICIT	(\$249,225)	(\$240,406)

We were blessed with two large bequests in 2023 totaling \$365,000 which is reflected in the Trustee results. Contributions to the various restricted funds continued to be strong at \$131,158, an increase of almost \$30,000 from the prior year. The 5 largest funds were Embrace Action (\$42,554), Camp Scugog (\$19,814), the Eleanor Daley Special Music Fund (\$18,525), St. Lukes (\$18,800) and the Refugee Fund (\$18,866). Mission and Service donations decreased to \$37,269 (2022 - \$44,851).

We had net positive results from the activities that the Trustees oversee. However, there were significant unrealized losses on the portfolio.

Interest and dividends (net of expenses)	\$126,115
Realized net losses & change in investment value	(50,764)
Other income and expenses*	(52,537)
Donations received by Trustees	365,000
TOTAL	\$387,814

*Includes amortization of fixed assets of \$21,741.

Capital expenditures in the year were \$35,098 (2022 - \$15,507).

The combined Operating and Trustee results for 2023 are included in the financial statements, which are provided together with the operating budget for 2024.

We engaged Koster, Spinks & Koster LLP to conduct an independent audit for the 2023 year. Their report is included with the financial statements.

The following is a breakdown of our operating and investment revenues and expenses by category:

