

Dalston-Crown Hill United Church



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

AGM held on January 28, 2024
in person and on Zoom

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MINUTES
Dalston-Crown Hill United Church
Annual General Meeting - January 29, 2023

1. Welcome - Joe Kelly
2. Check for Quorum - Minimum of 10 members required. A Quorum was reached.
3. Motion to grant Adherents right to speak and vote:

Moved by Pat Hastings and seconded by Penny Gow that Adherents be allowed to vote on all matters before the meeting. Carried.
4. Moved by Jim Partridge and seconded by Niel Hickling that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.
5. Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of February 6, 2022:

Moved by Janet Panting and seconded by Gail Hankin that we approve the minutes of the congregational meeting of February 6th, 2022. Carried.
6. Business arising from the Minutes. None
7. Review of the **Annual Report** - We will vote to accept the reports, as a whole, at the end of discussions. The Financial Statement for 2022 and the Budget for 2023 will be handled separately. Thank you to Janet Panting for preparing and to those who contributed to the Report.

Questions from the congregation: Is there a "rule book" about who gets recorded in the Register?
Rev. Will answered that the attending Minister records the entry in the register he uses, which is why we have names in our Register which are not familiar, because Rev. Will was asked to perform the ceremony.

Moved by June Sanderson and seconded by Pat Hastings that we receive the **Annual Report**. Carried.
8. Financial Statement for 2022 and Budget for 2023 - George Isaac

Questions from the congregation: - could interim finance reports be offered to all the congregation to keep them up to date on our financial situation which could possibly change the givings.

Moved by George Isaac and seconded by Al Panting that we approve the **2022 Financial Statement**. Carried.

Questions from the congregation regarding the 2023 Budget: Clarification of the Capital Cost for property.... Al P. responded that there is major work to be done around the front entrance of the church, and also all the windows.
Suggestion was made to add a third column in budget to show "actual" expenditure for previous year.

Moved by George Isaac and seconded by Al Panting that we approve the **2023 Budget**. Carried.
9. Co-operative Ministry Agreement

Moved by Linda Johnston and seconded by Al Panting that we approve the updated Cooperative Ministry Agreement with Forest Home United Church. Carried.
10. Presentation of the Leadership Team, the Formal Committees, and the Ad Hoc Committees, with the Exception of the Trustees which are voted on separately.

Moved by Jim Partridge and seconded by Niel Hickling that we approve the appointments to congregational office as listed in the report of the Nominating Committee. Carried.

11. Trustees: Dalston-Crown Hill United Church; Dalston Union Cemetery; Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery.
 Moved by Pat Hastings and seconded by Linda Johnston that the **list of Trustees provided by the Nominating Committee is approved**. No other individuals can be considered as Trustees. Carried.
12. Covenanting - Reverend Will Haughton
13. Other Business. None.
14. Close of Meeting at 12:05 p.m.

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Dalston-Crown Hill United Church
Agenda for the Annual General Meeting - January 28, 2024

1. Welcome - Joe Kelly
2. Check for Quorum - Minimum of 10 members required.
3. Motion to grant Adherents right to speak and vote:
 Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that **Adherents be allowed to vote on all matters before the meeting**.
4. Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the **Agenda be approved as circulated**.
5. Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of: January 29, 2023
 Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that we **approve the minutes** of the congregational meeting of **January 29, 2023**.
6. Business arising from the Minutes
7. Review of the **Annual Report** for 2023 - We will vote to accept the reports, as a whole, at the end of discussions. The Financial Statement for 2023 and the Budget for 2024 will be handled separately. Thank you to Janet Panting for preparing and to those who contributed to the Report.
 Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that we receive the **Annual Report**.
8. Financial Statement for 2023 and Budget for 2024 - George Isaac
 Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that we approve the **2023 Financial Statement**.
 Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that we approve the **2024 Budget**.
9. Presentation of the Leadership Team, the Formal Committees, and the Ad Hoc Committees, with the Exception of the Trustees which are voted on separately.
 Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that we approve the appointments to congregational office as listed in the report of the Nominating Committee.
10. Trustees: Dalston-Crown Hill United Church; Dalston Union Cemetery; Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery.
 Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the **list of Trustees provided by the Nominating Committee is approved**. No other individuals can be considered as Trustees.
11. Covenanting - Reverend Will Haughton
15. Other Business
16. Close of Meeting

Minister's Report

Each year, in our United Church tradition, the liturgical season after Christmas might as well be known as "Annual Reports". As the calendar turns over, it is once again time to look back with intention at the year that was, while looking forward to more good times in the months ahead. It strikes me that Christmas and Annual Reports have much in common. After all, what do we treasure about Christmas but time with friends, sharing of gifts, good food, meaningful worship, and reflection on the story of God's love-come-into-the-world-in-Jesus?

As I reflect on 2023 in the life of Dalston-Crown Hill and Forest Home United Churches, I am thankful for many joys and blessings which are Christmas-like all year 'round. We have had many good times together at a Murder Mystery, Men's Breakfasts as well as board and card game gatherings and more; we have shared meaningful gifts with one another like prayer shawls, sanctuary decorations, and care packages as well as other less visible acts of humble service; we have enjoyed one another's food along with conversation and laughter around a table; we have gathered to bring the best of ourselves in worship, lifting our hearts and minds to God in praise in Sundays services and open-air hymns sings; we have drawn closer to God through reflecting on stories from the Bible in reflections, Bible studies, Sunday school and 4F.

It is amazing for me to look at our congregations and see not only an amazing diversity of remarkable giftedness but also the passion and generosity with which the people of our churches give of themselves to bless others! For all these things and more, I say "Thank you."

On a recent Epiphany Sunday, we sang a hymn that goes like this, "When the song of the angels is stilled,/when the star in the sky is gone,/ when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,/ the work of Christmas is begun." Please join me in prayer, hopefulness, and expectation as I look forward to seeing what God will accomplish among us in 2024. No doubt there will be challenges to be met, hard work to be done, and the odd disagreement to be discussed, but we can say with confidence that the God who came to humankind at Christmas will continue to strengthen and guide us throughout the year ahead.

Will Houghton

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"... and anyone who dozes off will get a big wake-up kiss from Marmaduke."

From the Church Register

Baptism

	<u>Place of Baptism</u>	<u>Date</u>
ZAIKOS, Peter ZAIKOS, Alexander	Dalston-Crown Hill U.C.	Sept. 17, 2023

Marriages

	<u>Place of Marriage</u>	<u>Date</u>
BENJAMIN, Liam and ORTEGA, Ana	Dalston-Crown Hill U.C.	July 8, 2023
FEHR, Dylan and KENNEDY, Paige	Meaford, ON	July 29, 2023
McLEAN, Mark and LYON, Morgan	Dalston-Crown Hill U.C.	Nov. 18, 2023

Burials

	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Place of Burial</u>
HOWES, James	Jan. 3, 2023	Gormley, ON
KNOWLES, Hilda	Feb. 23, 2023	Dalston Union
SMALL, Norma "Jean"	March 14, 2023	Barrie Union
KUMMER, Shirley	March 31, 2023	Guthrie Cemetery
KIRK, Fredrick	May 5, 2023	Cremation
CALHOUN, James	Sept. 14, 2023	Cremation
D'ANGELO, Dustin	Nov. 6, 2023	Barrie Union
HARRIS, Carl	Nov. 21, 2023	Barrie Union
MORGAN, Hazel	Dec. 29, 2023	

Dear God, we come before you today with grateful hearts for the lives of these people. We thank you for the time that they spent with us, for the memories that we have, and for the love that they shared. We ask that you bless them and keep them in your loving care. May they find peace and comfort in your presence, and may they know that they are loved. We also ask that you bless us as we continue to remember them and honor their memory. Help us to be a source of comfort and support to one another, and may we find strength in our faith and in the knowledge that you are always with us.

We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

The Ministry & Personnel Committee as mandated by the United Church, meets to address concerns, accolades, updates and suggestions that impact the well-being of our minister, our congregation and our church community. Worship, Outreach and Pastoral relations have been identified as key areas of importance in life here at DCH.

Our committee members are June Sanderson, Brian Cloes, Susan Kelly, & Will Haughton.

In our discussions, we ask:

- What is going well?
- What do we need to do more/less of?
- Are there areas of concern? Now what?
- How can we at DCH support our minister in his personal growth and in our congregational journey together?

IN SHORT:

what might we CONTINUE, CHANGE, TWEAK, ADD, or "PUT ON HOLD" as we move forward?

We appreciate that we have a minister who prepares and delivers meaningful, timely Reflections. Our worship time is thoughtful, insightful, inclusive ... and real. We note that Will's visiting and contacting both church members and others in our community is exemplary, and sincerely appreciate his participation in many church events. In turn Will is open to suggestions and feedback and feels well supported by all of us.

Thank you to all who have contributed to our discussions. Please speak (in confidence) to any of our committee if you have comments, questions, concerns or any other feedback that will make DCH an even better place to be!

Submitted by Susan Kelly, M & P Chair

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

Once again it has been my privilege to serve as chair of your Leadership Team. Individually the team members are caring, respectful, and strong. Working together has made us all stronger.

Our congregational Annual Meeting, held on January 29, 2023 was followed by seven formal Leadership Team meetings. At these meetings we received updates from our many Ad Hoc committees (Worship, Building and Property Maintenance, Pastoral Care, Finance, Co-operative Team) as well as Ministry and Personnel, and Trustees, who are mandated to report at each meeting. Any decisions needed between meetings were done by email.

Now that we are able to present full services from the sanctuary, we are seeing increased in-person attendance. Zoom services continue on-line. We are thankful for our team members both at home and in the church for providing our dual service presentation! We are blessed to have Reverend Will lead us in thoughtful, informative, and spiritual worship. His ongoing Pastoral Care visits and calls have been greatly appreciated.

Our very capable secretary, Janet Panting, keeps us up to date and organized. She produces the minutes of our Leadership meetings, prepares our weekly bulletins, sends many “need to know” emails, **and** compiles and produces this Annual Report. Thank you, Janet. Your expert communication skills are appreciated!

Our “Property Guys” (Al Panting, Don Campbell, Niel Hickling, & Brian Honey) have been kept busy maintaining and updating our equipment. The weekly cleaning and sanitizing of the church has been done by this group. They continue to look after the parking lot and the exterior of the church. Thank you for this volunteer work, you are appreciated!

Our finance team lead by George Isaac (Treasurer) and supported by Sheila Knelsen (Envelopes Secretary), and Joe Kelly (banker), keeps us informed and on track. George’s attention to detail reassures us that our finances are in good hands. He notes in our financial statement that we have a surplus this year! George also represents D-CH on Shining Waters Regional Council and the North Central Rural Cluster. Thank you George!

Thank you to our multi-talented Janet Isaac who prepares creative power points for our worship services. She is also our Pastoral Care Leader, aided by Marjorie France. The two Janets (Isaac & Panting) are our chief decorators.

The Co-operative Team members (Al, Susan, and Linda) meet quarterly with Forest Home Reps to ensure smooth organization between two churches.

Music is a strong part of our worship. We are blessed that many talented musicians contribute to our musical ministry. Thank you, Sheila, Eleanore, Brian, Vera, Al, Janet, Don, June, Bernice, and Susan, you are all “key” to our celebration of music!

Our Worship Committee led by Pat Hastings (with June, Vera, Susan, and Gail) has been very active in supporting Reverend Will by arranging readers, candle lighters, preparing for Communion and securing pulpit coverage when needed.

Under the direction of Don Campbell we had another successful “Murder Mystery” and dinner. This was followed by a challenging, enjoyable Car Rally. Other social events, such as Cards and Games days were enjoyed by many.

It is important to note that **all** of the people serving on committees doing God’s work on our behalf are **volunteers**. We are grateful for their commitment in making Dalston-Crown Hill Church a good place to be!

Submitted by Joe Kelly, Chair

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Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless,
but because they’re Priceless!

DALSTON – CROWN HILL CHURCH TRUSTEES

The Trustees Committee is responsible for holding in trust and administering all properties belonging to the pastoral charge.

Will Marshall Insurance continued to be our insurance broker for 2023, and our policy through Commonwell Insurance was renewed in March. The Directors and Officers Liability insurance is covered by the general church.

The Tucc fund that the proceeds from the sale of the manse were invested in for the past 10 years has matured. The \$281,668.32 has been re-invested for another 5 years. All or a portion of the fund may be withdrawn on the December 1st anniversary with a 180 day notice. The fund did well in 2023 generating \$12,675.97, or a 4.5% return on the church's investment.

Our Building Funds are invested at BMO - \$50,000 is in a Return Enhancing GIC with a max/min rate (9%/15%). It has been locked in for 3 years and matures on April 8, 2025. The rest of the Building Funds are in three 12 month GIC's - \$15,000, \$15,000 and \$19,700 with an interest rate of 4.5%. They will mature on March 29, 2024.

It was determined by the Property Committee that the 3 north windows in the church hall basement needed to be replaced. After obtaining quotes, the Trustees selected Complete Windows and Doors Ltd. to replace the windows at a cost of \$2352.60. That work should be completed sometime in the first half of 2024.

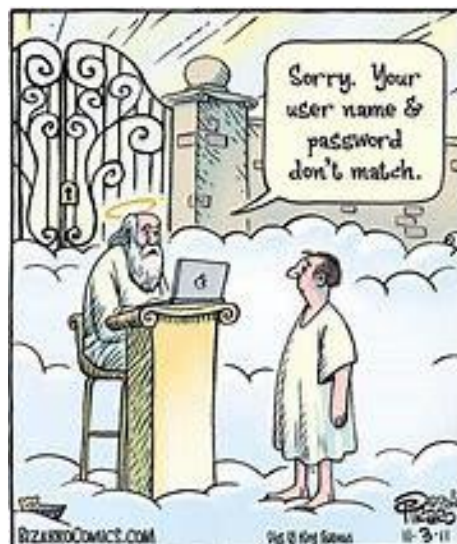
The church roof is in need of painting and the Trustees will be responsible for getting quotes for that. The plan is for the painting to be done in 2024.

Our Property Committee ensures that the church is cared for and maintained. Don Campbell and Al Panting look after the bulk of this work, and special thanks goes out to them.

A sincere thank you to the Trustee Committee members: George Isaac and Al Panting as well as Rev. Will Haughton.

Respectfully submitted by Niel Hickling, Committee Chairperson

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## PASTORAL CARE AND MEMBERSHIP

The year 2023 has gone by and even though the variants of COVID and the winter flu are an issue, the church is open for services and accessible by ZOOM.

It was a sad farewell to Hazel Morgan. She was very active in our Church and loved by all. Hazel's Celebration of Life was held on January 4, 2024. Our condolences to Les (husband), Peter (son), Paul (son) and Lisa (daughter), and her grandchildren.

Our committee continued to extend pastoral care to members and adherents. Cards were sent, phone calls were made, and help was offered. Christmas emails with Christmas Eve service schedule, ZOOM information and Rev. Will's Christmas letter were sent. To those without emails, a Christmas card was sent with the same information.

Ten Christmas baskets were prepared and delivered with the help of members of our loving congregation.

At present, the committee members for the year 2023 will be Janet Isaac (contact person), and Marjorie France (cards). We have been very appreciative of the help that other congregation members have given.

We encourage our church members to advise our committee if they know of anyone that is a concern and may need our assistance.

submitted by Janet Isaac

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## Decorating Committee

Each year our committee decorates the church with seasonal flowers and special decorations fitting for each holiday or special day. These include Christmas, Valentines Day, Easter, Canada Day, Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day.

There is a website that lists each Canadian Holiday or Special Day in 2023. This website can be informative but mostly amusing. How could we get anything done if we celebrated each one? Have a look at the following website. <https://www.calendar.com/canada/observances-2023/>

The J 'n J Decorating Committee is looking forward to adding to the atmosphere of the sanctuary in 2024.

Janet Isaac and Janet Panting

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How many of each animal did Moses bring onto the ark?

None! Moses was never even on the ark!

Come on, didn't you Noah that?



*“Use what talent you been given.  
The woods would be very silent if no birds  
sang except those that sang best.”  
Henry Van Dyke*

CHOIR: We “Bring the Sing”!

We are Ten....yes TEN songsters who enthusiastically share our variety of musical skills and talents on Sunday mornings.  
We respectfully acknowledge that what you hear from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, is nothing close to what we do!  
Music can bring back memories, transport us to another place and time, comfort us, and completely change our state of mind.  
For us, happiness is singing and praising together.

Did you ever consider that Choir might be the ultimate, low impact team sport?  
If singing is good for us, then singing with others may be even better, and sharing our faith and joy with all in our church family....well that is the best!  
Thank you for your support...maybe even consider joining us as we  
“Bring the Sing”!

## Cooperative Ministry Committee Report

This is a joint committee consisting of 3 members from each of the churches – Dalston-Crown Hill and Forest Home, and the Minister. The members are Linda Johnston, Susan Kelly and Al Panting from D-CH and Audrey Cando, Debbie Hamilton, and Esther Kelly from FH. Al Panting and Debbie Hamilton serve as Co-Chairs.

We met 3 times during the year to monitor the Cooperative Agreement and plan coordination of services. We discussed the scheduling of services for the Church Season i.e., Lent, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Advent, and Christmas. The Communion Schedule was established.

This committee looked at Rev Will's Vacation and Study Leave requests and advised the Worship committees so they can arrange pulpit supply. Rev. Will did a pulpit exchange on Feb 12, 2023, at Westmount UC to allow communion to be served. The committee agreed by consensus that we were receptive to the idea of a Pulpit exchange with Bethel Community Church, Barrie.

In 2022, the Cooperative Agreement was reviewed and revised. The Revised Cooperative Agreement was passed at the 2023 Annual Meetings of both Dalston-Crown Hill and Forest Home.

During the summer, we held joint church services for 6 weeks. The services were held at each church and available over Zoom. This allowed the volunteers at each church time off. Each church was responsible for arranging half of the services. Dalston-Crown Hill was responsible for services July 30, August 6, and August 13 at 1030 AM while Forest Home was responsible for August 20, and August 27 and Sept 3 at 9 AM.

We discussed communication processes. Topics included making the worship committee aware of pulpit supply needs, issues at either of congregation or cancelling church because of weather.

Information about activities at each congregation were shared. This included concerts, 4 F, Meditation group and Games nights at Forest Home and Men's Breakfast and Cards/Board Games Social Time at D-CH. Chit Chat Sip'n Snack, Speaker Series, and Reskilling workshops have not resumed. Each church held a summer outdoor hymn sign.

We planned our annual meetings for 2024. Dalston-Crown Hill 's Annual meeting will be held on January 28, 2024, and Forest Home's on February 4, 2024. Both congregations will conduct their annual meetings at the regular worship time.

The Cooperative Ministry Process is working well between our two congregations. All members of the committee are respectful of the needs of each congregation and work in cooperation. Rev Will is a valuable part of this process.

Al Panting Co-Chair

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A man goes out ice fishing one morning. He reaches the ice and is about to cut a hole in it when he hears a voice from above: "There are no fish here."

The fisherman is shocked but gets up and moves to another spot. As he's about to cut a hole, he hears a voice from above again, "There are no fish here either."

He gets up and moves to a third spot. Before he's even finished walking, the voice says, "I'm telling you, there are no fish here."

The fisherman says, "God, how can you be so sure there aren't any fish here?"

The voice replies, "This is the ice rink manager"

## Worship Committee Report

"Psalm 100 :2,3 *"Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture."*

Throughout 2023 our community of faith at Dalston-Crown Hill has been led in joyous worship by our minister Rev. Will Haughton, assisted by our musical team of Susan Kelly, Vera Cloes and our enthusiastic choir members. Our worship experiences have been enabled and enriched by all participants from the Zoom Team who learned new skills to keep our services "on the air" every Sunday, those who read scripture, lit our Peace and Christ candles, those who agree to serve on the Leadership Team and other necessary committees, as well as the volunteers who willingly offer their talent and time in other ways. As each of us find our own way to contribute to our church family we strengthen our bonds of Christian love, care and respect, and possibly lighten someone else's share. We pray God's blessings upon these faithful servants who are using their God-given talents to bless our congregation as a whole.

Colossians 3:12 *"Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another and forgive each other if any of you has a grievance against someone"*

Within our worship services in 2023 Rev. Will and our supply ministers have instructed us and encouraged us to grow in our faith. They have stressed the importance of individual, private devotions and Bible Study; used examples from the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to illustrate God's love, care, faithfulness and grace - always seeking to stimulate growth in our individual faith journeys so that our Christian walks will shine a brighter light in our own corners of the world.

Rev. Will has made group Bible Studies at Lent and Advent available to all to increase our understanding and deepen our experience of these two major seasons of our church year. Another benefit of these group studies is that participants reveal more of their spiritual selves and their ideas can help others in the group to refine and sharpen our own thoughts and understandings as well as to consider other viewpoints.

Worship Committee: Susan Kelly, Vera Cloes, Gail Hankin, June Sanderson,  
Pat Hastings, Rev. Will Haughton

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## Property Report

This past year has seen an increase in activities after having experienced many Covid restrictions: We started off with a Murder Mystery evening of entertainment featuring a chilli dinner. Six Men's Breakfasts took place (Mar., May, June, Sept. & Nov). Attendance is growing back to the pre-covid numbers and this is a great fellowship event with men gathering from 4 churches and the community.

The Women's Institutes (Guthrie WI and Crown Hill WI) held a May meeting and an Autumn Tea in Oct. hosted by Guthrie WI, and the Crown Hill Women's Institute held a 'Community Social' in Dec. Crown Hill WI are now planning a Mar 20, 2024 evening event in our hall.

In Apr. the local Hiking Group held their annual meeting and pot-luck supper gathering.

A Bridal Shower took place in April. Then two weddings – one in July and the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Nov.

In May, a Bidwell family birthday celebration took place here.

Also in May, The Vehicle Rally headed out from here and returned on completion for refreshments.

In August, the Marshall family celebrated Bob and Lois's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in our hall.

Three congregation social times were arranged for Cards and Games which were open to the community and friends – in April, Oct and Nov.

Again in 2023 we made our hall available to the Bone Zone exercise group with a spring and fall session. They met at 9a.m. and 10:15a.m. on Monday and Friday mornings for the 10 week sessions.

So what did the Property committee do besides set up and take down stuff for the various events?

Regular sweeping up of flies & lady bugs is done and weekly vacuuming performed.

Sound adjustments and improvements were performed for Zoom presentation including purchase of a new microphone installed in Choir area.

A new small table was constructed by Cameron Isaac which has the Ukraine support symbols on it.

During one of the snow plowings of #93, the hydraulic wing splattered the front of the church causing several dark marks on the stucco finish. Between Don and the rains these marks were cleared.

The fibre cable strung across parking lot was replaced with buried cable and a new WIFI receiver was installed by Bell.

A minor water leak again in the downstairs storage room necessitated another roof caulking.

An adjustment was made to the front door which hopefully helps the door latch when it is used to exit the building.

Outdoor weed control from the Kitchen door to the front steps was done.

In June a much-needed cleaning of the upstairs took place with our thanks to Susan for obtaining a contractor to perform this work and in a timely manner.

Stucco painting that started prior to Covid was completed. You may recall the top section of the North wall on the West end escaped the original paint bee.

A new thermostat with battery backup was installed for the hall furnace.

Work was performed on the Hall windows on the North side and were able to be opened. 2024 will find new windows installed to replace the old deteriorating ones.

Installation of shelves in the lower storage room is in process.

Quarterly Water Sample testing is done. We did experience a waterline leakage at point of supply but this was repaired. The outside water tap has been shut off for the winter.

Geoff McLean did the parking lot snow removal and continues to do so this winter.

In 2024 besides the 3 hall window replacements, the church roof and part of the kitchen roof will be painted.

We appreciate the assistance in keeping the church building functioning.

Al Panting, Niel Hickling, Don Campbell and Brian Honey – your Property Committee



## North Simcoe Rural Cluster Report 2023

The North Simcoe Rural Cluster met via Zoom 4 times during 2023. The meetings are a good time to discover how the other cluster churches are functioning, and we discuss how we might interact with each other. Each meeting usually has a theme for discussion and the chair and secretary rotate among those attending.

The formal membership consists of United Churches: Dalston-Crown Hill, Forest Home, Midhurst, Unity (Vasey), St. John's (Elmvale), St. Paul's (Midland) and Wyevale. Dalston-Crown Hill does the banking for the North Simcoe Rural Cluster Speaker Fund. The funds are mainly designated for lectures or live events hosted by the Cluster, with a balance of \$4843 as of December 31<sup>st</sup>.

You can find out more about the Cluster on our Web site at: <https://northsimcoeruralcluster.ca/> . All are welcome to attend the meetings. If you want to be added to the email distribution list, let me know.

- George Isaac

## SHINING WATERS REGION

The Annual Regional Council Meeting was held virtually online and in-person over May 26 to 28. Detailed descriptions of this meeting, as well as Region Commission and Committee meetings can be found on the Region Web site (<https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/>. ) A general meeting was held on September 19<sup>th</sup> and the Region approved Remit 1 to establish an *autonomous National Indigenous Organization*. **The governing body of every pastoral charge also needs to vote on this remit by March 31, 2024.** If our pastoral charge does not fill out and return a ballot, it is considered a vote against the remit.

*A new Finance Committee, which Dalston-Crown Hill was influential in creating, has now been formed. However, there still is reluctance to be open about the Region finances, such as listing assets held in bank accounts and property. Hopefully, this will change over time.*

As your representative, I forward communications sent out by the Region and General Council to Leadership Team members. If you want to be included on this list, let me know. Many Webinars are done via Zoom, and I have found the ones held on Congregational Finances particularly useful, as do the several hundred participants across the country. You can find more Webinars on other church topics at <https://united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars> . Registration is now done through "CHURCHx," another of the new Websites being used by UCC.

George Isaac  
Elected Lay Representative to Shining Waters Region for 2023

## DALSTON UNION CEMETERY TRUSTEES

This committee of trustees is responsible for holding in trust funds for the administering and maintaining Dalston Union Cemetery. The members are Joe Kelly - Chairperson, Scott Brown - Treasurer, Alvin Jory - Secretary, Corry Wursten, and Gary McLean. Al Panting is a member and is the liaison trustee to Dalston-Crown Hill United Church.

We had a number of meetings during the year to deal with the business of maintaining and servicing the Dalston Union Cemetery. The majority of these meetings have dealt with the gathering of information for the computer digitizing of records and documents for future storage. Alvin Jory and Scott Brown have been instrumental in this process. In May we had our yearly "Clean-Up" day in preparation for our Memorial Service held in June. Thank you to all trustees for taking an active part in maintaining the cemetery.

Our Financial Report shows that we have two accounts. The first is considered to be our "working chequing account" and it is used for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery. It is from this account the trustees contribute \$1,000 to Dalston-Crown Hill U.C. for the cemetery's share of the insurance costs. As of November 30, 2023 this account had a balance of \$26,985.00. Our second account is for investments, mainly G.I.C.'s, and is there for the future perpetual care of the cemetery.

On Sunday, June 3rd our Annual Memorial Service was held. Over forty family members from the community, Barrie, Craighurst, and the surrounding area attended. We would like to thank Al Panting for the candles of remembrance, and Reverend Will Haughton for conducting the service. We will be holding our next Memorial Service on Sunday, June 2nd and all members of the church and community are invited to attend.

The Dalston Union Cemetery Trustees appreciate and thank the members of the church congregation and community for their continued support.

Submitted by Joe Kelly, Chair

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A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom as the children drew pictures. The teacher would occasionally walk around and see each child's artwork. As she approached one little girl working especially hard, she asked what the drawing was.

The little girl told her: "I'm drawing God!"

"But sweetie," the teacher replied, "no one knows what God looks like."

Automatically, the little girl continued drawing and said: "Well, they certainly will in a minute!"



## Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery

The Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery was originally a 2 acre plot of land established in 1844 by the Lawrence family. It is located on Penetanguishene Rd south of Georgian Drive and now adjacent to Hospice Simcoe. It was one of the first cemeteries in this area and the resting place to our "Hickling ancestors".

No perpetual maintenance funds exist for the cemetery and all records were lost in a house fire back in the 1950's. Trustees from the Dalston-Crown Hill United Church are responsible for the care and maintenance of this inactive cemetery.

An Archaeologist's excavation of the rear portion of the property in 2012 determined no burials were made in that area. An agreement was then entered into with Hospice Simcoe who purchased that portion and it now serves as a parking lot with an area for future potential development to meet their needs. Plans exist to develop walking trails on the wooded portion of this site with park benches placed to provide walkers the opportunity to stop and relax or meditate. Some preliminary investigation of trail positioning and suitable benches have been done and hopefully 2024 will see progress on this endeavour.

2023 was a routine year with the normal grass cutting, trimming and a couple tree removals were done. Attention has to be given to the aging pine trees to ensure there is no danger of any falling and causing injury to walkers in the area.

There were no major issues or concerns this past year. No joint meetings with Hospice Simcoe were necessary.

A usual gathering of volunteers (Crown Hill WI) to gather fallen branches and any debris that had gathered over the winter did not happen in 2023 due to conflicting events. We look forward to a renewal of this work bee in the spring.

The Trustee Board are still willing to be financially supportive to the church should this be necessary for programming and/or marketing plans, or funding of Speaker Workshops.

Expenses related to yard maintenance in 2023 which was carried out by the Hickling family were \$474.60

Financial Position Dec 31, 2023

|               |                               |                           |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$ 22,077.61  | Current Chequing Account      |                           |
| \$109,719.55  | 14 Month GIC                  | Maturity Nov 2024         |
| \$ 240,000.00 | 5 Year Market Fund Investment | Maturity Date Mar 1, 2027 |
| \$ 51,002.64  | 5 Year Market Fund Investment | Maturity Date Mar 1, 2027 |

Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery Trustees  
Al Panting, Niel Hickling, Pat Richards

## FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

What a financially successful year 2023 has been! We have gone from having a substantial deficit of over \$12,600.00 to a **surplus** of \$4,861. At the beginning of the year we were uncertain of the economic times and had prepared for another deficit, but that didn't happen! The congregation at Dalston-Crown Hill came through. Your total givings were up considerably from the previous year.

There are a number of other factors that also contributed to this surplus as well. The number of identifiable givers has increased considerably. This was the result of new people attending and previous givers returning to Dalston. We also had a number of members increase their offerings.

We did not have any major fundraising events, but we did have some other substantial sources of income: Men's Breakfasts \$1860; Murder Mystery, Car Rally, Cards/Games \$1360; Hall Use Donations \$2,265, and Bone Zone Donations \$2775. There was also a significant increase in returns from our Tucc Manse Investment.

We would like to thank our Treasurer, George Isaac, who does a great job of keeping our financial records and providing regular reports to our Leadership Team and to the congregation. We would like to thank our Envelopes Secretary, Sheila Knelsen, for keeping excellent records of individual givings. Finally, thank you to members of our congregation who continue to make their regular offerings by cash, cheque, PAR, and E-transfer.

At Dalston-Crown Hill we are blessed to have many members who share their talents, gifts, skills, wisdom, and financial resources. **We are thankful!**

Submitted by Joe Kelly

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## MEET, GREET, AND EAT MEN'S BREAKFASTS

They came from Barrie, Midhurst, and Orillia! They came from the township of Oro-Medonte! The men of Dalston-Crown Hill hosted **six** Men's Breakfasts at Dalston-Crown Hill United Church. These outreach breakfasts were for men of the congregations and the surrounding communities. We were able to serve twenty-five to thirty-five men an excellent meal of eggs, sausages, home fries, toast, and beverages at each of these breakfasts. A "Free Will Offering", (Over \$1,800) was given to support the activities and programs of the church.

We would like to thank Al Panting, Don Campbell, Niel Hickling, Charles Style, Cameron Isaac, and Reverend Will for their help in preparing and serving the meal. We would also to thank the men of the congregations and the communities for their continued support. It is our intent to hold these breakfasts on a bi-monthly basis, beginning in January. All men are welcome!

Submitted by Joe Kelly

## **Dalston-Crown Hill Treasurer's Report for 2023** **January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023**

- 1) We ended 2023 with a surplus of \$4861. This compares to the substantial 2022 deficit of \$12,636 and a surplus of \$6904 in 2021. We have only run a deficit once since 2017 and 2022 was an exception because of us coming out of COVID, with a resulting loss in government subsidies, and the extremely low interest rates on our investments.
- 2) Our total givings (PAR, Collection Plate, eTransfers, Canada Helps, etc.) for 2023 were \$53,423 which compares favourably with 2022 ((\$48,716) and 2021 (\$47,038).
- 3) The number of Identified Givers to Local Church Expenses was 39, considerably up from 31 in 2022 and 32 in 2021. Sheila Knelsen, our Envelope Secretary, explained the increase from 31 to 39 as a "combination of new people attending, previous givers who have increased their donations to over \$50 and a couple of previous givers not contributing this year and a couple of previous givers that did contribute this year."
- 4) The number of givers to M&S went down to 6 from 7 last year and 8 in 2021. The M&S donations in 2023 were \$3610 in comparison to \$3830 in 2022 and \$3885 in 2021.
- 5) It should be mentioned that \$8260 was raised from the Men's Breakfast, Murder Mystery, Rally, Cards/Games and Hall Use Donations, including Bone Zone. This is a substantial source of income.
- 6) The \$445 donated for the Camping Fund in 2023 was unspent and is being held as a special Youth fund for 2024, to possibly help send a child to camp.
- 7) The three downstairs windows on the north side are being replaced in early 2024. A deposit of \$705.78 was required and paid in 2023. This expense will ultimately be taken out of the Building Fund.
- 8) Dalston-Crown Hill is managing/tracking the money for the North Simcoe Rural Cluster. There is \$4843 listed under our bank balances which are funds designated for the Cluster, primarily for payments to invited Speakers (Speaker Funds).
- 9) The chequing account bank balance for December 31<sup>st</sup> has been adjusted to reflect 2023 expenses or payments made in 2024, the creation of the special Youth fund and the expense set aside to be paid from the Building Fund.
- 10) It takes many people to manage the church finances. I greatly appreciate the help of Donna Sanderson, Treasurer for Forest Home, who handles the interactions with ADP and the associated payment of salaries. Thanks to Joe Kelly, Chair of the Finance Committee, who also does the banking deposits after the collection on Sundays. Sheila Knelsen, our Envelope Secretary provided the numbers of identifiable givers and confirmed the 2023 Current and M&S donation amounts from her separate bookkeeping. In addition, Joe Kelly and Al Panting agreed to help me as Treasurer in 2023 and have full access to our financial records online using Quickbooks.

George Isaac,  
Treasurer, Dalston-Crown Hill United Church  
January 13, 2024

Dalston-Crown Hill Income/Expense Summary  
**January 1 to December 31, 2023**

|                                                                  |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of Identified Givers to Local Church Expenses - 39        |                    |
| Number of Households in the Above - 38                           |                    |
| Number of Identified Givers to Mission and Service Fund - 6      |                    |
| Income                                                           | Actual             |
| BMO INTEREST                                                     |                    |
| BMO Operating Savings                                            | 683.15             |
| Building Fund (Includes Interest from GICs cashed in March)      | 331.65             |
| COLLECTION                                                       |                    |
| Canada Helps                                                     | 240.00             |
| Current - Other                                                  | 44,444.00          |
| Loose                                                            | 549.00             |
| Par                                                              | 8,190.00           |
| Dr. William's Trust (includes \$50 from last year's lost cheque) | 100.00             |
| Memorial Donations                                               | 690.00             |
| Fundraising General (Murder Mystery, Rally, Cards/Games)         | 1,360.00           |
| GST Rebate                                                       | 643.94             |
| Hall Use Donations Other                                         | 2,265.00           |
| Men's Breakfast                                                  | 1,860.00           |
| Hall Use Donations Bone Zone                                     | 2,775.00           |
| Camping Fund                                                     | 445.00             |
| TUCC Manse Investment                                            | 12,675.97          |
| <b>Total Income</b>                                              | <b>\$77,252.71</b> |
| Expense                                                          |                    |
| CALENDARS AND BROADVIEW                                          |                    |
|                                                                  | 0.00               |
| CHARGES ADP, BANK, PAR                                           |                    |
|                                                                  | 588.16             |
| GENERAL COMMITTEES                                               |                    |
| Pastoral Care                                                    | 497.89             |
| Worship Decorations                                              | 104.12             |
| Worship One License                                              | 273.00             |
| GIFTS                                                            |                    |
|                                                                  | 213.00             |
| INSURANCE (Includes \$1000 from Cemetery Board)                  |                    |
|                                                                  | 2,610.44           |
| MINISTER EXPENSES                                                |                    |
| Total                                                            | 6,627.01           |
| FH Portion                                                       | -3,281.47          |
| MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL                                           |                    |
| Minister Salary                                                  |                    |
| Minister ADP                                                     | 93,205.40          |
| Minister FH Portion (Includes ADP Fee)                           | -43,712.41         |
| Secretary Salary                                                 | 1,738.33           |
| Supply Ministry                                                  |                    |
| DCH Supply Ministry                                              | 1,500.00           |
| FH Supply Ministry                                               | -750.00            |

|                                                                        |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| OFFICE EXPENSES                                                        |                    |
| Stationary and Supplies                                                | 149.83             |
| Postage and Delivery                                                   | 20.79              |
| PROPERTY COMMITTEE                                                     |                    |
| Bell Internet                                                          | 1,040.06           |
| Cleaning Services                                                      | 339.00             |
| Elevator Expenses                                                      | 1,314.18           |
| Fuel                                                                   | 2,736.50           |
| Furnace                                                                | 247.26             |
| Hydro                                                                  | 1,168.61           |
| Property Other (Supplies, CO2 monitors)                                | 257.51             |
| Snow Removal                                                           | 360.00             |
| Water                                                                  | 390.00             |
| YOUTH CAMPING (Carried over to 2023)                                   | 445.00             |
| TECHNOLOGY (Choir Mic, Virus Software, Quickbooks renewal and upgrade) | 1,305.33           |
| UNITED CHURCH ASSESSMENT (Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4)                           | 3,004.00           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                                  | <b>\$72,391.54</b> |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                                                      | <b>\$4,861.17</b>  |

|                                                                                                                                                    |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| M&S                                                                                                                                                |              |
| Envelope                                                                                                                                           | \$2,230.00   |
| PAR M&S                                                                                                                                            | \$1,380.00   |
| Total Remitted to UCC                                                                                                                              | \$3,610.00   |
| Building Fund Expense (Basement Windows Deposit for 2024)                                                                                          | \$705.78     |
| Youth Fund (Carry Over from 2023)                                                                                                                  | \$445.00     |
| Bank Balances as of November 30, 2023                                                                                                              |              |
| BMO Chequing (adjusted for year end)                                                                                                               | \$28,399.37  |
| BMO Investment Savings                                                                                                                             | \$23,767.22  |
| BMO Building Fund                                                                                                                                  | \$90.37      |
| BMO Building Fund: Three 12 month GICs: \$15,000, \$15,000 and \$19,700. Interest Rate: 4.5% Issue Date 29 March 2023, Maturity Date 1 April 2024. | \$49,700.00  |
| BMO Building Fund: Return Enhancing GIC Max/Min Rate for term 9%/0.15%. Locked for 3 y term. Matures April 8, 2025.                                | \$50,000.00  |
| BMO Investment Speaker Funds                                                                                                                       | \$4,843.48   |
| Manse Investment with TUCC                                                                                                                         | \$281,688.32 |
| *Tangerine Funds have been moved to BMO (\$14.45 left)                                                                                             |              |

Jan 13/24

| Dalston Crown Hill Pastoral Charge Finance Statement |                 |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2024 Budget                                          |                 |                 |
|                                                      | 2023 Budget     | 2024 Budget     |
|                                                      | \$              | \$              |
| <b>INCOME</b>                                        |                 |                 |
| Offerings (Current, Loose, PAR)                      | 50,000          | \$50000         |
| Special Donations                                    |                 |                 |
| Outreach/Bequests/Memorials                          | 1,000           | 1000            |
| Dalston Union Cmtry (Insurance)                      | 1,500           | 1000            |
| Bank Interest                                        | 1,000           | 3000            |
| Dr. Williams Fund                                    | 50              | 50              |
| Fundraising Activities                               |                 |                 |
| Miscellaneous Fundraising                            | 0               | 1200            |
| Men's Breakfast                                      | 2,000           | 1800            |
| GST Rebate                                           | 800             | 1000            |
| Youth                                                | 500             | 500             |
| Hall Use (Bone Zone, Community Use, etc.)            | 3,500           | 4500            |
| Manse Investment                                     | 11,000          | 14000           |
| <b>INCOME TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>\$71,350</b> | <b>\$78,050</b> |
|                                                      |                 |                 |
|                                                      | 2023 Budget     | 2024 Budget     |
|                                                      | \$              | \$              |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                                  |                 |                 |
| Bank Charge, ADP, PAR                                | 500             | \$600           |
| Benevolent Funds                                     | 300             | 300             |
| Gifts Given                                          | 200             | 200             |
| Honorarium                                           | 500             | 500             |
| <b>COMMITTEES</b>                                    |                 |                 |
| Communication                                        | 200             | 200             |
| Christian Ed & Faith Formation<br>(Camp/Gen)         | 200             | 200             |
| Pastoral Care & Membership                           | 500             | 550             |
| Decorations                                          |                 | 200             |
| Property (General)                                   | 1,000           | 1600            |
| Property (Elevator)                                  | 1,300           | 1500            |
| Property (Snow Removal)                              | 400             | 450             |
| Trustees                                             |                 |                 |
| Worship: General i.e. Communion                      | 200             | 200             |
| Worship: Fellowship                                  | 100             | 100             |

|                                                 |                 |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Worship: Guest Speaker/Music/License            | 300             | 100             |
| Worship: Supply Ministry                        | 1,000           | 750             |
| Youth                                           | 500             | 500             |
| Insurance                                       | 4,000           | 4000            |
| Minister Expenses                               |                 |                 |
| Travel Expense                                  | 1,500           | 1500            |
| Telephone                                       | 600             | 600             |
| Office Expenses                                 | 100             | 100             |
| Con Ed \$1643/2 for 2023                        | 772             | 820             |
| Other                                           | 300             | 200             |
| Salary Rev. Will                                | 39,004          | 44309           |
| Minister Benefits (Pension, EI, CPP, Insurance) | 9,980           | 11237           |
| Secretary COLA 6.3%                             | 1,854           | 1971            |
| Secretary Benefits (EI)                         | 42              | 33              |
| Leadership Team Secretary Expenses              | 200             | 200             |
| Postage and Delivery                            | 100             | 100             |
| Shining Waters Region Assessment                | 3,004           | 3183            |
| Stationary & Supplies                           | 300             | 300             |
| Technology                                      | 1,300           | 1300            |
| UTILITIES                                       |                 |                 |
| Fuel                                            | 2,000           | 2200            |
| Furnace Service                                 | 250             | 250             |
| Hydro                                           | 1,200           | 1200            |
| Bell Hub/Internet                               | 900             | 1000            |
| Water                                           | 560             | 500             |
|                                                 |                 |                 |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                       | <b>\$75,166</b> | <b>\$82,953</b> |
|                                                 |                 |                 |
| <b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>                        | <b>-\$3,816</b> | <b>-\$4903</b>  |
|                                                 |                 |                 |
| <b>Total Mission &amp; Service</b>              | <b>\$3,500</b>  | <b>\$3200</b>   |
|                                                 |                 |                 |
| Capital Costs                                   |                 |                 |
| Property-Roof Painting                          |                 | \$5500          |
| Property-Basement Windows                       |                 | \$2500          |
| Property-Church Computer                        |                 | \$800           |

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2024

The Nomination Committee has produced a slate of candidates for the Leadership Team. We have also had a number of our members volunteer to serve on a number of Committees. This was greatly appreciated by the Nominating Committee.

### THE LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024

Chairperson - Joe Kelly

Minister - Rev. Will Haughton

Trustee Rep - Neil Hickling

Treasurer & Past Chair - George Isaac

M & P Rep - Susan Kelly

Secretary - Janet Panting

Member at Large - Al Panting

Member at Large - Pat Hastings

Member Large - Janet Isaac

Member Large - Gord Gow

### Formal Committees

Ministry & Personnel: Susan Kelly (Chair), June Sanderson, Brian Cloes

Trustees: Dalston Crown Hill Trustees: Neil Hickling (Chair), Al Panting, George Isaac

Dalston Union Cemetery Trustees: Joe Kelly (Chair), Scott Brown,

Corry Wursten, Alvin Jory, Al Panting, Gary McLean

Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery Trustees: Al Panting, Neil Hickling, Pat Richards

Region Representatives: George Isaac, (Alternate - Joe Kelly)

Co-operative Ministry Team: Al Panting, Susan Kelly, Vera Cloes

Debbie Hamilton (F. H.), Esther Kelly (F. H.), Audrey Cando (F.H.)

### Ad Hoc Committees

Christian Education: Pat Hastings

Communications: Janet Panting, George Isaac, Janet Isaac (Power Point)

Decorations: Janet Isaac, Janet Panting

Finance: George Isaac, Joe Kelly, Al Panting, Sheila Knelsen (Envelopes' Secretary)

Mission and Outreach:

Property Management: Al Panting, Neil Hickling, Don Campbell, Brian Honey

Pastoral Care: Janet Isaac (Contact), Marjorie France

Worship: Pat Hastings, Susan Kelly (Music and Choir Director)

Vera Cloes (Music), June Sanderson, Gail Hankin

- Respectfully Submitted by: Joe Kelly, George & Janet Isaac. Pat Hastings