

Reports for the
Annual General Meeting
of the
Church of St Mark & St Peter



February 26, 2023

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Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Opening Prayer
3. Explanation of Zoom process (requests to speak, voting)
4. Appointment of Recording Secretary
5. Review of Agenda
6. Review of Minutes from the AGM 2022, and vote to approve
7. Reports, discussion, and vote to receive
8. Rector's appointments
9. Nominations and votes
9. Financial Statements for 2022, and vote to approve
10. Budget for 2023, and vote to approve
11. Other business
12. Benediction

The Church of St. Mark & St. Peter
MINUTES OF AGM
Sunday, February 22, 2022

1 Opening Prayer

Chris Barrigar opened the meeting at 11:49pm and led the opening prayer. 39 parishioners in attendance with eligibility to vote according to Canon 26.

2 Zoom Instructions

The meeting was held on Zoom. Voting instructions were given for those online and by phone.

3 Review of Agenda

Typographical error was noted. Minutes from the AGM 2020 should be 2021.

4 Election of AGM Clerk

June Lashley will be the recording secretary. She is not in attendance but will take notes of the meeting from the recording. **CARRIED**

5 Minutes of the last year's AGM

No questions regarding last year's minutes. Motion to accept the minutes was moved by Chris Barrigar and seconded by Scott Davidson. Motion: **CARRIED**

6 Review of Reports

Chris showed a series of photos from various church activities from 2021. Alex Richards led a discussion regarding personal church highlights from 2021. People shared their gratitude for the various ministries and activities at CMP including, children and youth ministries, book groups and other opportunities to connect with each other. Chris also thanked the tech team for all their hard work. Chris moved to receive the reports: **CARRIED**

Looking forward, Chris shared his thoughts on CMP's four Modes of Mission: Soul care, Society Care, Planet Care, Ecclesia Care. Alex Richards and Stephen Mullin shared their optimism for the coming year.

7 Nominations and Appointments

Alex Richards will be retiring this year.

Nominations by the Parish Leadership Team

People's Warden: Leanne Strauss

Deputy Warden: Luke Bayly
Treasurer: John Slyfield
External Financial Reviewer: Patricia McGovern, CPA
Lay Delegates to Synod: Ekow Intsiful, Antsa Rakotoarisoa

Motion to approve: Moved by Chris Barrigar, seconded by Shanti Jacobs. **CARRIED**

Appointments by the Rector

Rector's Warden: Chris Hoffman
Deputy Warden: Shanti Jacob
Ministry Positions: TBA

Appointments by the PLT

Deputy Warden: Susi Cornett

Parish Leadership Team for 2022:

The Corporation

Chris Barrigar
Leanne Strauss
Chris Hoffman

Deputy Wardens

Luke Bayly
Shanti Jacob
Susi Cornett

8 Financial Review:

John Slyfield presented the financial report for CMP.

Income Statement for 2021

- 2021 ended with a surplus in the areas of enabling ministries and administrative assessment mainly due to pandemic government and diocesan subsid and lower operational cost.
- Open plate offering was down, however more people have been using online giving.
- Worship ministries were up due to the purchase of technical equipment.

Assets & Liabilities

- Cash in Bank was down even with the profit mainly due to building renovation cost of \$90,000.

John Slyfield moved that the Financial Statements be approved.
Berney Creighton seconded.

The floor was opened for questions:

Scott Davidson asked if the building was being rented by other users in order to generate income. Chris replied that was not in 2021, mainly due to Covid restriction but that is the plan for 2022.

Berney Creighton expressed his appreciation for John Slyfield's contribution to the financial work of CMP.

Motion **CARRIED**

Chris thanked those who were at the pre-AGM meeting and contributed input on this year's financial statement.

Budget for 2022

- Chris reviewed the percentage point changes in the area of Worship, Ministry, Mission, Administration and Building. We will be expected to pay the full assessment to the Diocese.
- CMP Budget Highlight for 2022.
 - Rentals should increase as renters pay full rent as Covid restrictions have lifted.
 - Exterior brick work will be paid for from the St. Mark's fund, decreasing the Investment Interest.
 - Budget reflect an increase in identifiable giving by 21%. Leanne Strauss explained the PLT's decision to increase the budget and to, by faith, not reduce operating expenses.

The floor was opened to questions and comments.

- Berney Creighton encouraged further clarity on how the Diocese assessment effects this budget. Chris explained that the Diocese will no longer be receiving government subsidies and that CMP would have to pay the full assessment and salaries.

Chris moved that the budget be accepted. Alex Richards seconded. Motion: **CARRIED**

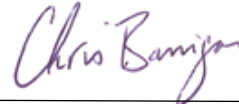
9 **Other Business**

Words of thanks and appreciation to all who helped put together the AGM.

Sam McLaughlin led the benediction at 12:55pm.



June Lashley - Recording Secretary



Rev Chris Barrigar

Rector's Report for 2022 (for AGM 2023)

“O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things.” (Isaiah 25:1)

This is my fourth annual report as Incumbent of the Church of St Mark and St Peter.

Worship

Gathering for public worship is the central act of Christian community, out from which flows all else we do—fellowship, ministry, and mission. Given the centrality of gathering together, it was a relief and joy that last year we were able to worship in our building most of the year, returning to in-person worship last February. And we were able to celebrate all our festival Sundays in our building – for the first time in three years!

Our Sunday services involve a lot of people in numerous different roles. These include greeters, readers, musicians, singers, various tech roles, various communion roles, refreshments, and children and youth teachers and helpers. In addition to our staff team (myself, Di, June, Keith, Stephen), our Service of the Word Sundays (second and fourth Sunday of each month) typically involve 16-18 CMP members in various roles, and our Communion Sundays (first and third Sundays) require six more. Many of our members rotate through all these positions on a monthly or bi-weekly schedule. Then Soup Sundays through the winter require several more people. We also have about eight of our members who are part of our “sermon evaluation teams,” which periodically meet with our preachers (including myself) to give feedback so that we can continue to grow and improve in this ministry.

Of course, our staff team is also central to our Sundays. KidsConnect, led by Di Keener, and the youth group, led by June Lashley, are crucially important parts of our Sundays, and I’ll say more about these below in my discussion of “Ministry.” June also coordinates many of the roles in

our Sunday services. In the Fall of 2021, Stephen Mullin's position changed from Music Director to Technology Director and Organist, and so 2022 was our first year with the band music being led by a rotation of band leaders—for whom Stephen has provided valuable support. In addition to playing organ each week and maintaining the high level of technical capacity we have at CMP (with the tech team he has trained), Stephen was also Choir Director for our Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.

In other words, there are *a lot* of people involved in making our Sunday services happen each week! So, we all need to give a big "Thank you" to all who are involved in these various roles – which is a large portion of our members. Sadly, this past year we said Goodbye to Patrick Hoffmann-Kuhnt, who was very involved in worship tech and music, not to mention youth, but who moved to Australia for the next season of his life. I should also mention that our "new normal" now includes livestreaming, by Zoom, our Sunday services. Through 2022 we typically had 18-22 Zoom screens per Sunday (most screens with one person, some with two).

We had a number of our own members as preachers through the year. These included Selene Lau, Kenneth Sheppard, the Rev Tim Keener, June Lashley, Jen Cole, Jeremy Favreau, Luke Bayly, and Di Keener. In addition, we also had Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, Jenna Smith, Sam Strauss, and the Rev Neil Mancor (who filled in for me on three of the five Sundays I was away for my sabbatical). I want to thank each of these persons, but particularly also Tim Keener for his preaching ministry several times a year.

I think it would be appropriate for me to add some words here why I involve so many people in preaching at CMP, beyond just myself. There are three reasons for this. *First* is that a cornerstone of my theology of pastoral leadership is that my role is not to do all the ministry roles in the congregation; rather, my role is to develop leaders from the congregation for all the various ministry roles. This is what Ephesians calls "equipping the saints for the work of ministry," and what the Protestant Reformers (of the 16th century) called "the priesthood of all believers." The church grows in all dimensions in part because the members grow in their various ministries, and also grow into *new* ministries—including ministries they never previously imagined for themselves! There is a wealth of spiritual and discipleship experience in CMP, and I think it is important for CMP members to be able to benefit from this wealth – and involving our members in the preaching is an important way to spread the wealth. (I could add a note here regarding communion. For my theology, members of the congregation should also be able to lead communion; however, Anglican theology only permits ordained Anglican or Lutheran clergy to lead communion, so I am required to conform to this restriction.)

Second, while sermon preparation is a joy and a privilege for me, sermons require a significant amount of preparation time, and so sharing the preaching load gives me more time for some other important parts of my ministry—such as staying connected to our seniors and shut-ins (of whom we have many more since the merger), and especially for developing ministry and mission for growth. For instance, there is an important void in our congregation (as in many congregations) for 20s fellowship, so one project on which I am currently working is to build

this dimension of our church life. Or, for another example, I am currently working on our social media exposure to St Laurent. The list of examples goes on, the point being though that building (rather than simply maintaining) a congregation requires consistent time for planning and development—and sharing the preaching opens up such time for me. I should add that this building task applies beyond CMP as well—three times this month I’ve met with members and pastors of other churches (two Anglican, one Baptist) who have asked to learn from our experience at CMP. By distributing the preaching load at CMP, I also have time to serve the wider Church, which is part of our mission vision adopted last year (available on our website)—that CMP serve to build the wider church by serving churches less resourced than ourselves.

Third, I think it is important for the congregation to hear teaching voices other than mine. I am ultimately responsible to God and to Bishop Mary, and to the Parish Leadership Team, for the quality and theological content of the preaching at CMP, so I do not choose our preachers lightly. I aim to do about 60% of the preaching through the course of the year, but I choose, within the scope of historic, orthodox Christian faith, additional preachers who can provide different perspectives and approaches from me. I think this is valuable for the spiritual nurture of the community. So, these are the three reasons why I arrange other preachers so often for our Sunday mornings.

Finally, in terms of worship, I will note that last year we introduced a new style of doing communion. When we were permitted to return to in-person worship in February, 2022, many of our members expressed concern about using a “common cup” (single cup) for the communion wine, the concern being the possibility of spreading germs or COVID contamination. We did an online survey of our members, and the result was that 90% of respondents did not want to go back to a single cup for serving the wine. Therefore we instituted the system of serving individual glass cups from a tray, in the manner used by many Protestant denominations. We also began to serve grape juice and gluten-free bread for those who prefer these options at communion.

Ministry

Within the scope of “Ministry” I include community fellowship, discipleship formation, and pastoral care.

In terms of community fellowship last year, we had a number of events. In February we had a church walk at Cap St Jacques, including a stop at the wonderful sugar shack there. One Sunday Alain Goulet led a group bird watching at St Barthélemy. In June we had a church picnic in the park behind CMP. In September we had Funday Sunday, with bouncy castles for the kids, on Welcome Back Sunday. Luke Bayly organized a games night at the church. In October we had our first Community Day, in which many different activities were offered through the day as an opportunity to get to know each other better, ending the day with worship led by Mel Hill. In the Fall we also began Soup Sundays, on the fourth Sunday of each month, organized by Angela Henderson.

In terms of discipleship, Di Keener continued to lead KidsConnect (our Sunday School) with much enthusiasm and effectiveness. June Lashley continued to do likewise with our youth. As well, our KidsConnect and youth programs, led by Di Keener and June Lashley respectively, returned to their regular Sunday patterns. The children and youth programs are critical to our health and growth as a community, so this was another important aspect of returning to CMP every Sunday. Di also led Junior Youth Camp again last year, which many CMP children attend each August. Also, in terms of discipleship, in 2022 we continued to have our two fellowship groups—one in-person in St Laurent, the other on Zoom. However, in the Fall discussion began for a third group serving the Sud-Ouest/Verdun/South Shore region. This group is now happening, giving us three home groups outside of our Sunday gatherings. We had a couple online learning groups last year. One of these was in June, “Monday discussions,” led by me over five weeks. The themes included, “Living as Believers in a Secular Age” (video with Jamie KA Smith); “Palestinian Christians—Who are they and what is their future?” With Amal and Yusuf Wahhab; “What was the Protestant Reformation?” with Kenny Sheppard; “The Art of Aging Well”; and “Artificial Intelligence—promise or harm?” with Joseph Vybihal. Kenny Sheppard also led a book group that read together a book on the origins and history of Protestantism.

In terms of pastoral care, there is a great deal of pastoral care that happens in CMP that cannot be reported in an annual report such as this. For instance, our members support other members in many different ways, some of which I know about, and some of which I only learn about later, or which I never learn about. This is one of the most valuable parts of who we are as a community. In terms of pastoral care that I provide, much of this is to our seniors. Covid has significantly re-shaped life for seniors everywhere, and we are seeing this in CMP too. In 2022 I continued to connect frequently with our seniors, whether in person or by phone, and also to send them a periodic newsletter (though less frequently than during Covid). Sadly for us, several of our members were promoted to glory last year: Pat Dearling, Eva Brebner, and Ken Scantlebury. “Thank you for these your faithful servants, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them.”

Mission

Back in 2021, we went through a parish process to develop a Mission policy for CMP. This resulted in a policy based on four “legs” to mission: soul care (discipleship and evangelism); social care; environment care; and wider-church care (supporting churches less resourced than ourselves, and supporting persecuted parts of the church around the world). The document is a “living document”, always subject to revision or improvement, but gives us both impetus and guidance. It is available on our website (“About Us” à “Mission”).

At present, each of these four legs could be in better shape; however, we are building in the right direction. We did have a very important development in August 2022, when Fatima and André arrived from Brazil, with their daughter Eloana, to be our St Laurent Outreach Ministers. They will spend much of this year learning French, then hopefully by September begin their

actual outreach work in local evangelism and social care. In December we sent a petition to François Bonnardel, Ministre de la Sécurité publique for Quebec, asking that Article 636 of the Quebec highway code be revised so as not to permit police to pull over drivers without cause. (That is, to prevent racial profiling by police.) About 35 CMP members signed the petition, though we have not yet heard back from the Minister. Two of our newer members, Julia Smith-Brake and Charlie Brake, have stepped forward to provide some momentum for us in environmental and justice matters. In January we released nicely designed invitation cards, which CMP members can use to invite people to CMP. Financially in 2020 we continued to support a number of organizations, including St Michael's Mission, Tyndale St George's, Logifem, and Christian Direction, Power2Change, and Interserve, and also BarnabasAid (an organization that supports Christians around the world who experience suffering or displacement because of local discrimination or persecution).

Finally...

I believe God has been with us this past year, for which I am truly grateful. Part of God's provision is the great team of people I work with. This past year the Parish Leadership Team (PLT) has worked hard on behalf of the congregation, and it has been a joy and privilege for me to work with them—Chris, Leanne, Shanti, Luke, and Susi. As Leanne steps away from the PLT, with her term of service completed, I want to say a very large Thank You to Leanne for the superb job she has done as Warden. She has made a huge contribution in her three years.

The staff—June, Stephen, Di, Keith, Andre, and Fatima, along with John Slyfield our Treasurer—are a very faithful, talented, and dedicated group to serve with, and so I would like to say a big “Thank you” to each of them for all they contribute. I am privileged to work with each of them. I also want to say a big Thank You to all the CMP members who serve our community in so many ways, seen and unseen—thank you to each one of you. Finally, I need to say an especially big Thank You to my wife Fiona for her wonderful support and wisdom, for which I am so grateful. I continue to be thankful to God for the privilege of serving God's Kingdom and the body of Christ here at CMP.

-The Rev Chris Barrigar

Wardens' Report for 2022 (for AGM 2023)

It is a joy and honour to have served the Kingdom of God through CMP this past year. Our Report covers “Enabling Ministries”—the ministries at CMP that enable worship, ministry, and mission to happen.

Parish Leadership Team

This past year the PLT was comprised of: Chris Hoffman (Rector's Warden), Leanne Strauss (People's Warden); and Shanti Jacob, Susi Kunsch, and Luke Bayly (Deputy Wardens). For each

of us it has been a privilege to serve the CMP community in these roles, and we have enjoyed working together. We meet once per month, nine months per year, plus we do a lot of communicating by email between monthly meetings. After three very full years, Leanne is retiring as Peoples' Warden. We are grateful to have Yusuf Wahhab coming onto the PLT.

Prayer

Prayer is the most fundamental way for us as members to support parish life in all areas. We ourselves, and we hope parishioners at large, pray regularly for the ministry, mission, and people of CMP. This past year the Prayer Chain was launched, led by Christine Creighton. This group prays not just for individual needs, but for the ministries and life of CMP as a whole.

Finances

In 2022, we no longer received diocesan covid subsidies, so we were back to fully funding ourselves. At our AGM last year, we informed the congregation of our financial situation at the time, which was that, at then-current levels of giving, we would be facing a deficit of roughly \$35,000 for 2022. So, we gave our congregation a financial challenge to increase givings by this amount, to achieve a balanced budget. This was a big ask, but the congregation came through! More precisely, givings were up about \$31,000 over 2021. This is marvelous news! However, as we have noted in The Pulse, 35% of our givings come from three households, so this reveals a significant underlying weakness in our current givings patterns. Nonetheless, we wish to express a big "Thank you" to all who stepped up to support CMP financially this past year. For our operating budget, we ended the year with a surplus of about \$3000. However, 2022 was a terrible year for the markets, so we also lost about \$170,000 on our investments. In 2022, about 68% of our income came from our members, 20% from investment income, and 12% from rentals. Finally, we wish to express a big "Thank you" to John Slyfield, our Treasurer of many years, for his excellent work and inspiring dedication to CMP.

Administration; Building and Maintenance

June Lashley continues to do a wonderful job our Administrator—thank you, June! In terms of the building, Keith Blizard is now our Caretaker/Concierge, keeping the place clean for us each week; and Keith is also our rentals manager. Thank you so much, Keith! June organized our Spring clean-up, which has become a necessary annual event—thank you to all who helped with this. We are now enjoying the fruit of our labour in terms of the renovations, though last year we did about \$25,000 in brickwork on the exterior, with a lesser amount remaining to be done in 2023. The PLT has approved the addition of some vegetable gardens along the outside wall of Drayton Hall for this Spring, to be tended by a team led by Paul Brady. The PLT has also approved the planting of two pear trees on our property, near the drive into Katimavik school. When these reach maturity, we will allow parishioners and neighbors to help themselves to the fruit. In the future we still need to resolve soil and water issues at the rear of the building; we had planned to do this work last year, but the labour shortage made this impossible. We are well placed for major future repair costs with the St Mark's Fund, which now serves as our Major Maintenance Fund, though the fund lost value this past year due to market conditions.

Personnel/Staff

We continue to be thankful to God for His provision of a strong ministry team at CMP made up of Chris, June, Stephen and Di—and, of course, André and Fatima who finally arrived this past Fall as our Outreach Ministers to St Laurent. Once they finish their language courses later this year, they will begin their ministry!

Thank you for your support in our ministry of leadership at CMP. Please keep the whole PLT in your prayers in the year to come.

-Leanne Strauss, Peoples Warden

-Chris Hoffman, Rector's Warden

Youth Ministry Report

"He will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." Hebrew 6:10.

If there was a word that would best describe the Youth Ministry during 2022, it would be "support". From bake sales to garage sales, words of encouragement and prayers, myself, the leadership team and the teens have felt the love and support shown by the CMP community. In April, the teens initiated a bake sale where the proceeds went to support aid to the people of Ukraine. With the help of the congregation, we were able to raise over \$400. It is not just the financial support but the encouragement shown towards the teens and their efforts that left a positive impact on our group. Our teens regularly participate in service projects throughout the year, but it is always special to do activities within our church community.

A highlight of 2022 was the Fall retreat. Once again, thanks to the support of CMP, we were held a garage sale to help subsidize the cost of the weekend. The retreat helped deepen relationship between the leaders and the teens as well as the teens with each other. Because of this, our discussion times have become more open and engaging. This has been an answer to prayer.

Another answered prayer has been our leadership team. I am deeply grateful for our current leadership team! Mark Latulipe, Patrick Hoffmann-Kuhnt and Adele Doyle faithfully served our teens each week last year. Both Patrick and Adele were once teens in the youth group and now serve as student leaders. It has been a blessing to see them grow and mature over the years and in turn, support today's teens. It was difficult to say goodbye to Patrick as he headed back to Germany in December and the teens really miss him! However, it is a real testament to the love and care that we have and continue to work on as a youth ministry.

One of the biggest ways support was shown was with the passing of my brother. Throughout this difficult time, the people of CMP poured out God's love through the words, cards, prayers and presence. I was especially touched by the support showed by the teens. There are few

moments more special than when a 14-year-old offers a hug and a reminder that God is just a prayer away. This is the kind of fruit we have been praying for!

We are very blessed as a ministry and thank you for your continued prayer support. Please continue to intercede for us as we desire to grow both in love for each other and for the Lord.

Blessings,



June Lashley



Fundraiser for the Ukraine



CMP Garage Sale



Youth Retreat Hike



See you soon Pat!

Children and Family Ministry Report



KidsConnect is our spiritual formation for children ages 3-12 at The Church of St. Mark and St. Peter. Through the years we have worked with different curriculums and themes. We started a liturgical series a few years ago that follows the church calendar and we continued through it last year. We are blessed to have amazing volunteers that teach the children in the different age groups: ages 3-5, grades 1-3 and grades 4-6. The KC teaching team continues to expand to help keep up with a growing number of children with whom we have been blessed.

KidsConnect 2022 highlights:

1. The KC team (teachers and students) led the worship service two times.
2. Four PNOs (Parent's Night Out) led by the youth leadership and KC.
3. KC kids participated in filling the normal Sunday roles the first Sunday of each month which is our intergenerational service.
4. Thirty-three KidsConnect classes happened.
5. Two new teachers plus an assistant role added to the KC teaching staff
6. Leanne and Di attended the Wycliffe Children's conference in Toronto. A highlight was learning how our church can become more accessible to differently abled children and their families.

CrossTalk Ministries (CTM) Junior Youth Camp (JYC):

Pippa Brotherwood and I co-directed Junior Youth Camp that happened August 6-13 for ages 7-12. It was the first year back to summer sleepover camp in over 2 years which was quite exciting to our incredible JYC committee. JYC also piloted a Young Leaders program for ages 13-15 that was led by Luke Bayly and Rebecca Stieva. Both camps happened simultaneously and were very successful! It was a week of learning and growing around the theme: Be part of a bigger story. We work faithfully together all year to put together a one-week camp. We always look forward to next year! This year the theme is going to be around pilgrimage/journey with Jesus. The dates are: August 5-12. Please pray for us as we plan and prepare.

2022 was a busy and fruitful year. The Lord continues to bring children and families to walk alongside with and to minister to. I certainly couldn't do it without all the help I get! Thank you to the KC teaching team and to the church for making children a priority in our community.

-Diana Keener, CMP Children's Coordinator

Technology Annual Report

2022 saw the refinement of our technology side at CMP with some important investments in equipment and people power to run it. Additionally, we made important changes in usage of space for a more effective and invisible use of both our audio and video technology.

In last year's edition of this report, I ended my report with the following declaration: "While (technology) will always be a partial facilitator of our experience, it should not BE our experience...it is always my hope that the technology that we use remains (largely) unnoticed."

In 2022 we made two important steps to fulfilling this aspiration. First, for our ability to livestream services and events by Zoom, we replaced an array of cell phone cameras visibly placed throughout the worship space with permanent wall-mounted cameras, making the in-church worship experience one where the cameras are never really noticed. While we did purchase one dedicated PTZ (pan/tilt/zoom) camera for the main room views (pulpit, lectern, altar, front of room), we continued to have at our disposal two other camera angles by continuing to use our repurposed cell phone cameras. These additional cameras provided interesting viewing angles not normally seen in church – namely a view from the side of the altar as well as a completely reversed view of the congregation. Look at the recorded streams some time (in the Sermons part of our website) and you will see these at work.

Second, we moved the main audio/video/zoom workstations from the middle area of the church all the way to very back of the church. This adjustment served to make much less visible the in-service work being performed by the tech teams. In essence, the same work was being done in 2022 as 2021, but it was no longer happening right in the middle of people trying to pay

attention to the actual service. This adjustment has been very well received in the sense that no one ever seems to notice that we are even there!

Of note as well was the purchase of a new piano of a certain colour. Perhaps you've noticed it? The consensus among pianists both from within CMP and those visiting is that the new piano is an excellent instrument both from the players and listeners perspective. We have now hosted a few recitals and musical events where this piano took center stage, and the reviews were excellent. As well, I am most glad that we finally own our own piano (we never owned either of the previous two grand pianos). We look forward to hosting more musical events going forward.

Lastly, as the pandemic restrictions lifted and live events became possible again, CMP's capacity both to host these live events AND to stream and video record them has placed us in an excellent position to continue to grow as a resource for both the local community and the wider Montreal Diocese.

Let me close by thanking the "people power" who ran the tech team in 2022, also including those who have just recently come on board:

Audio (in house and zoom) – Angela Henderson, Eli Keener, Mike Strauss

Video (zoom and recording) – Wentworth Brookes, Andre L, Alex Richards and Aaron Strauss. I would like to give Aaron a special shout out because: a) he was working with the video and zoom tech all year; b) he was the first one to learn how to set it all up; c) he permitted me to frequently repeat the phrase when describing our technical setup "It's so easy to use, even an 11-year-old can master it!"

Thanks everyone. It's been a great year, and I am looking forward to 2023.

-Stephen Mullin

Choir Annual Report

We started 2022 with some continuing pandemic restrictions on group singing. Social distancing made choir rehearsals and performances complicated in the first part of this past year.

Nonetheless, there was a small choir assembled for the Palm Sunday "Cry of the Whole Congregation" service. This intrepid group of about a dozen singers delivered excellent leadership of the meditative portions of that powerful presentation and it was so nice to get back to group singing.

As we headed into the fall, and singing restrictions were further lifted, we put out the call looking for people who would like to be involved in a choir to lead a possible service of Lessons and Carols.

The response from all ages and levels of ability was immediate and sustained and it became clear early on that we would be back in 2022 with a choir of similar size to pre-pandemic levels. As it turned out, we had over 30 children, youth and adults ranging in age from 6 to about 94. The level of experience varied from lifelong veterans of choral singing to people who had not done so since elementary school. And so, between the varying abilities and short post church rehearsals, at last, we had another full choir for a lessons and Carols service, the first one assembled since Christmas of 2019 and, dare I say, one of the best sounding groups I've ever had the chance to lead. Much of this group re-assembled for a special reprise on Christmas eve – representing the largest ever Christmas eve choir in my 18 years here.

Thank you everyone who came out to sing in the choirs in 2022. While every year seems like it might be the best, this year's choir singing was three years in the making, so it really felt like the best one ever this time!

In the coming year, will see a different director (different than me) as we welcome YoungSim to the podium to lead the choir for Palm Sunday and Easter. Thank you 어열심 (YoungSim) for stepping up and we look forward to hearing the choir again soon.

Lastly, I want to thank Heather Purdie for her excellence and dedication as a pianist. Heather, your musicianship smoothly delivered just what was needed for the choir music and when something like that works that well, people may not even notice it. I did notice it – and I thank you! And thank you everyone for joining in this year. Let's keep on singing!

-Stephen Mullin

Report of Fatima and André Leitao

CMP is a multicultural and multigenerational church located in the heart of the Ville Saint-Laurent. This area has a population of almost 100,000 people. More than 50% of this population wasn't born in Canada and around 30% are under 25 years old and speak other languages at home than French and English. The main languages are Arabic, Chinese dialects, and Spanish. Among the nationalities in our area there are many from Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria, China, and Cameron. Our role as part of the CMP staff will be to engage in soul care and social care with the diverse cultural communities of St Laurent.

We arrived in Montreal on the 13th of August. We were extremely welcomed and blessed by the hospitality, generosity, and love of members of the staff and church. This warm welcome has made all the difference in our process of adapting and getting ready for real winter!

Our first step toward ministering in VSL has been to learn the official language of Quebec. We have been participating in francization classes over the past several months. Andre started his classes in September, while Fatima was only able to begin in January. This was due to some bureaucratic difficulties that we faced related to Fatima's visa. This visa problem delayed her

ability to start her language classes, and also delayed the acquisition of other important documents for living in Montreal.

The language learning process has given us the opportunity to get to know many refugees and newcomers. We are understanding better their struggles and needs and developing relationships that will enable us to witness to Christ. We hope that this time of learning will help us to see what are the main needs of these groups and be able to direct our efforts toward those areas.

At the same time, we are also slowly building a network of people that are serving those arriving in Montreal who are more vulnerable. We hope that with time we will relate to other churches and organizations in Montreal and other parts of Canada. That will allow us to help people and their relatives as they arrive here and vice versa.

We would like to ask for your prayers as we develop our ministry in CMP and VSL. We also ask your prayers for you to consider getting involved in opportunities to serve the community of VSL. Thank you.

-André and Fatima Leitao

Annual Diocesan Synod Report

The Diocese of Montreal is one of 33 dioceses across the Anglican Church of Canada. “Synod” is the annual business meeting of the Diocese. At Synod, all clergy, along with representatives from each congregation, meet to discuss and vote on matters related to the ministry, mission, administration, and finances of the diocese. As well, each year at Synod there is a ministry or mission theme; these themes rotate in three-year cycles. Our previous three-year theme was evangelism; 2022 was the first year in our new three-year theme of racism.

This year’s Synod took place on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal.

The Bishop’s Charge:

“The Bishop’s Charge” is the Bishop’s annual message to Synod. At Synod 2022 Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson talked about the following:

The mission of the church is the mission of Christ, and as Christ’s body we are called to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation, to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. The theme for this three-year cycle of Synods will be *“Racism: listening, naming: reconciling”*. This year’s will be the listening part, next year we’ll focus on naming, and the conference synod of 2024 will address some concrete steps and ways of reconciling and taking action.

Bishop Mary charged us to carefully listen for what the spirit is saying to us as individuals and as the diocese of Montreal. In learning to stand against racism we need to begin by listening carefully and consider how God may be calling each of us to be part of a church which is humble enough to agree to change what we know needs changing. Bishop Mary feels grief and shame to think that our church has not identified and challenged racism built on white privilege, willful blindness, and the fear of the other. Our baptismal vows call us to a life of continually being transformed and growing in discipleship, propelling us into mission for Christ. So we are to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. We also need to strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth we know.

- **Synod Presentation:** This year's presentation, on the topic "Racism: Listening" was presented by the Rev James Bennett. Highlights of Ven James Bennett's presentation include:
 - Racism is just one of the several means of discrimination. Do we say, I am not a racist?
 - His parish (St Paul's Cote-des-Neiges) was founded due to discrimination against Irish people (so not racism because of pigmentation, but rich discriminating against the poor).
 - He gave personal experiences of racism against himself in life and within the Church, having been at times the only black priest in the diocese. (There are several black clergy in the diocese today).
 - He gave an example of discrimination he endured from the construction workers during the renovation of our Church CMP.
 - Gave an example of discrimination against female priests, and bishop Mary.
 - He entreated us to read Romans 5: 1-5: suffering produces understanding, endurance and character, and character gives us hope, and hope pushes us to understand and to depend and to rejoice that the Holy Spirit is for each and every one of us; no color differential, rich or poor etc.

- **Diocesan Finances:** The Diocesan finances continue to be in overall sound shape and any fluctuations are in greater part due to the current global financial situation.

- **Motions:** All motions were passed.

-Ekow Intsiful and Antsa Rakotoarisoa, CMP delegates to Synod 2021

Appointments (for 2023)

Corporation appointments by the Rector

(According to the Church Temporalities Act of Lower Canada, 1864):

Rector's Warden: Yusuf Wahhab

Deputy Rector's Warden: Shanti Jacob

Ministry Coordinator appointments by the Rector

Prayer Chain: Christine Creighton

Refreshments: Roula Ajmo

Safe Church Coordinator: Misoo Chung

Appointments by the Parish Leadership Team

Deputy Warden: Susi Cornett

Nominations

by the Parish Leadership Team

(to be voted on by AGM members)

Additional nominations may be submitted to
the Rev Chris Barrigar by Thursday, Feb.23.

People's Warden: Chris Hoffman

Deputy Warden: Luke Bayly

Treasurer: John Slyfield

External Financial Reviewer: Patricia McGovern, CPA

Lay Delegate(s) to Synod: Ekow Intsiful