

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



UNIONVILLE
ALLIANCE CHURCH

Touching our world through Jesus one life at a time

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*Sharing God's
Message of Hope*



*Meaningful
Community*



*Biblical
Teaching*



*Caring for
Those in Need*



Prayer

MEETING AGENDA

September 25, 2022

12:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Reflections from Pastor Daniel
3. Approval of Minutes from 2021
4. Election of Elders
5. Election of Members for Nominating Committee
6. Financial Report
7. Appointing of the Auditor for 2022-2023
8. Presentation of the 2022-2023 Budget
9. Women as Elders - Next Steps
10. Other Business
11. Prayer
12. Adjournment

MINUTES FROM 2021

Johnny Chan Kin gave some opening remarks concerning the past year and opened in prayer.

The meeting was called to order at 4:06pm on Sunday, September 26, 2021.

Pastor Daniel provided some opening remarks and a few reflections on this past fiscal year. He is grateful to God for all that has happened. He quoted from Proverbs 3:5-6 from where he gets his inspiration. He gave thanks to Verna Proctor and Tammy McClennan for their service this past year. He gave thanks to the current staff given their work throughout COVID. He also thanked the elders for their guidance and wisdom. He thanked volunteers and ministry leaders. He gave thanks to the congregation for their faithful, generous giving in spite of the challenges for some to employment uncertainty due to the pandemic. He also expressed thanks for the prayers of the people of UAC.

Pastor Daniel emphasized the living out of our vision: To touch our world through Jesus Christ one life at a time. He expressed the hope that we would be a house of prayer. He reinforced the expanding of our focus on missions via Missions Sundays and guest missions speakers. He summarized by saying that we strive to be a Christ centred, mission focused, and Spirit empowered church. He thanked the church for all that they do.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2020

Motion to approve the minutes from the AGM of 2020. Moved: Winston Miller. Second: Kris Wong. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF ELDERS

1. John Cook: 1st term
2. Johnny Chan Kin: 2nd term
3. Winston Miller: 3rd term

Johnny Chan noted that Tony Miles has completed his 3rd term and according to the bylaws won't be able to serve again for 12 months. Johnny thanked, commended and congratulated Tony for his 9 years of service.

Johnny asked that those who have not yet voted for the elders to do so now using the online ballot system sent to members.

PRESENTATION OF MEMBERS FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following members have been selected for the Nominating Committee for the 2022/2023 elder nominations. These members will serve with 2 elders and the Senior Pastor in the selection and nominations of elders to be elected at the 2022 Annual General Meeting. The members to be voted on are:

1. Janice Miles
2. Barbara Bitter

Johnny asked that those who have not yet voted for the Nominating Committee members to do so now using the online ballot system sent to members.

APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED CHURCH BYLAWS

Board recommends that the membership accept the updated Bylaws.

Johnny asked that those who have not yet voted to approve the updated bylaws do so now using the online ballot system sent to members.

REVIEW OF FINANCIALS

Nesa Gulakasarem reviewed last year's (2020/2021) financials and compared to the previous (2019/2020) year.

Nesa asked for approval of auditors Norton McMullen. He moved to appoint Norton McMullen as auditors for 2021/2022.

Johnny asked that those who have not yet voted to approve the choice of auditors do so now using the online ballot system sent to members.

Nesa reviewed the budget for 2021/2022 and explained some of the key line items in revenues and expenses.

OTHER BUSINESS

No questions were posed.

Johnny Chan Kin reported on the final voting.

1. The minutes from the Annual General Meeting in 2020 were approved.
2. John Cook, Johnny Chan Kin and Winston Miller were approved for eldership with a three year term commencing in September 2021.
3. Barbara Bitter and Janice Miles were approved to be on the Nominating Committee for the 2021/2022 elder nominations.
4. The updated Bylaws were approved
5. Norton McMullen was approved as auditors for 2021/2022

Pastor Daniel asked for the congregation to actively pray for this ministry year.

Johnny called on Winston Miller to close in prayer.

Motion was made by Johnny to close the meeting. Terry Doner second. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned 4:53pm.

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Navigating the Covid-19 global pandemic has certainly taken endurance! With wave after wave, uncertainty after uncertainty, change after change, and challenge after challenge, these past couple of years have taken a toll on our lives, families, church, community, country, and world. Yet the One who remains the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), our faithful, compassionate, loving, powerful, and wise Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ, has been our guide throughout it all. If there is one lesson that we can learn, it is to continue to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus! That has been our experience this past year and is our intention in this new ministry season to come.

**“LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE GOD HAS SET BEFORE US. WE DO THIS BY KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE CHAMPION WHO INITIATES AND PERFECTS OUR FAITH.”
(HEBREWS 12:1-2 NLT)**

I am extremely grateful for the Lord’s provision for us spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially throughout this past year. I can sum up his faithfulness succinctly in three words: He is good! We have had a number of staff transitions as we have continued to navigate a season of change. I am thankful to Pastor William & Merilee Peever who have served as youth leaders at UAC for many years. They have invested into our youth in a number of ways, and we wish them well in their future missional endeavours!

I am grateful to have Kesha Wint return to UAC in a different capacity as our Pastor of Worship & Creative Arts with support from another well-known and long-time member, Colin Ainsworth, serving as our Associate Director of Worship & Creative Arts. They are a dynamic duo helping our congregation worship the Lord in spirit and truth! We are excited to have Pastor Allison Alvares, who has also been attending and volunteering at UAC for many years, lead our children’s department as the Pastor of Children’s Ministries. We have seen Allison’s sacrificial service and love for our children for many years and she has made an immediate impact with our families and kids in her new role. Seeing four hundred kids come to four camps over the summer was a tremendous blessing! We were particularly excited with the privilege to reach many families and children who come with no church background or experience. We continue to pray that they would experience and know the love and grace of Jesus. Our latest addition to our team is Pastor Leonor Lopes as our Pastor of Adult Ministries. Leonor comes to us with a lot of experience both in the church world and public education system. I trust that she, and her husband Denis, will be a great blessing to our church family. Kris Wong has also taken on new responsibilities as our Director of Operations and has exemplified diligence and faithfulness working behind the scenes in so many of our ministries and activities. We are thankful for the way she sees the big picture and brings everything together very comprehensively. Mary Daniele continues to serve faithfully as our bookkeeper and has made a number of improvements behind the scenes in our record keeping. I am thankful for her innovation and experience that helps us to be efficient and diligent in various ways.

Our elders have continued to give wise counsel and support as they provide spiritual direction and oversight to our church family. I’m grateful for a number of policies that they have been working on that have helped the governance of our church in various ways. John Cook, our newest elder this past year, has brought an additional aspect of wise, pastoral, and compassionate counsel to our leadership team. The board’s unity during divisive times in our culture and world has been

encouraging and has helped us go forward with boldness and clarity. I am thankful for their support, accountability, and encouragement as they seek to lead with integrity, transparency, and humility.

My heart is filled with deep gratitude and immense appreciation for the sacrificial and dedicated service of our many volunteers. We cannot do what the Lord is calling us to without such amazing volunteers who have gone the extra mile in many ways. Especially during this season of Covid, many have stepped up to help us to run our ministries and reach people with the good news of Jesus. Our ministry leaders and volunteers are doing a wonderful job of leading the charge to touch our world through Jesus, one life at a time.

As I reflect back on this year, there are so many things that happened that I’m exceedingly grateful for. There isn’t sufficient time and space to give thanks to various ministries and ministry leaders in my report so I hope that you will take time to read of the blessings and work of God illuminated in other parts of this report. However, I would like to highlight two specific burdens that I had as I assumed the role of Lead Pastor and am grateful to see the progress made. First was a renewed focus on prayer. My hope is that UAC will be a house of prayer and a praying church. Through the prayer course, weekly Zoom prayer meetings, a prayer challenge, prayer walks, and other aspects of prayer, we have been able to dig deeper into this critical area of spiritual growth. Second was a renewed focus on missions. Through our Mission Sundays, we’ve been able to highlight and bring to attention the need to be involved in Global Missions either through praying, sending, or going. As we prayed through our Alliance Vision prayer, we were made aware of numerous unreached people groups that have not heard the gospel, which is the aim of our Alliance international workers. You can read more about both of these areas in the prayer and missions sections of this report.

As we continue to be a Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, and Mission-focused community, multiplying disciples everywhere, we can make an impact in our families, in our community, and around the world. May our desire to touch our world through Jesus, one life at a time, be lived out through every person that calls Unionville Alliance their home. Thank you for your generous giving, sacrificial service, passionate prayers, and tangible acts of love that help make UAC a beautiful reflection of Jesus. In this year to come, we are going to focus on rebuilding, refreshing, renewing, and revitalizing our lives, families, and church so that we can be the fragrance of Christ in every place. Our focus is Jesus, our aim is Jesus, our goal is Jesus, our ambition is Jesus, our joy is Jesus, our purpose is Jesus, our motivation is Jesus, and our hope is Jesus! As we explore all things Jesus in this coming year, let’s keep our eyes fixed on him! The best is yet to come!



Pastor Daniel Mills

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 2022	ACTUAL 2021
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS - Operating Fund	\$790,000	\$771,092	\$699,446
CONTRIBUTIONS - Missions	\$81,000	\$92,316	\$70,450
CONTRIBUTIONS - Memorial Fund	-	\$300	\$400
CONTRIBUTIONS - Community Care Fund	\$60,000	\$60,311	\$70,268
PROGRAMMING - Cost Recovery	\$60,600	\$29,086	\$24,065
OTHER INCOME	\$3,000	\$3,325	\$7,700
INTEREST	\$4,000	\$1,939	\$2,921
REMAINDER OF CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	-	\$2,597	\$3,745
TOTAL INCOME	\$998,600	\$960,966	\$878,995
EXPENSES			
SALARIES and BENEFITS	\$470,000	\$392,367	\$399,328
PROGRAMMING COSTS	\$171,900	\$91,777	\$71,674
OFFICE and ADMINISTRATION	\$87,000	\$74,548	\$56,340
FACILITIES	\$114,500	\$112,681	\$92,284
C&MA DENOMINATIONAL COMMITMENTS	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
MISSION	\$93,300	\$91,263	\$78,563
COMMUNITY CARE	\$61,500	\$56,931	\$36,140
MEMORIAL FUND	\$5,000	-	\$8,000
AMORTIZATION	\$95,000	\$90,266	\$91,317
CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	-	-	\$741
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,110,200	\$921,833	\$846,387
NET (LOSS) INCOME	\$(111,600)	\$39,133	\$32,608
ADDITION OF CAPITAL 2022 Building upgrades, entry way, audio upgrades, and office equipment	\$107,000	\$114,900	\$14,097

PARTNERING IN MISSIONS

Missions is a critical component of what we do as a church community both locally and globally. We are grateful for the privilege to partner together in fulfilling the Great Commission by taking the gospel to those who haven't heard it, particularly, the least reached. This past year, we tried to give a greater and more specific focus to missions in a variety of ways through various ministries. The biggest of these being our Mission Sundays every two months. This larger churchwide approach led a vision for missions to permeate into other ministry areas such as the Children's Ministries, Young Adults, and Adult Ministries.

Our church has continued to grow and increase in our missional values as we seek to engage missions both locally and globally. In total, we've given over \$90,000 to Missions through the generous giving of our congregation. May our heart and mind be aligned with Jesus as we seek to be a Mission-focused church, multiplying disciples everywhere!



MISSION SUNDAYS

John Cook led our first Mission Sunday by helping us see how missions is rooted in prayer. **Gerald Hogenbirk** joined us in September to give us a better picture of the Alliance Global Ministries and share his personal journey of how God called his family into overseas missions. In November, **Damien Lee**, who is the new Vice-President for International Missions for the Alliance Canada, came and shared with us about how the Lord is working around the world to bring people to Jesus. In January, **David Enns**, who is the National Director of New Ventures, visited with us and gave us an overview of New Ventures while sharing with us about the missionary adventures of the Apostle Paul. David, who served and grew in his ministry at UAC, called us to invest into the next generation just as how UAC invested into him as a young man. That Sunday evening, David brought a number of New Venture leaders to tell of each of their unique journeys. These leaders shared their experience of how God called them to start a New Venture in Canada and the vision He had for them. It was very inspiring! In March, **Lorne Anderson** and **Vivian Bright** shared with us about how the Holy Spirit is empowering us to serve Jesus. They recently returned from the field and shared stories of their experiences. In May, we were blessed to have **Nigel Paul**, the Founder and Director of MoveIn, share his God given vision of reaching the urban poor through relational evangelism. That evening, we heard first-hand accounts of people who had “moved in” to high immigrant and low-income neighbourhoods to be the light and witness of Jesus to their neighbours. Overall, we have been enriched, blessed, and challenged to respond and participate in the mission of God around the world!

GLOBAL

We are grateful to our congregation for their generous and sacrificial giving this year towards missions that has helped us to give to various needs. We gave \$40,000 to the **Global Advance Fund (GAF)** which sends and supports our international workers around the world. With the war in **Ukraine**, over \$17,000 was given to support relief efforts through our denomination and Alliance workers. Additionally, \$4,000 was given to support the **Burnetts** in Thailand and \$2,400 to **Alan Yam** and his work with Wycliffe. Through Tim & Nancy Moore (International Workers in Thailand), we were able to partner with **For Freedom International** as they seek to end oppression and slavery. We are specifically supporting their anti-trafficking initiatives. We have committed to give \$5,000 each year for three years. Tim visited with us in January and shared about their calling to Thailand and how we all should be ambassadors of Christ. Led by Naomi Foy, we also participated in the **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**. Many in our congregation packed shoeboxes which would be distributed around the world to bless children in various countries while giving them an opportunity to hear the gospel. As a central drop-off location, people around our community also dropped off their boxes for us to collect and package. In total, we had 75 volunteers who packed 274 cartons which represented 5,664 shoeboxes and therefore 5,664 individual lives of children who would be touched with the love and message of Christ.

CANADA

Within Canada, over \$18,000 was given in support of **New Ventures** as our denomination seeks to plant new churches in innovative ways. We gave \$1,200 to **Northwind Family Ministries** which invests into Indigenous communities in Thunder Bay. We initially planned to have a Mission trip to Thunder Bay, but the realities of the Covid pandemic prevented us from going. However, we hope to put a plan in place for some future mission trips. We also gave \$500 in support of **Defend Dignity's** vision to end sex trafficking in Canada. This year we took another step in our partnership with the **Markham-Stouffville Crisis Pregnancy Centre**. We give \$2,400 yearly to their organization as they help women both during and after pregnancy. Additionally, we partnered with the Centre to host a Moms & Tots group for them at the church. A handful of women attended and found fellowship and encouragement from other young moms going through similar life experiences while their tots played together.

“Truck-Loading Day” was particularly special. On that day, the Unionville Youth Council from the City of Markham, came out to help load the cartons onto the truck. Before we loaded the truck, I addressed everyone thanking them for coming out to volunteer. Then I said: “We have a tradition where before we pack our cartons onto the truck, we run onto the truck, we make a circle inside the massive truck, and we pray for the shoeboxes to reach the children’s hands safely. So if you’d like to do that, grab a coat, run onto the truck with me and we’re going to pray. Let’s go!”

I ran out of the foyer, and soon after many of the youth from the Unionville Youth Council joined in! The entire truck was full of youth from the Unionville Youth Council standing shoulder to shoulder with volunteers from our church in a circle to join in prayer. Many of these youth come from different religious backgrounds, and it filled my heart with joy to see them there. My heart is full of gratitude and praise to God for the sheer number of volunteers, as well as the ways in which God worked in their hearts this year!

- Naomi Foy

GLOBAL ADVANCE FUND (ARF)

\$40,000

NEW VENTURES

\$18,000

UKRAINE RELIEF

\$17,000

FOR FREEDOM INT'L

\$5,000

BURNETTS

\$4,000

ALAN YAM

\$2,400

PREGNANCY CENTRE

\$2,400

NORTHWIND

\$1,200

DEFEND DIGNITY

\$500

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

5,664

A PRAYING CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, "pray without ceasing,". What exactly does that look like? Pastor Daniel's vision is that UAC would be a praying church. What exactly does that look like? D.A. Kamstra in his book entitled, "The Praying Church Idea Book" puts it this way, "Being a house of prayer involves more than having an interest in prayer, more than periodically praying in church, and more than having a number of active prayer ministries. Being a house of prayer means that the church's primary identifying mark is prayer." The PURPOSE of the prayer ministry is PRAYER. The GOAL of the prayer ministry is to keep moving forward to becoming a praying church.

Are we praying without ceasing? Are we on the road to becoming a Praying Church? Surely Lord, You know. We look forward with great anticipation to His leading and guiding into our next ministry year.

Prayer Team Leadership (PTL)

Cheryl Roe
Donna Rawana
Salome Alagaratnam

One evening, Lily Zhang asked if we could pray for her dad, Qingfa. She had been praying for his salvation for many years and he was now battling cancer. So, we prayed. Two days later, a pastor came and shared the gospel message with Qingfa. On Thursday, Oct 14, 2021, Qingfa Zhang "received Jesus, believed in His name, and was given the right to become a child of God." (John 1:12). He was baptized on December 6th, 2021. Lily's prayer had been answered! We were so encouraged in our faith and in the power of prayer. Sadly, on June 11, 2022, Lily's Dad went to be with the Lord. Though Lily and her family grieved, there was an assurance that they did not "grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope." 1 Thessalonians 4:13. Qingfa Zhang is with Jesus. Amen!



THE PRAYER COURSE

In September 2021, we began the year with an 8 week online course entitled, "The Prayer Course" with 30 registrants. We learned to approach prayer using P.R.A.Y. (Pause, Rejoice, Ask, Yield). Prayer is so much more than the 'ask' we have (mistakenly) made synonymous with the word 'PRAYER'.

PRAYER CHALLENGE

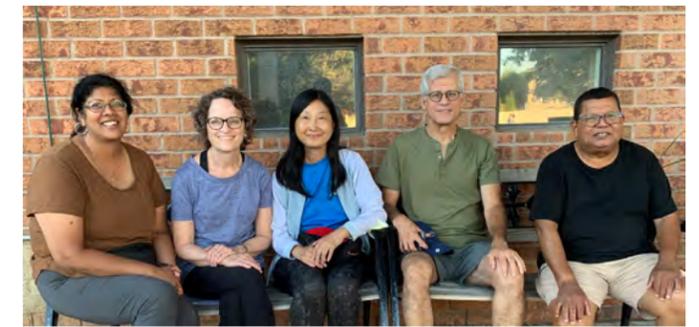
The first week of January 2022, Pastor Daniel led the congregation through a 10-day prayer challenge. What a wonderful way to begin a new year! We were even encouraged to take up an unreached people group to commit to prayer. "When ye pray, believe". Mark 11:24.

PRAYER WALKS

The month of June did not find us dormant. On alternate Tuesday evenings we did a Prayer Walk through our community. This continued throughout the months of July and August.

ASPT & BSPT

After Service and Before Service Prayer Teams (ASPT & BSPT) have continued with 2 new members joining the BSPT. This team of twelve members prayed faithfully this past year.



ZOOM PRAYER MEETING

February to the end of May brought the establishment of a weekly Zoom prayer meeting. We shared leadership with a different leader each week. The congregation was encouraged in the Sunday announcements to pray the weekly prayer topic even if they were unable to join in the Zoom meeting. In July and August, Donna Rawana led us online through the Alliance Vision prayer leading up to the C&MA General Assembly held in July. We also included prayer for the Board of Elders and their families. It was a really amazing time of growth and fellowship!

PRAYER WARRIORS

The Prayer Team Leadership (PTL) worked with Pastor Allison and the Children's Ministry to 'undergird' summer camp from the beginning stages. Then, they continued as four teams of 4 'prayer warriors' committed to praying 15 minutes per day for each of the 4 weeks of camp. They lifted in prayer all the campers, the staff, and the volunteers. They prayed through some general Scripture-based prayer points. "...The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." James 5:16 AMEN!

RUNNING ALPHA

We are so thankful that we can continue to run Alpha at Unionville Alliance. Alpha is a core part of our mission and vision that enables us to share the good news of Jesus Christ in an open, safe, and relational way. Through the Alpha program, participants are able to ask the big questions of life and journey together with a group of people as they discover more about Jesus and Christianity.

We have been running Alpha for a number of years and each iteration has been unique and fruitful. Several congregants invited their friends and family members to attend as we held these sessions via Zoom. We had practical conversations on topics of Christ, the Bible, faith, sin, church, eternity, purpose, relationships, and other interesting issues.

We conducted two English Alpha programs and two Mandarin Alpha programs throughout this past ministry season. Two significant bonuses of the online format were people who lived in China, California, and across Canada were able to attend and they were grateful for the opportunity. Our English Alpha in the Spring had participants from the west coast of Canada all the way to the east coast!

We were encouraged by the faithful attendance for both the English and Mandarin Alpha programs. We connected with seekers, new Christians, and some who had walked with the Lord for many years. Alpha is an evangelistic tool but can also be a discipleship tool as well. Many were enriched, challenged, and encouraged in their spiritual journey. We continue to pray that the seeds planted in many hearts will produce fruit in due season.

In particular, the Fall Mandarin Alpha had some immediate results. There were eighteen people who attended (eleven from China and seven from Markham). Of the eleven from China, three have come to faith in Jesus and committed their lives to Christ! Two Christians were able to rekindle their faith in Christ, and four are continuing their journey of faith. One seeker in the Markham area has started attending our Mandarin Life Group as she continues to search. The Mandarin Group also started a post-Alpha Bible study in December to help mainly those in China dig deeper in their faith and spiritual journey. They started with a study on the Gospel of John and then continued into the Gospel of Matthew.

We are thankful for a prayer team that undergirds our Alpha courses and prays for the needs of the course. Through these Alpha courses, we hope to make an impact in the lives of many people as they seek and search for answers in their lives. We all can be active participants by attending a course if we never have before, inviting friends, family, and co-workers to attend, and supporting this vital outreach through prayer. May the Lord bring a multitude of people into His Kingdom through the Alpha course!

The time spent with the brothers and sisters to learn in this inspiring course was very memorable and filled with joy! I have a deeper understanding of Christianity, the Bible, and better fellowship with God! I learned the most from the episode on "How to Pray." God tells us to pray without ceasing, and that prayer is having a relationship with God. Prayer brings us peace and avoids anxiety. I feel that no matter how difficult life is, God is with us! Prayer needs to be honest. It can be as simple as praying anytime, anywhere, and talking to God! The epidemic is nearly three years old, and although the outside world is complicated and chaotic, I rely on prayer with God. In God's kingdom, God is with me, gives me courage, and calls me out of the darkness and into the light. He fills me with hope, peace and joy!

In the session of "How to Resist Evil," I learned that we can trust in the power of God and we should be humble at all times when we are tempted by evil in all aspects of our life. As we pray sincerely, we can overcome temptation and the ways of the world as we adhere to a life of faith.

There is a great need for the Alpha Course in China and we had a number of participants in this iteration. The people in China need Jesus but have fewer opportunities to know Him. Thankfully, there were two seekers who decided to believe in Jesus through our course. Normally, it is a long process and journey of faith from curiosity to understanding, to making a decision, and then to becoming a true Christian. Before the last class we donated and distributed Bibles for people to continue to learn about the gospel. We were able to study the Gospel of John after the Alpha course finished as a follow-up.

Alpha was instrumental in strengthening my faith in God. Growing up, I always had questions about my religion, faith, and God. I needed to clarify many things that I always fail to get answers to; it was either difficult to find the right people or I didn't have the guts to begin the conversation. So, for a very long time, the questions piled up. They developed into more confusion, alienation, and skepticism. At one point, I felt going to church was a chore. Also, the in-person mass cancellation didn't help. It was a challenge on my faith. But an unexpected moment happened, a grad school friend invited me to Alpha. I got excited. Alpha is that one place where I could be vulnerable and, at the same time, critical. I remember the first session... I cried. There was a rush of an overwhelming feeling that I was on a journey to know God more; it was Him bringing me to Alpha. Not only did I have the chance to have safe conversations but also an awesome fellowship. Those with me in Alpha were the nicest and most diverse people! Because of them, I knew that joining the weekly Alpha sessions would be a great learning and fun experience. One thing is for sure: Alpha, its activities, sessions and community made it a perfect complement to one's journey in faith.

MASTER'S PANTRY

Pantry Team
Nancy Wilson
40+ volunteers

As the pandemic continued this past year, Master's Pantry was blessed to still be able to operate as a drive-through and delivery ministry. A wonderful team of dedicated volunteers continued to come two Thursdays a month prior to Master's Pantry and pack boxes of food, meat, and produce for the following Saturday. Another team of volunteers came on the Saturday twice a month to pack the food into people's cars and to socialize with them. This frequently included individual prayer by their cars for various needs. It has been such a blessing to continue to bless others despite the pandemic and to use the resources and skills God has given us to continue. The needs of families have increased due to the pandemic, and we have seen our clientele grow month to month. Recently, this has included helping 4 families who have immigrated here from Ukraine.

While the church provides Master's Pantry with an annual budget to stock our shelves, this ministry relies heavily on donations. We are very thankful for our membership in York Region Food Banks which provides us with deliveries of food twice per month. These deliveries include produce, milk, eggs, meat, bakery items, and non-perishable items, which were excess items donated from various stores and companies. This is such a blessing as it allows us to give things to our clients that we would not normally be able to provide. Due to the ongoing pandemic, St Patricks Parish and the Islamic Society were not able to do their food drives for us like in the past. In the spring, we were able to provide families with Rapid Antigen Tests and N95 masks provided to the church by Red Cross of Canada. These were gratefully received.

When the pandemic first began we made a decision to no longer provide clothing and household items on a regular basis due to the detail and hours that would need to be put in to offering this service. We do continue to provide these items to people on request at which time we ask for donations. With the discontinuation of clothing, Master's Pantry received a facelift, with brand new flooring and reconfigured shelving. A huge thank you to Tony Miles for overseeing this project that has so improved our surroundings. This has helped considerably with food storage and distribution.

We are so thankful for our many volunteers who have continued to support Master's Pantry faithfully with their time. We have 3 incredible teams and without them we could not continue to operate. This also includes the Unionville Youth Council under the supervision of Don Roe, who have faithfully attended for several years and are very dedicated to helping. Many have said "we love coming to Master's Pantry".

It is such a privilege to be able to minister to so many in need and to get to know them on a personal level. This past year we have heard over and over again from people how much Master's Pantry has blessed them.

HAMPERS OF HOPE

Hampers of Hope also continued to operate this past December as a drive-through. Again, this year it was a huge success, and it ran even smoother than last year. The clients drove through on the 19th and 20th and their hampers were loaded into their cars. Those clients who were unable to come and pick up their hampers due to not having a vehicle or physical challenges had their hampers delivered. We are so thankful to the many from Hockey with Heart and our congregation who delivered these hampers. We were able to expand our numbers this year opening registration up to 180 families, and in the end serving a total of 189 families. Each family received everything for a full Christmas dinner, including a turkey or chicken, produce, and non-perishable food items, as well as a provision of enough food to last a week. Each family also received a box of cookies or chocolates and gift cards for each family member.

Again this year, as they have done for many years now, we received help from Hockey with Heart and Village Grocer. Their very gracious generosity provided us with the produce, meat and much of the product that went into each hamper. Once again, Russell Foy used his expertise to reach out to many corporate sponsors who provided us with gift cards as well as products. Our own congregation also contributed in bringing in food donations and gift cards. With all of these donations, we were able to bless many families.

We cannot thank this church and you enough for all you have done for our family. Honestly, we would not have been able to get through without your help. We treasure all the fresh fruit and vegetables, and occasional vegetarian items you give us. Most of all, we just love to come to see the volunteers as it makes us feel so good, we always leave with a sense of Peace and Hope... I am amazed at how [Nancy] can talk to God so naturally without a script, the words just come out and are so meaningful. - A mom and 2 adult daughters

Mary is a recently separated single mom who had lost her job through COVID, and had no family support, no financial support other than child benefits, was driving an old car that needed to be fixed, and she was distraught. As we greeted her that first day, she immediately broke down with sobs that were uncontrollable. She asked about services at the church because she "needed prayer and a blessing". I told her that we could pray right there. After receiving her food she parked her car and I spent several minutes talking, listening and praying with her. I told her Jesus loved her, died for her and he could help and guide her. We prayed for her situation, for her car and a job. When she left she said she felt so much better and felt like a burden had lifted. The next month when Mary returned to the pantry she had a huge smile on her face. As Linda and I greeted her, she told us that she had found a part-time job and someone had fixed her car for her at a very low cost. She said "God answered your prayers". Again, I reminded her that God loves her and we stood there and prayed to thank God for what he has done. She continues to work, and her car continues to run. Now we are praying that she will get more hours, as 15 hours a week is not enough, although it helps. - Nancy Wilson*

*name changed for privacy

THE POWER OF A SANDWICH

Your continued generosity has been amazing! Over the past year, we have sent over 2,000 sandwiches, boxes and boxes of non-perishable items, many bags of clothing, personal hygiene items, and almost \$1,000.00 in cash donations. Toronto Alliance Church (TAC) used all these donations to minister to people in need in the downtown community. We have not only met the needs of TAC but have been able to go above and beyond what was needed with MANY additional sandwiches and other items being provided at each outreach event. There have been weeks where we thought we might be short on items, but God has taught us to trust Him and pray that He will provide what is needed. We can honestly say that every time we have gone down to TAC, we have brought what was asked for and more.

We have had several new volunteers come, some from our church and others who are non-believers and do not attend a church, to assist with preparing the lunch bags. The time spent around the island in the kitchen has been very valuable as we talk and share stories while we work together. One of these volunteers made the comment recently that they were sad they would miss being able to help as they were busy the week that we were meeting! The assistance and generosity we've received, has not only touched our lives but they have also touched the lives of the people living downtown.

Vino, Claude and I would like to thank each one who has partnered with us and contributed to this ministry over the past year, whether through prayer, making sandwiches, donating items or giving financially. All of your contributions are valued and appreciated. As we look forward to the next year, we hope to continue to meet the needs of these people who are hungry both physically and spiritually.

TAC Coordinators
 Vino Gulasekharam
 Claude Mathieu
 Lisa Mathieu



2,000
SANDWICHES

1,000
DOLLARS

and much
more...



As people are drawn to our door for lunches, food and clothing there is a lot of spiritual confusion and trouble that comes as well. Sometimes this means that we ourselves are verbally abused or spat at. But it is all worth it so that we can be a place of healing and where the Spirit brings clarity. Here are a few stories that illustrate this:

There is one lady who comes by our door. One day she was, at first, talking a lot of nonsense - words and thoughts that don't make sense together at all. It was impossible to understand what she was getting at. I was silently praying, asking the Lord that He would just help her to communicate and have a clear mind. Low and behold, after a few minutes of continuing to listen to this woman, I realized that she was talking quite clearly and communicating effectively. We have been able to minister to this lady in ways since then - being used by the Lord to bring some inner healing to painful memories where she had never spoken to anyone else about.

...one lady said a few months ago that, even though there is no dinner going on inside of TAC, she still finds even at the door that it is a place of refuge for her and many others. She is very thankful.

We are so grateful for the folks at Unionville Alliance Church. These have been, and continue to be, times of confusion and change, where what was once normal is no longer so.

I'm especially aware that you have not been able to come and minister physically alongside us in the Community Night ministry. And so you are not able to directly see the fruit of your generosity.

And there is so much good happening. Thank you for all of your wonderful donations which really minister to people. The lunches and clothing and food bank items also foster a space of prayer, healing and provision.

- Pastor Andrew, Toronto Alliance Church

HOSTING LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups is one of the core ministries at Unionville Alliance that helps us pursue our mission to be passionate followers of Jesus. We desire Life Groups to be a place of openness, transparency, community, support, and prayer. A number of our groups have been continuing for many years and because of their longevity, they have been able to come to a place of trust and vulnerability with one another which helps to catalyze spiritual growth. We are particularly grateful for many of our leaders who have also faithfully led their group for many years through many highs and lows. Of course, the most recent difficulty was the Covid pandemic which caused us to adapt the way we run Life Groups. All of our groups initially went online and some have slowly added in person meetings and fellowship opportunities as restrictions have eased.

Although the pandemic has taken a toll on our Life Groups, many have persevered through it. There have been some blessings that have come from the online medium such as increased attendance in some groups or people able to join from a far distance. However, the very nature of Life Groups which is "doing life together" has faced hurdles and obstacles because of the pandemic. We are in a season of hybrid groups as many groups continue to meet online while some have also added in person meetings. We are thankful for Les Miyata who has served as interim Life Group co-ordinator helping our leaders and those seeking to join a Life Group.

In our training session in September, we refreshed our vision of Life Groups while sharing the benefits of running sermon-based Life Groups. We encouraged our leaders to be a Barnabas-style leader as reflected in our September sermon series. In our January training session, various leaders shared testimonies about the blessings and challenges of leading a group as we sought to encourage one another particularly during this season of Covid. We looked at how we can deepen our relationship with the Lord and with our group members. We also reflected on some meaningful Life Group prayer ideas to strengthen prayer within our groups. In June, we ended our ministry season with our first in-person leaders gathering in two years. We celebrated, ate, and played games together. It was an enriching time that helped us to rejoice in God's work of grace in our lives and in our groups. We desire to add more groups and leaders in the year to come as we revitalize our Life Group ministry.

As lockdowns eased up, we were finally able to meet face-to-face. We had our potlucks and one-time, as the kids ministered to us by singing and playing instruments, the Spirit moved over us. One member played the guitar and we were all singing hymns and worship songs to the Lord. The gifts of the Spirit were overflowing! It was an encouraging and uplifting time together. Through our group chat, we continue to share prayer requests, greetings, bulletins (Church or family events), links to Sunday services, etc. We celebrated birthdays and had a picnic in June with our families while extending it to our relatives and friends as well. In this challenging and difficult time, the fear of Covid still exists, but we try not to give up meeting together, encouraging one another, praying for one another and using the gifts He has given us for His glory!

BUILDING PROJECTS

Facilities Committee
 Tony Miles
 Terry Doner
 Steve Fish
 Don Griffin

The Facilities Committee oversees the maintenance and upgrades of the facilities. Our role is to create a positive first impression for all who enter.

We wish to thank our janitor for his work in keeping the facilities in the best condition. In addition, a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the following projects:

ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY

- touchless faucets & automatic doors to the lower level washrooms
- automatic door and upgrades to the lower level accessible washroom
- replaced all interior door handles with lever style door handles

YOUTH ROOM

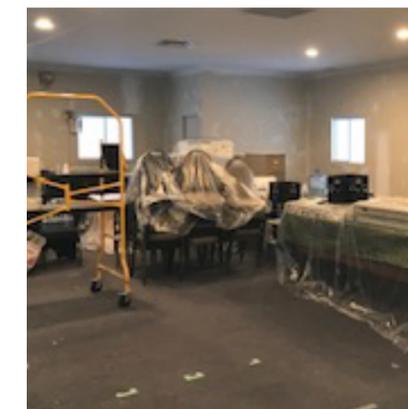
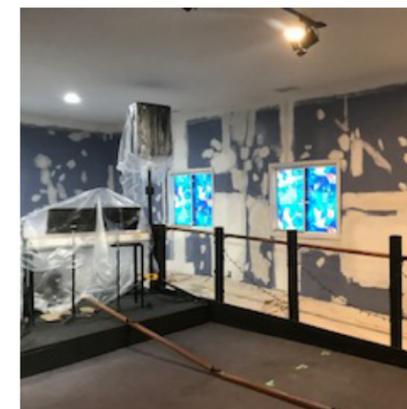
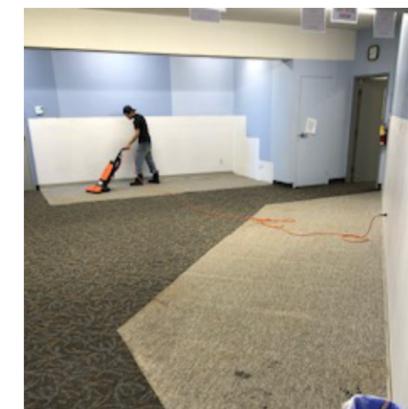
- Major upgrade to the interior of the building including lighting, ceiling, flooring and painting

SECURITY

- rekeyed all of the interior door locks

PLUMBING

- Installed a commercial dishwasher in the Servery which will allow the Church to be more environmentally responsible
- Replaced the water lines in the lower level which have been failing
- added a drainage system to Room 7 to prevent mold and mildew



WORSHIP & CREATIVE ARTS

This has been another year of change! We thank Nadia Brissett for her leadership over this ministry from March to September 2021. In October, Kesha Wint returned to an amended role of Director of Worship and Creative Arts alongside Colin Ainsworth as Associate.

Brandy Bayley and Ken Cheung are welcomed additions as worship leaders who volunteer their time in leading and planning services with Kesha and Colin. Our worship experience has grown in the past year and we continue to seek God's direction in how we create the services.

Our Praise and Prayer events were held every other month on Sunday evenings to make space for people as they approach the throne of God with petitions, anticipation, and praise. Our goal was to create a more intimate setting for us to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us with spontaneous prayers and songs. We hope to continue in the next church calendar year.

We loved coming together with Children's Ministry and Young Adults Ministry for a couple events as well. One of the events was our Praise and Prayer: Christmas Caroling Edition. On November 30, 2021, our church gathered for an evening to sing carols, have fun giving out prizes and see our children sing a few songs. Everyone was asked to come with an ugly Christmas Sweater which provided a tapestry of bright colours and great outfits.

For our Christmas season, we studied the parable of The Prodigal Son. To start, we had the honour to have actor Jason Hildebrand's performance of his rendition, where he portrayed the 3 main characters through impactful monologues. Christmas Eve was very eventful as COVID plagued us which caused us to lose a couple of key members to quarantine. All in all, God brought us through it and we were able to deliver a memorable service. This included a contemporary drama, directed by Rob Scott, to retell the story of The Prodigal Son.

Our team has seen some growth with new people added to the worship team while others stepped down who didn't feel comfortable coming in-person during the pandemic. We continue to trust God to bring the people He would like to serve in this ministry.

We are grateful for God's continued provision as we grow our worship experience at UAC.

Jim has been part of our Worship Team for almost 5 years. Jim arrived at UAC after leaving Hong Kong and moving to Markham. When we met Jim, he was battling depression and anxiety and it seemed there was no way out. Through his time on the team, we've seen the miraculous healing God has done in Jim's mind and has brought Jim closer to Him through his beautiful playing of the piano. Through worship, Jim has seen a change within himself and he gives God thanks for given the opportunity to play on the team!

Worship Leaders
Kesha Wint
Colin Ainsworth
Brandy Bayley
Ken Cheung

TECH & ONLINE

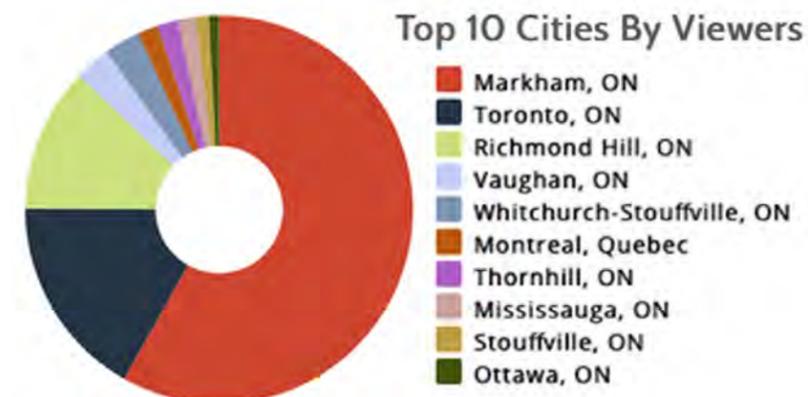
The role of the technical ministries team at UAC is to support all aspects of our worship experience in our facilities. The measures of success are: our congregation can hear and see what is helpful in worship. Worship in its fullness encompasses our entire Sunday morning experience. How do we achieve this? It takes several things working together: people, planning, and technology.

Staff capacity has increased to about 60% of ideal levels, which means eight additional people are required (If you could volunteer one Sunday per month this challenge would be solved). For those on the team, we are grateful for their tireless efforts. Thank you. We all continue to learn how to better use the tools which have been provided to spread the good news.

Our online capabilities continue to be a critical component of the church's ministry. As some people have returned, our online attendance has decreased. However, we estimate that our online community is about the same size as the in-person community.

Most of our viewers are in our local community, and we have several 'regulars' who are spread across North America. We also have visitors who join us from interesting places: including the US, Jamaica, China, Trinidad, and India to name a few.

Technical Director
Terry Doner



Our God is a creative God. The opening scene in scripture is all about creation. In Genesis 1:3 God speaks and creates light. The rest of the Bible is communicating His story of redemption for mankind. Every Sunday we use sound and light to reinforce that message to as many people as we can and via our recordings, we extend that to the other 167 hours in the week.



AUDIO

Clear communication is the technical backbone of our services. The audio system has served us well over the past 20 years but will need significant investment in the next few years.

LIGHTING

Proper illumination of our services for the congregation, both in person and through video, is a powerful tool which can set a mood and focus attention.

PROJECTION

Visually supporting our services by projecting song lyrics, graphics, videos, and other media encourages engagement in worship and with the biblical teachings.

BROADCAST VIDEO

The ability to record and share our sermons online as well as stream the entire service live via Facebook and YouTube has been instrumental for those who could not attend in person. We thank our online hosts for engaging with the virtual community.

PASTORAL CARE

When we take into consideration the limitations that the Covid-19 Pandemic had and continues to have on our outreach, the Ministry was still able to carry out some of its stated objectives:

- Support the pastors by assisting them in fulfilling the fellowship's mission and vision.
- Stand in the gap with the pastors to support them in fulfilling their spiritual responsibilities in providing care and comfort for members.
- Substitute for the pastors when required or called upon to perform such functions as visiting the sick in hospitals, convalescence homes, and shut-ins at home; and assisting in arranging funerals.

HOME & INSTITUTION VISITS

We make an effort to visit members who are physically unable to come to church, who are ill or bedridden whether at home or in the hospital or grieving the recent loss of a loved one. During these visits the Lord's Supper was served; prayer was said; and the Word was read.

18 visits were made this past year.

TELEPHONE CALLS & EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

From time to time, we make intentional efforts to connect with people over the phone or by email to meet a social need to remain connected.

FUNERAL ASSISTANCE

Assistance was given to the Lopez and Din families as they arranged a funeral for Frank Lopez and Bashir Din.

MEAL ARRANGEMENTS

When there is a need for meals to be provided, we work with the Women's Ministry to prepare and provide meals.

I was moved to see how our pastoral team recognized the depth of our loss and not only prayed with us but spent time to fellowship and give spiritual support to the entire family. They helped make the arrangements for the service and provided guidance to all the grandchildren that were participating and arranging the service for my dad. This selfless act of love has been the hallmark of this relationship for many years. The support came in the form of house visits, counselling, sharing the word, sharing a meal, many evenings of great conversations and yes, even celebrating Holy Communion at home with both my parents. In fact, my dad celebrated the blessings of the Holy Communion service with the team at home just a day before he had to be admitted to the hospital-before the Lord called him home. We are so grateful for the entire pastoral care team for all their efforts to comfort us and be a beacon of hope and true Christian love- agape love is alive and well at Unionville Alliance Church.

- Neelum Haq

Team Members

Al Davy
Lea Cantos
Nolly Cantos
Yvette Davy
Bev Gonsalves
Linus Robert
Franklyn Pietersz
Michael Wong

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The community care committee's purpose is to provide a financial safety net to those in our community who have short term financial needs and require help that will put them in a better place to face the future. We also encourage clients to seek financial management advice if we sense that would be helpful, so that better financial habits will improve their overall situation. All cases are reviewed to ensure that the request is legitimate, and then processed in a manner that, we trust, reflects the love and compassion of Jesus.

The anticipated rebound in requests post-covid has not happened, as we only dealt with four cases this past year. We assumed that the end of covid-related government support would significantly increase the demand for our services, but that has not been the case. However, the committee stands ready to assist whenever a request is received.

A typical case might involve covering a month's rent for an individual, with a cheque sent to the landlord, in order to allow them to catch up on other bills such as credit cards or utilities. Our clients are generally grateful for what we can do to help them, and we are thankful for the opportunity to serve in this way.

Please continue to pray that God would give us the wisdom to interact effectively with those who request our support.

POWER UP! KIDS

The 2021 season of Children's Ministries began with our annual Kids Kapers Camps. In 2021, we were able to offer both an in-person and an online Knights of North Castle camp for the children of our congregation and community. We transformed our church into a castle and were excited to receive children into our building. Our summer team created a memorable experience for our campers and by the grace of God we were excited to have many families continue to join us for Sunday mornings. During the summer, we collected items for Master's Pantry and created care packages as we learned how to love our neighbours.

There was much transition in the Children's Ministries department both in personnel and branding. As of September 2021, the Children's Ministries program, previously known as Children's Connections, became Power Up! The purpose of Power Up! is to introduce our children to the Power of God through His Holy Spirit! Furthermore, to better support the development of our children and youth, Children's Ministries was restructured to serve children from birth to Grade 5. Those in Grade 6 now join our Junior High Youth Extension program.

In the midst of the pandemic, families continued to gather on Sunday mornings. This year, Power Up! intentionally prayed for the persecuted church following the Open Doors prayer calendar. Moreso, in following lead of the adult congregation, we encouraged families to pray and cultivate spiritual discipleship in their homes through the use of prayer calendars and prayer prompts. In keeping with our vision to touch our world through Jesus, one family at a time, we sought to create both educational and social opportunities for families to connect and grow. These included having Christie Thomas, a Christian educator join us to lead some parenting workshops to encourage and equip parents to nurture deep roots of faith in their families. We also had some fun and exciting opportunities to connect including a Family Skating Night and Family Movie Night. As we desired to build and restore the relationships in which the pandemic had brought distance, we were overjoyed to have so many families join us for these community building events.

We thank God for His faithfulness this past year and praise God in the many ways He worked in the lives of our families and workers.

Children's Team
Allison Alvares
40+ volunteers

A PEAK FROM 2022 SUMMER CAMP >>

It was the first day of camp and Simon did not want to join us. He was upset because he was going to miss a summer of video games. For Simon, the morning started off with crying and frustration while he refused to come in. Eventually, while not necessarily enthusiastic, he joined in on the activities. Simon didn't engage with the kids or with the leaders in the group. However, when a leader talked to Simon one-on-one, he was excited to share his life. As time went on, Simon grew closer to the leaders one-on-one, especially our amazing Camp Director, Sophie. Sometimes, it can be hard for leaders when children don't engage in the large group settings, but we praise God for His gift of the Holy Spirit who continued to nudge us to connect with Simon one-on-one. While there weren't huge changes in the first few weeks of camp in Simon's behaviour, by the time Week 4 rolled around, there was a change in his attitude. And this was HUGE! Simon wanted to help us with the missions story and engaged in the Bible Story time passionately! He spoke to the leaders about how EXCITED he was to participate in those "small" ways. That last week, Simon won an award. We praised and thanked God for how He was working in Simon's life. And we were so encouraged to hear Simon say that he was proud of himself. This was a transformation by the grace of God! This child who on multiple occasions outright refused to join us, was now participating and excited to do so! Moreso, he made a good friend during the last week of camp and encouraged and cheered on his friend during our competitions and games. But even more than that, he joined us the next Sunday and we were so blessed to have him with us! Praise God that His love is transformational and that Simon got to experience that love this summer!*

PLUGGED-IN YOUTH

Plugged-In Youth have shown themselves to be caring, talented, resilient deep thinkers. They have invested in their relationship with Jesus. They have built a supportive community. This year, with the sudden loss of their youth pastor, the youth had to quickly adjust to a new leadership model. During this transition, they discussed the kind of youth group they wanted. They agreed on their values and worked together with their leaders to delve further into the Bible. Prayer played a significant role in their gatherings. The youth also served in several areas of ministry. During all their learning and relationship building, loads of fun was had through special events. The youth of UAC are hungry for deeper truth; for a dynamic relationship with Jesus. May we be faithful in supporting them through example and prayer

Youth Leaders
Leonor Lopes
Rhys Foy
Naomi Foy
Kesha Wint



*name changed for privacy

RECLAIMED YOUNG ADULTS

Our Reclaimed Young Adults represents a wide variety of people in various stages of professional and spiritual growth. Some are in university and others are part of the workforce and looking for ways to engage their faith and invest into their community. We are blessed to have many of our young adults serving in a variety of ministries inside the church and outside the church. They serve passionately, diligently, and faithfully.

Our ministry year started out with a time of sharing our stories and journey of faith. We were able to get to know one another as we heard about each person's experience with Jesus and how God brought them to this particular point in their lives. We then started a study on the Holy Spirit as we examined the person, nature, and work of the Spirit in our lives. This was in preparation for the sermon series that would be shared later on in the year. The young adults were able to share their experiences and understanding of the Spirit as they learned more about the Trinity and the work of the Spirit. November and December were filled with opportunities to learn about missions, help with Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, Hampers of Hope, and of course our yearly Christmas Party!

In January, we were blessed to hear from a young adult who is serving overseas in a difficult part of the world. Her testimony and journey of faith as a dentist was inspiring and encouraging as we were challenged to use our profession for gospel purposes and missional endeavours. As things started to open up, we had a number of fellowship nights for the Young Adults to reconnect in person after a long season of isolation. We concentrated on rebuilding and renewing relationships through movies nights, games, food, and fellowship. We joined the churchwide skating night and also had a joint event with the youth to help create some connections between the Youth and Young Adults.

Two of our young adults got married and we celebrated their union as we rejoiced in God's work of grace in their lives. Our Young Adult Life Group continued to meet on Sundays after the service. A group of committed and devoted attendees met bi-weekly to dig deeper into God's word while sharing their lives with one another. We continue to see an increase in young adults in our congregation and are looking for new and innovative ways to engage them in the mission of God.

I have been attending UAC for a year, and the community I have found through Reclaimed meetings and life group has been an answer to many prayers. My arrival at Reclaimed overlapped with a season of loss in my life and provided me with a new beginning and community I had been praying for. I wanted to build new friendships, but I knew that might be challenging at a new young adults group in a larger church. Thankfully, I was proved wrong. Since I arrived at Reclaimed, my experience has been characterized by a welcoming and friendly environment, intentional friendships, and a sense of belonging. I am grateful to Pastor Daniel and others for cultivating a welcoming community. The Lord knew this is where I needed to be, and I am truly thankful to have found a new church home at UAC. I feel challenged to grow in my faith, excited to participate in this community and continue developing friendships.

- Bethany Roberts

OASIS SENIORS

Oasis. The Merriam Webster dictionary defines it as a fertile or green area in an arid region (such as a desert) or something that provides refuge, relief, or pleasant contrast.

Constrained by the rigorous restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Older Adults Still In Service (OASIS) adapted to the circumstances and managed to produce fruit to fit its name's meaning. As in the previous year we could not meet in person. Our regular bi-weekly meetings on Zoom for most of the past year was our typical exercise. As restrictions were eased, we started thinking of other things and so 55 of us were able to get together for a nice open-air BBQ in Claude and Lisa Mathieu's backyard. We were pleased that a good number were not adherents of UAC. The Andre Rieu concert was in August and in the coming year we are planning to phase in more in-person events indoor and outdoor, bearing in mind that more cautious steps need to be embraced since age is a factor contributing to susceptibility to Covid-19. We have had teaching sessions in the past. Seminars and speakers will be a part of the future.

As our name's acronym suggests, we also are looking to being in service in different ways at UAC and the community as opportunities present themselves. Under Pastor Leonor and Pastor Daniel's guidance, we already have thoughts in this regard.

We are thankful to Elizabeth Scott and Vickie Daicoff for their service on the committee in the past.

ZOOM GET TOGETHERS

Typically, 10 to 15 members zoomed in bi-weekly. Why? It served its purpose of being a venue for sharing Biblical principles with uplifting music, meeting new people, and forming friendships with others of similar ages and different cultural backgrounds. During the lock downs, it was good to hear and see our fellow believers share what is happening and be able to pray for the needs of others.

It challenged me to become more Christ-centred.

We learned to listen to others as we discussed the impact of different Bible passages, shared about difficult times without suffering condemnation.

It makes me feel that I was not alone in this world and there is always someone that I could contact with no fear of condemnation or of failure.

I enjoyed the example others within the group set from those who had walked longer with Christ.

OASIS Leadership

- Michael Wong
- Lois Black
- Yvette Davy
- Edna Eade
- Dale Mace
- Carol Mills
- Christine Selvadurai

MEN'S MINISTRY

Our Men's Ministry had a relaxed year in terms of events and activities. With reduced organized events, our men continued to connect, fellowship, and invest into each other in very organic ways throughout the year. Some men began mentoring relationships, others enjoyed causal meetups and meals together, some played sports together, while others supported one another in prayer. During the Fall, we had one Zoom gathering in order to reconnect, fellowship, and catch up with each other. A number of men attended, and it was an enriching time to see one another and hear various stories of events and experiences in each other's lives.

In late January, a few men signed up for a study of the Book of Ephesians led by William Ah-Ton. They met weekly for three and a half months and followed a curriculum on RightNow Media which was made up of nine sessions, each one introduced through a video by J.D. Greer. During this time, we read Scripture together, had deep discussions, and shared insights as we went through a number of questions for each chapter of Ephesians. The perspectives were diverse, especially since the age of the participants was also diverse, from young adults to retirees and the rest falling somewhere in between. It was truly a blessing to hear the encouragement offered across generations given the different challenges that each generation faces.

During our last meeting, the men expressed how much they enjoyed the study and that it had a positive impact on their spiritual growth. Many expressed interest to take part in another study in the future. We are thankful that the men of our church can connect both in organized events and organic opportunities both in church and outside the church. May the Lord raise up many more men to be active participants and leaders in our church community.

Men's Team
William Ah-Ton
Russell Foy

It was a wonderful time with brothers in Christ studying His Word. One always gains knowledge and other perspectives when studying the Word with others. It benefits the health of one's soul and kindles the spirit.

I got a lot from our studies: deeper, stronger and confident that God controls all things pertaining to His adopted children.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our 3-part vision focuses on sharing Jesus' life-transforming message with women of all ages by introducing them to Christ, creating opportunities to help them mature in their faith and equipping them to be disciple-makers "To touch our world through Jesus, one life at a time."

We hosted our monthly activities online from September 2021 to May 2022. In April 2022, we hosted an in-person card craft outreach at the church. At our backyard social in June, we enjoyed welcoming Bonnie Burnett visiting from Thailand, and our new pastor, Leonor. Our online presence grew within our women's facebook group (105 members) and our monthly emails (85 subscribers). We strived to add value to these avenues by inviting various women to share a short video reflection. It proved to be a unique way to hear valuable perspectives on the work God is doing in our lives, whether that be from a young adult woman or from an International Worker. Furthermore, our online seminars were focused on developing an understanding of God's love, His promises, and practical life skills. We provided space to hear how God was leading our young adult women, International Workers, or the local Markham-Stouffville Crisis Pregnancy Centre. Zoom breakout rooms allowed women to break off into small discussion and pray together.

Women's Team
Lorraine Fish
Ivonne Alvarez
Barb Bitter
Joni Miyata
Lily Zhang

For a young adult woman to come to a church on her own, especially during Covid, it can be challenging to find fellowship. One such woman started attending the online sessions and through one of the leaders, was introduced to another woman who had a similar career to her own. They started a mentoring relationship. Moreso, she was able to connect with a couple of other women who are encouraging and supporting her as she continues her career and spiritual walk with God.



HOSPITALITY

Hospitality Leadership
Barb Doner Joni Miyata
Verna Proctor Judy Smith

The Hospitality Ministry sprung up during the COVID era. We thank the church staff and leaders for their creativity in adapting so well to comply with the ever-changing government rules and regulations. The idea of a Hospitality Ministry began in early 2022. No one knew then how long the COVID era would last. This ministry was birthed from a desire to bridge both the 'in person' congregants with the 'at home' church family and to keep our church family as one united family. Why? So that when we all finally return to corporate worship together under one roof, we will still feel connected as a family.

The purpose of the Hospitality ministry is to show the love of Jesus through tangible gifts and messages so that individuals and families feel blessed, loved, appreciated, and connected. This is especially needed during the pandemic and as we return to gathering together. Our other purpose is to support staff in their ministries as they also reach out to touch the world one life at a time.

MANY TEAMS MAKE UP THE WHOLE

PLANNING

We brainstorm ideas, messages, gift tokens and shop.

PACKING

In the comfort of our own homes, we prepare the packages to be delivered.

IN-CHURCH DISTRIBUTION

We distribute gifts to church family members who pick up their gift at in-person church services.

OUT-CHURCH DISTRIBUTION

We receive the packages to deliver within specific areas to our church families. For some, when the situation warranted it, cards and messages were mailed or emailed.

With this loving foundation, it is no wonder that our first 'loving' hospitality event occurred for Valentine's Day. For Valentine's Day, touching notes were designed and written to each family letting our congregants know that although we were not all gathering together, we all were being showered with love from our church. To sweeten the message, chocolates were placed in clear cellophane bags and tied with ribbons before being delivered to homes.

The church received so many beautiful reports from recipients; our church family members felt loved, connected, and touched by this small show of love. The deliverers, who were fortunate enough to greet our congregants in person, reported that the recipients felt so happy and loved to have received this gift.

Some other events that have taken place include Easter/Lent, Mother's Day and Father's Day. In addition, the Hospitality Ministry has supported other church initiatives, such as the children's Lent packages and the Marriage Course.

We have prayerfully stepped up to oversee the Sunday morning Coffee Ministry. The big picture is to provide free refreshments to all who enter our doors with a warm and welcoming first impression of our church. Moving forward, with people venturing back to church, our greatest need is for volunteers to help with the Coffee Ministry.

We are all thankful for this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. We cannot begin to tell you how blessed we feel simply by helping and thus blessing others. We are all being blessed more than we ever would have imagined.

STORIES FROM THE VALENTINE DISTRIBUTION >>

We received the lovely treats delivered to our place with our names printed on it! Thank you so much to you and the team who organized it and made the delivery. All of you are so thoughtful. It made our day!

Some people asked for prayer. It was a blessing to connect with people and to be able to pray with them.

How nice to receive a thoughtful Valentine's gift from the Church. We are so touched and thankful for that. Thank you especially to the one who delivered it to our hands.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to deliver them and meet people.

Someone expressed gratitude that people would take time to drive "all that way".

I received the lovely gift and enjoyed it very much. I appreciate the remembrance from the church. Looking forward to the time when I can gather with you all again.

Your church is full of love. What I do to help needy people is so little. I like the idea of packing gifts and praying for people who are receiving the packages. Thank you for letting me join the hospitality team.

It was a blessing to bring a blessing!

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