

WILLOWDALE MINISTRIES /  
DEPARTMENTS REPORTS  
*2022 ANNUAL CHURCH  
BUSINESS MEETING*

Dear Members,

While the pandemic, with its accompanying restrictions, has made it challenging for many of our ministries and departments to function as they usually would, nevertheless, many of our leaders have found creative ways to continue the work of helping to extend God's kingdom by building up those within the church family, and reaching out to those in our community.

Here you will find the reports of those ministry / department leaders who were able to provide a summary of 2021, along with some plans for 2022. I hope you will take a few minutes to honour their service by reading what they have prepared.

May God continue to lead us to be Mission-Driven  
in 2022!

Pastor Darren R. Godsoe

## Family Ministries Report for 2021

Throughout this pandemic our Family Ministries has been active online. Every Monday night, since May 4, 2020, we have been meeting online for our Church Family Chat. This has provided an outlet for church members and has been a great tool for getting to know one another outside of our worship setting. We meet, we pray, we laugh and we cry. We are there for one another in a non-judgmental setting. And throughout it all, we have fun learning the Bible during our Bible quizzes. While isolation continues to be difficult for many of our members, our weekly meetings give us a chance to be together, so please join us on Monday nights from 7-8 pm. We miss you and would love to see you!

In addition to the Church Family Chat, Family Ministries has been hosting a Willowdale Book Club on Tuesday nights. We get together weekly to discuss the book we are reading. So far in 2021 we have read through and discussed 3 books: “The Called .... The Chosen”, “Steps to Personal Revival” and “A Brief History of Seventh-day Adventists”. We are currently reading our 4<sup>th</sup> book, “The Ministry of Healing.” These meetings are open to all and we would love to see you there. Please join us on Tuesday nights from 7-8 pm!

## Willowdale MG Ministry 2021

### Romans 12:12

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Although the pandemic creates restrictions, Willowdale Master Guide Ministry continues to meet virtually for training sessions, worship and fellowship.

Willowdale Warriors Master Guides continue to serve in Adventurer, Master Guide and Pathfinder ministries of our local church.

“May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.” Psalm 33:22

The Adult Sabbath School Ministry's mission is to provide a Holistic Sabbath School that will help each Sabbath School Member and Visitor to grow into personal relationship with God, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and Bible studies.

The Adult Sabbath Ministry values everyone who Jesus died for and pledges to support them through the various life cycles they may encounter on life's pathway.

The Adult Sabbath Ministry's vision is to connect daily with God through the study of His Word and to encourage each member to minister to each other.

### **Highlights of 2021:**

- When the Church's in-person worship services were suspended because of COVID-19 the decision was made that Sabbath School Classes would be held via Zoom.
- Therefore, since March 21, 2020 the Adult Sabbath School classes have been on the Zoom Platform and except for Ontario Conference-Led Worship services the Sabbath School Classes were held each Sabbath.
- Mission spotlight was reinduced and will be shown once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sabbath.
- The members support other members through various life cycles or those celebrating milestones by sending cards.

### **The proposed plan for 2022:**

- Encouraging members to participate in Sabbath School Facilitators/Teachers training with materials available from the [nadadultministries.org/sabbath-school/](http://nadadultministries.org/sabbath-school/) website.

- The Ontario Conference, Sabbath School department is offering the Qualified Adult Sabbath School Teacher Course – CU103 – How to Interpret the Bible and the Writings of Ellen G. White on February 6 and 20 and March 6 and 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Members are encouraged to register for this course.
- We have Introduced a compassionate component of Sabbath School where members can support members through the various life cycles. Especially during COVID-19 restrictions it is important to be checking in on our vulnerable members.
- In addition, the Adult Sabbath School will work with the Personal Ministries department to provide support to our members.



Pathfinder log: 2021-01-01 to 2021-12-31

The Willowdale Warriors Pathfinders welcomed 2021, knowing the virtual experience continued. While our calendar of events was shorter than usual, our Thanksgiving list was longer than previous years. To start the year off right, we attended a district consecration service organized by the Metro Central district. Our scheduled online classes resumed without much effort, as we had found our virtual groove back in 2020. A friendly in-house Pathfinder Bible Experience competition on the book of Hebrews was organized and enjoyed by both the participants and spectators. The pathfinders supported the Divine hour service and were thankful for the opportunity to serve.

With spring on the horizon, plans were made for our first virtual induction ceremony – we were venturing into the unknown. There were fewer hiccups than expected and we welcomed 8 new members into the club. Without missing a beat or giving into daily challenges, our attention shifted back to completing the task at hand, to ensure all pathfinders had a positive experience and finished the club year successfully. As always there's lots to be done before investiture in June. Class counsellors selected honours that were interactive and more effective in a Zoom environment. In addition, they, attended conference-led events and training seminars for up-to-date information on risk management and new teaching techniques. We celebrated with our elementary, high school and college graduates, as well as recognized the support of the parents and the commitment of the staff. Our investiture service was extra special, as it was another new virtual experience and a testimony of what can be done when we partner with God. After that, we headed outside to enjoy the warm weather. Hallelujah!

The remainder of the year was a blur. During the summer months the staff worked tirelessly to ensure we were ready for the new club year. With continued restrictions in place – the new club year started in September with many expectations for in-person classes, but that didn't happen - so we boldly went forward with business as usual. On

Pathfinder Day, the talents and skills of the Pathfinders were used to lead the Divine hour service. Later in the quarter a PBE team was formed, and we immersed ourselves into the study of the book of Ruth and 1 Kings. Nine new pathfinders were inducted in our second virtual ceremony, and with great rejoicing we witnessed the baptism of two pathfinders. Our annual year-end wrap-up was loud, filled with laughter, games, prayer, and hope.

Merlene Saunders-DeGuire, Director



*"Don't lose Hope, you never know what tomorrow may bring" - Unknown.*

## Deaconesses

The Deaconesses along with greeters, deacons and elders have played a very important role in helping Willowdale Church re-open in November 2021. Although not all of the deaconesses have been able to help, a core group has been willing to assist with screening, registering and ushering our guests on a regular basis. Each willing participant arrived on their scheduled date ready to help. Our members and visitors are always greeted with a warm smile from our volunteers, while ensuring all of our safety protocols were carefully followed. I am very thankful for their assistance!



The Prayer Ministry's mission is to provide a Holistic environment where members intercede and petition for the church families and others.

The Prayer Ministry is a compassionate ministry that supports members through the various life cycles.

Since COVID-19 has suspended in-person worship, the mid-Week prayer service has seen a growth, where as many as 25 homes are joining every Wednesday night. These sessions are led by the Willowdale Pastors and Elders.

The prayer ministry planned a 40 Days of Prayer for the Willowdale Church Family using "Book 11 - 40 Days Prayers and Devotions on Spirit Filled Life". It was held from August 1 to September 9, 2021.

The Mid-Week prayer meeting is currently using "Book 1 - 40 Days: Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming" as the Devotional reading.

The Prayer and Fast program is being held every First Sabbath of the Month. Since COVID-19 the program is being held on Zoom.

The Prayer Ministry participated in the Annual 10 Days of Prayer 2022. This year Willowdale's members joined the program put on by the Ontario Conference from January 5 – 15. The theme was "Connecting And Making Disciples Like Jesus".

The Prayer Ministry also supports all Conference-Led Prayer initiatives.

## Willowdale SDA Church Safety Committee

The Willowdale Seventh-day Adventist Church safety committee involves identifying, analyzing, treating, and monitoring the risk involved in the church process or activity. Risk is the probability of an undesirable event or outcome during or as a result of a process or activity. 2021 was again an unprecedented year due to the unpredictable challenges of the pandemic. However, in November 2021 church family members were finally blessed with an option for an in-person church service. Several safety measures are currently in place to mitigate risk for in-person church service that consist of:

1. COVID-19 floor and wall signages placed throughout the church.
2. COVID-19 disinfectant spray bottles placed throughout the church.
3. Single use and reusable face masks distributed to volunteers.
4. Church pews taped off for proper, mandatory physical distancing.
5. A team of church volunteers organized to conduct a safe Sabbath worship.
6. Crowd control barriers to assist traffic flow.
7. Online registration program in place to assist church capacity allotment.
8. COVID pre-screening questions conducted online or before church entry.
9. Annual fire inspection conducted.
10. Fire heat sensors replaced.

With the ongoing occurrence with the Omicron variant, the current goal for 2022 is to continually maintain a safe worship environment by conducting services online and an optional in-person service. Annual fire inspection will take place. The AED adult pads will also be replaced in 2022.

EVERY ACTION COUNTS...please help stop the spread.



God bless and stay safe.

