

Willowdale Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

Annual Church Business Meeting  
January 28, 2023

*Ministry and Department Reports*



Dear Willowdale Members,

As we more and more emerge from the pandemic restrictions, our ministries and departments are provided with more freedom to creatively join together in helping to extend God's kingdom.

Thank you to all those who lead and assist in our various ministries and departments – and an extra special thank you to those who were able to provide a report for our membership. I invite you to peruse these reports so that you can be more up-to-date on what has happened, what is happening, and what is planned to happen.

Pastor Darren R. Godsoe

## Family Ministries Report for 2022

Throughout this pandemic our Family Ministries have 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 who are unable to come to church in person, our weekly meetings give us a chance to be together.

In addition to the Church Family Chat, Family Ministries has been hosting a Willowdale Book Club. We get together weekly to discuss the book we are reading. We have read through 4 books together since its inception and are currently reading "Daniel Verse by Verse." We have recently amalgamated our Family Chat & Book Club into 1 night/week. These meetings are open to all. Please join us on Monday nights from 7-8pm! We miss you and would love to see you!

Plans for 2023 include having a Family Ministries emphasis day as well as planning some activities/events for the church family.

## Elders

The Willowdale Elders send their greetings and want to wish you and your families God's richest blessings in 2023. We are a smaller team of 23 Elders for this officer term with some new additions in our ranks. Don't know us all? Well, keep an eye on the podium during divine worship to see the new (and not so new) faces in action.

As we enter 2023, the Willowdale Elders want to be more accessible to the congregation. It's not unusual for individual Elders to be approached by members with prayer requests. However, as a team, we want to be more readily available and identifiable for such requests. Consequently, you will soon see Elders wearing purple lanyards/ name tags to identify ourselves during church services. We invite you to approach any one of us with your prayer requests or even questions you might have. We will find a quiet corner in which to pray or talk with you. If you wish we can also pass on your requests to the entire team who as a group will pray for you.

It's important that we draw closer to one another as the year progresses and prayer is one vital means of achieving this. Make it a goal to connect with one of us in the Sabbaths ahead. Look for the purple lanyards!

Willowdale Elders

## Willowdale Seniors' Ministries Report

**October 24, 2022 - January 19, 2023**

First meeting October 24, 2022 on Zoom

Present: Pastor Jagos Ivanovic, Director of Seniors' Ministries - June Felix, Assistant to Director - Hyacinth DePluzer

Pastor Jake with enthusiasm spoke of the possibility of making a permanent project uniting the Willowdale Adventist Church Seniors with the Bathurst/ Finch Unison Seniors.

Second meeting in November, with the director of B/F Seniors Society Moon-Ja Parks to discuss plans and activities for 2023 (see activities list below).

Some of the activities introduced are Yoga and Zumba, light exercise for our Seniors to participate in, in-person or online. Announcements were made in the church and are on the church website, asking for those who would like to volunteer their time and are qualified and licensed in some of the activities, to see Pastor Jake or June Felix.

Activities are to be made accessible for in-person on Zoom and on the phone as was discussed with Pastor Jake, Moon-Ja, June and Hyacinth.

A committee was put together by June Felix who asked members of the church. Daryl Dooks, Maureen Cowie, Peter Ram and Verna Guarin have volunteered to help.

### Plans for 2023 Seniors' Ministries

June has requested information on the budget for 2023.

Alvin Ram has been contacted to speak on Wills and Financial issues.

Fellowship gatherings will also be included. Let's show our Seniors that we appreciate them.

B/F Seniors Society has started their program and Willowdale Seniors are invited to participate.

Please contact June Felix or the Willowdale Adventist Church for more information.

#### Seniors Activities

Activity	Type	Needed	When
Exercise	Yoga	Instructor	2 times per week, half hr
Lectures	Wills and financial issues	Certified person	???
Art Therapy	Drawing/ Coloring	Canvas/Colors/ Brushes	One day, 1hour /week
Brain Games	Dominoes/ Sudoku / Scrabble	Sets/ Books/ Boards	Two days , 1 hour/week
Crafts	Crochet/ Knitting	Thread/ Needles	One day, 1hour /week
Nutrition Classes	Budget Healthy cooking	Supplies for demonstration	One day, 1hour& half , once per Month
Learning a Language (basic)	Spanish/French etc.	Instructor	1 hour /week
Gardening	Indoor and Outdoor	Gardner	Spring & Summer
Cyber security training	Phone scams/ and phishing	Instructor	One day , 1 hour/week
Trips	Botanical/ Thousand Island/ etc	People and tour guide	Spring and Summer
Walking Club	Hiking Trails @ <u>Dufferin</u> & Finch	People	Early Spring

## Willowdale Church Deaconess Report for 2022

Our dedicated group of Deaconesses continued to serve the church over the past year in the following ways:

- Assisted with Divine Service for registration, symptom screening, and promoting prevention measures (masking, social distancing, ushering to seats and staged exiting of sanctuary)
- Assisted with funerals
- Assisted with baptisms
- Assisted with Communion Service by decorating table in lobby and distributing packaged emblems to members

Now that Covid restrictions have eased the Deaconess group is looking forward to serving the church in additional ways. These are our goals for 2023:

1. Plan a welcome brunch for new team of deaconesses
2. Assist with preparations for in person foot washing and homemade Communion emblems. Initiate use of a laundry service for laundering and folding of Communion towels.
3. Continue assisting with baptisms and encourage new deaconess to be mentored into this role as well
4. Transfer funeral assistance to the Kitchen Management Team
5. Focus on mentoring all deaconesses to be comfortable in performing all aspects of the deaconess role

Report submitted by Deaconess Leadership Team: Penny Dooks, Cathy Clarke, Shelly Connell, Mala Conroy  
January 2023

## Communications Department

*The Communications Department would like to thank **Teneisha Daley** for her dedication to Willowdale's social media channels and **Emmanuel (Manny) Mathi-Amorim**, for his expertise and relentless perseverance on the website, church server, and so much more. Finally, we are profoundly grateful to **Daryl Dooks** for blessing us with his photographic skills and creative mind.*

### What happened in 2022?

2022 was a turning point for Willowdale because we established our online presence. Despite fully reopening, we consistently have around 80 devices watching our weekly worship service on YouTube, and the website has become the hub for announcements and the virtual bulletin on Sabbath.

The Communication Department also started working on a new branding for Willowdale. Following General Conference and Division guidelines will help us establish a more recognizable presence in our physical community and online. We welcome your feedback and invite ministry and department leaders to adopt it whenever possible.

### What to expect in 2023?

The Communications Department will continue to grow Willowdale's online ministry and better reach out to all members, whether they attend church physically or virtually. We will also continue working on the new branding and aim to update the website by the end of the year. Finally, in 2023, the weekly church newsletters will contain a fun historical fact on Adventist history.

Fun facts about the Willowdale website:

- Number of times someone viewed a page in 2022: 95,444
- Number of unique devices that connected to our website at least once: 16,000
- Busiest times: Fridays (6 p.m. to 9 p.m.) and Saturdays (5 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Fun facts on Willowdale's YouTube channel:

- Total number of views in 2022: 27,084
- Number of total hours watched on our channel: 8,834.6 hours
- Total number of subscribers: 495

Fun Facts About Willowdale's Social Media Channels:

Numbers of followers:

- 289 on Twitter
- 538 on Instagram
- 2,544 on Facebook

Numbers of accounts reached:

- 1,634 on Instagram
- 1902 on Facebook

We have fewer followers on Instagram than on Facebook, but the reach is similar because our content gets shared more on Instagram than on Facebook.

### How to connect with Willowdale?

Visit our **website**: [willowdalechurch.ca](http://willowdalechurch.ca)

**Newsletter**: [willowdalechurch.ca/newsletter](http://willowdalechurch.ca/newsletter)

Watch us on **YouTube**: @Willowdale

Follow us on **Facebook**: @willowdalesdachurch

Check us out on **Instagram**: @willowdalesda

Subscribe to our **Twitter**: @WillowdaleSDA

## WILLOWDALE CHILDREN AND JUNIOR CHOIR



Hooray! We are back!

After two and a half quiet years, the Children and Junior Choirs have come together to sing praises in God's house again!

We began in October and have about 40-50 kids registered in both the Children and Junior Choirs. This new group of

children were able to sing during service in December as well as at our Christmas concert, bringing joyful praise wherever they go.

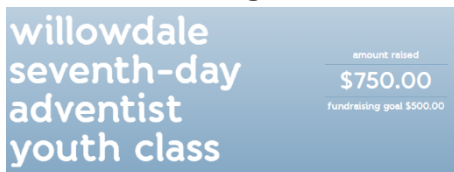


We are growing and learning and finding our way together as a group and looking forward to more singing opportunities in 2023.



## WILLOWDALE YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The Willowdale Youth Department is happy to be back at church with Sabbath School, Friday Night Vespers and Highschool Choir back up and running. Here are a few other things that we did in 2022.



In February we participated in a community fundraising event called the Coldest Night of the Year. We had 18 walkers and raised a total of \$750.00 and we are planning to walk again on

February 25, 2023. It was a great experience.

In April and October 2022 we had two outdoor evening events, enjoying a campfire, roasting marshmallows, singing, playing games and appreciating God's nature and each other's company. It has become a semi-annual tradition and definitely worth repeating in 2023!



The Willowdale Youth also had the privilege of handling two church services – one in June where our Grade 12 graduates had the opportunity to preach and share their thoughts about how they were going to be lights in the world as they stepped

forward, and most recently, the Youth put on the Christmas program with lots of love and laughter as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. More to come in 2023!



## Willowdale Master Guide Ministry 2023

Willowdale Master Guides (MG) and Master Guides Trainees (MGT) actively serve in the Adventurer, Pathfinder, and Youth Ministries. MG/MGT also serve in many of the other church ministries.

Currently there are four MG/MGT serving in Adventurers Ministry and twelve in Pathfinder Ministry.

Highlighted MG activity for 2022 was our ministry's participation in MGTV online evangelism. These evangelism programs can be viewed on YouTube.....search Ontario Master Guides MGTV.

This year, 2023, Willowdale MG Ministry will be exploring evangelism to the Deaf and Hard of hearing through American Sign Language. Please have a peek at Pastor Kwon's YouTube welcome program on September 3, 2022 for a preview of what the MGs/MGTs are working on for this new initiative.

Willowdale Master Guide Ministry meets at least once per month for curriculum review, fellowship or Ontario Conference workshops.

*Ephesians 2:10*

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*



## Children's Ministries Report

The children's ministries team is a newly created team of dedicated members happy to be working together with the Sabbath School Leaders, to minister to our youngest members of Willowdale Church.

Plans for 2023:

Restart children's stories on alternate Sabbaths.

Restart distribution of children's bulletins during worship service.

Restart distribution of Sabbath School magazines (Little Friend, Primary Treasure & Guide).

The team is also planning a VBS program for Summer 2023 and will be looking for volunteers, so stay tuned!

## Prayer Ministries

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

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

The mid-week prayer service continues to be on the Zoom platform and has seen a growth in attendance. These sessions are led by the Willowdale Pastors and Elders.

The mid-week prayer meeting is currently using the "Book 2 - 40 Days Prayers and Devotions to Revive Your Experience with God" by Dennis Smith as the Devotional reading.

The Prayer and Fast program is held every First Sabbath of the Month. This program continues to be held on Zoom.

The Prayer Ministries participated in the Annual 10 Days of Prayer from January 11 - 20, 2023. The theme was "Back to the Altar".

The Prayer Ministries also supports all Conference-led Prayer initiatives.

## Women's Ministries

With the return of a more normal church family experience, meeting the needs of the women of the church is our goal. Women's Ministries cannot be "a one size fits all" so it is still very much a work in progress.

One of the activities that is up and running is a monthly Sabbath School for the teens & young women of Willowdale. Here is an update from Abby Mathi-Amorim.

"Within the last few months, we have started a monthly young ladies' Sabbath School class for the women in the high-school and young adult classes. We sip on cups of tea as we catch up with each other, discuss lessons from the Bible, and do our best to grow the feeling of friendship and community between the young women of Willowdale. Our goal is to continue to create a class in which Willowdale's young women will be excited to attend and have an opportunity to learn from the Bible and from each other.'

Coming from the idea that the church ministries should work together, not each one off in its own sphere, Christmas cards were sent to the senior ladies of the church who can no longer attend in person. The names came from both senior's ministries and the church office. My hope is that I will follow up with reaching out to them on a regular basis.

Because ministry should be both to our church community and our local community, other local Adventist churches that partner through the "The Hub" across the street are looking to the ladies of Willowdale to become involved in that ministry. They have plans for zoom meetings in February (7 & 23) and in person on March 8 with the topic being "sharing stories.'

Lastly I would like to remind any lady who can attend, that the conference is planning a ladies' retreat on March 17-19, 2023 entitled "Treasured" at the Muskoka Bible Centre in Huntsville. (By the way the Centre looks beautiful).