

Dear Friends

In what has been the most disruptive and unimaginable year, I want to thank you once more for your remarkable response to the church in light of this public health crisis. For what I promise will be the last time in 2020 I also want to provide you with a financial snapshot of where we are. While not ideal, this has proven to be the best way to communicate these important things given our current limitations and restrictions.

Before turning to the numbers on the monthly statement I have to make a comment on **what will not** be found there. It is astounding that **over and above** what is required to keep the church operating while essentially shut for services, your generosity has resulted in **\$15,000 raised for Yazidi Refugees** in May, **hundreds of pounds of dry goods** for the same community donated in September, and more than **\$12,000 raised for Christmas Hampers** this season. In addition to this we are on target to approach **\$60,000 for the Mission and Service Fund** by year's end and will have distributed **\$10,000 in budgeted outreach**. In a time when we might have looked to ourselves first, you have looked out, and reached out, to those in need.

I am humbled by what I have seen this community accomplish together.

At the end of November our givings for operations are **\$349,509** and **total income** for operations is **\$390,098**. This is well ahead of the same point in 2019 save for an estate gift received that year. That includes consideration that **fundraising** (including the Fall Supper) is **down \$16,000** from 2019 and **rentals** are down **\$10,000**.

Suspending services and in-church activity has resulted in some savings. Compared to the end of November 2019 we have spent **\$9,000 less** on property maintenance, **\$5,000 less** on office expenses, and **\$5,000 less** on committee and program work. This has resulted in **expenses to the end of November \$362,517**.

Assuming that donations to the church continue at a similar pace for the month of December we are in a position to come to the end of the year with a small surplus. That would be a wonderful result! Of course, it is also a necessary one as we will enter 2021 unaware when services will be allowed to resume. Your generosity may allow us to carry over the federal grant we received in the spring to 2021 to soften any shortfall in the new year.

I invite you to join me in finishing the year by fulfilling pledges and meeting our year end commitments in a manner commensurate with the first eleven months. A generous December is poised to result in a financially healthy 2020.

Thank you once more for the extraordinary generosity that has allowed the mission and ministry of Charleswood United Church to flourish throughout the pandemic, reaching out to a world in crisis with a much needed word, and example, of hope.

Grace and peace,

Michael