

Dear Friends

The challenge that all churches (and most volunteer organizations) will face in 2021 has everything to do with the length of the pandemic and the long term effect of lockdowns. One of the ways we describe ourselves is as a 'congregation'. Unlike 'church' or 'community' or 'ministry' or even 'body of Christ', congregation implies that we get together. A *congregation* is a group of people who *congregate*. In other words, the smiles, and the handshakes, and the coffee matters.

The other thing we can do when we congregate is really impress upon one another the information we need to support our collective efforts. The longer we are apart, the more difficult it is to bear in mind how we need to work together to achieve all of our goals.

So it is that I am writing to you to request your support as we are a full two months into 2021 and a full year since the suspensions of services began. At the end of February offerings are \$41,117 or \$11,500 less than the same time last year. Property givings are tracking close to last year at \$7,700 and Mission and Service is down 12% from end of February 2020.

You will quickly realize that the difference between the first two months of 2020 and 2021 is that last year we were together. Your generous response to the crisis of closing was wonderful and allowed us to carry a small surplus into this year (see the Annual Report below) but this year we will need to build momentum at a distance and on our own.

Other numbers worth reporting for the first two months of 2021 include a small savings of \$2000 on maintenance and supplies and ~\$4500 not spent on programs and committees. We will not have any revenue from fundraising in 2021 until conditions change and our rental income is budgeted to be half of usual. A pleasant surprise was that we received a \$5,000 Provincial Bridge Grant in January for a small offset.

Totals at the end of February are income of \$62,532 and expenses of \$75,668 for a balance of -\$8,136.

Please share in our joint efforts to sustain the ministry of Charleswood United Church at full capacity until such time as we can congregate once more. Thank you for your support. Donation information is available on our website at: <https://charleswoodunited.org/donate/>

Grace and peace,
Michael

P.S. Please don't forget that our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place by Zoom on **Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:00**. By the rules of our constitution a quorum of fifty (50) people is required for the Annual Meeting. We are counting on you to join us so that this requirement can be met. You can find the Annual Report posted on our website or by clicking the link below.

[CUC 2020 Annual Report and Financial Statement](#)

The Zoom information for use on the day of the meeting is as follows:

<https://zoom.us/j/97199905863?pwd=M0p2dE5ZYnFiMmtTL0gxaXZid2dHUT09>

Meeting ID: 971 9990 5863

Passcode: 283868

Phone option: +1 204 272 7920