

Charleswood United Church Annual Congregation Report 2023



4820 Roblin Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3R 0G6

MISSION STATEMENT FOR CHARLESWOOD UNITED CHURCH

In response to God's call,
we the congregation of Charleswood United Church,
understand our mission is to proclaim the gospel of
Jesus Christ by word and deed.

This mission challenges us to accept God's grace,
to celebrate God's love,
to learn God's will and
to reach out in humble service
to the world God gives –
in short, to live our faith.

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AGENDA

Annual General Meeting
Charleswood United Church
Sunday, March 10th, 2024

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Election of Chair | Congregation |
| 2. Election of Secretary | Congregation |
| 3. Invocation | Michael Wilson |
| 4. Instruction in Voting | Chair |
| 5. Approval of the Agenda | Congregation |
| 6. Approval of the 2022 AGM Minutes | Chair |
| 7. Approval of the minutes of the July 19, 2023 Congregational Meeting | |
| 8. Approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2023 Congregational Meeting | |
| 9. Approval of Annual Reports | |
| • Committee/Group Reports | Chair |
| • 2023 Financial Statements | |
| • Heritage Fund Trustee Report | |
| 10. Presentation of the 2024 Budget | Doug Prophet |
| 11. Approval of the Nominating Committee Report | |
| 12. New Business | |
| 13. Question Period | Chair |
| 14. Benediction | Michael Wilson |
| 15. Adjournment | |

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Charleswood United Church
Sunday March 5, 2023 11:30 a.m.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson welcomed all those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. Michael expressed gratitude to Care and Community for the meal that was prepared by them.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Moved by: Richard Ball

Seconded by: Janis Pregnall

Motion: That Sandra Sinclair be elected Chair for the Annual General Meeting. **Carried.**

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Moved by: Olga Morrow

Seconded by: Joanne Moore

Motion: That Anne Burns be elected as Secretary. **Carried.**

INVOCATION Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson

INSTRUCTION IN VOTING

Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson advised those in attendance that all can vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: Lily Richardson

Seconded by: Lorrie Martindale

Motion: To approve the agenda as on page 2 of the Annual report. **Carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES MARCH 1, 2022

Moved by: Richard Ball

Seconded by: Susan Rogers

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the March 1, 2022, Annual General Meeting as amended on Page 4 to correct the misspelled name of Faith Faderon to read Faith Faderon. **Carried.**

APPOINTMENT OF HERITAGE FUND TRUSTEE

Moved by: Janet Goddard

Seconded by: Stan Hilderman

Motion: To nominate Kenneth Grower as trustee for the Heritage fund. **Carried.**

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORTS

Moved by: Anne Burns

Seconded by: Carolyn Hsu

Motion: To receive the Committee/Group Reports as submitted found on pages 7 to 23.

Carried.

2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Faith Faderon from Scarrow & Donald LLP presented the 2022 Financial Statements. Based on their review nothing came to their attention that would cause them to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Charleswood United Church at December 31, 2022 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Moved by: Lily Richardson

Seconded by: Kathryn Anderson

Motion: To accept the 2022 Financial statements as presented.

Carried.

HERITAGE FUND TRUSTEE REPORT Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson

There are three trustees of the Heritage Fund they are Shauna Sperry, Gordon Gibson and Kenneth Grower. Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson thanked Les Rankin for his contribution as Heritage Fund trustee. Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson reported in 2022 the Heritage fund was repaid and moving forward the Heritage Trustees and Church Council can begin to authorize spending the interest on things that supports the ministry.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 BUDGET Doug Prophet

Doug Prophet presented 2023 budget found on pages 24 and 25. Doug explained that a report from a consulting firm on renovations of the roof is being prepared and once complete, the consulting firm will prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the spring for the renovations. Doug explained there may be grants from MB Hydro, United Church, Heritage Fund and will require a capital campaign. The financing for the renovations will have to be approved by the congregation.

Moved by: Olga Morrow

Second by: Leah Vermette

Motion: To approve the 2023 budget as presented.

Carried.

APPROVAL OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson was Nominating Committee Chair since Janet Goddard will be nominated for Chair.

Moved by: Joanne Moore

Seconded by: Kathryn Anderson

Motion: That Janet Goddard be elected for Chair.

Carried.

The election of Janet Goddard as Chair now leaves a vacancy of Vice Chair and Michael asked for volunteers for this position along with other vacant positions.

NEW BUSINESS Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson

- Michael personally thanked Laurie Messer for her leadership and time on Council as Chair.
- Michael also thanked Jennifer Mutter for her contribution as Chair of Worship and Education Committee.
- Faith Based disbanded in 2022 Michael thanked Nancy, Doreen, Karen, and Jennifer.
- Michael thanked those who he worked with over the last 3 years of COVID. Rosalie and Jody for youth programs, Nancy and Janet who kept the office going, Shauna for choir online for both singing and playing and for her creative efforts.

QUESTIONS

Diane Cross began her presentation by giving a compliment to those in attendance stating that Charleswood United Church has a reputation for being the friendliest United Church in Winnipeg. Diane is impressed that Michael has a great ability to remember names of everyone who attends CUC. Diane and Dave Cross have requested that everyone wear name tags and they are willing to donate \$500.00 to the purchase and implementation of name tags.

Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson was thanked for his work over the past 3 years of COVID.

Diane Rankin suggested that when holding a capital campaign for the new roof to include replacing the sound system.

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson

Moved by: Janis Pregnall

Seconded by: Anne Burns

To adjourn the meeting at 12:29 PM.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by,
Anne Burns

Minutes of the July Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 VIA ZOOM

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

- Meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m.
- Opening Prayer - Michael Wilson

Those present at the meeting allowed for a quorum and to proceed with the motions.

Chair Sandra Sinclair read the first motion and asked for a mover and seconder.

Moved: Janet Goddard

Second: Doug Prophet

That the congregation of Charleswood United Church accept the proposal of Council for the replacement of the roof according to the terms expressed in the proposal provided by JDB Consulting Inc. Furthermore, that while Council will be empowered to develop a funding strategy that may include a combination of a low interest UCC loan, a commercial mortgage, grants where eligible (i.e. Hydro, UCC, Foundations), assets of the Heritage Fund, and possible sale of surplus property, ultimately the responsibility for payment will be borne by the congregation in donations, campaigns, special gifts, fundraising, etc.

Bill Trimble provided a report which identified the hiring of a consultant to prepare a request for proposals and submissions by contractors with lowest to highest amounts. Bill also described the upgrades to be done on the roof and that Atlas Apex Services Inc. was chosen with the work to begin in November. Council accepted the bid from Atlas Apex Services Inc. at a special meeting on June 20, 2023.

Question by Judy Bell: Please explain the reason why Council chose R28 not R40?

Answer: Bill Trimble. JDB explained the type of church roof is totally different than a residential roof. The space underneath the roof does not provide a return of the money spent for anything more than R28. The best value for the money is R28 and that the Consultant advised R28 is sufficient.

Question by Maureen Spier: The Church on Wilkes called My Church has a blue metal roof that the paint is peeling wondered if there is a guarantee for paint peeling from the metal roof company?

Answer: Janet Goddard: Janet went to the Church and spoke to them who stated they were befuddled themselves as the roof was to last 50 years. They stated they have had pranksters sliding down the roof and their own consultants advised because of the multiple joints and multiple angles on the roof has created a backup of snow and ice which attribute to the damage. Additionally, a step was skipped when installing the roof – no vapour barrier was added so years and years of moisture getting into the roof has resulted in the peeling of the paint. The estimate to repair is \$400,000.00.

Bill Trimble: JDB stated that building has been plagued by many issues and had many consultants looking at the building. Jonathon Braun did state there are now higher standards, and the metal roofing is guaranteed for 40 years on peeling with a much better steeling system and a more up to date and sturdier product. There were no discussions regarding colour choice with Council.

Question by John Cail: Is the price for solar panels currently viable for CUC to consider? Are there saving costs regarding installing solar panels?

Answer: Michael Wilson: Council has not discussed the installation of solar panels. Council can take the suggestion on advisement, but it is not part of this project. Bill Trimble agrees that solar panels would be great to have but the cost of installation of panels is quite high and probably would double or triple the cost on the new roof.

Question by Allan Richardson: How is the paint applied to the metal roofing is it a powder coating finish or just paint?

Answer: Neither Bill Trimble nor Robert Godkin knows the answer they would have to check with the manufacturer but suspect it is powder coating finish.

Question by Judy Bell: Did the consultant have any comments on why the other two quotes were much higher than the accepted quotation? Is CUC getting the best product?

Answer: Bill Trimble and Robert Godkin: JDB provided specifications on the product when preparing the request for proposals and all contractors were in receipt of the specifications. Jonathon Braun thinks they were so high simply to not get the job as they are quite busy. Some contractors were concerned about the steepness of the roof.

Sandra read the motion again and called for the vote for all those in favour with a show of hands. Sandra asked for a show of hands who were not in favour of the motion.

Moved: Janet Goddard

Second: Doug Prophet

That the congregation of Charleswood United Church accept the proposal of Council for the replacement of the roof according to the terms expressed in the proposal provided by JDB Consulting Inc. Furthermore, that while Council will be empowered to develop a funding strategy that may include a combination of a low interest UCC loan, a commercial mortgage, grants where eligible, (i.e. Hydro, UCC, Foundations) assets of the Heritage Fund, and possible sale of surplus property, ultimately the responsibility for payment will be borne by the congregation in donations, campaigns, special gifts, fundraising, etc. **Carried.**

Sandra read the second motion and asked for a mover and seconder.

Moved: Warren Thompson **Second:** Anne Burns

That the congregation of Charleswood United Church authorize the use of up to \$240,000 from the principal of the Heritage Fund in support of the roofing project in the form of a zero-interest loan.

Doug Prophet, Treasurer, provided a financial report regarding total costs of \$480,000.00 and what funding will be used to pay for the project. There will be a capital campaign within the first year of the project and a possibility of the loan being paid fully by the end of the third year. There would still be a balance of \$85,000.00 in the Heritage Fund after borrowing for the roofing project.

Question by Lorrie Martindale: Has there been research into what loans, grants etc. may be available for this project?

Answer: Doug Prophet: We have not investigated the details but have identified the potential sources of other funding as indicated in the motion with the aim of obtaining \$50,000.00 from those funding sources. Once the project is approved they will investigate the details and filling out applications.

Sandra read the motion again and called for the vote for all those in favour with a show of hands. Sandra asked for a show of hands who were not in favour of the motion.

Moved: Warren Thompson **Second:** Anne Burns

That the congregation of Charleswood United Church authorize the use of up to \$240,000 from the principal of the Heritage Fund in support of the roofing project in the form of a zero-interest loan. **Carried.**

Closing Prayer: Michael Wilson

Diane Rankin thanked everyone who worked on getting this information and on this project.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Burns
Secretary

Minutes of the November Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 19, 2023

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

- Meeting commenced at 11:17 a.m.
- Those present at the meeting allowed for a quorum and to proceed with the meeting.

Chair Sandra Sinclair asked Bill Trimble to present the request for proposal (RFP) to the group. Bill explained the previous bid was retracted which required the process of accepting the RFP to be repeated. The RFP was distributed in October with seven bids submitted. The RFP information was presented in writing to those in attendance. Bill informed the group the bid that was received in September was higher than the current bid. Bill ensured the asphalt shingles will be removed and extra insulation will be added when installing the metal sheeting on top of the roof. Warren Thompson provided financial information and the required process for loans and grants.

Question by Allan Richardson: Has reduction of cost for heating been considered?

Answer: Bill Trimble: Yes, Bill explained this project will improve the heat loss and the bills should be lower.

Question by Brad Griffiths: Are there grants available for insulation?

Answer: Bill Trimble: Yes, there are grants available and applications will be made.

Question by Allen Nixon: What about contingencies is that factored into the cost?

Answer: Bill Trimble/Warren Thompson: Contingencies are not in the bid, however allowances will be made during the financing process and change orders must be provided to Council before proceeding.

Chair Sandra Sinclair read the motion and asked for a mover and seconder.

Moved: Warren Thompson **Second:** Stan Hilderman

That the congregation of Charleswood United Church accept the proposal of Council for the replacement of the roof according to the terms expressed in the proposal provided by JDB Consulting Inc. Furthermore, that while Council will be empowered to develop a funding strategy that may include a combination of a low interest UCC loan, a commercial mortgage, grants where eligible (i.e., MB Hydro, UCC, Foundations), assets of the Heritage Fund, and possible sale of surplus property, ultimately the responsibility for payment will be borne by the congregation in donations, campaigns, special gifts, fundraising, etc. **Carried.**

Meeting Adjourned: 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Burns

Secretary

Minister's Report

Recently I was speaking with a colleague from another denomination who is not particularly familiar with Charleswood United Church. He asked me how things were going this year, which is kind of the question this report is meant to answer. It made me think about what I would say to someone who doesn't know us, hasn't been part of our year, can't compare my answer to previous years.

I thought about it for a moment and then said "really well". He responded with silence which I took as an invitation to elaborate. This was part of my answer...

2023 was wonderful. It was a year in which we were *all the way back* from the interruption we have heard enough of. (Ironic since I published a book about us and that interruption in 2023!) Nevertheless, we had a year of great spirit. The opportunity to welcome many new people into our community. Poignant moments of farewell for people we knew and loved very much. A return of programs. A continuation of an on-line ministry to compliment our in-person worship experience. The resumption of memorable 'special musical services' like Dixieland, Jazz, and Contemporary. A full Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season that saw literally hundreds of people come into Charleswood for events, community service, worship, and care. This annual report details all of that activity (and a surplus to boot).

But the other thing I said to my inquisitive colleague was that we are new in some surprising ways. We have come out of the pandemic healthy and vital but some large programs have not returned such as the Men's Supper, the Fall Supper, and the Musical. They may or may not come back in part because large events depend a lot on momentum from one year to the next. It isn't realistic to think that large events can just pick up where they left off.

What I see as a sign of the Spirit in this place is the way new smaller ministries have been born and are taking root. In 2023 we began a grief support group called Still Waters. It is in its infancy but it is proving to be meaningful for those who attend. We had our first newcomers evening in five years. We took tentative steps to resuming a Senior's Fellowship and that has shown great signs of potential. We have a new men's' monthly lunch with nearly 30 CUC men participating so far. HeBrews Café has had a tremendous subscription and has become the post worship fellowship we always hoped it would be. Already in 2024, we have had new events, one for mental health and another on climate change.

We lose. We add. We yield. We gain. To me it feels a lot like breathing. And breathing is a sign of life, a testimony to vitality in the community of faith.

My answer to my colleague did not go into the challenges that we face. The most obvious one is that our 25-year-old roof is in need of repair and new shingles. I can't express how diligently our Council has worked this past year to research and report on the best way to proceed. It was extremely frustrating at times. But they persevered and presented a path forward at a congregational meeting in November.

That work will take place this summer. The challenge is that it must be paid for, and that will call on the generosity, and some sacrifice, by all of us.

When things have gone “really well” there are a lot of people to thank. We are a community and a community functions well by many people doing many things in concert with one another. I want to begin broadly by thanking all those who support Charleswood United Church. One of our post-pandemic realities is that there are many ways to do this and we are grateful for them all. Thank you to those who returned to worship in 2023, to those who found us in-person after discovering us on-line, those who have invited friends and neighbours and family members to join them at CUC. Thank you to those who warm to the sacraments and brought children to be baptised or marked Easter or Christmas with communion. Thank you to everyone who volunteers in such a broad manner of ways exercising ministries of hospitality, welcome, outreach, education, worship leadership, administration, and care-taking.

As I mentioned earlier, our Council, and Chairperson Janet Goddard, have worked together to lead us with grace and conviction that there can be vitality in this church. Our standing committees seem to me to have been re-invigorated. Maybe that’s just relief at a reduction in ‘Zoom’ meetings but more likely it is evidence of the community that is built by working together on meaningful things.

And on your behalf, I want to extend deep gratitude to our staff who all bought in on the idea that we would build back slowly and faithfully. So, thank you to Janet, Nancy and Jacquie, Rosalie and Jodie, Shauna and Faisal, Hal, and Benjamin. Charleswood is served by a wonderful team of people sharing their gifts in a common cause.

What about you? How do you think things are going at Charleswood United Church? I hope and pray you would begin with “Really well”.

Grace and peace,
Michael

Pastoral Acts

Transfers – To

David Cross	Prairie Spirit UC
Diane Cross	Prairie Spirit UC
Herman Klassen	Minnedosa UC
Alastiar Komus	Messiah Lutheran Church
Gordon McBean	Prairie Spirit UC
Janice McBean	Prairie Spirit UC
Dawn White	Trinity UC
Alice MacKenzie	Westminster UC
John Cail	Dauphin UC

Virginia Cail	Dauphin UC
Linda Campbell	McClure UC
Rev. Robert Campbell	McClure UC; in formal association with CUC
Margaret Carter	Westminster UC
Margaret Oldham	Churchill Park UC
John Oldham	Churchill Park UC

Baptisms

Rory Elizabeth Charlotte Komus	daughter, Lindsay Melvin & Alastair Komus	Jan. 22, 2023
Easton Ian Baird	son, Shaynese Sitarz & Creighton Baird	May 14, 2023
Willow Joan Baird	daughter, Shaynese Sitarz & Creighton Baird	
Connor Dale Ellis	son, Jennifer & Cameron Ellis	
George Alexander McKague-McLean	son, Ashley McKague & Matthew McLean	
Maisy Amelia Stardom	daughter, Kathy & Murray Stardom	
Sarah Regis	adult baptism	
Matthew Berven	son, Matthew & Jennifer Berven	June 18, 2023

Wedding Ceremonies

Lindsay Robertson & Joseph Heide	April 8, 2023		
Angela Brown & Stephen Shaw	June 17, 2023	La Broquerie, MB	Rev. N. Bowles
Ashley Melvin & Joshua Pruden	July 22, 2023		
Kaitlyn Kriskovic & Steven Little	July 29, 2023		
Jacqueline Pollard & Jarett Nick	Sept. 16, 2023		

Deaths

Deceased

Service

Marion Thompson	Dec. 22, 2022	Jan. 4, 2023	
Joyce Barker	Jan. 6, 2023	Jan. 21, 2023	St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
Sharon Stephenson	Jan. 26, 2023	none	
Shirley (Betty) Lozinski	Feb. 2, 2023	none	
Myra Otis	March 15, 2023	March 20, 2023	Chapel Lawn, Winnipeg
Henry W. Peters	March 23, 2023	April 13, 2023	
Linda Kennedy	April 25, 2023	May 12, 2023	
Henry Newcombe	May 1, 2023	May 10, 2023	Rev. M. Malavsky
Christopher Gordon	May 5, 2023	May 18, 2023	
Lorna Hamilton	June 1, 2023	June 26, 2023	
Donna Gillespie	June 5, 2023	June 22, 2023	
Eleanor Trimble	June 15, 2023	June 21, 2023	
Maureen Miller	June 21, 2024	none	
Linda Bell	July 6, 2023	July 14, 2023	Rev. R. Campbell
Douglas Dawson	August 4, 2023	August 9, 2023	Moffit Funeral Home, Portage
James Wilkins	August 30, 2023	Sept. 9, 2023	Rev. M. Malavsky
Martin Ellis	August 22, 2023	Sept. 11, 2023	
Mary Buchanan	Sept. 14, 2023	Sept. 22, 2023	
Eileen Graham	August 6, 2023	October 4, 2023	
Fayre Russenholt	Sept. 26, 2023	October 16, 2023	
David Yuill	October 8, 2023	October 28, 2023	
Doreen Reimer	October 24, 2023	Nov. 5, 2023	Thomson "In the Park"

Council Chair

Slow and steady, a return to normal. These were the words that opened Laurie Messer's 2022 Council Chair report. It served us well – that cautious and unwavering commitment to conduct ourselves in a safe manner. In March of 2022, for the first time in 104 weeks CUC returned to in-person worship. By the time this AGM takes place on March 10, 2024, it will have been almost 104 weeks since we have been together in worship. I am so very grateful to be back in the physical presence of this community. I gain so much from my time here.

Participating in Sunday services leaves me feeling renewed – ready to face the week ahead, with an intent to be a kinder and more patient and less judgemental person. There is a peacefulness I experience from the confidence that I am loved. How wonderful is that?

From my work on Council, I gain a sense of purpose. With the active years of parenting and the busy years of employment behind me this sense of being useful/having an impact is very important to me.

Being a part of CUC inspires me. I listen to and observe the efforts of so many people who are dedicated to making this a place where lives may be changed. How great is that!

My opportunity to feel renewal, purpose, and inspiration is a result of the commitment of the people of this community. The Ministry Team – Michael, Shauna, Faisal, the Choir, Rosalie and Jodie – who give so much richness to worship. Janet Ammeter, Nancy Jeffrey and now, Jacquie Craigen who so competently support all the efforts. Council members and committee chairs: Janice Hamilton, Anne Burns, Doug Prophet, Warren Thompson, Carolyn Hsu, Bill Trimble, Susan Rogers who with compassion and knowledge make decisions that ensure CUC fulfills its commitment to be a place of open hearts and doors. Trustees – of the Church and of the Heritage Fund – who with wisdom provide oversight and guidance. The 100's of volunteers who serve "with joy in work and in deed" to accomplish so much and who have a great impact.

Renewal, purpose, inspiration – what more could I ask for? I pray that more people will experience this place and this state of mind. I look forward to the continued impact that CUC will have on the community near and far-reaching. There is always a place for everyone.

With gratitude,
Janet Goddard
Chair of Council

Worship & Education

The number of people attending Sunday's in-person service has steadily increased over the past year. We even ran out of bulletins a couple of times when there was an unexpected full house, but fortunately the QR code posted on the table at the back of the sanctuary links to an online copy of the order of service. I invite you to try scanning the code some time, especially if enlarging the font would be useful to you.

This year we were pleased to be able to return to a regular schedule for celebrating Communion and baptisms all while enjoying music of the Senior Choir and invited musical guests. With the return to regular activities, the worship and education committee became active again in calling back and recruiting volunteers.

Volunteer ushers, greeters, readers, offering collectors, and servers continue to be invaluable to each worship service and the committee is grateful to each volunteer, past and present, for their contribution. Some volunteers we do not see in action because they decorate the sanctuary, prepare elements for Communion, or other tasks that I have not learned about yet when no one else is around, but they contribute a lot to our worship services.

Welcoming newcomers, as well as known faces, to Charleswood United is important to us so we are pleased that the welcome table has been tended most Sundays. In October we hosted a Newcomers' Night to welcome new members to the church, some of whom found us through Michael's online services. The online ministry has reached far beyond our Charleswood United Church congregation.

As well as coordinating volunteer opportunities related to worship services, the committee supports operation of the nursery and activities and programming of Church School and Youth Ministry. Members of the Worship and Education committee include Jennifer Ellis, Rosalie Finch, Wally Ort, Jenna Poborsa, and Jody Poborsa.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Hsu

Nursery

The new baby gate will hopefully allow us to leave the door open and still be able to close it when the children are more vocal. I'll try to do my own best.

New bulletin board decorations will use the theme of "bees" and some new alphabet letters as well for our older toddlers.

Visiting infants were plenty, so keep reminding the parents to come and visit the Nursery Room. Older children can be directed to the Cool School in the hall.

Thank you for your help.

Wally Ort
Nursery Room Co-ordinator

Cool School

Teaching the kids through hands on learning has been fun. We are learning a bible story over several weeks with the creation of dioramas. Moses important journey, Noah's ark and Jesus's birth are some stories we worked on this year.

This year we did not hold a children's service at Christmas although Christmas Eve morning we had more than 2 dozen participants.

Summer playdates were successful as we played badminton, had snacks and had a variety of toys and activities out. Badminton has been shown to be a popular activity for the youth, summer playdates have been the replacement for VBS. We also have held 2 additional playdates through the year.

Super Saturday Sundae

A wonderful success with almost 100 participants which included youth volunteers. Craft table leaders, welcomers, kitchen staff and children with their adult. Millie told the story of Jesus's birth in a way that the kids and I were bright eyed and curious as if it was the first time we heard the story.

We look forward to next year!

Rosalie Finch

Care & Community

Our committee consists of 19 members at the present time. The purpose of this committee is to maintain a connection with the church community and its needs. We do such things as looking after funeral receptions. We fund raise as in an annual bake sale, monies of which go to buy supplies for the kitchen. We also help out supporting other fund-raising events like the "Very Groovy Things" concert by looking after refreshments served following. We welcome all ladies who are wanting and able to volunteer for some means of supporting the needs of Charleswood United church and the surrounding community.

Currently it is all ladies who are on the committee, but we won't turn away any men who have free time on their hands and want to help out in some way.

In the past year we hosted 6 funerals, served at a Newcomer's night reception, helped out with Hebrews Café when they were in need of extra hands. We donated cookies for the United Church Regional meeting. We also served at a large pre-wedding reception and helped with this past December's seniors' lunch.

We were very fortunate with the efforts made by our committee in the past year to be able to give a total of \$4,000.00 to the church.

Our current account balance as of December 31, 2023 is \$1,174.21.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rogers, Chair

HeBrew's Café

Since the 'HeBrews Café' started in fall of 2008, we have wondered how we ever did without it before.

HeBrews and SheBrews each and every Sunday...with teams of 3-4 a Sunday, and a roster of about 25 volunteers, we endeavour to offer the beverages and treats while you supply the joy of connection and good humor.

Treats, both homemade and store-bought, are very well received. Our Care & Community Committee stocks up the kitchen with all of our basic needs of coffee, tea, crystals, napkins, clean t-towels - you name it, they bring it! We would like to thank their fearless leader Susan Rogers for her check-ins, and cooperation on a number of joint events this past year. It's a pleasure to work with more teams.

As always, we require more support in the kitchen from time to time. Please consider being a regular part of our ministry...it's fun and rewarding work and you can meet a lot of people in the kitchen and through the hospitality window. God Bless!

Nancy Jeffrey
Coordinator, Hebrews Café
Jeffreyn770@gmail.com

Gifts & Resources

Our committee has been dealing with the ongoing issues of an aging 70-year-old building again this year.

We finally got our sign out front replaced in May, after a lengthy wait for a city of Winnipeg permit. We had hoped to get some rock work and landscaping done around it to protect from any more way ward vehicles, but the early cold and snow stopped the work. We hope to complete that this coming spring.

We had to deal with a major water leak from a heating pipe buried inside a wall in the southeast basement stairway. This led us to do an assessment of our complete heating system. To do that, we engaged an engineering firm, and they looked everything over professionally. Their report indicated that the system was adequate for a few years. The need to replace our system will need to be addressed soon. To replace it, there will also be an issue of the asbestos abatement. To get a grasp on what could be involved to deal with that, we had a professional assessment of the asbestos that surround the boiler. There are significant amounts of asbestos that will need to be professionally removed, at large cost.

Another issue of the lighting in our sanctuary was raised. There has been question about whether there is adequate lighting to be able to read hymnals. We had MJ Lighting come to look and give suggestions on how to improve the situation. At their suggestion, we brought in a professional lighting engineer who did a study and reported that our current lighting is not sufficient for the age group that our congregation is primarily made up of. We are waiting on his final report and suggested what we will need to do to make it adequate. This is also an expenditure for the future.

As most are aware, we have made the commitment to go ahead and replace our roof. This has been a longer process than we expected. We have engaged a project manager, J.B. Braun Consulting, to oversee and direct this project. Together, we had sent out an RFP for pricing in April. We received several bids. The lowest bid was from a Company called Atlas-Apex and we accepted them at a congregational meeting in June. Unfortunately, we ran into problems with this company who seemed to be having internal problems with the personnel who had done the quoting. They eventually backed out of the contract, and we had to start over again.

In discussion with J.B. Braun, we reissued another RFP in October and again received 6 bids. It seems that events were working for us as the bids came in lower than we had gotten in the spring. This appears to be due to the workload of the contactors from season to season. The lowest bids were from Flynn Canada Ltd. for the steep roof at \$306,495 and from Matula Roofing for the east side flat portion at \$59,875. The work to begin May 1 or sooner. The congregation accepted the motion to proceed at a meeting November 19. It was time consuming going through this process twice, but as it turned out, we are saving approximately \$150,00 from what it would have cost us if we had gone ahead in the spring.

Going forward, the church will be looking at replacement of the heating system which will be offset by lower heating costs due to the better level of insulation in the roof. There is the lighting upgrade to be considered and the need for sound system to meet our growing needs.

I would like to thank Robert Godkin for all his advice and extra work in all these projects. Also, to Janet in the office for keeping an eye on all day-to-day issues that arise and need attention.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Trimble
Chair of Gifts And Resources

Trustees

Charleswood United Church has a requirement to have five (5) Trustees on record for the property and any real estate transactions related to the property that the congregation may wish to pursue. This includes liaising with the Region on direction and approvals. Our five Trustees are Kathryn Anderson, Doreen Barton, Gordon Gibson, Janis Pregnall and Warren Thompson.

The Trustees have been involved in a few activities this year including:

- Receiving consent for the roofing project from the Prairie to Pine Region's Property Commission;
- Submitting the application, and receiving approval, for the Congregational Development Fund loan from the national office of the United Church of Canada for the roofing project;
- Updating the land title documentation for the church property including proper listing of owners and removal of several active instruments shown against the title that no longer are relevant and have been cleaned up;
- Worked with Assiniboine Credit Union to expand the Line of Credit as part of the roof financing; and lastly,

- Submitted and received consent from the Property Commission to list the surplus property of the church for possible sale and reduction of our church footprint. The surplus church property discussion is presently underway and there will be more information as we move to the spring 2024.

As we enter 2024, the Trustees look forward to supporting the continued growth of our community ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren Thompson, Chair

Heritage Fund

The Heritage Fund was established in 1997. It is a means for members of the Church to support our Ministry long into the future. All gifts to the Heritage Fund are retained as capital – only the income earned by the Fund is available to support the work of our Church.

The Fund is invested with TD Wealth in GICs. The interest earned in 2023 was \$9,200. The balance in the Heritage Fund (with accrued interest) is \$331,528. The GICs are as follows: \$100,000 @ 2.20% due February 16, 2024, \$100,000 @ 4.20% due February 28, 2024 and \$100,000 @ 4.23% due February 28, 2028. The balance of the funds is in a savings account.

Thanks to the members who have donated to the Heritage Fund. The Fund assisted the Church with a loan to help with our building expansion. The Fund is there to assist the Church when needed and to provide long-term financial stability. Congregation members are encouraged to consider donating to the Heritage Fund.

The Trustees of the Fund are Shauna Sperry, Gordon Gibson, and Kenneth Grower.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth Grower

Ministry & Personnel

Firstly, a big thank you to all our staff for their efforts this past year as we returned to a 'normalized' routine for most of our programs and Sunday service activities. The Ministry and Personnel Committee's primary responsibility is to be a consultative and supportive committee for the employees of Charleswood United Church and for members and adherents of the congregation.

A new staff member was added to the team this fall with Jacquie Craigen joining the administrative team as our new bookkeeper. We are thrilled to have Jacquie join our staff with her many talents and skill. We also thank our long time bookkeeper, Nancy Jeffrey, for her many years of great support and wish her a well deserved retirement, with additional time for grandkids and travel!

It may surprise the congregation that Charleswood United Church (CUC) has 8 staff members that keep our community of faith active and engaged. We see Michael on Sunday and throughout the week, and have a music team of Shauna and Faisal that we see and hear each week. Benjamin pulls together all the material for

our online service and programming each week and we have a Church school and youth program with Rosalie and Jody that connect and work with our children. The office and our facilities and finances run smoothly as a result of the administrative team of Janet and Jacquie.

The Committee benefitted from having the continuity and continued experience of members Diane Webb, Stan Hilderman, Grant Buchanan, Lindsay Melvin and Warren Thompson. At the close of 2023, we do have long time committee member Diane Webb leaving us. I would like to thank Diane for the many years of committee support and for being such a strong advocate for our staff.

The committee's shift in oversight from individual liaison roles to a 'committee of the whole' was continued with tasks of goal setting, annual reviews, and support on individual professional development. The committee also provides the annual inputs into matters of compensation.

Thanks again to all the staff for your contributions this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Warren Thompson, Chair

Mission & Social Action

Our Mission & Social Action Committee strives to understand and respond to needs in our community and the broader world.

We have looked for ways to promote the work of the United Church's Mission and Service fund by reading a Minute for Mission one service a month and by highlighting projects in the Life and Work Sunday bulletin. We were pleased with increase in donations.

We have supported local schools with student fees, and Westgrove Resource Centre with breakfast items and a donation for a Christmas project. In the fall, a collection of undies was sent to 1JustCity. Donated winter clothing was delivered to Westgrove Resource Centre and 1JustCity.

Our on-going commitment to The West End continued during the year, despite the difficulty of losing their rental location. During this time, they held outdoor BBQs and offered lunches at the West Broadway location on Furby Street. The end of the year came with wonderful news that a new location is being developed and renovated in the old Balmoral Hotel and will now be known as Pimicikamak Wellness Centre. The new site is much larger allowing more services to be offered. Our collection of cups and spoons are now in their new location, and will be used when the new kitchen opens.

In the spring we partnered with Crestview United Church to host The Blanket Exercise which aims to aid the understanding of Indigenous history. Over 60 people participated in this meaningful exercise.

Our church continues to support the Yazidi community with their Farmers Market.

Glasses, stamps and gently used socks are collected and forwarded on. Stamps collected this year realized \$390. Our thanks to Russ Thompson for looking after this.

We held a very popular sale of Tall Grass Prairie cinnamon buns after a Sunday service in March, with the proceeds to the Mission and Service Fund.

We delivered 55 Christmas Cheer Board Hampers as well as 3 through our Church. See a report elsewhere.

We have welcomed new members to our group. It is wonderful to have additional voices to add to our discussions. Want to know how we can strengthen our outreach? Come join our committee!

Financial Report

Funds received from church council: \$5,000

- distributed to: 1JustCity
Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre
Agape Table
Days for Girls
Willow Place Women's Shelter
Rossbrook House

2. Benevolent Funds received from Congregation Offering: \$295 from regular donors, no congregational offering
 - distributed to: Schools for students in need of assistance
Urgent requests handled by the Minister
Westgrove Family Resource Centre
West End Drop-In for Christmas gift cards

3. Projects Fund:
 - no fund-raising happened
 - funds raised from stamps collected: \$393
 - money spent on coffee supplies for West End Drop in
 - Blanket Exercise

4. Special Easter Offering: \$4,659
 - distributed to: West End Drop-In
Foodgrains Bank for Syria & Turkey earthquakes

5. Mission & Service Offerings made by Congregation: \$53,115.14
 - Goal for 2023 was \$50,000
 - Distributed to National Church for Mission & Service work

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Hamilton, Chair

Christmas Hampers

As the Christmas Cheer Board began their planning, they announced that they anticipated a record number of requests for hampers. In response, we decided to increase our number of hampers from 50 to 55. Along with 3 additional from our Church, we completed hampers for 58 families.

White Gift Sunday saw an enormous amount of grocery and gift donations including 117 boxes of macaroni and cheese and 144 cans of soup and full-sized boxes of Lego. We couldn't even fit them all into the choir room to sort at the end of the service because there were so many!

The week of December 10-16 saw the Van Roon Hall buzzing with activity. Sunday to Tuesday was used to sort the gifts. We looked after gifts for 68 girls and 79 boys aged newborn to age 17. We are most grateful to Charleswood McDonald's who donated 30 \$10 gift cards for those 14 -17. We had tremendous support from our knitters, with 130 sweaters, 297 hats, 41 mitts, 5 blankets and 30 miscellaneous items were brought in. They were distributed as gifts, with the remainder donated for others to use. Wednesday night saw a room full of helpers to wrap all of the gifts. In total, 91 45L bags were packaged up for delivery. Each child got 5 wrapped gifts at a total cost to us of about \$25.00 each.

Thursday saw the grocery crew begin the set up and prepare for the grocery packing on Friday morning. Over 30 dry goods as well as fresh items, such as carrots, potatoes and oranges were packed into boxes for the families. A big thank you to Chris, the grocery manager from Superstore, who went out of his way to assist with the grocery order and pick up, including dropping off extra groceries at the church that were needed on his way home from work! The grocery order was the biggest we have seen so far, due to supplying the most hampers to date and the number of larger families on our list.

We spent over \$10,000.00 on groceries, drove away with 3 trucks and a mini van full, and 37 boxes of Lindor chocolates as the "free gift of the week," which went to the hampers with single parents or adult only families.

Saturday morning was delivery time. Thirty-seven drivers, as well as 6 inside helpers ensured that all families received their hamper.

Our small committee is continually grateful for the Congregation's support, with donations and volunteering. We could not accomplish this without many hands.

Financial Report

Income

Balance forward	\$6,804.78
Congregational Donations	\$13,987.50

Expenses

Groceries	\$11,250.45	
Gifts	\$3,932.67	
Current balance		\$5,609.16

Respectfully submitted,

Jenna Poborsa, Chair/food ordering

Mary Young, Knitting

Kathryn Anderson, Deliveries

Larry & Janice Hamilton, Gifts

Susan Wehrle, Packing

CREST

2023 marked the 24th anniversary of the CREST program, made up of 3 Charleswood churches sponsoring refugee families to Winnipeg - Gloria Dei Lutheran, Charleswood United and Charleswood Mennonite. The acronym CREST stands for Charleswood Refugee Ecumenical Sponsorship Team.

Each participating church puts between \$3,000-\$5,000 into the CREST treasury each year, along with individual donations. These funds build up the necessary reserves to sponsor a family for one year--estimated to be about \$20,000-\$25,000, depending on the family size.

Helping the refugees with housing, providing furnishings and clothing, applying for government programs (SIN #s, Manitoba Health, Child Tax Credit, etc.), getting them into ESL classes and dealing with rent, utilities, home maintenance, etc. is shared among CREST members. Often people from our congregations are recruited to befriend the refugees, take them to appointments, etc. Ongoing support may be needed for up to 5 years.

We were relatively inactive once again in 2022. We have agreed to sponsor a family of 4 using the quota system of the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Paperwork is in process but slow – we expect them to arrive sometime this year.

Two of our CUC Christmas hampers went to our last 2 sponsored families together with a financial donation.

We have provided some financial assistance to a family from Ukraine, as well as a family of 16 that recently arrived.

We have been blessed by the many contributions from members of our congregations – many thanks for your ongoing support. Furnishings, clothing, and financial donations are always welcome, although space constraints are always a consideration. CREST has a bank account but cannot issue charitable receipts so please make cheques payable to Charleswood United Church marked “CREST donation”, and a tax receipt can be provided.

The benefits that CREST offers to refugees coming to Canada are obvious. The benefits in getting to work with church members from CUC and other denominations are a valuable side benefit as well. Please join with us as we joyfully follow Christ's mandate to be our brother's keeper.

Bruce Berven
Chair

Lights for Lives

Lights for Lives is a remembrance program allowing people to name, remember and honour their departed loved ones. These people are then celebrated at the service on the evening of the first Sunday of the New Year.

We were delighted to gather in person on Sunday, January 7th. This also gave the office an additional week to prepare the documents, which is always welcome. Special thanks are extended to Rev. Michael Wilson, Rev. Robert Campbell and Shauna Sperry for their worship leadership that night. We are grateful for your ministry.

Donations were very generously given in memory of loved ones. Again, we repeat that a donation is not required to remember someone. In total, \$2,000 will be forwarded to Compassionate Friends and Palliative Manitoba.

Women's Advent

Our theme this year was: "Hope In Uncertain Times".

Rev. Nancy Finlayson led us in prayers and Communion.

Rev. Lesley Harrison of Knox United Church had conversations with 2 women who had come from areas of conflict, to Winnipeg. We heard how they were able to change their individual circumstances and now are able to live with "hope" in their hearts and future.

Linda Kane, harpist, provided music before and after the service. Our music was provided by The Connor Derrough Trio, consisting of Connor Derrough (piano), Devon Gillingham (bass) and Paul Klassen (drums), along with Jana Jacobs (vocalist).

The offering of \$1,829.50 was donated to "1 Just City", a non-profit organization that promotes social justice, addresses homelessness, food security and provides culturally appropriate supports.

The Advent Service was well attended with approximately 200 women. We continued our fellowship with dainties and hot apple cider in the Van Roon Hall.

Many Thanks to Rev. Michael Wilson for being liaison with Rev. Nancy Finlayson, Rev. Lesley Harrison and The Connor Derrough Trio. Michael gave our committee much guidance and support as we made our plans.

Thanks also to Janet (office) for printing the order of service and the many other things that needed to be done. Thank you to Hal (custodian) for setting up and taking down tables and for the heavy lifting.

Thanks to the many volunteers who assisted in the Service; the bakers of dainties; the setting-uppers and the cleaning-uppers; and our very own Parking Lot General, Bill Jury and his Christmas lights; and to anyone we have missed THANK YOU!

Women's Advent Committee

Badminton Club

Hey Movers and Shakers! Here is your invitation to join us at badminton on most Mondays nights from 7-8:30.

Our list of participants has folks ages 7 all the way up to one Great Grandma! Our group has between 8-14 out for our 3 courts of singles or doubles...we rotate often so that we can meet others and challenge our abilities.

Participation is FREE and open to everyone. Bring your own racquet if you have one, water bottle and gym shoes. The fun will be in keeping the birdie in the air! Please contact Nancy or Russ at the contact below to be included on the monthly emails that also detail if we have a last-minute cancellation.

In good health-

Nancy Jeffrey

Jeffreyn770@gmail.com

Bookshelf

Sorry to say, 2023 was a bad year for the bookshelf readers.

We collected \$75.00. Donations will be made to the following.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Holy Names House of Peace | \$35.00 |
| 2. Willow Place | \$40.00 |

A book is a gift you can open again and again.

Please stop by and check the bookshelf for many exciting titles, you may find interesting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jann Peterson

Operating Budget

CHARLESWOOD UNITED CHURCH 2024 BUDGET

	Budget 2023	Forecast 2023	BUDGET 2024
INCOME			
M & S	50000	52383	52000
Local	372500	376402	396915
Property	40000	45111	47569
TOTALS	462500	473896	496484
FUNDRAISING			
		1600	0
Fall Supper	0	0	0
C & C Donations	3500	4000	3500
Rentals	40000	41832	41800
HF – Draw Operations	0	0	12501
HF Investment Income	0	5326	0
	506000	526654	554285
EXPENSES			
Staff	262170	269287	298324
Janitorial	27780	27963	29160
Hydro	20000	23199	23496
Water	1900	2066	2070
Cleaning & Supplies	9000	9600	10080
Building Maintenance	28000	28039	29020
Insurance	14500	12574	13000
Property tax	18900	18650	18900
TOTALS	382250	391378	424050
OFFICE EXPENSE			
Office Admin.	7900	8859	9300
Technology		1700	4200
Audit	6800	6855	7100
Interest & Bank Charges	300	320	320
Continuing Education	2400	1575	2400
Leadership Development	250	0	250
Telephone	3100	3396	3500
Postage	1100	1119	1100
Office Equipment Lease	3200	4109	3612
National Assessment	18800	18973	19000
Faith Message	2000	2000	2000
M & S Expense	50000	52203	52000
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE	95850	101109	104782

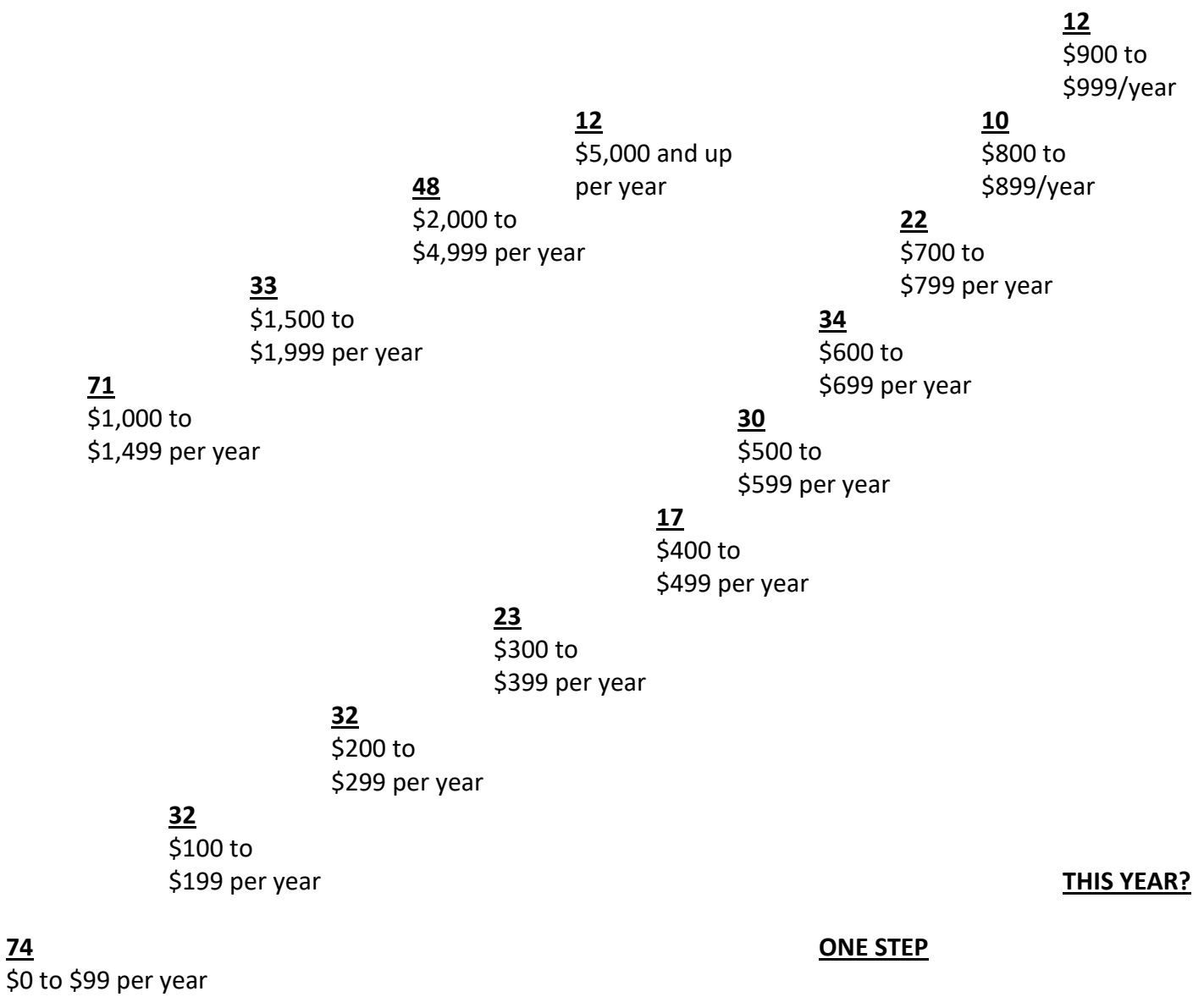
	Budget 2023	Forecast 2023	BUDGET 2024
COMMITTEE EXPENSE			
Minister's Discretionary	2000	736	1400
Gifts & Resources	0	0	0
CREST	2500	2500	2500
Council	200	58	200
Communication	0	0	0
M & P	350	337	350
M & SA	5000	5000	5000
Guest Musicians	4000	3925	5000
Youth Programming	1000	188	1000
Christian Development	750	48	750
Church School	3000	1066	3000
Choir	2000	1189	2000
Worship & Education	4000	2947	4000
TOTAL COMMITTEE EXP	24800	17994	25200
TOTAL EXPENSES	502900	510481	554032
NET INCOME/LOSS	3100	16173	253

Just a Note

A REVEALING BREAKDOWN OF OUR CONGREGATION'S GIVING PATTERNS

Number of families who call CUC their home	447
Number of income tax receipts sent	450
Number of families who use envelopes to give week by week	66
PAR (included in above figure)	183

FIND WHERE YOU ARE ON THIS CHART (your yearly giving)



WILL YOU GROW

Prairie to Pine Regional Council

This is very exciting, writing this report and knowing that we will be gathered together for the Annual Meeting.

I have enjoyed my two years as Co-chair of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. My term as co-chair with Erica Wittevrongel has gone by so quickly. We carved out our style of working together very early and chose to alternate organizing and leading our monthly Executive meetings. This has allowed each of us to stay informed of the business of the Regional Council but also put our energies into other areas of need. Erica and I had some shared experiences which will overlap in our reports but we also had chances to represent the Regional Council individually.

The year started with Erica and I presiding at the Celebration of Ministry on June 26 in Kenora at Knox United Church. There we celebrated the Ordination of Susan Girard and the Admission of Rev. Carrie Martens, Rev. Chewe Mulenga, and Rev. Schalk Naude into the Order of Ministry of the United Church of Canada. We both participated in GC44 as Commissioners and celebrated the Installation of our new Moderator Rev Carmen Lansdowne on August 7.

Regional Meeting, Prairie to Pine Regional Council, June 1-4, 2023

Heather Lea and I attended and participated in a Service of Celebration for Neepawa United Anglican Shared Ministry (NUASM) on October 16 in Neepawa for the recognition of two years together.

The Annual Meeting Planning Team was called together in September. After spending the last three years developing skills at providing online events, it is now a challenge to remember all the details of meeting in person.

Diane Dwarka and I attended and participated in the service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. An Ecumenical Service in Winnipeg hosted by St. John XXIII Church on Jan 22.

I participated in a media event panel on February 16 at Broadway Disciples Church to share solidarity and support for those who have been and could be affected by Freedom Convoy participants. While occupation of the streets by the Legislature did not happen on Feb 17, the importance of coming together and voicing concern was important.

Shannon McCarthy, Tricia Gerhardt and I attended the Annual Meeting of Rock Lake Church Camp on April 16 in Crystal City at Rock Lake United Church to look for ways the Regional Council can support the camp. Work continues on the Structure Document Task group with Teresa Melnychuk, Diane Dwarka, Shannon McCarthy, and Julie Graham. We have completed a standardized document that outlines the purpose and structure of each area of the Regional Council Executive. Special thank you to Teresa for her work in organizing this information into such an easily usable form. Work will continue on a more detailed document defining roles and responsibilities.

Thank you, Erica, it has been great Co-Chairing with you. Thank you to all who have worked so hard for our Regional Council. To all those in staff positions, we could not function without your dedicated work. To all who volunteer to lead and participate in committees and projects of the Regional Council, we could not function without your dedicated work. Thank you to the planning team who worked hard to make our Annual Meeting a time of learning and fun on top of the business of Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

This is a journey. We are all pilgrims on this journey of growth and cooperation. Fellow travelers on the road. We are here to help each other. Walk the mile and share the load.

Patricia Bird
Co-Chair
Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive

This past year has been a time of learning and growth. As my first year in an active role as Co-Chair, it was a chance for me to become better acquainted with the areas of work being done across our region. The Regional Executive continued to meet on a monthly basis. Pat and I took turns leading the meetings. Our meetings always start with a short check-in or worship which was facilitated by a member of the Executive. I appreciated the opportunity to hear the variety of interpretations that these times of togetherness included. Although prayer was often included, facilitators also included thoughts and questions that encouraged the Executive to creatively interact with the Creator outside of Sunday worship.

There were several events throughout the year that I was able to attend as a representative of the region. Celebration of Ministry Service: On June 26, 2022, Pat Bird, myself, and the staff of Prairie to Pine Regional Council officiated the service celebrating the admittance of Rev. Carrie Martens, Rev. Chewe Mulenga, and Rev. Schalk Naude, and the ordination of Susan Girard. The service took place at Knox United Church in Kenora, ON. The congregation of Knox went above and beyond to ensure that the space, technology, and food needs were met for this service.

General Council 44: Over the summer I was one of 14 commissioners representing our region who attended the virtual gathering of the General Council. The longest meeting in history, beginning in February 2022 and ending in August 2022, this meeting encompassed important issues that the commissioner groups were able to address in their times of conversation.

We Are All Treaty People Celebration (WAATP): On September 18, 2022, Diane Dwarka attended the WAATP celebration at The Forks National Historic Site where Indigenous People, Settlers, and Newcomers shared what Being Treaty meant to them.

Service of Remembrance for Queen Elizabeth II: On September 19, 2022, Diane Dwarka and I attended the service of remembrance that took place in the Anglican Cathedral in Winnipeg. The service incorporated elements from different faiths and included acknowledgments from political figures.

Peguis First Nation Chief Glenn Hudson was asked to speak and reflected on the relationship between the Crown and Indigenous peoples. One of the highlights of the service was the music. The service included familiar hymns sung by the choir, sung elements shared from the Jewish tradition, and drumming shared by members of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles.

National Gathering of Presiding Officers: On November 30, 2023, I attended a gathering that included General Council staff, and presiding officers and/or representatives from regions across the country. During that meeting the Moderator shared her plans for the coming year, focusing on the terms: flourishing, encouraging, and dreaming. This meeting was also an opportunity for the regional representatives to share highlights and wishes from their regions.

Tri-Region Gathering: On February 16, 2023 staff and representatives from Prairie to Pine, Living Skies, and Northern Spirit gathered to discuss the needs of their regions, and share ideas. It was agreed that these types of meetings should continue to occur throughout the year. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2023 and will be a chance for introductions to new representatives, and the continued sharing of ideas.

My move to Saskatchewan in October 2022 meant that I wasn't as able to attend important events in Manitoba. I'd like to thank Pat Bird, Diane Dwarka, and the Prairie to Pine Staff for being flexible and taking on those responsibilities. I would also like to thank all of the members of the Regional Executive 17 Regional Meeting, Prairie to Pine Regional Council, June 1-4, 2023 and corresponding members for their work over this past year as we continue to live into our commitments as representatives for those who call Prairie to Pine home.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Wittevrongel

Co-Chair

Prairie to Pine Regional Council Executive