



**First United
Church
Annual Report
2024**



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FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Our Mission Statement

We at First United Church
guided by the Spirit,
are striving to be an
Open and Diverse Community of Faith.
Through words and action
we pursue the values of
Spiritual Growth,
Compassionate Outreach,
Social Justice and Care of the Earth.



Affirming Vision Statement



We, the congregation of First United Church, declare publicly our commitment to creating a community that welcomes and values all people –
people of all ages, abilities, genders, racial identities, sexual orientations,
gender identities, family configurations, cultural backgrounds, and
economic circumstances, and
people who have had any other experiences that have led to exclusion,
marginalization, or oppression within church or society.

We invite and honour the participation of all in every aspect of church life.

We acknowledge the challenges diversity brings and embrace them fully because we also celebrate the richness of its gifts. We pray for God's grace to guide us as we work for equity and justice for all persons in both church and society.

2024 Funerals

1. January 18, 2024 – Dennis Allen Unrau (*Date of death: January 11, 2024*)
2. January 27, 2024 – Donald Martin (*Date of death: January 22, 2024*)
3. February 9, 2024 – Irene Marion Corney (*Date of death: February 4, 2024*)
4. February 10, 2024 – Susan Elizabeth Spenst* (*Date of death: December 30, 2023*)
5. February 23, 2024 – Carolyn Lamb (*Date of death: February 16, 2024*)
6. March 14, 2024 – Larry Dale Oakman (*Date of death: March 4, 2024*)
7. April 13, 2024 – Gordon James (*Date of death: February 13, 2024*)
8. May 2, 2024 – Ruth Irene Bender (*Date of death: April 21, 2024*)
9. May 11, 2024 – Evelyn June Wiskar (*Date of death: February 15, 2024*)
10. May 17, 2024 – Alexander (Zan) Robertson (*Date of death: January 11, 2024*)
11. May 29, 2024 – Stuart Douglas Doherty (*Date of death: May 20, 2024*)
12. June 1, 2024 – Ruth Martens (*Date of death: January 7, 2024*)
13. June 21, 2024 – Vaughn Donald Minogue (*Date of death: May 31, 2024*)
14. June 28, 2024 – Gloria Armstrong (*Date of death: June 10, 2024*)
15. July 13, 2024 – Brian Andrew Warder (*Date of death: February 28, 2024*)
16. July 29, 2024 – Velma Jean Berg (*Date of death: July 16, 2024*)
17. August 24, 2024 – William Jim Hayes* (*Date of death: August 17, 2024*)
18. August 26, 2024 – Lena (Helen) Manthey (*Date of death: August 22, 2024*)
19. September 28, 2024 – Edward Talaga (*Date of death: September 18, 2024*)
20. October 19, 2024 – Eleanor Mary Goertzen (*Date of death: September 9, 2024*)
21. December 13, 2024 – Nancy Helen Aitken (*Date of death: December 7, 2024*)

Members *

Other Members who died in 2024

1. June 24, 2024 – Katherine Patzer
2. July 15, 2024 – Betty Cobbler

2024 Baptisms

1. February 18, 2024 – Avery Jeara Demesa, daughter of Randy Jennifer Demesa
2. December 8, 2024 – Connor Stephen Sherwick, son of Tyler and Briana Sherwick
3. December 8, 2024 – Livvy Ila Sherwick, daughter of Tyler and Brianna Sherwick

Life Elders as of December 31, 2023

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jean Allen | 16. Colin King | 31. Violet Sigurdson |
| 2. Florence Anderson | 17. Marilyn King | 32. Allan Smith |
| 3. Donna Barber | 18. Colleen MacBean | 33. Murray Smith |
| 4. Betty Bateman | 19. Jean Macnab | 34. Pat Smith |
| 5. Wally Bateman | 20. Thelma Marsh | 35. Shirley Terlson |
| 6. Lorraine Bloye | 21. Karen Messer | 36. Kae Waters |
| 7. Ray Bunnell | 22. Patricia Mierke | 37. Shirley Wilson |
| 8. Harold Casselman | 23. Christine Newton | |
| 9. Marjorie Casselman | 24. Carol O'Donnell | |
| 10. Glenna Cory | 25. Larry O'Donnell | |
| 11. Melanie Davis | 26. Jean Pearson | |
| 12. Sharyn Erne | 27. Betty Pribyl | |
| 13. Val Goodfellow | 28. Betty Robertson | |
| 14. Eileen Hayes | 29. Gerry Rya | |
| 15. Janet Keene | 30. Gestur Sigurdson | |

2024 Marriages

1. April 6, 2024 – Levi Reece Côté and Alison Elise Nagy

2024 Members by Confirmation, Profession of Faith and Transfer of Memberships

Baptism/Profession of Faith - none

Transfer of Membership to First United Church - none

Transfer of Membership from First United Church – none

Membership Report

Total Confirmed Membership as of Jan. 1, 2024	228
Members Received by Profession of Faith	
Members removed by death	3
Members received by Certificate of Transfer	
Members removed by Certificate of Transfer	
Members removed otherwise *	2
Total Confirmed Membership as of Dec. 31, 2024	223

* Removed at their request.

Staff

Minister: Reverend Annette Taylor
Office Manager: Patti McCleary
Office Manager: Rhonda Lotochinski
Choir Director: James McLauchlan
Custodian: Michael Orola
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary

Chair of Leadership Team

2024

Looking back...

- Rev. Annette Taylor announced her retirement.
- Patti McCleary, one of our Office Managers, announced her retirement.
- The Refugee Sponsorship Group prepared for the arrival of a Syrian family of six
- Remit 1: Establishing an Autonomous Indigenous National Organization - We studied the lengthy resource material and decided to vote “Yes”. After the vote was counted, 80% of United Churches across Canada voted “Yes”.
- The Swift Current Interagency Committee - We joined this group.
- The Affirming Ministry Interest Group worked on the wording for our Land Acknowledgement, which was approved by the congregation.
- The future of our building and our ministry
 - We debated the question of whether our building is sustainable.
 - We expanded our advertising of available rental space
 - We pursued the idea of a day care centre, which has not materialized
 - We met with Growth Animator, Jordan Cantwell, to gain new perspective.
 - Our Stewardship Committee completed a 10-year financial projection.
 - Our Building & Property Committee completed a 10-year projection of building maintenance expenses.
 - We are aware that many community organizations rely on the use of our building.
- Red Dress Day - This service focused on the National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people.
- Sharing space with other churches - We sent letters of invitation to St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, St. Olaf’s Lutheran Church, and the Zion Mennonite Church. St. Olaf’s expressed interest, leading to several meetings to consider joint initiatives.
- We followed up on ideas from those in attendance at the March 2024 AGM.
- Searching for a new minister - We prepared the documents required by the Living Skies Region and selected a Search Team, namely Ann Wiebe, Eileen Elkington, Dan Olmsted.
- Our Mission Statement - We kept this pledge top of mind.
- Rhonda Lotochinski, one of our Office Managers, was willing to increase her hours.
- The Sunday School Coordinator’s office and the Sunday School Supply Room were used for the Christmas sales and the Creation Station remained open for November and December.

2024 has been a year of preparation for change – a time of deep reflection, realistic conversations, and buckling down to the task of long-term planning.

2025

Looking ahead...

- 2025 will be a year of radical change in our church.

- Rev. Annette Taylor and Patti McCleary will retire.
- We will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada.
- We will meet with the United Property Resource Commission to discuss the idea of restructuring.

Challenges

- We need more volunteer visitors. This is a vital part of our ministry. We owe it to people who are ill or disabled or grieving to show that their church family remembers them, cares about them, and holds them in prayer. Our Mission Statement states, in part: “Through words and action we pursue the value of Compassionate Outreach.” Please contact the Pastoral Care & Membership Committee or the church office if you could visit even one or two people.
- We need a Secretary and a Vice-Chair for the Leadership Team.

Thank-yous

- To Patti McCleary for 22 years of faithful service in the office.
- To Rev. Annette Taylor for almost 11 years of leadership.
- To Committees & Interest Groups: This is where the rubber meets the road, where the words in our Mission Statement come alive. It is not possible to individually name the volunteers in these groups, but know that we are grateful for you.

The Leadership Team is tasked with being the Keepers of First United Church’s Vision. At the beginning of every Leadership Team meeting, there is a “Moment of Inspiration” and at the end, we intentionally review our responsibilities as “Keepers of the Vision”.

Whatever our church will look like in the future will be different from what we’re used to. As we adapt and change, may we be ever mindful of our commitment to openness and diversity, spiritual growth, and care of the Earth.

We pray for God’s grace to guide us as we work for equity and justice for all persons.

Peggy Worrell

Minister

You are in this time of the interim
where everything seems withheld.
The path you took to get here has washed out;
the way forward is still concealed from you.
The old is not old enough to have died away;
the new is still too young to be born.

Here at First United Church we are living in an interim or liminal time. A phase that John O'Donohue describes in this excerpt from his *Blessing for an Interim Time*. Even as our ministries continue to flourish and we live out our mission here in Swift Current, we are aware that change is in the air and that “the new is still too young to be born.”

First, the living out of our mission and ministry:

2024 was filled with many wonderful opportunities for spiritual growth and nurture within our congregation. Supported by our Worship & Music Committee, our worship services covered a wide-variety of themes and included liturgy prepared and led by several different groups. During Lent, I continued my tradition of preaching using Oscar-nominated movies. And over the past year the Faith Formation Committee offered a weekly bible study, book studies, Lenten & Advent studies, and a fall workshop.

Throughout the year we also offered compassionate outreach to those in our community and around the world who are in need. Our Outreach Committee worked to raise money for both Mission & Service and local non-profit organizations. We provided food for the local CMHA, hosted SaskAbilities at our Creation Station, offered space to AA groups, Boy Scouts & Girl Guides and distributed low-cost clothing and household goods through our Garage Sale and 3rd Ave. Boutique.

Our Affirming Ministry Group worked for social justice by supporting our 2SLGBTQ neighbours and helping to organize Red Dress Day in Swift Current. Earthcare Partners continued their work to educate the congregation on ways we can care for the earth while also growing vegetables and reminding us of the beauty of God's creation with our Living Wall. In June our Refugee Sponsorship Group welcomed six new Canadians to our city and have worked diligently to provide them with the housing, food, clothing, tutoring, transportation and guidance they need to make their way in this new country

Of course, none of this would be possible without the work of the committees that form the backbone of our organizational structure. Along with all the committees already mentioned, I want to thank our Leadership Team, Stewardship, Pastoral Care and Membership, Building & Property, Ministry & Personnel, the Regional Representatives and our Trustees. Thanks to our House Group Coordinator and all the House Group Leaders. Thanks also to all the members of the interest groups that work behind the scenes to raise the funds needed for our ministry and to support our congregational members: Archives, Decorations, Fowl Supper, Social & Funeral Convenors, Fundraising, Prayer, and the Prayer Shaw Ministry.

But, even as this mission and ministry has continued, we have also been aware of upcoming change:

Budget deficits have been an issue for several years and our Leadership Team is searching for ways to make our ministry in this community more sustainable. This includes advertising for groups willing to lease some of the rooms in our underutilized building and creating new connections with non-profit organizations in our city. They are also working with regional and national United Church staff to explore what other churches across our country are doing in this challenging time.

On a personal level, I am also entering my own liminal time. In 2024, I announced my decision to retire from full-time ministry as of June 30, 2025. This was not an easy choice since I love this congregation and my ministry here at First United. It will take some time for me to discern my next steps, but I am looking forward to having more personal time to travel, connect with family and friends and enjoy this beautiful place in which we live.

My ten and a half years at First United (nearly eleven in June) have been an incredibly rich and rewarding experience. During that time I have led over 480 worship services, officiated at 250 funerals, attended many meetings and had countless conversations and visits with members of this congregation. It has been a time of growth and change for all of us, especially me!

I want to end with a special thanks to the staff here at First United. It is amazing to think that I am ending my time with some of the same colleagues that were here to greet me when I arrived in 2014! Thank you to James for the gift of our Wednesday meetings. Thanks to Mary for your ministry of music and to Michael for your quiet presence in the evenings and early mornings. Finally thank you to Patti and Rhonda for the many talents that you offer to this congregation and for the incredible support that you have given me. Patti, I hope you are able to enjoy your newfound freedom as you begin your own well-deserved retirement!

I am going to end this final annual report with more words from John O'Donohue's *Blessing for the Interim Time*:

As far as you can, hold your confidence.
Do not allow your confusion to squander
this call which is loosening your roots in false ground,
that you might come free from all you have outgrown.

What is being transfigured here is your mind,
and it is difficult and slow to become new.
The more faithfully you can endure here,
the more refined your heart will become
for your arrival in the new dawn.

Blessings,
Annette Taylor

Office Manager - Patti McCleary

It is a bittersweet moment for me as I write my annual report for 2024. As most of you probably already know, after 22 years of working at First United Church, I will be retiring from my Office Manager position effective March 1, 2025. Hard to believe, but this will be my last annual report....so here it goes.

The biggest highlight of the New Year was the birth of our first grandchild, who arrived earlier than expected. Our grandson, Brody, arrived safe and sound, all 5 pounds of him on January 21st! I spent as much time in Regina as possible helping out and enjoying my new role as “grandma”. He is just the sweetest little boy and I can’t get enough of him so I’m sure once I’m retired I will be making more trips to see him!

Spring was busy again with Easter and the Ham supper and before I knew it, summer was here. I decided to take most of the summer off and see how I managed being out of the office for several weeks in a row. We spent a lot of time in Cypress, golfing and visiting with friends and family. I worked one week in August while Rhonda was away on holidays, but I did really enjoy my time off and I definitely felt better about my decision to retire in 2025.

September was very busy at the church as usual, renters returning, committees meeting again and the Fowl supper in October kept us on our toes and then all the craziness of the Advent season was upon us. My dad has had some medical issues this fall as well, so I was able to take my parents to out of town appointments and treatments as I was needed.

I continued playing the organ for Sunday worship services as my schedule allowed and for the first time since I started playing at the church, I did not play for any funerals. I plan to continue playing the organ for Sunday services and funerals in the future as my schedule allows.

In preparation for my retirement, I have been working with Rhonda to take over all of my responsibilities, mostly with the bookkeeping. There is a lot to cover, but Rhonda is doing a wonderful job and I know she will be ready to handle it all when I leave.

I would like to thank Rev. Annette Taylor and the Ministry & Personnel committee for their continued support and guidance. I have always had unwavering support from all of the different ministers and M & P committees I have worked with over my 22 years at First United. I have been very fortunate to work with such great people.

Most importantly, I need to thank Rhonda Lotochinski who has always covered for me when I needed to be away for my own medical issues or for my dad’s. I can’t thank her enough for always stepping up and working in the office when I couldn’t be there. Her dedication to our church is admirable and she will keep things running smoothly and efficiently.

Lastly, I have been so blessed to work at First United Church and with all of the wonderful people over the past 22 years. My church family is very important to me so contemplating retirement took me a couple of years before I made a final decision. I’m sure it will be hard to leave at the end of February and will take some time for me to adjust, but I am looking forward

to spending more time in Regina with my grandson and having free time for myself. Not sure what my free time is going to look like yet, but I'm excited to figure it out! From the bottom of my heart, thank you all so much for the many friendships, guidance, love and support over these past 22 years.

Blessings
Patti McCleary

Office Manager – Rhonda Lotochinski

It is hard to believe that another year has passed so quickly. 2024 was my 16th year working in the job share position with Patti as office manager. Throughout 2024 I continued to work Monday mornings to count the offering and Tuesday mornings to meet the website, Facebook and communication duties. On Thursday's and Friday's I worked full days in the office performing regular office duties.

I also continued to run the sound system for Sunday services and funerals. I was the chair of the Pastoral Care and Membership committee, and I am a member of the Archives and Fundraising interest groups.

2025 will be a year of huge changes for our church as Patti will be retiring at the end of February and Annette will be retiring at the end of June. I will miss them both dearly. It is very daunting to say the least but I have faith that we will all get through this rather large change in our church office and congregation. After Patti's retirement I will be working full days in the office and the Leadership Team will be looking for someone to fill the position of Office Manger Assistant. The Office Manager Assistant will work approximately 8–11hrs per week, helping with counting the offerings and performing regular office duties. This person will also cover my vacation days and sick days.

I want to send out a huge thank you to Patti for asking me to help out in the office all those years ago in 2009. She took me under her wing, and taught me all the inner workings of the First United church office over the years. Certainly not an easy task as our church is a very lively place which is a beautiful thing. It is amazing how much activity goes on in our church, not only with Sunday services, but with weddings, funerals, baptisms, fundraising events and providing rentals to the public. Patti undoubtedly holds a wealth of knowledge and I am grateful to her for sharing this gift.

I would also like to thank Annette for her consistent advice and continued support. I still remember when Annette came to the church the summer of 2014. How can the time have gone that fast? Annette came into our church at the perfect time and fit right in. She was the strong leader our church required all those years ago.

I am very fortunate to work with the very capable and kind office staff at First United which includes James McLauchlan our choir director, Mary Anderson our pianist and Michael Orola our janitor. I enjoy working with them and appreciate their wonderful talents.

I would also like to extend a thank you to the Ministry & Personnel committee for their continued guidance and support. A thank you also goes out to our many volunteers who work tirelessly to provide help for funerals lunches, fundraising events, ushering, after service coffee, garage/rummage sales, creation station etc. The list goes on and on. Please know that we see every one of you and you are amazing and greatly appreciated. You are a huge part of what makes our church run smoothly and make us a family.

I am excited to see what 2025 will bring to First United. We will be going through some big changes but I have faith everything will work out and we will work as a team to welcome a new minister and Office manager assistant.

Blessings
Rhonda Lotochinski, Office Manager

Choir Director

Hi Folks!

Here we are in 2025! It has already been an eventful year for us as we prepare for both Patti and Annette's retirement. Patti has agreed to continue playing the organ occasionally and we will look forward to her continued involvement in our United Church community. Special thanks go to Rev. Annette Taylor for her steadfast leadership these past years! I've grown to appreciate our planning meetings and will miss them.

Thank you, in particular, to the choir for your support this year!

With the exception of July and August, I am here for at least 14hrs/week. Most of that time has been working from home and the office. I am generally in the office on Wednesdays. During this time I complete the following tasks:

- Plan and implement choir rehearsals.
- Coordinate with internal and external worship leaders. This includes assistance in choosing music that is accessible and valued by the congregation here at First.
- Select an anthem that fits with the appropriate theme of service.
- Choose and implement music for the Sunday School program.
- Maintain healthy communication with other church staff and volunteers regarding the worship service.
- Coordinate and arrange musical accompaniment of pianists', the Gospel Band or individual performers.
- Work to find opportunities for others within the church that would like to share their musical gifts.
- Meet with Worship and Music once a month to discuss worship ideas regarding the music program here at First.
- Maintain and report copyright obligations with respective holders.

I want to send a big Thank You to Ministry & Personnel for their continued support!

James McLauchlan BMT MTA
Choir Director

Building and Property Committee

The Building & Property committee consisted of Ken Newton, Brent Molyneux, James Declare, Dan Olmsted, Mae Lake and Annette Taylor.

Wally Bateman was a committee member for part of the year and was an important member in helping to keep the boilers working as well as assisting with keeping other parts of the building operating as they should. His work was very much appreciated.

Michael Orola continues to take care of the cleaning and sanitizing of our building. His work is very much appreciated.

Brent Molyneux continues to maintain the sound and video equipment that enables the church services to be live streamed. This allows the members of the church to watch our Sunday services online.

During this year (2024) the following work was carried out:

- It was decided that the church would continue to use the Red River Mutual Insurance company.
- Speedy Creek was contracted to put river rock in front of the sign at the south west corner of the church and that was done.
- The retaining wall on the north side of the church was removed by Steve's Excavating. It was decided to put down gravel over landscaping fabric along with some weeping tile along the border. This would direct any rain water to the front grass and to the alley. The neighbour to the north removed trees that were hitting the church.
- The committee prepared a ten-year projection of capital expenditures that might occur that does not include regular building expenses. The projection was sent to the Leadership Team. The report is attached to this Annual report (see Appendix II)
- Ken fixed the problem with the Handicap button with the help of Quality Glass.
- The committee reviewed the budget for the coming year and changes were made to 5 items.
- Shelving was purchased for the toy room.
- Regular maintenance included replacing filters on the furnaces, LED light bulb in the gym and renewal of the contract for snow removal with Speedy Creek.
- Members of the committee rotate the opening and closing of the church for Sunday Services.

Building and Property Committee
Mae Lake, Secretary

Faith Formation Committee

During 2024, the Faith Formation Committee strived to invite persons of all ages and stages to explore and grow in their relationship with God as revealed through Jesus Christ, within the community of faith and with the world.

Sunday School

The Faith Formation Committee is indebted to Deb Fletcher for her excellent work and dedication as volunteer Sunday School Coordinator. The Sunday School children led the Sunday service on November 24, 2024. (Refer to separate Sunday School report)

Book Studies

Two book studies were held this year:

1. *Praying Our Goodbyes* by Joyce Rupp – facilitated by Melanie Davis in January / February 2024
2. *Breathing Under Water* by Fr. Richard Rohr – facilitated by Dixie Green October 2024

Lenten Study

Annette Taylor and Mary Anderson co-facilitated the study, *Four Birds* to guide discussions. These sessions were held in a hybrid format.

Advent Study

The Advent Study was co-facilitated by Annette Taylor and Mary Anderson. *Starry Nights* provided guidance and the meetings were held in a hybrid mode.

Lectionary Bible Study

This group meets on Wednesday mornings for a lively discussion, led by Annette. The format of the meetings is a hybrid mode.

Membership classes

Annette offered Membership Classes in 2024, but there were no expressions of interest.

Friday Matinees

The following films were shown during Lent:

- Oppenheimer
- Past Lives
- American Fiction
- Barbie
- The Holdovers

Hosts: Dixie Green, Karen Messer, Linda Stumpf, and Mary Anderson

Fall Workshop

On September 28, 2024 a workshop on Eco-spirituality was led by the Reverend Shawn Sanford Beck. Workshop participants were introduced to the concepts of Christian animism, green priestcraft and kything. Following the Sunday Service on September 29, 2024 he provided readings from his book *A Prairie Rune*.

Thank you to the many volunteers who made the ministry of the Faith Formation Committee possible.

Faithfully submitted,
Mary Anderson (Chair), Karen Messer (Secretary), Pat Dyck-Bunkosky, Melanie Davis and Rev. Annette Taylor



Sunday School Coordinator

Attendance

Sunday School attendance is steady with usually 5-8 students attending and up to 10 max (ages 3 to 15). We bid farewell to 5 students and 2 teachers since May 2023 and welcomed 2 new students and teachers Jennifer Bingham and Jeline Orola.

Programming

So much gratitude to the teachers who are busy people, yet know how important Sunday School is to young students. They are resourceful and very caring. Without an actual United Church curriculum, teachers have sourced other options which we ensure reflect the United Church beliefs and values. Reverend Annette Taylor gives her outline for her Sunday reflection to the Sunday School coordinator who then passes it along to whoever is teaching on that Sunday, and Melanie Davis, who does Community Learning time. This sets the stage for a rich, educational lesson in Sunday School.

Teachers for the 2024-25 Church Year (Bless Their Good Hearts)

Kimberly Bilanski

Linda Stumpf with Fran Jackson

Jennifer Bingham

Jeline Orola

Children's Church Services in 2023-2024

Jan. 21, 2024 - Jonah and the Big Fish

May 26, 2024 - Nature Theme (for in the park but got rained out so was in the gym)

Nov. 24, 2024 - All I Want for Christmas

Relocation of Sunday School Supply room

With the Christmas Room relocating to the old Sunday School office and supply rooms, the Sunday School materials were relocated to the upstairs room beside the Sunday School room. This is much handier for teachers to access books, craft supplies, teaching resources, etc. Thank you to all who assisted in this move....especially Linda and Leonard Stumpf.

Needs

Snacks and juice are a bonus treat for the children. Some parents supply snacks. Juice is a nice option but not a necessity. We are always thankful for any donations.

On behalf of the Sunday School,
Blessings from Deb Fletcher

Sunday School 2024 in Pictures



House Group Coordinator

Our House Group Leaders have been working diligently this past year to ensure that Sunday mornings have a greeter, ushers, a scripture reader and coffee provided before and after church. Additionally, on Sundays where there is communion, they are responsible for setting up and cleaning up the elements associated with communion. There is much behind the scenes work happening and assistance from Patti and Rhonda.

The House Group Leaders are: Eileen Elkington, Fran Jackson, Judy Killaby, Loretta Korven, Diane Minogue, Maxine Olmsted, Jackie Orola-Ravino, Pat Palmer, Valerie Shrumm, Janet Strain, and Linda Stumpf. Charlotte Thingvold has resigned and we are grateful for her time as a House Group Leader.

We meet annually to brainstorm and attempt to improve procedures. There are challenges and frustrations, however we are aiming to alleviate some of these.

Huge thanks are in order for each House Group Leader and each person who helped with the Sunday morning duties.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Andrews



**Living Skies Regional Council Report
June 13-16, 2024 Saskatoon, SK**

Delegates Linda Stumpf, Colleen MacBean, and minister Annette Taylor joined delegates from around Saskatchewan for worship, celebration, learning, and decision making. Throughout the meeting the focus of the national church was always before us: **Bold (Discipleship), Deep (Spirituality), Daring (Justice).**

Proposals presented to the meeting for discussion and decision making:

1. **Responding to the Crisis in Israel/Palestine** (submitted by clergy members from Saskatoon)
 - a. Develop resources for education and discussion
 - b. Adopt clear policies within the Regional Council
 - c. Encourage members to participate in discussion groups and actions
 - d. Encourage provincial and national governments to call for ceasefire

Decision: Write to Living Sky Regional Council for action.

2. **Anti Poverty** (submitted by concerned anti-poverty people)
 - a. Move from minimum wage to living wage
 - b. Increase funding to community-based solutions
 - c. Seek solutions to housing crisis
 - d. Refurbish current affordable housing

Decision: Write to Living Sky Regional Council with suggestion to contact the Premier.

3. **Growth Priority** (submitted by St. Paul’s United Church in Saskatoon)
 - a. Identify congregational health and growth as top priority
 - b. Review programming resources to align with the above
 - c. Consult with faith communities

Decision: Refer to executive of Living Sky Regional Council

**Note: Jordan Cantwell, Saskatoon farmer UCC Moderator is now a Growth Animator - Prairie Regions for UCC)

4. **Church Improvement Grant** (submitted by Mount Royal Emmanuel United Church in Saskatoon)
 - a. Grants to churches would really help smaller faith communities
 - b. Review church/mants modernization

Decision: The executive minister Shannon McCarthy will refer to General Council.

5. **Congregational Governance** (submitted by St. Paul’s United Church in Saskatoon)

Decision: No actions. Concerns should go to General Counsel.

6. **Review Questions Referred by the Manual of Candidates at the Time of Ordination, Commission, or Recognition** (submitted by St. James United Church in Regina)

Decision: No action. Refer to Living Skies Regional Council.

Committee reports were heard. Tables with displays from various church related organizations were set up to be viewed including a book display. Time was given for networks and clusters to meet. A banquet was held to recognize significant ministry anniversaries, retirements, and ordinances. The Counsel concluded with a Sunday worship service.

LSRC puts out a Newsletter, The Regional Rambler. If you would like to receive it, visit the website <https://livingskiesrc.ca> or contact Bev Diebert at 306-704-0181.

Submitted by delegates Linda Stumpf and Colleen MacBean.

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The committee members for 2024 were Linda Thompson (chair), Brenda Warder, Mavis Jensen, Ann Wiebe, and Rose Lis.

This committee meets once a month at the church, and more as required. We are always available to meet with staff or congregation members as needed.

Our primary role is to be a constructive and supportive committee for staff and adherents of the congregation.

Our committee met with Rev. Annette Taylor, and approved her study leave in September. We were also pleased to see that Rev Annette Taylor was able to get some holidays in.

Our committee started working on the plans for Patti McCleary's (office manager) and Rev. Annette Taylor's retirement parties. We are sad to see them both go and we thank them for all the work they have done for the church and congregation. They will be missed.

We wish to thank the staff for their continuing dedication. We also thank the congregation for their continued support.

I would also like to thank Mavis Jensen for all her help & input and for all she has done for this committee, over the years. We thank you and we will miss you on our committee.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Thompson

Nominations Committee

LEADERSHIP TEAM		Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson	Peggy Worrell	3/3	
Vice Chairperson			
Secretary			
Treasurer	Charles Lotochinski	3/3	1/3
Member-at-Large	Brenda Gruetzner	1/3	
Member-at-Large	Colleen MacBean	3/3	
Member-at-Large	Kim Bilanski	3/3	
Member-at-Large	Dave Zacharias	2/3	
Ministry Personnel	Rev. Annette Taylor		
<p>CHURCH COMMITTEES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister is an ex-officio member of all committees, except Ministry and Personnel, Search and Nominations • Corresponding Members contribute to the work of the Committee but are not expected to attend meetings 			
REQUIRED COMMITTEES			
MINISTRY & PERSONNEL		Year / 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
	Chair + 3-5 members		
Chairperson	Linda Thompson	3/3	1/3
Secretary			
	Ann Wiebe	3/3	
	Brenda Warder	3/3	1/3
	Rose Lis	2/3	
	Harold Lapuz	1/3	
TRUSTEES		Year / 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
	5 lay members, including Chair		
Chairperson	Michael Davis	2/3	
	Mavis Jenson	1/3	
	Shirley Wilson	3/3	4/3
	Darliss Tallman	3/3	1/3
	Michael Korven	1/3	
	George Reaves	1/3	

OTHER COMMITTEES			
BUILDING & PROPERTY COMMITTEE	Chair + 4-6 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Co-Chair	Brent Molyneux	3/3	2/3
Co-Chair	Ken Newton	3/3	2/3
Secretary	Mae Lake	3/3	1/3
	Jim Declare	3/3	2/3
	Dan Olmsted	2/3	
Corresponding member	Wendell Andrews		
FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE	Chair + 3-5 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/2nd Term
Chairperson	Mary Anderson	3/3	2/3
Secretary	Karen Messer	3/3	2/3
	Pat Dyck Bunkosky	3/3	3/3
	Melanie Davis	2/3	
Sunday School Coordinator	Deb Fletcher		
PASTORAL CARE & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	Chair + Roll Clerk + 4-5 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson			
	Charlotte Thingvold	3/3	1/3
	Cindy Herring	2/3	
	Fran Jackson	3/3	1/3
	Rhonda Lotochinski	3/3	4/3
Corresponding member	Colleen MacBean		
Corresponding member	Sharyn Erne		
Corresponding member			
Roll Clerk- ex-officio	Rhonda Lotochinski		
OUTREACH COMMITTEE	Chair + 4-6 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson	Jennifer Bingham	3/3	
Secretary			
	Brenna Stolhandske	3/3	5/3
	Fran Jackson	3/3	2/3
	Dixie Green	1/3	
	Allison Nagy	1/3	

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE	Chair + 3-5 members	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson	Charles Lotochinski	3/3	1/3
	Brenda Gruetzner	3/3	1/3
	Eileen Elkington	3/3	
	Scott Anderson	1/3	
	Karen Bender	1/3	
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE	Chair + 3-5 members		
Co-chair	Eileen Elkington	3/3	1/3
	Donna Barber	1/3	
WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE	Chair + 4-6 members + Choir Director	Year/ 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
Chairperson	Judy Killably	1/3	
Choir Director	James McLauchlan		
	Joan Foster		
	Diane Sarson	3/3	
	Jacqueline Ravino	1/3	
LIVING SKIES REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES	3 Representatives	Year / 1st Term	Year/ 2nd Term
	Colleen MacBean	3/3	3/3
	Dixie Green	3/3	
HOUSE GROUP COORDINATOR			
	Marie Andrews	3/3	

OTHER GROUPS IN THE CHURCH
(not elected at Annual General Meeting)

INTEREST GROUPS			
3rd Ave Boutique			
Contact Person	Judy Corbett		
	Donna Schwartz		
Affirming Ministry			
Contact Person	Deb Fletcher		
	Sharon Veer		
	Linda Stumpf		
	Annette Taylor		
Archives			
Contact Person	Jean Pearson		
	Rhonda Lotochinski		
	Fran Jackson		
Creation Station			
Contact Person	Linda Stumpf		
	Fran Jackson		
Decorations Group			
Contact person	Diane Minogue		
	Mavis Jenson		
	Ila Wilms		
	Del Jenson		
	Kelley Minogue		
Earth Care Partners			
Contact Person	Linda Stumpf		
	Peggy Worrell		
	Karen Messer		
	Ann Wiebe		
	Dixie Green		
	Tommy Kirk		
Fowl Supper Group			
Contact Person			
	Pat Palmer		
	Maxine Olmsted		
	Rhonda Lotochinski		
Fundraising Group			
	Rhonda Lotochinski		
	Fran Jackson		

Garage, Toy & Christmas Room Sales			
Contact Person	Donna Barber		
	Charlotte Thingvold		
	Brenda Warder		
	Cindy Herring		
	Leonard Stumpf		
	Maxine Olmsted		
	Palma Miller		
Kitchen Supplies			
Contact Person	Kathy Bolton		
Prayer Group			
Contact Person	Fran Jackson		
	Betty Bateman		
	Colleen MacBean		
Prayer Shawl Group			
Contact Person	Sharyn Erne		
	Jean Pearson		
	Fran Jackson		
Refugee Sponsorship Group			
Contact person-rotating	Amy Popick		
	Maxine Olmsted		
	Marilyn Durant		
	Marie Andrews		
	Annette Taylor		
Community member	Heba Etmeh		
Community member	Catherine Christie		
Social & Funeral Lunch Convenors			
Chair	Judy Killaby		
	Rose Lis		
	Kathy Bolton		
	Chris Newton		
	Sharon Pollock		

HOUSE GROUP – Faith			
Leader	Judy Killaby		
HOUSE GROUP - Generosity			
Leader	Eileen Elkington		
HOUSE GROUP - Gentleness			
Leader	Diane Minogue		
HOUSE GROUP - Joy			
Leader	Linda Stumpf		
HOUSE GROUP - Kindness			
Leader	Pat Palmer		
HOUSE GROUP - Knowledge			
Leader	Jackie Orola Ravino		
HOUSE GROUP - Serenity			
Leader	Loretta Korven		
HOUSE GROUP - Strength			
Leader	Lynn Anderson		
HOUSE GROUP - Understanding			
Leader	Janet Strain		
HOUSE GROUP - Wisdom			
Leader	Maxine Olmsted		
HOUSE GROUP - Patience			
Leader	Fran Jackson		
HOUSE GROUP - Peace			
Leader	Valerie Shrumm		

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee would like to recognize and thank the congregation for their generous support in what was once again, a very successful year of outreach. We were able to support a variety of charities, organizations and individuals locally, across Canada and around the World.

Our committee members for 2024 were Fran Jackson, Jennifer Bingham, Brenna Stolhandske, Annette Taylor and Lynn Anderson.

The Outreach projects we worked on together were:

- Monthly baking for Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)
- Canadian Food Grains Bank service in October and donations
- Helped the Social Convenors deliver the meals to the Family Resource Centre for the SwiftLink summer meal program.
- Our local Benevolent Fund requests
- Christmas in July - supporting CMHA, Salvation Army and Southwest Crisis Services with donations of money and items (\$1730 + item donations)
- Christmas Hampers were put together for 12 hampers and 38 people

The Outreach Committee raised \$15,646.75 for the Mission and Service Fund through:

- September 22, 2023 M&S special service - \$160
- Care home service offerings - \$225
- Offerings designated to M&S (including pre-authorized remittance) - \$11,910
- Baking and preserve sales after church - \$470.75
- Offerings from M&S jar - \$21
- The M&S Easter Envelopes and Pigs Campaign - \$1360
- Offerings to M&S unreceipted - \$1500
- \$4353.25 from the Planned Giving Fund



We raised money for Camp Shagabec by having a special Camping Day Service in April at which \$2445 was raised and a cheque for \$2555 was sent from the Planned Giving account to reach our goal of \$5000.

We also held a special service in September to raise awareness and funds for St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon. \$3420 was collected in total which exceeded our goal of \$3000.

Guided by the Spirit, this congregation has continued to work hard to show their caring and desire to enhance the lives of others in the world, wherever they are. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support and generosity and allowing the Outreach Committee to play a supporting role in your admirable endeavor of helping those in need.

Blessings from the Outreach Committee

Pastoral Care and Membership Committee

Purpose of this committee:

- To provide pastoral care for the congregation
- In cooperation with the Roll Clerk, to keep current the membership roster of the church
- To actively support and work with the Minister(s) in pastoral care of the congregation

Members of this committee: Rev. Annette Taylor, Rhonda Lotochinski (Chair), Fran Jackson, Charlotte Thingvold, and Cindy Herring.

Visiting Group: Sharyn Erne, Colleen MacBean, Charlotte Thingvold and Fran Jackson

Accomplished in the year 2024:

- Assisted Rev. Annette Taylor with Care Home Services and Fran Jackson with communion.
- Thursday morning coffee breaks continue on a regular basis. Fran continues with birthday cake once a month and personal invitations to those that have a birthday.
- Two graduates were recognized this year during our May 5, 2024 Sunday service.
- Devin Allin and Sarah Allin had their memberships removed from First United Church.
- Connor Stephen Sherwick and Livvy Ila Sherwick, children of Briana and Tyler Sherwick were baptized on Sunday, December 8, 2024.
- A few of our Pastoral Care & Membership committee members have been taking part in an educational webinar called “Equipping the Saints” throughout the year. This webinar provides information and ideas to those offering pastoral care.
- The Alzheimer’s Association gave a presentation called the “ABC’s of Dementia” on May 22, 2024. It was well attended.
- We have 59 people on our visiting list. The frequency of visits is dependent on individual people and their need for a visit. It would be safe to say that people that are shut-in would be visited once a month at least. Annette is always kept informed of our visits and if we see the need for her to visit – she is made aware of that need and the reason. We count as a visit, a chance meeting in a grocery store where a meaningful conversation has taken place. In such a situation, we can see and hear how this person appears to be and schedule a follow up visit in their home if they are receptive to this.

I am very proud of the members of our committee and awed by their continued support given to those in need of pastoral care, whether it be by visiting them in person or by calling. They are indeed a huge blessing to our church congregation and our city.

Blessings

Rhonda Lotochinski

Chairperson of Membership & Pastoral

Stewardship Committee

Greetings and Blessings to all.

In our previous year's report Stewardship highlighted the changes we faced going into the new year; the loss of the UCW, the new governance model and the loss of the Cheer group and its impact on our income. This year we are also facing changes with the retirement of both Annette and Patti and the hiring of a new minister. Through all the change what has stayed consistent is your support, both financially and spiritually, to the church. Stewardship would like to thank you first and foremost for this support and your contributions to the continuing operation of our church family.

In regard to budgeting, this year saw us still ending in a deficit position, but by about half what we expected. We had a budget deficit of \$36,257 and our final deficit was \$18,518. Local giving was over 98% of our expectation, which is wonderful to see. Our main funding is you, the congregation.

Looking at 2025, we are currently finalizing the budget. So far it is looking to be similar to 2024, with a deficit, again, of \$36,652. We will cover the details in the budget presentation but we are still facing increased cost pressures and investigating ways to find income from our building and resources.

Two significant pieces of work completed by Stewardship this year was the development of a 10-year projection on our finances and our help in completing the Financial Viability Report that was required to start the process of calling a new minister. The 10-year projection was used by the Leadership team in discussions on our future direction and included in the round table discussion with the congregation.

Looking at local givings specifically, we had a successful Stewardship Campaign, we see PAR staying stable (please consider giving through PAR! It helps keep our income stable and aids in planning). Although we do not track givings from e-Transfer separately it is becoming much more popular, particularly with some fundraising campaigns.

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire Stewardship team for their support and work through a challenging and exciting 2024, and am looking forward to continuing our work through 2025.
Blessings



Charles Lotochinski
Treasurer

Blessings

Trustees

The Trustee committee members for 2024 were Karen Bender (chair), Shirley Wilson, Darliss Tallman, Joanne Feil and Gayleen Turner. Rev. Annette Taylor is also a member of the committee in an ex officio capacity. The Board of Trustees held one meeting in the spring of 2024.

During our meeting we discussed the current insurance policy. We agreed that no changes need to be made.

We attempted to elect a secretary but did not have any takers.

We also needed to change signing authorities with Marlene Reidle leaving the committee. We kept Karen Bender and Shirley Wilson as signing authorities and replaced Marlene with Darliss Tallman. The signing authorization is still 2 of the 3 to sign.

There were 4 terms that came due in 2024 and we renewed 3 of them for 1 year non-redeemable. We renewed the 4th one into a redeemable term for accessibility if needed.

The banking plan attached to First United Church's operating account and planned giving account had expired and a new one needed to be applied. The most efficient and affordable option was chosen.

Karen Bender
Trustee Committee Chair

Worship and Music Committee

Our present committee members are Rev. Annette Taylor (minister), James McLachlan (music director), Barbara Foster (secretary), Faye Jordan and Diane Sarson. We did not have a chair person this year, so members took turns chairing meetings.

We were pleased to continue to live stream Sunday services on Boxcast. This allows those unable to attend in person to be connected to our church family. During peak months (Lent/Advent), those viewing online averaged 25-30 households and in-person attendance was 75-85 for a total attendance of over 100.

Some of our highlights this year were:

- A request was forwarded to the Leadership team to establish a policy for cancellations due to severe weather after a Sunday church service had to be cancelled in January.
- Rev. Annette Taylor once again used Oscar nominated movies as her sermon themes for the Lenten services.
- Weather disruptions continued this year as the annual Picnic in the Park service had to be moved indoors to the church due to rainy weather.
- The Melodies of Christmas also had to be cancelled due to an abundance of snow.
- Pot luck lunches were enjoyed following church services throughout the year. A very big thank you to the Social Convenors for organizing these events.
- Numerous church committees, children and the choir facilitated a number of Sunday services.
- St. Andrew's College did a church service and a workshop for the Faith Formation committee in September
- Our Christmas Eve service is always a very special service and was well attended.

Our committee finalized the review and updates to the Communion set up and Usher instructions. James McLachlan has continued the search for a substitute pianist if Mary Anderson is away, but so far, no candidates have been found. James will continue the search until one is found. Thank you to Sharon Veer for filling in when a replacement was needed.

We thank James, Mary, Patti and the choir for enriching our services with wonderful anthems that enhance the sermon theme and provide us with a joyful music filled sanctuary as we sing our hymns. We are thrilled that Patti has agreed to continue being our organist for the present time even though she is retiring from the office in February. Her skills and dedication to all areas of operation in our church will be missed.

It is with sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Rev Annette Taylor in June as she discovers new challenges and enjoyment in her retirement. She has been our spiritual guide, teacher, friend and counsellor to so many. She will be greatly missed but we wish her much happiness as her faith leads her forward.

Submitted by
Barbara Foster, on behalf of
The Worship and Music Committee

Choir

I want to thank Mary Anderson, Sharon Veer and Patti for being such dependable and solid musicians to work with this year. First United Choir is looking for fill-in accompanists' and anyone who is interested in the possibility, is welcome to reach out to either myself or Mary Anderson for more information. In my opinion, the choir is sounding as good as it ever has and we are fortunate to have the singing community that we do. For anyone interested, please feel free to join us on Wednesday nights at 7:30!

The First United Choir planned a successful Melodies of Christmas this past year which, unfortunately, we had to cancel due to severe weather.

Thank you to our volunteer Sunday School teachers for your continued work with the kids! We are very fortunate to have you here!

Thank you to Patti and Rhonda for your support this year!

Respectfully submitted,

James McLauchlan MTA
Choir Director

Interest Groups

3rd Avenue Boutique

The 3rd Avenue Boutique is coordinated by Judy Corbett and Donna Schwartz. We have two afternoons a week that we work in the clothing area. Tuesday afternoon we have on average 4-5 regular volunteers that sort through the donated items. They replenish the racks and tables, store the seasonal items and send on what we don't think will sell. Wednesdays we are open for business from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with two volunteers managing the sales. On average we have 6-8 volunteers for the Wednesday sales, each working about once a month.

The public is encouraged to bring in their items on Monday and Wednesday mornings. In our area we accept clean and gently worn clothing, jackets, footwear, accessories, bedding towels, tablecloths, suitcases and small baby needs. It is all very much appreciated.

On average the sales have been going very well. We had a few record-breaking sale dates in 2024. Some days are slower than others but that is normal with any venture.

Submitted by Judy Corbett





Affirming Ministry Group

In 2024, the members of the Affirming Ministry Working Group were Stacie Noble-Wiebe for part of the year (Chair), Sharon Veer, Deb Fletcher, Linda Stumpf and Annette Taylor.

Highlights from 2024 included:

- Visible signs that First United Church is an Affirming Ministry:
 - Repairing our rainbow stairs and refreshing them with a new coat of paint. (continual process...like the Golden Gate Bridge...never done).
 - Updating our bulletin board and our webpage.
 - Participating in the Red Dress Awareness Campaign -1st year (44 dresses were hung around Swift Current around May 5th).

- Planning and/or co-leading the following services and sessions:
 - March 10, 2024: First United Church PIE Day service
 - March 16, 2024: For PIE Day – members of First United donated 30 pies to SW SK PRIDE PIE event.
 - May 5, 2024: Red Dress Day – Affirming Ministry Group led worship
 - June 2, 2024: Pride Service – Dawn Caswell-Falk and panelists discussed the recent Sask Government’s pronoun policy and subsequent “Parents’ Bill of Rights” legislation.
 - November 3, 2024: Power and Privilege service - did an exercise with the congregation using stickers to show how many times power or privilege played a part in their lives. It was a good visual to demonstrate how fortunate we are.

- There was no Southwest Saskatchewan Pride float in the Frontier Days Parade in 2024. The 2SLGBTQ+ community focused on opening their new facility.

The Affirming Ministry group is a small but mighty team of dedicated individuals who believe that each person is worthy of respect and recognition. Now, more than ever, we need to advocate for those who need our voices. If anyone is interested in joining this group please reach out to any member. We’d appreciate this.

On Behalf of the Affirming Ministry group
Deb Fletcher

Creation Station

If God is creator, and we are made in God's image, then we are, in our essence, creators. We are, in our essence, artists. Therefore, when we open ourselves to the expression of creativity, we also open to the movement of the Divine within us.

(Christine Valters Paintner and Betsy Beckman)

Creation Station is a place where folk are invited to come and explore their creativity, to make use of the mostly donated resources and relax and see what happens. Research tells us that engaging in creative activities is good for your health even if you are not good at it. Often creative pursuits become spiritual practices that bring one closer to the Holy and a place of peace and centeredness.

The room is bright and spacious and contains resources for painting, gelli printing, coloring, making mandalas, zentangle, card making, collage, creating with beads, stickers, yarn, and other recycled or found materials. We have a large supply of scrapbooking paper, stamps, and inkpads and a corner for junk journaling or art journaling. It has been operating for over 6 years and is open on Wednesdays from 1pm to 5pm when the Garage Sale and Boutique are open. This year we were thankful not to have to pack up and close over the pre-Christmas season.

We have had from 4 to 14 people come each Wednesday. Folk from the Mental Health Drop In and their supervisor continue to come twice a month. Five or more folk from the Abilities Centre and one of their supervisors come every Wednesday with big smiles on their faces. (Sometimes what we create is joy and community.) We try to have suggested activities to offer them but they are free to choose what they will do. We have occasional drop ins and a few "regulars". The Sunday school have been invited to Creation Station on a monthly basis.

We have had cardmaking bees in the past but took a bit of a break this past year. We have cards for sale by donation and have displayed them at bake sales in the church. We are open to hosting card making sessions, art or craft workshops and birthday parties and are happy to engage in any possible ways the room might be used. Please give us a call if you would like to make use of the room on a day other than Wednesday and we'll make a plan.

Thank you to all who have made donations to Creation Station and come by to help or to create. This Interest Group has been functioning with only 2 members and we would love to have others join the group so we can keep it going and expand the possibilities for its use.

Submitted by Linda Stumpf and Fran Jackson



Earthcare Partners

Earthcare Partners have been at work since 2022. Its purpose is to develop ideas related to care of the earth as individuals and as a church.

- For the second summer, the flowers and vegetables in our “Living Wall” flourished and brought beauty to our neighbourhood.
- “Did You Know?” disseminated environmental information via our weekly bulletin and Facebook page.
- Two garden boxes in the Janie and Helen Rempel Community Garden produced vegetables which were gifted on Sunday mornings to members without gardens, to the Mental Health Drop In Centre, and to newcomers from Syria.
- Members helped with the Plant and Muffin Sale.
- Members picked up garbage in the vicinity of the church as part of the City Clean Up - Green Up program.
- A presentation about the expansion of irrigation at Duncairn Reservoir was made by Dwight and Carol Lemon.
- A self-guided “Care for the Earth Tour” was offered, with a guide and maps to lead people to bountiful flower and vegetable gardens, xeriscaped yards, beautiful parks, homes with solar panels, examples of water conservation, and innovative and creative yards.
- Led the Earth Day worship service on April 21

If you are passionate about the environment, you are welcome to join Earthcare Partners, which meets monthly over Zoom.

Linda Stumpf & Peggy Worrell, Co-Chairs



Fundraising Group

The Fundraising Interest Group concentrates on ideas that are expected to raise a minimum of \$1000. The congregation is encouraged to submit their ideas.

The objectives of the Fundraising Interest Group are:

1. Fundraising
2. Building community within the congregation

In 2024, we had a very successful fundraising year with all proceeds going to the church's General Operating Fund. The Fundraising Group planned and implemented the \$24 or 2024 Campaign. Thanks to the Social Convenors and Fowl Supper Group for organizing the other events.

Event	Date	Details	Income	Expenses	Net Income
Spring Ham Supper	April 14/2024	151 meals sold (out of 150) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 92 in gym • 59 take out meals 	\$3,050.00	\$289.74	\$2,760.26
Plant, Muffin & Bake Sale	May 11, 2024	105 attended (\$5 per person + \$55 in donations): \$580.00 Bake sale: \$703.00 Plant Sale: \$550.40	\$1,833.40	\$41.54	\$1,791.86
\$24 for 2024 campaign	June 1-15/2024	31 people donated	\$3,182.00	\$0.00	\$3,182.00
Fowl Supper	October 27/2024	311 meals sold - 225 in gym (2 settings) - 86 take outs + - \$1,360.00 in donations	\$7,550.00	\$658.73	\$6,891.27
Christmas Tea/Bake Sale	December 14/2024	88 attended (\$5 per person) Cards: \$46.00 (to M & S) Bake Sale: \$1,153.95 Admission: \$440.00	\$1,593.95	\$18.28	\$1,575.67
			TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	NET INCOME
			\$17,209.35	\$1,008.29	\$16,201.06

- Social Convenors/Fundraising Interest Group
- Fundraising Interest Group project
- Fowl Supper Interest Group project
- Social Convenors project

Please contact any of us if you have an idea for a fundraiser or if you would like to join our group.

Thank you to everyone who made these fundraisers such a huge success!
Respectfully submitted, Rhonda Lotochinski and Fran Jackson

Garage, Toy and Christmas Room Sales

Change came in 2024 for the Christmas room. In the past the Creation Station became the Christmas room in November until after Christmas, which required the packing up of all the supplies in the Creation Station, so the Christmas sale items could all be unpacked and displayed in that room for sale. Deb Fletcher came up with the idea of keeping the Creation Station all year round and the Christmas room become two rooms. These rooms would be the extra office and Sunday School Supply Room. She cleared the idea with the Leadership team, the garage sale room workers and creation station workers. It was a real help for each of us as it saved a lot of work packing up supplies, sale items and storing them for two months of the year and then repeating the process. Deb and helpers spent many hours clearing the Sunday School supply room and removing of the extra items in the office. The Sunday School supplies are now stored in a Sunday School Room in the same area Sunday School is held, thus more convenient for them too. The Christmas rooms worked well.

It is amazing that donations keep coming supplying us with items for sale. Just when we think we have the storage room sort of cleaned out, we receive new things. Not complaining just very grateful for the generosity of our church members and the wider community.

The Diabetes people faithfully picked up our excess. For this we are very thankful.

Sales in the past year were great. Thank you to the people who come and look, often buy, or come the next week to see if the item they were looking at is still there and then they buy it.

The Garage Sale Room staff have remained mostly the same as last year with a couple of new faces for which we are thankful. If you have any interest in the sorting of items, pricing and selling, we are always willing to have more help.

The Garage Sale operates from January to mid-June and then September to mid-December. We usually work sorting and pricing on Monday mornings and sales are on Wednesdays 11:30 to 4:30.

Thank you, Rhonda for doing the online advertising for us, very much appreciated. Thank you to all the workers and especially, Brenda Warder, Charlotte Thingvold and Cindy Herring for doing the extra work, while I am dealing with my health issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Barber

Meals on Wheels Group

A group of people from First United Church have been delivering Meals on Wheels through the Cypress Health Region for one month every year. In the year 2024, we delivered meals in the month of April.

This practice began many years ago when Dot and Bis Wiskar still lived in Swift Current. This has been another of those ministries that brings an enormous amount of satisfaction to everyone involved.

We pick up the meals at the hospital at about 11:30 a.m. every day in April and work as a team. One person drives while the other gets the meals ready for the next drop off. While we are doing this, we are visiting, getting acquainted with the city and the people in it that are in need of meals. Those receiving the meals are so grateful for the delivery and love the moment of visiting from the person delivering.

If this is something you would enjoy participating in, please phone Sharyn Erne at 306-741-7346 or the office at 306-773-9353 and they can get in touch with me

Submitted by Sharyn Erne

Prayer Shawl Group

The purpose of this group is to make shawls and present them to people that are going through life changing times in their lives. This can include death or serious illness. The shawls are knit or crocheted with loving thoughts and prayers. Other events may include baptism, confirmation, graduation, wedding. Shawls have also been given to immigrants to remind them they are not alone in this country.

Prayer shawl ministry is not just in Swift Current. The term prayer shawl will be recognized almost any place where there are people in need of comfort

We began our Prayer Shawl Ministry in 2009. Constant members of this group have been Fran Jackson, and Sharyn Erne. Jean Pearson has become our most faithful and talented shawl maker in the last few years. Before Jean joined us was Myrtle Johnston and Marlene Martinoski both very talented shawl makers. I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to this very important part of ministry. If you have given us yarn, made even one shawl, helped with the delivery of shawls, made cards, made labels, provided us with names of people that should receive shawls. All of these little details make for a very successful ministry and we thank you.

In the year 2024, we have given 15 shawls to adults, babies, and teenagers. Since 2009, we have given hundreds of shawls. Some of the shawls remained in the families if the person passed away, some were returned to us to regift and one that I know of, the shawl was buried with the recipient. This was the one given to my sister.

I have many shawls in my home and would appreciate hearing names of anyone that would like to have one of them.

Blessings

Sharyn Erne, Fran Jackson & Jean Pearson



Refugee Sponsorship Group

Happy New Year from the Refugee Sponsorship Group! As of today, our committee members consist of Rev. Annette Taylor, Marilyn Durant, Heba Anouz, Marie Andrews, Maxine Olmsted, Catherine Christie, and Amy Popick. We continue to rotate chair and secretary roles.

This second sponsorship journey officially began back in January of 2021. In 2024, we shifted our main focus from fundraising into other directions. These shifts included but were not limited to; advocating for the Anouz family's arrival, navigating unknown wait times, paperwork (A LOT of paperwork lol), prep and then family arrival and we haven't looked back since! As we write this in January, we acknowledge we are already at the halfway point of our formal sponsorship time! The Anouz families are resilient, warm, incredible people. Their strength, adaptability and caring are admirable and a blessing to behold.

Here are some of the highlights of 2024.

- January 16th was the biometrics appointment for the Anouz family in Cairo. This appointment began the process of eventually getting a travel date!
- Organizing volunteer lists for drivers, translators, tutors etc, developing appropriate paperwork for volunteers, working through documentation, looking into housing and beginning to prepare for potential arrival dates. (Our first sponsorship back in 2016 allowed 5 days from notification to arrival!)
- Medicals!! Another step forward!! We secured housing for both families, had a cleaning bee, stocked each place with furniture and household goods, and met with Southwest Newcomer Welcome Center.
- Fundraising broke \$100,000.00 in donations!!!!
- Continued advocating for arrival dates, secured and organized necessary household goods into 2 households.
- April 25th : Arrival dates received!!
- Settlement Plan paperwork completed, sent in, and approved, plans for airport pick up begin, stocking both homes with groceries for June 6th arrival, Janet prepares for her upcoming move and final month of volunteering.
- FAMILY REUNIFICATION!!! OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP BEGINS. After a long, long journey the Anouz families arrive to Regina Airport June 6th!! Praise God/Allah!! They arrived at their new homes in Canada that evening.
- Appointments to set up banking, internet, dentist, optometrist, family doctor & medical check ups, SIN and more!
- Firsts/Outings; the fair, parade, parks, mosque and more
- By July, Tutoring was in full swing, along with the wonderful outreach: Conversation Café offered by Eastside Church, as well as dental appointments and doctoring. Budgeting for Canadian grocery prices and living costs. Managing household needs for rental property.
- September brought high school enrollment for Nour and English classes at the college for Hala and Suliman along with using the bussing systems!

- Mohamads audiology journey began; appointments and consults with audiologist, speech therapist, cochlear implant clinic and finally new hearing aid devices.
- Both families were fully outfitted with winter gear – THANK YOU to the generous donors who answered our call for support to purchase winter clothing!!
- Hala and Mohamads house was outfitted with safety supports for Mohamad’s hearing needs.
- Mohamad began attending college classes!! Followed by Muna joining college language classes. Volunteers assist with driving and visits with Yaser during Munas college time.
- Volunteer drivers and tutors continue to offer valuable supports to both families.

There are few moments that will top seeing these families reunited on Canadian soil at the Regina airport. The determination, grit, and grace that Muna and Yaser, Mohamad and Hala and their children Suliman and Nour exhibit amidst all they have lived through, as well as all they are learning and adapting to is a privilege to witness – to say the least.

We wish to thank former committee members; Janet Keene and Faris Sadden. Their hard work and commitment were huge contributions. Although they are no longer with our committee, we recognize the considerable amount of work and energy they put forward during their time serving as committee members.

Thank You to our volunteers!! Every person who has donated time volunteering as tutors, drivers, helpers in any way- THANK YOU! To those within our community and congregation who have donated household goods, monetary donations through the church and chuffed page and more – THANK YOU! This has all been made possible with your support!

With Gratitude and Good Wishes,
The Refugee Sponsorship Working Group

First United Church Operating Fund

First United Church Balance Sheet As of 31 December 2024

	<u>31 Dec 24</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Cash Account	
900 · Petty Cash	43.15
901 · Church Float	200.00
902 · Garage Sale Float	240.65
Total Cash Account	483.80
General Operating Accounts	
1100 High Interest Accounts	
1102 · General Operating-200302354785	78,075.72
1105 · B & P - 830510791122	49,640.09
Total 1100 High Interest Accounts	127,715.81
1000 · Chequing Account - 100202354785	
1002 · General Operating	62,956.47
1015 · Senior Choir	1,162.43
1045 · Worship Circle-Chinook Pres.	7,665.75
1050 · Memorial Fund	18,518.97
1075 · Refugee Sponsorship	41,202.46
Total 1000 · Chequing Account - 100202354785	131,506.08
Total General Operating Accounts	259,221.89
Total Chequing/Savings	259,705.69
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	
1401 · GST Receivable	769.93
Total Accounts Receivable	769.93
Total Accounts Receivable	769.93
Other Current Assets	
1011 · Credit Union Member Rewards	11,051.94
Total Other Current Assets	11,051.94
Total Current Assets	271,527.56
Other Assets	

Long Term Investments	
1016 · Term #1-04/20/25 - 830511584914	80,000.00
1017 · Term #2-04/22/25- 830512487612	50,000.00
1018 · Term #3-04/22/25- 830512487596	80,000.00
1019 · Term #4-04/22/25 - 830511584948	80,000.00
1023 · ChoirTerm-04/21/25-830512361635	2,294.90
1024 · ChoirTerm-04/21/26-830512361643	2,324.25
1025 · ChoirTerm-04/21/27-830512361668	2,378.62
1026 · ChoirTerm-04/21/28-830512361684	<u>2,427.73</u>
Total Long Term Investments	<u>299,425.50</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>299,425.50</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>570,953.06</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	142,053.80
3001 · Equity Adjustments	-29,613.55
3100 · Retained Earnings	527,770.43
Net Income	<u>-69,257.62</u>
Total Equity	<u>570,953.06</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>570,953.06</u>

First United Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through December 2024

	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Administration Income			
4001 · Local	118,023.95	131,000.00	90.1%
4001-1 · Local - offering not receipted	9,462.23		
4001-2 · Local - PAR	74,042.00	74,000.00	100.06%
4002 · Loose Offering	923.25	500.00	184.65%
4007-1 · Christmas - Loose	30.00		
4007 · Christmas Offering	8,915.00	9,000.00	99.06%
4008 · Easter Offering	4,315.00	5,500.00	78.46%
4051 · Broadview	330.00	400.00	82.5%
4060-1 · Thanksgiving - Loose	70.00		
4060 · Thanksgiving	3,855.00	5,000.00	77.1%
4070 · Church Calendars	55.00	50.00	110.0%
4090 · GST Rebates	1,545.70	1,500.00	103.05%
4091 · Co-op Equity	43.09	25.00	172.36%
4092 · Credit Union Equity	1,231.85	1,000.00	123.19%
Total Administration Income	<u>222,842.07</u>	<u>227,975.00</u>	<u>97.75%</u>
Faith Formation Income			
4103 · Sunday School Xmas Shopping Day	22.95	50.00	45.9%
4110 · Adult Education	284.20	200.00	142.1%
Total Faith Formation Income	<u>307.15</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>122.86%</u>
Fundraiser Income			
4600 · Fundraising Income	0.00	15,000.00	0.0%
4605 · Spring Ham Supper	3,050.00		
4614 · Fowl Supper	7,550.00		
4629 · \$24 for 2024	3,182.00		
4635 · Plant, Muffin & Bake Sale	1,833.40		
4640 · Christmas Tea/Bake Sale	1,593.95		
Total Fundraiser Income	<u>17,209.35</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>	<u>114.73%</u>
Interest Groups Income			
4700 · Garage Sale room	7,553.55	6,000.00	125.89%
4701 · Toy Room	3,797.35	3,000.00	126.58%
4702 · Christmas room	1,359.10	1,000.00	135.91%
4703 · 3rd Avenue Boutique	8,405.95	7,500.00	112.08%
4704 · Affirming Ministry	50.00		

4705 · Earthcare Partners Donations	270.00	150.00	180.0%
4706 · Earthcare Partners Veggie Table	341.55	150.00	227.7%
4707 · Creative Art	115.70	50.00	231.4%
4711 · Social Convenors Catering	1,069.59	1,500.00	71.31%
4712 · Funeral Catering	6,157.50	3,500.00	175.93%
Total Interest Groups Income	29,120.29	22,850.00	127.44%
Interest Income			
4801 · General Operating Chequing	166.54	150.00	111.03%
4807 · General Operating High Interest	1,131.35	1,000.00	113.14%
4809 · Term Deposits Interest	12,012.86	15,000.00	80.09%
4820 · B & P High Interest Account	752.53	800.00	94.07%
Total Interest Income	14,063.28	16,950.00	82.97%
Membership and Pastoral Care			
4404 · Pastoral Care	75.00		
Total Membership and Pastoral Care	75.00		
Outreach Income			
4201 · Canadian Food Grains Bank	230.00	500.00	46.0%
4203 · Christmas in July	1,730.00	1,500.00	115.33%
4205 · Christmas Hampers	4,266.82	4,500.00	94.82%
4206 · Fair Trade Sales	0.00	500.00	0.0%
4207 · Summer Meal Program	375.00		
4211 · Camp Shagabec	2,420.00	2,500.00	96.8%
4211-1 · Camp Shagabec - unreceipted	1,500.00		
4212 · Camp Shagabec - loose	25.00		
4217 · Outreach Fundraiser Auction	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
4218 · Outreach Fundraiser Donations	0.00	500.00	0.0%
4219 · St. Andrew's College	400.00	3,000.00	13.33%
4219-1 · St. Andrew's College - Loose	20.00		
4219-2 · St. Andrew's - unreceipted	3,000.00		
4262 · Benevolent Fund Gift-In-Kind	250.00		
Total Outreach Income	14,216.82	14,500.00	98.05%
Building & Property Income			
4301 · Room Rentals	15,742.50	17,500.00	89.96%
4310 · Weddings	300.00	800.00	37.5%
4315 · Funerals	2,725.00	4,200.00	64.88%
4330 · Miscellaneous	100.00		
Total Building & Property Income	18,867.50	22,500.00	83.86%
Sundry Income			
4910 · Wages - Weddings	450.00	700.00	64.29%
4915 · Wages - funerals	2,150.00	2,700.00	79.63%
Total Sundry Income	2,600.00	3,400.00	76.47%
Worship & Music Income			

4520 · Melodies of Christmas - loose	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
4550 · Livestream Income	<u>750.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>	<u>125.0%</u>
Total Worship & Music Income	<u>750.00</u>	<u>2,600.00</u>	<u>28.85%</u>
Total Income	320,051.46	326,025.00	98.17%
Expense			
Administration Expense			
5001 · Accounting & Audit	200.00	200.00	100.0%
5003 · Bank Charges	372.00	350.00	106.29%
5005 · Computer	1,227.11	2,000.00	61.36%
5010 · Office Supplies	813.40	500.00	162.68%
5012 · Postage	0.00	500.00	0.0%
5014 · Broadview Subscriptions	330.00	400.00	82.5%
5040 · Web Page	21.99	550.00	4.0%
5050 · General Council Allocation	14,407.00	14,407.00	100.0%
5070 · Church Calendars	79.50	75.00	106.0%
5075 · Leadership Team Expenses	155.02	500.00	31.0%
5085 · Copier Usage	1,384.93	2,000.00	69.25%
5090 · GST	167.97	250.00	67.19%
5091 · PST	<u>194.18</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>129.45%</u>
Total Administration Expense	19,353.10	21,882.00	88.44%
Building & Property Expense			
5101 · Equipment Leases	6,253.40	5,500.00	113.7%
5102 · Equipment Purchases	0.00	500.00	0.0%
5104 · Alarm System Monitor Fee	419.40	425.00	98.68%
5106 · Property Insurance	24,297.00	24,297.00	100.0%
5108 · Licences	904.00	550.00	164.36%
5112 · Janitorial Supplies	1,245.20	1,200.00	103.77%
5114 · Organ Maintenance	790.00	600.00	131.67%
5116 · Snow Removal	3,937.50	2,750.00	143.18%
5118 · Lawn Care	1,790.00	2,000.00	89.5%
5130 · Electricity	6,780.60	8,000.00	84.76%
5131 · Recycling fee	48.00	50.00	96.0%
5132 · Gas & Heat	17,244.34	17,500.00	98.54%
5134 · Water & Sewer	2,572.42	2,200.00	116.93%
5136 · Waste Removal	1,064.57	1,200.00	88.71%
5140 · Telephone	1,861.75	2,000.00	93.09%
5150 · Building Repair & Maintenance	3,573.28	5,000.00	71.47%
5152 · Equipment Repair & maintenance	2,213.47	3,000.00	73.78%
5156 · Furniture	119.94	500.00	23.99%
5190 · GST	2,362.40	2,350.00	100.53%
5191 · PST	<u>2,773.39</u>	<u>2,750.00</u>	<u>100.85%</u>
Total Building & Property Expense	80,250.66	82,372.00	97.43%

Faith Formation Expense			
5210 · Sunday School	0.00	500.00	0.0%
5235 · Adult Education	424.27	600.00	70.71%
5290 · GST	2.95		
5291 · PST	3.54		
Total Faith Formation Expense	430.76	1,100.00	39.16%
Fundraising Expense			
5445 · Christmas Tea/Bake sale exp	18.28		
5400 · Fundraising Expenses	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
5405 · Spring Supper Expenses	289.74		
5414 · Fowl Supper Expenses	651.71		
5435 · Plant, Muffin & Bake Sale Exp.	41.54		
5490 · GST	3.19		
5491 · PST	3.83		
Total Fundraising Expense	1,008.29	1,000.00	100.83%
Pastoral Care & Membership			
5304 · Pastoral Care	272.98	100.00	272.98%
5305 · Baptismal Supplies	69.08	100.00	69.08%
5320 · Communion	19.97	50.00	39.94%
5330 · Confirmation	0.00	100.00	0.0%
5370 · Educational Events	0.00	50.00	0.0%
5390 · GST	3.46	15.00	23.07%
5391 · PST	4.14		
Total Pastoral Care & Membership	369.63	415.00	89.07%
Ministry & Personnel Expense			
5500 · Salaries			
5501 · Minister			
55011 · Salary	77,912.00	77,912.00	100.0%
55013 · Travel Expense	500.31	500.00	100.06%
55014 · Telephone	360.00	360.00	100.0%
55015 · Continuing Education	175.00	1,640.00	10.67%
Total 5501 · Minister	78,947.31	80,412.00	98.18%
5505 · Office Manager	46,269.83	50,771.00	91.13%
5508 · Pianist	5,840.25	6,589.00	88.64%
5510 · Organist	1,470.56	3,309.00	44.44%
5512 · Choir Director	20,516.05	20,516.00	100.0%
5513 · Wedding Staff & Expenses	450.00	700.00	64.29%
5514 · Funeral Staff	2,150.00	2,700.00	79.63%
5518 · Janitor	14,495.25	15,881.00	91.27%
5525 · Staff Recognition	379.99	400.00	95.0%
5540 · Staff Training & Development	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Total 5500 · Salaries	170,519.24	182,278.00	93.55%

5550 · Payroll Expense			
5550-1 · CPP - Company	8,090.16	8,000.00	101.13%
5550-12 · Workers Compensation	259.69	300.00	86.56%
5550-14 · Employer Indemnity	128.20	120.00	106.83%
5550-2 · EI - Company	3,357.65	3,350.00	100.23%
5550-4 · Church Pension	14,145.87	14,500.00	97.56%
5550-6 · Group Health Plan	12,079.73	12,500.00	96.64%
5550-8 · Restorative Care	2,098.76	2,150.00	97.62%
5585 · Payroll Charges	371.19	350.00	106.05%
Total 5550 · Payroll Expense	40,531.25	41,270.00	98.21%
5590 · GST	20.04	25.00	80.16%
5591 · PST	23.75	30.00	79.17%
Total Ministry & Personnel Expense	211,094.28	223,603.00	94.41%
Outreach Expense			
5601 · Canadian Food Grains Bank	230.00	500.00	46.0%
5603 · Christmas in July	1,729.98	1,500.00	115.33%
5605 · Christmas Hampers	4,266.82	4,500.00	94.82%
5606 · Fair Trade Sales	0.00	500.00	0.0%
5607 · Summer Meal Program Expenses	375.00		
5611 · Camp Shagabec	3,945.00	2,500.00	157.8%
5617 · Outreach Fundraising Auction	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
5618 · Outreach Fundraising Donations	0.00	500.00	0.0%
5619 · St. Andrew's College	3,420.00	3,000.00	114.0%
5661 · Benevolent Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%
5662 · Benevolent Fund Gift-In-Kind	250.00		
Total Outreach Expense	15,216.80	15,500.00	98.17%
Interest Group Expense			
5704 · Affirming Ministry	507.13	800.00	63.39%
5705 · Earthcare Partners	259.92	500.00	51.98%
5707 · Creative Art	0.00	50.00	0.0%
5708 · Decorations	0.00	200.00	0.0%
5710 · Prayer Shawl	0.00	50.00	0.0%
5711 · Social Convenors Catering Exp.	373.46	500.00	74.69%
5712 · Funeral Catering expenses	1,731.65	2,500.00	69.27%
Total Interest Group Expense	2,872.16	4,600.00	62.44%
Sundry Expense			
5806 · Living Skies Regional Council	909.25	1,200.00	75.77%
5820 · Swift Current Ministerial	1,150.00	1,150.00	100.0%
5825 · Kitchen Supplies	495.30	1,000.00	49.53%
5890 · GST	44.86		
5891 · PST	53.80		
Total Sundry Expense	2,653.21	3,350.00	79.2%

Worship & Music Expense			
5904 · Senior Choir Music	193.91	200.00	96.96%
5910 · Pulpit Supply	1,434.07	2,000.00	71.7%
5914 · Worship Supplies	265.02	300.00	88.34%
5930 · Advertising	66.15	160.00	41.34%
5932 · Licence & Copyrite	354.00	400.00	88.5%
5940 · Melodies of Xmas	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
5950 · Video/Audio Equipment/Supplies	1,608.55	1,800.00	89.36%
5955 · Sound System Operator	1,300.00	1,400.00	92.86%
5990 · GST	17.86	150.00	11.91%
5991 · PST	6.90	50.00	13.8%
Total Worship & Music Expense	5,246.46	8,460.00	62.02%
Total Expense	338,495.35	362,282.00	93.43%
Net Ordinary Income	-18,443.89	-36,257.00	50.87%
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
M & S Income			
6000 · M & S Special Service	160.00	1,000.00	16.0%
6002 · Care Home Offering	225.00	200.00	112.5%
6004 · PAR - Designated to M & S	6,288.00	6,300.00	99.81%
6005 · Cards/Bake Sale/Preserves	470.75	1,200.00	39.23%
6006 · Offerings Designated to M & S	5,622.00	4,750.00	118.36%
6008 · M & S jar	21.00	50.00	42.0%
6010 · Lenten Pigs	1,360.00	1,000.00	136.0%
6011 · Other M & S Fundraisers	0.00	500.00	0.0%
6015 · M & S - unreceipted	1,500.00		
Total M & S Income	15,646.75	15,000.00	104.31%
Other Income			
6101-1 · Refugee Sponsorship-unreceipted	100.00		
6100 · Memorial Fund Income	270.00		
6101 · Refugee Sponsorship	9,968.19		
6108 · Refugee Sponsorship - Chuffed	1,800.00		
6116 · Senior Choir Term Interest	423.89		
6117 · Refugee Online Spring Auction	2,745.00		
6119 · Refugee Fund - Gift-in-Kind	70.00		
6140 · Building & Property - PAR	560.00		
Total Other Income	15,937.08		
Total Other Income	31,583.83	15,000.00	210.56%
Other Expense			
M & S National Expense			
7000 · M & S Special Service	160.00	1,000.00	16.0%
7002 · Care Home Services Offering	225.00	200.00	112.5%

7004 · PAR - Designated to M & S	6,288.00	6,300.00	99.81%
7005 · Greeting Cards/Cookies	470.75	1,200.00	39.23%
7006 · Offering Designated to M & S	5,622.00	4,750.00	118.36%
7008 · M & S Jar	21.00	50.00	42.0%
7010 · M & S - Lenten Pig	1,360.00	1,000.00	136.0%
7011 · Other Fundraisers	0.00	500.00	0.0%
7015 · M & S - unreceipted	1,500.00		
Total M & S National Expense	15,646.75	15,000.00	104.31%
Other Expense			
7201 · Refugee Sponsorship Expenses	65,036.55		
7201-1 · Refugee Sponsorship Exp. - GST	458.55		
7201-2 · Refugee Sponsorship Exp. - PST	508.73		
7210 · Senior Choir Expenses	452.22		
7219 · Refugee Fund - Gift-in-Kind	70.00		
7245 · Worship Circle-Chinook Pres.	209.79		
7290 · GST	10.11		
7291 · PST	4.86		
Total Other Expense	66,750.81		
Total Other Expense	82,397.56	15,000.00	549.32%
Net Other Income	-50,813.73	0.00	100.0%
Net Income	-69,257.62	-36,257.00	191.02%

First United Church Planned Giving Funds

Balance Sheet

As of 31 December 2024

	<u>31 Dec 24</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Available Interest	19,987.97
Chequing Account	1,309.65
High Interest Account	<u>22,518.80</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>43,816.42</u>
Total Current Assets	43,816.42
Other Assets	
Investments	
Term - 01/20/25 - 830511146615	60,000.00
Term - 04/20/25 - 830513499707	60,000.00
Term - 01/22/25 - 830511146599	60,000.00
Term - 01/19/25 - 830511146524	60,000.00
Term - 05/16/26 - 400902354785	28,878.33
Term - 04/28/25 - 830513853424	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total Investments	<u>278,878.33</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>278,878.33</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>322,694.75</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	
Equity Adjustments	<u>21,250.58</u>
Total Opening Bal Equity	21,250.58
Retained Earnings	298,515.95
Net Income	<u>2,928.22</u>
Total Equity	<u>322,694.75</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>322,694.75</u></u>

First United Church Planned Giving Funds

Profit & Loss

January through December 2024

	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>
Income	
Interest	<u>8,686.47</u>
Total Income	8,686.47
Expense	
Adult Education	350.00
Bank charges	0.00
Camp Shagabec	1,055.00
UCC - Mission & Service Fund	<u>4,353.25</u>
Total Expense	<u>5,758.25</u>
Net Income	<u><u>2,928.22</u></u>

A planned gift is a gift made from the accumulated assets of the donor rather than regular income. This may include bequest from an estate or gifts of property such as real estate, insurance or money.

The purpose of the Planned Giving Fund is to build a financial reserve for future years when our congregation may experience difficulties meeting its financial commitments.

The fund is intended to be separate and distinct from all other Church funds.

When a donor designates a specific purpose for a gift, such gifts may be exempt from the Planned Giving Fund.

There will be no disbursement of principal from this account unless approved by a Congregational meeting. Interest or capital gains earned may be spent annually.

In the event that earnings in any year are greater than expenditures, the earnings will remain in the account and be available for future years. However, unused earnings may be deemed to be principal if directed by a Congregational meeting.

Disbursements may be used to:

- Enable members or adherents to grow in faith through courses, training or conferences
- Award scholarships or grants for the purpose of attending theological or music training
- Make capital improvements or major building maintenance
- Undertake outreach into community programs and projects of the United Church of Canada
- Initiate other expenditures as approved by a Congregational meeting

Reviewer Report

The purpose of our review is to determine that monies donated or paid to First United Church have been deposited to the bank and properly recorded. First United Church has a procedure in place wherein two people receive and count the weekly donations. The Office Manager has been authorized to pay invoices for supplies or maintenance that are a regular occurrence, however each committee reviews large or special expenses. In addition, payments to individuals must be authorized by a committee chairperson through a cheque requisition form.

With the above checks and balances in place and after reviewing the records, we are confident the financial statements present a valid summary of operations at First United Church during the 2024 calendar year.



Betty Bateman



Marie Andrews

First United Church 2025 Budget – Short Form

2024 General Budget					
	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Income					
Regular givings for operations	196,971	179,267	196,798	202,451	205,700
Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving givings	20,935	18,620	16,916	17,185	18,000
Other givings (donation receiptable)	6,925	17,346	13,757	10,795	12,300
Fundraising/Fees/Sunday School	22,432	27,748	41,010	51,194	39,650
Givings from UCW for operations	8,370	8,250	20,250	0	0
Rentals and Other Income	49,777	29,832	41,410	24,288	24,825
Interest Income	8,139	6,273	8,590	14,063	11,850
Total Income	313,549	287,336	338,730	319,976	312,325

Expenses					
Administration	26,628	26,125	29,543	29,046	31,261
Building and Property					
Building Upkeep	10,662	5,624	7,315	8,044	9,125
Property Upkeep	4,005	5,830	4,793	5,728	5,000
Equipment and GST/PST	15,523	14,875	14,739	15,584	17,500
Utilities	20,018	26,488	28,423	26,597	27,500
Insurance	15,482	18,938	21,653	24,297	25,956
Subtotal B&P	65,689	71,755	76,923	80,250	85,081
Faith Formation	1,536	1,486	1,656	691	1,650
Membership and Pastoral Care	151	63	154	369	610
Worship and Music	9,825	6,540	6,644	5,246	6,610
Outreach (fundraising expenses)	0	358	888	0	10
Charitable Givings					
M&S National (Historical)	7,000	0	0	0	0
Directly to Charities	2,943	12,565	5,910	6,280	6,500
Hampers, Benevolent fund	5,080	6,760	7,525	5,517	5,500
Subtotal Charitable Givings	15,023	19,325	13,434	11,797	12,000
Ministry and Personnel					
Minister	71,825	73,704	74,811	78,947	80,634
Office Managers	42,737	47,353	48,149	46,270	39,871
Music Staff	24,359	26,984	28,358	27,827	30,414
Janitor, Communications, Funeral	14,149	17,387	19,819	17,095	18,031
Children Programming Staff	7,253	7,544	1,522	0	0
General staff and payroll expenses	34,497	39,002	40,057	40,955	42,785
Subtotal Ministry and Personnel	194,820	211,974	212,715	211,094	211,735
Total Expenses	313,672	337,626	341,957	338,495	348,957
Net Income	-123	-50,289	-3,227	-18,518	-36,632

First United Church 2025 Budget - Detailed

2025 General Budget as of November 2024	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual		2025 Budget	2025 Budget vs 2024 Actual
Total Income	313,549	287,336	338,730	319,976		312,325	-7,651
Total Expenses	313,672	337,626	341,957	338,495		348,957	10,462
Net Ordinary Income or Loss	-123	-50,289	-3,227	-18,518		-36,632	-18,114
Net adjusted without CEWS Subsidies	-36,629						
INCOME							
Administration Income							
4001 - Local including PAR	196,674	178,775	196,273	201,528		205,000	3,472
4002 - Loose Offering	297	492	524	923		700	-223
4007 - Christmas Offering	8,740	8,575	8,186	8,945		9,000	55
4008 - Easter Offering	4,700	6,040	5,345	4,315		5,000	685
4009-1 - St. Andrews Unreceipted		3,000					
4050 - UCW Local, Special and Envelope Historical	8,370	8,250	20,250				
4051 - Broadview Magazine	405	350	390	330		350	20
4060 - Thanksgiving	7,495	4,005	3,385	3,925		4,000	75
4070 - Church Calendars	56	110	120	55		50	-5
4090 - GST Rebates	1,357	1,399	1,363	1,546		1,500	-46
4091 - Co-op Equity			12	43		25	-18
4092 - Credit Union Equity	522	686	1,061	1,232		1,200	-32
Total Administration Income	228,616	211,681	236,909	222,842		226,825	3,983
Faith Formation Income							
4101 - Sunday School	4	7	1			0	
4103 - Sunday School Shopping Day	48	158	40	23		50	27
4110 - Adult Education	819	640	853	284		200	-84
Total Faith Formation Income	870	805	894	307		250	-57
Fundraisers Income							
4600 - General Fundraisers	18,102	20,253	20,307	17,209		15,000	-2,209
Total Fundraisers Income	18,102	20,253	20,307	17,209		15,000	-2,209

Interest Groups Income							
4700 - Garage Sale Room			2,446	7,554		6,000	-1,554
4701 - Toy Room			1,267	3,797		3,000	-797
4702 - Christmas Room			1,088	1,359		1,000	-359
4703 - 3rd Avenue Boutique			3,293	8,406		7,500	-906
4704 - Affirming Ministry		260		50			-50
4705 - Earthcare Partners Donation		289	363	270		150	-120
4706 - Earthcare Partners Veggie Table			375	342		150	-192
4707 - Creative Art		175	65	116		50	-66
4708 - Decorations							
4709 - Loose Change Supper Income		813	2,029				
4710 - Prayer Shawls							
4711 - Social Convenors Catering			1,323	1,070		700	-370
4712 - Funeral Catering			4,213	6,158		3,000	-3,158
Total Interest Groups Income	0	1,537	16,460	29,120		21,550	-7,570
Interest Income							
4801 - General Operating Chequing	112	137	185	167		150	-17
4807 - General Operating High Interest	107	638	1,090	1,131		1,000	-131
4809 - Term Deposit Interest	7,876	5,198	6,538	12,013		10,000	-2,013
4820 - B&P Savings Account Interest	44	300	777	753		700	-53
Total Interest Income	8,139	6,273	8,590	14,063		11,850	-2,213
Outreach Income							
4201 - Canada Food Grains Bank	450	5,550	600	230		500	270
4203 - Christmas in July	1,625	1,425	1,800	1,730		1,500	-230
4205 - Christmas Hampers	4,080	5,035	5,177	4,267		4,500	233
4206 - Fair Trade Sales	719	982					
4207 - Summer Meal Program				375			-375
4211 - Camp Shagabec	150	2,740	2,105	3,945		2,500	-1,445
4214 - Ukrainian Appeal		1,520					
4213 - Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal			575				
4215 - Cards for Ukraine		348					
4219 - St. Andrew's College			3,360	3,420		3,000	-420
4261 - Benevolent Fund		250	200	250			-250
4275 - M & S Allocation - General Oper.	2,900						
Total Outreach Income	9,924	17,849	13,817	14,217		12,000	-2,217

Rentals & Sales Income							
4301 - Room Rentals	9,993	20,498	27,966	15,743		17,500	1,758
4310 - Weddings	100	1,500	200	300			-300
4315 - Funerals	700	2,450	5,050	2,725		2,500	-225
4314 - Donations			1,233				
4330 - Miscellaneous				100			-100
Total Rentals & Sales Income	10,793	24,448	34,449	18,868		20,000	1,133

Sundry Income							
4910 - Wages Weddings		1,600	300	450		0	-450
4915 - Wages Funerals	600	1,700	4,225	2,150		2,100	-50
4970 - Miscellaneous (COVID 19 Subsidies etc.)	36,505						
Total Sundry Income	37,105	3,300	4,525	2,600		2,100	-500

Worship & Music Income							
4510 - Radio Broadcast Income		940	520				
4512 - Decorations		250					
4520 - Melodies of Xmas			1,659			2,000	2,000
4550 - Livestream Income			600	750		750	
Total Worship & Music Income	0	1,190	2,779	750		2,750	2,000

Total Income	313,549	287,336	338,730	319,976		312,325	-7,651
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EXPENSES							
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Administration Expenses							
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5001 - Accounting & Audit	200	200	200	200		200	
5003 - Bank Charges	354	362	342	372		375	3
5005 - Computer	619	320	945	1,227		2,000	773
5010 - Office Supplies	1,085	1,107	683	813		850	37
5012 - Postage	644	695	552			200	200
5014 - Broadview Subscriptions	450	425	390	330		350	20
5025 - UCW Local, Special and Envelope Historical	3,370	250	250				
5040 - Web Page	20	548	165	22		550	528
5050 - General Council Allocation	16,496	12,867	13,237	14,407		15,931	1,524
5070 - Church Calendars	75	136	112	80		80	1
5075 - Leadership Expenses	222		359	155		500	345
5085 - Copier Usage	1,517	2,400	2,338	1,385		1,200	-185
5090 - GST	179	324	231	168		175	7
5091 - PST	166	296	158	194		200	6

Total Administration Expenses	25,397	19,930	19,963	19,353		22,611	3,258
Building & Property Expenses							
	5,471	5,639	4,799	6,253		6,500	247
5102 - Equipment Purchases						500	500
5104 - Alarm System Monitor Fee	419	419	419	419		425	6
5106 - Property Insurance	15,482	18,938	21,653	24,297		25,956	1,659
5108 - Licenses	537	537	537	904		550	-354
5112 - Janitorial Supplies	655	1,187	1,204	1,245		1,300	55
5114 - Organ Maintenance			600	790		600	-190
5116 - Snow Removal	2,280	3,890	2,768	3,938		3,000	-938
5118 - Lawn Care	1,725	1,940	2,025	1,790		2,000	210
5130 - Electricity	5,207	7,003	7,627	6,781		7,000	219
5131 - Recycling fee	48	48	48	48		50	2
5132 - Gas & Heat	12,770	17,555	18,727	17,244		18,000	756
5134 - Water & Sewer	2,040	1,930	2,069	2,573		2,500	-73
5136 - Waste Removal	751	1,022	1,194	1,065		1,200	135
5140 - Telephone	1,988	1,882	1,863	1,862		1,900	38
5150 - Building Repair & Maintenance	8,251	2,411	3,313	3,573		5,000	1,427
5152 - Equipment Repair & maintenance	3,468	2,825	3,045	2,213		3,000	787
5156 - Furniture				120		500	380
5190 - GST	2,163	2,231	2,374	2,362		2,350	-12
5191 - PST	2,433	2,298	2,658	2,773		2,750	-23
Total Building & Property Expenses	65,689	71,755	76,923	80,250		85,081	4,831
Faith Formation Expenses							
5210 - Sunday School	344	361	99			500	500
5230 - Youth Group		150					
5235 - Adult Education	1,173	439	1,299	424		600	176
5240 - Vacation Bible School		70					
5290 - GST	18	72	24	3			-3
5291 - PST	0	23	28	4			-4
Total Faith Formation Expenses	1,536	1,115	1,450	431		1,100	669
Fundraising Expenses							
5400 - General Fundraising Expenses	506	1,958	1,334	1,008		1,000	-8
Total Fundraising Expenses	506	1,958	1,334	1,008		1,000	-8

Membership & Pastoral Care Expenses							
5304 - Pastoral Care			67	273		300	27
5305 - Baptismal Supplies	151		82	69		100	31
5320 - Communion				20		50	30
5370 - Educational Events		60				50	50
5390 - GST				3		5	2
5391 - PST		3	4	4		5	1
Total Membership & Pastoral Care Expenses	151	63	154	369		610	241
Minister Expenses							
55011 - Salary	69,974	72,773	73,294	77,912		78,085	173
55013 - Travel Expense		136	477	500		500	0
55014 - Telephone	360	360	360	360		360	
55015 - Continuing Education	1,491	435	680	175		1,689	1,514
Total Minister Expenses	71,825	73,704	74,811	78,947		80,634	1,687
Salaries Expenses							
5505 - Office Manager	42,737	47,353	48,149	46,270		39,871	-6,399
5508 - Accompanist	5,852	6,013	6,140	5,840		6,589	749
5510 - Organist		1,724	2,318	1,471		3,309	1,838
5512 - Choir Director	18,507	19,246	19,900	20,516		20,516	0
5513 - Wedding Staff		1,600	300	450		0	-450
5514 - Funeral Staff	600	1,700	4,225	2,150		2,150	
5515 - Sunday School Coordinator	7,253	7,544	1,522				
5518 - Caretaker	13,549	14,087	15,294	14,495		15,881	1,386
5525 - Staff Recognition	227	190	300	380		900	520
5540 - Staff Training and Development			169			500	500
Total Salaries Expenses	88,725	99,458	98,316	91,572		89,716	-1,856
Total All Salaries Expenses	160,550	173,162	173,127	170,519		170,350	-169
Payroll Expenses							
5550-1 - CPP - Company	6,491	7,313	7,827	8,090		8,000	-90
5550-12 - Workers Compensation	236	255	279	260		300	40
5550-14 - Employer Indemnity	98	102	103	128		130	2
5550-2 - EI - Company	2,900	3,119	3,280	3,358		3,350	-8
5550-4 - Church Pension	12,901	13,658	13,841	14,146		14,500	354
5550-6 - Group Health Plan	9,332	11,791	11,949	12,080		12,500	420
5550-8 - Restorative Care	1,935	2,049	2,076	2,099		2,150	51
5585 - Payroll Charges	326	473	209	371		400	29

5590 - GST	24	24	11	20	25	5
5591 - PST	28	28	14	24	30	6
Total Payroll Expenses	34,270	38,812	39,588	40,575	41,385	810
Total All Ministry and Personnel Expenses	194,820	211,974	212,715	211,094	211,735	641
Outreach Expenses						
5600 - Committee Expense						
5601 - Canadian Food Grains Bank	450	5,550	600	230	500	270
5603 - Christmas in July	1,625	1,425	1,800	1,730	1,500	-230
5605 - Christmas Hampers	4,080	5,135	5,177	4,267	4,500	233
5606 - Fair Trade Sales	718	982		0		
5607 - Summer Meal Program				375		-375
5611 - Camp Shagabec	150	2,740	2,105	3,945	2,500	-1,445
5613 - Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal			575			
5614 - Ukrainian Appeal		1,868				
5619 - St. Andrew's College		3,000	3,360	3,420	3,000	-420
5661 - Benevolent Fund	1,000	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,000	-250
5672 - Loose Change Supper - Hampers		475	1,148			
5690 - GST		9	3		5	5
5691 - PST		11	4		5	5
Total Outreach Expenses	8,023	22,345	15,971	15,217	13,010	-2,207
M&S National Expenses						
5700 - Allocation - General Operating	7,000					
Total M&S National Expenses	7,000	0	0	0	0	
Interest Groups Expenses						
5704 - Affirming Ministry	100	587	333	507	800	293
5705 - Earthcare Partners Expenses		298	206	260	500	240
5707 - Creative Arts		73			50	50
5708 - Decorations	49	386			200	200
5709 - Loose Change Supper Expenses		337	882			
5710 - Prayer Shawls					50	50
5711 - Social Convernors Catering Expenses			168	373	200	-173
5712 - Funeral Catering Expenses			1,717	1,732	1,200	-532
Total Interest Groups Expenses	149	1,681	3,306	2,872	3,000	128

Sundry Expenses							
5806 - Living Skies Regional Council			1,177	909		200	-709
5820 - Swift Current Ministerial & Chapliancy	625	650	1,150	1,150		1,150	
5825 - Kitchen Supplies			333	495		1,000	505
5890 - GST			4	45		50	5
5891 - PST			5	54		50	-4
Total Sundry Expenses	625	650	2,668	2,653		2,450	-203
Worship & Music Expenses							
5904 - Senior Choir Music				194		200	6
5908 - Radio Broadcasts	4,830	1,255	910			0	
5910 - Pulpit Supply	1,768	1,052	2,148	1,434		2,000	566
5914 - Worship Supplies	276	59	115	265		300	35
5930 - Advertising	72	118	66	66		160	94
5932 - License & Copyright	337	337	354	354		400	46
5940 - Melodies of Xmas			830			2,000	2,000
5950 - Video/Audio Equipment/Supplies		1,705	1,683	1,609		1,800	191
5955 - Sound System Operator	2,225	1,550	1,300	1,300		1,400	100
5990 - GST	257	71	59	18		50	32
5991 - PST	10	7	9	7		50	43
Total Worship & Music Expenses	9,775	6,154	7,473	5,246		8,360	3,114
Total Expenses	313,672	337,626	341,957	338,495		348,957	10,462

First United Church 2025 M&S Budget

2025 M&S Budget as of September 2024	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Budget	2054 Budget vs 2024 Actual
M & S National Income						
6000 - M&S Special Service		903	850	160	500	340
6002 - Care Home Services Offering	85	203	248	225	200	-25
6004 - PAR Designated to M&S	5,170	6,018	6,118	6,288	6,300	12
6005 - Greeting Cards/Cookies		804	1,132	471	1,000	529
6006 - Offerings Designated to M&S	699	4,221	5,126	5,622	5,000	-622
6008 - M&S Jar		45	60	21	50	29
6010 - M&S Lenten Pigs	1,559	1,400	1,053	1,360	1,200	-160
6011 - Other M&S Fundraisers		219				
6015 - M&S Unreceipted			1,000	1,500	750	-750
Total M & S National Income	7,513	13,814	15,587	15,647	15,000	-647
M&S National Expenses						
7000 - M&S Special Service		903	850	160	1,000	500
7002 - Care Home Services Offering	85	203	248	225	200	200
7004 - PAR - Designated to M&S	5,170	6,018	6,118	6,288	6,300	6,300
7005 - Greeting Cards/Cookies		804	1,132	471	1,200	1,000
7006 - Offering Designated to M&S	699	4,221	5,126	5,622	4,750	5,000
7008 - M&S Jar		45	60	21	50	50
7010 - M&S - Lenten Pig	1,559	1,400	1,053	1,360	1,000	1,200
7011 - Other M&S Fundraisers		219			500	
7015 - M&S Unreceipted			1,000	1,500		750
Total M&S National Expenses	7,513	13,814	15,587	15,647	15,000	-647

First United Church Annual General Meeting March 10, 2024

*We, at first United Church, guided by the Spirit
are striving to be an open and diverse community of faith.
through word and action, we pursue the values of
Spiritual growth, compassionate outreach, social justice and care of the earth.*

1. Call to order and welcome. Karen Messer called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m. A quorum was present. Ollie Waker, Church Elder, lit the Christ Candle to remind us that Christ is here with us.
2. Opening Prayer: Reverend Annette Taylor
3. No additional items were added to the agenda
4. Adoption of agenda
Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Donna Barber
“That the agenda be adopted as presented.” Carried
5. Extending full voting privileges to adherents for the purpose of this meeting
Motion: Brenda Gruetzner/Janet Keene
“That we grant full voting privileges to adherents for the purpose of this meeting as allowed in the 2024 Manual (B.3.7.2).” Carried
6. Approval of minutes of the March 5, 2023 Annual General Meeting
Motion: Sharon Veer/Jean Pearson
“That we approve the minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting as presented.” Carried
7. No new business arising from the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting
8. Report from the Minister: Reverend Annette Taylor
9. Report from the Chair of the Leadership Team: written by Peggy Worrell
10. Mission Statement:
 - a) Exploring our Mission Statement – meeting attendants were divided into groups to discuss how the five values in our revised Mission Statement are being lived out in our congregation.
 - b) The chair asked that those present at the meeting affirm the revised Mission Statement with a show of hands. The Mission Statement was affirmed.
11. Reports from the staff, committee and working group chairs, excluding the Nominations Report
Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Fran Jackson
“That we approve all staff, committee and working group reports as presented.” Carried

12. Goodbye and Hello. A celebration of the UCW. The local UCW, which succeeded the Women's Missionary Society (1925-1962), was active from 1962 to 2023. Thank you to the UCW members who served, and thank you to all the volunteers who have stepped up to take on the jobs once filled by the UCW
13. Election of 2024 Leadership, Committee and Interest Group members
- a) Nominations Report: Eileen Elkington
 - b) There were no nominations from the floor
Motion: Eileen Elkington/Alma Engel
"That we accept the Nominations Report as presented." Carried
 - c) Celebration of elections in song
 - d) Goodbye and Hello – Thank you to all who are leaving a position, and to all who have volunteered for a new position.
14. Approval of 2023 Financial Statements
Motion: Brenda Gruetzner/Charles Lotochinski
"That we approve the 2023 Financial Statements as presented." Carried
15. Approval of 2024 Financial Budget
Motion: Brenda Gruetzner/Charles Lotochinski
"That we approve the 2024 Financial budget as presented." Carried
16. Appointment of reviewers for 2024 finances
Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Jean Pearson
"That the Stewardship Committee appoint reviewers for the 2024 Finances." Carried
17. Donations from the Planned Giving fund as recommended by the Outreach Committee
- a) **Motion: Jean Pearson/Rhonda Lotochinski**
"The Outreach Committee's goal for fundraising for Mission and Service for 2024 will be \$20,000 with no more than \$5,000 coming from Planned Giving fund to reach to goal." Carried
 In 2023, \$4,413 was provided from the Planned Giving fund to meet our objective.
 - b) **Motion: Charles Lotochinski/Dixie Green**
"The Outreach Committee would raise money for St. Andrew's College by inviting a speaker to come to a special service to explain their needs and then collecting donations from the congregation. The Planned Giving Account would supplement the amount for a total of \$3,000 in 2024." Carried
 In 2023, no money was required from the Planned Giving fund to meet our objective.
 - c) **Motion: Sharon Veer/Donna Barber**
"The Outreach Committee would raise money for Camp Shagabec by collecting donations at Camping Sunday service and then the Planned Giving Account would supplement the amount for a total of \$5,000 in 2023. Carried
 In 2023 \$2,895 was provided from the Planned Giving fund to meet our objective.

18. Closing Prayer – Reverend Annette Taylor

19. Meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Karen Messer, Acting Congregational Chair

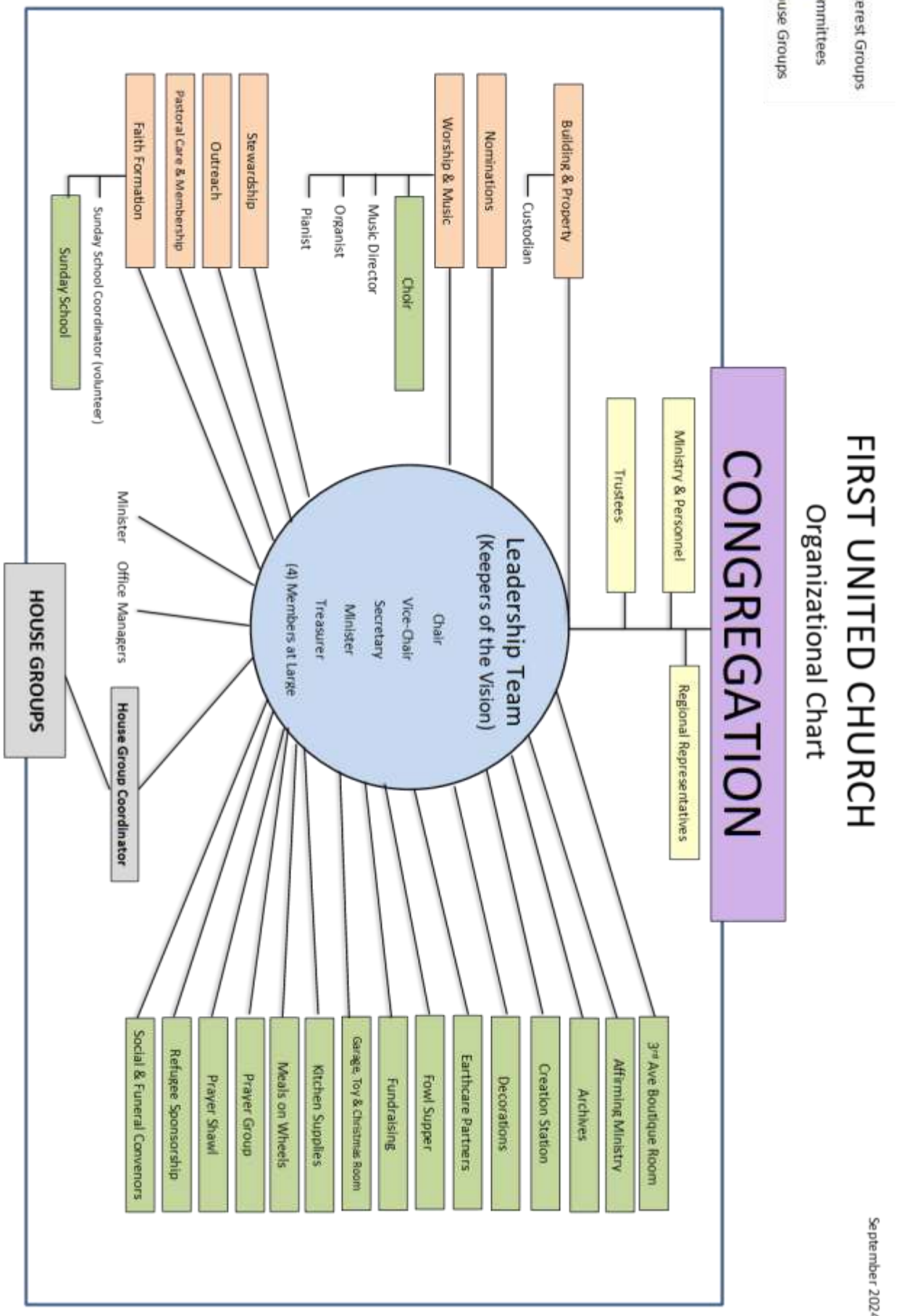
Pat Dyck Bunkosky, Secretary

42 Members/Adherents in attendance

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Annette Taylor | 23. Betty Pribyl |
| 2. James McLauchlan | 24. Shirley Terlson |
| 3. Deb Fletcher | 25. Darlene Stewart |
| 4. Rhonda Lotochinski | 26. Nettie Scherger |
| 5. Brenda Gruetzner | 27. Donna Schwartz |
| 6. Elma Engel | 28. Mary Anderson |
| 7. Dwayne Barger | 29. Judy Corbett |
| 8. Donna Barber | 30. Janet Keene |
| 9. Brenda Cooke | 31. Jean Pearson |
| 10. Sharon Veer | 32. Wally Pearson |
| 11. Marilyn Szakacs | 33. Dianne Hymers |
| 12. Wally Bateman | 34. Linda Thompson |
| 13. Betty Bateman | 35. Gayleen Turner |
| 14. Dave Zacharias | 36. Eileen Elkington |
| 15. Verdella Zacharias | 37. Harold Lapuz |
| 16. Rose Lis | 38. Loretta Korven |
| 17. Norma Hain | 39. Michael Korven |
| 18. Dixie Green | 40. Melanie Davis |
| 19. Olive Waker | 41. Charles Lotochinski |
| 20. Sharyn Erne | 42. Karen Messer |
| 21. Fran Jackson | |
| 22. Pat Dyck Bunkosky | |

Appendix I - Organizational Chart

Interest Groups
 Committees
 House Groups



Appendix II – Building & Property 10 Year Projection of Capital Expenditures

The following is the ten-year projection regarding the capital expenditures that might occur not including regular building maintenance expenditures.

1. Boilers

The biggest item that will cost money in the future could be the boilers. We received quotes last September of \$120,000 for boiler replacement. With inflation that cost would be closer to \$150,000.

2. Roof

The roof is in good shape for its' age and shouldn't need replacing in the next ten years. The cost to replace the entire Metropolitan and Gym roof would be around \$110,000. May require some maintenance. Budget \$1000 -\$2000 per year.

3. Parking Lot

The parking lot is not a priority. It may require resurfacing within the ten-year period which could run in the neighborhood of \$7 to \$13 per square foot. Should allow for crack sealing yearly. Not a big expense.

4. Utilities

The cost of the utilities will continue to rise, especially electricity. In Dan Olmsted's Energy Audit, the cost of Gas, Electricity and Water was just shy of \$30,000.

5. Insurance

Will continue to rise in proportion to all natural disasters in the world.

6. Janitorial/ Grass cutting/ Snow removal

Would have to increase for these services over the next ten years

7. Elevator Maintenance

The company tend to increase their prices yearly if their costs increase. Should be predictable but usually can be small surprises. The contract has to be renewed in 4 years.

8. The North side of the church may require some water management. This could include grass seed/sod, underground sprinklers, or weeping tile. Hopefully this can be done in house so won't be a large expense. Some repair is required on the West Retaining Wall cement. Hopefully just some patching and may also be done in house.