

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the ways you are a part of SSUC. Our circle certainly isn't complete without you and we're glad for your place among us—we are richer as a result. Because of your generous support, we celebrate that many of the things we hoped to accomplish this year have been achieved:

- We have enhanced our online presence by live streaming our weekly spiritual gatherings and offering consistent and engaging social media posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Our website includes an edited video of each spiritual gathering posted promptly each week.
- We continue to develop our partnership with SSUC Saskatoon, a satellite community with SSUC Edmonton sharing monthly spiritual gatherings, study groups, as well as the leadership and planning of Ever Wonder.
- Our facility has hosted a weekly Food Bank depot, Making Tax Time Pay (volunteers completing tax returns to assist low income households), support group for PTSD survivors, four AA groups, Edmonton Youth and Children's Choir, events for the Stephen Lewis Foundation with Grandmothers for a New Generation (GANG), Yellowbird Scouts & Beavers, a number of choirs from across the city and a literacy program.
- We've continued to provide programs for families with young children and young adults launching a new monthly opportunity for community and connection.
- We have enriched our weekly children and youth programs with the leadership of Daisy New, Ariane Perreault and Corey Wyness.
- Hosted another successful Camp Dragonfly, a unique day camp experience for children who are questioning gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Hosted a second successful Ever Wonder conference, honoring our commitment to offering experiences and opportunities to explore expansive spirituality.
- We have supported many individuals and families through loss and transition in their lives.
- We have contributed to the work of Operation Friendship, Bissell Centre, Inner City Pastoral Ministry, Ambrose Place along with numerous other agencies and programs that respond to poverty, mental health, food security and other complex needs in our community.

We are making a meaningful difference in our own spiritual journeys and in the lives of others, and we thank you for the way you've been a part of making it all happen.

An Invitation

Each November, we enter a time of considering the part each of us will play in our shared work. Whether you've been connected to SSUC for many years or just a few months, we invite you to consider the ways that you can contribute your experience and expertise, your time and your financial resources and legacy gifts to extend and enrich our work as a vibrant spiritual community. May this time be one of reflection on the value of this community, the work we share together, and the important ways you take your place among us.

In addition to the priorities listed on this page, there are a number of projects, plans and visions that we can work on together throughout 2020. Of course, we will continue to offer relevant and meaningful spiritual gatherings and opportunities for learning for all ages. On the outreach and community engagement front, we will continue our work with the Right at Home Society to address housing needs in our very neighbourhood. In the area of our affirming presence, we will work to extend Rainbow Connection's impact by offering community and spirituality with young adults in ever new ways. We invite you to consider the part you might play in building on who we are and what we're able to accomplish together.

Priorities for 2020

As SSUC we are a community of Spiritual Seekers United in Community:

- ◇ Celebrating Diversity
- ◇ Making a Meaningful Difference
- ◇ Inspiring Compassion
- ◇ Engaging Life with Spiritual Depth

To give life to this identity, in 2020 season we seek to:

- Support the planning and hosting of an expansive spirituality conference at SSUC Saskatoon;
- Continue to develop multigenerational events and increase community support for meaningful age-based programs;
- Support programs and initiatives that respond to the needs and issues of our community, world and planet;
- Cultivate and strengthen relationships with local Indigenous communities and issues;

"This is a very inclusive and welcoming community, with wonderful music and accessible space for everyone!" -Alexis

How Do We Fund Our Community?

SSUC is a self-supporting organization, which means that we raise almost all of our budget through the generosity of your donations. We do not receive any government grants or support from the United Church of Canada. In fact, a portion of the revenue we raise supports the work of the United Church of Canada and the *Mission and Service Fund (M&S)*. This national fund supports relief and development projects as well as a wide range of ministries close to home and around the world.

We rely on the generosity of each person in the community to support the work that we engage in together. You may give your support in the form of financial giving; you may give with your time or your skills; you may give with endowment gifts, life insurance, RRSP or annuities. For all these ways you choose to support us, we are grateful for what we can accomplish together.

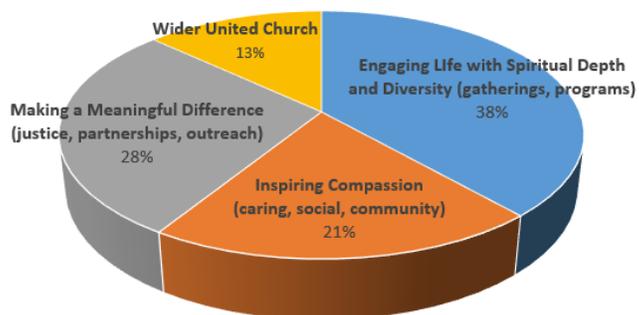
“I’ve found a place where I can bring my kids to have conversations about community and meaning. I love the welcome we receive - the kindness and generosity from all the members. I love the rainbow of families that are represented.”

How Do We Spend the Funds We Receive?

We support many programs through our giving: our own adult, youth and children’s programs and spiritual gatherings, as well as outreach and justice initiatives, helping families in need, the work of agencies like the Bissell Centre, Inner City High, Operation Friendship, Niginan Housing Ventures, and many others. Of course, we also require a place to gather that’s cleaned and maintained in good repair, a ministry team and administrator, and our commitments to the broader work of The United Church of Canada. All in all, this is rich and fulfilling work. A very preliminary snapshot of the 2020 expense budget reveals that we will require approximately \$497,000 to fund our work together in the coming year.

Preliminary 2020 Budget by Category

staffing and maintenance support prorated within each category



What Can I Do?

We invite you to complete the two sided document included with this letter to express how you hope to be part of SSUC in the coming year:

- The Stewardship of Time page helps you to consider how you can share your passions and energies. On the reverse, you’ll find the financial pledge form, which helps us know what you intend to contribute and is our best way of shaping an accurate budget to be presented to the Annual General Meeting in March 2020.
- Consider making your contributions automatically via Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). Making your commitment this way is an easy and predictable way to support us regardless of life’s busyness or travel and gives us a more stable and dependable cash flow.

We invite you to return these forms by December 15, 2019 to the church office or the box in the church foyer, or by submitting an online form at www.ssucedmonton.com/2020stewardship. Again, thank you—for who you are and your valued place in our community.

This package has been prepared with information provided by the Ministry Team and Finance Committee of SSUC. If you have questions or comments about any of this material, don’t hesitate to contact Nancy Steeves and Christopher New at 780-435-2028 or any Board Member.