

Dear friends,

There is no better place to start a letter to you than with gratitude: Thank you for all the ways you are a part of the SSUC family. It takes each one of us to make this the supportive, innovative and inclusive community that it is. We are richer as a result of your presence and participation.



We've been able to **be** that community with each other this year, thanks to all the ways you've contributed with the generosity of your presence, your time, and your donations. To name just a few:

- we've provided caring community to each other, including strengthening our commitment and connections between our Edmonton and Saskatoon communities, and deepening our expansive understandings of spirituality;
- we've provided opportunities to engage more deeply with nature thanks to Emberwood and Forest Friends, and provided safe space for trans and gender creative children in Camp Dragonfly;
- we've supported our partner agencies and global justice and humanitarian commitments;
- we celebrated Nancy Steeves, who retired from our ministry team, and we worked together to develop a vision and plan for SSUC to flourish in coming years.

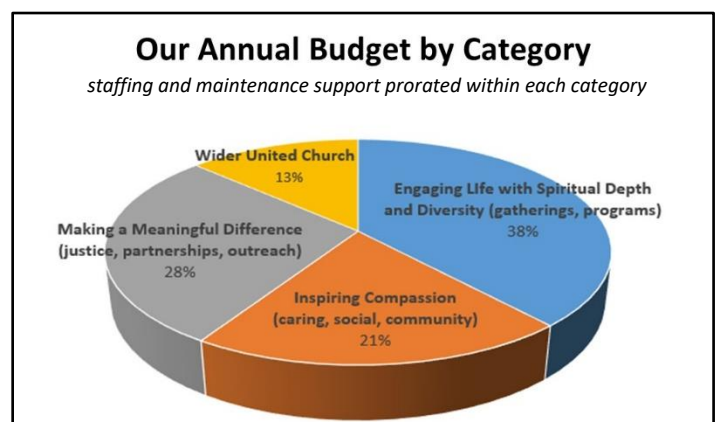
We are so grateful for your part in all this and more. We can't say **thank you** enough!

Perhaps we all agree that the work we do and the expansive, inclusive presence of SSUC is vital to our lives, and to the world! And we have plans for the coming year – **2024 will be exciting!**

- We'll be committing to our vision with some new staff to lead us in particular areas of 2SLGBTQIA+ support and programming, and in developing multi-generational events and meaningful age-based programs;
- We'll continue cultivating and strengthening relationships with local Indigenous communities and issues;
- We'll celebrate our 25th Anniversary as the first Albertan Affirming ministry in the United Church of Canada!

All of this requires **all of us** in support! Initial estimates predict that our total ministry in 2024 will require many volunteer hours and close to \$500,000.

Through the month of November, we'd like to encourage you to continue your spiritual practice of generosity as we invite you to consider how you can support and donate to SSUC with your time, your talent, and your finances in the coming year. **How can you help?** Here's an invitation:



As part of the SSUC community, we'd like you to consider helping in these ways:

1. Complete a **Financial Donor Form**, which helps us know your donation intentions. It's our best way of shaping an accurate budget to be presented to the Annual General Meeting in March 2024. To help and encourage you, we've included a **Step Chart** showing the number of donors on each giving step. After you identify your current level of giving on the Step Chart, we invite you to consider "stepping up" one or more levels in your giving.

Perhaps this is also the time, if you don't already, to choose to start giving monthly. Regular consistent giving is easy through the **Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)** program is a huge help to our ability to do the work of our congregation consistently and well. A PAR form is included to help you sign up or change the amount you'd like to give in the months ahead. We are also available to help with any questions you may have about PAR.

2. Because we all give with our volunteer time as well, we'd invite you to complete a **Time and Task Pledge Form**, offering specific ways you might contribute your energy and abilities to help your SSUC community. We want you to contribute in ways that will bring you fulfillment and deepen your connections with what's important in life, and with other folks in your SSUC community.

3. Attend or tune-in to any of our four Sunday gatherings in November, when we'll hear from various people within the SSUC community and what makes their giving journey so important to them. Let's inspire one another with our stories!



We'd like to receive your feedback by **December 3, 2023**. You may complete physical forms and return them to the church office or to the foyer "Support SSUC" box, or you may submit a secure online form at www.ssucedmonton.com/support2024.

By engaging in this process with us, you are clearly demonstrating that you care about SSUC as an important part of your spiritual journey, and know that we work together to claim this community as ours!

With heartfelt thanks for your generous support,
"The Many Ways We Support SSUC" Team



Financial Donor Pledge for 2024

This form helps us to shape an accurate budget that will be presented to the congregation at our Annual General Meeting in March 2024. Thank you for your responses which help us plan responsibly and with vision.

Our operating budget supports our ministries of Spiritual Gatherings, Education, Outreach, Congregational Care, Finance, Property (maintenance, utilities and insurance), Church Office, Staff Salaries and Benefits, and additional outreach beyond our congregation through the Mission and Service Fund, and meet our regional and national financial commitments to the United Church of Canada. As you consider your support, you might choose to support us by Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), regular in-person giving, online via our website at www.SSUCedmonton.com/donate or by e-transfer to info@ssucedmonton.com.

A. These are the ways I/we plan to respond financially to the work of our spiritual community in 2024:

** Please indicate by initials, if two or more separate contributors are responding.*

Weekly Contributions of \$ _____, for an annual total of \$ _____.

OR

Monthly Contributions of \$ _____, for an annual total of \$ _____.

** Please note that should your circumstances change, you can adjust your weekly or monthly contributions and annual commitment at any time. This is not an obligation, but a help to our planning.*

B. In order to facilitate my donations, (check all that apply)

- I am/We are a registered PAR contributor, making no changes.
- I/We will be completing a new PAR form because I/we would like to begin making donations by PAR
- I/We will be completing a new PAR form because of a change in my/our monthly PAR amount.
- I/We will be contributing in-person, online (requires SSUC pay a small admin fee) or by e-transfers (preferred)
- I/We would like to receive information on ensuring my support of SSUC is assured in the future by way of wills, bequests, life insurance and/or gift annuities.

Name(s)

Date

**Please return this form to the church office by December 3, 2023.
Alternatively, you may submit this form securely at www.SSUCedmonton.com**

Consider using PAR to make your contributions. Pre-authorized remittance (PAR) is an amount specified by you that is transferred to SSUC from your bank account on the 20th day of each month. Making your commitment this way helps manage your monthly giving regardless of absence, travel or life's busyness. It also helps us create a more stable and dependable cash flow. If you'd like to register for PAR, please complete the PAR form included in this package. Note that any change in monthly withdrawal amounts or banking information also require a new PAR form to be completed.



PAR AUTHORIZATION FORM

(For new PAR donors and changes to amounts or banking details)

Church Name: Southminster-Steinhauer

PAR Congregational Number: 10 04 0840

I/We, _____, (envelope # _____,) request and authorize The United Church of Canada to debit my/our account on the 20th of every month in the amount of \$ _____, starting on the 20th of _____ (enter month). This contribution is made on behalf of:

Name of Local Church: Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

Address: 10740 – 19 Avenue

City: Edmonton Province: Alberta Postal Code: T6J 6W9

This contribution by me/us to the above local church is to benefit:

Local Church \$ _____ Mission and Service Fund \$ _____ Other \$ _____

This donation/payment is made on behalf of (check one): _____ Individual(s) _____ Business

Please attach a VOID cheque or all relevant banking information.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

I may change the amount of my contribution at any time subject to providing notice of 15 days.
I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of 15 days at which time I will submit a cancellation form obtained from the Church PAR Contact or by contacting my financial institution or visiting www.cdnpay.ca.
I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAR Agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.
I waive my right to receive pre-notification of the amount of the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) and agree that I do not require advance notice of the

Name of Church PAR Contact: Ann Didluck Phone No.: 780-435-2288 (h)



Due to high service charges (2.5% for Visa and MasterCard; we do not accept Amex), we generally do not encourage people to use credit cards for PAR donations. However, if donors wish, this service is still available.

Debit My Credit Card Number _____ EXP _____
CARD NUMBER MM YY

Name on Card: _____ Authorized Signature: _____

We agree to be bound by, comply with, respect and apply all relevant provisions of the Canadian Payments Act and all related by-laws, rules and standards in force from time to time as they apply to PAR's including, without limitation, the Confirmation/Pre-notification requirements or waiver of Pre-notification requirements and cancellation requirements as set out in Rule H1

The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with privacy legislation, including but not limited to, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (2000, c.5).



Time and Task Pledge for 2024

We all have passions and interests that work together to make SSUC a diverse and dynamic community. 2023 will have specific areas of need until such time as a longer term staffing and ministry situation is established. How can you help in making SSUC the fantastic community that it is? Please initial where you can contribute (if more than one person is using this form).

I can help with spiritual gatherings from time to time by:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the team of gathering companions | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with table ritual prep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading a children's story | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping prepare/serve for a table ritual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being trained as tech crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Working with a group to plan a Sunday gathering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being added to the welcome team | <input type="checkbox"/> Being added to the infant/toddler care roster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being added to the coffee crew | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways I can contribute: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping on a donation count team | |

I can help provide care and connection to members of the SSUC community by:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting with caring tasks or receptions associated with memorial gatherings/celebrations of life | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keeping in touch regularly with a small group of people in need (ill/injured, unable to attend, etc.) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making occasional meals for those in need | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways I can contribute: |

I can help with educational, affirming or community building events by:

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping plan or assist with community meals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning social events that connect our community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning or contributing to learning/study opportunities or interest groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways I can contribute: |

I can help with SSUC property and grounds by:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing to small maintenance tasks | <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting with building users/renters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining a flowerbed | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping care for and maintain the kitchen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways I can contribute: | |

I can help with outreach programs or refugee support by:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being on a support team upon refugee arrival | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharing a project/cause SSUC could support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing our Food Bank Depot | <input type="checkbox"/> Promote a seasonal campaign |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways I can contribute: | |

I have interest or would like more information about becoming involved in the following areas:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Gatherings Team | <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumental or Choir Music Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congregational Care and Support Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Projects/Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee Sponsorship and Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning and Coordination | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education/Study Groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Charter Initiatives | <input type="checkbox"/> Children and Youth Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry & Personnel (Human Resources) | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance or Trustees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications and Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affirming Activities (2SLGBTQIA+) | |

When I think of my time and the kind of work that SSUC does, I am most excited about this aspect of the SSUC community, and want to support and/or contribute in these ways:

Name(s): _____

This chart shows where your donor level fits within the giving pattern of the whole SSUC community. What would it be like to consider moving to the next step?

