



MINUTES
SSUC Board Meeting of November 21, 2024

ROLE	NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Chair	Rebecca Aiken	X (Zoom)	
Vice-Chair	Maie Kellerman	X	
Secretary	<i>vacant</i>		
Treasurer	Kim Boyes	X	
Minister	Christopher New	X	
Congregational Care	Berni Hardin	X	
Finance/Stewardship	Bill Hibbard	X	
Ministry & Personnel	Esther Oaks	X	
Outreach	Marg Hetherington	X	
Property Maintenance	Jo Nicholas/ Sandra Hildebrand	X (Zoom)	X
SSUC Saskatoon	Trisha Little	X (Zoom)	
Spiritual Gatherings	Marilyn Blackall		X
Affirm	Janet Campbell	X (Zoom)	
Trustees			X
Guests	Joyce Madsen (Implementation Team)	X	
	Aynsley New (acting secretary)	X (Zoom)	

1.0 Call to Order

Maie Kellerman called to order at 6:35 while awaiting arrival of the chair. In the absence of a secretary Aynsley New agreed to take the minutes.

2.0 Opening: Mission Focus Moment – Kim Boyes

Kim shared the positive experience of Emberwood leaders Zoe and Alison presenting to Tuesday Connection.

The role of chair was handed over to Rebecca Aiken at 6:39.

3.0 Adoption of Agenda (Appendix A)

MOTION 111223-01: that the agenda, as adapted, be adopted.

Moved: Esther Oaks; **Seconded:** Berni Hardin; **Carried.**

4.0 Implementation Team Update – Joyce Madsen (Appendix B)

Joyce updated the Board on the work of the Implementation Team: they finalized the position descriptions for the *Spiritual Community Program Coordinator* and the *Affirming (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator* positions. The combined salaries would be approximately \$57,204. There was gratitude and excitement for the evolution of these roles. Esther will confirm approval process with Northern Spirit Pastoral Relations Commission.

MOTION 112123-02: that the position descriptions of the *Spiritual Community Program Coordinator* and the *Affirming (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator* be approved; and the Implementation Team given the authority to proceed with job postings and the hiring process. Moved: Maie Kellerman; Seconded: Berni Hardin; Carried, with one abstention (Bill H)

An update will be communicated to the congregation in the Messenger on November 25, 2023, and in the gathering on Sunday, November 26, 2023 (Esther).

Joyce also gave an update on Camp Dragonfly structure and the need for policies and accountability supporting Camp Dragonfly as a work and ministry of SSUC. Although this isn't an Implementation Team role, they recommend that the board attend to this as soon as possible. Marg Hetherington volunteered to work with a group on policies and structure and bring them to a future board meeting.

5.0 Adoption of Minutes of October 17, 2023. (Appendix C)

MOTION 112123-03: that the minutes of October 17, 2023 be adopted as amended.

Moved: Maie Kellerman; Seconded: Jo Nicholas; Carried.

6.0 Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes

a) Board Secretary

Maie reported that two candidates came forward expressing interest in filling the role of Board Secretary. There was discussion about the two candidates.

MOTION 112123-04: that Tori Bardell be invited to assume the position of Board Secretary. Moved: Esther Oaks; Seconded: Jo Nicholas; Carried.

b) Establishment of Building Use Rental Ad-hoc committee

Tabled until January, 2024. Rental increases will be communicated to current Space Users by the office via letter on letterhead as soon as possible.

7.0 “Many Ways of Supporting SSUC” Campaign in November

a) Chris reported on the Generous Hearts Series, and the various participants sharing the diverse ways they give and receive at SSUC. We have seen increased and quicker feedback to the stewardship campaign compared to other years.

b). Chris presented the draft schedule for committee updates **(Appendix D)**

8.0 Memorial Fund Request

The music leaders have requested additional music stands for the many musicians currently participating in Sunday gatherings. This request is for 8 additional stands, and a storage cart.

MOTION 112123-05: that the board approve an expenditure from the Memorial Fund up to \$1000 for additional music stands and storage cart. Moved: Maie Kellerman; **Seconded:** Berni Hardin; **Carried.**

9.0 Board Goals – Rebecca Aiken

Due to the need for dedicated time for this issue and already full board agendas, it was recommended that we table this task until after the March 2024 AGM when a retreat-like day can be planned with this and other topics. Rebecca will email out a compilation of board submissions so far of Fall/Winter priorities.

10.0 Reports

a) SSUC Saskatoon – Trisha Little (Appendix E)

SSUC Saskatoon has recently had their book study and are expecting to plan another one focusing on Livable Income. They have various upcoming Christmas projects planned and will meet again in person on December 17, 2023.

b) Ministry & Personnel – Esther Oaks

i) Esther reported on the new hiree for the Marketing and Digital Coordinator position, Shannon Brown. Sherry Ann Chapman has agreed to be a member of M&P. Esther brought up a potential conflict as Sherry Ann is the aunt of the new Marketing and Digital Coordinator. The board was satisfied with the planned transparency and Sherry Ann recusing herself on all matters pertaining to Shannon Brown.

ii) A new solo ministry position description has been created for Christopher New. Esther will confirm with Northern Spirit Pastoral Relations Commission whether changes to Chris's description are enough to warrant a new call via Special Congregational Meeting.

iii) Salaries: M&P is recommending a salary increase of 5% for Christopher, increasing his current salary of \$91,994 to \$96,594.

MOTION 112123-06: that the board approve the recommended salary increase of 5% for Christopher New. Moved: Esther Oaks; **Seconded:** Maie Kellerman; **Carried.**

c) Outreach report – Margaret Hetherington (Appendix F)

A letter from Ruth Stewart-Vergier was received by the Outreach committee regarding the crisis in the Middle East, outlining potential action to be taken, including template letters SSUC may be interested in sending. Outreach Committee will follow up.

d) Treasurer's Report – Kim Boyes and Bill Hibbard (Appendix G)

i) Kim reported that the deficit, in part due to PMT's unplanned expenses, can be mitigated by a future decision to move funds from the Building Reserve Fund into the Operating Budget.

ii) Kim reported on the final numbers of the JukeBox fundraiser event. Ticket sales were \$3166; donations were \$2665; expenses were just over \$2000; for a total of \$3815 raised.

iii) Kim reported we will need \$5000 in the Refugee Fund to cover costs in January and February 2024.

iv) Bill reminds all committee chairs to have 2024 budget requests in to him by January 15, 2024

11.0 Next Meeting January 16, 2024, at 6:30 pm, at SSUC and Zoom.

12.0 Maie Kellerman moved to adjourn at 8:55 pm.

Rebecca Aiken, Chair

Aynsley New, Acting Secretary

APPENDIX A: BOARD OF SSUC AGENDA

for Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 6:30pm In-person/Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584389561?pwd=ang1WmZjb0lDN1ZFWi90V1NINiJkUT09>

Item	Topic	Presenter	Reference
1.	Call to order		
2.	Mission Focus Moment <i>Consider being prepared to share an SSUC experience, a moment you've witnessed, an observation, or a congregational success story that has demonstrated one of SSUC's values or identity. How has that reminded you of what's important about SSUC's ongoing ministry?</i>	Board Member	
3.	Adoption of Agenda		Distributed
4.	Implementation Team Update a) Position Descriptions b) Camp Dragonfly c) Congregation Update?	Joyce	
5.	Approval of the Minutes of October 17, 2023		
6.	Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes a) Board Secretary b) Establishment of Building Use/Rental ad-hoc committee		
	New Business		
7.	'Many Ways of Supporting SSUC' Campaign in November a) Update b) Committee/Group Gratitude/Update Schedule	Chris/Bill/Maie	
8.	Memorial Fund Request re: Gathering/Music Equipment	Chris	
9.	Board Fall/Winter Priorities - table to new year, dedicated time	Rebecca	
10.	Reports: a. SSUC Saskatoon Report b. M&P (Tabled from October) -Marketing/Digital Content Coordinator -New Committee Members c. Outreach (Tabled from October) d. Treasurer's Report	Trisha Esther Oaks Marg Hetherington Kim/Bill	
11.	Next Board Meeting: Jan, 16 2024		
12.	Adjournment		

APPENDIX B: Implementation Team Update (4 pages)

Affirming (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator

Position Description

Position Title: Affirming (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator

Responsible To: Ministry and Personnel Committee and the Minister

Position Type: One year contract position with possibility of renewal, estimated at 10-14 hours per week, \$14,000 - \$17,000 per year.

About Spiritual Seekers United in Community (also known as Southminster-Steinhauer United Church)

Spiritual Seekers United in Community (SSUC) is a unique in person and online spiritual community in the City of Edmonton that is:

- An expansive spiritual community with a focus on exploring wisdom for spiritual depth and health. SSUC welcomes all spiritual seekers that share a commitment to four core values: celebrating diversity, engaging life with spiritual depth, inspiring compassion and connection, and making a meaningful difference.
- Working toward peace and justice among all people, and toward the protection and restoration of the integrity of the Earth and all creatures. We do this with a growth mindset characterized by honesty, integrity, openness, respect, intellectual rigor, courage, creativity, compassion, inclusion, and love.
- A safe and vibrant spiritual home for all. As the first affirming United Church in Alberta, SSUC welcomes everyone, including those in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. It is the home of Emberwood (queer and ally nature programming) and Camp Dragonfly (summer camp for trans and gender creative children).

Position Summary

The Affirming (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator is a key leader in sustaining and enhancing support and programming for the 2SLGBTQIA+ and ally community within SSUC; and initiating and enhancing relationships between SSUC and broader 2SLGBTQIA+ support agencies, groups, and affirming congregations. This position works collaboratively with other SSUC staff (e.g. Minister, Administrator, Marketing and Digital Content Coordinator, and Spiritual Community Program Coordinator).

Job Responsibilities

The Affirming (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator advocates for a culture of inclusivity within SSUC and the broader community by:

- Working closely with the Affirm Committee to build awareness, connection, and education within the SSUC ally and 2SLGBTQIA+ community (including family members)
 - Develop or coordinate programming according to stated and emerging needs in cooperation with the SSUC Affirm Team including 2nd Sunday Brunches, speaker events, dances, Pride Parade;

- Establish and strengthen connections and coordination between Edmonton and Saskatoon affirming ministries; participate and contribute in activities/initiatives of other affirming faith communities;
- Identify and develop partnerships with local 2SLGBTQIA+ agencies (eg. Pride Center, PFLAG, etc.) to share resources and leverage external expertise to enhance SSUC programming and supports
- Work with the SSUC Marketing and Digital Content Coordinator to build awareness of SSUC as an inclusive community
- Oversee and organize the annual Camp Dragonfly, including sourcing summer director, staff, and volunteers as needed; support sourcing and applying for grant dollars

Core Competencies

The 2SLGBTQ+ Action Coordinator will have:

- Graduated from post-secondary with a degree, diploma, or certificate in related areas or have equivalent work experience
- Minimum one year experience in a coordinating type of role, ideally within a church or community-based non-profit organization.
- Embrace an expansive exploration of spirituality/christianity; have the ability to connect and communicate 2SLGBTQIA+ issues and expansive spirituality to others
- Experience organizing activities and events such as conferences, food events, or dances_
- Be able to use standard computer office products and relevant project and communication tools
- Have strong initiative and ability to manage tasks with limited supervision.
- Have strong oral and written communication and interpersonal skills.
- Be highly organized and have excellent time management.
- Be comfortable establishing and sustaining new relationships with individuals and groups of all ages
- Be a strong team player and collaborator.
- Have experience bringing an equity and justice lens to their work.
- Be committed to being part of a vibrant workplace culture that embraces diversity, inclusion, and challenging the status quo
- A satisfactory criminal record check and vulnerable sector check is required
- Access to a car and valid driver's license is an asset
- Experience with finding, developing, and submitting grant applications is an asset

Spiritual Community Program Coordinator

Position Description

Position Title: Spiritual Community Program Coordinator

Responsible To: Ministry and Personnel Committee and Minister

Position Type: One year contract with possibility of renewal, \$40,000 - \$50,000 per year, estimated at 30-37 hours/week

About Spiritual Seekers United in Community (also known as Southminster-Steinhauer United Church)

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- An expansive spiritual community with a focus on exploring wisdom for spiritual depth and health. SSUC welcomes all spiritual seekers that share a commitment to four core values: celebrating diversity, engaging life with spiritual depth, inspiring compassion and connection, and making a meaningful difference.
- Working toward peace and justice among all people, and toward the protection and restoration of the integrity of the Earth and all creatures. We do this with a growth mindset characterized by honesty, integrity, openness, respect, intellectual rigor, courage, creativity, compassion, inclusion, and love.
- A safe and vibrant spiritual home for all. As the first affirming United Church in Alberta, SSUC welcomes everyone, including those in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. It is the home of Emberwood (queer and ally nature programming) and Camp Dragonfly (summer camp for trans and gender creative children).

Position Summary

The Spiritual Community Program Coordinator is a key leader in sustaining and enhancing the work of the SSUC community. This position works collaboratively with other SSUC staff (e.g. Minister, Administrator, Marketing and Digital Content Coordinator, Affirming (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator). They will foster a community of support for all within SSUC by collaborating across all areas of the church, engaging the broader community, and supporting key leaders and multiple committees and groups within SSUC (e.g. Outreach, Affirm, Congregational Care).

Job Responsibilities

The Spiritual Community Program Coordinator will identify, enable, and support programs and small groups for all ages, taking into account SSUC values, priorities, expressed needs for connection, learning, support, and engagement. The work will involve:

- Collaborating and working closely with committees and programs in order to:
 - Support existing in-person and online programming
 - Identify and implement new in-person and online programming and small groups offered for SSUC community members and the wider community.
 - Nurture intergenerational connections and opportunities for leadership

- Liaising with wider community stakeholders, becoming aware of and learning about challenges community members are facing (e.g. child and youth mental health, houselessness)
- Connecting in person and virtually with members of the SSUC community including participating in Sunday gatherings
- Overseeing existing children's programming
 - in cooperation with the minister, ensure availability of expansive curriculum for children's program leaders;
 - collaborate with Emberwood as opportunities arise
- Identify needs of SSUC and broader south Edmonton community youth, especially in relation to our core values and equity seeking groups, in order to conceptualize and propose programming that would serve these needs.

Core Competencies

The Spiritual Community Program Coordinator will:

- Have graduated from post-secondary with a degree, diploma, or certificate in related areas or have equivalent work experience.
- Minimum 1 year experience in a coordinating type of role, ideally within a church or community-based non-profit organization
- Embrace an expansive exploration of spirituality/christianity
- Be able to use standard computer office products and relevant project and communication tools
- Have strong initiative and ability to manage multiple tasks with limited supervision.
- Be highly organized and have excellent time management
- Have strong oral and written communication and interpersonal skills
- Be comfortable establishing and sustaining new relationships with individuals and groups
- Be a strong team player and collaborator
- Have experience bringing an equity and justice lens to their work
- Be excited to be part of a vibrant workplace culture that embraces diversity, inclusion, and challenging the status quo
- A satisfactory criminal record check and vulnerable sector check is required
- Access to a car and valid driver's license is an asset

APPENDIX C: Southminster-Steinhauer United Church Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 6:30 pm. Music Room/Zoom

Present: Maie Kellerman, Margaret Hetherington, Esther Oaks, Christopher New, Bill Hibbard, Sandra Hildebrand, Bernie Hardin, Kim Boyes, Tom Rogers, Marilyn Blackall, Jo Nicholas and Janet Campbell.

Regrets: Rebecca Aiken Bailey

Guest: Ruth Stevenson (Moving Forward to Reconciliation)

1. Adoption of the Agenda (Appendix 1)
2. Adoption of the August 1, 2023. Special Congregation Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2023, Special Congregation Meeting Minutes, and September 19, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion:10-17-2023-1: The Board approves the August 1, 2023. Special Board Meeting Minutes, August 8th, 2023. Special Board Meeting Minutes, and the September 19, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes with corrections as Mentioned:

- **August 9, 2023 minutes: in the very last sentence the word ‘and’ should be changed to ‘any.’**
- **September 19, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes: Bill Hibbard stated that he has not formed the small subcommittee for Planned Stewardship. Chris stated that this was an action for the future. #14. To name our Library The Rev. Mary Thomas Library.**

Moved by Jo Nicholas. Seconded by Bill Hibbard.

3. United Church of Canada Remit 1 (Appendix 2)

Ruth Stevenson From the “Moving Forward to Reconciliation Committee” at Southminster- Steinhauer explained that the United Church has sent out a Remit for the voting by every congregation church board.

The committee will present information to the congregation on Sunday, November 19, 2023, the MTRC will show two short Videos after church and answer questions that folks in the congregation may have around the issue. Board members present will gather a sense of the congregation’s sentiment in order that they vote on their behalf on the Remit and then send it in to the United Church National office.
4. Board Committee Priorities for the next year.

This item is being moved to the November 21, 2023, Board Meeting to allow Rebecca to speak about this issue.

5. Implementation Team Update

The Implementation Team has met on two occasions so far. They are currently working on the job descriptions for the positions. The team is not rushing through this process.

6. “The Many Ways we Support SSUC”

Regularly, a SSUC committee or group will present on the work they are doing for the church. The suggestion is that we have a snack and chat session after the 3rd Sunday service regarding the specific church committees’ work. The hope is to inform folks on what the committee does and how congregation members could be involved. Chris has asked that the major presentation be brief and during the Spiritual Gathering.

In November, each Sunday will focus on different themes on how we live and support SSUC through the work and financial support we need to carry out the work of our church. He asked Board members to identify folks who could get up and briefly talk about the volunteer work they do in the church or how they manage financial support for the church.

7. Jukebox Fundraiser

The Jukebox fundraiser is set to go on Friday, November 3, 2023, with Aaron Bailey singing and taking requests for songs. International savoury finger foods and desserts, along with non-alcoholic beverages will be served. The cost of the ticket is \$20.00 per person. Donations will be encouraged for tips and song requests.

8. AFFIRM Fundraiser Proposal (Appendix 3)

To celebrate the 25th Affirming Anniversary, we are proposing to invite author and speaker Ivan Coyote to speak at a Sunday evening event at SSUC January 21, 2024. We will need to pay the fee and travel costs for Ivan Coyote and for their plane tickets ahead of receiving the money from ticket sales.

Motion:10-17-2023-2: The board of SSUC supports the AFFIRM speaker event featuring Ivan Coyote on Sunday, January 21, 2024, and the initial outlay of costs.

Moved by Sandra Hildebrand. Seconded by Marilyn Blackall. Motion carried.

9. Property Committee (Appendix 4)

Motion:10-17-2023-3: Moved that the SSUC board accept the Sept. 27, 2023 Property Maintenance Report on Space Use including the following appendices, which report details recommended space use rates for current contract rentals going forward from Jan 1, 2024 (Space Use Request or Enquiry; Space Use Rate Schedule with Categories effective Jan 1, 2024; Space Use Package);

and

that the SSUC Board create an ad hoc team or committee to thoroughly investigate all aspects of rental of the building and grounds. The Terms of Reference of Property Maintenance require that Property Maintenance Committee recommends a policy with respect to use and rental of the facility and grounds. For the committee to be able to recommend such a policy, it is necessary for the board to determine the

intention to market the building and grounds as a revenue source or to only rent out space not needed for congregational use.

Moved by Jo Nicholas. Seconded by Berni Hardin. Motion carried.

10. Finance Committee (Appendix 5)

Bill Hibbard gave a detailed breakdown of the Current Assets and Balance Sheet to help us understand funds and investments.

Please have the committee budgets into Bill by January 15, 2024.

11. SSUC Saskatoon

The following activities have been carried out at SSUC Saskatoon.

- 6 people showed up for the last Livestream service in Saskatoon.
- SSUC Saskatoon participated in the Counter March to the 1Million march for Children in Saskatoon.
- 10 folks are registered in the book study.
- The AV system in St. Andrew's Lounge is outdated and may need to be updated.

12. Trustees Report (Appendix 6)

The Trustees made investments over the past few years. The Trustees are starting to review the Investment Policy from SSUC. They wish to divest from the Portfolio Fund Ethical and invest the money into Laddered GIC Funds and will wait on the Bonds Investments to rebound after a few bad years.

13. Congregational Care (Appendix 7)

Please refer to the attached report.

14. Church Library Name

Marg Hetherington proposed the re-naming the Church Library to the Mary Thomas Library after the first called minister of Southminster United Church as well as the first ordained female minister in Alberta Northwest Conference.

Motion:10-17-2023-4: The Board moves we name the Church library (located in the lounge) the Mary Thomas Library.

Moved by Marg Hetherington. Seconded by Jo Nicholas. Motion carried.

15. Bill Hibbard moved that we adjourn the Board Meeting.

**APPENDIX D: Moment for Gratitude/Update/Invitation
Draft Schedule – Fall/Winter 2023/24**

The idea of these moments is to spend 3-4 minutes (prepare ahead of time please) to:

- 1. introduce yourself and update one or two tasks/activities/events “did you know...” (1 min.);*
- 2. offer gratitude to specific people or generally where folks have helped with your work; (1 min);*
- 3. share needs/invite to consider helping in one or two areas (1 min.)*

If you would like a visual slide to accompany your moment, contact the office prior to the Friday before.

Nov 26	Implementation Team (Esther); Property Maintenance (Jo)
Dec 3	Mission & Service (M&S) Gifts with Vision
Dec 10	Moving Forward to Reconciliation
Dec 17	SSUC SK
Dec 24	--
Dec 31	--
Jan 7	M&S and Outreach
Jan 14	Affirm Team
Jan 21	Ministry & Personnel
Jan 28	Emberwood
Feb 4	M&S
Feb 11	Nomination Committee
Feb 18	Board of Trustees (Town Hall Pre-AGM Conversation?)
Feb 25	Spiritual Gatherings Team, Music and Choir
Mar 3	M&S
Mar 10	SSUC Board (AGM after gathering)
Mar 17	Congregational Care
Mar 24	Property Maintenance Committee
Mar 31	
Apr 7	M&S
Apr 14	

APPENDIX E: SSUC Saskatoon September/October/November 2023 Report

1. SSUC SK Spiritual Gatherings:

- a) We continue to meet on the third Sunday of the month. Many thanks to Tom who facilitated the October in-person gathering while Trisha was away.
- b) **Our Spirit stroll along the Meewasin trail** every Friday at 10:00am is lovely for those who can join. However, there has been little interest in this over the summer and so far this fall.
- c) **Book study on Hugh Segal's, "Bootstraps Need Boots":** We have 10 participants for this book study which has fostered interesting conversations and many learnings. Our time together has also included guest speakers who have furthered our knowledge on current possible advances in the Guaranteed Living Income—a vital program for a just society. We will be discussing future book studies at our last session on November 23.
- d) Trisha is contacting members who have expressed a willingness to help with set-up at in-person gatherings and take part in Chop n Chat at ICM to start scheduling them for the New Year.

2. ICM/Outreach:

- a) **Chop n' Chat:** SSUC SK members continue to help prepare and serve the fourth Wednesday of each month. Extra members are going to help with the Christmas Feast on December 13. We are also looking into assembling a couple of gift hampers for the homeless in our city.
- b) We will be putting together **hampers for the homeless** this holiday season. Trisha and Lorie will put them together and ICM will help us with distribution.
- c) **QUINT Affordable Housing Toy Drive:** Some members plan to purchase Christmas gifts for children (newborn to 13yrs) who live in these affordable housing rentals.
- d) **SSUC Saskatoon Outreach:** The SSUC treasurer continues to send the donations to our designated organizations according to the schedule decided upon earlier this year. Trisha has been notifying the organizations the month that they will be receiving the donation, asking for feedback as to how the funds were spent.

3. SSUC Edmonton news:

- a) **Supporting SSUC in 2024:** A package including a letter and information about the many ways we can support our SSUC community in the coming year was mailed to as many households as possible. For those who prefer to read a digital copy, please see the package online at Read our 2024 'Supporting SSUC 2024' letter . We are invited to consider the positive impact you can have on our work together in the coming year. Once you've had a chance to ponder, either complete the Online Support 2024 Response Form, or print and complete the forms included in

the 2024 letter and **return it to the church office by December 3, 2023.**

b) **'Minister's Musings' Blog:** Short messages, reflections and mid-week thoughts from Chris appear on our website's blog page. [read more]

c) **Expansive Spirituality online sessions Oct - Nov:** This was well-received, especially for those of us who are unable to attend in-person events due to distance or other factors. There may be other opportunities for these community conversations in the future.

4. Affirming news:

a) SSUC SK members have taken part in demonstrations and letter writing in opposition to the proposed and then legislated Pronoun Policy in the educational system put in place by the government of Saskatchewan. Teachers are now required to inform parents if a student wishes to be addressed by a different name or pronoun during school hours. This puts some children at risk if their parents are not open to this desire.

Respectfully submitted by:

Trisha Little

SSUC SK Administrative personnel

Nov 15, 2023

APPENDIX F: Outreach Committee Report to the Board, November 21, 2023

Marg Hetherington, Chairperson, Outreach Committee

Two important June outreach actions were completed after the June Board meeting:

- support of Operation Friendship's new Distribution Centre by the **gathering in of household items for seniors** transitioning to more independent housing and **of funds for the United Church's Emergency Response fund helping in Ukraine, Syria and Turkey** (main leadership: Jo Nicholas, Sandra Hildebrand, Marg Hetherington, Karen Henderson and Carman Dufresne). This was a unique, smaller, more targeted project, with a welcome outcome.
- **Bissell Centre's "Drop your Gonch" underwear campaign** (leadership: Linda May). This annual project was amazingly successful, beyond expectations: 1165 items!

OUTCOMES: The Operation Friendship project encouraged awareness of seniors and housing downtown, provided support for some at SSUC who were downsizing/moving (transporting their household donations to OF, FIND, eco-station, recycling); and also gathered in some financial support for global emergency aid. The Bissell underwear project made a real difference to the comfort and well-being of many men and women, other Edmontonians, items being distributed immediately.

Backpacks filled with school supplies did not happen this past August. An opportunity arose to invite SSUC to donate warm adult socks during **Operation Friendship's 'Socktober' campaign**. (leadership: David Mayor). A **newer project for us**. Again a very generous response: around 350 pairs.

Soon Judy Dube will be heading up our annual support of **Bissell Centre's Festive Give Away (White Gift)** as is our tradition each early December. We look forward to a team of people to guide this project.

No Room at the Inn donations are part of our Christmas Eve special givings (this year's project in support of A Safe Place, a residential facility for those escaping intimate and family violence).

And then in early February, **The Coldest Night experience and fundraiser** will be supported to help Bissell Centre. All of the above items, as well as **our Foodbank Depot** underline very practical expressions of compassion from summer to early winter.

In Saskatoon other avenues of justice-seeking and community empowerment are underway: Pride Parade, trans support, Integrated City Ministry meals, Bridge City Bicycle Coop and Prairie Harm Reduction.

At the same time as socks, underwear, household items, festive gifts and food are finding their way to those in need in Edmonton and Saskatoon, **our SSUC Outreach budget is providing steady funding** to assist the well-being of others through partner agencies.

Outreach ministry has many components: compassionate aid, financial support, education and worldview expansion; as well as standing with the marginalized in protest and solidarity and justice-making. This is an opportune time for us to explore our response to Ruth Stewart-Verger's letter to widen our path for supporting each other in times of anxiety for our world and to respond more specifically and actively to the crisis in the middle east. Your thoughts? Suggestions for the Outreach Committee?