



Photo credit: Terry McDougall

## Annual Reports for the Year 2023

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# Southminster-Steinhauer Annual Report for 2023

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# MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

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Looking back at 2023, I'm floored at such a full and rich year. Experiences of goodbyes, hellos, transitions and connection points. I'm hoping this report can give us a sense of gratitude for all we've been through and all we've accomplished this year.

I start with gratitude for all the opportunities I've had to work with and connect with you. The moments when I can spend time deepening established relationships or cultivating new ones are so valuable to me and I thank you all for the space you create in your life for me and the work we do together.

Celebrating Nancy's retirement/refirement/rewirement was how we spent the first month of the year, ensuring that after 19 years of ministry with us, Nancy felt our deep appreciation and love for both her and Dawn. We celebrated and grieved, and still feel their absence, and yet because this community is strong and vibrant, we worked together to move forward, embrace new ministries and directions, and strengthen tried and trusted expressions of our life and work together.

After the retirement festivities, a part of me wondered whether the SSUC community would take a collective breath, relax and ease into the rest of the year at a slower pace. Was I ever wrong! You all jumped into new and renewed activities with all the momentum imaginable. 2023 ended up being a fast-paced, energetic, busy and meaningful year! And I was there for it!

As a summary and a testament to our spirit of living out who we are, here is just a taste of our involvement in the so many important projects, healing and learning sessions, and fun events through the year:

- Support sessions as we adjusted to the news of Nancy's retirement
- The work of the Transition Team, inviting us to Conversation Café, visioning events, and future-setting meetings that helped us set direction for the work we value and want to see SSUC do in the future.
- Learning session to explore and discuss a more expansive understanding of Easter
- Dinner and games nights
- Labyrinth walks and weekly zoom yoga
- Expansive spirituality learning series, led by Clair Woodbury and Harry Pauls
- A new ukulele group to add to the many musical experiences and musicians participating
- SSUC Saskatoon activities, monthly gatherings, book study, and the many outreach and activities in the Saskatoon community,
- Collection of underwear and Coldest Night Walk for Bissell, winter sock collection for Operation Friendship, providing lunch for Inner City Pastoral Ministry
- A refugee fundraiser that redirected our household and furniture items
- A fun and engaging Jukebox evening of singing and dancing
- A Christmas Artisan Market and Tea Shop

In addition to these amazing things, we explored so many ideas, themes and meaningful subjects within our spiritual gatherings that served to connect, support, and inspire with our mutual learning. Of course, we said farewell as we celebrated lives that were part of the fabric of our community, celebrated some new additions to families in their rituals of belonging and honoured many life passages and milestones with each other. It's wonderful that we can 'hold fast to love' in ways that connect us deeply to one another. I'm grateful to be part of it all.

Ariane Perreault and Daisy New, as program leaders in our kidSPIRIT program, have had a successful, full year of programming Sunday experiences for our children to learn and explore the values that are so important to us at SSUC. Their planning and leadership made possible the return of our summer kids day camp, "Camp Explore".

The work of *Emberwood* as a space for 2SLGBTQIA+ folks and allies to explore spirituality and nature in a safe environment has been growing in their reach and impact. Thank you to Zoë Chaytors and Alison Brooks-Starks who have taken this endeavor to new heights!

Camp Dragonfly also saw a marked increase in camper registrations in 2023. Kiana Chouinard and Briggs Kennedy-Flynn have worked very hard to ensure the camp is funded and led with professionalism and passion.

We welcomed Shannon Brown as our Digital Content Coordinator, who since her start in November, has already made a huge impact on our online presence, the look and feel of all our publicity, and has been a wonderful, caring and skilled addition to our team.

I'm ending as I began, with gratitude.

To each person who is a part of this community – for your support of the work and commitments of this community with your time, with your energy and passion, and with your financial support. Countless persons help in the everyday work of our community – the leaders, cooks and cleaners, our gathering musicians, dramatists, the gardeners, the phone callers and emailers, the thinkers, the care-takers, the justice seekers, and the behind the scenes do-everything-elsers, and the ones who await their opportunity and niche to serve. This is a community of people willing to pitch in and we are rich as a result. I want to offer a special thank you this year to Joyce Madsen, who has chaired our Transition and Implementation Teams. She has spent so much energy, time and passion in guiding us through this year of change, we are all grateful for her leadership and love of this community!

Aynsley deserves so many thanks. There are an unbelievable number of ways that Aynsley is able to provide communication, support, technical skills and a public face to the many who interact with SSUC. She does all of this in ways that are so helpful to me and to all of us. For the support and love she gives to me in all aspects of my life, I am so grateful for her presence and place in this unique and amazingly surprising life of ours!

There could be no better place, no better group of people, no better and more important work than what we offer here at SSUC. For all who make this the great place it is to be in ministry together, I thank you.

Christopher New

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## TRANSITION & IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS

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A Transition Team was created by the Board in the fall of 2022. The mandate of this team was to connect with the members of the congregation and identify the dreams/visions/priorities that members had for the future of SSUC.

The Transition Team created questions, processes and events to engage the congregation in identifying what was most valued by members and in sharing their dreams for the future of SSUC.

The process began with four questions asked weekly in February and responses were gathered to be used as information at the Community Gathering we held in March. 80 members of the congregation came together to share questions, ideas, and dreams about the future of SSUC. The information gathered at this event was used to craft the categories and questions at a smaller event held in May. Other activities of the Transition Team included consultations with area schools and partner organizations to hear priority needs in the specific areas of the broader community, and interviews with current staff and a retiring member of the Ministry Team.

In June of 2023, the Transition Team presented a report to the Board identifying all that the congregants loved and wanted to see continue at SSUC, and thoughts and ideas about the future. The report was accepted by the Board and approved (in principle) by the congregation in August.

One of the recommendations of the Transition Team report was that an Implementation Team be established to enact the recommendations.

The Implementation Team was established in October 2023 and began the work of creating position descriptions for the staffing recommendations. Ads were created and posted and applicants applied for both of the positions identified. The work is ongoing into the first months of 2024.

The Transition Team members were - Anne McCracken, Terry McDougall, Dara Smith, Andrea Laniak, Janis Zalitach, Joanne Van Beek, Joyce Madsen (Chair), Chris New.

The members of the Implementation Team are - Joyce Madsen (Chair), Deb Mooney, Paige Reeves, Erin Robinson, Janet Campbell, Bill Hibbard, Chris New

Respectfully  
Joyce Madsen

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# EDUCATION AND LEARNING

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## TUESDAY CONNECTION

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Tuesday Connection made its beginnings back in the early 80s as a Bible Study group with Dorothy Mundle, one of our former ministers. Being a free-thinking leader, it soon evolved into a dynamic women's connection. Programming centred around cutting edge theology, as well as current political and social justice issues.

The group meets Tuesday mornings from 9:45 to 11:45 from September to May. Average attendance is 15 to 20. A Zoom attendance option is also available every week.

Discussion topics are diverse and wide-ranging using videos, speakers, podcasts, books and other study resources.

Social interaction and support for members is an important part of the program.

Submitted by Annabel Sheppard and Jackie Faust

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## MOVING FORWARD TO RECONCILIATION

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The Moving Towards Reconciliation Committee has seven active members and twenty more who receive meeting minutes. The committee has held ten meetings between March 13, 2023 and February 6, 2024 on the zoom platform. Co-chairs are Ruth Stevenson and Ruth Stewart-Verger. The Ruths have alternated as recording secretary for the meetings.

In 2023 the committee organized the following events:

- Brought forward information about
  - Red Dress Day on May 5
  - Moose Hide Day on May 11
- Honoured National Aboriginal Day on June 18, 2023 by hosting Carola Cunningham, former director of NiGiNan Housing Ventures who presented information about NiGiNan's (then) current programs
- Placed an annotated bibliography of recommended reading on Indigenous issues in the Church library.
- Presented 3 Indigenous films to watch and discuss after the service on June 25<sup>th</sup> to continue honouring National Aboriginal Day.
- Celebrated National Recognition of Indigenous Persons Day/Orange Shirt Day September 30 (celebrated at SSUC on Sept 24) with information and the sale of orange shirts. The funds went directly back to the Indigenous organization that had made the shirts.
- Made information about area wide symposiums, gatherings, prayer circles, celebrations, and walks, attending many of these events as individuals.
- Collected information about the current United Church Remit 1 for the establishment of an autonomous Indigenous Church and share this with the congregation and the board. An information gathering was held after church on November 19, 2023.
- A presentation on Remit 1 was made to Tuesday Connection Group on November 28, 2023
- SSUC members have been active in the local and national Remit process



**Moving Forward to  
Reconciliation**

Through our budget from the Outreach committee, SSUC has made the following donations in 2023:

- \$5000 to NiGiNan Housing Ventures, contributed each year
- \$100 to the Moose Hide campaign
- \$250 to support the establishment of the Central Alberta Indigenous Spiritual Centre in Edmonton (in the building of the former Beverly United Church)
- \$100 to Edmonton Good Relations Cluster for lunches of the delegates of the National Indigenous Spirituality gathering in Edmonton in the summer of 2023.

Thanks especially to Lois Evans, Pat Seale, Tanis Eaker, Kimberly Fischbach, Gilda Valli, Ruth Stevenson, Ruth Stewart-Verger, Mark Nicoll, Heather MacDonald, Simone Demers and a host of others who have attended sessions and events across the city, regarding Indigenous issues, and have shared their knowledge with the committee and the church. They have also planned and organized the several activities and information sessions that were offered here at SSUC in the past 12 months.

SSUC, through our Moving Forward to Reconciliation Committee, has responded to the calls of the Indigenous church to the United Church of Canada, recognizing the importance of reestablishing a reciprocal relationship with the Indigenous peoples of turtle Island, and Canada in particular.

Respectfully submitted by

Ruth Stevenson and Ruth Stewart-Verger, co-chairs of the MFTR committee.

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## YOGA

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The Wednesday evening adult yoga drop-in class carried on via zoom throughout 2023. Our leader, Sharon MacMullan-Baron, continued to do a wonderful job of guiding us through some gentle poses, breath work and meditations, while making our virtual classroom a warm and welcoming space for everyone. And always, always, we were reminded to listen to our own bodies.

Whatever your experience (or none), all are welcome to join!

While there were approximately 38 registered, each class was usually about 20 in number, and although many are local, the zoom format has allowed those from other locales to join in, providing little mini reunions for some family and friend members. While missing our in-person classes, (and pot-luck parties), the zoom format allowed us the ease of unrolling our mats in the comfort and convenience of our own homes, which was a lovely gift when weather was less than ideal, when we weren't feeling well or when the roads were very icy and treacherous.

With the Zoom classes our Yogis have the option to pay via a donation to the church on-line or by cheque. We are pleased that we are able to pay our instructor but were also able to contribute in a small way to the use of space and technology at SSUC. It has more than paid its way every year since its inception in 2011.

We would like to thank Marlene Rubik for her dedicated work as trainer for the gatekeepers and to our gatekeepers, Marlene, Ann Didluck, Deb Mooney, Lesley Mitchell and our newest gatekeeper, Catherine Small.

Thanks to our ministry team for their support. We are blessed to have the use of this facility!

Submitted by Jo Nicholas

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## LIBRARY

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### Opening Ourselves Up to the Unknown

“When we admit that we don’t know something, we can then open ourselves up to the opportunity to learn.”

It was in the first weeks of 2024 that we came upon this wise saying, issued by the DailyOM, an endeavour which sees itself as being a resource on one’s “journey to wellness”. In fessing up to our ignorance, “we open ourselves up to the unknown. We can discover,” the writer avowed, “what lies beyond our current levels of understanding.”

In that same period, an essay in *The Christian Century* addressed this same matter: in this piece, a theology and religious studies scholar imagined how “the next well-timed question” might be the very one “to open the door” where you “had previously thought there was a brick wall.”

In the religious realm, there especially, there is much that we don’t know, that we *can’t* know—know, as being actually, factually true. We are left to gape, to doubt, to query, to ponder, to discern and decide...for ourselves. A daunting task. Still, help is at hand: the SSUC Library is chock-a-block with books, written by authors who have wrestled with the very concerns which bedevil you.

So it is that we wonder why those books do not fly off the shelves, for we’re all seekers, yes? In all of 2023, 20 books were checked out from among the 800 in the collection...and we two borrowed five of those. Perplexing.

Why, several more than 20 were previewed and reviewed every couple of weeks in the congregation’s newsletter and on the Library’s webpage [[ssucedmonton.com/library](https://ssucedmonton.com/library)]: each was a Featured Book. And what a wide scope these volumes covered, from the UCC’s embrace of lesbians and gays to “Christianity for the 21st-century rationalist,” from *The Invention of the Jewish People to Death, Dying, and the Afterlife*. Two of The Great Courses’ DVD-based studies were featured, as was a novel about a church committee’s mutable search for a new preacher. And, to be sure, *Habits of the Heart*, by SSUC’s erstwhile minister, Nancy Steeves, was pointed up. And there were others.

Scattered throughout the year, and posted on that webpage, Library Learnings essays, sidebars, and “extras,” tackled book banning as “an attack on intellectual freedom,” and how religion can be “good for your health”; there were a couple of paeans to books and reading; one essay affirmed the need for community, while another scrutinized the “sermon that rocked America” [preacher Harry Emerson Fosdick’s 1922 hot-blooded homily, “Shall the Fundamentalists Win?"]. And there were others.

This year, for Advent two books that remold the Christmas story—written by favourite authors here at SSUC—were singled out and displayed on the Library shelves [“Read me!”]: Jack Spong’s *Born of a Woman: A Bishop Rethinks the Virgin Birth and the Treatment of Women*, and *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus’ Birth*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Neither was withdrawn.

But the big undertaking was the August-into-September effort to revivify the Library, to spruce the collection and touch up the reading room.

All of the Library’s holdings were inventoried—because of the pandemic, it had been awhile since the last thoroughgoing checkup. The collection, it can now be reported, includes 800 books, plus 55 DVDs/video cassettes, plus sundry magazines, essays, journals, reports, etc. All books and A/V items are recorded in several now-up-to-date catalogues: authors, titles, reference works, A/V. These listings are to be found online; as well, a hard copy of each is in the sign-out/sign-in binder atop one of the bookcases. Two “special



collections” were formed: both those having to do with 2SLGBTQIA+ matters, and those that address indigeneity, are now on their own shelves in the largest of the Library’s bookcases.

As well, to make it more inviting, less plain-Jane, the Library’s physical space was enriched: several artificial plants have been scattered about on the shelves, along with a stark-white lantern [think enlightenment], and several framed enlargements of those photographs that adorn the opening screen on the webpage—they show winsome sculptures of young readers poring over books. Why, there’s even an old “Peanuts” comic strip—Snoopy is writing a book on theology—both funny and true, affixed to the top of the reference bookcase. And what’s old is new again: a series of several American Library Association posters, which had been retired, were returned—they’re bold, colourful, and sport ever-so-appropriate quotations [“We lose ourselves in books. We find ourselves there, too.”]

And none of what you’ve now just read could have been achieved by your librarians without the unstinting support of Aynsley New: *thank you!*

Ellen & Ken Fredrick



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## EXPANSIVE SPIRITUALITY

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Two Expansive Spirituality small groups met, one face-to-face in the spring, and then one on-line in the fall. The purpose was to explore the historical background of theological development in the church. At SSUC we have worked hard to leave baggage behind and concentrate on Jesus' message that we are to love our neighbour. A second purpose was to equip the SSUC community to make the transitions needed, a transition:

- From worship service to spiritual gathering.
- From church dogma to personal experience.
- From mythical beginning to awesome creation.
- From flawless bible to human document.
- From a God who intervenes to a mystery we call love.
- From a Divine Christ to a Human Jesus.

Leadership was provided by Clair Woodbury, Harry Pauls, Marg Hetherington, Curtis Tufts, Nel Owens and Joanne VanBeek.

Submitted by Clair Woodbury and Harry Pauls

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## SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS TEAM

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The purpose of the Spiritual Gatherings Team is to support our minister, by overseeing the content, and functioning of the regular and special spiritual gatherings provided by SSUC, including ensuring arrangements for the leadership, volunteers, music, technology, and any other components that go into providing meaningful spiritual gatherings.

The Team is composed of Wade Garner, Bonnie Berg, Pam Patten, Susan Galloway, Chad Krayenhoff, Nel Ouwers, Christopher New, and Marilyn Blackall (Chair).

This past year we have arranged for Gathering Companions to assist Chris at every Gathering. We have assisted in preparing for Table Rituals and Welcoming Rituals. During Chris' vacation time, we have arranged for individuals to plan and lead Spiritual Gatherings.

SSUC has a thriving music program which includes a mixed voice adult choir with approximately 25 singers, a women's quartet, a vocal octet, and an amazing cadre of instrumentalists playing cello, viola, violin, clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, bass guitar, baritone horn, trombone, guitar and percussion. The instrumentalists offer special music (preludes, postludes), and often accompany congregational singing and choir music. The instrumental music and many of the choral pieces are arranged by 2 volunteer musicians (Pam Patten and Katie Alexander). The Gatherings are greatly enhanced by the rich, diverse music offered by our singers and instrumentalists... and this is all coordinated by Deb Mooney.

It is with gratitude for all the wonderful people in this spiritual community who say 'yes', that I submit this annual report.

Marilyn Blackall

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## LABYRINTH AT SSUC

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Our new Labyrinth was in a large part a gift from the estate of Joanne Graham with the balance coming from funds raised at previous Labyrinth walks.



Sadly, we have lost two very important folk from our labyrinth group – Rev. Dr. Charles Bidwell and Lorne Lea. Not only do we miss their earthly forms but their immeasurable wisdom, joy and passion for the Labyrinth experience.



Charles Bidwell

We try to have a walk every quarter – celebrating the solstices and equinoxes. They, sadly, are not, for the most part, well attended but folk that do come out are very grateful for the opportunity to walk in either the silence of the sacred or with soft music drifting in the background.



Lorne Lea

Walking a labyrinth is a form of active meditation which provides many benefits, and labyrinth walking is a unique spiritual experience. Meditatively walking a labyrinth can be surprisingly calming and clarifying for your thoughts. Even if you don't have a spiritual side, slow, intentional walking in a quiet place on a set path allows for a level of focus that can be difficult to find in a busy life.

We are always looking for assistance to help with our labyrinth walks. Without support, we will not be able to continue to offer this program. If you are interested in helping, please contact either Jo Nicholas or Trudy Smith through the office.

Our Labyrinth walks this year are scheduled for March 22, June 21, September 22 and December 21

Submitted by Jo Nicholas

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## CAMP DRAGONFLY

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2023 was Camp Dragonfly's sixth year of connecting, creating, and celebrating!

Dragonfly Winterfest was held in February, our annual community event bringing families and community supports together. Over seventy attendants played, reconnected, and shared snacks together in the snow. We were especially excited to be supported by The Third Place Baked Goods and Sweets, who not only offered treats for our event, but prizing for our 'Design A Dragonfly' contest. Congratulations again to 7 year old Clover who took home the top prize, and a huge thank you to everyone who participated.

Camp Dragonfly Summer was held in August, and set a new record not only for numbers of campers and volunteers, but also donations! We were thrilled to welcome 79 campers this year from over fifteen different cities, with over half of these campers being first time attendants. We were cautiously excited to be able to

offer fully in-person programming, with a mix of indoor and outdoor activities. We are so grateful for the volunteers who allowed the use of these spaces by providing extra support with sanitization. Campers participated in numerous artistic, physical, and intellectual activities. We are so grateful for the support from One Tree Psychological, Windermere Code Ninjas, Edmonton 2 Spirit Society, Queer as Shirt, Action Potential Fitness, local drag queen Gogo Fetch, and many more community members for leading our campers through some incredible workshops.

One of Camp Dragonfly’s core values is providing family and community support. This year, we welcomed Rebecca Lieb (MA, MC, CCC) and Tuval Nafshi (BSW, SHEC) to facilitate our Caregiver Support Circle. Approximately 65 participants attended to build community and connections with other caregivers and local resources, as well as discuss and seek advice on the complexities of supporting a queer child. We were excited to offer free childcare for accompanying children who were not campers, and deeply value the space we are able to hold for these families. At the end of a fabulous camp weekend, families of campers (whatever family means to them!) were invited to celebrate and enjoy our Community Dinner. With an amazing team of volunteers, we shared a delicious meal alongside stories and memories from this year’s camp. It is such a joy to watch families exchange contact information, knowing the friendships that blossom at camp offer connection throughout the full year.

Camp Dragonfly continues to offer our heartfelt gratitude to the SSUC team and community for their unwavering support. It is thanks to the support of the Outreach Committee, in-kind donations, and countless volunteer hours from members of our community that Camp Dragonfly can continue to flourish and empower families from Alberta and beyond. This year, our summer camp was especially blown away by the generosity and talent of the bakers in the SSUC community, who stepped up to provide mountains of muffins to fuel our campers! We are excited to continue building supportive spaces and relationships this year, while welcoming children and families to our Camp Dragonfly community.

Based on previous years, the following is a budget for 2024, supported by grants, donations, fees, and SSUC Outreach funds.

Submitted by Kiana Chouinard and Briggs Kennedy-Flynn

<b>2024 Dragonfly Operational Budget</b>		
<b>Dragonfly income</b>		
SSUC Outreach		5000
Donations		3000
Grants		14000
Summer Camper Fees		12000
Winterfest/Event Donations		500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>34500</b>
<b>Dragonfly Expenses</b>		
Swimming Rentals		850
Advertising, Community		450
Staffing Hours		22000
Volunteer Honoraria		3000
Program Materials		1300
Hires, Guests		3200
Food		2500
Winterfest/Event Program		1000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>34300</b>

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# EMBERWOOD

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In 2023, Emberwood worked to build a deeper relationship with SSUC and the community. Emberwood received substantial support, feedback and guidance from the board and SSUC leadership team. Their support was instrumental in developing Emberwood's presence and programming in the SSUC

building. Through this work, Emberwood was generously provided with office and gear space at SSUC. This has enabled a number of Emberwood programs to run directly out of the SSUC space and allowed Emberwood community members to start to consider SSUC the home base for Emberwood programs! Emberwood continues to offer programs.

Emberwood completed a Theory of Change course through the United Church of Canada's EDGE program, and has continued to be coached by the instructor. Through this work, ongoing conversation with community members and feedback from participants, Emberwood has done significant work to establish and deliver on short-term, mid-term, and long-term outcomes for our programs.

Emberwood continued to be active in the community, providing a number of programs and opportunities for engagement. In 2023, Emberwood offered the following:

- Winter, Summer and Fall 24 - 48 Nature Retreats (25 graduates)
- Queer Full Moon Campfires - ongoing quarterly (60 participants)
- Youth Community Contracts: WISE Grade 9 Solo (15 participants),
- SSUC Connections (Emberwood Nature Moments, Post Gathering Nature Ritual)
- Currently supporting 3 practicum students: 2 from Concordia University, 1 from MacEwan University

We continue to seek creative and meaningful ways to meet the needs of our community and look forward to some new offerings in 2024 at SSUC, including:

- Emberwood Pop-ups! Special one-off events that allow for deeper exploration and connection to self & community
- Grow Your Team - Organization Retreats
- In-service experiential offerings at other Edmonton United Churches
- Continuation of winter, summer and fall 24-hour solos
- Post Gathering SSUC Nature Rituals for all ages

*"During the 48-hour solo, I was able to tune out noise and tap into my deepest self. I felt incredibly supported, cared for, safe and welcomed. Space was held for me and my fellow participants in a way that is hard to describe. It allowed me not only to recharge, but to work through some tricky thoughts and feelings. I'm forever grateful. And I will be going again." - Lodge 2023 Participant*

Zoë Chaytors & Alison Brooks-Starks

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# CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

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**Ongoing Members:** Maureen Andre, Tanis Eaker, Berni Hardin, Donna Hodgins, Gioia Sallustio, Trudy Smith, Jacqueline Switzer

**Ad-Hoc or Special Projects Members:** Janelle Brooks, Joy Hibbard, Maggie Dawson

**Ministry:** Rev. Chris New

**Office Administrator:** Aynsley New

**Greeters and Welcome Table:** Since we have returned after Covid these positions have been coordinated by the Office Administrator. Visitors are encouraged to check out the Welcome Table where they have the option of signing our Guest Book and opportunity to get information about programming, activities and website access. Thank you to all who contribute to our welcoming activities and know that YOU are an invaluable asset each time you reach out to an unfamiliar face entering our doors or sitting next to you. We do receive consistent positive feedback about just how welcoming we are.

**Care and Concern Monitoring:** In our CCC meetings we actively ensure that persons who are ill, housebound, or unable to attend regularly get a phone call or visit to touch base. We thank all of you who assist in maintaining those connections.

**Newcomers' Lunch:** Each year we invite those who have recently found our congregation to join us for a light lunch after the service to get to know other newcomers, share stories and learn some of SSUC history.

**Memorial Service Receptions:** 6 memorial receptions were held in 2023. We are grateful to the numerous volunteers who gave of their time and empathy to support grieving family and friends in their time of need. We welcome any members of the congregation who wishes to help us carrying out this important function.

**Visitation:** With the support of many in our SSUC community, visitation to those who are housebound or in hospital occur regularly through the year. Together with our ministers, we try to remain aware of such situations needing our attention. [If you are interested in visiting](#), please chat with one of the committee members.

**Comfort Food:** CCC maintains a freezer located in the main kitchen. It houses a variety of soups, casseroles, and baked goods which are distributed to those among us who may be ill, providing care giving, or would benefit from temporary food support. We maintain a tracking system of where the food goes, and we ask that donations are logged onto the sheet on the front of the freezer. Our thanks to Maureen Andre for coordinating this service.

**Comfort Blankets:** We have many talented knitters and crocheters in our midst, who have provided us with lap or bed blankets which we hand out to those who are ill in hospital or at home. Appreciation goes to Janelle Brooks for coordinating this program. Thank you for your generosity of time and talent. In 2023 we began a new project: giving baby blankets to those delightful newcomers who brighten our services. Jacqueline Switzer is coordinating this project. When we have need for time and or material we will place a notice in the Morning Messenger

**Cards:** Cards are sent to those among us experiencing health issues, are unable to attend regularly, have recently experienced a personal loss or on a positive side have a special event to celebrate. In 2023 Donna Hodgins and Joy Hibbard sent out over 150 cards and notes.

**Blue Christmas:** This meditative gathering is for those who wish a time of quiet reflection in the busy holiday season. CCC is pleased to host the event and to provide décor and refreshment for the social time after the service.

**Heartbeats:** Thanks to Donna Hodgins and office administrator Aynsley New, life events both happy and sad within our community are tracked and posted in the “Morning Messenger”.

**Transportation:** We are grateful to those who provide rides to church functions for those who require it on occasion. Thank you to those who have offered this assistance.

**Attitude of Gratitude:** We maintain a practice of offering words of deep gratitude and appreciation to those within our community who go above and beyond in terms of leadership or quiet behind the scenes commitment to tasks and projects.

**Farewells:** When we have someone to say “Goodbye” to, we make a point of acknowledging the person and sending them off with our good wishes.

**Church Directory and Mailboxes:** We are grateful to Aynsley New for ensuring the church directory is current. Consultation with the ministerial team ensures that mailboxes are checked and maintained.

**The United Church *Broadview* Magazine:** Arrangements for SSUC members to receive *Broadview* is now being done by Aynsley in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Berni Hardin (Congregational Care Committee)

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# rites of passage and statistics 2023

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## Lives Celebrated & Honoured

Lorne Lea  
Jeannette Seniuta  
Don Sawyer  
Ken White  
Mieke Wharton  
Fred Kelley  
Joan Hardin  
Bob Hardin  
Amy Fontaine (no gathering held)

## Rituals of Belonging (Baptism)

Kai Alexander  
Sofia Anastassov  
Eric Tryhurn  
Reid Tryhurn  
Lilianna Severson  
Madilynn Severson

## Celebrations of Marriage

Andrea Rubik & Dennis Laniak  
Jonathan Mora & Megan Elliott  
Edward Chang & Virginia Huynh  
Madison Mora & Cole Sheehan

## Rituals of Belonging (Baptism)

Kai Alexander  
Sofia Anastassov  
Eric Tryhurn  
Reid Tryhurn  
Lilianna Severson  
Madilynn Severson

## By the Numbers: Report of Changes Through 2023

January 1, 2023: 368

During the Year:

Transfer to SSUC	5
Deaths	6
Transfer from SSUC	0

December 31, 2023: 367



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## SSUC SASKATOON

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We continue to meet in-person at St. Andrew's College on the third Sunday of each month. We used the Vimeo web-technology a little this year and look forward to more opportunities in 2024 of sharing two-way interactions during the Spiritual Gatherings. It was decided in the spring that we would no longer have Home Gatherings on the first Sunday of the month. However, we have left the option open for members to invite others to their home on any given Sunday.



SSUC  
Saskatoon

Many thanks to Dawn Guenther who was our representative on the Transition Committee which worked hard to ascertain our needs and wants as far as future staffing. Trisha was working with Zoë and Alison towards planning the Emberwood Landscape event this past fall which did not materialize in the end. Hopefully we can find another way of our two communities to connect in a meaningful, perhaps nature-filled way.

We started a weekly Spirit Stroll on Fridays where anyone who is available can meet at a designated location and share in a joy-filled walk with some thoughtful conversation beside the South Saskatchewan River. Response is erratic but lovely for those who can take part.

The \$5000 Outreach offered for SSUC Saskatoon was distributed among four organizations: ICM (support for the inner city community), Bridge City Bicycle Cooperative (offers a drop-in workspace, tools and supplies, and participatory bicycle maintenance education), Prairie Harm Reduction (safe injection site, and more) and NEST Saskatoon (aid for refugees). In March, SSUC SK folk donated about \$1000 from their own pockets to OUTSaskatoon's TransCare Fund. Some members donated vegetables from their gardens to ICM. On the fourth Wednesday of each month, two of our members help with preparing and serving the weekly lunch, Chop 'n Chat, for the inner city community. Members helped to prepare, deliver and serve the Christmas Feast in December which fed 85 people. Also in December, there were 98 hampers for the homeless to which SSUC SK donated a number of items. Some of our members also contributed to the QUINT Affordable Housing Toy Drive for the little ones who live in these units.

Ten participants gathered for a six-week book study on Hugh Segal's, "Bootstraps Need Boots." There were many new learnings about the beginnings and the ongoing justification for a Guaranteed Basic Income through Hugh Segal's perspective. Our time together also included guest speakers who furthered our knowledge on current possible advances in the Guaranteed Livable Income—a vital program for a just society. There is another book study on Evelyn Forget's "Basic Income for Canadians" planned for the spring of 2024.

SSUC SK has been involved in letter writing and/or in-person protesting in support of the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ persons (supporting trans rights to use whichever washrooms they feel most comfortable, opposing the SK government's new educational policies on the desired use of pronouns/names for trans students). SAM (Saskatoon Affirming Ministries) met on May 9, 2023 to discuss ways that we can be a more cohesive group. We decided to update our email list to keep one another informed of upcoming causes, plan events together (PIE, Pride week, Multi-faith Pride Gathering) and support a new initiative – the creation of a 2SLGBTQ+ multi-faith group, Fruits of the Spirit.

Trisha Little continues to fulfill the paid administrative duties needed to maintain communication, relationship and outreach within SSUC SK and with SSUC ED. She attends board meetings regularly and sends another member if she is unavailable to do so. Members who put their names forward in our Time and Task Pledge Form continue to support SSUC SK through being scheduled where there is a need (i.e.

set up at St Andrew's, Chop 'n Chat, audiovisual support). We celebrate being a part of SSUC - a vibrant, creative, talented, thoughtful and supportive community.

Respectfully submitted by Trisha Little



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## FINANCE COMMITTEE & STEWARDSHIP

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SSUC ended the 2023 fiscal year with an operating deficit of just under \$8,000, well under the \$58k deficit that had been predicted in the 2023 budget. Donations were lower by about \$12k than for 2022 and other revenue (rentals and fundraising) was similar to that in 2022. Thank you very much to our generous donors who have stuck by us through thick and thin, and to the organizers and volunteers for their fundraising efforts! Sale of Grocery cards continued through the year thanks to David Mayor, Aynsley New and the card selling volunteers Esther Oaks, Jean Tarr and myself. Thanks as well to all who have supported SSUC by buying the cards.

Total expenses for the 2023 year were lower by \$20,000 than for the '22 year, primarily due to the reduction in Personnel costs; (Nancy Steeves' retirement, and the so far incomplete implementation of proposed new staff). Increased maintenance costs during the year were offset by drawing on the \$10,000 that was to have been put into the Maintenance Reserve Fund. We were able to meet our M&S and Outreach goals. In addition to the activity detailed in the Income statement, funds were also contributed and disbursed through our special fund accounts as noted by our Treasurer in the notes to the Balance sheet in the Treasurer's report. The Maintenance Reserve Fund at year end stood at \$21,000, on its way to our \$50K goal.

A stewardship campaign that was more “intentional” than in recent years was carried out in November and resulted in a modest increase in pledged income for 2024. Notices of increased rental have been sent to most outside users of the building, and “hoped for” additional fundraising activities should increase our Other Revenue income above that for 2023.

Expenses for 2024 are expected to increase significantly in 2024. Building and yard costs and utility costs have risen, and with the proposed new staff implemented, personnel costs will rise above that for 2023. The preliminary budget estimates indicate a 2024 deficit of over \$30,000. In addition, the Board plans to draw \$35,000 from the SH invested funds to support the Emberwood 3-year matching grant commitment from 2022.

Proposals are being considered by the finance committee and the Board to draw more monies from the invested Funds to support the work of the church in a sustainable way.

The Finance Committee includes Kim Boyes as Treasurer, Ann Didluck as charitable donation secretary, Pam Boutilier who coordinates the offering counters, Brian Rothwell and me as chair. Assisting Pam with the bi-weekly donation counting were Rod Rash, Carman Dufresne, Gloria Hooke, Coryne Kermay, Cam and Sandra Graham, Sally Evanson, Lowell Christensen, Chris and Virginia Newell, and Jo Nicholas. Our thanks to each of them.

Clair Woodbury provided the review of the 2022 financials; for that we are grateful. Clair reported that based on his review, the “books” are in order.

As chair I thank them all for their diligent work, and especially thank to Kim Boyes for her huge commitment of time and effort as the church treasurer. It has been a pleasure working with them all!

The Finance committee has had 3 informal meetings in 2023 and committee members have also kept in touch by email and telephone.

In August of 2023, at a congregational meeting called for the purpose, a motion was passed to retain additional staff to help carry out new ventures in our community. With respect to the Board and the congregation’s intent to take on new ventures with added staffing, I have a deep concern for SSUC’s long term financial sustainability. Over the past twelve years our income (based mainly on donations to the church) have risen by about 7%, while over the same period our expenses have risen by about 13%. This is a concerning trend and I urge the Board and congregation to deliberately seek ways to get back onto a financially sustainable basis. The budget being proposed for the 2024 year indicates that a deficit of over \$30,000 will result.

SSUC currently holds financial investments that could be used to cover deficits in the very short term, but those will be depleted rapidly at our current level of deficit budgets. We must get back to balanced budgets to be sustainable.

As 90 % of SSUC’s income is provided by the contributions of our donors, we will all be called upon to donate more to support that new work, increase fundraising efforts and establish new and reliable tenants.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Hibbard, Chair, Finance Committee

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## CHRISTMAS ARTISAN MARKET, COOKIE SALE AND TEA ROOM

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Our first ever combination Christmas event was a great success. Thanks to the committee: Bonnie Berg, Esther Oaks, Erin Fajic, Joan McDonald, Sally Barros & Marilyn McPherson, Karen Henderson (lead on the cookie Sale/Tea Room), and Jo Nicholas (lead on the Artisan Market and Southminster-Steinhauer Refugee Craft Table).



We had a total of 22 artisans (folk who create and produce their own product and market independently), a great selection of packaged cookie offerings and a by-donation tea room. We also have to thank with grateful hearts the many artisans of Southminster-Steinhauer who kindly donated items whose sale went to our Refugee fund, and to our bakers, cookie packagers, tea and wassail servers and all of our volunteers. This was a new adventure that we will do again in 2024. This was truly evidence of a community working together to make extraordinary magic.

We raised \$4516.30 that went into local and \$1637.10 that went to our Refugee Fund.

-Jo Nicholas and Karen Henderson



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## ZATOUN

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### FAIR TRADE OLIVE OIL FROM PALESTINE

For more than ten years now the SSUC community has been a strong supporter of Zatoun olive oil and other products. Before she handed over the record books on her departure, our olive oil organizer Dawn Waring did a few calculations and found that between March 2011 and January 2023

SSUC members and friends purchased some \$50,074 worth of Zatoun products! (Extra-virgin olive oil, Za'atar seasoning, pure olive oil soap and Medjoul dates) Another \$4380 was donated through Zatoun's program to sponsor the planting and nurturing of 750 olive trees. You may see your purchase of a bottle of oil or a packet of seasoning as merely a drop (of olive oil!) in the bucket, but those drops do add up, and together make a real difference. Zatoun is the unique organization that enables us to make that connection. From their website: [www.zatoun.com](http://www.zatoun.com) :

*Zatoun is a non-profit volunteer organization registered in Canada to import and sell symbolic products from or about Palestine to create awareness for a just peace for Palestine-Israel. The formal name is "Palestine Peace Awareness Inc." because the legal name of a non-profit must reflect its purpose. Zatoun is the trade name because it speaks to people through its Arabic character and direct translation to the word "olive". When Zatoun was first conceived as a project in 2003 the word "Palestine" was hardly mentioned or heard. The reference was limited to "Palestinian" as a mysterious, voiceless and disembodied people who hovered and never touch down on land. Zatoun wanted to help change this impression by humanizing Palestinians and contextualizing Palestine. It did this in a dimension of culture, of feeling, of realness which is absent from the usual barrage of words and images which Palestinians feel has portray them unfairly for*

70 plus years. Think of Zatoun as their voice telling their story. The olive is the ideal carrier for the message as it is the universal symbol of peace, warmth, light, divinity; and it represents the land of Palestine and its indigenous people. Through its products and activities Zatoun helps to create a context based in ordinary everyday life to view and discuss the situation in Palestine-Israel. No longer is it an abstract geopolitical issue involving power elites and undefined national interest but something that Canadians can experience, learn and share.



Many thanks to Dawn Waring (who has now “retired” from her olive oil career with SSUC) for introducing us to, and maintaining, the Zatoun connection for these past years. That connection will continue and our order for products from this year’s olive crop has been placed. Make space this year on your kitchen counter for a little “peace in a bottle”. It makes a difference!

*Sherry Ann Chapman, Shelagh Parsons, John Doyle, Jeff Wink & Curtis Tufts - the SSUC Zatoun Team*

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## GROCERY CARDS

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We completed nine years in this fundraiser in October 2023.

We have sold a total of \$1,040,075 in cards and have made a total profit of \$60,783.50 which now goes into general revenue. Initially, the profit was used to help fund the kitchen renovations.

The profit for 2023 was \$5208.25 which is still down from a high of \$8775.25 back in 2017, pre-covid days.

At the end of 2023 we had \$34,425 in outstanding cards which shows as cash on hand in the financial statement. \$88,000 in new cards were purchased in 2023.

We continue to make 6% profit on Safeway/Sobeys/Freshco, 5% on PC/Superstore/No Frills, and 6% on Save on foods cards.

For those who support the program, we thank you. Those people love the program as it helps with their budgeting on an ever-increasing household expense.

We had a record amount of sales in the month of December. We would encourage anyone who has not participated in the program to give it a try. This is just an alternative way of paying for your groceries, as painful as that is. The cards can also be given out as gifts for those hard to buy for people who have everything they need.

Cards are sold every Sunday morning in the church foyer or can be purchased in the office, Tuesday to Friday.

David Mayor

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## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

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Since its beginnings, Outreach has been an essential part of the fabric of SSUC –at its heart. This past year we expressed this continuing commitment and more through:

- Welcoming a new family to Canada through our Refugee Sponsorship Committee
- Offering our Camp Dragonfly summer/winter camps for trans and gender creative kids
- Making/serving a Christmas meal for 85 people in downtown Saskatoon, providing 98 hampers, and gathering toys there
- Learning more deeply through the activities of the Moving Forward to Reconciliation committee
- Donating household items, underwear, and warm socks for adults and seniors in the inner city; and Christmas gifts for children and teens
- Providing a location and weekly volunteers for an Edmonton Food Bank depot at SSUC
- Making sandwiches for Inner City Pastoral Ministry annual lunch
- Walking or sponsoring walkers in Bissell’s Coldest Night of the Year

**We also maintained a high level of annual, reliable, financial support to several partner agencies:**

**In Saskatoon:** A total of \$5000. divided among ICM (inner city), Bridge City Bicycle Coop, Prairie Harm Reduction (safe injection site), and Nest Saskatoon (refugee support)

**In Edmonton:**

- Ambrose Place, Niginan Indigenous Housing (\$5000)
- CHEW program supporting 2SLGBTQ+ street youth & young adults (\$1500)
- SSUC Camp Dragonfly support (\$2500)
- Operation Friendship Society for inner city seniors (\$6000)
- Bissell Centre (\$6000)
- Right at Home Housing resident development projects (\$1000)
- Campus Food Bank and Edmonton Food Bank (\$650 total)
- School Assistance to Inner City High and Duggan Elementary (\$1000 each)

Through individual donations and SSUC, we maintained our goal of \$33,000. toward needs in Canada and the world through the United Church’s Mission and Service Fund. Funds were also raised for the United Church’s Global Emergency Fund.



THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR GENEROUS OUTREACH SUPPORT AND ACTIONS IN 2023. This next Outreach year will be exciting as suggestions from our “Transition feedback” and additional staffing enrich our efforts. Please join our committee to help with current endeavors and to create new possibilities for justice and compassion in 2024 and beyond.

Ruth Stewart-Verger & Chell Hemens, CNOY

Your Outreach Committee this past year was Maie Kellerman, Judy Dube, Bill Stephenson, Glenn Fredeen, myself and Chris New. Special thanks to Glenn who has retired.

Respectfully submitted, Marg Hetherington, Chairperson.

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## MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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The Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) currently has 5 members: Sherry Ann Chapman, Dale Irving, Jacob Kellerman, Lesley Mitchell and Esther Oaks. Esther and Lesley became members of M&P in April, 2023. Sherry Ann joined the committee in November, 2023.

In this year of transition, since Nancy's retirement from the team ministry at SSUC, Chris New has been designated as lead minister for our community of faith. We are so grateful for the seamless transition from team to solo ministry. Chris has met the changes and challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and total commitment to this new role. We are so fortunate to have his capable leadership. The description of the ministry position was revised, presented to our Board for approval and subsequently to The Northern Spirit Regional Office for their records.

A need for continued dedication to our online presence for SSUC and digital support for SSUC was carried out in 2023. A search and interview process took place in the fall. We are pleased to welcome Shannon Brown to our staff as the Marketing and Digital Coordinator. Watch for new developments online.

The committee met in April, June, August and October. Members of the committee conducted regular one-on-one meetings with the minister and the office administrator throughout the year. The committee proposed salary adjustments for staff. These proposals were presented to the Board for approval and are included in the 2024 proposed budget.

As part of the changes envisioned for SSUC, the implementation team created job descriptions for an Affirm Coordinator and Spiritual Community Program Coordinator. These job descriptions were presented to Northern Spirit Regional Pastoral Relations Committee and deemed to be lay ministry positions. The Implementation Team began a search to fill these two new positions. Members of the M&P committee assisted with shortlisting and interviewing applicants.

The committee reviewed and updated the Terms of Reference for M&P which had not been done since June 2003. These terms were approved by the Board and sent to the Northern Spirit Regional Pastoral Relations Committee for their records.

The M & P committee welcomes input and questions about our committee activities. We are still looking for an additional member to our committee as we anticipate adding 2 new members to our staff. We look forward to continued changes through 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Esther Oaks (eoaks@shaw.ca)  
M & P Committee Chair

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## PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TEAM

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2023 was a very busy year for your Property Maintenance Team (PMT). Our team consisted of Peter Blackall, Karen Henderson, Jacob Kellerman, and co-chairs Jo Nicholas and Sandra Hildebrand. We are so very grateful for our team members and for others who stepped up to help when asked...folk like Art Hildebrand, Sam McDougall, Joe Deunk, Andy Van Beek, Andrew and Marty Rybiak – all who made small repairs; and those who assisted with various projects like Glen Fredeen with lawn care; Marg Hetherington, Rosemarie Cunningham and Carman Dufresne for their help with storeroom and storage cabinet purges; Deb Mooney and Pam Patten for their help with the music inventory and Noah New for his assistance with inventory of the sound booth and equipment; Jacqueline Switzer for repairing our foyer banner. If we have missed anyone, our apologies! All assistance given was very much appreciated!

We are grateful for our custodian, Bruce McCarron who cares for our very busy building.

Considerable time was spent at the beginning of our tenure familiarizing ourselves with the various operating systems and background details while managing the immediate needs. Here is a recap of PM 2023/24 activities.

- Addressing planned maintenance which includes yearly inspections of elevator, fire and security systems; external window washing; spring clear of parking lot gravel; contracted cleaning of inside high windows, ceiling fans, and chandeliers, painting of high traffic areas; retrofitting fluorescent tubes on main level to LEDs; conducting an inventory and confirming sufficient insurance coverage for it is in place; purging of numerous storage rooms; replacing fixtures over front doors to give more light in that area; mowing and trimming as needed; responding to a request to review space use and related issues; working closely with our custodian to assist him in meeting expectations; creating a PM Calendar of regular needs and reminders; updating a Service Providers listing for various tasks and needs; etc.
- And the unexpected extra time and expense needed to repair the garden shed after numerous break-ins which resulted in the loss of a snow blower and trimmer; the retiring of our faithful dishwasher/sterilizer and the significant cost to purchase a new one; replacing front door threshold; replacing the high south-facing front windows due to cracks creating a safety risk; removal of the fountain and subsequent repairs to wall and floor; an upgrade to entrance and foyer doors to secure main level when only lower level in use; the replacement of all thermostats with battery-backup capabilities to avoid unnecessary resetting when furnaces are serviced or as a result of a power failure, etc.
- SSUC has now engaged a year-round contractor to maintain snow and lawn maintenance.

Jacob Kellerman has given considerable time and effort to regularly tracking our PM expenses in conjunction with our treasurer, Kim Boyes, to develop the best picture of needs for 2024 and further.

Karen Henderson has done an excellent job of managing our kitchen, especially with the headache that was the dishwasher. Karen single-handedly completed an inventory of the kitchen and encourages us all to care for this kitchen as we would our home and reminds us that we must always adhere to safe food handling practices.

Looking ahead for PM 2024:

- Peter, Jacob and Karen remain with PM for this next year. Your PMT co-chairs committed to one year so new leadership is needed.



- Volunteers for the team or for miscellaneous tasks will always be needed and greatly appreciated.
- Cost quotations are on file for parking lot curb repairs and replacement of the carpet in the large hall. Both are issues to be resolved in time.
- PM has made various recommendations to the church board regarding Space Use and all that is involved including rates, insurance coverage, use deposit, process, etc.

Due to the age of our building we expect maintenance and replacement costs to continue to grow year over year.

This year has been a learning experience in so many ways. And, we are especially grateful to Gerry Coen, who is always pleasant and kind and willing to answer questions or be a guide to many of the systems which operate in this building.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jo Nicholas and Sandra Hildebrand  
Co-Chairs Property Maintenance Team

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*The Board of Trustees is an elected body, accountable to the Congregation of Southminster-Steinhauer United Church.*

*Trustees are charged with holding the "Real" (land, building, and anything else affixed to or growing on lands and buildings, and rights relating to these) and "Personal" property (Investments, furniture and equipment} of the Congregation in trust for the United Church of Canada for the use and benefit of the Congregation. The activities of the Trustees are restricted and governed variously by public stature, the United Church's Trust of Model Deed and the lawful directions of the Church Board and the Courts of the United Church of Canada. The day-to-day operation needs of SSUC are overseen by the Church Board through use of their current/operating bank accounts and reported by the finance reports and budgets presented by the Board at our AGM. The Board of Trustees is responsible for any other major financial transactions and investments not included in the Congregations operating accounts.*

The present Board of Trustees includes:  
Ernie Boruk - Edmonton, Alberta  
Alan Brimacombe - Edmonton, Alberta  
Pam Boutilier - Edmonton, Alberta  
Brian Rothwell - Edmonton, Alberta  
Pat Seale - Edmonton, Alberta  
Rev. Christopher New - St. Albert, Alberta

The Trustees conducted four meetings this past year. The \$132,000.00 invested with Frontier Capital Funds Inc. from the sale of Southern Homes in 2016 has been cashed in at an amount of \$224,103.72. These funds were then reinvested into two GICs, one for \$132,000.00 and one for \$85,000.00 for one year at a interest rate of 5.15%. The other investment of \$100,000.00 from 2016 has been reduced by \$50,000, following the Church Board's decision to invest this into Just Like Family and \$20,000 was committed to Emberwood for 2023. The

remaining amount of \$33,931.15 remains invested with Frontier Capital Funds Inc. The \$100,000.00 funds received from SSUC Saskatoon that was invested in a Bond fund with Frontier Capital Funds Inc. has recovered from a low of approximately \$84,000.00 in August and now sits at \$90,115.82 as of December 31st, 2023.

Alan Brimacombe has been very involved with rectifying numerous problems associated with the United Church of Canada's decision to become self insured. The major problem appears to be with HUB International the firm which is administering the program for the United Church of Canada.

Two Trustees have resigned this past year: Arvid Hardin and David Mayor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank these volunteers for their commitment and service as Trustees.

Recently, Pat Seale, after a number of years, has announced her resignation as a Trustee. She has been a valuable asset to our Board and will be missed. We thank her for her service and commitment over the years.

Following about 15 plus years I have resigned as a Trustee effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and this report will be my last official duty as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Submitted by  
Ernie Boruk - Chair of the Board of Trustees

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# TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

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## Musings from the Number Tracker

As treasurer, one of the tasks that I complete is entering data into Simply Accounting. In 2023, approximately 4,000 entries were keyed in or about 333 per month. Before data entry, invoices need to be paid, distributed, and coded. As well there are various monthly reports that need to be generated and distributed, email requests answered and once per year a charitable tax return is completed and submitted to the CRA.

However, there is so much more to the story in a treasurer's report that is not reflected amidst all the numbers which actually add up to the amount of **PRICELESS**. How does one measure connections that run deep not just in Edmonton but far and wide? How does one measure dedication and creativity? How does one measure commitment to a cause of spiritual engagement and enrichment? How does one measure compassion, love, and kindness? How does one measure generosity? How does one measure heart? How does one measure community? **ALL PRICELESS.**

With gratitude,  
Kim

At the end of 2023 there was a net deficit of **-\$7,225** which was significantly less than the budgeted deficit of **-\$58,100**. This was mostly due to the Communications Coordinator position not continuing and new staff not coming on board. The Balance Sheet ending December 31, 2023 and the Income and Expense Statement for 2023 follow the written financial story. In addition to the monies shown in the 2023 Income and Expense Statement, a total of **\$318,510** was collected and **\$286,690** was disbursed through the Special Funds on the Balance Sheet. For a summary, see the Special Funds Collections and Disbursements spreadsheet attached at the end of this report.

Notes on the financial statements are as follows:

### **1. Servus Credit Union Chequing Account**

This is the main bank account of SSUC.

### **2. Servus GIC 1**

A principal amount that was invested with Canoe Financial was reinvested with Servus.

### **3. Servus GIC 2**

Interest that was earned while SH funds were invested in Canoe Financial were reinvested with Servus.

### **4. JLF (Just Like Family) Fund**

In April 2022, \$50,000 was moved from the SH Invested Fund and placed in this initiative (as per Board motion).

### **5. MVU Funds Invested**

In late 2020, \$100,000 of the MVU funds were invested by the trustees in Frontier Capital Funds (Canoe Bond Advantage Fund). **NOTE:** The value of this account on December 31, 2023 was \$90,116.

### **6. SH Invested**

This account was opened by the trustees in 2016, whereby \$232,000 of the Southern Homes proceeds were invested by the trustees in Frontier Capital Funds. \$50,000 was moved from this fund to the JLF Fund leaving a balance of \$182,000. \$132,000 was cashed in and reinvested in Servus GIC 1. **NOTE:** The value of this account on December 31, 2023 was \$33,931.

## **7. Servus Credit Union Savings Account (SSUC-Saskatoon funds)**

In July 2018, \$118,748.40 was transferred into this new account from Meewasin Valley United Church in Saskatoon.

Opening balance - \$10,907. \$106 was added (interest earned) and \$5,000 was disbursed. Closing balance \$6,013.

## **8. Grocery Cards on Hand**

This account reflects at any given moment, the cash value of grocery shopping cards that have been purchased by SSUC but not yet purchased by individuals. Every quarter, proceeds from the sales of Grocery Cards are transferred into Fundraising.

## **9. Petty Cash**

This reflects the \$200 held by SSUC – Edmonton and \$200 held by SSUC – Saskatoon for incidental expenses.

## **10. Membership in Servus**

This is an accumulation of the yearly dividends paid by Servus Credit Union on membership amounts. \$374 was added in 2023.

## **11. Patronage Rewards Payment**

This is a new feature set up by Servus in 2018. It represents a yearly fee rebate and sits in its own account on the bank statement. Fee rebate for 2023 was \$26 and \$35 was transferred to SSUC chequing account leaving a balance of 0.

## **12. Fixed Assets**

These accounts were established to record acquisitions, at cost, to date. Land set up in 1998 represents the cost of the Yellowbird land purchase. Building represents construction costs to December 2019 and includes the development cost of the lower hall, kitchen upgrade and the roof replacement in 2017. Furnishings include major upgrades. For 2021 property tax purposes, The City of Edmonton assessed SSUC's land/buildings at \$3,424,000. There was not an assessment completed in 2023 as SSUC became exempt from paying property taxes.

## **13. Investment in Furnishings**

A depreciation amount of 10% is taken annually, with a corresponding decrease in Equity in Furnishings.

## **14. Accounts Payable**

Consists of supplier payables outstanding at the end of 2023.

## **15. Special Funds**

In 2023, there was an ending balance of \$508,865. A breakdown of money received and disbursed in these funds are outlined in notes #16 through #34 as well as summarized in table form at the end of this report.

## **16. Southern Homes (SH) Proceeds**

This fund is being used to reflect amounts received (proceeds and interest earned) from the sale of the Southern Homes less projects funded to date. The balance of these funds were mostly held in a trustee investment account with Canoe Financial. Opening balance \$135,988. A correction was made to reflect \$50,000 (JLF Fund) and \$20,000 was disbursed to Emberwood. Closing balance \$165,988.

## **17. SH Invested Interest Earned**

In 2023, a large portion of Canoe Financial invested funds were cashed in. The interest earned from this invested money was \$92,104 of which \$85,000 was reinvested into Servus GIC 2 leaving a balance of \$7,104.

### **18. SH Refugee**

This fund was a Southern Homes proceeds internal project. Opening balance \$12,073. \$12,073 was rolled over into the regular refugee fund. Closing balance \$0.

### **19. MVU Funds Transferred**

This fund holds money transferred in 2018 from Meewasin Valley United Church in Saskatoon upon their closure. Opening balance \$93,683. \$106 was added (interest earned). \$7,006 was expensed (\$5,000 – St. Andrews College Boiler Replacement, \$2,006 – AV Upgrade). Closing balance \$86,784.

### **20. Maintenance Reserve Fund**

At the Board meeting of April 20, 2021, a motion was passed that a Maintenance Reserve Fund be established. Opening balance \$20,986. With extra-ordinary costs out of the maintenance budget, the regular \$5,000 was not transferred into this fund. Closing balance is \$20,986.

### **21. Refugee Fund**

Opening balance \$670. \$34,458 was added and \$29,045 was disbursed. Closing balance \$6,083.

### **22. Garneau Refugee Fund**

Opening balance \$4,130 which was rolled into the regular refugee fund. Closing balance of \$0.

### **23. Ananais Sponsorship Fund**

The money placed in this fund is held in trust for a specific sponsorship. If the sponsorship is not fulfilled, the funds will be returned.

### **24. Yemane and Siem Ghebretsadick Sponsorship Funds**

This is a directed refugee sponsorship carried over from First United Church in Ottawa, ON.

### **25. Christmas Eve Fund**

Opening balance \$0. 2023 donations for No Room in the Inn (A Safe Place) were \$4,360 and forwarded to the organization. Closing balance \$0.

### **26. Special Events/Fundraising Projects**

This account keeps track of the various special events that took place over the year. Collective opening balance in this Special Event Fund was \$3,618. (\$979 - Affirm Activities; \$33 - Memorial Expenses; \$4,057 - CCPC Funds; -\$1,626 - T-Shirts; Backpack Fundraiser - \$175).

-Affirm activities: Opening balance \$979. \$323 was collected and \$654 was disbursed. Closing balance \$648.

-Memorial Expenses: Opening balance \$33. \$563 was collected and \$596 was disbursed. Closing balance \$0.

-Global Emergency Relief: Opening balance \$0. \$2,600 was collected and disbursed. Closing balance \$0.

-Ivan Coyote Event: Opening balance \$0. \$1,500 was disbursed leaving a balance of -\$1,500.

-CCPC/Ever Wonder: Opening balance \$4,057. No activity in 2023. Closing balance \$4,057.

-Jukebox: Opening balance \$0. \$3,371 was collected and \$2,009 was expensed and \$1,362 was transferred to

Fundraising. Closing balance \$0.

-Zatoun: Opening balance \$0. There was \$12,670 worth of product purchased and \$9,439 was sold leaving a balance of -3,231.

-T-shirts: Opening balance -\$1,625. There were \$155 in sales. Closing balance -\$1,470.

-Backpack Fundraiser: Opening balance \$175. \$100 transferred into Memorial Expenses and \$75 transferred to Affirm. Closing balance \$0.

-Coldest Night of the Year: Opening balance \$0. \$380 was collected and disbursed leaving a \$0 balance.

-Designated Ambrose Place and Bissell Donations: Opening balance \$0. \$200 was collected and disbursed to appropriate organization. Ending balance \$0.

The overall ending balance in this Special Event Fund is -\$1,496. (\$648 - Affirm Activities; -\$1,500 – Ivan Coyote; \$4,057 - CCPC Funds; -\$1,470 – T-Shirts; -\$175 – Zatoun).

#### **27. Camp Dragonfly**

Opening balance \$0.00. \$3,377 was donated, \$13,195 was collected for camp registrations, \$10,000 from the Edmonton Community Foundation, \$3,955 from the Tegan and Sara Foundation, \$2,500 transferred in from the Outreach Budget and \$128 Misc. \$29,945 was expensed. Closing balance \$3,011.

#### **28. Emberwood**

Opening balance \$32,069. \$955 was donated, \$20,000 was added from SH Invested into Canoe Financial as per Board Motion in May 2022, \$25,000 was added from UCC Edge Program, \$5,150 for Waldorf Program and \$1,500 from the Bequest Fund (Board Motion 11 from April 2023). Program fees of \$10,165 were collected and \$66,095 was expensed leaving a balance of \$28,744.

#### **29. Memorial Funds**

Opening balance \$10,862. \$3,268 was collected. \$781 was expensed (Music Stands). Closing balance \$13,349.

#### **30. M. Thomas Memorial Education Fund**

Opening balance \$501. No activity in 2023. Closing balance \$501.

#### **31. Labyrinth Fund**

Opening balance \$3,586. \$128 was collected and \$0 was expensed. Closing balance \$3,714.

#### **32. Bequests**

Opening balance \$29,201. \$17,200 was collected and \$1,500 was disbursed to Emberwood. Closing balance \$44,901.

#### **33. Caring Fund**

Opening balance \$2,698. \$3,629 was contributed. \$4,215 was disbursed. Closing balance \$2,162.

#### **34. Facility Improvement Fund**

Opening balance \$2,978 (Memorial Leaves/Memorial Garden). \$450 was received. \$394 was disbursed. Closing balance \$3,034.

#### **35. Equity in Fixed Assets**

These amounts reflect the actual cost of the land, the actual cost of the building plus improvements less the principal remaining on the long-term loan and the depreciated cost of the furnishings. Reduction of the long-term indebtedness will be reflected by a corresponding equity increase.

#### **36. Equity in SH Invested Interest Earned**

This is an off set account to reflect some of the interest earned on SH Invested Funds (in addition to the interest amount in the SH Invested Interest Earned Fund).

#### **37. Givings - Sundry**

These amounts reflect donations towards donation envelopes and Broadview subscriptions.

#### **38. Non-Receiptable – Other Sources**

These amounts are for givings that have been receipted by other charities like The UCC Foundation (9,815), Canada Helps (2,700), Benefaction Canada (4,500) and The United Way (927).

**39. Fundraising Revenue**

Fundraising revenue consists of Tea Shoppe - \$4,406, Grocery Card Profit - \$5,208, Jukebox - \$1,362, Misc. (245). Grand Total \$11,221.

**40. Maintenance Reserve Expense**

\$0 was expensed in 2023.

**41. Personnel Expenses**

Ministry and support personnel expenses consist of:

	<u>Nancy</u>	<u>Chris</u>	<u>Aynsley</u>	
Salary	\$14,828	\$91,994	\$36,525	
Travel		2,056		
Education	543	3,300		
Telephone	81	500		
Benefits	<u>3,948</u>	<u>21,144</u>	<u>9,425</u>	
	<b>\$19,400</b>	<b>\$119,806</b>	<b>\$45,950</b>	<b>Total = \$185,156</b>

Benefits include employer portions of CPP, EI, and the United Church benefit package.

**42. Mission and Service Expense**

For 2023, the amount budgeted was \$33,000. Contributions that were made by donors and specifically designated to M&S for 2023 were \$29,575. M&S was topped up (3,425) from Local Revenue to meet the \$33,000 budgeted.



Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Boyes, Treasurer

If you have any questions regarding the Treasurers' Report, Income and Expense Statement for 2023, or the Balance Sheet ending December 31, 2023, please contact Kim via email: [tzu-touch@shaw.ca](mailto:tzu-touch@shaw.ca)

**Southminster-Steinhauer United Church  
Comparative Balance Sheet 2023**

	As at Dec 31, 2023	As at Dec 31, 2022	Notes
<b>ASSETS:</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Servus Chequing Account	228,122	223,972	1
Servus GIC 1	132,000	0	2
Servus GIC 2	85,000	0	3
JLF (Just Like Family) Invested	50,000	50,000	4
MVU Funds Invested	100,000	100,000	5
SH Funds Invested	30,000	182,000	6
Servus Savings Account	6,013	10,907	7
Grocery Cards on Hand	35,081	40,172	8
Petty Cash	400	400	9
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>666,616</b>	<b>607,451</b>	
GST Reimbursable	1,519	1,054	
Memberships	7,191	6,818	10
Patronage Payment	0	9	11
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>675,326</b>	<b>615,332</b>	
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			12
Investment in Land	288,589	288,589	
Investment in Building	1,879,357	1,879,357	
Investment in Furnishings	49,255	54,728	13
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2,217,201</b>	<b>2,222,674</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,892,827</b>	<b>\$2,838,006</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>			
Accounts Payable	0	0	14
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>SPECIAL FUNDS</b>			15
SH Proceeds	165,988	185,988	16
SH Invested Interest Earned	7,104	0	17
SH Refugee	0	12,073	18
MVU Funds Transferred	86,784	93,684	19
Maintenance Reserve Fund	20,986	20,986	20
Refugee Fund	6,083	670	21
Garneau Refugee Fund	0	4,130	22
Ananais Sponsorship Fund	40,000	40,000	23
Ghebretsadick Sponsorship Fund	34,000	34,000	24
Christmas Eve Fund	0	0	25
Special Events	-1,496	3,619	26
Camp Dragonfly	3,011	0	27



Emberwood		28,743		32,069		<b>28</b>
Memorial Funds		13,349		10,682		<b>29</b>
		<b>As at</b>		<b>As at</b>		
		<b>Dec 31,</b>		<b>Dec 31,</b>		
		<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>		<b>Notes</b>
M. Thomas Fund		501		501		<b>30</b>
Labyrinth Fund		3,714		3,586		<b>31</b>
Bequests		44,902		29,201		<b>32</b>
Caring Fund		2,162		2,698		<b>33</b>
Facility Improvement Fund		3,034		2,978		<b>34</b>
<b>Total Specials Funds</b>		<b>458,865</b>		<b>477,045</b>		
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>458,865</b>		<b>477,045</b>		
<b>EQUITY AND SURPLUS:</b>						
<b>EQUITY IN FIXED ASSETS</b>						<b>35</b>
Equity in Land		288,589		288,589		
Equity in Building		1,883,559		1,883,559		
Equity in Furnishings		49,255		54,728		
<b>Total Equity Fixed Assets</b>		<b>2,221,403</b>		<b>2,226,876</b>		
<b>EQUITY IN SERVUS MEMBERSHIP</b>		7,191		6,818		
<b>EQUITY IN SERVUS PATRONAGE</b>		125		99		
<b>EQUITY IN SH INVESTED INTEREST</b>		85,000		0		<b>36</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>						
Previous Years' Surplus		127,168		143,631		
Current Operations		-7,225		-16,463		
Accumulated Surplus		120,243		127,168		
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND SURPLUS</b>		<b>2,433,962</b>		<b>2,360,961</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		<b>\$2,892,827</b>		<b>\$2,838,006</b>		

**\*The notes in the Treasurer's Report form an integral part of this statement.**

**Southminster-Steinhauer United Church  
Comparative Income and Expense Statement - 2023**

	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>REVENUE:</b>				
<b>GIVINGS</b>				
Local	360,613		376,672	
Loose	1,364		751	
M&S	29,575		30,704	
Sundry	40		365	<b>37</b>
Non-Rec. Other	17,942		13,191	<b>38</b>
<b>TOTAL GIVINGS</b>	<b>409,534</b>	<b>406,200</b>	<b>421,683</b>	
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>				
Fundraising	11,222	20,000	24,036	<b>39</b>
Sundry	0		30	
Facility Rental	33,135	28,000	20,507	
<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE</b>	<b>44,357</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>44,573</b>	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>453,891</b>	<b>454,200</b>	<b>466,256</b>	
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>				
<b>Office Expense</b>				
Furniture & Equipment	5,571	2,000	244	
Photocopier Lease & Printing	5,166	5,300	5,166	
Supplies	2,119	1,500	1,822	
Telephone & Internet	2,750	3,300	2,781	
Sundry/Computer	7,571	6,800	3,655	
SSUC Sask. Admin.	3,563	5,000	2,820	
<b>Office Expenses Subtotal</b>	<b>26,740</b>	<b>23,900</b>	<b>16,488</b>	
Bank and Payroll Charges	1,067	1,500	1,273	
Paypal Fees	336	500	286	
<b>Utilities</b>				
Power	15,947	12,000	11,064	
Water & Sewage	7,008	3,500	2,936	
Natural Gas	4,947	7,000	6,476	
<b>Utilities Subtotal</b>	<b>27,902</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>20,476</b>	
<b>Property Maintenance Expense</b>				
Insurance	10,384	9,000	11,585	
Maintenance	78,660	44,000	32,585	
Maintenance Reserve	0	5,000	10,000	<b>40</b>
<b>Property Maintenance Subtotal</b>	<b>89,044</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>54,170</b>	
Board Expense	9,854	10,000	0	
Trustees	2	300	0	
Finance Committee	1,420	700	300	
Ministry & Personnel	0	100	0	

Transition Team Expense	6,173		6,000		0	
Archives	0		100		0	
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>162,538</b>		<b>123,600</b>		<b>92,993</b>	
	<b>2023 Actual</b>		<b>2023 Budget</b>		<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>PERSONNEL EXPENSES</b>						<b>41</b>
Minister 1	19,400		20,000		115,080	
Minister 2	119,806		120,000		115,735	
Admin Asst	45,950		46,000		43,649	
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE</b>	<b>185,156</b>		<b>186,000</b>		<b>274,464</b>	
New Staff	0		70,000		0	
<b>COMMUNITY PROGRAM</b>						
Spiritual Gatherings	5,744		4,500		4,447	
Congregational Care	718		500		317	
Website/Livest	2,124		3,500		373	
Publicity	334		4,000		1,729	
Broadview	2,225		2,500		2,300	
Earth Charter	0		150		0	
Social	0		100		0	
Library	374		500		251	
TRC Response	0		100		0	
Commun. Coordinator	4,250		14,400		12,600	
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM</b>	<b>15,769</b>		<b>30,150</b>		<b>20,017</b>	
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b>						
Adult Programming	0		100		0	
Midweek Programming	4,846		5,000		5,117	
Youth Programming	0		2,000		425	
kidSPIRIT	5,749		5,000		4,255	
Summer Programs	787		750		0	
Affirm Initiatives	245		500		193	
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b>	<b>11,627</b>		<b>13,350</b>		<b>9,990</b>	
<b>OUTREACH PROGRAM</b>						
Bissell	6,000		6,000		6,000	
SW Community Needs/Families Budget	1,000		3,000		3,330	
Operation Friendship	6,000		6,000		6,000	
Inner City High/Duggan Elementary	2,000		2,000		2,000	
Social Justice/KAIROS	200		200		200	
Food Assistance	650		650		400	
Ambrose Place	5,000		5,000		5,000	
Camp Dragonfly	2,500		5,000		2,993	
CHEW Project	1,500		1,500		1,000	
Indigenous Issues/MFTR	700		2,000		0	
Right At Home Welcome Kits	1,000		1,000		1,000	

New Initiative TBD	2,500		0		0	
SSUC-SK Outreach	5,000		5,000		3,750	
ICPM Lunch	555		500		497	
Make Tax Time Pay	0		150		0	
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>34,605</b>		<b>38,000</b>		<b>32,170</b>	
M&S	33,000		33,000		33,000	<b>42</b>
<b>TOTAL OUTREACH PROGRAM</b>	<b>67,605</b>				<b>65,170</b>	
	<b>2023 Actual</b>		<b>2023 Budget</b>		<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>WIDER CHURCH</b> -Regional Assessment	18,246		18,100		18,085	
Travel/Lodging	175		0		0	
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>461,116</b>		<b>512,300</b>		<b>482,719</b>	
<b>NET INCOME/DEFICIT</b>	<b>-7,225</b>		<b>-58,100</b>		<b>-16,463</b>	

**\*The notes in the Treasurer’s Report form an integral part of this statement.**

## SSUC Special Funds - Collections and Disbursements SSUC 2023

<u>Description</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Collected Receiptable</u>	<u>Collected Unreceiptable</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>	
SH Proceeds	135,988		50,000	20,000	165,988	
SH Invested Interest Earned	0		92,104	85,000	7,104.00	Note 1
SH Refugee	12,073			12,073	0.00	Note 2
MVU Funds Transferred	93,684		106	7,006	86,784.00	
Maintenance Reserve Fund	20,986				20,986.00	
JLF (Just Like Family) Fund	50,000				50,000.00	
Refugee Fund	670	14,394	20,064	29,045	6,083.00	
Garneau Refugee Fund	4,130			4,130	0.00	Note 3
Ananais Sponsorship Fund	40,000				40,000.00	
Yemane Ghebretsadick Fund	17,000				17,000.00	
Siem Ghebretsadick Fund	17,000				17,000.00	
No Room in the Inn	0	3,752	608	4,360	0.00	
Affirm Activities	979		323	654	648.00	
Memorial Expenses	33		563	596	0.00	
Global Emergency Relief	0	2,600		2,600	0.00	
Ivan Coyote Event	0			1,500	1,500.00	
Jukebox Event	0		3,371	3,371	0.00	
Zatoun	0		9,439	12,670	3,231.00	
Ever Wonder/CCPC	4,057				4,057.00	
T-Shirts	-		155		-	
	1,625				1,470.00	
Backpack Fundraiser	175			175	0.00	Note 4
CNOY	0	380		380	0.00	
Designated Ambrose Place	0	150		150	0.00	
Designated Bissell donation	0	50		50	0.00	
Camp Dragonfly	0	3,377	29,579	29,945	3,011.00	
Emberwood	32,069	955	61,815	66,095	28,744.00	
Memorial Funds	10,862	3,188	80	781	13,349.00	
M. Thomas Memorial Fund	501				501.00	

Labyrinth	3,586	60	68		3,714.00
Bequests	29,201	17,200		1,500	44,901.00
Caring Fund	2,698	3,679		4,215	2,162.00
Facility Improvement	2,978		450	394	3,034.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 477,045.00</b>	<b>\$ 49,785.00</b>	<b>\$ 268,725.00</b>	<b>\$ 286,690.00</b>	<b>\$ 508,865.00</b>

Note 1: SH Invested Funds Total  
Interest Earned

Note 2: Rolled over into regular  
refugee fund

Note 3: Rolled over into regular  
refugee fund

Note 4: 75 rolled over into Affirm  
and 100 rolled over into  
Memorial Expenses

## Proposed Budget for 2024

2023 Budget			Proposed 2024 Budget	
	Totals		Amount	Subtotals
<b>REVENUE</b>		<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>GIVINGS</b>		<b>GIVINGS</b>		
209,200		Pledges	246000	
125,000		PAR	98000	
50,000		General	50000	
10,000		Other & N/R	12000	
10,000		Sundry	1000	
2,000		Refugee	2000	
<b>TOTAL GIVINGS</b>	404,200	<b>TOTAL GIVINGS</b>	409000	
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>		<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>		
0		Interest	0	
15,000		Fundraising	15000	
0		Sundry	0	
20,000		Facility Rental	35000	
<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE</b>	35,000	<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE</b>	50000	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>439,200</b>	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	459000	
		Draw from SH for E'wood	35000	
		Total available	<b>494000</b>	
		<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>		<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>		
2,000		Furniture & Equipment	3000	
5,300		Photocopier Lease, Usage		
1,500		Cost	5300	
3,300		Supplies	2200	
10,000		Telephone/Internet	3500	
6,000		Sundry	5000	
1,400		SSUC-SK Admin. Contract	4000	
29,500		SSUC-SK St. Andrews Rental	1900	
		Office Expenses Sub-Total		24900
1,500		Bank Charges	1300	
500		PayPal Fees	350	
0		Taxes	0	
9,000		Insurance	10500	

43,400		Maintenance	60000	(defer carpet to '25)
6,000		Power	7800	
6,200		Water & Sewage	7200	
6,000		Natural Gas	5000	
		Waste Disposal	900	
	18,200	Utility Sub-Total		20900
10,000		Board Expense	500	
300		Trustees	200	
700		Finance Committee	1500	
100		Ministry & Personnel	250	
100		Archives	100	
10,000		Maintenance Reserve	10000	
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>123,300</b>	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>130500</b>	
<b>PERSONNEL EXPENSES</b>		<b>PERSONNEL EXPENSES</b>		
60,000		Minister 1	126000	
		Admin. Assistant	47400	
		Animator	41000	part year
120,000		Affirm/Outreach Coord.	6000	part year
		Curriculum Writer	2500	
		Emberwood	35000	
46,000		Communication Coordinator	14400	
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL EXP</b>	<b>226,000</b>	<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE</b>	<b>272300</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY PROGRAM</b>		<b>COMMUNITY PROGRAM</b>		
4,500		Spiritual Gatherings & Music	8000	
14,400		Communications Coordination	0	
500		Congregational Care	800	
3,500		Website & Live-streaming	2500	
4,000		Publicity	4000	
2,500		Broadview	2500	
150		Earth Charter	100	
100		Social	100	
100		TRC Response Group	0	
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM</b>	<b>29,750</b>	<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM</b>	<b>18000</b>	
<b>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b>		<b>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b>		
100		Adult/Midweek Programming	0	
6,000		Midweek Programming	6500	
2,000		Youth Prog. & Leader Contract	0	
		Summer Programs	1000	
2,000		kidSPIRIT all Year	1500	
3,000		Leader contract	4500	



500		Affirm Initiatives	1000	
500		Library	400	
<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b>	14,100	<b>TOTAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</b>	14900	
<b>OUTREACH PROGRAM</b>		<b>OUTREACH PROGRAM</b>		
1500		New Initiative TBD	1000	
6,000		Bissell Centre	6000	
6,000		operation Friendship	6000	
500		ICPM Lunch	500	
450		Campus Food Bank	650	
200		Edmonton Foodbank	650	
1,000		Inner City High School	1000	
1,000		Duggan Elementary	1000	
1,500		Indigenous Initiatives	1500	
500		MFTR Committee	500	
5,000		Ambrose Place	5000	
1,000		Right at Home Resident Support	1000	
3,000		Families/SW Needs	1000	
150		Make Tax Time Pay	0	
200		Kairos	200	
5,000		Camp Dragonfly	5000	
1,500		Community Health Wellness	1500	
5,000		SSUC Saskatoon Outreach	5000	
4,000		Refugee	0	
2,500		RAHH Legal Advice	2500	
46000		Total Edm. & Sask. Outreach	40000	
33000		Mission and Service	33000	33000
79000	79000	<b>Total Outreach Program</b>	73000	
18100	18100	UCC National and Region	22000	22000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>490,250</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	530700	
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-51,050</b>	<b>NET INCOME</b>	-36700	

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

## MARCH 5, 2023

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### 1.0 Welcome and Call to Order

Rebecca Aiken-Bailey called to order at 12:11.

### 2.0 Appointments for this meeting:

**MOTION: that the following appointments be made for this AGM:**

Rebecca Aiken-Bailey as Chair;

Meredith Krayenhoff as Secretary;

Pat Seale as Parliamentarian;

Sherry Ann Chapman and Clair Woodbury as Guardians

**Moved:** Rebecca Aiken-Bailey

**Seconded:** Peter Blackall                      Carried

### 3.0 Making use of our Guardians:

*Chair: As we identify our community as one that values respect, inclusion, compassion and mutuality, our guardians help us to live these values within our meeting. Just as the parliamentarian helps us to navigate the business procedures of meetings, the guardians attend to the group process and help us stay focused on our intention. A guardian can signal a pause at any time. After this pause, the guardian states the reason for the pause, encouraging us to refocus our intention and conversation. Anyone may ask the guardian for a pause at any time.*

*Guardians: We come to this space with our unique life experiences, cultural values and world views. Although we are different, we seek to create a space where all can feel safe and respected. We commit to being an affirming community that grows in depth of relationship with each other.*

**All: In this spirit, we will speak and act with respect, patience, open-mindedness, humility, seeing and seeking the best in ourselves and each other.**

### 4.0 Extension of Voting Privileges:

**MOTION: that in addition to persons of full membership in our congregation, we invite regular adherents, friends and supporters of SSUC to vote at this meeting in all matters being considered, except matters concerning a change in pastoral relations or such financial matters as need regional approval (of which there are none on our agenda).**

**Moved:** Janet Campbell

**Seconded:** Sandra Hildebrand                      Carried

### 5.0 Approval of Agenda

**MOTION: That the agenda be approved as published.**

**Moved:** Bill Hibbard

**Seconded:** Trudy Smith                              Carried

**6.0 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of March 27, 2022 (Annual Reports for 2022, page 33)**

**MOTION: That the minutes of the SSUC Annual General Meeting of March 27, 2022 be approved.**

**Moved:** Iris Stanley

**Seconded:** Lois Evans                              Carried

**7.0** Acceptance of Annual Reports for 2022 (Annual Reports for 2022, pages 3-22, Addendum p.37-42) with a presentation by members of the SSUC Board and Emberwood.

Margaret Hetherington made a presentation about Emberwood's history and development. Chris shared Emberwood's visibility, relevance and impact. Kim Boyes shared a testimonial. Zoë Chaytors and Alison Brooks-Starks gave an update on Emberwood's work. Questions were taken: there is a request for accessibility considerations for seniors; office hours at the church will be on Thursdays.

**MOTION: That the Annual Reports for 2022 (pages 3-22, Addendum p.37-42) be accepted.**

**Moved:** Sandra Hildebrand

**Seconded:** Joyce Madsen Carried

**8.0** Treasurer's Report for 2022 (page 23, Annual Report) - Kim Boyes

Kim presented a report and took questions. Discussion around Just Like Family (JLF) fund, and importance of clear communication of investments with the congregation. Action: board will invite Carla Leon from JLF to speak with the Board/Trustees/congregation at a future date.

**MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report for 2022 be accepted as presented.**

**Moved:** Douglas MacLaine Pont

**Seconded:** Lynne Wolford Carried

**9.0** Appointment of Reviewer of 2022 Financial Statements

**MOTION: That Clair Woodbury be appointed to conduct a review of the 2022 Financial Statements, when available.**

**Moved:** Bill Hibbard

**Seconded:** Iris Stanley Carried

**10.0** Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2023 (Addendum p. 43-45) - Bill Hibbard

Bill presented a budget and took questions. Request to allocate some of Indigenous Initiatives funds to donate to Indspire. The Outreach committee will follow up in regards to this.

**MOTION: that the 2023 Proposed Budget (Addendum p.43-45) be accepted as presented.**

**Moved:** Bill Hibbard

**Seconded:** Sandra Lockhart Carried

**11.0** Approval of Proposed 2023-2024 SSUC Board (Addendum p. 42)

Maie Kellerman volunteered as vice chair of the board.

**MOTION: That the proposed board (Addendum p. 42, with Maie Kellerman added as vice chair) for 2023-2024 be approved.**

**Moved:** Anne McCracken

**Seconded:** Sherry Ann Chapman Carried

**12.0** Motions for Board Empowerment

**MOTION: That the SSUC Board be empowered to act on behalf of the congregation and appoint members to serve in vacancies that may exist or arise during the year until the next annual general meeting.**

**Moved:** Warren Fisher

**Seconded:** Gerry Coen Carried

**13.0** Members of the SSUC Board of Trustees

**MOTION A: That the resignations of Nancy Steeves and Arvid Hardin from the SSUC Board of Trustees be accepted with our appreciation for their term of service.**

**Moved:** Sherry Ann Chapman

**Seconded:** Pam Boutilier Carried

**MOTION B: That Pam Boutilier, Art Hildebrand, and Brian Rothwell be appointed to the SSUC Board of Trustees, joining continuing members Ernie Boruk, Alan Brimacombe, Christopher New and Pat Seale.**

**Moved:** Bill Hibbard

**Seconded:** Rosemarie Cunningham    Carried

**14.0** A Moment of Appreciation - Christopher New

- a. Joanne Van Beek (Board Chair)
- b. Andrew Redeker (Property Maintenance Committee)
- c. Lynne Wolford (Ministry and Personnel Committee)
- d. Continuing Board Members, Supporters and participants

**15.0** Motion for Adjournment

**Adjournment:** 2:02 p.m. by Rebecca Aiken-Bailey

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# SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

## AUGUST 20, 2023

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1. Call to Order  
Rebecca Aiken-Bailey called the Special Congregational Meeting to order at 11:35 AM.
2. ZOOM Orientation and Instructions for Asking Questions.  
Christopher New explained to those folks who were online the procedures that they needed to follow to leave questions or comments, how to raise hands and vote during the meeting.
3. Appointments for this Meeting:  
**08-20-2023-1: That the following appointments be made for this Meeting.**  
**Rebecca Aiken-Bailey (Chair of Board) as Chairperson**  
**Janet Campbell as Secretary.**  
**Dale Irving as Parliamentarian.**  
**Ruth Stewart-Verger as Guardian.**  
Moved by Rebecca Aiken-Bailey. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maie Kellerman. Motion Carried. 32 in Favor
4. Making Use of our Guardian  
The chair and guardian explained the role of the guardian, after which we all responded:  
*In this spirit, we will speak and act with respect, patience, open-mindedness, humility, seeing and seeking the best in ourselves and each other.*
5. Extension of Voting Privileges  
**08-20-2023-2: SSUC invites all regular adherents, friends, and supporters of SSUC to vote at this meeting in all matters being considered.**  
Moved by Maie Kellerman. Seconded by Berni Hardin. Approved with 2 opposed and 5 abs.  
  
A question was raised regarding why this was not a “SSUC Members Only” vote. See *The Manual B.3.7.2 When Adherents May Vote [...a congregation’s] decision may allow voting rights on all matters or only specified matters.*
6. Transition Team Report Recommendations:  
A. Questions and Clarifications  
Questions and Conversation took place around these areas:
  - breaking the recommendations into different parts
  - Whether any of the positions would require training in
  - What it might mean to pass this motion “in principle”.  
**Motion 08-20-2023-3: That the SSUC Congregation approve in principle the recommendations contained in the Transition Teams Report and the board be authorized to create and Implementation Team to begin the work of enacting the recommendations.**  
Moved by Sandra Lockhart. Seconded by Amy Loewan.  
  
**Motion to Amend 08-20-2023-3a: That the motion be split into two:**  
**That the SSUC Congregation approve in principle the recommendations contained in the Transition Team Report; and**  
**That the board be authorized to create an implementation team to begin the work of enacting the Transition Team recommendations.**

Moved by Esther Oaks. Seconded by Margaret Powell. 49 For. 29 Opp. 6 Ab. Carried.

**Motion 08-20-2023-4a: Amended Motion: That the SSUC Congregation approve in principle the recommendations contained in the Transition Team Report.**

Moved by Trudy Smith. Seconded by Esther Oaks. 63 For. 2 Opp. 2 Abs. Carried

**Motion 08-20-2023-4b: That the board be authorized to create an implementation team to begin the work of enacting the Transition Team recommendations.**

Moved by Jacob Kellerman. Seconded by Anne McCracken. 56 For. 6 Opp. 4 Abs. Carried.

7. Rebecca thanked all who worked on the Transition Team for their amazing work.

8. Adjournment.

**Moved by Bill Hibbard. Carried**

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# AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## MARCH 10, 2024

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1. Welcome and Call to Order – Rebecca Aiken-Bailey
2. Zoom Orientation and Instructions for asking questions, comments, voting (Tech Team)
3. Appointments for this Meeting  
**Motion: That the following appointments be made for this AGM:**
  - Rebecca Aiken-Bailey as Chair;**
  - Tori Bardell, as Secretary;**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ as Parliamentarian;**
  - \_\_\_\_\_ as Guardians**
4. Making Use of our Guardians  
*Chair: As we are a community that values respect, inclusion, compassion, and mutuality, our guardians help us to live these values within our meeting by attending to the group process and helping us stay focused on our intention. A guardian can signal a pause at any time with a sound. After this pause, the guardian states the reason for the pause, encouraging us to refocus our intention and conversation. Anyone may ask the guardian for a pause at any time.*  
*Guardian: We come to this space with our unique life experiences, cultural values, and world views. Although we are different, we seek to create a space where all can feel safe and respected. We commit to being an affirming community that grows in depth of relationship with each other.*  
**All: In this spirit, we will speak and act with respect, patience, open-mindedness, humility, seeing, and seeking the best in ourselves and each other.**
5. Extension of Voting Privileges  
**Motion: SSUC invites all regular adherents, friends, and supporters of SSUC to vote at this meeting in all matters being considered.**
6. Approval of Agenda  
**Motion: That the agenda as published be approved.**
7. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of March 5, 2023 (Annual Reports for 2023, page 42)  
**Motion: That the minutes of the SSUC Annual General Meeting of March 5, 2023 be approved.**
8. Approval of the Minutes of the SSUC Special Congregational Meeting of August 20, 2023 (Annual Reports for 2023, page 45)  
**Motion: That the minutes of the SSUC Special Congregational Meeting of August 20, 2023 be approved.**
9. Discussion and/or questions in regards to the Annual Reports for 2023 (Annual Reports for 2023, pages 3 to 26)
10. Treasurer’s Report for 2023 (Annual Reports for 2023, p. 27) – Kim Boyes  
**Discussion**  
**Motion: That the Treasurer’s Report for 2023 be accepted as presented.**

11. Appointment of Reviewer of 2023 Financial Statements (Bill)  
**Motion: That the Board be authorized to appoint an individual to conduct a review of the 2023 Financial Statements, when available.**
  
12. Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2024 (Annual Reports for 2023, p. 39) - Bill Hibbard  
**Discussion**  
**Motion: That the 2024 Proposed Budget be adopted as presented.**
  
13. Approval of Proposed 2024-2025 SSUC Board  
**Motion: That the proposed board for 2024-2025 be approved.**
  
14. Members of the SSUC Board of Trustees:
  - a. **Motion: That the resignations of Ernie Boruk and Pat Seale from the SSUC Board of Trustees be accepted with our appreciation for their term of service.**
  
  - b. **Motion: That Heidi Stenabaugh and Ron Henderson be appointed to the SSUC Board of Trustees, joining continuing members, Pam Boutilier, Alan Brimacombe, Brian Rothwell, and Christopher New.**
  
15. Motions for Board Empowerment  
**Motion: That the SSUC Board be empowered to act on behalf of the congregation and appoint members to serve in vacancies that may exist or arise during the year until the next annual general meeting.**
  
16. A Moment of Appreciation – Christopher New
  - a. Rebecca Aiken (Board Chair)
  - b. Janet Campbell, Affirm Team Chair;
  - c. Sandra Hildebrand and Jo Nicholas, Property Maintenance Team Co-Chairs;
  - d. Joyce Madsen, Transition and Implementation Team Chair (ongoing for a wee bit longer)
  - e. Supporters and participants
  
17. Motion for Adjournment  
**Motion: That this Annual General Meeting of SSUC be adjourned.**