



Annual Reports for the Year 2025, Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

10740 - 19 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6J 6W9

780-435-2028 ✦ info@ssucedmonton.com ✦ www.SSUCedmonton.com

Southminster–Steinhauer Annual Report for 2025

Table of Contents

Report	Page
Ministry Lead	3
SSUC’s Vision and Values	4
The Board	5
Digital Communications	8
Education and Learning:	
kidSPIRIT	17
YouthSPACE.....	18
Evergreens	19
Tuesday Connection	22
Moving Forward to Reconciliation	22
“Welcome to the Mat” Yoga	24
Library	25
Spiritual Gatherings Team	26
Rites of Passage	27
Camp Dragonfly	28
Emberwood	29
Congregational Care Committee	30
SSUC Saskatoon	31
Outreach Committee.....	33
Earth Charter	34
Ministry & Personnel.....	35
Refugee Task Group	35
Property Maintenance Team.....	37
Board of Trustees	38
Finance Committee	40
Proposed Operating Budget Narrative	41
Proposed 2026 Budget	42
Property and Maintenance Team Budget Narrative	45
Property and Maintenance 2026 Budget	47
Treasurer’s Report.....	48
Comparative Balance Sheet.....	53
Comparative Income & Expense Statement	55
Special Funds – Collections and Disbursements	58
Annual General Meeting Minutes, March 16, 2025.....	59
Agenda, Annual General Meeting, Sunday, March 15, 2026	62

MINISTRY TEAM LEAD REPORT

2025 was a year of settling into ourselves: of deepening the identity we've been shaping and celebrating the community we continue to become. After the transitions of 2023, this year felt like a year teaching, growing, and living moments that reminded us why SSUC exists: to nurture meaning, justice, belonging, and joy, among many others! I'm grateful for every person who helped weave this year's story.

A Year of Shared Life

Our calendar was full because our values kept finding expression in new and familiar ways. In marking the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, we dedicated two gatherings to honouring our roots and imagining the future of progressive spirituality. A highlight was the naming of the Mary Thomas Library, a gesture of gratitude and legacy that felt exactly right for who we are.



Throughout the year, we gathered around food, story, learning, and service. A "Tastes and Tales" evening blended hospitality with purpose as we raised support for our refugee work. We explored expansive spiritual practice in an online retreat, and many of us were inspired by the UCC Moderator's workshop on "Flourishing". Our book study of "Religion is a Queer Thing" sparked thoughtful conversation and helped us continue our commitment to queer-affirming theology and affirming ritual and practice. And of course, the beloved rhythms of community life continued—our Thrifty Treasures sale, a vibrant summer camp, the grounding "Together Not Alone" retreat, a lively fall dinner and auction, and a festive Christmas Market, all of which filled our space and our bodies with warmth of community.



Gatherings That Grounded Us

Our Sunday gatherings carried us through themes that spoke to real human experience: navigating the winter blues, listening for the wisdom of the universe, learning from the Seven Sacred Teachings, transforming loneliness into solitude, honouring everyday rituals, and expanding our expansive vocabulary. It's always my hope that these themes help us stay connected to ourselves, our deepening journeys, and each other in honest, accessible ways.



We also marked the moments that shape our communal life: welcoming new friends into belonging, celebrating Trans Parent Day, wearing pink in solidarity, honouring Indigenous Peoples Day, and celebrating the New Year, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Blessing backpacks at the start of the school year, gathering outdoors for a summer picnic, and the joyful return of our Animal Blessings gathering reminded us how much delight and tenderness can be found in simple everyday rituals and gatherings.

And as always, we held space for grief and remembrance. This year, we honoured the lives of Janet Bates, Lila Finn Cunningham, Warren Fisher, Arvid Hardin, Jim Robertson, Joyce Williamson, Iris Stanley, Janelle Brooks, and Charles Dube. And as is our custom, we honoured all those who light our path in a fall gathering, and newly gave ourselves opportunity to remember and mourn in our Trans Day of Remembrance gathering. The lives and stories of all those we love remain part of our fabric, and we carry their memory with care.



Our Ministry Team



We work to build on our strengths and always seek to grow and improve together. My gratitude goes to Aynsley, Dara, Joseph, Wes, Daisy, Ariane, Fergus, Jude, Kiana and Briggs. Each brings creativity, compassion, and a deep sense of purpose to their work. Together, they help us live out our mission with integrity and joy. Their collaboration, partnership, and commitment have shaped the year in ways both visible and quietly transformative.

The Privilege of Shared Life

As always, one of the greatest privileges of this role is the trust you place in me—through conversations, counsel, shared grief, shared laughter, and the everyday moments that knit us together. These relationships are the heart of ministry for me. I continued my own learning this year through study and reflection, especially in areas of expansive spiritual practice, religious trauma and spiritual coaching. This learning continues to shape how we gather, how we teach, and how we imagine the future of expansive, value-based spiritual community.

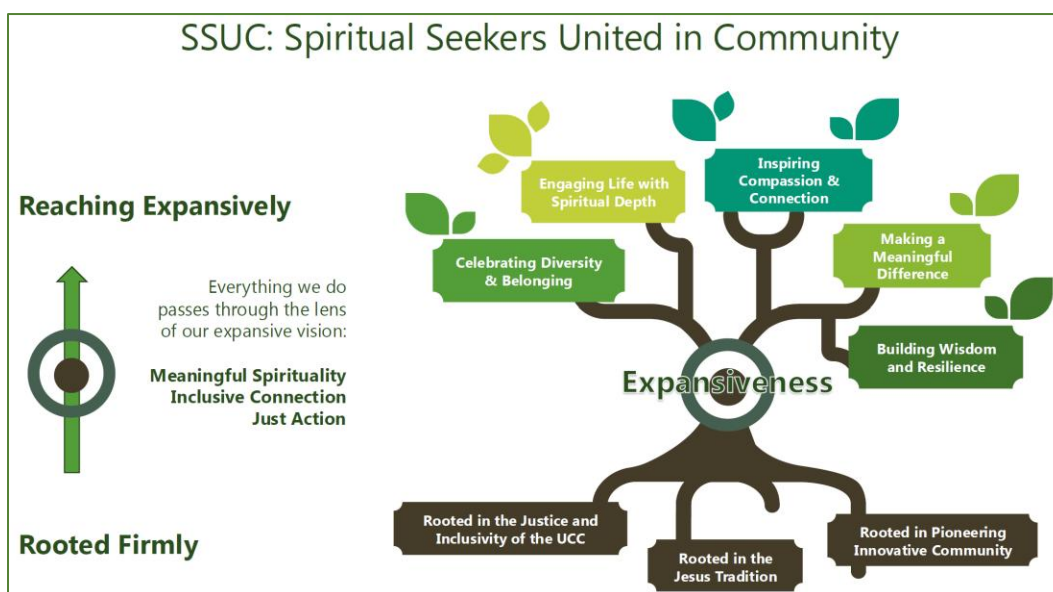
Looking Ahead

2025 showed us what is possible when we lean into our values and trust the wisdom of the community. We are growing - not only in numbers, but in depth, clarity, and courage. As we continue “building on the blessings” of who we are and who we are becoming, I look forward to the adventure ahead with gratitude and hope.

In trust and partnership,
Chris

SSUC'S VISION AND VALUES

Within 2025, the Board undertook a process of synthesizing our previous work on mission and identity statements in order to clarify our understandings of our current vision and values. We found that the best way to visualize this purpose was, like our community's logo, in the image of a tree.



Summary:

1. The intent of our Visions and Values Tree is to answer the questions:
 - Who are We?
 - What Do We Do?
 - Where Do We Grow?
 - How Do We Decide?
2. There are 3 main roots that express the legacy of our past and recognition of our history.
3. All activity flows through the lens of expansiveness (the tree trunk), which helps define how we wish to go about what we live and do.
4. We reach and grow in 5 important directions – the branches that express the focus areas where we live out our vision and values.
5. We continue to express creativity in how we're expressing and living our communal lives within these 5 areas (leaves on each branch) which change over time.

For those who attended our fall “Together Not Alone” retreat, we had a start at engaging these ideas. There will be more time set aside for all who wish to learn and engage with our vision and values further in 2026. Find the full document on our website.

THE BOARD

I would like to start by thanking all Board Members for their contributions to SSUC over the past year. Our discussions were often lively and occasionally contentious, which is exactly how good Boards should function!

Your current Board is made up of:

Blair Anderson-Croft – Vice Chair
Maureen Andre – Congregational Care
Marilyn Blackall – Spiritual Gatherings
Pam Boutilier – Trustees
Kim Boyes – Treasurer
Karen Henderson – Property Maintenance
Marg Hetherington - Outreach
Jacob Kellerman – Finance
Maie Kellerman - Chair
Trisha Little – SSUC Saskatoon
Joyce Madsen – Ministry & Personnel
Christopher New - Ministry
Eliana Parrado and James Schmold– Affirm

Your SSUC Board members, except for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary (position not currently filled), all chair their designated committees. They are a very hard-working group of people who do not always get their deserved recognition. If you have the opportunity, please thank them for all they do for SSUC.

The Board met for two retreats in the first half of 2025 with the dual purposes of team building and refining our Vision Tree. I hope these retreats will continue because they are invaluable in reaching alignment and establishing focus areas for the coming year.

Much of what follows will be covered in committee reports. I am adding these items to my report as there have been many questions from our community about them over the past year.

Universal Washrooms

The Property Maintenance Team (PMT) asked a contractor to develop a scope of work and construction schedule for converting our upstairs gender-specific washrooms to universal washrooms. The contractor did not follow the PMT guidelines and returned with a gold-plated solution priced at around \$200k. Additionally, their construction schedule would have taken these washrooms out of commission for a month. The PMT is now looking at alternative contractors to develop a more realistic scope and construction plan that will allow us to continue to operate during construction. Once we have a more realistic scope on which to base a budget, we will return to our community for approval to continue with the project. Then we will start fundraising (including applying for grants) to pay for the modifications. **Your Board remains committed to this project. The creation of gender-neutral washrooms is an important goal for SSUC.**

Solar Panels

In keeping with our commitment to the Earth Charter, it has long been a dream for SSUC to utilize renewal energy as far as possible. We are in conversation with a supplier of solar panels. Said supplier has an established relationship with a company that will finance the project over a period of time – offsetting their payments as far as possible against reduced or eliminated energy costs. We hope to be able to present this project to the community within the next year.

Use of Part of SSUC's Land on the East Side of our Property

In 2020, SSUC and Right at Home Housing Society (RAHHS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in terms of which we would gift a parcel of land on the east side of our property to RAHHS for the development of a low income/affordable housing complex. Over the years it became apparent that RAHHS did not have the capacity to proceed with the project and after the death of long time SSUC-friend, Cam Macdonald (Executive Director of RAHHS), the project seemed to fall completely off their radar. In 2025 we agreed to release both parties from the MOU.

Subsequently we have had discussions with one Co-Op attended by the head of the Northern Alberta Co-Op administration group. The Co-Op we were talking to broke off talks because we are a church and many felt uncomfortable with dealing with a church group. (Most of the co-op members were queer and have had bad experiences with mainstream churches.)

We continue to explore options with regards to this land and will keep the SSUC community updated as soon as we have a viable project.

Staffing

Following the end of the Program and Affirming Animator contract, a working group has been struck to assess needs and define a new, revised job description, working off the information gathered by the Transition Team. This group will start work under Chris and Blair's leadership shortly. We hope to have something to present to the community in 3-4 months with a new person in place by August 1.

Assistance for our Treasurer

Most of you are aware of the monumental effort put in by Kim Boyes, our Treasurer for approaching 15 years, to maintain our books, keep payroll going and issue cheques (to name a few of her duties). We are working on different ways we can lighten the load by delegating some of her tasks. To achieve this, we are planning to migrate our bookkeeping software to a cloud-based version, which will allow access to the software from more than one computer. This will permit other(s) to take on some of the data entry tasks (among other possibilities).

Fundraising

I would like to thank all those who organized, assisted with and attended our 2025 fundraisers. In 2024 we raised \$19,221. In 2025 this increased by more than \$7k to \$26,684. Way to go, SSUC!

On a separate note, I am frequently asked why all our fundraising should not be allocated exclusively to Outreach. The answer is simple: When we approve the budget at the AGM each year, we commit to distributing funds to various institutions. These are not moveable targets but represent a firm commitment. So it is immaterial whether we say the money from a fundraiser goes to Outreach or the church's operating expenses. Either way, we will always meet our Outreach obligations as expressed in the budget.

Homegrown Outreach

You can all give yourselves a huge pat on the back for the success in seeding 3 Outreach programs. We provided seed money to Dragonfly and Emberwood – allowing them to grow and flourish to the extent that they are now essentially self-supporting through many grants and donations from outside our community. A newer program, Evergreens, provides vital support to queer youth in the broader community. We are thrilled to see how well this program is doing and how successful they too have been in acquiring grant funding.

In closing, thanks to all of you for your support during my terms as Board Chair. We are an amazing community, and I so look forward to seeing all the wonderful ways we support each other and the broader community this year and beyond. I leave you now in the very able and competent hands of Blair Anderson-Croft – your new Board Chair.

Respectfully submitted by Maie Kellerman, Board Chair

Spiritual Seekers United in Community



Marketing & Digital Content Coordinator Report

Prepared by
Joseph-L C.-M.



Mar. '25 - Feb. '26



Top-Performing Facebook Posts



Thrifty Treasures Market

THIS SATURDAY - come find your new treasure ...

Views	Interactions	Link Clicks	Follows
9,527	12	10	1



Merry Moments Market

SAVE THE DATE, invite your family & friends ...

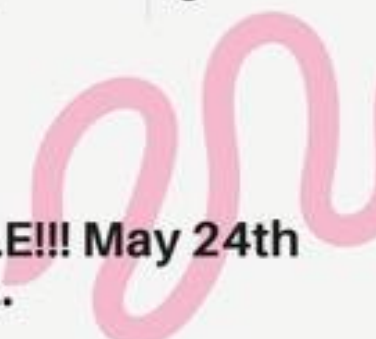
Views	Interactions	Link Clicks	Follows
7,478	10	2	0



Thrifty Treasures Market

HUGE GARAGE SALE!!! May 24th from 9 am to 3 pm ...

Views	Interactions	Link Clicks	Follows
7,051	48	514	7



Achievements

Campaigns Highlights

Images, videos and text content were crafted for promotional and advertising campaigns (organic and paid) that were run on our **Instagram, Facebook & Eventbrite** channels. Here are some of the highlights:



Conversions of Top Content

Thrifty Treasures Market (TTM) exceeded fundraised money expectations.

Top on Instagram: 8.6K views | 14 likes | 15 shares/link clicks *
Top on Facebook: 21.8K views | 64 likes | 34 shares/link clicks *

* Combined Facebook & Instagram numbers



Strategies

Content Strategy

Strengthen SSUC's **visibility, impact, and event success** balancing the digital content & marketing tasks & efforts.

Engagement Strategy

Improve **workflows** through interactions with internal committees that translates in **better internal & external marketing & support.**

Advertising Strategy

Boost key events & promotions with paid marketing, balanced with organic promotions.

Visibility Strategy

Promote internal programs & develop accessible promotions of SSUC's values & identity

Our promotional efforts must be matched by a compelling, well-defined offer for newcomers

Top-Performing Instagram Posts



Merry Moments Market

Looking for the perfect gift? Find it this Saturday...

Views	Interactions	Watch Time	Shares
4,694	3	31m 11s	0



Camp Hero Quest

SAVE THE DATE, invite your family & friends ...

Views	Interactions	Watch Time	Shares
4,670	5	8m 35s	1



Transgender Day of Remembrance

Join your safe and supportive community in remembering ...

Views	Interactions	Saves	Shares
3,249	154	1	20



Other promotions & support

Including Events, Sunday Gatherings & Programs Content, & More!

Welcome Messages to newcomers who sign the guest book on Sundays

SSUC's Hiring Promos

Winter Blues and Blessings, Stardust, Religions is a Queer Thing, Rituals, Uncloseted Spirituality ...

YouthSpace Monthly Activities & kidSPIRIT's welcome back

CNOY 2025 & 2026

Pink Shirt, Orange Shirt, Red Dress & PIE Days

Reposts & Collaboration for Evergreens, Camp Dragonfly & Emberwood

SSUC's Evergreens web page & online selling of stickers

SSUC's YouthSpace, Evergreens & other programs & events web pages

Weekly updates to SSUC's homepage

Support to SSUC's Saskatoon editing their web page

SSUC's Welcome, Engagement, Belonging, Days & Affirming Anniversary posts & videos

United Church 100th web page, interviews & videos

SSUC's Together Not Alone, Fall Feast & Frolic & Christmas Events

and more, including tech & media support for Circle Dancing, Tuesday Connections, Office & other Committees!





Areas for Improvement



Improvements in the knowledge & use of the available marketing support by our SSUC's community.

Website's use analytics

Clearer & easier content on our website for a better external & internal engagement

Helping delivering a clear, solid newcomer experience that matches the marketing promises.

More empowering of chairs & group coordinators to better know and use staff services.

A more curated & explicit promotion of what SSUC's connections & values offering is

Next New Steps



Engaging our internal community

- Create contacts & marketing learning opportunities for our committee chairs & event coordinators.

Enhance Content

- Craft our digital content for an easier adoption & engagement experience for our congregation & for newcomers.

Engaging our external audience

- Increase the visibility & impact that SSUC has with the public, communicating our events & services, as well as our values & essence behind the concept of expansive spirituality.

Boost Interaction

- Beyond continuing social media paid advertisements and promotion of our programs, boost our community & market vendors connections & interactions.

Summary



The last year has brought a better balance between

Following the initial months for my onboarding & integration with the community (*since the start of my part-time contract in Sept. 2024*) it was noticed that there was an imbalance in the tasks that the community (*in its heavily organic and self-organized nature*) required from my position.

Strengthening SSUC's Visibility & Supporting Event Success

For and improved balance and with the help of other staff I've been focusing on:

- **Empowering chairs & group coordinators to better know and use staff services.**
- **Improving workflows in our digital marketing & communications.**
- **Having more impact on the public's understanding of SSUC.**

EDUCATION AND LEARNING

KIDSPIRIT



kidSPIRIT is a children’s program for elementary aged kids that focuses on exploring SSUC values such as kindness, respect, empathy, and teamwork, in an approachable and creative manner. We often start with a story and discussion and move into a craft and game, all based around a central theme for the day. Often, we will provide a snack for the kids to eat while they work or chat.

Units taught: Joyful Path, Christmas unit, Stardust, Easter unit, Indigenous Spirituality

On average, we have 8 kids per week, aged 5-10.

We feel the curriculum is well suited to the age of the kids and we have had minimal issues adapting to the broad age range of the children. The kids are engaged and contribute to discussions and activities with enthusiasm. One thing we feel could be added and changed, is being provided snacks-- having a stash of basic snacks that can be used week-by-week, that we can supplement as needed. For example, Costco sized bulk items. We have noticed an increase in respect of the kidSPIRIT space and time before and after the gathering. We have experienced fewer issues related to the space being used without our knowledge and cleanliness before we arrive. Therefore, I believe we feel a stronger sense of respect and belonging in our room.

Generally, Ariane and I feel that kidSPIRIT is continuing to go very well. We have received very positive feedback from parents and the kids. We also continued to notice a lot of development in the children, in terms of behaviour, participation, and social skills. We feel that the children enjoy being there and are actively engaged in the activities. We are happy with the work we are doing and the results we are seeing. We still enjoy the curriculum and the program, and feel it works very well for us and the kids.

Submitted by Daisy New

YOUTHSPACE

2025 was a year of opening doors and building bridges. Through Sunday morning programming, launching our Monday evening Community GSA, and hosting various community events throughout the year, we have seen many youth (and more) come to find a place of belonging here at SSUC. The impact of these programs is immeasurable, but the tangible can be seen in engagement, numerical growth, and the positive narratives that have come out of our efforts.

YouthSPACE: Mental & Spiritual Health

YouthSPACE is our Sunday morning programming, meeting at 10AM in the youth room. Our year began with a focus on Mental Health Life Skills, a DBT-informed (Dialectical Behavioural Therapy) endeavour. We learned about the power of perspective in shifting our mindset, how to tolerate distress without making things worse, emotion regulation, skills for interpersonal relationships, and more! The youth showed up and shared wisdom through examples in their own lives; displaying the integration of our learnings into their own worlds.



This summer we joined the Yellowbird Community League Community Garden, taking on a plot of our own and a second plot for communal use. We planted, watered, weeded, and harvested our garden's bounty. Working with a summer of rainy Sundays, we managed to paint some furniture in the youth room as well. The youth have really enjoyed making the space their own.

In the fall we moved into a series titled "Buffet Spirituality," which brought the message that no one else gets to tell you what to put on your plate- you get to choose what you believe, how you practice, and what works for you. We started by brainstorming, what comes to mind when we think of the word spirituality? Based on what came out of that discussion, we framed the proceeding weeks. From education around Indigenous medicines and smudging, discussions around Christianity, the four noble truths of Buddhism, to other explorations into tarot and oracle cards, each week was full of robust conversation.

In 2025 we saw 11+ individual youth come through our doors and join us for YouthSPACE. A highlight of our gatherings every week is that youth show up, eager to share what they have going on in their lives, and there are caring adults here to meet them, to listen, and to share in their excitement. We celebrated together: birthdays, soccer goals, passing math tests, new music discoveries, friendship, and even growth spurts. We shared snacks, stories, and laughter. We opened up doors to conversation and improved relationships between parents and their teens. We saw the quiet ones starting up conversations and the chatty ones listening with intent. We paused our plans when world news was too much, to talk about how we deal with the bombardment of hate. With that sentiment in mind; moving into 2026 we are starting our year off with a new series on HOPE. We will be exploring the concept of hope, its importance for sustaining human life, what we do and how we cope when hope might seem distant.

EVERGREENS Community GSA (Gender-Sexuality Alliance)



On February 3, 2025 we launched our newest youth program, Evergreens Community GSA. We invite any 2SLGBTQ+ and allied youth in grades 6-12, to join us on Monday evenings from 6pm to 8pm. Evergreens is facilitated by a team of 2SLGBTQ+ adult volunteers, led by our Youth Coordinator and Evergreens Director, Wes D. Each week we eat a meal together and participate in a shared experience/conversation/activity; ranging from guest speakers, outings, movie nights, clothing swaps, and more. In 2025 we raised over \$10,000 to launch and sustain this program— a life-saving point of connection for vulnerable youth, many of whom have been targeted by our provincial government. Evergreens has become a safe space for many youth.

A non-exhaustive list of Evergreens moments in 2025:

- January 28 — Leadership Team assembled
- February 3 — Evergreens Community GSA Program Launch
- February 24 — Intersectionality conversation. Guest Speaker: Anisha Reindorf (queer + Black business owner, HighKu Productions)
- March 22 — Pi Day Fundraiser (Karaoke Night)
- March 22-23 — The Neurospicy Market (event table)
- March 31st — Transgender Day of Visibility Rally (77+ participants, community partners)
- April 12 — GSA Conference (hosted by Fyrefly Institute)
- April 26-27 — The Neurospicy Market (event table)
- April 28 — Clothing Swap #1
- May 2 — Queer Prom (event table)
- May 5 — Clay jewelry making with special guest: Lazy Pine Clay Design
- June 7 — MillWoods Pride (event table)
- June 9 — Tree planting to mark our inaugural year (thank you Lesley, Marg and Gordon for your leadership in this)
- June 14 — Evergreens Pride Day & 2SLGBTQ+ Vendor Market (over 200 attendees, 20+ vendors)
- June 21 — Edmonton Riverhawks Pride Night: Thanks for the tickets, Riverhawks!
- June 30 — “Season Finale” of Evergreens’ First Semester
- July 21 — Summer Gathering: Lawn Games & BBQ (new and returning youth showed up!!)
- August 8 — Summer Gathering: Campfire & Crafts
- August 12 — OCYA International Youth Day at Norquest College (event table). Thank you OCYA for the invitation and opportunity to let people know who we are and why we exist!
- September 8 — Fall Soft-Launch: Scavenger Hunt
- September 15 — WE LAUNCH LIKE GIANTS (with TWO 36” pizzas)- Thank you Big Mama’s and Papa’s Pizzeria for your support!
- September 29 — Our first outing!! (LASER CITY)



- October 6 — Guest Speaker: Rae Madge from Fyrefly Institute, “Coming Out, Calling In & Self-Acceptance”
- October 27 — Clothing Swap #2
- November 3 — Halloween Event: Pumpkin Carving & Costume Contest
- November 17 — Guest Speakers: Kiana (Camp Dragonfly, Rainbow Alliance Youth Edmonton) and Kaia (Fyrefly Institute)
- December 15 — Outing #2 (Zoominescence at Edmonton Valley Zoo)
- December 22 — Christmas PJ Party

Thank you to United Church Foundation, Meen Oilfield Contracting Ltd., Rock Jungle Climbing Gyms, Costco Wholesale and each individual who has donated to Evergreens. Because of you, we can continue making safe spaces for queer joy and connection.



Thank you to our community partners: Camp Dragonfly, Fyrefly Institute, Rainbow Alliance for Youth Edmonton, PinkTank AB, Pride Corner on Whyte, Emmet Michael Music, Janis Irwin (MLA for Edmonton- Highlands-Norwood), Brooks Arcand-Paul (MLA for Edmonton- West Henday), The Get Real Movement, T. Thomason, Kind Ice Cream, Magpie Books, Edmonton Lesbian Event Network (ELEN), YET Edmonton, BGC Strathcona County, Office of the Child & Youth Advocate, Edmonton Riverhawks, The QUILT BAG, Lazy Pine Clay Design, Laser City, the City of Edmonton, and so many more. Inter-agency connection shows unified support to our young people: we’re all on the same team.

Looking forward to 2026, we will continue to learn and grow together by strengthening our community partnerships, creating opportunities for student leadership, and spreading the word about this *third place** for youth. We have plans in the works for another Rally for Trans Day of Visibility, even more clothing swaps, a queer pen pal initiative, new outings and adventures, guest speakers, and opportunities to expand our reach to the broader Edmonton landscape. We are submitting grants, providing training to our leadership team, and building our capacity.

*In sociology, the third place refers to the social surroundings that are separate from the two usual social environments of home (first place) and school/work (second place). These are places of belonging, where a person experiences a sense of community. Examples of third places include churches, cafes, libraries, parks, community centres, and Evergreens GSA.

The Ongoing Need for Support

Evergreens and YouthSPACE exist because a need exists, and that need continues to grow. Our programs provide more than just a place to hang out- they provide stability, belonging, and a sense of safety to youth who are navigating an uncertain world. As we move forward, continued support will be necessary to sustain and expand the reach of our youth programming. Financial donations are appreciated, yes, but our greatest need is a renewable resource.. It is your hope. Please hope forward for these programs, and ultimately, for our youth. They deserve community, they deserve love, and they deserve to thrive.



A Final Note from the SSUC Youth Coordinator & Evergreens Director



Gratitude overwhelms me when I stand back and look at what we are building; a place for the youth who need it. A place for community, for existing as yourself; a place to use whatever name you want to put on your nametag (same goes for pronouns). A place to learn, connect, and celebrate with one another.

As I tell our leadership team, the work we do matters. We get to be the adults that we once needed.

We represent possibility for young queer people, a proof that they can grow up, because they deserve to grow up. The work we do matters because there are queer and trans young people in our city who feel so alone that they've tried to take their own lives. The work we do matters because next Monday could be the day, they might come through our doors looking for a reason to stay on this earth. The work we do matters because our provincial government is targeting trans youth and they need protection, support, and community care. The work we do matters because 31 individual youth sat at our table in 2025. 31 youth have gone to our mini fridge for a drink. 31 youth know we're here to support them.

I want to express my gratitude to the Evergreens leadership team- thank you for everything. Your leadership role goes beyond just showing up on a Monday. It's in the conversations about dinosaurs, the emergency plan development, the cooking and sharing of food. It's in the card games, the event planning, and the stacking of chairs at 8PM on a Monday. It's in the restocking of the mini fridge, the decorating, the group facilitation, and the sweat formed from a great game of laser tag. The work you do matters. To our current leaders: Alex, Elise M., Elise D., Lincoln, Teigan, Kat, and Maëli; and to our past leaders: Gracia, Megan, and Brad- thank you for your time and efforts, for putting your heart into this program. To our event volunteers- Ty, Jessica, Ethan, Jill, Brian, Erin, Sarah, Todd, Savanna, Jami, Dara, Joseph, and Toni.

It is a great honour of my lifetime to get to engage with this work and all that is SSUC. The support, encouragement, shared experience and wisdom that this community has imparted on me is appreciated from deep in my bones. As I continue this work, I believe that our community is committed to providing a place of solace and belonging for our youth and for all people; young and old, queer and straight. Connection is the key to sustaining life and we offer that freely. Thank you for believing in the work, in the people, and in the power of connection.

I have many dreams in my heart for our current SSUC community, for our youth, and for 2SLGBTQ+ people all across our city and province. Dreams that go beyond surviving, into the territory of thriving. There is a place at our table for all that you are and all that you are becoming- whether neurodiverse, gender-diverse, or anywhere across the spectrums of identity. May our lives intersect here, in belonging and connection.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to do this work.

— Wes D.

Pronouns: they/them

SSUC Youth Coordinator & Evergreens Director

TUESDAY CONNECTION

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 9:30 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.

Some program highlights from the year:

“Dominion; How the Christian Revolution Shaped the World” video interview with the author Tom Holland

The Stroke Ambulance – a tour and presentation

Immigration Stories from our past

United Church history

A Spiritual Journey – the influence of our childhood church experiences on our spirituality

Speakers: MLA Rakhi Pancholi; Jonathan from Bissell Centre

Submitted by Annabel Sheppard and Jackie Faust

MOVING FORWARD TO RECONCILIATION

The Moving Forward to Reconciliation Committee has 4 active members, 3 more who assist at events and 20 more who receive meeting minutes or notices. The committee has held seven meetings between January 2025 and July 2025 on the Zoom platform. Chair was Ruth Stewart-Verger; active members Kim Fischbach, Tanis Eaker.

The goal of the Moving Forward to Reconciliation Committee is to respond to the Calls to Action, to respond to the Indigenous Church of the United Church of Canada, and to recognize the importance of establishing a reciprocal relationship with the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island, and Canada in particular.

Funds spent in 2025:

\$5000 NiGiNan Housing Ventures, contributed each year,

\$ 370 Speakers Cheryle and Russel Burns (\$250 speaker + 120 transport), January 19

0 Moose hide (Ruth made donation, not submitted)

\$ 150 Speaker fees for Stanley Salopree, June 1

\$ 184.78 Indigenous Board Games

\$5704.78 Total

Moving Forward to Reconciliation Committee activities at SSUC 2025

Dates highlighted by The Moving Towards Reconciliation Committee

Ongoing through out 2025:

- Bulletin Board is updated
- News, activities, events and issues are submitted for inclusion in the Messenger
- Community news is shared before each monthly meeting. Some of this is submitted to the Messenger
- Books on indigenous issues/themes are donated to the committee for reading my committee members and then submission in the Church library
- Jim Stevens made contacts within Ermineskin Cree Nation, conversations to come

January 5 A recording of the pronunciation of amiskwacîwâskahikan (Bever Hills, aka Edmonton) is now on the website near the land acknowledgement.

January 19 – Charlene and Russel Burns: speakers during the gathering- presented information about the positive aspects of Indigenous culture within the family and introduced SSUC to I Interconnect

February 11 Spirit Bear Campaign - First Nations Child and Family Caring Society: 50 postcards sent to our federal leaders regarding equality of payments on reserve and off reserve for children's health and Education; showed of Video by First Nations Child and Family Caring Society (post gathering)

Feb 27 – SSUC hosted a day-long discussion regarding Unmarked Burial sites and Settler Denialism co-presented by the National United Church Indigenous ministry, Northern Spirit Region, and the Edmonton Indigenous Cluster. 1/3 of the participants were Indigenous. 1/3 were clergy and staff of various United Church regions and congregations. 1/3 were lay members of the community.

April 22 - Earth Day The gathering theme was Earth Day as part of Chris New's science series.

May 5-June 29 Theme of each Sunday: *Honouring National Indigenous History Month- The Seven Sacred Teachings* – led by Chris New; weekly video and the URL made available through the Messenger; readings and land acknowledgments by committee members.

May 5 Red Dress Day- information regarding the Red Dress Day were placed in the SSUC Newsletter in the three weeks leading up to May 5. Red dresses were on display inside and outside the church that weekend. (5 red dresses were hung in trees on the front lawn). Readings presented by committee members

May 11 Moose Hide Campaign – For three weeks leading up to May 16, information was placed in SSUC Newsletter providing information to the SSUC members and adherents. Moosehide pins and information cards were offered to all attending SSUC in the week leading up to May 11 in preparation for May 15.

May 15, at Alberta Legislature: 12 noon – 3 pm Stand Up for Treaty Rights: A Peaceful Protest Against Bill 54 & the Sovereignty Act and the continued erosion of Indigenous rights and treaty obligations.

June 15 - *Indigenous Day of Prayer* (the Sunday before June 21- National Indigenous Peoples Day)

June 1 - Stanley Salopree shared a song, drumming and words of wisdom as part of the gathering. The Theme: *Honouring National Indigenous History Month- The Seven Sacred Teachings – Wisdom, candle lighting readings by committee members*. The choir and octet sang 2 pieces with Cree lyrics, written by Sheryl Sewepagaham. (Waniska, Okawimaw Askriy)

June 17 – Pawâkan: A Cree takeover of Macbeth. Reneltta Arluk's groundbreaking reimagining of Shakespeare's darkest play, Macbeth, into Cree history, legend and cosmology. Inspired by the youth of Frog

Lake First Nation, Treaty 6 Territory. Several committee members and others attended the Indigenous production (writer, director, producers, actors, stagehands were Indigenous.) The Committee members supported the arts program by Indigenous artists presented to Indigenous and nonindigenous audiences.

June 22- Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21, annual) Readings and Land acknowledgement by committee members

August 9 – International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples - **Mention in Messenger**

September 28 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day (Sept 30, annual): Truth and Reconciliation awareness/

October 5 - Sisters in Spirit Vigil-Remembering MMIWG/Two Spirit People (Oct 4, annual)
Board Games purchased

November 7 - Inuit Day in Canada.

“WELCOME TO THE MAT” ZOOM YOGA

Class Overview

The Wednesday evening adult yoga drop-in class continued via Zoom throughout 2025. Under the guidance of our wonderful leader, Sharon MacMullan-Baron, we engaged in gentle poses, breath work, and meditation. Sharon consistently created a warm and welcoming virtual environment, reminding participants to listen to their own bodies throughout the practice.

Inclusivity for All Levels

Whether you are a seasoned yogi or a complete beginner, all are welcome to join our sessions!

Attendance and Accessibility

With approximately 24 registered participants, our weekly attendance averaged around 15. The Zoom format has provided the ease of unrolling our mats from the comfort of our own homes—an invaluable benefit during inclement weather, illness, or icy roads.

Supporting Our Community

Our participants’ fees come via e-transfer into the yoga fund, which compensates our teacher. We are proud to announce that our fees have enabled us to donate \$500.00 to the Refugee Fund in Sharon's name.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

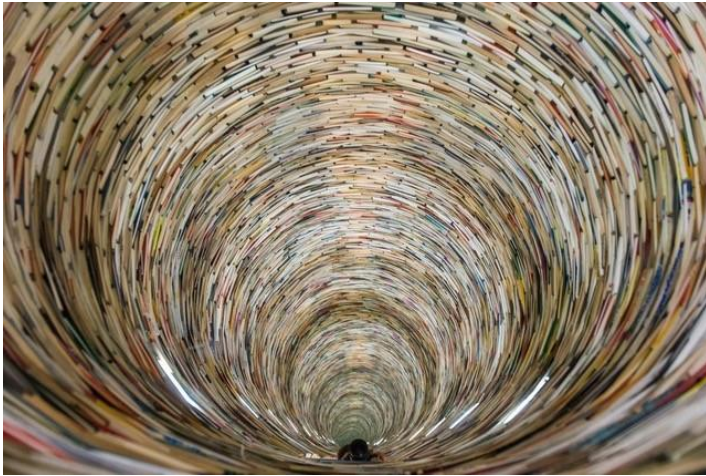
- Marlene Rubik for her dedicated work as the trainer for the hosts.
- Our hosts: Marlene Rubik, Ann Didluck, & Catherine Small.

Additionally, we thank Southminster Steinhauer United Church for the use of their Zoom system.

Submitted by Jo Nicholas

LIBRARY

Not to be sneezed at



Seven thousand, one hundred more books, and, if assembled just so, your church Library holdings could mimic those seen here: it's "Idiom," a dizzying sculpture fashioned from roughly 8,000 books, stacked into a tower, which uses mirrors to provide the illusion of infinite length. It was installed in Czechia's Prague Municipal Library nearly 30 years ago, and is meant to symbolize "the infinity of knowledge".

Until we saw this mesmerizing image [from The Smithsonian Institute], we would have been oh-so pleased to report to you that, in 2025, the SSUC Library collection topped out at 900 books. Still, 100 x 9 is not to be sneezed at: when we accepted—we think it was eight years ago—Nancy Steeves and Chris New's invitation to serve as SSUC's librarians, there were maybe 700 titles. And these were squirreled away in a room down a corridor, out of sight, out of mind. Now look: they're displayed prominently in the church's front-and-centre Library & Lounge.

And now, that section of the room into which several book cases are jammed has been dubbed the Mary Thomas Library—this naming, this dedication, happened in November. This appellation is rightful: the late Rev. Mary Thomas was Southminster's first full-time minister [1974-1984], and a driver in the establishment of Steinhauer United Church—the two congregations amalgamated in 1993.

But, with the designation in mind, this about her must be recorded: she had "a passion for biblical study, adult Christian education, and lifelong spiritual growth". SSUC's Mary Thomas Fund used these words to describe her and her ministry. (This fund, created after her death, encourages adult study and learning.)

In other ways, too, 2025 was, for the Library, an eventful year: ample new books were acquired for the 2SLGBTQIA+ and Indigeneity shelves, and a wide variety of titles were added to the central collection, everything from Pat Seale's Master of Theology thesis [*Pastoral Care as Spiritual Care*] to the DVD for kids and adults alike, "Spirit Bear and Children Make History".

The practice of spotlighting books—especially the best of the newcomers as they're added to the holdings—continues apace. A 200-word-long "Featured Book" preview/review is reported in *The Messenger* and posted to the Library webpage [ssucedmonton.com/library] practically every fortnight; the 180th such introduction and verdict got written in 2025. (Incidentally, every one is retained on the webpage.)

Among these new-and-noteworthy additions were ones that claimed that Christians should be leftists; told *Why Religion Went Obsolete*, and *Why Everyone Should be Religious*; pointed up humanism; told *The Meaning of Belief*; and imagined *Life After Faith*. Especially exigent [at least to your librarians] are Canadian author Ira Wells' *On Book Banning*, and Didier Fassin's searing *Moral Abdication: How the World Failed to Stop the Destruction of Gaza*.

Crafting "Library Learnings" was another practice that was continued, though these longer essays appeared only infrequently. Still, SSUC folk were introduced to the late Dan Pelzer ["Nobody loved the library more than Dan"], the Ohioan who is said to have read at least 100 pages every day, and who finished reading—this

over more than 60 years—3,599 books; and they learned of Pope Francis’ appreciation for “the power of history and books”. (More’s coming: watch for “Progressive Christianity: it’s meant to transform us,” and “The power of words”—both will appear in the first quarter of 2026.)

In closing, we, as in past reports, must remind you that, really, you have a trio of librarians, not just the two who’ll sign off momentarily: there’s also church office administrator Aynsley New, without whom we two would be at a loss. Welcome back, Aynsley!

Ellen & Ken Fredrick

SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS TEAM

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 all other components that go into providing meaningful Spiritual Gatherings.

The Team is composed of Wade Garner, Bonnie Berg, Pam Patten, Nel Ouwens, Lauren Upshall, Christopher New, and Marilyn Blackall.

This past year we have arranged for Gathering Companions to assist Chris at every Gathering. There are currently 15 individuals on the roster. We have assisted in preparing for the table rituals and welcoming rituals. During Chris’ vacation time, we have arranged for individuals to plan and lead Spiritual Gatherings.

SSUC has a very vibrant music program which includes a mixed voice adult choir with approximately 28 members, a women’s quartet, a vocal octet, and an amazing group of instrumentalists playing a wonderful variety of instruments. The instrumentalists offer special music (preludes and postludes) and often accompany congregational singing and choir anthems. The instrumental music and many of the choral pieces are arranged by 2 volunteer musicians, Pam Patten and Katie Alexander. The Gatherings are meaningfully enhanced by the rich diverse music offered by our singers and instrumentalists. This is all coordinated by our amazing choir director, Deb Mooney. Countless hours of rehearsing and preparation for the Sunday Gatherings are given by all the musicians.

Our choir accompanist, Kinder Wan, has accepted a position in his field of physiotherapy in High Prairie. We will miss his musical talents and personality and wish him every success in his new endeavor.

I submit this annual report with gratitude for all the people who have contributed to our Spiritual Gatherings.

Marilyn Blackall (she/her)
Chairperson
Spiritual Gatherings Team

rites of passage

Lives Celebrated & Honoured

Janet Bates

Janelle Brooks

Lila Finn Cunningham

Warren Fisher

Arvid Hardin

Jim Robertson

Iris Stanley

Joyce Williamson

Ritual of Belonging (Welcome)

Jolene Cooper

Rituals of Belonging (Baptism)

Franklin Reeves Bilyk

Celebrations of Marriage

Phea Reynolds & Caine Calahasen

Wilda Kruize & Kari-Ann Kuperis

CAMP DRAGONFLY

2025 was Camp Dragonfly's eighth year of connecting, creating, and celebrating!

As per usual, the calendar year started with Winterfest in February, our annual event that marks the halfway point between summer camps. We were also happy to continue other programs that had begun the year before, including our monthly All-Bodies Family Swim and Caregiver Support Circle. Through our swimming programs, Camp Dragonfly took 294 people swimming in 2025! This year, we also piloted 4 new programs and events in response to requests from the community: a clothing swap, community First Aid training, tattoo flash days, and Dungeons & Dragonflies.

In August, we once again gathered at SSUC to run Camp Dragonfly, a summer camp for trans+ and gender-creative youth ages 6-13. We were supported by multiple local organizations to share their skills and fun through workshops, including: Grindstone Theatre Society, Stump Kitchen, Beyond the Trees, Strathcona County Museum and Archives, Action Potential Fitness, and Pe Metawe Games. We were also thrilled to continue to learn, play and get muddy alongside Edmonton Forest School Society for our camp trip to the ravine.

Camp Dragonfly's 2025 summer program had 66 campers in attendance, who travelled from 12 different cities and towns to join us! Thanks to our generous sponsors, we were able to invite 16 campers to join us at no cost, removing barriers for low-income families to enjoy camp. We also hit a new record high number of volunteers, with 44 full-weekend volunteers including counsellors, junior counsellors, heart monitors, and more. The most exciting part is that over 50% of our full-weekend and drop-in volunteers were brand new to Camp Dragonfly. We are thrilled to be growing our community and getting to know new amazing queer role models for our campers!

The strength of our community and supporters is what inspires us to overcome any obstacles thrown our way. This year, Camp Dragonfly experienced some adversarial struggles online. After our social media accounts were targeted and taken down, though we fought to reinstate them, we had to make the difficult decision to start fresh. We are rebuilding our online following and remaining vigilant about ensuring queer joy remains at the forefront of our brand. Though the internet can bring out the worst in some, we have also found some incredible support through creating an online donation section for our website! This allows new donors to support Camp Dragonfly with the click of a button. Our fundraising team also attended multiple in-person events to spread the word about our mission and collect funds, all around Edmonton and surrounding areas. We are so grateful to everyone who takes the time to stop and chat at our booth when we are at community events, and support us in whatever way they can. We have also been lucky enough to continue building relationships with some fantastic supporters, including but not limited to: GayAF Market, Geeky Markets and Events Inc., the Royal Purple Elks, and the Teagan and Sara Foundation.

Submitted by Kiana Chouinard and Briggs

EMBERWOOD

Emberwood has experienced significant success and met many of the goals laid out for the 2025 year. Emberwood's purpose is to empower people to reconnect to their body's sensations and authentic selves through solitude with nature. We support people to build meaningful relationships with themselves through our core practices: solitude, grounding, body awareness, community, nature, and joy. Emberwood's approach is evidence-based, drawing on current scientific findings on the intersection of nature and wellness, eco-psychology, integrated body psychology, nature-based art therapy, and other somatic practices.

Emberwood has three core programs that are offered as a result of stakeholder consultation that included post-program surveys, a collaborative Theory of Change facilitated by the EDGE Network, visioning and planning meetings with SUCC and the Emberwood community, and pilot projects (programs). These programs have been uniquely designed to:

- 1) deliver the chain of outcomes identified in our collaboratively-built Theory of Change
- 2) use most up-to-date, evidence-based practices;
- 3) maximize the psychological, spiritual, social, and emotional impact outcomes.

Emberwood's three core programs are: *Nest: Our 24-hour wilderness solo*; *Lodge: Our nature-based solo*; *Community Connections: community based eco-therapy events*

Emberwood primarily serves primary young adults who are part of, or allies to, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Emberwood has a community commitment to ensure that marginalized individuals are in the majority at all Emberwood programs, making up at least 51% of attendance. In 2025, Emberwood regularly achieved %85 attendance from marginalized groups. Emberwood served 203 participants in 2025, bringing our total to 900 since inception.

In 2025, Emberwood continued to connect with partners including:

- Macewan University as a practicum site for the Diploma of Social Work Program
- The Waldorf Independent Charter school
- The Edmonton Forest School Society
- Centre for Christian Studies

Emberwood is grateful for the continued financial support and success in 2024. We had three primary financial streams in 2025.

- The United Church of Canada Foundation provided us with \$10,000 for our research partnership with CCS.
- Participant program fees totalled around \$36,000.
- The Canadian Tire JumpStart Foundation grant was successful for \$12,926.

Emberwood is looking forward to the 2026 season, which will see the continuation of some well loved programs in addition to some exciting avenues and partnerships.

- Lodge & Nest eco-therapy trips
- Little Lodge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Ongoing Members: Maureen Andre, Tanis Eaker, Donna Hodgins, Gioia Sallustio, Trudy Smith, Jacqueline Switzer, Lori Louhela.

Ad-Hoc or Special Projects Members: Joy Hibbard

Ministry: Rev. Chris New

Office Administrator: Aynsley New

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 gathering to get to know other newcomers, share stories and learn some of SSUC history. The April 2025 Newcomers' Lunch was attended by 14 newcomers, as well as ministry, committee members and a few congregational members. Including all those individuals, there were 32 attendees, 7 children and 25 adults.

Memorial Service Receptions: Six memorial receptions were held in 2025. 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 wish to help us carry out this important function. Special thanks to Donna Hodgins and Trudy Smith for their roles in coordinating volunteers for Memorial Services. Deep appreciation to Bev Craig for leading each team of two Convenors for the entire 2025 year.

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 minister, 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: A variety of soups, casseroles, and baked goods are distributed to those among us who may be ill, providing caregiving, or would benefit from temporary food support. When there is a need, volunteers within the congregation are contacted to prepare food. We maintain a tracking system of the food distribution. Maureen Andre has been coordinating this service.

Comfort Blankets: There are many talented knitters and crocheters in our midst, who have provided us with lap or bed blankets which are given to those who are ill in hospital or at home. Thank you to Jacqueline Switzer for creating the baby blankets for newborns, as well as coordinating the distribution of all the blankets. When there is a need for creating blankets or providing blanket materials, a notice will be placed 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 the positive side, have a special event to celebrate. Easter and Christmas Cards are sent as needed. Appreciation to Donna Hodgins and Joy Hibbard for sending 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. The 2025 Blue Christmas service was planned for December 17 but was cancelled due to inclement weather. An online service was provided.

Caregiver Support Group: There was an expressed need within the congregation for support of Caregivers. Gioia Sallustio took the lead in initiating this support group in 2024. The Caregiver Support Group met monthly from October 2024 until June 2025: in person, with the option of attending by Zoom. Participants had provided positive feedback, but the attendance decreased to 2-3 people. After surveying the participants, it was decided the need for the Caregiver Support Group was not present by June 2025. Alternate resources in the community were offered to all. If the need arises, efforts will be made to restart this supportive group. Thank you to Gioia Sallustio and Maureen Andre for Co-Facilitating.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Andre

SSUC SASKATOON

We met in-person at St. Andrew’s College on the third Sunday of each month for most of the year, but in November, we decided to close that chapter and meet at our members’ homes, following a schedule. Earlier in the year, the Saskatoon Unitarians reached out to SSUC to see how our two faith communities can work more closely together in ritual, in social justice, book studies and in gatherings, being we have so very much in common. For their Winter Solstice on December 21, our own Lorie was a member of the planning team for that service, and brought in other SSUC members to do readings. Some of our members also sing with their choir on a regular basis.

Inspired by the two book studies on Basic Income Guaranteed explored in 2023-24, we reached out to the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership to explore the possibility of forming an action group to move B.I.G. forward locally, provincially and nationally. The BIG Action Group meets once a month and we are now divided into subgroups who are working on four separate streams: One-page Fact Sheet/Reading List, the PEI B.I.G. Proposal, Data Collection, and Education Materials. We are a diverse and passionate mix of individuals, faith organizations, and NPOs who are on the front lines in Saskatoon.

We decreased our Outreach funds for Saskatoon to help with the SSUC budget and distributed \$1000 each to ICM (support for the inner city community), Prairie Harm Reduction (safe injection site, and more), and the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan (organization serving women and gender-diverse adults who are criminalized or at risk of criminalization offering justice and equity through advocacy, cultural teachings, and practical support). 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 of our community brought forward petitions through the year that were in line with our values. Three of our members took part in the annual federal Point in Time Enumeration in October to assess the level of homelessness in Saskatoon. Unfortunately, our numbers have increased significantly since our full PiT count in 2024. SSUC members walked and/or donated to our team, "Saskatoon Seekers" for the Coldest Night of the Year in February in support of the YWCA. Saskatoon Seekers took to the streets again in September for Ride for Refuge supporting Global Gathering Place. A good time was had by all and at each event we raised over \$1200. At Christmas time, some members offered time and donations to the Kiwanis group in support of Summit Outreach and Counselling for youth in need and other members purchased toys for the QUINT Toy Drive for children in need. The ICM Christmas Feast was cancelled due to poor weather.

SSUC SK was integral in organizing PIE day on March 14 hosted by SAM (Saskatoon Affirming Ministries). Both sweet and savoury tarts, along with hot chocolate were served outside in the Civic Square at Saskatoon City Hall. There were welcoming messages from SAM and music, following the theme of "Sing Out Proud."

In June, SSUC Saskatoon walked in the Pride Parade and played a key role in organizing the SAM Rainbow Bakery at the Pride Festival following the parade, raising over \$1440 for OUT Saskatoon. We also offered "Glitter Blessings," which were very well-received, where we placed a heart on people's hands or foreheads using glitter in aloe vera gel offering words of love and encouragement.

Saskatoon folks were unable to take part in either of the 100th anniversary Sundays in person, but we were part of the planning team and Dawn, Terry, Kate and Trisha offered video segments expressing our connections with the UCC and its social justice leanings. Together Not Alone was again a joint effort of our two communities in mid-September. There were about 40 active participants at any point in the weekend, about nine of whom were from Saskatoon. Each year the planning team carefully discusses the feedback from participants with the hope that this annual retreat will continue to nurture us, and build bonds.

Trisha Little continues to fulfill the paid administrative duties needed to maintain communication, relationship and outreach within SSUC SK and with SSUC ED. She is a member of the SSUC Board and the Outreach committee. A new computer needed to be purchased in April with the cost being split by SSUC Edmonton, Trisha, and Deb and Cliff Hansen. The MVU Legacy fund investment is now just over \$100,000 again. Many thanks to our trustees!! We continue to be grateful for being a part of SSUC and look forward to exploring and experiencing more avenues to further enrich our relationship with one another.

Respectfully submitted by Trisha Little

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

I want to begin by thanking our Outreach Committee members: Shelagh Parsons, Judy Dube, Deb Mooney, Mary MacFarlane, Maie Kellerman, Trisha Little, Dara Smith and Chris New. They are a great team, and this past year we focused on creating a more effective structure and understanding of our work.

We now see our Committee as an umbrella over-arching several task-groups with the following initial key leadership:

- Refugee Sponsorship and Support -Judy Dube
- Moving Forward Toward Reconciliation (including Ambrose Place) - Ruth Stewart-Verger
- Social and Economic Insecurity (Operation Friendship Seniors Society, Bissell Centre, Inner City Pastoral Ministry, Duggan Elementary, SSUC Caring Fund, Inner City High School, Edmonton and Campus Food Banks); Linda May for Bissell
- Palestine/Israel Conflict Education and Support (Zatoun products) – Curtis Tufts, Shelagh Parsons, Sherry Ann Chapman
- Saskatoon Outreach – Trisha Little and entire SSUC Saskatoon community
- Mission and Service Education and Fundraising – Gayle Simonson
- Edmonton Food Bank Depot – Steve Bailey

The Outreach Committee will support these task-groups as they set their goals, plan, act, evaluate, and thrive; and will invite more task-group members. We are hoping that new Outreach initiatives, education, activism, and partnerships will be sparked.

Once again this year, we express deep gratitude to all SSUC folk who volunteered at the Food Bank and elsewhere, who brought socks, underwear, toys and gift-cards, coats, loved Christmas decorations, and food items for the Food Bank drive; who bought Zatoun oil and products, and shared in our 100th Anniversary gifts of olive trees planted in Palestine honouring our SSUC elders and of donations to Peace in Gaza; and to all who walked, marched, petitioned and protested in causes of justice.

In our 2026 Outreach budget, we have proposed a \$1,000 increase to Bissell to support their new housing priority. We also added a new initiative of \$3,000 toward Evergreens, to assist with their weekly meeting supplies. Our SSUC Outreach 2026 Budget below shows increases, decreases, and the same as 2025:

Edmonton Inner City Housing and Outreach

Bissell Centre: \$5,000 (\$1000 increase to support Bissell's new housing priority)

Operation Friendship: \$4,000 (unchanged)

Inner City Pastoral Ministry lunch: \$700 (+\$200 - closer to actual expenses)

SSUC Saskatoon Outreach: from SSUC SK

Saskatoon Outreach initiatives: \$3,000 (unchanged; \$1000 each toward ICM, Prairie Harm Reduction, Elizabeth Fry Society)

Indigenous Outreach and Housing: from MFTR Task Group

NiGiNan Housing/ Ambrose Place: \$5,000 (unchanged)

Moving Forward Towards Reconciliation Initiatives: \$1100 (2026 total of \$6100 is \$400 less than 2025 budget)

Camp Dragonfly:

Our Camps and programs for trans+ and gender creative and diverse kids: \$2500 (unchanged)

C.H.E.W. Project:

Community Health Empowerment Wellness outreach: \$1500 (unchanged)

Emberwood:

Contemplative nature and solitude practice for all persons 18+ years: \$2500 (unchanged; 2025 was the first year included in the Outreach budget)

Evergreens:

Weekly Community GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance) program for youth: \$3,000 (new initiative in this budget)

Food Assistance:

SSUC providing an Edmonton Food Bank Depot and volunteers
Extra Food Bank drive

School Assistance:

Duggan Elementary School: \$1,000 (unchanged)

Assistance to families/individuals in need:

SSUC Caring Fund support: \$2,000 (unchanged)

Memberships:

Social Justice/KAIROS Membership: \$200 (unchanged)

Miscellaneous Expenses (Found in SSUC 2026 budget, under Committee Operating Expenses)

Committee & Task-Groups expenses: \$250.00 (new in 2026) --entered elsewhere

Proposed SSUC Outreach Budget 2026: \$31,500**SSUC Mission & Service in Canada and around the world:**

- designated M&S donations sent in monthly by SSUC Treasurer: s
- Our motivational goal for Mission and Service 2026: \$35,000

It has been a great privilege to serve as Outreach Chairperson these past 7 years. This next year is going to be an exciting one for the Committee: expanding our efforts through the Task-Groups; perhaps a Community Kitchen on the horizon; a March 20th Jeffery Straker Benefit Concert toward our next refugee sponsorship; new Outreach ideas from you and so much more! Please consider joining our wonderful Outreach team. I'm excited for a new chairperson and their leadership and vision.

Margaret Hetherington, Out-going Chair of Outreach, March 15, 2026

EARTH CHARTER

No committee or working group exists at this time, however over the past year, a group of interested people have met twice to discuss possibilities for education and action. This group is seeking leadership and coordination. If you're interested, speak with Chris.

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

2025 was a year of many changes in the membership of the M & P Committee. The Committee now includes Joyce Madsen, Ian Kellogg and Harry Pauls. We would welcome new members. Our thanks to Matthew Bilyk who served with us until the fall.

In 2025 we supported our full-time staff Chris New and Aynsley New, as well as our contract staff including Dara Smith, Joseph-Luis Carreon-Macedo, Wes D., Daisy New, and Ariane Perreault.

With the help of Matthew and Joseph we have created a confidential online system for keeping all of our records.

The role of M & P is to provide support for our staff and receive feedback from members of the congregation. If you have concerns or celebrations, please let one of us know so that we can share any concerns and celebrate good news.

Each of us has responsibility for connecting with and supporting members of our staff - both those who are full time and those who are under contract. We have had regular meetings with both our staff and our contract employees.

If you have accolades or questions regarding our staff, please share it with us.

Submitted by
Joyce Madsen, Chair

REFUGEE TASK GROUP

Committee Members: Judy Dube, Ruth Stewart-Verger, Cindy Christensen

Support team members (who are available for one-time support): Judy Dube, Mary Fiakpui Deb Mooney, Anne McCracken, Linda May, Glenn Fredeen, Susan Gallowy, Cindy and Lowell Christensen, Dean Verger AND the Generous support and time provided by many other SSUC community members.

Review of 2025:

- Ongoing friendship with Mohammad and Aeshah and their children
- Ongoing friendship with Hussien and Rukiah and their son
- Fundraiser February 8 for the sponsorship of Refugees
- Application to Sponsor paperwork, submitted on May 7, 2024 to the United Church of Canada Refugee for a family of 3: Aeshah's brother, Abdulrhman Alramla, his wife Fteim Alramla, and their son, Hussein Abdulrhman Alramla to United Church of Canada Refugee office and is in the cue to be submitted to Immigration, Refugees Citizenship Canada for processing. (As a Sponsorship Agreement Holder, the United Church of Canada refugee office has a limited number of applications it may submit in a given year. The number is decided upon by IRCC. The option of private sponsorship was closed November 28, 2024. SAH applications are now one of the few routes to bring in refugees.)
- Emmanuel Ananias and Alfred Ananias (from Sudan September 19, 2024) and Richard Ananias (from Sudan October 16, 2024) is now complete.
- First year financial support for Yemane Fisehaye Ghebretsadik (from Eritrea, September 19, 2024) is now complete, ongoing friendships continue.

- First year financial support for Siem Fisehaye Gebretsadik (from Eritrea, October 4, 2024) is now complete, ongoing friendships continue.

UPDATE:

- Yemane and Siem first year support has been completed. They are working full time and continue to develop their photography business part-time. SSUC is no longer providing monetary support.
- Birth of Yemane's son, Amen, in Addis Ababa May 17, 2025, Ethiopia
- Arrival of Feruz (fiancé of Siem) (from Eritrea May 21, 2025). SSUC Refugee support team in collaboration with Siem have supported with in-kind materials, acquiring necessary Canadian identification papers, health connections, etc., and continue to support her ongoing language acquisition. All direct financial support continues to be from Siem.
- Mielat and baby Amen (Yemane's spouse and child) are in Ethiopia waiting for the family reunification forms to be filed with IRCC. This had been delayed by paperwork on the African side. The appropriate forms are now signed and moving forward.

Finances 2025

Refugee Fund Income: (exact numbers are in the treasure's report)

- Fundraiser Feb 8, 2025: A Taste of Syria and Stories of Refugees: about \$4,400
- Individual donations: about \$750
- Merry Moments Market: approximately \$1000

Expenditure Refugee fund 2025:

- Fundraiser \$25

We have, as of September 30, 2025, \$11,863.68

Gebretsadik, S. Fund

-- Total Funds in 2023-2025: \$18,200

-- Total Funds out 2024-2025: \$18,200

Ghebretsadik, Y. Fund

-- Total Funds in 2023-2025: \$18,200

-- Total Funds out 2024-2025: \$18,200

IN KIND:

Many of SSUC's community members and friends have donated in-kind items to the Alahmad families, Ananias Family, Yemane Ghebretsadik, Siem Gebretsadik, and Feruz Salih

Goals for 2026:

Justice-seeking/ Activism:

Individual members of the group will write letters of advocacy to various levels of government (Federal- the decrease in numbers of refugees planned for 2025, with further reductions in 2026 and again in 2027. Provincial- Alberta has not accepted applications for Newcomer Integration grants to support individual newcomer language learning, other educational support, or settlement services since 2023. Alberta has decreased their funding of organizations which offer settlement services and/or language learning classes.)

Education:

From time to time, the Refugee Support Committee will provide information to educate the SSUC community about issues in/around refugees and the newcomer communities.

Finances:

To meet SSUC's commitments:

1. Sponsor and support the Alramla family of 3 in the next year or two: We require between \$35,000 and \$40,000. When we hear that their application is being processed by Canadian Immigration, we will have to place this amount in a trust fund until they arrive.
2. To support the arrival of Yemane Ghebretsadik's wife and son, we will require up to \$12,000 for immigration fees, and transportation. Yemane, has committed to their financial support once they arrive in Canada.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TEAM

The 2025 Property Maintenance Team (PMT) was chaired by Karen Henderson. Members included Peter Blackall, Jacob Kellerman and Glenn Fredeen. The team saw the departure of Dakota Lafaive and Bill Gieck and welcomed Terry Morrow and the return of Art Hildebrand. The invaluable contributions of these members help ensure our building is properly maintained.

A continuing challenge is lack of volunteer support. In years gone by, there were teams of individuals who would set up chairs, maintain the grounds etc. Over time these numbers dwindled, resulting in this work being outsourced to paid contractors. There are always opportunities for anyone interested and willing to spare an hour here and there to help with some of the ongoing tasks.

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church's long-time custodian, Bruce McCarron, retired in 2025. The PMT hired a replacement, who resigned a few months later. A second round of interviews were held and Bana Green Clean was the successful company. Sammy Samuel and his team are doing a great job in keeping the church looking clean.

The Board asked the PMT to look into the potential to convert the main floor washrooms to universal washrooms. They worked with a general contractor to come up with a design but it was considerably more costly than anticipated. The PMT continues to work on alternative approaches to help make this concept a reality.

In 2025, the PMT started to look at the potential to install solar panels on the church. They are working with several companies regarding cost and will put forward a recommendation to the Board in the coming months.

The John Humprey Centre for Peace and Human Rights created an art piece, the Peace and Freedom Wall, and wanted a place for it to be displayed. SSUC happily agreed to host it and this is now located on the walls in the lower hall. Special thanks to Bill Gieck in helping with the installation.

A number of the church gardens need some additional love and care and, in 2026, there are a couple of trees that will need to be removed. There are fewer volunteers to help maintain the property so some of the smaller garden lots will be cleaned up and plants removed to make maintenance easier. Special thanks to Sandra and Art Hildebrand, Bill and Joy Hibbard, Chris New and Blake MacDonald for their green thumbs in helping with the flowering plants and gardens.

Karen handed over her responsibilities as Kitchen Coordinator to Art Hildebrand early in 2026 and know that Art and Sandra will ensure this important space is kept clean and in working order for everyone to use. The decision was made by the Board in 2025 to increase the custodian's contract by an hour a week and have them take over cleaning of the kitchen, rather than this work being done by volunteers.

As always, the PMT is grateful for the support received from anyone who helps put away chairs, pulls some weeds, wipes down a counter or helps ensure SSUC is a place where we all want to be.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Henderson
Chair, Property Maintenance Team

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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 our 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:

Pam Boutilier
Alan Brimacombe
Brian Rothwell
Heidi Stenabaugh
Ron Henderson
Rev. Christopher New

The trustees held four meetings in 2025.

Investments:

A major accomplishment in 2025 was the development and approval for a new SSUC Investment Policy. This Policy was presented to the Church Board.

In 2025, we were only invested in GICs at Servus Credit Union. We had 2 GICs – one valued at \$142,657 and another valued at \$91,852. They came due December 2, 2025. Kim, our Treasurer indicated we could also consider an additional \$100,000 from general revenue. This gave us a total of \$334,509 to work with.

A decision was reached that 40% of this total would remain in GICs (\$133,804) and 60% of the total (\$200,705) would be invested with Canoe Investments in the Canoe North American Income Fund, which is made up of 60% equities and 40% income.

On December 2, 2025, we opened a 6-month GIC @ 2.4% interest for \$50,000, and a 1-year GIC non-redeemable GIC for \$83,804 at 2.6% interest.

On December 14, 2025, we opened a Canoe Financial account in the Canoe North American Income Fund. To mitigate risk, the initial investment was \$20,000 with a systematic switch every two weeks starting January 2, 2026 of \$20,000 from the Canoe Enhanced Income Fund (a holding fund) until all funds are in the chosen fund. This process will take 4-5 months.

Over the next year, the Trustees will work to find alternative choices for our investments (ethical funding models) that will better match our investment goals. This may include a shift away from Canoe funds.

Just Like Family:

The Board of Trustees is responsible for monitoring and engaging with Just Like Family. The church invested \$50,000 into this Social Enterprise in 2022. This investment was seen as a “impact investment” in an organization that has a “people first approach”.

Chris & Pam Boutilier attended the AGM of Just Like Family over Zoom on June 23, 2025. At that time, the growth and stability of JLF was reinforced. Their franchise ownership remains strong, and they are expanding their marketing efforts. We are entering our 4th year in partnership with JLF. It is anticipated that in our 5th or 6th year, we may see a dividend return on our \$50,000 investment.

Insurance:

Alan Brimacombe has been continuing to work with HUB International, the firm administering the insurance program for the United Church of Canada. As expected, our premiums go up each year.

Submitted by Pam Boutilier, Chair of the Board of Trustees

FINANCE COMMITTEE

2025 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

SSUC reported a **deficit** on the operating account of **-\$19,216** against an AGM approved budget forecast of **-\$19,654** for the 2025 fiscal year.

Donations were down in 2025 against the 2024 contributions by about 0.6% (\$2,231), but revenue from other sources increased by 29% (\$14,066). Increases were noted in facility rentals and fundraising. The diligence of all the volunteers involved in fundraising efforts should be applauded.

The actual **total revenue** realised in 2025 was **\$462,502**. An increase of \$11,834 against 2024's \$450,668. The actual **total expenses** for 2025 were **\$481,719**. This represents an increase of \$21,696 (4.7%) against 2024's \$460,023.

In May 2025 the SSUC Board approved a motion to support our Youth Coordinator in formalizing the Evergreens program (a Community Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA)), which was started in February 2025. Based on three months' information, it was evident that there was a definite need for this amongst our own youth and the wider community. The Board approved an increase to the hours worked by the Youth Coordinator and a concomitant increase in the cost of youth activities. These increases had the potential to add an additional \$10.5k to the 2025 budget which would have resulted in a deficit of \$30.1k. This decision was conveyed to the congregation at the end of May 2025. The Youth Coordinator undertook to raise as much money as possible, through grants and donations, to off-set the financial impact to SSUC. The Youth Coordinator rose to the challenge magnificently so that ultimately the direct contribution by SSUC towards this program was **only \$870** plus the salary increase for the additional hours worked by the Youth Coordinator.

2026 BUDGET

The operating budget for the **2026 fiscal** year forecasts a deficit of **-\$1,395**.

We have included a narrative explaining the basic assumptions which went into compiling the budget.

The budget anticipates the **total revenue** to be **\$489,800**, an increase of \$27.3k (5.9%) against the actual revenue generated in 2025. This increase is mainly supported by an expected increase in facility rentals (parking lot rental agreement with Graham Construction) and fundraising.

Based on information gathered during the latest stewardship campaign, more donors moved onto the PAR system, but non-PAR pledges were down by \$29k. The gradual annual decrease in donations persisted in 2025 which highlights the need for attention to other sources of income. SSUC currently has only three main sources of income, namely donations (which includes all fundraising), facility rentals and interest income from investments. In 2026 we will be increasing our pursuit of Grant Funding where suitable. The need for advertising our fundraising events outside our immediate community cannot be over-emphasized.

Operating expenses for 2026 are expected to increase by about 2% (\$9.5k) **to \$491.2k**.

For increased visibility, the Property and Maintenance detailed budget is included as part of the financial report.

Appreciation and Plans

The Finance Committee members for 2025 and into 2026 include Kim Boyes (Treasurer), Ann Didluck (Charitable Donations Secretary), Pam Boutilier (Coordinator for the Offering Counters), Brian Rothwell and Bill Hibbard (Members at large) and myself.

We thank the team for multiple years of service to SSUC and the Finance Committee.

We also want to thank all the volunteers who support Pam Boutilier in the counting room and those who are always ready to step in when David Mayor needs someone at the grocery card table.

We plan to move onto a cloud based bookkeeping system in 2026 which will enable other volunteers to take on some tasks, like data entry and whatever else we can identify, to lighten the workload for the treasurer. This will also create an opportunity for us to revisit the structure of our reporting systems and processes which need to be updated. Harry Pauls has volunteered his accounting knowledge to assist us during the transition. Thank you, Harry. We know this is not going to be an easy task.

Finally, we want to thank the SSUC community for your keen interest in the financial wellbeing of this place we all call home. We have so much to offer and we depend completely on the power of volunteering individuals and groups to make it possible for SSUC to contribute to a better world.

Respectfully submitted by
Jacob Kellerman, Finance Chair

2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET NARRATIVE

PREFACE

The SSUC Operating Budget to be presented at the AGM for the 2026 financial year forecasts a deficit of - \$1.4k.

Income

Total Givings: The total budgeted Givings for 2026 is forecast to be \$402k. This is \$2k (0.5%) higher than the actual Givings of \$400k in 2025.

The Outreach committee has decided to challenge the congregation with an increased target for Mission and Services. The M&S target is now \$35,000 versus the \$31,549 which was actually donated in 2025. This is a flow-through number in the budget and therefore has no impact on the bottom line. All the funds that are collected for this cause are transferred on a monthly basis to the United Church of Canada.

The number for Total Givings is based on information gained during our latest Stewardship campaign. Measured against pledges made in the previous year, there was a noticeable increase in donations through the PAR system (Pre-Authorized Remittance) and a significant decrease in other amounts pledged.

Total Other Revenue: The income projected from other sources comes mainly from fundraising efforts and rental income and is projected to be up from \$62.1k in actual income in 2025 to \$87.4k in 2026.

- Active fundraising efforts in 2025 resulted in a significant increase for our 2025 income. The actual revenue from fundraising in 2025 increased from \$19.2k in 2024 to \$26.7k. The income from fundraising for 2026 is budgeted at \$31k.
- Rental income for 2025 is budgeted at \$56.4k, a major increase on the \$35.37k actual income recorded for 2025. Graham Construction approached SSUC and signed an agreement to rent parking stalls in our lot from Monday to Friday for as long as the Keheewin housing project is under construction. Graham agreed to pay SSUC \$2k per month.

- The budget for income from the sale of grocery card is \$4.2k, about \$800 more than was raised in 2025.

Based on the above, the forecast for Total Revenue of \$489.8k in 2026 is up from the 2025 actual revenue of \$462.5k. An increase of 6%.

Expenses

The Total Operating Expenses for 2026 are forecast to be \$491.2k.

Please read the detail schedule below with the attached 2026 Summary Budget comparing the budget numbers with the 2024 and 2025 actual income and expenses.

2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

	2026 Budget	2025 Actuals	2024 Actuals
REVENUE			
GIVINGS			
Local	\$341,000.00	\$341,411.15	\$346,309.49
Loose	\$1,200.00	\$1,205.55	\$809.46
M & S	\$35,000.00	\$31,549.00	\$29,774.00
Sundry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,015.00
Non-receiptable & Other sources	\$25,200.00	\$26,270.62	\$24,759.51
TOTAL GIVINGS	\$402,400.00	\$400,436.32	\$402,667.46
OTHER REVENUE			
Fundraising	\$31,000.00	\$26,684.20	\$19,220.60
Sundry	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$179.00
Facility Rental	\$56,400.00	\$35,366.83	\$28,601.18
Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Revenue	\$87,400.00	\$62,066.03	\$48,000.78
TOTAL REVENUE	\$489,800.00	\$462,502.35	\$450,668.24
EXPENSES			
OPERATING EXPENSES			
OFFICE EXPENSES			
Furniture & Equipment	\$2,900.00	\$3,107.31	\$2,728.31
Photocopier cost	\$3,576.00	\$3,574.08	\$3,350.60
Supplies	\$2,328.00	\$2,312.83	\$1,937.31

Telephone	\$3,924.00	\$3,600.50	\$2,798.11
Sundry	\$8,667.00	\$7,585.27	\$5,242.50
SSUC Sask: Admin	\$4,000.00	\$4,125.00	\$3,881.25
SUB TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSES	\$25,395.00	\$24,304.99	\$19,938.08

ADMIN EXPENSES

Bank Charges	\$1,200.00	\$1,193.29	\$997.32
PayPal Fees	\$240.00	\$150.35	\$222.34
Insurance	\$11,518.00	\$11,330.00	\$10,564.48
SUB TOTAL ADMIN EXPENSES	\$12,958.00	\$12,673.64	\$11,767.86

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Maintenance	\$71,445.00	\$67,048.34	\$57,541.73
Maintenance Reserve Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUB TOTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	\$71,445.00	\$67,048.34	\$57,541.73

UTILITIES

Power	\$10,870.00	\$9,821.81	\$8,687.78
Water & Sewage	\$9,160.00	\$8,340.51	\$8,005.01
Natural gas	\$4,850.00	\$4,693.06	\$5,132.65
SUB TOTAL UTILITIES	\$24,880.00	\$22,855.38	\$21,825.44

COMMITTEE EXPENSES

Board	\$800.00	\$35.04	\$227.86
Trustees	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Finance	\$1,440.00	\$320.14	\$547.50
Outreach Committee	\$252.00	\$0.00	
Ministry & Personnel	\$240.00	\$152.25	\$200.00
Archives	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUB TOTAL COMMITTEE EXPENSES	\$3,032.00	\$507.43	\$975.36

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$137,710.00	\$127,389.78	\$112,048.47
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PERSONNEL EXPENSES

Minister	\$133,596.00	\$130,159.47	\$126,056.86
Administrative Assistant	\$49,803.00	\$48,988.08	\$48,165.39
Program and Affirming Animator	\$25,597.00	\$46,944.68	\$41,455.05
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSES	\$208,996.00	\$226,092.23	\$215,677.30

COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Spiritual Gatherings	\$6,900.00	\$6,785.17	\$5,605.97
Marketing/Digital Media Coordinator	\$17,334.00	\$17,000.04	\$15,229.20
Congregational Care	\$780.00	\$738.42	\$703.87
Website & Live Streaming	\$1,800.00	\$1,558.25	\$3,804.86
Publicity	\$960.00	\$712.54	\$3,993.01

Broadview	\$2,500.00	\$2,250.00	\$30.00
Earth Charter	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Social	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Outreach Liaison	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,771.40
TRC Response Group	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Library	\$200.00	\$149.90	\$35.20
TOTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM	\$30,774.00	\$29,194.32	\$31,173.51
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM			
Adult Programming	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Midweek Programming	\$660.00	\$620.15	\$2,400.00
Youth Space Supplies and activities	\$3,000.00	\$2,468.69	
Evergreens activities and supplies	\$0.00	\$870.44	\$0.00
Youth Programming/Evergreens salary	\$13,250.00	\$9,858.32	\$1,612.13
Summer Programs	\$1,200.00	\$1,109.39	\$883.88
kidSPIRIT	\$6,500.00	\$5,734.37	\$6,631.16
Affirm Initiatives	\$1,000.00	\$220.00	\$877.16
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	\$25,610.00	\$20,881.36	\$12,404.33
OUTREACH PROGRAM			
Bissell Centre	\$5,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00
Caring Fund	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
Operation Friendship	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00
ICPM Lunch	\$700.00	\$618.11	\$417.09
Duggan Elementary	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Social Justice/Kairos	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Food Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00
Affordable Housing/Ambrose Place	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Indigenous Initiatives/MFTR	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$610.00
Camp Dragonfly	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,000.00
SSUC Saskatoon Outreach	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,250.00
Emberwood	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
CHEW	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Evergreens Outreach	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Emerging Issues	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL OUTREACH PROGRAM	\$31,500.00	\$26,318.11	\$27,727.09
M&S EXPENSE	\$35,000.00	\$31,549.00	\$33,000.00
WIDER CHURCH			
Northern Spirit Region	\$21,605.00	\$20,294.00	\$21,976.00
TOTAL NORTHERN SPIRIT REGION	\$21,605.00	\$20,294.00	\$21,976.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$491,195.00	\$481,718.80	\$460,022.98
NET INCOME	-\$1,395.00	-\$19,216.45	-\$9,354.74

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE TEAM NARRATIVE BUDGET

PREFACE

The Property and Maintenance Team budget for 2026 totals \$71,445. This represents an increase of about 8.6% against the approved 2025 budget of \$65,790 and 5.9% against actual expenditure. This is a zero-based budget which does not cater for major unforeseen breakdown events.

Major deviations in this budget against 2025 actual expenses are noted in the following areas:

- **Building maintenance.** The budgeted amount for 2026 is lower than the actual 2025 expenses by \$6,951. Expenses that were not budgeted for, but which were incurred last year, were in elevator and plumbing repairs and the installation of a back flow prevention valve on our main water supply.
- **Yard maintenance.** Increases in the 2026 budget are for the removal and replacement of the Mountain Ash tree on the roundabout which is estimated at about \$3,500.

The Year-Round Lawn and Snow negotiated contract increases and the anticipated increased cost of snow clearing not included in the contract for a total of \$1,253.

- **Kitchen expenses.** The facility maintenance contract with Bana Cleaning Services was amended to include the cleaning of the kitchen (+\$2,388).

Utility costs are not part of the PMT budget and are shown as separate line items in the SSUC overall operating budget, but are included in the attached spreadsheet as PMT assumed responsibility for managing these accounts.

The 2026 PMT budget including utilities, represents an increase of 7% compared to the 2025 budget.

The budget numbers can be divided into three distinct categories.

- **Fixed costs.** Costs or contractual obligations which will have to be honoured during the budget period. Budgeted utility expenses are included in this number \$46,565.
- **Variable costs.** Cost obligations which will vary depending on activities and need changes during the budget period. \$24,880. These must be honoured when incurred.
- **Discretionary costs.** By definition these are mostly foreseen capital expenses which should be incurred to ensure the long-term integrity of the facilities. These expenses may be delayed or phased in accordance with the perceived urgency. Due to fiscal restraints, all the discretionary expenses have been removed from this budget due to fiscal restraints (refer to the notes under Capital Items NOT included).

Contracts. The PMT decided to renew the contract with Year-Round Lawn & Snow for yard maintenance which covers both snow removal and lawn mowing. Contracts were also renewed for (1) Quarterly furnace inspections (Paragon Mechanical), (2) Regular elevator inspections (Otis) and (3) Fire equipment and alarm systems (Vipond) and (4) the security system (Home Tech).

Provisions. Building Maintenance (Miscellaneous). Provision was made for the possible installation of security cameras on the eastern side of the building (Building Maintenance – Miscellaneous) , and an irrigation system for some flower beds and minor curb repairs (Yard Maintenance – Miscellaneous).

Capital items NOT included in the operating budget.

1. Gender neutral washrooms. The PMT contracted Belvan Construction to complete a scoping study plus preliminary cost estimate for presentation to the Board and the congregation for final approval to proceed. The contractor was paid \$2,250 for the study and presented an order of magnitude cost estimate in excess of \$150,000 which is much more than what was anticipated. The next steps are to be decided.

2. Carpet replacement in the Large Hall and major parking lot curb repairs are being deferred due to financial constraints.

Budget details. More detailed 2026 budget data are in the attached schedule and spreadsheet.

Cost centre	Comments	Amount (\$)
1100	Building Maintenance	
	1101 An annual furnace service contract was renewed with Paragon and will be charged quarterly.	\$1,544
	1102 Incidental repairs to the furnace is budgeted at a nominal \$205 per month based on historical data.	\$2,460
	1103, 1104 No provision for equipment replacement and repairs to audiovisual equipment are budgeted at a nominal monthly amount of \$20.	\$240
	1105 Security system monitoring is budgeted at \$200 quarterly.	\$800
	1106 Maintenance costs (\$400) for the security system in January.	\$400
	1107 Elevator inspection and service contract (Otis). \$375 charged quarterly plus \$500 in January for additional inspection if required.	\$2,000
	1108 Elevator repairs not included in the service contract are budgeted at \$250 per month based on 2025 expenses.	\$2,400
	1109 Fire alarm and smoke detection inspection is budgeted at a once-off charge in February of \$700 based on 2025 charges.	\$700
	1110 Fire equipment maintenance and extinguisher replacement is budgeted monthly at \$125 based on 2025 charges.	\$1,500
	1111 Small paint touch up and repairs. Budgeted for in April as a once-off charge of \$2,000 but may result in a phased expenditure.	\$2,000
	1112 Lighting and repairs. \$135 monthly	\$1,620
	1113 Window repairs and cleaning. Outside window cleaning is due in 2026. Provision is made in May and June for \$1,000 each.	\$2,000
	1114 Plumbing. This is a new cost centre based on expenses incurred in 2025. Budgeted at \$350 per month.	\$4,200
	1115. Miscellaneous expenses. Provision for security cameras and installation (+-\$1,200), Flower bed irrigation system (+-\$1,000) and other incidental costs (\$800).	\$3,000
	TOTAL	\$23,844
1200	Yard Maintenance	
	1201 Parking lot snow clearing not included in the contract. Two charges plus tax in January, February and December. \$820 X 3.	\$2,460
	1202 Parking lot sweeping. Once-off charge plus tax in April based on contract.	\$410
	1203, 1204 Small provision for gasoline/supplies for trimmer.	\$50
	1205 Gravel/ice melt for snow. According to contract. Provided for in January and December.	
	1206 Parking lot lights. Once-off incidental charge in June.	\$520
	1207 Shed/small tools/yard equipment. \$200 in January.	\$800
	1208/1209 Snow removal/lawn moving contract. Contract for year-round yard maintenance was signed with Year-Round Lawn & Snow at \$974/month for snow removal from November to March and lawn care at \$897/month from May to September. Spring and Fall lawn preparation will be done and budgeted for in April and October.	\$10,893
	1210 Miscellaneous. Included a provision of \$3,500 for replacement.	\$4,000
	TOTAL	\$19,333

1300	Kitchen expenses 1301 Coffee/tea supplies. Budgeted at \$184/month based on 2025 expenses. 1302 Kitchen repairs and maintenance. Budgeted at \$80/month based on 2025 expenses. 1303 Grease trap cleaning. Once-off expense in April. 1304 Miscellaneous supplies. Budgeted at \$70/month based on 2025 expenses. TOTAL	\$2,208 \$960 \$200 \$840 \$4,208
1400	Property management 1401 PM Contract. Contractual obligation. 1402 PM Supplies. Budgeted at \$125/month based on 2025 invoices. TOTAL	\$21,300 \$1500 \$22,800
	TOTAL PMT BUDGET	\$71,445
1500	Utilities 1501 Electricity. Budgeted based on 2025 consumption with a 5year fixed rate. 1502 Natural gas. Based on 2025 usage fluctuations. 1503 Water & sewage. Budgeted at an average of \$680/month. Based on 2025 invoices. 1504 Garbage removal. Budgeted at \$105/month based on 2025 invoices. TOTAL	\$10,870 \$4,850 \$9,160 \$1,260 \$24,880
	TOTAL ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY PMT IN 2026	\$96,325

2026 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BUDGET				
			Annual Budget	Actual
			2026	2025
		BUILDING MAINTENANCE 1100		
1101		Furnace service contract	\$1,544.00	\$1,410.40
1102		Furnace maintenance & repairs	\$1,440.00	\$565.55
1103		Audio visual equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
1104		Audio visual maintenance	\$240.00	\$0.00
1105		Security system monitoring	\$800.00	\$329.89
1106		Security system repairs	\$400.00	\$112.74
1107		Elevator inspection contract (Otis)	\$2,000.00	\$1,693.70
1108		Elevator repairs	\$2,400.00	\$12,493.74
1109		Fire equipment inspection	\$700.00	\$322.87

1110		Fire equipment maintenance	\$1,500.00	\$927.37
1111		Small paint touch up and repairs	\$2,000.00	\$70.84
1112		Lighting & electrical repairs	\$1,620.00	\$1,621.38
1113		Window repairs and cleaning	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
1114		Plumbing	\$4,200.00	\$0.00
1115		Miscellaneous	\$3,000.00	\$11,246.60
		Subtotal	\$23,844.00	\$30,795.08
		YARD MAINTENANCE 1200		
1201		Snow removal (not incl in contract)	\$2,460.00	\$3,059.62
1202		Parking lot sweeping	\$410.00	\$225.50
1203		Tractor maintenance & repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00
1204		Tractor fuel	\$50.00	\$0.00
1205		Gravel/icemelt for snow	\$520.00	\$0.00
1206		Parking lot lights	\$800.00	\$0.00
1207		Shed/small tools/yard equipment	\$200.00	\$23.56
1208		Snow removal contract	\$4,870.00	\$5,642.62
1209		Lawn care contract	\$6,023.00	\$4,279.35
1210		Miscellaneous	\$4,000.00	\$1,538.00
		Subtotal	\$19,333.00	\$14,768.65
		KITCHEN EXPENSES 1300		
1301		Coffee/tea supplies	\$2,208.00	\$2,149.51
1302		Kitchen repairs & maintenance	\$960.00	\$354.65
1303		Grease trap cleaning	\$200.00	\$0.00
1304		Miscellaneous supplies	\$840.00	\$616.83
		Subtotal	\$4,208.00	\$3,120.99
		PROPERTY MANAGEMENT 1400		
1401		PM Contract	\$21,300.00	\$16,318.05
1402		PM Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,224.37
		Subtotal	\$22,800.00	\$17,542.42
1504		Garbage removal	\$1,260.00	\$1,227.80
		PMT TOTAL	\$71,445.00	\$67,454.94
		UTILITIES 1500		
1501		Electricity	\$10,870.00	\$9,821.81
1502		Natural gas	\$4,850.00	\$4,694.06
1503		Water & sewage	\$9,160.00	\$8,340.05
		Subtotal	\$24,880.00	\$22,855.92
		TOTAL PMT PLUS UTILITIES	\$96,325.00	\$90,310.86

TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

Musings from the Number Tracker

As treasurer, I keep track of the amazing life and dedication of SSUC and all the various programs, fundraisers, special events, Sunday gatherings, maintaining the building in which we gather, and fulfilling the obligation to the CRA to maintain our charitable status by completing a yearly T3010 Registered Charity Information Return. There are also many reports to be created and forwarded to the appropriate people, keying in all the transactions into Simply Accounting (approximately 4,000 entries), answering a myriad of emails, writing cheques and mailing them away, sending e-transfers for payments, attending Board meetings, working with ADP to pay staff on payroll and summarizing the years activities in the treasurer's report for the AGM.

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 2025 there was a net deficit of **-\$19,216.45** which was close to the budgeted deficit of **-\$19,654**. The Balance Sheet ending December 31, 2025 and the Income and Expense Statement for 2025 follow the written financial story. In addition to the monies shown in the 2025 Income and Expense Statement, a total of **\$170,558.10** was collected (including \$48,340 receiptable donations to various funds) and **\$241,102.13** 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 5 and GIC6

These GIC's from 2024 were cashed in during 2025.

3. Servus GIC 7 and 8

In December 2025, these two new GIC's were set up (GIC 7 for 6 months and GIC8 for 12 months).

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, 2025 was \$103,045.50 (at the end of 2024 the value was December \$96,961.32 and at the end of 2023 it was \$90,116).

6. Canoe Financial

In December 2025, Servus GIC's were cashed in. A portion of this total amount plus available funds from the Servus chequing account were invested, by the Trustees, with Canoe Financial.

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

There was \$65.84 in interest earned in this account.

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. \$319.33 was added in 2025.

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 2025 was \$64.38 and was transferred into the chequing account.

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. SSUC is no longer required to pay 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 2025.

15. Special Funds

In 2025, there was an ending balance of \$421,183.72. A breakdown of money received and disbursed in these funds are outlined in notes #16 through #34. For a summary, see the Special Funds Collections and Disbursements spreadsheet attached 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 held throughout 2025 in Servus GIC's and then shifted to two new GIC's and Canoe Financial.

17. SH Invested Interest Earned

In 2025, the interest earned from this invested GIC money was \$6,344.40.

18. MVU Funds Transferred

This fund holds money transferred in 2018 from Meewasin Valley United Church in Saskatoon upon their closure. \$65.84 was earned in interest.

19. Maintenance Reserve Fund

At the Board meeting of April 20, 2021, a motion was passed that a Maintenance Reserve Fund be established. \$4,500 (including \$500 for tree maintenance and \$1,500 for carpet replacement) was added to this fund.

20. Refugee Fund

\$3,465 in Receiptable givings and \$5,195.07 Unreceiptable amounts (including proceeds from Taste of Syria event and the Merry Moments Market) were collected.

21. Ananias Sponsorship Fund

The remaining \$29,213.43 in this fund was disbursed in 2025.

22. Yemane and Siem Ghebretsadick Sponsorship Funds

This is a directed refugee sponsorship carried over from First United Church in Ottawa, ON. \$100 was added to the fund and \$30,564.02 was disbursed. The negative balance will be corrected in 2026.

23. Christmas Eve Fund

\$3025 was collected and \$2,725 was disbursed to 2025's No Room In the Inn campaign (WIN House as recipient).

24. Special Events/Fundraising Projects

This account keeps track of the various special events that took place over the year.

- Affirm activities: \$409.25 and \$334.97 was expensed. Balance of \$709.97.
- Memorial Expenses: \$3,460.27 was expensed and \$3,167.74 was reimbursed by the families. Balance of -\$122.99.
- PIE Day: \$92.22. \$57.78 was expensed and the balance \$92.22 was transferred to Evergreens.
- CCPC/Ever Wonder: \$238 was collected and \$661.19 was expensed. Balance of \$3,256.84.
- Zatoun: \$3,641 worth of product was purchased and \$3,625.85 was sold. Balance of -\$3,811.15
- T-shirts: \$50 in sales leaving a balance of -\$1,420.75.
- Garage Sale: \$9,200.81 was sold and transferred to fundraising.
- Designated Food Bank: \$305 was collected and \$280 was disbursed to the Food Bank leaving a balance of \$25.
- Fall dinner tix: \$4,975 (of which \$3,336 was a receiptable portion transferred to Local givings) for tickets was collected and was \$1,639 was expensed. Balance is \$0.
- Bracelets: \$135.00 was expensed for an Affirm event leaving a balance of \$0.

The overall ending balance in this Special Event Fund is -\$1,363.08.

25. Evergreens

This was a new program (GSA) that was started in 2025. \$7,270 Receiptable and \$6,778.78 (UCC Grant of \$5,000 and PIE Day proceeds) were collected and this total was expensed leaving a balance of \$0.

26. Camp Dragonfly

\$10,065.00 was donated, \$30,113.41 was collected for camp fees, \$2,766.21 came from the Makeway Foundation, and \$2,500 was transferred in from the Outreach Budget. \$58,125.56 was expensed. Balance of \$14,213.23.

27. Emberwood

\$2,500 was added from the Outreach budget, \$10,000 from a UCC grant, \$8,652 from Casa Mental Health, \$4,336.50 from the WESE Charter Program. Program fees of \$22,218.63 were collected and \$80,228.16 was expensed leaving a balance of \$24,014.82.

28. Memorial Funds

\$6,460 was donated, \$2,459.88 was expensed (youth furniture, seat cushions, drum kit). Balance of \$30,834.11.

29. M. Thomas Memorial Education Fund

\$300 was disbursed leaving a balance of \$200.87.

30. Labyrinth Fund

\$25 was donated leaving a balance of \$60.

31. Bequests

\$1,500 was donated and \$1,166.50 was disbursed (100th Anniversary expenses). Balance of \$60,712.50.

32. Caring Fund

\$2,284 was donated and \$2,200 Unreceiptable (including \$2,000 from the Outreach budget). \$3,665 was disbursed leaving a balance of \$3,906.43.

33. Facility Improvement Fund (Memorial Leaves/Memorial Garden)

\$500 was received. \$308.52 was expensed leaving a balance of \$3,906.43.

34. Yoga Fund

\$5,030 was collected and \$3,600 was disbursed. Balance is \$1,430.

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. Non-Receiptable – Other Sources

These amounts are for givings that have been receipted by other charities - The UCC Foundation (\$18,164.81), Canada Helps (\$2,504.25), Benefaction Canada (\$4,500), Tru Earth Sales (\$26.06), Green Bottle Depot proceeds (\$50.50) and \$1,025 (other).

38. Fundraising Revenue

Fundraising revenue consists of Garage Sale - \$9,200.81, Fall Dinner/Auction - \$8,668.91, Tru Earth sales - \$16.18, Merry Moments - \$4,619.25, Grocery Card Profit - \$4,146.35, Green Bottle Depot- \$32.70. Grand Total \$26,684.20.

39. Ministry and Support Personnel Expenses

	<u>Chris</u>	<u>Aynsley</u>	<u>Dara</u>	
Salary	\$99,492	\$38,751	\$37,380	
Travel	2,204.40			
Education	3,300.00			
Telephone	500.04			
Benefits	<u>24,663.03</u>	<u>10,237.08</u>	<u>9,564.68</u>	
	\$130,159.47	\$48,988.08	\$46,944.68	Total = \$226,092.23

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Boyes, Treasurer

If you have any questions regarding the Treasurers' Report, Income and Expense Statement for 2025, or the Balance Sheet ending December 31, 2025, please contact Kim via email: tzutouch@gmail.com

Comparative Balance Sheet 2025

	As at	As at	
	Dec. 31, 2025	Dec. 31, 2024	Notes
ASSETS:			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Servus Chequing Account	81,850.89	270,817.26	1
Servus GIC 5	0.00	138,798.00	2
Servus GIC 6	0.00	89,377.50	2
Servus GIC 7	50,000.00	0.00	3
Servus GIC 8	83,804.00	0.00	3
JLF (Just Like Family) Invested	50,000.00	50,000.00	4
MVU Funds Invested	100,000.00	100,000.00	5
Canoe Financial	200,705.00	0.00	6
Servus Savings Account	6,168.21	6,102.37	7
Grocery Cards on Hand	27,492.85	48,966.50	8
Petty Cash	400.00	400.00	9
Total Cash Assets	600,420.95	704,461.63	
GST Reimbursable	1,525.87	1,230.07	
Membership in Servus	7,868.50	7,549.17	10
Patronage Rewards Payment	9.06	9.06	11
Total Current Assets	609,824.38	713,249.93	
FIXED ASSETS			12
Investment in Land	288,588.53	288,588.53	
Investment in Building	1,879,357.11	1,879,357.11	
Investment in Furnishings	39,897.12	44,330.13	13
Total Fixed Assets	2,207,842.76	2,212,275.77	
TOTAL ASSET	\$ 2,817,667.14	\$ 2,925,525.70	
LIABILITIES:			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00	14
Total Current Liabilities	0.00	0.00	
SPECIAL FUNDS			15
SH Proceeds	135,987.74	135,987.74	16
SH Invested Interest Earned	26,238.49	19,894.09	17

MVU Funds Transferred	81,779.38	81,713.54	18
Maintenance Reserve Fund	25,486.50	20,986.50	19
Refugee Fund	15,284.11	6,724.04	20
Ananais Sponsorship Fund	0.00	29,213.43	21
	As at	As at	
	Dec. 31, 2025	Dec. 31, 2024	Notes
Yemane Ghebretsadik Sponsorship	-1,500.00	14,557.01	22
Siem Ghebretsadik Sponsorship	-500.00	13,907.01	22
Christmas Eve Fund	300.00	0.00	23
Special Events	-1,363.08	-646.49	24
Evergreens	0.00	0.00	25
Camp Dragonfly	14,213.23	32,160.38	26
Emberwood	24,014.82	56,535.85	27
Memorial Funds	30,834.11	26,833.99	28
M. Thomas Memorial Fund	200.87	500.87	29
Labyrinth Fund	60.00	35.00	30
Bequests	60,712.50	60,379.00	31
Caring Fund	3,906.43	3,087.43	32
Facility Improvement Fund	4,098.62	3,907.14	33
Yoga Fund	1,430.00	0.00	34
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	421,183.72	505,776.53	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	421,183.72	505,776.53	
<i>EQUITY AND SURPLUS:</i>			
EQUITY IN FIXED ASSETS			35
Equity in Land	288,588.53	288,588.53	
Equity in Building	1,883,559.28	1,883,559.28	
Equity in Furnishings	39,897.12	44,330.13	
Total Equity in Fixed Assets	2,212,044.93	2,216,477.94	
Equity in Membership	7,868.50	7,549.17	
Equity in Patronage Payment	198.51	134.13	
Equity in SH Invested Interest Earn	85,000.00	85,000.00	36
Previous Year Surplus/Deficit	110,587.93	119,942.67	
Current Earnings	-19,216.45	-9,354.74	
TOTAL EQUITY AND SURPLUS	2,396,483.42	2,419,749.17	
TOTAL EQUITY	2,396,483.42	2,419,749.17	
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 2,817,667.14	\$ 2,925,525.70	

*The notes in the Treasurer's Report form an integral part of this Balance Sheet Comparative Statement

Comparative Income and Expense Statements 2025

	2025		2025		2024	
	Actual		Budget		Actual	Notes
<i>REVENUE:</i>						
GIVINGS						
Local	341,411.15		357,200		346,309.49	
Loose	1,205.55		800		809.46	
M & S	31,549.00		33,000		29,774.00	
Sundry	0.00		1,000		1,015.00	
Non-Receiptable - Other Sources	26,270.62		25,000		24,759.51	37
TOTAL GIVINGS	400,436.32		417,000.00		402,667.46	
OTHER REVENUE						
Fundraising	26,684.20		28,000		19,220.60	38
Sundry	15.00		0		179.00	
Facility Rental	35,366.83		30,000		28,601.18	
Grants	0.00		0		0.00	
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	62,066.03		58,000.00		48,000.78	
TOTAL REVENUE	462,502.35		475,000.00		450,668.24	
<i>EXPENSES:</i>						
OPERATING EXPENSE						
Furniture & Equipment	3,107.31		6300		2,728.31	
Photocopier Lease, Usage Cost	3,574.08		3490		3,350.60	
Supplies	2,312.83		1800		1,937.31	
Telephone	3,600.50		2880		2,798.11	
Sundry	7,585.27		3330		5,242.50	
SSUC-SK Admin./SK Rent	4,125.00		5680		3,881.25	
Office Expenses Sub-Total	24,304.99		23,480		19,938.08	
Bank Charges	1,193.29		960		997.32	
PayPal Fees	150.35		240		222.34	
Insurance	11,330.00		11300		10,564.48	
Maintenance	67,048.34		65790		57,541.73	
Power	9,821.81		14184		8,687.78	
Water & Sewage	8,340.51		8150		8,005.01	
Natural Gas	4,693.06		5450		5,132.65	
Utility Sub-Total	22,855.38		27,784		21,825.44	
Board Expense	35.04		400		227.86	
Trustees	0.00		200		0.00	
Finance Committee	320.14		600		547.50	

Ministry & Personnel	152.25	250	200.00
Archives	0.00	100	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	127,389.78	131,104	112,064.75
PERSONNEL EXPENSES			39
Minister	130,159.47	130,000	126,056.86
Administrative Assistant	48,988.08	49,640	48,165.39
Program & Affirming Animator	46,944.68	46,860	41,455.05
TOTAL PERSONNEL EXPENSE	226,092.23	226,500	215,677.30
	2025	2025	2024
	Actual	Budget	Actual
COMMUNITY PROGRAM			
Spiritual Gatherings	6,785.17	6,500	5,605.97
Communications Coordinator	17,000.04	17,000	15,229.20
Congregational Care	738.42	2,000	703.87
Website	1,558.25	3,500	3,804.86
Publicity	712.54	4,000	3,993.01
Broadview	2,250.00	2,500	30.00
Earth Charter	0.00	100	0.00
Social	0.00	100	0.00
Library	149.90	400	35.20
Community Outreach Liaison	0.00	-	1,771.40
TOTAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM	29,194.32	36,100	33,197.51
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM			
Adult Programming	0.00	0	0.00
Midweek Programming	620.15	2,000	2,400.00
Youth Programming	13,197.45	6,750	1,612.13
Summer Programs	1,109.39	1,000	883.88
kidSPIRIT	5,734.37	6,500	6,631.16
Affirm Initiatives	220.00	1,000	877.16
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	20,881.36	17,250	12,404.33
OUTREACH PROGRAM			
Bissell Centre	4,000.00	4,000	6,000.00
Families/SW Community Needs	0.00	2,000	450.00
Operation Friendship	4,000.00	4,000	6,000.00
Duggan Elementary	1,000.00	1,000	2,000.00
Social Justice/Kairos	200.00	200	200.00
Food Assistance	0.00	-	1,300.00
Affordable Housing/Ambrose Place	5,000.00	5,000	5,000.00
Indigenous Initiatives	0.00	1,500	610.00

Camp Dragonfly	2,500.00	2,500	5,000.00
Emberwood	2,500.00	2,500	0.00
CHEW Project	1,500.00	1,500	2,500.00
Emerging Issues (Caring Fund)	2,000.00	1,000	
SSUC Sask Outreach	3,000.00	3,000	4,250.00
Project Sub-Total	25,700.00	28,200	33,310.00
ICPM Lunch	618.11	500	417.09
TOTAL OUTREACH PROGRAM	26,318.11	28,700	66,727.09
WIDER CHURCH			
Northern Spirit Assessment	20,294.00	22,000	21,976.00
Mission and Service Expense	31,549.00	33,000	33,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	481,718.80	494,654	460,022.98
	-	-	-
NET INCOME	19,216.45	19,654.00	9,354.74

SSUC Special Funds - Collections and Disbursements 2025

Description	Opening Balance	Collected Receiptable	Collected Unreceiptable	Disbursed	Closing Balance
SH Proceeds	135,987.74				135,987.74
SH Invested Interest Earned	19,894.09		6344.40		26,238.49
MVU Funds Transferred	81,713.54		65.84		81,779.38
Maintenance Reserve Fund	20,986.50	2500.00	2000.00		25,486.50
Refugee Fund	6,724.04	3465.00	5195.07	100.00	15,284.11
Ananais Sponsorship Fund	29,213.43			29213.43	-
Yemane Ghebretsadick Fund	14,557.01	50.00		16107.01	1,500.00
Siem Ghebretsadick Fund	13,907.01	50.00		14457.01	500.00
No Room in the Inn	-	2825.00	200.00	2725.00	300.00
Affirm Activities	635.69		409.25	334.97	709.97
Memorial Expenses	169.54		3167.74	3460.27	122.99
PIE Day	-		150.00	150.00	-
CNOY			730.00	730.00	
Ever Wonder/CCPC	3,680.03		238.00	661.19	3,256.84
Zatoun	3,796.00		3625.85	3641.00	3,811.15
T-Shirts	1,470.75		50.00		1,420.75
Garage Sale	-		9200.81	9200.81	-
Designated Food Bank	-	305.00		280.00	25.00
100th Anniv. Part I	-	4535.00		4535.00	-
Taste of Syria	-		542.82	542.82	-
Fall Dinner Tix	-	3336.00	1639.00	4975.00	-
Bracelets	135.00			135.00	-
Evergreens Fund	-	7270.00	6778.78	14048.78	-
Camp Dragonfly	32,160.38	10065.00	30113.41	58125.56	14,213.23
Emberwood	56,535.85		47707.13	80228.16	24,014.82
Memorial Funds	26,833.99	6460.00		2459.88	30,834.11
M. Thomas Memorial Fund	500.87			300.00	200.87
Labyrinth	35.00	25.00			60.00
Bequests	60,379.00	1500.00		1166.50	60,712.50
Caring Fund	3,087.43	2284.00	2200.00	3665.00	3,906.43
Facility Improvement	3,907.14		500.00	308.52	4,098.62
Yoga Fund		3,670.00	1,360.00	3,600.00	1,430.00
TOTALS	\$ 505,776.53	\$ 48,340.00	\$ 122,218.10	\$ 255,150.91	\$ 421,183.72

Seconded: Karen Henderson Carried

8. Discussion and/questions in regards to the Annual Reports for 2024 (Annual Reports for 2024, pages 3 to 26)

03-16-2025-5: That the Annual Reports for 2024 (Pages 3-26) be received.

Moved: Anne McCracken

Seconded: Maureen Andre Carried

9. Treasurer’s Report for 2024 (Annual Reports for 2024, starting p. 27) – Kim Boyes asked attendees to note the following changes to her report: Item 21, p. 29 should read Ananias, not Ananais; in the Income and Expense report, p. 35, the total Personnel Expenses for 2024 should read \$215,677.3; in the addendum titled SSUC Special Funds, p.36, the Collected Unreceiptable on the Emberwood line should read \$102,483.54 for a total of \$56,535.85; and in the same report, the grand total for Collected Unreceiptable should read \$238,549.87 to yield a closing balance of \$510,847.08.

03-16-2025-6: That the Treasurer’s Report for 2024 as amended be accepted as presented.

Moved: Esther Oaks

Seconded: Berni Hardin Carried

10. Appointment of Reviewer of 2024 Financial Statements (Jacob Kellerman)

03-16-2025-7: That the Board be authorized to appoint an individual to conduct a review of the 2024 Financial Statements, when available.

Moved: Jacob Kellerman

Seconded: Kim Boyes Carried

11. Specific Presentations or Discussions

a. Outreach

Marg Hetherington talked about a revised approach to Outreach, with more hands-on outreach and a reduced financial commitment from SSUC. (Much of this discussion had already been held during our pre-AGM town hall meetings.)

b. M&S Donations

Several years ago, SSUC agreed to send a minimum of \$33,000 to M&S annually, regardless of any shortfall in designated donations to M&S. A lively discussion was held on whether we should change this approach and restrict our donations to the amount actually collected and designated for M&S.

03-16-2025-8: That SSUC set a target of \$33,000 for M&S annually, but that any shortfall in designated donations below this target no longer be supplemented by our operating funds.

Moved: Kim Boyes

Seconded: Jacob Kellerman Carried

our community. Furthermore, Jacob Kellerman undertook to provide quarterly updates on our progress.

12. Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2025 (Annual Reports for 2024, p. 37) – Jacob Kellerman

Discussion Jacob Kellerman adjusted the projected deficit for 2025 from \$19.2 k to \$19.65 k because the amount budgeted for KidSpirit was increased by \$500 to provide for supplies.

03-16-2025-9: That the 2025 Proposed Budget be adopted as presented.

Moved: Jacob Kellerman

Seconded: Blair Anderson-Croft Carried with comments:

Jacob Kellerman thanked Kim Boyes for her incredibly hard work as SSUC Treasurer, dealing with hundreds of financial transactions through the year. Wide applause for Kim.

13. Approval of Proposed 2025-2026 SSUC Board

03-16-2025-10: That the proposed board for 2025-2026 be approved.

Moved: Joyce Madsen

Seconded: Chell Hemens

Carried

14. Motions for Board Empowerment

03-16-2025-11: That the SSUC Board be empowered to act on behalf of the congregation for 2025-2026 and also appoint members to serve in vacancies that may exist or arise during the year until the next annual general meeting.

Moved: Marilyn Blackwell

Seconded: Sandra Hildebrand Carried

15. A Moment of Appreciation

- a. Maureen Andre thanked Berni Hardin, outgoing chair of the Congregational Care Committee for her many years of leadership and dedication to caring for our community.
- b. Kim Boyes thanked Bill Hibbard, outgoing chair of the Finance Committee for over a decade of hard work and leadership in stewarding SSUC's finances. Kim also expressed gratitude to Bill for his personal friendship with her as they worked together for so many years.
- c. Esther Oaks, on behalf of the Ministry & Personnel Committee, thanked out amazing staff for all they do for our community. The meeting attendees responded with a standing ovation for our staff.
- d. Supporters and participants – Chris New thanked all SSUC supporters and participants for their continuous engagement with our community.

16. Motion for Adjournment

03-16-2025-12: That this Annual General Meeting of SSUC be adjourned.

Moved: Bill Hibbard

Seconded: Blair Anderson-Croft; no vote.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, March 15, 2026; 11:45pm in-person and online

Documents for this meeting can be found at ssucedmonton.com/administration-resources

1. Welcome and Call to Order
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:
 - Maie Kellerman as Chair;**
 - Blair Anderson-Croft as Secretary;**
 - Shelagh Parsons as Parliamentarian;**
 - Ruth Stewart-Verger as Guardian**
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 16, 2025 (Annual Reports for 2025, page 59)
Motion: That the minutes of the SSUC Annual General Meeting of March 16, 2025 be approved.
8. Discussion and/or questions in regards to the Annual Reports for 2025 (Annual Reports for 2025, pages 3 to 48)
9. Treasurer's Report for 2025 (Annual Reports for 2025, p. 50) - Kim Boyes
Discussion
Motion: That the Treasurer's Report for 2025 be accepted as presented.
10. Appointment of Reviewer of 2025 Financial Statements
Motion: That the Board be authorized to appoint an individual to conduct a review of the 2025 Financial Statements, when available.
11. Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2026
Discussion
Motion: That the 2026 Proposed Budget be adopted as presented.

12. Approval of Proposed 2026 SSUC Board

Motion: That the proposed board for 2026 be approved.

13. 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.

14. A Moment of Appreciation

- a. Board Chair
- b. Outgoing Committee Chairs
- c. supporters and participants

15. Motion for Adjournment

Motion: That this Annual General Meeting of SSUC be adjourned.