



Annual Report 2022

Mill Woods United Church

We are a spiritual community where you can explore your
purpose and place



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Mill Woods United Church

Located at 15 Grand Meadow Crescent NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6L 1A3

Phone: 780 463 2202 Office email: mwuc1@telus.net Website: www.millwoodsunited.org

Church Staff

Minister	Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson
Music Coordinator	Bryan LeGrow
Administrator	Liliana Angel
Custodian	Bruce McCarron
Children's program leader	Mukta Nistranda

Church Council

Chairperson	Wanda Egilsson
Chair Elect	
Past Chair	Carol Hickmann
Finance	Terry Staley
Member-at-Large	Lindy Mair, Janice Martin, Enid Oldham
Minister	Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson
Ministry & Personnel	John Mair
Recording Steward	Elfrieda Penner
Worship	Cathy Bayly
Building Use	Carol Hickmann
Property	Gary Boswell
Congregational Care	Carla Janzen

Other Key Leaders

Trustees	Carol Hickmann, Karl Kropf, Donna Skoreiko and Lindsey Jo Pawlyk
Congregational Chairperson	Tim Janewski
Congregational Recording Steward	Elfrieda Penner
Memorial Committee	Jan Hodge
Ministry and Personnel	Jan Hodge, Audrey Murray, Wendy Edey
Stewardship	Nancy Siever

Foundational Statements

Purpose Statement

We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place

(Annual General Meeting, March 10, 2019)

Visioning Statement



**Join in • Reach out
Make a difference**

Our Core Values

- ❖ Faith based spiritual growth a caring community that is supportive and inclusive
- ❖ Trust and integrity
- ❖ Courage to risk, to seek, to move on
- ❖ Commitment to purpose, to mission, to ministry carried out by all
- ❖ Joy and laughter
- ❖ Acceptance of all individuals, acceptance of diversity

Affirming Statement

As a community of the Christian faith, striving to answer Jesus' call to love all of our neighbors as ourselves, we declare our love for all persons, regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, differing abilities, ethnic background or economic circumstance and welcome them into full participation in every aspect of congregational life. As we continue our discovery of what it means to be an inclusive community; we recognize the importance of hearing each other's stories and respecting each other's gifts. We celebrate diversity even as it challenges us to walk with Christ down roads we have not yet explored.

(September 2006)

Congregational Information

Reflection by Dr. Rev. Dale Johnson



This year has been a time of transition, change and waiting for Mill Woods United Church. Ian had long anticipated his retirement from ministry, and the moment finally arrived on May 1st. With words and expressions of appreciation and gratitude for his eight years of ministry, Ian's chapter with our congregation came to a close. When the Pastoral Search Committee was having little success in securing an appropriate and promising candidate, I was approached about stepping in and offering pastoral leadership while the search continued. I accepted a one year appointment effective September 1st, with the understanding that I would leave before the appointment was completed if a suitable candidate were found.

I am told by those who have a long history in this congregation that this fall, the church began to return to the way it used to be, prior to the pandemic. More people are feeling more comfortable being out among others. And the vitality of this community of faith is experiencing a resurrection. The choir is singing without masks. Coffee and treats are offered following worship and people are again taking time to both reconnect with old friends and establish new connections with new additions to our community.

So we look to 2023 with anticipation and hope. I have been honoured and privileged to serve as your minister during this transition time, but I join you as we look forward to what is on the horizon and wait to discover who will be our new pastoral leader. In the meantime, life in this community of faith continues to thrive. This January saw the creation of the Mill Woods United Church Bell Choir. We are joyously ringing in and welcoming the New Year, and all that awaits us in the future.

A final note. I have been deeply touched and moved by the individuals who make up and are committed to this community of faith. It amazes me how people with diverse talents and gifts have successfully given birth to a community where all are welcomed, valued, and are enabled to contribute their unique gifts. At the risk of lifting up one over others, on behalf of the church I do want to offer our deep gratitude and appreciation to Cathy Bayly. For years Cathy has provided leadership and faithful coordination for our Worship Committee. Her commitment to excellence and attention to details has enabled Mill Woods to have consistent, appropriate, beautiful and meaningful worship services even in the midst of a pandemic. Cathy Bayly, as you step down as Chair of the Worship Committee, we thank you for your dedication and service to our community of faith. Merci Beaucoup!!!

**Submitted by,
Dale Johnson**

Ministerial Search Team

Throughout 2022 your Ministerial Search Team has shared several updates both during *This is Us* and in our weekly *What's the Buzz*. As we look back on 2022, we share the following highlights of the work we have done.

- The search process began as a result of Rev. Ian Kellogg sharing his plans to retire on May 1, 2022, after eight years serving as our minister.
- **November and December 2021:** Your Council initiated a process of finding out from congregational members what they thought were important considerations and characteristics wanted in our next minister.
- **January and February 2022:** Two documents were created – *A Community of Faith Profile for Mill Woods United Church* and *A Ministerial Position Summary*. These were shared with the congregation and approved by Northern Spirit Regional Council on March 3, 2022. From there they were posted on ChurchHub, an information site available to all ministers looking for a new placement.
- **January and February 2022:** Your Council named a Ministerial Search Team consisting of Andrew Langstone, Carol Hickmann, Dale Johnson, Elfrieda Penner, Jan Hodge, Rob McPhee and Tim Janewski. During this time your Search Team attended workshops led by the regional council, spent time team building, setting priorities, established processes, and determining interview questions.
- **March and April 2022:** We shared our first update with the congregation on March 6, 2022. In this update we stressed that our goal was to find the right minister for this congregation and that meeting both our needs and the needs of the new minister were important. We shared that if this process takes longer than we expect we feel that is more important than rushing into a decision that may not be ideal.
- **March and April 2022:** Looking at the nine components of ministry outlined by the United Church of Canada, we discussed the key areas we would look for in our new minister. We identified worship, pastoral care and leadership. We continued our review of United Church documents and had very good conversations focussed on the topics of faith, God and theology. As well we spent time discussing the idea of being a Supervised Ministry Education Site and the possibility of hiring a candidate for ministry who was in the process of being ordained.
- **April and May 2022:** We reviewed the names of ministerial applicants on ChurchHub and identified a number to whom we sent information packages, inviting them to consider our church. We held three first round Zoom interviews, followed each with an onsite visit and interview, and pursued reference checks. After doing this, we said no to candidates, and we offered the position to others. For reasons that had nothing to do with our congregation, the offers we made were eventually turned down— based on either the individual's professional aspirations or needs of their family at the time. We provided updates to the congregation on April 10, 2022, and again on May 15, 2022

- **June 2022:** As summer approached our Search Team determined we needed to consider other possibilities for the upcoming year. A gift appeared within our group and through a process of both asking and saying yes, Dale Johnson agreed to provide us his ministry on a .7 FTE (full Time Equivalent) basis for up to one year, beginning in September 2022. This recommendation was shared with the congregation at a meeting on June 26, 2022 and was approved unanimously. We have been honoured and so pleased by Dale's leadership.
- **July to October 2022:** This was mostly a time of low-key activity, regular checking of updates on ChurchHub, and following up on individual contacts or information from members of our church community.
- **November and December 2022:** All members of your Search Team agreed to continue on with this important work. We spent time updating both our *Community of Faith Profile* and our *Ministerial Position Summary*. We continued our review of ChurchHub, identifying potential candidates and sending them information packages. We creatively tried to move beyond a reliance on ChurchHub by making contacts with others within the United Church of Canada. Finally, we set up an initial interview with a candidate for the first week of January. An update was provided to the congregation on November 25, 2022.

Our work continues as we move into 2023 and we will be providing an update on March 5, 2023. Our goal is to find the very best person for our congregation. While there have been disappointments along the way, as a Search Team we have grown together in many positive ways and continue to be hopeful. We thank you for your support, encouragement and understanding as we move through his process together.

Further detailed updates we have provided throughout the year are available at the church office if you wish to read them further.

**Submitted by,
Rob McPhee**

Council Chair Report

- Coordinate the overall operations of the congregation
- Chair council meetings as required and draw up the agendas for those meetings.
- Write Council Matters for What's The Buzz newsletter
- Meet with Staff after each council meeting and bring them up to date.
- Consult with the minister, council members.
- Serve on the Nominating committee
- Is an ex-officio member of all congregational committees, except Ministry and Personnel.
- Serve as a congregational representative to the Northern Spirit Region.
- Delegate special projects as needed.

2022 was a most interesting year. With the Covid restrictions lifted, it seems a fresh light of appreciating each other's company and presence has fallen upon us. It is enjoyable to get to know members of the congregation.

This past year certainly kept council on it's toes. Things changed and we adjusted!!

We paid back the Canada Emergency Business Account loan.

Our minister retired on May 1, 2022.

The Search Committee is looking for someone that will fit as close to perfect as possible. We are so blessed to have the Rev. Dale Johnson as a member of the congregation and a retired minister to come out of retirement for the 4th time.

Cathy Bayly, such an outstanding person, has "retired" from chair of the worship committee after many years of service; this is one of many things Cathy volunteers at the church for.

This is to name a few.... Every time we find ourselves short a person, someone always comes forward. I am grateful for all the members that step up.

2023 and 2024 will pose their own challenges as we enter into them. I am certain some will be more challenging than others but together, they will be good lessons, good memories and a great way to find ourselves growing as a community.

**Submitted by,
Wanda Egilsson, Chair**

Council Annual Report

The beginning of 2022 saw us gathering in our church in far greater numbers than was possible during the 30 months of the Covid pandemic. There was an excitement in the air - people greeted old friends and enjoyed a Sunday coffee together and the choir returned to singing in person. We continued to stream Sunday services on Facebook each week. We connected with those new to our community - and we entered the year with hope and optimism.

Your Church Council continued their work in partnership with the various Church committees and groups (you'll read more about these groups and their amazing work later in this Annual Report). We believe that our decisions were made with the best interests of heart for Mill Woods United Church.

As we share the 2022 activities of your Church Council, we hope you can see yourself in this work and take pride in all that was done.

Here are the highlights of the work we did together in 2022.

January 2022

- Our Property Team started the year by securing council approval for funds to repair deficiencies in our fire alarm system. Normally property takes care of repairs through committee expertise but this work required a licensed electrician
- Letters were sent to building renters reminding them of rental increases. These letters were a followup to letters sent in late 2021
- With Rev. Ian Kellogg's pending retirement in May 2022, Council approved the members for the new Minister's search committee: Rob McPhee (chair), Jan Hodge, Carol Hickman, Elfrieda Penner, Andrew Langstone, Dale Johnson and Tim Janewski. At the same time, the Church's Community of Faith Profile and Ministerial Position Summary were approved. They were subsequently distributed to the congregation through a special What's the Buzz for feedback and input
- A planning committee was struck to begin the work for Ian's farewell luncheon
- We reviewed our December contributions and 2021 financial year and learned:
 - o We ended the year 2021 with a deficit of \$15,509, 2% more than the \$10,500 deficit projected at the beginning of the year
 - o Mission and Service contributions were a generous \$17,703, exceeding the budget target by \$703
- We acknowledged the challenge ahead of us – how to move out of this deficit position and into a position of financial strength within the next 12 months, particularly as we moved into the search for a new minister

February

- Our February council meeting was the last gathering of that Council. There were still a few vacant council positions moving into the New Year, most notably a chair elect
- Council approved the Motion that saw us share the cost of membership for the Greater Edmonton Alliance with a generous donor. Commitment to the membership will be reviewed annually each March
- With so many changing rules and mandates regarding Covid, Council decided to continue with the mandates as per the province and city of Edmonton while encouraging everyone to be vaccinated. This was communicated to the congregation, building users and rental groups
- An A/V (audio/video) manual was created providing instructions for all users of the church's system

- Ministry and Personnel committee began the process of creating a document for Terms of Call or Covenant – what finances need to be considered when hiring a new minister such as salary and benefits

March

- Our Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday March 6, 2022 by Zoom. We had 26 people in attendance
- Our first Council meeting for 2022 Council was held on March 22, 2022. We spent time talking about our goals for the year which included restarting Sunday School in September 2022, holding a newcomers' luncheon and simplifying and attracting new people to the A/V team
- Council approved the removal of the garden boxes from the front of the church as no groups expressed interest in using them. In addition, the boxes were old and in need of repair and there were other costs involved with maintaining the area. We decided to level the ground and create a more attractive front
- Council also approved the motion that we could provide the Ministerial Search Team to ability to negotiate a total ministerial compensation package up to a total of \$100,000. This includes salary and benefits, as well as continuing education, etc. Minimum costs are specified by the United Church of Canada and vary with cost-of-living and years of experience
- Council also approved \$3000 to increase MWUC social media presence. The primary focus would Instagram and Facebook postings

April

- Seven new adherents attended the newcomers' lunch on April 10
- Generous cash donations from the congregation for the Inner-City Pastoral Ministry Easter luncheon allowed us to provide over 250 luncheons to people in need
- Spring Craft Market plans were in full swing

May

- Rev. Ian Kellogg retired the 1st of May. A celebration lunch was held with over 100 people attending at a cost of \$500. Rev. Ian was gifted a beautiful quilt made by MWUC Stitching Connection
- Council approved an increase in pay for a Sunday School leader. This is a 3 hour a week position. The previous rate was set in 2017
- Council also approved a nominal payment for each week our pianist played between July 3 to August 28, 2022. The contract we hold with Bryan is for 10 months (Sept to June)
- A very successful in-person Spring Craft Market raised \$2947.00
- Preparation for worship leaders for June, July and August was well underway

June

- Congregational events were in full swing with a BBQ on June 11 and picnic on the lawn on June 26
- Council passed a motion directing the Finance Team to repay the outstanding balance of the Canada Emergency Business Account loan between September 1 and December 31, 2022
- Council approved the motion to attain a credit card for the church

- Council also approved hosting a 'Drag Night' sometime in the fall with proceeds going to CHEW Project, an Edmonton based group providing frontline support, opportunities for health and wellness, and finding hope for 2SLGBTQ+ youth and emerging adults
- Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson was appointed as our Minister for a one-year term effective September 1, 2022

Summer

- Following up with a request from our bank to have a specific person's name on the credit card, Council approved that in attaining a credit card for the church, Liliana Angel would be named as primary contact.
- Discussion took place regarding the need to purchase a new garden tractor. The property committee would look for one within the range they are allowed to purchase without Council approval (\$1000). If not possible, then Wanda Egilsson, Carol Hickmann and Property chair Gary Boswell were granted authority to approve additional funding
- After a multi-year hiatus, the monthly Men's Breakfast group started again

September

- Sunday School started this month as planned. It has continued throughout the fall and into winter months. The children love the Sunday storytelling and action songs
- On September 25, 2022, we held a covenanting service for Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson as a formal recognition of his new role at MWUC. His hours of work were set at 28 hours per week
- Work began on an updated website for the church
- We had a lively September Council meeting, reconnecting after a summer break. Two motions were put forward:
 - o One motion supported the continuation of our social media work for an additional 6 months. This will be reviewed in March 2023 to see if a further extension is required.
 - o A second motion supported the provision of \$50/mth towards the cost of food provided Sundays after service.

October

- Church Covid practices were a key topic of discussion this month. In the past, Council voted to comply with government mandates regarding Covid restrictions and closures. The new Premier rescinded policies that supported closures and restrictions. Council made the decision to be proactive and would start by posting a notice at the front door reminding people to stay home if they are sick and to encourage the use of masks
- Council approved the key assumptions and proposed direction for preparation of the 2023 budget
- Sobeys/Safeway gift card fundraiser, an annual event at MWUC, was approved by Council. It ran to November 27 with cards delivered early December
- A new Pride/BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) flag was purchased to be displayed in the church

November

- November 6 saw the Congregational Care Committee host the second Newcomers' luncheon of the year with five new adherents in attendance
- Our Stewardship Committee reported that we have 65% to 70% of monthly contributions by Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR).

- The Stewardship Committee also received inspiring comments from the congregation in response to campaign response cards. The statements people responded to were:

- o Giving is...
- o I give because...
- o I am grateful for...

Stewardship plans to use the responses to make MWUC PAR cards. These cards are for people who use PAR or other methods for monthly donations supporting financial stability for our church. The cards are used as a symbol of these gifts when the offering plate is passed around – there’s something to put in plate. The cards will hopefully be fun and inspirational way for people to participate in the offering. The statements will be used in PowerPoints throughout the year during offering time in worship. The responses received were most thoughtful and truly reflected the generosity of this congregation

- Council passed a motion that stated:
 - o Again, this year, the Council of Mill Woods United Church has decided not to designate any one group or charity for our Christmas special offerings. If you are in the position to give a special financial gift at this time, we would like to suggest the following: Consider giving an additional gift to Mill Woods United Church’s local operating fund. This is the fund that allows our congregation to support the many, many outreach projects we are involved in within our community.
- Council approved the purchase of a used set of 3-octave Handbells up to the price of \$13,000 (included in this cost were handbells, music binder stands, foam table covers and other equipment). The bells were funded from the Memorial (\$5000), Reserve (\$6000) and Capital (\$2000) funds
- The Annual Financial Meeting was held Sunday November 27 in-person at the church. 42 people attended

December

- Woodvale Community League donated \$1250 worth of grocery gift cards to use in our work of supporting those in need within our community. We are blessed to have this ongoing partnership with the community league
- Very active fundraising in took place in December:
 - o The ever-popular annual Christmas Craft Fair had 47 vendors, nearly 500 hundred shoppers and Heavenly Hospitality (HH) providing a light luncheon. Profits included \$3836 from table rentals and at the door combined donations as well as \$912 from HH. We also had over 50 volunteers support the event
 - o For the Enjoyment of Wine evening on December 9 was another popular event. Thirty-eight people attended and \$1680 was raised for the church
 - o Toss Up on the Toonie Trail, a new event, saw about \$6200 raised for our Capital Fund
- Our annual social event Together at Christmas, held on December 18, had 55 people in attendance including 13 children. Singing, games, storytelling and food - what a great evening!
- Christmas church services included the Longest Night (December 21), Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Christmas Day
- We did not hold a December council meeting
- As outlined in detail in our financial reports, as a result of the hard work and generosity of members of our church community, Mill Woods United Church ended 2022 with a surplus of \$1874 compared to a planned deficit of \$5000. Mission and Service fund contributions were \$17,988 compared to planned givings of \$17,000. Thank you all for your generosity!

2022 saw us come back together in friendship and with gratitude and hope.

We were very fortunate to have Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson appointed as our Minister in September for a one-year term. His energy and enthusiasm have made Sunday mornings thought-provoking and fun. Working with Dale, the Music Ministry continued to lift our spirits in song each week for which we were grateful. Our Ministries and Committees continued their work each week, enhancing all aspects of our church life. The Ministerial Search Team also worked throughout the year seeking the most suitable candidate to walk with us into the future.

“Thank you” to all of you – you continually looked for ways to Join In – Reach Out – and Make a Difference. And thank you to our 2022 Church Council members who gave generously of their time and talents throughout the year – our work couldn’t be done without you.

Our hope lies within the need to be creative when planning our future as Mill Woods United Church. What will this look like? What will some of our challenges be? How will we fund our endeavours? How will we create the momentum needed to grow both spiritually and financially? These are some of the questions we will need to answer through the upcoming year.

In closing, we are looking towards 2023 with enthusiasm! We will have some new people on Council to work with a wonderful group of experienced members. Other committees and groups also have new members to carry on their work. The Music Ministry will grow with the addition of the Handbell players. And finally, we look forward to a new Minister. What a year it will be!

**Submitted by,
Wanda Egilsson, Chair
Carol Hickmann, Past-Chair**

Special Congregational Meeting on June 26, 2022

June 26, 2022 at 11:15 a.m.

We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place.

Welcome: Tim Janewski, Congregational Chair

Opening prayer: Roger Manuel, Northern Spirit Liaison

MOTION C22/23-09: to extend voting privileges to friends and adherents of Mill Woods United Church

1. Kathy Poechman

2. Carol Hickmann

Carried

Introduction of the Search Team: Wanda Egilsson

Jan Hodge, Carol Hickmann, Tim Janewski

Dale Johnson, Andrew Langstone

Elfrieda Penner, Rob McPhee

Presentation of the Search Committee Report: Rob McPhee

MOTION C22/23-10: That the congregation of Mill Woods United Church approve the appointment of The Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson as minister beginning September 1, 2022 and continuing until August 31, 2023 or until suitable long term ministerial coverage is in place. This would be a 0.7 FTE position.

1. Rob McPhee

2. Carol Hickmann

Background: Rob McPhee and the Search Team (Attachment 1)

Discussion and Questions:

- When is Dale starting this position?
 - On September 1, 2022; until then he will only be doing Sunday morning services
 - Worship Committee has covered all of the services until the end of the summer.
- How will the message be sent out to potential candidates that we are still looking, even though we have paused our search?
 - We will be updating our ChurchHub posting
 - Word of mouth is very helpful to spread the message that we are still looking.
- Are there enough new ministers or ministers who are looking to move to replace the retiring ministers?
 - Roger replied that there are 298 vacancies listed on ChurchHub right now, and not nearly enough new ministers are available to fill these.
 - Creativity is important in finding a new minister, as things are changing for churches. We may need to hire more than one person to fill this position, perhaps several people with various skills.
- Will Dale stay on the Search Committee?
 - That was not discussed yet.
- Thanks and appreciation were expressed for the team's openness to new ideas and for their creativity in finding a positive solution while the search continues.

After this motion was restated, the motion was unanimously
Carried

MOTION C22/23-11: That the AGM be adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

1. **Jan Hodge**

Tim Janewski (Congregational Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Congregational Recorder)

Attachment:

1. Search Committee Report

Annual General Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2022 at 12:00 noon

We are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place.

Welcome: Tim Janewski (Congregational Chair) welcomed everyone to this Zoom meeting.

Opening prayer: Ian Kellogg

MOTION C22/23-01: to extend voting privileges to friends and adherents of Mill Woods United Church

1. Wanda Egilsson
 2. Carol Hickmann
- Carried

MOTION C22/23-02: to accept the agenda as presented

1. Mary-Anne Janewski
 2. Wanda Egilsson
- Carried

MOTION C22/23-03: to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting on March 7, 2021

1. Brian Sampson
 2. Audrey Round
- Carried

MOTION C22/23-04: to approve the minutes of the Annual Financial Meeting on November 28, 2021

1. Randy Round
 2. Kathy Poechman
- Carried

MOTION C22/23-05: to approve the 2021 Annual Report

1. Audrey Round
 2. Brian Sampson
- Year in Review: Chair Elect Wanda Egilsson and Past Chair Rob McPhee (for Chair Carol Hickmann) (**Attachment 1**)
 - Financial Statements: Finance Chair Randy Round (**Attachment 2 and 3**)
 - Randy Round responded to a question that expenses for regular types of building related expense were charged to Property in local operations. Larger items, say over \$1,000, are generally charged to the Capital Fund. Videographer expenses are charged to local operations.

After these presentations, **Motion C22/23-05** was Carried.

Tim Janewski thanked the Finance team for their excellent work.

MOTION C22/23-06: to approve Nominating Committee Report as presented

1. Kathy Poechman

2. Carla Janzen

- Nominating Committee Report was presented by Wanda Egilsson as follows:

Council Members

Past Chair	Carol Hickmann
Chair	Wanda Egilsson
Chair- Elect	
Recorder	Elfrieda Penner
Finance	Terry Staley
Member-at-Large	Enid Oldham
Member-at-Large	Lindy Mair
Member-at-Large	Janice Martin
Member-at-Large	Dale Johnson
Stewardship	
Ministry & Personnel	John Mair
Minister	Ian Kellogg
Congregational Care	Carla Janzen
Worship	
Building Use	Carol Hickmann
Property	Gary Boswell

Chairs and Representatives not on Council

Congregational Chair: Tim Janewski
Congregational Recording Steward: Elfrieda Penner
Northern Spirit Representative: Anita Piebiak
Memorial: Jan Hodge, Elfrieda Penner
Stewardship:
Ministry and Personnel: Jan Hodge, Barb Kitagawa, Audrey Murray

Trustees

Lindsey Jo Pawlyk
Karl Kropf
Donna Skoreiko
Carol Hickmann

Nancy Siever clarified that she and Mark Schwitzer are still members of the Stewardship Committee and that a Chair is needed.

After these presentations, **MOTION C22/23-06** was Carried.

MOTION C22/23-07: to give Council consent to fill vacant positions as required

1. Carol Hickmann
2. Wanda Egilsson
Carried

Closing Remarks: Carol Hickmann, read by Rob McPhee (at the end of **Attachment 1**)

Rob McPhee thanked Carol Hickmann for her work as Council Chair in this particularly challenging year.

Rev. Ian Kellogg reminded us that this is his 9th AGM at our church. He expressed confidence that this church will continue to be a blessing to this congregation and to this community.

Tim thanked the presenters and everyone who attended.

MOTION C22/23-08: the AGM be adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

1. Mary-Anne Janewski

Tim Janewski (Congregational Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Congregational Recorder)

Attachments:

1. Year in Review and Closing Remarks by Carol Hickmann and by Rob McPhee
2. Financial statements by Randy Round
3. Financial presentation by Randy Round on pages 45-53 in the 2021 Annual Report at <http://www.millwoodsunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-Annual-Report.pdf>

Attendees (26):

Rob McPhee	Brian Sampson	Wanda Egilsson
Randy Round	Barb Kitagawa	Jennifer McPhee
Tim Janewski	Rev. Ian Kellogg	Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson
Enid Oldham	Morris Oldham	Mary-Anne Janewski
Nancy Siever	Carol Hickmann	Carla Janzen
Neil Alstad	Sherry Alstad	Audrey Round
Ethel Ray	Kathy Poechman	Wendy Edey
Jan Hodge	Gord Hodge	Gary Boswell
Elfrieda Penner	Laverne Boswell	

Annual Financial Meeting Minutes

Sunday November 27, 2022

12:00 Noon Live at the church

- Welcome – Tim Janewski
- Opening Prayer – Dale Johnson
- **Motion C22/23-09: to accept the agenda as presented** (attachment 1)
 1. Wanda Egilsson
 2. Terry StaleyCarried
- **Motion C22/23-10: to extend voting privileges to friends and adherents of Mill Woods United Church**
 1. Jennifer McPhee
 2. Cathy BaylyCarried
- Financial Year in Review (attachment 2)

Wanda Egilsson (Council Chair) and Carol Hickmann (Past Chair) provided the background month-to-month information about financial decisions made and events occurring during the past year
- 2022 Financial Update (attachment 3)

Randy Round and Terry Staley presented the financial update for 2022

 - **Motion C22/23-11: to accept the 2022 Financial Update for information.**
 1. Terry Staley
 2. Mary-Anne Janewski

Discussion/Questions:

- Re CEBA: how was the loaned money used?
 - Received \$60,000 and paid back \$40,000; the \$20,000 forgivable amount was absorbed into the local cash to finance operations from January to October in 2020 and 2021 until the cell tower lease payments and other year-end cash flows were received
- Re Denominational assessment: Assessment by United Church of Canada through Northern Spirit Regional Council to fund UCC Head Office and Regions operations

Motion 22/23-11 was Carried

- 2023 Budget (in attachment 3)

Randy Round and Terry Staley also presented the proposed budget for 2023

 - **Motion C22/23-12: to accept the 2023 Budget as presented.**
 1. Terry Staley
 2. Ken Miller

Discussion/Questions:

- May have the opportunity to renegotiate the amount we are paid for the cell tower when the current lease expires
 - Council and the Finance team will develop a plan to deal with this issue including potentially talking to other churches with cell tower leases to compare lease terms
- Randy said he budgeted less for utilities for 2023; it is difficult to predict what will be needed; the church is on a variable rate for utilities, which could be investigated
- Randy noted to make the budget balance, he raised the amount of givings in the proposed budget, relying on the renewed energy and support of the congregation
- Considered hiring a new minister at 0.7 fte (full-time equivalent), like Dale?
 - Rob McPhee responded that Dale is being paid at 0.7fte, but he is likely putting in a lot more time than that
 - Rob and Dale said it is much easier to find a full-time person
 - We are currently advertising for a full-time minister; this would only change if the congregation directs the Search Team to consider a different fte.
- The Programs, groups, committees line in the budget includes the Search costs; the proposed 2023 budget for this line is much lower than in 2022, due in part to no Search costs being included in 2023.
 - Again, this is a difficult amount to estimate; it can be expensive to get a minister from outside of Edmonton; if more money is needed, the extra can be taken from the Reserve Fund.

Motion C22/23-12 was Carried

- Closing comments – Wanda Egilsson
- Tim thanked the presenters and everyone who attended
- Adjournment at 1:05 p.m.
 - **Motion C22/23-13: that the Annual Financial Meeting be adjourned.**
 - 1. Carol Hickmann**

Tim Janewski (Congregational Chair)

Elfrieda Penner (Recording Steward)

Attachments (in the binder in the church office);

1. Annual Financial meeting agenda
2. Financial Year In Review
3. Financial Update to October 31, 2022 and Proposed 2023 budget
4. Power Point presentation
5. Closing Thoughts

Attendees (42):

Carol Hickmann	Wanda Egilsson
Randy Round	Tim Janewski
Terry Staley	Janice Martin
Maurice Oldham	Enid Oldham
Anita Piebiak	Carla Janzen
Brian Hudson	Audrey Murray
Mary-Anne Janewski	A.J. Janewski
Barbara Thornton	Nancy Siever
Laine Pickle	Carol Reid
David Borynec	Diane Nash
Audrey Ruff	Sharon Lee
Mukta Nistandra	Wendy Edey
Gordon Hodge	Jan Hodge
Dale W. Johnson	Linda Baker
Lane Borstad	Jeannette Borstad
Kathy Poechman	Cathy Bayly
Ken Miller	Lyndon Ahlskog
Sherry Alstad	Neil Alstad
Tracy Tomkins	Wilma Korthuis
Don Grabinsky	Jennifer McPhee
Elfrieda Penner	Rob McPhee

Church Office Reports

2022 Calendar of Events

This year we permanently lost renters Classical Hatha Yoga – Rosalie Bardoel and Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism Tai Chi because of the pandemic however, I was able to find two new groups.

The first one,

*Johane Masowe Chishanu Edmonton. They are using our building on Thursday (5-7 pm).

The second one,

*Christ The King/ New Covenant Church. They were using our building every Saturday (5-7 pm) until December 2022.

Now we have two Al Anon groups both on Mondays, one in the morning and the other one in the afternoon.

They didn't pay rent but they gave us donations for using the space.

We still have the Partnership with the ZUMC Congregation; they are using our Sanctuary three Sundays a month for now.

The contract with 4 Point Taekwondo, Jesus Healing and Johana Masowe Chishanu Edmonton will continue for this year 2023.

We had three different groups renting the Sanctuary for one time:

*Expo venta Latina

*Gatesboro AGM

*Kokopelli Choir

We started the production of the weekly service bulletin on March 6, 2022.

The weekly newsletter "What's the Buzz" (WTB) was sent every Thursday to our congregation and Community which reaches an audience of almost 317 contacts.

Baptism January to December 2022

1. Jacob Jeffrey Lacey, baptized on April 27, 2022
2. Finn Alexander Lacey, Baptized on April 27, 2022

Funerals & Memorial Services January to December 2022

Sincere Condolences to the family of:

1. Raimund Petrich, celebration of life on February 3, 2022
2. Richard Burpee Hanson, celebration of life on April 15, 2022
3. Mark Ehrman, celebration of life on September 24, 2022

Membership Information January to December 2021

Members Received January 1 to December 31, 2022:	2
Members Removed January 1 to December 31, 2022:	1
Membership at December 31, 2022:	250

This year I attended the 2022 Church Office Administrators Retreat from October 4-7 in Saskatoon. I met around 33 administrators who were from different places like Calgary, Canmore, Grand Prairie, Toronto, Winnipeg, Athabasca, Saskatoon, etc.

This was the first year in a long time that a big group was allowed in the retreat unlike the last couple of years where no more than 15 people were able to attend. This retreat gave me the opportunity to make connections, learn about other churches' procedures, outreach programs, and how other administrators manage day to day all administrative duties.



**Submitted by,
Liliana Angel**

Reports from Activity Groups

Spring Craft Market

Saturday, May 7th, 2022 was a typical spring day on the Mothers' Day weekend, but with an added bonus. It was our 9th Spring Craft Market edition going live and in full bloom with 30+ vendors lining up at 8 a.m. in the church parking lot to unload their boxed and bagged treasures to be displayed in the Church sanctuary. With very few restrictions left (vaccination document proof and optional masking) our vendors and our customers were excited to be surrounded by beautiful handmade and sewn crafts, bead and silver jewellery, metal yard decor, crafted wooden signs and wreaths, patio embellishments and live plants from Kuhlmann's greenhouse gardens. The cherry on top was our little cafe offering snacks and refreshments and a place to sit down and admire the surroundings while visiting with friends. At the end of the day, we realized a profit of \$2717.00 for the benefit of Mill Woods church programs.

One of our favorite activities is creating door prize bags that are the result of individual donations from our vendors. We draw 2-3 names each hour of the event with the lucky recipients picking up their door prize in person at the church during or after the market day.

Thank you so much to ALL our volunteers who helped to make the day the success it was. The volunteer sign-up sheet had over 30 names filled in for the multitude of jobs that made the market run so smoothly. Teamwork really does make the dream work!! Special thanks to Liliana Angel, our Church administrator, for directing requests from potential vendors, printing handbills, and handling e transfers. Dana Eklics has come on board to assist in the organization of both the Christmas and Spring Craft Markets and she is a whiz at figuring out floor plan space in the Church building! I am also so grateful for my sidekick, Mary-Anne Janewski, who is uber organized and a computer guru for all questions and problems. And finally, I want to say how much fun everyone is to work with!

Our Tenth Anniversary of the Mill Woods United Church Spring Craft Market happens in 2023. Save the date of Saturday, May 13th, 2023 from 10 to 4 p.m. Are you ready to party? See you there!!



**Submitted by,
Cathy Bayly**

Christmas Craft Fair

On December 3rd, MWUC hosted their 23rd Annual Christmas Craft Market.

The day was a HUGE success and welcomed 47 vendors, Heavenly Hospitality (HH), and nearly 500 shoppers. Between the table fees, donations, and money raised by HH, the church will add \$4,748.66 to help continue the amazing work we do in the community.

As successful as the day was, it would not have been possible without the hardworking Craft Market Committee which spent over 6 months planning and organizing the event. Thank you!

Lastly, a HUGE thank you to everyone who took time out of their days to make the Christmas Market happen (from set up to take-down). Without the huge hearts and dedication of all the volunteers, the Market would not be as special or well-known as it is. The special touches of hospitality and yummy food does not go unnoticed, and the MWUC Christmas Craft Market is "the favorite" of many of our vendors.

What vendors are saying about what they liked the most about the market?

"Overall, great Christmas Market. I appreciated the lovely ladies who brought coffee around. The men who helped carry boxes were exceptional. Thank you!"

"It looks like the committee did a wonderful job. Thank you for all the work in putting this together and paying attention to all the details and creating a warm welcoming atmosphere for all."

" I like the 'hum' - all the people chatting and laughing and greeting one another..."

"EVERYTHING! The customers, vendors, kitchen food!! Delicious :)"



**Submitted by,
Dana Eklics**

Library Team



Donna Skoreiko was at a different church to a concert and she noticed all these books out that anybody could take home and read. She thought this would be a good idea for our church, since she loves to read.

She voiced it around and everyone thought it was a great idea and she should do that. I offered to help her and we got John's input.

We thought it would run for 2 years and then we wouldn't have any more books coming in but our congregation are great readers and we have been doing it for 7 years.

We have had a lot of wonderful books and still have many more to put out as we get time. We are still accepting your books that you have read and we will put them out as we get to them.

When you bring your books in you can put them beside the book shelves or on the very bottom shelf if they fit.

We have suggested a donation of .50 cents per book and we have a donation can there on a shelf.

Thanks for all your donations and keep the books coming.

**Submitted by,
Enid Oldham**

Heavenly Hospitality

Our group is responsible for the maintenance and organization of the kitchen/storage area plus catering church and outside group events. As restrictions were lifted with regard to Covid our committee took on more events this past year.

May 1st we catered a luncheon for our retiring minister Ian Kellogg. This was the first large unmasked event held at the church for quite some time and there were many in attendance. With a menu of pulled pork in a bun, coleslaw, fruit and cake the food was appreciated by all. Holding this in the sanctuary took some special organization but it was a success.

Several of our members did the concession for the Spring Craft Market in May with cinnamon buns being the featured menu item.

The Erhman family was able to plan the Memorial for Mark in September and our group was pleased to cater the reception. That same weekend the church council planned the Covenanting service for our new minister Dale Johnson. Heavenly Hospitality was requested to provide a soup and bun lunch after the service that Sunday. The eighty who attended enjoyed the homemade soup and buns with fruit and cake.

Heavenly Hospitality also organized and served snacks for the Finance Meeting late November.

The Christmas Craft Fair was on December 3rd and as usual our committee did the concession. It is an important fundraiser for our church and we did well serving soup & a bun with dessert options of squares or cinnamon bun.

In conjunction with the Congregational Care team our committee provides meals and baking to be on hand in the freezer for delivery to a family when the need arises.

Our members enjoy gathering together to work on these events to benefit our church community. As co-ordinators we value your support as we know this couldn't be done without your willingness to share in this important work.



**Submitted by,
Lynda Colgan and
Kathy Poechman**

Men's Club

The men's club is an informal breakfast on the last Saturday of each month. It's a generally random get together of men from the church. No invitation is necessary. Anyone interested in friendly conversation is welcome. Bring a friend.

An announcement is placed in What's the Buzz but men being men, a reminder email is also sent the week prior to as many as I remember with a request to RSVP so we have an idea of how many might show up. All are welcome.

As per guidelines set out during covid 19 the men's group did not meet during 2021-2022.

We have now restarted these monthly breakfasts. To avoid the Christmas and New Years rush, we held a combined late December /early January breakfast January 7.

Breakfasts will now be the last Saturday of each month **starting February 2023**.



Submitted by,
Brian Sampson

Social Media

The Social Media Committee was created in May 2022 and is led by Amber Petch with help from Liliana.

They are responsible for posting on Instagram and Facebook accounts for enhancing the Church's presence in the community. As a result there has been an increase of awareness of the Church's outreach programs, committees, ministries, and weekly goings on at the church.

This year we drastically increased our posts and engagement on Instagram and Facebook. We scheduled weekly posts, created events, advertised and created a new website that successfully integrates social media.

The benefit the church has seen from this committee has been increased attendance to church events and services.

Church staff are able to direct individuals to our website where they can easily find information about our outreach programs, as well as people searching for our church across the internet can easily find all the information they're looking for.

Also, community members who follow MWUC social media have felt an increased connection and involvement with the church, thanks to an increased awareness of church events.

Thank you to all the other committees and groups that regularly provide me photos and/or information of the upcoming and current events at the church. Thank you to those church members that take photos at events and services that we are unable to attend in person. We look forward to the ongoing benefits Mill Woods United Church's social media presence will have on our church community!



**Submitted by,
Amber Petch**

Serenity Family Service Society

Serenity Family Service Society held their Annual General Meeting on February 7, 2023. MWUC delegates Cathy Bayly and Nancy Ehrman were in attendance.

Serenity has locations in Edmonton, Leduc, Fort Saskatchewan, Spruce Grove and Wetaskiwin. The not for profit society was started 23 years ago with the goal of providing lower cost funeral and aftercare services to anyone who needed them.

Reports were presented by KPMG auditors and Serenity Administrative staff.

The reports provided information about the previous year ending September 2022.

Highlights Included

- Pre-arranged funeral contracts increased by 16%.
- There were 1500 calls for service. Less than 10% of these were from the 147 member churches. The majority had no church affiliation.
- Total revenue for 2022 was \$6,789,534.
- There was an excess of revenue over expenses of \$377,109
- Serenity is investigating renting space for funerals from member Churches
- Several of the delegates recommended the preplanning option offered by Serenity
- A new Mission Statement is being developed.

There are a number of discounts available to clients from member churches. There is additional information about the services Serenity provides on their website.

www.serenity.ca



**Submitted by,
Nancy Ehrman**

Sobey's Fundraiser

A Poem - Sobeys/Safeway/Freshco Fundraiser

Each of you has a generous heart,

for **joining in** and doing your part.

You came together to make a change,

and **made a difference** for plans long-range.

It showed us what **reaching out** can do,

when our community members are generous and true.

Our heartfelt thanks to you for raising \$1,246.80 for our community!

**Submitted by,
Mary Anne and
Tim Janewski**

Social Events

Coming Together with Good Friends

Let us start by saying thank you for the many, many people who have joined in and taken part in our social activities this year. Through these we have a lot of fun, get to know each other better and generally have at least something to eat! Thanks everyone.

So, what did we do – perhaps a few fewer events than in previous years as we all continued to come to terms with our individual level of comfort in gathering together. We did okay, however, and we hope that each of you found the level of involvement you needed and wanted.

It's a Winter Walk in the Park: Sunday January 16, 2022, was a beautiful afternoon as ten of us gathered at Goldbar Park to walk the trails, cross the bridge over the North Saskatchewan River, and enjoy interesting conversations. We walked for about an hour and enjoyed a few treats of leftover chocolate Christmas bells and Santas!

Around the New Testament in 80 Days: Perhaps not terribly social, but members of our church community took on the Moderator's challenge to read through the entire New Testament prior to Easter 2022. The moderator suggested a certain order for the readings and challenged us to consider these questions:

- Was there anything here that surprised me, or jumped out at me?
- What did I learn (if anything) about being a disciple of Jesus when the text was written?
- What might this text be saying to my life, today? What might God be inviting me to do or be through my understanding?

Coffee Time On the Church Lawn: On Thursday May 19, 2022, we gathered for morning coffee and conversation. It was supposed to be outside but spring showers encouraged us to move inside. A good-sized group enjoyed their time together.

Our Annual Spring Barbecue: By early June people were ready to gather and celebrate being together. Over 50 people of all ages came together at the home of Audrey Murray and Brian Hudson to barbecue and have fun on Saturday June 11, 2022. Everyone brought what they wanted to barbeque, and copious quantities of appetizers, potatoes, salads, and desserts were shared. The backyard looked beautiful with the bright green grass, flowers and several tents used for both shade and a very, very light drop of rain. It was a classic evening of coming together for the community of Mill Woods United Church. Thanks everyone.

An Old Time Family Picnic after Church: Sunday, June 26, 2022, was a great day of celebration for Mill Woods United Church. It began with a service lead by your Search Team where our new minister, Rev Dr Dale Johnson was introduced. This was followed by a large picnic outside on the lawn. Drinks and ice cream were provided, everyone bought something to share, and each person created the main part of their meal. The eating was followed by classic wheelbarrow, sack and three-legged races – which some people accomplished with great ease! A beautiful sunny summer day.

No More COVID CRIB: Attempt Number Three! We did it! On November 12, 2022, on our third try we had a great evening of crib. Along with a variety of junk food and relatively unhealthy drinks, about 30 of us played some very good crib. Several prizes were given out during the night – none for skill but all entirely based on luck or the colour of your socks. It was great coming together and enjoying the evening.

For the Enjoyment of Wine: On Friday December 9, 2022, 39 of us gathered at Color de Vino on Whyte Avenue for an evening of wine tasting. We sampled several wines from lesser-known parts of the world including Croatia, Hungary, Lebanon and Portugal. The owners welcomed us into their store, provided us with interesting commentaries on each wine, and prepared two beautiful plates of interesting cheeses, crackers, and sweets. As well as being an evening of good fun, we were also able to raise \$1680 for Mill Woods United Church.

Together at Christmas: Our biggest event of the year was held on the evening of Sunday December 18, 2022. Fifty-five people, including 13 children joined us for an evening of carolling, storytelling, cookie decorating and a game of Name that Tune. The church was set up with a number of decorated card tables and people gathered around each as they took part in the activities and enjoyed the many, many delicious plates of Christmas goodies that were brought and shared. It was a wonderful way to come together and celebrate the Christmas season.

Thanks to all you wonderful people who made these events fun and happy times for everyone. Thank you. Our good friends – we appreciate each of you so very much



**Senior
Judgin**

Nothing is too hard when all you need is a little help from your friends.

Submitted by,
Jennifer and Rob McPhee

Drag Show: Mill Woods United Church had an all-ages drag show for Halloween 2022. The turnout was high at 67 people and we raised just over \$500 for the CHEW Project. Everyone enjoyed the show and kids were dancing along with the performers!

Talking to some of the people that came to the show and had never set foot in our church, I realized that our acceptance and love of everyone really showed that night and let people feel comfortable in our sanctuary.



**Submitted by,
AJ Janewski**

Stitching Connection/Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Stitching Connection group started up in October 2014. It is open to stitchers of all types, knitters, crocheters, sewists and quilters. Our goal was to make it open to newcomers and long timers alike, people from MWUC, the neighbourhood, as well as the Edmonton and District Quilters Guild. Stitching Connection meets on the first Tuesday evening of the month and the third Monday morning.

In 2022, we continued on Zoom with the evening group, and with the morning group, we met on Zoom until October when we began to meet in person. We had a picnic on the church grounds in June where we enjoyed meeting in person and seeing everyone's Show and Tell. We took our first ever summer break in July, August and September this year. Attendance is 7-10 people on average.

Several members of MWUC and Stitching Connection made blocks for a farewell quilt for Rev. Ian Kellogg, given to him on his retirement in May 2022.



This past fall, we decided to make some quilts for survivors of residential schools and the 60s scoop. We will be participating in the program Quilts for Survivors established by Vanessa Genier of Timmins, Ontario. Again, people from MWUC and Stitching Connection have volunteered to make blocks. We are blessed to have so many generous people around! Below, is a photo of our first quilt, waiting to be long armed by Sherry Alstad.



Also enjoy some blocks that have already been made for the next three quilts for survivors.



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued since its inception in 2011. We depend on you to let us know if you know of someone who might appreciate a shawl or lap blanket. We gave out six shawls this past year, for a total of 202 since 2011 (an error in 2021 report: should have read 196 shawls).

Recipients often express their gratefulness for receiving a shawl or blanket. It really feels like a way we can give a hug and express our love and concern, even when we're not physically there to do so. We really appreciate the heart and soul our knitters put into their knitting and into the blessing and giving of the shawls. If you would like to knit a shawl, please let us know as we are getting low on some colours, mostly neutrals.

Please pass on your suggestions of people who might like a shawl or lap blanket so we can reach as many people as possible!

**Submitted by,
Ethel Ray and Barb Kitagawa**

Committee Reports

Congregational Care

The Duties of the Congregation Care Committee are:

- To send cards to congregational members identified each week during the Sunday service
- Welcome new comers
- Strive to keep track of new comers and organize new comer functions
- Look for ways to broaden the ways we can support each other
- Work with the church administrator and minister to monitor weekly attendance reports and follow-up where needed

We were excited to host a Newcomer's luncheon on April 10th directly after the service with 7 newcomer's in attendance. We shared where we've come from and how we arrived here at MWUC.

May 1st we hosted a Retirement luncheon for Rev. Ian Kellogg with a light lunch and cake. We were all very excited to see over 100 people in attendance! There haven't been that many people at a service since the beginning of COVID. It was great to see past members and ministers and have time to visit with them even though we were sad to be saying goodbye to Ian.

Thank you to our Heavenly Hospitality Ladies for preparing the luncheon and to Audrey Ruff and Elfrieda Penner for helping us serve.

September 25 we welcomed Rev. Dale Johnson and assisted in his covenanting service and helped with the luncheon.

In September we welcomed Jeannette and Lane Borstad as new Members to MWUC.

November 20th we hosted our 2nd Newcomer's Luncheon in the lounge after the service with 5 newcomer's in attendance. I was not able to attend and Rev. Dale Johnson led the gathering.

Throughout the year we provided comfort food and/or cards to 8 families in our community. We have many other 'angels' in our community who we know provide support of phone calls, hugs, food and shoulders when needed. We are blessed to be part of such a caring community.

Our hearts go out to those that have said goodbye to family members and friends throughout the year.

We would like to say a special thank you to the Action Team members for doing a great job of welcoming everyone on Sunday mornings. We feel in many ways everyone plays a part in Congregational Care.

We are always looking for ways we can better care for our church family. If you have any suggestions please contact any one of us and we will be happy to 'make a difference'. If you or someone you know needs help in any way throughout the year please let us know so we can provide the support we are able to.

Committee members: Enid Oldham, Lynda Colgan, Robin Lane, Val Buhler, Wada Egilsson.



Covenanting Service

**Submitted by,
Carla Janzen**

Building Use

The Building Use Committee was formed in July 2018 through a Church Council motion and is responsible for making decisions about the church building and its functioning. Committee members are Kathy Poechman, Liliana Angel, Linda Baker and Carol Hickmann.

Our work includes support for Liliana, our Office Administrator and the church's first contact for space rentals and lease administration. When necessary, we will act as a liaison with the renters as well as other committees within the church regarding their use of space. We are responsible for developing and maintaining building information and policies on our website and making sure the building itself is kept in top notch condition.

In the spring and early summer, we experienced security issues during our Saturday Bread Run. Someone found their way to the basement and stole electronic equipment from our renter 4Point Tae Kwondo. Working closely with the Bread Run and renter, we enhanced building security significantly on both the main and basement floors. No issues have been reported since.

Our committee also worked closely with Property (installing new locks and a lock box) and Audio/Video to resolve issues with our sound system. We also organized cleanouts of our AV, Worship and Sunday School storage rooms

The remainder of the year was fairly quiet. Four other church groups who have been using our building for a number of years – Zimbabwe United Methodist Congregation, Jesus Satsang Healing Ministry, Johane Masowe, and Christ the King – continued to use our worship space on Sundays, Thursdays and Saturdays. 4Point TaeKwondo continued their daily programming and Al Anon held meetings at the church twice each Monday. Other space users included the Latin Market and local condo associations.

Thank you to everyone who supported our committee work and for being so quick to respond to emails and requests for information. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please connect with any one of our group - we'd love to hear from you!



**Submitted by,
Carol Hickmann**

Children's Program

The members of the Children's Program Committee and their associated duties are as follows:

Mukta Nistandra – Program Lead

- Ministerial support & participation
- Supply & material management
- Lesson preparation
- Program space preparation & maintenance
- Program implementation

Brittany Sherman – Liaison

- Requisition preparation
- Time keeping & attendance tracking
- Program lead support
- General program support & coordination

Amber Petch – Committee Member

- General program support & coordination

Lindy Mair – Committee Member

- General program support & coordination

Mukta Nistandra was hired by Amber Petch and Lindy Mair in August and started The Children's Program in September. The Children's Program runs each Sunday, all year, during the morning Service. The program lead prepares both the space and the lesson plan using the curriculum found in "A Joyful Path".

Program Schedule moving forward:

Summer Programming - July to August

- No curriculum implementation
- Rate of pay is \$50/WK

Formal Programming - September to June

- "A Joyful Path" curriculum implementation
- Rate of pay is \$75/WK

Special Events – Intermittent

- The program lead will be asked to support (optional) events such as seasonal celebrations, annual meetings, and family centred events
- Rate of pay is \$50/Event

A strong Children's Program is integral to attracting young families to the MWUC. The consistent presence of a trusted program lead, assures parents their children are safe, spiritually supported, and valued within the congregation. This allows attending families to focus on, and participate in the weekly service. The children of MWUC create relationships with each other and encourage their families to attend church regularly to see their friends. If there is a week where



there are no children in attendance Mukta Nistandra can use that time to organize the Sunday School room and/or lesson plan.

The committee members are grateful for Mukta's commitment to the children of MWUC. She is very reliable and has consistent attendance; her efforts are appreciated by us and all members of the congregation. The committee will ask that Mukta Nistandra accept a continued role as program lead.

Thank you, Mukta Nistandra, Amber Petch, Lindy Mair and Brittany Sherman



Submitted by,
Lindy Mair

Ministry and Personnel

The M&P Committee works with our key staff members: minister, office administrator, custodian and music director. The committee is made up of the following members; each member has a staff member that they liaise with:

John Mair – Minister, Reverend Dr. Dale Johnson

Audrey Murray – Office Administrator, Liliana Angel

Jan Hodge – Custodian, Bruce McCarron

Wendy Edey – Musical Director, Bryan LeGrow

M&P meets regularly with staff to ensure that all of their needs are met in order to successfully complete their duties. Once a year (November) we meet with each staff member to do an annual review of their performance and address any concerns that may be presented. This year our annual review was extremely positive and rewarding. This goes without saying given that we have such an incredible staff to work with!

The biggest change for M&P this past year was saying good-bye to Ian Kellogg upon his retirement and welcoming Dale to our church. Our committee would all agree that it has been a real pleasure working with Dale thus far and we are grateful to have him on staff. Barb Kitagawa was an important member of our committee for most of 2022 but has stepped back for the time being. We hope to get Barb back on the committee in the near future. In the meantime we are very pleased to have Wendy Edey join our group.

Big thanks to my fellow M&P members who have been incredible to work with and make this committee a fun group to be a part of!

**Submitted by,
John Mair**

Memorial

The Memorial Committee is charged with managing the funds donated to the church Memorial and Legacy Funds in memory of a loved one.

The criteria for the use of these funds are:

- ✚ -enhance the beauty and worshipful atmosphere of the church sanctuary
- ✚ enhance projects which support the Church's Outreach in the community and throughout the world
- ✚ provide for capital expenditures for equipment or furniture seen as long term investment.
- ✚ make improvements to existing facilities
- ✚ provide a resource base for training and leadership development



Our committee members are Jan Hodge and Elfrieda Penner.

As stated in last year's report, we are pursuing new quilted banners for the front of the church. Work on these is progressing, led by Ethel Ray and Barb Kitagawa.

The other initiative we have undertaken is to provide some funds towards the purchase of a 3 octave set of hand bells and the equipment needed to start a hand bell choir. This initiative was led by Jeannette Borstad. The 2 choirs started practicing in January.

We received a donation from Mrs. Elizabeth Bjornson Hale in memory of Richard Burpee Hanson. Donations to these funds can be made in memory of a loved one, or through your will. The balance in the Memorial Fund is \$3,596.00, and the Legacy Fund is \$10,000.

**Submitted by,
Jan Hodge**

Property

Committee members:

- Bill McGregor
- Len Penner
- Karl Kropf
- Dave Janzen
- Harold Loughran
- Neil Alstad and
- Gary Boswell (Chairperson)

The focus of the committee has been ongoing maintenance, repairs around the church and mandatory inspection and resulting repair of such things as the elevator, fire alarm, fire extinguishers, water connection to city, etc.

Special projects that were complete during the year were the removal of the garden boxes and the re-seeding of this area to grass.

There was no meeting of the Property Committee in 2022



**Submitted by,
Gary Boswell**

Stewardship

Your stewardship team consists of Bill McGregor, Mark Schweitzer, Dale Johnson and Nancy Siever.

In early 2022, Mark contacted every identifiable giver to thank them for their financial contributions.

In February, Mark and Nancy continued their participation in a United Church series “Called to be the Church” with module 2 led by Stewardship Animator, Vicki Nelson. Our M&S dollars are working well for our congregation! We shared stories with a number of other United Churches from all reaches of Canada and gathered some great ideas to bring back to our congregation. One of which was a fresh brochure design for our narrative budget, which we prepared over the summer and introduced in our fall stewardship campaign.

On October 9th and 16th, Dale Johnson led Worship focused on stewardship themes of generosity, gratitude and thanks. During “This is Us” on October 9th, Nancy highlighted the different ways to give. After determining that the office had an email address for every family on our contact list, we decided to send the stewardship package by email instead of mailing to save postage and printing costs. On October 10, we sent out an email letter with the narrative budget and response form. We invited the congregation to complete the form and return to the offering plate or office. The narrative budget showed donations of money and volunteer time into different categories to indicate where these gifts were making a difference. The congregation’s generosity allows us to continue to worship in our building, learn from and care for each other and offer many valuable outreach programs.

In November, during “This is Us”, we asked the congregation to provide responses to three sentences:

“Giving is....”

“I give because....”

“I am grateful for...”

We collected so many extremely thoughtful responses that truly captured the generous hearts of the people of this congregation. We used these statements to create our own PAR cards for people to use during worship to signify that they are already contributing to the church’s finances in a stable, consistent ongoing way. We hope that people will enjoy and be inspired by these comments.

We would like to extend special thanks to:

- Dale Johnson for joining our team to provide wisdom and guidance and for leading two very inspiring stewardship worship services
- Council for their leadership and continued support in our projects

- Liliana Angel for providing administrative support
- Randy Round for quickly responding to requests for number crunching
- Mary-Anne Janewski for sharing her talents with power point and creative designing abilities for the narrative budget.
- The many families who completed and returned their response forms.
- United Church of Canada for providing stewardship resources including Vicki Nelson's time and talents.

Most of all, we thank the very generous people of Mill Woods United Church for their ongoing financial and volunteer support as we continue to join in together to express our love in community, to reach out to those in need, and to strive to make a difference.

Shalom!



Submitted by,
Nancy Siever

Worship

We are a busy committee that meets monthly (except February, July, and December in 2022) to support the minister and the ongoing spiritual events and Sunday mornings in the life of our congregation at Mill Woods United Church. Our 2022 worship team members included Rev. Ian Kellogg until his May 1st retirement, Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson after May 1st, Cathy Bayly, Ethel Ray, Celia Conway, Laine Pickle, Laverne Boswell, Sherry Alstad, Kathy Crawford, and Elfrieda Penner.



Elfrieda is the new Chair of the committee since joining us in November 2022 and is replacing Cathy, who is taking a break from worship duties for the foreseeable future. Our meetings were held on Zoom for over two years until June and then after summer vacation, our meetings were in person on the third Tuesday of the month.

Once Ian declared that he would retire in May, the search began for a new minister. Worship committee is not involved in that job, but rather keeps the "wheels" moving every Sunday with ministerial pulpit supply. In January and February 2022, attendance and masking restrictions were reduced, so the Choir started rehearsing again, although cantors continue to be present when the Choir doesn't have an anthem on a given week. Families with children were still hesitant to attend as the COVID variants complicated the childrens' health and safety. In August 2022, the Church hired Mukta to lead the children in Sunday School on a weekly basis. Mukta is a wonderful addition to the Sunday morning experience for our families and their children. More information about our Children and Youth program will be elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Many grateful thanks to Ethel Ray who resigned from the committee in March for her thoughtful and faithful service to our team over the past several years. Your seat at the table, Ethel, is missed along with your organized calmness!

In preparation for the Lent/Easter season, we brought back paper bulletins on Sunday mornings. The hymn book cart and name tag board were more accessible to folks as they arrived back at church. By the Fall of 2022, the offering plate was being circulated by the Action team members throughout the congregation. What about our wonderful coffee hour? Easter Sunday, April 17th, marked the first time in two years we had coffee available before and after church with snacks included. Palm Sunday, April 10th was the first communion service where the elements were prepared in separate little glasses and bread was individually cut in small pieces.

The congregation came forward to pick up their own portions. Another first after two years of restrictions. Another special treat was that we had a trumpet play for us on Easter Sunday and flowers were handed out to decorate the cross. Hallelujah!

May 1st was Ian's last service at Mill Woods. Lots of emotional moments occurred as he reflected on his time with our congregation and shared memories continued at a luncheon afterwards. Best wishes to him on his retirement journey and many thanks for his spiritual guidance and leadership for eight years.

A full slate of ministerial pulpit supply was organized from May 8th to the end of September while searching for a new minister. The majority of services were led by Rev. Dr. Dale Johnson with the remainder covered by David Faber (2), Joanne Kobyłka (1), Anita Piebiak (1), and Lesley and Paul Verdin (2). Bryan LeGrow, our Music director, took five Sundays

off during July and August. Thank you to Jennifer McPhee (1), Wendy Edey(1) and Nataalka Dreichel (2) for covering the remaining Sundays playing the piano.

We would be remiss if we didn't comment on how happy we are to have a childrens' story time and song added into the weekly order of service since May 2022. Recently, the committee discussed ways we might change the script for the Welcome at the beginning of the service that honors our Indigenous history.

It is also important to acknowledge the many individuals who have volunteered to be the Welcome/Announcements person/ Scripture reader/ Candle Lighter and extinguisher on a weekly basis at the Sunday service. There aren't many titles longer than that one! These folks are an essential part of our weekly services and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Our videographers, Brian Sampson and Tim Burton continue to co-ordinate the live streaming production of Sunday mornings to Facebook and YouTube with only the very odd hiccup. Thank you so much!

By August 2022, we knew that Dale had accepted an appointment as minister position at Mill Woods until August 31, 2023. His Covenanting service was held on September 25th with a luncheon following the service. We also served Communion that day as well as on Thanksgiving, October 9th. On October 30th, Dale led us in an All Saints Sunday service -a special service where we could pay our respects to those friends and family who have passed away.

The season of Advent/Christmas began on November 27th and when the congregation arrived at Church it had been transformed into its silver and blue decorations along with the Advent wreath and Advent candles. Poinsettias followed the next week to complete the sanctuary decorations. The Longest Night/Blue Christmas service was held on December 21st at 7:30 p.m. with 8 people attending. December 24th Christmas Eve services were held at 4:30 p.m. especially for children (12 of them) participating in a scavenger hunt along with 30+ adults having just as much fun. Our 7 p.m. Family service was attended by 70+ people with special music from Bryan and a soloist, Kitbielle Pasagui. The service concluded with the traditional candle tapers lighting up the darkened room as folks sang Silent Night. The next day, Christmas Day and also a Sunday was highlighted by Communion with 25 people attending. New Year's Day 2023 was attended by 28 people. Off to a great start for sure!

Like proud parents, when there's a new addition to the family, we now have a Handbell Choir under the leadership of Jeanette Borstad. Rehearsals on Mondays have already begun and we look forward to their first performance in the near future.

A special thank you to Dale for shepherding our worship committee this past year through some challenging experiences as the search continues for a new minister for Mill Woods. I hope we didn't fumble the worship football too many times and that we all landed right side up! Finally, sincere best wishes to Elfrieda as she navigates the Worship Committee Chair position the next few years. She will do an awesome job! Mill Woods United is a community of faithful and committed individuals who work so well together to make sure God's message is shared with everyone.

Thank You To You All!

**Submitted by,
Cathy Bayly**

Livestreaming / video

Providing the audio/visual streaming services are shared by Tim Burton and Brian Sampson. This includes live streaming the morning services, coordinating with the Powerpoint slides on the in-house screens and streaming the occasional memorial service.

Virtually every Sunday service during 2022 was streamed.

We also recorded the Family Friendly Drag Show and streamed a church meeting.

The streamed services are later available on the church Facebook and YouTube pages.

Some changes were made during 2022.:

- We no longer provide the livestream feed on in-house screens
- For better visualization the font size in the PowerPoint presentations was increased , and the slides are now shown full sized on the in-house screens.
- The PowerPoint presentations are live-streamed with occasional other images of the minister, choir, and the musicians.

The return of in person church services has reduced the number of people watching the live stream each Sunday, but the recording is still viewed by shut-ins, and those out of town or who can't come to the live service. The number viewing the services after on YouTube and Facebook has remained relatively stable.

Currently, we have 3 persons providing the Powerpoint slides. Thanks to Gordon Hodge, Gordon Langford, and Elfrieda Penner for their dedication to the job.

A special thanks to Liliana Angel who creates the slides and loads the Powerpoint onto the computer for the Sunday service.



**Submitted by,
Brian Sampson**

Farewell to Reverend Ian Kellogg

After eight years of Ministry at Mill Woods United Church, Rev. Ian Kellogg performed his final service on May 1, 2022 before retiring.

Ian was called to our church in September 2013 and held his first service January 2014. During his time at Mill Woods, he was involved with a number of committees as part of his role – Worship, Stewardship and Congregational Care to name a few. He was an important part of our church Council and took an active role in our Music Ministry. Ian stretched us in relation to progressive theology and made us think about our beliefs.

Ian had an amazing memory for detail, particularly about family names and events. This was so important when working with the Congregational Care team as it helped guide this work. He is also remembered for his amazing wedding services as well as touching and respectful funerals. Each life event was honoured with thoughtful readings and music.

Ian had a way with words, composing prayer at a moment's notice. He had a wonderful knowledge of church music demonstrated by choosing hymns for Sunday worship and often working in collaboration with our choir director to choose anthems. In addition, Ian delighted in participating in our choir and sang solos when possible.

Ian participated enthusiastically in the planning of all Stewardship campaigns - especially leading meaningful stewardship worship services. He had great insights and reflections to share. Even though he didn't have much experience with stewardship before coming to MWUC, he had a great understanding of stewardship and inspiring giving and generosity in others.

Ian led us through the Covid pandemic and was on board with live streaming services from the start. He took great interest in the technology required to do this and was very supportive of upgrading our Audio-Video system in order to stream as professionally as possible. This wasn't the only technology he was proficient with – he was quite savvy with website updates and changes as well as PowerPoint development.

During his tenure, Mill Woods United celebrated both its 40th and 45th Anniversaries (2016 and 2021 respectively). Ian spearheaded the celebrations that were held during those Sunday services, ensuring charter members of the church were directly involved. He also joined our congregation for many social activities and, in doing so, became a friend. We, in turn, helped him celebrate at his wedding and reception.

He held a number of book studies and was quite receptive to ideas for books, even those that were a little offbeat.

Ian was instrumental in connecting the Zimbabwe United Methodist Church to Mill Woods United in order for them to have a place to worship and, in the process, developed a close relationship with the Minister for that group. In addition, Ian was very involved with community worship, leading services at Laurel Heights, Allan Gray and Sakaw Terrace regularly for a number of years.

On the day of Ian's final service, he was celebrated with a luncheon that saw over 100 people attend. Mill Woods United Stitching Connection presented him with a beautiful quilt on behalf of the congregation.

Ian left our congregation with expressions of gratitude and wishes of hope for our future. We wish him the same and give thanks for his time with us.

**Submitted by:
Carol Hickmann**

Outreach and Social Justice

Clothing Bank

The Clothing Bank (CB) at Millwoods United Church continues to operate every Tuesday afternoon from 1 – 3 p.m. upstairs in the east loft room. We are still operating under some of the guidelines and procedures developed during the Covid 19 pandemic. Clients are required to make appointments with our church administrator Liliana Angel if they want to come and “shop” and are encouraged to wear masks. They will be assigned a specific date and time to come and on arrival will be given a bag in which to put their items.

Clients have 15 minutes to browse the racks and shelves for clothing and household items for themselves and their families. Coats, boots and large items do not need to be put in the bags but once it is full or their 15 minutes is up they will leave to make room for the next group of shoppers. As we are a very small space, we can have a maximum of 4 shoppers per time slot and we encourage parents to leave small children at home or bring someone to look after them while Mom and Dad are shopping.

We have developed a group of regulars who come every month and many who take advantage of being able to come twice/month with 2 weeks in between visits.

We accept “Gently Used” clothing for men, women and children as well as some toys, books, housewares and linens. Everything must be clean, in good shape with no signs of wear and tear as well as in season. Our motto has always been “if we won’t wear it we shouldn’t expect anyone else to wear it either.” This has served us well over the years and our clients have come to know that we will do our best to make sure they go home with something they like, something that fits and looks good. We also tell them that if they change their mind once home, they can always bring the item back or pass it on to someone else.

Over the years we have received donations from both church members and community folks. Many times we will arrive at the church to find boxes or bags waiting for us. Thank you to everyone who has helped us help others. Your generosity has allowed us to help individuals and families find what they need to make their lives a little easier. It is appreciated more than you will ever know.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers both from the church and community. We each work 1 shift/month with 2 people on each shift. One person is downstairs greeting folks as they come in and the other is upstairs assisting clients and answering any questions they may have.

We also come in once a month on Saturday morning to sort through the new bags and boxes which have arrived, get rid of things which haven’t moved for a while, switch out seasonal stuff when necessary and do a general cleanup of the outside area. We will have 4/5 workers during these times and everyone works very hard for a few hours to make sure our space is the best it can be.

We have an arrangement with the Bissell Centre who come regularly to pick up anything we don’t want or can’t use. This has been a great way for us to continue giving back – knowing that in some small way, we are helping those living in the inner city.

Our crew of dedicated volunteers include: Sherry Alstad, Cathy Bayly, Robin Lane, Sandy Ponich, Debbie Neville, Roseanne Stefanyk, Carol Reid, Kathy Poechman, Riri Talatt, Nadia and Celia Conway. They are a wonderful group of women who work well together to ensure our program runs smoothly. They always make our clients feel welcome and

respected, offering a helping hand when needed. They are the backbone of the CB and without them we couldn't do what we do.

A huge thank you to everyone, we love you all! If there is anyone reading this that would like more information on the CB or would like to join us please contact the church office or speak to one of the above mentioned volunteers.



**Submitted by,
Kathy Poechman**

Food Bank

Mill Woods United Church is home to an Edmonton Food Bank depot. We provide a place for people to come to collect food hampers which have been provided by the main branch of the Edmonton Food Bank.

This year our team continued to provide curbside service to 10 families each Tuesday from January through June 2022. Clients stayed in their vehicles while volunteers delivered their assigned food hampers to them. After our annual month off in July, August saw us going back to clients coming into the church to register and unpack their hampers themselves. We expanded this service to 20 families each Tuesday.

Over the year we had 15 regular volunteers who contributed about two hours a month to register clients and supervise hamper distribution. Volunteers came from both the congregation and the community. Thank you to Don Grabinsky, George Heise, Olga Garcia, Francisco Rico, Bill McGregor, Linda Burt, Robyn Goss, Stephen Goss, Riel LaFramboise, Brian Hudson, Barb Kitagawa, Len Penner, Elfrieda Penner and Wanda Egilsson. We thank all those involved for their contributions to this very important program in our community. Thank you also to the church council and church staff for supporting us.

**Submitted by,
Laura Goss and
Jennine Jensen**

Bread Run

The Mill Woods United Church Food Security Program also known as the Bread Run, operated all through 2022 helping out an average of 50-60 family units per month. That is an increase from about 35-45 in 2021.

We did have to deal with a few incidents during the year however. Some items went missing from our tenant in the basement and we had to make some operational changes to hopefully avoid such situations in the future.

Approximately 20 church volunteers including two members of Zimbabwe United Methodist and another 20 community volunteers work through an alternating schedule with tasks such as receiving food from the Food Bank at the church on Friday afternoons, making pickups at SPUD also on Fridays. On Saturdays our volunteers pick up at Sobeys on 50 St and 23 ave and then offer up all that food to the bread run clients. If there is anything left over, it is taken to a women's shelter in Mill Woods or Boyle Street downtown.

Thank you to all the bread run volunteers for everything you do and special thanks to Bruce McCarron and Liliana Angel for everything you do for the bread run to keep things running smoothly.



**Submitted by,
Don Grabinsky**

Canadian Vision Care (CVC)

One big reason to donate your old eyeglasses: You can easily change lives. Over 1 billion people around the world with vision loss and lack of access to eye care could regain their sight with a pair of glasses, according to the independent non-profit.

Donating a pair of glasses you no longer use is easy and costs you nothing. And it does so much good. Your donated eyeglasses may help a needy person in your hometown read the label on a medicine bottle. Or they might enable a child on the other side of the world see the board at school.

Besides giving the gift of sight, donating eyeglasses allows you to declutter your home and divert a perfectly useful item from the dump.

(Information from all about vision website)

**Submitted by,
Liliana Angel**

Pop Tabs for Wheelchairs



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This project was initiated in 1989 by Jack Baumber and Raymond Pearse, members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch in Ontario. They collect aluminum tabs from cans the tabs are taken to a metal recycling depot that pays for the aluminum by the pound. The money is deposited into the *Robert Hampson Tabs for Kids Fund* at Easter Seals Ontario.

They have purchased adaptive equipment for 19 children including 13 wheelchairs, a lift for a van, a movable seat for an accessible van, equipment for an accessible bathroom, a hospital bed, an adapted tricycle and surgery for a cleft palate still counting.

Frequently asked questions:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✚ How many tabs to a pound? | Approx. 1000 tabs per pound |
| ✚ How many money they received for a pound? | 62 cents |
| ✚ How many tabs for a wheelchair? | Approx. 2 tons of tabs |
| ✚ How to go about getting a chair? | Written request with a recommendation from the doctor. |

Millwoods United Church still has a partnership with the St. Albert Legion Bob Fagan. We are happy to include our tabs with the Legion's. Bob takes all the tabs to the St. Albert Fire Hall. Bruce McCarron is helping us to take all the tabs to them.

**Submitted by,
Liliana Angel**

Mission and Service

Thank you for giving to the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service fund. Your gifts to the fund as designated on offering envelopes and pledges are forwarded to the national church. In 2022 the great people of Mill Woods United Church sent \$17,988 forward to the fund.

Carla Janzen has coordinated the Broadview subscriptions and there were 12 members of our church who asked for the subscription.

We have shared a few stories over the year. There are stories of groups and individuals who receive support from the UCC M&S funds. There are many interesting stories about the ways our mission and service money is used in the United Church of Canada.



**Submitted by,
Jennifer McPhee**

Inner City Pastoral Ministry

Thanks once again, due to the generosity of the congregation of Mill Woods United Church, financial contributions were given in order to provide lunch bags to the Inner City Pastoral Ministry.

9-flats of water, 5-cases of juice boxes, 2-cases of bananas, 4- cases of oranges, 14- flats of muffins, 9-cases of crackers and cheese and 5- cases of chips made up 210 lunch bags that were handed out at the Bissell Centre on Easter Sunday. Every single lunch bag was very much appreciated by the inner city community.

Thank you very much Mill Woods United Church for your kindness and generosity in support of this project. We are on the list once again for 2023, so I hope we will be able to do this once again.

**Submitted by,
Don Grabinsky**

Greater Edmonton Alliance for The Common Good



This past year of 2022, GEA has been busy in 3 Action Research Teams: Mental Health, Living Wage/Quality Jobs, and Truth and Reconciliation of Colonization. The Mental Health Action Research Team (ART) was able to convince Edmonton Executive City Council to Adopt the Canadian Standard for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace for all the employees of the City of Edmonton. With this adoption the City Council has agree to hire two more employees for this task force. GEA will continue to monitor the progress and advocate for this program. We at GEA would not of been able to do without the assistance of the members of GEA.

The Living Wage/Quality Jobs ART has continued to provide workshops throughout the 2022 to various organizations. The Living Wage is in collaboration with Alberta Living Wage to assist in not only researching living wage for a family of two adults and two children, but to be including the individual, single parents, and a variety of other families configurations in our society. Working with employers to be recognized as Living Wage Employers, such as The Kirk Centre and Ashbourne United Church Ministry.

The Truth and Reconciliation of Colonization ART, in April 2022 had a Sharing Circle. On September 30, 2022 Canadian Indigenous Day an all-day event at Y Boyle Street Plaza: opened with a Pipe Ceremony, opening prayer and smudge. Followed by Courageous Conversations; Short video on Doctrine of Discovery; Wrestling with the Truth of Colonization Presentation; Healing Memories; Panel Discussion; a wonderful Feast; and ending with Round dance.

The Executive Council Administer position has been cut to a half time position. Most of Gary Savard's time has been with the Truth and Reconciliation ART, Mental Health ART, and speaking to variety organizations to be more diverse as our society. The end of the year the Council had its Donation campaign and GEA will be going into a listening campaign with GEA members in 2023.

**Submitted by,
Jo-Anne Kobylka**

Broadview Magazine

We presently have 12 subscribers enjoying this diverse and informative magazine. One of my favourite articles in 2022 is Tiny Perfect Forests from the March edition. Broadview offers readers eye opening stories like that of Chaplain Herbie Huhn who became the voice and the soul of the Toronto Raptors to 10 Spiritual Hikes to Rejuvenate Your Soul. If I have peaked your interest to read any of these articles I'm happy to share with you. Our subscription renewal is in April each year so you have time to jump on board for 2023.

**Submitted by,
Carla Janzen**

Financial Review – Hooray-It’s a surplus!!!

The final 2022 Local Operations result is as surplus of \$1,791 compared to a Budget deficit of \$5,000. Details of some of the key items include:

- Local contributions were \$144,953 compared to the Budget amount of \$155,000.
- Building rental income forecast to be \$46,000 was \$42,751.
- The \$60,000 Canadian Business Account loan was repaid in September 2022 resulting in the recognition of \$10,000 of the forgiveness terms of the loan. \$10,000 was also recognized in 2021.
- Salary and benefit expenses of \$140,426 were significantly less than the \$176,700 used for the Budget – see the discussion below for more details.
- Total operating and programming expenses other than salary of \$84,184 were higher than the Budget of \$70,300 due to aggressive utility costs, minister search costs, pulpit supply and social media costs that were not included in the Budget.
- Mission & Service contributions of \$17,988 exceeded our target of \$17,000.
- A creative approach to raising funds to support our Capital Fund, the Toonie Trail, captured our imaginations and walked us almost 2/3 's of the way around the church building raising just over \$6,000.
- The response to a request to support the Inner-City Pastoral Ministry (Bissell Lunch) program was again very successful with funds remaining for the 2023 year.

Salary and benefit expenses: The 2022 financial year was influenced by many factors but primarily by the evolving Minister Position story. In November 2021, at the time of planning our 2022 financial year, we were aware of the pending retirement of our full-time Minister effective on May 1, 2022. Although we knew this would have a financial impact, we were in no position to forecast when and by how much. We adopted a conservative approach and budgeted for one full-time position for the full year and a total 2022 salary and benefit estimate of \$176,700. As the year unfolded and the work of the Minister search team progressed, in June we adopted assumptions that would see a full-time position for four months, a vacancy for four months and a .70 position for four months. At the November 2022 Annual Financial Meeting it was reported that these assumptions would cost \$145,000, or just over \$32,000 less than was in the Budget.

Local offerings: We had set a target of \$155,000 for the 2022 year, an increase of 7% over the 2021 actual. Our normal pattern of January to October contributions continued again this year in anticipation of a November and December charge. This charge did not fully occur leaving us at \$144,953 just a little over the 2021 total at \$144,320.

Subsidies and Loans: Federal government assistance programs initiated in the spring of 2020 provided just under \$62,000 in subsidies in 2020 and 2021. These programs ended in mid-2021. In September 2022, we fully repaid the \$60,000 Canada Emergency Business Account loans we drew in 2020 and 2021. The repayment was by means of a \$40,000 cash payment and recognition of the \$20,000 forgiveness terms.

Cash management: Three years of volcanic financial impacts have bounced our little ship around on tumultuous waves. We are not talking about \$100 here or there, or even a thousand or \$2,000 once in a while, but more like tens of thousands of dollars on many occasions:

- We go from virtually \$Nil in rentals in 2020 to almost full recovery of \$42,000 in 2022.
- We received and spent subsidies of \$2,000 to \$7,000 per month in many months.
- We received, used and then repaid \$60,000 in loans, and recognized \$20,000 in loan forgiveness.

- We swing from a full salary and benefit load of \$173,440 to a mere \$140,246.
- We significantly upped our game with \$51,000 of capital outlays to increase our electronic presence and take on much needed renovations.
- We received \$5,000 courtesy of a \$5,000 province of Alberta grant in 2021.

Through all of this we managed to stay afloat on a cash flow basis. We begin the 2023 year with small cash in bank balance as a base from which to navigate and measure our successes and challenges in the year ahead. And, of course, we have the significant Reserve Fund acting as a rudder to stabilize the ship as new waves arise.



Looking Forward: Hooray – we had a surplus: but is this really good news? This was achieved under circumstances where, given key staffing assumptions, we should have expected a much larger surplus. We will be challenged in the coming year to meet rising costs of expense line items such as utilities, to confirm the cost and timing of filling our Minister position, and to determine ways to ensure funds are available to meet our programming needs. In 2021 and 2022 we began to rebuild our fundraising and rental successes and look forward to new and creative ideas to continue the momentum.

Council and the Finance Team express their gratitude and thanks for your extraordinary efforts to help us ensure our financial decisions reflect our slogan of Join In, Reach Out and Make a Difference and our purpose statement - we are a spiritual community where you can explore your purpose and place.

**Submitted by,
Randy Round**

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures

Local Activities
(Unaudited)
For the Year Ended December 31

	2022	2021
Receipts		
General offerings	\$ 144,953	\$ 144,320
Building rentals and weddings (Note 8)	42,751	28,950
Government assistance programs (note 4)	10,000	22,836
Lease revenue (Note 5)	18,000	18,000
General fundraising (Note 7)	10,547	7,474
	226,251	221,580
Expenditures		
Minister salary and benefits	50,549	88,052
Other staff salaries and benefits	89,697	85,388
General office	4,128	2,823
Goods and Services Tax	1,450	2,540
Denominational assessment	11,149	11,772
Leases – copier, postage	3,341	3,173
Insurance	10,543	8,912
Utility costs (Note 9)	23,335	17,189
Security, fire, elevator	297	285
Property	4,238	6,070
Lawn, parking, snow removal	2,820	1,750
Maintenance, janitorial	1,438	377
Social Media	4,549	-
Videographer	1,300	2,200
Programs, groups and committees (Note 9)	15,626	6,248
	224,460	236,779
Cash Surplus (Deficit) for the year	\$ 1,791	\$ (15,199)

Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet
(unaudited)
December 31

	2022	2021
Current Assets		
General Chequing account	\$ 641	\$ 15,127
Short-term investments	145,315	173,146
Accounts receivable	150	150
	<u>146,106</u>	<u>188,423</u>
Capital Assets		
Church land	135,000	135,000
Church building	852,627	852,627
Church furniture and fixtures	45,389	45,389
	<u>1,033,016</u>	<u>1,033,016</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,179,122</u>	<u>\$ 1,221,439</u>
Liabilities and Equity		
Deferred revenue	\$ 5,787	\$ 4,179
Mortgage payable – United Church of Canada (Note 3)	433,353	420,731
Canada Emergency Business Account (Note 4)	-	60,000
	<u>439,140</u>	<u>484,910</u>
Equity (Schedule A)		
Special Funds	145,315	131,031
General Fund	594,667	605,498
	<u>739,982</u>	<u>736,529</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$ 1,179,122</u>	<u>\$ 1,221,439</u>

Special and General Funds

Schedule A
(Unaudited)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Opening Balance <u>January 1</u>	Receipts	Disbursements	Closing Balance <u>December 31</u>
Special Funds				
Capital	\$ 30,747	\$ 13,491	\$ (3,422)	\$ 40,816
Reserve	80,391	11,359	(4,099)	87,651
Memorial	7,291	2,050	(5,745)	3,596
Legacy	10,000	-	-	10,000
Benevolent	2,602	1,050	(400)	3,252
	<u>\$ 131,031</u>	<u>\$ 27,950</u>	<u>\$ (13,666)</u>	<u>\$ 145,315</u>
			<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
General Fund				
Opening Balance			\$ 605,498	\$ 632,951
Interest on Mortgage Payable – UCC (Note 3)			(12,622)	(12,254)
Cash Surplus (Deficit) from Local Activities			1,791	(15,199)
			<u>\$ 594,667</u>	<u>\$ 605,498</u>

Notes to Financial Statements

Notes to Financial Statements
(Unaudited)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

1. Significant Accounting Policies

Statements are generally presented on a cash basis. Provisions for accounts receivable and payable are for items specifically related to fundraising activities and liabilities related to other agencies or the greater Church. These are presented as accrued amounts to provide for comparison to prior years.

The costs of assets purchased from operating funds or from proceeds of loans provided by the greater Church are treated as additions to Capital Assets. The costs of assets purchased from the Memorial and Capital funds or dedicated fundraising reduce the fund balances.

Fund balances are secured by GIC deposits that are reviewed periodically to ensure they are adequate to meet fund commitments.

2. Line of Credit Facility

The Congregation has an Overdraft Protection Agreement with Servus Credit Union Limited. Under the agreement, the maximum amount that the Congregation may overdraw its account is \$25,000. The overdraft interest rate is prime plus 3%. The account was not overdrawn at any time during the year.

3. Mortgage Payable

The mortgage agreement was signed with the United Church of Canada in 1997. Terms and conditions of the mortgage have changed over the years and were most recently confirmed in 2019 with the signing of an Amending Agreement to the original mortgage. Under this agreement there is a moratorium on payments and the loan will increase each year by 3% to a maximum of two times the December 31, 2014 outstanding balance of \$342,094.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 420,731	\$ 408,477
Interest accrued at 3%	<u>12,622</u>	<u>12,254</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 433,353</u>	<u>\$ 420,731</u>

4. Government Assistance

During 2020, 2021 and 2022 years, the Church applied for and received benefits from various federal government assistance programs including the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan program. Under the CEBA program, the Church borrowed the maximum \$60,000 amount available and qualified for the maximum \$20,000 loan forgiveness amount available. The loan was fully repaid in September 2022. The forgiveness terms were recognized in 2021 (\$10,000) and 2022 (\$10,000)

5. Lease Revenue

In November 2009, the Congregation entered into an agreement with a telephone service provider to lease a portion of the Congregation's land (approximately 225 square feet) and to provide the lessor with the rights to construct and operate cell tower facilities for a period of five years with three five-year extensions. During 2019, the service provider exercised its right for the second five-year extension. The annual lease payment during this five-year period is \$18,000.

6. Direct to Charities

Mission and Service donations are collected through offerings and are dispersed directly to the United Church of Canada. During 2022 and 2021, the amounts collected were \$17,988 and \$17,703 respectively.

7. Fundraising

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Christmas Craft Fair	\$ 4,539	\$ 4,142
Holiday Spirits	1,680	1,610
Sobey's Card Program	1,227	1,247
Spring Craft Market	2,717	475
Hospitality Group	384	-
	<u>\$ 10,547</u>	<u>\$ 7,474</u>

8. Building Rentals

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
4Point Taekwondo	\$ 27,477	\$ 21,275
Jesus Healing Satsang Ministry	4,710	4,405
Christ the King Church	4,800	2,400
Johane Masowe Church	4,860	600
Condo Associations and Other	904	270
	<u>\$42,751</u>	<u>\$ 28,950</u>

9. Programs, Groups, Committees	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Worship	\$ 6,349	\$ 1,752
Children's Programming	1,866	1,225
Council	3,485	-
Finance	1,346	851
Greater Edmonton Alliance	750	750
Congregational Life	615	611
Ministry and Personnel	824	656
Affirming Ministry	217	183
Prayer Shawl Ministry	174	-
Pastoral Care	-	220
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 15,626	\$ 6,248
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

10. Utility Costs	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Telephone	\$ 3,595	\$ 3,562
Water, Waste	3,208	2,072
Heat	5,450	4,170
Power	11,082	11,574
Power cost recovery	-	(4,189)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$23,335	\$ 17,189
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Prior to June 24, 2021, the cost of power required to operate the cell tower was included in the total Enmax utility bill with a cost recovery process in place with the cell tower operator. Cell tower power usage is now billed directly to the cell tower operator.

2023 Budget

	2023 Budget	2022 Actual
General offerings	\$164,000	\$ 144,953
Building rentals	42,000	42,751
Fundraising	11,000	10,547
Cell tower	18,000	18,000
Government assistance programs	-	10,000
	<hr/> 235,000	<hr/> 226,251
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Salaries and benefits	164,000	140,246
General office expense	3,500	4,128
Advertising	1,200	-
Goods and Service Tax	1,200	1,450
Denominational Assessment	12,000	11,149
Leases-copier, postage	4,000	3,341
Insurance	9,300	10,543
Telephone	3,600	3,595
Water and waste	2,800	3,208
Heat	5,000	5,450
Power	7,500	11,082
Security, fire, elevator	500	297
Lawn, parking, snow	2,600	2,820
Maintenance, janitorial	800	1,438
Property	4,000	4,238
Social media	1,500	4,549
Videographer	1,500	1,300
Programs, groups, committees	10,000	15,626
	<hr/> 235,000	<hr/> 224,460
Total	<hr/> 235,000	<hr/> 224,460
Surplus from local operations	<hr/> \$ -	<hr/> \$ 1,791