



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2021**

# Index of Reports

	<b>Page</b>
In Memoriam	2
Annual Meeting April 18, 2021	3
Minister's Report on the Year 2021	11
Oversight Council	12
 <b>Team Reports:</b>	
Congregational Life Team	14
Finance Team	15
Ministry and Personnel Team	17
Property Team	18
Portage Avenue Food Bank (PAFB)	20
Search Team	21
Social Justice Team	22
Board of Trustees	24
United Church Women (UCW)	24
Worship Team	25
Budget and Financial Statements	29



Nomination Report to be shared under separate cover.

Prairie Spirit United Church is an amalgamated community of faith in St. James, a suburb in the city of Winnipeg.

## **Our Mission Statement**

Prairie Spirit United Church is an inclusive community of faith, walking the path of Jesus as we worship God. We do this by engaging with our community, by offering our gifts to aid where we can, and by telling our faith stories to all generations.

# In Memoriam

2018

Lorna Murta  
Jack Stewart  
Lois Thomas

2019

Joseph Dunsmore

2020

Edie Pollock  
Connie Walkley

2021

Ken Beatty  
Jack Callum  
Beverly Chalkley  
James Craig  
Minnie Elliot  
John Evans  
Ben Friesen  
Tony Keck  
Lorene Kitching

Shirley MacKay

Reg Palmer  
Jean Person  
Betty Stephen  
John Thiessen  
Jean Thompson  
Katherine Thompson  
Gerry Varnes  
Al Wallis



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

# Annual Meeting April 18, 2021

**Prairie Spirit United Church  
2020 Annual Meeting Attendance  
April 18, 2021**

1. Marilyn McCorrister
2. Carol Scott
3. Pat Gordon
4. Sylvia Graham
5. Donna Little
6. Judy Restall
7. Anita Kroeker
8. Christine Urban
9. Shirley Hill
10. Michael Hill
11. Linda Uhrich
12. Dennis Bitton
13. Linda Bitton
14. Marg Fisher
15. Shaun Cross
16. Pat Rothney
17. John McLeod
18. Naomi McLeod
19. Val Goodridge
20. Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk
21. Bryan Gawryluk
22. Heather MacMillan
23. Rev. Deborah Vitt
24. Flora Mitchell
25. Norma Crockatt
26. David Crockatt
27. Christine Hashimoto
28. Betty Rogers
29. Randy Palmer
30. Heather Friesen
31. Sharon Thom
32. Deborah McAlpine
33. Gerry McAlpine
34. Jeanie McAlpine
35. Laura Burns
36. Tom Carlyle
37. Fran Ferguson
38. Colleen McIntyre
39. Shirley Codd
40. Lou-Anne Buhr
41. Reverend Paul DuVal
42. Jim Poole
43. Fred Birrell
44. Dorothy Birrell
45. Irene Varnes
46. Gerry Varnes



6.1. **Action Item: Motion to appoint auditors for the 2021 financial record**

**MOTION**

Moved by Marilyn McCorrister                      Seconded by Marg Fisher  
that, on recommendation of the Finance Team, Myers Norris Penny (MNP) be engaged to perform an audit of the 2021 financial records of Prairie Spirit United Church.

The Finance Team recommends a full audit for 2021 rather than a review engagement. The rules pertaining to the COVID grants from the government are complex and ever changing. The auditors are well versed in these rules and will save us money over time. The United Church of Canada (UCC) is also recommending full audits if churches are financially able to do so. **CARRIED**

**7. Presentation of the Oversight Council, Standing Team and Other Body Reports**  
**Standing Teams**

7.1. **Chairperson's Report** – Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk

The Report appears on Page 10.

Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk acknowledged all team members for the work that has been accomplished in the past year. Given that we have not been meeting in our building since last March, an amazing amount of work has been done. Online services have been wonderful and will likely continued to be offered for folks who cannot attend services in person. Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk expressed that she was honoured to be the Chair of the Oversight Council for the last few years and she is looking forward to taking on the role of Past Chair.

7.2. **Congregational Life Team - Heather MacMillan**

The Report appears on page 12.

Heather MacMillan presented the report and took questions.

7.3. **Finance Team** – Marilyn McCorrister

The Report appears on page 13.

Marilyn McCorrister presented the report and took questions.

Highlights:

1. Pledge money is coming in to the church but there are some members who have not given in the last year.
2. Rentals are down overall but many of the self-help groups continued to make rent payments as did the parking lot renters.
3. PAR would be a good way to keep our finances stable.

7.4. **Ministry and Personnel** – John McLeod

The Report appears on page 15.

John McLeod reported and took questions.

The Ministry and Personnel Team (M&P) is currently interviewing for a custodian effective May 3, 2021.

M&P is not able to make final decisions on hiring in the church. It is UCC Policy that the M&P Team make recommendations to the Oversight Council which approves all hires.

7.5. **Pastoral Care Team** – Rev Paul DuVal

Rev Paul DuVal reported and took questions.

Currently the Pastoral Care Team does not have a chair person. Reverend DuVal has been serving in that capacity but, for the strength of the team, a volunteer to assume this position is essential. Pastoral care is being done by a dedicated group of people through calls, emails and cards. Communication is taking place and people are being contacted.

7.6. **Property Team** - Dennis Bitton

The Report appears on page 18.

Dennis Bitton reported and took questions.

Highlights:

1. Replacing the HVAC system consumed almost all the money in the Building Fund. \$29,000 was received through a grant from Faithful Footprints and a further \$1,000 will be coming in 2021.
2. A fund raising campaign is being held to help replace the pavers in the front walk way. Memory Stones, which will be installed in the front walkway, may be purchased at a cost of \$150.00. You will receive a tax receipt for the full amount.
3. Other large projects such as the replacement of the basement floor at a cost of approximately \$40,000 are on the horizon in the 5 year plan.
4. As the Building Fund has been depleted, we are looking for donations as well as seeking out grants for which we might qualify.

7.7. **Social Justice Team** – Linda Uhrich

The Report appears on page 21.

Linda Uhrich reported and took questions.

2020 has been a challenging year finding ways to support our partners while the congregation is not meeting. Using creative methods we were able to help out the inner city ministries and the Communities Offering Others Love (COOL) grow project financially. Many activities such as the Blanket Exercise had to be cancelled. The Team is hopeful that these events can be rescheduled sometime in 2021.

7.8. **Worship Team** – Judy Restall and Patricia Rothney

The Report appears on page 23.

Patricia Rothney reported and took questions.

Highlights:

1. Transitioning to online services was a huge learning curve after the church closed in March 2020. The Tech Team has provided great leadership during this transition. The services are enhanced by the music provided by Renate Rossol and the soloists and musicians.
2. The Banner Highlights and the Ask Worship initiatives have been well received.
3. Feedback to worship is gratefully received and considered in planning for worship.

### **Other Bodies**

#### **7.9. Board of Trustees - John McLeod**

The Report appears on page 22.

John McLeod reported and took questions.

The main focus for the Trustees in 2020 was to renew the insurance on our building and contents for 2021.

#### **7.10. United Church Women (UCW) – Donna Little**

The Report appears on page 22.

Donna Little reported and took questions.

The UCW has not been meeting since March 2020 but have been participating in activities such as the Cookie Train in support of the inner city ministries.

#### **7.11. Search Team – Val Goodridge**

The Report appears on page 20.

Val Goodridge reported and took questions.

The Search Team has had parallel responsibilities, searching for a permanent called minister for Prairie Spirit and securing GAP ministry for the church. We are blessed by the leadership of Reverend Paul DuVal and more recently, Reverend Deborah Vitt.

#### **7.12. Nomination Team - Reverend DuVal**

Reverend DuVal went over the names that have come forward for approval for the Oversight Council and Standing Teams in 2021.

Nominations were declared open and were called three times for all positions.

No further names came forward from the floor. There are still openings that will need to be filled as soon as possible.

The slate presented will be the slate for 2021.

### **MOTION**

Moved by Dennis Bitton

Seconded by Judy Restall

that the slate of officers be accepted for 2021

**CARRIED**

As a new slate of officers was accepted for 2021, Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk, the outgoing chair of the Oversight Council, relinquished the chair to Val Goodridge, the incoming chair.

### 7.13. **Prairie to Pine Regional Council Meeting**

May 28-30 – online meeting

Prairie Spirit qualifies for a minimum of 3 representatives to the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. The Manual of The UCC requires all pastoral charges to have a representative on the regional council. Prairie Spirit needs volunteers to represent us at regional council meetings in the long term.

At this time we need to have volunteers to represent PSUC at this meeting in May.

#### **MOTION**

Moved by Linda Uhrich

Seconded by Donna Little

that the Oversight Council Chairperson's Report, the Standing Team Reports, and Other Body Teams' reports, be received. **CARRIED**

### 8. **Presentation of the 2021 Proposed Budget** – Marilyn McCorrister

The Report appears on page 28.

Marilyn McCorrister presented the budget and took questions.

A budget is at best a guess about the future. With all of the challenges presented by COVID as well as questions about pledges, salaries and rentals, this budget was very difficult to create. Although it shows a shortfall, the Finance Team supports this budget for 2021.

#### **MOTION**

Moved by Marilyn McCorrister

Seconded by Carol Scott

that the 2021 proposed budget with an income of \$226,734 and expenses of \$274,234 with a shortfall of \$17,500 assuming that any moving expenses do not come out of operating funds, be accepted. **CARRIED**

### 9. **New Business**

#### 9.1. **PSUC Community Connection Groups – Group Leaders**

With PSUC being closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of our folks are expressing a feeling of being disconnected from the church. We have tried to combat this through various initiatives but there is still a need for greater connections.

With the membership lists nearing completion, it was proposed at the Oversight Council that a system of Community Connection Groups be developed. The members would be arranged in groups of about 10 families with 1 person as the contact with these people. We would need about 15 volunteers to be the leaders/coordinators for each groups.

There would be no meetings or home visits at this time. All contact would be made by phone calls or possibly emails. The coordinator would call each family on their list at least 3-4 times a year and more if there was a significant need or important information to be distributed.



**11. Benediction**

Rev. Deborah Vitt

**NOTES:****Constitution:**

As part of the Oversight Council, the following Standing Teams will be functioning as part of the new constitution

- Congregational Life
- Christian Education – no report
- Finance
- Ministry and Personnel
- Pastoral Care
- Property
- Social Justice
- Stewardship and Sustainability – no report
- Worship

**Other Bodies:**

- Board of Trustees
- United Church Women (UCW)
- Nominating Team
- Prairie to Pine Regional Representatives

Website address: [www.prairiespirituc.org](http://www.prairiespirituc.org)

## Minister's Report on the Year 2021

Dear Friends,

This was a year of change and challenge for Prairie Spirit United Church. The summer saw the close of two pastoral relationships with Rev'd Deborah Vitt and Rev'd Paul DuVal and the beginning of another with me, your first called minister. Alongside that, COVID continued to disrupt congregational life.

Behind the scenes, a group of dedicated people worked hard throughout the year to discern what the needs of the community of faith might be, and, out of this, what sort of support would be most useful. This is a great time to thank God for keeping our leaders whole, well, and actively ministering to the needs of our family of faith. As you read the reports from the Oversight Council, Search Team, leadership teams, and ministry groups, I hope you will be as encouraged as I am by the range and scope of service in 2021 in the name of Jesus Christ. Take your time with those reports. Try to picture all that goes into this ministry, made even more demanding and sensitive by the ever-changing pandemic. Though there have been times that might have felt quiet to you at home because the church building was closed, much has been happening and God has continued to work throughout 2021.

I am grateful to those of you who have had me visit you at home on the porch or in the backyard, and have enjoyed wonderful visits with many of you over the phone or Zoom. I am looking forward to spending time with you face to face when that becomes possible. I appreciate your patience and encouragement as we minister together, finding new ways to be disciples of Jesus Christ in a changing time.

Prairie Spirit is a great example of the resilience and giftedness of United Churches. We change our minds and adapt our ways to keep reaching out to share God's love. We open our doors to invite others to share our wonderful building. We participate enthusiastically in the wider community, knowing that what blesses our neighbours will bless us, too.

We do not know what the coming year will demand, but we know that--however much the world changes--God is with us every step of the way. If you have not had a chance to actively serve on one of our ministry or leadership teams in the past year, you are missing a lot of fun and a great chance to get to know some new friends. It is not too late to volunteer for 2022!

*You were made rich through [Christ] in everything... God is faithful, and you were called by him in partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:5-9, CEB)*

We have a purpose: to love God, and to love our neighbours and one another. I'm excited about the year to come. I hope you are, too. Let's wait with hope and expectation for God to show us what's next, and, in the meantime, let's enjoy life while we wait.

Grace to you and peace,  
Rev'd Susan McIlveen

# Oversight Council

## Oversight Council Members

Val Goodridge	Chris Urban	Marilyn McCorrister
Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk	Marsha Jones	Pat Rothney
Dennis Bitton	John McLeod	Linda Uhrich
Heather MacMillan	Donna Little	Rev'd Susan McIlveen

In preparation for writing this report I spent time reflecting on the life of our Community of Faith in 2021. Prairie Spirit United Church (PSUC) was still a relatively new congregation as we came into 2021, having been together for a little over two years; much of that time spent under the shadow of COVID-19. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the ministry at PSUC in 2021 through their time, talents and treasures. Thank you to congregants who served on a Standing Team or an Ad Hoc Team and a special thank you to the Oversight Council members. As Chairperson, I have valued your support and hard work under difficult circumstances.

During 2021, we have faced many challenges. There have been both highs and lows.

One much anticipated high came at our Community of Faith meeting on June 6, 2021 when the Search Team presented Susan McIlveen to the congregation and we voted unanimously to call her as the first full time minister at Prairie Spirit United Church. July 1, 2021 was a memorable day when Susan arrived to take up her position.

Another high was the development of a successful on-line worship presence for PSUC. Under the guidance of Reverend McIlveen, the Worship Team and the Production Team, our Sunday services are excellent. Throughout 2021, we have all demonstrated flexibility as adjustments were made to meet the Government Public Health Orders. Although in-person worship is our goal, some form of on-line worship will be needed to meet the needs of our homebound members in 2022.

The Finance Team worked diligently to be good stewards of our finances. They invested our money wisely, kept track of revenues and expenses and kept our bills paid. They applied for Government grants which were instrumental in keeping the 2021 church finances in the best shape possible even as congregational pledges dropped off.

Another success was the final installation of the new HVAC system. Many thanks go to the Property Team. This was a huge expense but was necessary to keep the building in good repair. Through 2021, they have monitored our building and kept it in excellent shape, doing repairs, as they are needed.

Unfortunately, there have been some lows as well.

For most of 2021, COVID-19 has kept us from gathering together in worship and fellowship. Our Community of Faith has become disconnected from the church and each other. Zoom meetings, while helpful, do not provide the intimacy of being together in person. Real worship and fellowship is difficult from a distance.

Although there was a significant short fall in 2021, PSUC has financial stability right now due to the monies brought into the amalgamation from the sale of two church buildings. However, there are serious financial challenges going forward. As you can see from the 2022 budget, we will be going forward with a \$90,000 plus shortfall. The fact is that the expenses for maintaining our staff and our building are greater than our revenues. This is a pressing issue that we will need to address in 2022.

Of more immediate concern are our diminished human resources. The Nominations Team has had difficulty finding people who will assume the important roles on Oversight Council and as Team Leaders. Without people to take on leadership roles in our Community of Faith, we will not have the bright future we aspired to when we came together as Prairie Spirit in October, 2018.

In closing, I refer you to First Corinthians 12:12. In this passage, Paul uses the analogy of the human body in which all parts, working together, contribute to the overall functioning of the body. He tells the people of Corinth that the same is true of the church. All members are equally valuable in God's eyes and that giving of their time and talents are necessary to the success of a healthy church.

Now is the time for each of us to search our hearts and decide how we may contribute to the future success of Prairie Spirit United Church.

Blessings,  
Val Goodridge, Oversight Council Chairperson

# Congregational Life Team

## Congregational Life Team Members

Heather MacMillan (Team Lead)	Judy Restall	Marianne Palmer
Donna Little	Sharon Fielding	Shirley Hill
Naomi McLeod	Fran Ferguson	Lois Bilesky
Martha Smith	Marj Evason	Gwenda Matieshin

Another slow year has come and gone and we are excitedly waiting to be able to get together and become one unit again. The CL ladies and helpers have been available when called upon. We successfully made and sold turkey and beef pies a few times and came within a few dollars of our suggested \$6000 goal. Great work ladies.

Cookies were baked by many and delivered to homebound members 2 or 3 times during the year. By the number of lovely notes we received, they were much appreciated.

The Cookie Train has caught the imagination of many, regularly finding many dropping cookies and muffins off into car trunks the second Monday of each month between 11:30 and noon, a short visit taking place at the same time! They are delivered to Oak Table, West Broadway and St. Matthews. Come join us.

Since amalgamation, some of us have worked on combining the membership and adherent lists. This is ongoing and we are almost there. Thank you Susan for continuing the work on this. The end is in sight!

Thanks must be given to all who have helped us when called upon. It is much appreciated, to say nothing of the friendships forged.

In closing, thanks to the ladies on Congregational Life. It has been great working with you. Can't wait until we can meet in person again.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather MacMillan

# Finance Team

## Finance Team Members

Marilyn McCorrister (Treasurer)

Carol Scott

Susan McIlveen (ex office)

Marg Fisher (ADP Coordinator)

Mike Hill

This has been another difficult year for the finances of Prairie Spirit due to COVID19. We also had a significant number of deaths during 2021. We did get some wage subsidy money early in 2021 but we will no longer be eligible for any more wage subsidy grants.

Many people continued their regular donations by envelope and PAR and that revenue has been greatly appreciated. In November 2019 we had 97 families on PAR but we now only have 80. Most of the people who have come off of PAR are deceased. Unfortunately there are also still some members of the community of faith, especially those who gave weekly when they attended the in person services, who have not given to the church since March 2020 when COVID19 shut our doors. This loss of income is going to have a great impact on our finances going forward and may help to determine the future of the community of faith. If you are unable to drop donations at the church office/church mailbox, donations can be mailed, made by e-transfer or through Canada Helps.

We also lost significant rental income again in 2021 due to COVID. Some of the self-help groups who use our building continue to give very generously to PSUC even when they are not using the building.

People also supported the many charities that PSUC supports: Mission and Service Funds, World Development, Agape Table, Manitoba Harvest, Christmas Cheer Board, Communities Offering Others Life (C.O.O.L), Habitat for Humanity Women's Build, 1JustCity (St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry, SMMCM Toy Store, Oak Table, Just a Warm Sleep) and the Portage Avenue Food Bank. These donations are not included in the table with 171 donors which follows.

We also received a bequest of \$28,064.93 from the Audrey Shestko estate and 22 memorial donations of \$1,985 also not shown in the 171 donors.

Following is a summary of the 2021 givings to local revenue.

- Of these 171 givers, 7 families only donated to the memory stones
- 10 families will not be donating in 2022 because of a death or transfer; a loss of \$18,556.55 to local revenue and \$1,060 to M&S revenue
- 61.4% of the annual donations to local were less than \$1,000, 31.41% were less than \$500
- One of the donations over \$7,000 was a onetime donation

<b>2021 Annual Giving to Local Revenue**</b>		
<b>Range \$</b>	<b>No. of givers</b>	<b>% of givers</b>
7,000 – 7,160	2	1.17%
5,500 – 6,999	0	0.00%
5,000 - 5,499	2	1.17%
3,000 – 4,999	3	1.75%
2,500 – 2,999	1	0.58%
2,000 – 2,499	11	6.43%
1,500 – 1,999	14	8.19%
1,250 - 1,499	10	5.85%
1,000 – 1,249	23	13.45%
750 – 999	23	13.45%
500 – 749	30	17.54%
350 – 499	13	7.60%
200 – 349	20	11.70%
100 – 199	11	6.43%
9 – 99	8	4.68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\*\* Local revenue includes local, moving expenses, building fund, general outreach, memory stones, and memorial garden

**Finance Team** – Marilyn McCorrister is leaving the Finance Team as Treasurer and Bookkeeper as of June 30. Marg Fisher who has done an excellent job as our payroll administrator since amalgamation will also be leaving the Finance Team. The Finance Team are still looking for a secretary as well.

**ADP** – All staff are currently paid through the ADP payroll system. ADP introduced a new Team Pay system which allows us to enter information online. It seems to be working very well.

**Counters** – We are always looking for people who would be willing to spend an hour to an hour and a half on a Sunday after church doing this necessary job.

**PAR** – We encourage people to consider making their offering through PAR. This reduces the volume of money to be counted on Sundays and provides a convenience if you are ill or planning to be away. It also provides a regular source of income for the church for budgeting purposes. Please contact the church office if you require any information on the PAR program.

**Investments** – We received funds from the sale of the Silver Heights and Kirkfield Park buildings in late 2018. These funds were set aside to grow pending a decision by the community of faith on their future use. To date this decision still has not been made. In February 2020, \$700,000 of the sale proceeds was moved to RBC Dominion Securities Inc. By December 31, 2021 the market value of this investment had risen to \$768,282 even with the challenges that the investment markets faced during COVID19.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn McCorrister

# Ministry and Personnel Team

## Ministry & Personnel Team Members

Marsha Jones (Team Lead)                      Dennis Bitton

2021 continued in the manner of last year, as we were challenged by the on-going reality of staffing a church during a global pandemic.

Office Administrator: Sherri Van Aert came on staff in fall of 2020, and we have much appreciated her quick and capable transition into the role of PSUC Office Administrator. In September Sherri also took on the part time responsibilities of Rentals Coordinator, partnering with Judy Lawrence and the Property Team for the short term and into 2022.

Custodian: After a short period of transition, we are happy that Emmanuel Kambale was hired in May as our Custodian. Manny's attention to detail, along with his wide-ranging maintenance expertise, are very well suited to the needs of PSUC.

Music Director: Renate Rossol continued to offer her musical experience and talent to our congregation, even as our Sunday worship services have transitioned as the year progressed. We are grateful that she has been able to adapt to the changing realities, and to continue to enrich our services, whether on-line or in-person, with music.

Ministers: Rev Deborah Vitt was with us from Feb 15 until June 30 as a half time Gap minister. Rev Paul Duval continued with us part-time until the end of August, serving to provide ministerial leadership in the transition to our new minister. We expressed our gratitude to Rev DuVal, Rev Vitt and also to Rev Ken DeLisle in an on-line farewell ceremony in June.

After a long wait, we were finally able to welcome our permanent full-time minister Rev Susan McIlveen, who began her ministry with us on July 1. It was also our pleasure to celebrate Rev McIlveen's Ordination on September 19, held at Churchill Park UC. We look forward to journeying together, continuing to explore what it means to be Prairie Spirit United Church today and into the future.

M&P organized a Team Building workshop for the Ministry Team, which was led by Pat Rothney last fall.

M&P Team has experienced much turnover again this year. Thank you to Tom Carlyle, Ernie Gallant and John McLeod who completed their service last March. Thanks also to Pat Rothney who served as Acting Chair last Spring, and to Gerry McAlpine for his service through 2021. Dennis Bitton and Marsha Jones are the only current M&P Team members. They will be leaving M&P after the Annual Meeting and a new M&P Team will be put in place at that time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marsha Jones

# Property Team

## Property Team Members

Dennis Bitton (Team Lead)	Judy Lawrence (Rental Administrator)	Jim Poole
Bob Bilesky	Don Orchyk	Christine Urban
Mike Hill	Randy Palmer	

Twenty twenty-one, year number two of the world pandemic, saw things start to return to normal at PSUC. That return to normal, however, was short-lived as COVID-19 continued to mutate and interrupt what normal normally looks like, especially for our community of faith.

The Property team at PSUC continued to maintain our church building throughout the year even during those periods the building was closed to all users, including our renters. This, unfortunately, negatively impacted our rental income, while not significantly reducing our building expenses. The utilities still needed to be paid, the repairs continued and taxes don't escape even PSUC (yes, we pay a frontage levy to the city).

Our long-time caretaker, Terry Barr, retired at the end of 2020 so for the first few months of 2021 Property hired a local cleaning company on a monthly basis. In the meantime, M&P started the process of looking for a full-time custodian. It was fortunate that our building was not very busy due to COVID restrictions as those cleaners were constantly changing. Finally, by May, M&P had found and hired a full-time (half-time) custodian, Emmanuel Kambale. Manny, as he prefers, has proven to be an exceptional addition to PSUC's staff.

Although installation of the three new HVAC Roof Top Units (RTU's) was completed in late 2020, the final invoices were not paid until early 2021. The total cost of the HVAC replacement project, including GST was \$152,652.74. From that we can deduct our federal GST rebate plus the \$30,000.00 grant we received from the UCC Faithful Footprints program.

With the aid of an Efficiency Manitoba grant of \$852, helping to offset a total cost of \$2,730 (incl. GST), we were able to increase the attic insulation in the office portion of the church in late February. This will help in our (and UCC's) goal to reduce PSUC's environmental footprint.

An ad hoc meeting, hosted by Property, was held in early March. The aim was to form a group of volunteers working to find grant money to help offset the cost of some of the larger expenses that Property foresees in our 5-year Capital Expenses plan. Unfortunately, although some very good proposals came from that initial meeting, a grant-finding group has yet to be formed. We were, however, successful in raising funds to contribute toward the cost of levelling and re-laying the sidewalk paving stones in the front southwest corner of the church. A total of \$8,100.00 was raised in engraved sidewalk pavers helping to offset the total project cost of \$11,686.49.

During our hot and unusually dry summer a small group of hard-working volunteers greatly improved the Memorial Garden in the northeast corner of our property. Weeds and overgrown

bushes were removed, new shrubs, trees and flowers planted and a stone boarder wall professionally added. The lawn in that area as well as around the north and northwest sides of the building were also improved. A heartfelt thanks to those passionate gardeners and waterers!

A 'surprise' fire and safety inspection of our building by the WFPS was executed in late May which resulted in several deficiencies being found. Over the summer all these deficiencies were rectified, some unfortunately, at considerable cost. The company that normally had annually inspected the building for fire and security problems had unintentionally not been contracted by Property since the amalgamation. Hence the high number of required fixes this year.

The members of your 2021 PSUC Property team are Dennis Bitton, Bob Bilesky, Michael Hill, Judy Lawrence (Rentals Administrator), Don Orchyk, Randy Palmer, Jim Poole and Christine Urban. Please let any one of us know if you have any concerns, comments, questions or suggestions about your Church building, or perhaps would like to join our team!

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Bitton

## Portage Avenue Food Bank (PAFB)

The food bank has continued to operate every 2 weeks as we always have but have continued to see clients once a month in 2 separate groups as per their selected appointment time of 4, 4:30 and 5. We get a list of 50 - 55 clients in each group for a total of 100 - 110/month. Although not everyone on the list attends, we average 75 - 80 %. Consequently, we have extra food that we can't keep and is distributed to the 20 - 25 clients who stay to the end, demonstrating the increasing food insecurity.

We distribute food prepared by Harvest in packages/boxes and individual items such as milk, bread, frozen meat and other frozen items. We continue to buy tuna, beans in tomato sauce and macaroni and cheese for a kit as per needed items for food bank clients. We also purchase feminine hygiene products and diapers to assist clients in their purchasing power for food security.

The volunteers are made up of folk from Crestview UC, the community and PSUC as the food bank is part of Social Justice at PSUC and there is a financial link to the restricted funds of PSUC and PAFB also has its own account separate from the church. We annually have received monetary donations from Eastern Star and from Social Justice in 2021.

At Christmas, the Girl Guides and Brownies each donated hampers and knit items. Anonymous elves also contributed knit items. All the mittens, hats and scarves from the Mitten Tree are offered to food bank clients in December and January and were very much appreciated.

It was probably reported in last year's report that PAFB was a successful recipient of grant monies from Harvest MB by which a new refrigerator and chest freezer were purchased for PSUC to provide cooler and freezer capacity for the food bank. This is necessary because Harvest delivers the food in the morning and it is distributed in the late afternoon of that day.

I am happy to announce PAFB has again successfully bid for a Grant totalling \$4118.44. We have purchased a collapsible wagon to assist us with food bank activity, some new casters to keep our carts mobile and the rest will go to gift cards to assist clients in this time of food insecurity that is increasing, sadly.

I would also like to acknowledge the work Jeanie and Gerry McAlpine have done recently, in pursuing donations of recyclable bags from local businesses.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris Orchyk

# Search Team

## Search Team Members

Shaun Cross

Fran Ferguson

Val Goodridge

Deb McAlpine

John McLeod

Thomas Ormonde

Reverend Elizabeth Brown (Pastoral Relations Commission Representative)

The Search Team was very busy during 2021, meeting thirteen plus times between January, 2021 and the Community of Faith meeting on June 6.

In January, the Search Team began the steps to hire for a .5 Gap ministry position. Reverend Deborah Vitt was approached, interviewed and hired through motion at the Oversight Council meeting on January 30, 2021. The Prairie to Pine Pastoral Relations Commission approved this appointment.

During March, the team completed the work required to have Reverend Paul DuVal's .75 Gap Ministry appointment extended to December 31, 2021. The Prairie to Pine Pastoral Relations Commission also approved this appointment.

As well, during that time the search for a permanent minister for Prairie Spirit United Church continued. Weekly, team members logged into Church Hub and reviewed all applicable résumés that were posted. These candidates were discussed in detail and over twenty-five were contacted. Most were not interested in taking a position any distance from their current locations.

In March, the Search Team began a conversation with Susan McIlveen. Through April and May the discernment process continued, culminating in a Community of Faith meeting on June 6, 2021. At that time, Susan was presented as a candidate for the full time ministry position at Prairie Spirit United Church. The congregation voted unanimously to issue a call effective July 1, 2021. In early July, members of the Search Team happily welcomed Susan to Winnipeg. Also in July, the Search Team took part in an extensive on-boarding process to familiarize Susan with PSUC. In the fall, team members attended Susan's ordination.

Respectfully submitted,  
Val Goodridge

# Social Justice Team

## Social Justice Team Members

Linda Uhrich (Team Lead)

Marsha Jones

Doris Orchyk

Val Goodridge (Secretary)

Sharon Thom

Chris Urban

Heather Friesen (Mission Enthusiast)

*“ We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing”. Justice Murray Sinclair*

In the publication by Kairos, “Strength for Climbing”, we are encouraged to be a learning church. Begin small and keep going. This year we began small by sharing the Seven Grandfather Teachings. We partnered with the Nottawaseppi First Nation that was honoured to share their teachings and artwork in our monthly newsletters. We recognized Orange Shirt Day and grieved with our brothers and sisters as the graves of missing children have come to light. Once we can gather in larger groups we will be holding a Blanket Exercise. If you have ideas on how we can climb together, please share them with a team member.

Spring is coming and so is our Annual Glenlea Gardens Plant Sale. This is the main fundraiser for the Social Justice and Outreach Team. Last year the plant sale brought in \$1087.35. With these funds, we were able to support the COOL Project, Christmas Cheer, Habitat for Humanity, St Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry, Agape Table and 1Just City.

Outreach to the local community self help groups as well as children, and youth programming is part of the Social Justice and Outreach team mandate. The Portage Avenue Food Bank, Inspiration Al-Anon, Cavalier AA, Hands of Hope, as well as the Rovers / Venturers, Girl Guides, Pathfinders and Brownies fall under the Social Justice and Outreach mandate. Prairie Spirit United Church supports their activities through the offer of space in our building, help as requested and prayers for their success.

The St James-Assiniboine South Food Security Network is a new initiative of WRHA. One does not expect food security to be an issue in our affluent community yet hundreds struggle each day to feed themselves and their families. So far, Terms of Reference have been developed, a Food Scan of the community was conducted and shared with the office and our first project “Nourishing our Neighbours” was launched in the fall. Linda Uhrich and the Portage Avenue Food Bank are involved in this Network We are excited about 2022 and will post updates in the newsletters.

COOL is a Grow Project of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Once again we were able to provide COOL with \$800. In future, they hope to have a Church in the Field service again. Linda Uhrich

attended the Harvest Day and rode along in a combine learning all about Canola, harvesting and the farmer's two week old baby!

Layers of Love was a huge success! Many Winnipeggers do not have warm winter clothing. Many trips with winter wear were made to St Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry.

On October 17, 2021 the Social Justice and Outreach Team led worship on World Food Day.

We supported Selkirk Manitoba's Refugee Settlement Team with a donation of \$500. You will hear more about this from Heather Friesen soon.

Heather Friesen has been bringing a Minute for Mission most Sundays. Your contributions in 2021 of \$29,519.96 (\$480.04 short of our \$30,000 goal) will help M&S at home and around the world.

Many members of our faith community donate monthly to Social Justice and Outreach or one of the community ministries using PAR. This is greatly appreciated.

Our Sharing for 2021 is as follows:

Harvest Manitoba	270.00
Agape Table	\$210.00
COOL	\$800.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$300.00
Just a Warm Sleep	\$105.00
1 Just City (includes Stars & Doves)	\$1,410.00
SMMCM Toy Store	\$780.00
Christmas Cheer	\$560.00
Refugee Support	\$500.00

A huge thank you to YOU!...Prairie Spirit United Church for making a difference at home and around the world.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Uhrich

## Board of Trustees

### Board of Trustees

John McLeod (Team Lead)  
Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk

Gerry McAlpine  
Chris Urban

Susan McIlveen (ex office)

At the last PSUC Annual Meeting it was requested that the Trustees re-examine the amount of insurance held by the church. We began looking at insurance earlier in the year for the 2022 renewal. We have contacted 2 local brokers to get evaluations for the church and request insurance quotes. We will be getting those quotes in January 2022 and consider them along with the quote the HUB the UCC Protect Plan broker provides. A decision on which broker to place the insurance with will be made before March 1 the insurance renewal date.

Your Trustees for 2012 were Joycelyn Gawryluk, Gerry McAlpine, John McLeod, and Chris Urban. Gerry and Chris will not be continuing in the 2022 year so we need two new Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,  
John McLeod

## United Church Women (UCW)

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions the UCW has only met twice at the church. We welcomed Rev'd Susan to our meetings in September and December. Thanks to the ladies who continue to bake cookies monthly for St. Matthews / Oak Table. In December, many were busy knitting toques and mitts for Food Bank clientele. A "Memorial" will be held when we are able to meet again for two of our members Bev Chalkley and Kathy Thompson who passed away in 2021.

Respectively submitted,  
Donna Little

# Worship Team

## Worship Team Members

Pat Rothney (Team Lead)

Renate Rossol (Music Director)

Rev. Paul DuVal & Rev. Deborah Vitt (until Jun 2021)

Rev. Susan McIlveen (starting July 2021) (ex office)

Sharon McIntyre (until Sept 2021)

Thomas Ormonde

Judy Restall

Gerry Varnes (until July 2021)

Past Members: We would like to thank Sharon McIntyre and Gerry Varnes for their work on the Worship Team.

We are very fortunate to have Sharon McIntyre continuing in the position of Production Team Manager.

Very sadly, Gerry Varnes passed away in August of 2021.

We were very pleased to have Rev. Paul DuVal's appointment extended to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We were so fortunate to continue our experience with Paul's leadership and efforts bringing meaningful worship, study and community experiences to the congregation while walking the pandemic path with us.

We were thrilled to welcome Rev. Deborah Vitt from Feb 15 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Deborah brought expressive liturgy & worship, energy, laughter and wisdom into our midst. Deborah led us in undertaking our preparatory exploration of the next steps on our journey to becoming an Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada. With a small working group, a next steps report was prepared and presented to the Oversight Council. Thomas Ormonde is the Prairie Spirit contact for Affirm Canada.

We bid a fond and celebratory farewell to Paul, Deborah and Ken during a Zoom call on 27-June-21. They were bestowed with flowers, cake and cards filled with best wishes.



We welcomed Rev. Susan McIlveen on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and are on a new journey of discovery, theology & worship, learning and relationship building. Our work is living into the new reality of who we are as a congregation and emerging gracefully from our COVID experience.

COVID is still with us and we continue to adapt our services to meet the needs of staying safe but connected. We continued through the first ten months of 2021 to record the services in our sanctuary on Thursdays for premiere on Sunday mornings at 10:30am on the Prairie Spirit YouTube channel.



On October 31<sup>st</sup> we joyfully returned to in-person worship, following the public health orders' restrictions, and returned to live streaming the service simultaneously on YouTube for those who were viewing from home.

Advent was celebrated in our sanctuary with all the glory of candles, music, decorations and banners. Sadly and suddenly, we needed to return to on-line worship on Christmas Eve as COVID was raging in our city and touched our community personally. A scary and new reality. We ended 2021 with Susan taping her service and Renate providing musical selections to be put together and posted on YouTube for Sunday morning viewing.

We are fortunate to have a Production Team Manager and team who are able to make this happen and pivot with each new need. Thank you to Sharon McIntyre, Gary Koshinsky, Erin Tierney, Kim Rothney and Daphne Finlayson. We welcomed new members Zam Pankratz & Ian Christensen in November 2021. We are blessed to have such talented and accomplished people working with us.

In February 2021, the Worship Team collaborated with the Ministers to answer questions about the United Church, Worship, and our traditions – "Ask Worship." From February 16<sup>th</sup> to June 22<sup>nd</sup> questions posed by the Worship Team and Congregational members were answered by our Ministers and Renate and included in the Weekly Update.

A Lenten Study was held, over Zoom, where the 'Faith on the Move: Daily reflections on hope and change' UCC Lenten study book was explored. Paul led us through dialogue and exploration of the weekly readings.

March 2021 saw the first P.S.News writeup explaining the origin and story told by each of the quilt tapestries hanging in the Narthex. The artist who created them is Judy Morningstar and she was interviewed and featured in our first submission.

June 2021 Paul, Sharon and Pat each attended a session of the UCC course offering: 'The Church Has Left the Building.' This was a series sharing ideas, wisdom and action taken by congregations to continue their ministries in COVID times.

We also partnered with Selkirk United Church to share service links with our congregations. June 20<sup>th</sup> the Prairie Spirit United Church service link was shared with the congregants of Selkirk United Church and on September 5<sup>th</sup> the Selkirk United Church service link was shared with the congregants of Prairie Spirit United Church.

Thank you to John and Judy Lawrence for setting up the sanctuary for the Remembrance Day service. It was special to have some artifacts from the WWI, WWII and other conflicts and peace time efforts on display and John's explanation of these items. We were pleased to have trumpeter Evan Glazier and soloist Alyssa Crockett, who provided musical pieces that enriched the service.

A special thank you to Judy Restall who recruits, supports and schedules our congregational scripture readers and to Thomas Ormonde for reconnecting with our Ushers and Greeters and scheduling them for service support. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered for these roles. Our services would not run as smoothly or be the same without you.

The PSUC Worship Team strongly believes that music plays an important part in delivering the message each Sunday. With online services, music has become even more important. We have been very fortunate to have a different soloist each month to provide their voices to the services.

We wish to thank our very accomplished Music Director, Renate Rossol, who has brought us the delight of meaningful worship music regardless of the medium, provides wonderful musical selections, contributes wonderful performance pieces and continues to introduce us to so many accomplished vocalists and musicians. Your contributions to the worship life at Prairie Spirit are very much appreciated.

Brief Financial statement:

<b>2021 Budget</b>		
Worship + Music		14,817.00
General	\$	1,000.00
Chimers	\$	100.00
Soloists: Monthly & Weekly	\$	4,050.00
Extra Soloists	\$	300.00
Music Purchases	\$	300.00
Other	\$	300.00
Online Services	\$	7,600.00
Copyright	\$	817.00
Music Director PD	\$	300.00
MB Choral Assoc. Membership	\$	50.00

## Music Report

I am grateful that 2021 involved mostly in-person music making for services with some very talented soloists. It was exciting to collaborate with a variety of ministers and with Susan once she came on board in the summer months. We had a special Good Friday service where Colin Russel, Andrea Bellhouse, Nicki Kirton, and John Anderson offered their talents. Other soloists throughout the year included Lara Ciekiewicz, Craig Kremer, Elena Howard-Scott, Alyssa Crockett, Chelsea Kutyn, Kyla Fradette, and Jan Nato. Instrumentalists we heard for special services included Evan Glazier and Natalie Dawe. While we will always revisit familiar hymns, we continue striving to expand the variety of our musical offerings at PSUC.

One group we have not seen return to in-person music making is the Prairie Spirit United Church Choir. I have made a point to regularly connect with members of the choir and involve them in worship by suggesting hymns and to touch base personally. My hope is for the choir to return to the chancel in 2022; we will continue to creatively navigate these ever-changing times together.

A huge thank you to the Production Team – all the work you do is integral. Thank you for making all the musicians sound so great in the sanctuary and on YouTube!

Lastly, thank you to the Worship Team for their guidance, input and support.

Renate Rossol  
Music Director

### Goals for 2022

- Provide quality worship services on-line, in-person and live streamed with the support of the production team, scripture readers, communion servers, ushers and greeters
- Prepare the sanctuary to enhance the worship experience and administer the sacraments
- Support the Oversight Council in its work on behalf of the congregation of Prairie Spirit United Church

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Rothney

# Budget and Financial Statements

## PRAIRIE SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

REVENUE	ACTUAL		BUDGET	
	2020	2021	2021	DRAFT 2022
Pledges & Donations	173,431	157,562	175,000	137,000
Rentals/Parking	19,446	21,883	20,000	24,515
Not Receiptable	6,024	6,600	6,000	7,090
Fund Raising	3,764	5,722	6,000	6,000
Funeral Lunches	200	0	200	200
10 % Temporary Wage Subsidy	3,666	0	0	0
Wage Subsidy	33,272	6,344	1,500	0
Manitoba Bridge Grant	0	20,000	15,000	0
Building Envelope Program Grant	0	834	834	0
Miscellaneous	483	20	200	200
Interest Revenue	5,344	2,563	2,000	1,750
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>245,629</b>	<b>221,527</b>	<b>226,734</b>	<b>176,755</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries and Benefits	141,610	155,092	134,239	171,472
Search Team	95	3,629	4,000	0
Office Supplies	5,458	4,602	6,000	4,000
Computer and Software	2,108	2,404	2,100	1,900
New office software		519	420	0
Media	198	0	0	0
Utilities (Heat, Electricity)	17,404	21,338	18,000	21,500
Water	819	1,249	1,000	1,100
Phone and Internet	2,009	1,714	2,000	1,700
Repairs & Maint	14,249	11,974	15,000	11,000
Yard Work	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800
Insurance	9,116	10,245	14,000	12,000
Sound System	0	0	200	0
Piano/Organ	450	1,622	1,500	1,650
Property Taxes	1,497	1,497	1,500	1,500

**Teams**

Congregational Life Team	144	27	500	300
Care group- Funerals	0	0	100	0
Stewardship	0	0	300	300
Social Justice and Outreach Team	373	358	400	400
Worship	410	1,199	1,300	1,420
Chimers	0	0	100	100
Music	2,987	4,093	5,000	5,543
Virtual Worship	4,447	9,379	11,517	10,122
Copyright License	817	829	825	875
Worship Software			0	320
Pastoral Care Team	224	295	300	300
M&P	706	1,860	2,000	100
Christian Education	0	0	0	300
Leadership Team	310	202	500	400
Public Relations (includes Website)	2,597	203	1,000	400
Trustees	0	18	500	300
National Assessment	12,533	12,152	12,533	12,043
Miscellaneous	274	212	300	300
Professional Fees	6,821	7,107	6,800	6,500
Bookkeeping	0	0	0	2,100
Treasurer Honorarium	0	0	0	3,000
Banking/ADP/PAR/CanadaHelps	1,369	1,392	1,500	1,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>230,723</b>	<b>257,011</b>	<b>247,234</b>	<b>276,245</b>
<b>Operating Gain (Shortfall)</b>	<b>14,906</b>	<b>-35,484</b>	<b>-20,500</b>	<b>-99,490</b>
Unearned Revenue/Investment Income	31,768	50,334	37,180	38,000
Management Fees	5,862	7,816	7,440	8,000
Revenue from RBC Investments	25,906	42,518	29,740	30,000