



**PRAIRIE SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2022**

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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

Pat Campbell  
Ruth Chandler  
Dorothy Corkish  
Margaret Granger  
Nadia Hargreaves  
Norma Harvey  
Sandy Hlushko

Dorothy Hrymack  
Gord Hutcheson  
Russell Jordan  
Doris Klassen  
Gerry Langman  
Margaret Lodge  
Kazimer Matieshin

Agnes Morrow  
Doris Orchyk  
Dorothy Thom  
Lynne Van Tassel  
Ellen Waldie  
Hilda Weber  
Maureen Whittom



*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 3, 2022

## Prairie Spirit United Church 2021 Annual Meeting Attendance April 3, 2022

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Dorothy Birrell             | 30. Marsha Jones              |
| 2. Fred Birrell                | 31. Eileen Keck               |
| 3. Linda Bitton                | 32. Anita Kroeker             |
| 4. Dennis Bitton               | 33. John Lawrence             |
| 5. Carol Blacher               | 34. Judy Lawrence             |
| 6. Judy Brown                  | 35. Donna Little              |
| 7. Gerry Brown                 | 36. Deborah McAlpine          |
| 8. Karen Burgoyne              | 37. Jeanie McAlpine           |
| 9. Tom Carlyle                 | 38. Gerry McAlpine            |
| 10. Shirley Codd               | 39. Marilyn McCorrister       |
| 11. Joan Cole                  | 40. Susan McIlveen (Minister) |
| 12. John Corkal                | 41. Colleen McIntyre          |
| 13. Dave Crockatt              | 42. Sharon McIntyre           |
| 14. Norma Crockatt             | 43. John McLeod               |
| 15. Gary Crouch                | 44. Naomi McLeod              |
| 16. Noreen Crouch              | 45. Heather MacMillan         |
| 17. Fran Ferguson              | 46. Wendy Murphy              |
| 18. Marg Fisher                | 47. Thomas Ormonde            |
| 19. Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk | 48. Don Orchyk                |
| 20. Heather Friesen            | 49. Barb Plummer              |
| 21. Mark Friesen               | 50. Judy Restall              |
| 22. Bryan Gawryluk             | 51. Betty Rodgers             |
| 23. Louise Groulx              | 52. Kimberly Rothney          |
| 24. Sherri Glazer              | 53. Pat Rothney               |
| 25. Val Goodridge              | 54. Carol Scott               |
| 26. Pat Gordon                 | 55. Martha Smith              |
| 27. Chris Hashimoto            | 56. Monica Smith              |
| 28. Shirley Hill               | 57. Linda Uhrich              |
| 29. Michael Hill               | 58. Chris Urban               |

**Prairie Spirit United Church  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
April 03, 2022**

***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.*

**1. Call to Order**

The 2021 Annual Meeting began at 11:45 A.M.

**2. Opening Prayer and our Act of Remembrance - Rev. Susan McIlveen**

Reverend Susan opened the Annual Meeting with a prayer and read the names of congregants who were lost to us in 2021 as well as of people who had been missed in previous years.

**3. Eligibility to vote**

**MOTION**

Moved by Tom Carlyle

Seconded by Heather MacMillan

That adherents may vote on all matters before the meeting.

**CARRIED**

**4. Adoption of the agenda**

**MOTION**

Moved by Linda Uhrich

Seconded by Fran Ferguson

That the agenda be adopted as posted.

**CARRIED**

**5. Approval of the minutes of the April 18, 2021 Annual Meeting**

**MOTION**

Moved by Louise Groulx

Seconded by Donna Little

That the minutes of the April 18, 2021 Annual Meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

**6. Presentation of the 2021 Audited Financial Statement – Marilyn McCorrister**

**MOTION**

Moved by Marilyn McCorrister

Seconded by Chris Urban

That the 2021 audited financial statement be accepted.

**CARRIED**

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

The team leaders presented their reports and took questions.

**7.1 Chairperson's Report (pg.12)– Val Goodridge**

Prairie to Pine Regional meeting – May 28-30 – online meeting

Val asked for volunteers to serve as Regional Representatives for Prairie Spirit United Church in 2022. PSUC is allowed 3 representatives.

### **Standing Teams:**

**7.2 Congregational Life Team** (PG. 14) - Heather MacMillan

**7.3 Finance Team** (PG. 15) – Marilyn McCorrister

**7.4 Ministry and Personnel** (PG. 17) – Marsha Jones

**7.5 Pastoral Care Team** - No report

**7.6 Property Team** (pg.18) - Dennis Bitton

**7.7 Social Justice Team** (pg. 22) – Linda Uhrich

**7.8 Worship Team** (pg.25) – Patricia Rothney

### **Other Bodies:**

**7.9 Board of Trustees** (pg. 24) - John McLeod

**7.10 United Church Women** (UCW) (pg. 24) – Donna Little

**7.11 Search Team** (pg. 21) – Val Goodridge

### **MOTION**

Moved by Betty Rogers

Seconded by Deb McAlpine

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

**CARRIED**

### **8. Nomination Team Report - Chris Urban**

**8.1** Thank you to people who have resigned from the Oversight Council and Standing Teams:

Chris Urban	Marilyn McCorrister	Marsha Jones	Marg Fisher
Gerry McAlpine	Judy Lawrence	Lou Anne Buhr	Barry Campbell
Sharon McIntyre	Ken Cade	Flora Mitchell	Gary Crouch
Lorraine Weatherby	Colleen McIntyre		

### **8.2 Presentation of the slate of officers for 2022**

#### **Call For Nominations From The Floor x3**

Gary Crouch was added to the Christian Education and Faith Formation Team.

Dennis Bitton was added to the Ministry and Personnel Team.

### **MOTION**

Moved by Chris Urban

Seconded by Wendy Murphy

That the slate of officers be accepted for 2022.

**CARRIED**

### 8.3 Trustee Resignations

#### MOTION

Moved by Linda Uhrich

Seconded by Donna Little

That the resignations of Gerry McAlpine and Chris Urban as Trustees of Prairie Spirit be accepted.

**CARRIED**

### 8.4 Trustee Appointments

#### MOTION

Moved by Chris Urban

Seconded by Judy Lawrence

That the following people be approved as Trustees at Prairie Spirit United Church.

John McLeod, Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk and Tom Carlyle.

**CARRIED**

Tom Carlyle's name did not appear on the Historic Rolls for PSUC at time of the Annual Meeting. Trustees must be full members of Prairie Spirit United Church.

Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk and Pat Rothney vouched that Tom did transfer membership to Sturgeon Creek United Church during a special service. Tom's name should have been duly recorded in the SCUC Historic Roll and subsequently included in the Prairie Spirit Historic Roll effective October 1, 2018. Val Goodridge apologized to Tom for this error and indicated that it will be corrected in the PSUC Historic Roll.

## 9. Presentation of the 2022 Proposed Budget (Page 29) – Marilyn McCorrister

Marilyn presented the budget and took questions.

### 9.1 Implications of the Proposed Shortfall were discussed. - Marilyn McCorrister

Marilyn explained the drop in revenues due to COVID-19 closures and for 2022, the loss of any government subsidies. This drop was compounded by the loss of contributions through member deaths and transfers. Expenses continue to increase with inflation, staff salary increases and the need to maintain the building in the best possible condition.

### 9.2 Proposal To Deal With the Financial Shortfall for 2022 - Val Goodridge

Val explained the proposal developed by the Oversight Council to deal with what looks like continuing shortfall budgets in the future. This proposal was based on feedback from the congregation during the Congregational Consultations.

**There was a discussion with many ideas brought forward in support of the proposal. Several spoke in favour and against the hiring of a Community Outreach and Youth Worker as had been included in the Ministry Profile developed in 2019.**

The following motions were passed.

#### MOTION 1 Moved by Pat Rothney

Seconded by Marsha Jones

That the Community of Faith strike an ad hoc committee that would explore all options:

1. partnering with other organizations either by selling our building or by sharing our facility,
2. through rentals
3. using our property to work with the United Church of Canada to develop a renovation/building plan (stage one).



The committee would be comprised of two members from the Oversight Council as well as others from the community of faith to a total of 6 representatives who have the power to add and develop sub working groups by topic.

The committee would be expected to report back to the community of faith every two months; with the final report presented at a community of faith meeting prior to November 15, 2022 with a recommendation for our future.

A letter will go from the Oversight Council to all members/adherents indicating that the plan was made at the Annual meeting and giving added information about the general status of lack of volunteer and financial resources.

**CARRIED**

## **MOTION 2**

Moved by Marilyn McCorrister

Seconded by Chris Urban

That the 2022 proposed budget with an income of \$176,755 and expenses of \$276,245 with a shortfall of \$99,490 be accepted.

**CARRIED**

## **10. New Business**

### **10.1 Motions from the Floor**

#### **MOTION 1**

#### **Community Outreach and Youth Worker**

Moved by John McLeod

Seconded by Dennis Bitton

That we ask the people who support the hiring of a youth worker to organize themselves and take on the task of defining how this would work.

This could include at a minimum:

- Finding and giving example of where in the United Church in Winnipeg, or Manitoba that this strategy is actually working and what conditions are necessary for it to be successful.
- Draft a proposal to hire a youth worker that contains as a minimum:
  - A detailed job description that includes in detail
    - Duties
    - Qualifications
    - Wages, number of hour per week and cost per hour.
    - Supervision
  - Detailed realistic and measurable goals with time frames i.e we will have a minimum of 6 children attending Sunday School each Sunday by December 2022
- A plan for how to hire such a person while meeting the UCC rules for Congregationally Designated Ministers or other rules that may apply.

**CARRIED**

#### **MOTION 2**

#### **Community Outreach Worker**

Moved by Tom Carlyle

Seconded by Gerry MacAlpine

That the motion concerning the Community Outreach and Youth Worker be sent to the Ministry and Personnel Team for development.

**CARRIED**



## 10.2. Governance Review

We are required to review the provisionally approved Governance document developed by the Transition Team. It must be submitted to Prairie to Pine Region by September, 2022, as required by the United Church of Canada.

Given the experience over the last three years of an incomplete roster of volunteers to the Oversight Council, this Governance model is not reflective of our current situation. The Oversight Council Executive wishes to conduct a review of Governance models and a proposal for changes to the PSUC Governance document. The revised Governance document would be put forward to the Community of Faith for approval by June 30, 2022.

### MOTION:

Moved by Betty Rogers

Seconded by Fran Ferguson

That the Community of Faith requests the Oversight Council Executive to review and revise the present Governance Model with a report to be presented to the Community of Faith prior June 30, 2022.

**CARRIED**

## 10.3 Statement of Appreciation

Prior to Adjournment, Chris Urban proposed a vote of thanks to Val Goodridge for her leadership over the previous many challenging months.

Applause was noted.

Val Goodridge, PSUC Oversight Chairperson, thanked everyone for attending the Annual Meeting and bringing their wisdom and guidance to the proceedings.

## 11. Adjournment

As all business of the Annual Meeting was completed, the meeting was adjourned.

## 12. Benediction - Rev. Susan McIlveen

The 2021 Annual Meeting was brought to a close with a prayer given by our minister, Reverend Susan McIlveen

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

Oversight Council Chairperson  
Val Goodridge

Recording Secretary  
Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk

## Pastoral Charge Oversight Supervisor

I am Rev. Karen Lumley, the minister at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church, appointed by the Prairie to Pine Region to be your supervisor at Prairie Spirit United Church. Whenever a faith community is without a minister, an oversight supervisor is appointed. As that person, I function in some respects as the minister (not preaching or pastoral care needs) however, I am responsible to attend Council meetings, Congregational meetings, AGM and others as needed until a minister is appointed or called. As a United Church minister, I am expected to participate in the wider church and offer my gifts, skills and talents when called upon to do so. I gladly accepted the call to come and work with you so that you can continue the work and ministry of Prairie Spirit United Church.

The criteria to be able to do this is as follows|:

- 1) Ministry & Personnel Committee in place and functioning
- 2) Trustees 3-5 members
- 3) Treasurer
- 4) Chairperson by AGM
- 5) Council a full slate of members

It has been an encouraging journey with you filled with HOPE and Anticipation as we work together to continue to become a viable ministry of the United Church of Canada. I have been impressed with the enthusiasm with which PSUC has embraced the challenges ahead of them and worked hard at discerning the right people for the positions that are needed. I have also been encouraged by those who have heard God's call and accepted it moving into positions as Trustees, council members, member of Ministry and Personnel etc.

I continue to look forward to working with PSUC until you have your organizational structures in place and people in positions that they have been called to. My words for the people in the pews are encourage your leadership team and committees, and see where God is calling you. Remember them in your prayers and know that you do not walk alone for God is with you!

Paul the Apostle said, "I thank my God every time I remember you." I too thank God for all of you at Prairie Spirit United Church and pray that God will continue to bless you. May the hope of Lent and the Easter Story sustain us in the work ahead.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Rev. Karen Lumley

# Oversight Council

## **Oversight Council Members**

Val Goodridge	Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk	Dennis Bitton
Heather Friesen	Bryan Gawryluk	Mike Hill
Donna Little	Marilyn McCorrister	John McLeod
Heather MacMillan	Pat Rothney	Linda Uhrich
Anne Walker	Reverend Susan McIlveen	Reverend Karen Lumley

As 2022 began, Prairie Spirit United Church (PSUC) was closed to all congregational and rental activities. Our Office Administrator and Minister were allowed to work in the church building. Sunday Services were held virtually and the Oversight Council and Standing Teams met via zoom. The work of the church went on.

As COVID-19 loosened its grip, in-person worship began again on Sunday, March 13. We were still wearing masks and physical distancing but there was joy in being together for worship.

In 2022, the Oversight Council worked on a number of important initiatives:

### **Congregational Conversations**

COVID-19 focused us on the ways our Community of Faith was not what we thought at amalgamation. The Oversight Council decided it was time for us to talk about those differences. On March 13 and 27 meetings were held during which we took a realistic look at who Prairie Spirit is now. It became clear that our Community of Faith Profile would need to be revised to be a true reflection of PSUC in 2022.

### **Community of Faith Profile Team**

The Community of Faith Profile, created in 2019, no longer gave a true picture of PSUC. Over several months, this document was reviewed and revised to reflect the changes. The Profile will be sent to the Pastoral Relations Commission of Prairie to Pine Regional Council for approval.

### **Governance Review Team**

With a diminished volunteer base, it was clear that we could not operate under the current Governance document. An ad hoc team reviewed and revised this document. The revisions were presented and approved at a Community of Faith Meeting on November 27. The revised Governance Document will be sent to the Committee on Community of Faith Support of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council for approval.

### **The Looking Forward Team**

At the Annual Meeting on April 3rd, this ad hoc committee was mandated to explore all options for our Community of Faith and our physical building. The work of this team took many months and is complete. The recommendations cannot be shared until PSUC is deemed a viable Community of Faith by the Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

### **Historic Roll/ Church Families Roll**

A review of the Prairie Spirit Historic Roll was done. In March, 396 people were recorded as either absent, inactive or deceased on the PSUC Historic Roll. Work is nearing completion on the Church Families List. Soon there will be a more accurate number of supporting members and adherents at Prairie Spirit.

### **Respectful Community of Faith Policy**

Believing that it is important to provide a respectful, welcoming environment for everyone working and worshipping at PSUC, the Oversight Council developed a Respectful Community of Faith Policy. A copy of the policy is available in the church office and a foundational statement of our belief is posted in all public areas.

### **A Change in Pastoral Relationship**

Over several months, extensive conversations, facilitated by Judy Hare, the Pastoral Relations Minister of the Prairie to Pine Regional Council, were held between the Oversight Council and Reverend Susan McIlveen. On September 11, the Oversight Council approved Reverend McIlveen's request for a change in Pastoral Relationship. By mutual agreement, Reverend McIlveen ceased to be the minister at PSUC.

### **Viability**

2022 has presented many challenges for our congregation. Throughout the year we have not had a full slate of officers on the Oversight Council. In September when our minister requested a change in the pastoral relationship, we worried how we would continue as a community of faith without a spiritual leader. However, the Worship Team immediately set about planning and delivering regular Sunday services, thus assuring that our spiritual life would continue. When resignations from our Board of Trustees and the Ministry and Personnel Team put our viability at risk, five congregants stepped forward to take on those roles. They were confirmed at a Community of Faith Meeting on November 27th.

At the Annual Meeting we must present a full slate of officers on the Oversight Council. **We must have a Chairperson and a Treasurer in order to be viable.**

With this Annual Meeting, my time as Chair of the Prairie Spirit Oversight Council comes to an end. I thank everyone who has supported the ministry at PSUC in 2022. Thank you to everyone who attended Sunday services. Thank you to the Teams who looked after our worship services,

offered pastoral care and fellowship to our congregation, looked after our building and reached out to the greater community. You have done excellent work under difficult circumstances.

Thank you to the members of the Oversight Council. I have valued your support and your leadership on each of the teams at Prairie Spirit United Church. Thank you to Reverend Karen Lumley, our Pastoral Charge Supervisor, who attended all Oversight Council and Executive meetings to provide quorum and give us guidance.

All of these people have been a blessing to Prairie Spirit in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
Val Goodridge  
Oversight Council Chairperson

## Past Chairperson Report

October 2018 saw the amalgamation of 3 communities of faith. It is hard to believe in many ways that it will soon be 5 years since we joined as one church, Prairie Spirit United. Much work was done prior to that date on the part of all three churches and since that date, there have been many initiatives to bring us together. As the first Chairperson of the Oversight Council, and as of the Annual Meeting leaving the role of Past Chairperson, I believe that we have come a long way. Is there still work to be done? Of course. We do need to reflect though and appreciate the growth that has taken place. We would likely be further along the road if we had not been interrupted by COVID-19 but there is no looking back. Each of us have a role to play in making our church the worshipping, faith filled, caring community of faith that we desire. Will there be bumps along the road as we move forward? Yes, but through the support and involvement of all, my hope is that we will remain a faith family in the St. James area.

I leave the executive of the Oversight Council with a sense that the time invested has made a difference and that it is time for others to step forward to serve in these roles. It has been an honour to serve PSUC over the past 5 years. Val Goodridge, our Chairperson, has worked tirelessly assuring that the responsibilities of the Oversight Council are carried out. We have supported each other along this journey. I thank those who served on the Oversight Council during this period of time for their dedication and wish those who will be taking on new responsibilities, the ability to see our future as a community of faith.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk  
Oversight Council Past Chairperson

# Congregational Life Team

## Congregational Life Team Members

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

Many thanks to this hard working, fun loving bunch of ladies. Shirley Hill, Gwenda Matieshin, Naomi McLeod, Marianne Palmer, Judy Restall, Fran Ferguson, Donna Little, Lois Bilesky, Marg Devries, roll clerk, Marj.Evason, Martha Smith, Heather MacMillan .

We say a fond farewell to Martha and welcome Marg. Fisher to our group.

Marg D. came on board as roll clerk, a very important role moving forward. Thanks.

With COVID-19 around it has been fairly quiet for us for the last few years. We still managed to fit in meat pies, soup and cobbler making when able and are happy to report gross sales of \$4,838.89, expenses of \$1,450.17 for a net profit of \$3,388.89. Thanks everyone!

We also made a batch of soup for Social Justice to sell which helped their fundraising efforts for Ukrainian relief.

In September, we returned to serving coffee after Church, and served lunch for Anniversary Sunday. Advent saw the return of Stars and Doves cookies and other Christmas baking and decorations.

Our committee is also responsible for the family lists. We tried to contact all and verify if the information we had was correct or if any changes needed. For those for whom we had no phone number, they will receive a letter.

We seem to have been busy in spite of COVID-19, thank you everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather MacMillan, chair



# Finance Team

## **Finance Team Members**

Mike Hill (Treasurer)

Carol Scott (Recording Secretary)

Fran Ferguson (Offering Counters)

Another challenging year of change at Prairie Spirit United Church. After many years of diligent service, long term Treasurer Marilyn McCorrister, the only treasurer PSUC has ever had, decided it was time for change. Marilyn has been a bastion of Church Financial Governance for all these past 6 years.

Marilyn became Treasurer emerita on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, concurrently our equally long term ADP salary coordinator/register, Marg Fisher retired from these responsibilities. I am extremely happy to report that both Marilyn and Marg provide me their ongoing strong support for my “on the job training”! Without this support, plus Sherri's bookkeeping knowledge, I would surely struggle greatly!

The Team is fortunate to have Carol Scott as our Team Minutes recorder, Fran Ferguson attending to recruiting Offering Count Volunteers. We THANK that faithful group who week in and out stay after our Sunday service to record the days offering. All of our efforts are effectively supported by Sherri Van Aert, our efficient and knowledgeable Office Administrator/bookkeeper.

Many of our past challenges remain, Sunday service attendance has marginally grown and with it Offerings have risen modestly. Our PAR member offerings have continued but have seen reductions.

### **A FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT:**

2021     = Income \$ 227,000     = Expenses \$274,000

2022     = Income \$ 216,000     = Expenses \$285,000

We are fortunate that many Church members continue to actively support the Church's fund raising initiatives while at the same time support a variety of local agencies/organizations including MB Harvest, PAFB, MB Harvest, 1Just City, St. Matthew-Maryland, Habitat, & Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Hill

Team Leader

# Ministry and Personnel Team

## **Ministry & Personnel Team Members**

Anne Walker (Team Lead)

Colin Russell

Bill Percy

The 2022 year has been a period of change for the Ministry and Personnel Committee of Prairie Spirit United Church. At the Annual Meeting, April 3, 2022, Shirley Codd, Jeannie McAlpine, and Dennis Bitton were elected to serve as the committee. That committee operated for several months and then was replaced by the Oversight Council Executive, working in an interim capacity. Finally the current membership, Anne Walker, Bill Percy, and Colin Russell, was appointed by the Oversight Council in November 2022.

While responsibility for liaison with ministry moved away from M&P during this year, the committee in its various iterations continued to work with Sherri Van Aert in the combined Office Administrator/Bookkeeper position, and with Emmanuel (Manny) Kambale in the custodian position. Everyone has spoken of their positive experience interacting with these two great employees. Dennis Bitton, while having left M&P, continues to liaise with Manny on behalf of the Finance and Property Committee. The previous committee also had liaison responsibility for Music Director Renate Rossol until she resigned from her position. Pat Rothney, Dennis Bitton, and Colin Russell conducted an exit interview with her on Dec. 16, 2022. The interim music contract that has been in place since Renate's departure is the responsibility of the Worship Committee until such time as a regular employee is hired for the music duties.

On December 17, 2022, the new committee met with Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk, Val Goodridge, and Pat Rothney to make the transition from their tenure to ours. During the subsequent two months of our tenure, we:

- Reviewed and familiarized ourselves with the archived M&P files;
- Held a meet-and-greet February 4, 2023 with Sherri and Manny;
- Reviewed and filed the contracts for the honorarium positions – Funeral and Wedding Coordinator, Property Rentals Coordinator, and Production Team. The accountability for these positions lies with other church committees, but M&P retains records of the employment relationship of those individuals with the church.

We look forward to the opportunity to serve the church as the M&P Committee, moving forward in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colin Russell

# 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	

The members of your Property Team, Dennis Bitton, Bob Bilesky, Michael Hill, Judy Lawrence, Don Orchyk, Randy Palmer, Jim Poole and Chris Urban have all been busy over the year keeping our building safe, well maintained and inviting. And as everyone knows, the cost of keeping up a house, whether it's your house or the House of the Lord, is not an inexpensive undertaking these days!

Although there were no major planned capital improvement projects undertaken for 2022, unexpected repairs and preventative maintenance costs stretched the Property budget to the limit. Contracts for the regular maintenance of our heating/cooling units (all seven of them), our elevator, our fire alarm and security lighting systems, our computer LAN system, our building alarm system, our lawn maintenance and sidewalk snow removal and even our office printer all take a large chunk out of our budget even before unplanned expenses are tallied. And of course, although thankfully not coming from the Property budget, the cost to insure our building keeps climbing year after year.

In re-reading the Property annual report from 2021, I noted a paragraph commenting on a "hot and unusually dry summer". Regrettably, 2022 was almost exactly the opposite, especially early in the season. Our basement rooms were flooded a few times by exceptionally heavy rain storms that overwhelmed our sump pumps. A lot of time and expense was spent trying to prevent repeat occurrences from happening. The east side (back) of our property slopes quite noticeably toward the building giving excess rainfall an easy path to the basement. Of course, this resulted in one of those 'unexpected' expenses. Another surprise expenditure was the mandatory replacement of several of the heat detectors that form part of our fire alarm system. They were deemed obsolete and had to be upgraded to meet code.

So, having gotten the bad news (expensive news) out of the way at the beginning of our report, we'd like to remind everyone of the exceedingly beautiful building we all call Prairie Spirit United Church. It is always a pleasure working to maintain her. Thanks to our community of faith and the surrounding St. James community, our building is being used more and more by self-help groups, choirs, music instructors, local schools, youth organizations, UC committees, ad hoc groups and individuals. There is no sense heating an empty building...

Again this year, and increasingly so each year, rentals have played a big part in the daily use of PSUC. The welcomed income from rentals makes up a large part of PSUC revenue. Scheduling, organizing and managing the rentals on behalf of Property is a huge task. This responsibility was shared by Judy Lawrence, Property's Rental Liaison, John McLeod, our Rental Coordinator for many months of the year, the Property Team, our office administrator, Sherri and our caretaker, Manny. Many, many hours of volunteer support were spent keeping our building occupied and our users happy.

If you have any questions, suggestions, concerns or comments about our team, your building, or how Property spends your money, please do not hesitate to talk with one of our members. And of course, if you'd like to join our team, we'd love to have you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Bitton, Lead  
PSUC Property Team

## Portage Avenue Food Bank (PAFB)

The food bank has continued to operate every 2 weeks seeing our clients in 2 groups once a month. During the pandemic, our numbers were approximately 100 per month. The numbers are now 150 per month as many are struggling with food insecurity. Many stay at the end of food bank in case there are any leftovers that we cannot keep, thus demonstrating the real need in our community.

Harvest MB (changed from Wpg Harvest) has recently reverted back to delivering the food in bulk, rather than in individual boxes, so our volunteers have more work in the morning to unpack, organize and arrange the food for the afternoon shoppers. Many of our volunteers were lost to us during COVID-19, so we are trying to recruit new ones. We require folks for either the am shift (9:30 – 12am) or the later pm shift (3:30 – 6pm) We do especially require some men to help unload the truck in the morning and with the tables.

We continue to buy tuna, beans in tomato sauce and macaroni and cheese as these are needed items. We also purchase feminine hygiene products and a few diapers to assist clients in their purchasing power.

The volunteers are made up of folks from Crestview UC, the community and from PSUC as the Food Bank is part of our Social Justice team and there is a financial link to the restricted funds of PSUC. PAFB also has its own account, separate from the church. We have annually received monetary donations from the Eastern Star.

This Christmas, the UCW very kindly on both Dec shopping days, offered our clients the opportunity to select gifts of toys, books, jewelry, knitted items, decorations, cards and also supplied each person with an orange and baked treat. The 157<sup>th</sup> Girl Guides and 28<sup>th</sup> Brownies again this year collected food and knitted items for PAFB which we appreciated. We also were able to offer goods from our PSUC mitten tree.

Lately we have noted many Ukrainians, new to Winnipeg, accessing our food bank in addition to our regular clients.

Our 4 coordinators are: Lynne Cook, Judi Wolfe, Kathy Harrison and Chris Urban. Many thanks to all our dedicated volunteers.

Regretfully, we miss our stalwart colleague Doris Orchyk who passed away March 2, 2022. We miss her talents, generosity and spirit.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Urban

# Social Justice Team

## **Social Justice Team Members**

Linda Uhrich (Team Lead)	Marsha Jones	Chris Urban
Val Goodridge (Secretary)	Betty Rogers	
Heather Friesen (Mission Enthusiast)	Sharon Thom	

“We believe that we support one another to work, through God’s grace, for a better world. To this end, we cooperate with other churches, faith traditions, people of goodwill to eliminate poverty and injustice. Throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and here at home the United Church works with partners to support the work they feel is vital”. (United Church of Canada website)

2022 was challenging as we slowly moved out of COVID-19 lockdowns to where we are now. The needs of those in our community and around the globe did, however, not stop. Here is a brief list of some of the things your Social Justice and Outreach Team were involved with in 2022.

- Layers of Love- collected and delivered warm clothing for 1Just City
- Doris Orchyk and Linda Uhrich toured Oak Table
- Chris Urban and Linda Uhrich toured Siloam Mission
- Funds were raised and donated to St. Basil’s Ukrainian Catholic Church to help them support those arriving from war torn Ukraine
- Took cupcakes to West End Community Ministry for Valentine’s Day. Thanks to the UCW for the baking.
- Collected hygiene products for evacuees from Pukatawagan
- Donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank for urgent hunger relief in Pakistan
- Held our Annual Glenlea Plant Sale which provides us with the resources to be able to support our partners and community
- Hosted a Pancake Breakfast with all proceeds going to COOL (Communities Offering Others Life) our grow project of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank
- Delivered a Minute for Mission several times a month and through your donations were able to send the Mission and Service Fund \$25,531.96 plus \$240 World Development and Special Appeals
- Participated in the St. James – Assiniboine Food Security Network
- Recognized Orange Shirt Day and grieved with our brothers and sisters as more graves continue to be found
- Led Worship in the Fall with a service for World Food Day

- Prepared and delivered a large Christmas Cheer Board Hamper for a family of 6
- Collected mitts, hats, scarves and other warm clothing items on our Mitten Tree. Our Food Bank participants were able to help themselves to what they needed.
- Took donated toys to the West End 1 Just City Toy Store
- Raised funds through Stars and Doves for Just a Warm Sleep
- Made plans for an upcoming public event
- Set goals for 2023

This work could not have been done without the generosity of the Prairie Spirit United Community of Faith. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Uhrich  
Social Justice and Outreach Team Lead

## Board of Trustees

### **Board of Trustees**

John McLeod	Tom Carlyle	Ernie Gallant
Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk	John Lawrence	

The main responsibility of the Trustees is to ensure that adequate insurance for our building is in place. After researching other insurance agencies, we renewed the HUB - UCC (United Church of Canada) Protect Plan for 2022. HUB is able to provide the most affordable insurance for our church while still ensuring that we do not have any co-insurance responsibilities.

The Trustees along with the Finance Team are responsible for the Trust Fund that holds the investment from the sale of the Silver Heights and Kirkfield Park buildings. There has been no money withdrawn from this account and it grows according to the market. Decisions as to the allocation of these funds will be made by the community of faith in the future.

Your Trustees for 2022 were Joycelyn Fournier-Gawryluk, John McLeod, and Tom Carlyle. John McLeod resigned from the Board of Trustees in November and at the November 27 Community of Faith Meeting John Lawrence and Ernie Gallant were appointed to the Board of Trustees. The Trustees select a chair from among themselves.

Respectfully submitted,  
John McLeod



## United Church Women (UCW)

Even though the UCW met for only a few meetings during 2022 we had a very successful and rewarding year.

The ladies continued to bake cookies for St. Matthews Maryland the second Monday of each month and assisted Congregational Life with making meat pies.

At each meeting, we were updated on member's health and alerted to mile stone birthdays. In early spring, a memorial was held for two past members, Bev Chalkley and Kathy Thompson.

In November, a call was put out for gently used items for a touch and take table for clients who attend the Portage Avenue Food Bank. We were very grateful for the wonderful useful items received. Knitted toques, mitt, scarves were also available. On the way out the clients were able to choose a package of cookies, along with a candy cane and orange. We all felt this was a heart warming experience and made many clients very happy.

Our year ended with a luncheon at Silver Heights Restaurant which we all enjoyed.

Respectively submitted,  
Donna Little  
on behalf of UCW

# Worship Team

## Worship Team Members

Team Lead:	Judy Restall
Pat Rothney Jan to March, 2022	Thomas Ormonde
Rotating Chair from April to August, 2022	Renate Rossol (Music Director until 31-Dec-22)
Pat Rothney as of September 2022	Rev. Susan McIlveen (until September 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2022)

2022 was another year of COVID-19; challenge, change and renewal.

We began 2022 in the grip of the highly contagious Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus and experienced our first infections among our teams who provide and support our Worship services. In response, we returned to being closed for in-person worship, live streaming our services, having soloists support Renate Rossol in her music leadership, and the Production Team making this possible.

In January, the Worship Team began the task of exploring how to streamline our meetings and the possibility of meeting less often. After much discussion over the next few months, we moved to meeting every 2 months, with some process changes being put in place.

January also saw a decision to move to the use of PowerPoint as our method of providing the Order of Service in place of a printed bulletin once we were holding in-person worship services once again.

March 2022 saw the cautious re-opening of the church for in-person Sunday worship with seating being distanced or restricted to households only together, masks being mandatory and no singing or collective prayers or responses. Unfortunately, there was no Lenten Bible Study and the Good Friday service was deemed too risky to hold with the Easter Sunday service our target time to be together.

Our first Communion together since March of 2020 was on Easter Sunday and the elements were safely and creatively provided in a paper bag upon entering the sanctuary and consisted of a cracker and a grape. The act of receiving communion together was greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

As Spring progressed, we began to see more of our congregants returning to the Sunday services, but numbers in attendance remained lower than prior to the COVID-19 journey. In May the Worship Team undertook a survey of 7 other United Churches' current practices with

congregational singing, shared prayers and responsive readings, presence of choirs in the services and COVID-19 precautions being used. The findings informed a motion taken to the June Oversight Council meeting regarding the gradual return to 'normal' service practices over the next few months with the Choir returning to support the Community of Faith singing in worship in September. With the addition of a detailed plan, the process of safely normalizing our worship practices began.

Summer saw our Music Director, Renate, move to Newfoundland for 6 weeks to fulfill an exciting opportunity of being the Music Director for a theatre company for their two summer productions. In preparation for her absence, a Recorded Music Library was developed with 8 hymns played by Renate and sung by Nicki LeGrand (Soloist); 3 preludes and 3 postludes recorded and all filed on the sanctuary computer to be used on 3 Sundays in July and a replacement musician and a soloist providing music leadership for the remaining 2 Sundays in July. No Sunday services were held in August 2022.

In September, with the departure of our minister, Rev. Susan McIlveen, Team members had the added responsibility of finding leadership for Sunday Worship or planning and delivering worship. We are grateful for all the support we received, especially from Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell.

The Worship Team undertook a strategic planning meeting at the end of September to understand how to go forward. In partnership with many very supportive pulpit supply ministers, we have been able to provide meaningful and engaging worship in the absence of a Prairie Spirit called or appointed minister. The Worship Team has been building new skills around worship planning, design, leadership and delivery plus receiving the gift of support from Ministers on each coast, Rev. Allan Saunders and Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell, through worship planning and recorded sermons.

Thank you so very much to both Allan and Rob.

We have also seen the emergence of the preaching skills of Thomas Ormonde, a Worship Team member. Well done, and much enjoyed by all Thomas!

It was also decided that the recording and posting of our services to YouTube would only occur on special Sundays i.e. Easter, PSUC Anniversary, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, and Christmas Eve.

Our strategic planning brought a new emphasis to our order of service with the addition and scheduling of:

For the Child in All of Us: on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month

Collective reciting of the New Creed: on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month

A Mission Story: on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month

An alternate Lord's Prayer: on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month

A notice of consent to being photographed/recorded was adapted from the one on display at The United Church in Meadowood, approved by Council and is now placed on the entry tables at each door to the Narthex for awareness.

In October, Darlene and Doug McPherson and Gary Crouch began meeting with us to discuss the Christian Education and Faith Formation elements of our new governance mandate.

With the assistance of Ivan Poitras and the contributions of the members of our Community of Faith, we developed the Prairie Spirit Honour Roll of all those connected to our members who served in a conflict with the British or Canadian Armed Forces. The new roll was dedicated at our November 6<sup>th</sup> service and the roll placed on the column. All former rolls were moved to the East wall of the sanctuary. Thank you so much Ivan.

A special thank you to Judy and John Lawrence for the decorating of the sanctuary for the Remembrance Day service and Judy, John and Louise Groulx for the provision of artifacts to bring a human story to our time of reflection.

Additionally, we wish to thank Stephanie Simpson for participating in her military uniform and reading 'In Flanders Fields', Darlene McPherson for sharing her Tommy Prince painting and the story of its development, Evan Glazier (Trumpeter), Ethan Blain (Piper) and especially Rev. Barbara Roberts for her leadership in planning and being our Worship Leader for this service.

November began the planning for the Advent season and the idea of a Christmas Eve story telling service was shared. Rev. Barbara Roberts provided a script for 'Christmas in the Barn' which we embraced. With the dedication, resources and assistance of the McPherson family, the Poole family, the Thom – Young family, Rev. Roberts and our Team we were able to present this experience to the ~180 people in attendance on Christmas Eve. A heartfelt thank you for all your creativity, planning and hands on efforts in making this happen!

A sincere thank you to our guest musicians who brought so much richness and wonder to our service: Tenor - Joseph Seville; Soprano - Alyssa Crockett; Trumpet - Evan Glazier; and Violin - Zelda Kynman.



Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto



We continue to be blessed with a Production Team Manager, Sharon McIntyre, and a talented team of accomplished people who are able to make our live streaming and service support possible. Thank you to Gary Koshinsky, Erin Tierney, Kim Rothney, Zam Pankratz and Ian Christensen.

April saw Kim Rothney step away from regular worship support and in May, with the reopening of production venues and concerts, Gary Koshinsky left the team and Kevin Manness joined the team for a brief time. Following the completion of his university theatre program, Zam secured a permanent job with the Contemporary Dancers as their sound person – congratulations!

In September, Manny Kambale, our Custodian, trained to support the sound and video needs of our church and takes on this role on a casual basis in addition to his custodial duties. Two further members of our Community of Faith have agreed to be trained to support in house needs during the week e.g. funerals and are awaiting an opportunity for training.

In October, we were blessed to add Andrew Gatien, a seasoned sound and video technician, to our team on a casual basis. Along with Erin, Ian and Sharon we continue to meet the needs of our Worship Services, Community of Faith meetings, funerals and outside event needs for sound and video support. Thank you so much to each of you!

A special thank you to Judy Restall who recruits, supports and schedules our congregational scripture readers, coordinates our banners and recruits communion servers and to Thomas Ormonde and Marg Fisher for connecting with our Ushers and Greeters and scheduling them for service support. Thank you to all of you who've volunteered for these and many other roles. Our services would not run as smoothly or be the same without you.

I will close with a sincere and heartfelt *Thank You* to Renate Rossol, Music Director, who completed her time with us December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Renate joined Sturgeon Creek United Church in 2015 as the Music Director immediately following the completion of her Master's program and has been with us through the formation of Prairie Spirit United Church and our amalgamation progress. We have learned so much from her and definitely from each other. Renate has brought us the delight of meaningful worship music regardless of the medium, provided wonderful musical selections, brought the best out in our choir with challenging and rewarding anthems of a global nature, and contributed wonderful performance pieces while introducing us to so many accomplished vocalists and musicians. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her future endeavours. We celebrated Renate's time with us with a celebration following Worship on Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We were privileged to provide a gift of a personalized painting for her new home, designed, painted and framed by Phyllis Poole.



Painting framed and hanging in Renate's home

## BUDGET

<b>2022 Budget</b>	
<b>Worship</b>	
General	\$ 1,000.00
Chimers	\$ 100.00
Copyright	\$ 875.00
Seasons of the Spirit' Annual Subscription	\$ 420.00
Gathering': Resources for Worship Planners - 1 x 1yr subscription \$25.95 + GST	\$ 27.25
50% of Church Art subscription	\$ 40.00
<b>Music</b>	
Soloists: Calculated Weekly at \$75/week	\$ 3,975.00
Extra Soloists	\$ 700.00
Music Purchases	\$ 250.00
Music Notes' Subscription (Annually) (\$14.99 USD)	\$ 18.54
<b>Online Services</b>	
Production Team	\$ 10,836.50
Supplies/Equipment	\$ 300.00
<b>Other</b>	
Music Director PD	\$ 150.00
MB Choral Assoc Membership (Annually)	\$ 50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 18,742.29</b>

## Goals for 2023:

- Provide meaningful, engaging and quality worship services with the support of guest ministers, worship leadership by members of our church, scripture readers, communion servers, ushers and greeters and the production team
- Prepare the sanctuary to enhance the worship experience and administer the sacraments
- Support the Oversight Council in its work on behalf of the Community of Faith of Prairie Spirit United Church

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Rothney



# Budget and Financial Statements

## Prairie Spirit United Church 2023 Draft Budget

REVENUE	Budget 2022	Actual 2022	Budget 2023
Pledges & Donations	\$ 137,000	\$ 142,259	\$ 130,000
Rentals/Parking	\$ 25,000	\$ 41,954	\$ 41,000
Fund Raising not receipted	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,935	\$ 5,000
Funeral Services	\$ 200	\$ 8,143	\$ 7,000
Interest Income	\$ 1,750	\$ 2,315	\$ 3,000
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	<u>\$ 176,755</u>	<u>\$ 199,606</u>	<u>\$ 186,000</u>
GIC Investment Income	\$ 000000	\$ 16,352	\$ 15,000
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$ 215,958</u>	<u>\$ 201,000</u>

*OPERATING EXPENSES*

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 171, 472	\$ 180, 037	\$ 85,000 *
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*Administration*

Rent/Funeral/Fundraising expenses		\$ 6,341	\$ 7,000
Office/computer/telephone/technology	\$ 7,600	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000
Utilities/ Heat/Electricity/Water	\$ 27,300	\$ 28,575	\$ 31,000
Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 13,000	\$ 12,800	\$ 16,000
Worship:			
- Music	\$ 5,500	\$ 3,200	\$ 5,500
- Tech Production	\$ 10,200	\$ 7,400	\$ 7,100
- Worship general/copyright, art/design	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,800	\$ 6,100
Insurance/Property Taxes	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,562	\$ 12,000**
Bank / Service Charges	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,360	\$ 1,400

*Congregational Teams*

Cong Life/pastoral Care	\$ 600	\$ 560	\$ 700
Social Justice Outreach	\$ 400	\$ 50	\$ 400
M&P	\$ 100	\$ 00	\$ 200
Trustees	\$ 100	\$ 00	\$ 100
Oversight Council			\$ 1,200
National Assessment	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,400	\$ 13,400
Professional Fees	\$ 6,500	\$ 7,106	\$ 6,500
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$ 272, 272	\$ 280,191	\$ 196,600

Operating Results	\$ (95,917)	\$ (80,585)	\$ (10,600)
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\* Assumes Ministry in place October

\*\* Subject to UCC National Investigation