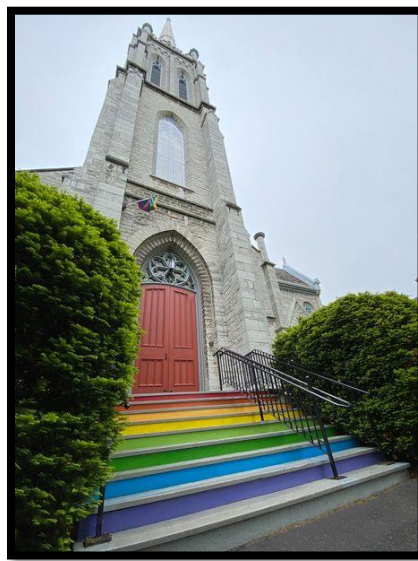




# SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH

## Kingston, Ontario



# Annual Report

## 2022-2023

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land. In acknowledging this land, the traditional home of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee, we seek to rebuild right relations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land with respect and gratitude for its bounty.



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## **SSUC VISION STATEMENT**

As an Affirming Congregation, we seek to be a vital faith community within The United Church of Canada

engaged in spirituality, justice and  
creativity, informed by Jesus Christ and the  
Bible,

and discerning the call of the Trinity

as we celebrate diversity, inclusivity and abundant life.

## **SSUC MISSION STATEMENT**

We are committed to following Jesus' example as we embrace people of all ages, racialized groups, sexual orientations, gender identities, ethnic origins, political beliefs, economic circumstances and differing abilities and challenges in the ministry and life of Sydenham Street United Church.

We are committed to deepening our spiritual relatedness and honouring the worth of each individual by extending hospitality and pastoral care, and sharing relevant and meaningful worship, spiritual practices, and small group ministry.

We are committed to broadening our outreach/social justice through existing programs, advocacy and new initiatives to address local, national and global needs; and to welcoming the use of our space by those involved in outreach/social justice seeking to live lives of compassion and peace.

We are committed to nurturing and being nurtured by the arts within the congregation and wider community by encouraging use of our facilities by those engaged in any and all artistic endeavours.

***Approved at SSUC Congregational Meeting –  
October 26, 2014 Signed during 15<sup>th</sup> Affirm  
Anniversary Celebration – November 2, 2014***

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Minister	Rev. Catherine Elsdon
Music Director	Howard Lopez
General Manager	Sam MacLeod
Office Administrator	Lisa Leavitt
Office Administrator, The Spire	Lisa Leavitt
Bookkeeper	Madeleine Friederichsen
Custodian	Les Campbell

## **CHURCH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Congregational Chair	Deborah Elliott
Secretary of the Official Board	Sheila Menard
Treasurer	Kirby Ruthven
Financial Secretary	Roger Chown
Eastern Central Ontario Region 11 Rep.	Jack Soule
Board of Trustees Chair	Donna Delyea
Engaging the Spirit Coordinator	Linda Hutchinson
Social Justice & Outreach Chair	Barb Parker
Art and Soul Co-Chairs	Barb Carr, Ellie Deir
Worship Chair	Vicki Ruthven
Communications Coordinator	Lynn Freeman
Ministry and Personnel Chair	Vacant
Property Chair	Walter Schmid
Finance Chair	Jack Soule
Business Management Group Chair	Walter Schmi

## Report of the Chair for 2022-23

It's a pleasure to report on our congregation's past twelve months, which have been special in so many ways. We have experienced the second year with our Minister, the Reverend Catherine Elsdon, and her leadership has brought wisdom, insight, hope and joy to our church community in The Spire and online. We have continued to enjoy and share our repaired and refurbished building, as the Business Management Group, our new General Manager, Sam MacLeod, and The Friends of The Spire attract and support the organizations with which we share our space. We have achieved a new plateau of safety despite the presence of Covid-19 in our community and throughout the world, and our vigilance, which has helped us through the past three years, will remain. We have all experienced the pleasure of meetings in person, and conversations after services, accompanied by smiles, handshakes and embraces, and that I note happily that the first congregational potluck dinner in three years will have taken place by the time you read this.

Our staff members this year deserve special thanks. Office Administrator Lisa Leavitt has managed the live-streaming and recording of services for the year with great success, in addition to all her office duties. We continue to be inspired by Music Director, Howard Lopez, whose choral conducting and playing both the organ and piano have renewed our joy in beautiful music and song at Sydenham Street. Our Custodian, Les Campbell, continues maintaining The Spire handsomely, for our congregation and for all the tenants and users of the building. And we welcomed this year our new General Manager, Sam MacLeod, who brings his theatrical production and performance experience to coordinate The Spire's rental schedule and development of its facilities.

Our Minister leads a vibrant worship community which has been sustained so ably this past year by the Worship Committee, chaired by Vicki Ruthven. We have been back in the Sanctuary for this entire year, singing and speaking with vigor, continuing to be grateful for the online services, which continue to draw new adherents and members to Sydenham Street. Deborah Elliott and Juliet Huntly, co-chairs of the Future Directions Team, have worked with Reverend. Catherine to plan the process by which we can clarify our sense of shared identity, and renew our vision for the congregation.

And we know that our ministries have been sustained by the contacts maintained through our Circles of Companionship, coordinated by Linda Hutchinson and supported by the pastoral care which Reverend. Catherine has provided. We are pleased that the Circles of Companionship are gathering in person again, and we know that during the coming church year they will continue to reinforce the friendship and spiritual nurturing we share at Sydenham Street.

The ministries and spiritual life of our church have again been supported this past year by the improvements implemented by the Communications Team on our website and Facebook page, as well as with distribution of important congregational information, and especially the assistance of Marielle Boyce, our new Social Media Coordinator. We again send special thanks to Lynn Freeman, Eric Carstens, Susan Doerksen and Ellie Deir for their leadership in this critical function of the church operation, and to Jack Soule for his preparation of the weekly Newsletter, which continues to be a lifeline for information about worship, ministries, activities, and outreach in the congregation and wider church.

The financial challenges of the past year were navigated with wisdom and foresight by Treasurer Kirby Ruthven, who again deserves special thanks for managing the revenues from grants and rentals, as well as the generous donations by which you continued to support the work of our church. The Board of Trustees, chaired with skillful care by Donna Delyea provided wise oversight and management of our Endowment Fund.

The revelations of the Indigenous community's past treatment by Canadian governments and institutions, including the Residential Schools system administered by Canadian churches continue to sadden many Canadians profoundly. The social and economic challenges facing Indigenous people continue to be a deep spiritual issue throughout Canada. Sydenham Street United Church continues its participation in the process of listening to, and supporting, our fellow Canadians as we all come to grips with the details of the past and search for a healing path to our shared future. Jim Leake and Juliet Huntly have continued to represent us this past year in community discussions and gatherings concerning Truth and Reconciliation, and we extend our gratitude for their leadership.

Our building continues to benefit from repairs and renovations, and we look forward to the completion of improvements to the upper and lower kitchens. We are grateful to our new Property/BMG Chair, Walter Schmid, and to the volunteer "Fixers" who, along with Custodian Les Campbell, take care of The Spire so well. We are also grateful to Friends of The Spire for their pursuit of improvements to the clarity and range of the spoken word in our Sanctuary, and look forward to the completion of the extensive Sanctuary renovation planned by the Friends of The Spire and our General Manager that will bring remarkable improvement to lighting, sound reproduction, streaming of services and events, and visual effects with a drop-down screen and digital projector. Fundraising has already begun very successfully, and we are confident that the project will be completed in record time.

Again this year, I've had the privilege of seeing at first hand the abilities, the wisdom, the energy and the generosity of all the staff members and volunteers at SSUC serving on committees and donating their time to the planning and administration of church activities. We are so fortunate to have such a skilled and supportive community at Sydenham Street. We have saluted Kenn Doerksen for his years of service as Chair of Property and the Business Management Group, and Barbara Parker for her years as Secretary of the Executive Committee as she assumes the leadership of the Social Justice & Outreach Committee and now we extend grateful thanks to James Leake as he steps back from his invaluable leadership years as Chair of Ministry and Personnel, and his oversight of the hiring and support of our exceptional staff. The wisdom, commitment and generosity of congregation members like Jim, Barb, and Kenn, as well as of all of you, is the cornerstone of our achievement in this past year, and the solid foundation of the future toward which the Reverend Catherine leads us. I know that your new Chair of the Congregation, Deborah Elliott, will lead us well in the new church year, which will call on our skill in dealing with issues and responsibilities, and require our strong resolve to increase our membership so that we can sustain a vibrant United Church presence in downtown Kingston. We continue to be a strong, able, imaginative, and joyful community, and I look forward on your behalf to a new year of being together in body, mind and spirit in our church community.

Respectfully submitted  
Ian Malcolm.



## 2022 Annual Report from the Minister

In early 2023, we were delighted to welcome the Moderator to present at a “Lunch & Learn” event. During her talk, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne recommended to us a book. It is called “Imaginable: How to See the Future Coming and Feel Ready for Anything - Even Things That Seem Impossible Today,” written by futurist and game designer Jane McGonigal. McGonigal argues that “it feels more challenging than ever to feel unafraid, hopeful, and equipped to face the future with optimism.” Her book draws on the latest scientific research in psychology and neuroscience to show us how to train ourselves to “unstick” our minds so we can think creatively and imagine the unimaginable. In this way we can build resilience and, with a sense of “urgent optimism,” begin to shape a future we desire.

The Moderator suggests that this book can not only help us think through the “unthinkable” world events of recent years, but also engage in playful, imaginative, hopeful thinking about the future of our world and our church. The pandemic forced a total pause on church as we knew it, and this past year has seen more and more a return to “normal.” Yet this moment presents an opportunity to reflect on what we want to leave behind or retain, and what new opportunities we want to seek out as a community of faith. Over this past year I have spent time with new attendees to the church, including a number of university students, and heard their desire for opportunities to connect, and to deepen their spirituality. I have gratefully observed the Spire gearing up after pandemic slowdowns, with increasing events and additional staff. Within the pages of this report you’ll find an account of faithful service, hard work, and care that represents our collective efforts to walk the way of Jesus this past year.

As I look ahead, I am excited to discern together how the Spirit is calling us to serve, sing, praise, pray and grow. As part of our Future Directions process, we will be hosting an in-person, congregational retreat day in the fall of 2023. At this event we will identify our congregation’s core values and dream together about future possibilities; it will be an opportunity for spiritual, playful, hopeful reflection on what the church is and could be.

This annual report summarizes the work of a vibrant congregation committed to justice, hospitality, creativity and spirituality. I believe our congregation has the potential to grow to be even more sustainable, dynamic, diverse and spiritually-grounded. Growth requires a growth mindset—an ability to work through struggles and setbacks, and a firm foundation of hopefulness and openness to how we can learn and evolve. I know I want to learn and grow in faithfulness and service, and I hope you do too. Let’s journey together.

Grace and peace,  
Catherine

The Reverend Catherine Elsdon  
Minister, Sydenham Street & Faith United Churches

## Engaging the Spirit Ministry Circle Report

Submitted by: Linda Hutchinson, Coordinator

It is my pleasure to write this introduction to the Sydenham Street United Church Engaging the Spirit Ministry Circle Report . . . and to celebrate these expressions of faith and commitment which are at the heart of the Sydenham Street United Church Community . . . individuals and groups that quietly do their tasks of providing spiritual care and faith-filled nourishment for our people . . . like the steady, ongoing beating of a heart.

This Ministry Circle meets twice a year and coordinates several functions which relate to the spiritual life of Sydenham Street United Church.

### **Reporting to this Ministry Circle (individual reports follow) are:**

Worship Committee	Vicki Ruthven
Circles of Companionship	Linda Hutchinson
Small Group Ministry	Sue Doerksen
Hospitality	
a) Welcome Table-Name Tags	Linda Hutchinson
b) Refreshments	Diane Soule
c) Greeters & Ushers	Jack Soule
Faith Formation -	
a) Children-Growing Spirits	Lynn Freeman
b) Adults	Rev. Catherine Elsdon
Lunch & Learn	Bruce Hutchinson
Broadview Magazine Subscription	Linda Hutchinson
Affirming Action Team	Linda Hutchinson

**We are blessed by The Spirit and we give thanks for the dedication and skill these people bring to their leadership roles. Please read on to feel the spiritual pulse of Sydenham Street United Church!**

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE 2022-23**

Submitted by: Vicki Ruthven – Chair

The Worship committee over this last year consisted of Rev Catherine Elsdon - Minister, Howard Lopez – Music Director, Vicki Ruthven – Chair, Marylil Megginson – scribe, Mary Leroy, Rosemary Robinson, Faye Irving and Masy Gooya. Rev Catherine comes to meetings with ideas and plans for future services and for consultation and advice from and for the Worship Committee. Howard Lopez keeps us up to date with choir news and planned music. The committee members also actively help with participation in services such as; arranging readers, liturgical hangings and preparing and serving communion elements to name a few.

In September of 2022 Rev. Catherine began a series, “Reconciliation in the Watershed” in which we explored our Christian creation narratives, watershed discipleship, and the concept of Akwe Nia’Tetewá:neren (“all my relations”). There was “blessing of the backpacks” for students and teachers on Sep 11 and on Sep 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – the church was open for several hours for reflection, led by JTRAG.

In October we celebrated Worldwide Communion Sunday and there was an ecumenical service of Blessing of the Animals held at St. James. Howard began playing the organ for one piece during the service and has been playing since with much success. A Stewardship Series began on Thanksgiving Sunday with a focus on Gratitude. We were asked by Deborah Elliott and the Executive Committee to consider the resource One Bread, One Body prepared by a task group in the United Church. This report looked at Communion and the online experience. We found it to be a resource that could be helpful for further discussion, perhaps in visioning, as it asked questions about how we decided to do communion and what we might do differently. For us and for many, online services were a decision of how do we make this work now? So, revisiting this might be helpful in the future.

November saw our service of Remembrance led by Kenn Doerksen with slides of those that died in both world wars and since. This service also featured the children placing a poppy on a wreath for each name called out, which was a very moving part of the service. Later in November was the anniversary service of our becoming Affirming, with a focus on the Transgender Day of Awareness, with guest speaker, Jordan Sullivan, who spoke about his journey of transition. Ian Malcolm led a workshop on “Finding your speaking voice” with about 10 people interested in reading scripture.

Advent began on November 27 with Art and Soul contributing a “Hanging of the Greens” portion to that service and to our other Advent services. Also, that day, there was a baptism of two young girls whose parents live in Switzerland and have a Kingston connection with one of the children’s birth mothers. During Advent JTRAG members wrote and read their own land acknowledgements. Rev Erin Burns was our guest preacher on Dec 4, as Catherine was away, and spoke about Advent preparation. On Dec 11 the choir led a special service of music and there was a “Blessing of the Christmas cake” which was taken to those who could not be with us in person. Dec 18 – Advent 4 - was communion. The Christmas Eve service of Carols and Candlelight was held at 7pm and there was an informal service on Christmas day at 11am, which had about 25 people attend with several of them newcomers.

In 2022 we decided to return a large bible to the sanctuary, which is now on the communion table. A newer bible, found in the vault, replaced the one that had perished due to age. Also, due to the sanctuary being often in use for concerts, we decided to find a better storage spot for our communion supplies. These have been put in storage boxes in a hall cupboard.

We began the New Year with Catherine doing a Signs & Wonders Series: Based on the book by Amy-Jill Levine, which looked at miracle stories in the Bible.

In February Catherine was away for two weeks and Elizabeth Macdonald kindly agreed to lead those two weeks and presided over our first in-person communion since covid on Feb 12. On Ash Wednesday we joined our Ecumenical partners at a service led by Princess Street United at St Luke's. During Lent Catherine led an interesting and thought-provoking series of reflections on Faith and Film, featuring Oscar Nominees for this year, with an occasional study session for those wanting to delve a bit further into the films. Easter season was very busy with Catherine leading a Maundy Thursday service, Sydenham hosting the ecumenical Good Friday service with 7 churches participating and an Easter Sunday service. All three services were well attended. Art and Soul brought a congregational activity of making paper hand lilies during the few weeks preceding Easter. These were then distributed by the Circles of Companionship to those who were unable to attend.

In March, worship took a recommendation to Executive: "Moved by Mary Leroy, seconded by Marylil Megginson THAT the Worship Committee recommend to the Executive Committee that the large Canada flag at the front of the sanctuary be removed and an appropriately sized Canada flag replace the United Church flag with the outdated United Church crest that hangs from the balcony." This was discussed, approved and a motion to go ahead came from Executive. The change has now been made with the Canada Flag and the Pride Flag hanging from the balcony.

Rev Dr John Suk led us in worship the Sunday after Easter and Captain Rev Bea Gale took the service on April 30 as Catherine was on study leave. John Suk will return for the May 21 service. Vicki and Ian Malcolm led a service on May 7 as Rev Catherine was at the spring meeting of ECORC.

Over the last few months, we have looked at repurposing the pulpit. We brought a recommendation to Executive which they approved and a motion was made there to investigate this. This involved contacting Sarah Gibson Bray, whose great-grandfather donated the pulpit in 1930, and asking permission to do so. A meeting was set up with Sarah, Sam MacLeod and Tim Soper, a carpenter. A plan is now in place and a new font will be constructed from the wood of the pulpit. Robert Reid was also contacted about the font in the narthex, which his grandfather had donated in 1929, and after he came to view it, it was deemed unusable and that we could dispose of it as we saw fit.

We continue to place importance on language inclusivity both in worship and in music and are planning a meeting with the Affirm Team to look at other ways we can reach that goal. We continue to have sound issues in the sanctuary on occasion, and are looking forward to the new sound system. Many thanks to Lisa Leavitt who shepherds us through the streaming of the Sunday Services with her technical knowledge.

Looking ahead - the Pride Parade is June 17 and we are having a Pride Service on June 11. Summer services will again be shared with Faith United and Chalmers with Sydenham taking the first three weeks, Chalmers the middle three and Faith taking the last 4 (includes Labour Day). All services will be at 10am. August 20 we will join the Downtown Ecumenical Group at a picnic at Lake Ontario Park.

Many thanks to all the committee members and special thanks to Marylil Megginson who will be stepping down from the committee in June after several years on the committee. Marylil has taken notes, helped with communion, leading services, and offering support and has been an invaluable source of knowledge. We wish her all the best.

## **CIRCLES OF COMPANIONSHIP    2022-23**

Submitted by: Linda Hutchinson - Coordinator

Since the spring of 2013, formal and informal pastoral care has been offered through Circles of Companionship . . . intentionally contacting with and caring for one another in the Sydenham Street United Church Congregation through groupings of people living in the same geographic area.

### **Goals are:**

- Expanding opportunities for SSU folk to get to know one another and to care for and be cared for by one another
- Sharing spiritual resources to nurture faith and deepen spirituality during this time of ongoing transition with the church and world
- Creating a more intentional congregational network to improve communication and offer lifelong care.

The congregation is divided into seven geographic areas and the people in each area are invited to get to know one another through potluck meals and other social gatherings.

A “**point person(s)**” facilitates the activities of the Circle with hosting of events along with other leadership emerging from within the Circle. Point persons also keep in touch personally with Circle members in times of joy and sorrow and “in-between”. Thanks to Meikle and Margaret Turner, Winn McKnight, Barb Carr, Peter Goheen, Vicki Ruthven, Bruce Hutchinson, Pat Frost, Susan Davis, and Linda Hutchinson for playing this role in various circles. Each Circle is evolving in its own unique way, depending on the members of the Circle and their needs/availability/interests.

We welcomed Pat Frost to the Point Persons Team in 2023 as she brings her pastoral gifts to Circle 5.

The “point persons” meet 2 times a year with coordinator, Linda Hutchinson, and the minister to discuss outreach activities at Christmas and Easter, and to share news of the congregation as a whole and as individuals. In between these meetings, there is continual conversation between point persons, the coordinator and the minister re the well-being of individual members and how that can be enhanced.

We are so grateful for the relationship between the Circles and our Minister, Rev. Catherine Elsdon, who responds in a timely fashion to our concerns for our people and keeps Point Persons informed of how we can better support her in her pastoral care.

Post COVID, Circles are meeting again in person . . . some in private homes, some in the Conference Room at SSU for lunch on Sundays, some outdoors when weather is good. Circles reach out to partners of

worship attendees, long-time members who have become disconnected, shut-ins who long to be part of Sydenham Street United Church but are no longer able to attend worship and other events, supporting Circle members in their work/hobbies/passions. Circles also provide an excellent way for newcomers to our community to integrate and feel included. One Circle intentionally plans activities in spaces that are wheelchair accessible.

### **Special Occasion Outreach:**

During **Advent 2022**, special cards (with a photo of artist Margot Finley's triptych) provided by Barb Carr, and a piece of delicious Christmas cake, graciously made/donated by Beth Leake, were delivered by each circle to people who are no longer able to actively participate in the life and work of SSU. Also, a card with a note was sent from the congregation to members and families for whom this would be the first Christmas since the death of a loved one or who had experienced other significant challenges during the year. Prior to delivery, the cake and cards were blessed during worship. Overall this outreach connected with 37 households and 55 individuals.

**Easter Sunday April 9, 2023.** In a congregational experience led by "Art & Soul Ministry Circle" pink and white paper "hand-print" lilies were crafted by children and adults during coffee time on Sundays prior to Easter. They were then delivered by Point Persons with a small greeting tag - "Easter Blessings to You! From your friends at Sydenham Street United Church". These lilies went to people who are no longer able to attend worship or who were experiencing challenges in life. 31 households (42 people) received lilies. Real lily plants, which were placed in the chancel for Easter Sunday by Art & Soul Ministry Circle, were given to staff in appreciation of all they do.

**Birthday Cards for SSUC People who are 90 years old and over** -Diane Soule graciously created beautiful hand crafted cards specifically for each individual and Linda Hutchinson arranged for the delivery of them, usually with a "sweet treat". Currently, we have 12 amazing people in this age range. Many thanks, Diane, for sharing your artistic gifts.

### **Connecting with People not on Internet:**

Intentional outreach took place to the few households (3) not connected to Sydenham Street United Church on internet with periodic hand delivery of E-Newsletters + bulletins.

### **Gratitude:**

- We are very grateful for the interactive relationship and support received from Rev. Catherine Elsdon as we work together in this unique model of pastoral care.
- We are also grateful for all the caring that happens on behalf of Sydenham Street United Church through the Point Persons who diligently reach out and activate their circle members to look after one another. We are enjoying the opportunities to once again engage in our social activities of sharing food and conversation with our "circle friends".
- We are very aware of and appreciative also for all the informal but intentional caring that takes place amongst our Sydenham Street United Church people . . . in times of specific need and in times of friendly companionship. Life long caring!

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY 2022-23

Submitted by: Sue Doerksen - Coordinator

Anyone who wants to meet others while enjoying a common activity is welcome to join a Sydenham Street United Church Small Group. Members of Small Groups find friendship and opportunities for casual conversation about important matters like social justice, and spirituality. Small Groups are one way people find that they can be church to and for each other at Sydenham Street United Church.

*It is with sadness that we acknowledge the death of Co-Coordinator Barbara Parrott on November 24, 2022. Barbara brought wisdom and energy to the program with ever persistent encouragement to move into new ideas and places. Barb was appreciated and is missed.*

With fewer COVID restrictions most of our groups were meeting both in person and via Zoom. The Tuesday Book group continued to meet via Zoom and was attracting around 30 people. The Garden group had a very good harvest in 2022 and are ready to plant this spring of 2023. The Fixers continued their many tasks throughout the year. The Prayer Shawl Group had several lawn meetings which were fun – often we who were walking by had people very interested in what were doing! The Hikers enjoyed hikes followed by a meal together in all seasons.

### Our groups:

BOOK GROUP, TUESDAY EVENING *	Leader	Ellie Deir
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Co-ordinator	Diane Soule
COMMUNITY GARDEN	Co-ordinator	Donna Delyea
DISCUSSION GROUPS		
FIXERS	Co-ordinator	Kenn Doerksen
HIKING GROUP	Leader	Catherine Purcell
GREETERS & USHERS	Co-ordinator	Jack Soule
MOVIES on last Sunday evening of the month	Co-ordinator	Barb Carr
PRAYER SHAWL **	Co-ordinator	Sue Doerksen
JUST LUNCH a monthly gathering of those who enjoy having a convivial lunch in various restaurants. Due to COVID it is not active currently.		
Co-ordinator: Meikle Turner		

### Thanks for all our Co-ordinators for making this happen.

\* In gratitude for the use of the Library's Book Group Multiple Copies Program and in memory of Barb Parrott, a former member of the Book Group, the SSU Book Group purchased and donated a set of books to the public library this past year.

\*\* With a surplus of prayer shawls on hand, over the winter the Prayer Shawl Group knit scarves and mittens which were distributed through Sydenham Street's Food Voucher Program on Tuesday mornings.

**Small Group ministry is not simply about having small groups as part of the congregation. Rather it is an alternative way of being a congregation in response to the call to love God and to be in relation with one another in ways that are prayerful, affirming, challenging, celebratory.**

## **HOSPITALITY 2022-23**

### **a) Welcome Table & Name Tags – Submitted by: Linda Hutchinson Coordinator**

The following is information gleaned from greeting people at the “Welcome Table”, which is set up weekly in the foyer between the sanctuary and lower hall. People enter through the accessible William Street entrance so everyone passes by on their way to worship. At this table, people are greeted, offered name tags, pick up a bulletin and hymn books, pick up hearing assist devices, and get any other important news re potlucks, greetings cards, new initiatives, etc. New people are eager to be welcomed and to wear a name tag. Most regular attendees are happy to wear a name tag, offering their names in hospitality to newcomers . . . and offering their names to those whose memories are fading.

DATA from  
Welcome Table  
to April 25 /23

Year	Recorded Newcomers	Still coming in 2023	Leadership- on committee	Choir
Fall 2021	12	6	3	4
2022	35	23	9	0
Spring 2023	15	8	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>

A number of newcomers have chosen to join Circles of Companionship & Small Groups also.



Ongoing observances re hospitality:

- It is a blessing to have a stable, creative, energetic worship team including our minister & music director
- Our on-line presence (live-streaming, recording for later viewing) is very important for attracting new people as well as reaching out to people of our congregation not attending in person
- Our website and Facebook are important especially for reaching younger people - informative & accessible
- Our willingness to adapt to restrictions taking programming online is crucial
- Our Welcome Table with its rainbow colours & name tag program are important to building relationships, having people feel known/valued by knowing their names, and assisting those with "memory slips". Offering envelopes and plates are available on the Welcome Table since the offering plate is not passed during worship.
- Our Circles of Companionship have welcomed our new people into their circles in spite of COVID restrictions.
- Small Groups provide a meaningful way of engagement
- Some of our newcomers are students so we need to focus some events with them during school terms when they are in Kingston. Students received small food gifts prior to Christmas and April exam/end of term time for example.

Thanks to Deborah Elliott, Doreen Morrison and Ellie Deir who have volunteered to assist at the Welcome Table. Two volunteers at the table allows one person to hand out name tags and the other to connect more deeply or assist with other activities such as signing cards, getting special information & devices, etc. The usher at the sanctuary door greets and hands out hymn books.

**b) Refreshments** Submitted by: Diane Soule - Coordinator

Following several Sundays in the fall of 2022 of providing refreshments after the service on the front walk (COVID restrictions), it was possible to return to the normal Coffee Hour in the Lower Hall. Judging by the good attendance, I believe it has been much appreciated with a recent increase from 4 to 5 small tea tables at which people sit.

Catherine's girls, Faye and Roz, brought in decorated cookies for Hallowe'en, and they were "gobbled" up quickly. Thank you.

Most of the Coffee-Hour team is back and happy to help. Our team has worked extremely well to keep things safe for all. We have volunteers who seem willing to be there but if anyone would like to join we are open for more volunteers. Recently, Pippa, 8 years old, and Roz, 7 years old, were the newest and youngest volunteers. I am very grateful for their efforts and especially for the coverage while I was away.

The annual Strawberry Social will take place at Sydenham St. UC on July 2, 2023

### c) Greeters and Ushers Submitted by: Jack Soule – Coordinator

Over the year, the need for Greeters and Ushers has been somewhat reduced with the removal of COVID restrictions. Consequently some of the group have returned to other activities on Sundays, such as participating in the choir. Helping to counter these reductions, we were pleased to have a new member join. The procedure is simpler now, requiring fewer on duty. Greeting is a particularly important service, however, considering the number of outside groups entering The Spire each Sunday morning.

Even with the reduced restrictions, building entry via the accessible William St. doors has been maintained, with exit via the front, Sydenham St. doors, or William St. doors, by choice. This approach has proven effective for the handing out of name tags at the Welcome Table, along with the opportunity to greet new and existing participants. The current system for entering still seems appropriate. Not very many people are exiting via the front doors, as many are choosing to attend Coffee Hour. The numbers of attendees have increased noticeably, especially over Easter.

Updated advice from the Kingston (KFL&A) Health Unit has been monitored to ensure that our protocols are aligned.

The dedicated support of the greeters and ushers is greatly appreciated.

## FAITH FORMATION 2023

### a) Children – “Growing Spirits” Submitted by: Lynn Freeman - Lead

On most Sundays between September and June, following the scripture reading in worship, the children accompany Lynn Freeman to the conference room for conversation, stories and crafts. This year the program has grown modestly from three to five children who, with their parents, are part of our church community. Grand-children who live nearby as well as some visiting Kingston from as far away as Calgary have joined us. At Easter 12 children joined us to make Easter egg bouquets with felt and hear the Easter story. Ages range from two to eleven.

***Our Time Together*** This year Growing Spirits was organized around a few themes. Drawing on the Common Lectionary, SSU worship and unique opportunities, we explored our relationship with creation and the important, hard work of peace-keeping in the Fall. In November, Kenn Doerksen shared with the children his experience as a peace-keeper and member of Canada’s Armed Services to their delight.

During Advent, we learned about Christian customs in other lands and the origins of some of our own traditions. During Epiphany, we focused on the wisemen, drawing on stories recorded as early as the 5th and from other countries to appreciate who they were and what made them travel so far in search of a new-born King.

During Lent, we metaphorically boarded a time machine and travelled across the world to meet Jesus in his homeland where he gathered with crowds and in the quieter places where he met with family and friends. Inspired by Rev. Catherine's Epiphany theme (Signs and Wonders), we shared stories of Jesus's many miracles and how they inspired those who followed him and those who feared him. During Easter, we were more eclectic. In the final weeks before summer, we will consider what it means to live and love faithfully through an examination of six recent Canadian publications featured in the first Kids' Canada Reads this Spring and a new book, *Twas the Night before Pride*.

***A Favourite Activity*** Making bread pretzels one Sunday in Lent.

***A Least Favourite Activity*** More hand art! Tracing our hands on paper, we have made hens, foxes, camels, lilies and more this year.

Annika Gale, a high school student, joined us for several months as part of her voluntary community service. We thank her for being with us and wish her well in her future.

***Children's Participation in Worship*** Our youngest congregational members participated in many worship services and several intergenerational events. We all benefit from their participation and, on our behalf, I thank Faye, Leo, Pippa, Rachel and Rosalyn for their active engagement in the children's story during worship, and their assistance in several Art and Soul activities during Advent and Lent and on Remembrance Sunday. Thank you to church leaders who invite their meaningful engagement!

In closing, I share the Land Acknowledgement written by Leo and Rachel as part of JTRAG's contribution to Advent services.

*We are grateful for the land that gives us food, shelters birds and animals, stores water and provides all of us with space to live;*

*We remember the people who lived on and cared for this land before our ancestors came to this land;*

*We commit to taking care of this land – keeping it nourished and cleaning up after others and not spoiling it by taking only what we need;*

*We promise to share the land and its resources by protecting life, nature and each other.*

**a) Adults** Submitted by: Rev. Catherine Elsdon

In the Fall of 2022, Oct 13 to Nov 10 via ZOOM, Rev. Catherine collaborated with local UCC ministry personnel to present 1 ½ hour discussion sessions on Rev. John Pentland's book *Fishing Tips: How Curiosity Transformed a Community of Faith*. The group, including participants from Edith Rankin Memorial, Cookes-Portsmouth, Faith & Sydenham St United Churches, had lively discussion on the written material as well as sharing tips from their own communities of faith. A highlight was the visit for one session, via Zoom, of the author himself.

In the season of Epiphany, Rev. Catherine held weekly ZOOM conversations entitled “Epiphany Explorations” which related to the “Signs & Wonders” worship series based on the miracles of Jesus. Participants found their appreciation of Sunday service deepened by engaging in group reflection in advance.

During Lent, Rev. Catherine offered a worship series, “Faith & Film,” exploring spiritual themes of 2023 Academy Award-nominated movies. During this season, three sessions were held to discuss the movies and corresponding passages of scripture selected by Rev. Catherine.

## **LUNCH & LEARN 2022- 23**

Submitted by: Bruce Hutchinson

**Background:** Lunch & Learn had its origin at Chalmers United Church. Chalmers invited Sydenham Street men and later women to join in the group. In the last two years, members of Faith United Church have been invited to take part.

The events agenda for the year is determined by a planning group in a June meeting. The plan is carried out by various members of the planning group. Originally the group met in a restaurant until COVID-19 changed the program into a meeting on ZOOM. The current format will continue for the next year. Speaker topics are chosen to represent a range of social issues, environment, church related, the arts, science etc. Some events have been recorded and posted on the Sydenham Street United Church website for subsequent viewing . . . by this group and the wider public.

### **Events held in 2022-23 include:**

October	Pytor Hodgson on “Indigenous People and Highway 15 Project”
November	Alice Grazely and Patricia Striech on “Affordable Housing”
December	Charles Somers on “Food security and farm produce”
January	Jermaine Marshall – “Diversity, Equity & Inclusion”
February	Greg Tilson – “Local Community Engagement & Arts Festival”
March	Ian Arthur – “Printing Houses”
April	Dr. Aileen Gray – “Medical Assistance in Dying”
May	Rt. Rev. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada – “A Conversation with the Moderator”. For this event, United Church Communities of Faith in the Kingston Area & East Central Ontario Regional Council Staff were invited to attend the presentation and discussion.
June	Planning meeting for the coming program year of 2023-24.

**Planning Team for 2022-23 included:** Bruce Hutchinson (Chair), Meikle Turner, Jim Leake, Lynn Freeman, Juliet Milsom, Juliet Huntly, Carol Rogers, Bill Egnatoff.

## GROUP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR BROADVIEW MAGAZINE 2022-23

Submitted by: Linda Hutchinson

***Broadview: Spirituality, Justice and Ethical Living Magazine*** is associated with The United Church of Canada and has a “The United Church in Focus” section which is devoted to United Church news specifically. The magazine is sold on newsstands for public readership as well as through group and individual subscriptions.

The group subscription for Sydenham Street United Church is renewed in March of each year.

### Process for renewal:

- Announcements about renewing ***Broadview*** subscriptions were placed in Jan 26, February 2 and 9 weekly e-news issues sent out to Sydenham Street United Church people. Renewals were made at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings, through emailing or phoning Linda Hutchinson. Donations were invited through cash, e-transfer or cheque. Cost of individual subscriptions to Sydenham Street United Church remained at \$25.
- Subscribers who did not contact Linda to renew were contacted by email or phone
- All of the 35 subscribers in 2022 were contacted
  - 33 wished to continue to receive *Broadview* (1 subscriber had died; 1 is no longer reading magazine.)
  - 5 new subscribers joined the plan.
  - 1 subscriber has subsequently moved away so subscription was cancelled.

**Resulting total number in the group subscription is 37.**

### Donations to cover subscription costs:

- The invitation to donate the cost of \$25 was given as an option, not a requirement to continue receiving the group subscription.
- Donations reported were \$885.00. Cost of 37 subscriptions was \$925.00 cost recovery was 96%.

### Comments:

This is our 14<sup>th</sup> year to contact *Broadview* subscribers in person and I continue to think that this is a worthwhile initiative both as a great way to be in touch personally with some of the members of our community and to do some cost-recovery.

Providing this group subscription option is very important for encouraging Sydenham Street United Church folks to be in touch with the wider United Church and the world relating to faith, justice and spiritual matters.

## AFFIRMING ACTION TEAM 2022-23

Submitted by: Linda Hutchinson

**Team members are:** Linda Hutchinson-Chair, Masy Gooya, Jason Mitchell, Bruce Hutchinson.  
(Bob MacLeod for 6 months)

**Goals of Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble are:** Education, Advocacy and Support

**Activities of the Sydenham Street United Church Affirming Action Team for the year were:**

### WORSHIP

Celebration of our 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of being an Affirming Ministry was on November 20<sup>th</sup>. This date corresponded with Transgender Day of Remembrance, which became our focus with guest speaker Jordan Sullivan from Toronto. Jordan is a trans man, and a survivor of conversion 'therapy' practices. He is the SOGIECE/CP\* Prevention and Survivor Support Coordinator at the Community-Based Research Centre, working with and for all 2SLGBTQ+ people who have been harmed by conversion practices. Jordan has an M.A. in Religious Studies and previously worked at the UCC General Council Office, where his work included LGBTQIA2S+ Justice. Attendees at worship wore small blue, white & pink ribbons in solidarity with trans people; Rev. Catherine led the service; Captain the Rev. Beatrice Gale, the first transgender Chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces & Chaplain at RMC, read scripture; and Lauren Hisey led a prayer. Attendees received a treat bag of Smarties in celebration of our anniversary. \*Sexual Orientation Gender Identity & Expression Conversion Efforts

This focus included Conversion Therapy (CT) education relating to our advocating for the banning of Conversion Therapy in Kingston when we sent letters to City of Kingston Councillors in January 2021. Council subsequently set up a fund of \$20,000 to support Kingston survivors of CT.

Celebration of Annual Pride Worship Service will be held Sunday June 11, 2023 led by Rev. Catherine Elsdon and congregational participants.

**EDUCATION** – Publication of a separate Affirming newsletter has been suspended. News will be published in the SSU weekly E-News from here on.

**ADVOCACY** – Our General Manager, Sam MacLeod, has informed us that in May 2023, The Spire received a "Rainbow Recognition Accreditation" from the Canadian Gay Lesbian Chamber of Commerce <https://www.cglcc.ca/about-us/> in recognition of our qualifying as a welcoming and safer place for the Queer communities to be at work and in recreation. Thank you, Sam, for writing the submission for this accreditation. Sam informed us that the commitment of SSU in being an Affirming Congregation contributed greatly to this recognition.

**OUTREACH** - Our team gathered together 5 Sydenham Street people to participate in a program with Rev. Erin Burns, Interfaith Chaplain and Director of Faith and Spiritual Life at Queen's University in partnership with The Yellow House – Centre for Diversity and Inclusion . . . **Cooking with Faith Communities.** On March 30<sup>th</sup> these 5 people engaged with about 9 from Queen's to prepare a meal and eat it over conversation.

**OUTREACH** – We will participate in the Kingston Pride Parade again this year – Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**OUTREACH** – Our permanently rainbow-coloured front steps of The Spire (since 2020) continue to be a public message about our commitment to inclusivity to all of Kingston and many newcomers to worship have cited this symbol as a reason for coming in.

**OUTREACH/SUPPORT – Rainbow Sabbath**, a group of LGBTQ+ community people and allies, which meets for “Potluck Supper and Potluck Worship” on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month is back to meeting in person in the upper kitchen at The Spire. Average attendance is 8-10.

**SUPPORT** – Sydenham Street UC continues to send a large card of congratulations, signed by church members, to all new Affirming ministries in East Central Ontario Regional Council. The card is a photo of Sydenham Street UC people in the Pride Parade. New congregations this year include Trinity UC in Bobcaygeon and Faith UC in Kingston . . . a second Affirming Ministry in Kingston!!!

**ONGOING WORK** includes the updating/implementation of our Action Plan (how we accomplish being Affirming).

#### **LGBTQ2S+ ENGAGEMENT IN THE WIDER CHURCH:**

Linda Hutchinson continues to be one of three volunteer Affirming Ministry Program Coordinators across the country for Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble and continues to oversee the program for Affirm United/S'affirmer Ensemble.

*The SSUC Affirming Action Team is very appreciative of the interest, encouragement and support received from members of the Sydenham Street UC congregation, our minister the Reverend Catherine Elsdon, the Executive Committee and staff as we strive to fulfill our mandate of education, advocacy and support for those in the LGBTQ2S community.*



## Social Justice and Outreach Ministry Report 2022-2023

### **We feed hungry people via food vouchers**

On Tuesday mornings, September to June, SSUC's team of 3-4 dedicated volunteers meets clients to discuss their needs and issue grocery store food vouchers which vary in amount depending on family circumstances and size. While we have about 45 families or individuals that are seen every month, we also give out about 30 emergency vouchers per month, on a once-a-year only basis. In 2022 we had a large reserve because of decreased disbursements during the time of Covid restrictions, so we increased the number of recipients and the value of vouchers. We provided \$30466.67 in vouchers in 2022. That we are able to help so many in need is such good news. The Benevolent Fund (from which the funds are dispersed) is not part of the congregation's general budget. We fund this program through soup lunches, band concerts, special events, grants, and donations. Revenue in 2022 was \$19036.67. Our reserve has dwindled and the balance at the end of April 2023 was \$8889. Without increased revenue, we will have to decrease the amount dispersed.

### **We feed hungry people with produce from our garden**

The Community Garden, which started as a student-run initiative in 2014, became an SSUC Small Group initiative in 2017. A group of dedicated gardeners, led by Donna Delyea, has provided fresh produce to the Loving Spoonful's Grow A Row Initiative. In 2022, 175 pounds of produce was donated. The 2023 garden is on its way to another successful year.

### **We provide for a special meal at Christmas**

For many years, our congregation has provided baskets with the elements of a traditional Christmas dinner for needy individuals. Since 2021 grocery gift cards rather than food baskets have been distributed. The gift cards are preferred by the recipients. In 2022 we distributed \$3000 worth of gift cards to 36 families.

### **We sponsor a child development program for children from under-serviced families – The Helen Tufts Child Outreach Program**

We provide space, coordination, ongoing program assistance and volunteer supervision, telephone confirmation of attendance and treasurer's services for the Helen Tufts Child Outreach Program (HTCOP) which meets two nights a week in our building. For the last several years HTCOP has operated as a partnership between Frontier College (now known as United for Literacy), Queen's students (with financial support from Queen's Alma Mater Society), and the Sydenham Street congregation. The focus of the program is to provide assistance with academic and social skills to elementary school children from under serviced Kingston families. Each child is paired with a volunteer Queen's student on one of two evenings per week; both the children and students benefit greatly from the mentorship. In the last three years programming and capacity has been reduced because of Covid restrictions. However, in 2022-2023 we were able to enroll 25 children in the program, and had a very successful year. The support of the congregation in the provision of rent-free space is critical to the program's continuation. An organizational team of Queen's student volunteers is in place for 2023-24.



**We support the Mission and Service (M&S) Fund of the United Church of Canada**

Mission & Service revenues for 2022 of \$54,000 surpassed our target of \$50,000. With these monies UCC partner churches can continue with the day-to-day support for projects in Africa, the middle East, Asia and the Caribbean. M&S money also goes to community chaplains, Indigenous justice work, summer camps and other programs here in Canada. A “Minute for Mission” is given during worship services on the last Sunday of each month.

**We continue to provide a safe space for groups to meet**

We have, for years, opened our church spaces for community use by self-help groups like AA and Al-Anon, groups working to restore health to people and families facing issues of addiction.

**We advocate for Social Justice Issues**

We have supported initiatives to promote a Guaranteed Liveable Income. We have kept informed about social justice issues locally and further afield.

**We are participating in the Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group**

Along with members of Chalmers United Church and Faith United Church, we are working to listen, learn and share knowledge about the opportunities and options for reconciliation with Canada’s First Nations peoples. Their full report follows.

Poverty and social justice issues continue, and we thank the congregation for their support of time and talents and for joining together to accomplish more than we ever could acting as individuals.

Members of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee: Martha Clarke, Peter Goheen, Marylil Megginson, Barb Parker and Nancy Spencer.

Food Voucher Volunteers: Pat Frost, Bob LeRoy, Mary LeRoy, and Marylil Megginson

Christmas Basket Team: Kirby Ruthven plus the Food Voucher Volunteers

Helen Tufts Child Outreach team members from SSUC: Barb Parker, Peter Goheen. Thanks to Rob Ivimey who reviews our financial statements.

Community Garden group leader: Donna Delyea

Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group: Juliet Huntly, Jim Leake (co-chairs)

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Barb Parker, Chair, Social Justice and Outreach Committee**

## Annual Report. Art and Soul. May 2023

Co-Chairs: Barb Carr, Ellie Deir

Highlights of the last year for Art and Soul include:

1. **Peace & Quiet @ The Spire** continued on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
2. **Spire Gallery:** Art and Soul and Friends of the Spire held a reception to celebrate the new Spire Gallery, on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 4 p.m. The gallery displays about a dozen paintings and drawings of the church, which are now hung on the walls of the Narthex. It's wonderful to have these works of art on display, since many have been in storage for years. Many thanks to Lynn Freeman for her leadership in this project! The reception was well-attended, with many visitors enjoying the art and the refreshments. The following day, Rev. Catherine gave a blessing of the gallery after the church service.
3. **The Narthex Project:** A small creative team has been working for many months to create "Stories" for a story wall on the curved side of the Narthex. The team has completed a dozen stories which are currently being translated into French. All funding for the Story Wall is from a grant from the City of Kingston Heritage Fund.
4. **The Vestibule Project:** we are starting to explore an idea to add art installations to the walls just inside the main Sydenham Street doors. The aim is to making the entry more welcoming, and to convey a sense of the activities and communities that are part of The Spire.
5. **Advent:** We added a "Hanging of the Greens" element to each of the Advent services, bringing evergreens and poinsettias into the Sanctuary and explaining the origins of their symbolism for the Advent/Christmas season. The Art & Soul group also took care of the other annual Christmas decorations in the sanctuary.
6. **Christmas Carol reading:** A & S helped with the candlelight reading on Dec. 18, led by Don Mitchell, by providing ushers and refreshments.
7. **Easter:** Art and Soul led a congregational project to create paper lilies to add to decorations for the chancel for the Easter Sunday service, and arranged for potted real lilies as well. The Circles of Companionship organizers then took over the distribution of the lilies to staff and congregational members who are not able to attend regularly.



## **M&P Report to SSU Congregation Meeting of June 11, 2023**

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee members are: Eric Carstens; Peter Goheen; James Leake (chair and author of this report); Madeline Morris; Patricia Frost (since March); Catherine Purcell; and Jack Soule. Both Eric Carstens and I will be leaving the Committee as of this meeting

Sydenham St. United Church is the employer of record for: The Reverend Catherine Elsdon (half-time); Mr. Sam Macleod, General Manager (full-time); Mr. Les Campbell, Primary Custodian (33hrs/wk); Ms. Lisa Leavitt, Office Administrator (30 hrs/wk); and Mr. Howard Lopez, Music Director (14 hrs/wk).

Only Reverend Elsdon's and Mr. Lopez's hours are fully devoted to the Congregation. Work for The Spire occupies most of the others' hours.

The Congregation and The Spire are very well served by our staff. A clean and well-maintained building; straightforward bookings of space and YouTube streaming of our services; worship, including the music, that is meaningful to increasing numbers of people, in person and on-line; and development plans and grants to effect those plans; are exciting signs of us moving forward. The M&P Committee is proud (if that is not too vain) of our staff and so grateful for the work they do.

This report will cover the activities of the Committee during the current 'church' year July 1, 2022 to the end of June 2023 (actually written early May to meet office deadline).

Since our report to the last annual meeting of the Congregation, the Ministry and Personnel Committee has:

1. prepared, with input from the BMG Chair, the job description for the position of General Manager SSU/The Spire to suit the new expectations of the position. The revised expectations include fund-raising and planning for and managing the improvements of the sanctuary to become a flexible and functional performance hall;
2. supported the search for a General Manager for The Spire/Congregation. Thanks especially to Kenn Doerksen who led the group and to Anita Mercier (then Co-chair of Friends of the Spire). Joining them were Barb Carr, Jack Soule, and myself;
3. as the result, recommended Mr. Sam Macleod to the position of General Manager, working with Sydenham Street United Church and The Business Management Group for The Spire. With financial assistance from Friends of the Spire, and Executive Committee's approval, Mr. MacLeod started with us on October 31, 2022. On Friday (Jan27/2023), Executive Committee voted by email to approve M&P's recommendation to appoint Mr. MacLeod to permanent staff, following a very positive review of his probationary period;

4. with input from the General Manager, updated the job descriptions of the Office Administrator (30 hrs/wk) and Primary Custodian (33 hrs/wk). The job descriptions now reflect that both report to a General Manager and are no longer described as part-time. Both job descriptions have been approved by Executive Committee;
5. met with Reverend Catherine Elsdon and members of Faith United M&P Committee (23-01-18) to offer feedback to Reverend Catherine on her first year (and a bit) serving as Minister to both Congregations. Needless to say, the feedback was applause and more applause;
6. participated in the process of developing a financial incentive rewards plan for the staff of The Spire. The plan will provide financial rewards for meeting budgeted rental targets (anticipating greater special events/concerts) and unique financial rewards for obtaining and supervising new grants to support the maintenance of the building and the transformation of the Sanctuary to a performance hall;
7. supported the process of Performance Reviews of Staff including Mr. Campbell, Ms. Leavitt, and Mr. Lopez;
8. approved a 3-month trial period for the redistribution of the Office Administrators time to Tuesday-Thursday and Sunday; and
9. met with Reverend Catherine Elsdon (May 2/23), as part of our practice of regularly touching base. We noted: the increasing numbers of new people attending services; her strong leadership within our congregation and with other protestant congregations; her choice of relevant sermon (reflection) themes, e.g., theology in Oscar nominated movies; and her work ethic. We affirmed our strong support of her ministry with us.

Respectfully submitted, James Leake (Chair M&P)

## **BMG and Property Committee Report for 2022-23**

### **The Business Management Group (BMG)**

This year the BMG has consisted of: Kenn Doerksen, as Chair until February, Liz Bates (FOS rep), Steve Campbell (FOS rep), Marilyn Huffman (SSU Trustees rep), Anita Mercier (FOS rep) and Jack Soule (SSU rep). Ruth Ranson has been serving as an Administrative Advisor. Walter Schmid joined, initially as an Engineering Advisor, then accepted the role of Chair when Kenn retired.

#### **Major Accomplishments**

Renovations, including new appliances, were completed on the two kitchens, followed by the purchase of new dishes and cutlery, thanks to grants obtained by Friends of The Spire.

An increased number of event rentals were able to be accommodated with the return to a more normal in-person entertainment season. A particularly notable one was the new project by Grapevine Theatre. This involved the building of the set in the chancel space over a 2-week period, then staging the performance of Harmonia for 6 days.

With the plans materializing for the Sanctuary/Performance Hall upgrades, the outlook for the coming years is very encouraging.

#### **Potential Fund-Raising Opportunities**

1. Two grant applications have been made to the Kingston and United Way for:
  - a. A Bicycle Accessibility Enhancement project adjacent to the William Street entrance to the Spire. This project will include the installation of a concrete pad, bench, and bicycle racks (\$17,934, 100% funding).
  - b. Supply and installation of wall mounted air conditioning units in the upper hall, to offset the very warm temperatures experienced in the room during summer months (\$21,960, 100% funding).
2. A Kingston Heritage Grant Application has been submitted for the repointing of the furnace chimney (50% of total cost). Over the last number of years this chimney has been identified as needing restoration.
3. Other Grant and Fund-raising opportunities being pursued by the General Manager include:
  - a. Vogue Charity Fashion Show (2024)
  - b. Canada Cultural Spaces Grant

#### **Rentals**

4. The Blue Canoe decided in March 2023 to move their office away from The Spire to another location. The move was made in April. Through swift action, The Spire General Manager was able to find another tenant for the office space and on May 1st, "Our Livable Solutions" took possession of the rental space.

5. At the beginning of February, Rideau Waterways Land Trust terminated their office rental at The Spire. The Friends of The Spire assumed the rental of the office for use as storage space for various users and ongoing events. The Friends of The Spire is paying for the office rental for a term of one year.
6. We are very pleased to advise that our most significant rental client, Cantabile Choirs of Kingston, has entered into a long-term three-year rental agreement with The Spire with an option for a three-year extension.

### **Fixers**

7. As always, the Fixers have been busy providing volunteer help in and around the Spire. Seasonal spring and fall cleanup outside the building, plaster repairs and painting in the Sanctuary, Narthex, Lower Hallway and Upper and Lower Kitchens have kept volunteers busy practicing their repair and painting skills. Cleaning and taping pinch points in the sanctuary pews have kept our guests happy. Kenn Doerksen, Steve Campbell, Bruce Hutchinson, Jack Soule, Sheila Menard, Jim Barry, Jim Leake, Ted Howe, and Walt Schmid are regular contributors. New volunteers are always welcome to join us from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Want to help? Contact Walt Schmid at (613) 449-7675

### **Heating System**

8. As mentioned in the 2021 Annual Property Report, moisture issues have been observed on the exterior of the Spire furnace exhaust stack. These issues include deterioration of the mortar which binds the exterior limestone blocks together. Continued monitoring of the chimney also indicates deterioration of some of the fire brick on the inside of the chimney. Further investigation of the chimney is ongoing. As noted earlier in this report, a Kingston Heritage Grant Application has been submitted for the repair of the exterior of the chimney. We await the results of the funding application.
9. An engineering study conducted in 2015 indicated that the existing furnace system had 10-12 years of serviceable life. It is recommended that monies start to be set aside over the next years for the replacement of the existing heating system. This issue should be considered as part of the next SSU Budget.

### **Personnel**

10. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Sam MacLeod joined The Spire team as General Manager replacing Zac Mansfield, the former Venue Manager. In my four months as chair, I have found Sam to be a hardworking, dynamic, and energetic individual always looking for the betterment of The Spire and SSU. Sam's education and practical knowledge of performance hall facilities will be a great asset to SSU. I look forward to working with Sam in the years to come.

11. In 2011, Kenn Doerksen assumed the Chair of the Sydenham Street United Church Property Committee. In January 2018, Kenn Doerksen assumed the additional Chair of the Business Management Group. Over a 12-year period Kenn unselfishly served his church and his friends. On behalf of both the Property Committee and BMG I thank Kenn for his dedication and commitment and wish him an enjoyable retirement. *By the way Kenn, once you and Sue have moved into town, we'll be looking forward to seeing you back at Fixers!*

Respectively submitted.

Walt Schmid

Chair, Business Management Group and SSU Property Committee

## Stewardship Team Report – 2022/2023

The Sydenham Street United Stewardship Team, consisting of Catherine Purcell, Kirby Ruthven, Bruce Hutchinson, Ian Malcolm and Jack Soule, with welcome assistance from Rev. Catherine Elsdon, returned to in-person meetings during the past year.

The main objective for the year was to increase stewardship awareness:

- In the fall of 2022 a letter from Ian was distributed to the congregation, with the focus on “Gratitude” for the continued support of *time, talents and finances*. A Step Chart portraying our recent history was included.
- A series of ‘Minutes for Stewardship’ were produced by Catherine Purcell, and presented in fall Sunday services. They highlighted how our ‘gifts’ have benefitted: the Congregation; the Community; and the World.
- The practice of including the Treasurer’s Report for each month in the newsletter, as well as providing Mission & Service (M&S) articles, was maintained.
- A new givings software program has been obtained that has improved our capabilities and efficiencies.
- Donations utilizing e-transfers continue to increase and a new email address to enable the directing of those funds has been successfully implemented.

Over the past year donations for all categories have remained quite stable, with M&S givings up appreciably. The growing use of the PAR program, for automatic monthly contributions, continues to help provide predictable results.

Thank you everyone, for your continued support!

**Respectfully submitted,**  
***Stewardship Team***



## **Friends of The Spire Report to the Executive, Sydenham Street United, for 2022**

Friends of The Spire share the vision of the congregation and work hard to maintain The Spire as a safe, affordable, and welcoming community hub. Our mission is to protect and enhance the building to expand its community use and enable its long-term sustainability.

To help us meet our goals, we reached these milestones in 2022:

- ❖ We installed new appliances and sinks in both kitchens and new countertops in the upper kitchen, funded by grants from the Government of Canada, ITW and Kingston Kinsmen. Cost: \$57 500.00. We also purchased 10 dozen new chairs, upgraded the lighting in the Lower Hall and Lower Kitchen and purchased dining room smallware (10 dozen plates, glasses and so on), and installed another defibrillator.
- ❖ We continued planning and fundraising work on future capital projects to ensure the preservation of our shared building and enable its long-term community use, working with the Business Management Group and General Manager.
- ❖ Along with Art and Soul, of Sydenham Street United, we worked to open The Spire Gallery.
- ❖ Our Story Teller Dana Ruprecht shared images and information via our Facebook and Instagram accounts.
- ❖ We spent a great deal of time and energy in researching possibilities for enhancing the Performance Hall/Sanctuary with professional level lighting, sound, projection, and streaming equipment. Our proposal for the enhancements is now ready and we are actively engaged in fundraising for this significant and costly project.
- ❖ We reached out to community partners and have met with MPP Ted Hsu, Kingston Mayor Bryan Paterson, Sydenham District Councillor Conny Glenn, management of the Community Foundation of Kingston and Area, KEYS management, United Way, Tourism Kingston, the Kingston Film Office and managers from the Providence Mother House.
- ❖ We continue to work with our excellent staff and volunteers to provide a comfortable and welcoming place for the many hundreds of community members who rely on us.

Respectfully,  
 Steve Campbell  
 Chair, Friends of The Spire  
 Ellie Deir, Secretary  
 May 1, 2023



## **Communications Team Report 2022-23**

Formally established in September 2020, the Communications Team has five members: Marielle Boyce (Social Media Coordinator), Eric Carstens (The Web Guy), Ellie Deir, Susan Doerksen and Lynn Freeman (Chair). The team meets bi-monthly for approximately an hour.

***The Website remains a high priority.*** It is the primary tool by which we communicate to congregational members and those in the local community and beyond, it is critical that we maintain the website as an accessible, attractive and current reflection of congregational values and activities. Eric Carstens and Susan Doerksen are the technical wizards who work to secure (against frequent cyber attacks), maintain and update the website weekly, sometimes daily. Jack Soule, although not a member of the Communications Team, serves as editor of the newsletter and informing congregational members of upcoming and recent events both within the congregation and the wider church community.

Eric also took the initiative, and working with others, successfully updated the various permissions and accounts to ensure the proper registration of the church's email accounts with the hosting agency.

As ***Social Media Coordinator***, Marielle Boyce regularly shares information about the congregation on *Facebook* and *Instagram*. Within only three months, Marielle created an SSU Instagram account and a new cover page for the SSU FB account. She has also established a tri-weekly posting schedule, that involves Marielle posting information on Mondays and Wednesdays and Lisa posting information on Sunday worship on Thursdays. The number of "followers" on both accounts has increased and Marielle is creatively working with others to enhance our social media presence and share with others who we are and what we do.

Monthly statistics from WordPress, our content management system, report that there are over 500 visitors to our website each month. This represents an increase in the number who are viewing the site from a smart phone and the average time visitors are on the site.

**The quality of the website is significantly enhanced by new content and we invite everyone to send new content (text and images) relating to church activities to: [web@sydenhamstreet.ca](mailto:web@sydenhamstreet.ca). Notice of upcoming events for the calendar may be sent directly to Sue Doerksen.**

### ***Ongoing Projects***

- 1) ***Digitizing Church Art, Assets and Artifacts*** - This winter Ian Malcolm took photos of various assets (silver services, historical photographs) and artifacts held in the vault. Eric Carstens is developing a database for the storage of these visual images, with descriptive text, for identification and archival purposes.

- 2) **Cultural Plaque on Front Lawn** – In the fall, the Communications Team will renew its efforts to develop the preliminary design and prepare text and photos that briefly document the history of Sydenham Street United Church and The Spire. We will also seek external funding to create and
- 3) install a cultural plaque (sometimes called an “interpretative panel”) for the front lawn along Sydenham Street, adding to Kingston’s many similar plaques in the downtown area.
- 4) **Collection, Use and Storage of Personal Information** – The Communications Team is also drafting a policy statement relating to the Collection, Use and Storage of Personal Information and the use of photographs in communications and promotional material for approval by the Executive no later than August. The documents will be published.
- 5) **Events Promotion** – We are also developing a template for the promotion of congregational events to internal and internal/external audiences.

## Eastern Central Ontario Region 11 (ECORC) Report 2022-23

The Eastern Central Ontario Region (ECORC) returned to the holding of its general meetings in person, while continuing to offer Zoom video conferencing for those who preferred. The Annual Fall Meeting was held Oct.28-29 in Peterborough, while the Annual Spring Meeting was held May 05-06 in Cobourg. During this year SSU made submissions to the Regional Mission Through Property Team, requesting approval first for our plan to upgrade the kitchens, then another to install video and sound streaming equipment in the Sanctuary. [Both were in excess of the \$50,000 local approval limit.] Funding was in place for both projects and Regional approval was granted. As well, initial, general awareness of the plans for upgrades to the Performance Hall was communicated.

Significant Regional Staff changes occurred this year. Rev. Darren Liepold has assumed the role of Pastoral Relations Minister, following the passing of Rev. David Timpson. Rev. Éric Hébert-Daly was named Executive Minister for ECORC, following the retirement of Rev. Rosemary Lambie.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jack Soule, SSUC Regional Representative**

## Board of Trustees Annual Report, 2022/2023

The Trustees of Sydenham St United Church during 2021/2022 were Michael Cooke, Donna Delyea, Ross Drummond, Angela Freeman, Marilyn Huffman and Ruth Wilson. Ex-officio members included: Ian Malcolm, Chair of the Congregation; Kirby Ruthven, Treasurer; and Jack Soule, Chair of Finance. Donna Delyea chairs the Board and Marilyn Huffman graciously acts as scribe. Josée Thériault of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. continues to be our portfolio advisor – and we are truly thankful for that.

The Trustees are a conscientious group who take their responsibility seriously, thoughtfully and with a desire to be guided by the Holy Spirit, the values of the United Church of Canada, and the Congregation of Sydenham Street United Church.

Assets: As of April 28, 2023, assets within the Endowment Fund were \$349,848.12 (down 14,015.26 from the same time in 2022). As was the case in 2022 – \$40,000 included in the total will eventually have to be repaid to the Federal Government (December 2023).

Total Income Earned in 2022 was \$9, 505.58 (an increase of \$1,177.12 from 2021).

The Church's Endowment Fund portfolio consists of both Restricted and Non-Restricted designated amounts. Restricted Funds are donations which have 'specific' and 'general' fund designations, allowing only the interest to be used for designated purposes, often designated by the donor in their will. Of the \$349,848.12, \$90,104.04 continues to be identified as Restricted. The Trustees are respectful of the wishes of those who donate to Sydenham St. United Church.

Interest from the Restricted Funds is transferred annually in accordance with the wills of the donors. Rates used to calculate these annual transfers are provided by our Financial Advisor at RBC Financial. In 2022 the transferred-in amount was \$2,666.14.

The Church's Endowment Fund portfolio remains well positioned, and has held its own despite the swings in the market related to continued uncertainties. We are fortunate to have such a knowledgeable Financial Advisor and well-informed Members. As of May 8, 2023, our time-weighted rates of return were: 1 Year – .29%; Year-to-Date – 4.33%; and Since Inception – 7.61%.

In addition to managing the Endowment Fund, the Trustees work with the Building Management Group, as needed, to maintain the building and other capital assets of the church. Most recently, the Board has been involved in the Memorandum of Understanding revision process between The Board and Friends of the Spire Inc.

Transfers: In January 2022, \$25,000 was transferred from the General Fund to the Endowment Fund. In July \$15,000 was transferred from the Endowment Fund to the General Fund to cover the deficit in that fund and, as noted above, Restricted Funds interest in the amount of \$2,666.14 was transferred into the General Fund in late December.

Bequests: In 2022, the Endowment Fund received a Final Disbursement in the amount of \$6,916.95. No other bequests were made to the Endowment Fund in 2022. To date, one bequest has been received in 2022 – in the amount of \$625.00.

We are incredibly thankful to the congregants who remember Sydenham St. United Church in their wills. Without these generous donations, our circumstances would be quite different.

Insurance: The term of our insurance coverage runs from July 31, 2022 to July 31, 2023. Rates for the upcoming term have not been received. It should be noted that SSUC and Friends of the Spire Inc. use the same insurer. With that in mind, representatives from The Board and Friends of the Spire Inc. met with our broker to ensure that cross coverage was not occurring. We are extremely grateful for our representative at McDougall Insurance & Financial for being so diligent and well informed regarding the insurance needs of both organizations. Insurance costs for the term ending July 31, 2023 were set at \$19,139.00 (\$21,496.92 including taxes and a monthly-payment surcharge of \$1,531.12).

The Endowment Fund float in the General Fund: remains at \$10,000.00 and is topped up, as needed, upon the advice of our Treasurer.

Membership: At this time the Board requires one additional member to have a full complement of members.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Donna Delyea, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## Changes in Membership

Deaths    2  
 Marriages/Commitments    0  
 Sacrament of Baptism    0  
 Transfers In    2  
 Transfers Out    0

## Finance Committee Report 2022/2023

The Finance Committee is comprised of Lynn Freeman, Kirby Ruthven, Treasurer, Rob Ivimey, Accountant, and Jack Soule, Chair.

This year the number of activities in The Spire continued to grow and rental revenues began to increase. Once again, however, lagging revenues and higher costs have impacted our operating budget. A new General Manager was hired on a full-time basis, with a broadened scope of responsibility. In order to supplement the normal SSU salary and cover these added costs, Friends of The Spire successfully arranged for additional funding. This investment is expected to show solid returns.

Preparations are underway to make a presentation to the Congregation this fall on the logic and details of a “split budget”. The objective is to separate the financial operations of the Congregation from those of the building, i.e. The Spire.

This is seen as a critical step in The Spire’s path to sustainability and the key means for tracking the success of the BMG’s business plan.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jack Soule Chair, Finance Committee*

SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

Statement of Financial Position  
Statement of Changes in Fund Balances  
Statement of Operations  
Schedule of Operating Expenses

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**as at December 31, 2022**

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Memorial Fund</u>	<u>Benevolent Fund</u>	<u>Trustee Fund</u>	<u>Total 2022</u>	<u>Total 2021</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Cash	\$ 62,622	\$ 1,508	\$ 13,147	\$ -	\$ 77,277	\$ 104,637
HST recoverable	11,645	-	-	-	11,645	2,319
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid Expense	-	-	-	-	-	5,070
	<u>74,267</u>	<u>1,508</u>	<u>13,147</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,922</u>	<u>112,026</u>
Investments (Note 1)	-	-	-	286,739	286,739	262,983
	<u>\$ 74,267</u>	<u>\$ 1,508</u>	<u>\$ 13,147</u>	<u>\$ 286,739</u>	<u>\$ 375,661</u>	<u>\$ 375,009</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>						
Accounts payable	\$ 3,380	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,380	\$ 969
COVID Loan	40,000	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Loan	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 43,380</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 43,380</u>	<u>\$ 40,969</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>						
Internally restricted	-	1,508	-	-	1,508	1,003
Externally restricted	-	-	13,147	3,413	16,560	26,500
Unrestricted	30,887	-	-	-	30,887	46,967
Internally restricted trust funds	-	-	-	82,488	82,488	82,488
Endowment fund	-	-	-	200,838	200,838	177,082
	<u>30,887</u>	<u>1,508</u>	<u>13,147</u>	<u>286,739</u>	<u>332,281</u>	<u>334,040</u>
	<u>\$ 74,267</u>	<u>\$ 1,508</u>	<u>\$ 13,147</u>	<u>\$ 286,739</u>	<u>\$ 375,661</u>	<u>\$ 375,009</u>

**Note 1**

The market value of the trustee investments as of December 31, 2022 was \$333,755.

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Statement of Changes in Fund Balances**  
**as at December 31, 2022**

	General Fund	Memorial Fund	Benevolent Fund	Trustee Fund	Total 2022
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	\$ 46,967	\$ 1,003	\$ 23,087	\$ 262,983	\$ 334,040
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>					
General Income	(8,254)	-	-	13,756	5,502
Benevolent Fund	-	-	(11,431)	-	(11,431)
Christmas Basket	-	-	1,491	-	1,491
Spire	2,174	-	-	-	2,174
Memorial Fund	-	505	-	-	505
	<u>(6,080)</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>(9,940)</u>	<u>13,756</u>	<u>(1,759)</u>
<b>Transfer from trustees</b>	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
<b>Transfer to trustees</b>	<u>(25,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Year</b>	<u>(16,080)</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>(9,940)</u>	<u>23,756</u>	<u>(1,759)</u>
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	<u><u>\$ 30,887</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,508</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 13,147</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 286,739</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 332,281</u></u>

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Statement of Operations**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2022**

<b>CONGREGATIONAL INCOME</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Envelope contributions	\$ 171,866	\$ 173,133
Loose collections	873	911
MGOS edge grant	0	2,720
Interest restricted	2,666	2,058
Broadview	757	0
Friends of spire (Boiler)	11,000	11,200
Special fund raiser - refugee	10,166	0
STAR	14,475	13,419
COVID grants	0	7,835
Rent	101,851	64,948
Other	5,504	5,977
	<u>318,758</u>	<u>282,201</u>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL EXPENSES - Schedule</b>		
Outreach	19,309	7,073
Program	6,323	8,937
Administration	10,781	10,933
Employment	205,282	173,284
	<u>241,695</u>	<u>200,227</u>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<u>77,063</u>	<u>81,974</u>
<b>PROPERTY EXPENSES</b>		
Church maintenance	13,134	10,136
Organ/Piano maintenance	2,681	239
Utilities	28,505	17,792
Insurance	25,446	16,887
Major maintenance projects	4,808	48,961
Rental expenses	10,069	4,538
Grounds maintenance	674	575
	<u>85,317</u>	<u>99,128</u>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<u><u>\$ ( 8,254)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ ( 17,154)</u></u>
<b>BENEVOLENT FUND</b>		
Contributions	\$ 19,036	\$ 15,406
Expenses	( 30,467)	( 17,366)
	<u><u>\$ ( 11,431)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ ( 1,960)</u></u>
<b>CHRISTMAS BASKET</b>		
Contributions less expenses	<u><u>\$ 1,491</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,825</u></u>
<b>MEMORIAL FUND</b>		
Contributions	\$ 505	\$ 100
Payouts	0	0
	<u><u>\$ 505</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 100</u></u>
<b>Spire Project</b>		
Contributions	\$ 7,810	\$ 5,228
Grants	22,352	0
Transfer from Friends of the Spire	35,000	122,872
Payouts	( 62,988)	( 121,778)
	<u><u>\$ 2,174</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 6,322</u></u>



**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Schedule of Operating Expenses**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2022**

**CONGREGATIONAL EXPENSES**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Outreach</b>		
Refugee project	\$ 10,166	\$ 0
Presbytery assessment	9,143	7,073
	<u>\$ 19,309</u>	<u>\$ 7,073</u>
 <b>Program support</b>		
Broadview Mag	825	900
Worship		
- Choir/Music/Honoraria	1,023	538
- Anniversary/Pulpit Supply	3,065	6,451
- Candle/Worship supplies	282	461
Affirm - net	262	138
Newspaper Notice/Public Relations	193	0
Stewardship	116	80
Hospitality	383	270
Other	174	99
	<u>\$ 6,323</u>	<u>\$ 8,937</u>
 <b>Administration &amp; Supplies</b>		
Stationery	\$ 442	\$ 217
Postage - net	191	378
Office supplies	2,816	3,353
Photocopy supplies - net	1,089	621
Konica Minolta rental	1,012	1,422
Telephone - Office	2,266	2,438
Bank charges	532	351
PAR charges	251	242
Computer support	2,182	1,911
	<u>\$ 10,781</u>	<u>\$ 10,933</u>

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**Schedule of Operating Expenses**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2022**

cont....

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Employment expenses</b>		
Salaries and benefits (net)	\$ 198,335	\$ 160,544
Travel	127	0
Education allowance	1,156	727
Contract services	5,022	9,039
Moving	0	2,827
M&P discretionary	200	0
Communications	442	147
	<u>\$ 205,282</u>	<u>\$ 173,284</u>

**SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH**  
**MISSION AND SERVICES**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Mission and services</b>		
Mission and service contributions	\$ 54,729	\$ 48,653
Mission and service payments	( 54,729)	( 48,653)
	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>