

Stronger Together

Annual Report
2020



*For we are
God's servants,
working
together*

— 1 Corinthians 3:9



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

DATE of MEETING - MARCH 21, 2021

| | |
|---|----|
| Minister's Preface | 3 |
| Minutes of the Congregational Meeting January 19 th , 2020 | 4 |
| Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting February 9 th , 2020..... | 5 |
| Those Who Have Gone Before | 8 |
| Members of the Session | 8 |
| Other Congregational Positions | 8 |
| Committees of the Session | 9 |
| Session Report..... | 10 |
| New Beginnings Report | 10 |
| Reports of Committees of the Session: | |
| Finance and Maintenance Committee | 11 |
| Christian Education Committee | 12 |
| Endowment Committee | 12 |
| Mission Committee (Women's Missionary Society) | 13 |
| Other Reports: | |
| Men's Breakfast Club | 13 |
| Comfort Dolls & Infant Caps | 13 |
| Soup Kitchen Committee | 14 |
| Soup Kitchen Co-Coordinator's | 15 |
| Financial Reports: | |
| Women's Missionary Society | 15 |
| Endowment Committee | 16 |
| Summary of Envelope Giving | 17 |
| Memorial Donations | 17 |
| Soup Kitchen | 18 |
| Financial Statement and Proposed Budget | 19 |
| Balance Sheet | 22 |
| Fundraising | 22 |

Minister's Preface

What a year it was! In many ways, 2020 felt like a “lost” year, with so many regular congregational programs and activities canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Who would have thought, back in March, that the pandemic would have dragged on as long as it has? Coincidentally, 2020 also marked the tenth anniversary of the beginning of my ministry here at First Church.

In January, we decided, in a congregational meeting, to apply to participate in a process for congregational renewal called “New Beginnings”, offered through our national church. I’ve prepared a separate report on this, which can be found below.

From the 29th of March to the end of the year, with the exception of five consecutive Sundays in October and November, our worship services have been “virtual” - recorded on the computer, and uploaded to YouTube, for people to watch at home - a whole new experience for all of us! I thank Raymond Reichelt for showing me how to do this. We have kept up with our plan to have our lay preachers - Charlie Clifford, Keith Kelly, and Raymond Reichelt - take a turn preaching once every other month. I greatly appreciate their contributions to our worship in this way - and also Charlie’s leading the Prayers of the People once per month - as I’m sure we all do.

I commend the Bible study group for quickly “pivoting”, as we say, to continue its weekly meetings by Zoom - a precedent that was followed by first the Session, and then the Finance and Maintenance Committee. Many thanks to first Gwen Henwood, and then Raymond and Margaret Reichelt for hosting these meetings!

We were sorry to lose two of our elders who moved away during the year - Pat Mullins at the end of May, and Gwen Henwood at the beginning of September. Both were very active in the work of the Session, as well as in other areas of the congregation’s life and work. We miss them, and we wish them well as they connect with other congregations in the communities where they now live.

We were saddened as well by the deaths of Bill Pliszka and Laura McNutt (Margaret’s mother), both in October. Bill had been a resident of the Lions Prairie Manor for the past several years, and Laura a resident of the Douglas Campbell Lodge, after moving here from Brandon. Both had been frequent attenders of the worship services I was leading at both homes one Thursday morning every other month - until the pandemic put an end to that. Speaking of which, many thanks to Margaret Dunn and Pat Mullins for serving as pianists for those services!

Of the many programs and activities that “fell by the wayside” due to the pandemic, the most significant one was the Soup Kitchen, which ceased operation on the 19th of March, shortly after the Prime Minister told us all to “Go home, and stay home”. We were just planning to re-open the Soup Kitchen, three days a week to begin with, in mid-November, when new public health orders from the provincial government forced us to remain closed for the rest of the year.

A constant worry throughout the year was finances - due to the cancellation of our in-person services, our regular fund-raising events, and our annual Stewardship Visitation. Fortunately, things worked out so that we were able to end the year “in the black”! We were helped by the federal Wage Subsidy and the provincial Bridge Grant, as well as by generous givings to our Easter, Summer, Thanksgiving, and Christmas offerings. We thank Charlie Clifford for suggesting the “Virtual Fundraiser” in the spring, which was well supported through the rest of the year; and Mardine Garnham and Lisa Sneesby for organizing a very successful Fall Dinner, which was served take-out style - as well as everyone who helped to make it a success. We are grateful that the Soup Kitchen, although closed for most of the year, nevertheless continued to make its quarterly contributions toward the cost of hydro, water, gas, and so on. And last, but not least,

we are grateful for the generous support of all our members and adherents through their regular givings! We give thanks to God for providing for our needs, and for seeing us through the year!

As always, I conclude by acknowledging my gratitude for the great amount of work that *many* individuals and groups have contributed to the congregation's life and work over the past year. The number of 'thank-yous' that deserve to be said are too many to list here (and it's easy to overlook some when naming a large number!), but, on behalf of the Session, I thank *everyone* who gave of their time, talents, resources, and energy - both in ongoing service and in special projects - throughout the year.

As we look to the year ahead, we thank God for helping us get through the pandemic so far. We yearn to get back to normal, although we realize that it will take several months yet. We thank God for the hard work done by countless individuals to help us through this crisis, and we pray that he will continue to strengthen and sustain them. Let us not lose our patience, but realize that this experience, although new to us, is one that past generations have had to endure time after time. We can be grateful that we're in a better position to fight this pandemic than previous generations were to fight the pandemics of the past. Many had no choice but simply to let a pandemic run its course - at a terrible cost in human lives. As the Queen assured us last spring, we will get through this; so let us keep on doing the things we need to do to ensure our own safety, as well as that of others. Also, let us keep in touch with each other, and support and encourage each other.

John Zondag

Minister

Minutes - Congregational Meeting January 19, 2020

1. Determination of quorum: 26 adult members of the congregation were present and thus there was a quorum.
2. Opening prayer by Rev. John Zondag
3. Appointment of a secretary
Moved (Debbi Miles/ Pat Mullins): That Raymond Reichelt be appointed Secretary for the meeting **Adopted**
4. Questions on the "New Beginnings" program (for clarification)
 - a) Questions left over from the congregational meeting in November:
 - Rev. John Zondag clarified questions from the previous meeting:
 - i. Q. Are the assessor and the coach in the New Beginnings process the same person? A. No, they are separate people. Both will be people from the Presbyterian Church in Canada
 - ii. Q. What has been the experience in other congregations with the New Beginnings program?
A. John Zondag inquired with two congregations that went through the New Beginnings program: St. Andrews, Thorold ON and Comox Valley Church, Comox BC.
 - At St. Andrews, Thorold they found the discussions helpful
 - At Comox Valley the process led to new projects and committee structure but it was lot of work
 - b) New questions
 - i. Q. What is the cost?
A. \$5,000; also \$4,500 is available in a grant from the national office
 - ii. Q. What is John's opinion?
A. John thinks that it is a good idea, outside help is useful
 - iii. Q. If we apply, will we get the grant?
A. No guarantee
 - iv. Q. What is at the end of the process?
A. The final step is implementation; we will be given three options to follow up on.
 - v. Q. What are we actually deciding today?

- A. We are deciding whether or not to go forward and apply to undertake the program and apply for the funding
- vi. Q. What is our commitment?
A. Our commitment is to provide input as part of a study group. Four to five leaders will also be needed for the groups
- vii. Q. What else will we need to do?
A. We will also need to participate in information gathering and meeting with the assessors
- viii. Q. How long will the process take?
A. We expect the process to take about a year; there is a limit of six coaching sessions
- ix. Q. When do we start?
A. The funding decision will be in April and we hope to get started before summer.
- x. Q. What is the end goal for the Congregation?
A. Revitalization of the Congregation.
- xi. Note: the Session will review the application before it is submitted.
5. Decision whether or not to apply to participate in the "New Beginnings" program
- a) **Moved:** (Keith Kelly / Wally Kimpton): That the congregation applies to the national church to participate in the New Beginnings *program provided that we receive 90% funding from the nation office.*
- b) Discussion of the motion
- Positive action is needed
 - We need to do something
 - Friendly amendment to add *program provided that we receive 90% funding from the nation office* to the motion. Agreed to by Keith Kelly and Wally Kimpton.
 - We can change our mind if we don't get funding
- c) Vote (by ballot)
- d) Counting of the ballots - Announcing the outcome of the vote (2/3 majority required for a "yes")
- | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|---|
| Yea | 25 | Nay | 1 |
|-----|----|-----|---|
- The motion was **Adopted**
6. Adjournment
- Moved** (Keith Kelly / Lisa Sneesby): That the meeting be adjourned **Adopted**
7. Concluding Prayer by Rev. John Zondag

Raymond Reichelt
Secretary

Minutes of the Annual Meeting from February 9, 2020

We Assemble in God's Name

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Rev. John Zondag

Hymn: I am the church! You are the church! #475

Scripture reading: Ephesians 4.7-16 - "... to equip his people for works of service ..."

Opening prayer: Rev. John Zondag

Appointment of a secretary

Moved (Debbi Miles/Robert McPherson) that Raymond Reichelt be appointed secretary for the Annual Meeting. **Adopted**

Adoption of the agenda

Moved (Margaret McNutt-Reichelt/Keith Kelly): that the Agenda be adopted as printed.

No additions to agenda

Adopted

We Celebrate the Past

Adoption of the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (10 February 2019) (*pages 4-5 in the Annual Report*) and of the congregational meeting held on 24 November 2019 (*pages 5-6*)

Moved (Raymond Reichelt/ Doug Blyth): that the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting, and of the congregational meeting held on 24 November 2019, as printed in the 2019 Annual Report, be adopted.

Correction: the reference to Article 28 should be corrected to read Article 2B

Adopted

Business arising from the minutes:

Update on the heating system (*refer to the note on page 4 of the Annual Report*)

- John Zondag discussed the heating system with the installer, Ingram's Heating
- The noises were from steam bubbles
- Shewfelt's Plumbing examined the system and said that the temperature was set too high and the pump was too big.
- The estimate from Shewfelt's to repair the heating system was approximately \$1,500 - \$2,000

Fundraising suggestion: Movie nights (*page 5 in the Annual Report*)

- Ria Zwiep reported
- A license to show copyrighted films from CCLI is approximately \$135.00
- CCLI has a list of films covered by the license
- No admission fee allowed but we can collect a free will offering
- We can announce the movie nights in the Church bulletin but no other advertising allowed
- The license covers DVD, Blue Ray and streaming video

Moved (Wally Kimpton/Ria Zwiep) that the Movie Night project be referred to the Finance & Maintenance Committee for further action

Adopted

Those Who Have Gone Before (*page 6*)

Prayer for Veda Bruinooge, Isabelle McLean, and Reg Tomalin

We Proclaim God's Word

Affirmation of Faith: "Ministry", Chapter 7.2 in *Living Faith*, pages 17-18

We Present our Offering of our Life and Labor

Consideration of reports (*pages 8-13, 15 in the Annual Report*)

Moved (Cheryl McPherson/Pat Mullins): that all reports other than the financial statement for the Endowment Fund, the financial statement for the General Fund, and the congregational budget for 2020, be adopted.

- The Comfort Doll project has been going on for 10 years.
- It was a good year for the Soup Kitchen

Adopted

Consideration of the financial statement for the Endowment Fund (*pages 13-14*)

Moved (Margaret McNutt-Reichelt/ Mardine Garnham): That the financial statement for the Endowment Fund for 2019 be adopted. **Adopted**

Consideration of the financial statement for the General Fund (*pages 16-18, third column, as well as pages 19-22*)

Moved (Mardine Garnham/Keith Kelly): that the financial statement for the General Fund for 2019 be adopted. **Adopted**

- Thanks to Mardine Garnham for her work as treasurer

Allocation for Presbyterians Sharing for this year (*pages 16 and 17, fourth [right hand] column*)

The Session recommends accepting an allocation of **\$3,200** for 2020 (*The figure requested by Church Offices in Toronto is \$9,058, which is 10% of our “dollar base” for 2018*). This is a \$200 increase over the allocation we accepted for 2019, but is less than the total given, which was \$3,651.69.

Moved (Debbi Miles/Robert McPherson): That an allocation of \$3,200 for *Presbyterians Sharing* for 2020 be accepted. **Adopted**

Consideration of the proposed congregational budget for 2020 (*pages 16-18, fourth [right hand] column*):

Moved (Keith Kelly/Cheryl McPherson): That the proposed congregational budget for 2020 be adopted.

- Planning a deficit
- Will have to draw on the Endowment Fund
- Thanks to those who worked the fund raising projects

Adopted

Appointment of two members for the Endowment Committee (*Shauna-Lei and Margaret McN-R's three-year terms conclude as of this year's Annual Meeting - See the list of committee members on page 8*):

Moved (Doug Blyth/Debbie Miles): That Shauna-Lei Leslie and Margaret McNutt-Reichelt be re-appointed to the Endowment Committee for a three-year term. **Adopted**

Appointment of Congregational Trustees (*Marg C's and Brian's two-year terms conclude as of this year's Annual Meeting - See the list of trustees on page 7*):

Moved (Ria Zwiep/Gwen Henwood): That Debbi Miles be appointed as a Congregational Trustee for a two-year term, and that Brian Yeo be re-appointed as a Congregational Trustee for a two-year term.

Adopted

New Business:

Moving one of the Soup Kitchen freezers away from the doorway at the south entrance: Possible locations:

1) the room formerly called the nursery, 2) the north-west corner of the Church Hall

Moved (Doug Blyth/Ria Zwiep): that one of the freezers be moved to the former nursery room

Adopted

Pat Mullins called a vote of thanks to Margaret McNutt-Reichelt for her service as organist and choir leader

We Give Thanks to God

Prayer Rev. John Zondag

Hymn: God bless your church with strength #491

We Go Out in God's Name

Moved (Debbi Miles/Keith Kelly) that the meeting be adjourned

Adopted

Raymond Reichelt

Secretary

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE IN THE YEAR 2020

We give thanks to you, o God, our refuge and our strength,
for all your servants departed this life in your faith and love,
for the memory of their words and deeds,
for the sure and certain hope of reunion with them hereafter,
for the joy that is now theirs, free from earth's sin and sorrow,
and for our communion with them in your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Laura McNutt

Bill Pliszka

MEMBERS OF THE SESSION as of 31 December 2020 (Year of ordination in brackets)

Term ending in 2021:
Debbi Miles (2009)
Brian Yeo (1985)
(*vacant position*)

Term ending in 2023:
Margaret McNutt-Reichelt (1985)
Raymond Reichelt (2011)
(*vacant position*)

Term ending in 2025:
Marg Clark (2004)
Margaret Dunn (2009)
Bruce Sneesby (1973)

Moderator: John Zondag
Clerk: Raymond Reichelt
Representative Elder: Raymond Reichelt
Alternate Elder: (*vacant position*)
Roll Clerk: Debbi Miles

RETIRED AND NON-SERVING ELDERS

Doug Blyth (1972), Gwen Henwood (2009), Pat Mullins (2001), Donna Pacholuk (2009)

OTHER CONGREGATIONAL POSITIONS

Treasurer: Mardine Garnham
Organist: Margaret McNutt-Reichelt
Lay Pastoral Visitors: Charlie Clifford, Terry Rempel
Soup Kitchen Coordinator: Shelly Burton
Soup Kitchen Assistant Coordinator: Gloria Nichols
Soup Kitchen Treasurer: Henry Riendeau

Trustees

- Term ending Annual Meeting 2021: Raymond Reichelt, Bruce Sneesby
- Term ending Annual Meeting 2022: Debbi Miles, Brian Yeo

SOME YEAR-END STATISTICS

Number of Professing Members: 43
Number of Adherents (including children and teens): 40
Number of Households: 55

COMMITTEES OF THE SESSION as of 31 December 2020

(“S” = Session member; “C” = congregation member/adherent; “F&M” = F&M Committee member)

FINANCE AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Term ending August 2021:

Lalaine Buan (C)

Keith Kelly (C) (convener)

(vacant position)

Term ending August 2022:

Marg Clark (S) (secretary)

Mardine Garnham (C) (treasurer)

(vacant position)

Term ending August 2023:

Roberta Kelly (C)

(vacant position)

(vacant position)

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Margaret Dunn (S)

Margaret McNutt-Reichelt (S)

(vacant position)

(vacant position)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Charlie Clifford (C)

Margaret Dunn (S)

Debbi Miles (S) (convener)

LEADING WITH CARE COMMITTEE

Shelly Burton (Soup Kitchen)

Margaret McNutt-Reichelt (S)

(vacant position) (F&M)

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Marg Clark (F&M)

Bruce Sneesby (S)

(vacant position) (Endowment Com.)

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Term ending Annual Meeting 2021:

Ria Zwiép (C)

Term ending Annual Meeting 2022:

Keith Kelly (F & M)

Lisa Sneesby (C) (convener)

Term ending Annual Meeting 2023:

Shauna-Lei Leslie (C) (treasurer)

Margaret McNutt-Reichelt (S) (secretary)

Ex officio:

Mardine Garnham (congregational treasurer)

STEWARDSHIP VISITATION COORDINATORS (Spring 2020)

Charlie Clifford

Mardine Garnham

Lisa Sneesby

(The visitation was not held, due to pandemic)

SOUP KITCHEN COMMITTEE

Ex officio:

Shelly Burton (SK coordinator)

Gloria Nichols (SK assistant coordinator)

Henry Riendeau (SK treasurer)

Mardine Garnham (congregational treasurer)

Term ending September 2021:

Margaret McNutt-Reichelt (S)

Cindy White (from outside the congregation)

(vacant position)

Note: The minister is a member, *ex officio* (by virtue of office), of all Session committees, and, in 2020, served also as convener of the Worship Committee, the Leading with Care Committee, the Stewardship Committee, the Stewardship Visitation Coordinators and the Soup Kitchen Committee.

Session:

The year 2020 was a challenge to us all. The restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic required Session to change how we operate and it has been a learning experience to say the least.

Session met 9 times in 2020, twice in person (January and February) and seven times electronically via Zoom (April, May, June, August, September, October and November). We cancelled the March meeting, expecting that the COVID-19 restrictions would be temporary.

However, Session did meet. Besides routine business, Session discussed the following:

1. Session has been studying the book “*Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church*” by E. Stanley Ott.

The Twelve Dynamic Shifts are intended to change how we view our Church and its mission. The goal is to transform how our Church sees its mission, ministers to its people, conducts worship and practices leadership. The goal is to have a clear vision of where we are going as disciples with a flexible approach to worship. For this we will need to develop our potential for leadership and growth.

2. The New Beginnings Program

The Congregation decided to go forward with the New Beginnings Program at the last General Meeting. So far, we have had a preliminary assessment and are waiting for the COVID-19 restrictions to relax before proceeding with the small group meetings.

The good news this year is that despite the COVID-19 restrictions, our Congregation is still hanging on. With God’s blessing, we can hope for a better year in 2021.

Raymond Reichelt
Clerk of Session

New Beginnings Report:

In January, we decided, in a congregational meeting, to apply to participate in a process for congregational renewal called “New Beginnings”, offered through our national church; and at the same time, to apply for a grant from the national church that would pay for 90% of the \$5,000 price tag. At the end of May, we were informed that our application for both had been accepted!

Unfortunately, however, the pandemic has delayed step after step in the process. I had originally hoped that the Assessment Visit with the Rev. Mark Lewis (Phase 2 of the process) might take place before the summer, but it had to be delayed to the end of September. I received Mark’s Assessment Report (Phase 3) in early November, but then we had to wait for our coach to be appointed. In early December, we were notified that our coach would be the Rev. Ian Fraser, a retired minister living in Montréal. I thought at first that we might move on to Phase 4 of the process - the “Introduction to Transformational Ministry” weekend - around mid-January of 2021, but the majority of our Session members felt that we should wait until the status of our Health Region returned to “Orange”, so that we could at least hold the small-group discussion meetings (Phase 5) in person, rather than online. As I write this, we are still waiting to find out when, and to what extent, the current pandemic restrictions will be eased - so we may remain “stuck” for awhile yet!

Nevertheless, New Beginnings is an extremely important process for us to go through. Without it, I'm afraid that our congregation is doomed to suffer a slow, gradual death. With it, we have a hope of being transformed into a congregation that is better able to minister to our community than it currently is. I strongly encourage *all* our members and adherents, then, to take part in the Introduction to Transformational Ministry weekend, as well as the small-group discussion meetings that will follow. The more of us who have input into this process, the better the chances are that it will have a successful outcome.

Following the small-group meetings, the group leaders will prepare a report summarizing the results of those meetings, which will be shared with the congregation as a whole at an information session. The congregation will have the opportunity to identify priorities within the report, and to affirm a future direction for the congregation. The report will then be sent to the Session to develop an action plan. This will be Phase 6 of the process.

In Phase 7, the Session will set up an implementation team, which will be responsible for developing an action plan, based on the outcome of Phases 5 and 6. The implementation team will also be responsible for implementing the action plan, with support and guidance from our coach.

At this point, it is hard to estimate how long it will take us to go through the remainder of the process, especially because of delays caused by the pandemic.

This is a new experience for all of us, and I hope it will be one in which we all learn and grow, as we work together to discover a "new beginning" for our congregation.

John Zondag
Minister

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES OF THE SESSION:

Finance & Maintenance Committee:

We have certainly had an interesting year. Not just at First Presbyterian Church but in the world as a whole. I know we were concerned about the church's finances for this year, but thanks to your generosity, the soup kitchen continuing to contribute and some grants from the government, we have finished the year better than we had budgeted for.

A couple of our special projects this year were the replacement of the eaves troughs on both the north & south side of the church. This should hopefully solve the problem of water leaking into the kitchen. The north side ones were not big enough so 5 inch ones were installed all around. We also had some work done on the boiler after it was discovered that it had a small leak.

Some fundraising ideas that were put forward to the Finance and Maintenance Committee unfortunately had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. Hopefully we can look into those by the end of the year. The idea for the virtual fundraiser where people contributed funds as they would have for our normal meal fundraisers was a success and really helped out.

Please continue to pray for our church as well as those on the front lines dealing with this pandemic. I pray that God will continue to keep you safe and in good health. Thank you to everyone for their continued financial support of our church.
God bless you all.

Keith Kelly,
Convener

Christian Education Committee:

Until March 13, Charlie Clifford, Margaret Dunn, and Debbi Miles rotated as Sunday School teachers; with Ruth Buan as a student. We were continuing to use the Kids Sunday School curriculum.

We resumed Sunday School when services started in October and had 4 classes using Teen Sunday School curriculum. Because Ruth is most often the only student, we felt it important to switch to a curriculum aimed at older students.

The adult Bible study group completed The Life of Paul on February 18. Lent for Everyone Matthew Year A by N.T. Wright was their spring study, completed on April 14, enabled by a switch to zoom. Their fall study was one on Ruth and Esther, which they interrupted mid-November to do a 4 week Advent study, Light of the World.

There is a faithful core of Bible study participants, usually 7 people. They are happy to welcome new members for any of their studies. Technology has enabled the group to continue meeting using Zoom.

Debbi Miles
Convener

Endowment Fund:

The Endowment Committee met once through 2020 and just before Covid shut everything down. Lisa was to check into getting new sheets printed for the Memorial Book. They were purchased from Staples. We gave the church \$500. for the balance of the cost of the New Beginnings program. Finance & Maintenance requested and was granted \$5000. for the general fund of the Church.

Lisa Sneesby,
Convener

Women's Missionary Society:

President: Janet Lacroix
Vice President/Program: Margaret Dunn
Secretary/Treasurer: Gwen Henwood
"Least Coin" Project: Pat Mullins

The Women's Missionary Society (WMS) of First Presbyterian Church began the year with 8 dedicated members whose focus is to "be involved in both local and world mission." By the end of the year, however, two of our members had moved away; Pat Mullins to Lockport and Gwen Henwood to Winnipeg.

This year we met in February and March. The pandemic lockdown and subsequent restrictions put an end to any further meetings. We did, however, get together in September for a physically distanced social time at the home of Janet Lacroix. It was good to see each other again!

Our meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm. New members are welcome at any time.

Margaret Dunn
Secretary

OTHER REPORTS:

Men's Breakfast Club:

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic the Men's Breakfast Club has not been able to meet for our Saturday morning breakfasts. We only had six meetings in 2020 with an average of ten members before we decided to close down until it was safe to meet again.

Our last meeting was on March 14th when we had Jake Martens join us and gave us an interesting talk about his missionary work in Belize and some of his flying experiences.

As of June 1st our group had \$910.09 in the Credit Union.

We gave \$800.00 to the church in August to help with the roof repair and also \$51.20 to the Sunday School for their teensundayschool.com subscription in October.

We are looking forward to starting our Saturday Morning Breakfast Meetings again as soon as it is safe and welcome anyone that is interested to come and join us.

Brian Yeo
Convener

Comfort Dolls and Infant Caps

Since October 2009, members and friends of our congregation have been knitting Comfort Dolls and Baby Caps for children in needy areas of the world. These precious items are shipped to Compassionate Resource Warehouse which is a charitable organization based in Victoria, BC. Volunteers at this site collect, pack, and distribute donated items free of charge to various countries where the need is great. Due to the pandemic, the Warehouse was closed for much of 2020 so no dolls or caps were shipped. However, knitting is a good pastime while staying at home, and many dolls and caps were collected.

Debbi Miles
Convener

Soup Kitchen Committee Report:

Due to the pandemic, our recently-formed Soup Kitchen Committee (Fall 2019) met more often in 2020 than it normally would have. Meetings were held in January, March, July, September, and November. All were held in person in the Church Hall, although after March, the committee members practiced “physical distancing”, and in November, they wore masks as well!

At the meeting on Wednesday, 18 March, the decision was made to close the Soup Kitchen after the following day. We had no idea at the time that the Soup Kitchen would end up remaining closed for the rest of the year! The Soup Kitchen arranged for (and paid for) new countertops to be installed in the church kitchen; and the work was done shortly after the SK was closed. After that, one of the new freezers along the east wall of the Church Hall was moved into the former nursery, since the freezers were partially obstructing the front exit. The Soup Kitchen paid for the electrical wiring that needed to be installed to accommodate that move.

At the meeting in July, we welcomed Gloria Nichols, and recommended to the Session that it officially appoint her the Assistant Coordinator - which it subsequently did at its meeting in August. Gloria is a recently-retired nurse, who has returned to Portage la Prairie after having lived in Saskatchewan for many years. At the same meeting, the committee accepted, with regret, the resignation of Gwen Henwood, in view of her intention to move to Winnipeg. Gwen was involved in many areas of the operation of the Soup Kitchen over the years, and her contribution to its ministry is much appreciated. The position vacated by her is still open. Also at that meeting, it was agreed that the SK would continue to make its usual contribution toward the cost of utilities, etc., for the third quarter.

The Soup Kitchen community was saddened by news of the sudden death of volunteer Laure Dyck, at home, in August. Laure was a familiar and friendly face in the Soup Kitchen, and a willing worker; and is greatly missed.

At the meeting in September, logistics for re-opening the Soup Kitchen were discussed, but no firm date for re-opening was set. Also, it was agreed that the SK would continue to make its usual contribution toward the cost of utilities, etc., for the fourth quarter of the year.

At the meeting on the 4th of November, it was decided to re-open the Soup Kitchen, initially on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays only, beginning Tuesday, 17 November; and to re-open fully as soon as possible after that. Food would be served take-out style, due to ongoing pandemic restrictions. Unfortunately, new public health restrictions, which took effect on the 12th of November, served to “dry up” our pool of volunteers, most of whom are retired people; and the Soup Kitchen ended up remaining closed for the rest of the year.

We had planned to have our regular “Soup Kitchen Sunday” service on the 15th of November; but, since in-person services had just been suspended again, the service was held virtually, and I gave a report on the SK, incorporating information provided by both Shelly and Henry.

Many thanks to the many who support the Soup Kitchen, either by volunteering or by making donations, or both! Special thanks go to Shelly Burton, the Coordinator; Henry Riendeau, the Treasurer; and Gloria Nichols, the new Assistant Coordinator - who also are all volunteers.

John Zondag,
Convener

Soup Kitchen Coordinator's Report:

There is not much to report as the SK has not been open. We served 2277 meals from January 1 - March 20, 2020. Then we closed due to Covid-19.

We took advantage of the closure to have new countertops installed. I then installed shelving for the pots & pans so they are not just sitting on our brand-new counters!! LOL I have had a few phone calls from people who would like to volunteer once we reopen. Once code red is lifted the SK will reopen Tuesday Wednesday & Thursday at the beginning so we can get reorganized and back into our new normal and then we will open Monday - Friday once again.

Shelly Burton
Coordinator

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

First Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society Financial Statement – December 31, 2020

| | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| BANK BALANCE: | OPENING | 442.13 |
| DEPOSITS: | Offerings | 75.00 |
| | Least Coin | 0.00 |
| | Interest | .13 |
| WITHDRAWALS: | Presbyterian Church in Canada – Gifts of Change | 300.00 |
| | Bank Charges | <u>.85</u> |
| BANK BALANCE: | CLOSING | <u>216.41</u> |

Mardine Garnham
Treasurer

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT – December 31, 2020**

REVENUE:

| | Y-T-D |
|---|-------------------------|
| Interest – Scotia Bank | 144.31 |
| Interest - Stride CU - High Interest Saving Account | 45.77 |
| Stride Credit Union - Investment Interest | 1,496.26 |
| Stride CU - Share Dividend | 23.95 |
| Investment Redeemed | 23,025.51 |
| Investment Redeemed – Scotia Bank | 5,000.00 |
| Memorial Gifts | 2,200.00 |
| Offering Envelopes | <u>40.00</u> |
| TOTAL REVENUE | <u>30,596.28</u> |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bank Charges – Scotia Bank | 1.25 |
| - Stride CU | 26.50 |
| Investment Purchase | 28,522.17 |
| Finance & Maintenance | 5,500.00 |
| Memorial Book | <u>71.78</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>34,121.70</u> |

BANK: SCOTIA

| | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Opening Balance: January 1, 2020 | 2,885.89 | |
| Total Revenue – Year to Date | 7,330.00 | |
| Total Expenses – Year to Date | <u>10,215.89</u> | |
| Closing Balance: September 30, 2020 | <u>0.00</u> | Account closed Sept 24/20 |

BANK: STRIDE CREDIT UNION (SCU)

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Opening Balance: January 1, 2020 | 236.66 |
| Total Revenue – Year to Date | 7,966.51 |
| Total Expenses – Year to Date | <u>5,382.59</u> |
| Closing Balance: December, 2020 | <u>2,820.58</u> |

INVESTMENTS:

| DATE | BANK | INVESTMENT | AMOUNT PURCHASED |
|--------------------------|-------------|--|----------------------------|
| April 22/19 | SCU | High Interest Saving Account Paid Monthly | \$ 5,706.81 |
| Oct 31/17 | SCU | GIC – Westbourne Fund – Due Oct 31/23 @ 1.50% 400450 | 1,500.00 |
| Oct 14/15 | SCU | TD – Harvest Term Due Oct 14/21 @ 2.65% 307879 Pd \$864.04 | 33,450.22 |
| May 25/18 | SCU | TD – May 25/21 @ 1.60% 370687 | 22,658.13 |
| Sept 24/20 | SCU | TD – Due Sept 24/21 @ 1.70% 620792 | 5,000.00 |
| | SCU | Share | <u>5.00</u> |
| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | | | <u>\$ 68,320.16</u> |

Endowment 2020 Notes

The Endowment Fund gave the Church \$5,500.00.

Account was closed at Scotia Bank in September. Chequing account is now at Stride Credit Union. Cheques were purchased as well as pages for the Memorial Book.

There is a High Interest Saving Account at Stride Credit Union (HIS/A) – Interest is paid at the end of each month. It is shown on statement as Revenue. Balance for HIS/A increases each month and is listed with Investments at bottom of Financial Statement.

Financial Statement reflects both bank accounts (Scotia closed), investments are listed at bottom.

These are bank and investments balances at December 31, 2020.

Shauna-Lei Leslie

Treasurer Endowment Fund

SUMMARY OF ENVELOPE GIVING

| <u>2019</u> | | <u>2020</u> | |
|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| # USING ENVELOPES | 29 | # USING ENVELOPES | 28 |
| # USING PAR | 15 | # USING PAR | 15 |

| \$ AMOUNT GIVEN | # GIVEN | \$ AMOUNT GIVEN | # GIVEN |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| 5,000 & UP | 3 | 5,000 & UP | 4 |
| 4,000 – 4,999 | 0 | 4,000 – 4,999 | 1 |
| 3,000 – 3,999 | 2 | 3,000 – 3,999 | 0 |
| 2,000 – 2,999 | 3 | 2,000 – 2,999 | 5 |
| 1,500 – 1,999 | 3 | 1,500 – 1,999 | 3 |
| 1,000– 1,499 | 4 | 1,000 – 1,499 | 4 |
| 500 - 999 | 9 | 500 - 999 | 3 |
| 100 - 499 | 15 | 100 - 499 | 20 |
| 0 - 99 | <u>5</u> | 0 - 99 | <u>3</u> |
| | <u>44</u> | | <u>43</u> |

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2020 MEMORIAL DONATIONS

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| REG TOMALIN | 2,000.00 |
| LAURA McNUTT | 25.00 |
| ISABELLE McLEAN | 125.00 |
| MAE PLASESKI | <u>50.00</u> |
| | <u>2,200.00</u> |

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SOUP KITCHEN
2020 INCOME STATEMENT (CASH BASIS)**

REVENUE:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Donations – Regular | 4,185.00 |
| Donations – First Presbyterian Church | 100.00 |
| Interest Income | 342.81 |
| Other Income | <u>0.00</u> |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS: | 4,627.81 |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Equipment Purchases (Freezers, Dishwasher, Coffee Maker) | 0.00 |
| Food | 1,358.42 |
| GST – 50% of Expense Portion | 173.07 |
| Postage & Office | 254.40 |
| Repairs | 550.59 |
| Sundry | 0.00 |
| Supplies | 696.12 |

Paid to Church:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Heat | 1,162.60 | |
| Hydro | 2,499.65 | |
| Insurance | 1,226.60 | |
| Snow Removal | 664.00 | |
| Water | <u>518.36</u> | |
| | <u>6,071.21</u> | <u>6,071.21</u> |

TOTAL EXPENSES: 9,103.81

SURPLUS (DEFICIT): (4,476.00)

BALANCE SHEET – DECEMBER 31, 2020

ASSETS:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Bank | 4,220.60 |
| Short Term Investment | 10,210.06 |
| Gift Certificates Received | 250.00 |
| Equipment | 25,075.30 |
| GST Receivable | <u>173.05</u> |

TOTAL ASSETS 39,929.01

LIABILITIES:

NIL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

| | 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET | 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET | 2020 JAN – DEC Y-T-D ACTUAL | 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <u>RECEIPTS</u> | | | | |
| Envelope Offering | 51,000.00 | 51,000.00 | 50,636.08 | 49,000.00 |
| Open Offering | 750.00 | 750.00 | 196.95 | 300.00 |
| Other | 3,300.00 | 2,400.00 | 35.00 | 2,400.00 |
| Chisholm Fund | 7,750.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| <u>SPECIAL</u> | | | | |
| Annual visitation | 3,400.00 | 1,600.00 | 0.00 | 1,600.00 |
| Easter | 800.00 | 800.00 | 830.00 | 800.00 |
| Summer | 900.00 | 450.00 | 1,980.00 | 1,900.00 |
| Thanksgiving | 1,000.00 | 500.00 | 1,295.00 | 1,300.00 |
| Christmas | 1,200.00 | 1,000.00 | 2,500.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Virtual Fundraising | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,365.00 | 0.00 |
| Men's Club | 0.00 | 0.00 | 800.00 | 0.00 |
| <u>SPECIAL PROJECTS</u> | | | | |
| Canada Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,677.29 | 0.00 |
| Endowment Fund - Minister's Housing | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| From Soup Kitchen | 4,500.00 | 5,000.00 | 5,692.96 | 5,000.00 |
| Fund Raising – Suppers | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 | 4,068.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Fund Raising – Meal In a Bowl | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 | 1,334.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Fund Raising – Catering – Concert - Cards | 4,600.00 | 4,600.00 | 350.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Great Presbyterian Pie Sale | 1,100.00 | 900.00 | 149.00 | 900.00 |
| GST Rebate | 338.00 | 300.00 | 418.53 | 300.00 |
| Initial Offering | 100.00 | 75.00 | 33.00 | 35.00 |
| Interest Earned | 140.00 | 140.00 | 128.54 | 130.00 |
| Manitoba Bridge Grant | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 | 0.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 0.00 | 511.49 | 0.00 |
| Other Charities | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,024.00 | 0.00 |
| Other | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,064.36 | 0.00 |
| Parking | 1,500.00 | 2,220.00 | 2,220.00 | 2,220.00 |
| Transfer From Replacement Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,546.50 | 0.00 |
| Vacation Bible School | <u>500.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR CONGREGATIONAL PURPOSES | <u>96,378.00</u> | <u>85,235.00</u> | <u>97,855.70</u> | <u>82,885.00</u> |
| <u>MISSION & OUTREACH</u> | | | | |
| Endowment Fund – Envelopes | 0.00 | 0.00 | 40.00 | 0.00 |
| Endowment Fund – Memorials | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,200.00 | 0.00 |
| Presbyterians Sharing | 3,000.00 | 3,200.00 | 3,375.00 | 0.00 |
| P W S & D | 0.00 | 0.00 | 725.00 | 0.00 |
| For Soup Kitchen | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| Women's Mission Society | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>75.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| TOTAL MISSION & OUTREACH | <u>3,000.00</u> | <u>3,200.00</u> | <u>6,515.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| TOTAL ALL RECEIPTS | <u>99,378.00</u> | <u>88,435.00</u> | <u>104,370.70</u> | <u>82,885.00</u> |

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

| | 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET | 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET | 2020 JAN – DEC Y-T-D ACTUAL | 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <u>DISBURSEMENTS</u> | | | | |
| <u>MINISTER</u> | | | | |
| Stipend | 45,783.00 | 46,786.00 | 46,785.96 | 46,786.00 |
| Housing Allowance | 10,000.00 | 10,000.00 | 10,000.08 | 10,000.00 |
| Church Share – CPP & EI Benefits | 3,361.00 | 3,471.42 | 3,471.72 | 3,604.00 |
| Church Share – Pension | 4,836.40 | 4,529.15 | 4,529.16 | 4,280.00 |
| Minister's Utilities | 2,050.00 | 2,045.00 | 1,944.54 | 2,050.00 |
| Book & Journal Allowance | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Health & Dental Plan | 4,767.12 | 4,502.00 | 4,502.00 | 4,592.00 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| TOTAL MINISTER | <u>70,897.52</u> | <u>71,333.57</u> | <u>71,233.46</u> | <u>71,312.00</u> |
| <u>WORSHIP</u> | | | | |
| Advertising | 95.00 | 95.00 | 0.00 | 35.00 |
| Bulletins | 50.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Copyright Licence | 325.00 | 325.00 | 324.00 | 325.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 0.00 | 268.22 | 0.00 |
| Offering Envelopes | 175.00 | 165.00 | 174.46 | 190.00 |
| Organist | 2,115.00 | 2,250.00 | 765.00 | 2,250.00 |
| Organ & Piano Servicing | 250.00 | 250.00 | 0.00 | 250.00 |
| Pulpit Supply | 350.00 | 350.00 | 0.00 | 350.00 |
| Guest Speaker | 200.00 | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| Worship Committee | <u>50.00</u> | <u>00.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| TOTAL WORSHIP | <u>3,610.00</u> | <u>3,685.00</u> | <u>1,531.68</u> | <u>3,600.00</u> |
| <u>NURTURE</u> | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | 35.00 | 35.00 | 0.00 | 35.00 |
| Picnic, Anniversary, Christmas | 50.00 | 50.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Vacation Bible School | 500.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Visitation | 30.00 | 30.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Volunteer Recognition Gift | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| TOTAL NURTURE | <u>615.00</u> | <u>115.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>35.00</u> |
| <u>MISSION & OUTREACH</u> | | | | |
| Benevolent Fund | 600.00 | 600.00 | 300.00 | 600.00 |
| Endowment Fund – Envelopes | 0.00 | 0.00 | 40.00 | 0.00 |
| Endowment Fund – Memorials | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,200.00 | 0.00 |
| Presbyterians Sharing | 3,000.00 | 3,200.00 | 3,375.00 | 0.00 |
| P W S & D | 0.00 | 0.00 | 725.00 | 0.00 |
| Soup Kitchen | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| Women's Missionary Society | <u>0.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>300.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> |
| TOTAL MISSION & OUTREACH | <u>3,600.00</u> | <u>3,800.00</u> | <u>7,040.00</u> | <u>600.00</u> |

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

| | 2019 ANNUAL BUDGET | 2020 ANNUAL BUDGET | 2020 JAN – DEC Y-T-D ACTUAL | 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <u>ADMINISTRATION</u> | | | | |
| Bank Charges | 10.00 | 100.00 | 248.40 | 250.00 |
| Bookkeeper | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| Computer Costs | 400.00 | 450.00 | 537.24 | 540.00 |
| Fund Raising Expenses | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 | 1,611.46 | 3,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 | 0.00 |
| Office Supplies & Postage | 700.00 | 600.00 | 580.65 | 450.00 |
| PAR Service Charges | 100.00 | 90.00 | 92.00 | 96.00 |
| Photocopier Costs | 200.00 | 200.00 | 40.49 | 150.00 |
| Presbytery Dues | <u>1,093.50</u> | <u>1,050.84</u> | <u>1,050.84</u> | <u>348.00</u> |
| TOTAL ADMINISTRATION | <u>7,703.50</u> | <u>7,690.84</u> | <u>5,861.08</u> | <u>6,034.00</u> |
| <u>OPERATIONS</u> | | | | |
| Alarm System | 215.00 | 215.00 | 210.24 | 215.00 |
| Contract – Snow Removal | 750.00 | 800.00 | 870.00 | 800.00 |
| Insurances | 1,900.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,417.00 | 2,500.00 |
| Loan Repayment-Basement Heating System | 860.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Maintenance & Repair | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 | 1,489.15 | 2,500.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Replacement Fund – Contribution | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| Replacement Fund Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4,438.25 | 0.00 |
| Telephone | | | | |
| Office | 310.00 | 305.00 | 300.75 | 262.00 |
| Internet | 862.00 | 862.00 | 854.16 | 656.00 |
| Utilities | | | | |
| Heat | 1,500.00 | 1,500.00 | 1,412.15 | 1,500.00 |
| Hydro | 3,000.00 | 2,700.00 | 1,764.47 | 2,000.00 |
| Water | <u>550.00</u> | <u>550.00</u> | <u>301.89</u> | <u>550.00</u> |
| TOTAL OPERATIONS | <u>14,147.00</u> | <u>13,632.00</u> | <u>15,258.06</u> | <u>12,183.00</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>100,573.02</u> | <u>100,256.41</u> | <u>100,924.28</u> | <u>93,764.00</u> |
| SUMMARY: | | | | |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | 99,378.00 | 88,435.00 | 104,370.70 | 82,885.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>100,573.02</u> | <u>100,256.41</u> | <u>100,924.28</u> | <u>93,764.00</u> |
| SURPLUS (DEFICIT) | <u>(1,195.02)</u> | <u>(11,821.41)</u> | <u>3,446.42</u> | <u>(10,879.00)</u> |

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – 2020
BALANCE SHEET**

**2020
DECEMBER 31**

ASSETS:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| BANK BALANCE | 2,928.46 |
| AUTUMN SAVINGS | 10,126.45 |
| CREDIT UNION SHARE | 5.00 |
| REPLACEMENT FUND | 1,181.71 |
| MINISTER'S STUDY LEAVE | 3,000.00 |
| GST RECEIVABLE | 325.81 |
| WOMENS MISSIONARY SOCIETY | 216.41 |

LIABILITIES: 0.00

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2020 FUNDRAISING**

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| INCOME: | 5,901.00 |
| EXPENSES: | <u>1,611.46</u> |
| SURPLUS | <u>4,289.54</u> |

SUMMARY:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| BURNS DINNER | 0.00 |
| SPRING DINNER | 0.00 |
| FALL SUPPER | 3,000.68 |
| CATERING | 0.00 |
| MEAL IN A BOWL | 1,043.11 |
| PRESBYTERIAN PIE SALE | 149.00 |
| GREETING CARDS | <u>350.00</u> |
| | <u>4,542.79</u> |

The figures from the summary are included in the above surplus amount. The difference of 253.25 was the amount spent on kitchen supplies and food for the pasta dinner (cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions) Our fundraising activities were curtailed from March to October 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions Our fundraising surplus decreased by \$5,676.38 from 2019

*Thank you for your continued support to the success
of these events.*

Our Gifts, God's Mission

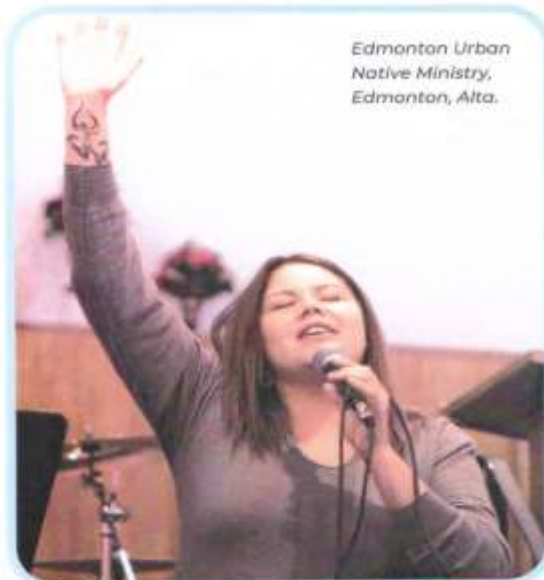
Presbyterians Sharing 2020

2020 was an unprecedented year.

Church buildings across the country were closed. General Assembly was cancelled. Canada Youth was postponed. We worried about our congregations, our communities, our country and our world. Yet, Presbyterians across Canada worked together to share God's love during this difficult time.

Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing continued to support congregational development, theological education and reflection, leadership, new faith communities, Bible translation, good governance, evangelism and more—in Canada and around the world.

When churches had to close their buildings, innovation grants helped them adapt worship and outreach programs, and national office staff and committees worked alongside them to navigate the changing environment.



Edmonton Urban
Native Ministry,
Edmonton, Alta.

When Indigenous ministries had to close their buildings, they went out into their communities to meet people's physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

When an explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, devastated the seminary buildings of the PCC's partner the Near East School of Theology, support to rebuild was provided.

When people felt lonely, isolated and afraid, the *Presbyterian Connection* newspaper shared stories of hope and resilience.

Resources and conferences moved online to equip congregations in Christian education, leadership, stewardship, justice and communication. Regional grants were reallocated to meet changing needs.

The national church urged the government, social structures and congregations to respond to systemic racism and high levels of violence against Black people, people of colour and Indigenous communities by calling for justice and acting with love. Presbyterians across Canada joined the Moderator in walking and praying for congregations and ministries across the country.

Part of the joy of being in ministry together is seeing the remarkable things God does when we put our gifts in God's hands. Thank you for your faithful support of Presbyterians Sharing.



Presbyterians
Sharing