

Sunset United Church Annual Report 2021



Compassion, Caring, Community

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Youth and Young Adult Program
Coordinator: Michelle McConkey



Mission Statement January 20th, 2007

Sunset United Church as an Affirming Ministry is a nurturing Christian community of:

- *Joyful worship;*
- *Open-minded faith exploration and spiritual growth;*
- *Love, hope and Social and Ecological Justice;*

living out Christ's message within and beyond Sunset.

Statement of Faith

We declare publicly our commitment to creating a community where we welcome people of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, ability, ethnicity and economic circumstance.

At Sunset United Church, everyone can take part in every aspect of church life including: membership, leadership, celebrating life passages and marriage. We affirm that diversity is truly a gift of God and that all people belong here.

We celebrate the richness that diversity brings to our church, even as it challenges us individually and collectively. As we continue our discovery of what it means to be an affirming and inclusive community, we understand that teaching and learning about each other is a faithful process of mutual listening and understanding.

We pray for God's Spirit to guide us as we work for reconciliation and justice for all persons in church and society.

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**Sunset United Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 6, 2022**

Agenda

Call to Order

Devotion

Attendance

Adoption of Agenda

Appointment of Counters

Minutes of Annual Meeting on March 4, 2021

Business Arising from Minutes of Annual Meeting on March 4, 2021

Resolutions

Business Arising from 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Presentation and Discussion of Annual Reports

Presentation of Finance Committee Report and Financial Statements

Presentation of 2022 Budget

Motion to Approve Budget

Appointment of Financial Reviewer

Nominating Committee Report

Nominations for Church Board

Nominations for Board of Trustees

New Business

Acknowledgement and Thanks

Adjournment

Benediction

Minister Report

There was hope that this annual report would bring stories of a return to normal life and the blossoming of the life and work of the church in a way that made the pandemic feel like just a blip in our history. Unfortunately, the pandemic affected the way we did church for yet another year, and 2021 was a series of pivots for this congregation. This might sound like bad news for an annual report, but the reality is that you, the people of Sunset, have shifted time and again with patience, grace, and an understanding that all the change was being done in love and compassion.

Despite the roller coaster of 2021, there are many things to celebrate in the life and work of this church. You will see evidence of this all through the pages of this annual report. But there are a few things I would like to highlight that are reflections of the ongoing life and dedication of this congregation:

- Our continued participation in the Regina Pride Parade (even though it was limited in size!)
- A donation to the Healing Fund of the United Church of Canada in honour of the children found buried at the Residential School in Kelowna, BC
- Continued financial support of the congregation AND the Mission and Service Fund
- The COVID choir who worked hard and safely to bring music to our recorded and live-streamed worships
- The addition of Live-streaming technology – cameras and sound system – to make our remote worship look better and sound clearer
- Donations of money, time, and items for Camp Hope and for Rainbow Youth Christmas Stockings
- People reaching out to one another to check in and see how they are doing
- A return to the coffee gathering at Wintergreen
- Working together with Wesley, Lakeview, and Eastside United Churches to offer joint worship over the summer.
- The welcome offered to our new office administrator, Polly.
- The farewell messages shared with our past office administrator, Jayne.
- The support of the Board and the Worship Team as the restrictions and pandemic forced changes around gathering for worship
- The folk who do the work of shoveling sidewalks, caring for our yards, and taking care of the building

There is much to celebrate and be grateful for in the midst of life and all it brings. Siblings in Faith, you are stronger and more resilient than you know. Yes, being away from each other for two years has been challenging, but we've found other ways to be the church and to be community. God is not limited to Sunday mornings in the centrum, God is alive and active in you at home, in the way you live, and in how you love. The Spirit is known in the ways you reach out and live into your faith.

Personally, the support and care that you have shown me have been gifts as well. Ministering during a pandemic wasn't talked about in seminary, and neither was live-streaming technology know-how. Your patience as I figured out what the next steps would look like kept me grounded and encouraged. Your messages of support and compassion kept me going. Here I also must give a shout out to the worship team: Michelle, Corinne, Shirley, David, and Christa. This year we came together as a team, doing the work with such joy and grace – leaving room for each of us to hurt when we needed to, to vent when we needed to and to laugh – big belly laughs and

nervous giggles. You may not know this but every worship where we are either recording or live streaming only, we listen to Shirley's postlude, and when given the signal that the live stream has ended, we clap. We celebrate another worship done together, another Sunday in unsettled times marked, and another job well done.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the members of the Official Board, the Ministry and Personnel Committee, and the Re-Opening Committee. Their leadership has been essential in making sure that the life and work of this church continued in a faithful and safe way. More than once I have been moved by their dedication not only to you, the members of this community of faith but to the wider community as well. At the end of the day, it is the people that make this church what it is, not the minister, or the staff, but the people. And friends, you are a fine set of people. Sunset is and will continue to be a reminder of the presence of the Spirit in this city. Of this, I am sure... no matter how that looks in the future.

Respectfully submitted with Love,
Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Chairperson Report

As I complete my 2-year term as chair of the Board at Sunset, I find it hard to believe that both years have been consumed by the pandemic. Ross Macnab, our resident philosopher/comedian at Sunset, said to me in a recent email - "I don't think that you should relinquish the chair until you've solved this pandemic problem that you started." I don't mean to make light of this situation, but he is correct. The pandemic began at the same time that I became chair. Following that logic, I'm hopeful that it will be ebbing when my term ends on March 6. However, I have to say that I am grateful that I have had the privilege of helping navigate Sunset through this very challenging time, because I care very deeply for this community.

I know that thanking people can be a "dangerous" thing to do, because it is so easy to leave some folk out, who definitely deserve our thanks. So, for that, I apologize in advance. However, I want to highlight and thank the following Sunset folk:

Our Ladies Fellowship group - After more than 50 years of hard work, and amazing fundraising, these wonderful women made the decision to disband. I hope that they continue to get together to visit, but their work is done. The Sunset community recognize and thank all of you for the countless contributions that your group has made to our church.

David Gerhard (and his assistant, Christa Eidsness) - When the pandemic closed down in-person worship, we struggled with the technical aspects of on-line worship. David stepped up, and now we are a "well-oiled machine". He also advised us on (and oversaw) the upgrading of our sound system... something that has needed to be done for many years. In fact, some other churches have called on David for advice and assistance.

Garnet Park (and all the shovelers) - He organizes these wonderful folk, who keep the loong! sidewalks at the church clear all winter. Many of them also help with our yard maintenance in the summer. As well, Garnet has agreed to build a cabinet for all of our sound system equipment.

Ken Fensom (and his "sidekick" Robert McLeod) - They are so vigilant about maintaining our building. This year the main issue has been crucial repairs to the roof. I am assured that our roof is now in very good shape, and will serve us well for many years to come.

George Peters and Marilyn Caughlin - Many Sunset folk have been making phone calls to check up on others since the pandemic began 2 years ago. It has been an important part of our ministry during this difficult time, and I thank all who have faithfully done this. I need to single out Marilyn and George, who have been calling Maurice and Shirley Filson, Cal and Mary Newman and Doreen Killoh every Monday evening for 2 years. I've got a feeling that it will go on even after the pandemic ends.

Trina Hodgson - If you dropped off muffins, coffee or anything else at Camp Marjorie/Camp Hope this fall, no doubt you encountered Trina. She volunteered there daily. Because of her faithful service, Sunset folk had a strong connection, and we were able to be involved through Trina. She continues this important work with the weekend interfaith lunch program. She will be calling on Sunset folk for assistance, and, of course, we will answer her call!

Tricia, Michelle, Polly, Corinne, Shirley and Denelle - These are the people who really keep Sunset going, and are largely responsible for making Sunset the wonderful place that it is. Tricia

will be leaving us at the end of June, and that is a huge loss for Sunset. We wish her, and her family, well in Winnipeg. Michelle has been assisting with our Sunday services. Polly Williams-Olesen took over from Jayne Strinholm, as Office Coordinator, in September. As we thank Jayne and wish her well, we welcome Polly. Polly is such an efficient and cheerful presence in the office. Thanks to Corinne and Shirley, our music at Sunset is always an inspirational and delightful aspect of Sunday worship. Sunset folk owe Denelle (our treasurer) a huge thank you! Her skills have enabled us to successfully weather the pandemic financially, as she accessed the government programs for which we were eligible, and managed our financial situation.

As my term as chair of the Board at Sunset draws to an end, I wish our in-coming chair, Brenda Scarfe, all the best. I know that she will enjoy the task, and that Sunset church will be in very capable hands!

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Cameron, Chairperson

Due to the unusual circumstance caused by the pandemic, and with the advice of the United Church of Canada, the AGM was conducted online with only board members in attendance.

**Sunset United Church Annual Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2021**

1. Attendance

Due to the unusual circumstance caused by the pandemic, and with the advice of the national United Church, this year's AGM was conducted online with only board members. 14 members were in attendance.

2. Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Trina Hodgson/David Millar that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of March 1, 2020 be adopted as presented. There were no errors or omissions identified. Carried.

3. Presentation and Discussion of Annual Reports

Moved by Brenda Scarfe/Tim Osborne that the annual reports be approved as presented in the 2020 Annual Report. Carried.

4. Financial Statements

Moved by Ken Fensom/David Millar that the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020 as outlined on pages 21-25 of the Annual Report, be accepted as presented. Carried.

5. Presentation of 2021 Budget

Moved by Denelle Hansen/Hilary Wallin that the 2021 Budget as outlined on pages 26-27 of the Annual Report, be approved as presented. Carried.

6. Appointment of Financial Reviewer

Moved by Denelle Hansen/Tim Osborne that Arlene Fehler be appointed the financial reviewer for 2021. Carried.

7. Nomination Committee Report (page 28 in the Annual Report)

Sunset United Church Church Board – 2021

Executive Officers

Chair – Jean Cameron

Vice Chair – Brenda Scarfe

Past Chair – Hilary Wallin

Treasurer – Denelle Hansen

Secretary – Barbara Flaten-Orr

Ministry (ex officio) - Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Committee Chairs or Designates

Worship and Christian Education – Tricia Gerhard

Affirming Congregation – Trina Hodgson

Finance – Tim Osborne

Property – Ken Fensom

Congregational Care – Bev Hui (House Groups)
Community Service – Janet McMurtry /Nancy Toppings
Ministry and Personnel – Bryan Tudor
Fundraising – Marion Tudor
Website - Michelle McConkey

Other Groups

Board of Trustees – David Millar
Regional Council Rep- vacant
Ladies Fellowship – Judy Fawell
Congregational Representatives (member at large) - Susan Black
Board of Trustees: (year the 6 year term expires)
David Millar – Chair (2023)
Keith Schneider (2022)
Doug Billett (2024)
Don Orr (2024)
Marina Jeffery (2024)
Olive McLeod (2024)

Moved by Susan Black/Marion Tudor that the report of the nominating committee be accepted. Carried.

Nancy Toppings will be joining the board.

The Board of Trustees now has six members, one fewer than the previous year, but still within the guidelines.

Many thanks to the writers of the annual reports and to Jayne for putting it all together.

Meeting adjourned.

Affirming Ministry Report

In 2007 Sunset United Church through much prayer and discernment committed to actively welcome the folk of the Two-Spirit and LGBTQAI+ community to gather and practice our faith together. This commitment also included welcoming people of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, ability, ethnicity, and economic circumstance. While our main focus has been our 2S and LGBTQAI+ siblings we also actively work to support many people inside our church community and in the larger community.

The Affirming ministry had its usual presence in the Annual Pride Parade with many Sunset members along the parade route. We were able to (remotely) celebrate the affirming commitment of our siblings at Knox- Metropolitan United Church. We were reminded of the importance of our ongoing Affirming status and work this year due to a message of hate delivered by a minister at another Christian church in January. Rev. Tricia boldly stood at the pulpit of Sunset and spoke out against this hateful message, welcoming all people to worship with us and continued the message to us as members encouraging us to radically speak out against this hate with messages of love and acceptance. The word radical has stayed in my heart and has guided me and this work to this day. Another subtle, but important change was our commitment to sharing our pronouns. This helps to share our openness to not assuming one's gender and showing acceptance of our transgender and nonbinary siblings. We will continue to live this promise when we gather to worship once again.

An interfaith group gathered regularly to work together to submit a joint letter to Mayor Sandra Masters and City Council to state our unwavering support to ban conversion therapy in our city. After 2 very long City Council meetings, we were successful in getting this practice banned in our city. It needs to be noted that there were homophobic and transphobic messages spoken that our 2S and LGBTQAI+ siblings had to hear. It was hurtful and unnecessary and it did not reflect who we are as a community.

This fall I was called to support the residents of Camp Hope; as it came to be known. The outdoor tent city was a direct result of changes/cuts to Ministry of Social Services funding. People, who because of their economic circumstances, needed the support of the community. I thought we'd lost our collective humanity, but the people of Sunset showed their support and compassion for the residents of Camp Hope. The need for hot coffee was apparent to me from the first days at Camp and the Sunset community answered. We utilized the 84-cup coffee and a member of the congregation donated insulated urns which allowed the camp to keep the coffee hot throughout the cold days and nights. There were days I ran the urn 4 times. Sunset members donated most of the coffee I brewed. The hot coffee led to the need for a warm meal in the morning and the residents welcomed the hot bowls of porridge Marion Tudor and I brought each day. Money was donated for the porridge supplies and we once again utilized the Sunset kitchen so we had big enough pots to serve the 75-100 people breakfast each morning. Each Sunday Tricia invited Sunset members to donate specific items to support the residents and people responded with the items and money to buy the items. Every time we pull out a call Sunset responded. While serving the people was important advocating for changes that created this need was also important. Bryan Tudor led this advocacy work with the Living Skies Regional Council. I share this Desmond Tutu which nicely speaks to the work that we need to achieve. "There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in."

As Camp Hope came to an end in its physical form, a group of Christian churches continue to meet to discern how, as churches, we could support folk experiencing homelessness and food

insecurity. We decided to host a weekly Saturday bagged lunch program. Once again with the encouragement and help of the Sunset Board, we supported this ministry in action.

Please note the word Folx: It is a version of folks used by the 2S and LGBTQAI+ community to note an inclusive community. Or to note differing gender identities within a group.

Submitted by,
Trina Hodgson

Board of Trustees Report

The Sunset Board of Trustees is composed of the following members of Sunset United Church:

Keith Schneider	2022
David Millar	2023
Doug Billett	2024
Marina Jeffery	2024
Olive McLeod	2024
Don Orr	2024

The Board of Trustees met virtually on December 14, 2021. At the meeting the Trustees reviewed the Financial and Property reports of Sunset United Church and expressed their confidence in the financial status and property status of the Church. The Trustees expressed confidence that the property is well tended and maintained. There were no issues or requests from the property committee.

The Trustees re-elected David Millar as the Chairperson of the Committee for another one-year term.

Sincere thanks to the members of the Board of Trustees for their time and talents on behalf of the Church.

Respectfully submitted,
David Millar, Chairperson

Choir Report

Music and music leadership require creativity in the best of times, but this pandemic has amplified that need. While we regret that we are now a smaller choir providing worship music, we are glad 2021 brought us the protection of vaccinations and that the Sunset Board invested in enhanced technology for recording and streaming services. We never would have imagined that our choir would need YouTube to contribute to worship!

Our choir is especially grateful to our director Corinne Groff and accompanist Shirley Hill, who have persisted in finding ways for us to meet and sing as safely as possible, whether practising remotely or gathering in person. Almost all our 2021 worship services included live music. In the spring we welcomed some sunny days and were able to record Lent and Easter anthems on our back patio. In the fall we moved indoors, welcomed a few more members back after their

vaccinations were complete, and for now we remain a “masked” choir. Some of us have stepped up to sing solos or in small groups so that live music could continue.

We also thank David Gerhard, Christa Eidsness and Barbara Flaten-Orr for their time supporting our music and technology needs.

Respectfully submitted for Sunset United Choir,
Marina Jeffery

Community Service Committee Report

Committee members are Nancy Toppings (chair), Bryan Tudor, Cara Gay Driscoll, Janet McMurtry, and Tricia Gerhard (ex officio). The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply affected the work of the Community Services Committee. Meetings were held over Zoom we were unable to meet in person.

The Community Services Committee is engaged in the following activities:

1. **Meals on Wheels:** This activity was suspended in 2021, due to COVID-19.
2. **Annual Special Appeal:** Due to the ongoing pandemic, and worship being held remotely for the majority of 2021, a decision was made to suspend the Special Appeal for this year. Plans are to resume the Annual Special Appeal in spring of 2022.
3. **Minute for Mission:** To raise the profile of the work done by the United Church's Mission and Service Fund, bi-monthly updates are typically shared, during worship services, on M&S projects in Canada and globally. This has been on hold during this period of remote worship, but will resume early in 2022.
4. **Rainbow Youth Centre:** RYC is not currently open to the public but they are able to offer programming to registered clients, with limits on the number of clients in the building at any one time. Staff returned to working on-site in late July 2021. There was no large Christmas gathering this year. Sunset United Church participated in the RYC Christmas Stocking Initiative, and we invited the congregation to contribute stocking items, cash, or funds by e-transfer. Over \$900 was turned over to RYC, along with a large collection of items on their wish list. Many thanks to the generous folk who supported this project!
5. **Camp Hope:** Responding to a desperate need, Sunset volunteers organized a collection of items (blankets, warm clothing, coffee, etc.) for the residents of Camp Hope. Special thanks to Trina Hodgson and Marion Tudor for organizing help, delivering supplies, providing hot coffee and oatmeal, and much more.
6. **Interfaith Lunch Program:** Trina Hodgson reported at the December board meeting that an interfaith group is meeting to determine how best to respond to homelessness and food insecurity in Regina. After Camp Hope was dismantled, there was found to be a gap in food availability on weekends. The Interfaith Lunch Program will offer weekly lunches on Saturdays, and the board has pledged support for this program. The organizing team is comprised of volunteers and ministry leaders from the Downtown Churches and churches in the area beyond the downtown core. Every Saturday 200 bagged lunches (sandwich, fruit, protein or granola bar, water, goodies) are handed out from First Baptist Church. These lunches are funded and put together by different congregations. A call has gone out to Regina congregations of all denominations to help with this project by providing funds and volunteers. The plan is to maintain this program into the spring as help is available.

We remain grateful to the congregation of Sunset United Church for ongoing support during the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Toppings

Fundraising Committee Report

There were two main fundraisers held last year. One that was new to us, the Munch meals, which were provided by Munch Catering and held twice, and the gift card fundraiser, also held twice.

We enjoyed working with Munch, and the meals were excellent. One was held at Easter and the other close to Father's Day. 61 meals were purchased the first time, and 39 the second. The meals were delivered cold and at the curbside, due to Covid, and this worked well. There were many positive comments about the meals themselves, both quantity and quality. A small dessert was added to each meal by Sunset. A little over \$650 was raised.

The gift card fundraiser went smoothly as in previous years. Fewer people purchased cards but funds raised were on a par with those raised in other years. Both Co-op gift cards and Fundscrip cards were sold. The total raised by the two orders of cards was \$1,325.80.

Thank you to all who supported the fundraisers – it couldn't be done without you. The fundraising committee set a goal of \$2000 for the year. Total funds raised were \$1986.58. We will try harder next year!!

Fundraising committee members: Jean Cameron, Brenda Scarfe, Hilary Wallin, Marion Tudor

Submitted by Marion Tudor

House Group Report

Covid Report

Another year of Covid, with House Groups doing some checking in with members. Church resumed in Sept for the last two weeks, and the first week of October. Then it was paused until mid-November and we were in person for almost all of December. The two services on Dec 24th were our last in person services for the year. Therefore, just a few people in HG 11 and HG 2 helped out. Worship Host and Reading are on a "willing to help" basis, with HG people being asked first, but not exclusively, as some people are more comfortable coming out and helping. Tricia took over finding Readers for Dec, and just two Worship Hosts were required each Sunday, one for each entrance. Many thanks to Lorraine Lysak and Jean Cameron who filled that requirement for a number of Sundays! There was no hand shaking, and Bulletins and Hymn Books weren't handed out, as everything is on the screens unless a person would like a Hymn Book. Sanitizer was set out for use, and masks were available if needed. Large print Bulletins were available. Coffee time is missed, but isn't really safe to implement at this time. Since you all will have had such a long break from HG activities, we hope you won't mind helping out when you feel comfortable and are asked, when in-person services resume.

The House Group Program at Sunset is a way of engaging as many people as possible in the activities involved with Sunday services. Every member of the congregation is a member of a House Group. Each House Group is responsible for one month of the year. This includes finding volunteers to assist with ushering (being worship hosts), reading the opening prayers, lighting candles and serving coffee after church. Each House Group has one or two leaders. We have two groups without leaders, so I'd ask anyone who might be willing to become a House Group Leader to contact Sunset Office or Bev Hui.

The Task Descriptions and list of months allocated to each group are now on our website, under Resources (House Groups). A copy of the House Group binder is on the shelves under the small House Group bulletin board in the foyer, with another copy in the office. Please take a look at it, and the Task Descriptions. If you have any questions, check with your House Group Leader, or Bev Hui.

We are open to any ideas which will improve our system. Our success is dependent on the commitment and dedication of the House Group Leaders, and the people who volunteer to fill the positions each month. We acknowledge these contributions and thank Tricia, Jayne and Polly for their support in 2021.

The House Group schedule for 2022 is as follows: (dependent on when in-person services resume)

January	HG 5	Leaders – Hilary & Devin Wallin
February	HG 6	Leaders – Bev & Bosco Hui
March	HG 7	Leaders – currently no leaders
April	HG 8	Leaders – Olive & Bob McLeod
May	HG 9	Leaders – Doreen & Jim Wyatt
June	HG 10	Leaders – currently no leaders
July	HG 11	Leaders – Brenda Scarfe
August	(summer schedule isn't set yet)	
September	HG 1	Leaders – Cathy & Doug Billett
October	HG 2	Leaders – Jean & Bob Cameron
November	HG 3	Leaders – Marilyn & Don Bzdell
December	HG 4	Leaders – Barb & Don Flaten-Orr

Once the summer schedule is set, HG 11 will be responsible for some time during July or August, when Sunset is having services here.

Many thanks to the members of the congregation for your willingness to help when asked. We look forward to your continued support in this important ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Hui, Coordinator

Ladies Fellowship Report

The Sunset Ladies Fellowship, with some sadness, decided that they will not have any more meetings but will still go out together for fellowship. They have given the Sunset United Church Board \$600 and the Regina Ant-Poverty Ministry \$600. Judy is still willing to send out cards at the request of the Board if needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Fawell



LUMSDEN
Beach Camp



Senior Teen Campfire after the rain

mini-ANNUAL REPORT

Highlights

The 2021 Camping season proved to be another challenging one for our staff and board, but judging by all the smiling faces that came off the bus at the end of each day, fun was still found at camp!

The Board of Directors and Executive Director met frequently during the pre-season and were able to pull together eight week-long day camps, held Leaders-in-Training and one week of overnight camp for our oldest campers. Our wonderful staff and volunteers rose to the challenge of another uncertain year, and did it so well, we are now looking to incorporate both Day Camps and Overnights in our 2022 season.

We moved away from manual registration to using, Campbrain, an online system. We also had an artist-in-residence do natural art projects with the campers each week, based around the land at camp, with the help of 4 other guest artists, which was very well received. And of course, the camp classics still took place with many days spent canoeing, swimming, doing archery, running around in sunshine and making new friends.

With every new year, comes new challenges but if these last two years have taught us anything, it's that our community is dedicated and values the spirit of camp.

2021 By the numbers

- 415 Campers
- 8 Leaders in Training
- 70 bus trips between Regina & LBC
- 103 Campers received some kind of financial assistance
- 100% of camper families surveyed indicated that they would recommend LBC to friends or family
- 90% of camper families would consider sending their camper to an overnight & day camp in the future
- 18 Turtles were found in our pond



Financial Highlights

- In 2020-21 LBC had an operating surplus of \$36,939
- This surplus is due to COVID-focused government funding (\$52,247 received).
- Many communities of faith have stepped up and donated to the camp. We are so grateful for your support.

For more information about LBC or to review our full Annual Report, please visit www.lumsdenbeachcamp.com

Ministry and Personnel Committee Report

The Ministry and Personnel Committee is responsible for supporting, overseeing and supervising ministry personnel and lay staff at Sunset United Church.

2021 was again a challenging year for everyone, with Covid-19 sometimes allowing for in-person worship and sometimes not. Rev. Tricia Gerhard, Michele McConkey, Corinne Groff and Shirley Hill have managed to keep providing thoughtful and meaningful worship services on-line and sometimes in person despite all the uncertainties; hopes built up and then some disappointments when in-person worship was not possible. We are grateful to Tricia, Michele, Corinne and Shirley for “rolling with the punches” so capably, cheerfully and with such grace.

In the summer of 2021, we received the resignation of Jayne Strinholm, our long-time office coordinator. We were delighted to recruit Polly Williams-Olesen to replace Jayne. Jayne kindly provided Polly with a thorough orientation which enabled Polly to take on the role amazingly well. We appreciate Jayne for her seven years of dedicated service to Sunset, and we appreciate Polly for taking on the office coordinator position so effectively.

The Committee is also grateful to John Ashley our custodian, who returned to his duties with us in the fall after the church building was closed for much of 2021.

Sunset United Church is truly blessed to have such great people providing their various ministries to us. Thank you so much for all that you do.

Submitted on behalf of the M&P Committee,
Bryan Tudor (Chair), Susan Black, Jean Cameron, Ross Macnab and Dave Warden

Property Committee Report

I want to start off with thanking the following people who year after year help to keep the sidewalks clean around the church. This year’s team includes Don Wuschke, Bosco Hui, Aaron Orban, Keith Schneider, Dean Ast and Ken Fensom. I would also like to thank Robert McLeod for all the minor repairs he does at the church and all the other people who help keep the yard clean, flowers watered, and the lawns mowed.

The main repairs for 2021 are as follows:

- East Side furnace repairs and venting replacement to code ----- \$10,113.97
- Crawl Space East side fan replacement ----- \$1,451.19
- Urinal repairs ----- \$1,080.32
- Outside ground cutter replacements ----- \$1,085.00

The above are the major repairs required. We also have yearly costs for Alarm system, hot water tank rentals, back flow pressure valve testing, janitorial supplies, gas for mower and snow blowers, interior painting etc.

At this point Robert McLeod and I do not for see any major repairs for 2022.

Submitted by,
Ken Fensom, Property Chair

Re-opening Task Group Report

We named this group incorrectly. It should have been called the Opening-Closing-Opening-Closing, and so on, Task Group. When the group was formed, we had no idea what was ahead. We have had an extremely frustrating and depressing time over the past 18 months, as we have opened to in-person worship, only to have to close again after 6 weeks or so, because of rising Covid case numbers. It was particularly difficult when we re-opened this past November, with the intention of remaining open this time.... then we met Omicron!

The on-line services are wonderful, but it's just not the same as gathering together in our worship space. These decisions have been so difficult, and are not made lightly. We are grateful to the everyone in the Sunset community for your patience and understanding. We so hope that we will be opening for in-person worship soon.... and this time for good!

Submitted by,
Hilary Wallin, Brenda Scarfe, Susan Black, Tricia Gerhard and Jean Cameron

Sunday School Report

We did not hold Sunday School in 2021. Michelle has been uploading an activity or more information on the website under "Worship from Home" each week to connect families at home with what occurred in church that week. We are currently working on how Sunday School will look in 2022 as we are aiming to go back in-person in September 2022. We are evaluating which program will be best to use in the future (continue using Workshop Rotation Module or change to something else such as Sanctified Arts or Seasons of the Spirit).

Sunday School is for children ages 3 to 12. We do one large group for all ages and so have to adapt activities for all ages. Volunteers are used each week to support Michelle in leading Sunday School (these can be youth, parents, or other). Activities have included arts and crafts, music, games, outdoor activities, food/cooking, and movies. These might change in the future depending on the program used and how in-person Sunday School will change.

Submitted by,
Michelle McConkey

Treasurer's Report

This year had many ups and downs, but thankfully our financials stayed consistent. Detailed financial statements for 2021 are attached to this report. However, a brief summary is outlined below.

Our collections have stayed comparable to the prior year due to our congregation members who continued to donate throughout the year even when we could not be together physically. Expenses have also stayed comparable with some increases to maintain the church. As well, we were also able to do some significant technology improvements to the Centrum through use of the memorial fund. Overall, we finished the 2021 year with a positive cash flow of \$25,253 which has been added to the contingency fund.

This increase was due to the COVID-19 support programs set out by the Canada Revenue Agency that we continued to take advantage of. We were eligible for the Canada Emergency

Wage Subsidy (CEWS) which makes up the balance in the miscellaneous income account. As well, we received a Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan of \$60,000 to help cover some undeferrable costs. We expect to repay this loan by the end of 2022 and we will have \$20,000 forgiven that we do not have to repay.

For 2020, we had set our Mission & Service (M&S) contribution target at \$20,000, with a commitment of \$10,000 from the operating budget and the remaining to be paid from voluntary donations. As voluntary donations exceeded the \$10,000, we were able to send \$21,734 to the United Church of Canada.

It has been a pleasure to get to know Polly and work together to ensure all the record-keeping was done efficiently and correctly. As well, thanks to Arlene Fehler for her review of the statements the last couple years.

I look forward to another great year on the board and hope to see everyone's face again soon!

Respectfully submitted,
Denelle Hansen

Review of Financial Statements

February 9, 2022

To the Members of Sunset United Church

I have looked over the financial statements of Sunset United Church for the year ended December 31, 2021.

I included in my inspection the monthly statements of operation, bank records and other information supplied for the day-to-day workings of the Church. I examined the recording of revenues, as well as supporting evidence for acquisition of expenditures.

I believe that these financial statements accurately portray the receipts and expenditures of Sunset United Church for the 2021 year-end.

Regards,


Arlene Fehler

Website Report

I have been in charge of the website for a few years now. I update: the calendar of events, information on services, Sunset Board meeting minutes, and anything pertaining to youth and young adults. I am working on ensuring that the information is correct and updated. The website is hosted by Trinity Web Hosting.

Submitted by,
Michelle McConkey

Worship Report

Well to say that things worship-wise have been interesting would be an understatement. This past year has seen the movement from remote to hybrid (in-person) to remote only happen more often than we imagined would be the case for 2021. For the majority of 2021 our worship services were live-stream only with a temporary return to in-person/hybrid worship in September, choir only in-person hybrid for October and November, and then in-person hybrid for Advent and Christmas. Over the last year, the worship team has pre-recorded services, run real-time live-stream only services, and led hybrid worship services with either just the choir members present or with congregational members being present while the live-stream also took place. While pivoting (we really don't like this word anymore) has been hard, the Worship Team and you, the congregation, have moved with grace and humour.

Before I reflect on what we've done over the last year, I just want to say that I am so very grateful for the amazing team of staff and volunteers that support the worship life at Sunset. Sunday mornings you see the staff – Corinne, Michelle, Shirley, and myself – up front, doing our best to either lead worship in an empty centrum or doing our best to remain safe while trying to connect with the folk in the seats. Time and again, I am reminded of how blessed I am, we are, to have a team that works well together, who likes working together, and who supports one another. I'd like to say that we've found our groove. These three women have been flexible, open, and, well, just plain amazing. That's just what you see on Sunday morning. Behind the scenes, we have the tech team: David Gerhard and Christa Eidsness. With their know-how and experience, we've been able to create live-stream worship that is interesting and inviting. With their knowledge, we were able to upgrade our technology to include pan-tilt-zoom cameras (2) which allow dynamic views, new microphones, new soundboard (to make sound balance easier), and software to make the live stream controls easier to use. We look forward to Bonnie Tudor joining the worship team in 2021 to take over the live-stream aspect of worship. Also, behind the scenes on Sunday, but behind the desk the rest of the time, is Polly – our office administrator. She ensures that the bulletin is ready to go for the website and the weekly update, she produces copies of the bulletin for the worship team and choir, and she basically keeps us all organized. Polly deals with the constant shifting of church life with humor and calm, which is deeply appreciated when nerves are raw and stressed. Over the past year, volunteers like Bev Hui and Jean Cameron have been steady and welcoming presences for our in-person worship. Folk have stepped up to join the worship team for both remote and in-person worship offering their voice for readings and singing. For all this, thank you. Thank you for continuing to give life and richness to worship at Sunset. Thank you for saying "yes, I can" when there were so many unknowns. This is just one of the many gifts of Sunset.

Worship was a reflection of our pandemic routine over the last year. We shared the summer worships with Lakeview, Wesley, and Eastside (along with some of Eastside's partners).

SWELL (Sunset, Wesley, Eastside, Lakeview, L) Summer worship had its bumpy moments, but not enough to keep people away. Our Lent and Easter services were remote, and the Sunrise service was canceled. Christmas Eve services were hybrid services with about 15 people present for the Family Service and 35 for the Candlelight service. When we did have in-person services, our average attendance was roughly 40 people (including the choir). Our live-stream only services would have roughly 40 views during the worship time, and then up to 150 views during the week. Each view could be more than one person and reached as far as Washington state. We've shared services with other congregations including Westminster United, Regina and St. Andrews, Lumsden. There have even been shared services with the Clergy and Ministries of the Regina area.

While it hasn't always been easy leading worship to an empty centrum Sunday after Sunday, it was incredibly grounding and helpful to know that even though the centrum was empty, we weren't alone. The connection we shared with each other was constant through this new way of being. Each week I remembered that you were out there, safe and with us in spirit, making worship a part of your daily pandemic routine. We are connected to each other in ways that move beyond pandemic restrictions and isolation. Worship is just one part of that connection. Thank you for being the amazing people you are, offering support and encouragement throughout the year not just to me as your minister, but to the rest of the staff, and each other. Worship is a reflection of the divine love and compassion that we are called to, the way you have lived your lives this past year has been that love and compassion in action. Worship is more than what we do on Sunday morning – "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words."

Submitted with gratitude,
Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Report

It has been another year in the pandemic and things have not run as we would like. In terms of Sunday School, we have not met for almost 2 years and kids have changed so much! I really hope to get back together in September of 2022. For youth Group, I have hoped to do some online events but people are feeling screen-fatigued and just want to do things away from a screen.

For myself, I made a change in 2021 and have moved to a new place in Regina. I felt uncomfortable in my last residence and decided to move (even with all the pandemic challenges; it is not fun moving wearing a mask). I am now feeling much more comfortable and happier in a new place, even if it is a bit further away from the church.

I was also able to visit some family by visiting Manitoba in the summer and British Columbia over Christmas. It was so wonderful to see people in person and visit places that feel new again.

There are going to be changes for our church family in 2022 and I am looking forward to what is going to happen.

Submitted by,
Michelle McConkey

Youth Group Report

We did not hold any Youth Group activities in 2021. Michelle has been uploading activities and events on the Youth Group page on the website. We are currently working on how to return to in-person activities for September 2022. We are also looking at joining with other churches in Regina (as one large group) for youth activities so we can plan larger events in larger spaces.

Youth Group is for ages 12 and up. We have supported many organizations in Regina (Carmichael Outreach, Christmas Hampers, Santa for Seniors, etc.) and have joined for activities such as the annual Church sleepover, Never Dance Alone (for Kids Help Phone) and a multi-generational led service. These activities might change in the future due to evolutions of in-person events.

Submitted by,
Michelle McConkey

Appendix I

Sunset United Church

Balance Sheet

At December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash	127,341	54,507
Term Deposit	17,510	17,495
Prepaid expenses	-	-
GST Receivable	711	462
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>145,563</u>	<u>72,463</u>
Land and Building	868,723	868,723
TOTALASSETS	1,014,286	941,186
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Canada Emergency Business Account Loan	60,000	-
United Church of Canada Mortgage	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>60,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>		
Capital Projects Fund	6,073	9,067
Congregational Education Fund	1,594	1,594
Contingency Fund	76,921	51,667
Memorial Fund	975	10,135
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	<u>85,563</u>	<u>72,464</u>
<u>EQUITY</u>		
United Church of Canada	868,723	868,723
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>868,723</u>	<u>868,723</u>
TOTAL LIAB/RESTRICTEDFUNDS/EQUITY	1,014,286	941,186

Appendix II

Sunset United Church

Income & Expense Statement For year ended December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
<u>INCOME</u>		
Collections	173,695	175,701
Anonymous Collections	112	505
Mission & Service Voluntary	11,734	11,045
Fundraising	1,987	1,102
Funeral	250	-
General Rent	2,878	3,892
Interest Inc	23	153
Misc Income	38,111	2,344
Sunday School	-	1
Sundry	(790)	(200)
TOTAL INCOME	228,000	194,541
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
1.Administration		
Mission & Service Fund	21,734	21,045
National Assessment	9,520	10,279
Office	2,491	8,968
Official Board	450	100
Regional Registration	-	-
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	34,195	40,392
2.BuildingMaintenance		
Building Repair & Maintenance	16,929	11,840
Custodian	4,220	3,034
Electricity	3,414	3,786
Gas	2,669	3,033
Insurance	4,533	4,008
Janitorial Supplies	-	87
Telephone	1,575	1,929
Water	1,827	1,755
TOTAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE	35,166	29,470

	2021	2020
3. Committees		
Affirming	224	100
Benevolent	-	200
Christian Education	926	1,225
Community Service	135	13
Publicity	27	1,104
Worship	2,499	2,714
TOTAL COMMITTEES	<u>3,810</u>	<u>5,356</u>
4. Personnel		
Salary, Minister	66,223	62,994
Con Ed & Learning Resources, Minister	240	-
Salary, Youth Coordinator	6,199	7,448
Continuing Education, Youth Coordinator	-	-
Travel Expenses	-	-
Janitor	-	-
Music Leaders	10,830	9,970
Office Coordinator	20,615	13,706
Pension and Benefits	21,432	18,788
Tech Honorarium	2,000	-
Treasurer Honorarium	2,000	2,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>129,540</u>	<u>114,906</u>
Fundraising Expense	-	-
Clothing Sale Expense	35	831
TOTAL EXPENSES	202,747	190,955
NET DEFICIT/SURPLUS	25,253	3,586

Appendix III – 2022 Budget

Sunset United Church

	2022
<u>INCOME</u>	
Collections	190,000
Clothing Sale	-
Fundraising	2,500
General Rent	7,000
Mission & Service Voluntary	10,000
Miscellaneous Income	20,000
Sundry	100
TOTAL INCOME	229,600
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
1.Administration	
Mission & Service Fund	20,000
National Assessment	10,280
Office	5,000
Official Board	500
Regional Registration	200
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	35,980
2.BuildingMaintenance	
Building Repair & Maintenance	5,000
Custodian	15,000
Janitorial Supplies	1,000
Electricity	4,000
Gas	3,500
Insurance	4,500
Telephone	2,000
Water	2,000
TOTAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE	37,000
3.Committees	
Affirming	300
Benevolent	200
Christian Education	2,000
Community Service	200
Publicity	1,000
Worship	3,500
TOTAL COMMITTEES	7,200

	2022
4. Personnel	
Salary, Minister	67,084
Con Ed & Learning Resources, Minister	2,000
Salary, Youth Coordinator	10,000
Continuing Education, Youth Coordinator	750
Office Coordinator	23,000
Music Leaders	11,000
Pension and Benefits	23,000
Travel Expenses	525
Treasurer Honorarium	2,000
Tech Honorarium	2,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	141,359
Search Committee	5,000
Miscellaneous Expense	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	226,539
OVERALL TOTAL	3,061

Appendix IV – Board Nominations 2022

Chairperson _____ Brenda Scarfe
Vice Chairperson _____ Dave Towers
Past Chairperson _____ Jean Cameron
Treasurer _____ Denelle Hansen
Secretary _____ TBA

Affirming Congregation _____ Trina Hodgson
Board of Trustees _____ David Millar
Community Service _____ Nancy Toppings
Congregational Care (House Groups) _____ Bev Hui
Finance _____ Tim Osborne
Fundraising _____ Marion Tudor
Ministry (ex-officio) _____ Rev. Tricia Gerhard
Ministry and Personnel _____ Bryan Tudor
Property _____ Ken Fensom
Website _____ Michelle McConkey
Worship & Christian Education _____ Tricia Gerhard
Regional Council Representative _____ Marion Tudor
Member at Large _____ Susan Black

Appendix V

Baptisms and Weddings

Baptisms

Tanner David Benjamin, son of Eric Aurel Benjamin and Erin Christine Topping

Funerals and In Memoriam

Funerals

Rose Katherine Johnston	January 31, 2021
Sage Aya Diamond	March 8, 2021
Penny Louise Thibeault	March 29, 2021
Kenneth Paul Balysky	June 30, 2021
Kathleen Mary Oates	August 30, 2021
Edith Katie Mellis	December 25, 2021

In Memoriam

Wynne Edwards	September 22, 2021	Winnipeg, MB
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Members Received by Confirmation

None

Memberships Transferred In/Out for 2021

None