

OTHER REPORTS

**STEWARDSHIP ANIMATOR,
GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE**



Greetings,

After one year in the role of Stewardship Animator I have had the pleasure to virtually meet and work with a number of generosity-keepers from the Prairie to Pine Region. Through phone calls, stewardship training programs, and at the virtual annual meeting last year, I have started to get to know the amazing, faith-filled people of this Region. If we haven't yet met, my role is to provide resources and support to individuals, communities of faith, and other ministries in the areas of generosity, congregational giving, Mission & Service, and the work of the United Church Foundation. If you have ideas, questions or inspiration to share, please get in contact [with me](#).

One way we may have connected over the past year, or could in 2022, is through the learning program, **Called to be the Church: The Journey**. These trainings are designed for community of faith leaders, working as a team, to learn and develop a stewardship plan to help increase giving and deepen connections within your community of faith. There are currently two different modules to help with this work. One Prairie to Pine participant provided this program feedback, *"The course inspires us to look ahead with fresh ideas."* You can register or learn [more here](#).

Speaking of gratitude for shared abundance, Mission & Service is our Church's most powerful vehicle for helping to transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Together we do more. Thanks to generous people like you, across the whole United Church, in 2021, \$240,000 in Mission & Service funding supported a number of ministries in Prairie to Pine. Your generosity through Mission & Service strengthened camps, chaplaincies, economic justice, theological training, and more.

Beyond our borders, Mission & Service also provided \$500,000 in Covid-19 emergency funding, plus \$250,000 towards Covid-19 vaccines. This is on top of support provided to our partners around the globe. And this continues to be a priority as Mission & Service is receiving [donations](#) for the crisis in Ukraine. Your donations to Mission & Service are changing the lives of your neighbours—both here in Prairie to Pine, and around the world. Thank you for your gifts.

Sharing inspiring stories about Mission & Service is an effective way to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage generosity in your community of faith. The pandemic has changed many things, including the way Minutes for Mission are distributed and told, however they certainly have not gone away. New stories are frequently [posted](#). For those who utilize videos in worship, there are also [videos](#) that tell personal stories of the life changing work of Mission & Service. If you want to bring more Mission & Service inspiration into your community of faith, and would like help finding resources, please let me know.

Finally, I want to thank you, the people of Prairie to Pine Region. I have been impressed by the dedication, creativity, thoughtfulness and joy of the people in Manitoba and western Ontario. You have found meaningful ways to faithfully create community during a challenging time. It is amazing and so are you.

In gratitude,

Vicki Nelson, Stewardship Animator for Prairie to Pine Region

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JUBILEE FUND

Making a Difference

I realize that the purpose of this report is to reflect on the work of the Jubilee Fund over this past year but I can't help looking at the past 24 years of this amazing initiative. The idea for the Jubilee Fund was sparked at an ecumenical gathering called Building a Moral Economy in 1997 during the time when the late Moderator Right Rev. Bill Phipps was pushing the Church to advocate for economic justice.

We began the work with a few randomly selected people with a passion for the idea of an ethical investment fund. Garry Loewen was instrumental in getting us through the first steps and connecting us with the right people. The Conference Communication Education and Justice Committee was involved. Over the years the United Church has been well represented by Jim Hercus, Linda Churchill, John Schwandt, Bill Gillis, and Anne Duncan.

Since 2000, the Jubilee Fund has supported affordable housing initiatives, subsidized day care facilities, local non-profits and local businesses such as Neechi Foods, Pollock's Hardware, Food for Thought Catering.

New initiatives in the past year have included:

1. A Rent Guarantee Program intended for women who are currently living in shelters or transitional housing units who have the capacity to make full rent payments but are facing the barrier of a lack of rental history. Jubilee Fund's role is to act as a guarantor for up to 40 women. With this program, women who may have been vulnerable to predatory landlords or returning to an unsafe living situation have an opportunity to build a positive rental history, build healthy community supports, and maintain their independence.
2. A \$550,000.00 direct loan to Harriet Street Seniors Housing to secure property for the development of much needed affordable housing in the heart of Winnipeg. The direct loan is the first step in a process that sees the Harriet Street project fundraise to bring a mix of 49 1 and 2-bedroom affordable multi-residential seniors' units to the heart of Winnipeg. The new seniors housing complex will be located within a short distance of healthcare and other amenities.
3. The Jubilee Fund has partnered with Assiniboine Credit Union and Raising the Roof to help finance Reside - a new housing initiative on Mountain Ave. that will re-purpose an abandoned nail salon. This will create three new units of affordable housing. Two units will be larger and made available to Indigenous families at risk of being separated without safe and available housing. The one smaller unit will be for a youth aging out of care.

Prairie to Pine Region currently has \$ 20,000 invested in the Jubilee Fund. A number of UC congregations and many individuals have also invested or donated. Please consider and encourage your church to consider an ethical investment with (or a donation to) the Jubilee Fund. We are making a difference together. For more information, go to <https://www.jubileefund.ca/>

*Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Trono*

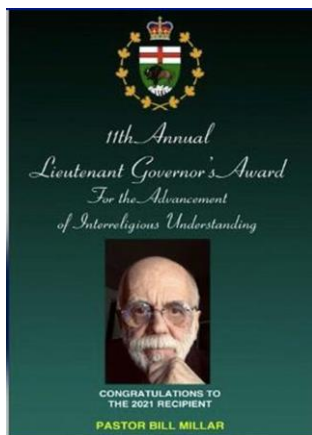
MANITOBA MULTIFAITH COUNCIL



Manitoba Multifaith Council continues its partnership with the wider United Church community, through the Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We embrace this opportunity to honour this relationship.

Meetings: The Manitoba Multifaith Council has continued to meet regularly during the COVID period. This was made possible using technology, especially using Zoom.

A few highlights from the year:



Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Inter-Religious Understanding

The Manitoba Multifaith Council was pleased to honour Rev. Bill Millar as the 2021 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding. As with all worthy nominee submissions, Bill Millar has had a significant impact on the Winnipeg Community, but particularly with his leadership in the inner-city area with his lead role and interfaith outreach. Throughout his career Reverend Millar has been actively involved in interfaith work including involvement with the Interfaith Round Table for 10+ years

Congratulations Bill. This is so well deserved.

Multifaith Leadership Breakfast

Sadly, one of our better known and attended events, the annual leadership breakfast was postponed because of COVID.

Education

The Education Committee, under the leadership of Ruth Ashrafi had been planning to present information evening programs on religions that are less well known but had to be cancelled because, however the first two evenings on the Baha'i and the Church of Latter Day Saints were very successful. They shared the history/origin of the faith, international engagement (where is this faith practiced), some basic beliefs, some, local community, a day in the life of... (what does a life lived according to this faith look like in Winnipeg), challenges (for instance persecution, mixed marriage), service (how does this religious community contribute to humanity), and, finally, also on how various religious traditions share a common humanity. The presenters were diverse, including men, women, young and old.

A Zoom event with Dr Elazar Ben-Lulu on the topic Digital Worship during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Challenges, Chances and Effects. Was attended by many of the members.

Spiritual Health Care

A workshop on "The Covid Lived Experience" was presented with four guest presenters: Doug Koop; Glen Horst; R. Allan Finkel; Dorit Kosman.

A letter of advocacy was sent to the new Health Minister, considering significant gaps in the provision of spiritual health care. The Committee heard back from Barbara Wasilewski almost immediately.

Justice and Corrections Committee

A helpful meeting of Opening Doors was held on June 25, which confirmed the importance of connecting with inmates prior to release.

The annual Art contest went well, sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese. Work continues with New Neighbours.

Multifaith Calendars 2022



This calendar is published annually by the Multifaith Action Society, is a unique educational resource that facilitates understanding of religious observances, occasions and festivals important to a wide spectrum of cultural and faith communities. Features 24 pieces of original art from visual artists across North America and Internationally.

In this 2022 Multifaith Calendar, we celebrate RESILIENCE and the hope that keeps us afloat, even during the most difficult times.

Manitoba Multifaith Council is the official distributor for the 2022 Multifaith Calendar throughout Manitoba.

*Respectfully submitted,
Diane Dwarka
Manitoba Multifaith Council, Board member*

UNITED CHURCH HALFWAY HOMES



April 2, 2022

Submit to: Harrow United Church

United Church Halfway Homes (UCHH) continues to occupy a space on the main floor of Harrow United Church. This serves as an office for the Executive Director. UCHH also rents space at Harrow for Meetings, Training and Events.

Meetings- This year amidst Covid 19 restrictions, United Church Halfway Homes have been afforded the convenience of attending meetings in the lower hall. We have seen an increase in space utilization. A combination of in house and zoom meetings have taken place. The space was used for some staff meetings, union business and interviews.

Training: The space has not been utilized for training this year. Our training for our staff has been held mostly "On line" and individual training off site.

Accommodations: Harrow United Church continues to accommodate UCHH whenever possible.

McMillan Gift Baskets: Every year during Christmas our ladies at McMillan are gifted Christmas presents, hand made knitted items such as blankets, scarf's and other assortment of gifts are provided, children of our residents are also included. Christmas time can be stressful and trigger unpleasant memories for our residents. This good will Christmas gesture, assist to shine a bright light during the holiday season. This year the house was given quilts to utilize on their beds, this provided added warmth for our residents.

UCHH would like to thank the ladies for their kind act of sharing and giving, sending a positive message to our residents.

Events- Due to the continued Covid 19 Restrictions this past year, UCHH has only hosted one event via zoom. We hosted our Annual General Meeting utilizing the Big Screen TV in the lower hall. This has proven to be an excellent alternative to in person meetings.

UCHH is fortunate to experience community partnership with Harrow United Church!

*Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Dennis, Executive Director*

