

OTHER REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT, GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE



This QR code will take you to a digital filing cabinet of [stewardship resources](#)



I am delighted once again to bring news from the stewardship support team, Mission & Service, and the United Church Foundation to the good people of Prairie to Pine.

Over the past year, I have had the honour of meeting with many of you, whether as participants in a *Called to be the Church: The Journey* program, through a phone conversation, or online at the last annual meeting. 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 I would love to connect in 2023 and beyond is through the learning program, *Called to be the Church: The Journey*. We currently have 4-course offerings that provide training and support for different parts of the stewardship journey. Whether you want to learn some stewardship-first principles, get resources to run a congregational Giving Program, or are hoping to set up a Legacy Giving Program in your community of faith, we have training options for you!! One participant provided this program feedback, *"I appreciate the leadership, the enthusiasm, the knowledge, and the support of the leaders of this course. It was a lot of information and was presented in a way that was not overwhelming. The recommendations are practical and doable."* You can 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 2022 saw \$24.5 million raised, including Mission & Service givings totalling \$21.1 million, bequests and other planned gifts totaling \$1.8 million, and over \$1.5 million for the people of Ukraine.

Locally, Mission & Service funds supported a number of amazing ministries in Prairie to Pine. Anti-poverty work happening with 1 Just City, camping ministries like Rock Lake and Wellman Lake, and important education happening at Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre are some of the transformative programs supported with your Mission & Service donations. Thank you!

Setting giving goals and sharing inspiring stories about Mission & Service are effective ways to hold up and celebrate this amazing work, and to encourage deeper generosity in your community of faith. New Stories of our Mission are [posted monthly](#). 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 conversations about stewardship, gratitude, generosity, and Mission & Service into your community of faith, consider signing up for the monthly newsletter [God's Mission, Our Gifts](#).

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the important work being done by the United Church Foundation. In 2022 the Foundation established [four priority areas](#): Anti-Racism, Reconciliation with Indigenous People, Climate Justice, and Communities of Faith. If your community faith has program ideas or is engaged in work that falls into one of these areas, there may be grants available. Additionally, the United Church Foundation is there to help you invest in the ministries you care about.

Thank you, Prairie to Pine Region friends. I am so grateful for your spirit, creativity, generosity, and thoughtfulness. I look forward to learning together in 2023.

In gratitude,
Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff
for Prairie to Pine Regional Council
VNelson@united-church.ca * 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2045



“As responsible investors, we in the church seek to honour the vast wonders and riches of this world and the good life that it offers all living creatures as we exercise our responsibilities as trustees, board members, and people of faith.”¹

The above is one of the lines that stand out for me in The United Church of Canada’s Responsible Investing Guiding Principles. **Jubilee Fund** (<https://www.jubileefund.ca/>) is a social impact investment fund that will use your money for the Common Good. Prairie to Pine is a founding member and has been involved since the turn of the century. The Fund itself grew out of a vision for Building a Moral Economy. This was a particular emphasis of the Very Rev. Bill Phipps when he was Moderator of the United Church from 1997-1999.

Jubilee Fund is Manitoba’s only charitable social impact investment fund that offers financial help for local non-profits and social enterprises working to reduce the impact of poverty. It currently has \$3.15 million in assets and is 90% leveraged with the money going to valuable programs that reduce poverty in Manitoba. In 2022, they also launched Canada’s first Rent Guarantee Program working to co-sign on rental lease agreements for marginalized community members.

Over the past year, the emphasis has been on supporting housing projects. Safe affordable and accessible housing has the greatest power to impact a person’s life, reducing the risk of addiction and providing the foundation for good mental and physical well-being.

In 2022, Jubilee Fund working with Assiniboine Credit Union has supported the following:

- Financial support for the Rainbow Resource Centre’s first affordable housing project for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors.
- A loan guarantee for Raising the Roof’s Reside project - developing property in Winnipeg’s core into a safe, secure, three-apartment complex for families and youth transitioning out of care.

¹ <https://united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/local-administration/congregational-finance/responsible-investment>

- A loan guarantee to Purpose Construction's new siding and eaves trough division allowing them to offer further skills training and employment to those with barriers to employment.
- Offering a Rent Guarantee Program to women at risk, guaranteeing rent for 1 year for women leaving abusive situations and who do not have the financial history to sign a lease on their own. To date, over 20 individuals have been housed.

If your congregation is interested in making a difference with a portion of their funds, we would be happy to do a presentation for trustees, leadership teams, or other groups. We are also available to speak during worship services.

For more information, contact Lynda Trono at lyndatrono@gmail.com. Also, come and visit us at our display table at the Annual Meeting.

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: After COVID, The Manitoba Multifaith Council has continued to meet regularly via technology, especially using Zoom.

Some highlights from the year:

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



Her Honour the Honourable Anita R. Neville hosted a ceremony on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at Government House to honour Mr. Bill L. Weissmann who was the 2022 recipient of this award. Bill was recognized for serving as a bridge-builder and goodwill ambassador for 25 years at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, where he led high school students on synagogue tours, explained Judaism to university students, and welcomed visitors to services, ensuring they had a place to sit and understood how to follow the Hebrew prayer book. Weissman, son of Holocaust survivors, also conceived the idea of opening the annual reading of the Holocaust scroll to people from the community, a move that has involved more than a hundred people over the years. Congratulations Bill on this well-deserved award.

Multifaith Leadership Breakfast



After 3 years, the 8th annual Multifaith Leadership Breakfast with guest speaker, Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham was welcomed back with its event theme "For the Sake of the City", on Tuesday, Feb. 28th at RBC Convention Centre. The theme focuses on engaging and inspiring community leaders and members to work both individually and collaboratively to address current issues to build a better Winnipeg.

At the breakfast, Mayor Gillingham announced the creation of a new faith and cultural liaison committee which will help the city pull together to deal with problems as they arise. The committee will address issues of a rise in Islamophobia, antisemitism, and other discrimination related to someone's faith or their culture.

He also hopes the committee will help with issues related to getting newcomers settled in the city, and address problems like homelessness.

Spiritual Health Care

A full-day in-person workshop, Trauma-Informed Care: Building a Culture of Strength was held on November 3, 2022. Some of the topics included trauma's ripple effect, building a trauma-informed culture, understanding trauma, post-traumatic growth and resilience, and steps for implementing principles.

Multifaith Calendars 2023

We continue to promote and sell this calendar which is published annually by the Multifaith Action Society (MAS) of British Columbia. It is a unique educational resource that facilitates and promotes understanding of religious observances, occasions, and festivals important to a wide spectrum of cultural and faith communities.



Respectfully submitted,

Diane Dwarka

Manitoba Multifaith Council, Board member

UNITED CHURCH HALFWAY HOMES



March 24, 2023

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- Over the past year Covid 19 restrictions have come to a halt. United Church Halfway Homes have been afforded the convenience of attending meetings in the lower hall. We have resumed several in-person meetings, slowly decreasing virtual utilization. This year we will be continuing with a combination of In Person and Virtual Meetings. We utilize two main spaces in Harrow's facilities, both on the lower level. The Parlour room is generally used for staff meetings. The Main Hall is used for larger meetings that require the use of the big screen TV provided in the space. This has been convenient for displaying power point presentations or Virtual Meetings.

Training: The main hall has been used for training this past year as opposed to the previous two years. Training was held online. UCHH projects an increase in, In Person training.

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, handmade knitted items such as blankets, scarves, and other assortment of gifts are provided, and children of our residents are also included. Christmas time can be stressful and trigger unpleasant memories for our residents. This goodwill Christmas gesture assists to shine a bright light during the holiday season. This year the house was provided with home-knitted items and an assortment of gifts in the same fashion as the previous years. Our residents were happy to receive these thoughtful gifts.

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

Events- This past summer UCHH was able to Host an Organizational BBQ for our staff due to lightening of Covid 19 restrictions. UCHH also hosted our Annual General Meeting virtually utilizing the Big Screen TV in the lower hall. Christmas Parties were hosted for staff and residents in individual homes. Residents have attended a Moose game, Movies, Indigenous sweets this past year.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Dennis, Executive Director*

**MANITOBA COUNCIL FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (MCIC)**
(www.mcic.ca)



A coalition of Manitoba-based organizations involved in international development, global citizenship, a just world, promoting sustainability and fair trade.

MCIC collaborates with interfaith groups, educators, youth, not for profit groups. It also has numerous events throughout the year, which are worth attending.

MCIC distributes matching grants from the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada, with the funds from a member organization, in good standing.

There are 3 funding avenues: Global Development Fund, Theme Fund, and Relief Rehabilitation Fund. And there is 1 funding avenue available for non-members called Community Solidarity Fund for developing projects overseas.

In order for UCC to apply for matching grants there needs to be one official representative who lives in the province. As the official rep, I attend the annual general meeting on behalf of UCC, along with events of MCIC.

Through UCC Mission & Service contributions we are able to apply for projects.

For 2022-2023 the UCC project receiving development fund matching grant is the ADES agroecology project - <https://united-church.ca/stories/dora-alicia-sorto-school-farm-and-agroecology-project> . It is the third and final year of the MCIC grant.

Our partner in Tanzania, The Morogoro Women's Training Centre, just completed activities for the Theme Fund from 2021-2022

<https://united-church.ca/stories/capacity-building-and-empowerment-adolescent-mothers-tanzania>

Thi Van Hoang liaisons with global partners and together develop projects which are submitted to MCIC for matching grants. Each province has an international council for cooperation in which other projects are applied for by the UCC.

Thi Van Hoang, Program Coordinator, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Response:
thoang@united-church.ca 416-231-7680 x2758, 1-800-268-3781 x2758

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Wood
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INTERFAITH COUNCIL ON HYDROPOWER INC. (ICH)

Formerly known as
Interchurch Council on Hydropower

<https://hydrojustice.org>

Facebook.com>ICH Manitoba

Email: hydrojustice@gmail.com

The Interfaith Council on Hydropower (ICH) has been involved in policy analysis and public engagement on hydropower issues in Mb. We work to be in relationship with and carry forward the stories of hydro-impacted First Nation's people & communities. ICH's involvement in these themes dates back to the mid-1970s. Our members include official representatives from Mennonite Central Committee, Winnipeg Quakers, Anglican, Catholic,

Lutheran, and United Church conference bodies. Interfaith groups have joined the council. Member churches provide funds for our work. We also apply for grants. Our Prairie to Pine region hasn't made a contribution in recent years. Elder Ellen Cook, Co-Chairperson of ICH writes "hydro development has been the cause of significant loss to land, water, and livelihoods, causing massive destruction and desolation to everyone and everything that lives in the shadow of the dams. Over 50 years of hydro development have left our communities in incredible pain. She continues: 'As keepers of the water, we women must find a way to heal from the devastation of the waterways which surround us, and are now being 'rented out 'to Mb Hydro, by the feeling of helplessness to confront the problems and find meaningful ways forward. "

Summary of some activities of the Interfaith Council on Hydro Power:

As a council we keep in mind unofficial guideposts: 'What's at the other end of the line'; Cree Elders's assertion is they have a responsibility as stewards of Mother Earth which is in direct conflict with settler colonial legislation & regulatory agencies. The laws & legal traditions within First Nations are rooted in each First Nation society & are therefore distinct from one another. First Nations legal traditions are completely distinct from settler colonial legal traditions both in form & function.

- A few members wrote a song entitled “**Dam Shame**” about the Churchill River Diversion. (CRD) Go to [YOUTUBE.Com](https://www.youtube.com), and look for the “**Dam Shame**” Lyric Video We sing this resource when making presentations.
- We joined with several other organizations to form a ‘**Coalition for Public Utilities Board Independence**’ (PUB). Our goal was to protect the PUB & the interests of Manitobans & First Nations peoples. Bill # 36 – Mb PUB Amendment Act was passed with amendments in 2022. Rate application hearings will now be held every 3 years rather than annually. Members of the council made presentations.
- We are facilitating a second ‘**Healing Kohkom’s Circle**’, summer of 2023. We facilitated a gathering of grandmothers & youth in 2019. The Kohkom’s & youth will gather from hydro-impacted communities. Misipawistik Cree Nation is hosting the circle. (Grand Rapids). Elder Ellen Cook, co-chairperson of ICH, writes: ‘Water is a human right, not a commodity. Kohkom’s from hydro-impacted communities will meet with each other & with the youth to share what can be done within our Nation’s communities to assist young people find their way to that life that made our people resilient & strong.’
- We’re developing a campaign & resource ‘**Let’s Work Together**’ inviting Mb churches and others to learn, understand & be in solidarity for a hydro justice strategy in working towards reconciliation between consumers of hydropower & hydro-impacted First Nations.
- We are actively working on a ‘**Sturgeon Marking Project**’. (stenciling) The sturgeon fish populate the rivers damned by Mb Hydro, and their numbers are greatly being reduced. This is an awareness campaign intended to bring attention to hydrogeneration. We consider that stenciling the image of a sturgeon on hydro poles in Mb will serve as a reminder that we are interconnected with what we consume, and what we destroy. (Go to hydrojustice.com for stencil design & instructions)
- We continue to partner with First Nation’s peoples on the Churchill River Diversion (CRD), Lake Wpg Regulation (LWR) & the Augmented Flow Program (AFP). Mb Hydro is requesting a final license with no renewal, the deadline is 2024. O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation has asked the province to not renew the license because of the continued impact on their Nation & the environment which is devastating their land, water, river/lake erosion, and the loss of the 3rd largest fishery in North America. (South Indian Lake)

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Wood
1929dfwoo@gmail.com

MUSIC FOR LIFE (M4L)

We are a small working group who are actively engaged in action towards reconciliation with First Nations peoples in Mb & NW Ontario.

The purpose of the project is to enhance the safety & well-being of Indigenous children & youth, especially in remote, under-served communities, as well as inner-city neighbours. Specifically, it is understood as a suicide, gang involvement & substance abuse prevention strategy that promotes resilience among at-risk youth.

Music for Life provides Indigenous & Newcomer youth & children with musical instruments (at no cost) to local community groups who want to plan a music program within their community or neighborhoods. The local community groups /neighborhoods plan and develop their own music program, as well as recruit local musicians as teachers. Music for Life provides the musical instruments requested, as well as funds for a small honorarium to instructors, funds for snacks, and music books. The local group determines what ages, instruments, and kinds of music to teach. In other words, the local community group is in charge of their project.

The unique characteristic of Music for Life is we don't plan a course of action for community groups. We provide musical instruments at no cost. Musical instruments provided include ukuleles, guitars, violins, an accordion, and material for drums with guidance from Elders. We have provided musical instruments for an after-school program and/or summer camps at a number of places and people:

Mukisew after school program, Pimicikamk Cree Nation. (Cross Lake, Mb).

Wapanohk Community School after school program, Wapanohk Cree Nation. (Thompson, Mb)

Indigenous Family Centre, summer camp, Winnipeg, Mb.

Spence Neighborhood Association, funds for DJ Training program, Winnipeg, Mb

St. Thomas Weston Anglican Church, summer camps in 2024, Winnipeg, Mb.

Kenora Fellowship Centre, drop-in program, Kenora, Ontario.

Our working group includes representatives from the Winnipeg Quaker Meeting, Robert Miller Kairos regional group of NW Ontario & Mb., Ellen Wood, Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church, Vince Solomon, Prairie to Pine UCC regional council, Ellen Wood, and the Spence Neighborhood Association, Apid Gurung.

We rely on developing relationships & connections with community groups & organizations, such as churches, health services, newcomer groups, recreation clubs, schools, and individuals. We are a sub-committee of the Interfaith Council Hydropower. As the Kairos & Prairie to Pine rep, I am always looking for connections with Indigenous and newcomer individuals & organizations who may be interested. I have limited connections within the region, and rely on others to assist me.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Wood
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KAIROS REGION
N.W. ONTARIO & MANITOBA
kairoscanada.org

The Kairos regional group (NWOnt&Mb) is an ecumenical group made up of 12 people from different denominations. We have Elder Ellen Cook and knowledge keeper Yvonne Bearbull as well as member Brigitte Lubaka Wabiwa. We meet as a coordinating group once a month for 2 hours. We study resources to educate ourselves before we recommend them to congregations & interest groups. In 2022 we studied land acknowledgements & Treaty and land taken, the doctrine of discovery & terra-nullius (DOD& TN) & how our doctrine of belief intersect with the DOD&TN). We have reps from Thunder Bay, Brandon, Kenora, and Wpg. There are 4 Kairos community groups, Brandon, NEJP (northeastern Wpg), West Wpg, and central Wpg. Different reps bring forward issues their denomination is working on. Although it has been challenging for us to connect directly with church communities, largely due to our capacity.

In 2022, we held a Spring Gathering and a Fall Gathering (speakers included Natalie Copps 'The Legalities of Treaties & Hydro Development, & Water Rights; and Janice Bone, 'Water, Dreams & Treaties: Agnes Ross' Memekwesiwak Stories & Treaty 5'. The theme for both was Sacred Water.

Bob Haverluck, who donated his book 'Court Case of the Creatures' to Kairos Cd, we sold 50 copies as a fundraiser.

We have participated & developed relationships with partners: calling on Cd to pass corporate accountability legislation; Migrant justice – temporary foreign agricultural workers; TRC calls to action, MMIGW2S as well as MMI boys & men; fossil fuel & Indigenous land & practices; Music for Life group; Interfaith Council Hydropower; Kairos 'for the love of creation' campaign; legacy of Residential Schools & unmarked graves of children; member of the City of Wpg Indigenous Accord. Our work is very fluid, as an issue comes forward, we respond.

Our most requested resource is the Kairos Blanket Exercise. Contact Carin Crowe (oday20@mymts.net) (204-475-5237). We don't do KBE in the summer & early fall, or during Dec!

Although I've written this report, I am no longer the Chairperson of the coordinating committee, stepping aside after 7 years. I have found our group & the people we've met & partnered with to be life-giving and gratitude, with thanks from Ellen Wood.

Consider joining the coordinating committee, a community group, or developing a community group. You don't have to live in Wpg, we encourage group development throughout the Kairos region.

Our new chairperson is Debby Coombs Dandy from Brandon. She is our contact person, kairosdebby@outlook.com (204-726-008).

Bob Haverluck art & quote 'Duck re-inflating a deflated activist' (taken from Take Heart by Kathleen Dean Moore, art by Bob Haverluck, pg. 140).

Respectfully submitted,
 Ellen Wood
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