




May 15, 2021
Congregational
Meeting

2021-22
Annual
Program
Report

THIS YEAR
Sept. 2021 – May
2022



eastside
united church

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Agenda

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Motion to allow adherents to vote.
- 3) Motion to adopt the agenda.
- 4) Motion to adopt the minutes of the 2021 Congregational Finance Meeting.
- 5) Programming Reports:
 - a) Leadership Team
 - b) Ministry and Personnel
 - c) Faith Formation
 - e) Congregational care
 - f) Others?

Poll of the congregation:

- 6) Nominations and Elections
 - a) Appointment of Trustee
- 7) Enabling Motion: “the Eastside Leadership Team be empowered to deal with and act on all routine and emergent matters until the next congregational meeting except those matters which, according to the Manual of the United Church of Canada, require congregational approval.”
- 8) Motion to Adjourn.



**Eastside United Church is a progressive spiritual community, celebrating
God’s goodness as expressed through diversity.**

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EASTSIDE PROGRAM CONGREGATIONAL FINANCE MEETING MARCH 13, 2022 Draft Minutes

PROGRAM MEETING NOTICE: Notice for this meeting was part of the weekly announcements which are sent via email to Eastside members. As well, the meeting notice was given at the church services, being done via Zoom, the last two Sundays.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm by Sarah Tkachuk.

2. Motion to allow adherents to vote.

Moved by Carol Hein. Seconded by Jayne Krueger. Carried.

3. Motion to adopt the agenda.

Moved by Sam Baidoo. Seconded by Clare Banks. Carried.

4. Motion to adopt the minutes of the June 14, 2020 Congregational Meeting.

Minutes uses the word "finance" in title, needs to be removed. Typo in Brian Abrahamson's report. Teresa Strachan. Seconded by Bonnie Yake. Carried.

5. Living Spirit Council Report – Bonnie Yake

Executive council is still requiring masking. The building will not be renting smaller board rooms yet. There is future intent for discussing how the congregations will share costs. Eastside will be needing to find members from the congregation for the LSC council. Contact Bonnie or Sarah for more information.

6. Finance Report – Jim Fallows

Eastside's revenue has been lower than previous years (2019 was the highest). There was a \$5,387 deficit, including paying down the mortgage. In 2020, Eastside had a \$17000 excess. A mortgage fund was created which will cover next year's mortgage. Eastside's share of costs of the LSC: 3 years ago was 32 percent and has gone up over the past few years. Eastside now pays 40.5% due to good revenue. Bread of Life and Immanuel have been struggling with finances. Eastside is paying quite a bit. We requested a small reduction and both Bread of Life and Immanuel agreed. Share of the mortgage: we owe about \$25,000. This expires August of 2024. The best practice in charitable sector is having 3 months worth of expenses—Eastside is doing well in this regard.

Q: Could you give us more information about the denominational assessment?

A: Denominational assessment: we once paid an assessment to the presbytery. Our assessment came from the UCC OF Canada. We were told there would be no regional assessment.

Q: Is the mortgage a set or floating rate?

A: we have a floating rate, ours recently went up a quarter of a percent which has not effected us too much financially.

Motion to approve financial results for 2021: Bonny Manz moved, seconded by Jayne Krueger. Carried.



Expenses have gone up quite a bit, LSC costs increased due to us having a larger share of LSC operating costs. Most is due to an over estimated budget. Revenues have a budgeted increase to cover costs.

Q: The other two partners agreed for us to decrease our percentage of the share of these expenses — what did the other congregations take on?

A: We were expected to pay 42% which was reduced to 40.5%. The Lutherans accepted another 1%, and Immanuel took on another .5%.

Clare Banks moved that the budget be accepted. 2nd by Teresa Strachan. Carried.

7. Motion to appoint Reviewer of Eastside 2021 books

Bonnie Yake moved that Greg Thomas be appointed as reviewed of Eastside 2021 books. 2nd by Bonny Manz. Carried.

8. Enabling Motion:

“the Eastside Leadership Team be empowered to deal with and act on all routine and emergent matters until the next congregational meeting except those matters which, according to the Manual of the United Church of Canada, require congregational approval.”

Moved by Delia Baidoo. Seconded by Norma Wheatley. Carried.

9. Motion to Adjourn.

Jayne Krueger moved meeting be adjourned. Adjournment - 12:35 p.m.

Minister's Report

We take this time to look back on another full year in the midst of this pandemic. We never imagined we would be experiencing this disruption for over two years, yet we continue to adapt and be resilient! We have committed to continuing to offer worship online, while offering in-person Worship again in September. This 'Hybrid Worship' allows for people to worship the way they are comfortable, as well as enables those who have joined us from outside of Regina to continue to worship with us. This is part of the *new normal*. As part of this I worked with the Leadership Team and we agreed to hire along with Bread of Life someone for live streaming and tech support. We are so appreciative of the gifts Brayden Barrett brings to this ministry, and that his partner Michelle Dickie has stepped in to assist with the PowerPoint operation each week. I am extremely grateful to Brian Abrahamson and Ray McVicar of the Property and Maintenance Committee who have been very supportive of our tech needs as we troubleshooted what was needed and what would work for us as we adapted for hybrid worship. It has continued to be a challenging year with regard to planning. Each time I began to think we could offer in-person programming, especially for ministries such as the Community Dinner or Film and Faith, another wave would hit. It was important to continue online to keep each other safe.

We have moved to having Film & Faith in person at the church as well as online. We have mostly been watching movies on the free service CBC Gem and discuss films online afterwards. All other programs continue completely online, including Courageous Faith, Craft/Study Group, Community Dinner, Faithful Climate Conversations, and all our committee meetings. Following Faithful Climate Conversations, the group was energized to continue the work and formed a **Climate Justice Group** that is a Living Spirit Centre Committee. We are in the process of welcoming other members from all the congregations. This group had a hybrid meeting in March, which got me identifying some ways and means to make these kinds of meetings more feasible and easier. This includes technology needs which Becca and I are working on together.

I continue to offer support to committees: Congregational Care, Faith Formation, Gratitude Team, the new Climate Justice Group, Affirming Ministry projects (no active committee), and the Leadership Team. We are moving toward a potential crisis in leadership as almost all committees are struggling with people to serve on them. In particular, Congregational Care lost a few members and revamped their work, Gratitude Team needs a few more members, and the Leadership Team is presently looking for members including a chair to take over for Sarah who is now chairing the LSC Council. The Gratitude Team and Congregational Care do not have anyone as a regular chairperson, with Congregational Care doing a rotation of chairing and taking minutes. I am currently chairing and taking minutes for the Gratitude Team. If you have been thinking about stepping in to serve the church and are interested in any of these committees, I would love to hear from you! This challenge of having enough

people to serve is quite common in other congregations as well. As I write about this, I also wish to share that I am working towards changing our language from volunteering to serving. As people of a faith community, we don't just volunteer, we serve as part of our response to God's love and call. I think this reflects who we are much better.

As we move through the transition with Immanuel Parish and redefine and understand our new partnership, many of you may be wondering where things are at. It is quite a challenge bringing together five congregations - five communities who each have their own ethos and experience. We have been giving them grace to work together and sort out their own identity as we invite them to participate with us as they can. The clergy are all done their term with Immanuel as of June 30 and will no longer be working with the Parish as they move forward in their next phase. I have been leading the Partnership Task Group which was trying to work on what might need to be changed in our Covenant and partnership agreement, as well as what contribution they may be able to make to the partnership financially. After many months of tasks not being done between meetings due to people's busy lives and the amount of work Immanuel has been dealing with, this group has been put on hold until we have better clarity regarding Immanuel's community and their relationship with us. They are committed to the partnership, as is the Diocese and the new Bishop, Helen Kennedy.

We have been blessed with our musicians that we have secured this past year. We celebrated Michelle Dickie's gift of piano playing and offering her voice during the Pandemic until she became unable to play due to the effects of long-term Covid. We are grateful for Hyunju Park and Wendy Hardman who have effectively and beautifully offered their gifts and skills. Wendy will be leaving us May 15, the date of our meeting as she moves back East. We are grateful for the ministry she offered us. I am thrilled that Hyunju will be able to play for us weekly following this time. We are also excited to have Maureen Hughes working to get the choir back together starting May 15 to lead the hymns during worship and offer an anthem when they are comfortable.

With regard to Continuing Education, I was finally able to attend a Fresh Expressions Conference that I had won a free registration for in 2020, but was postponed due to the Pandemic. This was a great conference content wise, which I attended at the end of March. A challenge arose due to the lack of a masking mandate. I attended a pre-conference event which was very helpful about Adaptive Leadership, which is what has been needed during this time (how many times have you read the word 'adapt' in this report?!) Adaptive challenges require systemic problem solving and cannot be solved by existing skills, knowledge or experience like technical problems can be. We have needed this kind of leadership to navigate this pandemic, and will continue to. As I write this, I am heading to Seattle for the Inhabit Conference sponsored by the Parish Collective, the organization I took the Leadership in the New Parish program a few years ago. This is the ministry of how we be church in the neighbourhood and be open to what God is already doing in the community.



Previous to the Pandemic I was going to apply for a Growth Grant with the United Church of Canada Embracing the Spirit fund. With the Pandemic this did not happen, but as we move forward into the *new normal* I finally was able to work on it and submitted it April 20. This grant proposes to partner with Munch Café to offer Community Dinners, and identifies ways we can link the Community Dinner with other programs we are doing as well as some new initiatives (like a neighbourhood Entrepreneurs' Fair), to promote the dinner in the community, and expand neighbourhood involvement.

I am so grateful to Linda Fowler (who has stepped back from leadership) and Doug Scheurwater who have both coordinated the meals for the dinners pre-pandemic.

With the Pandemic, there has not been much happening within the Wider Church, especially the Regina Cluster. I initiated getting this group going again and we are gathering with the ministers this month to plan next steps toward a gathering of congregations in the fall to explore next steps together as we discern how we be church in Regina and best use our resources together.

As we have moved through this time, and all the work outlined above (and the things I have not or forgotten to mention) I have also done my best to respond to the pastoral needs of the community. Too often is this only when there is a crisis and so I apologize to those who may have hoped for a call from me and have not received one. I have many on my list to call and confess I need to do better to connect with those in need. I am so appreciative of Congregational Care who offer so much support to our folk in need every month. I am also very grateful for Ken Powers and Hazel Arbon who so often offer worship and pastoral care support when I am away.

I want to commend the Leadership Team who have also acted as our Pandemic Response Committee during the past few years. They have considered the challenges and decisions faithfully, with care and concern for everyone's health and wellbeing.

Finally, I wish to thank Becca Anderson who has offered excellent and creative leadership in the office. We enjoy her creativity each week in the weekly emails, PowerPoints and announcements. I am so grateful for her expertise and wisdom.

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker, Diaconal Minister

Leadership Team

What a crazy year! If there was one constant at Eastside this year, it is change! We are very blessed at Eastside this year to have been able to adjust in a time that included a great deal of pivoting from in person to hybrid and back again! Last fall we were excited to welcome our community back in person in the sanctuary. We remained online for many activities and meetings. We are grateful that we have been able to maintain a hybrid worship model throughout the year. We are finding that as we move back into a society that is reopening, there are still lots of benefit in having

an option to join virtually. Some still feel safer at home, and it does allow those that are not physically in Regina to participate. We are grateful for Brayden, our tech support; and many others who make this flexible model possible. We are always looking for ideas and ways to improve, so please let us know if you have ideas of ways to make the worship experience better for you.

This year has brought about other changes at Eastside and the Living Spirit Centre ("LSC"). Changes to the Anglican Diocese in Regina, and the evolution of a new Immanuel parish means that the Living Spirit Centre will be changing in the coming years. It will be important that we continue to engage with our partners in the LSC to prayerfully discern our path forward. At the same time, there are changes happening in the United Church as well. COVID has presented us with an opportunity to reexamine the way that we do 'church' in our world and presents us with some unique opportunities to evolve. We are blessed to have an innovative community and some amazing leadership in Russell who challenges us as a community to question our comfortable and sometimes outdated habits. The Leadership Team is going to be doing strategic planning over the coming months as we prepare for the upcoming year. If you have ideas for new programming or something that you would like to see happen, please let the leadership team know. We are grateful to be in a community that looks forward with passion and purpose.

The Leadership Team wishes to say a huge THANK YOU to all of our amazing volunteers that do so much to keep our community running smoothly. If you have a passion that you would like to share, or talents that you would like to contribute, we would be so grateful to have you involved in a committee, project or activity. We want to be able to give some of our longstanding volunteers a break or a chance to rotate around, so if you can contribute please let Becca at the office know. We would be very grateful to have your contribution to our community.

And last but not least, we are so very grateful to our minister, Russell Mitchell-Walker, as well as our other team members, including Becca Anderson in the office, and our worship support of Brayden, Wendy and Hyunju. And thank you to everyone in our community. It wouldn't be the same without each and every one of you. We are truly blessed, thanks be to God!

Submitted by Sarah Tkachuk





Eastside United Committees & Ministries

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel Committee currently has four members: Cathie Henderson, Lori Latta, Teresa Strachan and Brenda Adamko. This committee supports the staff, in our case Russell and Becca, in a number of ways. We help with employment issues, such as working conditions, money, and time off. We support staff in choosing educational opportunities and make sure they have the time and the funds to pursue them. We report to the Leadership Team to keep them informed about staff issues and for approval of new projects or continuing education plans. We are also the liaison between the staff and the congregation in the event of a conflict.

In the fall, we met with both Russell and Becca to help them set goals for the coming church year. They outlined their priorities, both new initiatives, and the continued development of programs already in place. In June, we will meet with them again to go over the successes and challenges of the year.

Becca has been with us at Eastside for a year now. She is doing an excellent job of keeping us informed of what's happening at church through social media, keeping the office running smoothly and preparing the PowerPoints for services. Becca is also an active church member and is involved in committees. We are blessed to have such a creative, hardworking and efficient person on our team.

Russell has continued to offer programs that engage people in discussion and spiritual growth during the week, and to offer thoughtful and thought provoking Sunday messages. He meets the inevitable technical challenges that emerge with our hybrid worship with patience and good humour. This hybrid format has proven to be well worth the challenges involved, since it allows more people to participate in worship. Russell and Brian, along with other technical advisors deserve our gratitude for making this work.

Russell was able to attend an in-person continuing education conference this spring, after two years of virtual learning. This particular conference was in Seattle at the end of April and was about supporting new types of ministries in the modern church. Russell is entitled to, and is encouraged to take time every year for continuing education. We all benefit from his encounters with people with new ideas and different viewpoints. We thank Russell for sharing his energy, his commitment to social justice in our community and his faith with the Eastside family.

We would like to remind you that part of M&P's role is to attempt to resolve conflicts that may be brought forward by a member of the congregation. If someone has a complaint about something happening at church, or something not happening, we would encourage them first to speak to the person to try to resolve it. If this is not possible, they may speak to a member of the Ministry and Personnel Committee

and we would approach the person on their behalf, albeit not anonymously. You may contact any of the members of M&P with your concerns.

We currently have four members on our committee but are able to have up to seven. If this committee interests you and you would like to join us for next year, let us know. We always welcome additional input and points of view.

Ministry and Personnel Committee

Cathie Henderson cathie.henderson91@gmail.com

Lori Latta lorilatta@live.ca

Teresa Strachan Teresa.strachan@hotmail.ca

Brenda Adamko Brenda.Adamko@gmail.com

Faith Formation Committee

The Faith Formation group continued to be very active during the 2021-2022 year despite the continued challenges of the pandemic. Some of our high-lights included:

- Messy Church continued with the sharing of links for families to do at home as well as Advent and Easter packages that were delivered to families in the congregation. Sunday School was offered via Zoom, but this did not appear to meet the needs of families. Sunday School returned in person for April and May.

- Worship was enhanced through:

 - Hybrid services which allowed people to join at the church or via Zoom.

 - We anticipate that hybrid services will continue in the future as we now have regular attenders who live outside of Regina.

 - Relief leadership provided primarily by Ken Powers and Hazel Arbon and also Deb Anderson Pratt.

 - Congregation members sharing important pieces of art during the some of our services.

 - Brayden Barret was hired to manage the technical pieces of broadcasting on Zoom and was supported with volunteers. Technical issues prevented the continuation of the concurrent live feed to Facebook Live, but the services were recorded and later posted on the Facebook page.

 - Further enhancements for our online worship were established with a purchase of a TV monitor and a transmistter/receiver to send the Power-Point to the Monitor.

- Christmas services:

 - We were able to offer hybrid services during Advent

 - Blue Christmas service

 - LSC Indigenous Service on Christmas Eve

 - Carol sing and worship service was offered in the church



Two Hybrid Christmas Eve services, including a shared communion service with Bread of Life

Outreach:

We returned to supporting Rainbow Youth at Christmas
Eastside had a presence in the Pride parade when it returned in person in June

Additional Ministry programming:

Film and Faith continued primarily on-line with some hybrid options
Craft Study group read See No Stranger by Valerie Kaur, My Grandmother's Hands by Resmaa Menakem, and Faith After Doubt by Brian McLaren
Community dinners continued monthly virtually

Next steps

Recruiting leaders and participants for House groups continues to be a challenge. At one time 3 of the 4 House groups were led by members of Faith Formation.

Submitted by Leanne Sudom

Craft/Study Group

Thursday afternoons remain a highlight for us. From September to sometime in June, about 8 to 14 of us meet via zoom to discuss a book. The group is open to everyone. We have a few regulars who don't attend Eastside. This variety of backgrounds makes for interesting and informative discussions. We usually vote from a list of books that people have suggested. Each session, we begin with a check-in & prayer. Then we discuss a chapter or two of the particular book we are studying at the time.

During the past year we have studied the following books:

See No Stranger by Valerie Kaur

Faith After Doubt by Brian McLaren

And we just started My Grandmother's Hands by Resmaa Menakem

Our discussions range from theological, sociological, psychological, & political effects of the particular themes of the different books to how these themes relate to us personally. We discuss how we might make changes individually as well as corporately. Our discussion can become deeply personal. Over the years we have grown closer as a group even though with each book the group varies somewhat. Some of the books have study questions to discuss and Russell guides us through these or other questions he or someone else comes up with. Russell often has to reign us in when the discussions get derailed! But we have a lot of fun as well as do a lot of deep processing.

Submitted by Delia & Sam Baidoo

Film and Faith

As the pandemic continued, Film and Faith continued to meet online, watching movies on CBC Gem and joining together on Zoom afterward for discussion of the spiritual themes, usually the last Friday of the month. We would start on Zoom as well for check-in and make sure everyone knew the movie choice and could access it. As things began to improve with the Pandemic we began offering an in-person option at the church, where those who were comfortable could gather at the church and watch the movie together. Over the year we have watched a variety of inspiring, thought provoking and challenging movies including *The Grand Seduction*, *Double Happiness*, *A Million Colours*, and *The Trial of The Chicago Seven*. Each month 5-10 people gather to watch and discuss a movie.

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker

Community Dinners

We continued the Community Dinner online this past year. While some people eat, many join us for the fellowship and worship experience. Each month, 6-20 people gather on Zoom for an informal worship gathering which includes a reflection time and small group discussions in break out rooms. The reflection could be a speaker, a video, or a service like the Season of Creation worship service. Other themes this year included Homelessness with Bonnie Morton of the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry speaking; Heaven on Earth with Jo Luehmann at Wild Goose Festival; our Christmas Carol Evening; Martin Luther King Day, Indigenous Storytelling and History Month; and Earth Day. We look forward to (fingers crossed) June 16 being in person for our Gratitude Community Dinner with Munch Café in appreciation for all those who serve and are part of our community.

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker

Courageous Faith

Courageous Faith has become a regular series of programs offered by Convergence US, which is an organization of the United Church of Christ, that works with congregations on how we be church in these changing times. Each year they offer an online summit of prominent speakers, theologians, pastors, and activists that provide great reflections on faith, church, and culture. We have purchased access to all the recorded sessions and gather to listen to a speaker and discuss our questions and response afterwards. This years' sessions included Brian McLaren, Diana Butler Bass, Valarie Kaur and Sister Simone and Rev. Jacqui Lewis. There were 5 participants who participated on Zoom.



Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker

Climate Conversations

In early February we held two sessions of Faithful Climate Conversations, a resource which Kairos (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Coalition) was a part of. 6 of us gathered to explore the topics of the two sessions: From Concern to Action and Build and Better Future. We explored topics such as: What is Climate Change; The challenges and barriers to change; What we have done and can do individually, and in our community to address climate change. The group identified that we would like to see the Solar Panel project for the Living Spirit Centre Renewed. There was also such energy that the group wanted to continue and formed a Climate Justice Group which is now a Living Spirit Centre committee and the Council also approved re-starting the solar panel initiative which Property and Maintenance has responsibility for. IF you wish to be part of the Group, contact the chair Becca Anderson. If you wish to be part of the Solar Panel Committee, contact Brian Abrahamson or Mavis Olesen.

The Climate Justice Group will be having monthly Climate Change Educational Forums and meets on the First Thursday of the month. It's current members are: Becca Anderson (Chair), Mavis Olesen (Secretary), Evan Anderson, Bonnie Yake, Kacey Colibaba and David Sawchyn and Mary Vetter (BoL).

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker

Congregational Care

Committee members are Delia Baidoo, Diane Dopko, Elaine Hill, Sheri Nupdal, Barb Rio, Russell Mitchell- Walker, advisor.

This year our work continued with the following goals:

- To become aware or informed of people in need within Eastside
- Making monthly phone calls to those who have an identified need (illness, grief, loneliness, isolated, etc.)
- Welcoming newcomers on Sunday morning through the designated Congregational Care Greeter from the committee. Since March 2021 we have been doing a part of the "welcome".
- Coordinating and participating in the Prayer Chain. Committee members are on the prayer chain, manage the list of those who wish to be on the prayer chain.
- Grief Support through the offering Journey Through Grief booklet series and offering prayer shawls and visits to those who are bereaved.
- Celebrating new babies into our community
- Supporting one another to carry out the ministry
- We are committed to encouraging the congregation to keep us informed when people are in need.

We met the first Thursday of each month via Zoom except for July and August, then again starting in September to this date. We use a rotating chair process as well as a rotating phoning process.

This year has been particularly busy for Russell and committee members with phone calls, since there have been many prayer requests related to Covid 19 challenges.

In addition, we checked in on those we have not seen on Zoom and connected with those who aren't on online, including delivery of weekly e-mails and announcements.

We would like to thank Linda Fowler who stepped away from this committee after many years of faithful service.

We would also acknowledge and thank the prayer shawl knitters/ crocheters/ contributors; Gladys Oleksyn, Clare Banks, Debbie Morehouse and the other "anonymous secret angels" whose shawls mysteriously appear in the bin each month and also Sonia Abrahamson who sends sympathy cards on our behalf to those who have lost loved ones.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the CONGREGATIONAL CARE Committee.

Elaine Hill, April 2022

Affirming Ministry

With the Pandemic, the Pride Parade was a scaled back version again, with only vehicles allowed. Leanne Sudom, Brian and Russell Mitchell-Walker held the banner in the truck driven by Darrell Reine of Westminster, and the contingent was also joined by Sunset United and representatives of the Lutheran Churches of Regina. Many of our folk watched in a group. PIE (Public, Intentional, Explicit) Day did not see anything planned by the group here, but we had the most members from Regina join the Living Skies Region Affirming Ministry Gathering for PIE day online. We are looking to coordinate the Faith Communities contingent again for the Pride Parade, including an ecumenical communion service after the parade. A committee does not exist at the moment but has a significant group of people willing to serve when a project arises. There would be a committee if someone stepped forward to lead/chair the group.



Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker



Gratitude Team

The GRATITUDE TEAM meets on a monthly basis via ZOOM.

Every month we place a GRATITUDE IMAGE on the weekly e-mail newsletter. Look for it ! It's a reminder how fortunate we are!

We're giving talks during Minute for Mission Time about Gratitude and " Giving from the Heart" once a month, usually on the third Sunday of the month!

Our Stewardship Campaign started in September and was up and running in October. This involved preparing documents to be sent out to the Congregation. Thanks to Teresa Strachan for her help in collating these documents ! There was a Stewardship Sunday (Oct.24) and the packages were delivered or mailed out . Wanda used a jigsaw puzzle as a visual representation of the pledges collected from the congregation ! Forty-seven responses came back to us. We would like to take this opportunity to THANK everyone who did respond for their generous support of Eastside United Church!

Many thank you notes were prepared and sent out to individuals for their donations of time, talent and treasure!

Wanda resigned in February. THANK YOU, Wanda for all your Time and Talent you gave to the Gratitude Team! It was a real gift to have Wanda as part of the team!

Maureen has developed a calendar that identifies the Tasks for each month. That will be very helpful for anyone that would like to join us!

We are planning for a combined Community- Gratitude Dinner on Thursday, June 16. We will invite a resource person to give a talk on Legacy Giving!

Submitted by CAROL HEIN

Members: Russell Mitchell-Walker, Wanda Barr, Maureen Hughes and Carol Hein

Living Spirit Center Ministries

LSC Women's Spirituality Breakfast

The Women's Spirituality Breakfast is a tri-parish gathering which brings all Christian women together to share a meal, conversation and to nurture our spirits in a variety

of ways. We meet on the second Saturday morning of each month from Sept – June. It has been from 8 – 10 but we have decided to move it to 830 – 1030. The group is self-sufficient, with women donating their time/or a small free offering to pay for breakfast with 2 volunteers as servers each time. We try to get a speaker each time but we may do something like craft or singing or just a session to talk about certain things within our group. We give an honorarium to the speakers we invite but some decline it. The balance in our account is \$762.85.

We have conversation and food for the first 45 minutes at the table and then we move to a circle to focus on specific topics to listen and share. We haven't had a breakfast since March 2020 because of Covid.

The themes and speakers are announced each month in the church bulletins and emails are sent out to those women who wish to be on the email list. It is a great group for women to share and help each other in what women do in the world and in our community today. All sharing stays in the circle. All women are welcome to attend.

In June, we usually plan a day long retreat and travel somewhere together. We are looking forward to getting back together to share. We do have 2 speakers in mind but are not sure if those speakers are willing to come and speak at this time. We may have to wait until September. We were hoping to start back in May. People are not comfortable coming to eat with people yet. Hope to see everyone back in September.

Submitted by Anita Tessier (Coordinator/Secretary/Treasurer)

Living Spirit Centre

Visual Arts Committee

Members: Holley Schuman, Chair (Bread of Life), Ruth Gentile (Immanuel), Rebecca Anderson, New Member (Eastside), Donna Lindskog, Occasional Helper (Eastside)

The year of 2021 has not been a busy year because of the pandemic. We did however get the year started with an Advent and Christmas display, with the usual display including the stable stall and the manger scene.

Epiphany was quiet and we made an Easter display in the view of the cameras at the front of the sanctuary.

Since that time, we did a small display for Thanksgiving in front of the altar so it could be seen for the service on Facebook.



We are looking forward to when we can get back to our usual pattern of worshipping.

We need some volunteers to become members of our committee. Ruth has moved with her church to Immanuel. She still helps for which I am thankful.

Rebecca from Eastside is a welcome addition to the committee. I will continue on the committee for 1 more year and then I plan to retire.

Respectfully submitted,
Holley Schuman

Climate Justice Committee

The LSC Climate Justice Committee is a new development. We have wonderful members serving with us to create a more sustainable environment with goals to further educate congregants on environmental issues, continue with solar power and community garden projects, and explore new ways we can engage with our local community.

As we have just begun meeting in March, we are off to an excellent start in terms of programming and leadership. We look forward to holding a walk in this neighborhood on Mother's Day to further stimulate how we can get more involved in this community and look at our environmental landscape in the area through the Jane's Walk initiative. We recently assisted Russell in preparation for the April Community Dinner which had an Earth Day theme.

I would like to thank Mavis Olesen for her work in recruiting new members for our committee from all three congregations and for her commitment to the LSC solar power project.

We look forward to finding more members to join us, especially from Bread of Life and Immanuel as we have many Eastsiders participating at this time!

Submitted by Becca Anderson