



eastside
united church

Annual Program Report

This Year: September 2023 – May 2024

May 26, 2024 Congregational Meeting



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 February 25, 2024, Congregational Finance Meeting.
- 5) Programming Reports:
 - a. Leadership Team
 - b. Ministry and Personnel
 - c. Faith Formation
 - d. Congregational Care
 - e. Living Spirit Council
- 6) Proposed Collaborative Ministry Agreement – Janet Bjorndahl
 - a. Questions and Answers / Discussion
 - b. Motions

Motion: “That Eastside United Church agrees to enter into a collaborative ministry agreement with Heritage United Church (Regina), Regina Beach United Church (Regina Beach), St. Andrew’s United Church (Lumsden), and St. James United Church (Regina) and to:

1. Abide by the terms and schedules as set out in the Collaborative Ministry Agreement;
2. Follow all basic requirements of The Manual.”

Motion: “That Eastside United Church requests that Living Skies Regional Council approve the content of the Collaborative Ministry Agreement.”

Motion: “That Eastside United Church empower:

1. The Leadership Team to appoint representatives and alternates to the Joint Steering Committee;
2. The Faith Formation Committee to appoint a representative and alternate(s) to the Joint Worship Committee;

who will represent the interests of Eastside United Church in the implementation of the Collaborative Ministry Agreement (see ***Collaborative Ministry Agreement attachment*** for details).”

- 7) Finance Report: Projected Expenses for July – Dec 2024 – Jim Fallows
 - a. Motion to receive the Finance Report
- 8) Nominations and Elections

- a. Ministry & Personnel
- 9) 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.”
- 10) Motion to Adjourn

Congregational Finance Meeting Draft Minutes - February 25, 2024

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, the last three Sundays.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 by Janet Bjorndahl.

2. Motion to allow adherents to vote.

Moved by Donna Lindskog. Seconded by Jean MacKay. Carried.

3. Motion to adopt the agenda.

Moved by Ron Brandow. Seconded by Elaine Hill. Carried.

4. Motion to adopt the minutes of the June 4, 2023 Congregational Meeting.

Moved by Donna Lindskog. Seconded by Brian Abrahamson. Carried.

5. Living Spirit Centre Report – Janet Bjorndahl

Sarah was unable to attend. Janet highlighted some of the report, which is included in the package from the meeting, and available online.

Sarah is looking for committee members to join the Living Spirit Centre Committee.

6. Finance Report – Jim Fallows

There is enough presently in the bank to cover expenses for the next few months. The decision was made to do a six-month budget, based on about \$93,000.00 revenue. Jim referred to a book he read about a person with autism who was able to remember sets of numbers by grouping them together and, when he tried to recall them, each grouping was a particular colour. So churches are going to have to see things differently in order to be maintained. But people are hard wired for spirituality and our church needs to continue to nurture that. Many churches are struggling. He believes the United Church will still be here in the future, but there will be a number of changes. Multiple services may be provided each week at various times. And people always need pastoral and congregational care. Church will be “community minded”.

Ken Powers moved that the financial report be accepted. Seconded by Pat Bailey. Carried.

7. Motion to appoint Reviewer of Eastside 2021 books

There is now a requirement for non-profits to have a formal audit done on their books each year, by someone outside of the congregation who is a certified accountant. A quote was received by Sarah, in the amount of \$3,700.00 plus tax. She considered it reasonable for this type of work.

Elaine Hill moved that Robert Szautner be appointed as Reviewer. Seconded by Busi Mahbena. Carried.

8. Report on progress toward Collaborative Ministry – Janet Bjorndahl

The ministry personnel and leadership people from the churches Heritage, St. James, Eastside, St. Andrews (Lumsden), Regina, and Broadway having been having a number of meetings; Broadway is in the process of calling a new minister but wish to stay connected to the discussions.

Many of these congregations have never been involved in these conversations, other than Eastside. Different ways of doing services are being determined. Presently, Joy Cowan is writing and recording a sermon that is given to two of these congregations to use, with a lay person leading the service.

Two of their meetings have focused on how much time each Minister spends on which activities, and determined half their time is spent preparing and delivering services. But, if one Minister prepared all the sermons, it could free up other Ministers to do other their other activities, such as pastoral care and programs, both within their congregations and outreach. Discussion on how this will be managed will continue to be held.

The plan is to share two full-time and one half-time minister between five congregations. No start date has yet been determined. All but Broadway have agreed to try sharing ministers between the churches for one year. They are still in the process of deciding what to do about their current building and their AGM is not being held until Mar 17, when a “next steps” recommendation will be presented for the congregation’s approval. As well, their present Minister is retiring this year and they are presently looking at candidates to replace him.

Elaine thanked Janet and the others for all their work and said that church is not just Sunday and we have lots of activities during the week that are good to be involved in.

Janet said Jordan Cantwell, the Growth Animator with the Living Skies Region, asked the question “Why are we doing this and why do we want this congregation to survive?” Janet echoed Elaine in saying that Eastside is a place of healing and community for many people, both for members and others that participate in our extra programs.

She reminded us that we need to continue with our offering, as funds still needed. She said that “This is a grand experiment and journey we’ll be on”.

Q1. Is Russell involved in all of this?

A1. Yes, he has been involved from the beginning and is still involved and attends all the meetings.

The point was brought up by Ken that, with Joy retiring and Broadway's plans not known, there are still many things to consider and many uncertainties moving forward. Janet agreed saying that the process needs to be determined, and more approval will be needed before we begin. Jean suggested that the church building could be used for many more activities, like libraries do now. It could be drop-in with coffee and tea and cookies; university classes could be held, small groups such as grief groups could meet.

a. Motion to move toward collaboration with St. James, Heritage, St. Andrews (Lumsden), and Regina Beach United Church congregations.

Elaine Hill moved that the motion be approved. Seconded by Jean MacKay. Carried.

9. 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 Bonny Manz. Seconded by Wanda Barr. Carried.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Elaine Hill moved meeting be adjourned. Adjournment - 12:53 p.m.

Minister's Report

This year included my three month sabbatical, for which I am very grateful, and will spend most of my report sharing about. Before I do, let me share that I continue to feel blessed to be part of this community of faith, even as we have moved through some financial challenges. This is a community that has vision, hope, commitment, and faith that carries us through. There are many committed individuals who work incredibly hard, and some are getting tired. As you will note in most of our reports, almost all committees could use more people, so if you are not involved, please consider how you may contribute.

Our programs have continued to pick up following the pandemic, although somewhat slowly. Our Community Dinner continues to be offered using the grant money from Embracing the Spirit Growth Grant of The United Church of Canada. This enables us to continue to hire Munch Café for our food. That will soon run out and we will need to draw on volunteer teams to offer the meal and coordinate in the kitchen. We had good turnout in the fall before I left, and it has not quite returned to the numbers we were at since I've been back from sabbatical. We are nowhere near the numbers we proposed for growth in the grant application. Please continue to help spread the word and invite neighbours to join us for this time of food and fellowship.

Film and Faith continues the last Friday of every month with a good core of people between 5 and 10 usually coming. Again, post sabbatical numbers have been low. This is a great opportunity for those not interested in church to come out and have some spiritual conversation.

The Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Books study group continued with 12-16 attending. We have enjoyed the books: *Bible Stories for Grown Ups* by Josh Scott, *Do I Stay Christian* by Brian McLaren, and *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We were blessed to be able to have Josh Scott and Brian McLaren join the group online for conversation and questions as we finished the book. This was because of my connections and knowing these folk.

Over the last few years, I have noticed that there are a few people who have attended one of these programs, or the Meditation Group, that have started to come to other programs. I may not see them at church on Sunday morning but as regular attenders of a few of these ministries, they are part of our church community.

As part of our Cluster work Messy Church expanded this fall to include Westminster, and Sunset/Wesley United Churches. Along with Bread of Life, this has made planning and carrying out the program much easier. We have moved locations to each of the church buildings, but this may contribute to low turnouts. We have discussed having one location next year.

My work with the cluster and encouraging collaboration and sharing ministry and resource among congregations - as was part of my focus for my sabbatical - picked up before my sabbatical with us being invited to join conversations with St. James, Heritage, St. Andrews' Lumsden and Regina Beach United Churches about sharing ministers. This was especially critical as St. James was making decisions about calling a new minister and needed to know what they were calling them to and for how many hours. The discussions about sharing have culminated in the Collaborative Ministry Agreement that we will discuss and decide upon at this meeting. It is an exciting opportunity for us all to share in ministry together and benefit from all we each have to offer. It turned out for this year, that St. James continued with Dexter van Dyke as their Interim Minister half-time and the minister at Heritage and St. Andrews' resigned so they are looking together for full time equivalent appointment, probably for one year. This work has involved numerous meetings that have continued upon my return from sabbatical. For a time I was having at least one meeting a week related to this planning. I also must thank Janet Bjorndahl, who without her leadership we would not be where we are today. She drafted the Agreement we have before us and incorporated the feedback received over at least 8 drafts! We now embark on a two month experiment to help Heritage and St. Andrews as they look for a minister and Dexter and I provide services for the four congregations during May and June.

The other main focus of my sabbatical was working with the houseless and discerning how we as a congregation can support. I had started the Warm Welcome Coalition just before beginning my

sabbatical which focused on how we might support finding a way to keep the houseless out of the cold during the winter. It became clear rather quickly that creating an ‘out of the cold’ program where churches offered up space for houseless to sleep overnight, was not logistically feasible and that a warming centre would be a better option. Carmichael Outreach, had talked with their board and was open to offering their space for a warming centre. We worked together on a proposal and budget and took it to the provincial Minister of Social Services at the end of November.

This began a long waiting period as the government seemed interested but would not give us a clear answer about whether they would provide funding. As we got deep into December, we learned that the City and the Province were talking together about a funding model. Meanwhile, by early New Year at our meeting of the Coalition, there still was not solid news and activists were getting impatient. There was conflict which I ended up mediating resulting in two press conferences, one by Carmichael Outreach and one by an activist organization called Good Trouble Network who were calling on funding to be announced right away as people were dying on the streets. Funding was announced the next Monday, but the Warming Centre didn’t open until late January. Churches and groups mobilized to provide food for the centre each night, initially for the warming bus that the city operated until Carmichael could open. In the meantime, Hawk Coop was formed by folk who have been actively doing outreach with the unhoused, and they secured a small space to also provide a warming space. In my absence, Eastside did not have the capacity to provide food for the warming centre until we offered it jointly with Bread of Life.

I also spent about a month volunteering at each of Carmichael Outreach, the Nēwo Yô-Ti-na Friendship Centre, and Queen City Wellness Pharmacy. Each of these was a unique and important experience with Queen City providing the best opportunity for getting to know folk who came by and sat at the counter to have coffee, snack and conversation. Out of this time with the Pharmacy, Shylo Stevenson (Recovery Coach there) and I discerned to start a group we call Food for Thought, an opportunity for folk to come have lunch and discuss questions they may have about God, Jesus, the church or faith. This is the first and third Wednesday of each month at noon, and we need people to provide lunch. Eastside folk are welcome to come and join us as well. I look forward to these new ventures with the Collaborative Ministry and Queen City Wellness Pharmacy.

I want to especially thank Becca, who continues to offer us an exceptional ministry of administration and creative communications, in the midst of numerous changes and challenges as she transitioned to working with Bread of Life as well as ourselves. I wish to acknowledge our pianist Hyun Ju Park, who has served us well the last three years, when Michelle Dickie was unable to continue playing due to symptoms from long COVID. We look forward to welcoming her back as her symptoms have cleared up enough for her to play again. Finally, I wish to offer huge gratitude to Janet Bjorndahl, our Leadership Team chair who has gone above and beyond in her time, sharing of skills and work to not only help with administrative duties and policies of Eastside, but also

contributing significantly to the work with the developing the Collaborative Ministry. I continue to appreciate the gifts and joy ministry with this community brings to me and the wider community. I am very appreciative of all who give so much to this ministry.

Blessings,

Russell Mitchell-Walker, Diaconal Minister

Leadership Team

As we gather at our Program AGM to celebrate the many opportunities Eastside offers us as a community of God's people, we contemplate a new way to be church together with other Regina and area churches. Five Regina and area churches (Eastside, Heritage, St. James, St. Andrew's Lumsden, and Regina Beach) propose to enter a Collaborative Ministry Agreement in which we share 2.5 ministers between 5 congregations.

This is the culmination of months of meetings and years of on-and-off discussions (impacted by the pandemic). The proposed agreement allows us to continue offering worship, programming, and outreach with overall reduced ministry personnel. And not just to continue what we currently do, but to deepen our impact by encouraging joint endeavors while enjoying the benefits of a team of ministers sharing their various strengths.

A key feature of the proposed agreement is that it allows ministers to shift time from worship preparation to other activities, such as outreach and pastoral care. This is facilitated by a plan to rotate responsibility for worship service and sermon preparation among the ministers, and distribute the service and sermon for use by all congregations in the collaboration.

The collaboration, if approved, will give us an opportunity to get to know one another better, to work together to serve our community better, and to continue to explore what the future holds for us.

This year, the Leadership Team:

- ❖ Voted in favour of Remit 1: *Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization*. I'm glad to report that the remit passed.
- ❖ Developed and approved an Office Administrator Shared Use Agreement.
- ❖ Drafted policies for designated donations (reinforcing current practice), and for money received from people participating in our programs.

This past year at Eastside highlighted our care for each other as many volunteers either stepped up or continued their faithful service to cover congregational care and programs, and to ensure

meaningful worship services during Russell's sabbatical. Thanks to the many people who did so, and those who continue to serve the Eastside and wider communities.

Please prayerfully consider volunteer opportunities at Eastside. Engagement, whether on a committee or a short-term project, enriches the life of the congregation and is a great way to connect with others.

Blessings,

Janet Bjorndahl
Chair, Leadership Team

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The past year was a bit different for the Ministry and Personnel Committee because of Russell's sabbatical. We helped him finalize his plans, discerning both the goals, and the activities that would help Russell attain those goals.

M&P was also present at the collaboration plan meetings this year since both Russell's job description and his workload are likely to change. As you know, the collaboration is a work in progress. Russell and his collaborative partners need to try out the new system for a while to make sure the workloads are balanced and manageable. M&P will continue to work closely with Russell in the fall as the collaboration moves forward.

As usual, M&P met with both Russell and Becca in the fall to go over their goals for the year, their vacation plans and Russell's continuing education plans. We will meet again in June to review the challenges and successes of the year.

Other than these scheduled planning meetings, most communication was conducted through email.

M&P regularly attended and contributed to Leadership Team meetings throughout the year as well.

M&P takes the opportunity at this time to remind our Eastside family that part of the mandate of M&P is to attempt to resolve conflicts that may be brought forward by members of the congregation. If someone has a complaint about something that is happening, or is not happening at Eastside, we would encourage you to first speak to the person yourself to try to resolve it. If this is not possible, M&P could speak to the person involved on your behalf, albeit not anonymously.

Our main role as a committee is to support Russell and Becca in the work they do for Eastside. We would like to thank them both for their dedication to Eastside and to the wider community. As well, we would like to recognize their willingness to change and adapt with the new collaboration plans,

and the many, many hours Russell has spent working on the collaboration agreement. We are lucky to have such a dedicated, hardworking and talented team.

One last note: we started the year with four members on our committee and will be down to two in June. The Ministry and Personnel Committee must have between three and seven members, so we really have to find at least one new member right away. Please consider volunteering for this essential and interesting committee.

Submitted by the Ministry and Personnel Committee

Cathie Henderson (cathie.henderson91@gmail.com)

Lori Latta (lorilatta@live.ca)

Teresa Strachan (teresalstrachan@gmail.com)

Faith Formation Committee

The Faith Formation team is comprised of Amanda Benesh, Greg Thomas, John Bishop, Stephannie Banks, Russell Mitchell-Walker and Leanne Sudom. The Faith Formation team is responsible for Worship and Christian Education.

This past year was a very busy one. In September we hosted our annual kick-off Sunday with a potluck and were joined by the Jesus Messiah Christian Ministry congregation that worships at the Living Spirit Centre. October saw the inaugural Home Based Business Fair with 5 vendors attending. The generous donations to a bake table raised over \$600 for Eastside. We are hoping to have another home based business fair in the fall. We continued to offer Messy Church in collaboration with other faith communities in Regina, Film and Faith, Courageous Faith, Community Dinner and the Craft Study Group was rebranded as Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Books. In March Faith Formation hosted a board games afternoon for all ages that was enjoyed by those who attended.

Much of the past year focused on planning and supporting the congregation while Russell was on Sabbatical. We were blessed to have a number of clergy and lay people step up and lead worship on Sunday mornings. We also partnered with Bread of Life for several services. We also had a number of people lead Courageous Faith and Film and Faith during Russell's sabbatical.

Faith Formation was represented at the Collaborative Ministry discussions and will play a significant role as part of the joint Worship Team for the Collaborative Ministry going forward.

Submitted by Leanne Sudom

Congregational Care

We decided to change the name of this group from Congregational Care Committee to Congregational Care Team. Somehow Team sounded more caring than Committee. We are just a few people who are trying to do our best to ensure that the people in our congregation are receiving support. We don't feel like a committee. And we are very aware that there are many others in our Church who do just as much of this important work of showing compassion & providing care, but just aren't officially part of our team. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge & thank everyone for being a caring group of people. We also want to say that if anyone feels like they could join our team we would be so delighted. We make this appeal with the reminder that we have been trying to adjust our duties in such a way that each of us does the particular jobs that we find suits our specific strengths and let others do the jobs that suit theirs. In other words not everyone needs to do all the things we try to accomplish as a group. But as a group, our goal is that no one gets missed if they have a need. That's a huge task & we are aware that we can't possibly do this perfectly. But, the more people & variety of strengths we can add to the team, the better we can be at providing support & care when needed.

This year our work continued with the following goals:

- ❖ To become aware or informed of people in need within Eastside
- ❖ Making monthly phone calls or sometimes visits to those who have an identified need (illness, grief, loneliness, isolated, etc.)
- ❖ Welcoming new comers Sunday morning
- ❖ Coordinating & participating in the prayer chain (Team members are part of the prayer chain) and we manage the list of those who wish to be on the prayer chain
- ❖ Grief support thru' offering grief booklets series & prayer shawls & visits to those who are bereaved
- ❖ Celebrating new babies into our community
- ❖ Supporting one another to carry out the ministry

We are committed to encourage the congregation to keep us informed when people are in need

Each Sunday we try to have one designated greeter who makes connection with any new comers and provides them with a small gift, a pen, plus a newcomer's pamphlet & coffee card.

We are also planning to set up a prayer tree near the labyrinth.

We meet Thursday morning almost monthly

Thanks:

- ❖ We truly appreciate & thank the prayer shawl knitters / crocheters / & contributors.

- ❖ Thank you Sonia Abrahamson for sending sympathy cards on our behalf to those who have lost loved ones.
- ❖ We thank Diane Dopko, & Kacey Colibaba, who have been on the team but no longer are able. Both of your contributions are so much appreciated!

Team Members: Elaine Hill, Delia Baidoo, Sam Baidoo (just committed to join), Russell Mitchell-Walker.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Congregational Care Team,

Delia Baidoo

Affirming Ministry

Last year's Pride Parade, which happened after our last Annual Meeting, had a Welcoming Faiths contingent that was very well attended by ten communities of faith including Lutherans, Anglicans, Presbyterians (new this year!), and students from Luther College University who helped decorate and make signs. Luther College and the Lutheran Ministerial followed behind us, as separate entries.



This year also found the province legislating limits to the rights of transgender and non-binary folk with its so called pronoun policy under the guise of parental rights. This kind of legislation is popping up across the country and we need to be vigilant - the safety and lives of transgender and non-binary young people

are at stake. Members of this community attended a number of the rallies and protests that were held to let the government know that this legislation is not acceptable and they need to do better. One of our members, Kacey Colibaba, spoke at the first protest as a trans non-binary teacher.

I have also become involved with a new Interfaith Queer Coalition that is working to “reclaim the religious voice from those who have sought to weaponize faith. We believe that all 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals are created in the Divine Image and that advocacy for their human rights is not antithetical to faith,



Images from the Pride 2023 Pride Parade.

but a central tenet of our religious faiths.” It held a launch in March and developed a letter open letter calling for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights that all supportive people of faith are welcome to sign. You may find it at on their [website](#).

I was on Sabbatical before PIE Day and the other Affirming Ministries did not organize together, so there was only one event at Knox Met that was very poorly attended. We (and a few other congregations) did celebrate PIE Day with pie after church. We raised over \$600 for Lulu’s Lodge from donations! PIE Day celebrates the Public, Intentional, and Explicit welcome of 2SLGBTQ folk in our worshipping communities.

With the contact and learning I have had in recent years with Rainbow Railroad LGBTQ refugees, I am hoping to work with the Affirming Ministries in Regina to explore if we can support LGBTQ refugees here in Regina. These folk often are fully supported through government sponsorship but need moral support and mentorship as they are often isolated, even if they arrive with a group of refugees from their country. If you are interested in this, please let me know.

Finally this work has not had a committee but works ad hoc as the need arises. We would benefit from having a chair to convene us a few times a year. If you are interested, let me know as well.

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker

Gratitude Team

The Gratitude Team has continued to meet on a monthly basis over the last year. Our team said good bye and thank you to Bonny Manz, who resigned from the Gratitude Team in October 2023. Our current members include: Russell Mitchell-Walker, Teresa Strachan, and Maureen Hughes.

From May until December 2023 the team worked on the Stewardship Campaign. This involved preparing documents to be sent out to the congregation, a dedicated Worship Service in October, a luncheon on Oct 22, and the follow up on Pledge Response Cards. The campaign was done through distributing Campaign Packages by hand. We found that 66 out of 112 Pledge Response Cards were returned. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their truly generous support of Eastside United Church!

A project we continued to work on in 2023 was the development of a “Calendar of Tasks” document to help in planning the activities for the upcoming year and to help new members to the committee.

The activities that were ongoing over the year were:

- ❖ Writing thank you notes to individuals for their donations of time, talent, or treasure
- ❖ Providing the “Minute for Mission” part of worship once a month

- ❖ Providing “Gratitude Images” for the weekly email newsletter

Submitted by Maureen Hughes

Living Spirit Centre Council

During 2023, the Council’s Executive Members were Sarah Tkachuk (Chair – Eastside) and Brent Rostad (Secretary/Vice-Chair – BOL). The remaining members of Council were:

Bread of Life: Gwen Fex, Jason Wandy, Pastor Stewart Miller

Eastside: Sam Baidoo, Donna Lindskog, Bonnie Yake, Rev. Russell Mitchell–Walker

The Anglican Diocese of Qu’appelle was represented by Bishop Helen Kennedy.

Council held five regular meetings during the year (January, March, June, September, and November). Executive Council also held a 2023 budget meeting in November and met with Bread of Life Executive regarding financial matters in June.

It is with much sadness that the Council of the Living Spirit Centre has received notice from the Anglican Diocese of Qu’Appelle of intention to withdraw from the Living Spirit Centre Agreement effective June of 2024. We understand and appreciate the evolution of St. Philip Anglican Church to Immanuel Parish and we appreciate that with this change has come difficult decisions. We offer our prayers and support to our friends at Immanuel Parish and the Anglican Diocese as they continue this faith journey.

With change comes opportunity for exploration of new partners, renters and creative use of space. LSC continued to rent office space to Arcola Wellness Centre as well as various community groups and temporary rental relationships. Council is in the process of searching for new tenants to utilize vacated space in 2024. Council appreciates the relationships we have built with all of our tenants and are thankful to have them as partners in serving our community.

Council has been in discussion with several parties regarding rental arrangements, both on Sunday morning and throughout the week. We are excited to continue with these discussions and to discern whether there may be other partners that can share our vision of an ecumenical partnership.

The LSC continues to investigate the installation of solar panels at the LSC. They are working to discern more information regarding the potential costs and future benefits of a solar investment.

In early 2023, the Council was excited to celebrate that the mortgage on the building has been paid in full and retired. That has reduced the operating budget of the LSC by approximately \$26,000 per year.

Council would not be able to function without our volunteers and staff—we would like to specifically thank the following individuals for their work and dedication during the year:

- ❖ Property and Maintenance Committee—the committee was involved in further improvements to the AV system and investigating solar panels for the building
- ❖ LSC custodian, John Ashley
- ❖ Jim Fallows and Bonny Manz (finance volunteers from Eastside)
- ❖ LSC’s Office Staff —Rebecca Anderson – who supports Eastside, Bread of Life, and the Living Spirit Centre – we are blessed to have her day to day assistance in all LSC matters!
Thank you Becca!

Submitted by Sarah Tkachuk

Living Spirit Centre Climate Justice Committee

The committee’s members are Bonny Manz, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Mary Vetter, Ron Brandow and Bonnie Yake, with Brian Abrahamson’s frequent participation as a member of the solar panel sub-committee. Bonny is secretary, Mary is LSC newsletter contributor and Bonnie is chair. From Sept 2023 to May 2024 we had 5 meetings as well as sponsoring 3 shared worship and potluck climate justice education/discussion sessions with guest speakers Katherine Arbuthnott, Roger Petry and Dale Hjertaas. Mary has submitted articles regularly to the LSC Weekly Wander newsletter. The committee is currently planning a self-guided LSC energy audit following guidelines from the United Church of Canada’s Faithful Footprints program. It continues to pursue solar panel possibilities, recently meeting with the Wascana Solar Co-op. We seek to live lightly and faithfully on this earth and always welcome new members.

Submitted by Bonnie Yake

Note:

This report is accompanied by a separate Collaborative Ministry Agreement document/attachment. Please find this attachment via the link provided, or attached to physical copies of the Annual Program Report.