



May 30, 2021
Congregational
Meeting

2020-21
Annual
Program
Report

THIS YEAR
Sept. 2020 – May
2021



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 2020 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 FEBRUARY 28, 2021 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 three Sundays.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:26 by Sarah Tkachuk.

2. Motion to allow adherents to vote.

Moved by Carol Hein. Seconded by Brian Mitchell-Walker. Carried.

3. Motion to adopt the agenda.

Two minor corrections were made to agenda. Adoption of revised agenda moved by Elaine Hill. Seconded by Sam Baidoo. Carried.

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

Moved by Bonnie Yake. Seconded by Ken Powers. Carried.

Living Spirit Council Report – Bonnie Yake

A number of LSCC meetings were held over 2020. Sub-committees met with the city about the dog park, no decision yet by the city. The LSC closed its doors for worship and meetings on March 21, 2020 because of COVID-19. Both Bread of Life and St. Philips had a few in-person worships although have not been doing any for some time. Munch is still doing some catering and the Arcola Wellness Centre have still been renting and using the building a bit. Bonnie advised that Munch still does catering and lunches which can be ordered by anyone, Wednesday is soup day. The decision was made to continue with online worship services, along with in-person, once we can start again. Audiovisual equipment was purchased by the LSC in order to help with that. Bonnie thanked all the LSC volunteers and committees, highlighting Property and Maintenance and the great job they do, and thanked Brian Abrahamson for all his work. Our custodian has also done some maintenance work. Brian Abrahamson, who has been a member of the committee for quite a few years, is looking for a replacement for himself. Bonnie also thanked Jim and Anita for looking after our financial matters. We would like to have a farewell party for St. Philips at some point, as it is being replaced by the consolidated Anglican churches in Regina. The consolidated churches are called Immanuel Parish. They have accepted our invitation to use our facility and are currently calling it a Satellite location as they continue to determine with us what the relationship will be. We are looking for new people to serve on the Living Spirit Council and, if anyone is interested, let Bonnie know.

Q1. Could you let us know what the current status is with Immanuel?



A1. They have committed to continue paying St. Philip's portion of the LSC and will be providing representation on the LSCC and the Property & Maintenance Committee. Also, a small committee from all three LSC churches, will be doing further exploration on the relationship. They haven't chosen their main location yet and may have other satellites. Still decisions to be made. They have four clergy and two representatives from each church on the Immanuel Parish task force. Russell announced that Nancy Yee submitted her resignation.

6. Finance Report – Jim Fallows (presented by Sarah)

Jim was unable to attend so Sarah provided the report based on the information provided by Jim. The revenues received in 2020 were high compared to recent years. Part of that were one-time gifts by people. The Operating budget was under budget but a good portion of that was due to the reimbursement received for Russell's salary. The overall surplus was just over \$17,000.00. A recommendation was made by the Leadership Team to set \$17,000.00 aside for the mortgage, which will take pressure off the regular expenses. The Leadership Team has been doing its best to keep the congregation up-to-date with frequent updates. The year ended with a bank balance of \$58,550. Our share of the mortgage fluctuates, depending on our percentage commitment to the LSC.

Q1. Can we not just pay down our portion of the mortgage?

A1. Because there are three partners inputting to this, one partner cannot pay down their portion without the other partners doing the same.

Q2. Is the money that is set-aside in an interest-bearing account?

A2. No, it is just set-aside on the books.

Greg Thomas moved that the financial report be accepted. 2nd by Anita Tessier. Carried. Carol Hein moved that \$17,000.00 be reserved for future mortgage payments. 2nd by Delia Baidoo. Carried.

Reviewed the 2021 budget. The percentage of our contribution to the LSC has increased, due to our increased revenues in comparison to the other two congregations. Over the next year, we must be careful to ensure we meet our obligations and do not get behind.

Sarah thanked the Gratitude committee for all their work.

Reviewed the chart regarding the mortgage and how much the mortgage has been paid down. The powerpoint pie chart slide on Eastside's givers was reviewed. We no longer get any grants from the national church, which means counting on the community to support our costs. Median giving is about \$1,200.00. About half our revenue is received via PAR so balance must come from envelopes, direct deposit or online. Anyone interested in going on PAR, contact office.

Russell advised that the Outreach activities are no longer being funded by the Living Skies Region, so will need more support directly by the churches. The Leadership Team has directed some support from our budget to that ministry. There may be fundraising that is directed to Outreach. Donations can be directed to these, if members wish to make separate donations to Outreach. Russell will be highlighting each of the different Outreach activities at our services, as done by Carol Hein at a past service.

If anyone has any questions about the budget, contact Sarah or Jim.

MaryBelle moved that the budget be approved. 2nd by Brian Abrahamson. Carried.



7. Motion to appoint Reviewer of Eastside 2021 books

Elaine Hill moved that Greg Thomas be appointed as reviewed of Eastside 2021 books. 2nd by Sam Baidoo. 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 Carol Hein. Seconded by Delia Baidoo. Carried.

9. Motion to Adjourn.

Brian Abrahamson moved meeting be adjourned. Adjournment - 1:09 p.m.



Minister's Report

As we review this past year, none of us expected to still be dealing with the pandemic, and continuing to worship online over a year into this time. While this has been a challenge in so many ways, particularly for those who live on their own and without internet, we also acknowledge the ways we have been able to maintain and even grow our community. That has been a blessing and there are things that we will want to take with us out of this time and our learnings, as we move into a new normal.

At the beginning of this season I had to be off on medical leave following sudden quadruple by-pass surgery. I am so grateful to the community for the way people stepped up and stepped into the needs to keep our ministry going. I am filled with gratitude for Ken Powers and Hazel Arbon who took on worship leadership and Amanda who took over hosting Zoom worship. I felt well loved and supported by this community through this recovery period.

We continue to have a faithful and committed **Leadership Team** over this past year, who has always put the safety of our community first, in committing to remain online, and have intentionally looked at what we need to know, hold on to and let go of as we move into a new normal. The **Congregational Care** Committee has stepped up this past year in contacting not only those in crisis and in need, but also those who are isolated, alone, and/or not online. We have experienced a significant number of deaths this year, not all COVID related, which also increases the support offered by Congregational Care.

The **Faith Formation** committee looks after Christian education and worship oversight, and I offer support to this committee through worship and program planning and leadership. I have continued to offer Film and Faith, Craft/Study group, and Courageous Faith sessions online. In December we decided to try our Community Dinner program online, which has been well received with bringing in some good music and faith resources people share online from across the country. We can't do this every month, as there is no budget for it.

I continue to value the opportunity to lead worship with this community every Sunday. I continue to work with the **Worship Feedback Team** of Jayne Krueger-Jickling and Delia Baidoo who review worship and sermons regularly and offer feedback as well as try to keep the pulse on the congregations' perspectives. I appreciate the feedback and am always working to provide meaningful, nurturing, inspiring, and challenging services for you all. We would benefit from having another member to offer feedback. Let any of us know if you are interested.

We celebrate the wonderful musical gifts of our community and are missing our choir as we have been online. We continue to be blessed with the music leadership of Josh Hendrickson and Michelle Dickie leading the hymns for worship through



their recordings. We have enjoyed Wendy Hardman's leadership as well when Michelle took a break in order to focus on finishing her degree this spring.

We have also been working toward being in person for worship again, and the LSC has purchased equipment to enable us to continue online as we do so. I have to thank Barry Sudom who has spent countless hours researching, purchasing, teaching himself on the equipment and preparing to train others. We hope to start offering services online from the Sanctuary before the summer to prepare for what we hope will be in-person services in the fall.

I am grateful to Doug Scheurwater who has coordinated our support to **Indigenous Christian Fellowship** during this pandemic time. Linda and Larry Fowler, and Perry and Debbie Morehouse have faithfully made sandwiches each week for their program. Linda has also coordinated folk to make home made deserts to supplement these lunches.

I have continued to enjoy working with our faithful and committed the **Gratitude Team** who continue to keep the issues of Stewardship and gratitude before the church community. This includes through monthly gratitude messages in the weekly e-mail and a minute for mission once a month. We coordinated a successful Stewardship Campaign this fall as we communicate our needs to the congregation.

During the Pandemic the ministry with the **Living Spirit Centre** has been limited given that we each are using different online platforms. We were able to share a Blue Christmas and Maundy Thursday service and now know how we can do it with the technology. We have been working with the new Immanuel Anglican Parish as they discern their way and explore what it means to be in relationship with the LSC as a satellite for their ministry. We are exploring children and youth ministry programming together as well as working out what our partnership will look like as we move into this new relationship

With regard to the **wider church** my involvement with the Anglican-United Dialogue group completed in the fall. I continue as secretary of the Multi-Faith Saskatchewan Board. I continue with Skylight Festival as Communications chair and are in the midst of discerning what this summer will look like. I also continue to be a consultant with the National church for our Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response committee.

With regard to **Continuing Education** I have done a number of online webinars and courses. This fall, two that were significant were Hybrid Worship, which was about how to offer and engage congregations both online and in person; and Digital Mission about offering ministry programs online. Both were offered by Fresh Expressions US. I will be taking advantage of the free Festival of Homiletics (preaching) conference this month.

This spring our office went through another transition as Harvey resigned to take a full time position elsewhere. We are thrilled to have Becca Dziaduck take on the



position after being able to fill in for us and be trained by Harvey. Becca will be a blessing to the office and communication position.

We continue to be blessed in so many ways to be part of this wonderful community of Eastside.

Blessings

Russell Mitchell-Walker, Diaconal Minister

Leadership Team Report

Despite many challenges in the past year, we can celebrate all of the blessings that have been cultivated at Eastside. Throughout this tumultuous year we are blessed for the leadership of our many volunteers and committees that have allowed us to continue to worship and gather virtually. We are so grateful for the work and leadership of our minister, Russell Mitchell-Walker. This has been a challenging year on many fronts for Russell, and we are so thankful for his health and his leadership in reimagining and adapting to our new way of being community.

Early on in the pandemic, Russell worked with many volunteers to get us up and running on the Zoom platform, which we have continued to use for worship as well as committee meetings, community dinners, meditation, Film and Faith, and many other programming options. We have heard from many that they appreciate the opportunity to gather virtually, and it has made a real difference in our connection with our friends and neighbors over the last year.

The Leadership Team has developed guidelines for a return to In person worship. We anticipate that this will be in the fall of 2021. Although we are all excited to return to worshipping together, we want to make sure that we can gather in a meaningful way and also at a time that is safe for everyone in our community. Therefore we are proceeding with caution. We also appreciate that there are many that will want to continue to connect virtually, either on an occasional or regular basis. We are working to figure out how this will work as we move forward. Please let myself or any member of the Leadership Team know if you have any questions or concerns as our plans unfold. Stay tuned!

As many will remember, in 2018, the Eastside Leadership Team embarked on a 3 year plan to discern our path in connection with other churches in the Regina Cluster and our partners in the Living Spirit Centre. Much has changed since then, however we are continuing to examine our best path forward to continue to serve the community with open minds, open hearts and open doors! We are excited about our growth over this time, including a better financial position and some exciting initiatives in our community. The silver lining to the pandemic is an opportunity to easily connect with other churches in Regina and at the Living Spirit Centre, including sharing services and meeting with others.



Thank you all for your continued support of this fabulous community. We look forward to an exciting 2021.

Blessings,

Sarah Tkachuk
Chair, Leadership Team

Eastside United Committees & Ministries

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel Committee members are Cathie Henderson, Lori Latta, Teresa Strachan, and Brenda Adamko.

During the 2020-2021 year we have done the following:

- We met with Russell and Harvey in the fall to help them set goals for the coming year.
- We helped organize Russell's medical leave in the fall with respect to the insurance claim.
- We attended Leadership Team meetings
- We accepted Harvey Gibson's resignation as communications coordinator for Eastside. We presented him with a goodbye card and gift card on behalf of the congregation.
- We drafted a job posting for the communications position, reviewed all the applications, interviewed three candidates, and then offered the position to Becca Dziaduck, who was filling in temporarily after Harvey left.
- We are in the process of enrolling Becca in the United Church pension and benefits plans
- We will meet with Russell in June to reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year.

All our meetings this year have been virtual, thanks to Covid, but we have been in regular email contact with one another, as well as with Russell, Harvey, and the Leadership Team.

We would like to remind our Eastside family that part of the mandate of the Ministry and Personnel Committee is to attempt to resolve conflicts that may be brought forward by members of the congregation. If someone has a complaint about something happening, or not happening, at church, we would first encourage you to 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. You may contact any of our members with your concerns.



We would like to recognize the hard work Russell has done this year in adapting Eastside's programming during Covid. Our Zoom services have run smoothly, while continuing to both follow Eastside's traditional order of service, and also to allow time for visiting and catching up. Russell has also been able to run midweek programs virtually, maintaining connections important to us all as we hopefully reach the end of the pandemic.

M&P and the leadership team are also grateful for Harvey's work in the technical side of keeping us connected. We will miss him, but are also excited to begin working with Becca.

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 2020-21 year despite the 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.
- Worship was enhanced through:
 - ◇ The knowledge and skills of Brian Mitchell-Walker to get us started and facilitate services via Zoom and Facebook Live.
 - ◇ Hymns being pre-recorded by Michelle Dickie and Josh Henderson.
 - ◇ Relief leadership provided primarily by Ken Powers and Hazel Arbon and also Deb Anderson Pratt.
 - ◇ Congregation members sharing important pieces of art during the services.
- Christmas services:
 - ◇ Families providing readings and lighting of the advent wreath from their homes
 - ◇ Blue Christmas service
 - ◇ Carol sing \Community dinner on-line and worship service
 - ◇ Two Christmas Eve services on-line.
- Black History Month
 - ◇ February focused on Black History and included Musician, Drew Brown, Agbor Ndomo sharing his faith story and Spoken Word artist Micah Bournes as a guest preacher.



- Outreach:
 - ◇ Eastside celebrated 10 years as an Affirming Ministry with guest speaker, Pam Rocker, musician Jeffery Straker and supported the Pride Parades in June and September.
 - ◇ We were unable to support Rainbow Youth this year because of the pandemic, but look forward to continuing to support them next year.
 - ◇ The congregation generously supported Alex Pelletier to provide gifts to people in his building.
 - ◇ We initiated the use of Text in Church Software to reach congregation members in a new manner.

- Additional Ministry programming:
 - ◇ Film and Faith continued on-line with up to 10 people joining.
 - ◇ Craft Study group read Grateful and White Fragility, with up to 15 participants
 - ◇ Community dinners resumed monthly in a virtual manner beginning in December.

- Next steps
 - ◇ Faith Formation plans to continue the on-line services once we are able to return to in person worship. One of the key factors to this being successful will be to have someone who is able to run the live streaming component on Zoom and Facebook live.

Submitted by Leanne Sudom

Craft/Study Group

On Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 3 or 3:30 about 8 to 15 of us gather to discuss a book and share our joys and sorrows with each other. Of course, this year we have gathered by clicking on the Zoom link and seeing each others faces on our computer or tablet screens. Russell puts out a list of books and we vote on which one we will study next.

This past year we discussed the following books:

- Grateful by Diana Butler Bass
- We Make the Road by Walking by Brian McLaren
- White Fragility by Robin Di Angelo

We are currently reading the book 'Divine Dance' by Richard Rohr & Mike Morrell. Usually each of us buys the book, reads a section ahead of time and comes prepared to answer some study questions. Or, we simply discuss our reactions to the chapter or sections we have read. These discussions can be very stimulating, thought provoking, enlightening, and sometimes can bring out varied opinions on issues ranging from racism, to theology. We always try to keep these discussions



very respectful and appreciate the acronym of RESPECT Russell often begins our meetings with.

- R – take Responsibility for what you say and feel without blaming others
- E – use Empathetic listening
- S – be Sensitive to differences in communication/cultural styles
- P – Ponder what you hear and feel before you speak
- E – Examine your own assumptions and perceptions
- C – keep Confidentiality
- T – Tolerate ambiguity because we are not here to debate. There are no “winners” or “losers.”

Since the beginning of the pandemic we have begun each meeting with a check in time which has really drawn us closer as a group as we are often quite vulnerable in these sharing times. We find it encouraging to know this group of friends care about our well-being. The book studies help us grow; but equally important is the caring that is growing in this group.

Submitted by Delia & Sam Baidoo

Community Dinners

The Community Dinner was suspended for the first part of 2020 due to the Pandemic. In November the Faith Formation Committee decided to try an online version of this ministry. It was felt that combining this with our traditional Carol Night would be a good event. All were welcome to come and share a meal online together, or just come. We gathered to pray, sing carols, and have some community time together in breakout rooms on Zoom. This was well received and continued on each month since, with a different theme for each month. We have had our pianist record hymns as well as had guest musicians/speakers who shared their music and a reflection. Guests included Matt Epp, Piper and Carson, and Laura Stewart and Grant Gilchrist. Attendance has been between 15 and 60 people. While we look forward to being able to gather and share a meal in person again, this gathering online is valuable and meaningful for those who join.

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker

Film and Faith

Eastside United Church movie lovers did not let the COVID-19 pandemic prevent us from continuing to enjoy our Film and Faith gatherings in 2020-2021. Once a month, we voted from a selection of movies, to arrive at one movie choice which we all watched “together”. First, we gathered by electronic means on our computers or phones to have a brief chat and catch up on how we were all doing. Then each of us on our own TV or computer, watched the movie choice of the day., initially on Netflix, and then on CBC Gem which is accessible to all. Popcorn sharing was not so easy;



we couldn't quite figure out how to do that on-line, so we each made our own! The movies we saw were thoughtful, historic, wrenching, educational, tearful, joyous, funny, inspiring and uplifting. We experienced stories about racism, homophobia, fat-shaming, dedication, compassion, determination and the will to build a better world. We saw: The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Dumplin, The Two Popes, The Grizzlies, Funny Boy, Maudie and The Lesser Blessed. After each movie, we "gathered together" again by computer, to have a discussion about what we had just seen and experienced. Each time we talked about where we had seen faith and God in the movie. We learned new things about the world, both good and bad. We learned more about each other and how to help in a world that sometimes cries out for our compassion and understanding. Someone said at one of the gatherings that they would never have chosen the movie to watch themselves, and would have missed out on a great movie and great conversation if not for Film and Faith. We have had a few new members come from outside the congregation join and have had up to 12 people in an evening. Hopefully others will join us in the new year as we continue this fun event.

Submitted by Heather Balfour

Congregational Care

Committee members are Delia Baidoo, Diane Dopko, Linda Fowler, 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. Nine grief books and six prayer shawls have been offered and accepted to date.
 - ◇ Celebrating new babies into our community
 - ◇ Overseeing the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre Worship service for the residents has not occurred this past year. If and when Wascana services are again allowed this ministry could be one coordinated in conjunction with the United Church Chaplain and the Regina Cluster of churches. Eastside partnered with Wesley at Christmas to distribute cards and snowflake ornaments (donated by Sonia Abrahamson) to United Church residents at Wascana Rehabilitation Center.
- 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 in April, May, June, took July and August off, 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 Clare Banks 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.

Linda Fowler April 2021

Affirming Ministry



We continue to be without a formal Affirming Ministry Committee but do have a number of folk who step up to help and participate on events. With the pandemic Pride week activities were postponed to September. In June, the regular pride week time, there was a vehicle only parade that only 30 entries were allowed and the Faith Communities were invited to be one of them. We had three vehicles from 5 churches participate, and three Eastside folk. Once September came, we were still in the midst of the Pandemic and so events were adapted for online and to fit within protocols. There was another vehicle only parade which we did not participate in as a congregation – no vehicle was available, and I was still on medical leave. Sunset represented the Churches with our usual Affirming Ministry and multi—faith signs.

This spring, Saskatoon City Council passed a motion banning 2SLGBTQ conversion efforts and the mayor here was asked her opinion of this and whether Regina should have a ban. She agreed it should and that started a process to get a motion in place. The Affirming Ministries in Regina formed an ad hoc group to support and work toward this ban, which also included Stewart from Bread of Life, and Nancy from Immanuel Parish. I was interviewed a few times about this and when the motion went to the City Wellness Committee April 14, myself, Sterling and Janet Bjorn-dahl each spoke to the committee as part of 16 delegations. A few weeks later on April 28, I was one of 31 delegations presented to the City Council on the motion to create a bylaw by early 2022. While many were against a ban, there were a number who wanted to still counsel and support those who wished to change. In the end, after an almost 12 hour meeting, approved for the administration to draft a by-law based on the Saskatoon by-law to come back for consideration and vote at council on July 14. The community of supportive churches have really stepped up to advocate for this change.

For our tenth anniversary of being an Affirming Ministry we created new Eastside Tshirts. We still have some available for \$30 (red or blue) and if you would like one, please contact the office.



I am appreciative of all those who are engaged and supportive of our of our efforts when we have an event or issue, including Leanne Sudom, Janet Bjorn-dahl, Ernie Poirier, Busi Mabhena, Brian Mitchell-Walker, Heather Balfour, and Jean MacKay. If anyone is interested in chairing this group so we have a committee, let us know.

Submitted by Russell Mitchell-Walker

Gratitude Team Report

The Gratitude Team has continued to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom over the last year. Our current members include: Russell Mitchell-Walker, Wanda Barr, Maureen Hughes and Delia Baidoo.

From May until December 2020 the team worked on the Stewardship Campaign. This involved preparing documents to be sent out to the congregation, a dedicated Worship Service on October 25, and the follow up on Pledge Response Cards. We assembled a jigsaw puzzle as a visual representation of the pledges collected from the congregation. The campaign was done through email this year for two reasons. Firstly, the team could not meet in person to plan and package the materials. And secondly, it was a cost saving measure as we did not have the cost of printing and mailing packages. Feedback on the email method met with both positive and negative comments. It was a successful campaign, and we were only short \$29,420.00 of our goal of \$165,000. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their truly generous support of Eastside United Church!



The team also planned an online “Will Workshop” on October 1, 2020. However, the speakers cancelled due to a low number of registrants. This is something we will attempt again, once we can meet in person.

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
- Facilitating “Minute for Mission” messages from the Outreach Ministries:
 - ◇ South Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy
 - ◇ Lumsden Beach Church Camp
 - ◇ Native Outreach Ministry
 - ◇ Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry
- Providing “Gratitude Images” for the weekly email newsletter

There were several activities that the Gratitude Team did not do this year as we were not able to gather in person. The Gratitude Dinner, and Potluck Lunch gatherings for the House Groups are events we hope to hold in the future.

Submitted by Maureen Hughes Board of Trustees

There was no activity between September 2020 and May 2021.

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 may change. 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.

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 & speakers are announced each month in the church bulletins and send email 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.

We look forward to getting together when we are able. We have 2 speakers in mind already. Hazel Arbon will come to tell us more about the Days for Girls and hopefully Delia from our own congregation re her life story.

Submitted by Anita Tessier (Coordinator/Secretary/Treasurer)

Meditation

Every Monday evening at 7:00 pm our meditation group gathers for a Zoom meeting. The group does not have a leader. Rather, we all participate by leading meditations and/or acting as the technical person for the session. Our meditations are varied. They range from guided meditations where we are transported to a beautiful location for a spiritual experience; to colour meditations, gratitude meditations, focused breathing, and much more. Each weekly session lasts for just under an hour and, on average, we have about 12 participants every week. The group is a welcoming and inclusive space, as well as a confidential one.

Submitted by Shauna Powers

Book Table

Sadly, the Book table has been removed due to Fire regulations. It was a pleasure to be able to offer books to the congregations and to the visitors to the Church and appeared to be much appreciated. The books left over were donated to Charities. A huge thank you to those who donated books and placed donations in the cash box. God Bless you all.....

Submitted by Leona Martin

Living Spirit Centre

Visual Arts Committee

Committee members are: Holley Schuman (Bread of Life), Ruth Gentile (St. Philip), and Donna Lindskog—part time (Eastside United).





The year of 2020 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 theme of The Journey to Bethlehem followed by the birth of Christ.

Epiphany was quiet and we started with a Lent display only to have the church closed due to the pandemic.

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 refurbished the living wreath so the Advent candles could be used for Advent. And for Christmas we posted a manger hanging in place of the Alleluia banner.

We also have a special thank you to give to John and Cheryl for the wonderful job they did of putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the tree so expertly. In addition John put his great creativity to work and cleaned up the visual arts storage room for which we are very thankful.

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

We are in need of some volunteers to become members of our committee. Both Ruth and I are getting to the point where we will no longer be able to continue this work. After all we are getting older. I am willing to help others learn the ropes. It is not as hard as you think.

Respectfully submitted, Holley Schuman

