

# Thornhill United Church 2023 Annual Report



## IN MEMORIAM 2023

*We remember with grateful thanksgiving,  
those from our congregation who died in 2023:*

Dilys Chamney	March 1
Lois Stewart	March 13
Joan Reynolds	March 18
Barbara Bloomer	March 28
Jean King	April 30
George Reynolds	May 1
Ruby Hawley	May 16
George Jackson	October 12
Blair Watterworth	November 21
Muriel Farrant	December 20
Otto Steenkamp	December 22

### **Thornhill United Church's Mission Statement:**

*Our faith in God's love moves us to celebrate spirituality,  
to care with compassion, and to welcome all warmly.*

### **Thornhill United Church's Vision Statement:**

*Thornhill United Church believes in Jesus' message of God's kingdom of love and grace,  
which includes all people.*

*We declare our commitment to be fully inclusive in all aspects of our life and work. This  
includes, but is not limited to, people of all ages, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations and  
gender identities.*

*Thornhill United Church seeks to be a safe place in the eyes of God and of all people, and  
to be a growing, vibrant, inclusive, welcoming church.*

### **Thornhill United Church**

25 Elgin Street, Thornhill, ON L3T 1W5  
Telephone 905 889-2131 Fax 905 889-7131  
Website: [www.thornhillunitedchurch.ca](http://www.thornhillunitedchurch.ca)

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## Council, Trustees and Staff for 2023

### Council

Chair	Duane Nelson
Vice-Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Lyle Urquhart
Secretary	Cathy Farrant
Chair, Celebrate Spirituality Pillar	David Fickel
Chair, Celebrate Caring Pillar	Lisa Fickel
Chair, Celebrate Together Pillar	Elizabeth Gartner
Co-Chairs, Assets & Administration Pillar	Lloyd Mather & Linda Mather
Chair, Ministry & Personnel	Vacant
Shining Waters Regional Representative	Vacant

### Board of Trustees

Bob Hill (Chair)  
Marion Clark  
Manny deSousa  
Kathy Camelon

### Staff

Coordinating Minister	Rev. T. Leigh Olson
Christian Development Minister	Mini Choi
Church Administrator	Tanya Melbourne
Director of Music	Ethel Briggs
Volunteer Associate Minister	Rev. Doug Whidden

## Council Chair's Report

2023 was a year of highs and the odd low, a continuation of 'return to regular' with COVID-19 firmly in the rear-view mirror, a consistent ministry team delivering a mix of compelling traditional and digital messages, a new long-term renter, repairs and modernization, old friends returning and new faces in the pews. I'm thankful for the efforts of my Council colleagues, who worked hard to advance the successes while minimizing and managing challenges as they arose.

Throughout the year, we celebrated our diversity through presentations, guest speakers and special treats, and offered several intergenerational events. We supported our community by offering prayer shawls, a place for youth for weekly Scouting and monthly hot dog lunches, and a contribution of over \$35,000 via Mission & Service donations, Foodgrains Sunday, refugee assistance, and the Christmas Assistance Program. In the second half of the year, we saw an exciting spike in social gatherings, including the return of a bigger Countrye Faire (did you get your pie?), Remembrance Sunday, many members popping by to get their portraits taken for the photo directory, the Metropolitan Silver Band, and many familiar faces at our 220<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. It has been very exciting to see some we hadn't seen since before COVID-19, and many have continued to attend. Throughout these activities and many more not mentioned, many of our congregation have been very active, offering their time, talent and energy in making each event a success. We also have a vibrant remote community who attend weekly for services and monthly for a social gathering on Zoom. Some are regulars, often greeted by our gracious Village Group 1 lead, Margaret Wilson, while others drop in when on the road or perhaps feeling under the weather.

Although there were a few hiccups and delays, the Dream Tree Montessori school officially opened their doors in July, and by all accounts, have been running smoothly. Beyond just the welcome financial benefits to TUC, their arrival also saw some significant improvements to our facilities, including the area in which they operate, the downstairs washrooms, the outside lighting, and repairs to the north stairs – something we too can enjoy. We've also added video surveillance cameras to better ensure the safety of our staff and building.

Hosting these events - and running TUC - isn't easy, as there are so many wonderful activities happening in any given month. I encourage you to look through this annual report and see what our members and friends have been up to, and how they have enriched our church. We are especially grateful for the staff: Rev. Leigh, for her tireless leadership, her insightful sermons, continual thoughtfulness and participation in so many church activities; Mini, for the many creative and engaging ways she has introduced many new young friends to TUC as volunteers and participants in many exciting youth group projects (I really recommend volunteering at a Hot Dog Tuesday - they are very fulfilling and you might score a hot dog); Ethel, our Director of Music, for her fantastic selections enhancing our worship services; and Tanya, our Church Administrator, for her talents in keeping the church running. We were also blessed with a dedicated Pastoral Care team who served those who were no longer able to attend and those who benefited from outreach, and the church thrived because of many of you – our choir, our Village Group leads, and our volunteers. You all deserve our heartfelt thanks.

While there was a lot to celebrate in 2023, we also faced several challenges, such as not being able to fill some key leadership roles, unanticipated high-cost repairs, and most significantly, disappointing financial results compared to our outlook in our previous annual report.

Still, with your help, we can overcome these challenges. Looking ahead, we continue to focus on three key goals similar to 2023, and introduce a new goal. We plan to:

- Encourage financial stewardship to help us cover our General Operating Expenses and retain two full-time ministers

- Increase volunteerism to reduce volunteer fatigue
- Offer compelling community events and targeted fundraising projects
- Improve church efficiency and introduce continuity planning

You will find greater details on these initiatives towards the end of this report, and we welcome your thoughts and involvement as we happily serve you in 2024.

Warm regards,  
*Duane Nelson, Chair of Council*

## **Coordinating Minister's Report**

I am struck by all that we accomplished together in 2023. All that we do here at Thornhill United Church is supported and undergirded in our worship together that gives us direction and purpose as a congregation.

We were blessed with our special services, speakers and guests: our Black Heritage Month worship with Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, Jackie Richardson with Andrew Craig, Rev. Paul Gibbon at our Ecumenical Lenten worship service, our Lenten sermon series on Stewardship, Good Friday with the “Stones in Scripture” and Easter Sunday, Mini as our keynote speaker for Asian Heritage Month, Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole for Indigenous Prayer Sunday, Jennifer Wilson for our Affirming Anniversary Sunday, Rev. Dr. Todd McDonald for our 220<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, Remembrance Sunday with music by Dan Whidden and Grant Rutherford, Lisa Fickel on Foodgrains Sunday, Advent Sunday School and youth presentation, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas services. Lisa Fickel and David Rawcliffe offered Minute for Mission messages; our Communion services brought us together and fed us around Christ’s table, and the regular worship that Mini or I lead once a month at Glynwood with the assistance of Ann Louise Ross, has been a special time for the ministry team and our members who are residents there.

My year was filled with regular creation of worship services and messages, leading weekly Bible Study and staff meetings, being a part of the Worship and Music, Pastoral Care and Caring Committees, the Welcome & Affirming Working Group, and Council. In June, we had our first in-person Trustees meeting since 2020, where we did a full walk-through of the building and talked about our work moving forward.

I was pleased to have the help of Elizabeth Gartner and Joan Honsberger in hosting a ‘thank you’ lunch for our Village Leads for their work, to hear their experiences over the last few years and how we might improve our Village Groups. I learned so much as I sat down with Cathy Farrant to update our website, and with Elizabeth Gartner and others starting to update our Village Group information and church membership. I have learned so much working with our Tech Team as they continue to strive to offer great hybrid worship experiences. It’s been an honour to work with so many of you in all the levels of the church and to offer pastoral care in hospital and home visitation, at the church, over the phone and to be there for our congregation in moments of joy, accomplishments, difficulties and sorrows.

I have been working in the greater church as part of Shining Waters Regional Council’s Flourishing Advisory Team that helps to create ideas and themes for events and programming for the ministers in the Region. I will continue to be a part of this team over the next few years.

As a minister at Thornhill United, I am encouraged to continue to learn and grow through educational opportunities. Last year, I attended two weekend online events through the Trinity Wall Street’s Retreat

Centre which periodically offers free events online. The one event was on meditative prayer, and the other was on Ignatian prayer. In May, I attended the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which is a four-day event filled with worship, music, training and spiritual growth opportunities, with some of the leading edge preachers and teachers in North America. There are a number of Canadian clergy who attend so it also gives me a chance to connect with people from across Canada to build relationships and share ideas. I was thrilled in October to again attend the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship, a three-day ecumenical event sponsored by key Toronto churches and theological colleges. This event has a Canadian focus with special preachers and speakers in worship and workshop. Part of the highlight of this gathering is the wonderful meals shared together, created by Yorkminster Park Baptist Church's chef and church volunteers.

Our staff gathered for a day of retreat with Rev. Linda Butler at Richmond Hill United Church in February. We learned a lot, touching on individual work styles and new ways to grow as a staff team. We will be building our team covenant in 2024.

We supported a new family in Canada with the assistance of Mehrnoush Harirchian and Lisa Fickel, visited the Jaffari Islamic Centre, held our Countryside Faire, and had photos taken for our new church directory, and so many other projects, many of them behind the scenes.

Looking at the details of my ministry and that of our congregation for 2023, I was struck by the realization that it is because we worship, work, give and study together that so much has been done. The words of Ecclesiastes 4:9 and 11, remind us to celebrate the advantages and rewards of companionship with the three-fold cord. When we work together, we can accomplish so much more.

Grace and Peace...

*Rev. Leigh Olson, Coordinating Minister*

## **Christian Development Minister's Report**

In my second year as your Christian Development Minister, I want to express sincere gratitude for the steadfast support you've given. Your commitment and dedication serve as a great source of inspiration as we continue on this transformative journey together. I have been approved for ordination. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to the Lay Supervision Team, comprised of Leslie Benson, Jennifer Copeland, David Rawcliffe, and Bob McIndoe, for their support throughout my Supervised Ministry Education (SME) journey. I am grateful for the chance to share the Christian Development Minister's Report for 2023.

### **TUC FREE HOT DOG TUESDAY:**

In February, we initiated a new tradition - TUC FREE HOT DOG TUESDAY. This monthly event opened our doors to youth in our neighbourhood, embodying the message of Matthew 22:37-39. Over seven events, we welcomed over 1,300 students, with a peak attendance of 275 students in a single hour. Thank you, volunteers, sponsors, and donors; your support has made it possible.

### **Sunday School and High School Class:**

Revitalized with a new curriculum, the teachers, and members of the Sunday School and High School classes witnessed child and youth engagement and exploration of the Christian faith, despite some teacher changes.



**Youth Group Activities:**

Two zine-making workshops, a Youth Group photography studio, pumpkin-carving nights, Greenscreen video productions, and an art jam significantly enriched our community experience.

**Intercultural Night:**

The "Voice of Jesus" series, an interdisciplinary and intergenerational program, featured an art jam, book study night, a 'Meet-an-author' event with Rev. Dr. Gordon Smith, and an art exhibition titled "The Voice," showcasing unique youth-created artworks.

**Special Services and Celebrations:**

Various services, including the Palm Sunday Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, Pride Sunday, Asian Heritage Month, Black Heritage Month, and Indigenous Day of Prayer fostered unity. Noteworthy highlights included a heartwarming Mother's Day video featuring children actively participating and presenting flowers to mother figures, as well as a distinctive Father's Day celebration.

**Ecumenical Engagement:**

Preaching at St. Luke's Catholic Church for Lenten services showcased our commitment to interdenominational collaboration, continuing our tradition of celebrating Lent with various churches in Thornhill.

**Pastoral Care and Christmas Card Design:**

Our outreach extends beyond church walls, as evidenced by our services at Glynnwood Retirement Home. Additionally, our children and youth artists designed Christmas cards, spreading joy and love as we sent them to our cherished members during the festive season.

**Community Events:**

June marked the Sunday School Graduation and Picnic, and volunteer appreciation. The Welcome Back Picnic in September celebrated fellowship, and fall activities created opportunities for shared enjoyment.

**Advent Book Study:**

"Meet The Author" sessions featuring Heather Beamish and book study gatherings marked a collective exploration of the book "Homecoming." We warmly welcomed both adults and young people to participate in these engaging sessions.

**Youth Engagement:**

A new surge of youngsters has joined our community's growing engagement, volunteering for the Countryside Faire and actively participating in our services and youth group activities.

**Interfaith Advent Celebration:**

In December, we relished a unique Christmas play with 26 talented children and youth. The performance, combining video and live piano, featured curated music, including Iranian tunes, classical pieces, Sakamoto's masterpieces, and Christmas carols. Youth artistic creations shone in four themed videos, achieving a record-breaking attendance of 155.

**Focus Time and Faith Formation:**

Incorporating videos into Focus Time engaged our youngsters, contributing to the growth of our congregation.

### **Worship and Special Services:**

Besides preaching and co-leading worship services, I officiated at memorial services, weddings, and baptisms, marking significant moments in the lives of our congregation.

Through our shared experiences, we have sought to strengthen our bonds with one another and extend the reach of God's love to those around us. As we look to the future, let us continue this journey with anticipation, fostering deep connections and expanding God's grace in our community and beyond.

In Christ,

*Mini Choi, Christian Development Minister*

### **Shining Waters Regional Council Report**

Shining Waters Regional Council (SWRC) is one of 16 administrative groupings in The United Church of Canada (UCC). Its objective is to encourage and connect communities of faith in The United Church of Canada. Geographically, Shining Waters Region runs from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario.

As TUC's Regional Council representative, I was involved as follows:

- Participated in a Regional Council meeting in May, with a theme of "So What? Faith in Action"
- Attended monthly meetings of the Intercultural Diversity and Ministry Commission of SWRC
- Participated in an information session about General Council 44 Remit 1 (Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization), and voted on this Remit in my role as a member of the SWRC executive
- Engaged with United Church Women (UCW) on behalf of the National Korean United Church Women, joining with 14 other regional UCW presidents at their annual meeting
- Engaged with the Ethnocultural Ministry of the UCC, as a part of the UCC Korean Networks

With my move to Calgary, I stepped down from this role in the latter part of 2023. We are actively looking for Regional Council representatives; please consider joining as a SWRC representative for TUC.

*- Submitted by Moon Ja Park, Shining Waters Regional Representative*

### **Board of Trustees Report**

The Trustees (Bob Hill, Kathy Camelon, Marion Clark, and Manny deSousa) met informally on several occasions during the year with a brief report sent to Council. These reports also covered meetings held with the Treasurer and the Church Administration as well as a phone meeting with the Envelope Steward to discuss tax receipts and insurance coverage. Our goal is to complete a review of all 'Pillars' and report on our assessment thereof, by May 31, 2024. Three of our members have also attended a Council meeting during 2023.

*- Submitted by Bob Hill, Chair of Board of Trustees*

## Roll Clerk's Report

For the United Church of Canada 2023 Yearbook Statistical Report

Confirmed members as per 2022 Annual Report 300

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Received by certificate of transfer 0

**Subtotal 300**

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Removed by death 8

Removed by transfer certificate 4

Removed by Council 0

**Total Removed (12)**

**Total confirmed members as of December 31, 2023 288**

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Total number of households under pastoral care for 2023  
(member and adherent) 321

Number of baptisms (over 12 yrs. of age) 3

Number of child (under 12 yrs.) baptisms 2

Received by confirmation (under age 18) 0

Received by confirmation (over age 18) 0

Number of marriages performed 1

Number of funerals/memorial services 10

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Number of identifiable contributors to General Funds >\$50 169

Number of financially supporting households 167

Number of identifiable givers to the M & S Fund >\$50 56

- Submitted by Tanya Melbourne, Church Administrator

## Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FUND			
	YTD DEC 2022	YTD DEC 2023 	BUDGET 2023
<b>Receipts</b>			
Envelopes/PAR/Seasonal	282,257	270,792	276,800
Use of Space	56,615	106,908	139,800
Fund Raising	5,473	7,120	5,000
All Other	22,310	35,441	36,500
	<b>366,655</b>	<b>420,261</b>	<b>458,100</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	263,675	298,904	292,000
Pillars----BCU	132,409	136,334	124,000
All Other	3,118	5,499	5,460
UCC Assessment	18,385	20,198	20,200
Council	10,470	16,310	16,440
	<b>428,057</b>	<b>477,245</b>	<b>458,100</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(61,402)</b>	<b>(56,984)</b>	<b>-</b>

It was another exceedingly disappointing year financially.

- Givings were over \$11,000 less than 2022 and \$6,000 less than budgeted expectations.
- Use of Space revenues increased significantly in 2023 due to the Dream Tree Montessori school. However, the budget had assumed they would commence operations effective April 1 but due to licensing approval delays, they did not begin until July 1.
- Salaries & Benefit costs exceeded budget by \$7,000 due to higher-than-expected benefit costs.
- Building Care & Use expenditures exceeded budget by more than \$12,000 due to numerous unexpected maintenance costs---the most significant one being HVAC repairs and replacement parts.

- Submitted by Lyle Urquhart, Treasurer



## INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

### To the Members of Thornhill United Church

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Thornhill United Church (the Organization) that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Practitioner's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

#### Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at December 31, 2023, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Toronto, Ontario

February 9, 2024

*Cappit Solutions Professional Corporation*

Authorized to practice public accounting by  
the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

# Thornhill United Church

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31, 2023

	Externally Restricted Funds				Internally Restricted Funds		December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
	General Fund	Visionary Fund	M & S and Healing Funds	Refugee Fund	Incare Funds	Capital Fund		
<b>ASSETS</b>								
Current Assets								
Cash	35,356	26,035	24,381	-	-	-	85,772	144,875
HST Recoverable	6,869	-	-	-	-	-	6,869	7,297
Deferred Expenses	4,804	-	-	-	-	-	4,804	5,176
Investments (Note 5)	-	296,810	-	-	50,763	65,633	413,206	519,681
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>47,029</b>	<b>322,845</b>	<b>24,381</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,763</b>	<b>65,633</b>	<b>510,651</b>	<b>677,029</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 47,029</b>	<b>\$322,845</b>	<b>\$ 24,381</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 50,763</b>	<b>\$ 65,633</b>	<b>\$ 510,651</b>	<b>\$ 677,029</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>								
Current Liabilities								
Bank Indebtedness (Note 9)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000
Accounts Payable & Accruals	19,897	-	-	-	-	-	19,897	15,413
Deferred Revenues (Note 7)	11,823	-	-	-	-	-	11,823	1,050
Other Liabilities	975	-	-	-	-	-	975	905
Payable to United Church of Canada	-	-	24,381	-	-	-	24,381	9,115
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>32,695</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,381</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,076</b>	<b>66,483</b>
<b>CONGREGATIONAL EQUITY</b>								
Unrestricted Fund Balance	14,334	322,845	-	-	-	-	337,179	393,156
Restricted Fund Balance			-	-	50,763	65,633	116,396	217,390
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 47,029</b>	<b>\$322,845</b>	<b>\$ 24,381</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 50,763</b>	<b>\$ 65,633</b>	<b>\$ 510,651</b>	<b>\$ 677,029</b>

The attached notes 1 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Chair of Council *Duane Nelson*

Unaudited - See Review Engagement Report attached  
and dated February 9, 2024

Treasurer *Lyle Urquhart*

# Thornhill United Church

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

			Externally Restricted Funds		Internally Restricted Funds			
	General Fund	Visionary Fund	M & S and Healing Funds	Refugee Fund	Incare Funds	Capital Fund	2023	2022
<b>RECEIPTS</b>								
Contributions by Congregation	270,792	-	24,381	-	6,890	1,559	303,622	324,166
All Other	149,469	1,008	-	26	23,376	17,385	191,264	119,268
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>420,261</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>24,381</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30,266</b>	<b>18,944</b>	<b>494,886</b>	<b>443,434</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>								
Salaries, Benefits & Ministers' Expenses	298,904	-	-	-	-	-	298,904	263,675
Building Care and Use	136,334	-	-	-	-	-	136,334	134,024
Mission & Service and Healing	-	-	24,381	-	-	-	24,381	27,115
Capital	-	-	-	-	-	16,464	16,464	24,623
UCC Assessment	20,198	-	-	-	-	-	20,198	20,066
Other	21,810	-	-	94,974	38,792	-	155,576	57,801
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>477,246</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,381</b>	<b>94,974</b>	<b>38,792</b>	<b>16,464</b>	<b>651,857</b>	<b>527,304</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES BEFORE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>(56,985)</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(94,948)</b>	<b>(8,526)</b>	<b>2,480</b>	<b>(156,971)</b>	<b>(83,870)</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>								
Beginning of year	71,319	321,837	-	94,948	59,289	63,153	610,546	692,371
End of year - Unrestricted Fund balance	\$ 14,334	\$ 322,845	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 337,179	\$ 393,156
End of year - Restricted Fund balance		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,763	\$ 65,633	\$ 116,396	\$ 217,390	

The attached notes 1 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Unaudited - See Review Engagement Report attached and dated February 9, 2024

**Thornhill United Church**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

			Externally Restricted Funds		Internally Restricted Funds			
	General Fund	Visionary Fund	M & S and Healing Funds	Refugee Fund	Incare Funds	Capital Fund	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	\$ (56,985)	\$ 1,008	\$ -	\$ (94,948)	\$ (8,526)	\$ 2,480	(156,971)	\$ (83,870)
<b>Change in non-cash working capital</b>								
HST recoverable	428	-	-	-	-	-	428	(2,848)
Prepaid Expenses	372	-	-	-	-	-	372	(5,176)
Accounts payable & accruals	4,484	-	-	-	-	-	4,484	1,629
Deferred revenue	10,773	-	-	-	-	-	10,773	550
Other Liabilities	70	-	-	-	-	-	70	170
Payable to United Church of Canada	-	-	15,266	-	-	-	15,266	(2,403)
Bank Indebtedness	(40,000)	-	-	-	-	-	(40,000)	-
<b>Cash from (used in) investing activities</b>								
Investments	49,244	25,027	-	26,158	8,526	(2,480)	106,475	153,161
<b>CASH BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	66,970	-	9,115	68,790	-	-	144,875	83,662
<b>CASH BALANCE AT END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 35,356</u>	<u>\$ 26,035</u>	<u>\$ 24,381</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 85,772</u>	<u>\$ 144,875</u>

The attached notes 1 to 9 are an integral part of these financial statements.

Unaudited - See Review Engagement Report attached and dated February 9, 2024



# THORNHILL UNITED CHURCH

(Unaudited)

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

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### 1. Nature of the Organization

Thornhill United Church is a pastoral charge of the United Church of Canada. It strives to be a welcoming, Christ-inspired community that celebrates, worships, and nourishes within a caring family of faith. It shares its members, resources, and facilities within the local community, while working together within the global community for the betterment of all. Thornhill United Church is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act of Canada, #89831-2731.

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### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations published by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada using the restricted fund method of reporting revenues and include the following significant accounting policies:

#### a) Revenue Recognition

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the general fund or the visionary fund in the year received, unless stipulated by the donor in which case these amounts are recorded as deferred revenue. Contributions to Restricted Funds are recognized as revenue of the appropriate fund, and all are recognized as revenue in the year received.

Other receipts are comprised primarily of the use of space, \$106,848 (2022- \$56,615).

#### b) Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures are financed out of specific funds provided for that purpose and are not capitalized. During the year, equipment was purchased, and renovations were made for a total cost of \$16,284 (2022- \$34,880) and expensed at the time of acquisition.

#### c) Contributed Services

Volunteers contribute their time and effort in carrying out various activities within the Church. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value of such assistance, contributed services are not recognized in these financial statements.

#### d) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from management's best estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

#### e) Financial Instruments

The organization's financial instruments consist of cash, investments, accounts receivable, sales tax refundable, accounts payable, accrued expenses and unremitted funds to United Church of Canada. The organization measures its financial instruments at cost or amortized cost.

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### 3. Description of Funds

- The General Fund reports unrestricted contributions and accounts for the organization's program delivery and administrative activities.
- The Visionary Fund is an unrestricted fund. Bequests to the Church that did not indicate a specific purpose are allocated to this fund. Essentially, this is a reserve fund which is available to support the General Fund, each Restricted Fund or other initiatives which may be undertaken by the Church subject to Council's approval.
- Restricted Funds
  - The Mission & Service and Healing Funds support worldwide missionary and other activities of the United Church of Canada.
  - Incare Funds support various activities carried out within the Church focusing on the care of others in need such as Club Handi, Christmas Assistance Program and Out of the Cold Program.
  - The Capital Fund is used for capital asset funding projects within the Church.

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### 3. Restricted Fund Balances

The balances in all restricted funds are held in trust on behalf of the United Church of Canada.

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### 4. Investments

Investments consist of:

- Guaranteed Investment Certificates from major Canadian banks, and are shown at cost plus accrued interest, which approximates market values. Interest rates range from 4.48% and 5.80% and have maturity dates ranging from September 2024 to January 2025. Interest earned in 2023 was \$20,888 (2021-\$9,081)

The GICs are not exposed to any significant interest rate risk.

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### 5. Land and Buildings

These financial statements do not include United Church of Canada assets at Thornhill United Church, which were valued in 2020 as follows.

Building	\$6,910,000
Stained Glass	788,000
Organ	832,000
Other Contents	<u>160,000</u>
Total Capital Assets	<u>\$8,690,000</u>

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### 6. Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue is comprised of funds received as prepayment for interment in the church's Memorial Garden.

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### 8. Commitments

- a) The Church has a lease on its photocopy machine. It is required to pay \$3,592 +HST per year until 2027.

- b) The Church is obligated to pay an annual United Church of Canada assessment 2024-\$17,872, (2023-\$20,198).
- 

## **9. Financial Instruments**

The organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments, without being exposed to concentration of risks.

It is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest or credit risks arising from financial instruments.

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## PRELIMINARY GENERAL FUND BUDGET-----2024

	2021	2022	2023	BUDGET 2024
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Envelopes/PAR & Seasonal Offerings	318,242	282,257	270,792	<b>270,000</b>
Use of Space	52,732	56,615	106,908	<b>154,220</b>
Other Fund Raising	839	5,473	7,120	<b>6,700</b>
Investment Income	-	9,081	21,898	<b>18,000</b>
Donations, Weddings & Memorial Garden	10,568	11,437	9,634	<b>8,500</b>
Loose	179	1,792	3,909	<b>4,000</b>
	<b>382,560</b>	<b>366,655</b>	<b>420,261</b>	<b>461,420</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Salaries, Benefits & Ministers' Expenses	278,587	263,675	298,904	<b>322,500</b>
Building Care & Use	102,427	134,024	136,334	<b>132,000</b>
All Other Pillars	2,509	3,118	5,500	<b>5,300</b>
Presbytery	18,219	20,066	20,198	<b>17,872</b>
Council	6,363	12,894	16,310	<b>7,700</b>
	<b>408,105</b>	<b>433,777</b>	<b>477,246</b>	<b>485,372</b>
	<b>(25,545)</b>	<b>(67,122)</b>	<b>(56,985)</b>	<b>(23,952)</b>
<b>SUBSIDIES RE COVID-19</b>	<b>45,942</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>20,397</b>	<b>(67,122)</b>	<b>(56,985)</b>	<b>(23,952)</b>

I stress that this is a preliminary budget for the General Fund for 2024. With expenditures exceeding receipts by almost \$24,000, some decisions are necessary.

After considerable debate, Council has decided that feedback from the congregation is desirable.

Alternatives to consider are one or more of the following:

- A sizeable increase in Givings from each family
- Eliminate one full-time ministerial position.
- Transfer sufficient funds from the Visionary Fund to cover the shortfall - this is proposed for 2024 only!

- Submitted by Lyle Urquhart, Treasurer

## Pillar Reports

### ***Celebrate Spirituality Pillar***

The Celebrate Spirituality Pillar is responsible for the support, exploration and growth of our Christian faith journey, through all aspects of the worship experience, congregational life, music and choirs, and youth and adult educational activities.

#### Worship

Worship is a core activity of our faith life at Thornhill United Church. Each week we share time together to give praise and thanks to God for the grace in our lives, as well as God's abiding presence through trying personal times and challenges in the world around us.

Some highlights from the worship services held in 2023:

- The hybrid service continues to evolve and is supported by a dedicated team of audio-video and Zoom volunteers.
- Lay volunteers led Prayers of the People and scripture readings.
- Communion was served virtually and in-person on February 26 (Lent 1), April 9 (Easter Sunday), May 28 (Pentecost Sunday), July 16, October 1 (World Communion Sunday), December 3 (Advent 1), and December 24 at 7 p.m (Christmas Eve).
- One person was baptized on February 12, one on June 11, and three on August 13.
- Guest speakers: Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey (video message); Lorris Herenda, CEO, Yellow Brick House; Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole (video message) on Indigenous Day of Prayer; Jennifer Wilson representing the Welcome & Affirming Working Group on the anniversary of Affirming Sunday; Rev. Dr. Todd McDonald on Anniversary Sunday.
- Sunday School children created a video and there was live music for the Christmas play under the direction of Mini Choi.
- Colleagues shared their talents with a variety of solos on the trumpet, guitar, bassoon, handbell and piano.
- The Thornhill Ministerial Ecumenical Lenten Series took place on February 26, March 12 and March 26.
- We welcomed new member, Peter MacLaurin. Other members of the Committee include Ethel Briggs, Mini Choi, Rev. Leigh Olson, Susan Armstrong, Lorry Colangelo, Jeff Whittington, and David Fickel (Chair).

#### Sanctuary Choir

This past year the Sanctuary Choir has been back in-person, singing during hybrid Sunday services (via Zoom) with great audio assistance led by Jeff Whittington. Music is enjoyed by our Zoom congregation.

We were pleased to welcome Tim Min, Willow Shi and Sandra Weir to the choir and to have Don Withey and Nobue Khan return to sing with us. Tim and Willow also performed a piano duet on November 12.

On November 18 the choir sponsored another wonderful concert by the Metropolitan Silver Band and we sang a Christmas medley with the band.

Our summer soloists were Jeff Whittington (guitar), Abby Minor (bassoon), Anita Crump (handbells), and Tim Min (piano).

We have had many difficult health challenges within our choir this year but we sing and support one another and are grateful for the music.

*- Submitted by Lorry Colangelo, Sanctuary Choir President*

### Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir, also known as the Thornhill Ringers, is a dedicated group of eight players who resumed rehearsals in March 2023, following the hiatus caused by COVID-19. They played at worship services in April, October, November and December. We were pleased to welcome two new ringers, Tim Min and Willow Shi, to our ensemble.

The Handbell Choir rehearses most Wednesday evenings from September to June, in the Gallery.

*- Submitted by Ethel Briggs, Director of Music*

### Worship Technical Support

Membership in the Technical Support Team (Tech Team) for 2023 team included: Samuel Chao, Graeme Jannaway, Duane Nelson, Lyle Urquhart and Jeff Whittington. Responsibility for hosting the Sunday services on Zoom and in-person was rotated on a weekly basis between Samuel, Graeme and Duane, with Lyle and Jeff providing soundboard support. Margaret Wilson was Zoom co-host, assisting those online.

A packaging team consisting of Samuel Chao, Graeme Jannaway, and Duane Nelson assembled the PowerPoint, video and audio recordings into a form that could be used in the services after receiving the weekly PowerPoint from Tanya Melbourne. Each member of the team uses the editing tools that they prefer to do their work, before uploading the service-ready files to Dropbox. Packaging responsibilities are rotated on a monthly basis.

The video system that was installed in the summer of 2022 continued to provide a live video stream to those on Zoom. While we continue to find technical improvements, feedback on the worship experience for those who can't attend in-person has been positive.

Finally, I'd like to thank the team for their dedicated technical support of the worship services in 2023.

*- Submitted by Graeme Jannaway, Technical Support Coordinator*

### Christian Development

The Christian Development Committee is responsible for coordinating and promoting the Christian Development and Spiritual Nurture programs at TUC. Currently these programs fall under the following areas: Sunday School, Youth, Family Life, Adult Faith Development, and Outreach to families in the community. The members of the committee are Jennifer Hunter (Chair), Mini Choi, Jackie Argue, and Moon Ja Park.

- Sunday School: In-person Sunday School classes were held each week with all ages (Kindergarten to Grade 8) in one class. The high school students met biweekly. We started using a new curriculum called "Be Bold Now" and purchased two seasons. In June we had our Sunday School graduation and teacher recognition. Our Welcome Back Sunday event in September was a wonderful way to kick off the new school year. Members brought a brown bag lunch and we provided chips, freezies and ice-cream sandwiches for everyone to enjoy outside. There were games, food and prizes and the event was enjoyed by members of all ages. Our Christmas play was held in December and it was a success.
- Hot Dog Tuesday: We received over 1,300 students across the seven events. Thanks to our volunteers and contributors, their donations covered the costs of serving the students. This connection with the

high school students helped us build relationships and they actively joined our youth group activities and volunteered at various church events.

- Baptisms: Kynleigh Clarke, Amir Mohammadi, Maneli Mohammadi, Dean Withey and Leila Zamani
- Confirmation: There were no confirmations this year.
- Youth: Youth Group, for grades 5 and up, typically met once a month on a Friday night or Sunday afternoon. Activities included a zine-making workshop, portrait photography workshop, apple-picking, and pumpkin-carving.
- Intergenerational Events: The Intergenerational events consisted of an adult book study and a youth group art jam. The book study, titled "The Voice of Jesus," unfolded dynamically from February to April, featuring an intergenerational night that combined an art jam with the study sessions. In April, the program culminated in a 'Meet-an-Author' event with special guest Rev. Dr. Gordon Smith, who flew from Calgary to Thornhill. Adding an artistic flair to the event, an art exhibition titled "The Voice" showcased distinctive artworks crafted by our talented youth. The program's interdisciplinary nature which encompassed components such as the book study, meet-the-author event, art jam, and art exhibition, was integral to its richness.
- Adult Faith Development: Mini led two books studies this year. In March the book "The Voice of Jesus" by Rev. Dr. Gordon Smith was read and discussed. In November the book "Homecoming" by Heather Beamish was studied.

- Submitted by Jennifer Hunter

### Library Administration

With the help of my colleagues - Cathy Farrant, Lucina Fraser and Pat Fukunaga - we finished withdrawing books from the Adult section, so it should be easier to find a book you might be interested in. There are instructions on the desk on how to sign a book out if no one is there to help. The books go out for a period of four weeks.

- Submitted by Marie Burrows

### ***Celebrate Caring Pillar***

The Celebrate Caring Pillar is responsible for encouraging care and compassion for the congregation, neighbourhood and wider community through outreach ministries and actions, and for the promotion of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada.

The members of the Celebrate Caring Pillar include: Lisa Fickel (Chair), Barbara Carruthers, Pat Fukunaga, and David Rawcliffe. This committee is assisted by numerous volunteers, support projects and events that seek to enrich the lives of others.

### Mission & Service

Locally, we help people by supporting homeless shelters, food banks, community kitchens, and refugee programs. We help young people on campuses and through camping outreach. We help people who are sick or at the end of life by supporting addiction, mental health, and counseling services and hospice care.

Globally, we support people to access clean water, food, and medical care. We support skills training and economic development. We help with peace-making and sustainable agriculture efforts. We

provide disaster relief and advocate for the rights of those who all too often don't get a say, like children and migrant workers.

Over the past year, Thornhill United Church has donated \$25,035 to The Mission and Service Fund in support of these goals.

*- Submitted by Lisa Fickel*

### The Canadian Foodgrains Bank

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is made up of 15 churches and church-related organizations. It is a Christian response to hunger, and since 1983, it has provided more than half a billion dollars of assistance for people in over 80 countries. The Foodgrains Bank provides food aid to people in need, helps people address longer term problems by producing and providing food for themselves, and supports special initiatives to improve nutritional wellbeing for children, mothers and families.

Through donations and the sale of bunwiches on November 12, 2023, TUC raised \$3,910 to support the work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

*- Submitted by Lisa Fickel*

### Refugee Family Assistance

In early January, 2023, Rev. Leigh Olson shared some information with the congregation regarding a refugee family from Afghanistan that was desperately in need of household items. The response of the congregation was overwhelming. Offers of furniture, televisions, beds, kitchen utensils, clothing, rugs, tables, linens and towels were received within a very short time. On January 21, 2023, a group of volunteers delivered three van loads of household items to the family of four (parents and two young girls) to Newmarket. The family was very appreciative.

*- Submitted by Lisa Fickel*

### Refugee Working Group

Thornhill United Church has completed its participation in the co-sponsorship of the Kaloub family. The final monthly payment to disburse funds set aside for the family's support was made in September 2023. Residual funds of approximately \$600 were sent to Westminster United Church for further support of refugee work, as per prior agreement. TUC's Refugee Working Group is no longer active, having wrapped up its activities on behalf of the Kaloub family, who have successfully settled into life in Canada.

*- Submitted by Jennifer Copeland*

### Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Committee is made up of a group of members from the church who volunteer their time to maintain a connection between the church and members who are no longer able to attend church or have needs that would benefit from support of the church.

The members include Rev. Leigh Olson, Rev. Doug Whidden, Mini Choi, Tanya Melbourne, Heather Morris, Catharine Montgomery, Linda Mather, Jackie Smith, Ann Louise Ross, Barbara Carruthers (Chair).

We have a formal list of 22 church members who are in long-term care (LTC) and six members at home who have assigned visitors. There are additional visits according to need. If someone is in the hospital Heather will visit as the visitor assigned to hospitalizations but other members will visit as well. Our ability to



determine who is in hospital is usually by word of mouth since there isn't any official liaison function between the hospital and TUC. Please let one of our members know if you know of anyone that is in the hospital.

We also have 11 members who have passed away in 2023/2024.

We are continuing to work on developing a "JUST IN CASE" contact list in order to be able to follow up on members that we have difficulty contacting and are concerned about their status and well-being.

We will also visit anyone who is dealing with grief, poor health or loss, at their residence.

With the softening of lockdowns, in-person visits were possible depending on the outbreak status of the care facilities. Protocols vary between facilities; some allow visits during a COVID-19 outbreak with masks and shields, while others do not allow visits at all during a COVID-19 outbreak.

At Glynnwood, TUC offers a coffee hour the first Thursday of every month, run by Leigh or Mini, and Ann Louise, unless there is a lockdown. Leigh provides scripture, meditation and communion. TUC members plus other residents attend and love it and look forward to it.

Again this Christmas, the TUC High School students designed and produced Christmas cards that were sent to those we visit.

Catharine Montgomery makes sure cards are sent where and when needed such as for birthdays, bereavement, illness, recovery, in hospital, thinking of you etc.

Our members also send or deliver seasonal cards and notes to our LTC residents.

The committee remains very diligent and creative in maintaining contact and providing support during the intermittent pandemic restrictions.

Please let us know if and when you feel someone would benefit from a call or a visit.

*- Submitted by Barbe Carruthers, Chair*

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

In 1998 the Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in Connecticut. Care and the love of knitting and crochet were combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace.

Blessings and prayers are knitted and crocheted into every shawl. When completed the shawls are made available for distribution to those in need. Thus the blessing ripples from person to person, with both the giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a loving God. The shawls wrap, enfold, comfort, give solace, hug, shelter and beautify.

The Thornhill United Church group was started in the fall of 2013 and meets once a month on the first Friday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Gathering Place. We are a small friendly group who mainly create their masterpieces at home as time permits and share their ideas and solve any creative problems as we come together at our monthly meetings.

A word of thanks to all who have contributed to the Prayer Shawl Ministry, whether it be knitters, crocheters, donators of wool or distributors of shawls. As of December 31, 2023 we have completed **358** shawls for distribution to those in need of comfort.

Our completed shawls can be found in a basket on the table in the narthex and are available for anyone to pick up and give to someone you know who is in need of a hug or is celebrating an occasion. Included in the Ziploc bag with the shawl is a gift card. You will see the shape of the shawl noted on the outside of the bag (i.e. rectangle, triangle).

Come join us. We welcome new members at any time, whether you are a beginner or an experienced crafter. Donations of wool are always appreciated and can be left with Tanya in the office.

Thanks for your continuing support.

- Submitted by Marg Stainsby – Coordinator

### Christmas Assistance Program

The Christmas Assistance Program had another successful year! Our small committee started planning in September and on December 9 we were able to deliver gift cards to 112 families (296 individuals). This included 16 families staying at Yellow Brick House and 96 families living in our Thornhill community. We reached out to our local churches, community groups, local businesses, and schools for donations and as always, they were very generous. Members of TUC contributed \$7,090 to this worthwhile cause. Thank you!

Our committee is made up of members from local churches as follows:

- Holy Trinity - Linda Gould, Sharon McNelles
- Thornhill Baptist - Gloria Stafford
- Thornhill Presbyterian - Sharon Miron and Rev. Dr. Heather Vais
- Thornhill United - Deb Heatherly, Tanya Melbourne and Gabi Blair.

Behind the scenes, we would like to thank Lyle Urquhart who keeps track of our finances, Cathy Farrant who helped us with our mailings, Mariah Heatherly who helped wherever we needed her, and the drivers that delivered the envelopes that were beautifully decorated by the students.

### 1st Thornhill Scouting Program Sponsorship

Thornhill United Church is home to the 1st Thornhill Scout Group, which is comprised of Beavers (SK to grade 2), Cubs (grades 3 to 5), Scouts (grades 6 to 9), and Venturers (grades 10 to 12), although the Venturer program currently has no youth enrolled. Current membership is 59 youth, 15 leaders, and four leaders-in-training. Rebuilding continues, as membership has not returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Beavers and Cubs currently share the auditorium on Monday evenings. During 2023, the Beavers and Cubs participated in many fun activities:

- hiking in local parks
- participating in campfires
- attending a winter camp and an Indiana Jones-themed camp
- participating in a food Fear Factor event
- making winter hats (using sewing machines)
- making (using scroll saws, drill presses, and belt sanders) and racing wooden cars
- touring a fire station
- participating in winter activities, including sledding, skating, building a 9-foot-tall snow person, and playing basketball in the snow
- preparing a three-course meal
- learning outdoor skills like setting up a tent, making a campfire, taking bearings on a compass, winter survival, and general first aid
- attending the Baden-Powell and Remembrance Day services at the church.

The Scout troop meets on Thursday evenings in the auditorium. Highlights from 2023 included the following:

- attending the Dorchester International Brotherhood Camporee, a large international camp with Scouts and Guides from across North America
- holding a canoe camp at Massassauga Provincial Park in June
- participating in day trip canoeing in September at Guelph Lake Conservation Area, where they practiced rescues and emergency procedures (and thoroughly entertained everyone on the beach)
- camping and mountain biking in October at Woodland Trails campground and in the York Region Forest
- Visiting indoor rock-climbing gyms, and learning to belay
- Making pickleball racquets and learning to play pickleball
- Building souped-up wooden race cars
- Holding day hikes and other outings to learn orienteering, geocaching, and other Scouting skills.

TUC provides 1<sup>st</sup> Thornhill with the use of the building on weekday evenings throughout the Scouting year. The 1st Thornhill Scout Group would like to thank the staff and congregation of Thornhill United Church for their ongoing support, which is greatly appreciated.

*- Submitted by Cathy Farrant, with thanks to Daniel Van Tassel and John Enright for their input*

## ***Celebrate Together Pillar***

The Celebrate Together Pillar is responsible for promoting fellowship, belonging, and hospitality among new and established members, adherents, and visitors, through social gatherings and activities that embrace welcoming, inclusivity, and fun.

### **Village Groups**

May – six of the eight Village Groups (VG) leaders shared an enjoyable lunch with Mini and Leigh. Conversation included highs and lows, joys and sorrows of the VG over the pandemic years. Discussed suggestions for going forward. Developed a plan to review the membership and reallocate members attending again in person to five village groups with co-leaders for each. Margaret Wilson has agreed to co-lead a Zoom VG. Lisa Clark stepped down from VG2.

June – Elizabeth, Leigh and Mini met to plan the next steps of the review of VG lists. Elizabeth continued to review the eight VG lists initiating the reallocation of the members and providing updates for the church roster.

July to September - Margaret worked diligently to review the inactive members list and made contact with 48 persons or families of the 59 on the list with active phone numbers. Elizabeth contacted people on the 8 VG lists determining who wished to remain connected to TUC and in a VG. Throughout the review a few people were identified in need of future contact and their names were provided to Pastoral Care.

September to October – Village Groups shared greeting and ushering responsibilities (two people per Sunday). Lists for the redistributed in-person VGs and rolling roster for Sunday service greeter volunteers were shared with the VG leads. There are co-leads for two of the five in-person VGs. Margaret has taken on the role of VG1 lead for those worshipping via Zoom. VG leads also assisted with contacting individuals to schedule photo sessions for the new church directory.

November – Five in-person VGs started following the new schedule for Sunday greeters. This schedule follows a rolling roster of VG2 to VG6 moving thorough the months in numerical order.

December – Margaret planned and started a series of Zoom meetings for VG1 (those who only join via Zoom) and those who sometimes participate via Zoom so they would have an opportunity to gather.

Cathy Farrant updated the “Instructions for Greeters” sheet of responsibilities as pandemic restrictions have been lifted and processes changed.

Next steps:

- Recruit co-leads for three in-person and one Zoom VG
- Ensure new individuals attending TUC are added to VG
- Review name tags by removing those who no longer attend and updating the VG numbers for those who do
- Set up one of the bulletin boards across from the library desk with the new VG information

VG leads:

- VG1 - Margaret Wilson
- VG2 – Leslie Benson
- VG3 – Elizabeth Gartner
- VG4 – Madeline West
- VG5 – Terri Baker & Joan Honsberger
- VG6 – Rita Hafeman & Cathy Farrant

*- Submitted by Elizabeth Gartner*

### Intercultural Working Group (IWG)

In February we focused on Black History Month with special vocal solos by Jackie Richardson on February 5 and a video message from Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey (Ottawa) on February 12. Lucina Fraser and Persis Penfound prepared poster boards featuring black people who came north to our western provinces; these were displayed in the narthex each Sunday in February.

For Asian Heritage Month in May we featured Asian Canadians who have excelled in arts and entertainment. We provided snacks, decorations and a video of visual art. Mini Choi spoke about her faith journey and Kathy Yu sang historical Chinese solos.

On June 18 we had a video message from Rev. Dr. Teresa Burnett-Cole, for Indigenous Day of Prayer.

Elizabeth Gartner took on the responsibility of the “Celebrate Together” pillar on Council so she is no longer a committee member but she oversees our group.

We were saddened to say goodbye to the founder of the IWG and our Chair for the past seven years, as Moon Ja Park and her husband moved to Calgary in October. Joan Elliott joined our group and has helped lead our meetings.

On November 26 the IWG was featured in the service so we encouraged people to wear clothing that represented their heritage. Rev. Leigh Olson invited several in the congregation to identify their country of origin and to describe their clothing. Iranian erhu player, Ali Alidoosti, played a solo. We provided baked goods from our personal heritage. Rachel Walcott played several solos on the soprano steel pan after the service.

*- Submitted by Ethel Briggs*

### Coffee and Conversation

As pandemic restrictions have lifted, Coffee and Conversation after Sunday services has resumed. Throughout most of the year coffee and tea are served in the Gathering Place, with Lemonade on The Lawn

during the summer. Recruitment of new people to make and serve the refreshments has occurred and others are always welcome to sign up.

*- Submitted by Stephanie Bell*

### TUC Gathering on Zoom

Initially advertised as “Come one, come all to the first meeting of the Zoom Village Group - Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> from 1 - 2 pm. This is open to everyone in the congregation, even if you are already in another Village Group - you can attend our Zoom sessions and still belong to your in-person group.” We have changed the name to “TUC Together on Zoom” to welcome all.

A Zoom gathering is planned the first Thursday each month from 1 - 2 pm and Margaret has organized speakers for the first year. December 7, 2023 the guest speaker was Rev. Leigh Olson and she spoke about prayer. The format includes opening with a prayer, having a speaker, followed by time for questions and then visiting time together. Next month, bring your tea or coffee and let's enjoy an hour together.

*- Submitted by Margaret Wilson & Elizabeth Gartner*

### Woodworkers

The Woodworkers group reopened in April when a number of the men returned from their winter away. The group has tended away from actual woodworking projects to more of a carving group. The group does use the machines to get their projects underway. We lose part of our group when they head to cottages for the summer, but we consistently have four or more carvers each week. We encourage new members to pick up a knife and whittle away with us!

*- Submitted by Joan Honsberger*

### Winter Arrangement Workshop

On Saturday December 9, we had 18 people in the basement of TUC working on their winter arrangement of greens and accessories, to the sound of Christmas music. Many were dressed to our theme, which was “Coming Gnome For The Holidays”! Sandra from Toronto Florists guided our efforts and kindly donated her time and talents.

There were a few prizes that were auctioned off for additional funds. We were pleased to donate \$686 to the church General Fund.

We look forward to more fun next year. Think about joining us in December 2024.

*- Submitted by Joan Honsberger*

### Ecumenical Lenten Series

The Lenten Committee is comprised of members from Thornhill Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Anglican, Thornhill Baptist, St. Luke's Catholic, Thornhill Lutheran, and Thornhill United churches. The group is led by Rev. Paul Gibbon from Thornhill Baptist Church. The Rev. Dr. Heather Vais from Thornhill Presbyterian is also a ministerial member. Each year has a theme. This unique group has met for over 50 years in Thornhill during Lent. We held three services during 2023. Our offerings were directed to Blue Door (Out of the Cold) and Hospice Thornhill.

*- Submitted by Joan Honsberger*

### Welcome & Affirming Working Group

The Welcome & Affirming Working Group (WAWG) works to ensure all are warmly welcomed at TUC, with a special focus on those of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Our Welcome Hosts provide an extra level of greeting by ensuring newcomers are made comfortable, invited to enjoy refreshments after the service and see TUC as a place where they might feel at home. The Affirm United posters on our windows, rainbow flag in the Narthex and rainbow-coloured WELCOME banner all indicate a place of safety and acceptance for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. We thank Marie Fenwick for the lovely WELCOME banner recently added.

We continue to add the Affirm United logo to our bulletin, HANDS newsletter and our regular communications wherever possible.

During the year, we also held special services for PIE (Public. Intentional. Explicit.) Day with slices of pie served after worship, for Pride Sunday, and to celebrate the first anniversary of becoming an Affirming Church. In June, a small group represented TUC along with Richmond Hill United in the York Region Pride Parade. We reviewed the importance of personal pronouns with the congregation and continue to update name tags to add them.

Members of the WAWG are Rev. Leigh Olson, Beverley Deutsch, Jennifer Wilson, Linda Mather, Lorry Colangelo, Lucina Fraser, Nobue Khan, and Heather Morris.

*- Submitted by Heather Morris, Chair*

### **Assets & Administration Pillar**

Under the governance structure implemented in 2021, this Pillar includes Financial, Administrative, and Property functions. The Pillar is co-chaired by Linda and Lloyd Mather. This report will cover the make-up and work of the sub-committees.

#### Property

The Building Care & Use (BCU) Committee is responsible for the ongoing upkeep of the facilities we are entrusted with. The committee members include David Argue (Chair), Doug Alder, Bob Shortreed, Tanya Melbourne (Church Administrator), and Brian Jackson (Envelope Steward & insurance).

During 2023 the following significant events occurred:

- The Dream Tree Montessori school commenced operation in the north wing of the building on July 1. Before opening they made extensive renovations to the space to comply with the health and safety standards for nursery schools and to make the space more effective and attractive for their operations. They also did landscaping work to create an outdoor play area and to improve access to the door at the north end that serves as their main entrance. The agreement with the school is for an initial term of seven years with an option to renew for up to three additional years and it includes annual escalation in usage fees.
- In order to improve building security for staff, members, and other users of the building, a video surveillance camera system was installed in December including 20 cameras strategically located around and inside the building. The system includes recording and playback equipment.
- The TUC Community Garden at the east end of the parking lot went through its eleventh year. It was a very successful season, thanks to the fine work of coordination by Nobue Khan.
- Miscellaneous maintenance aspects (HVAC repairs, lighting installations, thermostats checked, parking lot patched, pest management) were accomplished.

- The solar panels were sold, including the control system. The roof track will likely remain in place due to removal costs.
- Earthworks have been completed at the north end of the building (Sunday School wing) to deflect rain and ground water from entering the building. The area was re-sodded. The Montessori school installed a new walkway from the bottom of the outdoor staircase to the north entrance, which they are using as their main entrance.
- Additional tree removal and pruning of several of our trees was done in the early autumn.
- For 2024 we are planning the following:
  - Exterior painting including repairs to exterior woodwork is required.
  - Ongoing facilities maintenance.

Thanks to the committee members this year for all that they accomplished.

Special thanks to: Diane McLeod and Lucina Fraser for their efforts to keep the gardens looking beautiful, Ian McLeod and Bob Campolin doing the lawn maintenance and keeping the church in shape and neat - their work helps us to present a welcoming appearance to the community, and Tanya Melbourne for managing the outside service providers that keep the church running (e.g. elevator, furnace, fire protection, cleaning service among others).

### Financial

#### **Renters**

The Tree of Life Presbyterian Church has renewed their agreement to use the Sanctuary on Sunday afternoons, as well as Friday evenings.

As mentioned above, the Dream Tree Montessori school commenced operations on July 1 after spending about four months renovating the space and obtaining the necessary approvals and permits from the City of Markham and the Ministry of Education. Thanks to the BCU Committee and Tanya Melbourne for supporting the start-up.

Pedalheads rented the parking lot and auditorium space during the summer months. Opera York has been renting the auditorium for rehearsal space for several sessions during the year.

Our community renters include 1<sup>st</sup> Thornhill Scouts, Gamblers Anonymous and Thornhill Lions Club.

#### **Stewardship**

The members include Lloyd Mather (Chair), Archie Asbridge, Brian Jackson (Envelope Steward and insurance liaison), Cathy Farrant, and Bob Fukunaga.

This sub-committee promotes Christian Stewardship of finance and resources through regular givings, as well as fundraising. Other than the counting functions there was very little activity due, in large part, to the pandemic. Until 2022 our congregational offerings and use of space revenues held up fairly well. Unfortunately, this has not been the case in 2022 and as you will see in the Treasurer's report, we ended the year with a serious deficit. This will be addressed early in 2024 with our first stewardship program in many years.

Many thanks to those who organized fundraisers in 2023: Hilary Jacob for the Pancake Supper, Jeff Knowles and his team for the Countryside Faire, the Sanctuary Choir for the Metropolitan Silver Band concert, and Joan Honsberger for the winter arrangement workshop.

#### **Trustees**

Trustees are Bob Hill, (Chair), Marion Clark, Kathy Camelon, and Manny deSousa.

The Trustees' report is separate from this pillar report. They are included in the pillar make-up because of their responsibilities for church assets. They are consulted and requested for approval of issues relating to our land and building. The Trustees are our signatories on the agreements with Tree of Life Presbyterian Church and the Dream Tree Montessori school.

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer, Lyle Urquhart, is included in this pillar as a key member. His report appears along with the financial statements.

### **Miscellaneous Responsibilities**

### **Technology**

Members include Jeff Whittington, Duane Nelson, Samuel Chao, Graeme Jannaway, and Lyle Urquhart.

During the year the audio and video systems were upgraded to improve the quality of the Zoom live-streaming of our worship services.

### **Spirit Garden Team**

Members include Rev. Leigh Olson, Joan Honsberger, Persis Penfound, Diane McLeod, and Lloyd Mather.

This group was established by Council in 2018 with a mandate to find ways to utilize our real estate to increase our community engagement in a manner that is consistent with our mission as a church and that will produce an additional revenue stream to help sustain our ministry for the future. The group met via Zoom several times during the year. They have decided that the mandate needs to be updated.

We continue to enjoy working with this fine team of dedicated volunteers and staff in our roles of Co-Chairs of Assets & Administration. We believe that the new structure is meeting the objectives of speeding up communications and reducing the time spent in meetings.

*- Submitted by Linda and Lloyd Mather*

## **Ministry & Personnel Report**

Current members include Michael Hafeman, Hilary Jacob, and Darlene Macartney.

Otto Steenkamp retired as the M&P Committee Chair early in 2023, following the Annual Congregational Meeting. We were saddened by his death later in the year and remember his service to M&P and TUC with grateful thanksgiving.

Hilary Jacob joined the M&P Committee in June 2023, and we thank her for joining.

Currently without a Chair, we work collaboratively and share the task of representing the M&P Committee at Council.

### **Responsibilities**

- Be available for consultation and support for matters involving the staff.
- Oversee the relationship of the staff to each other and to people in the congregation.
- Regularly review the working conditions, responsibilities, and compensation of all staff.
- Make any recommendations needed as a result of these reviews to Council.
- Revise position descriptions of staff as needed.
- Conduct annual performance reviews of the staff.



- Ensure staff make use of opportunities for continuing education that they have been given.
- Maintain close contact with the Shining Waters Communities of Faith and Pastoral Relations Minister.

#### ***Ministerial Staff***

- Our Coordinating Minister, Rev. Leigh Olson, continued and consolidated her role as Coordinating Minister.
- Mini Choi has become well-established as our Christian Development Minister. Mini is employed on a two-year contract as a candidate minister and is working towards being ordained in 2024.
- Our ministers have been working together as a team, while establishing and differentiating the workload within a team ministry.
- Our ministers are committed to their continuing education plans.

#### ***Lay Staff***

- It was another successful year for our committed and dedicated Director of Music, Ethel Briggs. Her input from a musical perspective is a most valuable contribution to the overall wellbeing of TUC.
- Tanya Melbourne plays a valuable role in coordinating TUC activities as our Church Administrator. This is a very busy and demanding position given the breadth of her responsibilities including overseeing church service preparation, special meetings and activities, parking lot and building use renters, as well as overall care of the building.

A huge thanks to our ministers and staff for their efforts and commitment to TUC!

- Submitted by Mike Hafeman, M&P

Thornhill United Church  
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting  
Held on Sunday, March 5, 2023

1. Opening Prayer and Remembrances

Mini Choi gave the opening prayer and continued with a time of remembrance for those members of the congregation who passed away in 2022.

2. Acknowledging the Land and Congregational Covenant

Rev. Leigh Olson led the congregation in an acknowledgement of the land and in a recitation of our congregational covenant.

3. Call to Order and Review of Voting Procedures

Duane Nelson called the meeting to order, and reviewed the voting procedures in place for this hybrid meeting, which had members attending in person and via Zoom. The ministers (who are members of Shining Waters Region and not of Thornhill United Church) will be deemed to abstain from all congregational votes and will not be counted in any abstentions below.

4. Appointment of Chairperson, Timekeeper, Monitor and Secretary

On a motion duly made by Duane Nelson and seconded by Lloyd Mather, it was

RESOLVED that Diane McLeod, Hilary Jacob, and Cathy Farrant be elected as Chair, Timekeeper, and Secretary, respectively, for the meeting.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

5. Voting Privileges

On a motion duly made by Jennifer Copeland and seconded by Joan Honsberger, it was

RESOLVED that adherents who contribute regularly to the support of Thornhill United Church be entitled to vote on temporal matters that come before the meeting, and are entitled to enter into any and all discussions.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Lloyd Mather and seconded by Ian McLeod, it was

RESOLVED that, as the minutes had been distributed to the Congregation in the Annual Report, the reading of the minutes be deemed unnecessary and the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of April 24, 2022, be approved as a correct record.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

On a motion duly made by Lyle Urquhart and seconded by David Rawcliffe, it was

RESOLVED that, as the minutes had been distributed to the Congregation in the Annual Report, the reading of the minutes be deemed unnecessary and the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of June 12, 2022, be approved as a correct record.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

## 7. Retirements, Nominations, and Review of Appointments

Duane Nelson acknowledged the contributions of all Council members, and thanked Otto Steenkamp, who is retiring from his position as Chair of Ministry & Personnel, and Joan Honsberger, who is retiring from her position as Chair of the Celebrate Together Pillar. Duane then described the main duties of these two vacant positions, and Diane asked for nominations for each position.

On a motion duly made by Stephanie Bell and seconded by Manny deSousa, it was

RESOLVED that we accept the nomination of Elizabeth Gartner for the Chair of the Celebrate Together Pillar effective March 5, 2023.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

There were no nominations for the Chair of Ministry & Personnel.

To summarize, the members of the Executive Council for 2023 are:

- Chair of Council: Duane Nelson
- Vice-Chair of Council: Vacant
- Treasurer: Lyle Urquhart
- Secretary: Cathy Farrant

The following persons will serve in the specified positions for 2023:

- Chair of Celebrate Spirituality Pillar: David Fickel
- Chair of Celebrate Caring Pillar: Lisa Fickel
- Chair of Celebrate Together Pillar: Elizabeth Gartner
- Co-Chairs of Assets & Administration Pillar: Lloyd Mather and Linda Mather

- Chair of Ministry & Personnel: Vacant
- Regional Representative: Moon Ja Park

The following persons will serve as members of the Board of Trustees for 2023:

- Bob Hill (Chair)
- Marion Clark
- Kathy Camelon
- Manny deSousa

As per our constitution, Trustees will be called upon as needed by Council.

As called ministers, Rev. Leigh Olson and Mini Choi are necessary members of both the Thornhill United Church Council and the Board of Trustees.

## 8. Financial Report

Lyle Urquhart presented the 2022 financial results.

He advised that while the Church's official financial statements for 2022 are included in the Annual Report, his objective today is to drill deeper into the numbers to provide a clearer picture of what the church did with the congregation's money.

He first provided a brief review of all funds other than the General Fund.

- The Visionary Fund received a donation of \$13.7K.
- Capital Fund expenditures of \$24.6K were comprised of:
  - The purchase of a new freezer at a cost of \$1.0K which was covered in full via a contribution from a TUC family (that contribution was included in Receipts)
  - Equipment costs for implementation of hybrid services totaling \$6.1K, and
  - A new water drainage system at the north end of the building at a cost of \$17.5K.
- The Refugee family arrived in Canada in mid-October and so payments from the Refugee Fund to the Sponsor have commenced and will expire in September 2023.
- All outstanding balances in the Mission & Service Fund and the Healing Fund were sent to the United Church of Canada head office in January 2023.
- As in 2021, there was very limited activity within the various In-Care Funds due to COVID-19 issues. The one exception was the Christmas Assistance Program. Receipts of \$29.K came from the congregations of the four participating churches along with donations from two schools, as well as community groups, local businesses, and individuals in the community not affiliated with any church. Expenditures of \$33.7K were primarily purchases of gift cards which were distributed to needy families in the community.

The \$40,000 Canadian Emergency Business Loan is unchanged from last year. If the loan is not repaid by December 31, 2023, the \$20,000 forgivable portion (which was included in 2021 Income as required) will have to be repaid and interest charges will commence in January of 2024. Lyle advised that the church is determined to repay this loan on or before December 2023.

Lyle then reviewed the General Fund. He compared 2022 actuals with 2021 and also with the 2022 budget:

- Givings for 2022 were \$36K less than 2021 and almost \$38K less than budget. This was somewhat disappointing given that in-house services resumed in March.
- Use of Space receipts were less than budget. The primary reason was that we had anticipated the return of York Catholic District School Board's English as a Second Language classes; they started in May but the number of attendees did not justify continuing.
- Due to COVID-19, we did not budget for any fundraising initiatives during the year. However, thanks to pie and jam sales in October, a concert by the Metropolitan Silver Band in November, a winter arrangement workshop in December, and to commissions earned from FundScrip gift card purchases throughout the year, we received a total of \$5.5K. Thanks to all who participated in these initiatives.
- All other income exceeded budget by \$2.2K. The largest category is "Donations" and this has always been a difficult category to budget for.
- Salaries & Benefits costs were \$6.3K lower than budget due primarily to the assumption that a Christian Development Minister would commence June 1 and Mini Choi did not start until early August.
- Building Care & Use costs were \$20K over budget and more than \$31K greater than 2021. Contributing factors were very significant rate increases for both hydro and natural gas and some unplanned expenditures related to maintenance costs, specifically:
  - \$4.3K in carpet cleaning and repairs (this was the first time that the carpets were professionally cleaned in many years)
  - \$6.5K in removal of trees downed in a summer storm plus pruning of other trees
  - \$2.9 for plumbing repairs in the basement
  - \$8.0K in furnace and air conditioning repairs.

At last year's Annual Meeting Lyle reminded everyone that there was a 30% increase in our insurance premium in 2021. In 2022 our insurance premium increased by a further 17%. With these huge increases, effective December 2022, the United Church of Canada (UCC) launched a self-insurance program aimed at a significant reduction of insurance costs. As our insurance coverage runs from June 1 to May 31 the church will not see any benefit from this initiative until the latter half of 2023. An annual premium reduction of 15 to 30% is anticipated by UCC staff.

A slide summarizing 2022 givings to the General Fund was reviewed. Collectively, 182 families/individuals contributed \$282.3K, with 23 families/individuals (representing just 13% of the total number of givers) contributing 54% of the total. Digging deeper, 11 of those families/individuals contributed \$104.5K or 37% of the total. This was much lower than in prior years and accounted for over \$25K of the decline in givings from 2021. Lyle stated that it is realized that not every member of TUC has the financial means to contribute at this level. The purpose of the slide was to alert everyone as to the adverse impact to church finances if we lose one or more of these families.

Lyle acknowledged the support the church receives from Doug Alder and Bob Shortreed of the Building Care & Use Committee. Every year, they undertake a wide variety of repairs in the church. While we reimburse them for the materials needed for these repairs, they do not charge us for the time they spend. Without their knowledge and skill sets our annual maintenance costs would be considerably higher.

General Fund net equity is the accumulation of surpluses less deficits over the years. At December 31, General Fund assets exceeded General Fund liabilities by \$71.3K, even after absorbing the 2022 loss of \$67.1K. so Council did not see any reason to transfer any money from the Visionary Fund.

There were no questions raised about our financial position. Rev. Leigh Olson thanked Lyle for all of his hard work throughout the year.

Subsequent to this discussion, on a motion duly made by Lyle Urquhart and seconded by Lloyd Mather, it was

RESOLVED that the 2022 Financial Statements be accepted.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

Subsequently, on a motion duly made by Lyle Urquhart and seconded by Joan Honsberger, it was

RESOLVED that Coppo & Co. be appointed to conduct the 2023 Review Engagement.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

## 9. Proposed Budget

Lyle Urquhart presented the proposed budget for the General Fund for 2023, noting the following:

- Givings are targeted at \$276.8K, which is a decrease from 2022. The primary reason for this is that a family with annual givings that were historically around \$10K to \$12K advised him that they would be unable to continue contributing at this level in 2023. After taking that into account, he budgeted for everyone else to increase their 2023 givings by 2%.
- Use of Space revenues are expected to increase dramatically due primarily to the new Montessori school that is expected to commence monthly lease payments in April of 2023. Lyle acknowledged the efforts of Lloyd Mather who devoted countless hours in 2022 to find a suitable tenant.
- Fundraising initiatives are projected at \$5K following the successes of 2022.
- With the significant market interest rate increases in 2022, we are expecting interest income of \$24.5K.
- Donations, Weddings & Loose are difficult to predict at the best of times, so have been set at levels that are consistent with 2021 and 2022 actual amounts.
- With respect to the "Salaries, Benefits & Ministers' Expenses" category, Lyle advised that the church has seen a noticeable increase in pension and benefit costs. Also, Mini Choi will be on the payroll for all of 2023.
- Building Care & Use costs are expected to decrease slightly following the surprises in maintenance costs in 2022.
- Lyle pointed out that his slide contained an error. The category "Presbytery Costs" is incorrect; it should read "UCC Assessment".
- Administrative (Council) costs are expected to increase in 2023, due mainly to payment of a real estate commission of \$8K plus HST. Also in recent years, our accountants have given us a "courtesy discount" for the Review Engagement due to COVID-19. This is not expected to recur in 2023.

There were no questions about the budget.

Subsequent to the above discussions, on a motion duly made by Lyle Urquhart and seconded by Ann Louise Ross, it was

RESOLVED that the 2023 General Fund budget be accepted.

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

#### 10. Receipt of Annual Report

The 2022 Annual Report was tabled.

On a motion duly made by Jennifer Copeland and seconded by Mike Hafeman, it was

RESOLVED that the 2022 Annual Report be received as a record of the year 2022, subject to the following changes:

1. In Rev. Leigh Olson's report, her reference to Mini as a "student candidate" should be changed to refer to Mini as a "candidate" with the word "student" removed.
2. In the Roll Clerk's report, "Confirmed members as per 2022 Annual Report" should read "Confirmed members as per 2021 Annual Report".
3. In the Roll Clerk's report, "Total confirmed members as of December 31, 2021" should read "Total confirmed members as of December 31, 2022".
4. In the 2023 Proposed General Fund Budget, the term "Presbytery" should be replaced with "UCC Assessment".

The motion CARRIED unanimously.

#### 11. Congregational Goals

Duane Nelson provided an update on our 2022 congregational goals, highlighting some of our most significant achievements in 2022:

1. We launched hybrid worship services, after purchasing the necessary equipment.
2. We became a Supervised Ministry Education (SME) learning site and were subsequently able to hire Mini Choi as our Christian Development Minister.
3. We became an Affirming Church.
4. We cautiously resumed some fundraising activities and signed a rental agreement with a Montessori school.

Duane also updated the congregation on our goals for 2023:

1. Focus on financial stewardship and community events
2. Improve volunteerism
3. Continue to promote an intercultural faith community
4. Address safety and security concerns

He referred congregants to the 2022 Annual Report for a complete list of our accomplishments for 2022 and goals for 2023.

There were no questions about our congregational goals.

12. New Business

There was no new business.

13. Closing

The Annual Congregational Meeting was closed, and Rev. Leigh Olson provided a closing prayer.

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Chair of the meeting

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Secretary of the meeting



# TUC 2023 Congregational Goals and Accomplishments

The following outlines the goals as they were considered during the year, indicating where there were successes and where there is more work to be done.

## **Goal 1: Focus on financial stewardship and community events**

The intent of this goal was to drive more attendance and external participation to help with our financial success. While there was progress on several fronts, the overall results did not reflect our ambitions. Our encouragement of greater attendance at Sunday worship services to pre-COVID-19 levels occasionally yielded several Sundays over 100 people live (5 times). However, the average tended to be 70 in-person people and 25 people on Zoom, which is only a marginal gain from 2022 post-COVID-19 numbers. On the other hand, we have seen a handful of new members and their young families trickle in and are hopeful continued focus on outreach and community events will continue this trend and offset any declines in attendance. A bright spot over the year was the reintroduction of a handful of get-togethers, including a pancake dinner, our 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and a return of the Countryside Faire, with an openness for the continuation of small-scale gatherings and fundraisers in 2024.

Unfortunately, even with the small uptick and fundraiser, we were unable to meet the goal of achieving a balanced budget through increased financial contributions. Hence, this goal will roll over to 2024 and be an even greater focus as we consider how to ensure TUC can cover costs in the future.

Given the positive use-of-space impact that the Dream Tree Montessori school has brought us, the Spirit Garden initiative was somewhat deprioritized.

## **Goal 2: Improve volunteerism**

This goal was partially met. While we gained new and/or shuffled fantastic volunteers in many roles, the quest to fill some key leadership gaps - M&P, Finance, Village Group leads, Shining Waters members, as well as a Vice-Chair - has not resonated with the congregation. Several leaders have been volunteering non-stop for well over 20 years. Two initiatives to address this were unfortunately not fully met:

- We had hoped to establish a regular cadence of volunteer highlights, but were limited to short descriptions at various intervals, with one exception of sharing Zoom-friendly positions with Village Group 1 over Zoom. There is still an appetite to do this more formally, so this will roll into the 2024 goals until something repeatable is established.
- The tool for identifying members who have not volunteered in the past as well as those that have volunteered, but are currently inactive as volunteers, was paused in late spring for reevaluation.

This tool has been revisited and approved by Council for implementation, targeting the end of June.

There was a particularly bright spot in youth volunteerism. We are thankful for Mini's wonderful engagement with Thornhill Secondary School and other places, leading to a noticeable surge of youth volunteers. This has helped ease the burden on many of our regular volunteers on the days of events, and we look forward to their continued participation and involvement in church activities.

### **Goal 3: Continue to promote an intercultural faith community**

No longer restrained by COVID-19, this year we celebrated our diverse community in person. Activities included a variety of videos, musical artists, presentations, guest speakers and many tasty treats. For a full report, please refer to the Intercultural Working Group section above. Throughout the year, Moon Ja Park shared information from the United Church Intercultural Ministry, the Intercultural Diversity Commission of Shining Waters Regional Council, and the General Council of UCC. We thank Moon Ja for her efforts and wish her and Peter all the best in their new home out west.

### **Goal 4: Address safety and security concerns**

We are pleased to announce that the initiatives under this goal were successful. Specifically:

- Better lighting was installed around the church
- Security cameras were installed to act as a visual deterrent and practical means of evidence in the event of any incidents
- The Dream Tree Montessori school repaired the wooden steps and installed a new railing and a new concrete slab walkway to the north door.

## **TUC Congregational Goals for 2024**

### **Goal 1: Encourage financial stewardship for long-term success**

Financial health is critical to our long-term success. While we have supplemented our income with revenues from the Dream Tree Montessori school, our givings declined significantly and we did not meet our budget in 2023.

Our approach in 2024 will be to:

- Ask the congregation to increase their givings to help us cover our General Operating Expenses and make the retention of two full-time ministers financially viable in the coming years. Tasks may include a presentation on financial stewardship and its importance to the church, and inspiring any members not on PAR to adopt PAR to help TUC with budgeting.
- Support fundraising events – ranging from smaller potlucks to the larger Countryside Faire (consistent with Goal 3).
- Conduct an estate-planning information session with a financial planner to encourage members to include bequests to TUC in their wills.

### **Goal 2: Improve volunteerism**

The health of a church is directly linked to the engagement of its members. TUC has an amazing set of volunteers that have risen to every occasion. Unfortunately, volunteer fatigue, particularly in leadership positions, has set in, as people sometimes serve in the same positions for decades. In 2023, we did a reasonable job of replacing outgoing leaders, and in 2024, we want to supplement as many teams as possible with new leaders or co-leaders. In order to facilitate this, we will need a larger pool of willing participants, as well as a shared leadership model in places where leaders are harder to find. Encouraging greater engagement across our congregation requires clarity of scope and tenure, thus our focus in 2024 will be to:

- Establish a regular cadence of ‘volunteer highlights’ as part of services to encourage engagement (already started in late January with an M&P showcase)
- Finalize and implement a new tool for identifying members who have not volunteered in the past, as well as those that have but are not currently volunteering, as candidates for consideration
- Add a minimum of two members to M&P, one member to the Shining Waters Regional Council support role, four Village Group co-leads (including one remote), and a Treasurer’s assistant. A stretch goal will be to find a Vice-Chair of Council. Filling any unexpected departures would also need to be addressed.

### **Goal 3: Offer compelling community events and targeted projects**

With a combination of fun gatherings and smaller scale fundraisers (consistent with Goal 1), we hope to encourage greater participation and involvement by the community outside our doors. We also may look to very specific fundraising goals for tactical repairs or needs. We look to several events that have been popular in the past to carry over into 2024, including:

- Hot Dog Tuesdays to strengthen our relationship with Thornhill Secondary School.
- Quarterly gathering activities (potluck, and/or themed dinners, games nights, special interest/information-sharing evenings, etc.). Ideally, these are hosted, planned (or outsourced) by village groups to broaden the volunteer base.
- Countryside Faire and potentially a small-scale, mid-year fundraiser.
- We will also explore project-driven fundraising (e.g. repainting the exterior of the church, replacing damaged and deteriorated woodwork) where we set a goal and collect money towards that goal.

### **Goal 4: Improve church efficiency and introduce continuity planning**

By focusing on better planning, documentation, and more granular definition of common activities at TUC, we safeguard the church from disruption. By introducing continuity planning best practices, we can gain many positive outcomes. For example, with a clear, well-maintained list of the day-to-day tasks and needs within a pillar activity, we can take advantage of automation opportunities (like task assignments and periodic scheduled reminders), better orient new volunteers, have a greater understanding of the scope of projects before starting (which can reduce resistance to joining as a volunteer), as well as protect ourselves from loss of information as a result of an emergency or abrupt departure of a leader. Some examples of where we can improve planning, documentation and process may include:

- Broad church policy and position reviews
- Memorial garden book updates to reflect recent interments
- Member data and communication system improvements
- Tech team guidance on the soundboard
- Explicit continuity planning for each role
- A Trustee area-of-focus schedule
- A Countryside Faire planning kit

It should be noted that the examples above are arbitrary selections with no particular consideration of how well documented they actually are. Pillar leads and Council members will be asked to identify and prioritize such needs in the near future.