

2022-23 MFUC Financial Review for Feb. 12th AGM

- What does your operating contribution allow the Church to do?
 - It does not just cover heat, hydro, staffing, cleaning but allows us to share and continue a **community of faith**, to have Sunday services, to provide Bible School, Skills workshops, Sunday community dinners, videoing of Church services, a music program with a valued director and choir members, choir cantatas and events, providing music each service, to conduct weddings and funeral services, to provide space for community groups to hold meetings and events, to hold fellowship hour, to have a Church directory, to meet and visit those who are ill or shut-in to highlight a few things our contributions support. Contributions support those in need in the community and those in need of spiritual guidance and fellowship.
 - Contributions do make a difference for the Church and the community.

- So why do we have a recurring deficit?
 - a) Loss of contributing members
 - b) Low number of new contributing members or families
 - c) Costs of services such as hydro & snowploughing continue to increase
 - d) Staff wages & benefits have an annual inflation increase
 - e) We are not what we once were financially partially due to COVID which had a definite impact on our Church and local community
 - the no. of families contributing to the operating costs to maintain Church functions has decreased significantly in the past 10 years, from 199 to **133** (2022 figure)
 - majority of **total** givers ..123 of **158 (78%)** donate less than \$1,500 annually or approx.. \$30 per week
 - We also lost over 12 members in 2022 who passed on, which will further impact the # of families contributing unless our membership is able to grow.
 - It is however gratifying to see that total operating contributions have remained strong with generally an annual increase in amount, which means fewer members are giving more each year. **A difficult trend to count on, I am sure.**

- A couple of questions we discussed in our Leadership Team meetings were ...
 - a) Are today's priorities the same as they were 5 or 10 years ago? Are we offering more programs than we have volunteers for?
 - b) Are we counting on the same members year after year to serve on committees?
 - c) Should we review what other charities we are continuing to support in our community and look more closely at supporting our own financial needs?

- What can we do to reduce a possible deficit? What are some of the options for our donations"?
 - a) **PAR** giving is a reliable way of supporting the Church on a regular basis
 - b) Sign up for **Canada Helps**. Though Canada Helps takes a small administrative fee, it is minor.
 - c) We could consider setting up option for **E-transfers** for those who are computer savvy, since we move closer to a "cashless society".
 - d) Ensure that members who are not attending or contributing regularly are made aware of giving options such as **PAR**

- What else can we do to help support the Church financially?
 - e) We can exam regional and UCC grant opportunities. Some capital expenses can be covered by such grants.
 - f) Ensure we get competitive quotes on a regular basis for grounds & building maintenance and insurance costs.
 - g) Increase rental opportunities of the Church, currently only 2 organizations (2022) renting facilities on a regular basis. One third of Use of Building revenue in 2022 was from funeral service fees
 - h) Rent more space; e.g. day care, pickle ball, counselling groups etc.
 - i) Rent office space in the manse
 - j) Consider collaborative ministry with another area Church
 - k) Redirect some of our "restricted funds" if needed e.g., Green Team, Camp Funds; with permission of those who established the fund

We are hoping these comments get all our creative juices working as we work towards ensuring the financial stability of the Church.

We appreciate any input from members of the congregation and encourage you to step forward, participate on a committee even if just for an event or for a year on a Church committee.

Al Leach

Chair Finance & Stewardship