



Annual Report 2022

Active Hope



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Cover Photo: The Affirming banner at our March 13 service.



AbbeyChurch minister Rev. Megan Crosby-Shearer celebrates communion in the First Met Sanctuary.



Orange Shirt Day at First Met



Our Mission, Vision and Values

Our Mission

As a faith-based community, we are committed to including people of all ages, economic circumstances, abilities, ethnicities, sexual orientations and gender identities in all aspects of the life and work of our ministry.

Together we seek transformation, engagement and service for ourselves, our community and our world.

Our Vision

First Metropolitan is a vibrant, diverse, justice-seeking, faith-based community rooted in downtown Victoria and branching out beyond.

Our Core Values and Beliefs

1. To love one another unconditionally as God loves us and to value each person's uniqueness.
2. To value the gifts of community and being an integral part of the wider community
3. To actively care for and live with respect in creation.
4. To nurture Christian spirituality and justice-seeking in ways that foster personal growth and creative interaction.
5. To acknowledge and respect that we live, work and worship on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish nations.
6. To celebrate that ours is an evolving faith, founded on the teachings of Jesus and relevant to our lives today.

Our Worship Services

10:00 am Communion in the Chapel (first Sunday of the month and via Zoom on Thursdays)
11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary (in-person and on-line)



In Remembrance

January

- - -

February

Drewry, Neil Thomas	Feb 24	Donna Field (daughter) Alan & Glen Drewry (sons)
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March

Aitken, Graham	Mar 22	
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April

Hicks, Lois	Apr 22	-David Hicks (husband)
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June

Newell, Shirley Anne	Jun 23	Bert (partner)
Starke, George	Jun 24	Pamela (daughter)

July

Vowles, Judy	Jul 20	Leanne Vowless (daughter)
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September

Swainson, Aldyth May	Sep 20	Neil (son)
Peter Cruse	Sep 20	
Carter, Wayne	Sep 24	Marian (spouse)

October

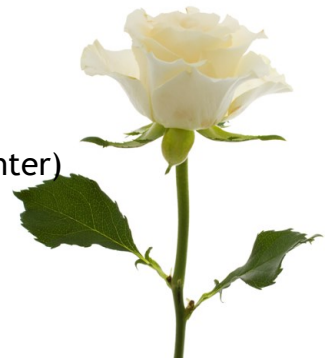
Cottam, Robert	Oct 15	Wilda (spouse)
McKay, Allan	Oct 19	Roberta (spouse)

November

Ash, Irene	Nov 23	Donnie and Judy (children)
Pitts, Marianne	Nov 23	Susan, David, and Garry (children)
Boyce, Kathleen	Nov 28	Hally Hofmyer (son)

December

Krause, Robin	Dec 6	Robin, Susan, and Gillian (children)
Derbyshire, Ellwood	Dec 16	Allen, Lynne, Mary, and Donna (children)
Foskett, Bill	Dec 31	Bonnie (spouse)



"I am the resurrection and the life; all who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." – John 11:25, 26

Statistical Report 2022

Weddings

Jason Melrose Gray and Chelsey Louise Lane were married on August 14, 2021
by Rev Shelagh MacKinnon

Child Baptisms

None

Adult Baptisms

None

Church Membership

260 Members

Average number of persons attending Sunday services

In-Person 62

On-line 50

Total 112



Governance and Teams

Church Board *

Edeana Malcolm, Chair
Liane Clark, Treasurer (resigned May)
Ross Breckon, Treasurer
Larry Scott, Secretary (from June)
Cheryl Black, Volunteer Associate Minister (from September)
Linden Holmen (from June)
Marketa Mellows
Emily MacDonald

Board of Trustees

Board Rep - Larry Scott
Jan Drent, Chair of investments
Rennie Warburton
Christine Hutchinson
Marion Denton
Earl Jensen, Legacy Circle
Larry Scott, Secretary

Archives and Heritage*

Board Rep - Marketa Mellows
Margery Hadley, Co-leader and archivist
Don Bourdon

Christian Spiritual Development and Worship*

Board Rep- Edeana Malcolm
Arlene Anderson, flowers
Leslie Biederman
Marion Denton

Communications*

Board Rep- Marketa Mellows
David Bray, leader
Joan Mason, newsletter editor, AV leader
Janet Gray, Facebook

Evolving Church

Board Rep- Emily MacDonald
Emily MacDonald, leader
Vicki Atwell
Marilyn Banfield
Leslie Biederman
Penny Bond
Jacquie Henderson
Heather Querengesser
Barry Rolston
Pat Dykes

Finance and Administration

Staff Partners - Katya Rumyantseva, Fiona Weber (until May), Lindsey Bellman (May and June), Lauren Paterson (from August)
Board Rep - Ross Breckon (from June)
Liane Clark, (leader, treasurer and board rep until June)
Cheryl Black, leader (from August)
Jan Drent, property co-leader
Susan Walma

Hospitality

Staff Partner - Bruce Davies
Board Rep- Larry Scott
Moira Nasim
Robin Breckon
Susan Walma
Alva Jensen

Library*

Board Rep- Marketa Mellows
Denise Holmen, leader
David Chamberlain, alternate leader
Gillian Chamberlain
Phyllis Duval
Terry Swan
Alva Jensen

Ministry and Personnel

Board Rep - Ross Breckon
Leanne Prestwich, leader
Marie McKee
Peter Clugston

Music Advisory

Staff Partner - Kelly Charlton
Board Rep- Edeana Malcolm
Mary Byrne, leader
Sharon Stennes
Gordon Larsen
Judi Swanston

Newcomers Welcoming *

Board Rep - Larry Scott
David Prestwich, leader
Brenda Porter, vice leader

Outreach*

Board Rep - Emily MacDonald
Janet Gray, leader, KAIROS rep.
Jan Drent, Shelter liaison
Penny Bond, Angel Gifts
Andrea and Hally Hofmeyr, Our Place
Monthly Serving Coordinators
Forrest Nelson, Mission and Service

Pacific Mountain Regional Representatives

Shelagh MacKinnon
Janet Gray

Property Management Task Group

Staff Partner - Bruce Davies
Board Rep - Linden Holmen
Linden Holmen, leader
Ross Breckon
Steve Gray
David Bray
Peter Clugston

Spiritual Care & Wellness*

Staff Partner - Kyla Morgan Morrison
Board Rep - Emily MacDonald
Sharron Higgins, leader
Patti Buchanan
Irene Baddeley
Alva Jensen
Roberta McKay
Lynda Page

Sunday School

Staff Partner - Micia Kanstrup
Board Rep- Edeana Malcolm
Micia Kanstrup, leader
Leslie Biederman
Larry Scott
Emily MacDonald

United Church Women*

Board Rep- Emily MacDonald
Marie McKee, President
Patti Buchanan, recording secretary
Janet Harper, corresponding secretary
Mildred Mossop Unit

Joan Wilkinson
Marion Denton
Marie McKee
Pam Shemilt
Gloria Stott
Dorothy Ottoson

Unity Unit

Patti Buchanan
Irene Baddeley
Pat Davey
Eileen Thurbide
Sherry Cooknell
Nora Hoskins

*** Shelagh MacKinnon is the staff partner for all teams indicated with an asterisk.**



Minister's Report

As we look back on 2022, it is striking that many questions that remained unanswered at the end of 2021 still hang in the air: what will be the long-term effect on our church, and all churches, of the continuing COVID 19 pandemic? In Victoria, we face many very serious social problems, first and foremost the poisoned drug supply and the issues of the unhoused. The world faces ecological peril of increasing dimensions and implications. As a community of faith, how do we stay actively hopeful in these realities?

At First Metropolitan United Church, 2022 was full of remarkable signs of strong hope, coming from our faith. Hope, not optimism that all will be rosy if we just stay cheerful! We have our eyes wide open! Our congregational meetings and conversations have been based on the deep sense of not knowing but continuing anyway. That is why it is HOPE: continuing to act when we cannot know what the chances are. As you read these reports, you will see this in many areas. We cannot know that what we wanted would actually happen when Kyla Morrison Morgan and the Spiritual Care Network launched the Pop Up Cafés. We acted because the future we are hoping for in this North Park neighbourhood is one where we are integrated with individuals and organizations nearby. The choice to be active not knowing the outcome gave birth to a very successful series of Cafés in the Doreene McLeod Room. It was a real blessing!



The clear view of our reality continues to be seen in our vulnerable and aging building. The costs are staggering and our willingness to spend our finite resources on patching it has come to an end. As a result, a thorough process was led by Rev Cheryl Black and the Future Search Team. The congregation made the decision to seek an amalgamation partner. This was hard work, buttressed by the Prayer Team and the efforts of so many congregants. Following the direction clearly expressed in the in-person and zoom meetings, we identified the direction we'd like to see our Community of Faith move in. Our community of faith, led by our small, very hard-working Board, acted on our values, our faith and our history as a brave and affirming congregation. Taking that vote was an act of active hope and set us on a journey that has strengthened and deepened our sense of offering and receiving many blessings.

The explorations of the Evolving Church team are akin to planting trees for the future. This is the kind of hope that is part our journey and continues to feed us spiritually. But it is not the only area where we see signs of reconnection and continuing energy for mission and ministry. The caring expressed to each other in many ways here at First Met makes it possible to face tough realities without feeling shut down or overwhelmed. This is not one team's work and so it may seem invisible. But I credit that deep caring and shared progressive faith with the ongoing ability to welcome new people and areas of concern in spite of what we are tackling.

This is an important Annual Report. Do I say that every year? Probably so! But I thank you for taking the time to read these reports for they are our accountability to you all and to the wider community who support us in various ways. To all who help out with the fabulous hospitality, the lyrical music, the leadership and energy spent in so many places and different ways: Thank you! You are demonstrating the resilience and active hope that will take us on this amazing journey with the sacred Spirit and each other in the future. I am blessed to work with such capable staff colleagues! Thank you! I am beyond blessed to continue in ministry with First Metropolitan United Church; this is a rich blessing of our loving Spirit and I am humbled and encouraged (yes, both!) when I think of our five years together in this Community of Faith.

In gratitude to the Holy One for all the many blessings, I close with a Haudenosaunee First Nation Blessing:

“We are all thankful to Our Mother, the Earth for she gives us all we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has since the beginning of time. To Our Mother we send greetings and thanks. Now we are all one.”

However we work together, I am glad to be building the beloved community with you. Together, our active hope unites us in our prayers for a more just world and more equitable places to live, work, play and pray.

With deep gratitude and shared faith,

Shelagh
Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

First Metropolitan United Church Board

"Cry now, my friends, but hope also! For a better season will follow this time of Plague, if only we trust in God to perform His wonders!"
From *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, by Geraldine Brooks

I was reading this historical novel about the plague in an English village in 1666, when I was struck by these words delivered in a sermon. As we emerge from our own time of pandemic, we have much to cry about, but we too continue to hope, trusting once again in our God to perform Her wonders of renewal and reform. It seems the more things change, the more they remain the same deep down in that still, small centre of faith.

Having begun to meet on Zoom during the pandemic, the First Met Board continued this practice in 2022 because of its convenience. Again this year, we met from 3 to 5 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, with four extra meetings in January, March, July and September.

In late May, Liane Clark resigned after four years on the Board -- and many more years before that on the previous Council -- as treasurer and chair of Finance and Administration. We celebrated her commitment with a delicious gluten-free chocolate cake. She continues to serve the congregation as a volunteer in the church office. Thank you, Liane.

In June of 2022, we added two more men to the Board: Linden Holmen and Larry Scott as secretary. Ross Breckon took on the unenviable task of replacing Liane Clark as treasurer, and he has been a worthy successor. In September, Rev. Cheryl Black, our new Volunteer Associate Minister, joined the Board as a corresponding member.

In the summer, Cheryl worked with the "three wise men" of the Board, as well as others, on a Future Search Team (see her "Journey to Amalgamation" report) to find a way forward for First Met, given our deteriorating building and declining income. This culminated in an October 23rd congregational meeting at which the congregation voted, on the recommendation of the Board, to seek amalgamation with another United church in Victoria.

This was not an easy decision but one which we made together with an active hope for God's wonder-filled future.

Edeana Malcolm, Chair



Newcomers Welcoming

Newcomers continues to provide greeter volunteers for Sunday services. We have a very small pool of volunteers but on occasion we can also provide greeters/ushers for funerals and celebrations of life.

David Prestwich, Team Leader



David Prestwich,
Brenda Porter.

Becoming Affirming

On Pie Day, March 13, 2022, First Met became an Affirming congregation officially. We had a special service and received our certificate "via Zoom". On the same day, on the other side of the country, in St. John's, Newfoundland, St. James's United Church became affirming as well. Serendipitously, this was the church that Robin Breckon attended as a child in Newfoundland.

To keep the act of Affirmation alive, two couples (Ross & Robin Breckon, David Bray and Edeana Malcolm) painted the stairs on the Balmoral side of the building in rainbow colours.

Then we made our newest washroom in the concourse accessible to all, regardless of age, ability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Another act of affirmation in 2022 was to donate \$27,000 to ICA (Intercultural Association) towards the settlement of a refugee from Afghanistan. This money had been sitting in an account earmarked for refugee settlement for several years. We wanted to use it to help settle an LGBTQ2S+ refugee in partnership with Friendship & Freedom, a refugee resettlement group. He is currently living in Pakistan awaiting completion of the paperwork to bring him to Canada. The wheels of government turn ever so slowly.

We look forward to continuing our Affirming Mission as we go forward into 2023.

Edeana Malcolm, Chair



ABOVE: Affirming completion Certificate
BELOW: All gender washroom sign



BELOW Volunteers painted the risers of the church steps in rainbow colours.



Christian Spiritual Development and Worship



Our chancel decorated for the series "A Good Enough Faith"



Celebrating our status as an affirming congregation on PIE Day



Logos for the "Dare to Dance Again" and "The Awakened Traveler" worship series.



In 2022, worship planning and provision was undertaken by ad hoc groups centred by a core group of volunteers. Like most Progressive Christian churches, our worship is a blend of thematic and lectionary sources. Joan Mason deserves special mention for her creativity and diligence in design and faith-filled communication. She has written a precis of the Worship Series we used, often the creative work of Dr Marcia McFee, an American worship designer used by many United Churches across Canada. David Bray is the leader in communication and his work on the website is an important part of how people stay informed and connected. For the weekly lectors who added their individual input to the services and for Arlene Anderson, who was responsible for the flowers every Sunday, we are so grateful!

The technical work of providing worship continues to grow in this twenty-first century and we look back with gratitude on our Co-Op students, Zachary, Ethan, students Maxwell and Stella, and our continuing tech team of Jodie, Trison and Lindsay. Their youth and knowledge added to our shared experience. The music, under the choral leadership of Kelly Charlton, lifted our spirits with a choral anthem each Sunday during the regular year. Thank you also to guest preachers Rev. Mark Green, Rev. Larry Scott, Rev. Dr. Allan Saunders, Rev Cheryl Black, Edeana Malcolm and Liane Clark. To all who added their prayer support and their energy in attendance, a huge thank you.

We still have a weekly Zoom Communion on Thursday, hosted by me. Once a month we hold Communion at 9:00 in the Chapel. Below is a sample of how worship was shaped at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday.

A Good Enough Faith (March 2 to Apr 17)

Our worship series for Lent 2022 "Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith" was inspired by the new book of the same name. The author, Kate Bowler (www.katebowler.com), is a seminary history professor, author and podcaster, and 'incurable optimist'.

This worship series invited us to take seriously, and with humility, that most often life is imperfect. We are still in the midst of great disturbance from the way we imagined life to be. In many cases, dreams have been thwarted by pandemic through loss of life, health, and economic security. And then there's all the other hard stuff, unrelated to pandemic, that happens in our lives. The Good News certainly is that God loves us deeply and is present to us powerfully, even, and especially, in the midst of the imperfect and down-right awful moments of life.

In the midst of this series, we celebrated PIE (Public, Intentional, Explicit) Day and received our certificate confirming our status as an Affirming congregation. Rev. Mark Green gave the sermon at this service.

Continued on p.11

Worship and Christian Spiritual Development continued from p. 12

A Lent Reflections guide with poems and questions for reflection for each week of Lent and a prayer card were created. They were made available by mail, download from the website, or for pickup in the church office. The guide included suggestions for spiritual practices that could be incorporated into one's Lenten journey.

Dare to Dance Again (May 1 to June 12)

Taking inspiration from Psalm 30:5b, "*Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning,*" our worship for Eastertide called us called to dance our dances of freedom for all the world to see even and perhaps especially in times of great difficulty. Dances of hope. Dances of justice. Dances of love. During this season, post-resurrection stories pointed to the joy of living in the beloved community and extending that fellowship through our witness as we dared to dance again!

The Awakened Traveler (June 19 to July 31)

Beginning a journey involves leaving "home" - whether that is a physical place in order to explore another part of the world or changing a mindset that keeps us from expanding our spiritual capacity. If we seek out and remain open to new encounters, new people and new relationships, we allow ourselves a spiritual rendezvous with humanity. We discover more spiritual depth within us than we previously imagined.

This seven-week worship series encouraged us to open ourselves more fully to the curiosity, wonder, reflection and transformation that travelers - not merely tourists - experience when they choose to immerse themselves in soul-widening adventures.

A reflection guide was developed to accompany the series. It included a range of 'travel' experiences in our own community and encouraged reflection on these experiences. A prayer card was also created and distributed to the congregation.

Season of Creation (September 11 to October 2)

The theme for the Season of Creation in 2022 was "listen to the voices of creation". We were blessed to display a series of panels featuring the many aspects of creation in our sanctuary throughout the season. On the last Sunday of the series, a blessing of the animals was held following the service.

Reflecting the Sacred (November 27 to January 1)

This Advent our congregation was invited to a spiritual journey of seeing all things pregnant with the Holy. Richard Rohr's book *The Universal Christ* and its companion book of reflections, *Every Thing is Sacred*, invited us to imagine that indeed, every thing, every one, every encounter is pregnant with the sacred. Not in the sense of "where is God in this", but in a more radical notion that "Christ is here and permeating and radiating from everywhere."

As a companion to the series, we created a weekly journal with a series of questions for reflection and a prayer card with two prayers from the Centre for Action and Contemplation.

Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon

Dec 6 Interfaith service of remembrance and action on violence against women.



The "Beings" hung in the chancel during the Season of Creation.



Rev. Tammy Lindahl being presented with a certificate acknowledging a donation to the Bella Coola hospital in her honour.



Blessing of the Animals on October 2



Music Ministry



ABOVE: Merrie Klezak playing *The Last Post* on November 4.
BELOW: The choir sang masked during 2022.



Our intrepid choir logged a collective 1500 volunteer hours in 2022. We sang every Sunday - sometimes as a choir, sometimes as soloist-leader. We hosted some of Victoria's finest instrumentalists, alongside the players in our midst, to support our worship: Russell Bajer, oboe; Merrie Klazek, trumpet; Annabelle Stanley, harp; Bambi Marie, piano. We drew in five fine young musicians, who chose to be Choral Scholars: Annalysa Tylor, soprano; Amber Dayton, alto (and piano); Nathan Corpus, bass; Neil Cardew-Fanning, bass; and Louis Dillon, bass.

We were thrilled by the return of two of the congregation's most popular seasonal services.

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled became the 11:00 worship service at the end of October leading into All Souls' Day and Remembrance Day. Joan Mason and Kelly Charlton stepped in, decorating the sanctuary and guiding the candle-lighting, taking over for Mona McGill who, after many years in the role, was unable to help this year. Our Choral Scholars, Mary Byrne, and Kelly Charlton took on soloist and leadership roles in the creation of the music for the day. Worship contributed from the lectern, Communications and the Office worked tirelessly to keep us all on the same page. Completing the morning: the congregation. Dedications, memorials, and remembrances from the congregation exceeded all expectations (and go a long way toward supporting our choral scholars).

On Christmas Eve, and after a year away, we were able to offer *Carols in the Candlelight* - and what a great congregation flooded the sanctuary that evening, even with foul weather threatening. Kelly Charlton, Mary Byrne, and Bruce Davies decorated the sanctuary with just the right amount of light and colour to give a backdrop to the mystery celebrating the birth of Christ. Again, we drew on the resources of Worship, Communications, and our Office. Then the choir and congregation took over - singing a remarkable series of anthems and carols to make present the millennia-old story. Just a few hours prior, Mary Byrne and the Choral Scholars had joined with the Children, Youth, and Families Ministry to give our first in-person Christmas Eve Family Service, since 2019. It was a beautifully musical Christmas Eve at First Met.

Lingering effects of the pandemic and resulting uncertainty about the safety of group events interfered with fundraising and outreach concerts that we might otherwise have hosted. We were unfortunately rather quiet on that front.

We are saddened by the loss of members from our Music team at First Met during 2022, most notably the passing of Robin Krause who was a dedicated supporter of Pringle Bells for decades. Pringle Bells simply haven't been the same, but the future may tell a different story in 2023.

Continued on p. 13

LEFT: Amber Dayton playing a piano solo while candles are lit during the *Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled* service on October 30.

Music continued from p. 14

We are uplifted by the kind notes and messages from you, the congregation. We hear from you that we add both meaning and beauty to your worship experience. Nothing could please us more. We hear from you amazement that such a small choir can offer such robust choral music. Few sentiments could be more gratifying. In truth, what you hear is the dedication of the choir and our leader, Kelly Charlton. Kelly never lets us forget that music finds its way into places that simply can't be reached any other way. He consistently challenges us to know our message, to leverage every musical and spiritual resource we have, and to hold the source close. We have an amazing leader, an amazing Minister of Music, in Kelly. I have the most wonderful group of fellow musicians in the choir. I could not be more fulfilled by the year and the music we've made at First Met.

Mary Byrne, Music Team Leader



Annabelle Stanley playing the harp prior to the Carols in the Candlelight service.



ABOVE: The Carols in the Candlelight service on Christmas Eve.

Hospitality

As pandemic restrictions permitted, refreshments were served by an incredible group of volunteers headed by Moira Nasim. Whether it was iced tea in the Quadra Street gardens, coffee, tea, cheese and biscuits in the sanctuary when congregational meetings were held, or a return to the Doreene McLeod Rm for coffee, tea and goodies, our congregation enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship each Sunday. Thank you to all those who assisted with hospitality.



Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon was presented with a birthday cake on September 25.

Children and Youth Ministry



The flowering cross for Easter.

2022 was a busy and happy year for our 14 families with children and youth! Here are just a few highlights:

January and February

We were still connecting from our own homes due to COVID, via the Faith@Home kits assembled by Pacific Mountain Region and supplemented with prayer bowls, etc. We learned more about gratitude and continued email, birthday cards, and weekly newsletters to 62 recipients. Our confirmation class continued with guest ministers, field trips and lots of outdoor learning.

We delivered our Big Box of gently used toys to the Compassionate

Warehouse; gathered at Christmas, with thanks to the congregation.

Families came to toll our church bells 93 times in honour of the unmarked graves at St Joseph's residential school in Williams Lake. Our families joined others in our congregation to toll our church bells at noon each day, in solidarity and with prayers for Ukraine.

We celebrated Black History month with links to resources, and Family Day with special prayers, followed by the International Day for Women and Girls in Science. Our First Met grad Margaret Krawciw spoke about her interest in Science; First Met has 10 young adults currently in post-secondary science programs.

We celebrated and learned about challenges for First Nations children and youth on Have a Heart Day, with Spirit Bear and the First Nations Family and Caring Society.

Micia took part in a book study on Susan Lukey's book *Adventures in Faith and Family*.

March and April

A joyful Lenten Lantern event was held in our church and garden, with a scripture scavenger hunt, delicious food cooked by Kathy McMillan, a campfire and a wonderful sense of reunited community. We gathered mittens for our mitten rainbow for our PIE day worship service with Reverend Mark Green. We returned to Sunday School in our church building March 20th - great to gather in person again!

Families brought in donations for comfort kits for Ukraine, which we dropped off at the Compassionate Warehouse.

On Palm Sunday the kids created "palm sundaes" with green Jello and a cookie Jesus, and stenciled palm branches on the sidewalks around the church. The tulips planted with help from Reverend Larry Scott are blooming in our garden, and we decorated the area with blue and yellow ribbons for Ukraine. Our families put together a basket of comfort items for Father Vyshnevskyy and family, of St. Nicholas Ukrainian church, following the fire that destroyed their home.

Camping Sunday came with hot cocoa and popcorn for the congregation, we made Minoan terracotta discs, had an Easter party in the garden, and our traditional flowering cross reappeared in the sanctuary while our families unfurled colourful banners from the balcony.

Continued on p. 15



Mitten rainbow created for PIE day.



Above: United Church Family Camp at Camp Prin-

Children and Youth Ministry continued from p. 16

May and June

May brought our much-loved United Church Family Camp at Camp Pringle - lots of fun at the lakefront plus campfires, outdoor chapel and more.

Our amazing Hannah O. was confirmed following eight months of learning, service and faith exploration - what a special moment! Our families continued to toll the bells for Ukraine each day at noon, and we planted sunflowers in our garden to show support. We played lots of soccer and baseball in the gym too!

A farewell picnic at Beacon Hill Park sent off the Dube family in style, in gratitude for 5 years of active membership in our church family.

Pentecost saw the kids making paper dove mobiles, with the work for "kindness" in different languages, and we learned the word "hello" in 46 languages!

Pride Parade! First Met took part with joy and pride. Outdoor Sunday School continued, with "volcanoes of love" and Luke 12 plus activity survival kits while learning to "be prepared".

July and August:

The kids set up a book table in the DMR, with donations to the Mission and Service fund in support of the Church of North India. We continued to work on our giant orange flag mural, with 'images of TRC', and studied Old and New Testament stories.

Our family camp at Goldstream was tons of fun, with jellyfish lanterns, a scripture scavenger hunt, and great company gathered at the campfire.

September and October:

Our Youth Group visited Galey Farms and learned about All Souls' Day, and our co-op student Maxwell created a video recording of our trip for Sunday worship! Our Back-to-School garden picnic and Blessing of the Backpacks started us off on an exciting school year.

November and December:

On Children's Sunday the kids placed stuffed toys and words on the chancel to illustrate children's poverty rates in Canada, and for Remembrance Sunday Ava B recited In Flanders Fields. Two of our young adults lit candles for the annual December 6th service honouring the 14 young women murdered at the Polytechnique Montreal in 1989.

Our Youth Group gathered for baking and bible games, and at a later date for ice-skating, and our Young Adults gathered from across Canada for their annual gathering hosted by Minister Emerita Megumi Matsuo-Saunders.

December brought the return of our much-loved Advent craft event, this year with storytelling by Reverend Al Fowler and crafts with Joan Wilkinson! Thanks to the Dykes, Krawciw, Jenson, Hamilton and Breckon-Oliver families for lighting the advent wreath candles. And of course, our beloved Christmas Eve Family service with pageant - in person!

As you can see, our Children and Families program was filled with joy, learning, community and creativity, and we'd like to thank the staff, volunteers and congregation for all your support!

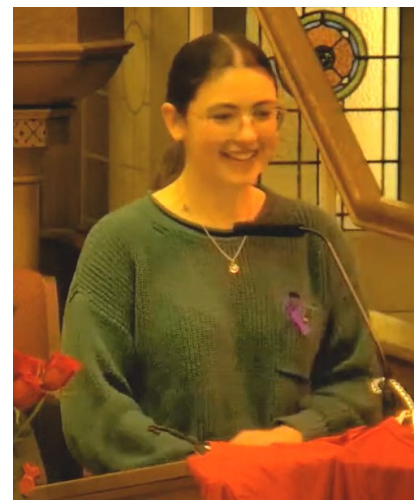
Micia Kanstrup, Sunday School Coordinator



Above: Pentecost paper dove mobiles



ABOVE: Jellyfish lantern decorate the camp at Goldstream.
BELOW: Margaret Krawciw speaking at December 6 service.



Outreach

Caring for Creation and Every Child too!

This year has been a year full of cautious re-emerging from Covid shutdowns and creatively re connecting.

2022 Reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) were sounding the alarm bells re: our Climate Emergency and, at the same time more and more people are also understanding the impacts of Residential Schools and the legacy of pain and trauma that generations of Indigenous people are suffering. War machines and violence continued all year in Ukraine, and fighting and violence continues in Israel - Palestine. At home on these West Coast Salish lands we know that 1000-year- old Douglas Grand Firs and Western Red Cedar are being logged and large important ecosystems are coming closer to extinction. Housing crisis and increasing poverty are a harsh reality for more and more Victorians and neighbours in towns and cities across this country. How Then Shall We Live? Where indeed do we find HOPE?

We are living in times of Biblical proportions and as Debra Rienstra, author of *Refugia Faith* writes there is great work for us to do and we are called to move from despair to preparation, from alienation to kinship, from consuming to healing, from avoiding to lamenting, from resignation to gratitude, from passivity to citizenship and finally from indifference to attention. We are called to dream dreams and have visions of the future.... or as Joanna Macy says, "The practice of Active Hope involves being an activist for what we hope for in the world". May it be that we are each inspired in small ways or big ways to actively work towards our dream of a liveable world that sustains all beings -- human and the other-than-human beings -- in right relations.

Janet Gray and Robin Breckon



ABOVE : September 25th service marking Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



ABOVE: Martha Cole, one of the artists inspiring the All Beings Confluence with some of the panels.

LEFT: First Met participated in the Candles for COP27 vigil in November.

Evolving Church Team

The Evolving Church team had a very busy year! In February, we welcomed Rev. Ingrid Brown of the Weird Church Team in Cumberland. We talked about non-traditional services and ideas for venues for worship. Her main advice was to show up at community events in the neighbourhood as it is all about building relationships.



ABOVE: First Met table at the Multicultural Festival.

In March we had a brainstorming session to discuss our own ideas for worship and community engagement projects. In April, Sarah Murray, Executive Director of the North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA) spoke to us about local community projects. We purchased Easter treats for the children of families in the Hamper program with money from donations and the Margaret Cameron Fund. We also participated in the Repair Café sponsored by First Met and the NPNA.

In May we designed and purchased T shirts for our team to wear at community and church events. We were invited to the Tiny Homes Village BBQ to commemorate their one year anniversary and assisted with seed distribution at the Spring Get Growing event on May 27th. We signed a petition developed by one of our members for the Moms Stop the Harm opioid crisis, to be delivered to Parliament.

In June we secured an office for the NPNA in our First Met church. We decorated a bulletin board in the church for our team. We had a table at the Multicultural Festival in North Park in July. In September, we assisted with the creation hangings in the church - All Beings Confluence.

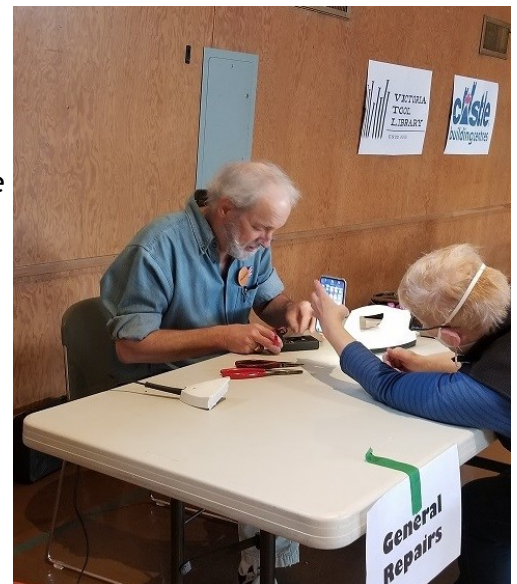
In September the seven Tenant Starter Kits which were organized by a team member, were located in an office on the second floor of the church, to be picked up by Our Place for new apartments for the unhoused. Naloxone training was also offered in the church. We brainstormed about how we could revitalize First Met, as we were

discussing amalgamation with another church at this time. What could we bring to the table?

We also received funds for gifts for the children in the families in the hamper program and for the Tiny Homes Village from the Margaret Cameron Fund. We purchased kits to make gingerbread houses for the hamper program and gift bags for the folks in the Tiny Home village. The Tiny Homes gift bags were delivered on Christmas morning by a team member and her family.

In December, we participated in the Multicultural Festival with a decorated table, coffee and goodies and a "Guess the Number of Candy Canes" jar. We also had a special meeting with Shelagh to discuss our own spirituality as we were going to plan an Evolving Church service in the new year. All in all, it was a very successful year, as we worked on how we must change to evolve, and evolve to change.

Emily MacDonald, Team Leader, Evolving Church



Repair Café on March 26

Friendship Club

Beginning in June on the first, third and fifth Wednesday, the Friendship Club met with a bag lunch at noon at Beckwith Park for fellowship, laughter and food. We ended near the end of October with a Hallowe'en celebration, which is organized every year by Joan Wilkinson.

The weather cooperated most of the time. Marlene Campbell provided devotion and prayers and information on members who were ill. Members attended as they could depending on their schedules. One of the founding members, Elwood Derbyshire attended almost all of the sessions, even though his health was failing. He passed away on December 16th. His funeral was at First Met shortly thereafter.

Spiritual Care and Wellness

The Spiritual Care and Wellness Team serves to support and advocate for the spiritual care and well-being of First Met members, adherents and the North Park community.

In 2022, program groups have been actively promoting our activities celebrating a sense of joy, hope and belonging to our faith community.

Visitation Volunteers Ministry

The Visitation Volunteer Ministry was relaunched in the fall of 2021 and continued to prove a vital source of connection in church life for those who were homebound, especially during the peaks of the pandemic. Under the leadership of Megumi Matsuo-Saunders, the group of volunteers was well supported and made meaningful connections with the folks they were matched with. To highlight this Ministry's work in the community, in February 2022 Kyla Morrison Morgan and David Bray went on our local CBC radio show to speak about the important work of these volunteers within our Church community.

Mission Bella Coola- Honoring Tammy Lindahl's Ministry

FMUC Spiritual Care and Wellness Team led by Alva Jenson, a new member of the team in 2022, initiated a very successful fundraising project honoring Tammy Lindahl's Ministry in Bella Coola, BC.

Our Congregation responded generously with a total donation of \$4,070 in love and gratitude for Tammy's compassionate and healing Ministry. Augmented by our friends from Augsburg-McKenzie and Emmanuel United churches in Bella Coola, the project funds were used to refurbish the Bella Coola Hospital Palliative Care Room with a hospital-grade sleeper/couch, kitchen supplies and a hospital Resource Library for staff and patients. A plaque was to be installed by the Bella Coola Hospital.

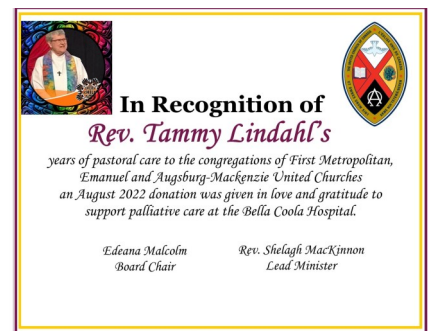
Pop-Up Café

As we slowly came out of Covid a key highlight of 2022 for the SC&W Ministry, was the creation of the FMUC Pop-Up Café. It was supported by the Opportunities fund as a 3-month summer pilot project, co-ordinated by our Health and Wellness advocate Kyla Morrison Morgan. The program's mission was to offer folks (in the congregation and surrounding neighbourhood), an opportunity to gather for "conversation and connection". The Pop-Up Café offered baked goods and coffee/tea served by a group of faithful volunteers (mainly from our very own Spiritual Care and Wellness Team). We had a wonderful response to this pilot project, so much so that in the fall of 2022 under the leadership of Cheryl Black, First Met applied for a UCC Pro-vision grant to expand the program. In November 2022, we received the good news we had been approved for a one-year grant to run a "TLC" or Lunch Club at First Met to continue our Mission and Ministry building strong connections with our North Park neighbours.

Continued on p. 19



Visitation Team



PHOTOS ON RIGHT (from top):
Tammy Lindahl and congregation members after presentation on August 21.
Certificate of recognition
Kyla Morrison Morgan and Sharron Higgins at the Pop-Up Café.

Spiritual Care and Wellness continued from p. 18

Naloxone Training

In September of 2022 the H&W Advocate organized Naloxone training for the staff and select volunteers at First Met following a drug poisoning overdose and death on the Church property in the summer. Staff from AIDS Vancouver Island came and did a 2-hour in-service program on overdose response and Naloxone injections. All regular First Met Staff attended.

Fraud Prevention Sessions

In November, Liane Clark, CPA, volunteered her expertise on "Fraud Sessions for Seniors" both in-person and by Zoom. The one-hour presentations gave profound statistics and comprehensive information on what fraud is, how it works and why seniors are vulnerable. Many thanks, Liane, for reminding us to be alert to personal, computer and telephone fraud.

Ministry Programs

Caregivers Support Group

The Caregivers support group co-facilitated by Emily MacDonald BSN, MN and Kyla Morrison Morgan RSW, continued to meet monthly in the Chapel. The group has run since 2012 as an independent group of the Alzheimer's Society and was open to the public. The purpose of the group was to offer caregivers peer support on the journey caring for a loved one with a dementia. The group generally had 4 to 6 people in attendance.

Gentle and Chair Yoga

Elaine Duke taught 3 Yoga sessions per week all year. These included Gentle Yoga on Mondays (4 - 9 participants); Thursdays (4 - 5 participants) and Chair Yoga on Wednesdays (5 - 8 participants). Elaine's professional teaching is greatly valued by all.

Tai Chi

A small, but devoted, group of Tai Chi practitioners continued to meet twice a week at the church. Without an instructor, they took no new members and were led by volunteers.

The Knitting & Prayer Shawl Ministry is a small and dedicated knitting group that meet monthly. They have focussed on sweaters for the Cridge Daycare children this year. Cozy prayer shawls were also crafted for many grateful parishioners and other community members.

Prayer Connections Team

The team is led by Anne Sikstrom and is made up of six dedicated members. They take prayer requests from FMUC Ministry Staff, directly through individuals (in the church and community at large) by email and the church office. The PCT offers prayer for those known to them, the community and the wider world. This year, the H & W Advocate and PCT Leader Anne wrote 2 feature articles for First Met Newsletters which highlighted the work of this vital Ministry and the power of prayer.

Ramblers Hikes this year were at Metchosin Park and Eleanor Mann Park, Witty's Lagoon, Lone Tree Hill, Aylard Farm, Matheson Lake Trail, John Dean Park, Boulderwood Loop, Blinkhorn Lake, Devonian Park, Sea Bluff Trails, Mt. Wells, Christmas Carols in the Forest at Goldstream Park, Francis King Park, Centennial Panhandle and High Ridge trails, Stewart Mountain and Scafe Hill. Average 9 people.

Continued on p. 20



PHOTOS FROM TOP: Yoga class with instructor Elaine Duke; some of the prayer shawls created by the Knitters; Christmas Carols in the Forest; Ramblers at Sitting Lady Falls.

Spiritual Care and Wellness continued from p. 19

Flatlanders Walks

Participants have walked from Cattle Point to Willows Beach, Esquimalt Macaulay Park and Saxe Point Park, Gorge Waterway twice, Cedar Hill Golf Course trails and Bowker Creek trails. Leaders alternate each month.

Wally Lazaruk, PhD. was honored in June for his participation on the Spiritual Care and Wellness Team over the past five years. During that time, Wally presented health and wellness research in several interactive workshop sessions sharing his knowledge on Mindfulness, Self Compassion and Gratitude. In 2022-23, Wally contributed meaningful articles for the First Met Newsletter. Namely: "Cultivating Courage in Relationships", "Cultivating Gratitude", "A Few Important Things" and "Intimacy." We thank Wally for his wise counsel and friendship as we carried out our mandate for our faith community.



Flatlanders Walking Group at Cattle Point

Community Philanthropy

The Margaret Cameron Trust Fund was established in 2009 to support those in need in our community. As stewards of the fund, The Spiritual Care and Wellness Team take suggestions and do research in order to consider and donate Margaret Cameron Estate funds to non profit organizations or individuals in our local community.

The MCTF contributed \$1000 to the Ministers Discretionary Fund (MDF) biannually for Staff to use at their own discretion for those in need, e.g., phone bill or rent on a one-time basis; grocery cards or bus passes. Individual donations are kept in confidence by referring to Staff and the SC & Wellness Team.

The Tenant Kits Project request from Our Place was carried out at First Met by Joan Michelsen this year. The MCTF donation enabled Joan to buy new small kitchen appliances for start-up kits. Kits were supplied to a UVic International student, a Therapeutic Recovery Centre graduate, two recent immigrants to Canada and seven residents of the new transitional housing on Albina St. off the Gorge.

In October, the Team responded with a \$700 donation from the MCTF along with congregational funds to support the Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Nicholas when Rev. Yurly and his family were burned out of the church Manse in North Park.

In December, MCTF contributed \$1000 to Our Place community appeal for food supplies; \$1000 for Tiny Town Christmas gifts and \$1000 for 75 North Park Neighborhood Association (NPNA) Christmas food hampers. Special holiday treats such as Valentines, Easter bunnies, September School supplies, Halloween treats and Gingerbread Houses were added for the families during the year. As food costs rise, the number of requests for monthly food hampers has been rising significantly.

Continued on page 21



ABOVE: Wally Lazaruk honoured for his service to the Spiritual Care and Wellness Team

BELOW: Joan Mickelson honoured for her contributions as coordinator of the Healing Pathways, as a knitter, and as the organizer of the Tenant Kits project.



Spiritual Care and Wellness continued from p. 20:

The Gender Generations Project Society received \$1000 MCTF funds for their Mentoring program, Community ART project and Summer Camp. We are very pleased the group received their CRA non-profit status February, 2023.

In 2022 our **Health and Wellness Advocate** continued her professional development with two learning activities. In the spring of 2022, Kyla attended an on-line Mental Health First Aid certification through LeaderShift. This was a timely course as the number of seriously mentally ill individuals coming into the building and onto the church property has been increasing in the past few years. Secondly, Kyla took a Grief Educator Certification course in November 2022 with grief expert David Kessler. Kyla hopes to offer a grief support group in the future if there is interest from the congregation.



Flatlanders walk along WestSong Way

Kyla Morrison Morgan, Health and Wellness Advocate, RSW
Sharron Higgins, Spiritual Care & Wellness Team Leader Volunteer, RN, BScN

Property Management Task Group

Changing Focus

By the start of 2022, the Redevelopment Task Group (RTG) had already been involved with the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) in an effort to redevelop First Met property for about one year. UPRC is a development corporation founded by The United Church of Canada (UCC) to provide expertise and financial resources to United Churches, other communities of faith and landowners in the non-profit and faith sectors across the country, in the redevelopment or repurposing of their real estate assets. The redevelopment objectives of First Met remained to renovate the Heritage Building and Annex (HBA) and build an affordable housing project on the remainder of the site, specifically on that portion of the site occupied by the Fellowship Hall (FH), Christian Education Wing (CEW) and Social Suite (SS). Over the next four months, the RTG became increasingly concerned about the lack of progress in developing a viable project. On the basis of recommendations by the RTG several actions were taken in May and June, including the following:

- The Pacific Mountain Region (PMR) returned the title to First Met property to the Trustees of First Met in response to their request.
- The Board of First Met terminated its relationship with UPRC.

As a result of these actions, redevelopment efforts have been deferred. This called for termination of the RTG and resulted in the establishment of the Property Management Task Group (PMTG) with the following mandate (edited):

- To find and implement leasing and letting opportunities in First Met's buildings.
- To identify and assess building and building system upgrades that support leasing opportunities and are either cost-effective or, at least, manageable.
- To seek redevelopment or sale opportunities if they are financially viable and minimize risk to First Met/Trustees.

Leasing

The need to find leasing opportunities was significant because of the departure of the Intercultural Association (ICA) in April 2022, resulting in a significant revenue loss. The PMTG contracted with a commercial realty company to find tenants and recommend rental rates. This effort has been partly successful. The Victoria Symphony Society (VSS) has leased space in the FH for symphony rehearsals. However, efforts to lease the spaces vacated by the ICA have not been successful partly because of the difficulty in providing assurance to prospective tenants of a long-term lease and partly because of the deteriorated condition of the buildings on First Met property due to the deferred property maintenance activities by First Met since 2018 because it assumed that redevelopment would occur by 2021, in accordance with the agreement between First Met and PMR.

Continued on p. 22

Property Management Task Group continued from p. 21

Building Improvements in Support of Leasing

The deferral of redevelopment had an effect on planned changes to the heating systems. Redevelopment meant that a new heating system was needed to heat part of the HBA because it was heated by old oil-fired burners under the SS which was expected to be demolished as part of redevelopment. Cancelling redevelopment plans changed the priority for heating system changes because all buildings on the property would remain. A significant issue was the condition of the oil-fired boilers which heat much of the HBA, the CEW, the FH and the SS. They are at the end of their functional life and run the risk of failure, they are inefficient, expensive to operate and they pollute. The revised plan focused on replacing those boilers with new efficient gas-fired boilers and required quotes for:

- removing or otherwise dealing with hazardous materials in the boiler room to allow mechanical work to be done safely;
- and mechanical work to disconnect the old oil-fired boilers, install new gas-fired boilers and connect them to the existing pipes that distributed heat to the buildings served.

In October, invited mechanical contractors were provided with the information on the scope of work and asked to provide quotes. In November, a consultant was hired to determine the scope of work to remove or otherwise deal with the hazardous materials in the boiler room. By the end of 2022, only one mechanical contractor had provided a quote for the mechanical work and the investigation of hazardous materials was still underway. One comment provided by one of the mechanical contractors was noteworthy: that the system was old and various parts needed maintenance or upgrades.

Another building improvement that was examined was the prospect of sound-isolating the Sanctuary to enable leasing space adjacent to it if First Met leased it to VSS for rehearsals. This examination involved a number of phases of work. The first, which was started in April, was to determine the noise levels in various parts of the HBA adjacent to the Sanctuary if rehearsals were held there. The next phase was to determine the sound abatement measures required to reduce noise transmission into the leased portions of the building. The final phase was to estimate the cost of installing the recommended sound abatement measures. Several contractors examined the work that would be required in September, and they concluded that implementing the proposed measures would be technically difficult and very expensive, particularly because of existing ducting and electrical equipment in the lower floor ceiling. The conclusion of this examination was to abandon this idea. This conclusion means that several spaces, especially those in the basement of the HBA, cannot be leased if the VSS or any symphony rehearses there.

While this report focuses on specific projects and activities of the PMTG in 2022, the range of problems with the buildings on First Met property is much broader than those discussed here.

Linden Holmen, Property Chair

United Church Women

The First Met UCW is joyful once again to be meeting and fundraising for special projects. We held a joint meeting and luncheon in June, then three special meetings during the Fall of 2022. In October we held the Least Coin service. After sharing lunch, we celebrated the women of the Philippines and the work of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Pacific Mountain Region President, Clare Walker joined us and presented Marion Denton with a Life Membership pin.

In November we held a Mission and Service fundraising service with guest speaker, Dell Marie Wergeland, Director of the Compassionate Warehouse, who presented photos and stories of the world-wide work of the Compassionate Warehouse: for example, in 2022 they packed thirteen containers of goods destined for the Ukraine. UCW members brought items for the Compassionate Warehouse and donations for the United Church Mission and Service fund.

Then in December we finished 2022 with a potluck celebration honouring women of the First Met staff. We concluded our Christmas celebration with a singsong.

Special Christmas donations went toward two Angel gifts, a gift to a child through Prison Fellowship Canada, and gifts to our two Elders in Uganda.

Our hope is to be still meeting throughout 2023... and beyond.

Marie McKee



RIGHT : Least Coin service participants.

Archives and Heritage Team

The Archives and Heritage team continues to help the congregation meet its responsibilities to maintain and preserve First Met records of enduring value. Care for archival records is an important administrative function of the church. The A&H team also provides access to records by answering internal and public requests for information and copies of records and profiles church history through such initiatives as our Flickr site. <https://flickr.com/people/firstmetarchives/>

We liaise with the Pacific Mountain regional archivist on matters of acquisition, processing and access to records with regards not only First Metropolitan's records, but also the historical records of the founding congregations, First United and Metropolitan United, previously transferred to the United Church's regional archives in Vancouver. (A staggering 30 linear metres of textual, photographic, sound and moving image records from First United and Metropolitan United dating from 1859 to 1996 were transferred in 2019.)



Above: Taking stock: Archives storage vault and work room / *First Met Archives file photograph*

Records currently in the Archives' care were created or in use since amalgamation in 1997. We maintain a growing database of approximately 70% of this content, as well as databases of the First United and Metropolitan United records already transferred.

Housed in two secure storage vaults are:

- 13 metres of textual records and photographs
- 600 to 1000 sound and moving image items
- 2 metres of topical files
- 100+ artifacts
- also in our care: in excess of 8000 digital files

Archival records of great importance include such things as:

- Ministry records (such as sermons, service bulletins and recordings, Sunday School and music ministry records)
- Administrative records (including minutes, reports, financial statements, membership, communications and newsletters)
- Committee and conference records (including minutes, reports, photographs, records of Epiphany Explorations, 2003-2017)
- Club, program and project records
- Building and maintenance records

The records that First Met Archives acquires are deemed to be inactive and of enduring value. We adhere to United Church of Canada requirements for acquisition and transfer. ([The Manual 2023](#)) Upon closure of a church, these archival records must be transferred to the applicable regional archives. At present, there are quantities of inactive and semi-active records residing in First Met offices and numerous artifacts throughout the church building. The records will need to be appraised according to United Church requirements and the inactive records prepared for transfer. This is a job needing energy and commitment from all staff, administrative boards and committees.

Continued on p. 24

Archives and Heritage continued from p. 23

Church artifacts we have accessioned and stored, as well as the many others housed throughout the church building, range in significance from those primarily of interest to this congregation to others of regional and even national importance. Unfortunately, there is no repository for church artifacts.

Resources:

[What Do the Archives Want? A Basic Guide for Congregations \(pacificmountain.ca\)](https://www.pacificmountain.ca/What-Do-the-Archives-Want-A-Basic-Guide-for-Congregations)

[Sample Records Schedule: Congregations \(pacificmountain.ca\)](https://www.pacificmountain.ca/Sample-Records-Schedule-Congregations)

[The Manual 2023 \(United Church of Canada\) Section A5. Records](#)

Archives & Heritage

Some of the many artifacts in storage /
First Met Archives



Communications

First Met takes great pride in its communications to the congregation and the wider community. The job of the Communications Team as stated in its mandate is “to promote and communicate programs, activities and services” to church members, adherents and to the broader community.

This is not an easy task with a team of two, augmented by university students in cooperative education programs. And these very talented and valuable students are here for only four months at a time, meaning the Communications Team has to search for a new person and conduct job interviews every couple of months. This would keep us busy even if we had nothing else to do. Without those students, and the ideas they bring, we would not be able to provide the livestreaming of our Sunday worship or special events, produce the videos which enliven our worship and help us tell the stories of our other activities. We are grateful to the First Met Board for supporting our hiring of coop students and to UVic for the high quality of its coop program.

Thanks to these students, as well, for their expertise which has helped us improve our livestream production with better sound and the increased use of video already mentioned to provide what we hope is a more inclusive, informative and meaningful worship.

There is much to do, as well, on the more traditional side of keeping congregants informed. We continue to provide bi-weekly email news and information roundups through the *First Met Update*, which goes to more than 400 people, many of them from outside First Met. In 2022, that meant more than two dozen *Updates* through the year.

We also produced four quarterly Newsletters, included as part of those email updates and posted to our website from where they can be downloaded and printed. With many of our congregants taking in our worship services online we limit the number of printed copies available but made newsletters part of congregational mailout packages.



The Fall issue of First Met News

Continued on p. 25

Communications continued from p. 26

The website, of course, remains for many people the first and best source of information about First Met and the introduction to the church for folks outside our community. The ability to post news and information quickly makes the website one of the most valuable communications tools available.

Our Quadra Street sign continues to be a useful tool in spreading our message. The sign not only advertises our special First Met events, it also helps promote activities of interest to the general community. Messages in support of Pride Week, climate change rallies, support for refugees and others in need are a regular part of our external sign messaging. and other special messages. We give a special thank you to Building Supervisor Bruce Davies for his work in posting the sign messages, sometimes in very unfavourable weather.

Our use of posters, banners and signs inside and outside the church for special events and occasions continues to spread our message.

Technical component

Livestreaming and its technical requirements have added to the communications job description and increased the amount of working time since Communications took over the church's audio-visual component in 2021.

The audio-visual team at First Met livestreamed all 52 weeks of church services in 2022 as well as six special services: Ash Wednesday (Mar. 2), Good Friday (Apr. 15), December 6 Interfaith Service of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, Blue Christmas (Dec. 13), Christmas Eve Family Service (Dec. 24) and Carols in the Candlelight (Dec. 24). Once pandemic restrictions were removed, the audio-visual team provided technical services for several outside events including the Naden Band Remembrance Service (Nov. 4), West Coast Reach concert (Dec. 2), the CBC/Our Place reading of Dickens' Christmas Carol (Dec. 9) and a school Christmas Concert (Dec. 12).

The average number of views for our Sunday services was 74.9 over the whole year and higher at 88.4 views for the first six months of the year when pandemic restrictions were still in place. The special services received an average of 62 views. We have 217 subscribers to our YouTube channel, an increase of 22 over the year.

Following each service, one of our tech team creates video clips of the Reflection (sermon), anthem and blessing which are posted to our website as well as on YouTube. Following our formal recognition as an Affirming congregation, we created a short video featuring Board Chair Edeana Malcolm that plays the first time an individual visits our site. It received 690 views over the eight months it was in place.

Our new Allan & Heath digital sound board was installed on June 1 to replace our aging analog board. The audio-visual crew are enjoying all the new capabilities of the board, including the ability to save and recall settings from memory instead of having to reset everything manually. In November, we began having problems with "stuttering" in both the livestream and recording of the services. Troubleshooting identified a problem with the solid-state hard drive of the livestream computer which was replaced.

During 2022, we hired two coop students for four-month terms: Zachary Young and Ethan Slogotski. They continued to work with us on a part-time basis following completion of their work terms. In the fall semester, we did not have any suitable applicants for the position and instead hired Stella Drinkwater and Maxwell Sorensen, two students from the Computer Science and Music program on a part-time basis. We have been blessed that Trison Nguyen, who was first hired as a coop student in 2014, continues to work with us part-time on Sundays.

On a trial basis, Jodie Brady-Quinton, was hired to host the live chat on YouTube and host a virtual coffee hour following the service. The virtual coffee hour had limited success in its existing format and was discontinued at the end of August 2022. However, there were some faithful participants from the congregation who formed a close bond with the host, while others were occasional participants. Once in-person gathering followed the Sunday services, participation in the online community dropped off.

And, finally, many words of thanks to Joan Mason who, in addition to heading the audio-visual crew, also edits the quarterly Newsletters and takes the lead role in recruiting and supervising our superb contingent of co-op students. Our thanks also to our Lead Minister Shelagh MacKinnon, our staff resource, and Lauren Paterson in the office for her help with poster design, ideas and suggestions. And thanks to everyone for their comments. We always welcome feedback.

David Bray, Communications Team Chair



You're invited to our

Pop-up Café

For Conversation & Connection



Alternating Tuesdays 10:30am - 12:00pm
Room 119 at First Metropolitan United Church
932 Balmoral Road, Victoria BC

No registration required
Complimentary refreshments served
Distanced for your comfort
Everyone is welcome!

June 7th & 21st
July 12th & 26th
August 2nd, 16th, & 30th

Volunteers needed!
Please contact Kyla Morgan for info:
(250) 388-5188 ext. 226
kyla.morgan@firstmetvictoria.com

Ministry and Personnel Committee



Leanne Prestwich, Peter Clugston, Marie McKee.



ABOVE: Wayne Ridley our new evening custodian
LEFT: Lauren Paterson, Office Administrator



ABOVE: Zach Young
RIGHT: Our cooperative education students in 2022: Maxwell Sorenson, Stella Drinkwater, Ethan Slogotski, with Joan Mason

The FirstMet Ministry and Personnel Committee consists of Leanne Prestwich (Chair), Marie McKee and Peter Clugston. As of 31 December 2022, Leanne Prestwich stepped down from Ministry and Personnel to join the Amalgamation Task Group.

2022 proved to be another challenging year for us in terms of hiring staff. In order to try and attract custodial candidates and ensure there was staff on site for facility rentals, the Custodian position was expanded to full time. This was successful and we have been very pleased to welcome Wayne Ridley in November 2022.

We also welcomed the delightful Lauren Paterson in July 2022 to the new redesigned Office Administrator role.

As pandemic restrictions were eased somewhat, the staff's work routine returned to a more normal format, mostly working from the church or from home as needed. We are very grateful for the continued dedication of the staff to bring meaningful worship and times for fellowship and diligence in ensuring a safe environment in our aging church building.

The M&P Committee has done most of our work via email and phone but has met in person when the situation required it. We are a small committee but are grateful to work alongside such an amazing staff team.

Other Hellos

New Co-op and Casual Communications Technicians in 2022:

Maxwell Sorensen
Stella Drinkwater
Ethan Slogotski
Zach Young

Our Roles

M&P is the only committee that is mandatory for any church to have. Our main activities are;

- being available to consult and support around staffing matters
- advising hiring groups (task groups) on personnel matters
- conducting staff performance reviews as we are able
- overseeing the relationship of staff with each other and with the congregation
- reviewing job descriptions and updating as needed
- working with staff to ensure they make use of continuing education opportunities
- updating Human Resource policies

Leanne Prestwich, Chair, Ministry and Personnel Committee



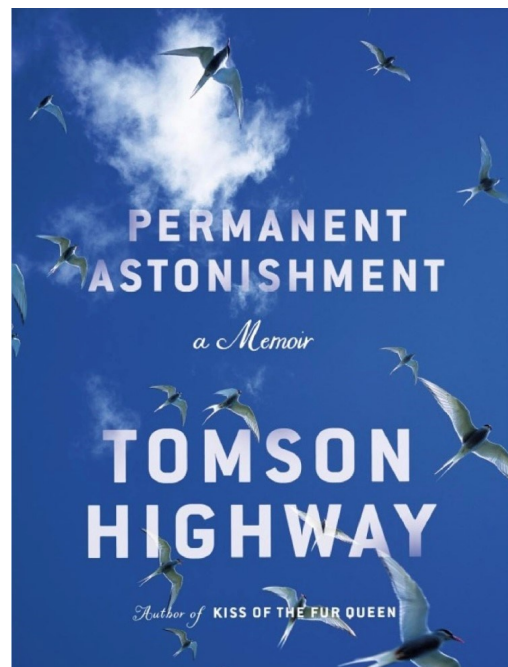
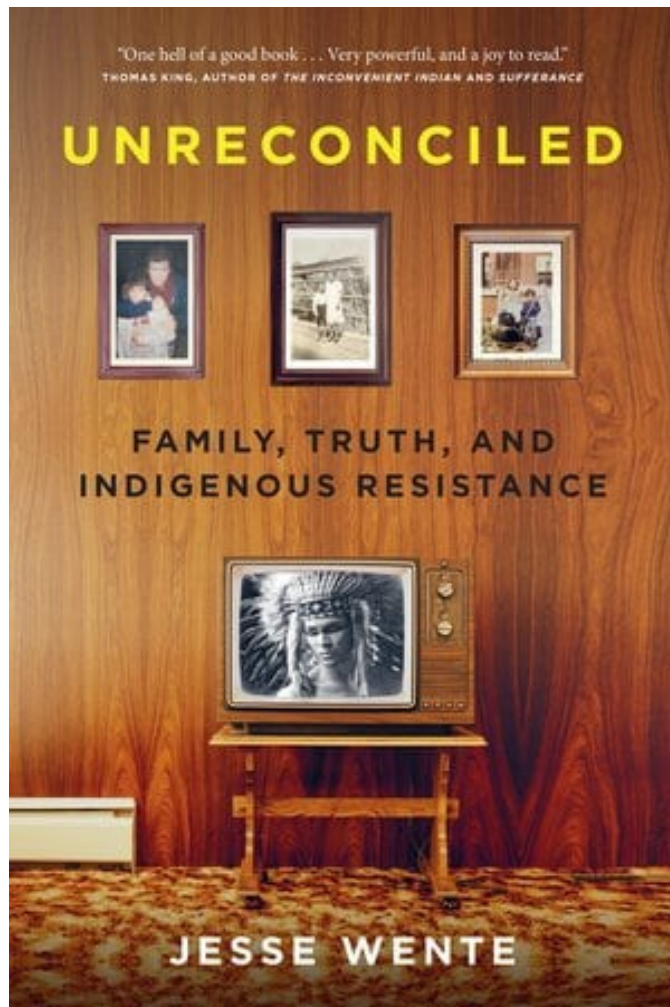
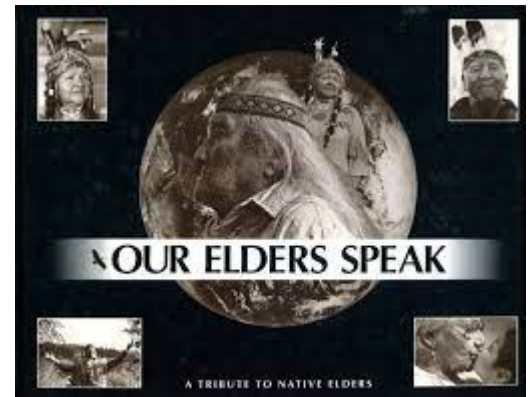
Mountford Library

2022 was a quiet year for the Mountford Library. Only 72 books and videos were borrowed, but 35 new items were added to the collection, including valuable new titles on indigenous relations. Posting new book lists on the library webpage and updating the bulletin board helped promote interest in new books.

Two possible reasons for the decrease in library use can be the reduced church attendance and moving the after-church gathering from the Fellowship Hall to the Doreene McLeod Room. Foot traffic past the library has significantly diminished.

The volunteers serving the library were augmented by the addition of Shelley Gait in 2022. Team Leader Denise Holmen went on an extended leave of absence due to health concerns. Her place has been temporarily filled by David Chamberlin.

David Chamberlin



Above and Left: Recent books purchased by the Mountford Library.

*Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty
and the test of our civilization.*
~ Mahatma Gandhi

Journey to Amalgamation Report

In early Summer the FM Board welcomed Cheryl Black, newly retired minister and spouse of Rev. Shelagh, into a designated role as a Voluntary Associate Minister. In that capacity she was invited to participate in a newly formed group called Future Search Team (FST). The FST members were: Ross Brecken, Linden Holman, Marion Denton, Larry Scott, Barry Rolston and Cheryl Black.



The goal of the FST was to explore the options currently available to First Met. In April the 10 year Redevelopment Project had come to a very disappointing end. Yet the problems of the building which had initiated the Redevelopment Project were still very much in evidence and First Met had to develop a new plan.

The FST explored in great detail six options for the future direction of the Congregation. After much discernment and analysis the FST recommended the option of Amalgamation to the congregation which was accepted by a very high percentage. The rationale behind adopting this decision was the desire to seek renewal through amalgamating with another United Church Community of Faith. The people of First Met have a strong commitment to, and long history of, focusing on mission and ministry rather than maintenance.

On October 23, 2022, the congregation of First Metropolitan United Church (FMUC) approved the following motion:

“That the Congregation of First Metropolitan United Church chooses the path of Amalgamation and instructs the Board to begin the process of finding a United Church congregation with whom to partner.”

After that motion was adopted, the FST was disbanded by the Board and an Amalgamation Steering Team (AST) was established. The members appointed to the AST were: David Bray, Marion Denton, Leanne Prestwich, Micia Kanstrup, Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon, and Cheryl Black.

This group's mandate included the following tasks:

- Discern the core values of FMUC
- Gather information on resource material from other United Church sources so as to be familiar with the requirements for undertaking an amalgamation
- Seek expressions of interest from other UCC congregations who would be interested in partnering with First Met in an amalgamation
- Meet with and discern the potential of amalgamation with those interested.
- After wide discernment, consultation with Board and others in FMUC, make a recommendation to the Board and congregation as to which church to partner with on the Journey of Amalgamation

At the end of 2022 the AST was still active in meeting this mandate. Of course, in the early months of 2023 the Choice was made to pursue an amalgamation with Broad View United. But that is the story for next year's report.

Throughout the development of the Future Search Report and on embarking on the Journey of Amalgamation the First Met leaders have shown themselves to be incredibly hard working, knowledgeable, deeply caring, insightful and authentically honest in seeking a future path. The members and participants of First Met have demonstrated courage in facing difficult decisions, grace in contemplating hard decision, and a commitment to loving the mission of church.

I have been humbled by the willingness of people to let me join in the work on these important projects. I feel awed by the bravery of the congregation as they make heartfelt decisions to prioritize ministry. I feel privileged to work with the caliber of people on the Future Search Team and the Amalgamation Team. I feel grateful for the vision and willingness of the First Met Board to take hard but faith-filled actions to lead the congregation to a new beginning. I feel honoured to have the opportunity to work with my long time and witty friend and colleague, Rev. Larry Scott. I am moved by Shelagh's steady, compassionate leadership through these difficult discernments. Thank you for letting me be part of this journey.

Cheryl Black, Voluntary Associate Minister

Finance, Administration and Stewardship

The F&A Committee reports to the Congregation through the Board and achieves its purpose, as defined by its mandate, through the development of a financial plan for the Church. This plan includes income statement budgets for all funds, balance sheet budget for the Capital fund, Foundation funds withdrawal budget and a cash flow budget for the Operating fund. The plan integrates all available financial resources, including operational accounts, restricted funds, and trust accounts based on the inputs received from each ministry reviewed for reasonableness only. The Committee oversees financial records and follows up with the appropriate individual and groups if there is an issue. The Committee addresses administrative matters including letting and information technology on behalf of the congregation. It ensures that the Church's financial management practices comply with all applicable regulations and standards.



Liane Clark,
Treasurer.

2022 was a year of significant changes in the operation of the F&A Committee, including the transition of Liane Clark, from the Chairperson and Treasurer roles, in which she had served for more than ten years, into her new role going forward as Office Volunteer. Liane's exceptional contributions to First Met in those roles will long be remembered and her agreement to stay involved to ensure a smooth transition to the new Treasurer, Ross Breckon, and the new Chairperson, the Rev. Cheryl Black, is greatly appreciated.

Finances

In 2022 the F&A Committee spearheaded the development and approval of the 2022 budget (work started in 2021) and the finalization and formal accountant review of the 2021 financial results for inclusion in the 2021 Annual Report. The completion of this work was delayed in 2022 because of the pandemic but was presented and approved by the Congregation at the AGM held on May 29, 2022.

In June when the Board created the Future Search Group (FSG) to examine several different paths forward for First Met, the F&A Chairperson and the Treasurer joined the FSG and spent July and August analysing the six options being evaluated and formulating recommendations for the Board to consider. In the fall of 2022, the FSG reported their analysis of the six options and recommended to the Board that First Met seek another United Church congregation with whom we could amalgamate and journey together into the future.

In the last quarter of 2022 the Treasurer and the Finance Office, working with church staff and volunteers to prepare the First Met 2023 budget which culminated in the approval of the 2023 Budget by the congregation in February 2023.

In October the Chair of the F&A Committee launched the 2023 Stewardship campaign which received 63 new pledges to donate to church operations in 2023 amounting to \$134,038, and 32 one-time Christmas gift donations in December 2022 amounting to \$8,825. Many thanks to all those of those congregants who renewed their pledges for 2023 as well as all those who donated their time and/or financial resources to First Met in 2022.

Administration

In April 2022 the F&A Committee dealt with the planned resignation of our Administrative Assistant, Fiona Weber, and recruited Lindsay Bellman to fill an expanded role as Administrative Assistant and Facilities Booking Coordinator. By July 2022 Lindsay had decided to accept an information technology role with another organization. Thankfully the amazing Liane Clark stepped in once again to backfill while the church recruited a new Office Administrator. Early in August 2022, Lauren Paterson joined the staff of First Met.

Letting

On the letting front, at the end of March 2022, First Met said goodbye to the Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA), our anchor tenant for 25 years. This move was expected and necessitated by ICA's need for more space than available at First Met to deal with the expansion of their ESL and refugee resettlement services and their desire to consolidate all their operations in a single downtown location. The hallways at First Met were significantly quieter in April after the departure of the ICA staff and hundreds of ICA clients who visited out premises each day.

In May a delegation from First Met visited ICA to tour their new office space at 808 Douglas St. and present them with a commemorative plaque crafted by First Met member, Paul Jenkins, using a piece of oak recycled from a "retired" First Met pew.

Immediately after ICA left Balmoral Rd., a process began to select a local Real Estate firm to assist First Met in securing new tenants for the space vacated by ICA. This process culminated in the selection of NAI Commercial Real Estate which worked through to the end of the year trying to find new tenants, without success. The challenges in finding tenants are the location as well as the size and general condition of our lower-level space which is in the need of updating. Towards the end of year there was some progress made in attracting interest from a private school.

Continued on p. 30

Finance, Administration and Stewardship continued from p. 29

Early in the summer, after some negotiations First Met, accepted AbbeyChurch as a tenant, sharing our Sanctuary on Sunday afternoons and other available rooms in different parts of our buildings throughout the week.

In the summer the Pacific Mountain Region joined us as a tenant, renting one of our upstairs offices in the Christian Education Wing for use by regional staff working in Victoria. This agreement with the Region became the inspiration to begin marketing the other the available offices for rental by individuals.

During the fall of 2022 our Office Administrator began to market the rooms and underground parking spaces more aggressively. She helped secure a letting agreement and nurture our relationship with the Victoria Symphony Society that now has them letting the Fellowship Hall as a regular orchestra rehearsal space. Our Office Administrator did an outstanding job increasing our letting revenues from rooms and underground parking rentals throughout the final quarter of 2022, including a high value short term building rental by a Hallmark Films production company in October 2022. During the last quarter of 2022 the Office Administrator implemented a new room booking system using Microsoft Outlook. This accomplishment enabled First Met to consolidate all of its software to a single server platform.

Information Technology

Efforts continued in 2022 to reduce our IT support costs by eliminating older technology and consolidating our church software on a cloud server platform. By the end of 2022 all software used by the Church resides on a common secure platform. In the last quarter of 2022, the wireless network on the second floor of the CEW was upgraded to provide acceptable wireless service to tenants renting the office spaces.

Ross Breckon, Treasurer

First Met Foundation and Trustees

Foundation

The annual general meeting was held in the library on June 13, 2022. We reviewed the 2021 financial results for the two trust funds held by the Foundation with our long-time financial advisor, Richard Dykeman of PI Financial. The Foundation had supported the Church operating fund by \$150,786 during the year compared with \$18,069 in 2020 (FMUC received a substantial bequest in 2020 which covered most of the deficit in the operating budget). Because revenue exceeded expenses in 2021 the Foundation contributed \$20,000 to the United Church Mission and Service Fund. By contrast, in 2022 the Foundation supported the operating fund by \$474,000. Support by the Foundation at this level is depleting capital and is not sustainable over the long term.



Bequests/ Endowments and Donations: The Congregation approved a formula several years ago for how undesignated gifts and bequests are apportioned: half are invested in the Foundation, one quarter goes to FMUC operating fund, and one quarter goes to FMUC Capital Improvements. "Designated gifts" for example to Music or the library go directly to the appropriate Designated Fund.

Trustees

The trustees are responsible for Church property which includes responsibility for arranging insurance and custody of the property deeds. We had a virtual meeting on May 20 with Ross Breckon in his capacity of Chair of the Redevelopment Task Group. The trustees had signed over the property deeds in April 2018 to the BC Conference Property Development Council. The Council had undertaken a project to construct affordable housing in conjunction with BC Housing Corporation on our property. The revenue stream was to be used to redevelop the heritage building and annex and possibly the Christian Education wing depending on the plan's final scope. Now that this project was no longer feasible the FMUC board requested that we repatriate the property deeds and authorize the Board and Redevelopment Task Group to terminate the project. The trustees approved these steps.

Continued on p. 31



The trustees had our annual general meeting in the library on June 13, 2022. We decided to organize an annual lunch for the Legacy Circle of individuals who have made living bequests or have included bequests in their estate plans. The Legacy Circle contributed \$ 34,993.20 in bequests and donations in 2022. Since 2012 the accumulated donations by the circle are \$ 2,235,685.38. Marion Denton organized a lunch for the Circle held in the Fellowship Hall on August 28. Larry Scott gave an illustrated talk about Kitimat.

We had a special meeting at FMUC on October 14 with the group considering the future of FMUC (the "Future Search Group") to discuss their recommendations about amalgamation with another United Church congregation.

Finally we had a virtual discussion on October 24 to discuss insurance with Erik Mathiesen on the United Church national office in Toronto. The national office will be backstopping out of its reserve funds a new insurance plan being offered by a major insurance company to UCC congregations. This will reduce our annual premiums at a time when they have been rising exponentially. The downside is that the new policy will not offer earthquake insurance.

Members in 2022: The FMUC Trustees also act as Directors of the FMUC Foundation. In 2022 they were Jan Drent Chair, Larry Scott Secretary, Shelagh McKinnon ex officio member, Marion Denton, Christine Hutchinson, Earl Jenson, and Rennie Warburton.

Jan Drent, Chair of Board of Trustees

Property

Bruce Davies continued to supervise routine upkeep of our large plant. Projects accomplished during the year included painting the window frames on the North Park side of the Christian Education wing and the Fellowship Hall entrance off the Balmoral parking lot. Our inefficient ageing heating systems continued to be costly to operate. Fuel alone cost \$120,000 in 2022. This was not only expensive, but our 1950s oil-fired main boiler system is a source of air pollution. During the year Ross Breckon, Linden Holmen and Jan Drent carried out major investigations into the feasibility and costs of upgrading the heating and air supply systems. This is an urgent issue both because of our annual operating expenses and the reality that some heating units will have to be replaced in the next two years. Local engineering firms assisted in these investigations. Linden Holmen undertook an exhaustive study on options to renew the heating system located under the Fellowship Hall (see p. 22 for details).

FMUC is responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalks on Balmoral and Quadra adjacent to our property. Because there is a bus stop on Quadra in front of the Church this is particularly important. We had a contract with a snow removal firm for several years. Because this was becoming increasingly costly and the service had become underwhelming we purchased a snow blower in the fall. Bruce has been able to clear snow promptly and the savings due to terminating the contract have already covered the cost of the blower.

Larry Scott continued his yeoman maintenance of the FMUC garden areas. The venerable Spanish chestnut tree in the garden on the north side of the sanctuary received regular attention from arborists.

Jan Drent



Bruce Davies clearing snow with the new snowblower



Flowers along the Quadra Street edge of the church gardens.

First Met Photos



Edeana Malcolm taking flowers and a card to St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church after the invasion of Ukraine.



Congregants enjoyed iced tea in the Quadra Gardens after church in August.



Friendship Club held outdoor picnics when the weather allowed.



The Evolving Church team provided Gingerbread house kits for children of families receiving NPNA hampers at Christmas.

Volunteer Barry Rolston repairs an item at the Repair Café on March 26.



FIRST METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2022

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Schedule 1)	2022	2021
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash	\$ 32,701	\$ 9,978	\$ 42,679	\$ 51,061
Accounts receivable	5,207	-	5,207	12,315
GST receivable	2,726	638	3,364	2,725
Due from Foundation (Note 4)	200	-	200	170,540
Due from Operating Fund	-	674,753	674,753	635,410
Due from Restricted Funds	1,169	-	1,169	1,000
Prepaid expenses	24,050	-	24,050	36,263
Investments	-	62,622	62,622	77,869
	66,053	747,991	814,044	987,183
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Note 5)	-	616,333	616,333	645,219
INTANGIBLE ASSETS (Note 6)	-	-	-	14,708
	\$ 66,053	\$ 1,364,324	\$ 1,430,377	\$ 1,647,110
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Bank indebtedness	\$ -	\$ 1,314	\$ 1,314	\$ -
Accounts payable	56,323	-	56,323	134,397
Due to Operating Fund	-	1,169	1,169	1,000
Due to Restricted Funds	674,753	-	674,753	635,410
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	11,762
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	13,272	-	13,272	6,494
Current portion of deferred contributions (Note 8)	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
	744,348	3,483	747,831	790,063
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS (Note 8)	-	-	-	1,000
	744,348	3,483	747,831	791,063
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)				
Internally restricted	-	1,360,841	1,360,841	1,369,838
Unrestricted	(678,295)	-	(678,295)	(513,791)
	(678,295)	1,360,841	682,546	856,047
	\$ 66,053	\$ 1,364,324	\$ 1,430,377	\$ 1,647,110

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Director

Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

FIRST METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH
Statement of Operations
Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Schedule 2)	2022	2021
REVENUE				
Donations from registered charities	\$ 369,060	\$ 11,847	\$ 380,907	\$ 320,449
Gain (loss) on investments	87	(1,715)	(1,628)	(806)
Givings	239,581	6,467	246,048	260,429
Investment income	116	213	329	1,505
Letting, net	160,059	-	160,059	269,890
Other income	4,938	157	5,095	16,184
	<u>773,841</u>	<u>16,969</u>	<u>790,810</u>	<u>867,651</u>
EXPENSES				
Administration (Schedule 3)	75,844	85,275	161,119	152,618
Building and grounds (Schedule 4)	258,473	-	258,473	238,513
Staffing costs	492,430	-	492,430	439,760
	<u>826,747</u>	<u>85,275</u>	<u>912,022</u>	<u>830,891</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE PROGRAMS				
	(52,906)	(68,306)	(121,212)	36,760
Net program deficit (Schedule 5)	<u>(52,289)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(52,289)</u>	<u>(78,914)</u>
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES \$	<u>(105,195)\$</u>	<u>(68,306)\$</u>	<u>(173,501)\$</u>	<u>(42,154)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

FIRST METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended December 31, 2022

	Operating Fund	Restricted Funds (Schedule 2)	2022	2021
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ (513,791)	\$ 1,369,838	\$ 856,047	\$ 898,201
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(105,195)	(68,306)	(173,501)	(42,154)
Inter-fund transfers <i>(Note 9)</i>	(59,309)	59,309	-	-
NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) - END OF YEAR	\$ (678,295)	\$ 1,360,841	\$ 682,546	\$ 856,047

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

2022 First Met Staff



Kelly Charlton
Director of Music
Ministries.



Micia Kanstrup
Sunday School Leadership



Shelagh MacKinnon
Lead Minister



Kyla Morrison Morgan
Health and Wellness Advocate



Lauren Paterson
Office Administrator



Katya Rumyantseva
Assistant Bookkeeper



Wayne Ridley
Custodian



Bruce Davies
Building Supervisor

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