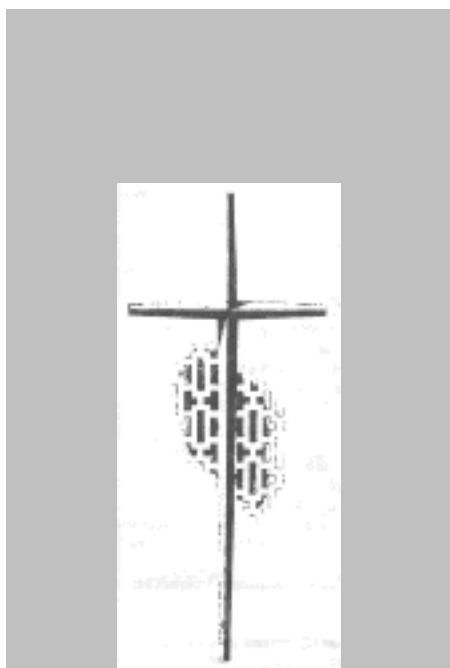


Immanuel United Church Annual Report 2020-2021



Mission Statement of Immanuel United Church (revised May 15, 2013):

Nurtured and sustained by God's grace,
we at Immanuel United Church
seek continually to be formed as
servants of God:

centring our life in worship and study,
enjoying and sharing with one another in our
diversity,
offering hospitality to all who come through
our doors,
extending an open invitation to God's table,
reaching out beyond our walls,
affirming the worth of every person,
working for justice and peace,
and witnessing to our hope for God's world.

Phone 204-669-0220

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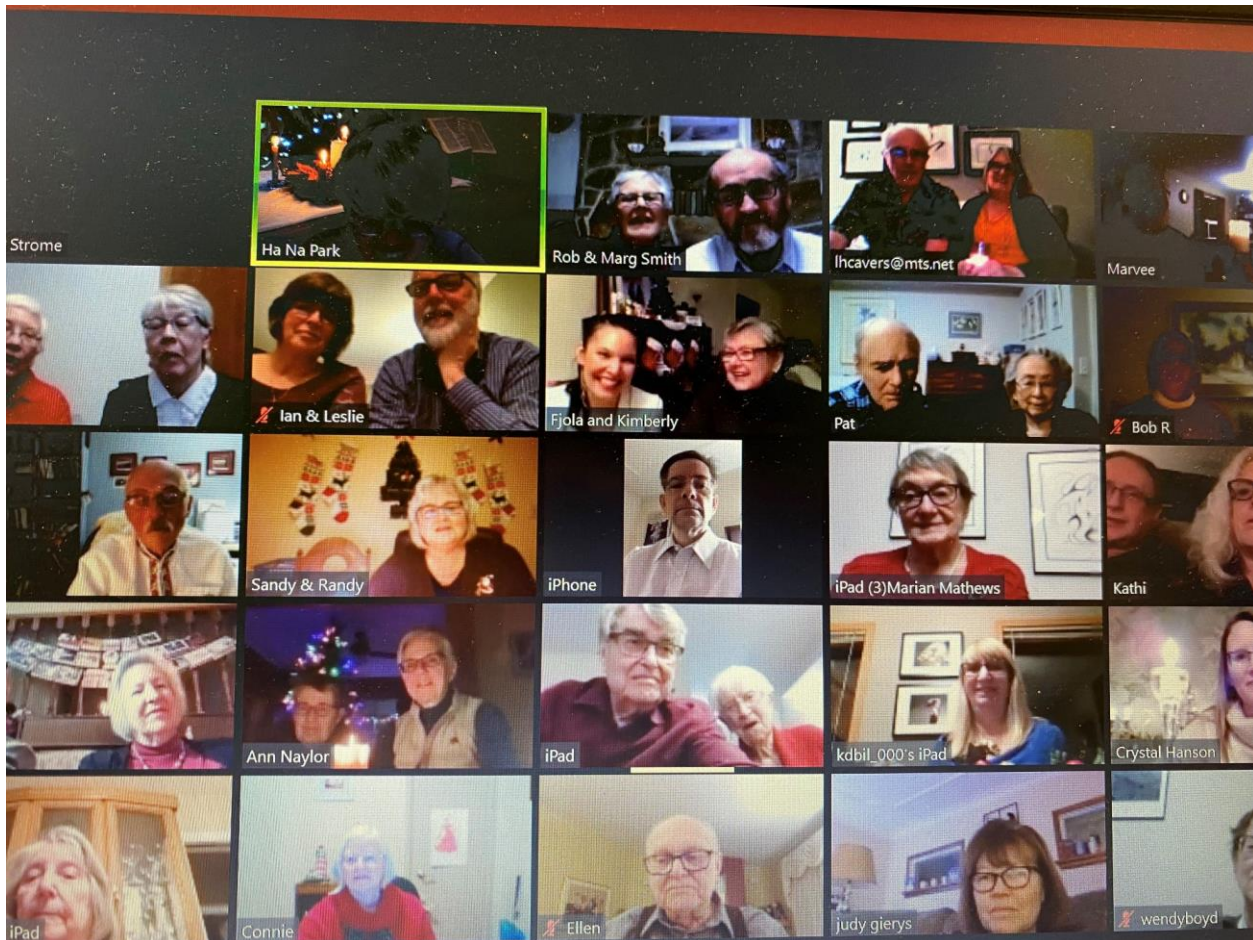
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Annual Minister's Report

Planting a Peony of God-With-Us During the Pandemic

May 2020 - May 2021



What is a metaphor
YOU would CHOOSE
that reveals something about
the power of this time?
(NEGATIVE/POSITIVE)

CHRISTMAS EVE ZOOM SERVICE

What I am most grateful for...

The metaphor I choose to reveal something about the power of this time is a pale pink peony. For me, the power of this time means the power of our community, like a peony: It is vulnerable to the season. And yet, it is mature enough to endure. The shape of its petals manifests protection and the grace of God. The aroma is healing. Our 2020-21 ministry began in the deepening of the pandemic. As the health regulations and restrictions took effect, I soon realized that I would need to make decisions - like selecting seeds that I could take to the soil of gardening/ministry. In the past years, I tried to keep 'reaching out beyond our walls' seeds in my pockets and heart. However, this year, I focused more on 'witnessing our hope for God's world' seeds through worship, pastoral care, and meetings with our leaders and Elders. Everyone was like a peony: Their presence - like the healing aroma of the peony - inspired me.

What I am most grateful for this past year is the spirit of hope in the midst of a pandemic. Hope that we are working hard to continue to cultivate and sustain both as a family and as a community of faith. I have learned that hope flourishes when we are able to express care, trust and love with others and when such care, trust and love are received in gratitude.



Cultivating the spirit of hope (and creativity) in the times of uncertainty

In the spring of 2020, Immanuel promptly transitioned Sunday morning services to zoom. Worship packages were delivered each week to those who were not on the internet. The Worship Elders provided excellent feedback and suggestions in order to advance and deepen the zoom worship experience. Together with other creative folks who expressed interest and willingness to help, the Worship Elders planned each season with me. I felt so lucky to be working with the Elders in an increasing sense of camaraderie. In the fall, Faith Formation Elders invited some of us to work together as a focus group to share creative and scripture-inspired learning packages for the families with children. Along with guiding elders, many volunteered to print and deliver packages each week to more than 10 families without computer access, each week. Even as I swam in the undercurrent of the pandemic, I was not despairing. This experience of trouble and uniqueness led me to be more receptive to learning about the meaning and the power of being a community in faith, with Immanuel (meaning God-with-us). The meaning of Advent ('waiting', 'arrival') came to be more real than ever, and became embodied in me. Since Lent, when I walk on the street, I affirm each person as someone who carries heritage(s), not race or stigma, in their life and lived experience. Over all, I have learned that we are able to cultivate hope when we are not alone. Personally, the Christmas Eve 7 pm zoom service was the best experience I have had in my entire life. Such joy. Rejuvenation. I wonder how it was possible to share so much laughter when we were still isolated from each other. That's still a peony miracle to me.

During this year, Immanuel United Church witnessed the loss of many beloved elders, friends and family members. In deep grief and in courage, we believe in the hope of Easter. Seeds die to give way to new life. It is passing. (The death of our loved ones is a reminder that we all belong to God, and God belongs to us.) We send them to eternity with a song of faith to a place like a peony heaven prepared for everyone. I wonder if

Heaven is the peace and beauty in the deep interconnection of all things in the universe God has created and blessed. May all be in peace and rest in the Creator's abundant care.

Last but not least, I wish to say thank you to all who have dedicated their time and talents for caring for our community - - Phone tree calls, Harvest Manitoba, property management, looking after pipes and fire and other equipment in our building, the second floor bathroom renovation, ensuring the approval of the subdivision for Kimberley Terrace.

Our Immanuel Choir still praises the Living One, and we listen to them in recorded music.

The love and care from Pastoral Care Guiding Elders has been the root in the soil of Immanuel, and as the root was deep, every ministry above was successful and sustains our soul and the spirit of hope in the community.

Our Council is amazing. Council Elders documented the plan for re-opening last fall, and we just revisited Open Questions and prioritized actions and strategy plans. And my colleagues. Peter, Eileen and Sharon V. Sharon in her church office, me in my laundry room, we rarely lose one another in communication.

We still make a great, caring team.

I would like to conclude this annual report with the power of the words of Jesus:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Thanks be to God.

Rev. Ha Na Park

Office Administrator's Report

I have now been the Office Administrator for 20 years at Immanuel!

As the pandemic began I was off work and returned to the office in the middle of September and am happy to be back. The office continues to be busy. Some of the work that I do is put together newsletters, weekly announcements as well as this annual report.

This time here is certainly different as I am working on my own due to this pandemic, I look forward to some new normalcy ahead.

Thank you to the Ministry and Personnel Committee for all the hard work you do on behalf of the staff and especially keeping us connected during this challenging time.

Sharon Vandenberg



Ethel Calnek
Peter Peters
Lois Hector
Margaret Newton
Meg Yahiro
Murray Kroeker
Edwina Currie
Joan McGregor
Elsie Hughes
Ed Scrapneck
Anita Bilous
Jim Ross

**Immanuel United Church Annual Meeting -- online with Zoom
Nov 22, 2020**

Appointment of Chair and Secretary.

Moved by Marvee Stevens, seconded by Bob Kenyon that Ian Donnelly be appointed as Chair and Rob Smith as recording secretary for this meeting. Carried by show of hands.

Acknowledgment of Treaty #1 Land and Homeland of the Métis Nation. Read by Ian

Motion to Enable Constitution of the Court:

Moved by Marvee, seconded by Joy Jost

Be it resolved all who are participating in this meeting who are not members of Immanuel United Church have the rights to full participation including speaking and voting the same as the congregation members. Carried.

Time of Remembrance. List of 11 congregational members and adherents who died since last Congregational meeting in 2019 was displayed on the screen and was read by Jane Nicholls. Minute of silence observed.

Approval of the previous meeting minutes from the Annual Meeting on May 12, 2019 and the special congregational meeting regarding Kimberly Terrace on October 20, 2019. Moved by Marvee seconded by Luba Olesky. Carried

Financial Report for the year ending April 30, 2020: overview by Pat Schulz and Connie Kryschuk

Operational Deficit: The deficit for operations for 2019 – 2020 is - \$29 392.38. To facilitate a smooth transition to the new fiscal year, the transfers of funds to offset the operational deficit were approved at a Council Meeting on May 14, 2020 in lieu of a congregational meeting (due to the pandemic). It is moved that, **“the congregation approve the following transfers of funds:**

\$55.00 from the Above and Beyond

\$805.08 from Congregational Events Fund

\$410.11 from Shortfall Fund

\$18,122.19 from Memorial Life and Work Fund

\$10,000.00 from the Kimberly Terrace Account

to offset the negative operational deficit of \$29 392.38

(Mention was made of the generous and timely bequest from the Brian Ulph estate which went into the Memorial Life & Work Fund.)

Moved by Pat Schulz, seconded by Connie Kryschuk that the report of 2019-20 be accepted. Carried

Presentation and Approval of Operations Budget: Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Connie Kryschuk that the operations budget for the year 2020 - 2021 projecting an operational shortfall of \$31,800.00 be approved. Carried.

Brief report of finance since the end of 2019-20 fiscal year by Pat. As the budget was approved on an interim basis by council, Pat & Connie were able to file the Registered Charity return in October so Immanuel does not

lose Charitable tax status. Due to some staff laid off due to Covid19, Federal funding subsidy for part of Ha Na's salary (\$7800) and continued strong support from the congregation, the present financial picture is "OK". current surplus is about \$6,000.

Lynne Strome offered "sincere thanks" to Pat and Connie for all the extra work they have done during these difficult times. Applause by all in "attendance".

Marvee asked about Kimberley Terrace and Bob Kenyon gave a brief report about the reasons for the delays. It is hopeful City of Winnipeg will approve the subdivision plans so the balance owing to Immanuel can be paid out in the near future.

Al Mackling raised the issue of whether the United Church nationally is acting strongly in support of climate change issues. Ha Na reported that Faithful Footprints of the National Church focuses on what congregations can do to reduce their own carbon footprint. Al suggested that UC ministers and congregational members should lead rallies and other initiatives to pressure governments to take more action regarding climate change issues.

Adjournment Moved by Marg Smith

Council Elders Annual Report

Immanuel Council

The role of Council is to oversee Immanuel's spiritual well-being and give guidance to the congregation and cluster groups as needed. Council has continued to meet via Zoom, at least once per month, and often more than that, over the past year. Each Council meeting is facilitated by one elder and scribed by another, on a rotational basis. The scribe submits an announcement for the congregation shortly after the meeting. Once minutes are completed, they are circulated to Guiding Elders from all clusters.

We usually begin our meetings by reading aloud the Immanuel United Church Mission Statement. Sometimes we think about one particular aspect of the Mission Statement and sometimes the facilitator offers a reflection or prayer. On occasion, although less frequently this year, we have invited one or more Guiding Elders to share about the work in which they have been engaged. This year we have met with representatives of the Finance Team. Each Council member continues to be responsible for connecting with and supporting one or more Mission Clusters and reporting to Council as necessary. The cluster groups have been continuing their work faithfully, even in these times of isolation and uncertainty, and we are very grateful for all the work they do. We continue to be thankful for our Treasurer and Finance Team for their dedication in reporting and keeping Immanuel's financial details up to date.

Ha Na, as she has always done, supports and uplifts us in our work. She has worked tirelessly over the past year, seeking ideas and ways of using technology to make our Zoom worship meetings more engaging, interesting and interactive for members of the congregation. We have continued to follow the developments of the Kimberly Terrace project and, like the rest of the congregation are eagerly awaiting the final payment for the land.

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to provide challenges for us. Here are a few of the items that have taken up our time over the past year: planning for a virtual congregational AGM, discussing and producing documents regarding closing and re-opening procedures at length and deciding to re-hire Sharon and Peter. We are grateful to Sharon and Peter for their patience.

We have recently gone back to a discussion of Immanuel's three Open questions, which are:

How might Immanuel encourage diversity?

How can the arts provide spiritual nurture and invite participation by the community?

As the church who contributed to colonization, how shall we express our commitment to truth and reconciliation?

We did this as a way to look forward and to set priorities for when the pandemic is over. It has been affirming to do some thinking about the future.

Membership on Council has remained the same over the past year. While we acknowledge that we are short-handed, we support one another and do the best we can. We are grateful to serve Immanuel in the capacity of Council Elders and look forward with hope to the coming year as we faithfully attempt to live out God's plan for us.

Respectfully submitted by Council Elders,

Jane Nicholls, Ian Donnelly, Rob Smith, Marvee Stevens and Ha Na Park, minister

Looking Ahead: Immanuel Resources Working Group

In January 2020, at the direction of the Council, a working group was established (formerly called the Financial Future Working Group) to create a process for the congregation to have open and creative conversations to look at our finances and our viability into the future. A committee was formed with the following people: Ruth Campbell, Ian Donnelly, Teri Gartner, Connie Kryschuk, Lynne Strome, and Bob Tate. We had our first meetings in February 2020. A meeting of interested congregation members was to be held after worship in March to brainstorm possibilities and discuss their merits, however, it was cancelled due to pandemic protocols. To continue to gather information, the committee met in June via Zoom with Ian Manson. Ian has done work with a couple of other congregations in the East to address some of the same issues that Immanuel is dealing with in terms of financial and human resources. Ian outlined a process that the congregation could be led through. He also suggested that we gather some data from the United Church yearbooks and from Immanuel's past records to set the context for further discussion. The working group met again in January 2021 to look at the data that was gathered and consider next steps. We attended a 3-week webinar at the beginning of February to study a book called *Thriving Churches* written by Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd. We learned about common spiritual characteristics identified in thriving churches visited by the author and found that many exist at Immanuel.

It was decided that we will wait until the congregation can meet face-to-face rather than try to have the discussion over Zoom. So, we'll wait. In the meantime, we all can ponder what comes to mind when we look ahead 5 years at Immanuel and look forward to the time we can meet again in person.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the group,
Ian Donnelly

Kimberly Terrace

On March 7, 2021 I wrote an update about the progress on our property in the announcements. The closing date was to be hopefully March 31, 2021.

Our lawyer was to clarify the parking management clause and we agreed to any extension of moving and/or rebuild that storage shed to 120 days from 60 days after the closing date.

Since that time there has been some changes in personnel at the City and they are questioning the parking management clause as proposed. As a result March 31st passed and on April 5th I had an email from Gateway Construction reporting that they are trying to work to the current deadline of May 6th to have everything in hand to close the agreement.

The position re – parking was a surprise to Gateway but they are hopeful for May 6th or before.

Also Gateway says the Developer is anxious to get moving.

Hopefully, Bob Kenyon for the Committee
Glenn Nicholls
Ruth Campbell
Jim Ross

P.S. ~ As I was writing this report I got an email from Jim Ross' daughter that Jim died this morning. Jim was a dedicated member of this committee since 2016 and we thank him for his insight, participation and support for all these years. We will miss him. He was a faithful servant to the Church.

Stewardship of Financial Resources Cluster

We reflect on our past year as a Community of Faith (the term now used by the United Church of Canada for all pastoral charges). It certainly has been a challenging year!

Each cluster volunteer group of our church has continued to work in creative ways due to the Covid restrictions. The guiding Elders keep in touch by phone or email or in-person when required. The records for meeting minutes, financial statements and stewardship information are maintained at the church. Following are our

Cluster Volunteer Group Participants:

Finance Team: Pat Schulz, Connie Kryschuk

Signing Officers: Judy Gierys, Lorraine Kakegamic

Kimberly Terrace Financial Officer: Eugene Antymis

Mission & Service (M & S) Representative: Judy Gierys

Memorial Fund Representative: Eileen Metcalfe

Trustees: Joy Jost, Judy Gierys, Neil Barbour, Bob Kenyon (Please refer to the Trustee Report)

The Finance Team has operated efficiently to collect, redirect and accurately report our finances. The church remained closed all year due to the Covid-19 virus. The team is extremely grateful for the continued support of our Community of Faith during these unprecedented times. We received offerings by mail, by pickup, by drop-off in our mailbox and by PAR, as well as government Covid relief funds. Our church budget indicated that we have a surplus which is good news.

This year the annual Stewardship Campaign for 2021 was conducted by letter along with the weekly announcements sent via email and in paper form to those without email. In addition, several stories of stewardship were shared in the weekly announcements.

The M & S representative continues to keep us informed with the ongoing work of our National committee as well as special relevant relief efforts.

The Memorial Fund included Eileen Metcalfe as its only member. We remember with fondness our former member Elsie Hughes who passed away in January 2021. The fund receives contributions from people as a thank you for a service or as an act of friendship to Immanuel United Church.

The Trustees Team monitors our insurance coverage, performs a yearly audit and deals with any legal work as required.

We are very grateful for all the volunteer participants of the Clusters who have worked tirelessly and faithfully. Sincere thanks go out to each and every one.

Although the Covid crisis shows no sign of stopping yet, we are confident moving forward in our ministry with our great leadership. May God continue to guide us in our vision for our Community of Faith.

Blessings, Lorraine Kakegamic and Bob Kenyon, Guiding Elders

2020-2021 Church Year

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 168,575.09
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ <u>155,356.68</u>
DIFFERENCE	\$13,218.41

Operations		All Funds & Interest		Kimberly Terrace Account & Interest	
Income	\$109,780.10	Income	\$33,785.54	Income	\$25,009.45
Expenses	<u>\$109,580.74</u>	Expenses	<u>\$35,775.94</u>	Expenses	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Surplus	\$199.36	Deficit	\$1,990.40	Surplus	\$15,009.45

OPERATIONS

The disastrous deficit we predicted did not happen because of the other world-wide disaster. This has been a strange and difficult year for everyone. We have been unable to meet in person and are missing the fellowship of the congregation. However, the impact on our finances has been positive. We ended the year with a surplus of \$199.36 versus the \$31,800 deficit we had predicted.

Our expenses were \$23,949.26 less than budgeted. All categories, with the exception of Pastoral Ministry, came in under budget: Administration \$1,563.31, Building & Property \$7,331.46, Clusters \$1,122.79, Annual Assessment (formerly Presbytery Assessment) \$1,395.00 and Support Staff \$13,774.65.

Most of these lower costs were attributed to reduced staff and the minimal use of the church building. The main reason the Building and Property expenses were down is because of the insurance. Normally, we pay the full annual premium in March but we learned, through a United Church of Canada webinar, that we could set up a monthly automatic pre-authorized remittance at no extra cost. This has now been set up and started May 2021. Although our records show \$0.00 amount paid for insurance in 2020-2021, we wanted you to know that we did not neglect to pay the bill and the building is insured.

There were some ups and downs with our income. The downs: Co-Op rebate, miscellaneous, open, and rent were \$3,063.91 under budget. The ups: envelope donations (many thanks to the congregation for their generosity) and GST rebate saw a slight increase of \$121.36. However, the biggest boost to our income was the non-budgeted \$10,992.65 from the Government Wage subsidy program.

At the time we did the budget, the Government Wage Subsidy program was just being set up and we did not know if we would qualify. The United Church of Canada negotiated with ADP (the payroll service used to process all minister's salaries) to process the 10% Federal Temp Wage Subsidy. In addition, we qualified for CEWS (Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy) for some of the months. We now need to deal with the surplus amount in our Operations:

Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Connie Kryschuk:

To move the operational surplus of \$199.36 to the Shortfall Fund.

Even though we couldn't meet physically as a congregation, we were still able to have a considerable impact on our community and around the world.

	Sharing Christmas	Other	Total
M & S		\$19,678.60	\$19,678.60
1 Just City	\$250.00	\$1,360.00	\$1,610.00
Manitoba Harvest	\$600.00	\$880.00	\$1,480.00
Special Relief		\$1,485.00	\$1,485.00
River Elm		\$800.00	\$800.00
Agape	\$300.00	\$375.00	\$675.00
Interfaith	\$400.00	\$275.00	\$675.00
LITE	\$300.00		\$300.00
SNOW Night		\$225.00	\$225.00
Amnesty		\$125.00	\$125.00
Affirm		\$100.00	\$100.00
Habitat		\$50.00	\$50.00
Total	\$1,850.00	\$25,353.60	\$27,203.60

Speaking of impact on our community, Immanuel was able to maintain the running of Manitoba Harvest Food Bank throughout the entire pandemic. Immanuel applied for and received a grant of \$1,415.00 from Manitoba Harvest to purchase a freezer and refrigerator. There are always frozen and perishable products in the delivery and we can now guarantee that they are distributed to the people in the same condition that they were received.

FUNDS

We have a total of 33 Funds. Most of the funds (see All Accounts Summary for a full list) are self-explanatory. We currently have seven Memorial Funds and nine Special Purpose Funds. For ease of reporting throughout the year and to save paper, the income and expenses for these two funds are grouped together. Below is a breakdown of the individual funds in each of these categories.

Memorial Funds

	Balance as of May 1, 2020	Income	Expenses	Balance as of Apr. 30, 2021
Memorial	\$2,523.52	\$60.00		\$2,583.52
Memorial Flowers	\$713.95			\$713.95
Memorial Funeral	\$735.05	\$200.00		\$935.05
Memorial Kitchen	\$1,062.15			\$1,062.15
Memorial M & S	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Memorial Outreach	\$1,510.00		\$1,225.00	\$285.00
Mem Pastoral Care	\$1,235.00	\$25.00		\$1,260.00
Totals	\$7,779.67	\$335.00	\$1,275.00	\$6,839.67

Special Funds

	Balance as of May 1, 2020	Income	Expenses	Balance as of Apr. 30, 2021
1 Just City		\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Agape		\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Habitat	\$19.48		\$19.48	\$0.00
Messy Church	\$1,230.00			\$1,230.00
Pastoral Care	\$450.00			\$450.00
Queer & Faithful	\$968.62			\$968.62
SNOW Night	\$30.00	\$255.00	\$225.00	\$60.00
Stella Feast	\$20.00		\$20.00	\$0.00
Manitoba Harvest	\$50.00	\$365.00	\$415.00	\$0.00
Total	\$2,768.10	\$1,220.00	\$1,279.48	\$2,708.62

All of the funds show either a 0 or positive balance and we have sufficient funds in our combined bank accounts and GIC's to cover these balances.

All Funds and Accounts Summary from May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

	Bal as of May 1, 2020	Income	Disbursements	Bal as of Apr 30, 2021
1. Broadview	0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
2. Building & Improvement	\$7,938.45	\$356.68	\$5,054.14	\$3,240.99
3. Choir	\$1,545.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,545.63
4. Congregational Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5. FF & LL	\$816.97	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$816.97
6. Leadership Developm't	\$167.85	\$270.00	\$121.53	\$316.32
7. Memorial Funds	\$7,779.67	\$335.00	\$1,275.00	\$6,839.67
8. Memorial: Life & Work	\$8,621.69	\$5,765.00	\$0.00	\$14,386.69
9. Minister's Benevolent	\$999.41	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$599.41
10. Mission & Service	\$0.00	\$19,628.60	\$19,628.60	\$0.00
12. Projector	\$1,092.94	\$0.00	\$764.28	\$328.66
12. Refugee Family	\$1,330.00	\$0.00	\$1,330.00	\$0.00
13. River Elm	\$561.90	\$1,100.00	\$800.00	\$861.90
14. Sharing Basket	725.95	\$2,085.26	\$2,102.91	\$708.30
15. Sharing Christmas	\$0.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00	\$0.00
16. Shortfall	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
17. Special Purposes	\$2,768.10	\$1,220.00	\$1,279.48	\$2,708.62
18. Special Relief	\$0.00	\$920.00	\$920.00	\$0.00
19. Youth Groups	\$363.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$363.95
20. Sub-Total ALL Funds	\$34,712.51	\$33,785.54	\$35,775.94	\$32,722.11
21. Interest/Adjustments	\$0.00	\$386.61		\$386.61
22. Operations	\$0.00	\$109,780.10	\$109,580.74	\$199.36
23. Sub Total	\$34,712.51	\$143,952.25	\$145,356.68	\$33,308.08
24. Interest Earned Acct's	\$1,070.87			\$1,070.87
25. Interest Earned GIC's	\$4,314.98			\$4,314.98

26. TOTAL	\$40,098.36			\$38,693.93
Chequing Account	\$27,765.37			\$26,005.52
Savings Account	\$32.17			\$32.41
#2 GIC Account	\$8,153.27	Matures	Jan. 24, 2022	\$8,398.54
#4 GIC Account	\$4,147.55	Matures	Mar. 3, 2022	\$4,257.46
TOTAL	\$40,098.36			\$38,693.93
Jubilee #1	\$544.87	Matures	June 8, 2025	
Jubilee #2	\$697.85	Matures	May 15, 2022	

Kimberly Terrace May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021

Statement of account transactions from May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021

Date	Description	Deposits	Withdrawals	Balance
May 1, 2020	Balance forward			\$10,325.44
Dec. 3, 2020	CMHC payment		\$10,000.00	\$20,325.44
Dec. 8, 2020	Land sale deposit	\$25,000.00		\$35,325.44
Feb. 27, 2021	Term deposit		\$17,500.00	\$7,825.44
April 30, 2021	Interest	\$9.45		\$7,834.89

Account Balances as of April 30, 2021

Chequing Account	\$7,834.89
Term deposit matures Feb. 25, 2022	\$10,000.00
Term deposit matures Feb. 25, 2023	<u>\$7,500.00</u>
Total	\$25,334.89

Operations Income and Expenses – Five Year History

	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2019- 2020	2020-2021	2020-2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	YTD	Budget	YTD
REVENUE							
Envelopes	101,788.70	\$97,525.47	\$92,799.61	\$97,400.00	\$94,353.58	\$97,145.00	\$97,162.14
Co-Op Rebate						\$110.00	\$72.09
Miscellaneous	\$1,427.18	\$248.90	\$643.91	\$250.00	\$1,004.83	\$425.00	\$294.00
Open Plate & SS	\$1,088.05	\$1,803.20	\$904.40	\$900.00	\$477.55	\$100.00	\$0.00
Rebate - CRA							\$10,992.65
Rebate – GST	\$640.69	\$834.77	\$653.07	\$650.00	\$724.41	\$650.00	\$754.22
Rent	\$4,050.00	\$5,085.00	\$4,965.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,562.00	\$3,300.00	\$505.00
Total Operations	108,994.62	105,497.34	\$99,965.99	\$104,200.00	\$101,122.37	\$101,730.00	\$109,780.10
EXPENSES							
Administration							
Bank Charges	\$77.00	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$50.00	\$49.00	\$50.00	\$42.00
Conference Fees		\$175.00	\$43.68	\$1,000.00	\$443.20	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Office	\$1,358.30	\$2,020.73	\$2,120.68	\$1,750.00	\$1,491.40	\$1,750.00	\$1,262.96
PAR Charges	\$168.50	\$168.00	\$162.50	\$168.00	\$164.50	\$170.00	\$162.50
Postage	\$291.31	\$195.52	\$208.02	\$250.00	\$284.63	\$300.00	\$197.27
Telephone	\$2,267.04	\$2,301.68	\$2,369.71	\$2,400.00	\$2,429.58	\$2,450.00	\$2,491.96
Total Administration	\$4,162.15	\$4,902.93	\$4,946.59	\$5,618.00	\$4,862.31	\$5,720.00	\$4,156.69
Building & Property							
Centra Gas	\$4,949.12	\$5,428.92	\$6,235.63	\$7,500.00	\$6,662.23	\$6,500.00	\$6,174.49
Insurance	\$5,467.56	\$5,467.51	\$5,201.32	\$5,600.00	\$5,751.45	\$6,250.00	\$0.00
Manitoba Hydro	\$3,133.72	\$2,770.70	\$2,986.27	\$3,200.00	\$3,554.59	\$3,600.00	\$3,076.12
Repair & Maintenance	\$1,669.59	\$1,545.96	\$1,887.11	\$1,800.00	\$2,116.65	\$2,500.00	\$2,722.74
Taxes	\$1,673.18	\$1,673.18	\$1,673.18	\$1,700.00	\$1,673.18	\$1,700.00	\$1,673.18
Water	\$743.71	\$831.70	\$907.87	\$950.00	\$1,370.92	\$1,300.00	\$872.01
Total Bldg & Prop	\$17,636.88	\$17,717.97	\$18,891.38	\$20,750.00	\$21,129.02	\$21,850.00	\$14,518.54
Clusters							
CFOFC	\$180.15	\$43.17	2100.00	\$200.00	\$25.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
DOG	\$50.29			\$50.00		\$50.00	\$0.00
FF & LL	\$606.31	\$55.55	\$175.75	\$350.00	\$183.30	\$350.00	\$139.44
LOFITW	\$165.63	\$83.74	\$239.71	\$225.00	\$90.60	\$225.00	\$0.00
SOFR		\$23.96		\$100.00		\$100.00	\$0.00
WORSHIP	\$135.22	\$1,182.31	\$1,161.85	\$800.00	\$496.66	\$800.00	\$362.77
Total Clusters	\$1,137.60	\$1,388.73	\$1,777.31	\$1,725.00	\$795.56	\$1,725.00	\$602.21
Pastoral Ministry							
ADP Charges	\$271.66	\$241.28	\$281.14	\$290.00	\$284.47	\$295.00	\$286.30
CPP	\$2,556.30	\$2,175.56			\$2,758.40	\$2,858.00	\$2,939.16
EI	\$1,091.04	\$907.42			\$1,015.38	\$1,080.00	\$1,026.19
Minister's salary	\$61,947.56	\$46,716.42	\$67,840.32	\$69,310.00	\$56,895.36	\$57,802.00	\$58,600.00
Pension & Insurance	\$8,683.36	\$6,662.01			\$8,676.64	\$9,037.00	\$9,425.80
Travel		\$168.29	\$182.00	\$200.00	\$236.00	\$200.00	\$192.00
Continuing Education		\$444.29	\$2,029.20	\$1,260.00	\$778.80	\$1,461.00	\$1,501.50
Total Pastoral Min.	\$74,549.92	\$57,315.27	\$70,332.66	\$71,060.00	\$70,645.05	\$72,733.00	\$73,970.95
Presbytery Fee	\$8,021.67	\$7,983.65	\$6,845.43	\$6,200.00	\$6,018.25	\$7,000.00	\$5,605.00
Support Staff							
Associate Staff	\$7,596.58	\$7,701.54	\$8,396.22	\$9,360.00	\$8,409.96	\$7,570.00	\$7,487.51
Caretaker	\$4,702.15	\$4,819.85	\$4,880.10	\$4,955.00	\$5,452.56	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
CPP	\$459.46	\$617.40	\$637.07	\$660.00	\$695.53	\$630.00	\$299.14
EI	\$492.64	\$573.97	\$597.15	\$610.00	\$578.05	\$515.00	\$223.95
Organist	\$7,482.12	\$7,605.92	\$7,707.86	\$7,830.00	\$7,042.87	\$6,402.00	\$2,636.75
Sunday School Director			\$4,992.00	\$6,075.00	\$4,825.59	\$5,325.00	\$0.00
WCB	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$80.00
Total Staff Support	\$20,832.95	\$21,418.68	\$27,210.40	\$34,890.00	\$27,064.56	\$24,502.00	\$10,727.35
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$126,341.17	110,727.23	\$130,003.77	\$140,243.00	\$130,514.75	\$133,530.00	\$109,580.74
Revenue less Expenses	-\$17,346.55	-\$5,229.89	-\$30,037.78	-\$36,043.00	-\$29,392.38	-\$31,800.00	+\$199.36

All Funds and Accounts Summary

Post Annual Meeting Motion

	Post AGM Motions	
1. Broadview	\$0.00	
2. Building & Improvement	\$3,240.99	
3. Choir	\$1,545.63	
4. Congregational Events	\$0.00	
5. FF & LL	\$816.97	
6. Leadership Development	\$316.32	
7. Memorial Funds	\$6,839.67	
8. Memorial: Life & Work	\$14,386.69	
9. Minister's Benevolent	\$599.41	
10. Mission & Service	\$0.00	
11. Projector	\$328.66	
12. Refugee Family	\$0.00	
13. River Elm	\$861.90	
14. Sharing Basket	\$708.30	
15. Sharing Christmas	\$0.00	
16. Shortfall	\$204.36	
17. Special Purposes	\$2,708.62	
18. Special Relief	\$0.00	
19. Youth Groups	\$363.95	
20. Sub-Total ALL Funds	\$32,921.47	
21. Interest/Adjustments	\$386.61	
22. Operations	\$0.00	
23. Earned Interest Acct's	\$1,070.87	
24. Earned Interest GIC's	\$4,314.98	
25. TOTAL	\$38,693.93	
Chequing Account	\$26,005.52	
Savings Account	\$32.41	
#2 GIC Account	\$8,398.54	Matures Jan. 24, 2022
#3 GIC Account	\$4,257.46	Matures Mar. 5, 2022
TOTAL	\$38,693.93	
Jubilee Certificates		

Immanuel United Church Operations Budget 2021– 2022

	2020-2021 Budget	2020-2021 Actual	2021-2022 Budget
OPERATIONAL REVENUES			
Envelopes	\$97,145.00	\$97,162.14	\$99,050.00
Co-Op Rebate	\$110.00	\$72.09	\$70.00
Miscellaneous	\$425.00	\$294.00	\$300.00
Open Plate & SS	\$100.00		\$250.00
Rebates – GST	\$650.00	\$754.22	\$700.00
Rent	<u>\$3,300.00</u>	\$505.00	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Wage Subsidies		<u>\$10,992.65</u>	
TOTAL Revenues	\$ 101,730.00	\$109,780.10	\$103,370.00
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES			
Administration	\$5,720.00	\$4,156.69	\$5,520.00
Building & Property	\$21,850.00	\$14,518.54	\$22,560.00
Clusters	\$1,725.00	\$602.21	\$1,725.00
Pastoral Ministry	\$72,733.00	\$73,970.95	\$76,369.00
Presbytery Assessment	\$7,000.00	\$5,605.00	\$5,380.00
Support Staff	<u>\$24,502.00</u>	<u>\$10,727.35</u>	<u>\$28,590.00</u>
TOTAL Expenses	\$133,530.00	\$109,580.74	\$140,144.00
Deficit/Surplus	-\$31,800.00	+\$199.36	-\$36,774.00
FUND REVENUES			
Congregational Events	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00
Shortfall Fund			\$204.36
Interest Earned Acct's	\$1,070.87		\$5,772.46
Memorial Life & Work	<u>\$8,621.69</u>		\$14,386.69
Kimberly Terrace			<u>\$11,410.49</u>
Sub-total	\$14,692.56		\$36,774.00
BALANCE	-\$17,107.44		\$0.00

2021- 2022 OPERATIONS DEFICIT

The finance team has looked at the forecasted Operational Expenses for the next year and compared the numbers to the forecasted Operational Income and the result is a projected deficit of - \$36,774.00. We feel \$25,363.51 could be covered from the Memorial Life & Work Fund, Shortfall Fund, Congregational Events Fund and accumulated interest earned. The balance of \$11,410.49 to come from the Kimberly Terrace account.

Moved by Pat Schulz and seconded by Connie Kryschuk that the operations budget for the year 2021 - 2022 projecting an operational shortfall of \$36,774.00 be approved.

There are many unknowns in this year's budget. Will in-church services resume by the fall? Will our renters be able to use the building? How much staff will we have? What will the ADP charges be? We have made assumptions in formulating this budget and time will tell if they are correct.

What we can't ignore is the fact that we are facing high deficits and we do not have the resources to cover them. Our population continues to decrease while the expenses keep rising. We realize that the income from Kimberly Terrace will assist us in the short term but we need to look for a more sustainable way forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Schulz

Connie Kryschuk

Trustees Annual Report

Policy – May 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022

Insurance Market Conditions

As we heard in 2020 the Insurance industry remains in a “hard market” cycle where pricing is being increased with restrictions in coverage addressing risk concerns leading to unprofitability over the past 3-5 years. Within this environment HUB confirms the value of the UCC Protect Insurance Program’s long-term insurer partnerships proving as the foundation for continued availability of comprehensive coverage for corporate exposures along with 1200 congregations.

The UCC Protect program’s structure which self-insurers property and liability claims below a \$50,000 group funded deductible helps reduce costs (administration insurer profit loading and broker commissions) related to the frequency of small claims.

UCC Protect Premium Rates:

The basic rate increased applied from June – December 2020 was 30% and this year (2021) is 15%. However, congregations with their renewal last March to May received only a 10% increase while HUB pursued alternative insurers seeking a solution that would be better than the original proposal of 50% increase at that time. For renewals in June-December 2020 they were able to confirm an improved position down to 30% rate increase wherein they involved Northbridge Insurance to partner with RSA (Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance) and HUB reduced the brokerage commission to lessen the impact to Churches.

In 2021 the brokerage commission (shared by local brokers & HUB) has been further reduced from 20% to 15%.

To level-set the lower charge for March to May 2020 renewals, the 2021 rate increase is 35% (15% base level for 2021 plus 20% catch-up for finals terms confirmed for 2020)

A benefit of the UCC Protect insurance program is 0% premium financing spreading the annual premium across 12 months. (70% of congregations do this now and will be the standard for all congregations in 2021 and beyond)

The coverages of our Policy is the same as last year.

	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Church	2,105,907	2,105,907
Contents	329,684	329,684
Organ	38,278	38,278
	<u>2,473,869</u>	<u>2,473,869</u>

Premium	5,537.45	7,407.86
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The premium had an increase from last year to this year of \$1,870.41.

The Trustees will be looking into an option called “Stated Amount” for any possibility of lower premiums. We talked to the United Church office in Toronto and they will provide us with more information as to any cost saving while still having adequate coverage.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Barbour, Judy Gierys, Bob Kenyon, Joy Jost

Mission & Service

By giving to Mission & Service, the people of the United Church join together to accomplish three goals: to transform and save lives, to inspire meaning and purpose, and to build a better world.

Your generosity **through Mission & Service** supports justice work in 19 countries around the world through 80 trusted organizational partnerships. In Canada, we support 81 life-changing ministries like food banks and shelters.

Your gifts to Mission & Service help people in need in Canada and around the world by providing access to food, housing, and employment support. Your generosity helps people develop new skills and access life-changing medical treatment and counselling. Your gifts help people live meaningfully and purposefully by supporting education opportunities, communities of faith, retreat centres, and more.

Additionally, when the worst disasters threaten the most vulnerable, your gifts through **special emergency response appeals**, make an immediate life-saving difference. With the guidance of our partners on the ground, we are able to respond quickly to crises around the world, helping our partners bring food, shelter, health, and sanitation to people who have lost so much.

I wish to thank you for each and every gift and your continued generosity to the Mission and Service fund as well as any Special Emergency Response Appeals.

During the COVID-19 pandemic your generosity is needed more than ever. Together we can work towards the dream of a world where no one goes hungry, no one lacks health care and no one feels alone.

Making a commitment to both Immanuel and Mission & Service is part of our Stewardship journey.

Respectfully,
Judy Gierys, Mission & Service Enthusiast

Sharing Christmas Sunday 2020

Your generous gifts were distributed as follows:

Agape Table: inner city kids breakfast, hot lunch	\$300
Manitoba Harvest	\$600
LITE: inner city employment advocates	\$300
One Just City: inner city ministries	\$250
Manitoba Interfaith Immigration: refugee support	\$400
Inner City Christmas Store at St Matthews Maryland Ministry	
We helped provide gifts & wrapping for 64 families with 276 children.	

Total Gifts: loving support for health and hope **\$1850**

Immanuel Memorial Fund

The Memorial Fund continues to be supported by donations in memory of loved ones. There have been no requests for funding since the last annual report. This year, we have been saddened to lose long time committee member Elsie Hughes who passed away in January. We will very much miss her cheerful, down to earth contributions. Many thanks to Joy Jost for volunteering to serve on the Memorial Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Metcalfe

Guiding Elders for Discernment of Gifts

Guiding Elders, Margaret Smith and Cindy Smyth.

We all know the kind of year we have experienced and the changes and challenges we have faced together and apart.

Margaret and I also know that our Church is not just a building. Many of you continue to do the important work that goes on inside and outside the building.

As we look at the In Memoriam list for our congregation, we know that amongst those on the list are a few names of individuals who were vital members of various Clusters, either this past year, or in the past. Thank you for that caring work and for the work that continues. Your efforts are what keep our congregation vital and doing God's work. .

We have reached out to our Guiding Elders asking,

“What changes do you anticipate in your support people and/or in your support Clusters?”

“Have there been any changes in your support people in your GE team and/or in your cluster? If so, what are they?”

“What are your needs or concerns for you and your GE team and for your Cluster support?”

There have been a few changes and requests for service in the structure of our Governance.

What the Church will NEED for [September 2021](#) regardless of meeting in person or by Zoom is;

1. Stewardship Team (2 people)
2. Worship Team (1 to 2 people)
3. Caring for our Faith Community (1 person)
4. Council (1 to 2 people)
5. Faith Formation & Life-Long Learning (2 people)
6. Living our Faith in the World (1 person)

What's new;

1. Amnesty International, Wendy Boyd will take over for Karen Turk.
2. Jennifer Antymis is offering her time coordinating scripture and responsive readers.
3. Joy Jost has joined Eileen Metcalfe on the Memorial Team.
4. Bob Tate has chosen to join the Ministry and Personnel Team.

Changes to our Governance Structure means there is a need for new eyes and hands to help with the work that continues. We ask you to think and pray about what gifts you can share with the people inside and outside our building.

Gratefully,
Margaret & Cindy

Ministry & Personnel Committee Report

The members of the M & P Committee who have served this past year are Jennifer Antymis, Sharon Doerksen, Anne Duncan, and Dianne Tucker. Bob Tate has recently joined the group. Our annual report summarizes the role of our committee, details any staff changes, and highlights any special issues or activities of our committee, or of the paid staff of Immanuel. The M&P committee acts as a liaison between staff and the congregation to discuss such things as goals, working conditions, salaries and benefits etc. We are a confidential, supportive and consultative body for all of our staff as they work to fulfill their roles in the life and work of the church. This year Covid restrictions have changed church life for everyone including staff and M and P. Our committee has continued to meet monthly and occasionally bi-monthly via Zoom. We have missed our twice yearly in-person meetings with Ha Na and Sharon Vandenberg and our Christmas and year-end pot luck gatherings with Eileen, Peter, Ha Na and Sharon. We have made a special effort this year to keep in touch with our staff members and to be aware of unusual challenges they are facing as the pandemic continues. Ha Na is in the fourth year of her ministry with Immanuel. Sharon Vandenberg continues to work as our Office Administrator, Eileen Metcalfe as our Music Director (choir leader) and Peter Fyne as our organist and accompanist . This year Immanuel did not hire a Sunday School director because of the move to Zoom services. Ann Naylor and Fiola Hart, the guiding elders for faith formation and life-long learning, took on the task of providing meaningful weekly experiences for the children. At present Ann Naylor continues to plan weekly activities. In the absence of a caretaker, the task of keeping the building clean fell to dedicated volunteers Glen Smyth and Ian Donnelly. We cannot express our gratitude enough for the creativity and flexibility shown by staff and volunteers as they reimagined their jobs through this trying time. All have made major adjustments to their usual ways of working and have continued with hope, cheer and good humour.

Respectfully submitted by M&P

Living Our Faith in the World Cluster

Well, this has been some year! As you can imagine some of our areas of concern have been unable to work due to the restrictions of COVID. We missed the Just Christmas groups; being able to work at the School Breakfast Program; SNOW night in its regular format; and we adapted the letter writing for Amnesty International.

Harvest has been carrying on their ministry with the family food program which has been wonderful. The folks who come have missed having coffee and cookies, so we hope that will soon be able to happen again.

Breakfast School Program has been operating without us this past year although our congregation still financially supports this program.

A new monthly program opened up an opportunity to help feed the folks in the St. Matthews area. Each month on the fourth Thursday folks in our congregation have been making sandwiches for 120 people who come to the Centre for food. The response to this Program has been really wonderful.

Thank you to all the many members of our congregation who so willingly give of their time to assist in the work of this Cluster.

Sincerely, Ruth Campbell ~ Guiding Elder

River Elm Breakfast Program

Hungry children at River Elm School continue to receive a nutritious breakfast every school day. The students still miss having toast but that's a taste treat that requires 3-4 volunteers to be on site. We are hoping that things will be back to normal this September.

Great news from the financial side of things. Immanuel's commitment is \$100.00 per month for a total of \$1,000.00 per school year. The first four years (2011 – 2014), we received donations above and beyond this amount. From 2015 to 2020, the average support was \$815.00 per year, but with the surplus, we were always able to meet our commitment. As of March 31st, \$1,025.00 has already been received.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Kryschuk

Immanuel's Food Bank

"Harvest - Immanuel Food Bank. During July and August we served 4 food banks. Volunteers brought ice chests and bags of ice from home to keep the food cold. September we were in full operation. At each food bank we open a large box (which has taken the place of kits). The box contains the 4 essential food groups. We then supplement with food donated from the congregation (thank you so very much). November the Manitoba Government gave Winnipeg Harvest \$250,000.00. Each food bank in Manitoba were given the opportunity to apply for a \$5,000.00 grant for their food bank - we applied and requested a small freezer and a fridge, which we were granted. The freezer arrived just before Christmas and the fridge in February, 2021. Both appliances have been put to good use. When our church is once again able to hold meetings, luncheons, suppers, etc. these 2 appliances will add greatly to our operation. February 2021 Winnipeg Harvest changed their name to Harvest Manitoba or just Harvest. We have been receiving lots of eggs and frozen chickens and other meats. At present we are serving 96 adults and children.

Respectfully submitted ~ Joyce Smyth

Amnesty International Write for Rights

In the words of Dr Callamard the new Secretary General of Amnesty International

“Where governments and corporations seek to silence those who speak out against their abuses, to obfuscate the truth, and to undermine or reject human rights norms, the rigorous investigations and uncompromising campaigns of Amnesty International are more vital than ever,”

I have been honored to lead the Amnesty International Write for Rights campaign for Immanuel United Church for the last few years. Our letters have helped highlight the plight of many people and activists that have been oppressed, jailed and even killed for standing up for their human rights. .

Write for Rights is the world’s biggest human rights event and the campaigns have helped free many people from wrongful imprisonment.

Our letters, along with the millions of letters from around the world that are sent every year make a difference.

BECAUSE OF YOUR LETTERS

Albert Woodfox, USA – Released from Jail after 43 Years in solitary confinement

ALES BIALIATSKI, BELARUS - Prominent human rights defender, Ales Bialiatiski was freed from a labour camp in Belarus

BIRTUKAN MIDEKSA, ETHIOPIA -Ethiopian opposition leader Birtukan Mideksa was released from jail in October 2010 after featuring in Write for Rights the year before. Speaking to us in 2013, she said: “The pressure you guys were exerting on the Ethiopian government was very instrumental in securing my release.”

DR TUN AUNG, MYANMAR -Prisoner of conscience Dr Tun Aung was released in January 2015. The Muslim community leader had been sentenced to 17 years in jail in 2012 for trying to calm a riot between Buddhist and Rohingya communities in Rakhine State

Yecenia Armenta, Mexico - Yecenia Armenta was freed from prison in June 2016. Detained on 10 July 2012, she was beaten, near-asphyxiated and raped during 15 hours of torture until she was forced to “confess” to being involved in her husband’s murder.

These are just a few of the success stories of the people we have helped over the years. Our letters also lift the spirits and offer encouragement for the people still fighting for justice; they know they are not forgotten and that millions of people care.

Thank you to all the members of Immanuel United Church that participated in the December 6th, 2020 Write for Rights event. Our annual event looked a bit different this year as we were unable to meet in person, so we held it over Zoom. With the use of technology we were still able to get our letters and messages out to support this year’s Cases.

WRITE A LETTER. CHANGE A LIFE www.writeathon.ca or www.amnesty.ca

Respectfully submitted by Karen Turk

Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning Cluster

The scope of the work in this cluster includes encouraging and supporting education and growth for people of all ages. The people of Immanuel remain committed to deepening their faith and expanding their knowledge of the world and the place of the church in it.

Three study groups continue to meet/ stay connected, providing personal support, accompaniment in faith journeys, and exploration of themes such as reconciliation, exile, the nature of sacredness.

A focus group which agreed to meet once last year to map out a direction for ministry with children, has continued to meet periodically to discern how best to meet the faith formation needs of children connected with Immanuel. For more than a year, we have been developing curriculum resources week by week, designed to meet the learning needs of children ages 2 to 14. The resources were initially designed by Fjola Hart Wasekeesikaw and me as Guiding Elders for the cluster until Fjola's resignation from the position in October. Several members of the focus group joined in the work of developing resource sheets which continued until Easter. During Advent we used resources acquired from Illustrated Ministries. Each family also received an Advent log as part of the ministry of the congregation. Several members of the congregation took responsibility for delivering these resources to each family each week. It really has been a collaborative effort.

For the season of Lent and Easter Sunday, Immanuel teamed with Crossroads United Pastoral Church in Carman and Elm Creek to produce children's resources for the three congregations. These resources were posted on the website of each congregation and can be accessed at any time. Activities were specifically designed not to require a printer or any special materials. Collaboration with Crossroads United was energizing and modelled a good way of sharing resources. I encourage you to take a look at the church website under Sunday School at Home.

I also want to offer a word of thanks to Jane Nicholls, Joy Jost, Jennifer Antymis, and Leslie and Ian Donnelly for their insightful and creative contributions to the resource sheets, to Norah McMurtry for visioning and practical support, to all members of the focus group for their faithful flexibility and for their commitment to Immanuel's Ministry with Children, and to Sharon Vandenberg for her cheerful and capable administrative role.

The congregation is about to participate in a multi-week intergenerational theological reflection project that I hope will help us stay grounded in these tumultuous times.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of Fjola Hart Wasekeesikaw. Teaming with her was a gift for which I am very grateful.

Respectfully, Ann Naylor ~ Guiding Elder

Wednesday Afternoon Womens' Study Group

This year of the pandemic posed certain challenges for our group but we have nevertheless discovered ways to be present with and for each other.

We began the year with a winter retreat at the homes of two of our members. Little did we know that soon there would be no such opportunities to gather together in person. The retreat followed a difficult week in the world and we needed to debrief and reflect on grief and sorrow. We used material offered by Jan Richardson and others and focusing on grief, love, and home. Poetry and music added to the richness of our reflections together.

We met one or two more times in person before pandemic isolation was mandated and then, as summer began, organized an outdoor gathering next to the Healing Forest off Main Street. We couldn't always hear each other but it was lovely to be together safely under shady trees with breezes blowing around us.

We did not meet again until late September when we gathered on zoom eager to reconnect however we could. We've continued twice a month since then with opportunities to check in on how we are doing and to engage in deep conversations. We've talked about courage -what it is and where it comes from - and named people in our lives and in our society who inspire us to be courageous.

During Advent, most of the group joined an online retreat offered throughout the Advent season by Jan Richardson. This was an individual and personal retreat followed in our own time and space. We held one session together on zoom to discuss some of the themes of the retreat.

We talked about racism and the Black Lives Matter movement, learning history of people of African heritage in Canada and on the prairies and examining the ways white supremacy plays out in our society and church. We looked at how racism is embedded in our language and images in some of our theology and hymns. And we each brought to the group poetry and music by Black women poets and musicians.

Exile was another focus for discussion. We asked "how is it I don't go anywhere but my home, yet I feel as though I'm living in exile?" We looked at exile as a central motif in the biblical stories as people struggled with how to be faithful in their times. We asked ourselves how do we live as a people of hope in these days when everything familiar has changed.

We have found many rich resources to use including writings by Richard Wagamese, Jan Richardson, Mary Oliver, Keri Wehlander; print and audio resources like Broadview, Tapestry on CBC, Chatelaine, Kairos, Mennonite Church of Canada TRC resources, UMB Native Studies Colloquium and many more yet untapped. It has been a year of unexpected richness and connection for the group and we are grateful for each other and for the opportunity to meet.

Respectfully submitted by Norah McMurtry

Thursday Morning Study Group

The COVID-19 pandemic has unfortunately prevented our study group from meeting for much of this year. Our membership has remained stable, with approximately 9 members. We did manage a few meetings in the fall when restrictions were loosened. We continued to study the book *Mary, Called Magdalene* by Margaret George during those few meetings. We stay in touch with one another and look forward to the day we can meet again safely. At that time we would sincerely welcome any new members who wish to join.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Nicholls

Men's Study Group

Our men's study group had a sudden pause early in the year when the COVID-19 pandemic slammed everything shut. However, we decided to join the new age of technology and on October 20, 2020 we had our first VIRTUAL meeting. We now meet every second Tuesday on ZOOM and are managing to navigate through a few technical glitches.

This season we have discussed interesting excerpts from various books for one to four meetings each. The topics have included:

- Climate change and the future effects on our planet including fossil fuels, weather patterns and challenges to our lifestyle.
- The evolution of the human race, the development of animals and humans, the big bang theory and molecular development.
- Extra terrestrial theories and research which wondered if we are alone in this universe. Do we have visitors from outer space to our planet?
- Black history, racism and prejudice in our society, including white and male privilege.

We were saddened by the recent death of Jim Ross. He will very much be missed.

Currently we have eight members, including two young additions who have added spice to our conversations. We are always looking for new opinions, so would welcome new members!

Submitted by Bob Duncan

For Al, Bob, Bob, Bob, Glen, Glenn, Ian, Richard

CARING FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Our cluster shares the responsibility of caring for the building, the property and one another. Many people are involved and there will be individual reports to follow.

Groups that are included in this cluster are: Pastoral Care and Funeral/ Memorial Services; Hospitality; Affirm Ministry; Building and Property; Immanuel Players.

Our life together, over the past year has had challenges we've not experienced before. The opportunity to gather in ways familiar to us has not been possible because of the pandemic. We've had to find new ways to make connections. Many thanks to the Phone Tree callers and all who keep in touch with one another.

Thanks also to all the people who maintain and inspect the building and property. Even though there are fewer people in and out and no gatherings, care and maintenance is required. Many, many thanks! We look forward to the time we can again gather in community.

We welcome any suggestions on how to fulfill our responsibilities and are grateful to all who participate in maintaining community and caring for our building and one another.

We will miss Jim Ross who passed away in April, 2021 and who faithfully served on this cluster.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Metcalfe, Joy Jost, Muriel Kenyon

Property Committee

The property committee along with help from our volunteers continue to keep our church building and the grounds in good working order. It will be ready when it is safe to gather as a congregation.

Glen Smyth

PASTORAL COORDINATORS

When we wrote our 2020 report, we didn't think one year later, we would be living in community, virtually! But, indeed, we are!

A sense of community is central to our life together. Although it has been a challenge, many people have participated in keeping connections. We give thanks to all the Phone Tree callers and to each of you who make telephone calls to one another.

Thank you to Ha Na for her ministry through the telephone. Naming of people who have died over the past year, at Easter morning worship, was much appreciated by many. Thank you, Ha Na.

We encourage you to call one of us, Ha Na or the church office if you are aware of a pastoral need. May our days of living in isolation, soon be over.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Macdonald and Muriel Kenyon

Funeral / Memorial Report

Sadly due to Covid 19 restrictions and therefore Church closure, there have not been any Funeral or Memorial Services at Immanuel. We regret that therefore we have been unable to support our Church Families on these important occasions. We look forward to the time when once again we resume this ministry.

Respectfully submitted

Joan Macdonald

Flowers

Due to Covid 19 restrictions and therefore the church closure, there have not been any occasions to celebrate and give thanks and remembrance with flowers during Worship. We look forward to the time when this might resume.

Respectfully,
Joan Macdonald

Immanuel Players

The theatre is dark and quiet, the sets are in the shed, the players in the wings. Stay tuned.....

Playfully submitted,
Eileen Metcalfe

Worship Cluster Annual Report

Ha Na Park, minister, elders: Leslie Donnelly, Lynne Strome

The past year in worship zoomed by, literally. With a concerted effort by numerous volunteers and Ha Na's ever expanding prowess in technology, Immanuel has come through an entire year of pandemic restrictions keeping the faith.

Greeters and coffee makers have been replaced with responsive readers and worship package printers and deliverers. And the ever willing scripture readers are a solid support as well. Thank you all.

Undaunted we gathered for the annual pre Advent dinner, worship and crafting: decorating our individual Advent logs. The Advent journey through the labyrinth of the Christmas story and the Advent logs that kept our lights of hope, peace, joy and love shining gave us deep spiritual sustenance in these strange times. To the creators and workers who made this happen we offer sincere gratitude. It was at this time Worship was able to welcome back Worship Cluster's music people: choir leader Eileen Metcalfe and our accompanist, Peter Fyne, began their wondrous plans for choir support and involvement using zoom.

By the time we got to our Lenten Journey of Exploring Black History our Sunday services were truly full and rich experiences. For Ha Na found extraordinary resources through the United Church of Canada and expertly used them to expose our congregation to meaningful, informative stories and music of our Black brothers and sisters. Our own musical team augmented the theme beautifully with organ, piano, solos, and ensemble singing making our faith exploration personal and wholesome.

As a people of God we continue to learn new ways of being. In Ha Na's absence for holidays or study leave some of us have zoomed with other United Churches. In May Ann Naylor will lead Immanuel through the Intergenerational Theological Reflection Project; Ann, we value and appreciate your contribution to worship life.

Our faith may be challenged, yet, by the grace of God, we persevere and continue to learn and grow together. How worship will look in the months ahead?....for that we wait

Immanuel United Choir

We continue to live in interesting times. After the [March 2020](#) shut down, the choir went into hibernation. Thanks to phone recordings Joy Jost had made prior to covid, the zoom services were able to include some anthems from pre-virus times. Thank you, Joy, for saving and sharing that music. Inspired to continue contributing to services, since February, 2021, the choir has been practicing in smaller groups (quintets, quartets, trios, and solos - thank you Debbie Crump and Rob Smith!) to comply with safety protocols. We record our efforts on cell phones, email them to Ha Na and Sharon, and get to listen to the results with everyone else on [Sunday](#) mornings - a new experience! We continue to appreciate all Peter Fyne does to help keep us going. We couldn't do this without him. Thank you, Peter, and all the choir members for being part of this evolving experiment. Living in hope and faith for the better year to come.....

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Metcalfe