



annual report

2022



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from the bishop



The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft
Bishop of Rupert's Land

We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1, 2 and 3 Land, the traditional land of the Anishnaabe, Cree, Dakota, Sioux and Ojibwe people and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality, which allows us to live, work and service God the Creator here.

Diocese of Rupert's Land
Address to Annual General Meetings
of the Parishes and Missions

Mid-winter 2022

Friends,

Greetings in and through the One who forms and shapes us into his Body.

On this the occasion of your Annual General Meeting, I give thanks to God for your life in ministry and mission through this past year. Another extraordinary year passes, yet remain in extraordinary circumstances, loss and a sense that issues do not resolve easily in this moment. I am grateful for the generosity of our municipal, provincial and national governments in providing both monetary and human resources to institutions, ourselves included, to sustain ministries and program that benefit communities. I am glad that we, among other groups, remain important to our government as we seek to do God's mission in the fabric of Canadian culture.

Your diocesan staff work tirelessly to provide financial support and bookkeeping, information dissemination, facilitation of processes for local communities, educational opportunities, worship leadership, and ongoing aid to diocesan ministry and mission committees. We are thankful for their commitment and generosity. Your Diocesan Dean, Archdeacons and District Deans continue to provide excellence in much needed local leadership, doing this challenging work quite often while offering themselves fully to their parishes.

As individuals much unfolds in our lives, highs and lows, births and deaths, and getting older. As parishes and missions, this is more intense as we experience together the culmination of those individual happenings, plus the immensity of corporate emotional and psychological highs and lows in the Body of Christ and the world every day. The weight of decision-making, communication and pastoral care is constantly upon clergy and lay leaders, it is our desire and our joy to offer them care, time, resourcefulness and love, allowing them needed rest and recuperation.

Since our last round of Annual General Meetings we have had many opportunities to theologially reflect how God guides the Body in and through extraordinary times. Through this reflection we see more clearly God's call for us to act for a just and healthy creation. While many of us have received booster vaccinations, millions upon millions in the world have not received their first dose. While developed nations such as ours debate to own carbon credits, the largest human migration in history is taking place, and several species of plants and animals become extinct. While the leaders of some of the wealthiest countries in the world meet to discuss trade, indigenous persons in the same countries suffer intense discrimination and injustice, as do the impoverished of the world who are rendered powerless. God is surely speaking, the Word of God is not rare, but clearly before us.

We are the Church, the Body of Christ, living not for ourselves but for God and God's creation. We who have received must live life gratuitously, the same way God lives amidst us. May our decisions be of God, and may we plan to live God's love and joy for all creation, just as God expresses love and joy for us through all of creation.

May this meeting be blessed in the Holy and undivided Trinity. Amen.

+ Geoffrey

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from the rector — Jamie Howison

When the directive arrived from Bishop Geoff to cease our gatherings in the church building back in mid-March 2020, I would never have believed that we'd still be dealing with COVID-19 almost two years later. For all of us it has been an up-and-down journey with this pandemic, and for our church it meant strictly live-streaming from for sixteen months from March 2020 right through to July 2021, with another brief shut-down from Christmas Eve 2021 until the end of January 2022. We managed, we pivoted, we adapted... and personally I lamented the old familiar of a robustly full church building, a circle for sharing communion, and the ability to look up from the communion table and see the unmasked faces of people unworried by the need to social distance.

Yet for all of that, it has been good to be rebuilding our gathered community, with an awareness that we still have a strong congregation joining us via the live stream. For some that has to do with health concerns or other realities of life, while others are joining us from points distant, now able to be a part of the Sunday liturgy on a regular basis. That has been a good and surprising discovery in these unusual days.

The same can be said for our continuing practice of daily 5pm Evening Prayer online, which happens thanks to the commitment of our team of liturgy leaders, including *Robin Shugart, Helen Holbrook, Rob Burton, and Gilbert Berg*. I should also say that this Evening Prayer practice is part of what Rachel left to us when she moved on from her position as priest-associate, and just one of the things for which I'm grateful about Rachel's ministry in our midst. Following her medical leave and a time of rest over the summer and autumn, Rachel has now moved on to the role as priest-in-charge at St George's Church in Transcona, where *Helen Kennedy* was in ministry prior to her election as the Bishop of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle.

We continue to chip away at a number of our usual groups and gatherings, sometimes via Zoom and sometimes in person, whether at the church or—in warmer seasons—in outdoor spaces. That has included our Emotional Wellness gatherings, Theology by the Glass (in the summer months), a bi-weekly book group, and a few special events such as *Lois Gillispie's* concert in the courtyard and our November book celebration. Most recently we have resumed our ideaExchange series, with a current focus on what it means to be a church in an urban space. This is all very encouraging, as are the number of people eager to sign on and take part in these events.

Also encouraging is the shape of our budget and the good stewardship being exercised by so many. While our offering income is down from where it stood in the year prior to the pandemic, it remains remarkably solid given all of the challenges so many people have faced. I don't that for granted, as I know that without opportunities to gather in the church, those long sixteen months weren't easy ones for so many of us. By some estimates, the average North American church community will see 30% of its membership disappear over the course of the pandemic,

which is daunting. The upside of this is that a good number of that 30% will still be seeking a church to call home, and so churches have the potential of seeing brand new members in their midst as we emerge from the worst of the shutdowns. We have experienced some of that sort of growth over the past months, which is encouraging. Still, without the solid stewardship exercised by so many of you, we'd not be in the promising place in which we stand, and for that I am deeply grateful.

A word of thanks to all who served on the Kitchen Table over this past year: *Robin Shugart (warden), Adam Kroeker (warden), Danielle Morton, Chris Sones, Paul Peters Derry, Katharine Langille, Krista Waring, and Ian Mowatt*. I should also note that we are pleased to have Paul serving as an ordained honorary assistant in our midst. Paul's primary full-time work in Spiritual Care at the Victoria Hospital continues to be his main ministry focus. A particular word of thanks to Chris and Danielle, who are stepping down from Kitchen Table. Thanks are also in order to *Jim Cornelius*, for helping us to understand all things financial, and to his newly constructed Finance Committee which includes *Martin Lyons, Murray Krushel, and Kathy Berard*. We're also pleased to welcome *John Berard* as a new warden, filling Adam's role, as well as *Christen Rachul, Rob Kwade, and Zoe Matties* as new Kitchen Table members.

Thanks as well to *Charles Garinger* and *Gord Johnson*, for your work during these challenging days, and to *Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk* who has so ably filled our new administration and program position since September. Quite literally, I couldn't have done it without you all!

In Christ,

Jamie Howison



from the “transitional deacon” – Paul Peters Derry

Writer acknowledges pastoral support and vocational affirmation after “wandering and wondering” into this community of faith (discipleship). Will continue to follow with regular leadership as liturgical assistant, occasional preaching, active membership in the Kitchen Table, all part of continued discernment, God-willing, Bishop-deciding and COVID-19-allowing, towards ordination to the priesthood.

Ooops, sorry about that! I was momentarily stuck following the rubrics of an Integrated Progress Note (IPN), as we reference our interventions and assessments at Victoria Hospital, which as Jamie describes, remains my primary context for ministry. This further reminds me of an occasion several years ago, as Coordinator Spiritual Care at Fred Douglas Lodge, when one of our reported, who was reported in some level of distress and angst, happened to be sleeping when I entered their room. Awakening them, the resident began and continued to speak *en français*.

It had been their first language as a child so many decades before. Living in a Franco-Manitoban community, it had also been their language of religious expression and spirituality. I sensed that it was a connection point with existential, in-the-moment, but also deeply felt angst. For 30-45 minutes, we continued *en français*. With Ordination 1.0, I was transferred and settled to the Shared Anglican-United Church Ministry of All Saints’ Anglican Church and St Andrew’s United Church, Sept-Iles, QC. My tongue was engaging my own particular “ancient future,” and it was both rich and remarkable. It was also hard, as I left the resident’s room, to “pivot” to speaking English with nursing staff as I prepared a detailed record of that spiritual health services intervention.

We are doing a lot of that. As we continue to “ride the waves” both large and small – tsunamis as well as gentle ripples – of this global pandemic, we are most certainly, with courage, sometimes with exhaustion or annoyance, we are “pivoting.” Horns may be honked in defiant protest, but God’s people will continue thus for some time yet.

I believe this is not an “add-on,” but rather, it’s part of our essential DNA as saint benedict’s table, and core to what I understand as essential discipleship.

I want to thank you, again, for your pastoral support and vocational affirmation, for your welcoming me as I wandered and wondered my way into this community of faith back in the fall of 2015. You’ve not only affirmed my vocation, but have provided, and continue to provide a place for soulful discernment wrestling. It is a blessing for which I am grateful

beyond words, yet as one who uses words, and gets paid for using words, and likes both speaking and writing words, I keep on trying!

When I intentionally engaged this discernment journey, in Advent 2021, I described it as a most remarkably full, fully remarkable place, in which I was planting my feet, and taking some beginning steps. All of which resonates with a quote I highlighted during my M.Div. studies at Vancouver School of Theology (1985-90). From Stanley Hauerwas' *A Community of Character* (1981), it remains a touchstone to which I find myself returning again and again and again,

*Adventure requires courage to keep us faithful to the struggle,
since by its very nature **adventure** means that the future is always in doubt.
And just to the extent that the future is in doubt, hope is required,
as there can be no **adventure** if we despair of our goal.
Such hope does not necessarily take on the form of excessive confidence;
rather it involves the simple willingness to take the first step.*

There are so many steps that we have taken together, and individually. Know that the steps I take are shaped and informed and yes, sometimes chastened, by the steps we take together as disciples gathering at and commissioned from saint benedict's table.

In faith, hope and love,

Paul Peters Derry

Transitional Deacon, "Vintner in Residence"
Clinical Service Lead – Spiritual Health Services, Victoria Hospital
Certified Supervisor-Educator, Canadian Association for Spiritual Care



from the director of music – *Charles Garinger*

And so it continues...

Year two of the pandemic was another challenging one for the music ministry. In some ways we had an easier time, having more or less figured out our systems for operating during Covid, but we still had our fair share of surprises.

Things were a bit less bleak this year as we were able to consistently have three musicians and were able to sing harmonies throughout. The masks remained. We were starting to slowly return to having a congregation, very small at first, but slowly building as things became safer.

Then came Omicron. This was a game changer as it began to peak right before Christmas. We were compelled on very short notice to cancel a half capacity service which 150 people had signed up for, and move to online.

A couple weeks later, we had to cancel another church Christmas service, which was to be a mostly instrumental affair with *Rob Burton*, *Al Fehr* and myself, when Jamie became ill the day before and had to do the service from home. I missed a service shortly after due to contracting Covid, thankfully a very mild case. And more recently a “Freedom Convoy” set up across the street.

On a positive note, we were able to complete several songs for our online songbook with *Rob Kwade* producing, which we will continue. I was asked to contribute an article to Rupert’s Land news, which was neat. (<https://rupertslandnews.ca/music-in-difficult-times-a-report-from-st-benedicts-table/>)

All in all, I am hopeful that the worst is behind us and look forward to rebuilding this year.

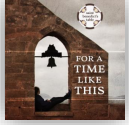
Thanks to these people who participated in music worship during difficult circumstances:

*Gord Johnson, Larry Campbell, Rachel Titterton, Lois Gillespie,
Trish Vrolijk, Timothy Cruikshank, Mark Holmes à Court, Wes Enns,
Nick Kolisnyk, Tatiana Friesen, Murray Krushel, Anass Sebahi,
Rachel Coleman, and Adam Kroeker.*

Special thanks to *Rob Kwade* who is producing the song book, *Lyndon Johnson* who brings up the rear with his voice from the pews, and *Mike Koop*, who moved to Calgary this summer, after many years of service as a worship leader.

Peace be with you,

Charles



from the administration & communication coordinator – *Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk*

To begin, I would like to thank everyone for helping me feel welcome and empowering me to jump into this new (and new to sbt), role of Administration and Communication Coordinator.

My early days in this capacity were spent deepening relationships and discerning how I could have the most impact. This included joining key groups such as the Kitchen Table, Mission Fund Committee, the Communities of Calling Initiative planning group, and the committee(s) that will help oversee the Church and Media conference. In addition to connecting with the community, I also established a strong and regular communication structure with Jamie, so as to efficiently manage weekly priorities and navigate all the unexpected challenges of these times! Some key highlights from the past 6 months include:

4pm liturgy gatherings

It has been a joy to apply my passion for education in this capacity! Throughout the fall, I worked alongside Jamie to create a plan for 4pm services that would engage not only a wide range of ages (the children in this community now span from infants all the way to 11-year-olds) but importantly, different types of learners. The goal is to have each service include a Bible story based on the liturgy (led by Jamie), a variety of printed resources, as well as a hands-on activity for kinesthetic learners. We also planned for social distancing, having families safely gather with their own household around a table. Naturally, music and communion are also included. We hosted two successful advent gatherings before lockdowns forced us to pause. These gatherings generated much interest, with more than 30 people attending each time, including some new families. Children at these advent services were able to take home their hands-on projects to continue learning at home. For example, we constructed paper-doll Nativity Scenes that could be used throughout the season. The other project was a hanging lantern, a take-home reminder of all the symbolism associated with candlelight, that could be used during prayer time (or perhaps as a nightlight, as my daughter did!) The 4pm gathering is scheduled to recommence on February 20th, and I look forward to planning many more resources and activities throughout the seasons.

event support

I have regularly attended Sunday Eucharist, both to connect with the congregation and to assist with helping the evening service run smoothly. This experience came in handy when helping *the Rev. Helen Kennedy* conduct a service while Jamie attended to an unexpected personal matter.

Christmas Eve was set to be a major celebration this year. In typical years, we would have shared a time of fellowship with trays of baked goodies following service, but this year, in lieu of shared trays, we had prepared a small gift for each household to take home in a similar spirit of sharing. However, when Covid cases spiked just before Christmas, we needed to pivot quickly and move to an exclusively online format. We facilitated the move online, including notifying all guests,

and then arranged to share the planned small gifts with our neighbours at the West Broadway Commons.

Looking ahead, I foresee a strengthening of my support for special events, given the anticipated schedule of the Art + Faith Retreat and the Church and Media Conference. My role will include promotion of these events, assisting with planning and delivery, and helping connect it all back to the Communities of Calling Initiative through the Collegeville Institute.

digital commons

The Digital Commons continues to be an important part of what we do, particularly during these unusual times but indeed, into the future. Meeting communities where they are is a priority, so I have worked to amplify our voice in these public spaces. I have focused on using eye-catching visuals to share information about our key gatherings [Sunday Eucharist], special events, and our Digital Commons Resources. As a result, our Facebook reach is up 11.7% in the past 6 months, and we have established a presence on Instagram. I also established a LinkTree page, so these visuals can connect back to our Digital Commons resources with a simple click. My goal moving forward is to continue to learn more about how to grow these connections in the digital space.

finance administration

One consideration early on was to evaluate the need for a more formal system of Church Data Management. I completed an analysis of several CMS (Church Management Software) options, such as Planning Center and Servant Keeper. Based on this analysis, it was determined to maintain records in-house for the time-being, but as a result I have shifted most file storage to a cloud-based system that allows ease of access for multiple users.

Working closely with *Jim Cornelius*, I also implemented a system for email delivery of Tax Receipts for the 2021 season. Thanks to Jim's meticulous bookkeeping, our first year distributing these documents in-house was successful and smooth!

volunteer coordination

Getting to know the volunteers who help make our efforts successful has been very important, particularly during the unpredictable world of changing health advisories. I have aimed to manage the safety and comfort levels of both volunteers and the congregation with care. In an effort to improve efficiency and respect the needs of volunteers, I implemented a simple Doodle poll system, shared on a monthly basis, so volunteers can easily convey their availability. I also maintained regular contact with this important community, and will continue to build these relationships and structures.

weekly communications

Regular communication helps sbt stay connected with our communities near and far. My contribution to this has taken the form of our weekly e-newsletter (distributed via MailChimp) as well as any special updates that need to be shared. As discussed previously, these communications are also translated to social media platforms, as well as the sbt website. I've also updated Online Evening Prayer weekly. Finally, I connect with volunteers each week to ensure all volunteer positions can be filled.



from the wardens

It has been another year full of uncertainty and change for saint benedict's table, some challenging and some encouraging. One of the most significant of these changes was to our staff team as *the Rev. Rachel Twigg* ended her time with us. Rachel was an important member of our community long before coming on staff in 2016, and went through significant milestones on her path to ordination during her time with us. We are profoundly grateful for her years of ministry with us and pray for God's rich blessings on her in this new season. Following this transition, the Kitchen Table accepted the HR Committee's recommendation to hire a Communication and Administration Coordinator and are delighted to have *Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk* serving in this new role since September.

Another area of change and uncertainty has been the transitions around in person worship. In July we resumed in person worship for the first time since the pandemic began. While this was certainly an encouraging step forward, it also drew attention to the significant changes in our congregation. Kitchen Table has had several thoughtful conversations about how to facilitate safe worship together, and we are committed to the continued offering of online worship even as in person is available. We are deeply grateful for the hard and faithful work of all the staff and volunteers who have facilitated services amidst changing and sometimes challenging circumstances.

We continue to work towards implementing changes to our governance structure so that the various areas of ministry are well represented on and supported by Kitchen Table. We have been pleased to see progress in this area, particularly in the formation of the Finance Committee. We want to extend our sincere thanks to all who serve in leadership on Kitchen Table and other committees, as well as our deeply committed staff for your faithful service this year.

Robin Shugart and *Adam Kroeker*



from the arts fund committee

projects that received funding

The Arts Fund Committee (AFC) disbursed \$300.00 to Diana Pops, for a liturgical art project she is working on for us.

artists-in-residence (AIR)

The Artist-in-Residence position was shared between *Lois Gillispie* on a nine month term and *Hannah Foulger* on three month term. Lois's term focussed around the writing of songs and the development of her craft as a musician and song writer, an update on which is available at <https://www.stbenedictstable.ca/blog/an-artist-in-residence-update>. In addition, Lois offered an outdoor concert in the courtyard area between the church and the West Broadway Commons, which was well attended and well received, in spite of it being the chilliest evening in all of September. Hannah's work was focussed around her vocation as a playwright, with a summary of her term available at <https://www.stbenedictstable.ca/blog/our-short-term-artist-in-residence>.

At our November meeting we made the decision to move the term of the artist-in-residence to coincide with the approval of the church budget at the Annual General Meeting. We realized it was best to follow this model, rather than launching into the position prior to the approval of the budget, so the position will now run from March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023. The Committee received applications up to the end of the day on February 14th, with the decision as to how the role will be filled determined at our February 17th meeting.

administration

This year we welcomed *Rachel Titterton* to our committee, who now joins *Barbara Beaupre*, *Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk*, *Jamie Howison*, and *Brett Schmall* on this group. *Annick Boulet* has moved on to work with the H.R. Committee, and her contribution to the Arts Fund group over the years is much valued.

budget

Opening balance: \$2,948.28

Income:

- \$4.16 – sales of kindle edition of Advent book
- \$139.00 – sale of calendars

Expenses: \$300.00

Closing balance: \$2,791.44



from the emotional wellness group

The Emotional Wellness group provides an opportunity for insight and support into awareness, understanding, and acceptance of our own emotions and our ability to grow and learn with experience. The group provides a platform for sharing and operates collectively as a safe and spiritual response to our emotional growth. The group itself welcomes all emotions without offering hasty problem solving, but rather offers a community of support and encouragement for individuals to identify and evaluate alternatives for themselves, towards a life with greater agency, acceptance and ultimately peaceful living.

Participants are able to share openly and honestly in a confidential space without judgement in a group of peers. Benefits can include improved coping skills, feelings of connectedness, reduced feelings of distress and loneliness, opportunities for sharing resources, and gaining a sense of empowerment and agency in life. Covid has presented special challenges this past year and the need for connection and a supportive community focused on emotional wellness has become very evident. Each session closes with a liturgical prayer that brings a blessing of peace and a Psalm of comfort to meditate on for the coming weeks.

The Emotional Wellness group meets twice monthly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, currently on Zoom. The Zoom platform has opened up accessibility for some people. We anticipate continuing to meet twice monthly, alternating once on zoom and once in-person. We look forward to sharing a meal together again when all is safe to do so.

Jodi Goerzen

Emotional Wellness Facilitator



from the human resources committee

The HR Committee is pleased to announce that *Annick Boulet* has come on board as our new chairperson. With the addition of *Sharon Jones-Ryan* last February, this gives us a very solid working group.

The committee is now comprised of:

- *Annick Boulet* - Chair
- *Jamie Howison* (incumbent) - ex-officio
- *Robin Shugart* (warden)
- *Vonda Plett*
- *Julie Schellenberg*
- *Sharon Jones-Ryan*

One of the key tasks of the past year was the development of our half-time administration and program position, which has been very ably filled by *Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk* since she was appointed in September 2021. Sarah brings a host of skills to this position, as well as an enthusiasm for the work and ministry of saint benedict's table.

The committee also continued its work of creating new policies around fees for services, staff performance reviews, and conflict management, all of which have been distributed to the staff. With the addition of Annick as Chairperson, we will be revisiting our terms of reference as well as other materials, to ensure that they all reflect the realities of this committee's work.



from the mission fund committee

The Mission Fund Committee met on November 17, 2021 to review and make recommendations regarding the allocation of the Mission Funds for 2021. A call had gone out over the prior weeks, asking members of the congregation to provide suggestions for ministries and programs that could be supported. We ended up with a very rich and varied list, which was lovely. The Committee's recommendations were then submitted to Kitchen Table to review for approval. The Mission Fund budget for 2021 is \$18,850, which included a small compensation for an overpayment from 2021.

What is quite lovely is that every single one of these recipient groups or organizations was recommended by someone from our community, often because that person was deeply involved in this work.

- **Hand in Hand with Haiti** – \$5000 – A faith-based initiative connected through Pierre Plourde and Krista Waring, in support of the community, health, and educational work of El Shaddai Church in Haiti. <http://www.handinhandwithhaiti.org/>
- **Refugee Sponsorship** - \$3000 – This amount has been set aside to be put to work in a possible Refugee Sponsorship, which is under the watchful eye of Ian Mowat. If the proposed sponsorship does not come to be, the fund will be used in other work in support of Newcomers to Canada.
- **Good Food Club** - \$1500 - A program of West Broadway Community Organization, the Good Food Club (GFC) works to empower its members to eat healthier, gain new skills and build community. <https://westbroadway.mb.ca/programs/good-food-club>
- **Artbeat Studio** – \$1000 - Artbeat Studio is a unique community-based, peer-directed program that provides social supports, working art studio, gallery space, and mentorship for individuals living with mental illness for the purpose of recovery and empowerment. <http://artbeatstudio.ca/>
- **Inner City Youth Alive** - \$1000 – An innovative North End Winnipeg program working with youth to nurture skills, passions, relationships, and faith, in an open and caring context. <https://www.icya.ca/>
- **InterVarsity** - \$1000 – This grant is specifically directed toward the work done by InterVarsity Manitoba Campus Ministry. <https://ivcf.ca/campus/connectoncampus>
- **Ndinawe** - \$1000 – Ndinawe a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping at-risk youth in Winnipeg's North End. Their initiatives include a 24-hour safe house, as well as arts programs, sports and activities, and more. <https://ndinawe.ca/>

- **Ricky's Room** – \$1000 – An initiative of *La sala de los sueños Inc*, a Winnipeg-based, not-for-profit devoted to benefiting children. The work of Ricky's Room is to help children and youth heal from traumatic experiences through the gift of art. <https://rickysroom.ca/>
- **A Rocha Canada** - \$1000 - A Rocha Manitoba is a Christian environmental organization bringing hope through care of people and place by showing God's love for all creation. <https://arocha.ca/where-we-work/manitoba/>
- **Mennonite Central Committee** - \$1000 – One of the most trusted Christian relief, development and peace organizations in the world. <https://mcccanada.ca/>
- **Bell Tower Community Cafe** - \$1000 - The Bell Tower Community Cafe is a West Broadway ministry operating out of Westminster United Church, that strives to be a place of radical hospitality where everyone has something to bring to the table. During the pandemic they have been using a take-out hamper model, but strive to still embody hospitality and care. <http://westminsterchurch.org/bell-tower-community-cafe/>
- **Anglican Foundation of Canada** - \$350 - The Anglican Foundation of Canada provides resources for innovative ministries, Anglican presence, and diverse infrastructure projects across the Canadian Anglican Church. The suggested annual membership in the foundation is only \$50, so our grant represents a robust membership. <https://www.anglicanfoundation.org/>



regarding communities of calling – collegeville institute

In the Spring of 2018, we received word from the Collegeville Institute that saint benedict's table had been accepted as one of fourteen congregations to participate in their five year "Communities of Calling" initiative. Over the course of five years, these congregations are to be supported, supplied with resources (including grant money of up to \$30,000 US), and challenged to cultivate a culture of calling and vocation within their specific context. This five-year model included an introductory or preparatory year, followed by three funded "project years" and a final evaluation year. We are now in the third year of our funding, set to end on September 1, 2022, though because some of our projects have been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic we will be drawing things to completion—and spending the remainder of our funding—over the course of the next ten or twelve months.

Our original "Communities of Calling" lead team was comprised of *Jamie Howison*, *Rachel Twigg*, and *Danielle Morton*. With Rachel's departure this past year, *Bram Ryan* was added to the team. In the late autumn of this past year, Danielle asked to step down from the team as well, and *Sarah Hodges-Kolisnyk* stepped in to fill that role. Both Rachel and Danielle were instrumental in our work over the opening years, and their contributions are much valued.

With the challenges of the pandemic, the Institute has made it very clear that they are prepared to be very flexible in allowing us to adapt, change, or delay our proposed work.

The following are the elements for this final year of funding:

- The "Christian Seasons Calendars" were purchased for the volunteers who have been serving as liturgy assistants during these unusual days of the pandemic, as well as for those who have steered our music and live streaming.
- We have begun a three session ideaExchange series, focused on the question of what it is about the chemistry of urban spaces that makes our expression of faith thrive. *Travis and Stephanie Unger* were our speakers for a first session in January (via zoom), with *Greg McPherson*—the former long-time director of West Broadway Community Organization—on deck for a hybrid in-person and zoom session in March.
- We have a congregational retreat afternoon in view, having had to postpone a February 5 date due to COVID restrictions. At this point we are looking at April 2 as our date, which should be confirmed by the time of the Annual General Meeting. This afternoon will engage the question of the intersection of art and faith, specifically as it pertains to our identity as a community that supports and celebrates the vocation of the artist. Our keynote speaker will be the visual artist and author *Makoto Fujimura* who will join us via Zoom. In preparation for the event, twenty copies of his 2021 book *Art and Faith* were made available at a reduced cost for group

and personal study. *Steve Bell* is also on board to assist with the debrief on Makoto's presentation, and Karen Cornelius will be guiding us through an art exercise in preparation for the keynote talk.

- Finally, in the Autumn we are planning to host a forum on church and media, specifically addressing questions around what role the church could play in shaping the digital commons. For this forum we will be seeking some of the important voices on the topic to join us either in person or online, and plan to open the event well beyond our own community. The plan of that grant funding will be used as seed money for the forum, with other funds being secured from other sources.

In addition, we have been able to put some of last year's funding to work over the course of the autumn and into the winter.

- *Samantha Klassen's* comic book, "The Threads of Vocation", based on the weaving project has been published, with copies available for purchase at the church. We'll also have these available at the other in-person events over the coming year. In addition, the Collegeville Institute will be purchasing an additional 300 copies to distribute in their context, which will happen as soon as cross-border travel becomes more feasible.
- Our musicians have also been able to work on an "online songbook" project, under the capable leadership of *Rob Kwade*. There are now seven songs up on the website which can be purchased by other congregations for ongoing use at the very affordable price of just \$5 per song. More songs will be added as the months roll forward.



<https://collegevilleinstitute.org>



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2021 financial results

offerings & other income

Offerings to support the general ministry of saint benedict's table fell marginally by 1% in 2021 to \$209,813, \$6,187 less than budgeted (we had budgeted for a 2.2% increase). An additional \$117 in interest earnings and \$13,191 in wage subsidy through the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy program of the federal government was received, for total operating income of \$223,121.

Below is an overview of giving patterns to the general ministry of the congregation over the last four years. It does not include designated giving for expenses not in the operational budget, such as giving to the Refugee Fund.

Household Offerings	2021		2020		2019		2018	
	# of Hlds	Total Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings	# of Hlds	Total Offerings
>\$4,000	18	\$111,653	15	\$104,933	17	\$99,386	14	\$86,670
≥\$2,000-\$3,999	19	\$47,983	15	\$40,952	18	\$48,442	21	\$59,925
≥\$500-\$1,999	32	\$37,660	38	\$43,171	42	\$43,925	44	\$46,578
<\$500	29	\$4,698	46	\$7,725	56	\$9,067	52	\$8,223
Unidentified		\$7,819		\$14,481		\$7,371		\$2,764
TOTAL	98	\$209,813	114	\$211,262	133	\$208,191	131	\$204,160

This analysis indicates that despite the significant disruption caused by the pandemic over the past two years, the core community supporting the ministry of saint benedict's table has remained relatively constant and generous, which is deeply appreciated and encouraging.

expenses

Total operating expenses in 2021 were \$205,277, \$19,873 less than budgeted. Less activity in 2021 due to pandemic restrictions and a change in the staffing configuration led to the significantly reduced expenditures from those budgeted.

We had budgeted for a small deficit in 2021. With sustained giving, the unbudgeted wage subsidy received, and significantly reduced expenditures, we ended up running a surplus of \$17,844. Our operating fund balance (operating reserve) as of December 31, 2021, increased to \$87,840 from \$69,996 at the end of 2020 leaving the finances of the congregation in a relatively secure position.

Income and expenses against budget by line item are detailed in the Statement of Operations at the end of this report and in separate financial statements that have been prepared.

special funds

The congregation also operates three special funds to which income and expenses are attributed separate from our operating budget – an Arts Fund, a Refugee Fund, and the Collegetown Institute Community of Calling grant:

- *Arts Fund* - We received a \$143 in sales income into the Arts Fund and incurred \$300 in expenses in 2021, leaving us with a \$2,791 balance in the fund.
- *Refugee Fund* – We received a \$3,480 in donations and a \$3,000 transfer from the mission fund towards refugee related activities. We disbursed \$3,000 in expenses in refugee related activities, leaving us with a \$4,204 balance in the Refugee Fund.
- *Collegetown Institute Grant* – We have received an additional \$12,221 in grant funds from the Collegetown Institute in 2021 plus \$190 in sales related to the grant. We spent \$3,274 from the grant funding in 2021, leaving \$19,842 in grant funding still available at the end of 2021 for planned activities in 2022.

proposed budget 2022

The proposed 2022 budget is presented in the table at the end of this report. Below is a summary of the proposed budget.

projected offerings & other income

We are projecting offerings to remain at the same level as 2021 (\$210,000). We are also budgeting for \$160 in interest earnings, \$890 in remaining wage subsidy, and \$2,000 from the Collegetown Institute grant to support administrative costs, for total income of \$213,050, \$10,071 less than the total income received in 2021.

proposed expenses

We are proposing an operating expense budget of \$209,350, \$4,073 higher than actual expenses in 2021 but \$15,800 less than we had budgeted in 2021. This budget reflects changes in the staffing configuration that has reduced overall staffing costs (one full-time priest, a half-time administrator, and two part-time musicians), some modest increases in program and administrative activities as pandemic restrictions are reduced, and a \$2,000 increase in our contribution to the diocese and national church as we continue to move towards requested support levels. We continue to budget for 10% of offerings going to the mission fund and base this amount on the 2021 offerings as has been our practice.

In crafting the budget, we have worked to ensure continuity of programming and ministry while also exercising prudence considering all the uncertainty that still confronts us. We also note that the Collegetown Institute grant will allow us to engage in various program activities in 2022 additional to what our operating budget can support.

With projected income of \$213,050 and proposed expenses of \$209,350, we are budgeting for a small surplus of \$3,700 which provides some contingency for unexpected costs during the year.

financial management

Our banking and accounting were managed by the diocese from our beginning as a mission of the diocese until the end of 2020. A decision was taken in 2020 to transfer this responsibility to the congregation beginning in January 2021. This transfer took place at the beginning of 2021. All funds held by the diocese have been transferred to saint benedict table's account at the Assiniboine Credit Union, and the congregation's treasurer assumed responsibility for maintaining the accounts of the congregation, ensuring official tax receipts are issued for all eligible donations, and safeguarding the congregation's funds and assets.

To provide additional financial oversight, a finance committee has been established. The finance committee has conducted an independent internal review of the 2021 financial statements prepared by the treasurer to ensure transactions have been properly recorded and the financial statements presented are free from any material misstatements.

In the coming year, the finance committee will be working with the treasurer and kitchen table to ensure appropriate financial policies and procedures exist and are documented to ensure proper safeguards and necessary transparency is in place.

Jim Cornelius

Treasurer

saint benedict's table

2021 Statement of Operations and 2022 Proposed Budget

	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUAL	2022 BUDGET
REVENUE			
Offerings	\$216,000	\$209,813	\$210,000
Interest Income	-	117	160
Wage Subsidy	-	\$13,191	890
Collegeville Institute Grant	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	218,000	223,121	213,050
EXPENSES			
PROGRAMS			
Artist-in-Residence	4,800	5,333	4,000
Hospitality – Community	1,200	150	1,000
Hospitality – Pastoral	750	71	500
Program Expenses	750	367	750
Worship Supplies	<u>1,000</u>	<u>608</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	8,500	6,529	7,250
STAFFING			
Wages & Benefits	140,000	128,936	127,000
Professional Development	1,500	0	1,000
Transportation	<u>900</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>500</u>
	142,400	128,970	128,500
ADM, COMMUNICATION, FACILITIES			
Donation Fees & Banking	3,000	2,047	2,000
Equipment	1,000	(41)	500
Insurance	950	1,094	1,000
Office Costs	500	259	500
Photocopying	800	300	1,150
Rent	24,000	24,000	24,000
Telephone, Internet, Zoom	3,500	1,853	1,700
Website, Streaming, Podcasts	<u>1,000</u>	<u>832</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	34,750	30,344	31,850
DIOCESE, NATIONAL CHURCH, MISSION			
Diocese & National Church	18,000	18,000	20,000
Synods, Conferences, Adm	500	334	750
Mission Contributions	<u>21,000</u>	<u>21,100</u>	<u>21,000</u>
	39,500	39,434	41,750
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>225,150</u>	<u>205,277</u>	<u>209,350</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(\$7,150)	\$17,844	\$3,700

† saint benedict's table



a worshipping community,
rooted in an ancient future

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