

**Westminster United Church
2020
Annual Report**

A. Message from the Minister 2020

This has been one of the hardest years that I have had in ministry. The most challenging part has been not being able to gather together since March. It felt like the story Jesus told about the lost sheep and the shepherd who left his flock to go find the lost one, but in this story, I felt like I had to find the whole flock. And I am still looking. I know for most of us, this has been a year of struggle, not just with our faith community but with life itself. And I think we are tired in many ways. I sat in the sanctuary the other morning for about fifteen minutes thinking about the last 108 years and how this place would have been over that time. During the 1918/1920 pandemic, did things shut down and people stopped coming? Tears streamed down my face as I remember where you all sat, the sound of the organ and piano as people sang and the before and after chatter of folks catching up with one another. We have missed Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and everything in between.

The year started out well. We were into the routine of worship, work and fun, then the Covid 19 bug came creeping in. There were great changes in how we were to do worship without all of you being here. I want to thank all those who helped make worship happen in 2020 because I know it was a difficult time. Trying to figure out how to do music without a choir or even a congregation to sing. No extra folks were permitted to welcome and do the announcements, read the scriptures or the Minute for Mission.

Technology became a blessing for us along with Matt and Tiffany Howard who saved me from pulling out whatever hair I have left. In the fall we purchased equipment that could be used for livestreaming instead of recording on a cell phone. Now we have a tech table with two people doing the work of live streaming. We are grateful to Matt for his technical skills to get this up and running!

We also grieve for the social times – coffee after church, gatherings such as the suppers, potlucks, rummage sales, meetings, teas, and other events. These are things that give us life. We have been using Zoom to gather for coffee time after church, but it is not the same.

We had to find ways to connect. I am thankful for the Pastoral Care Task group that contacted as many people as they could with the initial phone calls about closing and then some of them continued to keep in touch. The knitting group found a way to meet on the church lawn, a small women's gathering took place in the park and people communicated with one another the best way possible. The church has sent 152 emails each week, and mailed up to 42 hard copies of the Sunday announcements, services and other information.

We have carried on in a great sense. There has been worship, the Council, Worship Core Team, Pastoral Care Task group, the Emergency Response Group all continue to meet of course, well spread out and wearing masks. They have discerned, visioned, made decisions, struggled, and had some laughs doing the necessary work in this time. We said goodbye to Dan Hunt as chairperson in the spring. We thank him for his years of dedicated leadership on council. We are thankful for Sheila Dowling, who stepped forward to be the interim chairperson, and then to Matthew Woodall for taking on the role after the congregational meeting in November. We are thankful for Brian Chmarney who has taken on the chair position of the Worship Core Team and to Pat Tice for taking over the role of chair of the Property Core Team. We are thankful for the dedicated service of Graham Bradley, who chaired Property and kept a roof over our head and heat in

the building. We also thank Kathy Tice who chaired Worship and now is a member at large on council, and all the others who have taken on leadership roles at this time.

We are thankful to the Emergency Response Group made up of Matt Woodall, Evelyn McConnell, Tiffany Howard and Rosemary Lagimodiere who discerned the best route for us to take during the pandemic and continue to make recommendations to the council.

Much of my time has been spent talking to people on the phone. Hospital visits were few because of the pandemic. Wedding services were cancelled or postponed. Funerals took place but were smaller or at the graveside only. I provided weekly services except for a few, pre-recording some for the times when I was away. A project that has been on my agenda for 5 or 6 years ago was to clean out a room on the stage and with the help of James and Joanne Allen have almost completed the task. I made up special activity kits for the kids in the summer, at Halloween and then with again for Advent and with some help delivered them throughout the city. Services at Mutchmor Lodge, The Renaissance and William Booth were all canceled. Some opted to use the pre-recorded message or to use the Facebook services.

Initially a lot of protocols regarding Covid were put in place with user groups. Marie and I worked on that process and continue to update and communicate information as needed.

In the wider church, I continue to sit on the Board of Vocation for the national church. We meet quarterly by Zoom. I also have been the regional liaison with Wesley United Church in Regina and Stoughton United Church as they search for a minister. The wider church has been extremely helpful through this time with providing online webinars, gathering and meetings for both ministry personnel and church leaders.

We continue to be the church; maybe not open to all the things we like to do but we are here. Perhaps out of this, we will find new life, new things to do and maybe we won't take things for granted, especially our relationships with one another. 2020 was a tough year for many, but it also made us realize in those times of isolation and loneliness we could count on the knowledge that the God who loves us deeply was our constant companion.

Blessings for the year ahead my friends,
Darrell

B. Message from the Council (Chair)

Council Report

A Digest of decisions made by council in 2020. Dan Hunt, Sheila Dowling and Matt Woodall all were chairpersons of council in 2020.

January

- Two savings accounts be added to the Conexus membership account to hold funds for Trust accounts (Building and Refugee Sponsorship).

February

- A security camera to be installed at the Cameron Street door
- The Inclusions Statement was accepted and to be recommended to the Annual Meeting.

March

- 1) That Westminster temporarily suspends in-person congregational worship for at least two weeks, until April 5th in order to support the social distancing effort to contain and mitigate the effects of COVID-19.
- 2) That the church building itself remain open and that we allow those who rent our facility to make their own decision about whether or not to suspend their meetings.
- 3) That all non-essential church meetings be suspended, recognizing that there will be some meetings which may be essential. This task group will meet again on Monday, March 23 at 10am to assess the situation and see if further recommendations are necessary.
- 4) That every person on the church contact list receives two messages sent by both email and phone to ensure that the message reaches as many people in as many ways as possible. The first message will be to share the information that we have temporarily suspended in-person congregational worship for at least two weeks. The second message will contain more concrete information about how Westminster will be responding to this, including ways in which people can volunteer their time, receive social support, and a question about whether they would like to receive a sacred message and prayers - and in which format (online, digital, written) they would like to receive it.

April

- approved the following recommendations from Ministry and Personnel:
The Minister and Office Administrator to continue to work their regular hours at the church. Brian Rennie continues to work on projects to meet his regular hours. He will monitor his hours. (Renato Regonas is not working at the church at this time. His hours are included in Rennie's caretaking category.)
Rina Schmidt may play for online services, as requested by the Worship Core Team, and if she is available, at the rate of the Sunday organ supply fee (\$120).
Kathleen Houston continues to work with the church families and children online. Her hours will be up to a max of 6 hours/week. This will end at the end of May, as usual.
Tom Magnuson, Choir Director's contract to be amended, effective May 1, 2020, recognizing that there is currently no choir, during the period of COVID19 restrictions. Worship Core Team may request that he provide the music at the standard Sunday supply fee of \$120.
- Approved the project to remove and replace the venting from the steam boiler to the chimney (horizontal section), which includes stainless steel venting with a new barometric relief damper, labour, gas permit, and supports, in the amount of \$8,993.22 from Momentum.

June

- Received with regret and thanksgiving the resignation of Dan Hunt.
- Received the financial reports as presented.
- Removed Dan Hunt as one of the signing authorities for Westminster's Conexus and CIBC accounts.
- Approve the recommendations from the Emergency Response Group from the Emergency Preparedness Committee
 - We recommend that in person worship not begin until at least sometime in September. The EPC will meet again at the end of August to evaluate what is happening in Saskatchewan and make further recommendations.
 - We recommend that user group meet the minimum standards set by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). We also ask that the user groups clean high touch

areas in the areas they are using, including access points to get there. If required extra cleaning is needed by the church, then the user groups would be required to pay the costs.

- We recommend that user groups are advised that the church has the right to cancel agreements if continued disregard for safety measures are ignored putting staff and others at risk.
- We recommend for funerals, emergency weddings and baptisms, they would be allowed to happen only if they meet the SHA guidelines. We consider this a pastoral matter and will look to the Worship Core Team for further guidelines and approvals.
- Because the daycare was unsure of how many children would attend the summer programming, the council approved the amount of \$500 for rent.

August

- Westminster United Church accept the proposal from the Cathedral Day Care to pay \$1000 rent for the month of August 2020 only.
- Nominated Sheila Dowling as interim chair of council

September

- Received Rina Schmidt's resignation as organist and thanked her for her years of service.
- Approved the nominations report to be affirmed at the next meeting of the congregation.
- Approved the new recommendations of the Emergency Response group **except for number 3.**
 1. The committee recommends that in-person worship starts on Oct 11.
 2. The committee also recommends that a "soft opening" with members of council, the worship core team, ERC, and trained volunteers take place on Sept 27 with live streaming on FB. After the service, the group gathered will review together how the process worked.
 3. The committee recommends that only 4 members in the choir be present in the choir loft and that they sing from there.
 4. The committee recommends that everyone at service must wear a mask.
 5. The committee recommends that the Worship Core Team will work in conjunction with the ERC to determine numbers of attendees allowed along with protocols for entering, attending, and leaving the church using SHA guidelines.
 6. The committee recommends that each mic be only used by one person. No sharing of mics.
 7. In accordance with Public Health Guidelines, everyone must enter through the 13th Ave. doors and leave through the Cameron St. doors.
 8. People who require accessibility accommodations, specifically the elevator, must be transported one at a time, and the elevator must be cleaned in between each person.
 9. People wishing to attend in-person must call and register with the church office each week.
 - a. Priority will be given to those who do not have another way of worshipping – those without access to the internet or email;
 - b. Registration will open to everyone else by the Wednesday before the Sunday service.
 10. A record be made and kept of who was present and where they were seated – and that this record be kept for no less than 30 days after the service.
 11. Occupancy be capped each week based on the registrations received – under no circumstances will occupancy exceed 30% of the sanctuary's capacity or 150 people.
 12. Each group be seated at least two metres (six feet) from each other. A group may consist of a single person, or a group of people from the same "bubble".

a. Clarification is being sought about the portion of the guidelines that states “Physical distancing must be observed at all times” and whether that applies to the movement of people through the aisles. If that is the case, then further restrictions on attendance capacity may be required.

13. Hand sanitizer should be made available at both the entrance and exit of the church.

14. When possible, we will attempt to leave space available for “walk-ins” to be able to join us in community.

15. There will be no activities other than worship: Communion, passing of the peace, and community/coffee time are not allowed at this time.

16. Clarification is being sought about whether the sanctuary must be cleaned after each service or whether it is sufficient to leave the sanctuary empty and untouched in between Sunday services.

- Approved the Worship Core Team and the M&P Core team develop a long-range plan for the future of music at WUC.
- Received the 2019 Financial Statement
- Decided that a three-week stewardship campaign be developed

November

- Approved the recommendation from the finance core team to ask the congregation to approve a budget that would see an overall projected deficit of \$52,150.
- Approved the paper refugee sponsorship of Solinana Tesfmichael Woldu with the co-sponsor giving Westminster \$9000 to be put in trust.
- Approved the expenditure of the zoom membership of \$200.
- Kathleen be rehired to prepare online time with the children for 5 weeks during advent.
- Approved that we pay one musician per Sunday \$120.00
- Approved up to \$3500 for technology to live stream the services, money to come from the Memorial Fund.

C. Core Team and Related Task Team Reports

1. Worship

Worship Core Team members are Beverly McDougald, Dwayne Pearce, Sheila Baron, Evelyn McConnell, Clark Schaufele, Darline Artemchuk. Ex-officio are Tom Magnuson and Darrell Reine. We welcomed Dwayne, Evelyn and Sheila during the year. Special thank you to Kathy Tice for Chairing the Team, regrettably she had to resign. Thank you to Doug Bradford for all his work with the Team. We are sorry to lose these two members. Rina also resigned as organist of the church. Tom’s contract has been suspended for the time being.

This past year has been one of many challenges with the Covid 19 Virus. Regulations kept changing beginning March 2020. In person services were not allowed, so many changes had to be made. Some services were taped and put on the website and some were live on Facebook. We wish to thank Darrell for adjusting to the circumstances and preaching to an empty church, as well as pre-recording some before he left on holidays! We are thankful for the technical knowledge of Matt Howard. Without Matt, we might never have been able see the services. Special appreciation goes out to Clark and Katherine, who sang and played the piano for the hymns on video. Clark also played the piano for some services that were filmed in the church.

We were allowed to have in person services for six weeks during the Fall, with only up to 150 people allowed to attend. The most we had was 37 people. These services took a lot of organizing with help from the Worship Core Team.

Darrell also held Meditation sessions on Facebook for a few weeks. There have been 3 semi-private baptisms.

It has been hard to make many upcoming plans as we never know when regulation will change.

The Worship Core Team tries to meet every 1-2 months. We review past services and approve Weddings, Baptisms, and new members. We also assist the minister when required.

Respectfully submitted,
Darline Artemchuk

Statistics

Funerals/Memorial Services (W) Service at Westminster	Weddings	Baptisms
Eleanor Olsen Peter Francis Finn David Larry Lozinski Susan Wiebe Irene Freta Swift Quinton Everette Kyle Derrnager Adele Patterson James Elsmore Clarke Evelyn Agnes Neudeck Sandra Hayden Audrey Isabelle Jensen Dorthea Langston Genevieve Joyce Kozakewycz	Robert Gordon Stradeski & Kathy Mae Willner Heidi Lynn Norwig & Jared Darrel Harold Bitternose Paul Ewald Eutenier & Rose Monica Pantogia	Levi Edward Leppa Zachary Desmond Wirth Everleigh Anne Towne Owen Jordan Leier

Received 2020	Removed 2020
Joyce Stadnick Jean Ann Seivewright Verna Coates Lora Mazur Susan Etter	Adel Patterson Agnes Neudeck Audrey Jensen Dot Langston Eleanor Olson Margaret Cobb Donna Brown
Total Membership December 31, 2020	302

<i>Received by Transfer</i>	5
<i>Removed by Death</i>	7
<i>Removed by Transfer</i>	0
Total Membership December 31, 2019	300

1.a Choir

Choir Members: Sopranos: Donna Brown, Melody Crick, Susan Graham, Malcolm Keefe, Ryan Keefe, Sarah Keefe, Emmy Flavel, Rosemarie Maghilom, Laurie Stankov, Terry Wood, Jessica McCullough

Altos: Bev Bradshaw, Anna Bristol, Jordana Buchan, Arlee Deschene, Sheila Dowling, Mergie Maghilom, Jessica Simcak, Ashlee Hingtgen

Tenors: Gordon McElheran, Joan Therens , Carol Olson

Basses: Al Barnes, Graham Bradley, Dan Hunt, Vic Neudeck, Jim Pryde, John Struthers-Stewart, Clark Schaufele, Kyle Sandor

Staff: Music Director- Tom Magnuson, assisted by Sarah Keefe; Organist/Accompanist-Rina Schmidt

Choir Executive 2020: President: Emmy Flavel; Secretary/Treasurer: Sheila Dowling; Music Librarian: Donna Brown/ Laurie Stankov; Social: Terry Wood; Gowns: Arlee Deschene;

Tasks Fulfilled/Results: "Sing out with Joy to God our Strength" (Psalm 81)\

1. Sought to inspire and uplift, to celebrate community and to glorify God in all that we do through God's gift to music

2. Participated in weekly worship on Sunday mornings, leading the congregation in hymn singing and presenting two musical offerings (September to June)

3. Attended weekly rehearsals on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings before church services.

4. Prepared additional music for special days in the church year, e.g., Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Remembrance Day, Advent and Christmas season including Christmas Eve.

5. Due to Covid-19 restrictions in March 2020 choir rehearsals and performances have been cancelled until further notice.

Special thanks to Donna and Laurie for organizing the music for us, to Tom and Sarah for leading this choir, and picking the music for members to sing, to Rina for the accompaniment support and lastly our singing members, we wouldn't be the choir we are without them singing their parts. I look forward to the time we can finally sing together again.

Submitted by: Emmy Flavel

2. Finance

We all had to pivot in our way of life to deal with the pandemic and so did the Finance team.

Ensuring good cashflow and financial stability was our priority. We established electronic ways for offerings through e-transfer and Canada Helps (credit card) and Facebook. With the reduction of rental income, Council approved taking the Canada Emergency Business Account which is a \$40,000 loan with \$10,000 forgivable.

During the year, we also completed the transition to a new bookkeeper, new accounting system and new system for recording donations. Special thanks to our staff for making the adjustments and learning new processes and tools. With gratitude, we have settled in with our new bookkeeper Manuela Riche of Core Bookkeeping.

With the strong financial support of the congregation, we ended the year in a good financial state and close to our budget.

The Finance team members Joylene Campbell, Deb Jones and Bob Forrest continue their committed service to assisting with the financial tasks and team discussions. Thank you!

JoAnne Neely
Finance Core Team Chair

3. Ministry & Personnel

2020 started out as every other year has started. We were happy to have Darrell Reine with us as our minister, as well as Marie Boser in the office, Brian Rennie our chief engineer assisted by Renato Reganos, Rina Schmidt as organist and accompanist and Tom Magnuson directing the choir. We looked forward to Sunday services as a time to worship, visit with church friends and share fellowship following the service. Preparing for various events and attending them was just part of something we did – two rummage sales, Mistletoe Tea and Mother’s Day Tea, special dinners and lunches, special services for Easter and Christmas and more. We enjoyed the events but also the time working together. Fellowship with our church family was immensely important.

By the end of February, we already had plans for many of the annual events. Unfortunately, as we moved into March life at the church had begun to change. Darrell had his hands full adjusting everything he knew as normal. Marie was busy with regular projects that soon changed as well. Brian was keeping the church warm, clean and ready for Sundays and every other day for church programs and renters. That too changed. Worship was closed, and then opened on a limited basis, renters stopped and then started again in a new way with new protocols. Without Sunday services there was no choir, and no live music. This altered work for Tom and Rina as well. We were all learning a new way of being part of Westminster. It wasn’t easy. The staff made many changes to what was normal for them in their work at Westminster. We are extremely grateful for all of their accommodations to make things work, as best as possible. We owe each and everyone of them a huge THANK YOU.

No one wanted to close the doors and wait to see what would happen. We were blessed to have Matt and Tiffany Howard get the services on line, and Darrell for working under different circumstances to put the service together. Again, we are most grateful!

At the beginning of May we were saddened to receive Rina’s resignation as organist and accompanist. As a teacher in Moose Jaw and two very busy young people in her life it was just not possible for her to continue. Rina was with us for seven years! We were truly pleased to have her with us for that length of time and are missing her. We hope all is well in her busy life and that her family is as busy as they can be.

Life at the church has definitely morphed from this to that and on to some new after that. It is constantly changing, as is the work of some of the staff. Music began again on Sundays. In addition to Tom, Clark Schaufle also began helping in this regard, on the organ.

We have a minister and staff who are very dedicated to their work at Westminster. We offer them our deepest and most sincere thanks! What would we be without them? Thank you everyone!

Thank you too to the members of the M & P Core Team: Elaine Andreas, Graham Bradley and Terry Wood. We welcomed two new members as well: Gloria Maki and Sheila Hart. Most of our meetings are held electronically which has worked quite well. Thank you to all. Sincerely – L. Dodd (chair)

4. Property

1. Pigeon Wars

Abel Pest Control were hired to get rid of the pigeons making a mess on the front steps. We resorted to poisoning them as a final solution.

2. Sanctuary

Gord McElheran did a magnificent job using see through plastic to block first row of balcony. Checking other churches on the internet this was by far the best solution. Congratulations and many thanks due for Gord.

Graham Bradley

5. Caring for the Congregation and Community

5. a Communications

Communications Task Group

Even though the Communications Task Group has not met in over a year, things continue to happen. We have a Facebook page and Website that is updated weekly. Sheila Dowling and Matt Howard were added as administrators to the Facebook page with Darrell continuing to take most of the responsibility for posting on it. Matt makes sure the services are on each and every Sunday.

The last newsletter that went out was after Christmas 2019 and we have not really had a need to do another one since.

Communication does happen through email, mailouts, the announcement page, Facebook and the website and as well verbally on Sunday morning.

5. b Hosting Group

5. c Mission and Outreach

Outreach Members: Sheila Dowling, Tannis Marks, Carol Olson, Darrell Reine, Barbara Wickstrom

COVID 19 restrictions made 2020 a difficult year to live out Westminster's mission that "With faith in God and the love of Jesus Christ, we will make a difference in the lives we touch." Nevertheless, we were able to continue with some of our projects albeit in a reduced and different manner.

Our projects: -

Soup's On: - For the first three months of 2020 we held our monthly lunches for the hungry in our community. For April and May we have distributed bag lunches, but due to COVID circumstances this was discontinued. Thanks to Rosemary Lagimodiere for her relationship and to all who volunteered and contributed.

Westminster Pantry: - 107 adults and 111 children requested food from the Westminster Pantry in 2020. Thank you for your financial support.

Carmichael Outreach Bread for Life: - Due to COVID concerns, this was discontinued after March. We did continue to collect cartons and personal hygiene supplies as long as Carmichael was open for donations.

Mitten Tree: - In addition to supplying mittens and other knitted items to our Adopt A Family recipient, we gave gloves, hats and scarves to Ecole Connaught Community School and to the Indigenous Christian Fellowship.

Social Justice Workshop: - On Saturday February 8th Westminster hosted an ecumenical workshop in conjunction with Holy Rosary Cathedral Social Justice Committee on the theme "Let's Talk About Tolerance & Pope Francis' Culture of Encounter". Guest speaker was Tashia Toupin, Social Justice Coordinator of the R.C. Archdiocese of Regina. 16 people from various United Churches and Roman Catholic parishes participated.

Change for Change: - Coffee time donations for the first quarter of 2020 were allocated to reconciliation projects. \$400 was donated to the Indigenous Christian Fellowship (icfregina.ca) and \$250 to the Regina Indian Industrial School Commemorative Association Inc. for cemetery upkeep. (500 children from some 43 First Nations in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta attended the Regina Indian Industrial School between 1891 and 1910. 35 - 40 were buried in unmarked graves in a small cemetery half a kilometre west of the School site adjacent to the present Pinkie Road.)

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dowling

Lumsden Beach Camp

mini- ANNUAL REPORT

Do unto Others

Highlights

Like every other organization, spring 2020 was a roller-coaster for the camp. The unknowns and anxiety of March & April, turned into the disappoint and grief of cancellation for overnight camps in May. With no rental income, no campers, and a number of fixed costs, things looked gloomy for this United Church Camp. The Board of Directors and Executive Director met frequently during that time. Imagining creative ways to meet our mission—how could a camp connect young people to nature and to each other during this time of worldwide dis-connection? Doing nothing was never an option, but safety and community-mindedness were essential. When the provincial government declared that Day Camps would be allowed to operate, LBC's leadership kicked into high gear. Sixteen, mostly

youth and young adults, worked together to create week-long day camp programs that would engage and delight campers ages 5-15. Sessions were kept small, cleaning was amped up, masks were worn, and so much joy was experienced. Throughout the summer 243 campers connected with each other and the land. They canoed, swam, crafted, hiked, played and more.

Financial Highlights

- In 2019-20 LBC had an operating surplus of \$38,843
- This surplus is due to COVID-focused government funding (\$57,490 received).
- Many communities of faith have stepped up and donated to the camp. We are so grateful for your support.

2020 By the numbers

- 243 Campers
- 15 Leaders in Training
- 70 bus trips between Regina & LBC
 - 100% of camper families surveyed indicated that they would recommend LBC to friends or family
 - 98% of campers indicated that they had a positive experience.
 - 50% of camper families would consider sending their camper to an overnight & day camp in the future. For more information about LBC or to review our full Annual Report, please visit www.lumsdenbeachcamp.com

5. d Adopt A Family

Once again, we had the pleasure of helping six families have a happy Christmas. A lot of changes had to be made this year because of Covid. The Salvation Army provided us with all the information regarding the families. Unfortunately, there could be no direct contact. We delivered all the parcels to the Salvation Army warehouse mid-December. They were then responsible for making sure everything was given to the right families. It was a mammoth task for the Salvation Army but they were extremely well organized.

My sincere thanks go to all of you for giving so generously to this special project. Also, many thanks to Ken Jones for helping with the delivery. Barbara and George Hildebrandt for wrapping the parcels so beautifully. The knitters who ensured that everyone would have warm mitts and scarves. The church office staff who helped whenever needed and all of you for your support.

May we all be Covid free by next Christmas. God bless.

Heather Britton

5. e Pastoral Care

Our year began as usual, celebration Sundays, a Valentine's Day party with games and prizes for 23 attendees. Darrell had begun Grief Counselling and L.G.B.T.Q. discussion groups when Covid-19 arrived mid- March. Outreach became our main focus for our Westminster family. Many of us continued to contact members by phone for support conversations.

Cards were provided for our 40 shut in persons at Easter and Christmas. There were 72 birthday/anniversary cards, 21 get well and 8 sympathy cards distributed.

Darrell created fun, activity packages for Westminster youth for Easter, summer holidays, thanksgiving/Halloween and advent. Truly a labour of love. How exciting for the children!

Pastoral care members helped contact members during the stewardship campaign in October. Most of our church family were doing well. The shut ins had a much more challenging time to keep positive.

We are so indebted to Darrell Reine for his guidance and support.

I am so grateful to our generous and caring group of volunteers; Lois Busko our secretary, our newest member, Sheila Barron, Shirley Fieldgate, Evelyn McConnell and Jean Thue.

With much gratitude,

Lorna Mackenzie,

Pastoral Care Chairperson.

2020 Walking Group Report

Submitted by Reta Poulton on behalf of the walkers

We meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10 am, usually from September to May or June. We walk for about an hour. We stopped meeting in March 2020 as Covid restrictions came into effect. We resumed in the fall by walking socially distanced and wearing masks. Our group is sometimes made up of 2 people and sometimes 5 or 6. We welcome anyone who would like to join in for some exercise and conversation while we walk.

5. f Prayer Shawl Group

Submitted by Reta Poulton on behalf of the group.

Westminster's Prayer Shawl Knitting Group was meeting Thursday mornings at 10 am from September until May or June. This year with COVID-19 interruptions we stopped meeting in March. We resumed meeting in July by bringing our lawn chairs and sitting distanced on the church lawn. When the weather grew colder, we met in the Multipurpose room each sitting at different tables or at opposite ends of the table. We ceased meeting in November and have been knitting at home since.

This year we received a gift of 70 scarves from Joan Theren's friend, Melissa Heshka. A special thank you to Melissa for her donation and concern for those in need.

This year we have made 106 scarves including the scarves from Melissa, 11 baby shawls, 21 prayer shawls, 16 pot holders, 56 kitchen towels and 22 knitted hats.

We gave some of our scarves and hats to the Adopt – a – family program.

We hung 46 scarves on the fence or gave them to those who attended our lunch program while it operated.

Four prayer shawls were given to church members and 3 baby shawls were given to children being baptised.

Our scarves on the fence were reported as a "Random Act of Kindness" on the evening news when they caught the attention of a news reporter.

This year our dear friend and fellow knitter, Donna Brown, passed. We will miss her good humour and wise council. We will miss her and feel blessed that she was part of our group.

We hope to resume our knitting gatherings when rules relax. At this time, we are bringing our completed projects to the church and leaving them in storage. We thank Darrell for hanging some scarves for us on the fence in this cold weather and we thank Marie for making signs to hang on the fence.

Thank you to the congregation for the donations of yarn which we received during the year.

6. Faith Formation

6.a Christian Education

6.b Stewardship

The Stewardship campaign in 2020 focused less on money and more on people. An initial letter was sent out under the signature of Sheila Dowling, (Interim Chair of council) thanked people for the past contributions and invited them to continue to support the on-going work of the church. With the help of some of the council members and the Pastoral Care Task Group, phone calls were made focused on these three questions:

1. Is there anything the Church can do for you?
2. At this time of thanksgiving, what are you thankful for?
3. Do you have any questions for us?

A Stewardship package was mailed and emailed to everyone with a response sheet to be returned. It also included information on how to sign up to PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) along with information about using e-transfer to send in donations.

Those called were grateful to hear from Westminster, expressed appreciation for the online services and expressed a yearning to return to regular face-to-face services when it is safe to do so.

Thanks to all who helped in the phoning and to those who continue to support Westminster.

Sincerely,

Joylene Campbell, Sheila Dowling and Darrell Reine
Stewardship Task Group

7. Anniversary Unit

The tradition in our Unit has always been to skip a meeting in January and begin the year with our first meeting in February. We have always enjoyed a few hands of court whist at our annual Christmas luncheons, and have often said, "Why don't we have a whole afternoon of Court Whist?" At our Christmas gathering in December 2019, we finally said, "We'll do it in January!" And we did! Thanks go to Gayle Slater and Kay Day for organizing the lunch, to others for provided the prizes and lunch. We had a good turnout, women and men, a lot of fun, and we looked forward to repeating the event next January.

In February, we met as usual, but there were rumblings about this new virus that was spreading in parts of the world. However, we decided to go ahead with our annual St. Patrick's Day Coffee Party. It was a fun morning, with a great programme planned and directed by Joan Therens assisted by Lorna McKenzie. Our members all contributed to the success of the morning, but our numbers were down because of the increasing threat of the virus.

We had also made plans for our April rummage sale, but this would not happen, nor would any of our other regular fund raisers.

November came and with it queries about fruit cake sales. The Prayer Shawl knitters had a surplus of prayer shawls, scarfs and mitts, and there had been requests at the office for olive oil. We pooled some ideas, talked to the Emergency Response Team and came up with plans for a combined mini sale that would be 'safe', would continue for a few hours on three separate days, and would include fruit cakes, knitted articles, hand made gift items, a limited amount of baking and the Palestinian olive oil products. With careful planning, we had one very successful day. Additional times had to be cancelled because of an increase in COVID4-19 numbers in the city, but we did learn a few things about fund-raising events in the midst of a pandemic. And all three groups involved (Prayer Shawl knitters, Outreach and the Anniversary Unit) came out on the plus side, financially.

We are all looking forward to time when we can meet again; we miss the fellowship that is so important for each of us. Sadly, during this period of isolation, we have lost two of our members – Dot Langston and Donna Brown. They will be missed!

We have not been able to provide the financial support to the church as has been our custom in the past, but we look forward to a better time ahead.

The support of the congregation in all our endeavours and assistance provided by the staff is greatly appreciated. My personal thanks to all the members of the Anniversary Unit who have so faithfully attended our meetings and have been so willingly involved in our many projects over the years. Let us hope and pray that one day soon we will be able to gather and enjoy fellowship together. Meanwhile, stay well, and God bless.

Elaine Andreas

Financial Report Anniversary Unit 2020

Bank Balance on January 1, 2020		\$1,258.31
Revenue:		
Membership	130.00	
St. Patrick's Day Coffee Party	290.92	
Catering	794.62	
Fall Mini Sale	1,113.10	
(calendars, Christmas cakes, oils, Knitting, baking, misc.)		
Total Revenue	\$2,328.64	
Expenses and Donations:		
Westminster United Church	2,900.00	
Regina Anti-Poverty	100.00	
Kitchen bins	41.35	
Totals	\$3,041.35	
Bank Balance on December 31, 2020		\$545.60

Submitted by: Gayle Slater, Treasurer

8. Trustee Report for March 2020

The Westminster United Church (WUC) Trustee Committee dealt with only one item during the March 2020 – February 2021 period.

- In May 2020, the Trustee Committee met to review and recommend renewal of the church insurance policy with Ecclesiastical Insurance for the period June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021.

On-going Activity: Trustee Bob McMinn has offered to create a digital record of all Westminster artifacts and supply this record to the church for safekeeping. His progress in completing this project has been tempered by COVID-19.

Submitted by Darline Artemchuk, Bob McMinn, Audrey Forrest, Fraser Hunter and Darrell Reine
February 26, 2021