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A low-angle photograph of a tree with green leaves and pink flowers against a blue sky with white clouds. The sun is visible through the leaves, creating a lens flare. In the background, a stone building with Gothic-style windows is visible.

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Living out our mission in 2022

Message from the Chair

When I think back to the fall of 2021, I recall feelings of hope, excitement and confidence, as we planned for a new year of gatherings and events and a more regular feel. We came to the brink of being open again and, along with most of the world, had to back up and start again.

Restrictions were returning; the possibility of lockdowns loomed once again; and we had to change our plans for Christmas Eve services. But we were still able to sing carols and light candles, to pass along our message of hope for the world, to be the church, and to celebrate community.

We kindle our own light, we are light for one another, and we continue to be a light for the world.

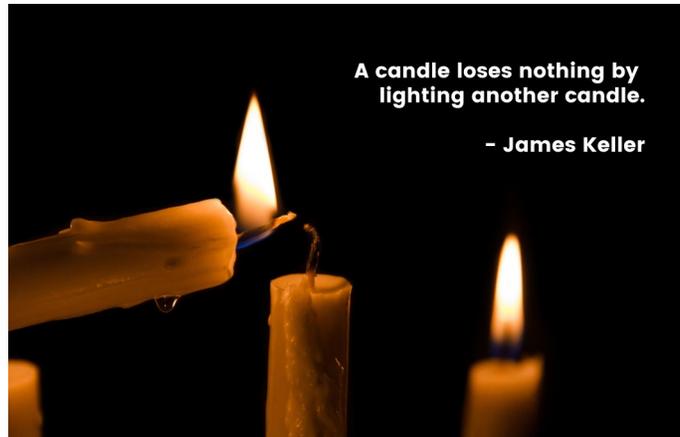
As you will read in this report, we did not sit still in darkness. Creating and sharing light, we continue to make progress on our strategic goals: Growth, Leadership and Extravagant Welcome. We used our time to plan and lay the groundwork for the future. We continued to engage our online community with worship services, social media invitations, and zoom programming. We were good stewards of our resources and kept our deficit down during a challenging year. We made improvements to the building and provided local outreach on a daily basis. Our family ministry grew to support new parents and children. We passed the flame of pastoral care through phone calls, zoom meetings and in person visits.

I am extremely grateful for our members, donors, and volunteers who were so generous with their resources, time and talents. Our terrific staff team of Paul, Sarah, Don, Shawn, Jennifer, Irina, Kate, Aidan, MJ, the choir leads, Bryan, Ashley, Murray and Alvaro kept our light shining, caring for our own community and those beyond, and doing God's work.

And now, I feel that hope and confidence even more strongly than last year at this time. Let us shine our light strongly and not be afraid to pass that light on to others.

Peace,

Maggie



Living out our mission in 2022

Ministry & Personnel

Our Church staff performed their duties with their continued high level of professionalism and dedication. They worked diligently on our behalf to respond to changing COVID protocols regarding building access and worship services. The ministers, music director, audio visual producer and support staff continued to offer in person worship services that were also available for viewing online.

During the year, we said good bye to AJ Brant, our daytime custodian. We also said good bye to Aidan Legault who is heading off to new adventures after completing his third year as our Youth Leader, and two summers as the GROW Supervisor.

We welcomed Murray Brooks, our Lead Caretaker. And in a recent Sunday service, Miranda Crabtree was welcomed as our Youth Leader for the coming year.

Thank you to the staff for your commitment, ingenuity and patience in supporting our resilient ESG community.

2022-23 Staff Team

Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison, Lead Minister
Rev. Sarah Chapman, Next Generation and Growth Minister
Rev. Don Parsons, Pastoral Care Minister
Shawn Grenke, Director of Music
Jennifer Torrens, Church Administrator
Murray Brooks, Lead Caretaker
Irina Denissova, Bookkeeper
Bryan Estabrooks, Audio Visual Producer
Kate Littler, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Miranda Crabtree, Youth Leader
Ashley Abdul, Social Media Coordinator
Lita Tobias, Infant Caregiver
Alvaro Perez, Caretaker

Heather Parker
Ministry & Personnel

Supporting our Faith Community

Church Community Engagement

Leadership Appointments:

During 2022 we recruited new leaders to key roles at ESG:

Bob Blair and Rob Crabtree join the Ministry & Personnel team - Bob taking over the leadership role from Heather Parker. Existing team members still in place, our refreshed, expanded team will serve us well offering up a balance of consistency and new energy.

Gord Brookes steps into the lead role for Ministry, Sacraments and Music taking over from Christine Lawson. Both teams are vital to the health of ESG. We are very fortunate, in each case, for the talent and experience Bob, Rob and Gord bring to these important roles. We are also very grateful to Heather and Christine for their generous time dedicated as past leaders.

Volunteer Leadership Project:

Our Volunteer Leadership Project reached out to operational and program groups across ESG inviting them to update their team's role descriptions and to dig deeper to tell their stories. Eight groups participated. We were encouraged by the richness of content generated and enthusiasm expressed in terms of the overall exercise. Beyond its intended purpose (to update role descriptions and create informative, alluring content to inform and attract future volunteers) we witnessed groups identifying new, fresh thinking about operational issues and enhancements they could implement.

Hospitality:

Our Hospitality think tank team strategized on how to amplify our extravagant welcome as we transition from pandemic to endemic and gather in person again for worship. Three ideas have been put into action. We've made self-serve fair trade coffee, tea and snacks available before and after the service, from a new state-of-the-art coffee trolley at the base of the stairs to the balcony. Our *"Come early, come often, coffee's on"* campaign provides expanded opportunity for people to connect. We've also created new name tags that are visually improved, updated to reflect our energized branding and more tactically functional. And we've remodelled the Greeter role to reinforce the emphasis on welcoming newcomers and helping folks to connect.

Donna MacCandlish

Church Community Engagement



Supporting our Faith Community

Adult Education

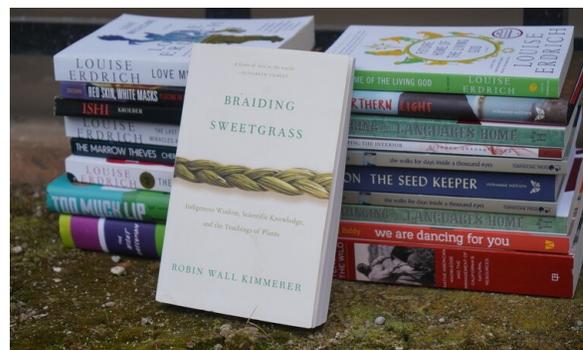
During the past year, with the continued waves of Covid as a reality, we focused on offering on-line adult education activities to nurture mind and spirit.

- **Monthly We are Not Alone newsletter** with topics to reflect on and stimulate new thinking.
- **Weekly Community of Care group** topics dovetailed with the sermon or newsletter theme.
- ESG mental health two-part series on **Thriving in Uncertain Times**. Mary Thomson led the gathering through a series of tools designed to name the emotions surfacing through covid and build resilience in an uncertain future.
- ESG hosted a special documentary film screening of **“Mission: Joy-Finding Happiness in Troubled Times”** with his Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This was followed by a discussion group at coffee hour.
- Janet Hardy led a three-part series based on the book **“Ladder to the Light, an Indigenous Elder’s Meditations on Hope and Courage.”**
- **Bible for Busy People** continued this year with several workshops facilitated by Stephen Milton of Lawrence Park Community Church.
- **Faithful Green Action Group** organized by the North Toronto Cluster offered documentaries and book discussions. Peter Wilkins of ESG organized a film screening of “There’s Something in the Water.”
- **Webinar by Lori Nikkel, CEO of Second Harvest**, discussed food inequity in Canada and strategies for tackling it.

In 2022-23, adult education will offer virtual and in-person learning and sharing opportunities.

This will include:

- **Anti-racism and Indigenous studies:** book discussion group in the fall organized by Mary Thomson.
- **Career Development, Mental Health, and Mentoring:** speaker series and mentorship program for adults 19-35 years starts this fall with a webinar on “Strategies to boost confidence in the workplace” led by Vicki Thompson. Suzan Samivand champions this initiative.
- **Spiritual Book Study:** “Faith After Doubt” by Brian McLaren. Planned for winter 2023.
- **Exploring our Faith:** Discussion group led by Jim Black and Janet Hardy. It is designed to kick your faith tires. Planned for winter 2023
- **North Toronto Faithful Green Actions:** books and films throughout the year



Patti Thompson
Adult Education

Supporting our Faith Community

Pastoral Care

Covid 19 continued to challenge our abilities to be together with family, friends and those we cherish. Communication has been an important focus for Pastoral Care during this period.

Through **ESG Cares** we keep in touch with our congregation members through cards, phone calls and visits when allowed, for those enjoying special events (two with 100th birthdays), or suffering illness and bereavement. Our very active Card Ministry also coordinates with the ESG Angels to make sure those with health challenges or in hospital know that they are being held in care at ESG.

Don Parsons reaches out to those we know need special attention. Our young adults are not forgotten and receive messages of support at exam time along with a Tim's gift card.

Don presided over **nine funerals** since last October with 6 allowed in our sanctuary, and 3 at grave sites. Due to COVID protocols these have been confined to small numbers of family and close friends attending. The November on-line service, Christmas in a Minor Key, offered great support for those bereaved families and those needing a quieter celebration this time of year.

In collaboration with Last Minutes and New Perspectives, our Super Seniors were remembered at Christmas and Easter with **gift bags** of cookies, including a little knitted sheep ornament at Christmas, and messages about upcoming services and ESG news from Don. These contacts are so appreciated especially those not connected via technology.

The recent **We Care** initiative during the winter of 2022 provided over 300 kits of everyday essentials to shelters for distribution to the homeless. This year we hope to engage other groups to participate with the goal of assembling 500 kits.

The Pastoral Care Team has many areas of focus and each of our members contributed special readings, poems and stories from their experiences with Pastoral Care to a Spring issue of We Are Not Alone. Our Team also participated early in the Volunteer Leadership Project defining our mission at ESG.

We are hoping to be able to bring back our Embracing Aging Series and Community Fair during the Spring of 2023 and will be planning for that in the months ahead.

Arlene Duncan
Pastoral Care

Supporting our Faith Community



Hand Knitted Sheep in our gift bags



Our volunteer team assembling gift bags for our Super Seniors

Extending Our Reach

Outreach and Social Justice

Peace with Justice

Peace with Justice continues monthly meetings on zoom to discuss concerns regarding human rights, peace and justice. This group also arranges Amnesty International letter writing at ESG.

Good Food Box Program

Each month we provide a gift of a Good Food Box to 22 people. Good Food Boxes are either purchased by a donor or are purchased through our Outreach funds. Some recipients have exited the program but we have replaced them with new clients who have requested assistance with food. We cannot stress enough how much these individuals appreciate the Good Food Box.

DISMAS

We continue to support 2 Dismas members with food boxes on a monthly basis. Dismas continues to meet regularly on Zoom. Dismas members helped with the set up of the Spring Jumble sale. For their efforts a dinner was prepared for them by Donna Lang and her team. The meal itself was donated by Loblaw's.

Little Free Pantry

The Little Free Pantry continues to be accessed by those in the community experiencing food insecurity and has been stocked daily by our dedicated Last Minutes Group volunteers.

Two food drives were held over the summer by Aidan and the Grow Team. The community response to the drive has allowed us to fill the pantry without having to make bulk purchases over the summer. Demand on the pantry has increased due to the rising cost of groceries and the choices that marginalized people must make in order to make ends meet. There has been some abuse of the pantry and we are working to solve this. It is difficult to find a gentle way to discourage someone from taking too much or all when they personally have so little. It is a constant conversation.



Syrian Children's Education Fund

Several months ago, the Council approved the establishment of an Education Fund to help cover the costs of post-secondary tuition and related expenses for the 9 children of the two Syrian Families that ESG sponsored to come to Canada six years ago. In the first of three fundraising phases, there is an initial goal of \$50,000 of which \$46,000 has been raised to date. Please contact Kristen Ede for more information.

Donations to Agencies from ESG Operating Fund

ESG donated \$1000 to each of the following agencies in 2022: Sistering, ECUT, Street Health (\$2000), The Massey Centre, Camp Scugog, Street Health, St. Stephen's Community House, and FoodShare.

Extending Our Reach

Advent Gifts

Our Advent Gift Campaign for 2021 allowed Outreach to donate over \$1500 to each of the following agencies: Red Door, TUNM, Fred Victor Women's Shelter, St. Luke's Out of the Cold Meal Program

"We Care" Survival Kits for Homeless

In January, a new ESG Outreach initiative to provide survival kits for the homeless was undertaken and spearheaded by Judi Healey. Over 200 kits were delivered to agencies including the Fred Victor 24/7 Drop In Centre in Regent Park, Toronto Urban Native Ministry, St. Luke's and Sanctuary Toronto. The program will gear up again in the Fall supported by the leftover funds from the recent fundraising campaign.

Welcome Baskets - North Toronto Cluster Initiative

In the Fall of 2021 and Spring of 2022 ESG delivered a total of 20 Welcome Baskets to the Women's shelter at Markham Rd and the 401. With donations from the congregation and items from the spring Jumble Sale these baskets were gratefully received by women who were transitioning from the shelter system to their own residences.

Coat and Warm Clothing Drive

The community generously responded to ur request for winter coats and warm clothing last December. Once sorted, we were able to deliver 10 large bags of clothing, coats and boots to TUNM and Fred Victor Women's 24/7 Drop In

*Connie Roden
Outreach*



Extending Our Reach

Flourish Team

What's Happened:

The work of the Flourish Team over these last few months has included:

Food Ministry: We have continued to offer many Food Ministry programs, including the Community Garden, Love aLIVE dinner church, Cultural Kitchen Parties, Little Free Pantry and Flourish House Community meals. We are also envisioning the next phase of the Food Ministry, which focuses on a Community Kitchen (*more information below*).

Community Garden & Grow Staff:

We hired 6 young people to take care of ESG's 11 plot community garden and to engage other outreach opportunities. One of the summer staff who is studying plant science at University of Guelph led 4 workshops throughout the summer on Pollinators and Native Plants, One Month Crops, Medicinal plants, and Home Composting. These workshops were well received and attended by those from the surrounding community. Other activities were community meals, food drives for the Little Free Pantry and the backpack project for the Thorncliffe neighborhood. This group really worked well together and found the summer meaningful and powerful.



Cultural Kitchen Party:

Online cultural kitchen parties were offered this year. The food that was featured included Jewish, Indigenous and Kenyan. This was an excellent way of connecting with new people and re-connecting with members at ESG.

Love aLIVE: With the help from the Flourish House residents, we hosted 9 online Love aLIVE dinner church experiences. They were well attended by people of all ages and from all over Canada. Kate led a breakout room for the kids. Each Love aLIVE included a special guest artist and artists ranged from musicians, playwrights and spoken word poets.

Extending Our Reach

Flourish House: Residents at Flourish House continue to strive to make this home a community hub for young adults even amidst the challenges of Covid. They hosted many outdoor gatherings, including the Wednesday community meal, Halloween event, Caroling night and birthday celebrations. The three residents made plans to move out (two wanted to move in with partners and the third was moving to a new city) and so we found three new wonderful people to move in September 2022.



Social Media: We have been intentionally growing ESG’s social media presence through hiring a Social Media Coordinator, Ashley Abdul and have made great connections with new people wanting to engage with ESG as well as other neighbouring community groups.

What’s next:

As we look ahead, we wish to continue to build upon the ministries listed above as well as vision and build our Community Kitchen.

Community Kitchen: We are working to build a Community Kitchen which engages partnerships with other food justice community organizations, outreach opportunities and cooking and feasting gatherings. As a beginning place we are offering family cooking events that engage food justice issues, while having fun preparing and sharing a meal together. We are also having meaningful conversations with potential partners who are doing good work and who want to continue to do good work with us at ESG. We also hope to continue to offer more outdoor community meals using our newly purchased pizza ovens, which have been a great addition to our summer community events! It feels like an exciting time of connecting with our neighbours and inviting new people to be a part of what we are up to! Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to participate and help with these new initiatives!

Project Flourish Team

Discovering Spirituality Together

Family Ministry

This year's Family Ministry Program offered a combination of special in-person events, video recorded Sunday School lessons, and Zoom Time with Kate on Sunday mornings.

In the fall we held in person events outside on the lawn at the church, including an Animal Blessing service, a Halloween pumpkin carving day and the filming of our Christmas pageant. Sarah filmed the production, featuring the three kings walking down Yonge St, Mary in the garden, and the shepherds and angels keeping warm around a firepit.



During Advent, Sarah and Kate organized packages containing Advent candles and holiday crafts which were delivered to families. In the winter, Sarah hosted an interactive online "Encanto" movie watching party. Pancake Day was celebrated virtually with a pancake photo contest and a fast-paced Kahoot! trivial game. Kate organized children's digital activity kits for families to use during Lent, Holy week, and Easter. On Palm Sunday, children made palm branches and signs of praise to carry in a neighbourhood parade which finished in the Sanctuary. Easter Day was also celebrated on the lawn with a story and some excellent crafts.

Following Easter, lessons took place in our newly renovated Sunday School room which features new cupboards and a counter, and a completely updated library collection with new books and three new book shelves.

The Family Ministry Bake Sale at the Jumble Sale was very successful and sold more than \$500 of delicious baked goods for UNHCR work in Ukraine and The House of Lazarus which provides various food programs to families outside Ottawa.

We finished the year with the Church Picnic. A little rain couldn't stop the excitement and fun with the VOX choir, games in the gym, sandwiches, lemonade, and the ice-cream truck.

Kids Zoom Time with Kate continued weekly on Sunday mornings at 10 am from September to April. It was an opportunity for small groups of kids to connect with their friends and enjoy Bible stories, games, and crafts. Kate, with help from her daughter Charlie, has produced a total of 90 videos which are all available to view on the ESG website.

Kate Littler
Children's Ministry

Discovering Spirituality Together

Youth Group

Youth Group this year was held mostly on Sunday mornings with sessions both online and in person dependent on the COVID situation. We made the best of our online meetings with great discussions and even participated in a virtual escape room for an evening social event. Our first in-person meetings since COVID started, was held in the backyard and included lots of fun games and chats in the outdoors. We also went for walks and tobogganing as a group. We baked cookies for Christ Church Deer Park's breakfast program and held special Easter Sunday activities, which included an egg hunt, games and discussions. It was a great year and we are looking forward to more in person time together!

Confirmation Class: Aidan and Sarah co-led the 10-week confirmation program. The group explored topics about God, the Trinity, History of Christianity, The United Church of Canada, Social Justice Issues, Prayer Practices, Scripture and Worship. They also learned about other religions and visited a Mosque and Synagogue.

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Eight youth were confirmed on May 15th, 2022 during the service. The service was led by the Confirmands. During the service they shared reflections about their time in the program and articulated this experience as meaningful and important to their faith journey!

Aidan Legault
Youth Ministry



Discovering Spirituality Together

Worship

The challenges of adapting to the world we live in and how we worship at ESG have continued in the last year. We continue in-person worship carefully, mindful of the welfare of our fellow congregants. Our ministerial, music & AV team has continued to move forward, evolving creatively and using technology to make worship more accessible.

Through the creative application of Bryan's technical skills, our choir leads continued to bring us the gift of their talents weekly and the gift of our full choir performing together. We were pleased that once it was safe to do so, we transitioned to in-person performances starting Palm Sunday and Easter and have been singing in person in worship since then.

We continued to offer in-person and online worship, live-streamed or to be watched later if congregants prefer.

We look forward to 2022-23 as we rebuild and grow our church community. We look forward to joining together in worship as the ESG family.

Gord Brookes, Chair, Worship



Discovering Spirituality Together

Music

Alleluia we sang happily together as we performed our first live concert last May, after two years of singing apart. Those of you who watched the livestream of the concert might have had some difficulty recognizing your favourite chorister, as we sang masked and distanced. It was a musical and financial success and a great return to live choral music at ESG.

The choir contributed to the services at ESG during continued lockdowns last year by recording music for services and for our hybrid Christmas concert, “Winter Day,” which featured our Leads live and the rest of us, recorded.

Our first two Sundays involving in-person music leadership were Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, two of our musically favourite Sundays of the year.

Emily Taub and Meghan Jamieson provided leadership for the VOX choir last year, as the group continued its virtual rehearsals and recordings.

With the approval of the congregation, Shawn began his doctorate in choral conducting last year, reducing his time available to ESG to half-time during his fall and winter sessions at the University of Alberta. He continued to provide leadership through Zoom, and also on those Sundays when he was with us, in Toronto. We were grateful for the musical leadership of our section Leads, and the contributions of Claire Harris on piano.

As this new year begins, we are looking ahead to in-person concerts on the afternoon of December 11th and at the end of May 2023. Our community of singers remains committed to each other and to the musical heritage and future of ESG.

Shawn Grenke, Director of Music
Bronwyn Best and Beth MacRae, Choir Presidents



Governing Responsibly

Property

Maintenance and Repairs

Over the past year, property maintenance on the church infrastructure included:

- Repairs and routine maintenance to Flourish House (92 Craighurst Ave.) front porch and some windows and screens as well as the electrical systems.
- Assisted in implantation and installation of additional computing network equipment and associated cabling for Blyth academy.
- Repairs to the Lytton Blvd driveway. there was some separation of the pavers which has been repaired under warranty.

Special Projects

Duplex pathway: The pathway from the main narthex entrance to Duplex Ave has been in need of repair for a few years. Progress on this project was delayed due to shortage of materials and skilled labour due to Covid-19. In the spring of 2022 the contractor who installed the new driveway was hired and materials preordered for a scheduled start in late summer. The design of the new walkway incorporates sloping terraces with fewer steps and employs more durable pavers for longer life. Work is on schedule for completion in fall of 2022.

Security: Some random acts of vandalism have given cause for a review of the ESG security system. This was compounded by the requirement to lock the building during Covid-19 to exercise some control of entry to the building. Among the recommendations was automation of the doors at the grade level entrance to the Welcome area. A keypad device has been installed on the pedestal adjacent to the door, which permits access when a multi digit code is entered on the pad. A call button is available to contact the on duty caretaker for assistance. The church Administrator issues access codes. Additional security measures are under consideration.

HVAC: A maintenance contract for the heating and cooling systems was renewed with Power Application Group Inc. In preparation for the summer services in the Sanctuary the ventilation system was reconfigured to introduce cool night air into the sanctuary and circulate it through the space prior to and during Sunday services.

Storage room Roof Slab: insurance underwriters inspected the ESG facilities and requested permanent repairs be made to the Storage room roof slab. During the year engineering and construction contractors were consulted to assess the extent of structural damage (due to aging and water ingress) and develop options for repair. Work scope and an order of magnitude budget were established and an application for a building permit has been submitted to the City of Toronto. Work is expected to start in the late fall or early spring of 2023 once the work scope and budget has been finalized and depending on approval of the permit.

Governing Responsibly

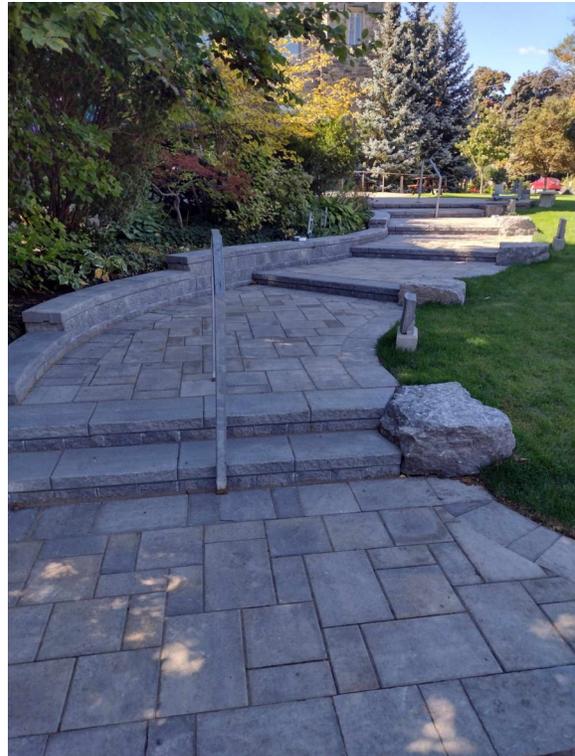
Family Ministry: Refurbished cabinetry and children's library after installation of the Gym Lift. Completed repairs to the Family Ministry and Nursery rooms due to water leakage from the east side window wells.

Audio Video up dates: The AV system was updated during the summer to include new cameras, switching devices and associated cabling to facilitate remote operation of the Live streaming system.

John Blevins
Chair, Property



Cupboards in Children's Ministry Room



Duplex Steps

Governing Responsibly

Trustees Report

The ESG Board of Trustees holds all of the property of ESG in trust for the congregation along with the church's endowed and restricted funds. The ESG property includes the church's real estate and investment funds. The ESG Trustees meet to receive reports on and discuss property issues, to review all investment funds and to monitor the performance by our asset manager. In addition, the trustees consider ways to use monies from the endowed and restricted funds to support the work of the church both within our walls and in the larger community.

The ESG trust funds are in managed investment accounts which are managed in accordance with the provisions of the ESG Investment Policy Statement. There was a decline in the value of the funds in line with the decline in the markets over the period of the church's 2021-2022 fiscal year. Overall, the funds have had reasonably good returns over the longer term.

Transfers from the trust funds are an important contributor to church revenue and maintaining and growing these funds is critical to the long term mission and financial health of the church. This year, in addition to supporting our own operating, music and property maintenance needs, trust funds were used to assist in funding the completion of the accessible lift project at ESG, to renew funding for the Summer Gardening Project, to provide annual supplemental retirement benefits for clergy and their spouses, to provide ESG financial support for educational endeavours.

Fund reports are included in yearly ESG financial reports and are part of yearly audits. No new business arose in the past year that requires congregational input.

Hugh DesBrisay
Chair, Board of Trustees

Leave a Lasting Legacy Fund

During the fiscal year 2021-22, donations to the fund totalling \$65,243, were received honouring:

Jessie Nodwell
Nancy Shaw
Arlene Kettle



Governing Responsibly

Financial Report

We ended the fiscal year June 30, 2022 slightly ahead of budget with a deficit of \$27k.

The following is a high level recap:

(Please refer to the Audited Financial Statements for details.)

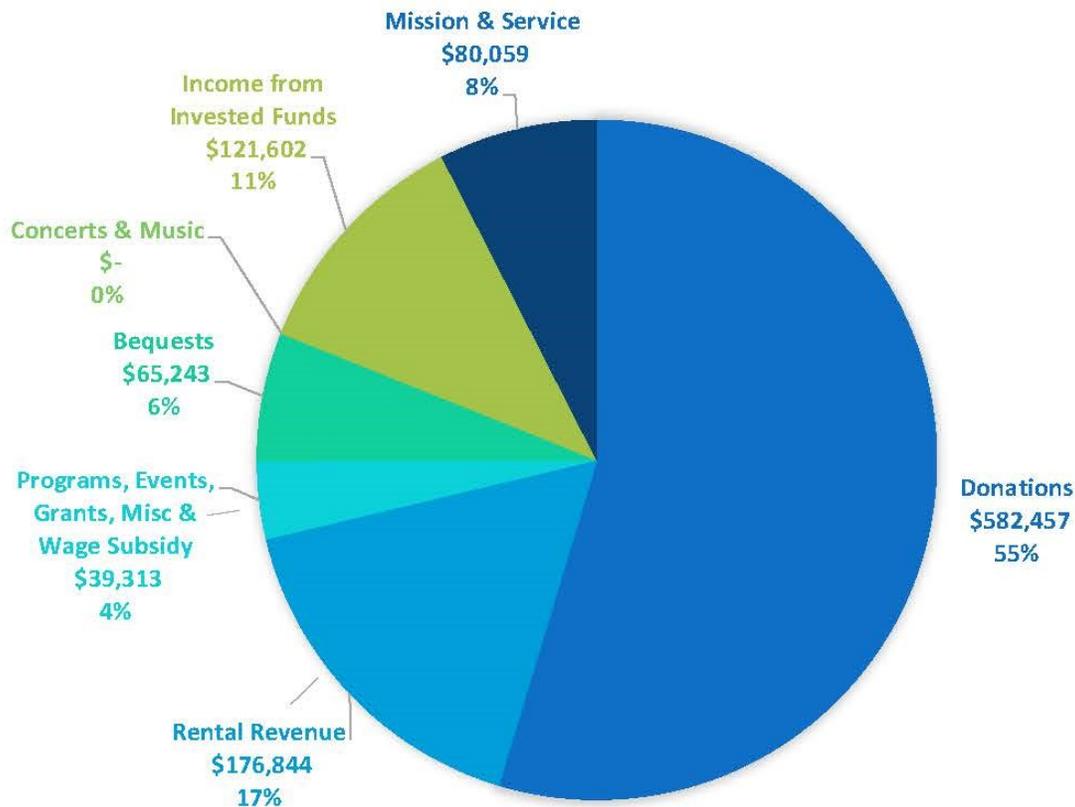
- Our donations decreased by **\$44k (-7%)** from the previous year.
- Our rental revenues increased by **\$27k (18%)** as we saw the return of several renters in the building.
- Our revenues from Programs, Events, Grants & Miscellaneous decreased by **\$64k (-62%)** from the previous year as the government wage subsidy (CEWS) ended in the fall of 2021 and as a result ESG received \$8k. The prior year ESG received \$65k from this subsidy.
- Our operating expenses were carefully reviewed during the year and reduced below budget by 1%.
- We are grateful to have received **\$65k** in very generous undesignedated bequests.

The pie chart below provides the breakdown of our revenue sources for the fiscal year.

Gord Thompson

Chair, Finance

SOURCES OF REVENUE





Our Values

If our values resonate with how you look at life you'll find common ground with the people and activities that make up the ESG community.

A **COMPASSION** borne from a deep passion and concern for the well-being of the human spirit.

A **COMMUNITY** that fosters relationships grounded in a spiritual foundation. Powerful connections that nurture belonging, self-love and love for others, honesty, and trust.

A **FAIRNESS** that does not tolerate judgement and discrimination and advocates for social justice.

Belief in everyone's **POTENTIAL** to be better and their ability to fulfill what has yet to be imagined.

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