



St. Albert United Church
an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada
Telephone (780)458-8355 www.stalbertunited.ca

October 18, 2021,

Dear SAUC Family,

To say that the past 20 months have been difficult would be a gross understatement. There is no roadmap for how a society or a community of faith should navigate a global pandemic. Our church community has worked together in facing the challenges of Covid 19; we have done our best to support one another and to stay connected at a time when connectivity has taken on a whole new meaning.

SAUC has made changes, some that we likely would have made anyway and some that were pushed upon us:

- We have upgraded our audio-visual system and internet so that we can now live-stream our worship services.
- We have developed protocols for our building that meet or exceed AHS requirements so that we can be a safe place to meet and worship.
- Amy has found a way to deliver children's time in an engaging and exciting way.

Our congregation has shown great resilience and adaptability as we've striven to find ways to nurture our church family. We need this resilience even more now, as we continue to face the challenges of Covid, and look forward to moving beyond the worst of this disease.

Our last fiscal year-end saw us with a surplus of \$9,300 and net current assets of \$16,000. Your strong financial support, together with funds from the federal and provincial governments and an insurance claim from Rev. Deborah's sick leave helped us stay in a surplus position.

Through the first three months of this fiscal year, however, **we are currently down \$20,000**. The summer months are traditionally slower, but we had hoped that September would be an improvement. Sadly, we were down \$7,800 in September and in the words of our Finance chair Ken Hutchinson, this is a trend that is not sustainable.

We are faced with reduced rental revenue and are not able to hold fund-raising events that we have used in the past due to pandemic restrictions. As we move forward, we need to find ways to augment our general offering. Depending on your situation, you may be able to assist us with increased givings.

Church Council is also committed to finding new ways to increase our revenue and we will be hosting a **Special General Meeting on November 21st** following worship. In addition to taking care of the usual procedural matters, the meeting will focus on gathering ideas and feedback from the whole church community as we seek to improve our financial situation.

Our Mission: As followers of Jesus, we cultivate spaces where everyone has room to grow; we share God's hope for the Earth.



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The people who make up St. Albert United Church include a sweeping range of experience, skills, ages and needs, and we want to make sure we hear from everyone. You are the life of our church. We will do our best to communicate with you and to keep you updated, but we also want to hear your feedback, your ideas, and your concerns, and hope you will reach out to any of the council members listed below or to Rev. Mervin and Rev. Deborah.

With your input and whatever help you are able to offer, council and I are confident that we will persevere through these current challenges and emerge into a future that, if not “normal,” is at least a bit more familiar to us!

Yours In Christ,

Troy Sartison (Chair) 780-965-7445

Stephen Fitzpatrick

Ann Sargent

Alice Hinds

Susan Waldie

Ken Hutchinson

Mike Anhorn

Rev. Deborah Hoekstra 780-983-2148

Rev. Mervin Gallant 587-989-3579

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